

End Exploitation: An Immersive Experience

Coffee Station Follow-up

Specifically related to Coffee in Brazil the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor report from the US Dept. of Labor states:

“There are reports that adults are forced to work in the production of coffee in Brazil. According to media reports and NGOs, cases of forced labor within the coffee sector are a recurring problem. A large number of these violations occur in the state of Minas Gerais, which is responsible for about 70 percent of the coffee produced in the country. There are more than 100,000 coffee plantations in Minas Gerais, with an estimated 245,000 workers, most working informally, thus increasing the probability of their exploitation. Sources indicate that forced labor in coffee is widespread in this state. Intermediaries, called gatos, recruit workers from poorer neighboring states, and often lie about working conditions, wages, hours, and the quality of living conditions. According to investigations, workers face up to 15-hour workdays, and often receive sub-minimum wage payments. Reports also indicate that a number of workers face precarious and unsanitary housing accommodations with no access to potable water, and a lack of proper bathroom and cooking facilities. Some workers report finding themselves in a debt spiral because they owe money to the plantation owners for food, their journey to the plantation, and even the equipment they must use during the harvest. These debts incurred hinder the workers’ ability to leave the coffee plantations. A number of workers also report fear of punishment for complaining about the poor conditions, or for speaking to outside sources about their work and living conditions. Some workers have had their working papers or identity papers confiscated by their employer.”

From ILAB Report [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#)

More Resources (click on the title to be directed to the resource):

[Bitter Brew: Modern Slavery in the Coffee Industry](#)

[Article about Labor Trafficking and Exploitation in Minas Gerais, Brazil](#)

[The Human Cost of Coffee Video](#)

[ABC Investigates Labor Trafficking on farms in Southern Mexico](#)

[Coffee Watch Website](#)

**Special thank you to Coffee Watch for the help with gathering resources!*