



Egyptian Children Mark World Day against Child Labor in Fayoum

Media Advisory, June 21 2011: 3:00 pm

Under the theme of "Hazardous child labor", Egyptian children and families, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are jointly marking the 2011 World Day against Child Labor.

During the event, an introduction of the new phase of the project "Combating Worst Forms of Child Labor by Reinforcing Policy Response and Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods and Educational Opportunities in Egypt" will be presented.

The **overall objective** of the project is to contribute to the elimination of exploitative child labor in Egypt, through the rehabilitation and reintegration of child laborers into formal and non-formal education, and the provision of support and effective measures to prevent child labor. "Despite the progress achieved, vulnerable children are still deprived from education and forced into hazardous work where their lives and future remain at stake. On this occasion, we reiterate our call upon governments, employers and workers organizations to join efforts to implement the policies and actions that can end child labor and save these children." said Dr. Yousef Qaryouti, Director of Decent Work Team for North Africa Region, ILO Cairo

Education is a key component for combating child labor around the world and is central to the new phase of the project in Egypt. "Education is a fundamental child right, it is the best investment parents can make to break the vicious cycle of poverty and offer their children better opportunities for their future." said Philippe Duamelle, UNICEF Representative in Egypt.

"Child labor is a multi facet phenomenon where commitment and partnership between all stakeholders are essential to combat hazardous child labor" said GianPietro Bordignon, WFP Representative and Country Director. "Providing livelihood opportunities to families including take home food rations is proven to be one of the most successful incentives for keeping children in education as confirmed by different evaluations" he added.

In a statement by the United States Department of Labor Secretary Ms. Hilda L. Solis; "Combating child labor is a daunting challenge. Every young person deserves the chance to be in school and learning, not sacrificing their childhoods working in life-threatening jobs".



The Governor of El-Fayoum as well as the Representatives of the three participating UN organizations will award certificates of appreciation to children and their families for their achievement and commitment to education and the protection of their children from hazardous child labor. The event will be also attended by partner Non-governmental Organizations and Community Development Associations

Note for the editors on the completion of the first phase of Project (2006- June 2011):

The first phase was implemented in three governorates: Assiut, Sohag and Beni Suef which are characterized by high rates of poverty. The project succeeded in the withdrawal of 3786 children from the worst forms of child labor and prevention of 7056 children from the risk of joining the labor market through formal and informal education.

The project also facilitated the provision of educational services through Girl's Education Initiative (GEI) and Community and government schools, training of teachers and facilitators on Active Learning, distribution of daily fortified snacks and Take Home Rations for families. It was implemented under the partnership of ILO, WFP and UNICEF with several ministries.

Funding for this cooperative agreement was provided by the United States Department of Labor. This press release does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.