SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN EGYPT

Final Report
Population Council
West Asia and North Africa Office

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The Population Council conducted the Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE) in collaboration with the Egyptian Cabinet, Information and Decision Support Center. The survey was supported by the Ford Foundation; the Canadian International Development Agency; UNFPA; UNICEF; the World Bank; the Embassy of the Netherlands; UNDP; UNIFEM; and the Swedish International Development Agency. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the initiative supporters.

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Preface

In every society, young people carry the promise of a better future. They are the building blocks of a country's economy and society and its most essential human resource. In Egypt, young people are not only its most important capital but they also constitute the largest segment of the population. According to the 2006 census, approximately 40% of Egyptians are between the ages of 10 and 29. With the right investments, this youth bulge will represent a demographic opportunity that will positively shape the country's future. Once Egypt's young people reach working age, given a relatively low proportion of older and younger non-working populations to support, they will present a “demographic gift” of low economic dependency. However, the large size of this cohort places enormous pressures on social services and the labor market and creates a major challenge for development planning. Failures in these institutions could result in the social and economic marginalization of a large proportion of youth that will be unable to compete in an increasingly globalized economy, hence turning the “gift” to demographic “burden”.

Effective planning relies on high-quality research. The Population Council seeks to build the evidence base for better policies and programs with the view of generating research that makes a difference. Young people have been a primary focus for the Council for decades, directing research to determine their conditions and contexts, and providing evidence for decision-makers. In 1998, the Population Council published Transitions to Adulthood, a comprehensive profile of youth based on the Council’s 1997 Adolescence and Social Change in Egypt (ASCE) survey. The results of ASCE have been an important resource for programming for adolescents in Egypt.

The 2009 Survey of Young People in Egypt builds upon the ASCE survey from the previous decade, focusing on a larger age group: those aged 10 to 29. SYPE concentrates on the five key life transitions for youth: health, education, employment and livelihood, family formation, and civic participation.

This report presents the findings of SYPE. It provides a comprehensive picture of the profile of young people in Egypt and highlights the main issues that face this important segment of the population.

The Population Council encourages research and the public sharing of data. The SYPE dataset became publicly available in mid-December, 2010. Researchers are invited to use this rich resource for further investigations of the status and conditions of young people in Egypt that will provide valuable information for decision-makers and development practitioners.

Safaa El-Kogali
Regional Director
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Acknowledgments

The Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE) represents a partnership model of several local and international organizations. We are grateful to the Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) for its excellent partnership on data collection and processing. Dr. Magued Osman, Chairperson, has been a strong supporter of this project since its inception. We are also grateful to Dr. Hussein Abdel-Aziz for his valuable contributions to questionnaire and sample design and for his capable management of the data-collection and processing phases. Mr. Mohamed Ramadan, Executive Manager, has provided instrumental support to this project.

The National Center for Examinations and Educational Evaluation (NCEEE) played a pivotal role in designing and pretesting the aptitude tests included in the survey tool. We would like to thank Dr. Naguib Khouzam, Director, and Dr. Naima Hassan Ahmed, Head of the Research Department. We were fortunate to benefit from the sample-design expertise of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). We would like to thank Ms. Rawia Elbatrawi, Head of the Population Statistics and Census Sector, Ms. Awatef Gendy, Head of the Central Department of Economic Statistics, and the Sampling Unit. SYPE would not have been possible without the generous financial support of the Ford Foundation; the Canadian International Development Agency; the World Bank; UNFPA; UNDP; UNICEF; UNIFEM; the Embassy of the Netherlands; and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Several Population Council staff members have contributed to this study. The idea for a survey of young people was initiated by Dr. Ragui Assaad, former Regional Director of the Population Council’s West Asia and North Africa office. Dr. Assaad provided technical guidance at different stages of this study. This report also benefited from his valuable comments and suggestions. Special thanks go to Dr. Ghada Barsoum who as Principle Investigator saw to the conceptualization, design, and implementation of the survey as well as the preparation of the preliminary report. We are also grateful to Dr. Mohamed Abd-Elghany Ramadan for his extensive efforts in implementing this survey and for his work on questionnaire design and layout, sample design, and data cleaning and analysis. Dr. Ramadan also coordinated the work between the Population Council and IDSC. Ali Rashed and Caroline Krafft provided valuable contributions to the data cleaning and analysis during the preparation of this report. Abeer Salem played an important role in the communication and dissemination of findings. Ola Hosny provided excellent administrative, logistical, and desktop-publishing support. The Population Council would like to thank Nihal Elwan, Natalie Forcier BeVille, Miral Breebart, and Sarah Ismail for their contributions during the conceptualization and questionnaire design stages.

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Most of all, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the young people who responded to the survey. Without their trust and participation, this survey would not have been possible.
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<tr>
<td>ASCE</td>
<td>Adolescence and Social Change in Egypt Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPMAS</td>
<td>Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</td>
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<td>EDHS</td>
<td>Egypt Demographic and Health Survey</td>
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<td>IDSC</td>
<td>Information and Decision Support Center</td>
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<td>IRB</td>
<td>Institutional Review Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>LF</td>
<td>Labor Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCEEE</td>
<td>National Center for Examinations and Educational Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLF</td>
<td>Out of Labor Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Population Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU</td>
<td>Primary Sampling Unit</td>
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<td>SD</td>
<td>Standard Deviation</td>
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<td>SRQ</td>
<td>Self-Reporting Questionnaire</td>
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<td>SYPE</td>
<td>Survey of Young People in Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIFEM</td>
<td>United Nations Development Fund for Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WANA</td>
<td>West Asia and North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIQ</td>
<td>Wealth quintiles</td>
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