

Editor's Note

Dear readers,

We are pleased to welcome you to the September 2020 CRPF quarterly newsletter. This edition presents news on the Young Lives phone survey report on COVID-19, and summaries of research pieces presented at the CRPF monthly seminars on the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth ten year plan, transitions to adulthood, and monetary and multidimensional child poverty.

We look forward to your comments, suggestions and contributions. For more information, please contact us via crpf.ethiopia@gmail.com or 011 1540121.



News

Young Lives Phone Survey report on COVID-19 released

COVID-19 has affected the whole world, but not equally. Ethiopia is experiencing the negative impacts of COVID-19, however cases so far are much lower than had been projected. Nevertheless the measures being taken to prevent COVID-19 have significantly impacted the economic and social life of people in Ethiopia.

Young Lives (YL) conducted a first round phone survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on young people. The study took place from June 9th to July 15th and reached a total of 2,471 participants. It aimed to investigate the short and medium term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health, well-being, transition to the labour market and education trajectories of young people in the Young Lives study.

The study has come up with interesting findings on knowledge of COVID-19 symptoms, prevention practices among young people, the impact of the pandemic on household members employment, family food security and interruption of education.

Young Lives Ethiopia is currently conducting its second round phone survey in order to capture the dynamic nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting changing contexts, and its impact on young people.

Further information here: <https://www.younglives.org.uk/content/listening-young-lives-work-ethiopia>



Research Summaries from CRPF presentations

Women, Children and Youth Sector Ten Year Prospective Development Plan (2020-30)

Azeb Rezene (MoWCY)

Background

Recent developments within the Women, Children and Youth sector have been promising: increased participation of women, children and youth in the economic, social and political spheres has been registered, as well as improved children's rights and safety. However, there are still many problems that need addressing. This ten-year development plan (2021-2030) has been created to address the challenges in a sustainable manner, to ensure the full rights and safety of women, children and youth, and to increase their role in the economic, social and political spheres.

Gaps and challenges

Gaps: The awareness and mobilization activities and services provided in the implementation process are insufficient; there is a lack of cooperation and coordination; women's and youth policies have not been modified in light of the current situation; problem solving research is not widely practiced; there is insufficient use of research findings; inadequate information systems; the structure of the sector is not consistent and does not extend to the lower levels of government; inaccessibility of service providers; severe budget deficits, manpower shortages and migration.

Challenges: The negative perception of women, children and youth in the society; Inadequate and unsustainable employment opportunities for women and youth; Women's inability to negotiate and decide; lack of participation and representation of women and youth in key decision-making positions; increased harmful traditional practices and violence; lack of women's and youth saving culture; lack of free and strong women and youth organizations; law enforcement gaps: inconsistent and inaccessible structural arrangements; lack of support for women and youth in leadership and decision-making, the failure to see the issue of women, children and youth in government institutions as part of their main work, and the violation/incompatibility of the functions and responsibilities of the sector and other executive bodies.

Human and Material capacity of the development plan

- ◆ The participation of scholars, elders, religious leaders, volunteers, the community, and the private sector will be the catalysts for the sector's ten-year development plan.
- ◆ Materials and budgeting systems, coordination and cooperation systems, and the material and financial capacity of the sector will play a significant role in the achievement of the sector's ten-year development plan.

Focus Direction

The sector's ten-year development plan focuses primarily on Rights, Representation and Resources. This requires strengthening the protection of women and children to ensure their overall safety and rights; ensuring equitable participation and representation of women and youth in leadership and decision-making, and empowering women, children, and youth in the economic and social spheres to ensure equitable access.

Rights

This strategic focus is to ensure that the natural, human and democratic rights of women, children and youth are respected without prejudice; It covers work on addiction, exploitation and discrimination, the prevention of human trafficking, the right of women and youth to organize freely, and the universal rights of women, children and youth to be accepted and respected by society.

Representation

This strategic direction calls for the meaningful participation of women, children and youth at all levels in the socio-economic and political

spheres, ensuring the inclusion and mainstreaming of women, children and youth issues in governmental and non-governmental organizations, and increasing the participation of women, children, and youth in their chosen organizations. It focuses on enhancing the participation of women, children and youth in regional, continental and international forums and ensuring their representation in the legislature, executive, and implementation at all levels.

Resources

The aim of this strategic area is to ensure that women, children and youth benefit. Equitable access to property for women, children and youth in overall development. It focuses on developing the material and financial resources necessary for the success of the sector's ten-year plan and strengthening partnerships.

Areas of focus

Ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment:

Emphasizes women's rights and protection as well as their full participation and benefit

Ensuring the overall development and protection of children:

Focuses on children's rights, building children's personalities, increasing meaningful child participation, and developing organization and systems that strengthen child protection

Empowering and enhancing the participation of youth:

This involves building the capacity of the youth, ensuring their rights and security so that they can participate, compete and benefit in all fields.

Main Objectives

1. Protect the rights and holistic wellbeing of women, children and youth

- ◆ Eliminate violence against women and children, as well as harmful traditional practices.
- ◆ Eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) prevalence (65%) and the Child marriage rate (6%) by 2030.
- ◆ Increase the number of children benefiting from alternative care from 4,638,963 in 2020 to 15 million by 2030.
- ◆ Increase birth registration to 100% by 2030.
- ◆ Identify problems related to the right to legal paternity and implement a system in collaboration with concerned parties.
- ◆ Ensure that women and youth have the right to organize and move freely in the areas of their choice.

2. Ensure the participation and representation of women, children and youth

- ◆ By building a center for African women leaders, Ethiopia plans to become the center of African women's leadership and to promote 10,000 women leaders.
- ◆ Increase women's decision-making roles by 50% through legislature, and maintain the current 50% share of the executive branch by ensuring women's representation at all levels.
- ◆ Increase the proportion of children who have a positive attitude towards children's participation to 80%, increase the number of children active in parliaments to 75%, and increase the number of children's parliaments from 8,428 in 2020 to 20,015 by 2030.

- ◆ Increase the number of youth volunteers from 21 million in 2020 to 30 million in 2030; increase the number of youth beneficiaries from 23 million to 28 million.
- ◆ Increase youth participation and representation in the national legislation to 30%, in the judiciary to 35%, and in the executive branch to 30%.

3. Ensure the benefit of women, children and youth

- ◆ Eliminate the current 44% wage gap.
- ◆ Increase the proportion of women benefiting from micro and small enterprises from 41% in 2020 to 50% in 2030.
- ◆ Increase the number of women members of cooperatives from 3,385,412 in 2020 to 11,338,412 in 2030.
- ◆ Increase the number of women taking loans from 33% in 2020 to 55% in 2030.
- ◆ Increase the number of young people who received loans from 25% in 2020 to 50% in 2030.
- ◆ Increase the savings of the youth from 7% in 2020 to 15% in 2030.

Strategies for the implementation of the development plan

- ◆ Establish a National Sex Offenders Registration System to eliminate and reduce violence and harmful traditional practices against women and children.
- ◆ Establish the Government's Zero Tolerance stance on GBV and establish a Special Violence Police Taskforce to investigate violence against women and children.
- ◆ Establish The Children's Social Service Agency and implement the case management system to provide strong support to children in need.
- ◆ Establish Women's Designated Hubs for women in Rural Areas Connection program.
- ◆ Establish Youth Councils, Africa Youth Center, Youth Connection Center, Rehabilitation Centers for Youth Addiction; and Youth Networking.
- ◆ Conduct the roadmap and awareness and mobilization programs.
- ◆ Set up a Development Fund to increase the economic benefits of women and youth.
- ◆ Develop a coordination and cooperation system.
- ◆ Create Institutional Structures and conduct research in the sector.
- ◆ Support and strengthen women's, children's and youth organizations.
- ◆ Develop and enforce frameworks, and establish accountability and effective communications systems.

Expected Risks and Strategies to Reduce Risk

Expected Risks

Lack of peace and displacement of citizens; reduced support from partners and aid agencies; manmade and natural hazards; the spread of epidemics; impact of climate change

Strategies to reduce risk

Promoting peace; empowering women and youth; raising public awareness; develop community-based support strategies and the role of the private sector; develop an epidemiological and disaster prevention and response system

2.5 Monitoring and Evaluation System

Monitoring system. The monitoring system is based primarily on data and reports from regions and sector offices. Conduct annual performance monitoring and evaluation based on the key performance indicators set in the policy matrix. Similarly, conduct field monitoring and evaluation with the help of field visits, and review the annual performance monitoring and evaluation report by stakeholders.

Evaluation system: The mid-term plan performance appraisal will be conducted in the middle of the plan period. Its purpose is to ensure that the basic directions, goals and objectives of the plan are being achieved, to take corrective action based on reliable data if necessary, and to achieve better performance for the rest of the plan period. It also allows for a detailed examination of the main goals and objectives and their implementation.

2.6 New Strategic Initiatives/New Projects

Children Social Services Agency will be established in collaboration between the federal and regional bureaus of education, the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The collaborative system is linked by referral systems among the sector organizations.

Universal Child Benefits aims to improve child nutrition, quality education, foster citizens with a vision, and improve health care and healthy child growth. Suitable playgrounds and recreation areas will be expanded. Direct cash transfers will be provided for children aged 0-5 in areas where poverty, child marriage, trafficking, and HTPs are prevalent; and support provided through mothers to ensure that children remain in school.

Youth council will aim to promote youth cooperation, to include youth issues at all levels and to make the voices of young people heard. It will include personal advisors, volunteerism, vocational training, internship and apprenticeship.

African Women Leadership Center aims to ensure the participation and representation of women, children and youth by providing training and education. Prominent African women will share their experiences and selected policies for women will be designed and tested.

Women's Market Centers aim to make women beneficiaries of the economy; to enable them to improve the economic status of their households, educate and feed their children; and serve as places where women can showcase and sell their products.

Interested to know about CRPF?

The Child Research and Practice Forum (CRPF) was established in 2010 to promote work on child research, policy and practice. CRPF makes use of monthly seminars, quarterly news letters and annual publications as a means to achieve its objectives. The publications are also available at the Young Lives Ethiopia website.

The CRPF has been funded by OAK foundation until 2018. The coordination work is currently funded by GAGE. CRPF is functioning with collaborative financial and technical support from MoWCY, GAGE, UNICEF, Young Lives and other national and international NGOs. **The publication of this newsletter is funded by UNICEF through an agreement with Young Lives.**

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

Research Summaries

Studying the Overlap between Monetary and Multidimensional Child Poverty in Ethiopia Martha Kibur(UNICEF)

Introduction

Ethiopia has achieved remarkable economic growth in the previous decade. Monetary poverty in Ethiopia is high but declining (from 35% in 2001 to 29% in 2011). Multidimensional poverty is higher and declining more slowly (from 90% in 2011 to 88% 2016). Those who are considered monetarily poor are not necessarily the same as those considered multidimensionally poor. Sharp declines in monetary poverty over time accompanied by much slower declines in multidimensional poverty

Study objectives

- ◆ Understand the relationship between monetary and multidimensional child poverty.
- ◆ Investigate to what extent monetary and multidimensional child poverty overlap at the national and regional levels.
- ◆ Investigate factors associated with deprivations in some dimensions (health, education, nutrition, and protection) and across certain social groups, vulnerable sub-populations, and geographical regions.

Data sources

- ◆ Multidimensional child poverty: (Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS) 2016)
- ◆ Monetary child poverty: Household Income, Consumption and Expenditure (HICE) 2016 survey
 - The same sample of households stratified in 3 categories: Rural, Large cities and Other urban were used
 - Data on consumption expenditure and indicators relevant to child well-being were included.

Key findings

- ◆ There is overlap between monetary and multidimensional poverty among 9.1% of children 0-17 years who reside in large cities and 30% of those children 0-17 years who reside in rural areas.
- ◆ There is overlap between monetary and multidimensional poverty among 12.3% 0-17 years children who reside in Addis Ababa region and 55.7 % of those children 0-17 years who reside in Afar region

Factors associated with deprivation and multidimensional poverty

- ◆ Monetary poverty positively associated with deprivation in health, nutrition, education and multidimensional poverty. It is related to income sources of the household, engagement in agriculture, possession

of productive assets and employment status of different household members.

- ◆ Sex of the child is important for deprivation in education, protection, and multidimensional poverty. Accordingly girls under 18 more likely to be multidimensionally poor and girls 5-14 years are less likely to be deprived in education and to be engaged in productive employment.
- ◆ Age is relevant for multidimensional poverty among children under 5 and deprivation in education and protection. Children <1 year are less likely to be deprived in health. There is decreasing likelihood of deprivation in education for primary school age children and increasing for secondary school-age children. The probability to work also increases with age.
- ◆ Children with disabilities are more likely to be multidimensionally poor and deprived in education
- ◆ Children engaged in child labour more likely to be deprived in education.
- ◆ Mother's educational attainment and literacy level of household head are paramount for children's wellbeing outcomes in relation to multidimensional poverty, deprivation in nutrition, health, and education and literacy of household head negatively associated with circumcision of girls 0-14 years.
- ◆ Household characteristics, size and structure are important factors. Accordingly number of children of different ages is associated with higher likelihood of multidimensional poverty and deprivation in health, nutrition and education. Access to water and sanitation facilities associated with deprivation in nutrition among children under 5.
- ◆ Access to public infrastructure and basic services is associated with multidimensional poverty and deprivation in health and education. Availability of healthcare services was also found to be important.
- ◆ Children living in rural areas more likely to be deprived in health, nutrition, education and to be multidimensionally poor
- ◆ Other factors associated with circumcision of girls age 0-14 years are mother's employment which is positively associated with FGM and monetary poverty which is negatively associated with FGM.

Research Summaries

Conclusions and recommendations

- ◆ Monetary and multidimensional child poverty are complementary rather than substitute measures. Both should be used in informing policies and programs aiming to enhance children's wellbeing.
- ◆ The scale, intensity and nature of poverty and deprivation across geographical areas suggests that there are wide disparities in fulfilment of children's rights. Interventions and financing should adapt to the social reality of these variations.
- ◆ Monetary child poverty tends to overlap with a higher severity of multidimensional poverty. However, most non-poor and monetarily poor children are deprived of fulfilment of two basic services and rights. Improving financial wellbeing through cash transfer programmes and other should be complemented with substantial interventions to enhance availability, accessibility and utilization of basic goods and services. Multisectoral interventions are essential considering interrelations between the deprivations. Dedicated attention for analysis and policy responses to factors hindering inclusion of children with disabilities is important.
- ◆ Definitions of child poverty, and children's and household characteristics considered carefully to design cash transfer and other programmes, especially for beneficiary identification and programme coverage.
- ◆ Cultural and societal norms should be analyzed in depth to develop interventions aiming to improve child protection
- ◆ For long-term and sustainable improvements in wellbeing, programs and interventions tackling child poverty should carefully consider deprivations, poverty incidence and intensity for each age group of children. Substantial investments in the sectors of education and healthcare are paramount for sustainable improvements and breaking the trend of inter-generational poverty.



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Young Lives Ethiopia's website: www.younglives-ethiopia.org

Research Summaries

Transitions to Adulthood in Ethiopia: Young Lives 5th wave qualitative study

Yisak Tafere(Phd), Young Lives

Young Lives

Young Lives is a longitudinal comparative research project following 12,000 children growing up in poverty. The sites included a range of urban and rural types, with a deliberate bias towards poorer areas. In Ethiopia the longitudinal research has followed two cohorts of children in 20 sites selected from the five main regions of Ethiopia.

Study objectives

- ◆ To examine the major life changes and experiences of the young persons in the last five years.
- ◆ To document the current situation of the young persons (family, work, residence).
- ◆ To understand inequalities young persons face based on gender, wealth and location.

Methodology

The study was conducted in ten Young Lives sites, the areas includes rural and urban communities. Information was gathered through focus group discussion, individual interview and key informant interview. And over 500 people participated on the study.

Findings

Findings of the study have been categorized into four major parts i.e. Education/schooling, work/employment, marriage and having children and finally resources and services.

Education/Schooling

Round 5 Young Lives study (2016) of Older Cohorts shows the following figures on education/schooling.

- ◆ One-third of the Older Cohorts aged 22 were still in school.
- ◆ Out of those in schools, only 41% of them were at university; with a slightly greater number of boys than girls (as opposed to the latest Qualitative study – see next fig).
- ◆ Higher number of urban students (53.4%) than the rural youth were in university.
- ◆ Half of the students from rural communities were still in grade 10 or below.

In general there is less success in fulfilling educational aspiration, for instance girls quit schooling to get married voluntarily or forced. There are also success stories among those who wished to attain some level of higher education. There is also disparity on school progression based on Cohort, gender and poverty level.

Work/employment

The Young Lives survey for age 22 shows the following facts:

- ◆ 78% of youth are engaged in work (68% in urban and 86% in rural)
- ◆ 58% of rural youth are involved in agricultural activities (with 81% family based self-employments).
- ◆ Urban youth are mostly involved in small scale income generating activities and paid work.
- ◆ More male youth engaged in wage labor but more female youth are engaged in family work as traditional division of labour.
- ◆ The qualitative findings also support the survey findings. It shows that young people are engaged in salaried, self-employed, waged, family work and other works.

Marriage and having children

Family formation is mainly through marriage. But young people also form a family through friendship, cohabitation, formal marriage and abduction. Among those married by the age of 19 the

vast majority, 85.5% set up their own household. The rest living with natal family (13%), or spouses family (14%).

Survey findings indicated the presence of gender and age disparity on marriage and having children. Young women aged 19, either formally married (18.9) or cohabitating (5.7%); married by 18 (47%). The rate of marriage by 22 increased to 32% but only 7% men got married. Some young people have children after marriage or having relationship. Accordingly by the age of 19 about 12.6% of the young women had their children. Gender disparity is observed in fertility; by the age of 22, 26% of young women had a child compared to only 2% of young men.

Marriage was higher among rural residents compared with their urban counterparts with 17% married in rural compared with 5% married in urban areas.

Resources and Services

The study explored the resources and services available for young people in their respective communities i.e. training, employment, general health, reproductive health and child care services.

Training for employment

Post-secondary (Technical and vocational education training) TVET prepares youth for employment by providing various technical and vocational trainings. TVET was 'to create competent and self-reliant citizens to contribute to the economic and social development of the country, thus improving the livelihood of Ethiopians and sustainably reducing poverty'. Many youth joined TVET programmes but few used the skill. There is a mismatch of the given trainings with the existing labour market.

School to the labour market

There is high expectations from parents and the youth for jobs in government offices. As a state response, there is limited jobs in public offices but there is strong engagement in youth cooperatives.

Health services

- ◆ Services are delivered at community, households and individual levels.
- ◆ health insurance has been introduced in some of the communities.
- ◆ Institutional delivery is increasing with some important services added.
- ◆ Challenges were seen in the health service in some areas because the poor were not able to access health services.
- ◆ Child care services which includes nutrition, health and hygiene management involving both parents and health officials are available.

Policy implications

- ◆ To overcome massive youth unemployment, need to adopt comprehensive policies and programs on quality education, TVET training, and establish strong institutional coordination.
- ◆ The gender disparities observed in marriage and household formation may need a policy attention to promote gender equality in accessing resources, particularly land in rural areas.
- ◆ Policy and programming issues need to do more to promote universal Health coverage by addressing the needs of the poorest.
- ◆ There is a need for better mechanisms to ensure the implementation of equitable services for all health insurance users.
- ◆ Increase contraceptive access for adolescent girls
- ◆ Institutional arrangements and resources in the health service need to be improved.