

²¹⁸ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Bahrain, *Labour Law for the Private Sector, as amended*, No. 23, (June 16, 1976), chapter 8, article 50; available from <http://www.mol.gov.bh/MOL/En/Legislations/ListArticles.aspx?ChnlNm=Chapter%20ne&ChnlDspl=The+Labour+Law+for+the+Private+Sector&ChnlPrnt=Labour+Law&ChnlPDspl=Labour+Law>. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see Government of Bahrain, *Constitution of the State of Bahrain*, (February 14, 2002), article 7(a); available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ba00000_.html. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Law No. 27 of 2005 with respect to Education*, accessed January 22, 2009; available from http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.details?p_lang=en&p_isn=73041.

²¹⁹ Government of Bahrain, *Constitution of the State of Bahrain*, article 13(c).

²²⁰ Government of Bahrain, *Law No. (1) of 2008 with Respect to Trafficking in Persons*, (January 9, 2008), article 1(a).

²²¹ *Ibid.*, articles 7, 8.

²²² U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, March 10, 2008.

²²³ Government of Bahrain, *Law No. (1) of 2008 with Respect to Trafficking in Persons*, article 4(2). See also

U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, March 10, 2008. See also USDOS official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 29, 2008.

²²⁴ Government of Bahrain, "Bahrain," in *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offences Against Children*, 2007; available from <http://www.interpol.int/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaBahrain.asp>.

²²⁵ ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request 1999 (No.182) Bahrain (ratification: 2001)*, 1.

²²⁶ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Bahrain," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008, 58; available from <http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/content/bahrain>.

²²⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Bahrain," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008, 65; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105501.pdf>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Bahrain," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/nea/119113.htm>.

²²⁸ U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, January 15, 2009.

²²⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Bahrain," 66.

²³⁰ U.S. Embassy- Manama, *reporting*, February 22, 2009.

Bangladesh

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Most children in Bangladesh live in rural areas, and many begin to work at a very early age.²³¹ Children are found working in road transport, such as rickshaw pulling, automotive repair, and minibus assistance.²³² They are also found to be working in machine shops; salt, match, and battery factories; saw mills; and tanneries and are also involved in the manufacturing of bricks, cigarettes, dried fish, footwear, steel furniture, glass, textiles, garments, and soap.²³³ Children are engaged in the following hazardous activities: printing, welding, fabrication, stone breaking, dyeing operations, potter assistance, blacksmith assistance, fish farming, construction, and carpentry.²³⁴ While reports indicate that hazards exist in the shrimp industry, USDOS has stated that incidence of children working appears to

have been significantly reduced in this sector.²³⁵

Other reports have indicated that large numbers of children work under hazardous conditions in the ship-breaking industry.²³⁶ According to a survey by the ILO, there are more than 421,000 children, mostly girls, working as domestic servants in private households, some in exploitive conditions.²³⁷ These child domestics are vulnerable to abuse, including sexual abuse.²³⁸ Children are also found working in the service industry, in hotels and restaurants.²³⁹

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.²⁴⁰

***Selected Statistics and Indicators
on Child Labor²⁴¹***

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2006:	37,340,058
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:	102.9
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2004:	88.9
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2007:	76.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2003:	65.1
ILO Convention 138:	No
ILO Convention 182:	3/12/2001
CRC:	8/3/1990
CRCOPAC:	9/6/2000
CRCOPSC:	9/6/2000
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

Boys and girls, often those living on the streets, are exploited in illicit activities, including smuggling and trading arms and drugs.²⁴² As many as 10,000 children are exploited in the commercial sex industry; some are trafficked to India and Pakistan for sexual exploitation.²⁴³ 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.²⁴⁴

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law states that no child under 14 years shall be allowed to work in any profession or establishment. The law provides an exception for children 12 to 13 years of age to participate in light work that does not interfere with school and does not endanger their health or development.²⁴⁵ Children 14 to 18 years are considered adolescents, and there are restrictions on the

types of jobs and hours they can work.²⁴⁶ Young people working in factories may not use certain dangerous machines without adequate training and supervision, and they may not perform certain tasks while machinery is moving. The law allows the Government to add to the list of prohibited activities for young people.²⁴⁷ No young person is allowed to work in a factory or a mine for more than 5 hours a day or 30 hours a week. In all other types of establishments, young people may not work more than 7 hours a day or 42 hours a week. Additionally, young people are not allowed to work between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.²⁴⁸

The Office of the Chief Inspectorate of the Department of Factories and Establishments under the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) is responsible for implementing and enforcing labor laws, including child labor provisions.²⁴⁹ The ministry has approximately 200 inspectors and related support staff.²⁵⁰ The inspectors work from 31 offices across the country and conduct from 3 to 17 monthly inspections, depending on the inspector's rank.²⁵¹ In 2008, 39,123 labor inspections were conducted throughout Bangladesh, but only a few violations were filed involving child labor.²⁵²

The law forbids forced labor and prohibits parents or guardians from pledging their children's work in exchange for a payment or benefit.²⁵³ It is illegal to sell, let to hire, procure, encourage, abet, or otherwise obtain possession of any person under 18 years of age for the purpose of prostitution or to maintain a brothel for these purposes. These offenses are punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years.²⁵⁴ Child trafficking, which includes importing, exporting, buying, selling, or taking into possession any child for immoral or unlawful purposes, is illegal and punishable by life imprisonment or death.²⁵⁵ The law also provides for the extradition to Bangladesh of traffickers who have fled to other countries.²⁵⁶ It is illegal to instigate any person, including a child, to produce or deal in narcotic drugs; this crime is punishable by 3 to 15 years of imprisonment.²⁵⁷ The minimum age for voluntary military service is 16 years, and there is no forced conscription in Bangladesh.²⁵⁸

The Government maintained an anti-trafficking police unit in each of Bangladesh's 64 districts and provides trafficking-in-persons training to members of the National Police Academy and other public officials.²⁵⁹ From April 2008 to February 2009, 166 traffickers were arrested in Bangladesh, and 18 were convicted.²⁶⁰ Although the Government continues its efforts to prevent public official complicity in trafficking crimes, high levels of corruption remain an obstacle to combating trafficking.²⁶¹

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

The Government of Bangladesh, under MOLE, supports a national program entitled the "Eradication of Hazardous Child Labor in Bangladesh."²⁶² It is being implemented by NGOs and targets 21 sectors in which children work. The goal is to enable working children to leave hazardous occupations by providing them with additional skills. The program, set to expire in June 2009, is currently in its second phase, and the Government has allocated USD 4.2 million for 3 years.²⁶³

The Third National Plan of Action for Children (2005-2009) commits the Government to carry out a variety of tasks to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, with a particular focus on child domestic workers, migrants, refugees, and other vulnerable groups. The commitments include introducing regulations, ensuring working children's access to education, and strengthening the labor inspectorate.²⁶⁴ In 2008, MOLE established a Child Labor Unit to oversee the implementation of child labor programs across the country.²⁶⁵ The Government also includes a child labor component in its compulsory training program for entry-level diplomatic personnel and border guards.²⁶⁶ The Government's 2009 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) includes as a strategic goal the protection of child laborers and the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. The 3-year PRSP seeks to accomplish this through raising awareness of child labor, drafting minimum wage and other protective standards, creating a child-friendly code of conduct for employers, and improving education opportunities for working children.²⁶⁷

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) is the lead agency on anti-trafficking issues; it chairs an inter-ministerial committee that oversees the country's National Anti-Trafficking Strategic Plan for Action.²⁶⁸ In 2008, MOHA established a special "Trafficking in Human Beings Investigation Unit," comprising 12 police officers. These officers were given trafficking-related training.²⁶⁹ At the same time, the Ministry of Religious Affairs conducted training on trafficking issues to more than 235,000 religious teachers.²⁷⁰

The Government works closely with IOM and other NGOs on their efforts to combat child trafficking through prevention, awareness raising, rescue, rehabilitation, law enforcement training, research, advocacy, and cross-border collaboration.²⁷¹ In collaboration with NGOs and in cooperation with the United Arab Emirates, the Government operates a coordinated mechanism to monitor the repatriation, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of child camel jockeys who have been trafficked.²⁷² The Government also supports six shelters for women and child trafficking victims.²⁷³

UNICEF is collaborating closely with the Government to implement the second phase of the Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children project, which will continue through 2011. The project is setting up education centers to provide non-formal education and livelihood skills to working children and adolescents.²⁷⁴ The Government is also participating in a USD 21.8 million Netherlands-funded project implemented by ILO-IPEC, which began in April 2006. The project will run through December 2011 and aims to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the informal economy in Dhaka.²⁷⁵ The Government is also participating in a 5-year USDOL-funded USD 700,000 ILO-IPEC project to conduct data collection on child labor.²⁷⁶ The Ministry of Social Welfare operates programs, including training and development centers, for street children and other vulnerable minors.²⁷⁷

²³¹ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *Report on National Child Labour Survey 2002-03*, Dhaka, December 2003; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/>

english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipecc/download/resources/bangladesh/bgd_rep03_eng3_1.pdf.

²³² Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *Report of the Baseline Survey on Child Workers in Road Transport Sector*, Dhaka, March 2004, ix; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipecc/download/resources/bangladesh/bgdpubl04eng2.pdf>.

²³³ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *Baseline Survey on Child Workers in Battery Recharging/Recycling Sector, 2002-03*, Dhaka, February 2004; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipecc/download/resources/bangladesh/bgdpubl04eng1.pdf>. See also Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *National Child Labour Survey 2002-03*, 191-193. See also Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and the International Labor Organization, *Baseline Survey for Determining Hazardous Child Labour Sectors in Bangladesh: 2005, 2006*, 94, 168. See also U.S. Embassy-Dhaka, *reporting*, February 5, 2009, para 2E.

²³⁴ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *Child Workers in Road Transport Sector*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," section 6d. See also Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *National Child Labour Survey 2002-03*, 191-193. See also U.S. Embassy-Dhaka, *reporting*, February 5, 2009, paras 2C, 2E.

²³⁵ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, February 5, 2009.

²³⁶ International Federation for Human Rights, *Childbreaking Yards*, Paris, 2008, 5, 17, 15; available from <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/bgukreport.pdf>. See also CBS News, *The Ship Breakers of Bangladesh*, [online] 2007 [cited February 6, 2009]; available from <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/11/03/60minutes/main2149023.shtml>.

²³⁷ ILO Labour Office- Dhaka, *Baseline Survey on Child Domestic Labour (CDL) in Bangladesh*, December 2006, xiv, 4; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ipeccinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=4647>.

See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports-2008: Bangladesh," sections 5, 6d. See also UNICEF, *Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children*, [online] 2008 [cited February 4, 2009]; available from [http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/Education_for_Working_Children_\(BEHTRUWC\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/Education_for_Working_Children_(BEHTRUWC).pdf).

²³⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," sections 5, 6d. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Direct Request, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Bangladesh (ratification: 2001)*, [online] 2005 [cited February 4, 2009]; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdconv.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=8259&chapter=6&query=%28Bangladesh%29+%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0>.

²³⁹ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *National Child Labour Survey 2002-03*.

²⁴⁰ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *Baseline Survey of Street Children in Bangladesh*, Dhaka, December 7, 2003, ix-x; available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipecc/download/resources/bangladesh/bgdpubl03eng5.pdf>.

²⁴¹ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, December 19, 2007. For age to which education is compulsory, see UNESCO Institute for Statistics, *Ending Age of Compulsory Education*, accessed February 4, 2009; available from <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/>. For free public education, see U.S. Department of State, "Bangladesh," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/sca/119132.htm>. See also EFA UNESCO, *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2008*, 2007; available from <http://www.unesco.org/education/gmr2008/press/Full-report.pdf>.

²⁴² *Ibid.*, x. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Bangladesh," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf. See also ECPAT International, *South Asia Regional Consultation on Prostitution of Boys*, Press Release, Dhaka, June 8-9, 2006.

²⁴³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, February 23, 2009, 2. See also U.S. Department of State, "Bangladesh (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/index.htm>.

²⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, February 23, 2009, 2. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Bangladesh."

²⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, February 23, 2009, 2. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Bangladesh."

²⁴⁶ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, February 5, 2009.

²⁴⁷ Government of Bangladesh, *Labour Code, 2006*, (June 2, 2006), articles 34, 35.

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁹ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting*, February 5, 2009, para 2B.

²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁵¹ *Ibid.*

²⁵² Ibid.

²⁵³ Government of Bangladesh, *Labour Code, 2006*, article 35. See also Government of Bangladesh, *Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (as modified up to 17 May, 2004)*, (November 4, 1972), article 34; available from <http://www.pmo.gov.bd/constitution/contents.htm>.

²⁵⁴ Salma Ali, *Report on Laws and Legal Procedures Concerning the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Bangladesh*, Bangkok, October 2004, 15, 17, 46; available from http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/promoting_law/bangladesh_report/Laws_Legal_Procedures_Bangladesh_Oct2004.pdf. See also Government of Bangladesh, *Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act*, Act No. VI, (1933), articles 9-12.

²⁵⁵ Government of Bangladesh, *Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act*, Act. No. VIII, (2000), article 6. See also Salma Ali, *Laws on CSEC in Bangladesh*, 16, 20.

²⁵⁶ Salma Ali, *Laws on CSEC in Bangladesh*, 25.

²⁵⁷ Government of Bangladesh, *The Narcotics Control Act*, No. XX, (1990).

²⁵⁸ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Child Soldiers Global Report: Bangladesh."

²⁵⁹ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 23, 2009*, 3, 4. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," section 5.

²⁶⁰ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 23, 2009*, 4.

²⁶¹ Ibid., 5.

²⁶² U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, December 19, 2007*. See also Government of Bangladesh, *Written Communication*, submitted in response to U.S. Department of Labor Federal Register Notice (November 8, 2007) "Request for Information on Efforts by Certain Countries to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor", Dhaka, December 5, 2007.

²⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 5, 2009*.

²⁶⁴ Ibid. See also Government of Bangladesh, *National Plan of Action for Children: Bangladesh*, Dhaka, June 22, 2005, 38, 79-80; available from <http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/Education/reports/NPA%20Master%20Clean%20Final%2022%20June%202005.pdf>.

²⁶⁵ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 5, 2009*.

²⁶⁶ ILO-IPEC, *Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Selected Formal and Informal Sectors in Bangladesh*, Final Technical Progress Report, Geneva, May 15, 2006, 2.

²⁶⁷ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 5, 2009*.

²⁶⁸ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 23, 2009*, 3. See also U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, March 2, 2006*.

²⁶⁹ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 23, 2009*, 3.

²⁷⁰ Ibid., 7.

²⁷¹ Ibid., 5. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," section 5.

²⁷² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Bangladesh," section 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 23, 2009*, 2.

²⁷³ U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 23, 2009*, 5.

²⁷⁴ UNICEF, *Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children*. See also U.S. Embassy- Dhaka, *reporting, February 5, 2009*.

²⁷⁵ ILO-IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 18, 2008.

²⁷⁶ ILO- IPEC official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 31, 2009.

²⁷⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties Under Article 12(1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography: Initial Reports of States Parties*, Geneva, December 23, 2005, 21; available from [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.OPSC.BGD.1.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.OPSC.BGD.1.En?OpenDocument).

Barbados

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

There have been some reports of children in Barbados being trafficked internally for the purpose of sexual exploitation.²⁷⁸ In some instances, children have been compelled by their parents to become prostitutes in the capital of Bridgetown's red light district.²⁷⁹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Barbados is 16 years.²⁸⁰ Children under 16 years, however, are allowed to work under certain restrictions. Such children may not work between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. or during school hours.²⁸¹ The work of a young person, defined as between 16 and 18 years old, is also subject to certain restrictions.²⁸² Young persons may not work in industrial undertakings