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POLICY STUDIES INSTITUTE

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Ethiopia

A review of child sensitivity in Social Policies in Ethiopia

May 25, 2023

Addis Ababa

Introduction

Why Focus on Child Development

- Children are vulnerable
- They don't participate in decisions affecting their current and future life
- Investment in Children is investment in the future generation

In The Ethiopian Context:

Children constitute 50% of the population (under the age of 19)

- Slowing down of economic growth + inflation + debt + Covid-19 + **conflicts** —> reduce public financing for child-related investments.
- low rates of access to improved water and sanitation facilities, electricity and health care

In the Ethiopian Context..

– slower Progress in the achievement of child related SDGs (in child nutrition, child mortality, child labour and gender inequalities)

–High population growth spurred by high fertility in rural areas and among the poorest women (on average, having more than five children per woman). —» child vulnerability

stunting among children under 5	36.8 %
wasting among children under 5	7.2%
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 births)	50.7
proportion of the population using basic drinking water services	41.06%
proportion of the population using basic sanitation services	7.32%
Proportion of population practicing open defecation	22.35%

Objectives

- Objective 1: Analyse the extent to which existing social policies in Ethiopia are child-sensitive in the: (i) policy development process; (ii) articulation; and (iii) prioritization in the financing of the policies
- Objective 2: Analyse the extent to which government stakeholders at the national and regional level understand what child sensitivity in policy means and why it is important
- Objective 3: Analyse the translation of policies' child-sensitivity in their implementation using case studies: Early Childhood Care and Education and National Social Protection Policy

Analytical Framework

Objective 1: Child sensitivity of social policies in

Policy Development Process

- ☐ Prioritization of children's needs
- ☐ Inclusion and coordination among partners
- ☐ Accountability mechanisms

Articulation

- ☐ Responsiveness to needs of children
- ☐ Alignment of goals and standards in UNCRC
- ☐ Consideration of children as rightsholders
- ☐ Achievement of the objectives in the National Child Policy

Financing

- ☐ Adequacy and efficiency of budget usage
- ☐ Extent to which child rights priorities are budgeted and implemented

Objective 2: Understanding of child sensitivity at national and regional level

Understanding of key principles of child sensitivity

Incorporating key principles of child sensitivity

Presence of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) indicators to reflect child rights

Presence of robust horizontal and vertical communication, coordination and networking arrangements

Presence of clearly designed strategies and action plans

Objective 3: Translation of policy's child-sensitivity in implementation:
Case study of ECCE and SP

Methodology

The study was a three phases process:

- i. Risk and vulnerability analysis: assessment of situation of children and adolescents in education, health, social protection, child protection, WASH and child poverty.
- ii. Policy review: to address objectives 1 and 2
- iii. Case study of policy implementation: to address objective 3

Risk and vulnerability analysis

Methods used to acquire data:

-Desk reviews, KII, FGD, in-depth interviews (IDIs)

Who was covered by the data collection?

- I. District officials – education office, health office, women, child and youth affairs office
- ii. Community workers – education workers (including teachers), health workers (including health extension workers and nurses) and social workers
- iii. NGO representatives
- iv. Children and their caregivers – including vulnerable groups of children, such as children with disabilities, orphaned children, migrant children and children under difficult circumstances

Policy Review

-involves high level sectoral analysis of policies and strategies, based on desk review of policy and strategy documents , KIIs and FGDs.

-Covers the following sectors:

education, health and nutrition,

social protection, child protection,

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) , Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

culture and tourism.

Case Study

- Analyzes **implementation** of ECCE and social protection policy
- in terms of **monitoring and evaluation (M and E); stakeholder communication and coordination; and implementation strategies and action plans.**
- Mainly used primary data involving KIIs, IDI and FGDs

target groups:

- i. District officials – **education** office, **health** office, **women, child and youth affairs** office
- ii. Community workers – education workers (including teachers), health workers (including health workers and nurses) and social workers
- iii. Beneficiaries – children and their caregivers

Sample size for FGDs, KIIS and IDIs

Region	Target group for FGDs					Target group for KIIS				Target group for IDIs		
	Children (10-13 years)	Children (14-18 years)	Caregivers (of 0-18 years)	Community Workers	Region Total	Community Workers	NGO Reps	District Officials	Region Total	Vulnerable Children	Caregivers of Vulnerable Children	Region Total
Addis Ababa	1	1	3	1	6	4	1	2	7	2	0	2
Afar	-	-	3	-	3	3	0	1	4	0	0	0
Amhara	-	2	4	-	6	2	2	4	8	2	0	2
Gambella	1	2	2	2	7	3	0	4	7	1	0	1
Oromia	1	-	5	1	7	2	0	6	8	0	2	2
SNNPR	2	2	1	1	6	2	0	4	6	2	0	2
Total	5	7	18	5	35	16	3	21	40	7	2	9

Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

Education

❖ Poverty and vulnerability

- high poverty headcount ratio for children than adults (32.4% vs 29.6%)
- extreme poverty ratio (5.2% vs 4.5%)
- multi-dimensional poverty (multidimensional child deprivations): 88% of children

❖ Education

- low access to pre-primary education, limited resources in schools
- low quality of primary education, high dropouts
- COVID-19 exacerbates the problem

Health, WASH

- limited access to WASH facilities: water, sanitation materials, toilets, etc
- vaccination

Food security and nutrition

- stunting

Child Protection:

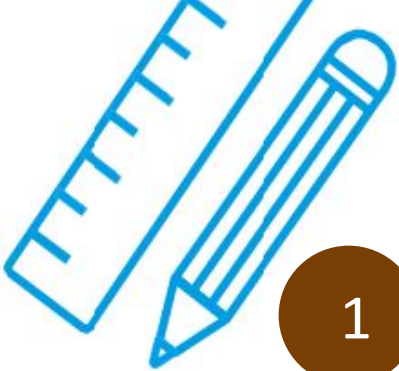
Child marriage: According to the EDHS 2016, the percentage of women marrying before the age of 18 was 58 %

FGMT: in 2015, 65% of women aged 15-49 in Ethiopia are circumcised

Abuse, violence and threats mainly girls

Child labour: in 2015, 42.7 per cent of children aged 5-17 years are engaged in child labour

Key Findings



Education Sector

1

Child-focused, **recognize children as rightsholders**, account for their needs and perspectives (consultative). **However, gender-neutral.**

2

Emphasis on prioritizing equitable access to education, but **‘vulnerable groups of children’ not specified**

3

Highlight provisions and plans for coordination with other government agencies. **Multi-sectoral approaches increasingly being advocated**

4

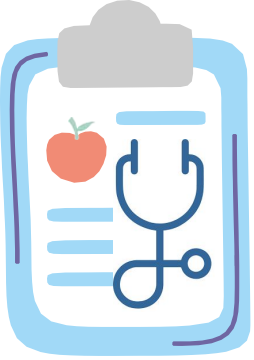
For M&E, the centralized Education Management Information System (**EMIS**) is used to **monitor educational outcomes** has age- and sex-disaggregated data

5

Does not adequately respond to the evolving risks and vulnerabilities of children and the need for **adaptation of support during shocks** (Common Across most Sectors)

6

Does not adequately make references to financing frameworks which makes it difficult to implement as intended (Common Across most Sectors)



Health and Nutrition Sector

1

Policy development collaborative process that incorporates the perspectives of children and caregivers. **Adopts gender-sensitive lens**

2

Recognise a broader definition of health, responsive to risks including violence, neglect, and abuse. However, **not entirely inclusive** needs of disabled children

3

On paper, coordination mechanisms are mapped out. However, there are **intersectoral and multisectoral coordination issues in implementation**

4

M&E is a key priority. At the woreda level, HEWs and kebele administrators, evaluate health plans every quarter. However, high turnover time to institute changes at the policy level based on challenges identified by HEWs at the grass-root level

5

Apart from NHP and NNP II Other policies **do not adequately respond to the evolving risks and vulnerabilities of children and adaptation of support during shocks**

6

Inadequate references to financing frameworks



Social Protection Sector

1

Policy development **relatively silent on the perspectives of children and adolescents**; account for their voices indirectly through other evaluations

2

SP framework recognizes high child & youth dependency ratios but **low emphasis on child poverty, multidimensional deprivations**

3

Many implementing ministries for the main SP programmes. Policy elaborates a comprehensive and multi- level institutional set-up for coordinating SP. **However, yet to be established**

4

Common M&E framework, but **no other detailed monitoring plan** to track process or short-term and mid-term progress indicators

5

The SP policy has a **strong link with adaptive and DRM and response**

6

Financing is not particularly child sensitive; highly dependent on donor-financing



Child Protection Sector

1

Opportunities to engage rightsholders are limited, mainly due to budgetary constraints

2

CP strategies address the overall needs of children but **inadequate emphasis on risks faced by migrant children, children with disabilities, and those vulnerable to disaster**

3

The National Child Policy (NCP) is the key policy MoWCY (now MoWSA) is responsible. However, **Ministry lacks adequate power, capacity or resources** to ensure integration of child protection in other sectors. **Cross-sectoral referral not emphasised**

4

Most policies state that the **monitoring frameworks are being developed**.

Apart from NCP, **other policies do not take shocks/disasters into account**

5

The referral process are primarily in isolation from one another and **most policies do not reference financial frameworks** which has implications for accountability, as financing is key to realising policy commitments and safeguarding children's benefits

6



WASH Sector

1

WASH strategies are **among the most child sensitive**

2

The National Hygiene Sanitation strategy **recognises the urgency in protecting children's rights while also recognising how gender impacts outcomes**

3

Acknowledges intersectoral collaboration with health, water, education, and rural development sectors required to achieve sanitation outcomes and outlines mechanisms

4

The sector maintains child-sensitive monitoring as a critical priority. However, there is **no national database for WASH services**

5

The National Hygiene Sanitation strategy outlines the stepwise public financing strategy for Improved Sanitation and Hygiene (ISH). UNICEF **working on child-sensitive budgeting within WASH**



Disaster Risk Management Sector

1

Inclusion of children in policy development is unclear. However, in formulation of the DIPs, children and communities are involved

2

The policy document **highlights challenges faced by vulnerable groups**, including children

3

The policy outlines the DRMC is the oversight body (including M&E) and mentions that DRM will be mainstreamed into every sectoral development plan along with lead institutions and their roles. However, **emergency preparedness falls under the national disaster and risk management committee and is not embedded across sectors.**

4

Does not address measures to ensure continued access to WASH during disasters, shocks

5

Policy recognises that post disasters, dependency on external aid leads to issues of delays, inadequacy, and limited flexibility so focuses on internal funding. **No reference to child-sensitive budgeting**



Culture and Tourism Sector

1

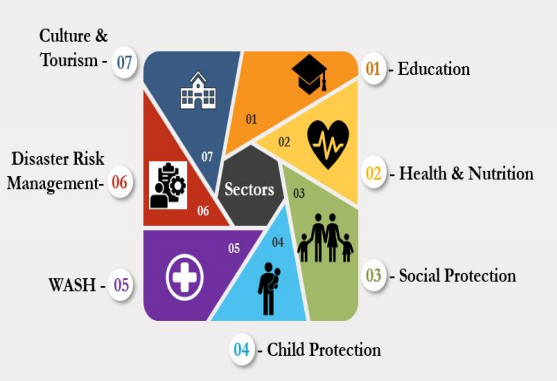
Involvement of children in policy development is unclear. **Children are only referenced twice in the entire policy**

2

Based on the National Culture Policy, a cultural council will be to established to oversee the implementation of the policy, but **not clear which stakeholders are in the council**. Moreover, **no-reference is made to child-sensitive monitoring and adaptability of support during disasters**

3

Sources of financing mentioned include government budgetary allocation, loans and donations, a trust fund to be established in the future, public financing. However, **no reference to child-sensitive budgeting**



Overarching Key Findings

1

Sectors that promote human capital accumulation and are considered pro-poor such as Health, Education, and Agriculture, **receive a higher budget allocation** than other sectors a challenge

2

MoWSA (formerly ka MoWCY) is a common access point for women and children but intermediated by long structures in between the regional, zonal and woreda levels which **leads to 'policy evaporation'** in the implementation process

3

Most social policies in Ethiopia **maintain a fairly gender-neutral approach**, including in social protection and child protection – where the needs of boys and girls can differ significantly and substantially

4

Most social policies in Ethiopia **do not respond to the evolving risks and vulnerabilities of children and do not make references to child-sensitive budgeting**

Recommendations

Key Recommendations: Education Sector

- In ECDE policy Recommend increased integration of WASH and child protection with mechanisms to ensure joint monitoring.
- National/subnational implementation strategies should explicitly engage with vulnerable groups, and funding be explicitly allocated.
- Complement strategies with costed sector plans that outline identifiable child specific programmes, key activities, costs associated source of financing.
- Consider leveraging integrated MIS at the community level, building the trinity of Education, Health and Child Protection robust monitoring of at-risk children.

Key Recommendations: Health & Nutrition Sector

- Strengthen the link between child protection (MoWSA) and health (Ministry of Health) to ameliorate the risk of leaving vulnerable children behind.
- Improve accountability by coordination through a superstructure, i.e., a structure supervised by a higher authority with executive power.
- Policies must respond to the changing risks of children in bad circumstances (victims of conflict, and disasters). Localised implementation plans/strategies to address these risks.
- Consider strengthening of health-based interventions (adequate human resource capacity for HEWs, to improve the handling of referred cases, feedback, make provisions for PWDs).

Key Recommendations: Social Protection Sector

- Expedite the recognition of MoWSA as the policy lead and coordinating agency for SP; Capacitate MoWSA financially, with human and administrative resources.
- Capacity building for SP must take place at all levels of governance.
- Develop a comprehensive, robust and child-sensitive SP monitoring framework; Allocate financial, technological and human resources.
- Gradually scale interventions for PSNP once existing programmes achieve minimum required coverage and performance:
 - Prioritise implementation of the interventions for pregnant women and children aged 0-2 yrs, before expanding coverage to children aged 0-5 yrs.
 - Cost the programme options and develop a government-led financing plan with necessary financial allocations to support the expansions

Key Recommendations: Child Protection Sector

- **Strengthen the NCP as the foundation of the CSP policy framework.** As MoWSA begins to assume the role of the lead agency for securing children's rights, a comprehensive child policy will be instrumental.
- The policy must be complemented with a strong institutional and monitoring framework to ensure its implementation.
- Advocate, build awareness and strengthen capacity for integrating child protection, education and health to strengthen child protection at district levels.
- Reprioritise of the formalisation of the National Case Management System Framework for Child Protection - through building a network of social and case workers.

Key Recommendations: WASH Sector

- Mother and Baby WASH implementation guideline identifies newborn corners in healthcare centres as a site to deliver WASH messaging → mainstreamed into the next Newborn Health Strategy.
- Increased coherence between education sector policies and WASH sector WASH sector to work with education ensure to access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (products and services) at schools. WASH sector to raise awareness and promote behaviour change for the use of WASH services.

Key Recommendations: Disaster Risk Mng't Sector

- Consider institutionalising rapid monitoring, evaluation, and response system for DRM Accountability framework with clear targets for monitoring the provision of emergency support, its timeliness, its adequacy, and drawing lessons through solid feedback loops.
- Ensure that DRM planning and programming, especially at the district level, include a multisectoral response (including health, education, WASH, child protection).
- Explicitly highlight the role of social protection in the DRM and Response Framework as the primary instrument for disaster risk management.

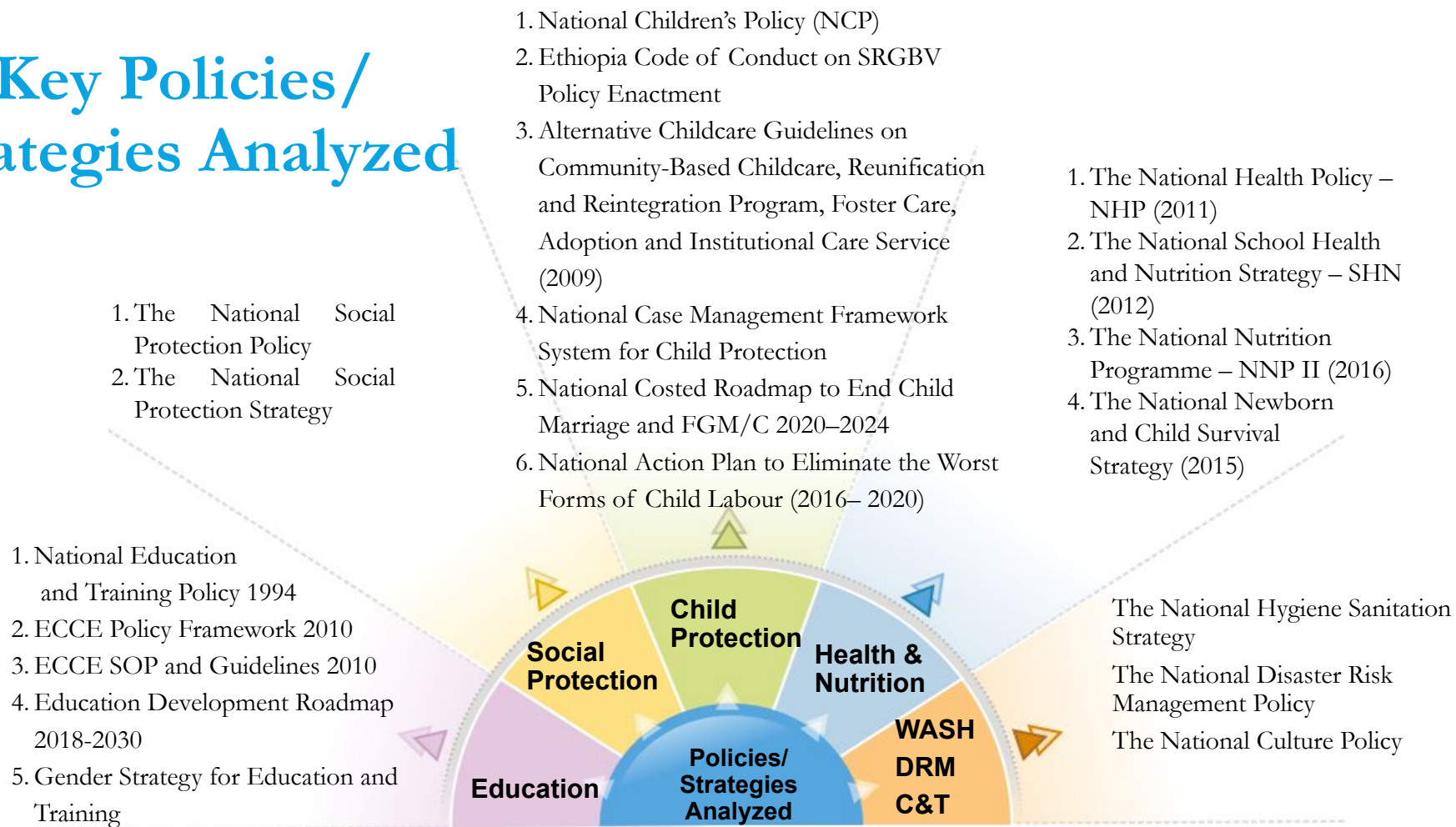
Key Recommendations: Culture & Tourism Sector

- The culture policy must be adapted to respond to the goals outlined in the NCP:
 - Constructing training centres where children can develop their talents and learn new skills in the fields of art, sport, science and technology;
 - Establishing child-friendly theatres, cinemas, libraries and cultural centres and strengthening existing ones;
 - Facilitating conditions for children to participate and exchange experiences on art at national and international forums.
- The education and culture policies must be aligned.

Thank you!

Supplementary Materials

Key Policies/ Strategies Analyzed



Text Analysis: Frequency of the word 'Child' and other related words

Policy/ Strategy/ Plan	Frequency of the word -Child	Other child-related words (infant, girl, boy, adolescent, parent, gender, school, education)	Other Child-related words (excluding gender and education)
Child Protection			
National Child Policy Ethiopia	76	82	38
WASH			
NationalHygieneSanitationStrategy2005	22	97	49
Health			
National Nutrition Programme (2016 to 2020)	59	235	144
National School Health and Nutrition Strategy2012	31	303	159
Newborn Child Survival Strategy 20152020	63	6	5
Education			
ECCE Policy Framework 2010	82	202	85
ECCE SOP and Guidelines 2010	120	269	175
National Education and Training Policy of Ethiopia	2	140	3
Education Sector Development Programme V	52	1481	408
Education Development Roadmap 2018 to 2030	16	951	180
Ethiopia Code of Conduct on SRGBV Policy Enactment	38	796	500
Social Protection			
Social Protection Policy English	2	21	8
National Social Protection Strategy 2016	33	128	52
Other Policies			
National Physical Rehabilitation Strategy	1	14	4
Environment Policy of Ethiopia	0	13	0
Ethiopia Climate Change Education Strategy	0	394	30
National DRM Policy 2014	0	5	2