

2026 Trafficking in Persons Report: Egypt

Egypt (Tier 2)

The Government of Egypt does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared with the previous reporting period; therefore, Egypt remained on Tier 2. These efforts included enacting a private sector labor law strengthening worker protections and prosecuting significantly more traffickers. However, the government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas. The government convicted significantly fewer traffickers and identified and referred fewer victims. Despite high trafficking risks for foreign nationals in Egypt, including Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict, authorities did not identify or report providing services to any non-Egyptian trafficking victims. Due to inadequate screening among vulnerable populations such as women in commercial sex and refugees and migrants, the government did not take effective measures to prevent the inappropriate penalization of potential victims solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked, which contributed to reluctance to report trafficking cases. The government also continued to exclude vulnerable domestic workers from labor law protections.

Prosecution

The government maintained anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts.

The 2010 anti-trafficking law criminalized sex trafficking and labor trafficking and prescribed penalties from three to 15 years' imprisonment and a fine between 50,000 and 200,000 Egyptian pounds (EGP) (\$1,050 and \$4,202) for offenses involving an adult victim, and up to life imprisonment and a fine between 100,000 to 500,000 EGP (\$2,101 and \$10,504) for those involving a child victim. These penalties were sufficiently stringent and, with regard to sex trafficking, commensurate with those prescribed for other grave crimes, such as rape.

In 2025, the government initiated 71 new investigations of trafficking crimes involving 439 suspects, compared to 76 cases involving 195 suspects investigated in 2024. The 71 new investigations included seven sex trafficking cases, 25 labor trafficking cases, and 39 cases involving an unspecified form of trafficking. The government also continued five investigations initiated in previous years. The government initiated prosecutions of 270 alleged traffickers (eight for sex trafficking, 25 for labor trafficking, and 237 for unspecified forms of trafficking), a significant increase compared with 119 prosecutions in 2024. The government reported 19 prosecutions initiated in previous years remained ongoing. Courts convicted 11 traffickers (five for sex trafficking and six for labor trafficking) in 2025, a significant decrease compared with 104 traffickers convicted in 54 cases in 2024. The

government sentenced the majority of convicted traffickers to at least one year of imprisonment.

The government did not report any investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of government employees allegedly complicit in trafficking crimes; the government did not report an update on the status of three prosecutions initiated during the prior year. The government cooperated with other governments, including the United States, on law enforcement operations, by sharing and exchanging information on organized crime and human trafficking networks. The Prosecutor General's Office maintained eight specialized offices, one in each appellate court district, which oversaw the prosecution of or directly prosecuted trafficking cases depending on the severity or complexity of each case, alongside their oversight of illegal migration cases. The Ministry of Justice maintained eight specialized judicial circuits in the courts of appeal with 30 judges assigned to prosecute trafficking cases. In February 2026, the Court of Cassation clarified that a perpetrator's actions of exploitation themselves are sufficient to demonstrate the intent necessary to establish trafficking crimes under the law. The National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM & TIP), at times in partnership with international organizations, provided specialized anti-trafficking training for officials, including prosecutors, judges, labor inspectors, law enforcement, diplomats, and social workers.

Protection

The government maintained victim protection efforts.

In 2025, the government identified 80 victims and referred 81 victims to care; this compared with 195 victims identified and 125 referred in 2024. The government identified 11 sex trafficking victims, 48 labor trafficking victims, and 21 victims of unspecified forms of trafficking in 2025. Of the 80 identified victims, two were women and 78 were children (61 boys and 17 girls). Despite the extreme vulnerability of the foreign population to trafficking in Egypt, all identified victims were Egyptian nationals. The government maintained an NRM to identify and refer victims; various government ministries, at times in coordination with international organizations, issued reference documents, guides, and handbooks to support efforts to train stakeholders on use of the NRM. NCCPIM & TIP cooperated with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), and an NGO to operate and train staff at the government's two specialized shelters for trafficking victims in Qalyubia and Ismailia governorates receiving Egyptian and foreign national women and girls. Seventy-one social defense shelters also accommodated child victims of trafficking, as well as 35 specialized shelters for adult women and men, including victims of trafficking, and 29 specialized shelters for persons with disabilities. NGOs reported inadequate training for shelter staff, allegations of victims being exploited by employees in MOSS shelters, and described shelters as providing insufficient services in low-quality facilities with limited psychosocial or economic support, with the Ministry of Interior often sending victims to shelters run by civil society organizations instead due to the higher quality of their services. The government allocated 89 million EGP (\$1.87 million) for child justice programs, which included operating and maintenance costs for shelters and direct care for trafficking victims, and 52 million EGP (\$1.09 million) to the Victim Assistance Fund. The government had mechanisms and procedures in place to identify victims, but NGOs and international organizations

continued to report authorities often relied on victims to self-identify rather than proactively identifying them.

The government reported it provided specialized care to child victims, including psychological support, medical care, educational support, and legal assistance. The government's ability to provide specialized services to trafficking victims, however, especially foreign and male victims, remained limited, and it relied on international organizations and NGOs to provide some victim services, including repatriation. The government supported victim assistance in investigations and prosecutions through legal assistance, identity protection, and physical protection when necessary. In November 2025, the government passed a new Criminal Procedure Law (Law No. 174 of 2025), effective October 1, 2026, which introduced mechanisms for the protection of victims and witnesses of crime, including trafficking and including the introduction of remote investigation and trial procedures for witnesses. The government required formal identification as a trafficking victim to receive certain services specifically designated for trafficking victims, such as the right to have legal counsel appointed by investigative authorities, the right to rehabilitation and social reintegration, the right to confidentiality of identity, and placement in specialized centers for trafficking victims. The government did not require victim participation in criminal justice proceedings to receive services; however, international organizations continued to report that victims who chose not to participate often had a more difficult time accessing services, including the government's specialized shelter, in part because of the desire to avoid contact with authorities. Victims could file civil suits against traffickers and could also pursue claims of compensation through criminal court cases; the government reported no victims filed civil suits during the reporting period. Foreign victims of trafficking could also access services; however, NGOs continued to report non-Egyptian victims were resistant to report trafficking crimes to authorities because of fear of being detained, being deported, or facing other penalization. Due to inconsistent screening among vulnerable populations, the government did not take effective measures to prevent the inappropriate penalization of potential victims solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked. Civil society reported instances of authorities inappropriately penalizing adults forced into commercial sex and children forced into begging.

Prevention

The government slightly increased prevention efforts.

NCCPIM & TIP continued to coordinate inter-ministerial anti-trafficking efforts, including by convening multiple specialized working groups on victim protection issues. The government continued to implement its 2022-2026 national anti-trafficking strategy and devoted resources to it through individual NCCPIM & TIP and member agency budget allocations. The government allocated eight million EGP (\$168,067) from the NCCPCIM & TIP budget and two million EGP (\$42,017) from the Victim Assistance Fund budget for prevention efforts during the reporting period. NCCPIM & TIP and other governmental entities continued to conduct awareness-raising activities using community meetings, social media, print media, television, and radio, sometimes in partnership with international organizations. The National Council for Human Rights, the National Council for Women, and NCCM continued operating hotlines to which the public could report

trafficking cases; the government reported nearly all victims had been identified via hotlines.

Labor Law 12 of 2003 authorized the Ministry of Manpower to regulate labor recruitment and stipulated regulations that governed wages, working hours, and the right to terminate the relationship, as well as penalties for non-compliance with work contracts. The law prohibited worker-paid recruitment fees; however, the law allowed companies to collect wages from workers, not to exceed 2 percent, during the first year of employment for administrative expenses. The law also allowed for cancellation of recruitment agency licenses for violations; the government reported 32 official violation reports against companies in a six-month period, with licenses suspended accordingly. Egyptian labor law did not include specific protections for domestic workers, which created greater vulnerabilities to trafficking among this population. The government enacted a new private sector labor law (Law No. 14 of 2025) that went into effect in September 2025 and penalized employment by force or compulsion and any form of verbal, physical, or psychological violence against workers, among additional new labor protections; the law continued to exclude domestic workers from these protections. It increased the minimum age for vocational training and apprenticeships, extended the hazardous work ban from age 17 to 18, established penalties for families illegally employing a child, increased fines for child labor violations, and extended applicability to the agricultural sector while removing blanket exemptions for family businesses. The government signed new agreements with Jordan, Germany, and Greece covering Egyptian workers in those countries through contractual arrangements. In an effort to reduce fraud and exploitation of Sudanese refugees fleeing to Egypt, a population vulnerable to trafficking, the government maintained restrictive regulatory procedures and visa requirements for Sudanese nationals to enter Egypt. These included requiring every person to have their own valid passport and not allowing children to be added to parents' travel documents, as was past practice. The government made efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts or extraterritorial commercial child sexual exploitation and abuse by tourists visiting Egypt.

Trafficking Profile

This section describes the nature and scope of trafficking based on recent government and civil society reporting.

Human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Egypt, and traffickers exploit victims from Egypt abroad. Traffickers subject Egyptian children to sex trafficking and forced labor in domestic servitude, street begging, drug trafficking, quarrying, tuk-tuk driving, unregistered industrial workshops, and agricultural work in Egypt. NGOs report a lack of advancement opportunities causes family members to subject women and girls to sex trafficking or forced labor in domestic servitude to supplement family incomes. Extraterritorial commercial child sexual exploitation and abuse occur primarily in Giza and Cairo. Individuals from Gulf states, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates, exploit Egyptian women and girls in "temporary marriages," also known as "transactional marriages," for the purpose of commercial sex, including cases of sex trafficking and forced labor; the victims' parents and marriage brokers, who profit from the transaction, often facilitate these arrangements.

Traffickers reportedly subject men and women from East and West Africa and South and Southeast Asia to forced labor in domestic servitude, construction, cleaning, and begging, as well as sex trafficking. Male refugees and migrants are vulnerable to exploitative labor practices, including forced labor. Foreign domestic workers — who are not protected under Egyptian labor laws — primarily from Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and parts of West Africa are highly vulnerable to forced labor; employers, at times, require them to work excessive hours, confiscate their passports, withhold their wages, deny them food and medical care, refuse to provide them with work visas, and subject them to physical, sexual, and psychological abuse — all trafficking indicators. Traffickers subject women and girls, including refugees and migrants, to sex trafficking in Egypt. An NGO reports migrant smugglers recruit economic migrants from the Horn of Africa to travel to Egypt in exchange for work or minimal fees; however, the smugglers exploit the migrants en route and in Egypt in sex trafficking, domestic servitude, and forced labor on construction sites in hazardous and exploitative working conditions. Refugees and migrants, including unaccompanied children, from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen who live in Egypt are at risk of trafficking. An NGO reported perpetrators coerce some women and girls fleeing the Sudan conflict to perform sex acts in exchange for visas to enter Egypt. Sudanese gangs reportedly target unaccompanied and separated children and force or coerce the children to sell drugs or commit other petty crimes.

Egyptians illegally migrating through Libya in an attempt to reach Europe are exploited in sex trafficking and forced labor in Libya. In Greece, traffickers exploit Egyptian children in sex trafficking and forced criminality, including drug trafficking, theft, and migrant smuggling, through force and debt bondage. Traffickers subject Egyptian adults to forced labor in construction, agriculture, domestic work, and low-paying service jobs in the Middle East. Traffickers used social media platforms to recruit victims to participate in online scams, exploiting difficult social and financial circumstances. Media reported fraudulent recruitment of villagers to Russia under the pretense of high-paying construction jobs only to be coerced upon arrival to join the Russian army. Traffickers use mobile applications that require permission to access all data, information, and personal photos stored on devices to blackmail users. Perpetrators exploit trafficking victims by creating pornographic videos through threats or deception and publish the recordings on various websites.

