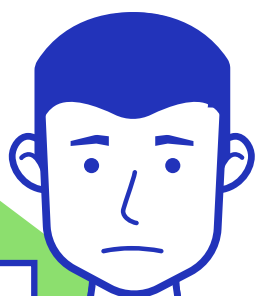




# Knowing to prevent Oswaldo's story

The forestry sector in Argentina is marked by informal labor and features cases of possible labour exploitation. This true story is based on one such case.

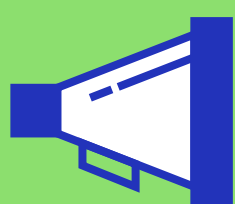


**OSVALDO**

35 years old

Place of residence:  
**The Northeast of Argentina**

## Recruitment



▶ Oswaldo heard about the job from a neighbour. No experience was required.



▶ He had to move to another province and bring a mattress to sleep in a camp for 15 days. He accepted the job because he had no other options.



▶ While he was away, his wife and children stayed at home unable to communicate with him.



## Travel to the worksite



▶ He travelled in a truck bed with other workers who were also carrying their belongings.



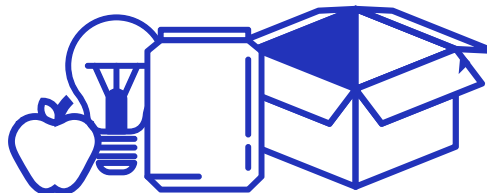
▶ They traveled along alternative roads because the vehicle had no authorization; they could not identify where exactly they got off to start working.



## At the camp



▶ Oswaldo and his mates stayed in a camp made of precarious shacks with no toilet, kitchen or services. They were not given any clothing or protective gear.



The recruiter left them an insufficient supply of toiletries and food.

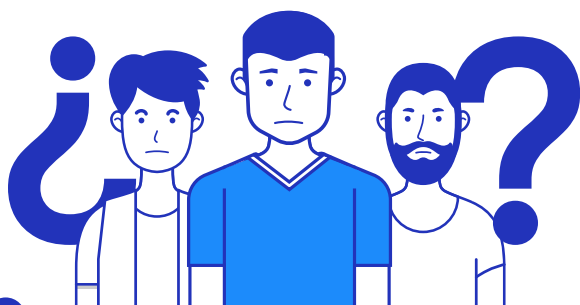
## While working in the forest



▶ The recruiter left them in the camp and returned after a month. During that period, they ran out of food, had to hunt and buy some food –20 km away– with the savings of one of the workers.

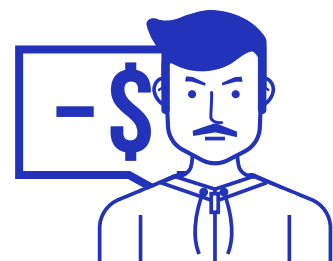


▶ In his absence, the recruiter never communicated with the team, which was very upsetting for them. Oswaldo considered leaving but that would mean returning home by his own means, carrying his belongings out of the forest, not receiving the payment he had been promised and having to pay for his return trip.



**Even though Oswaldo and his mates did their job and met the deadlines agreed, they were not paid for their work.**

The recruiter always made excuses to delay payment and failed to comply with the promises he had made.



## Payment

The forestry sector has fewer and fewer cases of labour exploitation like this one suffered by Oswaldo, but they still exist. They usually affect young people who lack economic and education resources.

Avoiding them requires the commitment of representatives of national, provincial and local governments, employers, companies and trade unions. It is urgent to ensure prevention, detection and restoration of the rights of victims of such practices.

