

MPC – MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE

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MPC - MIGRATION PROFILE

Egypt

The Demographic-Economic Framework of Migration
The Legal Framework of Migration
The Socio-Political Framework of Migration

Report written by the

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on the basis of CARIM South database and publications

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The Demographic-Economic Framework of Migration

Egyptian emigration, which has never ceased since the 1970s, went through distinct phases. Until 1971, emigration from the country was subject to legal restrictions and limited numbers. Professionals, especially, could migrate permanently to the US, Canada, Australia and Western European countries. The largest boost to outward flows occurred, however, after the adoption of the 1971 Constitution, where “permanent” and “temporary” emigration was authorized and, especially after the 1973 War, when soaring oil prices and increasing demand for migrant labour in Gulf countries triggered massive emigration from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the other Gulf states as well as to Libya. After phases of greater and lesser migration in the 1980s and 1990s, Egypt is currently experiencing what has been called the *permanence of temporary migration*, whereby migration towards Arab countries is becoming less temporary and outnumbers long-term migration to Europe and North America.¹ Recently a rise in migration to Europe – mostly irregular – especially Italy and France, has been recorded.

In terms of immigration, Egypt is host to limited flows of migrant workers, but rising numbers of refugees and asylum seekers. In addition to some 70,000 Palestinian refugees whose families arrived in the wake of the 1948 war, tens of thousands of refugees from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia, as well as Iraq, are now stranded in Egypt. During the 2011 Libyan Civil war, large numbers of migrants fleeing Libya reached Egypt. A majority were, however, Egyptian nationals.

Outward migration					Inward migration				
Stock					Stock				
According to Egyptian consular statistics, in 2009 there were 6.5 million Egyptian migrants, among whom 74.0% were temporary migrants.					In 2006, according to census data, 184,070 foreign nationals resided in Egypt representing 0.3% of the total population. They came mainly from Arab (42.8%) and European (31.6%) countries.				
Egyptian emigration stock by country of residence according to Egyptian consular statistics (year 2009) and destination countries' statistics (years around 2012)					Foreign population residing in Egypt by country of nationality and sex, 2006				
Egyptian consular statistics				Destination countries' statistics (a)					
Country of residence	Temporary migrants	Country of residence	Permanent migrants		Country of nationality	Males	Females	Both sexes	
Arab countries	4,783,800	North America	776,000		Number	Number	Number	%	
of which Libya	2,000,000	of which US	635,000	203,932	Arab countries	44,490	34,350	78,840	42.8
Saudi Arabia	1,300,000	Canada	141,000	41,700	of which Palestine	18,310	13,590	31,900	17.3
Jordan	525,000	Europe	790,645	224,122	Iraq	5,650	5,670	11,320	6.1
Kuwait	480,000	of which UK	250,000	31,000	Saudi Arabia	4,570	2,360	6,930	3.8
UAE	260,000	Italy	190,000	92,001	European countries	29,630	28,510	58,140	31.6
Qatar	88,500	France	160,000	26,825	of which Russia	7,480	9,350	16,830	9.1
Oman	45,000	Greece	80,000	9,461	United Kingdom	5,990	4,540	10,530	5.7
Lebanon	38,000	Germany	30,000	13,316	Germany	4,450	3,500	7,950	4.3
Iraq	15,000	Netherlands	30,000	12,038	Other countries	29,250	17,840	47,090	25.6
Bahrain	12,000	Others	48,645	39,481	of which Somalia	9,410	7,060	16,470	8.9
Yemen	10,300	Oceania	106,000	34,838	United States	2,160	1,590	3,750	2.0
Syria	10,000	Others	8,518	166,175	Indonesia	1,980	620	2,600	1.4
Total temporary migrants	4,783,800	Total permanent migrants	1,681,163	629,067	Total	103,370	80,700	184,070	100.0
Total temporary and permanent migrants			6,464,963	-	% of the total resident population	0.3			
Notes: (a) Destination countries' statistics are taken from national sources (population censuses, population registers, registers for foreigners, etc.). Such statistics are not available for Arab countries (left-hand side of the table)					Source: Egyptian population census (2006)				
Source: Egyptian consular records and destination countries' statistics					Among them, males represented the majority (56.2%).				
The majority live in Libya (30.9%), Saudi Arabia (20.1%), US (9.8%), Jordan (8.1%), and Kuwait (7.4%).									

¹ It should be noted that Egyptian statistics use the terminology “temporary” and “permanent” emigration referring respectively to emigration towards “Arab countries” and the “rest of the world”. Rather than being based on comparative data on the duration of residence, this criteria may reflect a distinction between the policies pursued by destination countries, which are integration-oriented in Europe and North America, but generally not so in Arab countries.

Data on Egyptians abroad largely depend on where migrants are counted. Indeed, Egyptian and destination countries' statistics show significant divergences for a variety of reasons. First, consular records allow interested parties to recover a significant part of those migrants living in Arab countries – and especially Gulf States and Libya, which do not give detailed nationality breakdowns. Second, they capture specific migrant populations who are usually not counted by destination countries statistics (e.g., naturalized and irregular migrants).

A brief note on migration from Egypt to Libya

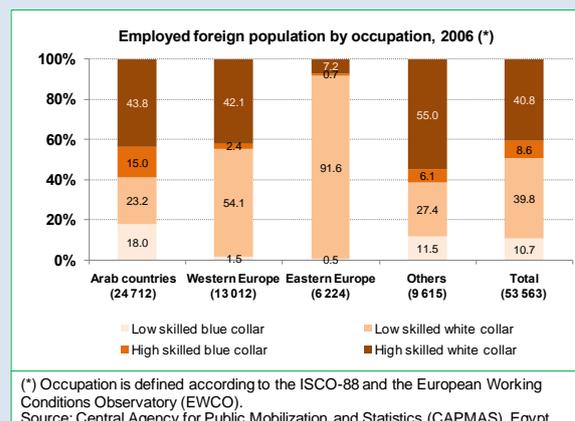
The Egyptian community is considered one of the most important components of the foreign population working in Libya, whose presence can be partially captured only through a variety of sources. The unreliability of Libyan statistics does not help here. This gap is, instead, partially filled by Egyptian consular statistics according to which, in 2009, there were around 2 million Egyptian nationals living in Libya. Most are estimated to work irregularly: according to a recent survey on Egyptian youth (see IOM, 2011), among those who had migrated to Libya in the past, the majority entered it without “a valid visa” (56.0%) or “a work contract” (8.0%). As to their profile, Egyptian workers tend to be employed in agriculture and teaching (Pliez, 2004), though the aforementioned IOM survey reveals that the great majority of young Egyptians in Libya are likely to experience a dramatic mismatch between their educational and occupational profile (IOM, 2011). Moreover, recent data collected by IOM during the Libyan civil war (February-November 2011) registered 154,634 Egyptian nationals fleeing Libya and going back to Egypt.

While emigration to Europe is characterized by a more gender-balanced profile (men are 58.1%), labor emigration towards Arab countries is a male phenomenon; here, in 2007, men accounted for 96.6% of the total of (employed) emigrants.

As to their educational and occupational characteristics, Egyptian emigrants tend to have an intermediate skill profile. Migration towards OECD countries is mainly skilled: in c. 2006, 86.5% had a medium-high level of education and 66.4% were employed in highly-skilled occupations (OECD.stat).² On the contrary, migration towards other Arab countries is mainly low-skilled: according to the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), in 2007 the proportion of tertiary educated Egyptians living in other Arab countries equalled 26.4% on average ranking from 4.1% in Jordan to 71.1% in Bahrain.

As to their occupational profile, in 2006, foreign nationals tended to be employed in low-skilled professions (50.5%). Arab and Western European nationals had a medium-high occupational profile, and respectively 58.8% and 44.5% were employed in highly-skilled jobs (e.g. professionals, technicians and associate professionals, etc.).

Otherwise, foreign workers from Eastern European countries were, for the most part, employed in low-skilled white collar occupations (91.6%), predominantly as sales and service workers (90.4%).



Flows

Economic migrants are fewer than refugees, who though hardly appear in the official statistics. Among refugees, Palestinians form the largest group, followed by Sudanese, Somali and Ethiopian nationals, who mainly arrived in the 1990s as a result of civil wars and political instability in the Horn of Africa. In addition, Iraqi refugees have increased massively especially since 2006.

Despite the lack of reliable figures, it seems that many refugees do not register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): this is because of the difficulty in obtaining refugee status in Egypt (as indicated too by the low/high values of the acceptance/resettlement rates). Further, a huge gap exists between official figures and media or NGO estimates.

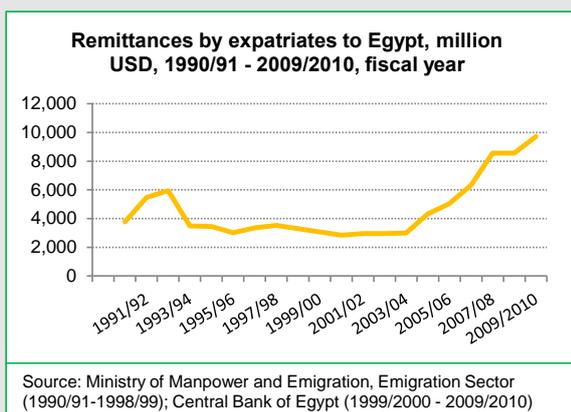
² The type and level of occupation is defined respectively according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations, ISCO-88 and the European Working Conditions Observatory. Specifically, four categories of employees are distinguished: 1) highly-skilled white collar (legislators, senior officials and managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals); 2) highly-skilled blue collar (skilled agricultural and fishery workers, craft and related trades workers); 3) low-skilled white collar (clerks, service workers and shop and market sales workers); 4) low-skilled blue collar (plant and machine operators and assemblers, elementary occupations).

Flows

In the last three decades, notwithstanding high fluctuations in outward flows – mainly linked to wars in the Gulf and the international embargo against Libya – temporary flows towards Arab countries exceeded permanent flows to the US and Europe.

Meanwhile, in the last 15-20 years new migration streams directed towards Europe have been observed. For instance, in 2011, Italy registered the largest inflows of Egyptian nationals (12,855) compared with other OECD countries. Many of these migrants are poorly educated men in irregular situations.

Two surveys conducted in 1997 (Eurostat) and 2007 (European Training Foundation) may give some idea of the rising importance of Europe for Egyptians: among those who desire to migrate. In 1997 only 6.0% chose Europe as their preferred destination, while this percentage had reached 33.7% by 2007. This pattern is probably due to an interplay of factors, including the competition Egyptians face in the Arab Gulf from cheap South East Asian labour and geographical proximity.



Today, Egypt is the fourteenth main receiver of remittances in the world and the second one among MENA countries. In the fiscal year 2009/2010 the amount of remittances was 9.7 million USD, 5.1% of Egyptian GDP. 75.5% of these flows come from five countries: UK (50.9%), the US (14.7%), Libya (3.5%), Saudi Arabia (3.3%), and United Arab Emirates (3.1%).

From 1990/91 to 2009/2010, remittances grew from 3,775 to 9,706 million USD at an annual average growth rate of 8.3%. Until 2003/3004, a stable trend was evident, except for a peak in the early 1990s, due to: a) an upsurge in oil prices until 2007, which led to an increase in the demand for workers in Arab oil countries; and b) the stability of the Egyptian pound. Since 2003/04, remittances have, instead, continuously increased.

Refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt, 2001-2011											
Refugees	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Palestine	134	70,195	70,215	70,245	70,255	70,198	70,213	70,174	70,024	70,026	70,029
Sudan	4,659	7,629	14,178	14,904	13,446	12,157	10,499	10,146	9,818	10,035	10,324
Somalia	1,177	1,639	3,068	3,809	3,940	4,317	5,139	5,600	6,096	6,172	6,328
Others	5,883	8,624	15,433	16,250	14,716	13,464	11,931	11,996	11,714	12,086	12,693
Asylum seekers	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Sudan	9,529	6,253	5,726	9,720	2,400	2,523	1,343	782	1,310	1,409	2,735
Somalia	2,559	1,977	224	340	538	1,135	770	450	659	516	713
Ethiopia	545	299	325	289	189	193	248	266	217	183	671
Others	543	473	405	353	352	3,159	1,180	773	423	497	1,057
Acceptance and resettlement rate	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Asylum seekers	13,176	8,920	n.a.								
Recognized refugees	3,921	4,944	n.a.								
Resettled refugees	2,057	1,716	n.a.								
Acceptance rate (*)	29.8	55.4	n.a.								
Resettlement rate	52.5	34.7	n.a.								

Notes: (*) Acceptance rate=(recognized refugees/asylum seekers)*100; (**) Resettlement rate: (resettled refugees/recognized refugees)*100
Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Sudanese refugees mainly arrived during the 1990s and 2000s as a consequence of the Civil War in Southern Sudan then in Darfur. Their true numbers are unknown and estimates are in the order of tens of thousands.

Local conflicts and political instability during the 1990s were also the cause of massive inflows of Somali, Ethiopian and Eritrean nationals.

The Iraqi refugee exodus, which started shortly after the 2003 invasion, began to seriously involve Egypt from 2006. According to a survey carried out by the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies and the Institute of Decision and Support Center of Cairo, in 2008 the number of Iraqi refugees stood at 16,853, a figure which is much lower than the 100,000-150,000 often claimed.

Finally, as a consequence of the Libyan civil war, Egypt received large numbers of Sub-Saharan and Egyptian nationals fleeing Libya. According to IOM data, 242,797 migrants reached Egyptian borders, among whom 154,634 were Egyptian nationals. Of the remaining 88,163 Third Country Nationals, around 38,436 were repatriated through IOM schemes.

References: International Organization for Migration (IOM). 2011. Egyptian Migration to Libya, IOM; Pliez, O. 2004. *De l'immigration au transit? La Libye, dans l'espace migratoire euro-africain* in Pliez O. (ed.), *La nouvelle Libye, Sociétés, espaces et géopolitique au lendemain de l'embargo*, Karthala, Paris

The Legal Framework of Migration

The rules governing foreign nationals' entry, stay and exit from Egypt, which dated back to the 1960s, were modified in 2005. The reform records the dissolution, in 1961, of the United Arab Republic, and submits Syrian and Arab citizens to the same entry conditions as other foreign nationals. Sanctions for irregular entry were also slightly strengthened. Though, sentences for irregular entry or stay are much lower than those adopted during the same period by new legislation in Maghreb countries, and the irregular emigration of nationals is not punished. In 2010, Egypt further reformed its penal code to include the crime of human trafficking and enumerated punishments for foreigners and nationals, as well as stipulated protection and rehabilitation for victims.

Following Egypt's revolution in 2011, the country ratified a new Constitution on 26 December 2012. While constitutional guarantees such as the right of entry and exit for Egyptian citizens were stipulated in the 1971 Constitution, Egypt's 2012 Constitution introduces rights and protections for Egyptians living abroad. Article 56 reads: "The state represents and protects the interests of citizens living abroad, and it guarantees their rights and freedoms and holds them to fulfilling their public duties towards the Egyptian state and Egyptian society. It encourages their contribution to developing the homeland."

The new constitution also affirms the right of political asylum in Article 57: "The state grants asylum to foreigners deprived in their home country of rights and freedoms that are guaranteed by the Constitution. The extradition of political refugees is prohibited."

Concerning access to residence and rights, different treatment is set out for nationals and foreign nationals, foreign nationals are then treated differently according to their citizenship, and men and women are also treated differently.

Reformed in 2004, the 1975 Citizenship Law now gives women the right to transmit their nationality to their children. The reform's implementation regarding children born before the adoption of the law varies, however, according to the citizenship of any foreign father.

Egypt receives a large number of refugees whose status is determined by UNHCR, since no national procedure exists. Unlike its neighbours (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan) that along with Egypt received most Palestinian refugees, Cairo ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention and UNRWA³ has no competence on its territory. Resettlement constitutes a fundamental stake for the development of asylum right in the country.

³ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East.

Legal Framework	Outward migration	Inward migration
General Legal References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 Egyptian Constitution of 26 December 2012⁴ • 2010 Law n° 64 of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking⁵ • 2005 Law n° 88 of 5 May 2005 (entry, residence, and exit of foreigners)⁶ • 2004 Law n° 154 of 14 July 2004 amending Law n° 26 of 29 May 1975 (concerning Egyptian nationality)⁷ • 2003 Decree 12025 of 26 July 2003 (on citizenship)⁸ • 2003 Labour code of 7 April 2003⁹ • 2003 Minister of Manpower Decree 136 of 2003 (work of foreigners)¹⁰ • 1983 Law n° 111 of 1983 - Law on Emigration and Egyptians Welfare Abroad¹¹ 	
Entry and Exit	<p>Visa</p> <p>No exit visa required. But exit is submitted to the presentation of a passport and is controlled.</p>	<p>Visa</p> <p>Passport (or equivalent) and visa are required to enter the country (citizens of Hong Kong, Guinea Conakry and Macau are exempt from visa requirements).</p>
Irregular Migration	<p><i>Law n° 88 of 5 May 2005:</i></p> <p>Irregular exit: migrant or the person who assists him/her is punished with up to a 6 month prison sentence and a 200-1,000 pound fine (or one of these); 2-5 years prison sentence and 1,000-5,000 pounds fine if the migrant or violator comes from a country in conflict with Egypt or from a country with which political relations have been cut.</p>	<p><i>Law n° 88 of 5 May 2005:</i></p> <p>Irregular entry: migrant or the person who assists him/her is punished with up to a 6 month prison sentence and a 200-1,000 pound fine (or one of these); 2-5 year prison sentence and 1,000-5,000 pound fine if the migrant or violator comes from a country in conflict with Egypt or from a country with which political relations have been cut.</p> <p>Document falsification up to 2-year prison sentence and up to 2,000 pound fine (or one of these).</p> <p>Non-compliance of a deportation decision prison sentence with labour for a period up to 2 years and fine of 500-2,000 pounds (or one of these).</p>

⁴ Draft Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt, signed into law on 26 December 2012 (30 November 2012). Retrieved from http://egelections-2011.appspot.com/Referendum2012/dostor_masr_final.pdf.

⁵ Protection Project. Law n° 64 of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking. Retrieved from http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Law_regarding_Combating_Human_Trafficking_FINAL.pdf.

⁶ CARIM. Law n° 88 of 2005 on the Entry, Stay and Exit of Foreigners on the Territory of Egypt. http://www.carim.org/public/legaltexts/LE3EGY1050_839.pdf.

⁷ CARIM. Law n° 154 of 14 July 2004. Retrieved from http://www.carim.org/public/legaltexts/LE3EGY1047_834.pdf.

⁸ CARIM. Decree 12025 of 26 July 2003. Retrieved from http://www.carim.org/public/legaltexts/LE3EGY1047_834.pdf

⁹ CARIM. Labour code of 7 April 2003. Retrieved from http://www.carim.org/public/legaltexts/LE2EGY002_EN.pdf

¹⁰ CARIM. Minister of Manpower Decree 136 of 2003. Retrieved from http://www.carim.org/public/legaltexts/LE3EGY1049_838.pdf

¹¹ CARIM. Law n° 111 of 1983 - Law on Emigration and Egyptians Welfare Abroad. Retrieved from http://www.carim.org/public/legaltexts/EGYLaw_111_1983.pdf

		<p>Irregular stay is punished with fines.</p> <p>Refugees who violate the particular reason for entry or stay are punished with 200-1,000 pound fine and possible deportation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Human Trafficking</p> <p>➤ Penalisations: Anyone who has committed the crime of human trafficking is punished with imprisonment and a fine from 50,000-200,000 pounds or a fine equal to the value of the benefit gained, whichever is greater; aggravating circumstances (e.g., victim was a minor) punished with life imprisonment and a fine from 100,000-500,000 pounds; threatening or bribing witnesses, knowingly concealing the crime, revealing the identity or endangering a victim punished with imprisonment; failing to alert the authorities is punished with no less than 6 months imprisonment and a fine from 10,000-20,000 pounds (<i>Law n° 64 of 2010</i>).</p> <p>➤ Protection of victims: State shall guarantee protection of the victim and work to create the appropriate conditions for: assistance, health, psychological, educational and social care; rehabilitation and reintegration into the society; and return victim to their homeland, if they were a foreigner or a non-permanent resident in the State. The State will also return Egyptian victims back to Egypt and provide rehabilitation programs (<i>Law n° 64 of 2010</i>).</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Agreements regarding irregular migration</p> <p>➤ Readmission agreements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-Egypt Association Agreement (2004) Egypt agrees to readmit any of its nationals illegally present on the territory of a Member State. • Italy (2007) for readmission of Egyptian nationals and third-country nationals. <p>➤ Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greece-Egypt Agreement (1998) on cooperation against transnational crime, including the fight against human trafficking and smuggling. • In 2002, Egypt ratified <i>Palermo protocols</i>¹², which entered into force in 2004. • EU-Egypt Association Agreement (2004) stipulates cooperation for the prevention and control of illegal migration. 	

¹² **Protocol** to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Rights and Settlement	<p>Right to exit: no citizen may be prevented from leaving the country (Article 42, Constitution).</p> <p>No citizen may be deported from the country (Article 42, Constitution).</p> <p>Protection of Egyptians abroad stipulated in the Constitution: the State guarantees to safeguard the interests of Egyptians living abroad, protect them and protect their rights and freedoms, help them perform their public duties toward the Egyptian State and society, and encourage their contribution to the development of the nation (Article 56, Constitution)</p> <p>Diaspora participation in elections and referendums is regulated by law (Article 56, Constitution)</p> <p>Egyptian Diaspora rights as stipulated by <i>Law n° 111</i> of 1983, including: recognition of some rights (tax exemption from investments, right to be reintegrated in civil service); emigration permits delivery to “permanent migrants”; state commitment to links with the diaspora; and registration of people willing to emigrate and distribution to them of emigration opportunities.</p>	<p>Right to return: no citizen may be prevented from returning to the country (Article 42, Constitution).</p> <p>Stay permits: special (10 years) and regular (5 years) residence permits handed out in very specific situations (persons of Egyptian origin or long-lasting residence from before 1952).</p> <p>Three other permit categories: 5 years residence (e.g., for investors and the wives of Egyptians); 3 years residence (e.g., for the husbands of Egyptians, some Palestinians, refugees); and temporary residence (e.g., for students, people whose bank account is at least \$50,000).</p> <p>Family reunification: yes (spouse and children, sometimes parents). Different treatment of men and women.</p> <p>Access to Employment: Subject to reciprocity conditions. A maximum of 10% of a company's workforce may be foreign workers. National preference for access to employment. Civil service reserved to nationals, and to Arab citizens issued from countries guaranteeing reciprocity. No access to liberal professions, with exceptions. Preferential treatment for some nationalities (e.g., Greece, Italy, Palestine, Sudan, Jordan, Syria). Proof of absence of HIV required.</p> <p>Access to public services: no equal access to public education, except for some nationalities. Equal access to health service. Access to social security after ten years residence. High cost of access to university.</p> <p>Access to estate ownership: for investment or residence.</p>
	<p>The Constitution stipulates that freedom of movement, residence, and immigration shall be safeguarded (Article 42).</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Bilateral agreements regarding entry, stay and work</p> <p>➤ In 2004, Egypt and Sudan signed the Four Freedoms Agreement that guarantees freedoms of movement, stay, ownership and work for Egyptians and Sudanese while in the other's country. However, there have been reported discrepancies regarding implementation of the agreement.¹³</p>	

¹³ For more information, see: Jacobsen, K. and Ayoub, M. (September 2012). *Remittances to Transit Countries: The impact on Sudanese refugee livelihoods in Cairo*. Retrieved from <http://www.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/cmrs/reports/Documents/paper%20No.%203.pdf> ; Sudan Tribune. (24 February 2013). *Sudan-Egypt relations hit speed bump over Four Freedoms accord*. Retrieved from <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article45646>; and Badawy, T. (2007). *Comments on Egypt's Report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*. Retrieved from www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmwdocs/tarek_badawy.doc

<p>Labour</p>	<p>Bilateral agreements related to labour include: Jordan-Egypt Organization of Egyptian labour force in (2007); Italy-Egypt agreements, including: in 2005 regulating Egyptian labour migration to Italy; Joint Declaration to enhance and regulate seasonal labour migration (2010); and Memorandum of Understanding (2011) establishing new modalities of cooperation and establishment of Local Coordination Office in Egypt to select labour migrants to Italy; and Libya-Egypt agreement (2010) regarding Egyptian labour in Libya, especially in construction fields.</p> <p>International agreements related to labour include the 1990 Convention on the Protection of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Family (ratified with slight reservations), and several International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.</p>	
<p>Citizenship</p>	<p>Dual citizenship is allowed for long-term emigrants (<i>Law n°111</i> of 1983). For others, the acquisition of another nationality requires permission from the Minister of Interior (<i>Law n° 26</i> of 1975).</p>	<p>Law n°54 of 2004 gives women the right to transmit their nationality to their children. <i>Jus sanguinis</i> by descent of father or mother, whatever the birthplace. <i>Jus soli</i>: nationality on request at the age of majority for children born in Egypt, if the foreign father was also born in Egypt and belongs to an Arab speaking and Muslim community; and for persons of “Egyptian origin”. Access to nationality for foreign women after 2 years of marriage with a male citizen. No right to nationality through marriage with an Egyptian woman. Possible naturalization of foreign children born and raised in the country.</p>
<p>International Protection</p>	<p>Political asylum shall be granted by the State to every foreigner deprived in their country of public rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, and no political refugee will be extradited (Article 57, Constitution).</p> <p>Agreement with UNHCR in 1954. Recognition of the UNHCR refugee status determination and delivery of residence permits which must be checked every 6 months.</p> <p>Egypt lacks a national procedure for refugees.</p> <p>International agreements related to international protection: Egypt ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees (in 1981); the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees (in 1981); the 1969 OAU Convention governing specific aspects of refugees in Africa (in 1980); and is a party to the Protocol for the Treatment of Palestinians in Arab States.</p>	

The Socio-Political Framework of Migration

An important regional player in migration-agenda setting, Egypt has embarked upon cooperation initiatives with Arab and OECD countries. Yet, Egypt's position as a nexus between the turbulent Middle East, Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa routes has also added further challenges to an already encumbered migration agenda.¹⁴ Egypt has, in the last years, received massive inflows of refugees and undocumented migrants whose mobility is to a large extent conflict-induced. We cite for example the case of Syrian, Iraqi, and Sudanese migrants, but also Somali and Eritrean refugees, the magnitude and desperateness of such flows having attracted much international attention in the last years.

Irregular migration, including human trafficking, is a policy concern for the Egyptian State. In addition to the international legal instruments it has signed to tackle the issue, the Egyptian Government has also created the National Coordinating Committee on Combatting and Prevention of Human Trafficking, which collaborates with all governmental and non-governmental agencies dealing with human trafficking. In 2010, the Committee designed its *National Plan of Action Against Human Trafficking* (implemented from January 2011 through January 2013)¹⁵.

In emigration-related fields, Egypt has made sure – at least in its political stances – that Egyptian emigration flows are linked to Egypt's internal development and national imperatives. The Ministry of Manpower and Emigration (MME) has consolidated cooperation frameworks with international organizations and Arab as well as EU countries with a view to: (a) organizing legal emigration flows; (b) stimulating demand for Egyptian labor; (c) curbing irregular emigration from Egypt to Europe; and (d) sharing information on irregular migration patterns with selected destination countries.¹⁶ In the longer term however, tackling the root causes behind the irregular emigration of Egyptians (unemployment, poverty etc.) is a challenge.¹⁷

Whereas Egypt has achieved high levels of institutionalization in its emigration policies, the institutional framework regulating its immigration apparatus remains frail. For instance, openness to labour immigration contributes to the growth of the informal sector (particularly in low skilled workforce sectors such as domestic work). Moreover, the absence of a clear framework regarding refugees means large numbers of stranded migrants and *de facto* refugees in the country. Furthermore, while various initiatives in the local associative sector have attempted to improve the lot of refugees in the greater Cairo area, there is some question over whether civil society initiatives succeed in altering governmental policies.¹⁸

¹⁴ A case in a point are the border tensions between Egypt and Israel as irregular migrants originating from Sub-Saharan Africa attempt to cross Egyptian borders to Israel.

¹⁵ The Arab Republic of Egypt - National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combatting Human Trafficking. (2 December 2012). *National Plan of Action Against Human Trafficking*. Retrieved from http://www.ungift.org/doc/knowledgehub/resource-centre/Governments/Egypt_National_Action_Plan_2011-2013-en.pdf

¹⁶ See Howaida Roman, "Irregular Migration of Egyptians", *CARIM Synthetic Notes* 2008, http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/10113/CARIM_AS&N_2008_68.pdf?sequence=1, p. 8.

¹⁷ Ibid, p. 8-9.

¹⁸ See Samy, "The Impact of Civil Society", op.cit.

Socio-Political Framework	Outward migration	Inward migration
Governmental Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Manpower and Emigration Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Interior Higher Committee for Migration National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Interior Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Manpower and Emigration Higher Committee for Migration National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking
Governmental Strategy	<p>Organise and facilitate legal emigration flows by: establishing bilateral agreements or frameworks with the Arab world (e.g., posting foreign jobs on Ministry of Manpower and Emigration website and assistance in applying for such positions –for example, jobs in Kuwait¹⁹); and OECD countries; cooperation with international organisations (e.g., IOM); creating training centers for would-be migrants; legalising irregular Egyptian emigration through regularisation by negotiating with other destination countries (e.g., in Jordan²⁰); assessing new labour markets as well as security situations in countries to provide Egyptians with new jobs and ensure safe working environments (e.g., in Iraq²¹); and stimulate the demand for Egyptian labour.²²</p> <p>Enhance links with the Egyptian Diaspora, including: sponsor Egyptians abroad and encourage them to establish unions and associations; benefit from Egyptian potential abroad in the field of development and technology; encourage remittances; establish an integrated database on Egyptians abroad; collect information on Egyptian diasporas and their profiles by cooperating with</p>	<p>Set up rules concerning the entry and residence of foreign nationals.</p> <p>Establish recruitment procedures with regard to economic immigrants, including establishing recruitment agencies for hiring skilled foreign labour.</p> <p>Recruitment of skilled foreign workforce by consolidating bilateral cooperation with external parties.</p> <p>Fight illegal immigration by cooperating with other bodies through joint technical, security, policy-making and legislative mechanisms.</p> <p>Identify refugees and define their status and rights and devise action plans regarding their presence and stay in Egypt; and develop collaborative mechanisms to deal with refugees' stay in Egyptian territory with NGOs and international organisations (e.g., collaboration with UNHCR and WFP, among others, to provide for Syrian refugees in Egypt).</p>

¹⁹ Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration. (3 March 2013). Kuwaiti companies request workers in construction and building. Retrieved from [http://www.manpower.gov.eg/\(S\(f1flxc45jeqr5rivlgqokgf0\)\)/NewsDetails.aspx?MeetingBasicInfo=953](http://www.manpower.gov.eg/(S(f1flxc45jeqr5rivlgqokgf0))/NewsDetails.aspx?MeetingBasicInfo=953)

²⁰ For example, the 2007 agreement signed between Jordan and Egypt extended the registration period for Egyptian workers to regularise their status. The Egyptian Government has also called upon irregular Egyptian workers in Jordan to regularise their status (for example see: <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/02/04/jordan-offers-grace-period-for-egyptian-migrant-workers/>). For more information, see also: The Jordan Times. (26 March 2013). Authorities crackdown on illegal workers. Retrieved from <http://jordantimes.com/article/authorities-halt-crackdown-on-illegal-workers---official>

²¹ Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration. (5 March 2013). *Hisham Qandil of Iraq to open the labor market between the two countries*. Retrieved from [http://www.manpower.gov.eg/\(S\(uahk0k454jwbkd55jnmyq455\)\)/NewsDetails.aspx?MeetingBasicInfo=955](http://www.manpower.gov.eg/(S(uahk0k454jwbkd55jnmyq455))/NewsDetails.aspx?MeetingBasicInfo=955)

²² See Nadina Sika, "Highly-Skilled Migration Patterns and Development: The Case of Egypt", CARIM Analytical and Synthetic Notes 2010, p.12, retrieved from <http://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/13454>.

	<p>international stakeholders; improving Egyptian migrants' integration in receiving contexts (e.g., cooperation between the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration with the IOM).</p> <p>Support policies linking migration and development (e.g., previous Joint Migration and Development Initiative with IOM, UNHCR, European Union and the UNDP).</p> <p>Fight against and dissuade Egyptian irregular emigration by organising information and awareness-raising campaigns, and providing migrants with information on legal migration possibilities, and working with international organisations to enhance migration management.²³</p> <p>Developing information-sharing mechanisms with international stakeholders in order to mitigate the effects of irregular emigration.</p> <p>Fight against human trafficking with creation of the National Coordinating Committee to collaborate with Egyptian Government and other institutions, and cooperation with IOM (e.g., judicial trainings and diplomat trainings²⁴).</p>	
<p>Civil Society</p>	<p>➤ Initiatives of Egyptian migrant associations as well as professional and student Diaspora networks aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting emigrants' rights (e.g., The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights). • Reinforcing ties among Egyptian emigrants (e.g., Egyptian Association in the United Kingdom). <p>➤ Initiatives of research institutions aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching Egyptian emigration (e.g. The Egyptian centre for Economic Studies), collecting data on the Diaspora and carrying out research studies on the potential role of Egyptian expatriates in their country's development. 	<p>➤ Civil society networks and initiatives aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving regular and irregular immigrants' socio-economic and cultural rights (e.g., Tadamon, Caritas, and Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights). • Assisting refugees and developing integration projects (e.g., Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance; Tadamon; the South Center for Human Rights (SCHR); the Somali Association for Refugee Affairs). <p>➤ Initiatives of research institutions aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filling in knowledge gaps concerning the presence of refugees on Egyptian territory [e.g., the survey carried out by the American University of Cairo together with the Government Decision and Support Center (GDSC) on Iraqi households in Egypt].

²³ For example, the IOM programs in which Egypt participates, including the "Education and Training for Egyptian Youth in Fayoum Governorate: Alternatives to Promote Regular Migration and Positive Alternatives" program, and the "Stabilizing At-risk Communities and Enhancing Migration Management to Enable Smooth Transitions in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya" program. For more information on these programs, see: <http://www.egypt.iom.int/projects.htm>.

²⁴ For more information regarding cooperation between Egypt and the IOM regarding cooperation on human trafficking, see: [http://www.egypt.iom.int/Doc/Counter%20Trafficking%20Fact%20Sheet%20Egypt%20\(2012\).pdf](http://www.egypt.iom.int/Doc/Counter%20Trafficking%20Fact%20Sheet%20Egypt%20(2012).pdf)

International Cooperation	Egypt is a member of several international organisations in which it actively works to address issues of migration, including: International Organization for Migration (IOM); International Labour Organization (ILO); UNHCR; Arab League; and Organization for African Union (OAU), among others. Egypt is a participant to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and is a member of the Union for the Mediterranean (a multilateral partnership within the European Neighbourhood Policy).
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