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¹¹³⁰ CRIN, MERCOSUR, [online] 2007 [cited December 26, 2007]; available from <http://www.crin.org/espanol/RM/mercosur.asp>. See also Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina, *Iniciativa Niñ@ Sur*, [online] [cited December 7, 2007]; available from <http://www.derhuman.jus.gov.ar/direcciones/asistencia/ninosur.htm>.

¹¹³¹ ILO-IPEC, *Supporting the Time-Bound Program for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Ecuador*, Project Document, ECU/03/P50/USA, Geneva, August, 2003.

¹¹³² U.S. Department of Labor, *ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary: Project SOY!- Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor through Education in Ecuador*, 2004.

¹¹³³ U.S. Department of Labor, *ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary: Project Wiñari- Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor through Education in Ecuador*, 2005.

¹¹³⁴ World Learning, Technical Progress Report.

¹¹³⁵ ILO-IPEC, *IPEC Projects from all Donors except USDOL*, December 10, 2007.

¹¹³⁶ U.S. Embassy Official- Quito, E-mail communication to USDOL Official, August 7 2007.

Egypt

*Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor*¹¹³⁷

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 (%), Year:	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	14
Compulsory education age:	For 9 years
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	102
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	94
School attendance, children 6-14 years (%), 2005:	88.1
Survival rate to grade 5 (%), 2004:	94
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

A large proportion of working children in Egypt are found in the agricultural sector, where children

are hired each year for the cotton harvest.¹¹³⁸ Children work in a number of hazardous sectors, including leather tanning, pottery making, fishing, glassworks, blacksmithing, working metal and copper, construction, carpentry, mining and quarrying, auto repair, textile manufacturing, and domestic labor.¹¹³⁹ There are between 600,000 and 1 million street children in Egypt.¹¹⁴⁰ Street children, primarily boys, work collecting garbage, begging, assisting minibuses, and vending.¹¹⁴¹ Street children are particularly vulnerable to becoming involved in illicit activities, including pornography and prostitution.¹¹⁴²

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 exploitation, including physical and sexual abuse, as well as harsh working conditions.¹¹⁴³ Urban areas are also host to street children who have left their homes in the countryside to find work, and often to flee hostile conditions at home.¹¹⁴⁴ 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. Girls are sold to men for short-term marriages that are akin to prostitution.¹¹⁴⁵ Often, the girls are sold by their parents.¹¹⁴⁶

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law prohibits the employment of children under 14 years.¹¹⁴⁷ The law also prohibits juveniles 14 to 17 years from working more than 6 hours per day; requires at least a 1 hour break per day; and prohibits juveniles from working overtime, on holidays, more than 4 consecutive hours, or between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.¹¹⁴⁸ However, the labor law does not apply to children working in the agricultural sector, small family enterprises, and domestic service.¹¹⁴⁹ 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,¹¹⁵⁰ and children 12 to 18 years may participate in certain types of apprenticeship training.¹¹⁵¹ Children under 16 years are prohibited from working in 44 hazardous industries, including agricultural activities involving the use of pesticides.¹¹⁵²

The law prohibits forced labor and makes it 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 21 to commit 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.¹¹⁵³ Child traffickers may be prosecuted under laws related to the abduction of children and rape.¹¹⁵⁴ The minimum age for compulsory recruitment into the Egyptian Armed Forces is 18 years. Children may enter the Armed Forces at 16 years but may not engage in combat operations.¹¹⁵⁵

The Child Labor Unit within the Ministry of Manpower and Migration (MOMM) coordinates investigations into reports of child labor violations and enforces the laws pertaining to child labor. A separate unit within MOMM is responsible for child labor investigations in the agricultural sector.¹¹⁵⁶ MOMM reported that its 2,000 labor inspectors issued 72,000 citation violations between 2006 and the first 9 months of 2007.¹¹⁵⁷ USDOS reports that enforcement in state-owned businesses is adequate, while enforcement in the private and informal sectors is lacking.¹¹⁵⁸ Reports also indicate that child victims of commercial sexual exploitation

are treated as criminals rather than victims by law enforcement officers.¹¹⁵⁹

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 activities to combat the worst forms of child labor, among other goals.¹¹⁶⁰ The NCCM is collaborating with MOMM, the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF), ILO, UNICEF, World Food Program, and the Ministries of Social Affairs, Agriculture, Education, Health, and Interior to implement action programs to reduce child labor.¹¹⁶¹ The NCCM implemented programs to withdraw working children from hazardous activities and provided families of at-risk children with alternative income generating support in order to reduce school drop out.¹¹⁶² The NCCM and the Ministry of Social Security also provide services for street children.¹¹⁶³

The First Lady, Suzanne Mubarak, started an awareness-raising campaign to combat human trafficking. It calls for ethical business practices and improving law enforcement cooperation. On December 30, 2007, the NCCM established a new anti-trafficking unit.¹¹⁶⁴ In June 2007, state-owned television began broadcasting public service announcements regarding labor trafficking.¹¹⁶⁵

The Government of Egypt continues to participate in the USD 5.09 million USDOL-funded 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.¹¹⁶⁶ The Government of Egypt is also participating in a USD 64,900 Italian-funded ILO-IPEC child labor project, a USD 1,788,175 Norwegian-funded interregional (Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania) ILO-IPEC project to combat child labor through education and training, and a USD 428,040 Swedish-funded interregional (Egypt, Guatemala, Tanzania, Pakistan, Indonesia) ILO-IPEC project to combat exploitive child labor and promote youth employment.¹¹⁶⁷

¹¹³⁷ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For data on ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Executive Summary. For

minimum age for admission to work, age to which education is compulsory, and free public education, see Government of Egypt, *Labour Law*, Law No. 12/2003, (April 7), Article 99. 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]. See also Government of Egypt, *The Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt*, (May 22, 1980), articles 18, 20. See also U.S. Department of State, "Egypt," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2007*, Washington, DC, March 11, 2008, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100594.htm>.

¹¹³⁸ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Egypt," section 6d. See also CEACR, "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 Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Egypt: Children of the Quarries", IRINNews.org,, [online], April 9, 2006 [cited December 6, 2007]; available from http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=52702&SelectRegion=Middle_East&SelectCountry=EGYPT.

¹¹³⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Egypt," section 6d. See also Tonia Rifaey, Mahmoud M. Murtada, and Mohamed Abd el-Azeem, "Urban Children and Poverty: Child Labor and Family Dynamics- Case Studies in Old Cairo" (paper presented at the Children and the City Conference, Amman, Jordan, December 11-13, 2002); available from <http://www.araburban.org/childcity/Papers/English/ToniaRifaey.pdf>. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Egypt: Children of the Quarries". 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.

¹¹⁴⁰ Rachel Bonham Carter, *UNICEF Executive Director Visits Child-Centered Projects in Egypt*, UNICEF, New York, February 20, 2007; available from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/egypt_38395.html.

¹¹⁴¹ UNWFP, *Rapid Assessment: Identification of Worst Forms of Child Labor in Beni Sweif, Assiut, Sohag and Red Sea*, May 2007, 5.

¹¹⁴² 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/reports/2003/egypt0203/egypt0203.pdf>. 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 http://www.ecpat.net/eng/ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/rabat/egypt.pdf. See also U.S. Department of State, "Egypt (Tier 2 Watch List)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007*, Washington, DC, June 12, 2007; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82805.htm>.

¹¹⁴³ Saber, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Egypt*, 10-11. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Egypt."

¹¹⁴⁴ Bencomo, *Charged with Being Children*, 9, para 21d.

¹¹⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Egypt." See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Egypt: Minors Sold for Prostitution Under Guise of Marriage", IRINnews.org,, [online], November 16, 2006 [cited December 10, 2007]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportId=61947>.

¹¹⁴⁶ Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Egypt: Minors Sold for Prostitution Under Guise of Marriage".

¹¹⁴⁷ Government of Egypt, *Labour Law*, article 99. See also ILO-IPEC, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt*, prepared by Kawther Abu Gazaleh, Lamia Bulbul, and Suadad Najium, 2004, 27; available from [hard copy on file].

¹¹⁴⁸ Government of Egypt, *Labour Law*, articles 98, 101.

¹¹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, Article 103. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "Comments made by the CEACR: Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), Egypt (ratification: 1999)" (paper presented at the 75th Session, Geneva, 2002), 3; available from <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/>.

¹¹⁵⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Egypt," section 6d. See also ILO-IPEC, *Gender, Education and Child Labour in Egypt*, 28. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), "CEACR Comments", article 7, page 4.

¹¹⁵¹ Government of Egypt, *Decree Concerning the Rules and Procedures Regulating Vocational Apprenticeship*, Decree No. 175 of 2003, (August 31), article 1.

¹¹⁵² 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), Articles 1-9. See also U.S. Embassy-Cairo, *reporting*, August 18, 2003, para 2.

¹¹⁵³ 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, paras. 134; available from <http://www.arabhumanrights.org/countries/egypt/cerd/cerd-c384-add3-01e.pdf>.

¹¹⁵⁴ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, February 28, 2008. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Egypt."

¹¹⁵⁵ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Egypt," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2004*, London, 2004; available from http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=942.

¹¹⁵⁶ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, August 18, 2003, paras 7-8. See also CEACR, "CEACR Comments".

¹¹⁵⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Egypt," section 6d.

¹¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵⁹ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2007: Egypt."

¹¹⁶⁰ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Egypt," section 6d.

¹¹⁶¹ 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- 2007: Egypt," section 6d.

¹¹⁶² U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2007: Egypt," section 6d.

¹¹⁶³ U.S. Embassy- Cairo, *reporting*, February 28, 2008.

¹¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, para 1c.

¹¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶⁶ USDOL, *Combating Exploitive Child Labor through Education in Egypt*, ILAB Technical Cooperation Project Summary, Washington, DC, 2008.

¹¹⁶⁷ ILO-IPEC Geneva official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, December 12, 2007.

El Salvador

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

In El Salvador, working is more common for children in rural areas than urban areas.¹¹⁶⁸ Children work in sugar cane and coffee harvesting, firework production, fishing, garbage scavenging, and, increasingly, as street vendors.¹¹⁶⁹ Some children work long hours as domestic servants in third-party homes.¹¹⁷⁰ Some working children assist with family-operated businesses.¹¹⁷¹ Boys are more likely to work for pay than girls.¹¹⁷²

Commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, especially girls, continues to be a problem. El Salvador is reported to be a destination and transit point for girls trafficked internationally.¹¹⁷³ Some children are trafficked internally from rural areas to urban areas, and to border regions for commercial sexual exploitation.¹¹⁷⁴ At-risk groups include girls, rural and poor children, uneducated adolescents, adolescent mothers, and underage foreign females.¹¹⁷⁵

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 14 years. Children who have reached age 12 may be allowed to perform light work if it does not hinder school attendance, health, or personal development.¹¹⁷⁶ 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.¹¹⁷⁷ Children under 18 years are prohibited from working at night and are required to have a physical exam to determine whether they are apt for the particular job. Employers who hire children must maintain a child labor registry.¹¹⁷⁸ 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.¹¹⁷⁹