THE CENTRE
FOR CHILD RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Child Labour Risk Index

Last Update
July 2026

Bangladesh

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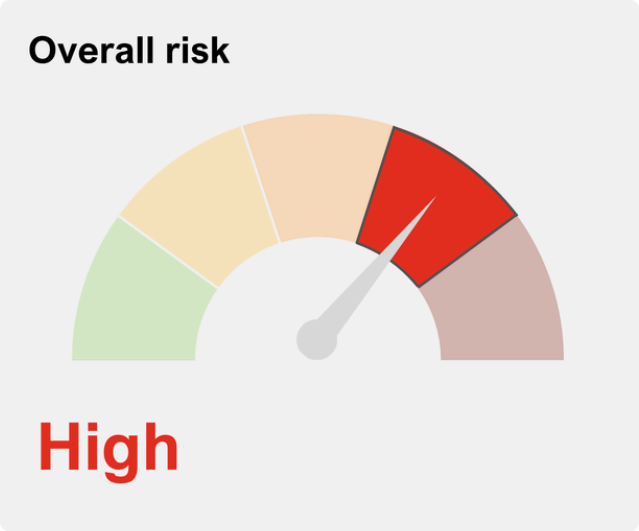
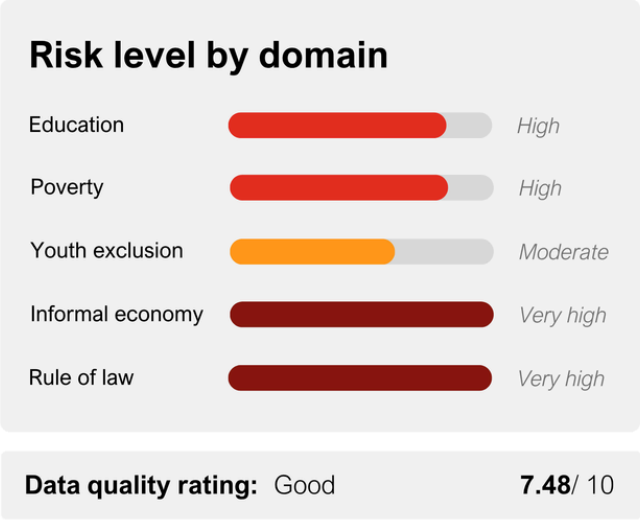
Overview





For detailed information including methodology, visit the Child Labour Risk Index website.

Child Labour in Bangladesh

The high child labour risk score in Bangladesh reflects persistent education gaps, widespread poverty, and a large informal economy, alongside limited decent work opportunities for youth. While primary school attendance remains relatively strong, low secondary completion, persistent household poverty, and inequality continue to increase children's vulnerability to child labour, reinforcing the need for enhanced due diligence across supply chains.

Risk Factors

Child labour risks are most prevalent in labour-intensive, cost-sensitive export sectors with complex subcontracting and informal production, including ready-made garments, leather and footwear, ship-breaking, ceramics, and agro-processing such as shrimp, dried fish, and jute products. Reliance on short-term labour, home-based work, and third-party recruitment can reduce visibility and oversight, increasing the risk of underage and hazardous work without robust due diligence, effective age verification, and remediation systems in place.

Enhanced due diligence is recommended in Bangladesh. See page 3 for further guidance.

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Evidence Indications

Between January 2020 and July 2026, The Centre received reports of 427 cases of child labour in Bangladesh, representing an average age of 14.7 years.

The majority of cases were reported from the garment sector, followed by incidents in footwear, textile, and printing (textile) factories. These cases highlight the ongoing risks faced by adolescents engaged in informal or low-skilled work across Bangladesh's key manufacturing hubs.

Please note that this case data is not representative of prevalence, but rather indicative of where The Centre and our clients work.

Please explore Child Labour Alerts and Trends in the CRIB Members' Area for more details.

Credible Reports of Child Labour

Child Labour in Bangladesh was also documented in **25 credible reports** (via academia, government, media or NGOs) from January 2020 to July 2026. Sectors mentioned in the reports include:

- Fisheries and aquaculture (3)
- Garments and textiles (4)
- Leather (6)
- Shipbreaking (3)
- Multiple sectors (9)

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Next Steps

Recommended Due Diligence: **Enhanced**

Implement comprehensive measures: deep multi-tier tracing, in-depth assessments, structured remediation protocols and integration of findings into sourcing decisions.

Step 1: Commit

- Establish a clear CL policy outlining prevention and remediation commitments.
- Create a country-specific CL response plan referencing relevant national legal requirements and industry risks.
- Establish an ongoing partnership with a credible third-party child rights organisation to support case handling and expert guidance.
- Create a dedicated remediation budget or fund to cover remediation costs where needed.

Step 2: Build Capacity

- Train in-country staff and relevant third-party service providers on CL risk identification, escalation and response.
- Train business partners regularly on CL prevention and remediation expectations.
- Require completion of CL training prior to onboarding business partners in high-risk countries.

Step 3: Identify & Map Risks

- Conduct deeper research on CL risks in sourcing regions using credible country and industry reports.
- Assess relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) operating in or covering the country, including their effectiveness and suitability.
- Map supply chain links to informal settings and increase monitoring; consider formalisation where feasible.

Step 4: Conduct In-Depth Assessments

- Organise on-site risk assessments in high-risk countries, prioritised based on risk severity and company leverage over suppliers and intermediaries.

Step 5: Act on Drivers of Risk

- Assess how purchasing practices may contribute to CL risk and implement mitigating actions to avoid contributing to increased risk.

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