

**SOCIAL PROFILE AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS IN CAIRO**  
**Technical Report**

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## 1. OVERVIEW OF SURVEY

Throughout 2007 a survey of 633 migrant and refugee domestic workers was conducted, funded by the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty at the University of Sussex. The sample consisted of 116 Filipinas (15% of the sample), 62 Indonesians (8%), 125 Sudanese (16%), 129 Ethiopians (16%), 118 Eritreans (15%) and 82 Nigerians (11%). The differing numbers were the consequence of having to conduct the interviews within the time deadlines of the study. An additional 149 (19%) Egyptian domestic workers were included as a control group. The aim of the survey was to gather demographic details and enquire about their work circumstances and human rights issues arising.

Only the Philippine, Indonesian and Sri Lankan embassies responded to our request for an estimate of numbers of their nationals working in Egypt. According to the Philippine embassy, as of February 2007, the number of Filipinos in Egypt was around 4,300; those involved in domestic work were estimated to number 2,143. Thus the survey sample represents around 5.4 per cent of the estimated population of Filipinas in Egypt. We interviewed 10 women who were at the embassy who had run away from their employers, without their passports. Almost all of these domestic workers had been victims of trafficking by an agent in Jordan and entered Egypt without work permits.

According to the Indonesian embassy, the total number of Indonesians in Egypt was 5,808, comprised of 4,241 students (mainly at Al Azhar University), 158 skilled workers (in factories, textiles, oil companies and hotels) and 498 domestic workers. Thus the sample corresponded to around 12.4 per cent of the estimated total population of Indonesians in Egypt. Again, like the Filipinas, there were a number of cases of Indonesians entering Egypt from Jordan.

According to their embassy, less than 100 Sri Lankan domestic workers were employed in Egypt, whether Tamil or Sinhalese. Because there were so few, Sri Lankans were excluded from the survey.

We do not know the populations of Egyptian, Sudanese, Ethiopian, Eritrean or Nigerian domestic workers in Cairo. But for thousands of refugees in Cairo, domestic work is the only type of employment available to them and it has proven to be a crucial source of income for their survival. Indeed, it has typically resulted in more work for women who have become the main breadwinners for their families. Local agencies in Cairo operate to place migrants, refugees and Egyptians into domestic work. Indeed, almost half of the interviewees in the survey said they were placed into their household by an Egyptian agency. One of these is a programme for refugees and asylum seekers at All Saints Church. They not only operate as an agency to place workers, but they also offer a two-week course on domestic work, using various apartments of willing friends to train them (mainly Sudanese and Ethiopians).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

It should be noted that the methodological limitations of surveying domestic workers and the lack of population statistics make it difficult to know whether we had a representative sample. English-speaking interviewers from each of the nationalities surveyed were employed. The sample was drawn with a snowball technique beginning with those known personally to each of the interviewers. The interviewers were trained over two weeks to conduct the interviews for the project in their own language and translated into English. Interviews were conducted whenever and wherever it was most convenient and private, which included the homes they worked in when their employers were absent. Egyptian workers generally refused to be interviewed at their place of work, so most interviews were conducted with them at public places such as parks and bus stops. Most Filipinas were interviewed at the churches they attended, at the houses they worked in or at their own apartments in the case of freelancers. Indonesians were interviewed at an Indonesian restaurant with the permission of the owner. Ethiopians and Eritreans were interviewed before or after church services and in their own homes, while Nigerians were mostly interviewed during traditional weekend community gatherings at the home of the principle Nigerian interviewer and others.

The following is a summary of selected statistical findings based on cross-tabulations by nationality of the respondents. The actual tables from the SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) analyses have not been included.

### 3. SELECTED STATISTICS

#### Migrant domestic worker characteristics

Sample:

Country of Origin

Egypt	19%	(n=149)
Philippines	15%	(n=116)
Indonesia	8%	(n= 62)
Sudan	16%	(n=125)
Ethiopia	17%	(n=129)
Eritrea	15%	(n=118)
Nigeria	11%	(n= 82)
Total:	100%	(n=781)

Age:

- Typically the age of the majority (83%) of the domestic workers was within 20-40 years.
- Egyptians were the youngest age group in the sample, with 61% under 30 years of age and 14% under 20.
- Filipinas were the oldest with 75% over 30 years old and 12% over 50.
- The majority of Ethiopians (69%), Eritreans (78%) and Nigerians (69%) were in the 20-29 age-group.

Length of stay:

- Excluding Egyptians, Filipinas were the longest resident group in Egypt with 30% resident for 9 years or more, and 10% over 16 years. Almost no others had been resident for 9 years or more.
- Most Indonesians (84%), Nigerians (90%), Eritreans (72%), Sudanese (62%) and Ethiopians (60%) had been in Egypt for 4 years or less.

Marital status:

- The majority of the Ethiopians (78%) and Eritreans (80%) had never married.
- By contrast, more than half (56%) of Sudanese and Indonesians (54.8%) and half (50%) of Filipina domestic workers had been married.
- Conversely, the percentages of married (46.3%) and unmarried (41.5%) were almost equal in the Nigerian sample.
- Only 18% of Sudanese had never married.
- Of Egyptians, 51% had never married, 10.1% of this group report being engaged. While it is widely held that domestic labour is performed in large part by widowed, separated or divorced women, such women represented only 7.4%, 5.4% and 7.4% of the sample respectively. The highest percentage of widows in the sample was found in the Sudanese migrant domestic worker group at 11.2%.
- Of the entire sample, the highest proportion of respondents (48%) had never been married while the smallest proportion were widows (4.9%).

Place of spouse:

- 63.7% of all married migrant domestic workers brought and had their husbands with them in Egypt. (Note: Egyptian respondents were excluded from the calculation.)

- The majority of married Sudanese (84%) were accompanied by their husbands in Egypt. Following the Sudanese, Indonesians (75%) and Eritreans (73.3%) represented the largest groups with husbands in Egypt.
- Conversely, Filipina migrant domestic workers were the least likely to have their spouses in Egypt (31%).
- Of respondents with spouses residing in the country of origin, Filipinas were the largest percentage with 62% of Filipina husbands of domestic workers living in the Philippines. Nigerians were the second largest group with 34% of husbands of domestic workers residing in Nigeria, followed by Ethiopians with 27.8% of husbands residing in Ethiopia.

#### Occupation of spouse:

- In 17.9% of the total sample of married domestic workers, the domestic worker was the primary breadwinner with the spouse being either unemployed (5.1%), a student (9.8%) or took care of the home (3.0%). Students were overwhelmingly represented among the Nigerian spouses with 70.8% of spouses of Nigerian domestic workers reported as being students.
- Labourers were most represented as employed spouses of domestic workers with 25.6% of spouses reported to be labourers, followed by drivers at 17.1%.
- More than half of the Sudanese domestic workers' spouses worked as labourers (51.6%).

#### Do you have any children?

- More than half the respondents (54.2%) did not have children, with the highest percentage of childless domestic workers being Ethiopian (82.2%), Eritrean (81.4%) and Egyptian (55.7%).
- 45.8% of respondents had at least one child, with the highest totals being Filipina (69.8%), Sudanese (68%) and Indonesian (62.9%).

#### Number of children:

- 84% of domestic workers with children had 1-3 children. Within this group, 36% had 1 child, 30% had 2 children and 19% had 3 children. Of domestic workers with one child, Eritreans, Ethiopians and Nigerians were most represented with 77% of Eritreans with children having one child, 65% of Ethiopians with children having one child and 52% of Nigerians with children having one child.

#### *When cross tabbing: nationality, marital status and children, the results were*

- *7 Filipinas had children and were never married*
- *13 Sudanese were widowed and had children, which were almost all the widowed Sudanese from the survey (12 out of 14). (This is expected because of the war).*
- *10 Egyptians were divorced and had children (highest number of all nationalities)*

#### Age of children:

- Domestic workers with children aged 5-12 years old were most represented in the sample at 43%, followed by workers with children aged 1-4 at 34%.
- Overall, among all nationalities, over 50% of workers with children had children between the ages of 1 and 12 year. Of particular note, all Nigerians with children in the sample had children between the ages of 1 and 12, followed by Eritreans of whom 95% had children in the same age group and Indonesians at 89%.

#### Place of children:

- Overall, less than half (47%) of all domestic workers' children were residing in Egypt. (Note: Egyptian domestic workers were excluded.)
- Notably, most Filipinas in the sample were separated from their children with 88% of the children residing in the Philippines. Likewise, 83% of Nigerian domestic workers' children were residing in Nigeria.
- By contrast, 94% of Sudanese domestic workers' children were residing in Egypt.
- Interestingly, approximately half Indonesian domestic workers' children were equally split between Egypt (49%) and Indonesia (49%) (2% were unaccounted for).

#### Who's looking after your children?

- Overall, in 67% of the sample, domestic workers' children were cared for by either the domestic worker or the domestic worker's spouse. Domestic worker's spouses were the single most represented caregiver at 39% versus the domestic worker herself at 28%. Only in the samples of Sudanese and Egyptian domestic workers were they themselves the main primary caregiver, whereby Sudanese domestic workers were the primary caregiver in 49% of the cases and Egyptian domestic workers - in 42%.
- By contrast, Nigerian domestic workers were the least represented as the primary caregiver with 5% caring for their own children. 67% of Nigerian domestic workers had other family members (i.e. grandmother or other relatives) caring for their children.
- Similarly, Filipinas were the primary caregivers for their own children in only 11% of the sample. Children of Filipina domestic workers were cared for by the domestic workers' spouse in 44% of the cases and by another relative in 44% of the sample.

#### Religion

The following table shows the religion of the sample in percentages (rounded)

	Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddhist	N=
Egypt	14	86			146
Philippines	92	8			116
Indonesia	23	73	2	3	62
Sudan	58	43			125
Ethiopia	92	8			129
Eritrea	93	7			118
Nigeria	33	67			82
Total	60	40			778

#### Level of education

- Overall, in the total sample, the largest percentage of respondents had attended and/or completed secondary school (57%), followed by another 20% who had attended and/or completed university and then 18% who had attended and/or completed primary school.
- Interestingly, in contrast to the widely held belief that domestic workers were unskilled labour with no or limited formal education, only 5% of the sample lacked formal education, while 77% of the sample had at least some form of secondary education or above.
- Nigerians in the sample had attained the highest level of education with 45% of respondents reporting having a university education and another 50% reporting having completed secondary education. The next most highly educated respondents were

Filipinas with 44% who had attended and/or completed university and another 33% who had completed secondary school.

- In contrast, over half (51%) of the Egyptian domestic workers in the sample had only attained a low level of formal education, with 11% having received no formal education at all and another 40% having attended and/or completed only primary education. Similarly, a significant proportion of the Sudanese in the sample had attained only a low level of education with 18% having no formal education – which is the largest percentage of domestic workers in the sample with no formal education.

#### Literacy

- 92% of respondents were able to read well or very well in their native language.
- Conversely, 3% of respondents were not able to read well in their first language and 5% could not read at all.
- These findings correspond to the finding of educational attainment with Sudanese being over-represented in the category of no formal education.
- 31% of Sudanese respondents could not read in their first language<sup>1</sup>, followed by Egyptians 5% of whom could not read in their first language.
- Conversely, all respondents from the Ethiopian and Filipina samples reported the ability to read in their first language very well.
- The pattern of being able to write in their first language largely matched the patterns in the ability to read. The majority of the respondents (85%) reported the ability to write very well. All Ethiopian and Filipina respondents reported being able to write very well.
- Conversely, 36% of Sudanese respondents could not write at all in their first language, followed by 4% of Egyptians who could not write in their first language.

#### Previous work in home country:

- Overall, the largest percentages of respondents (24%) were students, were unemployed (18%) or worked as street vendors (12%) prior to working as domestic workers.
- Strikingly, more than half of Ethiopian (53%) and Eritrean (56%) domestic workers in the sample were either studying or were unemployed prior to arriving to arrival to Cairo.
- 8% of all migrant respondents worked as domestic workers prior to arriving in Cairo with the largest percentage being Filipina (18% of Filipinas had prior experience as a domestic worker) and the lowest percentage being Nigerians (only 1% of the Nigerians had previous experience as a domestic worker).

#### Other countries of work:

- Of those in our sample who had previous work experience abroad, 60% reported working in another Arab country, while 17% reported previously working in an Asian country.
- In particular, 100% of Sudanese respondents with previous work experience abroad reported having worked in another Arab country. Similarly, 90% of Indonesian respondents with previous work experience abroad reported having previously worked in another Arab country.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that illiteracy in a first language does not necessarily equate to illiteracy. While a Southern Sudanese may not be able to read in her tribal dialect, she may be literate in a majority language. Consultation with community language experts like CCIP may be advisable.

- 60% of Filipina respondents with previous work experience abroad had worked in another Arab country, while 26% had worked in another Asian country.
- Ethiopians and Eritreans were the only respondents who had previous work experience in another African country, with 39% of Eritreans with previous work experience abroad and 28% of Ethiopians with previous work experience abroad having experience in another African country.

#### Occupation of father:

- Overall, 29% of respondents reported that their fathers worked as farmers. In particular, 48% of Sudanese, 45% Filipina, 42% of Indonesians and 39% of Egyptians came from a farming family.
- The second most represented group of father's occupation was that of professional (i.e. lawyers, accountants, etc.). 25% of Nigerian domestic workers in the sample had a father who worked as a professional, and 22% of Eritreans had a professional father.
- The third most common occupation of domestic workers' fathers was government work. Overall, 11% of respondents reported that their fathers were government employees. The highest percentage was Eritreans at 20%, with Sudanese at 13% and Ethiopians at 12%.

#### Occupation of mother:

- Overall, 63% of the sample reported that their mother was a housewife, with the highest percentage being Ethiopians (81%) and Egyptians (72%) and the lowest percentage being Nigerians (19%).
- One of the least represented occupations of domestic workers' mothers was that of medical worker. 2% of respondents' mothers were doctors and 1% - nurses. The majority of those with mothers in the medical field were Nigerians (11% of Nigerians reported that their mothers were in the medical field).

## Migrating to and living in Cairo

### 'Why did you come to Egypt?'

- Overall, 48% of respondents reported coming to Cairo to work while 44% came as asylum seekers, which in total represented 92% of all respondents. Others stated reasons which included family reunification (4%), transiting via Egypt on the way to another country (2%) and educational purposes (2%).
- Of those who came for work purposes, 38% were Filipina (which comprises 97% of all Filipina respondents). 84% of Indonesians came for work purposes as did 82% of Nigerians.
- Conversely, only 4% of Sudanese came to Egypt to work.
- Of those who came to Egypt as asylum seekers, 40% were Sudanese (comprising 89% of Sudanese respondents), 32% were Eritreans (comprising 74% of Eritreans respondents) and 27% were Ethiopian (comprising 58% of Ethiopian respondents).

### 'Was it your or your family's decision?'

- Overwhelmingly, respondents reported that the decision to migrate was their own personal decision (75%).
- 87% of Ethiopians, 86% of Eritreans and 75% Filipinas reported that it was their own decision to migrate.
- Overall, 25% of respondents reported that the decision for them to migrate was a family decision. Interestingly, 42% of Nigerians, 32% of Sudanese and 31% of Indonesians reported that the decision to migrate had been made by the family as a whole.

### 'Did you get the job through an agent?'

- Overall, over half (51%) reported getting their job through an agent. Out of the 51%, 39% of respondents had found their job through an agent in Egypt, 11% through an agent in their home country and 1% through an agent in an Arab country.
- 69% of all Eritreans in the sample had found a job through an agent in Egypt followed by 58% of Sudanese, 57% of Indonesians and 51% of Nigerians.
- 60% of Filipina respondents had found their job in Egypt through an agent in the Philippines.
- Egyptians overwhelmingly reported not having used the services of an agent with 99% reporting no agent used, followed by Ethiopians at 60% and Nigerians at 49%.

### 'Did you take a medical test before coming to Egypt?'

- The majority of Filipinas and Indonesians said yes. However, the figure for Indonesians was only 13 (which represented 81% of Indonesians in the sample).
- Of those who had a medical test, 52% reported having had the test done in Egypt. In particular, all Sudanese, all Eritreans, 88% of Indonesians and 67% of Nigerians reported having the test done in Egypt.

### Place of accommodation:

- Overall, 48% of respondents lived with their sponsor/employer. 100% of Nigerians lived with their sponsor, followed by 58% of Filipinas, 54% of Ethiopians and 42% of Egyptians.

- Conversely, 29% of respondents rented a shared flat. 66% of Eritreans, 40% of Ethiopians and 39% of Indonesians lived in a shared, rented flat. Conversely, only 7% of Egyptians and no Nigerians lived in a shared, rented flat.
- 23% of respondents lived with their own families. In particular, 60% of Sudanese, 51% of Egyptians and 11% of Indonesians lived with their families.

#### Legal status in Cairo: Regular

- Overall, 69% of migrant domestic workers in the sample were working in Cairo without the required authorization (illegal). 99% of Eritreans and Nigerians, 98% of Sudanese and 95% of Ethiopians reported working illegally.
- Conversely, only 12% of migrant respondents reported having proper work authorization.
- 57% of Filipinas were working legally and made up 68% of all legally working domestic workers in the sample. 34% of Indonesian domestic workers were working with legal authorization, representing 22% of legally working domestic workers.
- Of those working legally, the majority (81%) had obtained a domestic worker visa, followed by those who married an Egyptian (14%). Of those with a domestic worker visa, the largest percentage corresponds to Filipinas (88%), followed by Ethiopians (83%). Interestingly, of the Sudanese who were working legally, 100% gained their legal status through marriage to an Egyptian; these workers represented 14% of all those workers whose status was linked to marriage to an Egyptian. Filipinas comprised 43% of those whose status was a result of marrying an Egyptian (representing 9% of Filipinas working legally).

#### Legal status in Cairo: Irregular

- Overall, the largest percentage (33%) of those working illegally lost their status as a result of an expired visa. 100% of Filipinas and Indonesians cited this reason as the explanation for their status, followed by 93% of Nigerians.
- Almost all the Sudanese, Ethiopians, Eritreans and Nigerians were working illegally. Those from the Philippines and Indonesia were working illegally mainly as a result of their visa having expired. This included either an expired tourist visa, which they had obtained just to enter the country and started working afterwards, or an expired domestic worker's visa, which was not renewed by their employer because they had run away.
- 66% of respondents working illegally linked their lack of work authorization to the modalities of their refugee status. 27% of all respondents working illegally were blue card holders and report that being a blue card holder did not grant them work authorization. Likewise, 16% respondents working illegally were yellow card holders.<sup>2</sup> 10% of those working illegally reported having closed files at UNHCR, and an additional 9% reported being in the process of appealing a negative decision. 3% of those working illegally were from refugee-producing countries but had not filed a claim with UNHCR.

#### Future plans:

- 19% of all respondents reported wanting to go to a developed country, 18% wanted to return to their home country, 15% wanted to get married and 11% wanted to build a future for their children. 10% reported having no future plans.

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<sup>2</sup> UNHCR in Egypt issues blue cards for those who have full refugee status "protection" and yellow cards for those who have been accepted as asylum-seekers, pending refugee status determination procedures.

- Almost half (48%) of the Filipinas and 39% of the Nigerians said that they wanted to return to their home country; while over 30% of the Ethiopians, Eritreans and Sudanese said that they wanted to resettle to a developed country.
- More than a third (32%) of Egyptian respondents reported that they wanted to get married, which is the highest percentage of respondents in this category.

## Duties and conditions of work as a domestic worker

### Work Situation:

- Overall, just over half (51%) of respondents worked as freelancers. A significant percentage of Sudanese (82%), Eritreans (68%) and Egyptian (58%) worked as freelance workers. Sudanese made up 26% of all freelancers; Egyptians comprised 22% and Eritreans 20%.
- 48% of the overall sample were live-in domestic workers. Strikingly, 100% of Nigerians were live-in; and Nigerians represented 22% of all live-in domestic workers. 58% of Filipina workers were live-in and represent 18% of all live-in domestic workers. 54% of Ethiopians were live-in and represent 19% of all live-in domestic workers. Contrary to popular belief, not only foreign domestic workers live in: 42% of Egyptian domestic workers lived in.
- Runaway and/or unemployed domestic workers comprised 2% of the total sample, the largest percentage being Filipina (79% of the total number of runaways; 10% of the total of Filipina workers). 21% of the total runaway population was Indonesian; and runaways accounted for 5% of the total Indonesian domestic worker sample population.

### Time off:

- Overall, 40% of the sample reported having no regular time off. In particular, more than half of the Sudanese (69%), Indonesians (67%) and Ethiopians (55%) reported having no regular time off.
- One day (24 hours) a week of regular time off was the most common amount of time off, with 44% reporting having such leave. 89% of Nigerians, 59% of Eritreans and 48% of Egyptians reported this leave schedule.
- 10% of the total sample reported 48 hours per week of time off. The remainder of the respondents reported less than 24 hours a week of time off.

### Length of employment:

- Overall, 30% of the respondents had worked for their current employer between 6 months and 1 year at the time of the interview, followed by 25% who had worked for their current employer between one and two years and 17% who had worked for their current employer between two and three years.
- In sum, 71% of respondents had been working for their current employer between 6 months and three years at the time of the interview. Only 10% of respondents had been working for their employer for less than 6 months; and 19% had been working for their current employer for more than 3 years including 2% of the sample who had been working for their employer for more than 8 years.
- 80% of Indonesians had been employed between 6 months and three years, 43% of this group had been employed between 6 months and one year.
- The next most represented groups are Nigerians and Eritreans with 77% of respondents who had been employed by the same employer for between 6 months and three years. Of the Nigerians, 58% had been employed by the same employer between 6 months and 2 years. Of the Eritreans, 64% had worked for the same employer between 6 months and 2 years.
- 75% of Ethiopians had worked for their current employer between 6 months and three years. 47% of this sample has been with the same employer between 6 months and two years.

- 70% of Egyptians have worked for their current employer between 6 months and three years, of whom 57% had been with the same employer between 6 months and two years.
- 68% of Sudanese had worked for their current employer from between 6 months and three years, 55% of whom had been with the same employer between 6 months and two years.
- 58% Filipinas had worked for their current employer between 6 months and three years.

#### Sleeping place:

- Overall, just over half of respondents reported sleeping in their own room, followed by 22% who reported sleeping on the floor of one of the rooms of the apartment, 12% reported sleeping in the living room, 9% in the kitchen and 4% in the children's room. Other sleeping places included the balcony (1%), a portable bed (1%) and the storage room (1%).
- 75% of Filipinas had their own room, which comprised 26% of all respondents reporting having their own room; followed by 54% of Egyptians, which comprised 18% of all respondents with their own room; and 51% of Nigerians, which comprised 23% of all respondents with their own room.
- Almost half (45%) of those who reported sleeping on the floor are Ethiopians, which comprised 50% of the sample of Ethiopian domestic workers; followed by Eritreans who formed 18% of those who slept on the floor, which comprised 38% of all Eritrean workers interviewed.
- 55% of respondents who reported sleeping in the living room were Nigerians comprising 29% of all Nigerian respondents; followed by 14% of Indonesians comprising 22% of all Indonesians; and 12% of Ethiopians comprising 7% of all Ethiopian respondents.
- Almost half (46%) of those who reported sleeping in the kitchen were Egyptians comprising 25% of all Egyptian respondents; followed by Ethiopians at 12% comprising 6% of all Ethiopian respondents.

#### Average working hours:

- Overall, the highest percentage of respondents reported working between 13 and 15 hours a day (33%), followed by those who worked 16 to 18 hours (23%) and those who worked between 10 and 12 hours (19%).
- Differences in the most common number of hours according to nationality worked were noticeable. Nigerians tended to work between 7 and 9 hours with the most common number of hours being at 7 hours (20% of Nigerians reported working a daily average of 7 hours). However, 30% of Nigerian respondents reported 'unlimited' working hours per day, which entailed being on-call 24 hours per day.
- The highest percentage of Egyptian respondents reported working between 13 and 15 hours with the most common number of hours worked being 13 hours (reported by 20% of Egyptian respondents).
- The most common number of hours worked reported by Filipina respondents was 14 hours per day as reported by 15% of Filipina respondents.
- Similarly, the most common number of working hours reported by Indonesian respondents was 14 hours per day, as reported by 37% of Indonesian respondents.
- The most common number of working hours reported by Sudanese respondents was 13 hours per day as reported by 22% of Sudanese respondents.

- The most common number of working hours reported by Ethiopian respondents was 16 hours per day as reported by 19% of Ethiopian respondents.
- The most common number of working hours reported by Eritrean respondents was 18 hours per day as reported by 23% of Eritrean respondents.
- The distribution of working hours reported for the entire sample is as follows:
  - 6 or fewer hours of daily work were reported by 4% of respondents.
  - 7 – 9 hours of work per day were reported by 9% of respondents.
  - 10 – 12 hours of work per day were reported by 19% of respondents.
  - 13 – 15 hours of work per day were reported by 33% of respondents.
  - 16 – 18 hours of work per day were reported by 23% of respondents.
  - 19 – 21 hours of work per day were reported by 8% of respondents.
  - Unlimited hours of work per day were reported by 5% of respondents.

Excluding runaway/unemployed workers from the sample, according to their living status the following table highlights unusually similar working hours for both those who live at their workplace (live-in) and those who are freelance.

#### HOURS OF WORK

PER DAY	Live-in %	Freelance %	Total %	
<8	12	2	7	
8	5	2	3	
9-10	6	6	6	
11-12	9	20	15	82% WORK 11 OR MORE
13-14	19	27	23	67% WORK 13 OR MORE
15-16	20	19	19	44% WORK 15 OR MORE
17-18	14	13	13	25% WORK 17 OR MORE
19-20	6	9	7	
Unlimited	9	2	5	
N=	(372)	(395)	(767)	

#### Breaks:

- Almost half (48%) of respondents reported not having any allocated breaks during their working hours.
- 23% of the respondents reported one break per day; 15% reported two breaks per day; 11% reported being able to take a break whenever they needed one, and 3% reported taking a break whenever the employing family left the house.
- Sudanese were the most represented nationality (86%) among those reporting no breaks, followed by Indonesians (50%) and Eritreans (48%).
- Eritreans comprised the highest percentage (24%) of those who reported having one break per day, comprising 37% of the Eritrean sample, followed by Ethiopians (23%) who made up 32% of the Ethiopian sample.
- Half (51%) of those who were able to take a break when needed were Nigerians, comprising 51% of the Nigerian sample, followed by Filipinas who corresponded to 34% of those who could take a break when needed, comprising 24% of the Filipina sample.
- Almost half (46%) of those who took two breaks a day were Egyptian, comprising 36% of the Egyptian sample, followed by Indonesians who formed 11% of those taking two breaks a day, comprising 21% of the Indonesian sample.

'Do you clean?'

- Most respondents were involved in cleaning. Those who reported that they did not clean were more likely to be taking care of children. Those who reported exclusively looking after children did, however, cook and handle the laundry.

'Do you iron?'

- Most respondents reported that they did not perform any ironing, particularly and inexplicably, Sudanese.
- A higher proportion of Ethiopians (30%), however, reported that they ironed.

'Do you provide personal care to someone?'

- Overall, 75% of all respondents reported providing personal care to someone in the employing family. Out of this group, 71% reported caring either for a baby (44%) or a child (38%). Also out of the 75%, 1% of respondents reported caring for an elderly person and 2% reported caring for animals.
- Eritreans reported caring for babies (44%) and children (49%) for a combined total of 93%.
- Indonesians reported caring for babies (27%) and children (58%) for a combined total of 85%.
- Ethiopians reported caring for babies (36%) and children (46%) for a combined total of 82%.
- Filipinas reported caring for babies (39%) and children (37%) for a combined total of 76%.
- Nigerians reported caring for babies (34%) and children (38%) for a combined total of 72%.
- Egyptians reported caring for babies (26%) and children (36%) for a combined total of 62%.
- Sudanese reported caring for babies (30%) and children (11%) for a combined total of 41%.
- 44% of those caring for the elderly were Egyptians, comprising 3% of Egyptian respondents; followed by Indonesians at 22% of those caring for elderly, comprising 3% of Indonesian respondents; and Eritreans at 22%, comprising 2% of Eritrean respondents.
- Interestingly, 95% of Eritrean respondents reported caring for either the young or the old.

Food duties:

- The majority of respondents (77%) reported being involved in food preparation activities. Of note, 95% of Indonesian respondents reported being engaged in food preparation, as did 92% of Sudanese respondents and 87% of Egyptian respondents.
- 61% of all respondents reported cooking at least sometimes. 78% of all respondents reported having food serving duties. Over 50% of respondents in each nationality sample reported being responsible for serving food. Interestingly 97% of Indonesians were responsible for serving food.
- The majority of respondents (76%) reported that they generally helped the 'madam' (female employer/head of household – *sitt el beit*) with food preparation. In addition, 24% reported having the specific task of buying the vegetables.

## **Employer characteristics, relations with and (ill) treatment by employer**

### Religion of the employer:

- Overall, 67% of employers of the sample population were Muslim followed by 33% Christians. 87% of Indonesians reported working for a Muslim family followed by 78% of Eritreans, 76% of Ethiopians, 67% of Egyptians, 55% of Nigerians, 54% of Sudanese and 54% of Filipinas.
- Correspondingly, 46% of Sudanese reported working for a Christian family followed by 45% of Nigerians, 45% of Filipinas, 33% of Egyptians and 22% of Ethiopians and Eritreans.

### Occupation of the male employer:

- Overall, almost half (48%) the sample across all nationalities said that their male employer was a businessman, followed by doctors (12%) and engineers (12%). Other professions represented were managers, government employees, lawyers, professors, teachers and celebrities.
- 74% of Eritreans reported working for a businessman, followed by 69% of Ethiopians and 45% of Egyptians.
- 18% of Indonesians reported working for a doctor, followed by 17% of Sudanese and 12% of Ethiopians and Egyptian.
- 28% of Sudanese reported working for an engineer, followed by 22% of Filipinas and 14% of Nigerians.

### Occupation of female employer:

- Overall, over half (66%) of all female employers of respondents across all nationalities were housewives, followed by businesswomen (8%), doctors (8%) and teachers (4%). Other professions represented were engineers, government employees, professors, artists/celebrities and diplomats.
- 71% of all Nigerian respondents reported working for a housewife followed by 68% of Sudanese, 67% of Ethiopians, 66% of Eritreans, 62% of Egyptians and 62% of Filipinas.
- 15% of Filipinas worked for businesswomen, as did 11% of Ethiopians and 8% of Egyptians.
- 13% of Indonesians worked for a female doctor, followed by 10% of Egyptians

### Conflict:

- Overall, work times and arrangements were the primary reasons cited for conflict with 19% of all respondents reporting this as the main reason for conflict. Other reasons reported were salary issues (17%) and amount or kind of work (14%).
- One fourth (26%) of Egyptians reported salary issues as the main reason for conflict.
- More than a quarter (31%) of Ethiopians reported that work times and arrangements were a key reason for conflict.

### Reason for wanting to leave one's employer:

- Overall, the majority of respondents (55%) reported that they did not want to leave their employers. Of these, the highest percentage was Nigerians. 84% of Nigerians reported not wanting to leave their employers, followed by Indonesians (68% of Indonesians reported not wanting to leave their employers). Similarly, 59% of Ethiopians reported not wanting to leave their employers.

- Of those who reported wanting to leave their employer, Sudanese were highly represented. 59% of Sudanese wanted to leave their employers, followed by 50% of Eritreans and Egyptians.
- The most frequently cited reason for wanting to leave an employer was the amount and type of work required to do. 27% of respondents cited this reason, followed by 26% who cited bad treatment and 20% cited financial reasons.
- Other reasons cited were sexual harassment, lack of time off, being disliked by employer and lack of profession fulfilment.
- Of those who cited the main reasons for wanting to leave as being the type and amount of work, 28% were Egyptian (comprising 46% of all Egyptian respondents); 23% were Sudanese (comprising 29% of all Sudanese respondents) and 16% were Eritrean (comprising 25% of Eritreans).
- 35% of Indonesians, 31% of Eritreans, 29% of Ethiopians, 28% of Filipinas, 23% of Sudanese and 21% of Egyptian all cited bad treatment as the reason they wanted to leave their employer.
- 33% of Nigerians, 32% of Egyptians and 22% of Sudanese cited the main reason for wanting to leave their employer was financial.

#### Most favoured person:

- Over half of the Sudanese said that they did not favour any particular member of the household. They also reported higher proportions of the various categories of abuse. Those Sudanese who did favour a particular person did so because of the kindness of their employers.
- Almost all Nigerian respondents either favoured the husband or the wife mainly because their salaries were paid on time.
- Egyptians and Filipinas were most likely to favour children.

#### Yelling:

- The majority of respondents (59%) reported that their employers had yelled at them. 89% of Indonesians, 82% of Sudanese, 71% of Egyptians and 54% Filipina respondents reported that their employers had yelled at them.
- Overall, more than half (58%) of the respondents who reported being yelled at said that the yelling occurred sometimes; 32% reported that the yelling occurred frequently and 10% reported being yelled at once or twice.
- The Sudanese comprise the largest group (29%) of respondents who experience frequent yelling, comprising 41% of the Sudanese sample. Egyptians comprised 18% of the group who experienced frequent yelling; 41% of the Egyptian sample reported experience frequent yelling. Filipina comprised 18% of the group who experienced frequent yelling, and 43% of the Filipina sample.
- Egyptians comprised the largest percentage (29%) of respondents who reported being yelled at 'sometimes', with 71% of the Egyptian sample reported being yelled at sometimes. Sudanese comprised 21% of the group and 55% of the Sudanese sample reported being yelled at sometimes. By comparison, 14% of those yelled at sometimes were Indonesians. 71% of the Indonesian sample reported such yelling.
- 47% of Nigerians reported being yelled at 1-2 times; 15% of Eritrean respondents reported such yelling as did 8% of Ethiopian respondents.
- The majority of the respondents (73%) reported that the person who yelled at them was the female employer. 19% were yelled at by the male employer, 4% were yelled at by a child of the employer and 3% reported being yelled at by the whole family.

- 85% of Indonesian respondents who reported being yelled at were yelled at by the female employer, followed by 79% of Sudanese and Eritreans, 70% of the Egyptians, 69% of the Filipinas, 65% of Ethiopians and 56% of Nigerians.
- Of the Nigerians who experienced yelling, 42% were yelled at by the male employer, followed by 23% of Ethiopians, 24% of Filipinas, 19% of Egyptians and only 8% Indonesians.
- The Asian (6% of Filipinas and Indonesians) and Egyptian (6%) domestic workers experienced more yelling from children than the African (4% for Sudanese and Eritreans and 3% of Ethiopians) domestic workers (with Nigerians reporting no yelling at all from children).
- The most reported reason for having been yelled at was a work-related mistake (29%), followed by no particular reason (24%) and a disagreement over work issues (20%). Other cited reasons included being late for work, asking for rest, something related to the worker's personal life, language barrier, conflict with husband, children's behaviour, asking for money, asking for food and false accusations.
- 47% of Egyptian respondents who reported being yelled at cited the primary reason as being a work-related mistake; this was also the case for 45% of Sudanese respondents and 31% of Nigerian respondents.
- 41% of Filipina respondents who reported being yelled at reported that there was no particular reason for the yelling. 34% of Ethiopians also reported that there was no particular reason for the yelling, as did 29% of Eritreans and 25% of Sudanese.
- 33% of Indonesians who reported being yelled at reported that the reason was a disagreement over work issues, as did 20% of Nigerian respondents, 19% of Egyptian workers and 18% of Eritrean respondents.

#### Name calling:

- Though at least a few respondents from all nationalities reported name-calling, 70% of respondents reported no experience of name-calling. Of the 30% who had experienced name-calling, Sudanese comprised the largest percentage at 21% (38% of Sudanese report being called names), Egyptians comprised 19% of those called names (30% of Egyptian respondents reported being called names), Indonesians comprised 15% (55% of Indonesians reported being called names) and Filipinas comprised 15% (30% of Filipina respondents report being called names).
- The lowest percentages related to Ethiopians, Nigerians and Eritreans.
- More than half (54%) of those who had been called names reported that it occurred 'sometimes,' while 37% reported that it occurred 'frequently,' and 10% reported having been called names only once or twice.
- 58% of Eritreans reported experiencing name-calling 'frequently,' followed by 52% of Filipinas, 36% of Sudanese, 35% of Indonesians and 33% of Egyptians. No Nigerians reported frequent name-calling, but 63% reported being called names sometimes and 34% once or twice.
- Over half (51%) of respondents who experienced name-calling reported that the female employer was the one who had called them names. The second most reported category was that of the entire family (17%), followed by the male employer (14%) and the children (10%).
- 74% of Indonesians reported being called names by the female employer, followed by 63% of Nigerians and 56% of Egyptians.
- 44% of Eritreans reported being called names by the entire family, as did 36% of Filipinas and 21% of Ethiopians.

- 31% of Nigerians reported being called names by a male employer, as did 25% of Ethiopian respondents and 21% of the Egyptian respondents.
- More than half (62%) of respondents who reported being called names stated that there was no reason for the name-calling, while 19% reported that the reason was a disagreement over work issues and another 6% cited the reason as them having made a work-related mistake. Other cited reasons included breaking something, being late for work, suspected theft and racism.

'Have your employers physically hit\*<sup>3</sup> you?'

No	73%	(N = 570)
Yes	27%	(N = 211)
Once or Twice		25%
Sometimes		61%
Frequently		14%

'Who hits you?'

Female employer	70%
Male Employer	16%
Both employers	3%
Children of Employers	9%
Other Family	2%

Slapping was the most commonly reported form of hitting. One Egyptian reported having her ear pulled. Most respondents reported that disagreements over work issues were the main reasons for being physically abused. They reported that the physical abuse was mostly related to disciplining and punishment from dissatisfaction from their work. About 20% of Indonesians reported "suspected stealing" as the reason for being hit.

Importantly, very few respondents reported physical abuse within the employing family, either between the married couple or with their children.

'Have you been sexually harassed?' <sup>4</sup>

No	90%	(706)
Yes	10%	(75) (Indonesians, 27%, Sudanese 15%)
Know Others?	18%	
Once or twice		48%
Sometimes		45%
Frequently		7%

'Who sexually harassed you?'

Male employer	61%
Employer's son	19%
Relative of employer	20%

Types of sexual harassment:

Demanding sex

<sup>3</sup> Slapping, hitting with an object, pushing, punching, kicking, hitting with a shoe, pulling ears and burning with a cigarette. Some were spat on.

<sup>4</sup> Likely to be underreported.

Verbal harassment (asking, commenting)  
Inappropriate touching  
Exposing genitals  
Showing pornographic films, materials  
Exposing genitals  
Attempted rape (including gang-rape)  
Rape (including gang-rape)

Some respondents lost their jobs when they refused sexual favours. Those harassed were threatened with losing their jobs, physical violence, being sent home or being sent to prison, to maintain their silence. One interviewee said: "The husband comes to my room every night for sex. I can't say no because he gives me money and helps me with many things."

Withholding wages:

- Sudanese and Indonesians reported the highest rates of having their wages withheld.
- All the nationalities said that there was no reason for withholding wages, except the Egyptians and Filipinas many of whom reported that their employer sometimes did not have the money to pay them.
- With the Egyptians and the Sudanese the amount withheld was under \$100.
- 53% of the Filipinas who had their wages withheld said that the amount withheld was over \$250.

'Were you allowed outside the house alone?'

- Over 60% of Eritreans and Sudanese reported that they were not permitted to leave their employer's house. Likewise, 50% of Indonesians and Ethiopians reported the same.
- Conversely, only 2% of Nigerian respondents reported that they were not permitted to leave the house.
- When cross-tabbed with work situation, the results were unexpected. More freelancers were not allowed to go out alone compared to live-in workers.

'Accompanied by whom?'

- The majority of respondents who were not permitted to leave the home alone were accompanied by their employer's driver (43%).
- The exceptions in the sample were the Nigerians and Sudanese respondents. Nigerians reported freedom of movement. In contrast, most Sudanese who were live-in domestic workers said that they were not allowed to go out at all. However, most Sudanese were freelancers and therefore left their place of employment to go home in the evening alone.

## Income and remitting

'How much were you paid?'

- 14% of all respondents reported earning less than \$100 per month.
- 20% reported earning \$100-150 per month.
- 19% reported earning \$151-200 per month
- 14% reported earning \$201-250 per month
- 9% reported earning \$251-300 per month
- 2% reported earning \$301-350 per month
- 2% reported earning \$351-400 per month
- 6% reported earning over \$450 per month
- The Sudanese in the sample were over-represented in the lowest earning category; 43% earned less than \$100, followed by 31% of Egyptians in the same category.
- Egyptians comprised the most represented group (44%) earning between \$100 and \$150 per month, followed by 39% of Indonesians and 36% of Sudanese in the same category.
- Overall, 75% of all Egyptian respondents earned less than \$150 per month. Likewise, 79% of Sudanese earned less than \$150 per month.
- Ethiopians were among the highest income earners with 35% of the sample earning more than \$300 per month, followed by Filipinas with 25% earning more than \$300 per month. Eritreans (11%) and Nigerians (12%) also earned more than \$300 per month as were limited percentages of Indonesians (3%) and Sudanese (2%). Strikingly, no Egyptian reported income exceeding \$300.
- Filipinas (23%) and Indonesians (31%) were the only groups represented in the highest income category of more than \$450 per month.

'Have you received any salary increase since you started your job?'

- Overall, the majority (84%) of respondents reported no salary increase since they had begun working for their current employer.
- Of those who reported a salary increase, 28% were Filipina (comprising 31% of Filipina respondents), 25% were Egyptian (comprising 22% of Egyptian respondents) and 21% were Ethiopian (comprising 21% of Ethiopian respondents).

'Do you send any money back home?'

- Overall, more than half (58%) of the respondents did not send any money back home.
- Of those who did send money home, Filipinas comprised the largest proportion at 31% (comprising 86% of the Filipina sample); followed by Ethiopians at 22% (comprising 56% of the Ethiopian sample); and Nigerians at 16% (comprising 61% of the Nigerian sample).
- Notably, 11% of those who did send money home were Egyptian (comprising 27% of the Egyptian sample).
- Most Filipinas sent money back home. This could be explained by the fact that their families and children were back home and that they had only come as migrant workers who expected to eventually return to the Philippines. When nationality was cross-tabbed with "where were your children?" the majority of the Filipinas turned out to have their children in the Philippines.

'How much money do you send?'

- Over half (63%) of the respondents who did send money home reported sending up to \$100 per month, followed by 24% who sent between \$100 and \$200 and 14% who sent home more than \$200 per month.
- 97% of Egyptians who sent money home reported sending up to \$100, followed by 99% of Ethiopians who reported sending up to \$100. Similarly, 97% of Eritreans who sent money home reported sending up to \$100. 50% of Sudanese who sent money reported sending up to \$100, and another 25% sent between \$150 and \$200; the remaining 25% reported sending more than \$250.
- 22% of Filipina workers who sent money reported sending up to \$100, 39% of Filipinas reported sending between \$100 and \$200, and 40% reported sending more than \$200.
- 57% of Indonesians who sent money reported sending up to \$100, 35% reported sending between \$100 and \$200, and 9% reported sending more than \$200.

#### 'To whom do you send money?'

- Overall, the most likely to receive money from domestic workers in Cairo were parents (35% sent to mothers and 3% to fathers). 18% of respondents reported sending money to family; 17% sent specifically to their children; and 13% sent specifically to their spouse.
- More than half of Ethiopians (66% - 63% sent to their mothers while only 3% sent to their fathers) sent money to their parents.
- Half (50%) of Sudanese reported sending money to their parents (exclusively to their mothers) and their children (50%) exclusively.
- Of those who sent money to their children, Filipinas were most represented (63% of those who sent to their children), comprising 37% of Filipina respondents.
- Indonesians sent only to their mothers (48%), their family (38%) or children (14%).
- Interestingly, with the exception of Nigerians and Egyptians, the majority of respondents sent money to their mothers or children.
- Egyptians sent to their mothers (27%) or to their whole families (29%).
- Nigerians reported sending money to a spouse (31%), to family in general (16%) and to their mothers (14%).

#### 'How do you send money?'

- The largest percentage of those who did send money, sent the money with other people (38%), followed by Western Union (36%) and bank transfer (18%).
- Of particular note, 97% of Egyptians who sent money sent it with people, as did 84% of Ethiopians and 67% of Sudanese.
- By contrast, 66% of Filipina and 96% of Nigerians reported using Western Union.

## Social networks and contacts with 'home'

'Do you have any friends or relatives in Egypt?'

- Respondents from all migrant nationalities reported having friends or relatives living in Egypt. 29% of the total sample of migrant domestic workers had friends living in Egypt, while 18% had relatives. In total, almost half (47%) the migrant domestic worker respondents had either friends or relatives residing in Egypt. Exactly half of the Nigerian respondents reported having a friend living in Egypt, as did 49% of Ethiopians.
- Conversely, only 7% of Filipina respondents – the lowest share - reported having friends residing in Egypt, followed by Sudanese of whom only 13% reported having friends living in Egypt.
- Sudanese respondents, however, had the highest percentage of respondents reporting having relatives residing in Egypt at 35%, followed by Nigerians at 22%.
- Conversely, only 9% of Indonesian respondents reported having relatives in Egypt, reflecting the lowest percentage to have relatives in Egypt.
- Overall, Nigerians were the most likely to be part of a social network with 72% of respondents reporting having either friends or relatives in Egypt. Conversely, Filipina respondents were most likely to be isolated with 76% reporting not having any friends or relatives in Egypt.

'Have you ever gone home since you came to Egypt?'

- Overall, the majority of respondents (84%) reported that they had not returned home since arriving in Egypt.
- Of the respondents, Filipinas were most likely to have gone home at 48%, followed by Indonesians (44%) and Nigerians (15%).
- Of those who had not returned home, Sudanese and Eritreans were the most likely not to have returned (98%), followed by Ethiopians at 97%.
- In sum, unlike African migrant workers from neighbouring countries, Asian migrant domestic workers appeared more likely to have had the opportunity and/or resources to return home for a visit.
- Overall, 74% of respondents who had stated having returned home reported having visited their country of origin only one or two times since arriving to Egypt, while 22% reported visiting irregularly and 4% reported having visited home 3 or more times.
- Interestingly, of the Sudanese who reported having returned home since arriving, 100% reported having visited only once as compared to 33% of Nigerians who had returned twice and 8% of Indonesians who had returned 3 times.

'How often do you get in touch with your family?'

- Overall, 89% reported having some contact with their family in the country of origin. (Note: This sample excludes Egyptians.)
- Of those who reported having no contact with their family (11%), Sudanese were the most represented with 34% of Sudanese respondents reporting having no contact with their family, followed by 16% of Indonesians and 11% of Filipina respondents.
- Of those who reported having contact with their family, 20% reported monthly contact followed by 18% reporting irregular contact as compared to 16% reporting weekly contact, 16% reporting bi-weekly and 2% reporting contact every 3 weeks.
- Filipina respondents comprised the highest percentage of those reporting weekly contact at 46%, as compared to 2% of Nigerians.

- 96.3% of the Nigerians said that they had contact “all the time.” “All the time” did not necessarily mean that they call their families everyday, but it means that they contacted them often and that they had no problems in getting in touch. For example, there was no set time for contacting their families every week, but when they wanted or needed something, it was relatively easy to get in touch with them. This is also explained two questions later, when we asked “How do you contact your family?” as almost all of them said “by phone,” or “by phone and email” which indicates they had access to the necessary means of communication.
- More than half of Ethiopians (63%) reported having either bi-weekly or monthly contact with their families. Similarly, 62% of Eritreans reported either bi-weekly or monthly contact. 59% of Indonesians reported the same pattern of contact.
- 77% of Sudanese reported having either no contact or irregular contact with family in Sudan, followed by Eritreans of whom 25% had no or only irregular contact.

‘Whom do you contact?’

- Overall, 41% of all respondents who contacted home reported contacting their whole family rather than specifying one particular family member, followed by 15% of respondents reporting specifically contacting their parents, 5% contacting their children, 4% contacting their extended family and 2% reporting contacting a spouse.

‘How do you contact your families?’

- Overall, 75% of respondents who kept in touch with family at home reported that the telephone was the primary means of contact, followed by 19% reporting using a combination of phone and email, 5% using only email and 1% writing letters.
- Of those who contacted home, 95% of Filipina respondents, 87% of Sudanese and 84% of Ethiopians used the telephone to contact their families.
- 61% of Nigerians, 29% of Eritreans and 14% of Ethiopians used a combination of phone and email.

Email-only contact was used by 29% of Indonesians who contacted home.

## Life outside of work: leisure, food and health

### Free time:

- Of all respondents, the largest percentage (30%) spent their free time resting, followed by 21% who reported spending their free time with family, 12% who visited with friends, 12% who rested while participating in religious activities, 10% who participated in religious activities, 8% who reported resting while meeting with friends, 2% who watched television and 1% who read.
- 67% of Indonesian respondents reported spending their free time resting, as did 48% of Ethiopians and 37% of Nigerians.
- 73% of Egyptian respondents reported spending their free time with family. 29% of Sudanese reported spending their free time with family, followed by 8% of Filipina respondents.
- 27% of Filipina respondents reported spending their free time meeting with friends, followed by 21% of the Indonesian respondents.
- Of the African domestic workers, 18% of the Sudanese respondents reported meeting with friends as their usual free time activity, followed by 9% of Ethiopian and Nigerian respondents.
- Only 9% of Egyptian respondents reported spending their free time meeting with friends.
- 11% of Eritreans reported spending their free time participating in religious activities. An additional 12% of Eritreans reported spending their free time involved in religious activities. In comparison, 20% of Filipina respondents spent their free time involved in religious activities while only 1% of Nigerians spent their free time involved in religious activities. Instead, Nigerian respondents report spending their free time meeting with friends and resting (53%).

### Exercise:

- Overall, 94% of all respondents reported no exercise outside the house. The most notable exception is that 24% of Filipinas reported that they did exercise outside the house with 40% of these Filipina respondents reporting that they walked and another 24% reported playing football.

### Boyfriend:

- Three-quarters (75%) of never-married respondents reported that they did not have a boyfriend.
- Of those who had a boyfriend, Ethiopians were the most represented with 38% reporting having a boyfriend, followed by Egyptians at 31% and Eritreans at 29%.
- 97% of Eritreans dated either Ethiopians (26%) or Eritreans (69%). It should be noted that these statistics represented fairly small numbers of people: 9 Eritreans were dating Ethiopians, and 22 Eritreans were dating Eritreans.
- Likewise, 88% of Ethiopians with a boyfriend were dating an Ethiopian (53% = 26 people) or Eritreans (35% = 17 people).

### 'What do you eat?'

- The largest proportion (35%) of respondents reported eating 'everything.'
- Approximately one quarter (26%) of the respondents reported that they ate whatever their employer gave them and/or what was given to them from the employer's daily menu and/or what was left over from the employer's meals.

- With regard to the composition of the diet, only 9% of respondents reported having meat in their diet.
- Importantly, 4% of respondents reported that they were not given any food.
- 62% of the total sample of respondents reported that they were not able to eat whatever they wanted. However, 67% of Nigerian respondents reported being able to eat whatever they wanted, followed by 62% of Filipinas and 54% of Ethiopians.
- The majority of respondents (84%) reported that they did not choose what was given to them. This was reflected across nationality lines with more than half of each nationality reporting the inability to choose the food that they were given.

#### Frequency of meals:

- The largest percentage of respondents (33%) reported eating two meals per day, followed by 21% reporting having three meals per day and 11% of respondents reporting one meal per day. Of note, 22% of Sudanese respondents reported having only one meal per day (the highest percentage of those receiving only one meal per day) and only 2% report receiving three meals per day (the lowest percentage of those receiving three meals per day).
- Regarding the timing of meals, 10% of respondents reported having no set time while 6% reported eating after the employer had eaten, 4% reported eating while the family ate and 5% reported eating after they had finished work.

#### 'How do you regard your health?'

- 98% of all respondents reported that their health was either fair (44%) or very good (54%).
- Of those who reported poor health, the largest percentage were Eritreans at 32% (comprising 5% of all Eritreans) and Egyptians at 32% (comprising 4% of the Egyptian respondents).

#### Reason for poor health:

- The most cited reason for poor health among respondents who reported being in poor health was 'getting sick a lot' (32%).
- The next reason cited was insufficient diet (23% - 'I don't eat well.'). An additional 23% of respondents reported that they were in poor health as a result of work-related fatigue.

#### 'Have you ever been ill in Egypt?'

- 78% of all respondents reported that they had never been ill in Egypt.
- However, 32% of Filipinas reported that they had been ill, followed by 31% of Ethiopians and 24% of Eritreans.

#### Illness:

- The most represented type of illness reported by respondents was the need for a minor operation (20%), followed by an infection (14%), chest pain (12%) and sickness caused by 'overworking' (12%).
- Of those respondents who had received treatment for their illness, 69% reported being satisfied by the treatment they had received.
- 58% of Eritreans, however, were not satisfied by the treatment they had received. Similarly, 46% of Ethiopians were dissatisfied by the treatment they had received.

- More than half the respondents (52%) who had experienced illness reported not being comfortable discussing their illness with their employer. The highest percentage in this group was made up of Egyptian respondents (67%).
- The most cited reason for discomfort in speaking with employers about illness was that the employers did not care (63%). Interestingly, 78% of Eritreans cited this reason.
- Of those feeling comfortable in speaking with their employers about illness, the most common reason cited was that the employer was a kind person (36%).

#### Depression:

- 81% of all respondents reported feeling depressed. 94% of Sudanese reported feeling depressed or sad, followed by 92% of all Eritreans, 90% of Ethiopians, 89% of Indonesians, 85% of Filipinas and 85% of Egyptians.
- Conversely, 88% of Nigerians reported not feeling sad or depressed.
- The most cited reason for feeling sad or depressed was overworking (28%).
- 20% of Egyptian respondents reported that the primary reason for them feeling depressed or sad was abuse, which was the highest share across all nationalities.