

TECHNICAL DOCUMENT ON CHILD LABOR IN THE COFFEE SECTOR DERIVED FROM, “STUDY OF CHILD LABOR IN THE COFFEE SECTOR IN COLOMBIA,” CARRIED OUT BY THE CENTER FOR REGIONAL COFFEE AND BUSINESS RESEARCH – CRECE

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CIETI	Interinstitutional Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor and the Protection of Child Workers
PC	Political Constitution of Colombia
CRECE	Center for Regional Coffee and Business Research
CST	Substantive Labor Code
DANE	National Administrative Department of Statistics
EVS	Voluntary Sustainability Standards
FNC	National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia
ICBF	Colombian Institute of Family Welfare
ILAB	International Labor Bureau
LPPPECL	Public Policy Line for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Integral Protection of the Adolescent Workers
ILO	International Labor Organization
POA	Partners of the Americas
SENA	National Apprenticeship Service
USDOL	United States Department of Labor

INTRODUCTION

Colombia's coffee zone is distributed among 22 of its 32 departments and 588 of its 1,122 municipalities. The Coffee Atlas of Colombia indicates that the country has 911,238 hectares of coffee planted, with 655,950 farms and 547,634 coffee growers (FNC - IGAC, 2017). According to the Center for Regional Coffee and Business Research (CRECE) (García, Zárate, and Ochoa, 2016), 96% of producers are smallholders, with farms that have less than five hectares planted with coffee and that supply 75% of their labor demand with family labor. Medium farms (between five and 10 ten hectares) account for 102,000 hectares, produce 12% of the country's coffee, and hire 82% of the country's labor force outside of the family nucleus. Large farms, with areas of 10 or more hectares of coffee, supply 16% of the national production and do not employ family labor within coffee cultivation.

The size and scale of production on the farm determines differences in economic and cultural conditions associated to child labor. It is evident that on small farms, the labor force is generally supplied by family members, which implies on many occasions the participation of children and adolescents in labor that is deemed as child labor. On medium and large farms, child labor can take place as part of a family group that arrives to work, usually during harvest time, but does not generally remain at the farm.

International and Colombian regulations regarding the prevention and eradication of child labor and the integral protection of adolescent workers is extensive, and includes the adhesion of Colombia to international agreements of the International Labor Organization (ILO) such as Agreement 138 of 1973 on the minimum age for employment admission, Agreement 182 of 1999 on the worst forms of child labor, and Recommendation 190 on guidelines for the definition of child labor.

Likewise, rights protections for children and adolescents is framed within national norms such as the Political Constitution of Colombia (PC) in articles 44, 45 and 53, as well as in the creation of the Inter-Institutional Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor and the Protection of Working Minors (CIETI), through Decree 859 of 1995. Children and adolescent rights are also protected through Resolution 1796 of 2018, issued by the Ministry of Labor, under which a list of hazardous activities (Activities which due to their nature or conditions are harmful for the physical integrity of adolescent workers between the ages of 15 and 18 years) is defined and updated; as well as the Public Policy Line for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Integral Protection of the Adolescent Worker 2017 – 2027 (LPPPECL), which defines child labor. The definition of child labor outlined in the LPPPECL was taken as a conceptual foundation for the Study elaborated by CRECE.

Despite great efforts made by Colombia to prevent and eradicate child labor, and the notable advances made in the reduction of the country's child labor rates over the past five years, some economic activities continue to involve the participation of children and adolescents in various labor tasks. Specifically, Colombian coffee has been recurrently included by the International Labor Bureau (ILAB) of the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) on the list of products produced with child labor. Considering this reality, it is essential to

conduct a characterization of the incidence of child in the coffee sector, its causes and consequences, as well as the type of participation registered for children and adolescents on coffee farms.

Given this, in December 2017, Partners of the Americas (POA) signed a Cooperative Agreement with USDOL to implement the Colombia Avanza project, which has the general objective of improving the capacity of civil society to understand and address child labor and acceptable conditions of work within Colombia's coffee sector. In 2019, under the framework of this project, which focuses on the departments of Tolima and Huil, POA contracted CRECE to conduct the Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (the Study). This Study focused on the participation of children and adolescents in the production of coffee in Colombia, including the identification of the rural offer for the occupation of children and adolescents' free time, as well as perspectives and strategies pertaining generational relay.

This document is a technical summary report derived from the Study produced by CRECE in 2020, which describes its main findings on child labor. It is important to mention that this Study was the Colombia Avanza project's first approach in its analysis of the participation of children and adolescents in the production of coffee in Colombia.

The Study has a qualitative methodological approach, based on in-depth interviews and focus groups, designed to fulfill the purpose of obtaining detailed information that contributes to an increased understanding of community and family contexts, as well as motivations associated with child labor on the part of social and institutional stakeholders. As an auxiliary tool, a farm survey instrument directed to parents, children, and adolescents was included in order to support the interpretation of qualitative information. The statistical design of the survey is representative of Colombian coffee growing, given that it covers nine of the largest coffee producing departments, distributed in the five coffee regions of the country. However, it should be noted that the sample size (413 farms) was limited due to budget-related reasons.

Although the observation units (farms) of the Study were randomly selected within the Colombia Avanza project's target municipalities, limitations imposed by the sample size and qualitative selection of regional units imply that it is not possible to extrapolate the results of this particular Study to the total number of coffee producers in the country. The sample represents coffee growing and participation conditions (protected environment and child labor) within the municipalities where the Study was conducted.

This summary document is divided into six sections. The first section encompasses the regulatory and conceptual framework, detailing the main laws and policies in Colombia associated with the protection of children and adolescents, and presenting the difference between participation, participation in a protected environment, and child labor, which are base concepts for the Study's development. The second section, methodology, describes qualitative and quantitative approaches designed and applied in the Study, as well as the size of the sample used. The third section presents the main characteristics of surveyed children and adolescents and their households, as well as environmental conditions. The fourth section details the main findings of the Study, with a primary focus on risk and the identified cases of child labor, which include hazardous activities that by their very nature or conditions are

harmful for children and adolescents within coffee growing activities. In the fifth section the conclusions address the analysis of the Study’s results; and the final section presents recommendations categorized by relevant stakeholder.

1. NORMATIVE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF CHILD LABOR

Colombia has a broad regulatory framework in terms of child labor, which emanates from the Political Constitution of Colombia of 1991, as well as internationally adopted references.

Table 1. Main International Agreements and National Norms Adopted by Colombia for Preventing and Eradicating Child Labor and Protecting Adolescent Workers

Normativity	Year of Issue	Adoption of international agreements in Colombia
Agreement 138 of the ILO	1973	Law 515 of 1999
Convention on the Rights of the Child	1989	Law 12 of 1991
Political constitution of Colombia of 1991	1991	
Decree 859 of the Presidency of the Republic	1995	
Agreement 182 of the ILO	1999	Law 704 of 2001
Sentence C-170 of the Constitutional Court of Colombia	2004	
Law 1098 – Code of Childhood and Adolescence	2006	
Public Policy Line for Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor and Integral Protection of the Adolescent Workers	2017-2027	
Resolution 1796 of the Ministry of Labor of Colombia	2018	

Source: Own Elaboration Based on CRECE 2020.

According to the Constitutional Court, in sentence C-170 of 2004, not all activities carried out by children can be classified as child labor, given that *"There is a clear difference between the concepts of "child labor" and "tasks performed by children," paid or unpaid. In effect, it is not possible to include as work activities those tasks to help around the house, or school assignments, or any other light burden imposed on children which favors their education and harmonious and integral development in society and their families. It remains so whether such obligations correspond only to the exercise of parental authority or are derived from promotion employing stimulating gifts, for example money, gifts, etc."*

The Concept of Child Labor

According to the ILO (1999), child labor is understood as *“all work depriving children of their childhood, potential and dignity and is harmful to their physical and psychological development.”* Thus, it is understood as labor that is *“hazardous and detrimental to children and adolescent’s physical, mental or moral wellbeing and interferes with their schooling, given that it deprives them of the possibility of attending classes, forces them to abandon school prematurely, or requires them to combine Study with heavy and time-consuming work.”*

For the elaboration of the Study, CRECE used the current definition of child labor provided by LPPPECL, which defines child labor as *“all those activities performed by children and*

adolescents, within the framework of the different economic sectors and household trades which harm their comprehensive development, affecting their health, safety, morality, and education for the construction of their life project, which are exacerbated by certain characteristics and particularities of the territory (rural, urban, gender, ethnicity, disability status, among others).”¹

To guide the identification of child labor, the CRECE Study was based on eight central criteria derived from Law 1098 of 2006, the *Code of Childhood and Adolescence*, LPPPECL 2017 – 2027, and Resolution 1796 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor:

1. Age of the child or adolescent
2. Maternity status
3. Type of activity performed, considering whether it is a hazardous activity
4. The working day
5. Daily and weekly hourly intensity
6. Interference with schooling of child and adolescents
7. The effects of participation on health, safety and morality on children and adolescents
8. The existence of a work permit issued by the competent authority

Household chores were defined as “*domestic tasks performed by children and adolescents related to maintaining the house and home, the care of people in the household, and minor tasks in home gardening and errands, excluding chores performed exclusively for themselves.*”² According to the ILO, when children and adolescents dedicate 15 or more weekly hours to home labors, it is considered as extended child labor.

According to the current regulatory framework in Colombia, Table 2 presents conditions considered in this Study in order to establish that coffee producing activity or that a home labor carried out by a child or adolescent is to be categorized as child labor. Activities carried out are considered child labor if any of the mentioned criteria are present for each age group.

¹ Colombian Ministry of Labor, ICBF, DNP, ILO (2017), p. 46.

² DANE (2021). Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares – Módulo de Trabajo Infantil. October – December 2020, p. 18.

Table 2. Criteria for Classifying the Activities Performed by Children and Adolescents as Child Labor

Age Group	Worst forms of Child Labor		Intensity			School Attendance
	Type of Labor*	Impacts on Health, Safety, and Morality	Weekly Intensity	Daily Intensity	Working Day	
Under 15 years	Hazardous work	Negative effects	Not permitted by the law**			Work impedes or interferes
15 to 16 years	Hazardous work	Negative effects	Any work for more than 30 hours	Any work for more than 6 hours	Any work after 6 p.m.	Work impedes or interferes
17 years	Hazardous work	Negative effects	Any work for more than 40 hours	Any work for more than 8 hours	Any work after 8 p.m.	Work impedes or interferes
15 to 17 years. Rights in case of maternity	Hazardous work	Negative effects	It is not explicit in the law. An equivalent to the daily legal intensity of no more than 20 hours was assumed.	More than 4 hours from the 7 th month of gestation and during lactation	Not explicit in the Law	Work impedes or interferes

*Hazardous child labor according to Resolution 1796 of 2018

** Except for children and adolescents under 15 years of age with work permits for artistic, cultural, recreational, or sports activities, for a maximum of 14 hours per week.

Source: CRECE, Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia.” Executive Summary (2021). Based on Law 1098 of 2006, Code of Childhood and Adolescence; Resolution 1796 of 2018; and LPPPECL 2017 – 2027.

In accordance with current regulations in Colombia, Table 3 details criteria considered in the Study in order to classify permitted work for each age group, such as type of activity, daily and weekly hour intensity, and the working day.

Table 3. Criteria for Classifying Activities Performed by Children and Adolescents as Permitted Work

Age Group	Type of Work or Activity	Work Permit	Weekly Intensity	Daily Intensity	Working Day
Under 15 years	Artistic, cultural recreational, or sports activities	Required	Maximum 14 hours	Not explicit in the Law	Not explicit in the Law
15 to 16 years	Non-hazardous activities	Required	Maximum 30 hours	Maximum 6 hours	Until 6 p.m.
17 years	Non-hazardous activities	Required	Maximum 40 hours	Maximum 8 hours	Until 8 p.m.
15 to 17 years. Rights in case of maternity	Non-hazardous activities	Required	Maximum 20 hours	Maximum 4 hours starting on the 7 th month of gestation and during lactation	Not explicit in the Law

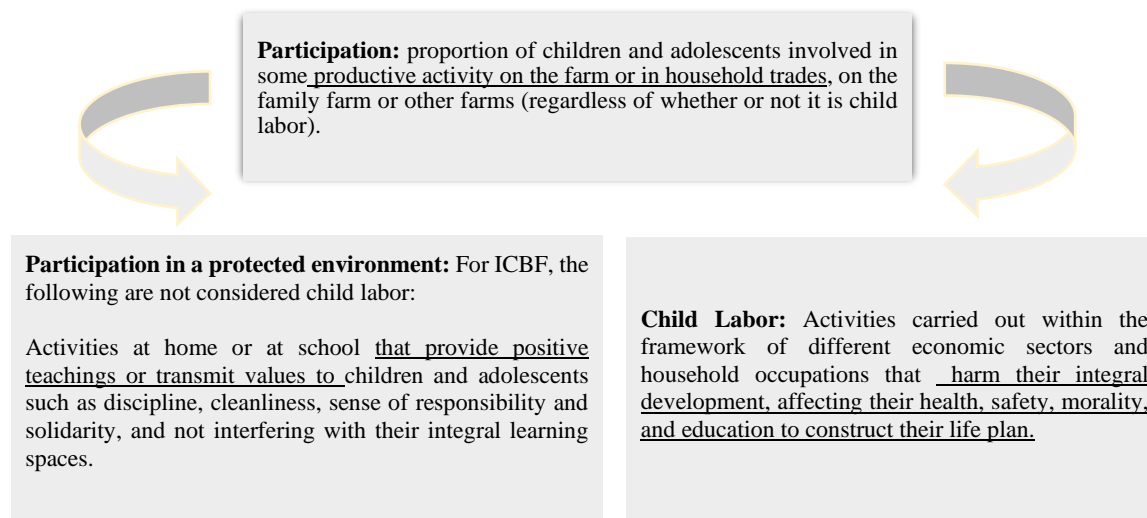
Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia. Executive Summary (2021).

Participation, participation in a protected environment, and child labor

As mentioned earlier, not all activities carried out by children and adolescents can be classified as child labor. Given this, in order to conduct the analysis of the participation of children and teenagers in coffee growing activities, the Study differentiates the concept of

participation as participation in a protected environment and child labor, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Participation in a Protected Environment and Child Labor



Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia. Executive Summary (2021).

For more detailed information on the normative and conceptual frameworks of child labor, see the Annex.

2. STUDY METHODOLOGY

The methodology applied for the elaboration of the Study considered qualitative information-gathering techniques such as in-depth interviews, surveys, and focus groups of children and adolescents, as well as of parents, educational institutions, and community and institutional stakeholders. The Study's qualitative approach was designed to understand contextual elements of the participation of children and adolescents in the productive activities of coffee growing and its associated factors, characterizing the rural offer for the occupation of free time of children and adolescents and building a map of relevant stakeholders in the four target municipalities of the Colombia Avanza project.

Regarding the selection criteria of observation units (coffee farms), a group of departments were selected within the five coffee-growing regions of Colombia based on their representativeness of coffee variables in each region, and in accordance with the Colombia Avanza project's Technical Committee, which contributed to the Study.³ The representative municipalities within these departments were then selected, from which 413 farms were identified to serve as the object of Study.

³ The institutions that participated in this committee were: The National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia, the Ministry of Labor, and the Colombia Avanza project.

The municipalities were selected according to variables such as share in the demand for labor; the number of coffee producers; national participation in coffee production; and contrasts in indicators of living conditions and technical conditions (farm size, level of coffee growing technology, among others).

The coffee growing municipalities were then classified according to criteria such as the characteristics of their coffee farming; poverty conditions according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index; rate of school absenteeism; presence of indigenous coffee farming; and the condition of post-conflict municipalities.

Based on the criteria listed above, the following 9 departments and 15 municipalities were selected for field work:

- Antioquia: Andes
- Boyacá: Moniquira
- Caldas: Aguadas, Manizales, Riosucio
- Cauca: Piendamó
- Huila: Acevedo, Pitalito.
- Magdalena: Ciénega, Santa Marta
- Santander: Barbosa, San Gil
- Tolima: Chaparral, Planadas
- Valle del Cauca: Sevilla

Once the municipalities for the Study were selected, the number of focus groups, interviews, and surveys to be applied to different target groups was determined in accordance with the Study's scope. A total of 45 focus groups and 126 interviews were conducted, distributed across the 15 selected municipalities. A greater number of focus groups were concentrated in the two regions prioritized by the Colombia Avanza project (center and south), where the departments of Tolima and Huila are located.

The sample size was distributed across the Study's target municipalities according to coffee production, and a greater number was assigned to the target municipalities of the Colombia Avanza project: Chaparral and Planadas in the department of Tolima; Pitalito and Acevedo in the department of Huila. A random selection of villages and farms was selected for a total sample size of 413 farms, in which 755 children and adolescents were interviewed. In terms of surveys conducted in the target departments and municipalities of the Colombia Avanza project, there were 114 surveys conducted in the department of Huila, with 71 distributed in the municipality of Pitalito and 43 distributed in the municipality of Acevedo. In the target department of Tolima, there were a total of 75 surveys distributed, with 32 in the municipality of Chaparral and 43 in the municipality of Planadas.

The survey applied on farms was directed to children and adolescents. An additional survey was applied to parents as an auxiliary tool for the qualitative approach, designed to obtain information that would allow for an improved understanding of the community and family context, as well as motivations around child labor for social and institutional stakeholders. The results of the farm surveys produced useful information for calculating the proportions

of children and adolescents that participate in coffee growing activities, including both those within protected environments and in situations that constitute child labor. The surveys also yielded useful information for understanding the conditions of these two types of participation in coffee growing activities, as well as their associated factors.

Finally, analysis was conducted of activities that are indicated as hazardous for children and adolescents in Resolution 1976 of 2018 from the Ministry of Labor. To do this, coffee growing activities and their associated risks were first determined, after which a review was conducted on which activities included within the resolution were related to the coffee sector. This exercise revealed that 21 of the 36 hazardous activities described in the above mentioned Resolution refer to urban activities or industrial or commercial processes that do not have any relation to coffee agriculture. Given this, the information regarding hazardous activities was divided as: 1) Hazardous activities that are not related to coffee agriculture and were therefore not considered within the measurement of child labor; and 2) Hazardous activities that can be related to coffee agriculture and were therefore considered in the Study. Table 4 describes the 15 hazardous activities within the Resolution that were considered in the Study.

Table 4. Hazardous Activities Included in the Study for the Measurement of Child Labor

No	Resolution 1796 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor List of Hazardous Activities for Minors
1	Activities that expose children under 18 years of age to continuous (more than 8 hours per day) or intermittent noise exceeding seventy-five (75) decibels.
2	Activities involving the use of tools, machinery, or equipment expose them to whole-body or segmental vibration or the assignment of workplaces or positions close to vibration-generating sources.
5	Activities involving exposure of children under 18 years of age to ionizing radiation generated by proximity to sources emitting X-rays, gamma or beta rays and non-ionizing ultraviolet radiation; exposure to electricity due to proximity to generating sources such as hydrogen lamps, gas lamps, flash, welding arcs, tungsten and halogen lamps, incandescent lamps and radio communication stations, among others, by Decree number 2090 of 2003.
8	Handling, operation or maintenance activities of hand tools and hazardous machinery for industrial, agricultural or mining use; belonging to the metalworking, paper and wood industries; circular and band electric saws, guillotines, grinding and mixing machines, meat processing machines, meat mills, etc.
9	Activities involving direct contact with animals that generate a high risk to the health and safety of children under 18 years of age.
13	Activities in environments where there is a release of mineral particles, cereal particles (rice, wheat, sorghum, rye, barley, soybean, among others) and vegetables (sugarcane, cotton, wood), and permanent contact with cotton, linen, yarn, as well as dry bagasse from sugarcane stalks.
15	Activities related to the contact or handling of phytosanitary products, fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, solvents, sterilizers, disinfectants, chemical reagents, pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic solvents, among others.
20	Activities involving heights greater than one meter and fifty centimeters (1.5 m).
22	Activities involving operation or contact with electrical systems of machines and power generation systems (electrical connections, control panels, power transmitters, among others).
26	Activities or jobs that require standing during the whole day; that require forced postures, such as spinal flexions, arms above shoulder level, squatting position, trunk rotations and inclinations, among others. Repetitive movements of arms and legs, with a maximum repetition limit of ten (10) cycles per minute.

27	Activities related to load handling, lifting, carrying, transporting, pulling, pushing heavy objects manually or with mechanical aids, the following is established for adolescents between 16 and less than 18 years of age: Intermittent lifting (interrupted frequency): maximum weight of 15 kg for boys and 8 kg for girls; Incessant lifting (continuous frequency): maximum weight 12 kg for boys and 6 kg for girls. Manual transport is limited as follows: adolescents 16 and under 18 years of age: 20 kg, adolescent's boys up to 16 years of age: 15 kg, adolescent girl up to 16 years of age: 8 kg. For transport in carts on rails: adolescents between 16 and under 18 years of age: 500 Kg, adolescent's boys up to 16 years of age: 300 Kg, and adolescent girls up to 16 years of age: 200 Kg. For transport in hand carts: adolescents between 16 and less than 18 years of age: 20 Kg.
28	Activities that expose children under the age of 18 to physical, psychological and sexual violence.
34	Activities where the safety of other persons or property is the responsibility of the person under 18 years of age. It includes the care of children, the sick, people with disabilities, or activities in which they act as babysitters.
35	Activities involving contact, handling, storage and transport of products, substances or objects of a toxic nature, wastes, spills, residues (oxidizers, fuels, gases, flammable substances, radioactive substances, infectious substances, irritants and/or corrosives).
36	Activities are related to domestic work in one's own home that exceeds 15 hours per week. Domestic work in the homes of third parties.

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia. Executive Summary (2021).

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SURVEYED POPULATION AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

The results presented in this section are important to understanding the context of this Study and generalities of the surveyed population. However, these results refer to the general concept of participation defined in the conceptual framework section, as the figures listed below include the total sample of surveyed children and adolescents (755). In other words, the data presented below does not distinguish what is considered as participation in a protected environment from what is considered to be findings of child labor. Despite this, the following section of this report presents results that are associated exclusively with the risk and child labor cases identified in the Study.

In relation to the analyzed population, the Study identified the characteristics of children and adolescents and their families, finding that the 413 households surveyed on farms are comprised by 1,980 persons, of which 831 (41.9%) are minors under the age of 18 years, 435 (52.3%) are female, and 396 (47.7%) are male. Of these persons under the age of 18 years, 289 (38.2%) are adolescents between 12 and 17 years of age, and 466 (61.8%) are children under the age of 12 year. Of the 831 minors identified on the farms, 755 children and adolescents were surveyed, making up the total sample taken of the population. Below is a list of the main characteristics of children, adolescents, and their households, as well as some aspects of the coffee growing context in the target regions of the Study in relation to the presence of children and adolescents in coffee growing activities:

- The average size of surveyed coffee-growing households (4.8 persons), is greater than the average size of rural households (3.8 persons)
- The majority of surveyed households are low-income
- Heads of the household are younger than the average for coffee-growing households (53 years)
- Most heads of households are men

- Low levels of schooling, equivalent to elementary education
- Literacy rate of 93% amongst surveyed persons
- There are an average of 4.8 persons in the 413 households surveyed
- Adult men are primarily engaged in work (99.4%)
- 34.4% of adult women are engaged in non-domestic work, 64.2% are engaged in household trades, and 1.4% are engaged in other activities
- Low rates of teenage pregnancy. 0.6% of teenagers were pregnant at the time of the survey.
- 90.9% of children and adolescents attend school, with a greater percentage of school attendance amongst in female children and adolescents (91.5%) in comparison to male children and adolescents (87.6%)
- School attendance rates decrease with the increase of age. Consequently, the presence of minors in coffee growing activity increases with age

The coffee farms surveyed in the Study are characterized by being small in size, as 92.9% consist of less than five hectares of planted coffee and are mostly made up of family farms. . This proportion is similar to the percentage of smallholder producers within the country at large, which is reported by CRECE (2016) to be 96%. Given the above, farm size was considered as a factor of comparison in the Study’s analysis of participation by children and adolescents in a protected environment and participation constituting child labor in the coffee production process.

The results obtained show that, on farms of less than five hectares, 85% of the surveyed children and adolescents dedicate to coffee collecting and 33.4% to pulping. For farms that are above five hectares, 55.2% dedicate to coffee collection and 17.2% to drying. Table 5 shows the percentages for each stage in coffee production where there is presence of children and adolescents, according to farm size.

Table 5. Participation of Children and Adolescents in Coffee Activities According to Farm Size

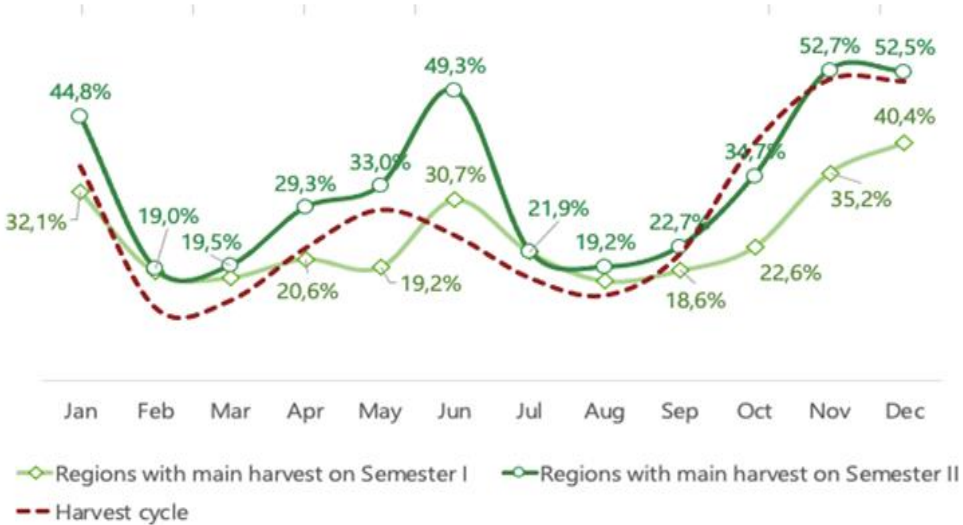
Activity	Farm Size	
	Equal or less than 5 ha.	Greater than 5 ha.
Coffee picking	85.0%	55.2%
Coffee drying	31.6%	17.2%
Pulping	33.4%	13.8%
Planting or stumping	22.1%	10.3%
Contour planting	30.5%	6.9%
Food transfer	27.1%	6.9%
Fertilization	21.8%	3.4%
Plagues control	1.1%	3.4%
Coffee sales	1.3%	0.0%
Food preparation	2.4%	0.0%
Other	1.3%	0.0%

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020), taken from Coffee Household Survey (2019).

The presence of surveyed minors in coffee related activities varies primarily according to harvest times. Harvest periods are when there is the greatest demand for labor and are therefore the times when the greatest number of children and adolescents work (mainly in

coffee collection). It was found that the participation of surveyed children and adolescents in coffee collection increases during periods of school vacation and high harvest, and reduces during school periods. The proportion varies given that during the school period, 2 out of every 10 children or adolescents take part in coffee agriculture activities, while during school vacation and high harvest seasons, this proportion increases to 5 out of every 10 children and adolescents participating in coffee agricultural activities. The time dedicated to this activity is not prolonged, with 98% of surveyed children and adolescents reporting that they dedicate less than one hour per day to collection activities and 87% reporting that they use personal protection elements such as wearing a long-sleeved shirt and a hat. Figure 2 presents the proportion of children and adolescents participating in coffee agriculture labors throughout the year, grouped according to the harvest cycles within the target departments of the survey.

Figure 2. The Proportion of Children and Adolescents Participating in Coffee Work on Their Farm, by Month of the Year and Harvesting Season



Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

In addition to participating in coffee agriculture activities, children and adolescents also dedicate time to household trades which are part of customs considered to be normal in coffee farming culture. The section below contains an in-depth look at aspects related to household trades carried out by children and adolescents surveyed in the Study.

3.1. Participation of children and adolescents in household trades

Given that the results presented below include the total number of surveyed children and adolescents (755), it is important to mention that, according to the methodology developed in the Study, it is not possible to have a precise differentiation between minors participating in household trades those who could find themselves in a situation of child labor as understood in current Colombian regulations.

However, this analysis is relevant to understanding the different roles performed by female children and adolescents in these activities in comparison to male children and adolescents. In this regard, the Study found that when results are evaluated according to gender, a greater percentage of female adolescents participate in household trades, 95.3% of the surveyed total, while 68.3% of female children participate in such trades. For their part, male adolescents dedicate more time to household trades than male children, who participate at rates of 62.8% and 42.8%, respectively. When analyzing by age groups, the proportion of household trade participation by male and female children (56%) is lower than that of male and female adolescents (80%).

Below is a presentation of activities considered to be household chores, as well as their respective risk levels for participating children and adolescents according to age groups, as reported according to information from the Study's focus groups:

- Animal husbandry: rated as having low participation and low risk. It is mostly carried out by adolescents. This activity occurs with adult accompaniment.
- Gardening, caring for crops: rated as having low participation and low risk. This activity is carried out with adult accompaniment.
- Clothes washing: rated as having low participation with less adult accompaniment, given that it is considered low risk. This activity is mainly carried out by female adolescents.
- Ironing clothes: rated as risky, given that it requires adult accompaniment. It is mainly carried out by female adolescents when they are old enough to do this activity by themselves.
- Cooking: rated as risky, which delays the age at which minors participate. This activity requires adult accompaniment, generally the mother. Children and adolescents mainly help to peel and chop vegetables.
- Household cleaning: rated as low risk and mainly carried out by female adolescents without adult accompaniment.
- Caring for others: rated as not risky and with low dedication rate. Generally refers to caring for siblings, mainly carried out by adolescents.
- Running errands: rated as risky given that it involves contact with other persons. It is one of the activities with greatest dedication by children and adolescents.

According to the Survey results, presented in Table 6, household cleaning is the most commonly reported activity to be carried out by children and adolescents. This is the case both for those above age 12, accounting for 79.3%, and for those under the age of 12, accounting for 48.6%. A greater proportion of participation in this activity was found to be carried out by females above the age of 12, making up 92.4%, followed by females below the age of 12, making up 59.1%. In the majority of household trade-related activities analyzed, female children and adolescents have greater participation, except for in the case of running errands, in which male children and adolescents over the age of 12 make up 36.7%.

Table 6. Proportion of Children Participating in Household Trades

Activity	Under 12 Years Old			12 to 17 Years Old		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Washing	13.8%	16.1%	14.9%	21.1%	53.5%	36.9%
Ironing	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	5.8%	3.1%
Cooking	2.3%	4.8%	3.5%	11.1%	48.8%	29.5%
Running errands	18.0%	22.6%	20.1%	36.7%	30.8%	33.8%
Household cleaning	39.6%	59.1%	48.6%	66.7%	92.4%	79.3%
Caring for others	1.8%	5.4%	3.5%	3.9%	15.7%	9.7%

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

When asked about what motivates them to carry out household chores, surveyed children and adolescents gave answers primarily related to collaboration and family customs. 51.3% of children and adolescents mentioned that they have been participating in household chores since they were young, 46.5% reported participating because they like to help, and a similar percentage said they do so at the request of their parents. In general, 88.2% of minors surveyed expressed they like to help and consider it as a life learning, and 91.3% reported that they are treated well when asked to carry out these activities.

The results of the Study indicate that the participation of children and adolescents in household trades usually occurs in a setting under which their rights are protected, and their interests and needs considered. Most of the time, this participation is voluntary, does not affect schooling, and is carried out within their home context, under the care and supervision of adults.

Despite the above, the Study's results also indicate that in some cases, the participation of children and adolescents in household trades represent possible risks of child labor and extended child labor (according to the ILO definition), as some children and adolescents dedicate 15 or more hours per week to household trade activities. Out of the 755 surveyed minors, 21 reported receiving "not-so-good treatment" when being asked to perform household trades. Of these, 17 children and adolescents stated that they feel pressured into doing said activities; 3 think they are forced to perform senseless tasks; and 1 reported not being allowed to have resting periods. 59 children and adolescents reported that they do not like to help in household trades. Of these 59, 40 mentioned not having enough time for playing or doing what they like; 31 stated they end up very tired; and 2 reported they do not have time to complete their school homework.

4. CHILD LABOR FINDINGS WITHIN THE COFFEE SECTOR

In this section of the document, the Study's main results on child labor cases identified in coffee production activities are presented. These are based on definitions and criteria on child labor, presented in the section on regulatory and conceptual framework. These results place special emphasis on hazardous activities listed in Resolution 1796 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor, which due to their nature or conditions of work are harmful to the health and integrity of children and adolescents, highlighting cases identified in the the Colombia Avanza project's target municipalities of Huila and Tolima.

In order to comprehend this results analysis, it is necessary to be familiar with and understand the stages of the coffee production process. Table 7 contains the 11 stages identified in the farm coffee production process, as well as materials used in each stage, according to the *Final technical report on child labor in the production of rice, coffee, cotton and sugar cane in Colombia*, published by Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 2016.

Table 7. Stages of the Coffee Production Process

Productive process phase	Description	Materials in Family Farming	Materials in High-Tech Agriculture
Sowing devices in nursery	Germinating plants in a nursery	Plastics, germination trays, wood, sticks, machete, hoe, chemical agents, etc.	This activity is primarily a family type of production
Fertilization	Implementation of nutrients to the production environment	Backpressure pumps, chemical fertilizers, biological	Tractor, tractor-adaptable application pumps, chemical, and biological fertilizers
Land preparation	Implementation of nutrients to the production environment	Hoe, blades, rakes, animal- drawn subsoilers	Tractor, tractor-adaptable application pumps, chemical, and biological fertilizers
Pest and disease management	Decrease in the incidence of species that affect crop development	Mainly through cultural activities	Mainly using chemicals and tractors
Establishing of shading	Establishment of a crop to provide shade for the coffee crop		
Harvest	Harvesting the coffee bean from the plant	Coffee picking trays	This activity is primarily a family type of production
Pulping	Removing the pulp from the harvested coffee bean		
Classification	Separation of coffee beans by sets	Specialized sorting machinery	Specialized sorting machinery
Fermentation	Decompose the mucilage (part of the coffee bean)	Fermentation tanks	Fermentation tanks
Washing	Washing of the leftovers after fermentation of the mucilage	Specialized washing machinery (hydro cyclone)	Specialized washing machinery (hydrocyclone)
Drying	Dry the remnant after washing	Fuel dryers	Fuel dryers

Source: Taken from - Final technical report on child labor in the production of rice, coffee, cotton and sugar cane in Colombia. Universidad Nacional de Colombia 2016, as referenced in CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia. Executive Summary (2021).

According to the Study's methodology, the measurement of child labor was conducted in consideration of 15 hazardous activities according to Resolution 1796 of 2018 from the Ministry of Labor that could be related to coffee agriculture. of the farm surveys revealed children and adolescent participation in seven hazardous activities within the coffee

production process. Table 8 describes these activities, which represent risks to the health, well-being, and development of children and adolescents.⁴

Table 8. Hazardous Activities of Resolution 1796 of 2018 Conducted by Children and Adolescents within Coffee Agriculture, According to the Study.

Resolution 1796 of 2018 Ministry of Labor List of Hazardous Activities for Minors	
No.	
2	Activities involving the use of tools, machinery, or equipment that expose children and adolescents to whole-body or segmental vibration or the assignment of workplaces or positions close to vibration-generating sources.
8	Handling, operation, or maintenance activities of hand tools and hazardous machinery for industrial, agricultural, or mining use; belonging to the metalworking, paper, and wood industries; circular and band electric saws, guillotines, grinding, and mixing machines, meat processing machines, meat mills, etc.
15	Activities related to the contact or manipulation of phytosanitary products, fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, solvents, sterilizers, disinfectants, chemical reagents, pharmaceuticals, organic and inorganic solvents, among others.
20	Activities involving heights greater than 1.5 meters.
22	Activities involving operation or contact with the electrical systems of machines and power generation systems (electrical connections, control panels, power transmitters, among others).
27	Activities related to load handling, lifting, carrying, transporting, pulling, pushing heavy objects manually or with mechanical aids, the following is established for adolescents between 16 and less than 18 years of age: Intermittent lifting (interrupted frequency): maximum weight of 15 kg for males and 8 kg for females; Incessant lifting (continuous frequency): maximum weight 12 kg for males and 6 kg for females. Manual transport is limited as follows: adolescents 16 and under 18 years of age: 20 kg, male adolescents up to 16 years of age: 15 kg, female adolescents up to 16 years of age: 8 kg. For transport in carts on rails: adolescents between 16 and under 18 years of age: 500 Kg, male adolescents up to 16 years of age: 300 Kg, and female adolescents up to 16 years of age: 200 Kg. For transport in hand carts: adolescents between 16 and less than 18 years of age: 20 Kg.
35	Activities related to domestic work in one's own home that exceeds 15 hours per week. Domestic work in the homes of third parties.

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia. Executive Summary (2021).

Taking into consideration the stages in the coffee production process, as well as their respective activities and the tools, equipment, and substances that are used in each of them, Table 9 describes the activities of coffee agriculture and the coffee production stages in which children and adolescents participate in activities considered hazardous according to Resolution 1976 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor. The main risks for minors are evidenced in the practice of activities related to terrain preparation (use of hoes, blades, rakes, and chemical fertilizers); planting or pruning (use of machetes, hoes, mowers and pruning scissors); fertilization (use of chemical fertilizers and handling of toxic substances); plague and disease control (use of chemical products); coffee collection (load lifting); and removing pulp (use of electric pulp removers).

⁴ Farm survey did not include questions regarding exposure of children and adolescents to solar radiation (hazardous activity No. 5 of Resolution 1796 of 2018 Ministry of Labor).

Although the planting, pruning, and plating activities described above are not divided into detailed stages, these were considered in the Study as part of the productive process stages in which the participation of children and adolescents in coffee agriculture activities was identified.

Table 9. Hazardous Activities of Resolution 1796 of 2018 Carried Out By and Adolescents in Coffee Agriculture, According to Stages in the Productive Process

Labor/Activity	Coffee collection	Pulp removal	Planting or pruning	Plating	Fertilization	Plague control
Operating machinery equipment and or hazardous tools that involve exposure to vibrations and use of agricultural equipment		●	●	●		●
Use of fertilizers and/or fumigation					●	
Handling of toxic substances (agrochemical containers, acids, poisons, gases, x-rays)					●	●
Lifting coffee bags/ carrying coffee collection containers	●	●				
Lifting fertilizer bags					●	
Operation of electric devices or apparatuses		●				

Source: Own elaboration based on: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

4.1. Child labor cases identified within the Study

The Study classified the following as child labor: (i) all cases included in the list of hazardous activities in Resolution 1796 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor; (ii) cases in which children and adolescents surveyed stated that activities affect their health, safety, or morality; (iii) cases in which the activities exceed the allowed daily or weekly intensity; or (iv) cases in which activities interfere with school attendance. Child labor situations were determined based on survey responses from children and adolescents and discerned according to following activity descriptions:

- **Hazardous work:** Use of tools, machinery, or equipment; contact with or handling of phytosanitary or fertilizing products; work at heights above 1.5 meters; contact with electrical systems; handling of heavy loads or objects
- **Load handling:** Intermittent lifting – interrupted frequency (lifting coffee or fertilizer sacks) or incessant lifting (using coconut pickers or other harvesting equipment for collection, with no weight specification)

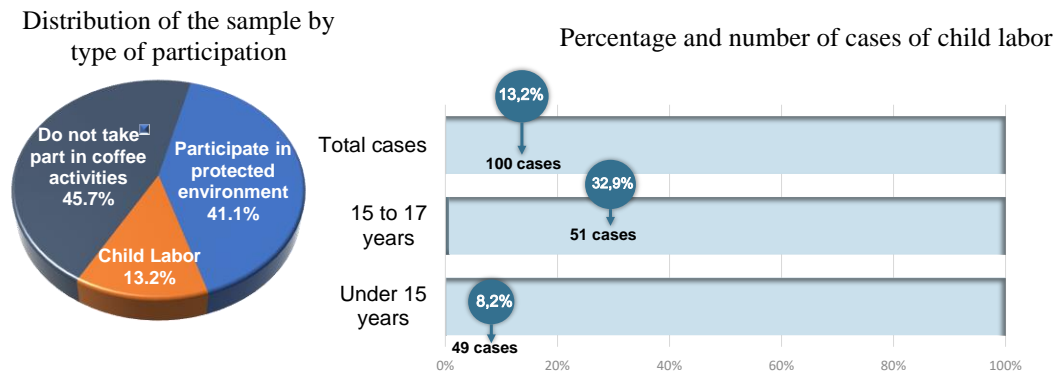
- **Affects the use of free time:** If, due to the activity, minors cannot participate in recreational, cultural, or community activities; have been limited in playing or doing things they like; or have been unable to dedicate time to spend with friends
- **Impacts health, safety, or morality:** Minors have become ill, felt physical pain or discomforts, felt mistreated or humiliated, felt forced to do something he/she dislikes, felt pressured to do something he/she does not feel capable of doing, been in contact with persons with whom he/she have felt or been in danger.
- **Interferes with school attendance:** Activities performed interfere with school attendance.
- **Exceeds the allowable intensity:** If the activity is carried out for more than 30 hours per week; for more than 6 hours per day; or if activity is carried out after 6:00 p.m.

According to these parameters established above, it was found that of the total 755 surveyed children and adolescents, 345 (45.7%) do not participate in any productive activities on the farm and 410 (54.3%) participate⁵ in at least one productive activity on family or other farms. Of the minors that were found to participate in productive coffee agriculture activities, 100 cases (13.2%) were identified as child labor. Most of these cases (76) constitute hazardous activities outlined in Resolution 1797 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor. The other cases (24) include impacts on the health, safety, and schooling of minors, or relate to the time spent on productive activities by children and adolescents. The Study's results also indicate that none of the adolescents who of working age had a work permit.

According to age, the highest incidence of child labor is concentrated adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 (155 of the total 755 of surveyed persons belong to this age group), who make up 32.9% of child labor cases (51 cases). Children and adolescents under the age of 15 (600 of the total 755 surveyed persons belong to this age group) make up 8.2% of child labor cases (49 cases), as observed in Figure 3.

⁵ Of the total 410 surveyed children and adolescents who participate in some activity on the farm, 296 (72%) are children under the age of 15 years and 114 (28%) are adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 years.

Figure 3. Child Labor Rate and Number of Cases by Age Group



Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia. Executive Summary (2021).

It should be noted that the Study did not find any cases on the coffee farms that correspond to practices outlined in Convention 182 of the ILO on worst forms of child labor related to slavery or similar practices; the use, recruitment, or offering of children and adolescents for prostitution, pornography production, or pornographic performances; or for illicit activities.

Table 10 presents 100 cases of child labor situations, of which 76 (10%) correspond to the 10% that constitute hazardous activities, while the other 24 cases represent 3.2% of the total surveyed children and adolescents who participate in other activities. These 24 cases consist of participation in activities different to those of hazardous activities, as specified in criteria for classifying activities performed by children and adolescents as child labor (Table 2). Examination by age group reveals that, of the 76 cases corresponding to hazardous activities, 42 are made up of adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17, and 32 cases correspond to children and adolescents under the age of 15.

14 of the 24 cases of child labor are associated with activities that impact the health, safety, and morality of children and adolescents; 6 cases are related to activities that exceed the allowed hour intensity; and 4 interfere with school attendance. 15 of the 24 cases of child labor are made up of children and adolescents under the age of 15 and 9 cases include adolescents between the ages of 15 to 17 years. It is important to mention that these 24 cases correspond to survey responses from children and adolescents regarding feeling restricted in carrying out the activities they like, facing difficulties in attending school, not having time to spend with friends, feeling pain or physical discomfort, feeling pressured to participate in any activity, among others.⁶ These cases could include some situations of extended child labor occurring through household trades (hazardous activity 36 of the Resolution of 1796 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor).

⁶ The specific questions for this option were as follows: Due to performing these activities: Have you become ill, or have you felt physical pain or discomfort? Have you had difficulties going to school? Have you not been able to participate in other activities in which you would like to participate? (Recreational, cultural, community), have you been limited in playing or doing the things you would like to do? Have you not been able to spend time with your friends? Did you feel mistreated or humiliated? Have you felt forced to do something you don't like to do? Have you felt pressured to do something that you don't feel capable of doing? Have you ever been in contact with people with whom you have felt or been in danger?

Table 10. Cases Classified as Child Labor by Type of Situation or Occurrence

Status or Impact of the Activity Performed	Under age 15 Years of Age	15 to 17 Years of Age	15 to 17 Years of Age, Pregnant	Total	
(1) Hazardous work according to Res. 1796/2018	34	42	0	76	
(2) Impinges on health, safety, or morality	14	0	0	14	
(3) Exceeds permitted intensity	Weekly	0	3	0	3
	Daily	0	0	0	0
	Work-day	0	3	0	3
(4) Interferes with school attendance	1	3	0	4	
Total cases of child labor	49	51	0	100	
Total surveyed	600	155	2	755	
Child labor rate	8.6%	32.9%	0%	13.2%	

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

The 76 cases of child labor that incur hazardous activities, as indicated in Resolution 1796 of 2018, are concentrated in two activities: the use of fertilizers or fumigation products; and the operation of hazardous agricultural machinery, equipment, or tools that involve exposure to vibrations. Most child labor cases constituting hazardous activities are the use of fertilizers or fumigation products, making up 55 cases. The use of fertilizers or fumigation products occurs during two stages of the productive process: fertilization and plague control. The hazardous activity with second highest incidence, with 46 cases, is the operation of machinery, equipment, or tools which involve exposure to vibrations. This activity is carried out in four stages of the productive process: planting, fertilization, pruning and soil preparation. Other activities involve the operation of electric devices or apparatuses such as coffee pulp removing machines and the handling of toxic substances such as agrochemicals.

Table 11 presents the coffee productive process stages during which activities corresponding to the 76 cases mentioned above are carried out, as well as the tools, elements, and substances considered hazardous for children and adolescents.

Table 11. Hazardous Activities of the 76 Cases of Child Labor Identified According to Resolution 1796 of 2018 by Age Group

No. of Activity in Resolution 1796 of 2018	Under age 15	Between ages 15 - 17	Total Answers	Productive Process Stage	Elements Used
15. Use of fertilizers and/or products for fumigation	20	35	55	Fertilization and plague control	Chemical fertilizers
2 and 8. Operation of hazardous agricultural machinery, equipment, and/or tools that involve exposure to vibrations	20	26	46	Sprouting in greenhouse, fertilization, planting, pruning, and soil preparation	Machete, hoe, mower, pruning scissors, and motor pump or aspersion equipment
22. Operation of electrical devices or apparatuses	1	6	7	Removing pulp	Electric coffee pulp removers
35. Handling toxic substances (containers with agrochemicals, acids, poisons, gases, X-rays)	1	2	3	Sprouting in greenhouse, fertilization and plague control	Chemical substances

27. Transport from hills to lot, manually or with handcart, and load lifting	0	2	2	Planting or pruning	
20. Activities in which one must work at an altitude of 1.50 meters or above	1	0	1		
Total	43	71	114		

Note: The total number of cases does not add up to 76, given that some children, and adolescents participate in one or more activities. Source: Adapted from CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

Analysis of the 100 cases of child labor identified across departments and municipalities selected for the Study reveals that 52% of cases are concentrated in the municipalities of Planadas (27) in the department of Tolima, a target department of the Colombia Avanza project. 25 cases occur in the municipality of Piendamó, located in the department of Cauca. The department with the least cases of child labor was Valle del Cauca, with three cases in its municipality of Sevilla. In terms of municipalities, Planadas reported the greatest number of cases that incur in child labor situations (27), followed by Piendamó (25), Andes (14) and Chaparral (13). In relation to municipalities focalized by the Colombia Avanza project in the department of Huila, Six cases of child labor were identified in the Colombia Avanza project's target department of Huila, three in the municipality of Acevedo and three in the municipality of Pitalito.

As mentioned in the methodology section above, it is important to note that the greatest number of farm surveys were carried out in four municipalities of the departments of Tolima and Huila, given that these are the municipalities of focus for the Colombia Avanza project. Surveyed children and adolescents in these four municipalities make up 25% (189 surveys) of the total 755 minors surveyed in the 15 selected municipalities. The municipalities of Chaparral and Planadas in Tolima make up 10% of the surveys (75 surveys) and the municipalities of Pitalito and Acevedo make up 15% (114 surveys). Table 12 presents a summary of the 100 cases of child labor across the surveyed departments and municipalities.

Table 12. Distribution of 100 Child Labor Cases by Department and Municipality

Department	Municipality	No. Of cases	Total in Department
Antioquia	Andes	14	14
Caldas	Aguadas	6	11
	Riosucio	5	
Cauca	Piendamó	25	25
Huila	Acevedo	3	6
	Pitalito	3	
Santander	Barbosa	1	1
Tolima	Chaparral	13	40
	Planadas	27	
Valle del Cauca	Sevilla	3	3

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

A more detailed analysis of child labor cases in the four target municipalities of the Colombia Avanza project is presented in Table 13, which indicates the distribution of the 46 cases across age group for each of the municipalities. As shown in the table, Chaparral and Planadas have concentrated cases of children and adolescents under the age of 15, with totals of 8 and 14 cases, respectively. In Acevedo and Pitalito, there were 2 cases identified to consist of adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 in both municipalities and only 1 case of minors under the age of 15 in each municipality. The municipality of Planadas has the highest incidence of child labor reports out of the four target municipalities of by the project, with 27 cases.

Table 13. Distribution of Child Labor Cases by Age Group in the Target Municipalities of the Colombia Avanza Project

Department	Municipality	Age Group				Total by Municipality
		Under age 15	Percentage under age 15	Between ages 15 – 17	Percentage between ages 15 - 17	
Tolima	Chaparral	8	61.6%	5	38.4%	13
	Planadas	14	51.8%	13	48.1%	27
Huila	Acevedo	1	33.4%	2	66.6%	3
	Pitalito	1	33.4%	2	66.6%	3

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

Out of the 76 cases of hazardous activities, the department with the greatest incidence of child labor is that of Tolima. Within the department of Tolima, there are 31 cases in the municipalities of Chaparral and Planadas. There are 20 cases in the municipality of Piendamó within the department of Cauca. Together, these two departments make up 67% of the total cases of child labor related to activities considered hazardous for children and adolescents. In terms of the municipal distribution of the 76 cases, Planadas has the greatest number with 21 cases (28%), followed by Piendamó with 20 cases (26%). In the department of Huila, there were three cases identified in each of the municipalities of Pitalito and Acevedo, representing 8% of the total. Table 14 presents the distribution of 76 cases associated to hazardous activities across department and municipality.

Table 14. Cases of Hazardous Activities According to Resolution 1796 of 2018 by Department and Municipality

Department	Municipality	No. of cases	Total by Department
Antioquia	Andes	10	10
Caldas	Aguadas	5	7
	Riosucio	2	
Cauca	Piendamó	20	20
Huila	Acevedo	3	6
	Pitalito	3	
Santander	Barbosa	1	1
Tolima	Chaparral	10	31
	Planadas	21	

Valle del Cauca	Sevilla	1	1
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Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

The same analysis of cases with hazardous activities was conducted across departments and municipalities prioritized by the Colombia Avanza project. The results of farm surveys indicate that the use of fertilizers or fumigation products is the most frequent hazardous activity involving minors in coffee production, with 25 affirmative responses out of the total children and adolescents surveyed in the Study's municipalities of focus.

Planadas is the municipality with the highest incidence of hazardous activities reported to be carried out by minors, with 34 affirmative responses. Within Planadas, the same number of respondents indicated participation in activities related to the operation of hazardous machinery, equipment, or tools and the use of fertilizers or fumigation products (16 in each case).

Within the four target municipalities of the Colombia Avanza project, participation in activities considered hazardous for children and adolescents are focused in adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 years (35 affirmative answers). The findings of these activities by age group are presented in Table 15.

Table 15. Hazardous Activities Identified within Target Municipalities of the Colombia Avanza Project by Age Group

Hazardous Activity in Coffee Agriculture	Chaparral		Planadas		Acevedo		Pitalito		Total Responses Per Activity
	Under age 15	Betwe en ages 15 - 17	Under age 15	Betwe en ages 15 - 17	Under age 15	Betwe en ages 15 - 17	Under age 15	Betwe en ages 15 - 17	
15. Use of fertilizers and/or fumigation products	1	4	6	10	1	1	1	1	25
2 and 8. Operation of agricultural machinery, equipment, and/or hazardous tools that involve exposure to vibrations	3	5	5	11	0	0	0	0	24
22. Operation of electric devices or apparatuses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
20. Activities in which one must work at an altitudes of 1,50 meters or above	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
27. Manual transport or transport in hand cart from hills to lot and load lifting	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020).

The 24 cases identified as child labor that do not constitute hazardous activities are concentrated in four departments. As shown in Table 16, these are distributed amongst the department of Caldas, with 13 cases in the municipality of Riosucio, followed by 7 cases in

the department of Tolima within the municipality of Planadas. The 4 remaining cases are found in the departments of Cauca and Valle, with two cases each.

Table 16. Cases of Child Labor Not Considered as Hazardous Activities

Department	Municipality	No. of Cases	Total per Department	Participation Percentage by Department
Caldas	Riosucio	13	13	54.2%
Cauca	Piendamó	2	2	8.3%
Tolima	Planadas	7	7	29.2%
Valle del Cauca	Sevilla	2	2	8.3%

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (2020)

Work Permits

Regarding work permits for minors, the results of the Study reveal that none of the children and adolescents found to be working had authorization issued by the competent authority. The explanation for this finding is that most of the surveyed families are not aware of the regulations nor application process for work permits for adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 years. Furthermore, these authorizations are mainly requested by coffee growers with large farms that have certified processes. The absence of work permits among families surveyed can be explained by the fact that they carry out coffee agriculture activities on family farms, where there is no consideration of work permit regulations.

Through the focus groups implemented by the Study, parents expressed that the national legislation on child labor does not recognize the importance of learning coffee agriculture activities from an early age to promote generational relay, given the difficulties that parents may face motivating minors under the age of 18 to work on the field if they have never participated in family farm labors. Likewise, parents believe that such standards do not consider that their children frequently get involved in family farm activities in a voluntary manner, out of curiosity, a desire to learn, and due to the fact that supporting their family may also be a source of well-being for them. Parents believe regulations must consider factors such as the type of activities carried out, adult accompaniment, and participation in activities outside of school schedules. They also believe that regulations should pay greater attention to the specific conditions of low-income rural families, and the need for many adolescents to generate their own income, for example, if they are parents or the oldest child in a single-parent household.

It is important to mention that surveyed minors not only conduct coffee agriculture activities on their farms, but also on other farms usually belonging to family relatives or neighbors. This is because on some occasions, children and adolescents accompany their parents or older siblings to work, and even move to other municipalities or departments in response to the need to support the work of their relatives or to avoid being left alone at home. Fathers travel

with their sons while mothers and daughters remain on the family farm and oversee it. Given this, the Study identified that 31(4.1%) of the 755 surveyed children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 participate in coffee activities on other farms without authorization from the competent authorities. Out of these, 25 children and adolescents reported that they decided on their own to begin participating in coffee activities outside the family farm, while 6 mentioned that they were motivated to do so by their parents. When questioned about the owners of the farms on which they carry out coffee agriculture activities, 16 minors reported that the farm belongs to their family. 22 stated that they work on farms in the same village, 4 reported relocating to another farm in a nearby village, and 5 stated that they relocate to another municipality or department.

The 31 children and adolescents who participate in coffee agriculture activities on other farms without authorization do so on a part-time schedule, between two and five days a week. The Study reveals that 22 of these minors are always accompanied by their parents and 30 stated that they receive good treatment, while 1 expressed not being allowed to take pauses or rest periods. The employment of these 31 minors in coffee agriculture activities is governed by the labor informality that is typical of farmers who work in rural areas. None of them had a written contract or social security affiliation.

Although the 31 minors reported not being forced to participate in coffee agriculture activities, the Study revealed some conditions were identified that can be considered risky or constitute situations of child labor situations according to current regulations. This is the case for the 12 minors who believe that their participation in coffee agriculture activities limits them from playing or doing the things they enjoy, as well as the 2 who reported suspending their studies in order to relocate to other regions for work.

4.2. Causes and determining factors that motivate the participation of children and adolescents in coffee agriculture activities

Given that the Study does not determine direct causes of child labor for the 100 cases identified, the information presented in this section corresponds to the total 755 children and adolescents surveyed. It contains the general causes that motivate the participation of minors to in coffee agriculture activities that constitute both participation in a protected environment, as well as causes that lead to situations of child labor in coffee agriculture, according to the Study's methodology. The main motivations are described below:

1. Coffee growing is considered to be an activity that emphasizes family agriculture, implying that family members are the ones responsible of carrying out farm labor, reducing or avoiding labor force hiring costs, and allocating sources of family income to cover basic needs, such as food expenses. This is evidenced by the fact that 71% of surveyed coffee farms employ a family labor force.
2. It is considered common practice for children and adolescents to participate in coffee agriculture activities as part of the culture, involving minors in the economic dynamics of the family economy and in labors carried out by their parents, the reason for which

minors' participation these activities is not considered work. 93.7% of surveyed households do not agree with the governmental limitations on the participation of children and adolescents in productive activities and consider such regulations to be very restrictive. Likewise, there is a lack of knowledge regarding child labor regulations on the part of parents and consequently a lack of knowledge on which activities are permitted and which are not. Surveyed families demonstrate concern for generational relay in the coffee sector, as they consider that Colombian regulations to be restrictive to an effective exchange and transfer of empirical knowledge with minors, impacting generational relay and cultural traditions.

3. Economic challenges associated with events such as the death of a spouse or the temporary absence of a parent may lead to the need for minors to work. Additionally, childcare becomes an important factor that motivates the participation of minors in coffee agriculture activities, given that the participation of women in economic life demands that children accompany their parents to work and therein initiate the process of learning and participating in some coffee agriculture activities.
4. The need for protecting and caring for minors in their free time. Parents believe that employing children and adolescents in coffee agriculture activities helps them to avoid being exposed to risky behaviors such as consuming psychoactive substances or participating in criminal activities, given limited opportunities for childcare outside of school in rural areas, the lack of educational programs for adolescents, and services for the occupation of free time.
5. The desire to have money to purchase wanted items or to be able to support with household expenses drives children and adolescents to participate in coffee agriculture activities for payment through activities such as coffee collection. Some parents pay their children money, as they do workers, or they pay them with in kind purchases of clothes or toys.

In order to identify determining factors related to the participation of minors in coffee agriculture activities, CRECE conducted a probabilistic regression with information from farm surveys applied to children and adolescents in order to identify which household and individual factors are related to the probability of minors participating in coffee production activities on farms. The results obtained show that the probability of participation by children and adolescents increases with the following variables related to household characteristics:

1. Educational level of the head of the household The lower the educational level of the head of the household, the probability of participation by children and adolescents in coffee agriculture activities increases by 13.4%.
2. The early age at which the head of household began working instigates a pattern that is reproduced in the following generations. The earlier the age at which the head of home began working, the higher the probability that their children will work in activities related to the coffee production cycle.

Regarding individual characteristics, the probability of children and adolescents participating in activities at coffee farms increases 17.2% as they grow older in age. This probability drops 39.2% as schooling level improves. Gender analysis reveals that the probability of participation by minors is lower in female children and adolescents, given that their participation in activities related to the coffee production cycle is reduced by 78%.

Data analyzed from the probabilistic model, as well as results of the surveys applied to children, adolescents, parents, and institutional actors, allow it to be inferred that minor participation in coffee agriculture activities are motivated by economic, cultural, social, and educational aspects of coffee growing families. Such data also reveals that this participation, in some cases, constitutes risks and situations of child labor in accordance with the current regulations on the prevention and eradication of child labor (Resolution 1796 of 2018 Ministry of Labor).

5. CONCLUSIONS

- The Study sample consists of 755 children and adolescents surveyed on farms in 15 coffee growing municipalities and 9 departments within Colombia. The sample is comprised of two age groups: Children and adolescents under the age of 15 years, who make up 79% of the surveyed population, and adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17, who represent 20% of those surveyed. Survey results show that 345 (45.7%) of children and adolescents do not participate in any coffee agriculture activity whatsoever and 410 (54.3%) participate in at least one productive coffee agriculture activity on their family farm or on other farms, without this participation necessarily constituting child labor as defined in current Colombian regulations. 71% of the coffee growing farms selected for the Study employ a family labor force.
- Under current regulations, the Study's results indicate a total of 100 cases of child labor, which make up 13.2% of the total 755 surveyed children and adolescents. Of these 100 cases, 76 correspond to hazardous activities considered in Resolution 1796 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor and 24 correspond to other activities considered as child labor which could include situations of extended child labor due to participation in household trades. The greatest incidence of child labor is found in adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17, with 51 cases, while 49 cases correspond to children and adolescents under the age of 15. These results are taken from a total of 155 surveyed adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17, and 600 surveyed children and adolescents under the age of 15.
- The 76 cases identified as hazardous activities are concentrated in adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17, with 42 cases corresponding to two activities listed in Resolution 1796 of 2018: the use of fertilizers or fumigation products and the operation of hazardous agricultural machinery, equipment, or tools. Fertilization or fumigation is present in two stages of the coffee production process (fertilization and plague control), while the operation of hazardous agricultural machinery, equipment, or tools occurs in four stages of the productive process (planting, fertilization, pruning, and soil preparation). The rest of the hazardous activities found to have a lower incidence consist of the operation of

electrical devices or apparatuses and the handling of toxic substances such as agrochemicals.

- Of the 24 cases of child labor which do not constitute hazardous activities, 14 are related to activities that impact the health, safety, or morality of children and adolescents; 6 correspond to activities that exceed the allowed work hour intensity, and 4 interfere with school attendance. For these activities, the greatest incidence of child labor takes place among children and adolescents under the age of 15, with 15 cases, while 9 cases occur among adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17.

According to the Study, although the participation of children and adolescents in household trades usually takes place within a protected environment, some cases are found in which the participation of minors in household trades involves possible risks and cases of extended child labor. Farm survey results show that 21 of the 755 surveyed children and adolescents reported receiving “not-so-good treatment” when they are asked to carry out household trades, expressing that they feel pressured to carry out such activities, that they are forced to do senseless tasks, and, in one particular case, that they are not allowed to have resting periods. In turn, 40 children and adolescents mentioned not having time to play or do what they enjoy, with some of them reporting to end up very tired, and in 2 cases minors reported not having enough time to complete their schoolwork.

- 79% of the 100 cases of child labor are concentrated in 4 out of the 15 municipalities selected for the Study: Planadas in the department of Tolima (27 cases), Piendamó in the department of Cauca (25 cases), Andes in the department of Antioquia (14 cases), and Chaparral in the department of Tolima (13 cases). In terms of findings in the municipalities targeted by the Colombia Avanza project, six cases were found to constitute child labor in the department of Huila, with three in Acevedo and three in Pitalito.
- It is important to consider that the greatest number of farm surveys (25%) were carried out in the municipalities of Planadas and Chaparral within the department of Tolima, and in the municipalities of Pitalito and Acevedo, within the department of Huila. This is because these are the four target municipalities of the Colombia Avanza project.
- The Study revealed that none of the adolescents that were working at the time during which the survey was conducted had required work authorization issued by the competent local authority. In total, 31 minors (4.1%) of the 755 surveyed children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 worked at other coffee farms; 22 worked at farms in their same village; four relocated to farms in nearby villages; and five relocated to another municipality or department entirely. Out of these 31 cases, 22 minors reported that they were always accompanied by their parents, 30 indicated they receive good treatment, and only one minor stated not being allowed to have breaks or resting periods. The participation of the 31 minors in coffee agriculture activities is governed by labor informality that is typical of farmers who work in rural areas.

- Most surveyed families are not aware of regulations regarding protected adolescent work or the application process for work permits for adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17. Furthermore, families stated that work permits are mainly requested by large coffee farms that have certified processes. Given that the surveyed minors mainly conduct coffee agriculture activities on family farms where work permits are not even considered by parents, lack of work authorization practices is common practice among families.
- Families surveyed consider regulations on child labor to be restrictive and demonstrative of a lack of awareness regarding the importance of learning coffee agriculture labors from an early age in order to promote generational relay. They also believe that regulations do not take into consideration the specific circumstances of low-income rural families and the need for some adolescents to generate their own income if they are parents themselves or if they are older siblings in a single-parent household. However, it is important to consider that giving flexibility to legislation could have repercussions in the strategies and policies for the prevention and eradication of child labor throughout the country, especially in rural areas, to give continuity to coffee growing culture.
- The size of the farm impacts the probability of having risks or situations of child labor. Coffee agriculture activities are a family activity on small farms, where the labor force primarily comes from family members. Therefore, the smaller the farm, the greater the probability of having risk or situations of child labor in coffee agriculture activities.

The Study's results show that male children and adolescents are more prone to participate in activities related to the coffee production cycle, and therefore at greater risk of participating in child labor. Female children and adolescents are more prone to perform household chores, which likewise can be considered as extended child labor if it involves conditions determined by the law in regards to the allowable weekly hours, interference with school activities, and the enjoyment of their free time.

- Participation by children and adolescents in farm labors, both in activities related to the coffee production cycle as well as in household chores, could constitute situations or risks of child labor. This is because the customs in the surveyed regions consider participation in these activities to be normal and part of a family's daily routine; it is not when these activities could constitute child labor.
- Economic challenges faced by families as a result of events such as the death of a breadwinner can be factors that contribute to the possible presence of child labor risks, as mothers are forced to work on their own coffee farms or those of others, and have take their children along with them. On some occasions, there is a need for children and adolescents to work in order to help cover household expenses.

- Cultural, economic, social, and educational aspects that are typical of coffee growing culture are the main factors that motivate the participation of children and adolescents in coffee agriculture activities. In some cases this participation represents risks or situations of child labor according to what is established in current regulations, specifically with regard to activities considered hazardous according to Resolution 1796 of 2018 of the Ministry of Labor.
- The participation of children and adolescents in coffee activities increases during school vacation and high harvest seasons. In these periods, 5 out of every 10 surveyed minors conducts coffee agriculture activities on the family farm or on other farms, participating mainly in harvesting activities, and specifically coffee collection. According to the Study, 85% of surveyed minors participate in coffee collection on farms under five hectares, while 55% participate in coffee collection on farms larger than five hectares.
- Although the time dedicated to coffee collection is not prolonged, as evidenced by the fact that 98% of surveyed children and adolescents reported dedicating less than one hour per day to this activity, it is important to consider that this stage of the coffee productive process presents child labor risks. These risks are associated with intermittent load lifting, such as of coffee sacks, or non-stop lifting (continuous frequency) of coffee collection containers or other coffee collection equipment that exceeds the allowed weight determined for children and adolescents according to age and gender, according to Resolution 1797 of the Ministry of Labor.
- The Study did not identify any cases of coffee agriculture activities corresponding to Convention 182 of the ILO on the worst forms of child labor related to slavery or similar practices; the recruitment, use, or offering of children and adolescents for prostitution, pornography production, or pornographic performances; or for illicit activities.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS ACCORDING TO RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

The Study's recommendations, presented below by stakeholder type, correspond to the following topics: a review of current regulations, community outreach, linkage with voluntary sustainability initiatives, strengthening of the institutional offer for education and free time, promotion of generational relay, and mobilization of local stakeholders.⁷

Responsible	Recommendation	Other stakeholders that can support the initiative
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⁷ The Colombia Avanza project carried out technical work meetings with the FNC, Ministry of Labor, and ICBF, who reviewed and considered the Study's recommendations through the elaboration of an Action Plan that includes implementation of the recommendations that were accepted by each entity, according to their mission and field of action, upon finalization of the project. Recommendations are expected to be incorporated as part of the work agenda of each of the entities. Some of the Study's recommendations make up part of the annual work agenda of these entities, through projects, programs, and technical assistance.

Government Responsibilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government • Ministry of Sports • Ministry of Culture 	<p>There is a need for recreational and extracurricular programs and projects in rural coffee-growing areas aimed at children and adolescents that offer alternatives for fun, education, and training focused on the development of creativity, musical, and artistic skills and knowledge of new information technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities • National Apprenticeship Service (SENA) • <i>Fundación Batuta</i>, among other allies for arts education offerings. • Higher Education Institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education • SENA 	<p>Strengthen opportunities for access to higher education for the rural population with high-quality opportunities that considers the aspirations and needs of young people, including those related to their workforce insertion. Current regulations offer alternatives, such as articulation programs between secondary education and higher education and Training for Work and Human Development, which can be strengthened to improve the educational prospects of young people in rural areas. These programs, combined with access to resources and support for developing productive projects that promote innovation in coffee growing, can favor generational linkages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Colombia Joven</i> • Non-Governmental Organizations • Higher Education Institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Education • Ministry of Sports • Ministry of Culture • Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development 	<p>Design policies and programs that incorporate a heterogeneous vision of rural youth's aspirations and possible trajectories, understanding their diverse and sometimes contradictory identity references.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental and Municipal Governments • SENA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government • Ministry of Labor • Ministry of Education • ICBF 	<p>Legislation on child labor must contemplate specific aspects regarding the agricultural sector and, particularly, the learning of agricultural work by children and adolescents, bearing in mind that this learning is inherent to their family and, often, school socialization process.</p>	
Responsibilities of Civil Society		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POA 	<p>The valuation of the participation of children and adolescents in productive activities in the coffee farm should take into account that, in general, this takes place in a cultural framework, in collaborative spaces, and with the accompaniment of parents and adults. Conveniently, the intervention of the Colombia Avanza project can help improve the understanding of civil society regarding the differences between participation in a protected environment and child labor itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) • Community Action Boards and community leadership forums • Other civil society actors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNC 	<p>The institutions and organizations of the coffee guild at the regional level (National</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICBF

	<p>Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia -FNC - Departmental Coffee Growers Committees, Coffee Growers Cooperatives and Municipal Coffee Growers Committees) can play a determining role in the definition of actions related to the participation of children and adolescents in coffee growing in favor of their participation in protected environments. In the same sense, they can be fundamental in strengthening the Committees' actions for the Eradication of Child Labor at the territorial level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental and Municipal (CIETI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POA • Voluntary Sustainability Standards -EVS 	<p>The actions of the Colombia Avanza project would benefit from the good occupational safety and health practices and the prohibition of child labor promoted by the EVS⁸ that are present in the target municipalities. An additional mechanism to the alliances with coffee grower cooperatives could be the promotion of a commitment by coffee growers in the project's target municipalities to comply with the principles of the Global Coffee Platform through inclusion in the 4C code of conduct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILO • Coffee Growers' Cooperatives • Coffee-growing families
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNC (Central Office, Departmental and Municipal Committees of Coffee Growers) 	<p>Considering that the participation of the family in the coffee harvesting process is a tradition, especially in small Colombian coffee farms, and taking into account the high proportion of children and adolescents that support this work in their family farm, it is advisable to have an institutional statement that provides information to the coffee growing community on how this participation could take place within the framework of the criterion of participation in protected environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee Growers' Cooperatives • Departmental and Municipal CIETI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POA • FNC (Central Office, Departmental and Municipal Committees of Coffee Growers) 	<p>The Colombia Avanza project could establish alliances with ongoing institutional initiatives focused on education (such as the Escuela y Café projects), in the training of young people and coffee communities (Colombia Joven, Idéate Café) on child labor regulations and good labor practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee Growers' Cooperatives • Mayoral Municipalities • ICBF • Labor Inspections • SENA • Other allies with an impact on the project zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POA • FNC (Central Office, Departmental and Municipal Committees of Coffee Growers, Cooperatives) 	<p>It is necessary to intensify the dissemination of regulations related to protected adolescent labor among the coffee community, particularly regarding the minimum age at which they can work, the legal requirement to have work authorizations in the case of those over 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental and Municipal CIETI • Mayoral Municipalities • Childhood and Adolescent Police

⁸ EVS are voluntary norms and standards that are usually evaluated by third parties, in relation to environmental security, social ethic, food related matters and which are adopted by organizations.

	years of age, the procedures that must be followed, and the relevant authorities.	
Public-Private Responsibilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labor • ICBF • FNC (Central Office, Departmental and Municipal Committees of Coffee Growers) 	Identify institutional mechanisms for the registration and monitoring of information specific to coffee agriculture on the participation of children and adolescents in productive activities in coffee and child labor. Past proposals elaborated by the FNC about the type of coffee activities that young people could carry out on their farms without putting their health and safety at risk are valuable input for an inter-institutional dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Statistics Management Department (DANE) • CIETI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Institutions • FNC 	Strengthen the capacities of key local actors to promote generational relay, including educational institutions, community organizations and families, whose discourse and actions may or may not encourage young people to remain in rural areas. This strengthening can be more effective if it is based on diagnoses built with the communities from a territorial approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Action Boards • Producer Organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POA • FNC (Central Office, Departmental and Municipal Committees of Coffee Growers) • Departmental and Municipal CIETI 	To provide accompaniment and advice to families and communities regarding the current regulations for preventing child labor and the protection of adolescent workers to understand the limits between participation in productive activities focused on learning the coffee trade and the performance of activities that violate children's rights and adolescents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayoral Municipalities • ICBF • Family Police Stations • Labor Inspections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; • Ministry of Education; • Ministry of Labor; • Ministry of Sports • FNC (Central Office, Departmental and Municipal Committees of Coffee Growers) 	Understanding the participation of children and adolescents in coffee activities must consider aspects of a personal and family nature and the characteristics and opportunities of the context. The strategies for eradicating child labor must address the structural problems of the rural zone and consider the cultural characteristics of the communities that inhabit these zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayoral Municipalities • Governor's Offices • ICBF • Ombudsman's Office • Personería • Peasant and Indigenous organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POA • Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications • Educational Institutions 	Taking advantage of the frequency of internet and cell phone use by the young population, the Colombia Avanza project could promote the dissemination of information on child labor, protected labor and good working conditions in coffee, targeting associations of young coffee growers through social networks, videos, games or other new information technology resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee growers' cooperatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development 	Motivate the insertion of young people in coffee growing through initiatives and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governorships • Municipal Governments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNC 	<p>programs that consider their expectations of joining the value chain in the processing and marketing links under optimal conditions of profitability.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development • FNC 	<p>Strengthen the structure of opportunities in rural territories to overcome the main factors that drive out young people, particularly the lack of access to land and other productive factors necessary for profitable coffee growing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental and Municipal governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Indigenous Organization • Ministry of Labor • ICBF • Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History 	<p>It is crucial to generate spaces for dialogue with the indigenous coffee communities to deepen their views regarding child labor and strengthen the public policy of prevention with a differential approach. This analysis should include indigenous groups with different degrees of conservation of their political autonomy and traditional culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Indigenous Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labor • ICBF • FNC 	<p>Review of the list of hazardous activities in Resolution 1796 by subsectors and products would make it possible to identify sub-activities that children and adolescents could carry out on their family farms without putting their safety and health at risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Labor Organization (ILO) • Regional Coffee Growing Organizations

Source: CRECE. Study of Child Labor in the Coffee Sector in Colombia. Executive Summary (2021).

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ANNEX – ADDITIONAL NORMATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

According to what has been established in Law 1098 of 2006 issued by the Childhood and Adolescence Code, a person is considered a child between the ages of 0 to 12 years and an adolescent from ages 12 to 18 years. These age groups are the basis for understanding what is considered child labor according to Colombian legislation, when it is considered hazardous labor for persons under age 18, and what is the minimum age for working in Colombia.

Outlined below are national and international references adopted by Colombia and related to the country's regulatory framework for preventing and eradicating child labor, as well as protecting the adolescent worker.

Firstly, efforts for the prevention and eradication of child labor and for the protection of the adolescent worker in Colombia are consolidated in normative developments supported in the Political Constitution of Colombia (PC) and in international agreements and conventions adopted by the country, while Decree 859 of 1995, sanctioned by the President of the Republic, creates the CIETIs. Within the PC, the following articles are highlighted:

- Article 44, regarding the rights of children, declares that *“They shall be protected against all forms of abandonment, physical or moral violence, kidnapping, sale, sexual abuse, labor or economic exploitation and risky labors”* (...) *“Family, society and Government have the obligation of aiding and protecting children in order to guarantee their harmonious and integral development and the full exercising of their rights”* (...) *“Children’s rights prevail over the rights of the rest of the people.”*
- Article 45, regarding the rights of adolescents, declares that *“The adolescent has a right to protection and integral formation. The Government and society shall guarantee the active participation of adolescents in public and private organizations that are in charge of protection, education and progress of youth.”*
- Article 53, regarding labor regulation, declares a special protection for the underage worker as one of its minimum fundamental principles. Furthermore, this article points out that the international labor agreements that are duly ratified form part of the internal legislation. The minimum age for working is not explicitly determined.

Secondly, the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 was adopted and ratified by Colombia through Law 12 of 1991. In Article 32 of this convention, the commitment of Governments is to acknowledge the rights of children and adolescents to be protected is highlighted, calling for protection *“against economic exploitation and performing any type of labor that can be hazardous, hinder their education or that is harmful for their health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.”* Likewise, signatory Governments are committed to establishing a minimum age for being admitted to work, providing regulatory and working conditions, and stipulating the corresponding penalties.

Thirdly, Agreement 138 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) of 1973 on the minimum age for admission to work was approved and ratified in Colombia by Law 515 of 1999. Article 2 of this Agreement requires that the ratifying countries specify the minimum work age, which is not to be below 15 years of age, or when school obligations cease. Simultaneously, Article 7 declares that *“it is possible to authorize employment or work for people between the ages of thirteen to fifteen years in light labors.”* This is the case as long as their health, development, school attendance, and participation in professional formation programs is not hindered. However, this agreement also proposes the possibility of countries allowing persons under the age of 12 to work, as long as they abide by the provisions established therein.

In consideration of the above for the case of Colombia, Article 35 of Law 1098 of 2006, Childhood and Adolescence Code, establishes the minimum age for work in the country as 15 years of age, requiring authorization signed by the work inspector or Local Territorial Entity, which would apply the Colombian labor regime, the Substantive Labor Code (CST), as well as agreements that are ratified in the country. Additionally, children and adolescents under the age 15 will be able to *“perform activities of an artistic, cultural, recreational or sporting character”* as long as they have the respective authorization and that the activities do not exceed 14 hours a week. In this way, Colombia establishes greater restrictions regarding the minimum age of employment in comparison to what was defined in Agreement 138 of ILO.

Regarding the worst forms of child labor and hazardous work, Article 3 of the aforementioned Agreement 138 states that the minimum age for performing any labor or job considered as *hazardous for health, safety or morality of minors* is 18 years and that each country will determine the types of labors or jobs within their national legislation. However, this Agreement also establishes the possibility of authorizing employment for minors from the age of 16 years, as long as they are trained and their health, safety, and morality is guaranteed.

Fourthly, through Law 704 of 2001, the Colombian government ratified Agreement 182 of the ILO of 1999 on the prohibition of the worst forms of child labor and immediate actions for its elimination. This Agreement considers the following as child labor: *“work that is hazardous for the physical, mental or moral well-being of a child and which interferes with schooling,”* given that it impedes them from attending class, forces them to abandon school, or forces them to combine heavy work, which requires time, with Study. Additionally, this Agreement mentions what is established in relation to child labor in Law 1098 of 2006, Childhood and Adolescence Code, with a similar definition, considering it as *“work that due to its conditions or character, can affect health, integrity, safety and that impedes the right to education.”*

A fifth aspect refers to regulations related to protected adolescent work, for which Law 1098 of 2006, Childhood and Adolescence Code, stipulates the conditions relative to the work authorization for adolescents (Article 113). According to this Law, one of the conditions necessary for adolescents to be able to work, is for them to be enrolled in the educational system. Their permitted work schedule (Article 114) has a maximum duration that is subject to the following classifications:

- Adolescents older than 15 and younger than 17 years of age can only work in the daytime up until 6:00PM, with a maximum of 6 hours per day and 30 hours per week
- Adolescents older than 17 years can work until 8:00 PM, with a maximum of 8 hours per days and 40 hours per week.

According to Colombian legislation, adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 years can participate in activities that do not represent a risk to their health, safety, and dignity. For this, they require authorization from a Work Inspector or a Local Territorial Entity, under the framework of **authorized work**.⁹ According to this concept, activities must not be carried out in an intensive manner, nor interfere with an adolescent’s education and recreation. Additionally, there must be a guarantee for adolescents to access labor protections established in the CST and other complementary standards. Resolution 1796 of 2018 issued by the Ministry of Labor presents an updated list of hazardous activities that, due to their nature and conditions of work, are harmful to the health and physical integrity of persons under the age of 18. Some of the 36 activities defined in this list are typical to agricultural work.

Resolution 1796 of 2018 eliminated the mention of hazardous activities corresponding to “labors in coffee agriculture,” repealing those that had been established in Resolution 3597 of 2013. Resolution 1796 states that activities considered as hazardous cannot be carried out by any person under the age of 18 years. This resolution does not mention any economic sector specifically, however, meaning that all hazardous activities carried out by children and adolescents in any economic sector are considered child labor.

Participation, participation in a protected environment, and child labor

The concept of **participation** in coffee agriculture activities within the Study is a general concept, that is understood as the proportion of children and adolescents that participate in any productive activity or household trades, be it at the family farm or other farms, regardless if this participation is classified as child labor or not. According to the conditions in which it is carried out, participation could be classified as “participation in a protected environment” or as child labor. In order for it to be deemed as participation in a protected environment, it must be inscribed within a cultural perspective within a formation framework that transmits values and is carried out within conditions that guarantee protection of children and adolescents. Additionally, if it affects the life plan, education, rights, or social and psychological conditions of the child or adolescent, it is classified as child labor, pursuant to Colombian legislation (Resolution 1796 of 2018 on hazardous activities). The Study considered that there was no participation when children and adolescents reported in their surveys that they do not participate in any way whatsoever in farm or household activities.

In accordance with the definition of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF), the Study classified **participation in a protected environment** as cases in which “*All activities*

⁹ According to ILO (C138, 1973), Governments must establish a minimum age for entering the labor market, reserving only until adult age those activities that “*due to their nature or conditions in which they are carried out, can result as hazardous for health, safety or morality (...)*.” Law 515 of 1999 ratified Agreement 138 of ILO and established the hazardous activities that shall not be carried out by adolescents.

*carried out in protected environments such as home or school that **contribute to positive teachings or that transmit values** to children and adolescents, such as discipline, hygiene, a sense of responsibility and solidarity, and which do not interfere with their integral learning spaces.”* By using several filters in the survey applied to children and adolescents, this definition classified those who: (i) participate in productive activities or household trades on the family farm where they live; (ii) are accompanied by their parents; (iii) reported that participating is enjoyable for them; (iv) did not miss any school as a result of helping on the farm or at home; (v) receive good treatment; (vi) do not experience harmful impacts to their health as a result of participation