Bahrain

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Bahrain work in family businesses. Children have also been reported to work in the Manama Central Market.209

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law forbids the employment of children younger than 14 years.210 Working minors 14 to 16 years must obtain permission from their guardian, receive authorization to work from the Ministry of Labor (MOL), and have a medical examination prior to employment.211 These children then may work no more than 6 hours per day and may not work overtime or at night.212 The law also establishes a list of 25 hazardous occupations in which no person younger than 16 years may work.213 However, none of these provisions apply to children working in family enterprises or under the supervision of a family member.214 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 minor in violation of the law’s provisions.215 The MOL enforces child labor laws and regulations and had 43 labor inspectors as of January 2009.216 The MOL also 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.217
| Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor²¹⁸ |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Population, children, 5-14 years: | -        |
| 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 (%), 2006: | 119.5   |
| Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005: | 98.2   |
| School attendance, children 5-14 years (%): | - |
| Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004: | 98.9   |
| ILO Convention 138:              | No       |
| ILO Convention 182:              | 3/23/2001 |
| CRC:                            | 2/13/1992* |
| CRCOPAC:                        | 9/21/2004* |
| CRCOPSC:                        | 9/21/2004* |
| Palermo:                        | 6/7/2004* |
| ILO-IPEC participating country:  | No       |

²¹⁸ Accession

The Constitution outlaws compulsory labor, except in cases specified by law for national exigency or pursuant to a judicial hearing. The anti-trafficking law defines trafficking as the recruitment, harbor, transport, and receiving of victims through coercive or forceful means. It also establishes intergovernmental committees to oversee trafficking-related issues, such as the welfare of victims, awareness programs, and research to combat trafficking. The punishment for trafficking is a prison term of 3 to 15 years and a fine. When a person under 15 years is trafficked, the maximum sentence is increased to life imprisonment.

Forcing or enticing a child into prostitution is punishable by 3 to 10 years of imprisonment. The production and distribution of pornographic materials is against the law. However, CEACR notes that the use or procurement of a child in the production of pornography is not as a separate offense prohibited.

While there is no compulsory military service in Bahrain, the law states that cadets can be recruited at 15 years and soldiers can be recruited at 17 years.

The Ministry of Interior has a specialized unit to investigate trafficking violations. From April 2007 to March 2008, the Government did not report any prosecutions or convictions for any cases of trafficking children for involuntary servitude or forced prosecution.

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

The Government passed the Anti-Trafficking Law of 2008, which increases the fine and prison term penalties for trafficking minors. In addition, the Government continued its anti-trafficking efforts of distributing multilingual pamphlets on workers’ rights and resources. The Government has also committed resources to expand IOM’s role in providing anti-trafficking training to Government officials.

²⁰ Government of Bahrain, Labour Law for the Private Sector, chapter 8, article 50.
²¹ Ibid., chapter 7, article 42, chapter 8, articles 51 and 55.
²² Ibid., chapter 8, articles 52-54.
²³ Ibid., chapter 8, article 51. See also ILO Committee of Experts, Individual Direct Request Concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182) Bahrain (ratification: 2001), [online] 2008 [cited January 22, 2009], 2; available from http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/pdcovn.pl?host=status01&textbase=iloeng&document=21847&chapter=9&query=Bahrain%40ref&highlight=&querytype=bool&context=0.
²⁴ Government of Bahrain, Labour Law for the Private Sector, chapter 1, article 2, chapter 8, article 58.
²⁵ Ibid., chapter 20, article 163.
²⁷ U.S. Embassy- Manama official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, March 19, 2007.

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

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

Ibid., articles 7, 8.


Government of Bahrain, Law No. (1) of 2008 with Respect to Trafficking in Persons, article 4(2). See also USDOS official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 29, 2008.


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. Children are found working in road transport, such as rickshaw pulling, automotive repair, and minibus assistance. 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. Children are engaged in the following hazardous activities: printing, welding, fabrication, stone breaking, dyeing operations, potter assistance, blacksmith assistance, fish farming, construction, and carpentry. 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.

Other reports have indicated that large numbers of children work under hazardous conditions in the ship-breaking industry. 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. These child domestics are vulnerable to abuse, including sexual abuse. Children are also found working in the service industry, in hotels and restaurants.

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.