

destaca *Acción de Gobierno para Erradicar Trabajo Infantil*, [online] May 28, 2008]; available from <http://www.mintrab.gov.ec/MinisterioDeTrabajo/index.htm>. See also Ministry of Labor, *Taller Nacional que Promueve la Erradicación Progresiva del Trabajo Infantil en Basurales se Inaguró en Quito*, [online] September 19, 2008]; available from <http://www.mintrab.gov.ec/MinisterioDeTrabajo/index.htm>.

¹²³⁵ Ministry of Tourism, *Turismo Lidera Estrategia para Prevenir y Erradicar Prácticas de Explotación Sexual Asociada a Viaje*, [online] 2008 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from http://www.turismo.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=885&Itemid=43. See also Ministry of Tourism, *En Otavalo se Desarrolló un Taller sobre la Prevención y Explotación Sexual de Niños y Adolescentes*, [online] 2008 [cited January 26, 2009]; available from http://www.turismo.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=905&Itemid=43.

¹²³⁶ U.S. Embassy- Quito, *reporting, March 4, 2009*.

¹²³⁷ Ministry of Tourism, *Ecuador Asume Liderazgo en Suramérica para la Protección de Menores Jóvenes*, 2008; available from http://www.turismo.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=885&Itemid=43. See also Brazilian Ministry of Tourism,

Equador Assume Direção de Grupo Latino-Americano para a Proteção Infanto-Juvenil, November 26, 2008; available from http://200.143.12.85/turismo/opencms/institucional/noticias/arquivos/Equador_assume_dir_ecao_de_grupo_latino-americano_para_protecao_infanto-juvenil.html.

¹²³⁸ Metropolitan Council of Quito, *Ordenanza Metropolitana No. 0241*, (February 8, 2008). See also Technical Secretariat of the National Committee for the Progressive Elimination of Child Labor (CONEPTI), *Acta de Conformación de la Mesa de Trabajo Infantil Indígena*, September 10, 2008. See also Technical Secretariat of the National Committee for the Progressive Elimination of Child Labor (CONEPTI), *Memoria Foro "Erradicando el Trabajo Infantil en Ecuador"* May 6-7, 2008, 2008.

¹²³⁹ Development and Self-Management official, Interview, February 4, 2009. See also Central Bank of Ecuador, *PMT inaugura "CENTRO PANITA" y gradúa a 550 niños*, Quito, July 10, 2008; available from <http://www.bce.fin.ec/documentos/PublicacionesNotas/ComunicacionMedios/BoletinesPrensa/BPrensa129.pdf>. See also Minister of Labor and Employment, *El Peti: Boletín No. 2*, March 2008, 3.

Egypt

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

A large portion of working children in Egypt is found in the agricultural sector, where children are hired each year for the cotton harvest.¹²⁴⁰ Children also work in a number of sectors deemed hazardous by the Government of Egypt including leather tanning, fishing, glassworks, blacksmithing, working metal and copper, construction, carpentry, mining, auto repair, textile manufacturing, and brick making.¹²⁴¹ In addition, children participate in the hazardous work of limestone quarrying where they face serious health risks from rock cutting machines, limestone dust, and intense heat.¹²⁴² UNICEF estimates that there are some 1 million street children in Egypt.¹²⁴³ Street children, primarily boys, work collecting garbage, begging, and vending.¹²⁴⁴ Street children are particularly vulnerable to becoming involved in illicit activities, including pornography and prostitution.¹²⁴⁵

Reports indicate a widespread practice of poor, rural families arranging to send their daughters to cities to work as domestic servants in the homes of wealthy residents. Child domestic workers are excluded from the protections of the labor code and are highly susceptible to harsh working conditions as well as physical and sexual abuse.¹²⁴⁶

Children, especially street children and young girls from poor families, are trafficked internally for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, forced begging, and domestic labor.¹²⁴⁷ Recent reports indicate that trafficking for the purposes of child sex tourism is becoming increasingly prevalent in Cairo, Alexandria, and Luxor.¹²⁴⁸ It has been reported that wealthy men from the Gulf region travel to Egypt for the purpose of temporary marriages, a form of commercial sexual exploitation, with minor girls.¹²⁴⁹ Girls are sometimes sold to men for short-term marriages which are akin to prostitution.¹²⁵⁰

***Selected Statistics and Indicators
on Child Labor***¹²⁵¹

| | |
|---|------------|
| Population, children, 5-14 years, 2005: | 15,247,673 |
| Working children, 5-14 years (%), 2005: | 6.7 |
| Working boys, 5-14 years (%), 2005: | 9.5 |
| Working girls, 5-14 years (%), 2005: | 3.7 |
| Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%): | |
| - Agriculture | - |
| - Manufacturing | - |
| - Services | - |
| - Other | - |
| Minimum age for work: | 15 |
| Compulsory education age: | 13 |
| Free public education: | Yes |
| Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2007: | 104.7 |
| Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2007: | 95.8 |
| School attendance, children 6-14 years (%), 2005: | 88.1 |
| Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2006: | 96.8 |
| ILO Convention 138: | 8/4/1982 |
| ILO Convention 182: | 5/6/2002 |
| CRC: | 7/6/1990 |
| CRCOPAC: | 2/6/2007* |
| CRCOPSC: | 7/12/2002* |
| Palermo: | 3/5/2004 |
| ILO-IPEC participating country: | Yes |

*Accession

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

In June 2008, the minimum age for employment was changed from 14 to 15 years.¹²⁵² The Labor Law, however, still does not apply to children working in agriculture, small family enterprises, or domestic service.¹²⁵³

The law prohibits children 14 to 17 years from working more than 6 hours per day; requires at least a 1 hour break per day; and prohibits them from working overtime, on holidays, more than 4 consecutive hours, and between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.¹²⁵⁴ The law also allows the employment of children 12 to 14 years in seasonal jobs that do not harm their health or affect their schooling.¹²⁵⁵

Children 12 to 18 years may participate in certain types of apprenticeship training.¹²⁵⁶ Employers are bound by law to provide working minors an annual medical check-up, and must honor a child's lawful period of annual leave, which is 7

days longer than that of adult workers.¹²⁵⁷ Children under 18 years are prohibited from working in 44 hazardous industries, including cotton compressing, leather tanning, working with explosives, and agricultural activities involving the use of pesticides.¹²⁵⁸ The law penalizes those who break the child labor laws with fines that double if violations are repeated.¹²⁵⁹

The law prohibits forced labor. It is also illegal for a person to entice or assist a male under 21 years or a female of any age to depart the country to work in prostitution or other "immoral" activities. The law also prohibits the incitement of any person under the age of 21 from committing any act of prostitution or immorality, including the use of children in the production, promotion, or distribution of pornography. Violations of these laws are punishable with imprisonment for 1 to 7 years.¹²⁶⁰ In June 2008, amendments to the Child Protection Law were approved that criminalized trafficking in children. The new legislation also criminalizes commercial or economic abuse of children.¹²⁶¹ Those convicted of involvement with child trafficking face a minimum of 5 years imprisonment and a fine.¹²⁶² Perpetrators can be prosecuted if the act is committed abroad, and the punishment is increased if children are trafficked by a criminal transnational organization.¹²⁶³ Child traffickers may also be prosecuted under laws related to the abduction of children and rape.¹²⁶⁴

The minimum age for compulsory recruitment into the Egyptian Armed Forces is 18 years. Children may voluntarily enter the Armed Forces at 16 years.¹²⁶⁵

The Child Labor Unit within the Ministry of Manpower and Migration (MOMM) coordinates investigations based on reports of child labor violations and enforces the laws pertaining to child labor. USDOS reports that enforcement in state-owned businesses is adequate, while enforcement in the informal sectors is lacking, especially in villages and poorer urban areas.¹²⁶⁶

Children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and USDOS reports indicate that street children are treated as criminals rather than victims by law enforcement officers.¹²⁶⁷ In January

2009, Egypt's Tanta Criminal Court affirmed the verdicts against those convicted of trafficking and murdering 24 street children, while in February the Alexandria Prosecutor's Office began investigating an organization that allegedly forced street children into prostitution.¹²⁶⁸ However, according to USDOS, while some progress has been made, the lack of adequate financial resources to enforce trafficking laws as well as a lack of formal training for police and first responders significantly inhibits the successful implementation of the laws.¹²⁶⁹

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

The Government's National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) continues to implement the First National Strategy for the Progressive Elimination of Child Labor.¹²⁷⁰ In June 2008, First Lady Suzanne Mubarak chaired a NCCM-organized conference entitled "A Future without Child Labor."¹²⁷¹ The NCCM continues to collaborate with MOMM, the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF), ILO, UNICEF, WFP, and the Ministries of Social Affairs, Agriculture, Education, Health, and Interior to implement action programs to reduce child labor.¹²⁷² The NCCM worked during 2008 to provide working minors with social security safeguards and provided families with alternative sources of income to reduce school dropout rates.¹²⁷³

The NCCM and the Ministry of Social Security also provide services for street children.¹²⁷⁴ The NCCM also operates a 24-hour child labor hotline.¹²⁷⁵ In January 2009, the NCCM opened a rehabilitation center for child victims of human trafficking.¹²⁷⁶ Additionally, Egypt's National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Persons, which is composed of 16 governmental agencies, is conducting a broad study into the scope and the nature of human trafficking in the republic.¹²⁷⁷

The First Lady of Egypt sponsors an awareness-raising campaign to combat human trafficking. It calls for ethical business practices and improving law enforcement cooperation.¹²⁷⁸ Additionally, there is an anti-trafficking unit within the NCCM, which serves a wide variety of functions including advancing the reform of trafficking-

related legislation, victim rehabilitation, capacity building, increasing awareness of human trafficking and issuing publications concerning the different forms of trafficking.¹²⁷⁹ The unit has also started training government officials on human trafficking, with a special focus on judges and prosecutors.¹²⁸⁰ The Public Prosecutor's Office has administered training for 125 prosecutors working on cases of child trafficking.¹²⁸¹ The training focused on raising awareness of vulnerable child populations, and using the Child Labor Law amendments effectively for prosecution.¹²⁸²

The Government of Egypt continues to participate in the USDOL-funded USD 5.09 million UN WFP project to combat exploitive child labor through education. The project aims to withdraw 4,300 children and prevent 6,000 children from exploitive labor.¹²⁸³ The Government of Egypt is also participating in a USD 168,280 Italian-funded ILO-IPEC child labor project.¹²⁸⁴

¹²⁴⁰ ILO Committee of Experts, *Comments made by the CEACR: Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), Egypt (ratification: 1999) (paper presented at the 75th Session, Geneva)*, 2002; available from [hard copy on file]. See also Agence France-Presse, "Egypt child labour a sombre reality," 2008; available from http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5g8x0QCubrK_seW-OynM7MJqGDzZA. See also Dan McDougall, "Luxury Cotton's True Cost Exposed " *The Observer*, 2008; available from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jun/08/childprotection.humanrights>.

¹²⁴¹ See also WFP, *Rapid Assessment: Identification of Worst Forms of Child Labor in Beni Sweif, Assiut, Sohag and Red Sea*, May 2007, 4, 18-22. See also Associated Press, "In Egypt, Child Workers a Growing Problem as Food Prices Rise," April 3, 2008; available from [hard copy on file].

¹²⁴² U.S. Embassy - Cairo, *reporting*, July 31, 2008, sections 3-5. See also Daily Star Egypt staff, "Children of the Quarries", *Daily News Egypt*, [online], April 10, 2006 [cited April 1, 2009], para 3, 6-7; available from <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=1153>.

¹²⁴³ UNICEF, "A new approach to Egypt's street children," 2006; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/egypt_30616.html.

¹²⁴⁴ UNWFP, *Rapid Assessment: Identification of Worst Forms of Child Labor in Beni Sweif, Assiut, Sohag and Red Sea*, May 2007, 5.

¹²⁴⁵ Clarisa Bencomo, *Charged with Being Children: Egyptian Police Abuse of Children in Need of Protection*, Human Rights Watch, New York, February 2003, 40; available from <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2003/02/18/charged-being-children-0>. See also ECPAT International CSEC Database, *Egypt*, accessed December 6, 2007; available from <http://www.ecpat.net/>. See also Karam Saber, *A Situational Analysis of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Egypt*, Land Centre for Human Rights, March 2003, 4-6; available from [hard copy on file]. See also U.S. Department of State, "Egypt (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105656.pdf>.

¹²⁴⁶ Karam Saber, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Egypt*, 10-11. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Egypt."

¹²⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Egypt." See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 2d.

¹²⁴⁸ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 2b.

¹²⁴⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Egypt." See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 2b.

¹²⁵⁰ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Egypt: Minors Sold for Prostitution Under Guise of Marriage", IRINnews.org, [online], November 16, 2006 [cited February 2, 2009]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportId=61947>.

¹²⁵¹ 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 Egypt, *Labour Law*, Law No. 12/2003, (April 7, 2003), article 99; available from <http://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/laws/labour/default.aspx>. See also Kawther Abu Gazaleh, Lamia Bulbul, and Suadad Najium, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt*, 2004, 28; available from [hard copy on file]. For age to which education is compulsory, see UNESCO, *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2008*, 2008; available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0017/001776/177683e.pdf>. For free public education, see Government of Egypt, *The Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt*, (May 22, 1980), article 20; available from <http://aceproject.org/ero-en/regions/mideast/EG/Egyptian%20Constitution%20-%20english.pdf>. See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, January 22, 2009.

¹²⁵² U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, January 22, 2009*, paras 1 and 2.

¹²⁵³ Government of Egypt, *Labour Law*, article 103. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *CEACR Comments*, 3.

¹²⁵⁴ Government of Egypt, *Labour Law*, articles 98 and 101.

¹²⁵⁵ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 4a. See also U.S. Department of State, "Egypt," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 6d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/nea/119114.htm>. See also ILO-IPEC, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt*, prepared by Kawther Abu Gazaleh, Lamia Bulbul, and Suadad Najium, 2004, 28; available from [hard copy on file]. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *CEACR Comments*, 4, article 7. See also Land Center for Human Rights, *The Rights of Working Children and their Protection*, November 25, 2008; available from http://www.crin.org/docs/The_rights_of_working_children_and_their_protection.doc.

¹²⁵⁶ Government of Egypt, *Decree Concerning the Rules and Procedures Regulating Vocational Apprenticeship*, Decree No. 175 of 2003, (August 31, 2003).

¹²⁵⁷ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*.

¹²⁵⁸ Government of Egypt, *Decree Determining the System of Employing Children, and the Conditions, Terms and Cases in which They Are Employed as well as the Works, Vocations, and Industries in which it is Prohibited to Employ Them, According to the Different Stages of Age*, Decree No. 118 of 2003, (June 30, 2003), Articles 1-9. See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, August 18, 2003, para 2.

¹²⁵⁹ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, August 18, 2003*, section 5.

¹²⁶⁰ Government of Egypt, "Egypt," in *Legislation of Interpol Member States on Sexual Offences against Children*, 2007; available from <http://www.interpol.org/Public/Children/SexualAbuse/NationalLaws/csaEgypt.asp>. See also UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), *Periodic Reports of States Parties due in 1999*, CERD/C/384/Add.3, prepared by Government of Egypt, pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, April 11, 2001, para 134; available from <http://www.arabhumanrights.org/countries/egypt/cerd/cerd-c384-add3-01e.pdf>.

¹²⁶¹ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 4a.

¹²⁶² Ibid.

¹²⁶³ Ibid.

¹²⁶⁴ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, February 28, 2008.

¹²⁶⁵ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Egypt," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008; available from <http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=63>.

¹²⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, January 22, 2009*, para 5.

¹²⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Egypt." See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 4i.

¹²⁶⁸ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 4e.

¹²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, section 3c.

¹²⁷⁰ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, January 22, 2009*, para 7.

¹²⁷¹ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷² U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, September 1, 2004*, para 7. See also U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, September 12, 2005*, 12. See also Abu Gazaleh, Bulbul, and Najium, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt*, 54. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Egypt," section 6d.

¹²⁷³ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Egypt," section 6d.

¹²⁷⁴ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, February 28, 2008*. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Egypt," section 6d.

¹²⁷⁵ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, January 22, 2009*, para 6. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Egypt."

¹²⁷⁶ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 4l.

¹²⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, section 2b.

¹²⁷⁸ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, June 10, 2008*.

¹²⁷⁹ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting, March 4, 2009*, section 2a.

¹²⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, section 4e.

¹²⁸¹ *Ibid.*, section 2b.

¹²⁸² *Ibid.*

¹²⁸³ WFP, *Combating Exploitative Child Labor through Education in Egypt*, Technical Progress Report, Cairo, August 31, 2008, 2-3.

¹²⁸⁴ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, USDOL official E-mail communication to, December 9, 2008.

El Salvador

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In El Salvador, children work more often in rural areas than in urban areas.¹²⁸⁵ They work in sugarcane and coffee harvesting, fishing, and mollusk extraction. They also work in the production of fireworks, garments, and garbage scavenging.¹²⁸⁶ Girls work as domestic servants in third-party homes and as street vendors. Some working children assist with family-operated businesses.¹²⁸⁷ Boys are more likely to be paid for their work than girls.¹²⁸⁸

Commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, especially of girls, is a problem. El Salvador is reported to be a transit point for girls trafficked internationally.¹²⁸⁹ Some children are trafficked internally from poor areas to urban areas for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. At-risk groups include girls, children, and adolescents without formal education from poor areas.¹²⁹⁰

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. Children who have reached 12 years

may be allowed to perform light work if it does not hinder school attendance, health, or personal development.¹²⁹¹ There are also exceptions for artistic performances. Children under 16 years are prohibited from working more than 6 hours per day, 34 hours per week, or 2 hours overtime in one day.¹²⁹² Children under 18 years are prohibited from working at night and are required to have a physical exam to determine whether they are capable of performing a particular job. Employers who hire children must maintain a child labor registry.¹²⁹³ Hazardous or unhealthy work is prohibited for all minors under age 18, including such activities as cutting or sawing; work underground; work with explosives or toxic materials; in construction, mines, or quarries; at sea; or in bars, pool halls, and similar establishments.¹²⁹⁴

Forced labor is prohibited, except in cases of public emergency and in particular cases established by law.¹²⁹⁵ The minimum age for compulsory military service is 18 years. With parental consent, children between 16 and 18 years may volunteer for military service.¹²⁹⁶ The law prohibits trafficking in persons. Criminal