

# Improving Children's Lives through Research

*Child Research and Practice Forum*

Ministry of Women Children and Youth



Summaries from Presentations at the Monthly Seminar Series  
of the *Child Research and Practice Forum* in 2017

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Foreword by H.E. Filsan Abdullahi,  
Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth

Edited by Alula Pankhurst

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Summaries by: Clare Gorman

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The CRPF is most grateful for the support of UNICEF and DFID Ethiopia that have covered the coordination costs for this year's activities. The CRPF owes special gratitude to UNICEF for providing support to cover the refreshments for the monthly meetings.

Finally, CRPF extends its appreciation to Young Lives that enabled the production of the summaries of presentations included in this booklet.

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Federal Ministry of Women, Children and Youth

Federal Supreme Court, Child Justice Project

Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence

Interagency Group on Children's Reintegration

International Food Policy Research Institute,

Ethiopia Strategy Support Programme

Retrak

UNICEF Ethiopia

Young Lives

# Foreword

***H.E. Filsan Abdullahi***

***Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth***

The Child Research and Practice Forum has been hosted by our Ministry for the past ten years since 2010. The CRPF is a useful network for discussion and dialogue concerning children and youth in Ethiopia to promote improvements in policy and practice.

The CRPF provides an important regular opportunity for research findings on children's issues to be presented at our Ministry to stimulate discussion between our experts, those of other ministries, development partner and non-government organisations about issues facing young people in our country. The discussion can contribute to designing better policies and programmes to improve the lives of children and youth.

Our Ministry has presented our policies and plans at the CRPF on several occasions. Last month we presented our 10 Year Development Plan and the new initiatives we are embarking on. This collection includes a summary of the presentation on the draft National Children's Policy. There have also been presentations of research promoted by our development partners. In this collection research sponsored by UNICEF on the nutrition sector is featured.

This collection of summaries from 2017 follows on from the earlier summaries available on the Young Lives website ([www.younglives-ethiopia.org](http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org)) and will be followed soon by those for 2018 and 2019. This collection addresses a wide range of issues of current concern to children and youth in Ethiopia,

including overall national policies and sectoral guidelines, especially on best practices by the Child Justice Project of the Federal Supreme Court.

The topics covered include multi-dimensional poverty, nutrition, social protection, psychosocial wellbeing, migration, reintegration of children and domestic work.

The presentations have been made by international longitudinal research projects, notably by Young Lives, that was involved in initiating the CRPF and has provided organizational support for the Forum over the past ten years, GAGE, which provided support to the CRPF last year and the Your World Research Project on marginalised youth.

There have also been presentations by Ethiopian research organisations, particularly the Ethiopian Development Research Institute and researchers from Addis Ababa University, as well as by international research institutions, particularly the International Food Policy Research Institute. Other presentations are by international interagency groups, in this case the Interagency group on children's rehabilitation and NGOs notably RETRAK, working on rehabilitating street children and domestic child workers.

Our Ministry would like to thank UNICEF and DFID that have funded the running costs of the CRPF and the production of this collection and two forthcoming annual summaries, and Young Lives that has commissioned the production of the summaries and produced this edited collection.

We look forward to the other collections and further presentations and newsletters from the CRPF.

# Preface

***Vincenzo Vinci, UNICEF***

***Chief of Social Policy and Evidence for Social Inclusion a.i.***

The CRPF provides an important venue and vehicle to discuss key issues facing children and youth in Ethiopia. The regular meetings offer an opportunity to present research findings and evidence from studies that can be useful to discuss policy and practice and can help review programmes to ensure they are in the best interest of children.

The Forum brings together government experts, development partners, international and national organisations to debate evidence brought to the table by researchers and discuss the implications for policy and programming.

UNICEF has played a key role in promoting the Child Research and Practice Forum since it was established ten years ago in 2010, including supporting the monthly presentations at the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, annual conferences and the production of newsletters and annual summaries.

The collection consists of 11 presentations on a wide range of topics relevant to children and youth in Ethiopia. The Ministry of Women, Children and Youth presented the National Children's Policy and the Federal Supreme Court's Child Justice Project Office best practices in promoting child justice.

Some evidence presented in this booklet includes UNICEF's research, notably a situation analysis on the nutrition sector in Ethiopia and the implications for children. UNICEF also supported an analysis conducted by Young Lives on multidimensional poverty using data from Young Lives' survey.

Another study focusing on the rising cost of nutritious foods in Ethiopia was presented by the International Food Policy Research Institute.

This year's edition has a strong focus on migration issues with three presentations summarised. One of these discusses guidelines proposed by the Interagency Group on Children's Reintegration; a second by researchers from Addis Ababa University deals with cross-border migration, and the third by the NGO RETRAK, examines the problems with assistance to girls escaping domestic work.

The collection also includes summaries on research on issues faced adolescents and youth, notably by Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence on the psychosocial aspects of wellbeing and by Your World Research Project on the challenges facing marginalized youth.

UNICEF is pleased to support the work of the CRPF including the production of this collection and the forthcoming two annual summaries along with DFID in collaboration with Young Lives. We look forward to further collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth on CRPF activities.

# **National Children's Policy**

## ***Ministry of Women Children and Youth<sup>1</sup>***

### **Introduction**

Every child has the right to be protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation as provided in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

In Ethiopia, the Government has undertaken various measures to promote and protect children's rights and welfare including the National Children's Policy. The policy, launched in 2017, was designed as a comprehensive guide to those fulfilling their obligation to protect children's rights under Article 36 of the nation's Constitution.

### The general situation of Ethiopian children

The policy begins by setting out the general social, economic and political conditions of children in the country and the efforts towards respecting, protecting and promoting their rights and welfare. They include:

- *Population:* Policies and programmes have led to improvements in child mortality, reproductive health, family planning services and children's enrolment in education.
- *Health:* The Government has adopted a number of policies, strategies and packages to improve children's health. Nonetheless, much remains to be done in making these basic health services available and accessible

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<sup>1</sup> Presented on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 by Tilahun Tekletsadik based on preparation by Kibri Hailu.

for all children – particularly those living in rural areas.

- *Education:* pre-primary, primary and secondary enrolment significantly improved, but there is still a gap in coverage – notably in rural areas.
- *Child participation:* The meaningful participation of children is far from being fully realised due to the lack of attention, awareness and structures that support children’s expression.
- *Child friendly family and environment:* While families do their best to fulfill their responsibilities for the wellbeing of their children many are hampered by poverty.
- *Children in difficult circumstances:* A significant number of children are exposed to difficult situations including worst forms of child labour, sexual violence and exploitation.
- *Harmful traditional practices:* Many harmful traditional practices such as milk teeth extraction and female circumcision are still practiced on children.
- *Vital Events Registration:* The national failure to register vital events such as the birth of children has not only affected the justice system and public administration, but also opened a wide gap in ensuring child rights are protected.
- *Public awareness:* To ensure the effectiveness of the efforts to promote and protect children’s rights, it is important to increase families’ and communities’ awareness to play a pivotal role in children’s rights and their overall development.
- *Coordination and collaboration:* The promotion and protection of child rights and welfare demands a coordinated effort and collaboration by all stakeholders.

### The policy’s vision, objective and principles

The policy’s vision is to see the rights and welfare of all Ethiopian children respected and protected. The general objective underpinning this goal focuses

on creating an enabling environment for the promotion and protection of children's rights and welfare so that children can become ethical and responsible citizens. The policy is underpinned by three principles: i) to respect children's right to live, survive and develop, ii) that all actions should be in the best interest of the child and iii) to allow for children's meaningful participation in matters that affect them.

### Major policy issues

The policy highlights a number of issues concerning child rights in Ethiopia:

- *Children's civil rights and protection:* For example, protecting children from all forms of sexual, physical and psychological abuse and ensuring a child-friendly justice system.
- *Children and family care:* Including empowering parents or guardians through training and other support schemes and strengthening counselling services.
- *Children and health:* For instance, taking all necessary measures to reduce infant mortality and death of children under the age of five and ensuring equal access to health services and immunisation for children in rural and urban areas.
- *Children and education:* For example, creating as an enabling environment to further improve access, quality, equity and effectiveness of primary and secondary education and providing inclusive education and accessible service for disabled children.
- *Children, culture, art and leisure:* Including expanding child-friendly recreational spaces and establishing child-friendly theatres, cinemas, libraries and cultural centres.
- *Children in difficult circumstances:* For example, creating access to quality and timely social and economic services and introducing systems to ensure and protect social and civil rights of refugee children.

- *Children and environment:* Such as supporting children to increase their participation in natural conservation schemes.
- *Child abuse, child trafficking, child labour and HTP:* For example, expanding and strengthening environments conducive for child victims of violence to access appropriate rehabilitation services.

### Policy implementation strategies

The policy advises on a number of implementation strategies, including:

- *Awareness and mobilisation:* For example, promoting community care for orphans and vulnerable children and encouraging positive norms, and values concerning children more generally.
  - *Collaboration, coordination and partnership:* Such as establishing and consolidating national, regional, zonal and woreda level child rights and protection networks and forums.
  - *Enhancing children's participation:* Including supporting children's meaningful participation on matters that affect them at family, community and government levels.
  - *Family strengthening:* For instance, establishing a system that encourages families to support children in difficult circumstances on their own initiative
- Research and studies: Conducting research and studies that identify and reveal the causes, consequences and solutions of problems faced.
- *Legal reform:* Including identifying the gaps in existing laws regarding children's rights and protection through research and undertake revisions accordingly.
  - *Establishing and strengthening structures:* A national council composed of federal and regional representatives to follow up and monitor the implementation of the policy will be established and cascaded to the lowest administrative hierarchy.

## Roles and responsibilities

The policy stresses that respecting and protecting children's rights and welfare requires the collaboration and coordination of:

- *Government bodies:* among other things to implement and spearhead the policy build capacity and allocate budget.
- *Private sector:* to complying with laws and conventions concerned with the protection of child rights and welfare.
- *Community structures:* to create child-friendly spaces and raise children based on a community's positive values, customs and norms.
- *Family:* by nurturing children, fulfilling parental duties and being role models for children.
- *Religious institutions:* by providing services that promote the appropriate physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development of children.
- *Indigenous charities and societies:* to support children in difficult circumstances to overcome their problems sustainably.
- *Regional and international development partners:* by partnering with the government on the different activities required to implement the National Children's Policy.
- *Children:* by working towards the unity of the family and informing organisations on children's rights.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The policy concludes by acknowledging the importance of monitoring and measuring results and adapting and revising accordingly. Performance indicators will be set for all aspects of the policy. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and regional bureaus will monitor implementation and oversee mechanisms for data collection and reporting.

# **Good Practices in Promoting Child Justice in Ethiopia**

## ***Child Justice Project Office, Federal Supreme Court<sup>2</sup>***

### **Introduction**

An estimated 24 per cent of children living in Ethiopia are classed as ‘vulnerable’ – living in conditions where their survival, care, protection and development is jeopardised – and in a situation that precludes the fulfilment of their rights.

The Government of Ethiopia has taken commendable steps towards ensuring the protection of children: ratifying international child rights instruments; stipulating an article in its Constitution on children’s rights; harmonising laws and establishing institutions that give protection to children. In 1999, the Federal Supreme Court established the Child Justice Project Office (CJPO) as a means of ensuring alignment between federal child justice administrations with regional and international laws. The CJPO acts as a core institutional mechanism to guarantee *the best interest of the child* in overseeing justice for children. The Project Office is supported by, among others, UN agencies, the African Child Policy Forum, Save the Children and the French and Canadian embassies.

The CJPO follows four cross-cutting strategies that concern:

- *Research based advocacy*: conducting research to promote pro-child policy, laws and practices.
- *System Development*: establishing child friendly systems and structures within the justice system.

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<sup>2</sup> Presented by Aster Girma on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

- *Capacity building and awareness raising:* organising training for professionals working closely with children and using different communication tools to raise awareness on the need for justice systems that keep children safe.
- *Networking:* establishing and coordinating referral network for children involved in the justice system to provide free legal aid and psychosocial support. CJPO is a member to the national coordinating body addressing violence against women and children (Ministry of Justice) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Ethiopia (MOWCA).

## **Achievements**

### Laws, system and structural changes

One of the indispensable components of child justice administration is the setting up of ‘child friendly’ structures that serve the needs of children. The CJPO has pioneered:

- *Child-friendly settings:* by advocating for informal court hearing processes and providing separate waiting and counselling spaces for child victims and witnesses
- *Victim benches:* separate rooms for child victims who come to court as witnesses.
- *CCTV:* that enables witnesses to watch court procedures.
- *Social workers:* who are now integrated into all regional courts. These social workers advise the court on reaching decisions that serve children’s best interest and serve as an intermediary between the court, the children and their families.
- *A national forum:* for sharing experiences and best practices on child justice issues
- The CJPO is also a member of a number of national committees including the National Coordination Body against Violence against

Women and Children, the CRC committee and the national legal aid network.

- *Law and practice reform:* by participating in the reform and enactment of laws concerning children and developing documents and guidance to help standardise the practices involved in delivering child justice. Based on the experience of CJPO, the Child Justice Programme has now been integrated in all regional courts.
- *Education and training:* the CJPO has also helped to design the curriculum for a Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) certificate (level four). More than 1000 professionals who closely work with children in the justice system have taken part in CJPO training workshops to enhance their knowledge and skills on child issues.

### The Children's Legal Protection Programme (CLPC)

The Children's Legal Protection Centre (CLPC) was established in October 2012 to ensure children's access to legal aid and psychosocial services. The Centre operates in coordination with 37 government and non-government organisations: The CLPC has introduced:

- *Legal aid:* provided by 34 pro-bono lawyers who specialise in legal issues concerning children. To date, nearly 20,000 children have benefited from these services.
- *Psycho-social services:* to help address the emotional welfare of children
- *Mediation services:* that promote family care and support to children. So far, the courts have made 547 referrals to the service.
- *DNA testing;* to establish paternity.
- *A victim fund scheme:* to cover associated costs such as food, medical support, transportation and DNA testing. At present the scheme is addressing only 7 per cent of the demand due to a lack of funds.

## Looking forward

The CJPO is planning to scale up the efficiency and effectiveness of the administration of justice to children by:

- *Expanding and standardising legal aid services:* the growing numbers of children accessing legal aid services is driving the need for expansion.

The CJPO will work towards:

- Coordinating with the Justice Sector on the expansion and standardisation of legal aid services to children.
- Replicating Legal Aid Centres in courts throughout the country.
- Supporting the CLPCs to expanding free legal and psycho-social services.
- Scaling up the Victim Fund Scheme by engaging organisations interested in supporting child justice.
- *Strengthening capacities and coordination:* the CJPO will:
  - Advocate for a binding, responsive framework for the different service providers involved in legal aid and psycho-social services referrals.
  - Continue to develop child friendly spaces, structures and work procedures structures within the justice system.
  - Find ways of formalising networks that support child justice.
- *Advocacy:* the CJPO will continue to disseminate information that raises awareness on child rights and child protection and promotes accountability and transparency of all the organisations involved.
- *Working towards sustainability:* working towards the systematic integration of the CJPO will continue and the regional level, addressing financial and technical support gaps and seeking new partnerships.
- *Enhancing partnerships:* the CJPO hopes that more development partners working on child issues will join in supporting their work – transforming it from a pilot project to an effective and exemplary national child protection scheme.

# Situation Analysis of the Nutrition Sector in Ethiopia

*UNICEF*<sup>3</sup>

## Introduction

Good nutrition is the cornerstone of child's health, development and survival. Well-nourished children have better life chances: they live longer, lead healthier lives and do better in school. Children who are poorly nourished, on the other hand, are less likely to fill their potential, perpetuating a cycle of poverty across generations.

The Government of Ethiopia has long recognised that attaining child nutrition is essential to achieving sustainable development. Initiatives such as the National Nutrition Programme (2013-15) have led to a significant reduction in malnutrition across the country.

The objective of this situation analysis is to help inform efforts towards an EU+ Joint Nutrition Strategy and Joint Action Framework in Ethiopia by:

- Analysing trends in nutrition status of children and women and multi-sectoral risk factors.
- Mapping nutritional interventions.
- Analysing gaps and opportunities.

The analysis highlights an Ethiopian success story – documenting the rapid improvements in children's nutritional status and showing how improved living

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<sup>3</sup> Presented by Ki Yeon Yoon on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017, based on a report prepared by John B Mason PhD, Kaitlin S Potts MPH, Jennifer Crum MPH, Rebecca Hofer MPH, and Lisa Saldanha MPH.

standards, education, and direct nutrition interventions (especially community-based) have all contributed. The authors maintain how, with continued economic development, and extension and improvement of current programmes, the near-elimination of child malnutrition is within reach.

## **Methodology**

Evidence was gathered from four areas related to child malnutrition: poor water supply and sanitation, infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF), poverty and access to health services.

- Data were used from four demographic and health surveys (DOH) gathered between 2000-2014.
- Data on resource flows from donors were sourced from OECD/DAC and from a study on nutrition stakeholder mapping between 2013-15.
- Weighing programme and evaluation data were also used.
- 10.8 per cent of the DHS-derived sample was lost because of errors such as the mis-measurement of children standing when they should have been lying and vice versa.

## **Findings**

### Trends in child stunting

- Nationwide, stunting prevalence decreased an average rate of 1.2-1.5 percentage points per year, from 55 per cent to 40 per cent. At this rate stunting will disappear by 2040.
- The improvement in child nutrition was similar across most regions and by wealth quintile. Even the poorest group improved at the same rate as others
- There was little difference in stunting in any one year (or survey) across the quintiles until the richest.

### Trends in women's nutrition

- Improvement in women's nutrition (as measured by body mass index) was much less extensive.
- Nearly 30 per cent of women are too thin, even more in the North, and this is not changing much.

### Risk factors: Water and sanitation

- Households with an unimproved water supply had significantly more stunted children aged two years and older (controlling for confounders).
- One needs improved water and maternal education to see significantly lower stunting.

### Risk factors: Access to health services

- For children under two years, associations with stunting were found with:
  - use of institutional delivery;
  - use of antenatal care (ANC).
- The effect of ANC on stunting was only significant among children of educated mothers.

### Risk factors: Assets

- Assets were gained from 2000 to 2014 and the 'no assets' group decreased from 45 per cent to 13 per cent of the population.
- Stunting levels decreased in all asset groups between 2000-2011. Nevertheless, in all years, stunting levels were similar among asset groups except the richest group.

### Risk factors: Implications of effect modifications (interactions)

- Previous examples show that improvements in risk factors often disproportionately benefit, or benefit already better-off households.
- Stunting doesn't appear to decrease with reduced poverty until the richest

group.

- Several factors together (for example, water and sanitation and health services and others) are required before child malnutrition decreases and stunting falls.

## **Recommendations**

Policy:

- Maintain and strengthen those current policies that have led to the reduction of malnutrition over the past 14 years.
- Reinforce equity-focused policies that improve women's literacy and girls' education and increase their access to basic social services.

Programme:

- Prioritise interventions for improving under nutrition among women and adolescent girls.
- Increase coverage of nutrition-specific programmes with a focus on equity.
- Create capacity for maintaining a comprehensive mapping of stakeholders and interventions to improve targeting.

## **Further reading**

Mason, J.B., Potts, K.S., Crum, J., Hofer, R. and Saldanha, L. (2015) *Analysis of the Nutrition Sector in Ethiopia: A report to UNICEF and EU*, New Orleans: Tulane School of Public Health Department of Global Community Health and Behavioural Sciences

# Dynamics of Multi-dimensional Poverty among Children in Ethiopia

*Young Lives Ethiopia*<sup>4</sup>

## Introduction

Poverty is commonly measured and reported by looking at the extent to which people are able to acquire goods and services via disposable income. However, this alone doesn't reveal the broader picture of what life is really like for poor people. In recent years, there has been a growing consensus acknowledging the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, for example, a lack of education or employment, inadequate housing, poor health or nutrition.

This study assesses trends of children's multi-dimensional deprivations in Ethiopia and generates evidence on how to monitor and evaluate the progress of Ethiopia towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its objectives are to:

- Construct a dimensional deprivation index based on the application of capability approach.
- Conduct a sector by sector analysis of deprivations
- Locate children for each period into MODA categories of non-poor, moderately poor and severely poor.

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<sup>4</sup> Presented by Professor Tassew Woldehanna, and Dr Yisak Tafere, 30 March 2017. Authors: Adiam Hagos, and Yisak Tafere, Young Lives Study, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI).

- Identify the transition of children across the poverty categories and explore the determinants of poverty dynamics.
- Analyse poverty trajectories of children according to gender and location.

It is also intended to serve as an input for Ethiopian authorities developing a baseline for SDG 2.1 – to halve the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all dimensions according to national definitions by 2030.

## **Methodology**

The study employs a multi-dimensional poverty index pioneered by UNICEF known as Multiple Overlapping Deprivations Analysis (MODA). MODA uses a range of indicators clustered in the categories of survival, development, protection and participation.

Analysis of child wellbeing using MODA enriches a study in four ways:

- Keeping the child as the unit of analysis instead of the household.
- Accounting for the heterogeneity of children's needs across age groups and adopting a life-cycle approach. Accordingly, the analysis is normally done for three childhood age groups – early childhood, primary childhood and adolescence.
- Illuminating child poverty by accounting for deprivations experienced simultaneously across sectors.
- Capturing the extent of the deprivations.

The study uses longitudinal qualitative data from a Young Lives study (2002-2013) that followed young and older cohorts and their households. The indicators used in the study were chosen by comparing MODA indicators with those identified by children during focus group discussions as suitable to measure child poverty in its different dimensions, while also being linked to the ratified Convention of the Rights of the Child.

## **Selected findings**

Using MODA, the authors found a decline in children's deprivation in all dimensions. For example:

- The proportion of children who are multi-dimensionally poor declined from 82 per cent in 2002 to 35 per cent in 2013, indicating a large improvement in wellbeing.
- Deprivation in health reduced from 48 per cent in 2002 to 17.1 per cent in 2006.
- Deprivation in education declined from 23.3 per cent in 2009 to 5.4 per cent in 2013.
- While no significant difference was found between girls and boys, rural children are more deprived than their urban counterparts.

### Determinants of Multiple Overlapping Deprivations (MOD)

- While the presence of working age female household members reduces children's deprivations, the presence of working age males does not.
- The average education of household members was also found to have a statistically significant decreasing effect on children's experience of deprivations
- Shock is an important determinant of MOD – idiosyncratic shocks such as loss of employment or death of livestock are positively associated with chronic MOD.
- Place of residence matters – children from rural households experience deprivations in more dimensions than children that come from urban households.
- Location plays a big role – for example, children from Oromia region were found to have smaller MOD than children in other regions.

## Conclusions

Using longitudinal data helps capture the dynamics of multi-dimensional deprivation among children and enables the identification of some determinants of poverty dynamics, which could not be captured through cross-sectional data sets.

The study sheds light on the use of a range of policy options to achieve SDG 1.2. A long-term plan to increase the education endowment of households is expected to contribute to improving children's well-being. In addition, sustainable results can only be achieved through the implementation of a multi-sectoral approach to address child poverty.

The effects of socio-economic shocks on children's deprivation and poverty transitions also calls for increased access to social protection and insurance schemes to shield children from worsening wellbeing.

Multi-dimensional poverty is more likely to show the intergenerational nature of poverty. Addressing multi-dimensional and time dimension of poverty therefore means breaking intergenerational poverty.

Finally, it is important to ensure that child-focussed policies and programmes consider comprehensive and longitudinal interventions that address the multi-dimensional and life course nature of child poverty.

### Further reading

Woldehanna, T., Hagos, A. and Tafere, Y. (2017) 'Dynamics of multi-dimensional poverty among children in Ethiopia: evidence from longitudinal data of Young Lives study (2002-2013)', *Policy Brief*, Ethiopia: UNICEF.

# **Social Protection, Household Size and its Determinants**

***Ethiopian Development Research Institute<sup>5</sup>***

## **Introduction**

The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia has long been widely regarded as one of the most effective social protection programmes of its kind. Set up in 2004 by the Government of Ethiopia with the help of the international donor community, the programme's objective is to reduce chronic food security amongst the poorest by providing food or cash to those in need. Most beneficiaries receive these payments in exchange for undertaking public works.

This paper examines the effects of the PSNP on household size in order to understand how any unintended changes may modify the welfare consequences of the intervention. In addition to the impact on household size, the paper also looks at the factors that cause household size to change such as fertility, child fosterage, and in and out migration related to work and marriage.

## **Methodology**

A feature of the PSNP is the bi-annual collection of longitudinal data on beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The authors of the paper used data from

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<sup>5</sup> Presented by Tseday Mekasha on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 based on a paper with Dr John Hoddinott.

the first four surveys (2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012) across the four regions where the PSNP operated – Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray.

- The first survey (2006) used a two-stage clustered sampling approach.
- 68 *woredas* (districts) were randomly selected using probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling based on estimated numbers of beneficiaries.
- Within each selected *woreda* a random sample of two or three *kebeles* (sub-district unit) was selected.
- Beneficiary lists were used to select randomly 17 PSNP households and lists of non-beneficiaries were used to select an additional eight households yielding a sample of 25 households per *kebele*.
- The 2006 survey contained 3,668 households. Subsequent rounds added a significant number of approximately 1200 households in the Amhara region as well as additional ‘Direct Support’ households.
- For each year, households are considered as beneficiary (treatment) households if they have received public works payments. For each batch and period, the control group included those households who did not receive public works payment in that period.

## Findings

- The data implies that participation in the PSNP leads to a 5.3 percent increase in household size.
- PSNP participation lowers fertility – reducing the likelihood that an adult female member gives birth by between 7.6 and 9.9 percentage points.
- The increase in household size arises from an increase in the number of girls aged 12 to 18 years. Since outmigration in this age group is largely due to marriage, these results suggest that the PSNP causes households to delay marrying out adolescent females, possibly because they are required to assist with household tasks.

- There is no impact on the number of males of any age nor is there an impact on the number of females in age groups other than 12 to 18 years.
- The results also imply that PSNP participation should reduce the number of pre-school children in the household. However, given that only one third of households report a birth in the previous two years, this modest reduction in births may not be large enough to affect this number.

## **Conclusion**

Although the findings identify the impact of the PSNP, they also point to a larger issue. Many of the empirical studies in this area focus on a limited set of demographic outcomes. The results here suggest that such an approach risks being misleading. The finding that PSNP participation leads to an increase in household size could be perceived as an unintended adverse outcome. Explorations focusing on why this increase can be observed, however, point to a different and more positive interpretation, namely that households are not sending their adolescent female members out for marriage but keeping them at home for longer.

## **Further reading**

Hoddinott, J. and Mekasha, T.J. (2017) 'Social protection, household size and its determinants: Evidence from Ethiopia', *ESSP Working Paper*, Ethiopia: IFPRI.

# **Marginalised Youth: Moving Minds and Trapped Bodies**

## ***YOUR World Research Project<sup>6</sup>***

### Introduction

Across the globe, many young people come of age in circumstances marked by poverty, environmental fragility and political volatility. Increasingly, non-government organisations (NGOs), policymakers, and academics are realising the importance of considering how this level of uncertainty forms the next generation of adults.

This presentation introduces the ‘YOUR World Research’ project, designed to provide new knowledge about youth understandings of uncertainty, violence, poverty and rights in Ethiopia and Nepal. Funded by the ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research, the research aims to generate insights into how to support and sustain pathways out of poverty for street connected and marginalised youth.

### **Methodology**

In Ethiopia, the researchers are working with around 500 youth, co-constructing the methodology and conducting detailed, focused case studies with 250 marginalised young people across four research sites. The research will collect qualitative comparative data alongside participatory research to illuminate the realities of their lives. Participatory visual and moving methods include mapping, rivers of life, photo narrative and network and support diagrams.

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<sup>6</sup> Presented on October 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 by Vicky Johnson, Melese Getu, Amid Ahmed, Milki Getachew and Anannia Admassu, *Insecurity and Uncertainty: Marginalised youth living rights in fragile and conflict affected situations in Ethiopia and Nepal.*

## **Preliminary findings**

The research has found marginalised young people to be resilient in the face of difficulties. In Ethiopia, many have dropped-out of school, work in the informal sector, and view successful migrants as their role models. Young people do not see formal education as a pathway to support their families and so often migrate to towns to find work. In smaller urban areas, services are not adequate for the most marginalised, such as access to health services, and decently paid work. This can result in them becoming street-connected or turning to risky and illegal forms of employment as strategies for survival. Many escape poverty by migrating to Gulf countries in search of alternative futures.

- Due to high unemployment and underemployment many young people feel powerless in decision-making.
- Young women and men feel they are living in the certainty of poverty and want to escape and seek alternatives even if their journeys are risky.
- Young people don't necessarily want to follow traditional transitions and move from rural to urban situations and out to the Gulf.
- They are not looking at education as a way out – their aspirations are changing and they want more immediate solutions like informal businesses.
- Growing landlessness is creating family pressures and tensions.

### Drought in Hetosa

- Seasonal uncertainty is due to the fragile environment and drought
- Drought shapes youth transition. However, when it rains and productivity is up, young people still migrate.

## Support networks - peer group support

- Peers influence education, migration decisions, delinquency but they also share experiences, information, resources, and strategies in a positive way, especially amongst boys to migrate.
- Girls want to maintain relationships with their families although some are rejected when they return from migration without resources or money.

## **Conclusion**

The project's Ethiopia partner, the Organisation for Child Development and Transformation (CHADET) is committed to developing policies and designing interventions with marginalised youth based on findings from this research. They hope that the research findings will:

- Help YOUR World to better understand the local context and design new interventions based on this.
- Inform CHADET's policy and practice and develop programmes that would build on the learning.
- Findings will also be shared at the international and national level, reaching among others, the National Reference Group, the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Population Council and DFID.

# What Shapes Adolescent Psycho-social Well-being and Resilience?

## *Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence<sup>7</sup>*

Very little is known about adolescent psychosocial well-being in Ethiopia, although existing evidence suggests that mental ill health appears to affect a significant number of young people, especially child labourers (Ministry of Health, 2012). There also appears to be an important gender dimension to psychosocial well-being: girls who are married, engaged as domestic workers, survivors of sexual violence or involved in commercial sex work are all at high risk of social isolation and mental distress.

Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) is a longitudinal research programme exploring the gendered experiences of 20,000 young people in six focal countries, two each in Africa (Ethiopia, Rwanda), Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal) and the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon).

By finding out 'what works' with regards to adolescent psychosocial well-being and voice and agency in Ethiopia, the programme aims to help transform the lives of adolescent girls and enable them to move out of poverty and exclusion, and fast-track social change.

The research addresses two core sets of research questions:

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<sup>7</sup> Presented by Dr Nicola Jones on 26<sup>th</sup> October, based on a GAGE paper with Bekele Tefera, Guday Emirie, Workneh Yadete, Kiya Gezahegne, Kassahun Tilahun and Kiros Birhanu.

- *Adolescent perspectives and experiences:*
  - girls' and boys' experiences, attitudes and identities across adolescence – including those of the most marginalised
  - the role of context and political economy factors in shaping their gendered experiences
- *Programme effectiveness:*
  - capability outcomes – the effect
  - bundling components – the combination
  - duration – with what intensity
  - legacy – with what sustained cumulative benefits

## **Methodology**

The programme takes a mixed methods impact evaluation approach to develop its baseline using data collected in selected sites in Afar, Amhara and Oromia regional states and Dire Dawa city.

- *Quantitative survey:*
  - adolescent girls and boys and their caregivers
  - two age cohorts: 10-12 years and 15-17 years in rural and urban locales, in programme intervention and non-intervention sites
  - sub-sample of adolescents with disabilities
- *Qualitative research*
  - nodal adolescents, their siblings, caregivers, community leaders
  - nested sample of adolescents with disabilities
  - key informant interviews and historical process tracing with officials, service providers and donors
- *Annual qualitative research*
  - nodal adolescents, their caregivers and peer networks to better pinpoint shifts in adolescent capabilities over time

- social network analysis to understand evolving influence of peer groups
- Qualitative research tools used:
  - community mapping and timeline, including changing norms and perceptions of adolescents
  - key informant interviews with district and community level officials, service providers, adolescent empowerment programme graduates
  - in-depth interviews with adolescents and parents on their experiences and perspectives relating to the second decade of life
  - FGDs with adolescents using participatory community mapping, vignettes to explore social norms and body mapping
  - inter-generational trios to explore generational shifts regarding adolescent experiences and age and gender-related social norms

## **Selected findings**

### Bodily integrity

- *Marriage rates amongst the youngest girls are falling:* the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) found that 6 per cent of girls aged 15-19 were married before 15. Child marriage is highly variable and has different prevalence rates, different forms, and different drivers in different regions.
- *Female Genital Mutilation/Circumcision (FGM) is also variable and declining:* the national prevalence among women age 15-19 decreased by 24 per cent between 2005 and 2016.
- *Families are not always respite from violence:* perpetrators included parents, older siblings, and other household members. Violence was often seen by parents as a form of “discipline”.

- *School violence takes many forms and is normalised:* but reporting systems are weak. Corporal punishment by teachers is frequent and severe. The absence of functioning reporting systems means victims of sexual violence at school are often silenced.
- *Community violence is common and affects boys and girls differently:* girls in all sites are at risk of rape and sexual violence. Victim blame is rampant. Boys also found to be at risk of sexual violence and kidnapping for organ trafficking.

### Psychosocial wellbeing

- *Rural adolescents have very limited support networks outside family:* suicidal thoughts or escape through migration were commonly mentioned as a response to forced marriage and FGM. Urban adolescents more actively engaged in peer networks.
- *Between 12 per cent and 25 per cent of children in Ethiopia suffer from mental illness:* child labourers, young brides, and domestic workers are especially vulnerable.
- *Adolescents' own voices and concerns are poorly explored:* but both boys and girls are worried about academic performance and high rates of unemployment.
- *Psychosocial support options for adolescents are limited:* formal support services are almost non-existent.

### Voice and agency

- *Girls have lower self-efficacy than boys in terms of feeling in charge of their lives and destinies:* nearly 95 per cent of girls between the ages of 12 and 24 reported that they needed permission before leaving the house. Almost 30 per cent of married girls aged 15-19 believe that a wife cannot refuse to have sex with their husband if he has been sleeping with other women.

- *There is a growing space for voice and agency but opportunities are still limited:* there are different degrees of agency for girls and boys. For example, participation in religious life is limited by age and gender. Adolescents' use of technology is changing rapidly, especially for boys.

## **Practical and policy implications**

### Bodily integrity and freedom from violence

- There is a critical need to understand underlying gender discriminatory practices and norms and their trajectory in specific contexts in order to tailor intervention strategies.
- Addressing school-based violence in all its forms requires urgent attention, including functioning reporting and redress systems.
- All harmful traditional practices including child marriage and FGM and violence against all women and girls in all forms must be eliminated.

### Psychosocial wellbeing

- Better data on adolescent psychosocial wellbeing and mental health, especially child marriage and FGM is required.
- The support of social workers and broader links to the social protection system should be explored.

### Voice and agency

- Track adolescents' engagement with digital media over time and promote approaches that encourage positive use.
- Consider embedding opportunities for girls' voice and agency including exposure to positive role models and in community behaviour change activities on harmful traditional practices.
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

# **Guidelines on Children's Reintegration**

## ***Interagency Group on Children's Reintegration***<sup>8</sup>

### **Introduction**

Whatever the reasons behind it, separation from families can expose children to violence and abuse and cause developmental delays. It can affect children well into adulthood and impact on their ability to contribute to society.

International law and policies recognise the importance of reintegrating separated children back into families and communities, while keeping in mind the best interests of the child. However, comprehensive guidance on what needs to be done has been lacking. As a result, policies are often not coherent, programming practice is of variable quality, and investment in reintegration has been inadequate.

These guidelines are offered as a resource to help overcome these challenges, to promote a caring family environment and enhance the protection of children. Intended for policy makers, programme designers, and practitioners, they provide a vital road map for reintegrating children.

### **Methodology**

The guidelines are based on 'Reaching for home', (BCN et al. 2013), an extensive literature review, which pooled knowledge of reintegration from a variety of agencies, as well as consultations with 158 children and 127 service providers and policymakers from 66 non-governmental organisations, donors,

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<sup>8</sup> Presented by Dr Lynette Kay, Retrak on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

faith-based organisations and United Nations agencies across over 20 countries.

The guidelines build on existing international legal and policy frameworks for children's reintegration. These include, among others, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (2004).

## **Principles of reintegration**

The guidelines establish a set of principles to be applied across all steps in the reintegration process:

- *Prioritise family unity/ be child centred:* families and children should be at the centre of all reintegration support efforts. Reintegration with a child's family of origin must always be the first option to pursue.
- *Embed reintegration into the wider child protection system:* in all cases, it is important to work with all parts of the child protection system, including government actors, community groups, religious leaders, and children and families. It is also vital to work with other systems, such as health, education, justice, and social protection. In contexts where a fully-functioning system does not exist, efforts should still be made to support the reintegration of separated children.
- *A rights-based approach:* all children have a right to the preservation of family unity. They have a right to participate in all decisions that affect them, and decisions regarding their reintegration should be made with their best interests as a primary consideration.
- *Do no harm:* all reintegration processes should aim to benefit, not harm children. This includes consideration of issues such as preventing abuse by staff or other stakeholders, stigma, informed consent, and confidentiality.

- *Engage a range of stakeholders:* including children, families, communities, schools, the media, government actors, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

## **Working with individual children and families**

The guidelines recommend careful and in-depth work with children and their families to determine if reintegration is appropriate, to prepare the child and family, reunite the child with the family and provide follow-up support. They suggest that:

- *Reintegration is a process not an event:* involving proper preparation and follow-up support.
- *Reintegration must unfold at the pace of the child:* the guidelines deliberately do not provide an estimate for how much time reintegration processes need.
- *A case management approach is required:* assigning a case worker to the child, carefully documenting each step of the process and handing over case files when necessary.

## **Steps in the reunification process**

The guidelines provide guidance on all of the steps in the reintegration process starting from family tracing and ending with case closure.

### Step one: Tracing, assessment and planning

- Evaluate the child's well-being, identifying and quickly responding to any signs of abuse, violence, exploitation or neglect.
- Assess the children, families and communities to determine whether reintegration is in the best interests of the child.
- Develop a case plan outlining next steps in the reintegration process to meet child and family needs.

### Step two: Preparation of children and families

- Explore temporary alternative care for children waiting to return to families.
- Work with families to address both the root causes and impact of separation.
- Assess children's mental and physical health needs and offer counselling where necessary.
- Agree on mechanisms to carefully monitor child well-being on the child's return.

### Step three: Children's initial contact with families and reunification

- Adequately prepare and gradually reintroduce children and families.
- Ceremonies of transition may also be valuable at this stage.
- The case plan for the child may also need to be transferred to another agency or department. Ceremonies of transition may also be valuable at this stage.

### Step four: Post-reunification support and case closure

- Provide follow up support to all children returning home – including those without any form of input from NGOs or other agencies.
- Be sensitive to the impact of returning children on their communities.
- Regularly monitor child well-being – face-to-face visits are essential.
- Have a plan in place for removing the child if necessary.
- Case closure happens when the child's well being is secure.

### When reunification isn't possible

- If reunification is not possible the child should be placed into temporary alternative care.
- Assessment should be on-going, and with additional support.

- It may be necessary to find them a new permanent family, for example, through adoption.

## **Working with communities and schools**

Schools and communities can help both to tackle stigma and discrimination, and to monitor and support reintegrating children. Work with these groups is especially in settings where there is little formal government assistance.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation should cover; the individual case, an agency's programme and the overall, multi-actor reintegration efforts. Children, families and other stakeholders involved in the reintegration process should be consulted in the development of indicators. Learning should also be shared to improve reintegration and wider child protection systems.

## **Conclusions**

The guidelines conclude with several policy recommendations designed to create a supportive environment:

- Create national level guidance and policies on children's reintegration that are in line with the UNCRC, and are guided by other relevant global policies and guidance, including these guidelines.
- Build a child welfare workforce with the necessary skills and attitudes to support children's reintegration.
- Establish a case work system that supports children and families through all stages of the reintegration process.
- Coordinate and collaborate with actors working in the child protection sector, and those working in other systems, including health, education and economic strengthening, and those supporting children with disabilities.

- Recognise and support the vital role played by communities in children's reintegration.
- Work to address the root causes of initial and re-separation, such as poverty and violence.
- Develop strategies to address discrimination against groups of reintegrating children.
- Evaluate reintegration programmes, check for and address gaps in coverage.

### **Further reading**

Delap, E. and Wedge, J. (2016) *Guidelines on children's reintegration*, Inter agency Group on Children's Reintegration

# The Rising Cost of Nutritious Foods in Ethiopia

## *International Food Policy Research Institute*<sup>9</sup>

### **Introduction**

Diverse, nutritionally-rich diets are particularly important in the combat against chronic under-nutrition. This is particularly relevant in Ethiopia where children eat a limited diet rich in pulses and cereal but lacking in fruit, vegetables rich in vitamin A as well as meat and dairy.

To better understand the affordability of nutritious foods in Ethiopia, the researchers analysed how consumer price patterns of different food groups have changed in the last decade.

### **Methodology**

- The analysis used retail price figures collected every month in 116 urban retail markets across the country between 2007 and 2016 by the Central Statistical Agency as well the regional General Consumer Price Index.
- 2011 Household and Consumption Expenditures Survey (HCES) data was used to identify the items in each food group and to compute the average share of each item in the total weight (100 per cent) of per capita consumption of each food group.
- Prices were grouped into ten food categories according to categories of key nutrients they provide.

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<sup>9</sup> Presented on 28th September 2017 by Kalle Hirvonen based on a paper with Bart Minten, Ibrahim Worku, and Mekdim Dereje, International Food Policy Research Institute, Ethiopia Strategy Support Programme (ESSP).

- A weighted average price was calculated that considered the consumption share (importance) of each item in each food group.

## **Findings**

- The real prices of all fruits and vegetables as well as animal-source foods have increased between 19 and 62 per cent since 2007.
- In contrast, there have been no price increases in staple crops such as grains, roots, and tubers.
- Real prices of food groups that are associated with overweight and obesity such as oils, fats, and sugar, have decreased over the last decade.
- As a result of the price increases, poorer households are less likely to afford nutritious foods.
- Standard economic theory suggests that the price patterns are being driven by an imbalance between demand and supply.
  - A 2.5 per cent increase per year in Ethiopia's population means that all food production (domestic, imports and exports) need to grow at the same rate each year.
  - As incomes increase, the proportion of the budget spent on 'starchy-staples' decreases.

## **Conclusion**

The Ethiopian Government has a good track record with respect to improvement of cereal production in the last decade. Now is the time to shift attention to non-staple crops in the national agricultural policy.

'High-value' crops such as fruits and vegetables and animal-source foods, which are consumed more frequently as income increases (i.e. they are income 'elastic'), are critical to improving the quality of diets, but current price trends limit their accessibility.

To reduce price levels, improve dietary quality, and ultimately impact nutritional and health outcomes in the country, more investments and attention to the 'high-value' agricultural and live- stock sector production systems are needed. Improving access to, and achieving, low prices for these nutritious foods also play important role as a part of multidimensional efforts to improve nutritional outcomes.

### Further reading

Bachewe, F., Hirvonen, K., Minten, B. and Yimer, F. (2017) The rising cost of nutritious foods in Ethiopia, *ESSR Research Note 67*, Ethiopia: IFPRI.

# Girls' Experiences Escaping Exploitative Domestic Work

*Retrak*<sup>10</sup>

## Introduction

Retrak Ethiopia works with full-time street children to give them a proper alternative to life on the street. This presentation focuses on Retrak's intervention with girl domestic workers and shares the findings of a pilot project review of Deborah House – a transition centre which provides shelter, food, health care and a safe space for girls who, among other traumatic events, have escaped domestic exploitation.

## **Exploitative domestic work: what the research tells us**

- *How international migration reinforces the rural-urban migration:* 56 per cent of children and youth who migrate from rural to urban areas go on to migrate overseas. Most rural-urban migrants don't intend to migrate overseas but make that decision when they arrive in urban areas. Community attitudes encourage rural-urban migration yet have very little knowledge about what happens to children when they migrate.
- *How girls use rural-urban migration as an escape:* girls migrate in the context of poverty, arranged marriage, family disputes, being forced to leave school and having conflict with step parents.
- *The risks for migrant girls:* studies found that 85 per cent of migrant girls are deceived when they come to Addis. Girls work more than ten hours a day doing inappropriate work for their age and are frequently physically, emotionally and psychologically abused by their employers.

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<sup>10</sup> Presented by Dr Lynette Kay on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017.

Community Health Workers report that many are also sexually abused.

- *There is limited legislation regulating domestic work:* the Ethiopian Labour Law is clear but often poorly enforced. On the other hand, Proclamation 909 on anti-trafficking is clear and is being implemented.

## **Retrak's interventions with domestic workers**

Girls are referred to Retrak by a range of people and organisations including the police, community members and government offices. Services provided at Deborah House include medical care, educational classes, life skills training and psychosocial support. Girls leaving the centre are reintegrated with their families, given foster care or supported to live independently.

## **Deborah House pilot project review**

The Deborah House pilot project ran for twelve months between October 2015 and September 2016. The review found that of the 60 girls referred to the centre during the pilot:

- 46 girls reintegrated with their families
- 5 girls placed in Foster Care
- 2 girls referred to specialist NGOs
- 7 girls dropped out

## **Lessons learned**

- Girls were younger than the project expected (less than 15 years old), therefore reintegration with their families became a priority. However, reintegration was not always easy due to harmful traditional practices.
- The majority of girls (80 per cent) reported being sexually abused during their time as domestic workers.
- Education was a priority for the girls as most had not been to school and were eager to learn.

- Girls had complex problems including mental health issues, trauma and low self esteem.
- Girls need role models of healthy relationships with males.
- Working with domestic workers prevents girls making the transition to sex work.
- Most families were unaware of what had happened to girls in Addis Ababa, believing that the girls were at school in Addis Ababa.
- The majority of families were pleased to welcome children their home.

## **Research compared with practice**

Retrak found that many of the research findings resonated with their own project experiences. For example, migration followed similar patterns, education was seen as the driving force for rural-urban migration and deception was used frequently. In contrast, the project found that the domestic workers were younger and working conditions were more abusive than the research suggested.

## **Ways forward**

The presentation closed with the following recommendations:

- Plug the gaps in the cycle of migration and domestic work by:
  - collaborating with all sectors
  - supporting girls to take legal action (this has cost and time implications)
  - addressing issues that arise in Community Conversations with Employers, Brokers and Domestic Workers
- Work with major 'sending communities'.
- Create a Code of Conduct or contract for domestic workers.

# Factors contributing to Cross-border migration in Ethiopia

*Consortium of Christian Research and Development  
Associations<sup>11</sup>*

## Introduction

Migration is as old as humanity. Whether as a result of natural curiosity, financial need or as a means of escape, the promise of a better life elsewhere continues to draw people away from their place of origin. It is an activity with winners and losers, bringing economic prosperity for some yet greater hardships for others.

Human trafficking and smuggling are global problems with serious consequences for individual victims as well as communities and countries. Traffickers and smugglers prey on those with little or no financial means; children who have no means of defending themselves; and people who have been given few or no educational opportunities.

This presentation shares research that explores the status of cross-border migration, human trafficking and smuggling in Ethiopia. The research:

- Looks into policy issues with regard to irregular migration and human trafficking.
- Explores the shared responsibilities of stakeholders in reducing trafficking in person and smuggling of migrants.

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<sup>11</sup> Presented by Dr Teferi Mekonnen on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Authors Dr Teferi Mekonnen and and Dr Messay Mulugeta, Addis Ababa University.

- Assesses the challenges that hamper the prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking in Ethiopia.
- Recommends way forward points for initiating policy and strategic issues that target the involvement of civil society organisations, the private sector and the government in the prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking.

## **Methodology**

The assessment principally depends on secondary data sources comprising a desk review of strategies, regulations, researches, project documents and reports related to cross-border migration, human trafficking and smuggling.

## **Findings**

### Determinants of cross-border migration in Ethiopia

Drivers of migration cited by Ethiopian migrants include a mixture of economic, political and social factors:

- *Economic factors:* low wages, unemployment and underemployment, precarious self-employment and unprotected informal jobs. Rural underemployment, landlessness, miniscule plots, crop failure, mounting agricultural inputs, limited non-farm income opportunities.
- *Political context and insecurity:* constriction of political space with few mechanisms for airing grievances and political discontent. Widespread corruption. Civil war and political turmoil and armed opposition.
- *Other determinants:* fleeing court cases for crimes committed, escaping arranged marriages, presence of relatives and friends in the destination. The existence of a large number of local brokers. The 'culture' of

migration – cross-border migration is considered as a source of personal, social, and material success in communities.

### Ethiopia as a Migration Destination Country

- Ethiopia hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa, providing protection to refugees from 19 countries.
- The government has allocated land for the 24 camps around Assosa, Dollo Ado, Gambella, Jijiga, Semera and Shire regions. The ‘Out of Camp Policy’ introduced in 2010 enables Eritrean refugees to live in Addis Ababa and elsewhere.
- Ethiopia also plays hosts to migrants in transit from the Horn of Africa via Sudan, Chad and Libya to the Mediterranean Sea; from Somalia to Yemen across the Gulf of Aden and to South Africa via Tanzania.

### Migration source areas, recruitment and routes

- The International Labour Organization (2016) identifies four major cross-border migration source areas: Dessie, Shashemene, Jimma and Mekelle.
- Cross-border migrants and trafficked people are recruited in a variety of ways. From local brokers and returnees to licensed or unlicensed agencies and destination-country traffickers (including Ethiopian migrants).
- 60-70 per cent of Ethiopians migrating to the Middle East are irregular migrants.
- Some Ethiopians emigrate via work contracts arranged by private employment agencies while others are smuggled into their destinations

either by land or sea. 75 per cent of refugees and migrants that crossed the sea to Yemen between 2006 and mid-2015 were Ethiopians.

- Ethiopians also migrate south – an estimated 50,000 Ethiopians live in South Africa.
- Ethiopia cross-border migrants also travel north – through Sudan and Egypt towards Libya and to Europe. About 50-100 Ethiopian migrants cross into Sudan every day and may reside in transit countries for longer periods before travelling onwards.

### Challenges in addressing cross-border migration

- Little data and knowledge is available about in- and outward migration in Ethiopia and research on the issue is limited.
- Limited regional and bilateral co-operation in the area of migration and low framework agreements with destination countries.
- Preference among migrants for the ‘quicker’, informal migration channels than the formal, legal migration process.
- Job opportunities offered in the Middle East attract a growing number of migrants
- The lengthy borderline, the difficult topography and harsh climate make border control particularly difficult.
- The absence of comprehensive national migration policy.
- Training of immigration officers in specialized areas such as detection of forged documents is complicated due to the high staff turnover.
- Despite state responses to illegal and irregular migration, prosecution of trafficking crimes is still low.

## Recommendations

### For government

- Develop national consensus, fight corruption, develop democratic culture and political tolerance.
- Increase systematic co-operation and co-ordination among actors and between the national and regional levels.
- Formulate a comprehensive migration policy.
- Modernise and decentralise VISA administration.
- Assist migrants to acquire the necessary skills for the intended employment abroad.
- Strictly observe the age for those who leave Ethiopia's borders.
- Develop bilateral agreements between Ethiopia and major migration destination countries for the protection of labour migrants and on anti-trafficking measures
- Improve the investigative capacity of police and the judicial in order to allow for more convictions of traffickers.
- Raise public awareness to prevent trafficking in persons.
- Create legal provisions for those who leave and promote safer, legal forms of migration.

### For non-government organisations

- Provide need-based training for those who have to leave.
- Work with schools, religious organisations and the community in the fight against illegal brokers and traffickers.
- Carry out intensive and research-based advocacy, media coverage and information campaigns on the issues of illegal migration, particularly in migration hotspots.

## About the *Child Research and Practice Forum (CRPF)*

The need for a link between research, policy and practice on issues of children and youth in Ethiopia resulted in the establishment of a Forum through which practitioners, policy makers and researchers discuss research findings.

The idea was proposed during a workshop in December 2010 for a study on orphans and vulnerable children undertaken by Young Lives. Participants felt that research on children's lives was not made publicly available. The idea was developed through consultations with Young Lives' partners, leading to the establishment of the Forum.

The overall goal of the Child Research and Practice Forum is to create a stronger connection between research, policy and programmes related to children and youth in Ethiopia by presenting and discussing evidence-based research.

The CRPF seminars have taken place over the past ten years at the Ministry of Women Children and Youth. The monthly seminar is open to policy makers, researchers, NGOs and interested individuals both as presenters and as participants. The Forum has a mailing list of over 600 individuals and institutions and produces newsletters and annual presentation summaries.



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