

IMPROVING CHILDREN'S LIVES THROUGH RESEARCH

Summaries from presentations at the
monthly seminar series of the Child
Research and Practice Forum in 2012

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Improving Children's Lives through Research:
**Summaries from Presentations at the Monthly Seminar
Series of the Child Research and Practice Forum in 2012**

Summaries by: Clare Gorman

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Young Lives

Save the Children

P.O.Box 387

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Tel +251 11 372 84455/+251 11 372 0030

E-mail: younglivesethiopia@gmail.com

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Foreword

The Child Research Practice Forum (CRPF) is an informal network of people with the common interest of discussing the results of research and evaluations of actions aimed to accelerate progress towards the realisation of children's rights. The network includes academics, national and international civil servants, interested members of civil society; there are no barriers to entry except the size of the space where the network meets on a monthly basis to share knowledge. The network meets on the premises of the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. Through this dialogue the network hopes that actions in place for children will become more efficient, more effective and more sustained. We hope also that the network will help to spread knowledge about what works and what doesn't for children. The summary report attempts to give a concise depiction of the researches presented throughout the year.

This compilation of summaries from presentations made in 2012 is the second one produced by the CRPF. The presentations consist of a range of research material from programme evaluations, situation analysis updates, and other research. The CRPF steering committee invites researchers to present their work and the discussion after the presentation aims to focus on potential action points to improve programmes in place or potential new initiatives.

If you are not already a member of the network we hope you find these summaries of research presented in the recent past interesting and hope they will spur you to do your part in accelerating progress towards the realisation of the rights of girls and boys across Ethiopia. We look forward to seeing you at future network meetings perhaps to listen to your research or to hear your suggestions for how progress for children can accelerate.



Roger Pearson

Chief, Research, Evaluation, Policy and Monitoring
UNICEF Ethiopia



Summary Report on Brief
Situational Analysis and
Baseline Survey of Children
on the Move in the Northern
Corridor of Ethiopia

Tsegaye Chernet,
Emanuel Development Association, OAK Foundation

Introduction

Children's migration, specifically from rural to urban centres, is a widespread phenomenon in Ethiopia. Whatever the cause of migration may be, the children involved are often vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse and exploitation.

This evaluation assesses the mid-term progress of a two-year pilot project aimed at improving the lives of migrant children at risk in the northern corridor of Ethiopia. Run by five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with support from the OAK Foundation, Protection of Children on the Move in the Northern Ethiopia Corridor raises awareness and coordinates information regarding migrant child protection issues in eight sites across the Amhara Regional State.

The evaluation was carried out to (i) determine if the objectives are so far met, (ii) identify the role that children have played in project implementation process, and (iii) review the institutional strengths and limitations of the project partnership and explore the prevailing relationship between the organisations involved.

Methodology

The evaluation collected and analysed information both from primary and secondary sources. Project documents and reports, training and workshop proceedings, and project reports were reviewed. Field visits were made to all eight project sites, three of the partners' head offices and all of the partner's regional offices. Collection methods included interviews, focus group discussions and observations.

Findings

The evaluation presents its findings under nine broad headings:

Assessment of plans versus accomplishments

The evaluation found that most of the planned activities were performed as planned. They included:

- Public education for more than 78,700 people on the issues of migration, risky movements and trafficking of children.
- Awareness raising workshops with 153 drivers, assistant drivers, brokers, conductors, bus owners' associations to protect against risky child movement.
- Creating links between police, child protection committees and the transportation sector to protect and support children on the move.

Organisation and management of the programme

The evaluation found that most of the targets concerning organisation and management are due to be met. The project has a good financial track record and current partnership structures and functions are operating well.

Project achievements, lessons drawn and way forward

- *Awareness raising activities:* The evaluation found plenty of evidence of awareness raising and cites community campaigns, panel discussions, drama shows and music concerts among the many activities carried out.
- *Establishing and strengthening multi-sectoral child protection committees (CPCs):* The evaluation found that CPCs have been set up in each of the eight project sites. Different activities carried out include para-legal training and counseling.
- *Summary results from interviewees of trainees, CPC members and other stakeholders:* Those interviewed all spoke highly of the training content, relevance and delivery.

Development with government partners

Transport sector development: The role of the transport sector in raising the issue of protection of children is invaluable. Transport terminals have been used to distribute cassettes, stickers and leaflets prepared to increase public awareness. The evaluation recognised the difficulties of distribution in transport terminals being run by private operators.

Police Child Protection Units: The evaluation found that the police partners involved in the project play a pivotal role in protecting children on the move from possible abuses and exploitation. In all sites, the police have launched successful awareness raising workshops and have achieved outstanding results.

The establishment of a database

- The evaluation found that a project activity reporting system had been established and was being properly applied.
- A baseline information and situational analysis has been conducted and the findings had been discussed with the representatives of all stakeholders in the Northern Corridor.
- A resource centre has been established at the coordination office in Debre Berhan and monitoring tools have been devised.

Children's participation in the life of the programme

- There are strong indications that the interest and participation of children have been properly considered in child reunification programmes.
- In schools, staff and children have good levels of awareness on issues related to children on the move. Students ask why their friends and

classmates are absent from school and bring the matter to the attention of their teachers.

Institutions capabilities

- Proper administrative and finance systems are in place and partners are adequately staffed.
- Work plans are linked to the government plans and are valued by government offices.
- Partners have the ability to mobilise outside support for the project.

General Programme Management

- Current project management structure and functions are workable but need strengthening.
- Participation in the project's design and implementation processes has enhanced partners' feelings of ownership and mutual accountability.

Actual Effects of possible Risks and Threats Indicated in the Proposal

- Most of the possible risks and threats indicated in the original proposal were found to be realistically assessed.
- There have been serious concerns over budget delays at the start of the second year of the project. In some cases, partner organisations reported having to use funds from other sources which will be repaid later.

Conclusions and recommendations

The Protection of Children on the Move in the Northern Ethiopia Corridor project has achieved a lot during its first year. While there is confidence among partners that this success will continue, the evaluation cautions that high rates of inflation may compromise with quality and quantity of future delivery. Among the raft of recommendations, the evaluator suggests:

Awareness raising:

- More engagement in school awareness creation activities in all project sites. The coordination office and all other project holders need to take similar approaches in this regard.
- Use simple, culturally appropriate and powerful messages which need to be developed in

future to be transmitted through the mini-medias and community radios.

- Use national events such as Children's Day to promote the importance of protecting children who are on the move.

Training:

- Objectives and learning outcomes need to be sufficiently clarified and communicated to trainees.
- Expand training (para-legal, para-counselling and child protection) to reach more targets.
- Facilitate exchange of training manuals between project sites.

Exposure visit:

- Negotiate with partners on the number of days, per diem rate and delegation of appropriate participants.
- Get commitment from the participants to write detailed reports on the lessons learned and to share their experiences.

The transport sector:

- Improve referral systems from the transport office to the police.
- Train more transport workers and replace those who have left the sector.
- Coordinate efforts with other organisations to avoid duplication of efforts in operating and running mini-medias inside the terminals.

Children's participation:

- Encourage and motivate all project partners to reach children and help facilitate their participation.
- Scale up all current child protection trainings
- Prepare a training package on child participation for all project staff and CPC members.

Institutional Capability of implementing partner NGO area offices:

- Establish regular communication mechanisms between the project and the coordination offices
- Encourage and facilitate exchange visits to add value to the efforts being made to strengthen the partnership.

General Partnership and information management:

- Enhance partnership formation and management skills in all staff.
- Document best practices for learning purposes.
- Expand dissemination mechanisms to include local media and newsletters.



Child protection in the Somali region of Ethiopia

Tufts University

BRIDGES Project, led by Save the Children UK in partnership with Islamic Relief and Mercy Corps

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. However violations of this right take place in every society and are often related to poverty, social values, norms and traditions.

This study was carried out on behalf of the DFID-funded BRIDGES project, a programme designed to promote peace and state building in the region through better education services. It shines a light on child protection issues in the Somali region of Ethiopia by investigating the underlying causes and impact of child abuse and examining the current attitudes, behaviour and practices towards protecting children. The study also analyses existing mechanisms and provides recommendations for future projects aimed at improving child protection in schools and communities.

Methodology

The research design of the study consisted of desk research and qualitative field research in four areas in the Somali region. Data collection methods included focus group discussions and interviews.

A total of 47 focus group discussions were held with boys, girls, parent teacher associations (PTA) and Centre Management Committee (CMC) members, women's groups, women and elders and men. 26 interviews were also held with representatives from local government offices and the police, NGOs, UN bodies, religious leaders and medical professionals. Children were interviewed in the school setting with the consent of their teachers and were not asked about personal experiences of sexual abuse.

The authors of the study note that due to the sensitive nature of the research and because certain practices are illegal or disapproved of, participants may not have been completely open in their responses. They caution that it is therefore likely that the prevalence of abuse is underreported.

Findings

Child protection issues

While the findings show that children in the Somali Region are exposed to various forms of abuse, five key child protection issues stand out:

Child labour: Child labour is a main reason for children not to go to school and children struggle to combine school with work. Amongst the other findings, the study reveals that:

- Seasonal mobility and factors such as drought also impact on the involvement of children in work and consequently their school attendance.
- Rural boys and girls go to urban centres for work, usually from the age of 15 but sometimes younger. Girls mainly leave to work as domestic labourers, often with relatives, and boys usually leave for manual labour.

Corporal punishment: The research finds that corporal punishment is frequently used by both parents and teachers across all the study sites. Adults often said that beating is necessary to discipline children and there seemed to be little awareness of alternative positive forms of correction. The study also finds:

- In several sites, there were instances when parents turned to police, teachers or other clan members to provide discipline. Punishments cited included locking up children for short periods of time and in a few extreme cases, public beatings.
- Although highly prevalent, corporal punishment was only mentioned by five per cent of the same groups as a specific reason for children not going to school.

Early and forced marriage: The study finds that although early marriage is less prevalent than in some other areas of Ethiopia, it is still reported to occur frequently. Poverty, lack of education and job opportunities and a desire to conform to social norms were reasons given for early marriage. Findings from this study also show:

- Early marriage and promising girls for marriage were mentioned as significant reasons for not going to school.
- Boys and girls reportedly often marry voluntarily below the age of 18; however some children, mainly girls, were also said to be forced into marriage.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs): FGM seems to be almost universal in the Somali Region. However the study suggests a large shift in practice from *infibulation* to the milder form of *sunna* cutting. The reasons given engaging in both forms of FGM were as follows:

- Tradition – mentioned by 35 per cent of the focus groups asked.
- Uncircumcised girls are considered haram or unclean – mentioned by 27 per cent
- Men will not marry uncircumcised girls – mentioned by 23 per cent
- Reasons related to reducing the sexual desire of girls or controlling their behaviour – mentioned by 15 per cent.

The existence of several HTPs, such as tonsil scraping, milk teeth extraction and rectal ulceration were confirmed during interviews and focus group discussions. Respondents explained that HTPs are often carried out by traditional healers in the belief that they prevent or cure medical problems.

Impact of child protection issues on children's education

In terms of the impact of the different child protection issues described above on children's education, the study found that child labour has the most significant impact on children's school enrolment, attendance, drop-out and level of achievement. When asked why children in their area are not going to school, respondents cited children having to contribute labour or income,

parents not being aware of the value of education and girls dropping out because of being promised for marriage, especially early marriage.

Attitudes, practices and mechanisms

There is a strong reliance on traditional ways of solving child protection issues within the Somali Region. However the use of regular formal law and Sharia law is increasing, especially in urban areas. Child protection cases in the region are dealt with by three co-existing legal systems: regular formal law, Sharia law and customary Somali law. The study finds that:

- The use of regular formal law and Sharia law is growing while customary law is losing influence, especially in urban areas.
- Children seem to have little access to (other) child-friendly, nearby and confidential reporting mechanisms.
- Regular formal law enforcement bodies reported receiving very few reports of child abuse and deal with few child protection cases, the majority of which involves rape.
- Elders reported dealing with a limited number of cases related to verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

The study also finds various positive attitudes, practices and mechanisms in Somali communities that help to protect children from different forms of abuse and could potentially be built on, supported or expanded as a starting point in future child protection interventions.

Conclusions and recommendations

Children in the Somali Region are exposed to various forms of abuse, reflecting the general situation in Ethiopia in some areas, while being specific to the Somali region in others. With little access to confidential, child-friendly and nearby reporting mechanisms, children often only have the option to discuss child abuse issues with family members, teachers or other

community members. Recognising the need for better mechanisms and a greater attention to child protection issues beyond FGM and early marriage, the study presents a raft of recommendations for future projects that aim to develop child protection mechanisms in schools and communities in the Somali Region. These include:

General approach

- Linking child protection to wider development issues, at least initially. Education is a good entry point for establishing trust and addressing child protection issues.
- Implementing a programme that could serve as a pilot from which lessons learned are drawn to be applied in other communities in the Somali region.
- Enabling on-going discussions and critical reflection and decision-making by the community about what is in the best interests of their children.

Work at community level

- Using community conversations as a tool to address child protection issues.
- Looking together with communities for opportunities to decrease children's workload.
- Developing child protection monitoring and reporting practices with communities which link to formal mechanisms.
- Paying attention to the inclusion of children from minority clans.

Work at school level

- Continuing awareness raising on the value of education and creating access to education for children who are currently not able to go to school.

- Building the capacity of Parent Teachers Associations/ Centre Management Committees to mediate in child protection issues linked to school enrolment.
- Holding practical workshops with PTAs/CMCs in which they develop alternative positive forms of discipline.
- Establishing a child-friendly mechanism at schools for reporting abuse and providing children with appropriate support.

Engaging with government

- Building on activities of UNICEF with regards to 'justice for children', including the establishment of social welfare workers, child protection units in police stations and capacity building of justice professionals.
- Working with government to ensure that Alternative Basic Education (ABE) centres are accommodating the lifestyles of children and their families and to create opportunities for children to continue education.

Engaging with religious leaders

- Holding workshops with religious leaders to explore child protection concepts in Somali culture and Islamic religion
- Working with religious leaders performing marriage ceremonies on preventing early and forced marriage.
- Linking with national discussions on FGM between Islamic leaders.

Evaluation on the Progress in Abandoning Female Genital Mutilation in Self-Declared Woredas of Ethiopia

Dr Emezat H. Mengesha and Dr Lulit Mitik

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and
UNICEF in Ethiopia



Introduction

Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) such as Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C) are widespread across Ethiopia. The negative impacts of these practices on the health and wellbeing of victims are well documented and many attempts have been made to educate communities about the long-term risks that these traditions pose.

In some areas, such awareness-raising has led to a 'Declaration of Abandonment' resulting in communities turning their back on FGM/C. This study evaluates the progress made by self-declared woredas in abandoning FGM/C and child marriage. Furthermore, it examines the extent of FGM/C in a bid to validate the woredas claims and analyses successful abandonment strategies and initiatives with a view to scaling up these efforts towards a 'National HTP plan'.

Methodology

This study used a mixed methods approach to collecting data, combining the quantitative approach of close-ended questionnaires with qualitative methods such as in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The survey was preceded by a desk-based review of existing research literature and other documentation.

A total of 1275 households were covered in the 10 selected woredas. In each household, one adult man, one adult woman and one teenager were interviewed using a questionnaire. A broad range of stakeholders were approached to take part in the evaluation including: mothers and/or primary care givers of daughters who had undergone FGM/C, teenage girls, community and religious leaders/elders, woreda officials, justice representatives, government officials and health workers.

The evaluation covered pre-selected woredas which had declared abandonment of FGM/C practices before the commissioning of the study. These 10 woredas are found within the three regional states of Afar, Benishangul Gumuz and SNNPR and the capital city Addis Ababa.

Since there was no baseline data for the selected woredas, the study was unable to use statistical

indicators to evaluate change and assess trends. Instead a different set of indicators were used for the evaluation including: knowledge, attitude and practice towards HTPs among the respondents; health-related indicators and testimonials from health workers, police and law documentation and government reports.

Findings

The evidence on the extent of FGM/C practice

Interviews with women and teenage girls who were asked about their experiences of FGM/C suggests both an inter-generational difference and decline in the practice.

- With the exception of Kolfe and Yeka areas of Addis Ababa, where the percentage of women who have undergone FGM/C is relatively low, the overwhelming majority of adult women, 90 per cent on average, in all the woredas have undergone FGM/C.
- Overall, the rate of FGM/C among teenagers is much lower with close to 64 per cent in Dale and Alaba and below 4 per cent for Kolfe and Yeka K.K.

Effect of the declaration to abandon FGM/C

In order to adequately assess the prevalence of the practice before and after the declaration of abandonment, the authors of the study looked at the level of awareness about the declaration and the trend in the practice after the declaration and future behaviour. The findings reveal that:

- There is good level of awareness about the declaration to abandon FGM/C among adult women, with over 70 per cent of the women claiming to be aware of the declaration in many of the woredas.
- Among teenagers, awareness varied greatly from 50-60 per cent in one woreda compared to 15 per cent in another. Interviews suggest this is because of the low number teenagers engaging in community discussions concerning abandonment because they are regarded as children.



Trends in the practice after declaration: The results of the evaluation show a perceived decline in the practice of FGM/C in all the self-declared woredas surveyed.

- Among adult women, 60-80 per cent of the respondents believed that the practice has declined after the declaration.
- No teenagers reported a perceived increase in FGM/C since the declaration.
- A number of female respondents (teenage and adult) suggested that one of the reasons behind the decline was an awareness of the adverse health effects.
- Although survey results appear to indicate a perceived decline, interviews and focus group discussions for the majority of the woredas suggest that the practice appears to have gone underground.

Future behaviour: The study suggests that the future behaviour of respondents is a strong indication of the impact of the declaration on the practice.

- The majority of the respondent women in all woredas stated that they do not intend for their daughters to undergo the process in the future.
- The respondents who claimed they still wanted their daughters to undergo FGM/C gave culture and religion as their primary reasons.

Strategies utilised to work towards the abandonment of FGM/C

The study identifies seven strategies employed by woredas to combat FGM/C:

Efforts geared towards bringing about social change: Activities that bring about conversation on the harmful practice of FGM/C such as community discussions and awareness-raising events.

Utilising existing community structures: In most woredas, these are referred to as 'HTP Committees'. Composed of members of the community they have been instrumental in detecting and reporting on underground practices of FGM/C.

Health approach: Using health extension workers to teach on the adverse health impacts of FGM/C

through door to door teaching, community conversations, work in schools and pre- and post-natal services.

Religious approach: Using religious leaders to clarify that religion doesn't require that females undergo FGM/C, ostracising those that going against the declaration, giving their blessing and support to teaching by others and requiring practitioners to undertake an oath that they will abandon the practice.

Law enforcement approach: Employing both the formal legal system as well as the informal/traditional system of justice administration.

Political commitment and coordination among various stakeholders: Informants in the various woredas repeatedly said that there is a need for strong political commitment, leadership and coordination to fight FGM/C.

School centred approach: Schools in the various woredas have implemented different strategies to empower school children to play a role in combating FGM/C. These include: establishing and strengthening girls clubs and provision of cell phones for purposes of contacting responsible people if and when FGM/C about is to take place.

Challenges that stand in the way of efforts geared towards the abandonment of FGM/C

The study found a number of major challenges that stand in the way of the fight against FGM/C:

- i) Interference in law enforcement where the legal process aimed at the prevention and punishment of the perpetrators of the practice of FGM/C is affected by the intervention of elders and religious leaders through the traditional system of settling disputes;
- ii) weak commitment towards the fight against FGM/C;
- iii) weak enforcement of the law;
- and iv) deep rooted culture and religious beliefs.

Other Harmful Traditional Practices

The study also looked at three other HTPs to see whether similar conclusions could be drawn about the strategies employed to combat them and those used to fight FGM/C. Some are interrelated since FGM/C is often a prelude to and linked with child marriage.

Child marriage: The majority of the women respondents reported that they do not intend to marry off their daughters prior to attaining the age of marriage. Sending more and more girls to school and encouraging them to stay at school helps to delay marriage for girls. In this regard schools play an important role.

Abduction: The overwhelming majority of the respondents in two woredas reported a perceived decline in the practice of abduction. This was attributed to awareness-raising interventions and

the legal approach. Compared to the other forms of HTPs in this study, the practice of abduction appears to have shown a significant decline.

Wife Beating: Personal experience among the respondent women shows that 30.2 per cent have experienced wife beating in their lifetime. Further, women are beginning to bring their complaints to the authorities mainly the Women's Affairs Offices.

Conclusions and recommendations

Overall, findings have highlighted strategies that have proven to be efficient in fighting FGM/C. Although it is probably too early to ascertain a decline in the practice of FGM/C, there are, to some extent, encouraging results in terms of awareness creation and behavioural change.

- A lesser share of teenagers compared to adult women had undergone FGM/C in most woredas which may be an indication that there is some decline in the practice of FGM/C.
- While FGM/C may no longer be performed in the open and is gradually being abandoned, most respondents indicated that remaining practice has gone underground.
- There is good awareness of the health risks FGM/C poses to women and teenagers.

- A certain level of attitudinal change has arisen from increased awareness about the adverse effects of FGM/C.
- Overall, a significant share of respondents said they did not wish to see the practice continue.
- Regular awareness-raising activities within the community may be a first step towards changing attitudes and practices among society members.

A more thorough monitoring and assessment is required to follow-up on the progress made towards fighting FGM/C. The encouraging results identified through this study will last only if there is concerted effort and strong commitment from all stakeholders and if strategies that work are implemented on a sustained and regular basis with a wider coverage, including in remote areas.



The Scope, Character and
Geographic Pattern of Child
Trafficking in Selected Prone
Areas of Ethiopia

People in Need (PIN)

Introduction

Human trafficking is a global problem with serious consequences for individual victims as well as communities and countries. Traffickers 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 paper shares the results of a baseline survey conducted on behalf of People In Need (PIN), for a project concerned with the prevention of child trafficking and interception and rehabilitation of victims. The survey reviews existing literature and records perceptions on child trafficking that embed the socio-economic and policy frameworks that are contributing to the issues of child trafficking in the country. The recommendations put forward are to help both PIN and partners combat child trafficking by using a more concrete and coordinated approach.

Methodology

The baseline survey was planned and conducted in two phases. Phase one examined the situation of victims of child trafficking in five pre-selected urban centres while phase two focused on the situation of trafficked children in rural communities with the intention of providing characteristics of trafficked children within their communities of origin.

Both quantitative and qualitative data related to child trafficking was gathered through various techniques, including:

- Consultations and desk study;
- Qualitative/ participatory surveys: focus group discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interviews with adults and children;
- Quantitative surveys.

In urban areas:

- The survey took place in five towns including Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.
- A total of 19 focus group discussions (FDG) were conducted with women, men and young people. Three to five FDGs were held per town. Each FDG comprised three to seven discussants.

- People from a range of social groups were selected including male weavers, formerly trafficked children and bus terminal workers.
- In addition to the FGDs, a total of 51 key-informants were also interviewed. These represented, among others: government offices, child-centred NGOs, community leaders, owners of hotels and traffickers.

In rural areas:

- The survey was conducted in three rural woredas.
- A total of 14 FGDs were conducted with women, men and young people. Three to six FDGs were held per rural woreda. Each FDG comprised three to seven discussants.
- In addition to the FGDs, 30 in-depth interviews were conducted with different key-informants representing, among others: government offices, municipal workers, child-centred NGOs, community leaders, traffickers and employment brokers.

Findings

Urban areas

Perceptions and awareness of child trafficking: The survey found a mixed level of awareness about child trafficking and its underlying causes and effects among different segments of society.

- Some respondents were of the opinion that the general public tend to regard the issue as normal practice rather than an illegal act.
- Informants largely attributed child trafficking to the inability of families to meet basic services, education, health and economic needs.
- It was felt that child-centred organisations tackling the issue are limited in number and hardly able to reach the whole population.

Trends and place of origin of trafficked children: The survey suggests divided opinion on whether child trafficking is on the increase or in decline. While some respondents observed that the number of children coming from rural areas into their neighbourhoods had fallen, others pointed to trends such as an increase in street children



to suggest it had risen. In fact, the majority of the trafficked children who participated in the standardised interviews were trafficked from the surrounding rural woredas of the respective towns.

Causes and purposes of child trafficking: All study participants identified poverty, mainly parental poverty, as the root cause of child trafficking. The survey suggests a series of push/pull factors which lead to children being trafficked which include the lack of educational opportunities for children (push) and a high demand for cheap labour of children (pull).

Profile of traffickers and mechanisms: The study participants believe that traffickers have a varied profile, and come from differing sectors of society ranging from affluent, well-educated people to poor and illiterate members of society. Parents and close relatives play a major role in trafficking with both men and women engaged in the practice. Mechanisms employed to recruit, transport and control children include lobbying families and winning the spirit of the children by providing them with small gifts.

Types of abuse and their perpetrators: Children face numerous problems, including: abuse (physical, sexual, emotional), neglect and unmet basic needs.

- Out of the total 213 trafficked children interviewed, 33.8 per cent reported encountering different forms of abuse.
- The trafficked children interviewed identified abusers as gangsters, employers, relatives, delalas (brokers), and clients of hotels or bars, among others.
- The majority of children (61.8 per cent) felt that they have legal protection from different social agents.

The situation for trafficked children:

- 47.1 per cent out of 210 interviewees said that they live on the street. 63.3 per cent of the interviewees have no contact with their parents or relatives.
- The majority (84.9 per cent) said they were not employed by anyone. Of those in employment,

40.6 per cent worked for others while the rest were self-employed.

- Trafficked children's two top priorities were identified as 'getting education' (54.4 per cent), followed by 'reunification with parents or relatives' (28.6 per cent).

Challenges in addressing child trafficking: The discussants and key informants concluded that the level of intervention is unsatisfactory compared to the severity of the problem. They also identified:

- Ignorance of the community is a major barrier to identifying victims and providing the necessary care and support.
- Lack of strong evidence (due to the secrecy involved) coupled with the slow and lengthy court procedures makes conviction of criminals very difficult.
- Poor coordination among the agencies working on the issue child trafficking.

Rural areas

Perceptions and awareness of child trafficking: A variety of perceptions about child trafficking and its consequences are held by members of the rural community.

- Households in two of the woredas said that they had not participated in any kind of awareness-raising programme (71.6 per cent and 86.3 per cent respectively). In the remaining woreda, the majority of respondents (80.0 per cent) said that they had.

Causes and purposes of child trafficking: In common with urban areas, the data gathered shows that economic problems have been the prominent cause of child trafficking in the rural woredas covered by the study. The absence of diversified means of livelihood that characterised the rural areas seems to have exacerbated the situation. The survey identified push factors such as low-level awareness of child trafficking in sending communities. Pull factors include the search for imagined opportunities – people from the rural areas seem to believe that towns are better than where they lived in every aspect.

Profile of traffickers and mechanisms: Survey participants identify friends, relatives and brokers among the main perpetrators of child trafficking. Traffickers entice families and children with the promises of financial benefits. Children are often expected to travel long distances on foot and without food or water.

Challenges facing trafficked children: The findings of the baseline survey show that trafficked children face different challenges and abuses, which jeopardise their health and wellbeing. According to the interviewees, trafficked children face multiple problems such as severe health

problems, labour exploitation, sexual abuse, physical punishment, addiction to drugs and to psycho-social problems.

Challenges in addressing child trafficking: Findings from the survey suggest that stopping child trafficking has been a challenging task. Reasons for this include denial and lack of cooperation by some community members, budget problems, lack of information and lack of communication. Some rural households who are extremely poor tend to resist the efforts of the different actors who work on prevention and control of child trafficking.

Conclusions and recommendations

In urban areas there appears to be a growing awareness that much remains to be done to address its root causes and consequences of child trafficking. However, interventions by agencies trying to combat child trafficking are urban-biased and have been impeded by major challenges such political inertia, lack of coordination and resources and low levels of community participation.

Recommendations include:

- Educating potential perpetrators and creation of job opportunities
- Providing integrated and comprehensive rehabilitative services to victims
- Establishing better coordination among relevant actors

In most parts of the rural areas covered by the survey, children are said to be confronted with multi-faceted problems which pose difficulties for most of the households in meeting the basic needs of the family and thus increases their vulnerability to trafficking. The absence of diversified economic activities has been a common scenario in pushing parents into letting their children look for better opportunities elsewhere.

Recommendations include:

- Strengthening the economies of sending communities through diversified income.
- Awareness creation for the wider community to include posters, t-shirts, dance and drama.
- Strong legal backing to provide the survivors with access to justice.



Beyond Food Security:
Transforming Productive
Safety Net Programme for
the Well-being of Children

Yisak Tafere and Tassew Woldehanna,
Young Lives

Introduction

Social protection schemes such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia are widely used in attempts to reduce child labour, and improve the nutritional intake and school attendance of children in poor communities. Although assessments have been carried out to establish the effect of the programme on household income and children's education, the impact of the PSNP on child welfare is not well documented.

This study looks at children's experiences of the PSNP and investigates the possible effects of the programme on their well-being. It assesses the extent to which the PSNP protects vulnerable households and children from shocks. It also evaluates the impacts of the scheme on school attendance and grade progression. The study then calls for child-focused social protection that goes beyond the current scope.

Methodology

The study takes a mixed methods approach and draws on empirical evidence gathered as part of a larger longitudinal study looking at the long-term impact of poverty of children. While the quantitative figures highlight wider trends and statistical indicators, the qualitative data presents illustrative evidence of real experiences of the PSNP and its impacts on children's well-being.

Quantitative data was taken from household surveys carried out in rural areas focussing on income, assets, shocks and participation in and perception of the PSNP. The surveys also included questions for children on their time use and schooling.

The qualitative component of the study was undertaken with 32 households and their older children drawn from four rural sites sub-sampled from the survey households and children. As well as individual interviews with a range of stakeholders, eight group discussions were conducted with children and their caregivers. The focus of the interviews was on local and household shocks, the implementation of the PSNP, children's participation in the Public Works

(PW) programme, and possible impacts of the PSNP on children including schooling, work, health and food consumption.

Findings

Impact of PSNP on household wealth and income expenditure

During the qualitative fieldwork of 2009, most households reported having the same, or lower, food security and overall economic status as when the programme started in 2005.

The findings seem to support the general public opinion that the PSNP is making some people dependent on aid and is not lifting households permanently out of poverty.

- The real value of the transfers people obtained from the PSNP (cash or in-kind) did not increase.
- People who were not included in the PSNP worked hard to increase the amount of payment they obtained from off-farm employment (wage labour and non-farm business), while many PSNP beneficiaries waited for low-paying public work, which they saw as less risky.

Ambivalence towards the PSNP transfer was clearly articulated by beneficiaries from all communities. Respondents believe that the PSNP develops dependency but also acknowledge how necessary it is for the survival of family members during shocks and droughts.

The PSNP and child-wellbeing

Since households have to supply labour to get transfers; participation in the public work component (PW) increases the demand in a PSNP household for labour. Public work participation:

- Increases the time children spend on work and reduces the time they have available to spend in school and on home study.
- Reduces the hours children spend on child care and increases the hours they spend on household chores and on paid and unpaid work outside the home.
- Reduces time spent in school.



The study finds that the PSNP has failed to protect young people from working in its PW component. Moreover, the transfer does not reduce the chances of them engaging in wage labour because it was insufficient to meet family food needs.

Impact on schooling

The PW component of the PSNP does not just impact on children's time use but, more importantly, their learning.

- Children were either combining schooling with work or dropping out altogether and continuing with work.
- As a consequence, the grade levels achieved by children from PSNP PW households were lower than those whose household were not included in the programme.

Such effects have to be put down to the labour demand of the programme for all households including those who have school age children. While not all the blame for the high prevalence of child labour can be attributed to the PSNP, these findings suggest that the programme is contributing to it.

Beyond food security: From safety net to child-sensitive social protection

The PSNP remains an important support programme for food-insecure households and children by helping them avoid hunger yet falls short of addressing children's diverse needs. The study finds:

- The scheme has neither improved household wealth status nor met full food consumption needs.
- Children are still dropping out of school and engaging in wage labour.
- Many children do public work, adding to their workload and correspondingly affecting their schooling.

A comprehensive child-sensitive social protection requires thinking far beyond safety nets. The study also finds that the PSNP seems to overlook the importance of addressing children's vulnerability by just targeting households, with the assumption that all members of the household will benefit equally.

Conclusion and recommendations

The findings show that the PSNP, though mainly designed for households, has brought unintended child outcomes. The study notes that in addition to the small positive results for children in terms of food provision, the programme has the potential to improve the well-being of children. Its objectives of household asset protection and community asset building by ensuring food security have the ingredients for long-term poverty reduction.


Nevertheless, children are already overloaded by different activities and putting more pressure on them by adding public work makes their lives very difficult. The authors of the study suggest it is not only the elderly and disabled but also children who should be direct support beneficiaries. This

would mean that the programme would require public work only from the adult and able-bodied household members, not just in theory but also in practice.

The study concludes that the PSNP on its own cannot ensure children's overall well-being. Ensuring children's well-being and reducing their poverty require thinking beyond the PSNP – there is a need for child-focused social protection.

Though it protects many children from hunger, the PSNP fails to ensure food security, contributes little to poverty reduction and does not guarantee that children attend school. The study recommends:

- Including schoolchildren in the direct support (DS) component of the programme in order to monitor child labour.
- Protecting children from both public work and possible wage labour by providing transfers to parents on condition that they send their children to school regularly.
- Respecting children's vulnerabilities, protecting them from the impacts of shocks, and adopting an integrated child-focused social protection.
- Learning the lessons from other initiatives such as school feeding, cash transfers, healthcare, and other supporting programmes.
- Creating synergy between social protection and human capital development by considering the option of conditional transfers.

A young child with dark skin and hair is sitting on a red and black striped mat. The child is wearing a blue hooded jacket over a yellow and blue patterned shirt. They are playing with several large, pink, rectangular blocks. One block is being held up in front of their face, partially obscuring it. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a play area with a green wall and a metal structure. A yellow graphic element, consisting of a thick line forming a partial frame, is overlaid on the image.

Access denied: An assessment of the accessibility of selected African cities to children with disabilities

Anthony Kerridge,
The African Child Policy Forum

Introduction

The 2007 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) represented a huge step towards equality of opportunity for children and adults with disabilities. 22 African states have both signed and ratified the convention, signalling a commitment to bring about real change in the lives and rights of their disabled citizens. Despite this, progress across much of the African continent appears to have been slow. Structures and mechanisms to support disabled people are not in place and domestic provisions such as access to transport networks, health services and employment are seriously lacking.

This report, commissioned and produced by the African Child Policy Forum, provides a baseline against which progress can be measured. The report looks at what has been achieved since the passage of the UNCRPD in five African capital cities and focuses on issues of accessibility, particularly for children with disabilities. The report also outlines a series of recommendations for real change to be achieved.

Methodology

Five sub-Saharan African countries were chosen for this study. The cities chosen were: Addis Ababa in Ethiopia; Freetown in Sierra Leone; Johannesburg in South Africa; Kampala in Uganda; and Lusaka in Zambia.

Qualitative research in the shape of face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders was undertaken in each study city. These included children, young people and adults with disabilities, government workers, health care professionals, legal representatives and representatives from architectural, civil engineering and construction organisations.

In addition to these, a series of focus group discussions were undertaken in each of the participating cities, involving 75 children, young people and adults with disabilities, their parents and guardians. A total of 12 children and young adults with disabilities also provided 'day in the life' interviews in four of the five study cities.

Secondary desk-based research comprised a review of key legislative and policy instruments governing aspects of disability in each of the study cities and countries.

Findings

Attitudes to disability

- Respondents report long traditions of stigma, prejudice and discrimination against people with disabilities which pervade all strata of society, from government and policymaking bodies, to grassroots community level.
- Parental attitudes to disability are a major barrier to positive change. Some parents, particularly fathers, reject disabled children; many conceal children with disabilities in the home and deny them access to education, health and other social services.

The policy environment

- Respondents overwhelmingly report a major disconnect between policies on paper and the reality on the ground.
- Respondents point to the failure of policymakers to recognise the diversity of disability types and to develop policies and interventions that meet the specific needs of people with different categories of disability.

Access to the built environment

- Built infrastructures in all study cities are hugely challenging for people with every kind of disability. Children and adults with disabilities are denied the personal freedoms, are unable to move without hindrance and access public and private facilities.
- Signs of improvement in the built infrastructure are, however, remarked upon in all study cities – although some respondents feel that original plans are not being adhered to when buildings are constructed.

Access to transport

- Unsafe road networks and the inaccessibility of public transportation systems were almost universally derided by people with disabilities in all the study cities.



- Public transport systems in the study cities remain extremely inaccessible for people with disabilities. Reports are commonplace of people with wheelchairs being charged twice to travel on buses and people with disabilities being refused access to vehicles.

Access to health services

- Many key facilities and services remain physically or practically inaccessible to people with disabilities; and many caregivers to children with disabilities find it difficult to find finances and to pay for services which should often be being delivered free of charge.

Access to education

- In some of the study cities, as many as nine out of 10 children with disabilities of school age are denied any form of education. Barriers range from physical inaccessibility of school buildings to the attitudes of parents who fail to see the value of investing time and money in the education of their disabled child.

Access to information, recreation, sport and play

- Information problems include a lack of Braille signage and materials and the absence of trained sign language communicators. Most of the study cities demonstrated little in the way of effort to develop accessible sport, leisure and recreational facilities for people with disabilities.

Access to shelter and housing

- Securing appropriate housing is a problem for people with disabilities in most of the study cities. Many report encountering prejudicial attitudes from private sector landlords and communities that do not want people with disabilities living in their neighbourhoods.

Access to employment and the workplace

- Most of the study countries have legislation to protect the employment rights and opportunities of people with disabilities, yet discrimination persists. Workplaces are often either inaccessible or incapable of meeting the special needs of employees with disabilities.

Barriers to implementing disability friendly policies

- Many respondents feel that disabled person's organisations (DPOs) in their countries are not sufficiently resourced or mobilised to advocate effectively for policy changes. Some feel that disability rights movements are too fragmented and self-interested to work collaboratively to a common cause.
- Failure to mainstream disability is a major barrier to policy implementation. Respondents report that other civil society organisations representing, for example, the interests of children, women or people with HIV, consistently fail to take account of people with disabilities when planning and programming their activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

African countries face the greatest economic challenges in bringing about the huge transformations required. Yet the evidence from the five countries and cities studied shows that the process of UNCRPD implementation has commenced, and that that process appears to be inevitable and irreversible.

Political will for reform is apparent in all the study countries. Governments must act to implement

the positive policy frameworks they are creating. Individuals and groups of people living with disabilities must be prepared to challenge and call government, public and private institutions to account. The international donor community must prioritise and include the needs of people with disabilities in its support for programmes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The following key recommendations for action emerged from the study:

Commit to implementation: States parties to the UNCRPD should publish clear, costed and time specific plans for policy implementation. Progress should be monitored, in accordance with UNCRPD directives, by an independent agency.

Introduce clear sanctions for failure to comply with laws and regulations: Laws, policies, and regulations should be backed by clearly defined sanctions enforceable against those who fail to comply.

Prioritise people with disabilities in resource allocation: States parties should actively prioritise resources to meet the needs of people with disabilities across all areas of government responsibility. **Improve statistical collection methodologies to capture accurate data on numbers of people with disabilities:** States parties should record accurately the numbers of people with disabilities, and clearly classify their disability types in accordance with internationally recognised definitions.

Mainstream disability across all government departments and agencies: States parties should appoint individuals in each ministry with specific responsibility for disability, to ensure that

the issue is properly reflected in all aspects of government policymaking.

Promote inclusivity across civil society: States parties and disability-focused NGOs and DPOs should work to mobilise the rest of civil society to include reference to children and adults.

Invest in training and capacity building for key service providers across all sectors: States parties should invest in training and capacity building to improve the entitlement, and equality of access, to these services for children and adults with disabilities.

Increase international donor community support for children and adults with disabilities: International donors should develop disability alleviation strategies, ensuring that all funding proposals reflect and take account of the needs of children and adults with disabilities

Pro-actively promote public awareness about the rights and needs of people with disabilities to create an enabling environment for positive change: States parties should invest in national programmes of awareness and sensitisation, working in partnership with community groups, DPOs and NGOs to change general public, community and family attitudes to people with disabilities.



Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impact of Health Extension Programme in Rural Ethiopia

Author:

**Center for National Health Development in Ethiopia,
Columbia University**

Introduction

The challenges of delivering primary health care services to Ethiopia's rural population have been overwhelming. As a result, overall levels of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria have hardly shifted in the past six years. Ethiopia's rates of maternal and child mortality continue to be some of the highest in the world.

In 2004, the Health Extension Programme (HEP) was launched to expand the national health programme to include community based health in a bid to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality rates. This report shares the findings of an extensive evaluation of HEP carried out in 2010. The evaluation aimed to assess the HEP implementation process and to determine the effect of HEP on health outcome measures. In addition to generating critical information on HEP for policy-makers and programme managers working in health, the evaluation provides recommendations intended to stimulate discussions on the eventual improvement of the programme.

Methodology

The assessment of HEP implementation processes included the assessment of the health post and HEWs performance, the support and management system of HEP, and the demand and perception of the communities. The evaluation report was split into four parts to provide the results of surveys that address all the 16 HEP service packages.

Part one: Household surveys

Over 7,000 households were surveyed from 312 kebeles across the country. 293 health posts and 399 health extension workers (HEWs) were interviewed. 113 HEW-supervisors, 64 district health office heads, 66 district administration chairs and 135 health centres from the sampled districts were also included in the study.

Part two: HEW and Health Post Performance survey

The HEWs and Health Post Performance survey was undertaken along with the household survey in 2010. The study design and sampling

methodology was linked with the household level HEP survey. 312 kebeles were sampled for the household level HEP survey and 293 kebeles covered by HEP were also included.

Part three: Model-family and volunteer community health providers (vCHP) surveys

The model-family implementation process survey sought to collect information from over 7,000 households sampled for the overall HEP evaluation as well as from HEWs serving the sample households. Similarly, the vCHPs survey was linked with the household survey, and carried-out among vCHPs serving the sample households. A total of 615 vCHPs were included for this survey.

Part four: Support and management of HEP

The assessment of HEP implementation processes included the assessment of the support and management system of HEP. 135 health centres, 113 HEW-supervisors, and 71 district health offices and district administrations responsible for the supervision and management of health posts in kebeles were automatically included.

Findings

Part one: Household surveys

The household surveys covered a number of issues relating to the health outcomes of household members. While too numerous to mention in full here, the findings include:

Safe water, sanitation and hygiene: About 62 per cent of the people reported to have access to safe or improved water supply sources. However, hand washing practice, at least at three of the five critical times in a day, was reported by only 27.2 per cent of households.

Family health: About 45 per cent of the married women had ever used any modern contraceptive method. Health professionals assisted only 6.8 per cent of deliveries, while 2.2 per cent of deliveries were assisted by HEWs.

Malaria: 62.6 per cent of households interviewed understood how malaria was transmitted. 93.2 per cent of respondents had heard of mosquito nets; 86.7 per cent thought that sleeping under mosquito nets protects from malaria. Treatment was sought for about 83 per cent of children who were ill with fever or suspected malaria.

HIV/AIDS: 90 per cent of men and women in rural Ethiopia have heard about HIV/AIDS. Men had fewer misconceptions about HIV than women. 53.6 per cent of women and 64.7 per cent of men had heard of voluntary counselling and testing.

Part two: HEW and Post Performance surveys

The purposes of these surveys were to assess the performance of the HEWs and health posts. Among the extensive findings are:

Health post facilities: Over half (52 per cent) of the health posts opened for at least five days a week. Overall, 58 per cent of health posts were equipped with 60 per cent of the minimum set of medical equipment necessary for delivery and new born care services. HEWs working in 45.8 per cent of the health posts reported that the drugs supplied are usually less than the requested quantities.

Productivity of health posts: 92.5 per cent of the health posts provided family planning, 86.7 per cent antenatal care and 91.7 per cent immunisation. Less than a third of the health posts provided in-house delivery however HEWs in 64.1 per cent of the health posts participated in births at home.

HEW competence: Knowledge on family planning and immunisation counselling was high. Conversely, some antenatal and post-birth knowledge on issues such as vaginal bleeding and new born care was low.

Community perceptions of HEP: 84.8 per cent of respondents rated the overall HEP service as excellent or good, and 66.3 per cent believed that the service was better than that of two years ago.

Part three: Model-family and vCHP surveys

HEP implementation includes volunteer community health promoters (vCHPs) and model-families from the community who are selected and trained on key health packages to help their community. The surveys were used to establish the baseline model-family implementation status and process, to determine the coverage of households with model-families, to assess the vCHPs implementation process and their performance, and to identify gaps. The findings include:

Model-families – HEW survey: 214 kebeles that have started at least one round of model-family training. 51 per cent of kebeles had enrolled between 31-60 households per round of model-family training. In the majority of kebeles, HEWs had noticed a significant impact or change to behaviours in vaccination, family planning, and latrine construction and utilisation following model-family implementation.

Model-families – household survey: 11.2 per cent of households said that they had been selected for model-family training. Among household members, 70.4 per cent of men and 36.1 per cent of women reported to have participated. About 93 per cent of the respondents said that they would encourage other households to start the training.

vCHPs: vCHPs described their major activity as providing women and men with condoms for contraception and for HIV/AIDS prevention. 77.5 per cent of vCHPs felt that they should receive some kind of incentive for their services.

Part four: Support and management of HEP

The quality of HEP services depends on the support and management system. Surveys were used to assess the management environment – of the district health office and nearest health centres – in order to identify problems in the implementation of the programme. Among the findings, the evaluation reveals that:

Health Centre Survey: 82.5 per cent of health centres provided technical support to health posts, and on average each health centre supported about six health posts. One in ten health centres reported to have transport service for emergency cases.

HEW Supervisor survey: 38.3 per cent of supervisors were environmental health professionals while 32.9 per cent were clinical nurses. 50 per cent of supervisors cited lack of delivery skills, absence from work places and lack of commitment as weaknesses among HEWs

Woreda Health Management Survey: All woreda health offices had HEW-supervisors. In 35 of the woredas the supervisors worked solely on HEW

whereas those in the remaining 28 woredas were also assigned to perform other unrelated duties. Only 18.7 per cent of respondents indicated adequate supplies of drugs for all health posts within their woredas. Other problems related to drug supply included budget and transportation shortages.

Woreda Administration Survey: About two-thirds of the 66 woreda administrators thought that HEWs had received adequate pre-service training on the 16 interventions package of HEP. The main operational problems of HEP were considered to be: a shortage of drugs and supplies, low community awareness, lack of budget and HEW skills.

Recommendations

Among the many recommendations given, the evaluation suggests:

Part one: Household surveys

- Promoting locally appropriate water supply safety measures and water management guidelines
- Improving the quality of antenatal care, especially during the first visit, as well as delivery and postpartum care.
- Providing adequate HIV/AIDS testing provision at health posts to deal with demand.

Part two: HEW and Health Post Performance surveys

- Providing a separate delivery room to ensure privacy and encourage women to give birth in health posts
- Acquiring appropriate means of transport to improve time efficiency and increase contact with households
- Motivating HEWs through provision of promotion, training, housing and transport.

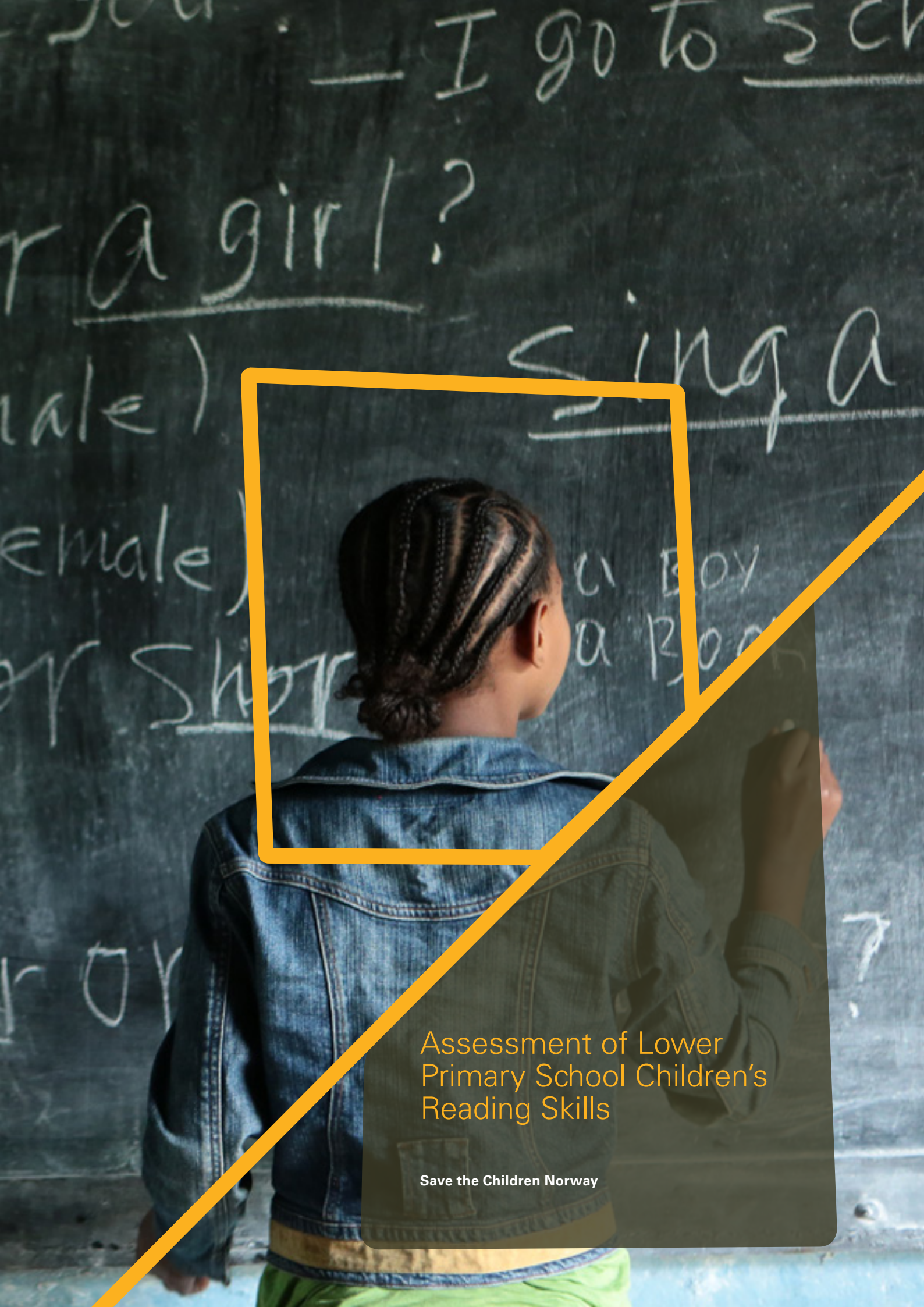
- Improve HEWs' knowledge and skills to correctly diagnose danger signs in children and life threatening complications during labour.

Part three: Model-family and vCHP surveys

- Developing standard implementation guidelines and ensure they are distributed to all stakeholders
- Improving the capacity of the health system, ensure the availability and provision of necessary supplies
- Building strong political support especially from district and kebele administration levels.

Part four: Support and management of HEP

- Ensuring a strong and systematized supportive supervisors
- Strengthen administrative and logistics supports to HEP
- Strengthening the referral system and the linkage with health centres
- Support from stakeholder to HEP



Assessment of Lower
Primary School Children's
Reading Skills

Save the Children Norway

Introduction

Reading is the most fundamental skill a child learns in school. Learning to read at an early age is regarded not only as easier, but as a prerequisite for learning to read well. Improving the reading skills of young children is also recognised as a path for improving the quality of education.

To help enhance their early grade literacy improvement programmes in Ethiopia, Save the Children Norway set out to record the reading and comprehension skills of children in lower primary schools and understand the home and school environmental factors that may influence their reading abilities.

Two baseline assessments were carried out in six woredas in the North Gonder region of Ethiopia. In addition to building a comprehensive picture of children's reading skills, the report also draws on the findings to present a series of recommendations for future literacy programming.

Methodology

Baseline data was gathered through a combination of reading skills testing and questionnaires that sought to assess home and school environmental factors that could affect children's reading skills. Three groups were involved in the assessments:

- Pre-schools and primary schools children: From this group, the levels of their reading skill, their home and personal background were sought.
- School leaders (directors and vice directors): General information about their schools, their management of the teaching of reading and their personal backgrounds were obtained.
- School Librarians or senior teachers: were also included for acquiring information about the general conditions of the schools.

Reading competencies

The first assessment selected 1,200 children in 60 classes from 41 schools in five woredas in North Gonder. Classes were selected from kindergarten as well as each of the four grade levels (one to four). A second assessment was carried out to measure children's reading skills

and comprehension of English and Amharic in 15 schools in the Lay Armacho woreda. Two groups of schools were monitored: one which provided an intensive teacher training-based programme on reading instructional strategies and another that didn't.

The children who participated in the testing were also asked a series of questions about their home environment. Children answered orally and were given multiple responses to choose from.

School environment questionnaire and observation checklist

Staff responsible for each school's facilities were asked a series of questions on the buildings, classroom furniture, libraries and other facilities that are essential for children's learning and wellbeing.

Leadership questionnaire

School Directors and vice Directors for each school in the study were asked questions related to the directors' personal background, their practices of supporting teachers among others.

Findings

Reading competencies

Among the many findings, the evaluations found that in:

Kindergarten

- KGs children could only identify an average of 3.4 letters in a minute, 52 per cent scoring zero.
- They were able to correctly answer 1.9 phoneme awareness items (out of 15), 54 per cent scoring zero.

Grade one

- On average, children read 4 wpm. 62 per cent could not read at all.
- In the phonemes awareness test, their mean score was about four (out of 15). 40 per cent scored zero.



- From a five items comprehension test, on the average, they scored 0.35 per cent while 81 per cent scored zero.

Grade two

- Children read an average of 22 wpm while 17 were unable to read anything.
- Grade two children were able to identify a mean of 37 letters in one minute.
- When asked to read a paragraph out loud, children read about 14 wpm on average. 24 per cent of children were unable to read at all.

Grade three

- The third grade letter identification mean score was found to be 45 letters per minute.
- On average, children were able to identified 11 out of 15 phonemes. Three per cent scored zero.
- Children read an average of 24 wpm from the given paragraph. 10 per cent were unable to read at all.

Grade four

- An average of 48 letters was identified in a minute. One per cent missed them all.
- Children read an average of 32 wpm with 4 per cent scoring zero.
- Fourth graders read an average of 27wpm.

The tests also found that gender differences appear to be decreasing. Unlike previous reports, in this assessment, though boys still outperformed girls in most of the subtasks, the differences were only statistically significant at grades two and four.

Home environment

- 82 per cent of the children live with both biological parents, and each family has an average of 5 to 6 children. 64 per cent live in rural areas.
- 30 per cent of children's parents/guardians are reported to be literate or educated.

- 84 and 50 per cent of households don't own a television or radio respectively.
- 45 per cent of children have all the required textbooks, 52 per cent access writing materials easily and 33 per cent have extra books at home.
- 31 per cent of parents and 57 per cent of siblings provide homework support.
- 90 per cent of the children are occupied in some kind of household workload. 26 per cent of these have reported they are extremely overburdened.

School environment

- The average class size of the schools is calculated to be about 59 children per class.
- 27 per cent of the classrooms are well maintained. 72 per cent well lit (sun) and 71 per cent are free of noise disturbances.
- 42 per cent of the schools have separate toilets for boys and girls. Only five per cent have adequate supply of potable water.
- While 63 per cent of the schools are reported to have a library, only 36 per cent have allotted library times. The number of children's books range from four to 1000. Only 12 per cent of the books are supplied by the education sector offices.

Leadership

- 35 per cent of the schools' leaders are women.
- 75 per cent of leaders have bachelor degrees or above, 25 per cent have diplomas or above in educational leadership and 97 per cent have taken short term training in educational leadership.
- 79 per cent claimed to support language teachers. 41 per cent are very satisfied with their language teachers' performance, and 75 per cent are satisfied with the students' reading abilities.

Conclusions and recommendations

The baseline assessments suggest that across the board, reading fluency scores of the children are well below from the standards set by the curricula. Responses to the home questionnaires indicate that better family economic and social lives have made significant differences on reading achievement scores of the children. Finally the assessments suggest that facilities such as water and electricity, existence of toilets, libraries, and learning support have a significant impact on children's reading abilities.

In addition to building a comprehensive picture of children's reading skills, the report draws on the findings to present a series of recommendations for future literacy programming:

- Provide teachers with simple and cheap literacy training.
- Revise the curricula to promote phonemes and the inclusion of nonsense words reading.
- Promote a culture of reading in schools. Increase library time and the availability of books.
- Organise communities to construct toilet and water facilities in schools.

The Experience of Advisory Elders in Community Based Child Protection

Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment
and Save the Children Sweden



Introduction

Following a series of interventions led by Save the Children Sweden and the Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment in Ethiopia, more community members are reaching out to vulnerable and neglected children to ensure they do not enter the juvenile justice system. Local-level child protection programmes such as those run by the Multi Stakeholder Child Protection Council rely on community volunteers, including elders, to help run community centres, work towards prevention and awareness raising, help rehabilitate child victims and monitor and report progress.

This report takes a look at the role, tasks and challenges facing Advisory Elders involved in the scheme. It reviews the results achieved by their intervention and provides recommendations on how elders should be engaged in future child protection programmes.

Methodology

A detailed account of the methods used to gather their accounts has not been documented but the report provides information on the experience gained and lessons learned from working with Advisory Elders (Mekari Shemagles) in Arada and Kolfe – two sub-cities of Addis Ababa. These sub-cities have been highlighted because of the exemplary work and subsequent results of the work led by the Advisory Elders there.

Findings

The role of Advisory Elders

The services that Advisory Elders provide are immense. They are role models and activists in their local communities. Because they are elderly, most are retired from formal work so they have time to intervene in child protection in their neighbourhood. What is more, they feel needed in the community and this work keeps them active. The accounts gathered show the extent to which woreda-based social protection programmes rely on elders to assist them with their work:

- Older women and men from different social strata who volunteer their time to address child protection in their communities.
- Some Advisory Elders are members of the community while some are representatives from churches and mosques. Most of the elders are leaders of informal funeral associations called idirs.
- The elders also have the role of liaising between the police and the community; undertaking community sensitisation activities; facilitating and leading community based solution measures; and mobilising community members and public resources.
- Their role is cemented into various levels of child protection. At least one elder sits on every Executive Committee of the Multi Stakeholder Child Protection Council; they support the children attending the community-based child protection centres and they are heavily involved in the day-to-day child protection work in their communities.

The tasks of Elders

Advisory Elders have a wide remit. Working hand-in-hand with schools, the police and social workers among others, they tackle issues such as the correction of young offenders, child trafficking and domestic violence. Their many tasks include:

In schools

- Participating in awareness raising sessions for children in primary schools on how to protect themselves from physical, sexual and psychological abuse;
- Establishing child protection clubs in primary schools;
- Facilitating orientation sessions for school communities on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, child abuse, school discipline, and community based child protection;
- Re-enrolling children suspended from school by negotiating with school principals and advising the dismissed children.



In the community

- Raising awareness of the community on child rights and protection issues;
- Organising training for teachers, students, kebele administrators, police and justice system staff, and members of idirs on child rights and protection;
- Taking cases of victimised children to court;
- Providing information about where children and adults should go if they have concerns about a child's well-being;
- Establishing and leading child protection groups in kebeles;
- Lobbying local level government officials to integrate child protection works in their plan;
- Mediating conflicts between husbands and wives, children and their families, and between family members;
- Withdrawing children from harmful work environments and reunifying them with their families.

As members of the Multi-stakeholder Child Protection Councils

- Playing a lead role in the formation of Multi-Stakeholder Child Protection Councils
- Often leading the Executive Committees;
- Facilitating and actively participate in the planning and execution, as well as in monitoring and evaluation of the strategic and annual plans of the Multi-Stakeholder Child Protection Councils;
- Assisting in the scaling up of community based child protection initiatives by sharing experiences with various multi-stakeholder groups in other regions of Ethiopia.

Challenges for Advisory Elders

The report finds that for many reasons, the Elders' work of protecting and prioritising children is very challenging. For example:

- Securing land from the local administration for sustainable income generation and to build child protection centres is difficult.

- The very strict role children have in society and the perception of what is appropriate child-rearing both pose the biggest challenges when trying to change attitudes for the benefit of children.
- The secrecy of violence and the deep-rooted cultural beliefs around harmful traditional practices also make change very problematic.

Results

The Community Based Multi Stakeholder Child Protection Council child protection programme has managed to reduce the number of children involved in criminal activities and ensure that both victims and perpetrators are treated professionally, ethically and with respect. Much of this success can be attributed to the work of the Advisory Elders.

- The Advisory Elders have been able to keep children in school, and provide information through them. Children in schools have been empowered through their clubs and are protected from school-based violence and abuse.
- The Advisory Elders have also been very helpful in reunifying families and mediating conflicts.
- Communities, in general, also benefited through the continuous and targeted sensitising sessions on child protection. Adults and children are more aware of how to positively discipline children and how to bring up children in nurturing, positive environments.
- Communities at large, and especially the elders of the communities, feel collectively responsible for addressing child protection issues in their locality.
- As the Advisory Elders are all volunteers, the cost of this program is minimal. They have been excellent catalysts for change in their communities and have managed to raise funds and mobilise human resources so that the programs are running effectively.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is clear that children, families and communities have benefited from the work of the Advisory Elders. They have been instrumental in creating a comprehensive protective environment. Many communities have elders who are willing to provide free service to children. Engaging them in these programs makes their work sustainable. The report suggests several recommendations that can be drawn from their experience:

- The elders to be engaged should be selected by organised community groups such as idir. They should be trusted and respected by the community members and also have interest as well experience in working with children.
- The support from local administration is essential to build trust and legitimacy. The community leaders will be encouraged when they believe what they are doing is supported by the government. Their efforts should be linked to the formal system, recognised and encouraged.
- Subsequent trainings with appropriate depth, relevance and quality as well as motivational interventions such as exposure visits empower and build the confidence of the elders in what they are doing.
- The staff who work with elders should be ethically sound and give due respect to local knowledge and capacity.
- Child protection involves many different systems and individuals. Partnership is essential and the work should be done as collaboration between many different stakeholders.

A young child with dark hair and eyes is looking upwards and to the right. The child is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a pink strap over their shoulder. The background is a colorful, striped mat with various educational toys, including a green grid and a red tray. A large, stylized orange outline of a house or a similar shape is overlaid on the image, framing the child's face and the text area.

Milk Matters: The Impact of Dry Season Livestock Support on Milk Supply and Child Nutrition

Kate Sadler, Emily Mitchard, Abdulahi Abdi, Yoseph Shiferaw, Gezu Bekele and Andrew Catley

USAID, Save the Children and Tufts University

Introduction

Animal milk plays an extremely important role in the diets of children. Yet children who live in pastoralist areas are increasingly referred to as some of the most nutritionally vulnerable in the world.

By reviewing the second phase of Milk Matters, a child nutrition project in the pastoralist areas of Ethiopia, this study attempts to evaluate the significance of access to milk for the nutritional status of children. Thought to be the first study of its kind, it also seeks to compare the costs of an early intervention focusing on livestock health and milk production with an emergency child-feeding programme. After presenting the results and discussing the challenges and lessons learned, the study concludes with recommendations for future nutrition programming.

Methodology

The Milk Matters project involved distinct phases, each characterised by specific methodology: (1) site, household, and milking animal selection; (2) implementation of cohort studies; and (3) evaluation. The project methodology was highly participatory, combining methods such as proportional piling, visualisation through mapping and semi-structured interviews with monthly surveillance, participatory impact assessment and focus group discussions.

Six sites were chosen purposively from amongst communities located in Liben and Shinile Zones of Somali Region, Ethiopia. Both areas are subject to similar environmental patterns and other characteristics common to the pastoral livelihood including a livelihood strategy based on livestock production, and a diet that includes relatively large amounts of animal products.

Once the sites were determined, the households and primary milking animals that would be targeted for interventions in four of the six sites were selected. Selection of households was also done in consultation with local officials and community members, with a focus on inclusion of all households with children under the age of five years.

Two cohort studies were implemented, one in each study area. Overall, the surveillance system aimed to follow 940 children aged 6 to 59 months over 12 months. The surveillance system was designed to follow set procedures each month. At the beginning of the month, the data collectors received new questionnaires, one set of three for each child under their surveillance. The data collectors then spent between 10 and 15 days visiting the households of the participating children and administering the questionnaires.

Evaluation was conducted through participatory impact assessments (PIAs) in all sites with the primary objective to assess if there was any change in milk off-take in the intervention sites during the intervention period, and the reasons for the change. In total, between 31 and 48 households were interviewed in each of the six sites. Focus discussion groups in the control sites focused primarily on exploring external factors that may have influenced milk production.

Findings

The main findings of the study are clustered under three key themes:

- Milk off-take—focuses on the impact of the interventions on milk off-take in the intervention sites
- Milk availability—presents the results of the intervention on milk consumption
- Nutritional status—assesses the impact of the intervention on nutritional status of young children.

Milk availability improved in intervention sites

- Milk off-take in the intervention sites was significantly greater during the 2011 dry season with the intervention, compared to the 2010 dry season with no intervention
- Milk off-take was sustained through late lactation periods
- Participants attributed the increase in milk off-take to the intervention.



Milk consumption by young children improved in the intervention sites

- By the end of the intervention, a greater proportion of children were consuming milk in the intervention sites as compared to the control sites
- Those children who received any milk in the intervention sites consumed, on average, more milk than children in the control site.

Overall, nutritional status of children receiving milk stabilized over the dry season

- There was an overall trend towards stabilized nutritional status among young children over the course of the intervention compared with a steeper decline in status in the control sites
- Within the intervention sites, those children who continued to consume some milk throughout the intervention time period maintained higher average nutritional status than those who did not receive any milk, a difference that was frequently significant.

Other major findings include:

The cost of the interventions was significantly less than therapeutic feeding programmes

- Direct costs of the interventions were estimated to be 45 to 75 per cent less than those estimated for therapeutic feeding programs (community-based management of acute malnutrition)
- While difficult to measure, the study also revealed important indirect benefits of this type of preventive response, for example, improved maternal well-being that directly impacts the health of young children and protection of critical livestock with important livelihoods benefits

Challenges in implementation of the interventions that led to higher direct costs suggest important opportunities to reduce costs and improve effectiveness of this type of intervention in the future.

Conclusions and recommendations

In pastoralist Ethiopia, livestock are at the heart of the economy, and food security and livelihoods actors recognize this by supporting livestock projects. Meanwhile nutrition actors have continued to respond to acute malnutrition with child feeding programs. The interventions presented here provide an opportunity to change this focus and reconnect food security interventions and nutrition outcomes in these areas with the potential of creating substantial aid cost savings by preventing the need for large Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programmes.

The study has revealed several challenges experienced during the delivery of the interventions tested. Critically, the purchase of feed from outside intervention areas and from private vendors was extremely costly, particularly for transport, and made it more difficult to control the quality of feed. The Participatory Impact

Assessments found that households frequently purchased animal feed from local sources as a 'normal' strategy during drought. This is a very promising trend.

Less clear is the role of aid projects in supporting local livestock feed production and using approaches such as irrigated production or rangeland enclosures. The feasibility of aid support for these approaches partly depends on good analysis of existing private sector production and the apparent growth of this activity.

The study's authors conclude that by targeting support to milking animals that stay close to women and children during dry season and/or drought, milk production and consumption among children is improved and their nutritional status benefits. They also recommend:

- A 'nutritional lens' needs to be applied to the common food security analysis and response that happen in pastoralist areas.
- Future interventions might simply support households to purchase their own feed through vouchers or other financial mechanisms where market supply is adequate. An approach such as this would also help reduce transportation costs significantly.
- If feed is supplied directly, household feed quotas should be allocated to all households in a target community to prevent dilution of impact and should be fixed based on number of young children instead of milking animal holding, in order to maximize poor households' benefit from such an intervention.
- The potential for substantial impacts from community-based rangeland enclosures needs to be weighed against the far wider and well-established trend of private rangeland enclosure, including enclosure by groups with the main objective of commercial fodder production.
- In order to build the evidence base on the potential for nutrition benefits of interventions such as those implemented under this study, food security and livelihood programs must start monitoring more systematically their impact on nutrition outcomes.



Migration to Addis Ababa
as a Survival Strategy for
Children of Mecha District,
North West Ethiopia

Dr. Teferee Makonnen

Introduction

Migration is as old as humanity. Whether as a result of natural curiosity, economic need or as a means of escape, the promise of a better life elsewhere continues to draw people away from their place of origin.

In recent times, increasingly significant numbers of young people have been moving out of rural areas of North West Ethiopia by themselves to live and work in Addis Ababa. This study looks at the principle causes and significance of independent child migration. It identifies the characteristics of these child migrants; explores their survival strategies and coping mechanisms and records the challenges they encounter.

Methodology

This study was conducted in Addis Ababa with migrant children who originated from Mecha District of North West Ethiopia. Both primary and secondary sources of data were used. Primary data was obtained through a questionnaire survey distributed to 50 sampled working migrant children who are engaged in selected urban informal activities. Snowball sampling was used in the selection of participants of the study. Interviews were conducted, observations were made and photographs were used to access detailed information on the causes-processes-consequences nexus of child migration.

Secondary data was gathered from sources such as official documents, published and unpublished reports from various organizations and related literature to achieve a comprehensive perspective of the issue under consideration.

Findings

Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of migrants

The children interviewed in the study are characterised by a wide range of demographic attributes:

- Children in the study ranged from 10 to 18 years old. More boys migrated independently than girls.

- Most come from large families of three to eight siblings.
- Most attained primary education; few of them secondary level education.
- Most of their parents cannot read and write while some could only read and write
- Mixed farming is the dominant form of parental occupation.

Determinants of rural out-migration

The reasons for child migration from rural domiciles to urban environments are diverse and complex. The various rural push and urban pull factors help explain the reasons behind children's migration. Those identified in the study include:

- Rural poverty and the need to supplement family income.
- Marital instability of parents; presence of step-parents or death of parents.
- Exposure to heavy work load at home or physical punishment by parents and guardians.
- The need to be relieved from the monotony of parental control, seeking freedom.
- Disagreement with their families and conflict with other community members.

Survival strategies of migrant children

The children in the study have all developed resourcefulness, self-reliance and independence in order to survive.

- Most of them are engaged in the informal sector and have limited access to the formal sector as a result of lack of education, training, skills and capital.
- Migrant children and youth are 'place conscious' – engaging in activities where there are high numbers of people such as markets, bus stations, car and taxi stops and construction sites.
- Most frequent activities included lottery vending, carrying goods and luggage, and housekeeping.
- To most migrant working children, the money that they make from their activities appears to be meaningful.



Challenges

Migrant children face difficult challenges at their urban destinations. Among other things, the study finds that children:

- Have little or no parental and governmental support.
- Lack easy access to education and training as well as to capital to start and/or expand their business.
- Lack space for their activity.
- Have low and intermittent income and find it difficult to save enough money.
- Are unable to satisfy basic needs.
- Lack playtime.

- Are often harassed, beaten or cheated by adults including policemen.
- Live in poor shared housing which is often crowded.

Coping mechanisms

Children in the study adopt a number of strategies to help them cope. The study finds them to be:

- Resilient and psychologically prepared.
- Cooperative – sharing facilities such as rooms, food and clothing.
- Able to develop profound friendships and networks with a strong sense of commitment to one another.
- Often able to combine school with their work.

Conclusions

The study concludes that despite the enormity and complexity of the problems and challenges they face, migrant children make significant contributions to the urban community, to their families and to themselves.

- Rural-urban migration of children and their involvement in informal activities is more widespread than is admitted by city authorities and policy makers.

- The reasons behind children leaving rural areas are diverse; the most important factor being rural household poverty.
- While independent child migration appears to be a serious social and economic problem it also represents an opportunity for children and youth to secure a living.



National Action Plan on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ethiopia

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ethiopia

Introduction

In spite of commitments made by the government to eradicate it, child labour including its worst forms, continues to be a major problem for Ethiopia. Studies show that child workers who are forced into labour tend not to go school, are more vulnerable to abuse and less likely to have their rights protected.

In 2013, the government launched a three-year strategy designed to tackle the problem of child labour head on. The National Plan of Action (NAP) on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour recognises the desperate situation of many working children and outlines concrete measures towards safeguarding their well-being and ending their misery.

The plan is organised into two parts:

Part I: The plan outlines the prevailing situation of child labour in Ethiopia, the legal and policy frameworks for addressing it and the various factors considered when developing the NAP.

Part II: The plan presents the overall goal, objectives, issues and actions specific to each intervention component. Time frames for completion of proposed activities are indicated together with the necessary institutional arrangements for implementing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating activities.

Methodology

The methodology implemented to develop the NAP includes the following:

- Critically investigating and analysing existing legislation, policies, studies, programmes and conventions on the worst forms of child labour.
- Conducting interviews and discussions with key stakeholders, including officials of relevant federal and regional government ministries and departments, workers' and employers' organisations, as well as NGOs, UN and other international organisations working on child rights and child abuse.
- Undertaking a series of discussions and conducting interviews with representatives of children-led initiatives such as children's parliaments established both at national

and regional levels in order to actualise their participation in their own affairs.

Accordingly the NAP formulation process passed through the following steps:

- A National Task Force comprising the relevant organisations was established in 2008.
- A consultant/facilitator was recruited to undertake the actual drafting process.
- An initial workshop was organised in Nazareth town for the members of the National Task Force in December 2008, in order to initiate the drafting process.
- A second workshop was undertaken in 2009 in Awasa to discuss the draft NAP document.
- A one-day briefing session was held for representatives of relevant ministries/agencies.
- Regional consultation workshops were also conducted for key stakeholders in Amhara, Tigray, Harari, Afar and Somali Regions, as well as Dire Dawa Administration. Joint discussions were undertaken with key stakeholders from Oromiya, SNNPRS, Benishangul and Gambella Regions in the town of Jimma, Oromia Region.

Part I

The situation of child labour in Ethiopia

Even though the exact magnitude and the burden due to child labour in Ethiopia is unknown, fragmented information available shows that the problem is both obvious and serious.

- Worst forms of child labour (WFCL) include: in-country commercial sex work and drug trafficking; engagement in hazardous activities and trafficking of children abroad.
- Child prostitution is the most prevalent type of WFCL in urban centres across Ethiopia.
- Children trafficked into domestic labour is becoming a growing issue of concern.

Causes and consequences of child labour in Ethiopia

A major factor contributing to child labour is the widespread poverty reflected in lack of access to basic social services and livelihood security. Other factors include societal perceptions of



the child as an economic asset and the lack of mechanisms and arrangements to address child labour.

Child labourers are unable to attend school on a regular basis, while many drop out or combine school work with employment. Children involved in WFCL are frequently exposed to various physical, psychological and social hazards affecting their health, education and overall development.

Frameworks, National Development Programmes and Plans of Action

The NAP identified a number of existing frameworks and programmes which are already used to tackle child labour in Ethiopia.

Legal frameworks:

- The Federal Constitution: incorporates fundamental children's rights and protection.
- The Labour Proclamation: prohibits the employment of persons under 14 years of age.
- The Criminal, Civil and Family Code: includes protection for children from WFCL.
- Ratification of international instruments and conventions

Policy frameworks:

While there is yet no specific policy dealing with child labour, there are various national policies which contain provisions that could be used to address particular elements of the problem.

- The Development Social Welfare Policy: recognises that poverty and economic marginalisation of families contribute to child labour.
- National sector policies: Combined, these could provide a framework for action on addressing the issue of child labour.

National development programmes and plans of action:

- The Growth and Transformation Plan: ensuring children benefit from economic growth and that adequate services are provided to vulnerable children.

- The Labour Development Sector Plan: prevention and control of child labour is one of the 10 identified objectives of the sector plan.
- The Education Sector Development Plan: provides provision for children withdrawn from child labour who require special conditions and non-formal education.
- National plan of action on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: provides a comprehensive intervention framework focusing on sexually abused and exploited children.

Part II

Overall goal and objectives

The overall goal of the NAP is to reduce and eliminate the incidence of WFCL by 2015, and to create a conducive environment for addressing all other forms of child labour in the long term. There are various interconnected issues that contribute to the prevalence of child labour and its worst forms, and that affect interventions aimed at eliminating the problem. These issues are wide ranging and include the following:

- Awareness raising and community mobilisation: Limited awareness among the public is hindering preventive, protective and rehabilitative responses to the problem.
- Knowledge base and capacity building: Institutions responsible for activities to combat WFCL tend to suffer from capacity and coordination problems.
- Education and vocational training: Universal access to free and quality primary education is not easily available to children engaged in child labour/WFCL.
- Legislation and enforcement: The Labour Proclamation, Criminal and Civil Codes display glaring gaps and inconsistencies regarding the plight of exploited and abused children.
- Socio-economic empowerment: Extreme poverty and limited livelihood opportunities are forcing families and communities to resort to and tolerate child labour practices.
- Direct interventions: There are no well-defined systems and operational procedures to guide interventions targeting children victimised by WFCL.

The objectives of the NAP are based on consideration of the above issues and the overall goal of the NAP. They are presented as follows:

Objective 1: The society and potential actors at all levels are sensitised and mobilised to play their respective roles in addressing child labour/WFCL in a concerted and coordinated manner, and to contribute to improvement of knowledge based activities at all levels.

Objective 2.a: Capable and efficient institutional arrangements are instituted from the federal to local level, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for effective and coordinated interventions against child labour/WFCL.

Objective 2.b: Knowledge based activities on child labour/WFCL are implemented and strengthened at all levels and by all concerned. This would result in efficient and coordinated planning, implementation and monitoring/evaluation of interventions against child labour, as well as informing awareness rising and advocacy activities.

Objective 3.a: Free and quality primary education is accessible to working children and youngsters from poor families and vulnerable communities, in line with realisation of universal primary education goals.

Objective 3.b: Transitional basic education and vocational training opportunities are extended to children between 14-18 years involved in child labour, as well as those withdrawn from WFCL.

Objectives 4: Laws, policies, and guidelines are regularly reviewed and updated in accordance with international instruments and standards, as well as the overall goal of eliminating child labour/WFCL – these laws, policies and guidelines are promoted, enforced and respected.

Objective 5: Improved livelihood opportunities and capital assets are accessible to poor families and communities, so that they are able to deal with and mitigate risks and vulnerabilities without resorting to child labour.

Objective 6: Well defined, integrated and suitable interventions are in place to identify, withdraw and rehabilitate and reintegrate children involved in WFCL.

Conclusion

The preparation of the National Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour is a huge step. The eagerness of various government and non-government stakeholders to come together indicates the country's willingness to finally

embark on a course of action geared towards lifting millions of children out of poverty and directing them towards a better way of life. What now remains is to put NAP into practice at the earliest possible moment.

About the Child Research and Practice Forum (CRPF)

The need for a link between research, policy and practice on the issues of children in Ethiopia resulted in the establishment of a Forum through which practitioners, policy makers and researchers come together to discuss findings of research to improve practices and provide inputs into policy design. The idea was proposed during a consultation workshop to prepare a study on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) that was undertaken by Young Lives. Workshop participants raised the concern that research on all aspects of children's lives was often not shared and made publicly available so that it can be useful for practitioners and policy makers. The idea was further developed through a series of discussions and consultations with Young Lives' Partners, leading to the establishment of the Forum. The Forum now has a coordinator hosted by Save the Children and a 12 member Steering Committee composed of representatives from the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), CHAD-ET, Consortium of Christian Development Associations (CCRDA), Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE), Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Norwegian Church Aid,

OAK Foundation, Plan Ethiopia, Save the Children, UNICEF and Young Lives. The overall goal of the Child Research and Practice Forum is to create a stronger connection between research, policy and programmes related children in Ethiopia. It has the following specific objectives:

1. Communicate new research from Ethiopia, the region and globally and other new documents related to children to a wide audience
2. Promote the usage of existing (online and physical) resource centres
3. Facilitate dialogue and consultation between researchers, policymakers and practitioners working on children's issues
4. Provide practitioners with the skills to use research to strengthen their programmes for children

Towards this end, the Forum has launched a monthly seminar series, which is conducted every last Thursday of the month at the Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs Office. The monthly seminar is open to policy makers, researchers and interested individuals to participate both as presenters and as participants. CRPF strongly encourages participation at its Forum!

