

CSR Risk Check



EGYPT

21 country risk(s) have been identified

- **HUMAN RIGHTS & ETHICS (11)**
GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE (9 RISKS)
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This country is marked as a “high risk” country for political risks on the Aon political risk map. This is level 5 on a 1-to-6 scale. Please visit the [website](#) for more detailed information about this country.

Sources: [Aon, Political Risk Map, 2020](#)

Egypt is considered to be "not free" according to the Freedom House Country List. This means that there is an oppressive regime, with regard to political rights and civil liberties.

Sources: [Freedom House, Freedom in the World, 2020](#)

The political situation in Egypt remains unstable. The army, military police and central security forces use violence, which is sometimes excessive. They try to suppress new protests, which arise because demonstrators are angry and frustrated by the slow pace of political and human rights reforms. There is a reduction of personal freedoms. The president wants to stay in power longer, which undermines democracy.

Sources: [Hoover Institution, Challenges to stability in Egypt, 2019](#)

According to The Africa Competitiveness Report, the most problematic risk factors for entrepreneurs in Egypt are policy instability, government instability/coups, and access to financing.

Sources: [World Economic Forum, The Africa Competitiveness Report, 2015](#)

There is a major lack of control and accountability with the government in Egypt. Unfair trials are common. Read more about this in the [Amnesty International](#) report.

Sources: [Amnesty International, Report 2017/2018 - The state of the World's Human Rights, 2018](#)

There are strong indications that press freedom in Egypt is very limited. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Egypt has the highest number of journalists behind bars since CPJ began keeping records. In addition, several independent media have been closed.

Sources: [Committee to Protect Journalists \(CPJ\), Egypt's imprisonment of journalists is at an all-time high, 2015](#)

Human Rights Watch reports that Egyptian security forces appear to have forcibly disappeared dozens of people.

Sources: [Human Rights Watch, Egypt: Dozens Detained Secretly, 2015](#)

Egypt is ranked 166 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index with a score of 56,82 on a scale from 0 (best possible score) and 100 (worst possible score). This means that the press freedom is limited.

Sources: [Reporters Without Borders, 2020 World Press Freedom Index, 2020](#)

Egypt is ranked 125th out of 128 countries in the Rule of Law Index with a score of 0.36 on a scale from 0 (worst possible score) and 1 (best possible score). This means that this country performs poorly in the areas of corruption, openness of government and enforcement of regulations around rights, order, security, civil and criminal law.

Sources: [World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index, 2020](#)

CONFLICTS & SECURITY (2 RISKS)

This country is marked as a 'high risk' country for terroristic attacks on the Aon Terrorism Risk Map. It is considered as level 4 on a 1-5 scale.

Sources: [Aon, Terrorism risk map, 2020](#)

Between July 2013 and August 2015, Egyptian authorities demolished at least 3,255 residential, commercial, administrative, and community buildings in the Sinai Peninsula along the border with the Gaza Strip, forcibly evicting thousands of people. More than 3,600 people, including civilians, security forces and alleged insurgents, have reportedly died in North Sinai between July 2013 and July 2015.

Sources: [Human Rights Watch, "Look for another Homeland", 2015](#)

• FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES (4)

CORRUPTION (3 RISKS)

Companies are likely to encounter corruption in meetings with public officials in Egypt. Officials in various government departments are known for bribery, embezzlement and tampering with official documents. Corruption and bribery are reportedly common when companies deal with public services, customs and taxes, public utilities and procurement.

Sources: [Business Anti-Corruption Portal, Egypt Corruption Report, 2018](#), [US Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2018, 2019](#)

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index, the corruption score of Egypt is 35, on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). This means that the risk of corruption in Egypt is high.

Sources: [Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2019, 2020](#)

The score awarded for transparency and accountability (including public management and civil service integrity, and access to information) in Egypt is 53 on a scale from 0 (very weak) to 100 (very strong). This is considered weak by [Global Integrity](#).

Sources: [Global Integrity, Africa Integrity Indicators, 2019](#)

TAXATION (1 RISK)

The Tax Justice Network has rated this jurisdiction as secretive. The financial secretive score of Egypt is 71 on a scale of 0 ("not secretive") to 100 ("exceptionally secretive"). This means that Egypt could be seen as a 'tax haven'.

Sources: [Tax Justice Network, Financial Secrecy Index, 2020](#)

• LABOUR RIGHTS (4)

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (2 RISKS)

According to the ITUC Global Rights Index, this country is one of the world's ten most difficult countries for workers concerning trade union rights.

Sources: [ITUC-CSI, ITUC Global Rights Index, 2019](#)

Egypt scores a 5 on the ITUC Global Rights Index (scale 1-5) for freedom of association and workers' rights, which stands for no guarantee of rights. Countries with the rating of 5 are the worst countries in the world to work in. While the legislation may spell out certain rights, workers have effectively no access to these rights and are therefore exposed to autocratic regimes and unfair labour practices.

Sources: [ITUC-CSI, ITUC Global Rights Index, 2019](#)

DISCRIMINATION & GENDER (2 RISKS)

Sexual harassment and violence against women is widespread in Egypt. Prosecution of perpetrators is rare. Read more about this in the [Human Rights Watch](#) report.

Sources: [Human Rights Watch, World Report 2020 - Events of 2019, 2020](#)

Systematic and ongoing challenges to religious freedom are widespread at the community level in Egypt, particularly in rural areas. Baha'is and Jehovah's Witnesses are unrecognized, and blasphemy laws are being used in targeting Muslims, Christians, and nonreligious persons.

Women continue to face discrimination in law and in practice. Victims of sexual intimidation are often blamed for 'provoking' attacks. The shame and stigmatisation mean that most women do not report the crimes. When they do, complaints rarely lead to the opening of an investigation.

Sources: [JICA, Country Gender Profile \(Arab Republic of Egypt\) Survey Report, 2018, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom \(USCIRF\), 2019 Annual Report, 2019](#)

• **ENVIRONMENT (2)**

WATER USE & WATER AVAILABILITY (1 RISK)

27 million people in Egypt face severe freshwater scarcity all year round.

Sources: [Science Advances, Four billion people facing severe water scarcity, 2016](#)

AIR POLLUTION (1 RISK)

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), this country suffers excessive air pollution.

The annual average PM2.5 level here is higher than 35 ug/m³, which the WHO describes as the first intermediate target for countries. At this level, there is a 15% greater risk of long-term mortality than at the recommended maximum annual average of 10 ug/m³. This means your employees in these countries (depending on the precise work location) are likely to be exposed to air pollution, with illness and premature death as possible consequences.

Sources: [WHO, Ambient \(outdoor\) air quality and health, 2018](#)
