

Armenia," section 5, 6d.

¹⁸⁷ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, *reporting, December 12, 2007.*

¹⁸⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 5.

¹⁸⁹ U.S. Embassy- Yerevan, *reporting, December 12, 2007.*

¹⁹⁰ UNDP, *UNDP in Armenia: Latest News and Press Releases*, [online] 2006 [cited December 10, 2007]; available from <http://www.undp.am/?page=LatestNews&id+309>.

¹⁹¹ OSCE, *Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Armenia: An Assessment of Current Responses*, Yerevan, 2007; available from http://www.osce.org/documents/oy/2007/04/24090_en.pdf.

¹⁹² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Armenia," section 5.

¹⁹³ OSCE, *Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Armenia.*

Bahrain

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹⁹⁴

Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	15
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	111
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	98
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	99
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Small numbers of children in Bahrain perform non-hazardous work in the Manama Central Market, and although not common, some children work in family businesses.¹⁹⁵

The Ministry of Labor (MOL) grants permits to Bahraini companies to employ foreign workers, and immigration officials ensure that foreign workers entering Bahrain are 18 years of age or older.¹⁹⁶ There have been isolated incidents of the use of false documents to gain entry into the country for workers under age 18.¹⁹⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law forbids the employment of children younger than 14 years.¹⁹⁸ Minors 14 to 16 years may work no more than 6 hours per day, with one hour of rest during daytime hours; minors may not work overtime or be paid on a piece-rate basis.¹⁹⁹ The law also establishes a list of 25 occupations in which no person younger than 16 years may work.²⁰⁰ Working minors 14 to 16 years must obtain authorization to work from the MOL, must undergo a medical examination prior to being employed, and must be granted annual leave of not less than one full month.²⁰¹ However, these provisions do not apply to children working in family enterprises. Those under the supervision of a family member are exempt from the Labour Law.²⁰²

The MOL is responsible for enforcing child labor laws and regulations.²⁰³ There are currently 43 labor investigators who are given training to monitor and enforce the laws regarding child labor.²⁰⁴ Violations of child labor laws are punishable by fines. In addition to levying punishment against employers and supervisors, the law holds responsible any person acting as a

guardian who permits the employment of a child or minor in violation of the law's provisions.²⁰⁵ USDOS reports that MOL enforcement of child labor laws is adequate in the industrial sector, but not as effective outside that sector.²⁰⁶

The Constitution outlaws compulsory labor, except in cases specified by law or pursuant to a judicial hearing.²⁰⁷ Also, employers found guilty of using forced labor can be liable to imprisonment of up to 10 years.²⁰⁸ On January 9, 2008, the King enacted a new anti-trafficking law with stiff penalties. It defines trafficking, outlines specific penalties, and grants an intergovernmental committee the right to oversee the victim's welfare.²⁰⁹ Anyone found guilty of any form of trafficking faces a prison term of between 3 and 15 years, along with a fine.²¹⁰ The law considers trafficking of women or persons under the age of 15 years as aggravating circumstances, and sentences are doubled.²¹¹ This increases the maximum sentence to life in prison.²¹² Prostitution is illegal; forcing or enticing a child under 18 years into prostitution is punishable by between 10 days and 2 years of imprisonment.²¹³ It is illegal to print, possess, or display publications, pictures, and other media that violate public morals.²¹⁴ While there is no compulsory military service in Bahrain, juveniles can be recruited into the Bahraini Defense Force from the age of 17 years. This age limit can be disregarded in times of necessity. Cadets can be recruited from the age of 15 years.²¹⁵

Although the Ministry of Interior has enabled the development of a specialized unit to investigate trafficking allegations,²¹⁶ according to USDOS, prosecutions for trafficking-related offenses are rare. The Government did not prosecute any cases of trafficking for involuntary servitude or forced prostitution, during the April 2006 through March 2007 period, the latest time period for which such information is available.²¹⁷

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

In 2006, the Government opened a shelter to provide services to female trafficking victims. Victims can only enter the shelter by referral. Foreign victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation do not receive protection from the

Government and are immediately processed for deportation.²¹⁸

¹⁹⁴ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector, as amended*, No. 23, (June 16, 1976), article 50; available from <http://www.mol.gov.bh/MOL/En/Legislations/ListLaws.aspx?ChnlNm=Labour%20Law>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Bahrain," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100593.htm>.

¹⁹⁵ U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, August 27, 2005.

¹⁹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Manama official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 19, 2007.

¹⁹⁷ U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, March 5, 2007.

¹⁹⁸ Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector*.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, chapter 8, articles 52, 53, and 54.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, Article 51. See also U.S. Department of Labor, *Laws Governing Exploitative Child Labor Report: Bahrain*, Washington, D.C., September 1, 2005; available from <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/usfta/BahrainLaws.pdf>.

²⁰¹ Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector*, Articles 51 and 55.

²⁰² *Ibid.*, chapter 1(article 2), chapter 8 (article 58).

²⁰³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Bahrain," section 6c.

²⁰⁴ U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, January 23, 2008.

²⁰⁵ Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector*, chapter 20, article 163.

²⁰⁶ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Bahrain," section 6d.

²⁰⁷ Government of Bahrain, *Constitution of the State of Bahrain*, (February 14, 2002), Article 13(c); available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ba00000_.html.

²⁰⁸ U.S. Embassy - Manama, *reporting*, March 5, 2007.

²⁰⁹ Government of Bahrain, *Law No. (1) of 2008 with Respect to Trafficking in Persons*, (January 9, 2008). See also U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, March 8, 2008.

²¹⁰ Government of Bahrain, *Law on Trafficking in Persons*, Article 2. See also U.S. Department of State Official, E-mail communication to USDOL Official, July 29, 2008.

²¹¹ Government of Bahrain, *Law on Trafficking in Persons*, Article 4(2). See also U.S. Department of State Official, E-mail communication, July 29, 2008.

²¹² U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, March 8, 2008.

²¹³ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) Bahrain (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2006 [cited November 21, 2007 2006], article 7(b); available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Bahrain*, November 26, 2007; available from <http://www.ecpat.net/>. Interpol, *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offenses Against Children: Bahrain*, November 26, 2007; available from <http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaBahrain.asp>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Bahrain."

²¹⁴ ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request: Bahrain*.

²¹⁵ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Bahrain," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, November 17, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=940.

²¹⁶ U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting, March 8, 2008*.

²¹⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Bahrain (Tier 3)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 1, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

Bangladesh

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor²¹⁹

Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	13.6
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	21.3
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	5.6
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	10
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2004:	103
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2004:	89
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2007:	76.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2003:	65
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Most working children in Bangladesh live in rural areas, and many begin to work at a very early age.²²⁰ Children are found working in the following activities, sometimes under hazardous conditions: auto repair; battery recharging and recycling; road

transport, such as rickshaw-pulling and fare-collecting; saw milling; welding; metalworking; carpentry; fish drying; fish farming; leather tanning; construction; and garment manufacturing.²²¹ According to a survey by the ILO, there are over 421,000 children, mostly girls, working as domestic servants in private households, some in exploitive conditions.²²² These child domestics are vulnerable to abuse, including sexual abuse.²²³

According to a Government of Bangladesh survey, street children, mostly boys, can be found in urban areas engaging in various forms of work such as begging, portering, shining shoes, collecting paper, and selling flowers and other items.²²⁴

Boys and girls, often those living on the streets, are exploited in illicit activities including smuggling and trading arms and drugs.²²⁵ Large numbers of children are exploited in the commercial sex industry.²²⁶ Trafficking of children for prostitution, domestic service, and other purposes is a significant problem in Bangladesh; some parents send their children willingly into trafficking situations in hopes that the children will escape poverty.²²⁷ Bangladeshi children, especially boys, continue to be trafficked into debt bondage in Gulf countries. Boys have also been trafficked for camel jockeying.²²⁸