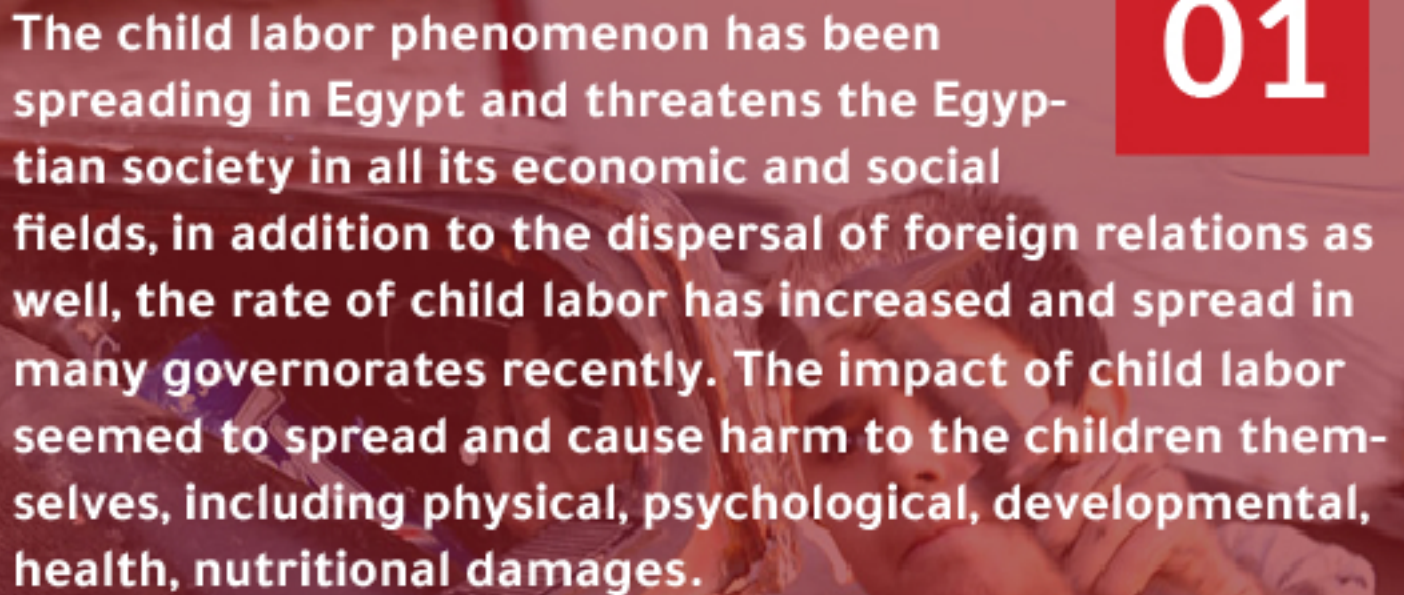
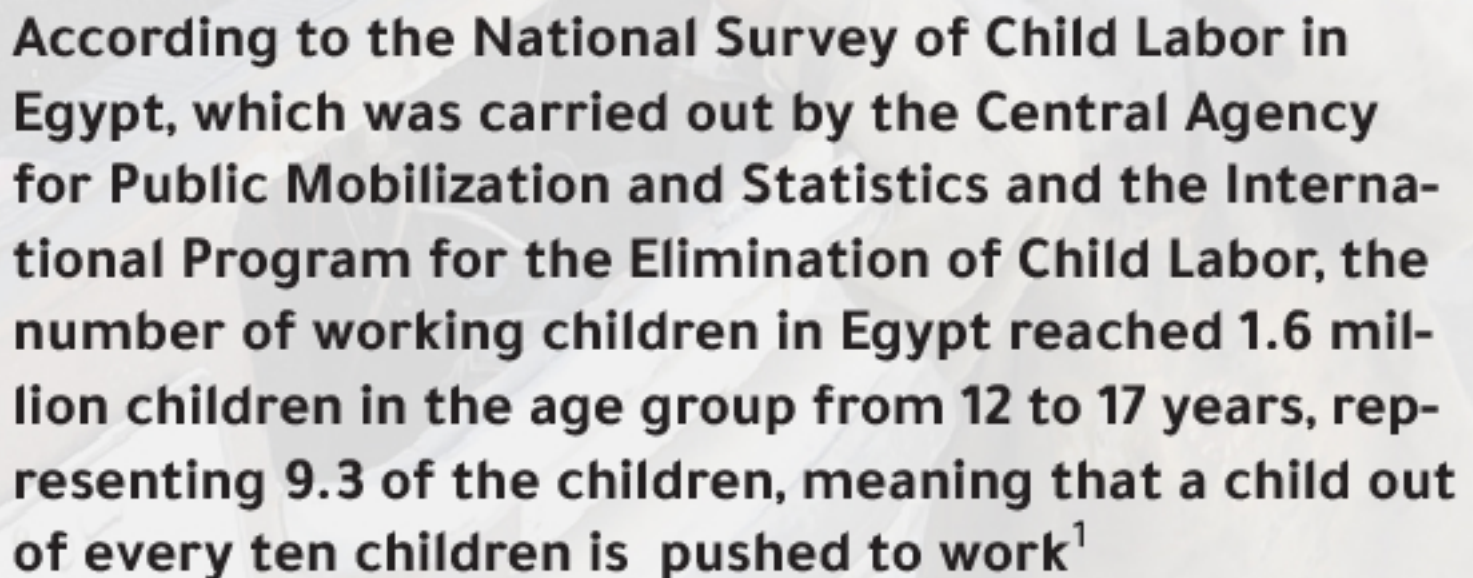


The National Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Egypt and Support the Family (2018 - 2025)

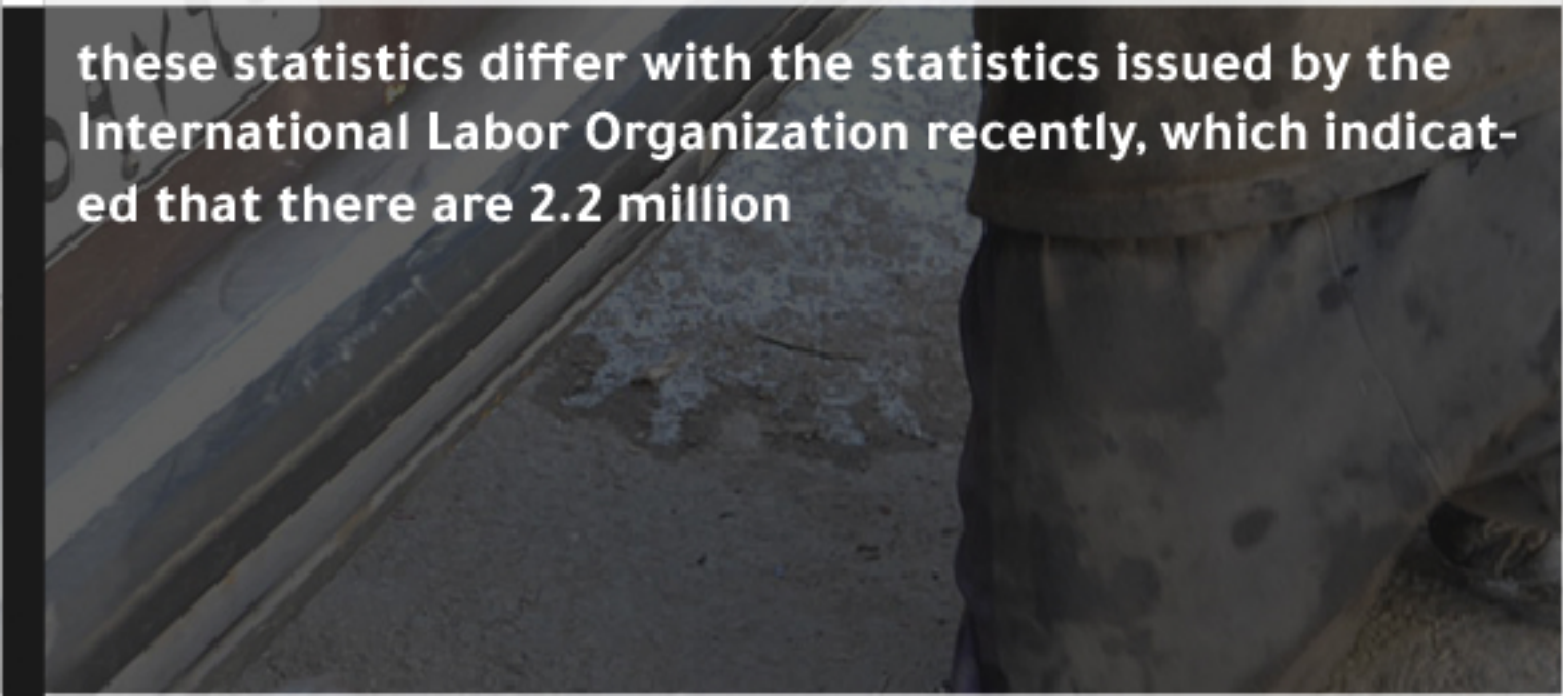




The child labor phenomenon has been spreading in Egypt and threatens the Egyptian society in all its economic and social fields, in addition to the dispersal of foreign relations as well, the rate of child labor has increased and spread in many governorates recently. The impact of child labor seemed to spread and cause harm to the children themselves, including physical, psychological, developmental, health, nutritional damages.



According to the National Survey of Child Labor in Egypt, which was carried out by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor, the number of working children in Egypt reached 1.6 million children in the age group from 12 to 17 years, representing 9.3 of the children, meaning that a child out of every ten children is pushed to work¹



these statistics differ with the statistics issued by the International Labor Organization recently, which indicated that there are 2.2 million

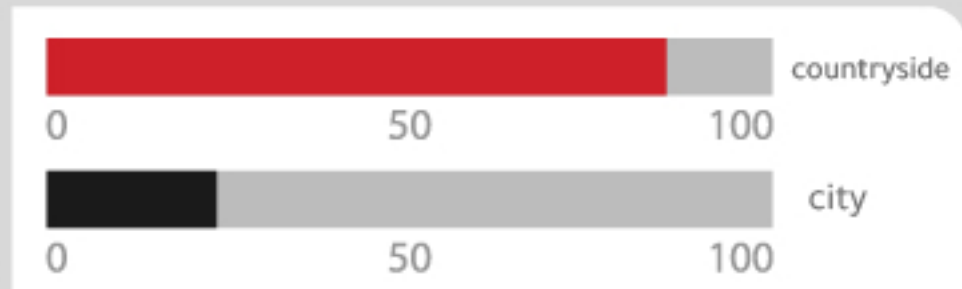
working children in Egypt, knowing that the vast majority of these children work in the agricultural field. A percentage of 83.5% compared to females who represented 77.6%, 82.2% of them are exposed to poor and unsafe working conditions.



This percentage was higher among male children and represented 83.5% compared to females, who represented 77.6%, and the percentage of children working for more than the permitted number of hours was 16.9% of the total working children.²

The distribution of the percentages of working children varies in the Egyptian governorates.

For example, the rate of child labor is higher in rural areas than in urban areas and



reaches its peak in rural Upper Egypt, then Lower Egypt, and then rural governorates located on the borders. About 83% of children working in the countryside compared to 16% in the cities, 78% of them are males and 21% are females.



It must be taken into account that the number of working hours these children spend at work exceeds 9 hours per day and more than six days per week, knowing that one of the most widespread governorates Child labor in Egypt is (**Damietta**, where the furniture industry is widespread



Fayoum where the wool industry abounds

Minya is known for its quarrying work



Sharkia is associated with agricultural labor



Beni Suef inherited the work of making carpets and handmade kilims

Dakahlia is linked to work in aluminum factories



menoufia is linked to work in farms³

the fields and sectors in which children are employed also vary. According to the National Child Labor Survey in Egypt, the agricultural sector accounts for 63% of child labor in Egypt, while working in industrial sites such as mining, construction and other industries, it reaches 18.9%, and for workers in the service sector, 17.6% (which includes selling goods on the streets, serving drinks in cafes, delivering orders to small stores, and working in homes for females).⁴

07



Egyptian efforts to combat child labor

The National Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Egypt and Support the Family 2018-2025



Egypt has made many legislative and institutional efforts in the past years with the aim of eliminating child labor as it is an important and thorny phenomenon and has many damages and negative effects on many areas in society, but the impact of these efforts has become insufficient and effective, especially with the high rates of poverty and the slow-down in economic development and the rise of unemployment rates and low wages, in line with the high rate of child labor starting in 2016, Egypt has cooperated with the International Labor Organization to develop a national Egyptian strategy with the aim of combating child labor in Egypt

and reducing it from the beginning of 2018 until the complete elimination of this phenomenon until the year 2025, and that In accordance with the two International Labor Organization Conventions No. 138 of 1973 regarding the minimum age for employment and No. 182 of 1999 regarding the worst forms of violence, in addition to many domestic constitutional legislation that obligated the Egyptian government to guarantee the rights of the child, especially with regard to child labor. This came in accordance with the Egyptian Child Law promulgated by Law No. 12 of 1996, as amended by Law No. 126 of 2008 and its executive regulations issued by Resolution No. 2075 of 2010. Egyptian Labor Law No. 12 of 2003, Ministerial Decision of the Ministry of Manpower No. 118 of 2003 regarding the prohibition of children from engaging in hazardous work. The national commitment was also confirmed by the 2014 constitution, which emphasized the prohibition of child labor before reaching the age of compulsory education (Article 80) Guarantee of the right to free and compulsory education (Article 19).⁵

The National Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Egypt and Support the Family (2018-2025) was launched in January 2018 in cooperation with the World Food Program, the United Nations Children's and Motherhood Organization, the International Labor Organization, the Ministry of Manpower, and this came to achieve target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which stipulates the need to "take immediate and effective measures to eliminate forced labor and end contemporary slavery and human trafficking to ensure the prohibition and eradication of the worst forms of child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and to end child labor in all its forms by 2025." In this regard, that plan is a solemn commitment to the employment of and activating all necessary procedures and legislation to implement this goal of eliminating child labor by 2025.⁶ Reaching 2021, and in line with the new Corona virus, no new or updated statistics were available for child labor rates in Egypt recently,

especially in the last four years since the launch of the Egyptian plan, due to the deterioration of the global economy that affected all countries of the world as a result of the spread of the epidemic led to the increase of the rates of child labor in the world and certainly in Egypt also as a result of the deteriorating conditions. According to the estimates of the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in a joint report that an increase of 1% in the poverty rate leads to an increase of 0.7% in child labor as a minimum, and this came as a result of a study conducted by the National Planning Institute (affiliated with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development), which proved that the number of poor people in Egypt will rise by about 10%, due to the negative repercussions of the emerging corona virus.

Reasons behind launching the national plan

The impact of child labor touches on many areas in society, including social damage, economic damage, negative impact on external relations, negative impact on children's health, psychological, physical, developmental and nutritional damage. It must be taken into account that the deterioration of child labor conditions in Egypt affects its achievement of the sustainable development goals by 2030

Among the most important reasons for launching the plan are

- Lack of information and statistics on child labor in Egypt in recent years, so there is a need to provide a complete and updated database on child labor to guide policy makers
- The lack of full enforcement of laws and legislation regarding the phenomenon of child labor, and the lack of adequate penalties to be imposed on offenders who exploit child labor.

- The high rates of illiteracy and dropout from schools and compulsory education, where the percentage of school dropouts from basic education reached 4.7%
- Children involved in labor are vulnerable to malnutrition, drug trafficking or addiction, sexual exploitation, prostitution and child pornography, insecurity and potential risks.
- The high rate of poverty, economic deterioration, deteriorating unemployment rates for young people, and the lack of adult employment, which may lead to a general decrease in wages.
- Damage to international trade relations due to cutting off trade with countries that allow the practice of child labor and boycotting their products in many developed countries of the world
- Enhancing the state of community poverty as a result of eliminating the opportunity to find educated leaders capable of planning and development for the advancement of society
- Slowing down the achievement of the sustainable development goals by 2030.

Objectives of the national plan

The general main objective that this plan calls for is the elimination of child labor in all its forms by 2025, with an emphasis on providing comprehensive social protection for the targeted children and their families, through the implementation of many sub-goals that work to achieve the general goal of eliminating child labour

Among the most important of these goals are

- Raising awareness and enhancing knowledge about child labour
- Strengthening and coordinating the legislative and institutional framework to combat child labour, through the establishment and institutionalization of national and regional coordinating bodies to combat child labor and the promotion of an appropriate legal framework to better monitor and prevent child labour.

- Ensure the monitoring, protection and prevention of child labor through building the technical capacities of the stakeholders, through the creation of a reliable and sustainable database on child labor and its worst forms to enable policy makers and national actors to be better prepared to propose effective solutions to the issue -
- Strengthening prevention and protection practices in combating child labor, by implementing direct measures aimed at preventing and protecting children, especially victims of economic exploitation, in order to address the consequences of child labor in Egypt and eliminate its worst forms. -
- Strengthening training and vocational progression to combat child labor, by strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of national actors to become more appropriate and able to implement coherent measures and procedures to combat child labour.

- Strengthening awareness and social mobilization to combat child labour, by empowering children to participate in addressing child labour. -
- Updating the list of dangerous professions previously identified by Ministerial Resolution No. 118 of 2003 -
- Strengthening and consolidating alternative education, technical education, training and vocational progression to combat child labour -
- Implementation of a communication network that includes the main actors in the fight against child labor in order to change the attitude of the public tolerant of this phenomenon. -

Expected results by 2025

- The phenomenon of child labor in Egypt is supposed to be eliminated by strengthening the institutional framework, coordination and cooperation between institutions concerned with combating child labor, strengthening the legislative framework, activating laws and ensuring their effective application to ensure the protection of children, preventing child labor through building technical capacities of professional bodies and improving Intervention skills for agencies concerned with combating child labor
- Withdrawing children under the age of 15 from child labor and restricting them to community schools. Withdrawing children over the age of 15 from the worst forms of child labor and integrating them into technical and vocational training programs designed in accordance with the needs of the Egyptian labor market. Parents should be receiving sufficient salaries and a stable income to compensate them for the income generated from their children's work to ensure a decent and stable life for them.

- The year 2025 will be a year of victory for children and their enjoyment of all their rights, protection from dangerous labor and a decent and healthy life for them, by involving the population and stakeholders and establishing appropriate structures to combat child labor, empowering working children, and the participation of children involved or at risk of engaging in child labor in combat that phenomenon
- Ensuring full care for children at a young age and children under the age of eighteen, to ensure a decent life for them, with a focus on establishing rehabilitation centers, re-empowering children and enhancing their physical and psychological capabilities, in addition to ensuring that every child receives full nutrition for better health.
- Accelerating the pace of the sustainable development goals, which will lead to achieving them with higher efficiency due to the high rates of economic development and the reduction of the local poverty level. This is due to ensuring the provision of wages and a stable monthly income for workers, the development of foreign trade relations, and finally the elimination of social marginalization.

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