

Practical measures: Collecting and managing CLMRS data

A well-functioning CLMRS relies on high-quality data that is collected consistently and managed effectively through the CLMRS Database. Field-level data enables implementers to identify children in and at risk of child labour, to plan and deliver support, and to track their situation over time.

Collecting the right information

- ✓ **Collect only the information that is needed.** Data collection should be limited to information necessary for the functioning of the CLMRS. Adding too many questions can create respondent fatigue among farmers and children and reduce data quality.
- ✓ **Collect geo-located data.** GPS data collected during visits can support follow-up planning, improve data quality, verify visits, and strengthen analysis and support planning.
- ✓ **Collect data consistently across activities.** Data should be collected during household visits, farm visits, follow-up visits, and awareness-raising activities to support a complete understanding of children's situations.
- ✓ **Record support activities in the database.** Information on support provided should be linked to the specific children, households, and communities that received the support. Check out [ICI's data entry template for support activities](#).

Collecting reliable information

- ✓ **Ask children directly**, in line with the minimum standards outlined in CLMRS Core Criteria. [Research shows](#) that children tend to report higher and likely more accurate levels of work than caregivers. Interviews should be conducted safely and appropriately, ensuring children's protection and respecting safeguarding principles.
- ✓ **Create conditions for children to speak freely.** Conduct interviews in conditions that allow children to speak freely, for example, by ensuring that caregivers or other household members cannot overhear the interview.
- ✓ **Use visual aids.** Visuals can improve recall and understanding when asking children about their activities. Combine visual aids with clear verbal explanations to avoid misinterpretation.
- ✓ **Use standardised questionnaires.** Standardised forms help ensure data is reliable, comparable, and aligned with national and international child labour standards. Access [ICI's surveys](#).
- ✓ **Avoid using screening or filtering questions for child labour identification.** Some questionnaires use initial screening questions to determine whether respondents are asked more detailed questions about hazardous work. This approach can result in some children involved in hazardous work not being identified and thus should be avoided.
- ✓ **Use digital data collection tools where possible.** Mobile applications can help CLMRS Personnel enter data directly during visits, reducing errors and improving efficiency.

Managing data

- ✓ **Ensure access to up-to-date information.** CLMRS Personnel and programme managers should have access to current data to support timely decision-making, coordination of visits, and planning of support activities.
- ✓ **Protect personal data.** Child labour data is sensitive and should be managed in line with national and international data protection standards and children's rights. Access to personal information should be limited to those who need it.
- ✓ **Use unique identifiers** for children, households, and communities to improve consistency and reduce duplicate records.
- ✓ **Link data systems where possible.** Linking household or producer identifiers with national farmer identification systems can improve interoperability and continuity in monitoring.
- ✓ **Maintain accurate and updated records.** Records should be updated regularly to reflect changes in children's situations, support provided, and follow-up outcomes.