

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Labour & Employment
Planning Section (Labour-1)

Subject: U.S. Department of Labor Request for Information on Child Labor and Forced Labor.

SECTION 1: WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

This request for information will contribute to the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) **twelfth annual report** under the Trade and Development Act of 2000, to be published in September 2013. The following questions outline the types of information USDOL includes in this report. Please review your country's 2011 profile available at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/2011TDAbCountry.htm>. **You do not need to respond to all questions, only those that address gaps in information, areas requiring clarification, or updates for the period January-December 2012.** For definitions and terms used for USDOL's reports, please see the "DEFINITIONS" section at the end of this request.

A: INFORMATION REQUESTED

1. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR:

Please respond to gaps in information or areas requiring clarification noted in this section of your country's 2011 TDA profile, and provide any updates for 2012.

	Questions	Replies/Information
1.	In what sectors or activities were children involved in worst forms of child labor? Examples include hazardous work in broad sectors such as agriculture or construction; street work or domestic service in third party homes; commercial sexual exploitation of children; and use of children in illicit activities such as forced begging or drug trafficking.	The Government of Bangladesh has finalized a list of hazardous works for children. The draft list was placed in the Tripartite Consultative Council (representative Government- Employer- Worker) meeting in February, 2012. Necessary administrative procedures are being taken for final approval of the list including gazette notification.
2.	Did the government collect or publish data on exploitive child labor during the period? If so, is the government willing to share the raw data ("data set") with USDOL for further analysis?	The Government of Bangladesh through the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) periodically collects and publishes data on child Labor. The National Child Labor Survey was last conducted in 2002-2003. The BBS has started National Child Labor Survey 2013.

2. LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR:

Please respond to gaps in information or areas requiring clarification noted in this section of your country's 2011 TDA profile, and provide any updates for 2012.

	Questions	Replies/Information
1.	<p>What, if any, new laws or regulations were enacted during the reporting period in regard to the worst forms of child labor? Relevant laws would include those that pertain to the minimum age for employment, minimum age for hazardous work, prohibition of hazardous work activities to children (including a list of prohibited occupations/activities), age to which education is compulsory, guarantee of free education, minimum age for military recruitment, and laws prohibiting engagement of a child in forced labor, trafficking, prostitution, pornography, or use of a child for illegal activities (including drug trafficking). Please name each law and list date enacted, and if available, provide a copy of the legal text.</p>	<p>The initiatives on laws or regulations regarding the worst forms of child Labor taken during January to December 2012 by the Government of Bangladesh is given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Ministry of Home Affairs has enacted a comprehensive law against human trafficking namely 'Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act-2012' to address all forms of trafficking and to combat heinous crime more effectively which includes prostitution, pornography. Every police station has been instructed to follow the new law. Now cases are recorded under this new law (copy of the Act enclosed). 2) The Ministry of Labor and Employment has drafted "Domestic Workers' Protection and Welfare Policy". This will obviously help to protect the rights of domestic workers as well as child domestic worker from the worst form of Child Labor. It is expected that some specific policies will be made for the working condition of the domestic child Labor. This policy will be placed for approval by Tripartite Consultative Council (TCC) in due course of time. 3) A list of hazardous works for children befitting with the socio-economic condition of the country has been finalized. Necessary administrative procedures are being taken for final approval of the list including gazette notification.

3. GOVERNMENT TASK FORCES OR COMMISSIONS ON CHILD LABOR:

Please respond to gaps in information or areas requiring clarification noted in this section of your country's 2011 TDA profile, and provide any updates for 2012.

	Questions	Replies/Information
1.	<p>Has the government established any task forces or commissions to coordinate government efforts on issues of worst forms of child labor overall? Has the government established any such bodies to focus on a particular worst form of child labor, such as child trafficking or begging? If any of the above bodies exist, please describe their composition and any activities undertaken in 2012.</p>	<p>The Government of Bangladesh has taken various initiatives to prevent, protect and eliminate all forms of child Labor, particularly hazardous and worst forms of child Labor. The government's commitment is reflected in the National Child Labor Elimination Policy 2010. The primary objective of this Policy is to provide guidance and direction in initiating concrete interventions to "make meaningful changes in the lives of the children by withdrawing them from all forms of child Labor including the hazardous work and worst forms of child Labor." In line with this policy the National Plan of Action (NPA) has been formulated. The National Plan of Action (NPA) has following strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawing working children from hazardous and worst forms of child Labor. • Providing income generating incentives to parents to getting them out of the vicious circle of poverty. • Offering stipends to working children to get children out of work and put them back to school. • Paying special attention to children affected by natural calamities. • Integrating indigenous and physically and mentally challenged children into the mainstream society. • Coordinating amongst the concerned stakeholders and sectors for the welfare of working children. • Making suggestions to enact or amend necessary laws and strengthen institutions for law enforcement. • Raising general awareness amongst parents,

Questions	Replies/Information
	<p>the community and civil society about child Labor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and implementing a practical, specific set of strategies over a variable time span to eliminate at least the severe forms of child Labor. <p>To achieve these objectives the NPA has focused on nine strategic areas as mentioned below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy Implementation and Institutional Development, 2. Education, 3. Health and Nutrition, 4. Social Awareness Raising and Motivation, 5. Legislation and Enforcement, 6. Employment and Labor Market, 7. Prevention of Child Labor and Safety of Children Engaged in Labor, 8. Social and Family Reintegration, and 9. Research and Training. <p>For proper implementation of the National Plan of Action (NPA) an estimated amount of Taka 712.5 crore or US\$100 million is required for a five year period (2012-2016).</p> <p>The NPA has been approved by the competent authority. Now necessary steps are being taken to implement the NPA.</p> <p>To coordinate all promotional activities carried out in the country to eliminate child Labor by government organizations, non government organizations as well international organizations the Government has initiated establishment of a National Child Labor Welfare Council. Divisional, district and upazila level committees to monitor child Labor situation in the country have also been drafted. Awareness raising campaigns are being planned involving all concerned.</p> <p>The Ministry of Home Affairs has adopted a National Plan of Action 2012-2014 to combat human trafficking in Bangladesh.</p>

4. INSTITUTION AND MECHANISMS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR LAWS REGARDING CHILD LABOR AND HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOR:

Please respond to gaps in information or areas requiring clarification noted in this section of your country's 2011 TDA profile, and provide any updates for 2012.

	Questions	Replies/Information
1.	What agency or agencies was/were responsible for the enforcement of laws relating to hazardous child labor?	The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments of the Ministry of Labor and Employment is the main agency responsible for enforcement of laws relating to all forms of Labor including hazardous or worst forms of child Labor.
2.	If multiple agencies were responsible for enforcement, were there mechanisms for coordinating enforcement actions? If yes, please describe the coordination mechanism.	<p>The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments of the Ministry of Labor and Employment is the main agency responsible for enforcement of laws relating to all forms of Labor including hazardous or worst forms of child Labor.</p> <p>To coordinated and monitor elimination hazardous and worst forms of child labor from Bangladesh the Government has initiated establishment of a National Child Labor Welfare Council (NCLWC) at the central level including formation of Divisional, District and Upazila level council/committees. The council/committees will be represented by concerned Ministries/ Departments, Workers & Employers Organizations, non-government organizations, international organizations, Lawyers and experts in the filed.</p>
3.	How many inspectors did the government employ to enforce laws against child labor?	There are 183 (previously 157) Inspectors in the Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishment under the Ministry of Labor & Employment. They are responsible to enforce laws against Child Labor as part of their duties. The number of inspectors is not sufficient to address the child Labor issues. Very recently the Government has taken measures to strengthen inspection machineries in Bangladesh by increasing number of inspectors. The Parliamentary standing committee of the Ministry of Labor and Employment is working for restructuring and strengthening of the Department of Inspection for Factories and

	Questions	Replies/Information
		Establishments (DIFE). The restructuring and strengthening process includes establishment of district level offices (64 districts) all over the country. In the process of restructuring and strengthening of this department technical assistance is needed.
4.	What amount of funding and other resources (office facilities, vehicles, etc.) were provided to agencies responsible for inspections?	The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments is a Government organization. It receives annual budget allocation from the Government. To improve their inspection capability massive skill development training, necessary equipment and logistics (including vehicles) are very essential. In ensuring these facilities this Department will be benefited from any sort of technical assistance.
5.	Did inspectors receive training on hazardous child labor? Please describe.	The Inspectors receive training just after joining the service as well as in-service training. The Inspectors are invited to participate in training courses, workshops and seminars organized on child Labor which includes hazardous child Labor. But the scope of availability and quality of the trainings need to be increased to get desired output from the Inspectors. The availability of overseas training will give the inspectors to be acquainted with the latest development in the inspection system worldwide.
6.	How many inspections involving child labor were carried out? Were inspections carried out in sectors in which children work? How many child labor violations were found?	There are 183 Inspectors in the Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishment under the Ministry of Labor & Employment. They are responsible to enforce laws against Child Labor as part of their duties. The sectors which are usually inspected by the inspectors are (a) engineering workshop, (b) transport sector, (c) shops (d) plastic factory, (e) hotel and restaurant etc. Legal actions are taken if any violations relating to child labour are found.
7.	Are there systems for referring children found during inspections to appropriate social services? How many children were removed and/or assisted as a result of inspections?	The Government has been working for gradual withdrawal of children from the worst forms of child Labor. The children withdrawn are mainstreamed into formal education and provided skill development training in addition to socio-economic empowerment of their parents. Withdrawing children from worst forms of child Labor is a continuous process

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>and depends largely on the socio-economic condition of the country.</p> <p>Under the Time Bound Program (TBP) towards the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) Project a total of 7,371 working children were enrolled in Non-Formal Education (NFE) programme of which 2,714 were mainstreamed into formal schools. A number of 2,097 skill development training graduates were placed in decent employment. In addition, the guardian of children were able to send 865 children to school and to prevent early marriage of their daughters through increased income the assistance of micro finance support of the project.</p> <p>In July 2010, the MOLE has started implementation of a 3rd phase of the project “Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh” targeting to withdraw 50,000 children through non-formal education and skill development training.</p>
8.	How many penalties or citations for child labor violations were issued?	Any violation of any provision of Bangladesh Labor Act, 2006 is punishable offence. Cases are filed on this ground but no segregated data on penalties for child Labor is available.
9.	In cases in which penalties were applied, such as fines, were the fines collected? How are the fines utilized by the Government?	Any violation of any provision of Bangladesh Labor Act, 2006 is punishable offence. Cases are filed on this ground and fines are imposed where applicable. Fines collected are utilized by the Government as revenue expenditure. No segregated data on fines for child Labor is available.

5. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF CRIMINAL LAWS ON CHILD FORCED LABOR/ TRAFFICKING, COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND USE OF CHILDREN IN ILLICIT ACTIVITIES:

Please respond to gaps in information or areas requiring clarification noted in this section of your country’s 2011 TDA profile, and provide any updates for 2012.

	Questions	Replies/Information
1)	What agencies were responsible for	The Government has enacted different laws to deal with trafficking. The Ministry of Home Affairs

	Questions	Replies/Information
	<p>enforcement of criminal laws against child forced labor/trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and/or use of children in illicit activities? (Please provide separate responses per type of offense as needed.)</p>	<p>(MoHA) with the assistance of the Police Force, Coast Guards, Border Guards-Bangladesh (BGB) and the other law enforcing agencies plays vital role to enforce criminal laws against forced child labor/trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and/or use of children in illicit activities in Bangladesh. The Anti-Trafficking Unit, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) deals with the issue. The police and other law enforcing agencies, as well as local government organization are involved in promoting anti-trafficking activities. Legal actions are taken against such criminals through the courts. The continuance of existing programs and activities will help to reduce the occurrence to a considerable level or prevent the problem in totality.</p>
2)	<p>If multiple agencies were responsible, do they coordinate activities? If yes, please describe the coordination mechanism.</p>	<p>Although the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Police Force, Coast Guards, Border Guards-Bangladesh (BGB) and the other law enforcing agencies play the main role in effective enforcement of criminal laws against child labor, there are focal points in relevant Ministries/ Departments to coordinate the activities. The Ministry of Home Affairs (the Police Force, Coast Guards, Border Guards-Bangladesh-BGB, Ansar and VDP) has developed social integration system for the children found during investigation.</p> <p>RRRI (Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration) Task Force has been formed by the ministry of Home Affairs. During the reporting period, 02 bilateral Task Force meetings were held between the Government's of Bangladesh and West Bengal of India to combat human trafficking specially trafficked and recovered children of both sides. Anti Human Trafficking database cell has been established at MoHA.</p> <p>Under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, led by the Department of Women Affairs, an Alliance to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children (ACTWC) has been formed consisting of Government, international NGO and NGO bodies, prime initiators and activists to ensure safe migration and combat trafficking. The alliance is to address and cover social aspects of trafficking such</p>

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>as information dissemination, awareness raising, training, and rehabilitation and provide referral services for victims of trafficking.</p> <p>The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) has formed an inter ministerial/inter-agency Vigilance Task Force (VTF) in July 2010 to monitor the migration process, ensure the accountability and transparency of recruiting agencies and check irregular practices in Labor migration. The VTF comprises of the representatives of relevant ministries and agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), Special Branch of Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) and Coast Guards Bangladesh. It also includes two members from the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA).</p> <p>The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) has been working as a pioneer human rights organization in Bangladesh in addressing the challenges of trafficking especially in women and children. The organization has also been working to provide legal assistance to ensure rights of women and children by delivering legal aid, psychosocial support, shelter support, rescue, repatriation, research on various issues regarding women and children, capacity building of relevant stakeholders and advocacy for reform/amendment/enactment of existing laws and policies. The BNWLA has been playing an important role within the Go-NGO National Coordination Committee of Combating Human Trafficking.</p>
3)	How many investigators did the government employ to enforce laws against the worst forms of child labor mentioned above?	Mainly after lodging the cases the investigating officers of respective police stations investigate the cases. Some of the cases are being investigated by the officers (IO'S) of CID. Please see Annex-A for detail.

	Questions	Replies/Information
4)	<p>What amount of funding and other resources (office facilities, vehicles, etc.) were provided to agencies responsible for investigations?</p>	<p>All the Departments responsible for enforcement of criminal laws against child Labor are Government organizations. They receive annual budget allocation from the Government. To improve their professional capability aggressive skill development training and logistics (including vehicles) are very essential. In ensuring these facilities this departments may be benefited from any sort of technical assistance and enhanced annual budget allocation.</p>
5)	<p>Did investigators receive training on the relevant worst forms of child labor named above? Please describe.</p>	<p>The investigators receive in-service training. Sometimes they participate in training courses, workshops and seminars organized on these issues.</p> <p>The projects namely i) The Community Based Working Child Protection Project (CBWCP) and ii) Actions for Combating Trafficking-in-person (ACT) are rendering training to the persons of law enforcing agencies. Every year a good number of officers from law enforcing agencies are receiving training under these two projects. PRP (Police Reform Program), IOM, UNICEF are providing training to the IO's of human trafficking cases. Sometimes they arrange seminar/workshop on human trafficking issues where IO's are invited.</p> <p>The legal system sometimes takes much time to dispose off a case. But the modification of our legal system is included in the present Government's Vision 2021. As part of law enforcement, a few regional gangs are already been prosecuted because of trafficking children through the bordering area and the operation is going on regularly. The democratic institutions like Anti Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission and the media are functioning on these issues specially the electronic media and news papers are playing important role to make awareness of common people.</p> <p>Present government has already recruited twenty three thousand police officers and by the next two years another eight thousand police officers are going to be recruited which will strengthen the efforts. Most recently senior officer's posts have been approved which will ensure monitoring and</p>

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>supervision of different level of officers.</p> <p>The attached data sheet shows the number of persons investigated, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced for trafficking victims under the age of 18 years of the country.</p> <p>The scope of availability and quality of training need to be increased to get desired output from the investigators. The availability of overseas training will give the investigators to be acquainted with the latest development in this type of investigations worldwide.</p>
6)	<p>How many investigations or prosecutions involving any of these worst forms were carried out? Were investigations/prosecutions carried out in areas where such crimes occur? How many violations involving any of the worst forms of child labor were found?</p>	<p>138 cases of child trafficking have been investigated so far. All the complaints received by the police are being investigated by the IO's of concerned Police Stations. Please see Annex-A for detail.</p>
7)	<p>Are there systems for referring children found during investigations to appropriate social services? How many children were removed and/or assisted as a result of investigations?</p>	<p>The Ministry of Home Affairs (the Police force, the law enforcing agency, Border Guards-Bangladesh-BGB) has developed social integration system for the children found during investigation.</p> <p>During investigations 145 recovered victims were rehabilitated to their parents and 05 were rehabilitated to Government's safe home.</p>
8)	<p>How many convictions were reached?</p>	<p>A number of 24 cases ended in convictions as against 138 cases. A total of 34 accused have been convicted by the learned courts. The number of convicted perpetrators is not adequate as against the number of 387 accused. Please see Annex-A for detail.</p>
9)	<p>In cases in which convictions were reached, such as jail sentences, were the sentences carried out?</p>	<p>Among 34 convicted, 27 accused have been given life time imprisonment and the rest 10 were sentenced imprisonment for different terms and also with fine. Please see Annex-A for detail.</p>

6) GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR:

Please respond to gaps in information or areas requiring clarification noted in this section of your country's 2011 TDA profile, and provide any updates for 2012.

	Questions	Replies/Information
1)	Did the government have any policies or plans that specifically address child labor or any of its forms? Please describe	<p>In March, 2010 the Government of Bangladesh has formulated National Child Labor Elimination Policy, 2010. In line with this policy a National Plan of Action has been adopted.</p> <p>In line with the 'Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act-2012' the Government has adopted a National Plan of Action 2012-2014 to combat human trafficking in Bangladesh.</p>
2	If there are such policies or plans, please describe any agencies designated to implement each plan, actions identified within the plan, timelines for implementation, and any other concrete measures. Please provide a copy of such plan(s) if possible.	<p>The designated main agencies to implement the polices or plan in relation to child labor are given below:</p> <p>(1) National Plan of Action to Implement National Child Labor Elimination Policy, 2010. The main implementing agency is the Ministry of Labor and Employment.</p> <p>(2) National Plan of Action 2012-2014 to combat human trafficking in Bangladesh. The main implementing agency is the Ministry of Home Affairs.</p>
3	Please describe actions taken under the plan(s) during 2012.	<p>In July 2010, the Ministry of Labor and Employment has started implementation of a 3rd phase of the project "Eradication of Hazardous Child Labor in Bangladesh" targeting to withdraw 50,000 children working in hazardous sectors through non-formal education and skill development training during three years. The project is being funded by the Government through Annual Development Program (ADP).</p> <p>The Government of Bangladesh, with the technical assistance of the Kingdom of the Netherlands under the International Program for Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) of International Labor Organization (ILO), has implemented a project targeting elimination of Child Labor from the Urban Informal Economy (UIE) in the Dhaka Metropolitan City. This project contributed directly</p>

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>in eliminating child Labor through Non-formal Education, Skill Development Training, Socio-economic Empowerment of their parents and workplace improvement. During January, 2007 to December 2011 the project addressed child Labor as mentioned below:</p> <p>(1) There were 7,371 working children were enrolled in Non-Formal Education (NFE) program. There were 2,714 NFE learners (1,784 boys and 930 girls) mainstreamed into formal schools.</p> <p>(2) There were 2,097 Skill Development Training graduates were placed in decent employment.</p> <p>(3) With the assistance of micro finance support they have started their income generating activities. The guardians of the child labor have been able to send 865 children to school and to prevent early marriage of their daughters.</p>
4	<p>Did the government have poverty reduction, development, educational or other social policies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, etc., that did not explicitly address the worst forms of child labor or any one of the worst forms of child labor, but that might have had an impact on them or it? If so, have any studies been conducted to assess the impact of such a policy on the worst forms of child labor?</p>	<p>The Government has Poverty Reduction Strategy-PRS and Sixth Five Year Plan which indirectly help eliminating child Labor. In line with these strategy or plan different Ministries/Departments implement various types of development project/programs for the wellbeing of child Labor through reducing discrimination, economic empowerment, livelihood improvement.</p> <p>The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has adopted National Plan of Action (NPA II, 2003-2015) for Education For All (EFA) to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and identifies Quality Education (particularly in primary, secondary and vocational levels with strong emphasis on girls' education). It has emphasized the critical importance of education and learning for empowering people with knowledge and skills as key elements of human development and poverty reduction. Commensurate with PRS framework and EFA priorities, National Plan of Action (NPA II, 2003-2015) gives pre-eminence to improving the quality of education, gender equity for both girls and boys, making education accessible, inclusive and provided for all. NPA II has set targets on enrolment, dropout, completion, and literacy rate</p>

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>for achievement of EFA goals by 2015. It proposes programs for specific groups covering pre-school, and school age children, adolescents, young adults, adults, literacy and NFE leading to lifelong learning. It emphasizes the high value of livelihood skills as part of literacy and NFE to make the learning meaningful and ensure learners have access to wage or self-employment and micro-finance as needed to improve the quality of their lives.</p> <p>In line with the ‘Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act-2012’ the Government has adopted a National Plan of Action 2012-2014 to combat human trafficking in Bangladesh.</p> <p>Ministry of Education formulated National Education Policy, 2010 which aims to ensure compulsory and free primary education for every child up to grade eight (average age 14 years).</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) has drafted Children Act 2010 where the age of a child has been set 18 years. The Act is waiting for vetting of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.</p> <p>Specific study on the impact of these strategy or plan on child Labor is not available. Technical assistance may be important for this task.</p>
5	<p>If there are such policies/plans described in question 4, please describe actions taken under the plan(s) during 2012 and provide a copy of such plan(s) if possible.</p>	<p>Some programs are mentioned below:</p> <p>1) Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reform (TVET) project: The TVETP is funded by the European Commission for a period of five years (2007 - 2011). The project aims to assist Bangladesh in reducing poverty through reforms of technical and vocational education and training policies and systems so that more people can acquire employable skills and thus generate income through wage-earning jobs or self-employment. The rationale for the project stems from the national poverty reduction strategy. The project is intended to contribute to the improvement of productivity in industry and services through better responding to their skills needs; to ensure rapid formation of the national human</p>

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>capital and improved employability of vocational education and training graduates; to enhance Labor market participation, social inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged groups—low literate youth, child Laborers, women, and rural communities. The project objectives expected to be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) TVET policy, management and systems; ii) Quality and relevance of TVET; iii) Management of TVET institutions and teacher training; iv) Workplace skills development; and v) Access to TVET by underprivileged groups including working children. <p>2) Primary Education Development Programme-II: PEDP-II officially ends in 2009 but in a transitional period. Built upon the lessons from General Education Project (GEP) 1990–95 and the PEDP-I ended in 2004, PEDP-II is a six-year project from 2004 to 2009. There are 11 development partners (DP) involved in PEDP-II, led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and including the Government of Bangladesh. The other partners include the World Bank, CIDA, DFID, EC, IDA, Norway, The Netherlands, UNICEF/Australia, and JICA. There are five components in the PEDP-II structure. Of them, the fourth one is for improving and supporting equitable access to quality schooling with some special provisions for promoting equal access of indigenous and children with special needs. The fifth component is about management and monitoring.</p> <p>3) The Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) project: The ROSC aims to address children in Bangladesh who do not have access to formal education mainly due to poverty. The project is co-financed by the GoB, the World Bank, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is responsible for</p>

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>the project.</p> <p>4) Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR) Project: A follow-on project of the former ARISE (Appropriate Resources for Improvement of Children’s Environment) under the MoSW supported by UNICEF, the PCAR targets the children without parental care and living in streets in 6 Divisional Cities in Bangladesh. It also implements national level activities for Policy and information management system on child protection, institutional capacity development on professional social work and alternative care system and pilot implementation of child protection system in urban and rural areas.</p> <p>5) Female Secondary School Assistance Project-II: The Second Female Secondary School Assistance Project, funded by the World Bank, aims to improve the quality of, and girls’ access to, secondary education in rural areas of Bangladesh.</p> <p>6) Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC): Basic Education for the Hard-To-Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC) Project, 2nd Phase, a USD 20 Million project, has been planned to achieve quality life-skills based basic education, livelihood education, and advocacy for improved environment for working children in six divisional cities in Bangladesh over a period of five years. The project targets 200,000 working children of ages between 10-14 years for basic education through establishing 8,000 learning centres (LC) for a period of 40 months each and targets 20,000 children of age 13+ for livelihood education. Besides, activities is also planned to advocate for and build the capacity of the families of the children and stakeholders of the project.</p> <p>7) Empowerment & Protection of Children (EPC) Project: Implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)</p>

	Questions	Replies/Information
		<p>through NGOs. This project is targeting the orphans and otherwise marginalized children – such as, street children, drug users, victims of sex exploitation, acid survivors, and disaster affected children and adolescent boys and girls (Kishori Avizan).</p> <p>8) Community Based Working Child Protection Project (CBWCP): This project is being executed by MoHA. The project has been initiated to combat human trafficking in Bangladesh by enhancing preventive and protective measures, improving victim care and strengthening the GOB’s capacity to prosecute traffickers and trafficking related crimes.</p> <p>Actions for Combating Trafficking-in-Persons (ACT): Funded by USAID through IOM, this program has been initiated as an effort to assist the GOB to combat human trafficking in Bangladesh through the prevention of trafficking-in-persons, enhancing the protection of the victims and improving victim care, and strengthening the GOB’s capacity to prosecute traffickers and trafficking related crimes to help ensure that the rule of law and human security are improved.</p>

7) SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ELIMINATE OR PREVENT CHILD LABOR:

Please respond to gaps in information or areas requiring clarification noted in this section of your country’s 2011 TDA profile, and provide any updates for 2012.

	Questions	Replies/Information
1)	Did the government participate in or implement any programs specifically to address child labor in 2012? Please describe types of services provided and number of children served if applicable.	The social sectors programs are indirectly contributing elimination of child Labor. The areas of support include: Children in the Urban Informal Economy, Street Children, Stipend for Primary students, School Feeding, Dropout Students, Stipend for Female Students, Stipend for Poor boys, Maternal health voucher scheme, Rural Employment, Community Nutrition Program, Poor lactating mother, Stipend for the students for Government and Non-Government Orphanages, Stipend and grants for

		disable students, Cash/Food for Work, Housing Support, VGD, VGF, TR, Food Assistance in Hill tracks, Employment Generation for Hard-core Poor in SIDR Area, Micro-Credit for Women Self-Employment, Micro-Credit for Self-Employment of Youth, Micro-Credit in Social Sector Services, Welfare of Acid Burnt and Disables, Garments Workers Training and Support, Small and Poultry Farming, Small Entrepreneurship, Housing for Homeless, Agro-based industries (Please see Annex B)
2	Did the government address child labor through poverty reduction, development, educational or other social programs, such as conditional cash transfer programs or eligibility for school meals, etc? Please describe. If available, provide information on the impact of such programs on child labor.	The government implements various programs for the welfare of the children which directly or indirectly help eliminating child Labor. The priority areas of the programs are mentioned in the previous section. There is no comprehensive study on the impacts of these programs on child Labor. To boost up these programs and to carry out a comprehensive study on the impact of these programs on child Labor, technical assistance may play a vital role.
3	Were the programs targeted to the children at greatest risk of involvement in child labor? Which children?	The priority areas of the programs are mentioned in the previous section.
4	Did the government provide funding to the programs described above? If so, please provide the amount and duration of funding. Or, if the government provided in-kind support, please describe the nature of the support.	The programs targeting children or child Labor receive both cash and in-kind support from the Government. The contribution of the Government showed gradual increase representing around 2.76 percent of GDP in recent years.

8) RESPONSE TO “SUGGESTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION” IN THE 2011 PROFILE

USDOL will continue to assess each country’s individual advancement toward eliminating the worst forms of child labor during the current reporting period compared with previous years. The implementation of suggested government actions will be one of the criterion considered in that assessment. USDOL welcomes any corrections, additions, feedback, or updates to efforts undertaken by the government

that address the specific suggestions for government action noted at the conclusion of your country's 2011 profile.

Area	Suggested Actions	Actions Taken
Law and Regulations	Raise the compulsory education age to 14, in line with the established minimum age for work.	The Government of Bangladesh has adopted National Education Policy, 2010 which aims to ensure compulsory and free primary education for every child up to grade eight (average age 14 years). A standing committee titled "Central Committee on Implementation and Monitoring of National Education Policy 2010" (CCIMNEP) headed by the Hon'ble Education Minister has been constituted to coordinate among various functionaries and actions related with implementation of the new education policy. This committee has already developed plan of actions needed for proper implementation of the NEP.
	Amend the labor Code to protect the large numbers of children working in small-scale agriculture, domestic service, family enterprises and home-based work.	<p>The existence of child Labor in Bangladesh is closely linked to poverty. Unless the poverty situation of the country is improved at a satisfactory level it is very difficult to abolish child Labor. This also depends largely on the achievement of high and stable growth of the country's economy for which the country is striving for long. However, with all its limited resources the Government of Bangladesh has been implementing programs/ projects on regular basis for abolition of child Labor. The development partners have also come with funds to implement programs on child Labor. With all these efforts there has been remarkable success. At present there is no child Labor in Readymade Garments (RMG) and shrimp processing sectors.</p> <p>Children are engaged mainly in informal sectors. In Bangladesh almost 87% of the workers are engaged in the informal sector. So considering the economic, social and administrative structure it is not feasible to include all sectors under the Labor Law at a time. However, the government is committed to extend the coverage of Labor Law to include more sectors under the Law. Note</p>

		that National Child Labor Elimination Policy, 2010 is equally applicable in the formal and informal sectors.
	Amend the Labor Code to comply with international standards on the minimum age for military service.	Joining the military service in Bangladesh is voluntary. There is no compulsory military service requirement for its citizens. Since the joining military service is voluntary the recruitment age is not contradictory with the international Labor standards.
Coordination Enforcement	Increase the number of labor inspectors to better enforce child labor laws and protect against exploitative child labor.	<p>Considering the number of factories and establishments in the country restructuring of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments has been under active consideration of the government. For this the Government has a plan to implement a project namely “Establishment of 5 Zonal Offices and 4 Regional Offices and Modernization & Strengthening the Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishments”. The project will also contribute in providing logistics support and proper training to the inspectors.</p> <p>For easy access and to expedite resolve Labor disputes, the government of Bangladesh has established 7 Labor courts and a Labor appellate tribunal in the country. Recently, the Government has initiated establishment of 3 new Labor courts in three new administrative divisions of the country. But it requires huge investment and the country might be benefited with any sorts of financial assistance.</p> <p>The Government under the Ministry of Labor and Employment has been implementing a component of the Better Works and Standards (BEST) Program which provides capacity building training to the inspectors of the “Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments” under the MOLE. The Government has started implementation of Better Work Program with the Assistance of IFC and ILO. The program will provide skill development training to the</p>

		inspectors.
	Expand the community-based workplace surveillance groups model to cover locations of high incidence of child labor outside of Dhaka.	To monitor promotional activities and child Labor situation in the country the Government has initiated establishment of a National Child Labor Welfare Council . Divisional, district and upazila level committees to monitor child Labor situation in the country have also been drafted.
Policies	Finalize and approve the NPA for implementation of the National Child labor Elimination policy.	To implement the National Child labor Elimination policy 2010 a National Plan of Action (NPA) for 2012-2016 has been approved by the competent authority. Now necessary steps are being taken to implement the NPA. For proper implementation of the National Plan of Action (NPA) an estimated amount of Taka 712.5 crore or US\$100 million is required for a five year period (2012-2016). This requires technical assistance from the development partners.
	Operationalize the National Child Labor Welfare Council.	The Government has initiated establishment of a National Child Labor Welfare Council along with the Divisional, district and upazila level committees to monitor child Labor situation in the country. The Government has also initiated to place the child Labor unit under the regular revenue budget of the Government.
Social Programs	Assess the impact that existing social safety net programs may have on reducing child labor.	The social safety net programs certainly have positive impact in reducing child Labor. Technical assistance may require to asses the impact of the social safety net programs.
	Expand current social programs targeting child laborers to include children working in agriculture.	Most of the beneficiaries of the Government's social safety net programs are rural poor including those working in the agriculture. The Government is committed for gradual expansion of the social safety net programs with wider coverage. Technical assistance may be beneficial in this regard.

Number of cases instituted relating to human trafficking, specially children

S L N o.	period	No. of Cases instituted Concerning Trafficking.	No. of Victims Trafficked	No. of Victims Recovered	No. of Traffickers involved (Accused persons)	No. of Traffickers Arrested By police and surrendered in the Court	Manner of Rehabilitation of Recovered Victims.			
							Parents	NGO	Govt. Safe Home	total
1.	01.01.09 to 31.12.09	25	35	21	87	39	21	0	0	21
2.	01.01.10 to 31.12.10	39	68	59	92	30	57	0	2	59
3.	01.01.11 to 31.12.11	38	65	32	113	28	32	0	0	32
4.	01.01.12 to 30.04.12	36	62	45	95	24	35	0	3	38
Total		138	230	157	387	121	145	0	5	150

Description of disposal of under trial cases relating to human trafficking, specially children trafficking only

SL N o.	Period	Total No. of Cases ended in conviction.	Total No. of accused convicted	Total No. of Cases ended in acquittal	Total No. of accused acquitted	Total No. of Cases disposed	Nature of Conviction		
							Death	Life Term	Other Terms & Fine
1.	01,01.09 to 31.12.09	5	5	18	43	23	0	4	1
2.	01.01.10 to 31.12.10	15	24	22	43	37	0	17	7
3.	01.01.11 to 31.12.11	2	2	13	29	15	0	0	2
4.	01.01.12 to 30.04.12	2	3	15	25	21	0	3	0
Total		24	34	68	140	96	0	24	10

Annex B: Usual Social Safety Net Programs of the Government of Bangladesh

Non-Development Total Budget:
A.1: Cash Transfer (Allowances) Program
A.1.i: Social Protection
1 Old Age Allowance (MOSW)
2 Allowances for the Widowed, Deserted and Destitute Women (MOWCA)
3 Allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled (MOWSW)
4 Maternity allowance program for the Poor Lactating Mothers (MOWCA)
5 Honorarium for Insolvent Freedom Fighters (MOFWA)
6 Honorarium for Injured Freedom Fighters (MOFWA)
7 Grants for Residents in Government Orphanages and other institutions (MOSW)
8 Capitation Grants for Orphan Students in non-government orphanages (MOSW)
9 Gratuitous Relief (Cash) (MOFDM)
10 General Relief Activities (MOFDM)
11 Block Allocation for Disaster Management
12 Non-Bengali Rehabilitation (MOFDM)
13 Allowances for Distressed Cultural Personalities/Activists (MOCA)
14 Allowances for beneficiaries in Ctg. Hill Tract area.
15 Pension for Retired Government Employees or their Families
ii) Social Empowerment
1 Stipend for Disabled Students (MOSW)
2 Grants for the Schools for the Disabled (MOSW)
(A.2) Cash Transfer (Special) Program
(A.2.i) Social Protection
1 Cash For Work (MOFDM)
(A.2.ii) Social Empowerment
1 Housing Support (MOFDM)
2 Agriculture Rehabilitation (MOA)
(B) Food Security Programs: Social Protection
1 Subsidy for Open Market Sales (OMS) (MOFDM)
2 Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) (MOWCA)
3 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) (MOFDM)
4 Test Relief (TR) Food (MOFDM)
5 Gratuitous Relief (GR)- Food (MOFDM)
6 Food Assistance in CTG-Hill tracts Area
7 Food For Work (FFW)
(C.1) Micro-Credit Programs: Social Empowerment

1 Fund through PKSf
2 Special fund for Employment Generation for Hard-core Poor in SIDR Area (PKSF)
3 Social Development Foundation
4 NGO Foundation
5 Micro-credit for Women Self-employment (MOWCA)
6 Fund for Development of Fisheries and Livestock sector (MOFL)
7 Freedom Fighters' Self Employment Support (MOFWA)
8 Micro Credit for Self Employment of Youth (MOYS)
9 Micro-Credit in Social sector Service (RSS, RMC, UCD) (MOSW)
10 Micro-credit by BRDB (RDGD)
11 Infrastructure Development Company
12 Infrastructure Inversement Facilitation Centre (IIFC)
13 Municipal Development Fund
(C.2) Miscellaneous Funds: Social Empowerment
1 Fund for the Welfare of Acid Burnt and Disables (MOSW)
2 Fund for Garment workers Training and support (MOC)
3 Fund for Assistance to the Small Farmer and Poultry Farms (FD)
4 Employment Generation for Hard-core Poor (PKSF)
5 Support to Small Entrepreneurship (PKSF)
6 Mitigation of Risk of Natural Disaster (pre and post) (MOFDM)
7 Housing Loan for Homeless (BB)
8 Swanirvar Training Program
9 Jatio Pratibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) (MOSW)
10 Shamaj Kallyan Parishad
11 Renewable Fuel Development Assistance
12 Assistance for Agro-based Industries
13 Equity Development Fund-Agriculture (BB)
14 Equity Development Fund-IT (BB)
15 SME Foundation
16 Agriculture Research Assistance
17 Special Fund for Training & re-employment for the retired or dismissed employees/ workers
(C.3) New Fund: Social Protection
1 100 days Employment Scheme (MOFDM)
2 Fund for Climate Change (MOEF)
3 Fund for Women Laborer
Under Development Budget:
(D) Development Sector Programs: Social Empowerment
(D.1) Running Development Programs
1 Stipend for Primary Students (MOPMED)
2 School Feeding Program (MOPMED)
3 Stipend for Dropout Students (MOPMED)
4 Stipend for Secondary and Higher Secondary/Female Student (MOE)
5 Stipend for Poor Boys in secondary school
6 Maternal Health Voucher Scheme (MOHFP)

7	Rural Employment Opportunities for Protection of Public Property (REOPA) (LGD)
8	Community Nutrition Program (MOHFA)
9	Shouhardo Program
10	Accommodation (Poverty Alleviation & Rehabilitation) Project (Prime Minister's Office)
11	School Children
	(D.2) New Programs
1	Rural Employment and Rural Maintenance Program (LGD)
2	VGD-UP (8 District on Monga Area) (MOWCA)