



CYW-RPF

Children, Youth and Women Research and Practice Forum

CYW-RPF
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Editor's Note

Dear readers,

We are pleased to welcome you to the September 2023 CYW-RPF quarterly newsletter. The previously known Child Research and Practice Forum (CRPF) is now renamed Children, Youth and Women Research and Practice Forum (CYW-RPF) (see the box at the end of this newsletter). This edition presents two summaries of research presented at the monthly CYW-RPF seminars. These are from papers on 1) The Dynamic Impact of Parental Death on Child Labour: Panel Data Evidence from Ethiopia, conducted using the Young Lives Data, and 2) The Effect of Conflict on Education and Employment Outcomes of Youth in Ethiopia: Evidence from the Young Lives pre-pilot survey.

It also addresses in the news story section the BBC Ideas film which uses the research from Young Lives as a starting point.

We look forward to your comments, suggestions and contributions.

For more information, please contact us via crpf.ethiopia@gmail.com or 011 1 540121



Why do some children beat the odds?

BBC Ideas has teamed up with Oxford University's Social Science Division for the making of a short film that features Young Lives research. Why do some children beat the odds?

This is narrated by poet and writer Lemn Sissay who explores why some children from poor backgrounds fare well despite the odds being stacked against them. Using research from Young Lives as a starting point, Lemn offers his take on three common factors that can help children beat the odds.

The film is inspired by the late Gina Crivello's work, a key member of the Young Lives team, who sadly died last year. Based on Young Lives' research, she looked into what had made a difference: how some children in

the four Global South countries, had beaten the odds to improve their lives. Gina analysed the wider Young Lives dataset and identified a number of Ethiopian girls and boys who had faced serious challenges – or were at a tipping point - but had overcome these difficulties, thanks to three factors: family and peer support, government programmes and second chances.

Follow the link below to watch the film-

<https://bit.ly/3ZFx0B2>

Research Summaries from CYW-RPF presentations

The Dynamic Impact of Parental Death on Child Labour: Panel Data Evidence from Ethiopia

Gidisa Lachisa Tato

Introduction

Ethiopia provides an important setting to study the causes of child labour because of its high prevalence and slow improvement over time. According to two consecutive Ethiopian child labour surveys conducted in 2001 and 2015, 52.1% and 51% of children aged 5 to 17 years were engaged in economic activities, respectively. However, the proportion of children engaged in household chores exceeds 70%. According to the ILO definition, 42.7% of children in the country are engaged in child labour (CSA, 2001; 2015).

This paper examines the dynamic impact of parental death on child labour using five waves of the detailed panel data from Ethiopia - the Ethiopian Young Lives longitudinal data publicly archived by the UK Data Service.

Given the significant influence that parents have on their children's time allocation, it is worthwhile to investigate the impact of their absence. The study also adds to the body of knowledge by investigating the short-term and long-term dynamic impact of parental death on child labour. In addition, age- and time-specific effects are assessed. That is, variations in the impact are examined based on the age at which children experience such shocks, as well as the impact at different ages of the children. In addition, the impact of the length of exposure to the shock is investigated.

Data

The study makes use of five waves (2002-2016) of data from the Young Lives Survey. During the first survey round in 2002, 2,000 one-year-old children (the younger cohort) and 1,000 eight-year-old children (the older cohort) were surveyed. The same children were tracked and surveyed in the subsequent survey rounds (round 2 in 2006, round 3 in 2009, round 4 in 2013, and round 5 in

2016). The sample was drawn from children living in 20 sentinel sites spread across the country's four major regional states, including Amhara, Oromia, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP), Tigray, and the Addis Ababa city administration. Because these regions account for 96% of the national population, the sample gives a good indication of conditions throughout most of the country, even though the sentinel sites were chosen purposively. From round 1 to round 5, the aggregate attrition rate, including dropouts due to death, is limited to 9.6% (4.3% due to death) for the younger cohort and 18.8% (1.1% due to death) for the older cohort (Lives, 2017).



Findings

The key regression results suggest that parental death has a statistically significant impact on child labour. As a result, those who have lost either of their biological parents have a 2.3% higher daily child labour time share than their counterparts. This accounts for approximately 13% of a child's daily time spent on unpaid and/or paid activities at home or outside of the home. Alternative estimations also indicate the following results:

First, the cumulative effect of parental death is greater than the immediate effect, with those who lost their parents early in life (at the ages of 8 and 12) being more affected. Second, the impact of parental death is greater at around 12 years old than at earlier or later ages. Third, parental death forces children to perform unpaid household services (care and domestic work) rather than engage in economic activities (farm activities, family businesses, and paid work). Finally, the death of a mother has a greater impact on child labour in Ethiopia than the death of a father. The results are consistent when a child labour dummy, built on UNICEF's standard indicator, is used as an outcome variable. In this case, children who have lost either of their biological parents are 11% more likely to engage in child labour. When the crowding-out effect of child labour on child education is examined, it was discovered that parental death has a statistically significant and negative effect on child school enrolment and study hours

but has no effect on number of hours spent in school. As a result of the heterogeneous results, context-specific policy interventions and support programmes are required.



Research Summaries from CYW-RPF presentations

The effect of conflict on education and employment outcomes of youth in Ethiopia: Evidence from the Young Lives pre-pilot survey

Tassew Woldehanna, Kefyalew Endale, and Chanie Ejigu

Introduction

The study investigated the effect of the 2020-2022 Northern Ethiopia conflict on the youth's education enrollment, education attainment, and employment outcomes. The analysis is based on the pre-pilot survey conducted in May 2023 as part of the Seventh Round (Round 7) Young Lives Survey in Ethiopia. The survey was conducted to test the conflict-related question and the audio self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) for Round 7. The survey did not involve any of the YL participants, but a small (139) sample of respondents of the same age and socio-economic characteristics of the YL respondents from kebeles adjacent to Young Lives study sites in Tigray, Amhara, in conflict areas and in Addis Ababa and a

site in Oromia where there was no conflict for comparison.

The civil conflict started on November 4, 2020, after the political disagreements between the federal government and the Tigray regional government. Federal and allied forces captured the main towns in Tigray including Mekele in November 2020 but the federal government left the region and declared a unilateral ceasefire in June 2021. However, Tigrayan forces continued fighting from the mountainous areas and occupied several areas in North and South Gondar, North and South Wollo, North Shewa zones of Amhara region as well as in Afar region from which they were forced to retreat to Tigray in December 2022. In November 2022 a cessation of hostilities was agreed at the Pretoria agreement.

Methodology

- Descriptive and regression methods used
- Location indicators based on the direct exposure to conflict and the number of conflict-related shocks were used to measure the intensity of conflict
- Empirical specification: cross-sectional differencing



Findings

The results show that enrollment in education was lower in the intensively conflict-affected sites. Most of those who were unenrolled in conflict areas reported that they would have enrolled if there had not been a conflict. Even those who enrolled after COVID-19 and the conflict attained lower education outcomes, notably lower enrollment and grades than their peers in non-conflict areas. A substantial share of the youth and their households also experienced loss of employment and change of work or occupations after the conflict. However, the employment losses in the directly affected sites of the North Wollo zone had recovered whereas in Tigray sites the participation in any employment activity was still much lower than the rest of the sites. This is probably due to the long conflict-induced siege of the Tigray region for almost two years unlike in the affected areas of Amhara where

basic services were restored immediately after Tigray forces retreated. The findings suggest the need to promote rehabilitation efforts to speed up the recovery of the ravaged infrastructures and government institutions including schools and enterprise development offices. Employment generation and asset-building programs should be also introduced to stimulate conflict-induced loss of employment and productive assets.



Interested to Know about CYW-RPF?

The Child Research and Practice Forum (CRPF) was recently renamed Children, Youth and Women Research and Practice Forum (CYW-RPF) in order to expand the mandate of the Forum at the request of stakeholders and after holding a survey poll of the mailing list members.

CRPF was established in 2010 to promote work on child research, policy and practice. CWY-RPF makes use of monthly seminars, quarterly newsletters and annual publications as a means to achieve its objectives. The publications are also available on the Young Lives Ethiopia website (<https://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/>). CYW-RPF is organized by Young Lives with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and UNICEF.

If you want to know more, please contact us via crpf.ethiopia@gmail.com