

Iraq

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor¹⁹⁴⁹

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2006:	7,074,168
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	12.4
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	15.1
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	9.6
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	11
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	99.5
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	88.6
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2006:	69.6
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	80.6
ILO Convention 138:	2/13/1985
ILO Convention 182:	7/9/2001
CRC:	6/15/1994*
CRCOPAC:	7/24/2008*
CRCOPSC:	6/24/2008*
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

According to a 2006 UNICEF survey, the last date for which such data is available, most working children in Iraq are employed in a family business. Boys work at a higher rate than girls and rural children at a higher rate than children living in urban areas.¹⁹⁵⁰ In addition, children are engaged in begging, selling items on the streets, and working in hazardous conditions in automobile shops and on construction sites. In rural areas, children work on farms.¹⁹⁵¹

There are reports of children participating in both the sex industry and the drug trade.¹⁹⁵² Boys and girls are trafficked within the country and abroad for commercial sexual exploitation.¹⁹⁵³ According

to USDOS, there is anecdotal evidence of children trafficked from orphanages by employees of those organizations.¹⁹⁵⁴ On January 29, 2008, the Iraqi press reported that journalists had discovered a market for selling children in Baghdad, and a local NGO reported in February 2008 that they were following the cases of 16 missing children.¹⁹⁵⁵ Press reports note that as of April 2009, the selling of children continued to be a problem in Iraq.¹⁹⁵⁶

There are reports of Iraqi insurgent groups recruiting children for a number of combat-related roles, including spying, scouting, and planting improvised explosive devices, as well as using children as suicide bombers.¹⁹⁵⁷

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The 1987 Labor Law remains in effect with Amendments made by Coalition Provisional Authority Order 89.¹⁹⁵⁸ The law sets the minimum for employment at 15 years. The law prohibits the employment of anyone under 18 years in work detrimental to the worker's health, safety, or morals.¹⁹⁵⁹ Types of work specifically prohibited to young persons include activities such as work underground, underwater, or with dangerous equipment or hazardous substances.¹⁹⁶⁰ Additional legal requirements regarding the employment of young persons include a pre-employment medical examination, maximum 7-hour workday, maximum 4-hour work period without breaks, and a daily rest period of 1 hour. Youth 15 years or older who are employed in family enterprises are excluded from the provisions regarding medical examinations and daily work hours.¹⁹⁶¹

The Constitution prohibits forced labor, slavery, trafficking of women and children, and the sex trade.¹⁹⁶² The amended Penal Code does not directly address trafficking, but aspects of trafficking may be covered under other articles; for example, crimes involving unlawful seizure, kidnapping, and detention all carry prison terms of 10 to 15 years.¹⁹⁶³ The Penal Code also prohibits child prostitution and provides for imprisonment of up to 10 years for violations.¹⁹⁶⁴

The Labor Code prohibits the worst forms of child labor, defined as slavery and similar practices, including forced labor, child trafficking, and compulsory recruitment of minors for use in armed conflict; child prostitution; illicit activities such as drug trafficking; and work likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children.¹⁹⁶⁵ Violations of Labor Code provisions pertaining to work performed by children, including the worst forms of child labor, may be penalized by imprisonment for 10 days to 3 months or fines.¹⁹⁶⁶

The minimum age of voluntary military service is 18 years.¹⁹⁶⁷

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) is responsible for enforcing child labor regulations. According to USDOS, MOLSA's Child Labor Unit is unable to enforce child labor laws and remove children from exploitive labor situations because of a lack of inspectors and resources.¹⁹⁶⁸ The Ministries of Interior of both the Iraqi and Kurdish Regional Governments are responsible for trafficking issues; however, according to USDOS, trafficking is relegated to a lower priority given the security situation and is not investigated.¹⁹⁶⁹ The Government did not prosecute any trafficking cases in 2008.¹⁹⁷⁰

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

The Government of Iraq funds programs to assist former and current street children.¹⁹⁷¹ In October 2008, after the Ministry of Human Rights raised concerns, the Government established a committee to examine trafficking in persons in Iraq.¹⁹⁷²

¹⁹⁴⁹ 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 Coalition Provisional Authority, *Coalition Provisional Authority Order 89*, (May 5, 2004), article 90.1; available from <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/77032/81470/F1644531479/IRQ.77032.pdf>. For age to which education is compulsory and free public education, see Government of Iraq, *Constitution of Iraq*, (October 15, 2005), article 34. See also U.S. Department of State, "Iraq," in *Country Reports on Human Rights*

Practices- 2008, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, sections 5 and 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/nea/119116.htm>. See also UNESCO, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009: Overcoming inequality: why governance matters*, Paris, 2009, 292; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0017/001776/177683E.pdf>.

¹⁹⁵⁰ UNICEF, *Iraq: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women*, 2006, 56; available from http://www.childinfo.org/files/MICS3_Iraq_FinalReport_2006_eng.pdf.

¹⁹⁵¹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Iraq," sections 5 and 6d. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Iraq: Child Labour on the Rise as Poverty Increases", IRINnews.org [online] June 12, 2007 [cited February 8, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=72683>.

¹⁹⁵² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Iraq," section 5. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "IRAQ: Children Lured into Drugs and Prostitution", IRINnews.org [online] February 12, 2007 [cited February 8, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=70094>.

¹⁹⁵³ U.S. Department of State, "Iraq," in *In Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>. See also U.S. Embassy- Baghdad, *reporting*, February 25, 2009, para 2b.

¹⁹⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Iraq," section 5.

¹⁹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵⁶ Afif Sarhan, "Iraqi babies for sale: people trafficking crisis grows as gangs exploit poor families and corrupt system," *The Guardian Online* (London), April 6, 2009; available from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/06/child-trafficking-iraq>.

¹⁹⁵⁷ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General For Children and Armed Conflict, *Visit of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to Iraq and the Region: 13 to 25 April 2008*, August 2008, p 8-10; available from http://www.un.org/children/conflict/_documents/countryvisits/IraqVisitReport.pdf. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Iraq: Move to prevent children being exploited by militants", IRINnews.org [online] July 29, 2008; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=79498>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Iraq," section 5.

¹⁹⁵⁸ U.S. Embassy- Baghdad, *reporting*, December 28, 2008, para 1. See also U.S. Department of State official,

E-mail communication to USDOL official, April 4, 2009.

¹⁹⁵⁹ Coalition Provisional Authority, *Order 89*, articles 90.1-91.2. See also U.S. Department of State official, E-mail communication, April 4, 2009.

¹⁹⁶⁰ Coalition Provisional Authority, *Order 89*, articles 90.1-91.2.

¹⁹⁶¹ *Ibid.*, articles 92.1-93.2, 96.

¹⁹⁶² Government of Iraq, *Constitution of Iraq*, article 37c. See also U.S. Embassy- Baghdad, *reporting, February 25, 2009*, para 4a.

¹⁹⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Baghdad, *reporting, February 25, 2009*, para 4a.

¹⁹⁶⁴ *Penal Code with Amendments*, (September 9, 1980), article 399; available from [http://law.case.edu/saddamtrial/documents/Iraqi_P](http://law.case.edu/saddamtrial/documents/Iraqi_Penal_Code_1969.pdf)

[enal_Code_1969.pdf](http://law.case.edu/saddamtrial/documents/Iraqi_Penal_Code_1969.pdf). See also U.S. Embassy- Baghdad, *reporting, February 25, 2009*, paras 4a and 4b.

¹⁹⁶⁵ Coalition Provisional Authority, *Order 89*, article 91.3.

¹⁹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, article 97.

¹⁹⁶⁷ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Iraq," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008, 179; available from http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf.

¹⁹⁶⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Iraq," section 6d.

¹⁹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, section 5.

¹⁹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷¹ *Ibid.*, section 6d.

¹⁹⁷² *Ibid.*, section 5.

Jamaica

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*¹⁹⁷³

Population, children, 5-14 years, 2006:	573,192
Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	8.4
Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	9.6
Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2006:	7.2
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	15
Compulsory education age:	16
Free public education:	Yes*
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	94.9
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	90.3
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%), 2006:	98.6
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2001:	90.3
ILO Convention 138:	10/13/2003
ILO Convention 182:	10/13/2003
CRC:	5/14/1991
CRCOPAC:	5/9/2002
CRCOPSC:	No
Palermo:	9/29/2003
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

*In practice, must pay for various school expenses

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Jamaica work on plantations, farms, and construction sites, as well as in gardens, shops, and markets. Children also work selling goods on the street and begging.¹⁹⁷⁴

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a problem in Jamaica, especially in tourist areas. Girls are recruited as barmaids and masseuses but then forced into prostitution.¹⁹⁷⁵ Boys who work on the streets of Kingston and Montego Bay are vulnerable to being trafficked. Boys working on the streets are also forced into selling drugs or becoming drug couriers.¹⁹⁷⁶ Girls in rural areas are sometimes recruited for domestic labor and then forced into servitude.

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The minimum age for employment in Jamaica is 15 years. The law prohibits the employment of children under 13 years in any type of work. Children between 13 and 15 years are permitted to engage in "light work," as prescribed by the Ministry of Labor, which will not disrupt their education or be harmful to their health, including their physical, mental, spiritual, or social development.¹⁹⁷⁷ The law also prohibits children under 15 years from working at night or in any