



International
Labour
Organization



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa (ACCEL Africa) Egypt Factsheet



ACCEL Africa

November 2024



Value Chain :
Cotton



Target governorates:
Alexandria, Sharkia, Kafr Elsheikh, Beheira and Fayoum.



Partners:
Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Solidarity, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education and Technical Education, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Industry, Employers' organizations such as Federation of Egyptian Industries, workers' organizations, Actors along the supply chains (including investors, buyers, traders, cooperatives and SMEs), Community and religious leaders, UNICEF, WFP, UNIDO, GIZ, Civil society organizations and academic institutions.



Development Partner:
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands



ACCEL Africa Project Overall Objective:
The elimination of child labour is accelerated in the supply chains in Africa, through targeted actions in selected supply chains in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda.



Objectives:
Outcome 1: Policy, legal and institutional frameworks are improved and enforced to address child labour in global supply chains;
Outcome 2: Innovative and evidence-based solutions that address the root causes of child labour in supply chains are institutionalized;
Outcome 3: Strengthening partnership and knowledge sharing among global supply chain actors working in Africa.



Duration:
6 years and 1 month (November 2018 - December 2024)

Child Labour in Egypt

The Egyptian National Child Labour Survey (2023) reported that there is a total of 4.2 million working children in Egypt, out of which 3.7 million children are engaged in hazardous or unlawful forms of work.

The Government of Egypt has expressed strong political will to accelerate actions on the elimination of child labour. Accordingly, with the support of ILO, the Government of Egypt, led by the Ministry of Labour (MOL), launched the National Action Plan for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Egypt and Supporting Family (2018-2025) (NAP).

In the NAP, Egypt identified the roles and objectives of the governmental agencies, employers' and workers' organizations responsible for assisting children in or at risk of child labour and promoted joint actions towards tackling this issue.

ACCEL Egypt supported MOL to establish the NAP National Steering Committee (NSC) to serve as the main national coordinating mechanism for the exerted efforts to eliminate child labour in Egypt.



In Hazardous or Unlawful Forms of Work

Dual Education System apprentices receiving decent transition from school to work training

ACCEL Africa results in Egypt

► Policy, legal and institutional frameworks were improved and enforced

Decree 35 for 2020 for establishing Tripartite National Steering Committee to implement the National Action Plan (NSC) was issued by the Ministry of Labour. Since its establishment, the NSC has been responsible for the validation of policies and regulations to address child labour and coordinate national actions to eliminate child labour. These include the development of a list of hazardous work for children, the national child labour monitoring system, the national child labour survey, and the amendment of the Labour Law and Child Law. Till November 2024, the NSC met 15 times for official and technical meetings.

The Hazardous Worklist for children was updated, validated by the NAP NSC and published in the Egyptian Gazette by the Ministry of Labour **Ministerial Decree 215 for 2021** in accordance with ILO Convention 182 for 1999 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The decree sets the minimum age for employment (15) and apprenticeship (14). The decree includes specific professions, industries and work environments, in which children are prohibited to be employed or trained in.

The minimum age for employment was increased from 14 to 15 years in line with the ILO Minimum Age for Employment Convention 138 for 1973 and in accordance with the Egyptian Constitution in the updated hazardous work list and draft Labour Code.

Decree 111 of 2021 was issued by the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MOETE) regarding regulations governing Dual Education System service providers, companies, and industries in which these children are carrying out their on-the-job training. The decree ensures a balance of rights and duties among service providers, enterprises, schools, and students and introduces articles pertaining to limiting training hours to 6 hours per day and the provision of insurance against workplace injuries.



The fifth tripartite NSC meeting following the implementation of the NAP

Decree 78 for 2021 establishes an executive Child Protection Unit to oversee the NAP implementation progress and serves as the permanent institutional mechanism to support child labour elimination in Egypt and protect the rights of children at work.

Decree 767 for 2022 by the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) amends Child Labour Centers bylaws to better establish its organizational and administrative structure.



The ILO ACCEL Africa celebration of the World Day Against Child Labour 2023

The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)'s Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) handle identification, referral and management procedures and mechanisms for different groups of children involved in child labour.



► **Reliable data was generated at the national level**

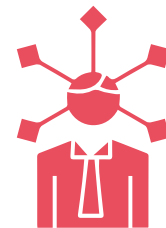
The **Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)** conducted the National Survey for Child Labour 2023 to update the available outdated national results conducted in 2010 and published in 2012 to develop evidence-based interventional tackling the root causes of child labour based on reliable newly produced data. (The report will be published in December 2024).

► **Stakeholders increased their capacity to combat child labour at national level**

The Ministry of Labour developed national Labour and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) checklists in accordance with the national labour legislation. The checklists ensure unified structured inspection visits with a specific focus on protecting children, women, migrant workers and people with disabilities at the workplace. Furthermore, national inspection systems were digitalized for more accurate and transparent inspection visits reporting on working conditions.

2693

Capacity Development Activities
(1309 females)



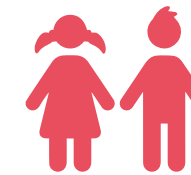
- **ACCEL Egypt organized a series of capacity development activities for 2693, of which (1309) are female, stakeholders' representatives to advocate for the adoption, funding and implementation of policies, programmes, laws and regulations addressing child labour that led to achieving the aforementioned results at the national level.**

Beneficiaries at the lower levels of the value chains supported by ACCEL project

2826

Children

(1276 girls)



- Boys and girls engaged in child labour in priority communities received rehabilitation through the Supporting Child Rights through Education, Art and Media (SCREAM) Programme and reintegrated into the educational system in collaboration with MOETE, MOSS and Civil Society Organizations.

1100

Children of legal apprenticeship age

(731 girls)



- Dual Education system apprentices received training on the main child rights to support decent school-to-work transition in partnership with GIZ and in collaboration with the employers' organizations, private sector and MOETE.

3442

Adults

(2661 women)



- Female and male farmers and parents of children engaged in child labour received awareness sessions on the negative impact of child labour on children, families, society, the economy and the country as a whole. During the awareness sessions, parents also received information on the available public services, social protection, and social financial support that they can receive for free or at an affordable price.

520

Adults

(353 women)



- Women and men received ILO Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GETAhead) training on entrepreneurship and income-generating activities as an alternative for engaging their children in child labour.

1000

Income-Generating Micro Projects



- Parents who received ACCEL support initiated or improved their own income-generating micro projects.

8206

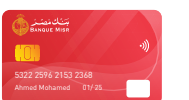
Bank Accounts



- As a part of improving access to finance and financial inclusion, in partnership with Banque Misr, adult beneficiaries increased their access to financial services through opening bank accounts.

17984

Pre-paid cards



- ACCEL beneficiaries received pre-paid cards for free in collaboration with Banque Misr.

The importance of combating the worst forms of child labour is increasing day after day in light of the world crises that put a new generation of children in danger. Accordingly, the Egyptian Government was encouraged to prioritize reducing child labour through close cooperation with the International Labour Organization's ACCEL Africa Project. The cooperation aimed to provide the necessary support to keep children in school, protect them from being engaged as child labour and enhance working and training conditions for children from 14 to 18 years."

► **His Excellency Minister Mohamed Gobran, Minister of Labour**

Private sector engagement in child labour is strengthened

A Decent Employment and Apprenticeship Booklet (in Arabic) was developed in collaboration with FEI and disseminated to private sector enterprises to raise awareness for child labour, to enable employers to identify child labour cases and to avoid unintentional child employment in their facilities

Enhanced Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Egyptian Dual Education system, at both policy and on ground levels, in collaboration with GIZ and employers' organizations, ACCEL.

50 garment enterprises were capacitated to engage working children and apprentices in accordance with national legislations and International Labour Standards (ILS).

With the support of ACCEL, FEI issued a pledge to enhance private sector compliance with the International Labour Standards (ILS) by raising the awareness of private sector actors on ILS and developing their capacities to be mobilized to take action to eliminate child labour.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) guiding notes and a checklist for sound inclusion of children at the workplace were developed in collaboration with FEI. Several garment companies were assessed and supported to improve their CSR strategy for better addressing children's issues at work. **63 Private sector enterprises were sensitized** to move from CSR to Responsible Business Conduct in the cotton supply chain.

Improved compliance in 61 garment enterprises was promoted in collaboration with the ILO/IFC Better Work programme in Egypt. Compliance was improved with regard to Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) including child employment and apprenticeship standards. In addition to the national labour legislations through advisory visits, compliance assessments and capacity building programmes contributed to better working conditions.

Empowering Cotton Cooperatives to Combat Child Labour in Egypt

The project successfully reduced child labour in Egypt's cotton industry by strengthening the capacities of cotton cooperatives. Through comprehensive needs assessments, capacity-building initiatives like ILO's GETAhead for entrepreneurship and MYCOOP, and integrating Fair-Trade principles, the project enhanced cooperative governance and market practices. Collaboration with Fair Trade Egypt and local stakeholders fostered sustainable and ethical cotton production. This multi-dimensional approach significantly reduced child labour and improved the economic conditions of small-scale farmers.

Workers in the cotton supply chain are empowered to actively participate in the fight against child labour

1366 Workers across the cotton supply chain were empowered to exercise their fundamental rights at work including through joining unions and associations.

110 Trade Unionists were informed and capacitated on the worst forms of child labour and trafficking in persons' definitions, indicators, referral mechanisms of cases and relevant national legislations and ILS.

144 Workers were trained on supervisory skills at garment enterprises to better communicate with children and workers at large. In addition, 218 workers were trained on OSH in collaboration with Better Work Programme in Egypt.

231 Workers that are members of Cotton Cooperatives were supported through training on cooperatives' management using the ILO MYCOOP toolkit and principles of fair trade in partnership with Fair Trade Egypt Association to have better access to local and international cotton markets.

An awareness leaflet on OSH in agriculture was developed targeting female and male farmers of cotton.

► For the employers:

"Joining forces with ACCEL Africa raised awareness of employers on training and employment requirements for children while ensuring compliance with international labour standards. In addition, guiding employers to direct their CSR activities towards new initiatives to contribute to a safe and fair workplace for all workers including children and showcase for employers in the cotton supply chain and other sectors."

Dr. Elsayed Torky, Senior Adviser & Head of CSR Department, Federation of Egyptian Industries

► For the workers:

"My Trade Union Organization was established with the support of ACCEL Africa. Through trainings on GET Ahead, financial inclusion, OSH in agriculture and children protection, our members were empowered to start their small businesses and to be active in fighting child labour and in protecting their children. I am grateful for this opportunity to learn and exchange knowledge with our peers in other African countries to make a positive impact in my workplace and beyond."

Mr. Abdelfatah Abdelaziz, President- Small Farmers Trade Union Organization

ACCEL Africa produced various studies and knowledge products

To ensure evidence-based interventions were developed to tackle the root cause of child labour, the following assessments reports and studies were conducted:

► Research and knowledge products in Egypt

Needs Assessment

- Needs Assessment Report for MOL Labour and OSH Inspection and Relevant Departments Capacities, tools and performance at targeted governorates.
- Needs Assessment Report for MOSS relevant Departments and Child Labour Centers.
- Needs Assessment Report of National Council for Childhood and Motherhood relevant Departments and Child Protection Committees at target governorates.
- Mass Media Assessment Study for Child Labour in Egypt.

Studies

- Mapping of Financial and Non-Financial Service Providers in Egypt.
- Understanding the Labour Force Demand and Supply as Root Causes for the Use of Child Labour in Cotton Supply Chain in Egypt.
- Child Labour Monitoring Systems in the MENA Region: Good Practices, Challenges and Recommendations for A Child Labour Monitoring System in Egypt.
- Combating Child Labour in Cotton Value Chain in Egypt through Development of Cooperatives. [Link](#)

Awareness Raising Materials

- [Video](#): List of hazardous work and professions prohibited
- [Video](#): Decent apprenticeship training for children of working age in Egypt
- [Video](#): Education versus child labour
- [Video](#): COVID-19: Protect children, now more than ever
- **Report**: Child labour monitoring systems in the MENA region: Good practices, challenges and recommendations for a child labour monitoring system in Egypt - A desk review
- [Guidance notes](#): Guide for Occupational Safety and Health and Securing the Work Environment Regarding Prevention and Coexistence with the Emerging Coronavirus (AR)
- [Guidance notes](#): Public Service Manual for Child Protection and Family Support (AR)
- [Guidance notes](#): Occupational Safety and Health Inspection Checklist for MOL National Inspectors (AR)
- [Guidance notes](#): Labour Inspection Checklist for MOL National Inspectors (AR)
- [Guidance notes](#): Decent Employment and Apprenticeship Booklet for Employers (AR)
- [Awareness Publication](#): Wa'y- Awareness Booklet on Child Labour- MOSS National Awareness Programme (AR)

Good Practices

- **Promoting fair trade practices in cotton cooperatives in Egypt** [Link](#)
- **Supporting Child Rights through Education, Arts, and Media (SCREAM) implementation in Egypt** [Link](#)
- **Egypt - GET Ahead: Improving financial outcomes for workers in the cotton value chain through multi-sectoral partnerships, training and financing** [Link](#)
- **Update of the Egyptian hazardous worklist - prohibited for children - under Ministerial Decree 215 for 2021** [Link](#)
- **Egypt - Dual Education Model: Promoting, a smooth school-to-decent work transition for children of legal working age** [Link](#)

Call to Action:

The project will continue to contribute to creating new opportunities to scale up efforts and future engagement in the following areas:

- 1
- Supporting the implementation of the Durban Call to Action of the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour and the National Action Plan. This will be done in close coordination with national stakeholders through the National Steering Committee, focusing on strengthening the actions taken to combat child labour.
- 2
- Strengthening child protection mechanisms and institutions by enhancing effective implementation of recently issued ministerial decrees, policies, data, actions, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These measures will contribute to child protection at the workplace and the withdrawal of children from child labour in priority communities and sectors. The aim is to reintegrate these children into the educational system.
- 3
- Expanding the national digitalized labour and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) inspection system. This expansion will enable better monitoring and enforcement of labour and safety standards, further promoting child protection and worker safety.
- 4
- Upscaling engagement with workers' and employers' organizations. This will involve fostering partnerships, collaboration, and shared responsibility to address child labour issues and create sustainable solutions.
- 5
- Piloting and scaling up a child labour monitoring system in Egypt. This system will enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting, providing valuable insights to inform targeted interventions and policies.

Call to Action:

The project will continue to contribute to creating new opportunities to scale up efforts and future engagement in the following areas:

- 6
- Scaling up a two-fold integrated Programme focused on supporting family economic empowerment, particularly for women, to help them achieve sustainable incomes. Additionally, the Support Child Rights through Education Arts and Media (SCREAM) Programme will be expanded in collaboration with national stakeholders, leveraging the power of education, arts, and media to raise awareness and promote child rights.
- 7
- Strengthening support for decent apprenticeship schemes within the Dual Education System and other technical education-related systems. This will enhance vocational training opportunities for young people, providing them with valuable skills and alternatives to engaging in child labour.
- 8
- Advocating for and raising awareness among national stakeholders and the general public about child labour. This will involve mainstreaming the fight against child labour in national and local programs, fostering a deeper understanding of the issue and mobilizing support for its eradication.
- 9
- Scaling up the support for agricultural and productive cooperatives to ensure better economic status for members and to combat child labour through decent, active and income generating-cooperatives solutions.
- 10
- Expanding the focus of combatting child labour efforts to reach industries, supply chains and geographical locations with significant child labour numbers identified by the 2023 National Child Labour Survey (NCLS). Moreover, expand the focus to reach refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Egypt.

The successful realization of these goals requires strong partnerships and adequate financial support. By working together, we can make a tangible and substantial difference in the lives of numerous children, enabling them to access education, safe working conditions, and a chance for a better future. Thus, we invite potential collaborators to join us in this crucial endeavour, contributing their expertise, resources, and influence to create lasting change.





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