



Child Research and Practice Forum Newsletter

ISSUE 3

MAY 2012

Message from CRPF

Dear readers,
The newsletter of the Child Research and Practice Forum is a quarterly publication on the latest developments and activities of the Forum. It aims at providing a useful and informative summary of researches that are presented at the monthly seminar to exchange information and foster discussion. Two issues have already been published and disseminated for all interested. This third issue contains useful summaries on three pieces of research that have been presented at three monthly seminars and presents brief updates and news about the efforts and achievements of the Forum since the last issue.

We invite you to share with us your feedback and suggestions through our addresses, at CRPPF@gmail.com/Lishan.w@scuk.org.et or 011-6-296431. Enjoy your reading!

Updates on CRPF

Workshop on Child Protection and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

On 26 January 2012, CRPF hosted a workshop on child protection and FGM. The workshop was intended to facilitate discussion on selected thematic issues from among the various presentations at the monthly seminars and promote the activities of the Forum. The workshop was opened by the State Minister of MOWCYA, Ato Almw Mengestie, who expressed his Office's intention to provide support to the Forum. Participants included representatives from government line Ministries, NGOs, academia, as well as individual researchers. W/ro Yayesh Tesfahuney, director of the



Participants of the workshop on child protection, January 2012

child rights promotion and protection directorate, (MOWCYA) delivered presentation on the efforts of the ministry on child protection issues. The workshop provided an opportunity for fruitful discussion and sharing

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of diverse experiences. It was also productive in creating networking activities and useful inputs were collected to enhance the Forum's achievement.

This event was organized in close partnership with the members of the CRPF's steering committee and a similar event will be organized on another thematic issue.

Monthly Seminar—Change of Venue

One of the major undertakings of the Forum is the monthly seminar series, which is conducted every last Friday of the month to facilitate dialogue and consultation between researchers, policy makers and practitioners. It used to be conducted at UNICEF's Ethiopia Office since the establishment of the Forum. The monthly seminar has now a new location and is held at the conference room of the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA) located at Meskel Square. CRPF seizes this opportunity to thank the Ministry for its great collaboration.

CRPF Annual Publication— "Improving Children's Lives through Research"

This publication takes stock of fourteen research summaries that were presented at the monthly seminar series. It lays out the methodology, core findings and recommendations of those researches in brief. These summaries are presented in this publication in the hope that they will provide some useful guidance in programme development to both policy makers and practitioners.



CRPF Coordinator

With the financial support from the OAK Foundation, CRPF was able to recruit a full time coordinator. This was considered important in order to scale up the Forum's achievement and do a lot more than organizing monthly seminars. The coordinator has been on duty since January, 2012 and is based in Save the Children UK.

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Research summaries of the CRPF Monthly Seminars

In this issue, three summaries of researches are presented; these include: Head Counting of Street children in Addis Ababa and Adama, Migration Patterns of Children Exposed to Sexual Exploitation in selected zones of Amhara region and Rapid Assessment on Child Protection in Arada sub city woreda 8 .

Head Counting of Street Children in Addis Ababa and Adama.

Date Presented: 29 April 2011

Background

In May 2010, UNICEF approached Street Invest, a charity registered in the UK and committed to improve the lives of street children, to undertake a head counting project in collaboration with the Bureau of Women and Children's Affairs (BOWCYA) in Addis and Oromia to determine the numbers of street children in Addis Ababa and Adama (Nazareth).

Method

Head counting is an exercise of observation using a methodology that is reflective and uses the skills of street workers familiar with the environment of the street child. Teams of workers literally count children in particular areas of the city every day for five days. They then swap over and start all over again.

Findings in Addis Ababa

- 11,830 street children were counted in Addis (0.43% of the population).
- The male/ female split is 71.43% to 28.57%. There were 1,158 children in the 0-5 age-group, 38.43% male and 61.57% female. 26.38% of the girls are in prostitution.
- The three largest groupings of children counted are:
 - Cherka sefer (behind Bole Medhaniale) - 547 children.
 - Alert (Zenbework) - 338 children.
 - Stadium - 637 children.

Recommendations

- There should be a coalition of Government departments and NGOs who work for street children. This coalition should be facilitated and supported by UNICEF.
- Addis Ababa needs more street workers. These workers need to be trained and monitored and mentored. Above all they need to be full time workers on the streets.



- The 0-5 age group has to come back into the picture. Agencies are asked to take part in preparing a pilot scheme for this group.
26.38% of the girls counted are in prostitution. Agencies need to take part in preparing pilot schemes addressing the needs of these girls.

Findings in Adama

- 4,796 street children were counted in Adama (2.17% of the population).
- The male/ female split is 72.71% to 27.29%. There were 351 in the 0-5 range, 45.87% boys and 54.13% girls. 20.32% of the girls are involved in sex work.
- Only one NGO working for street children - 'Life in Abundance' - is registered at BOWCYA in Adama.
- The social workers employed by Adama NGOs reported that there were street children in need of medical assistance. Free health treatment is available if there is a supporting letter from the Kebele, but the Kebele needs to know who the children are.

Recommendations

- There are apparently no agencies in Adama doing street work so it is important to train street workers ready to listen and understand the problems, needs and interests of every child.
- Almost all children aged 0-5 are living on the streets with their mothers. Today's street babies are tomorrow's street children. The quicker mothers' and babies' interventions are in place, the faster solutions can be reached.

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Migration Patterns of Children Exposed to Sexual Exploitation in Selected Zones of Amhara Region

Date Presented: 30 September 2011

Background

The objectives of the study were to identify the patterns of migration and to gain an adequate understanding into the factors that compel children to leave their homes and become exposed to commercial sexual exploitation.

Method

Data was gathered through in-depth interviews and focus groups discussions with: migrant girls aging 13 to 21, local residents, leaders of community-based organizations (CBOs), members of school communities, local government administrative officials, leaders and employees of non-government organizations particularly those working on children and youth affairs, government employees in the areas of health, education, children, youth and women's affairs.

Findings

Destination and Migration Routes:

- Districts and localities in western and south-western Wello are the places that account for the vast numbers of teenage girls that flock to Dessie every year. Dessie, as Zone capital and trade centre appeals to the migrants.
- Kombolcha has even high lure for the girls because of its fast growing town and terminal point for a large number of heavy duty trucks. Because of this, they think that it is easy to find customers here who have the capacity to pay larger sums of money for the sex service.
- Rural villages in the highland localities in the northeast and extreme north of Gondar account for constant flows of child migrants. The location of most of these rural Woredas near or along the main highways to Sudan and Tigray gives the girls access to information about the destination areas and the existing high demand for them there.

The girls make a move following agricultural workers in the peak seasons of November to February, who travel to work at sesame plantations in Humerra, Quarra, and Metema. More so, 50% of the child migrants in Bahir Dar have their origins in South Gondar.

Push and Pull Factors: A combination of pull and push factors are identified to be underlying causes for the migration. These include:-

- Peer pressure
- Environmental and demographic factor
- Living conditions in rural areas
- The practice of early marriage
- Family discord and disintegration
- Traffickers (recruitment agencies)

Season for Migration: The study identified the harvest season (January to February) and the wet season (July to August) to be the main periods of migration. January marks a time of harvest and holiday season, and people who go back for holiday bring with them scores of others. July to August is a time of need and scarcity forcing many to migrate in search of work to earn money.

Common Characteristics of Migrant Girls: Once the girls from the rural villages and parishes have landed in the towns, they are mostly hired as domestics. Those employed in hotels, eating houses or tea rooms to do jobs such as cleaning and cooking are likely to risk becoming objects of sexual exploitation. More often than not, they change place to where there are better opportunities and migrate on to the next larger town/city. Girls exposed to sexual exploitation earlier are likely to continue operating in the streets soliciting customers or find place in brothels and drinking houses upon arrival in the larger towns/cities. However, others without this prior experience at transit points will need to spend some time working as housemaids.

Recommendations

The study calls for a twofold set of intervention measures: Preventive Measures and Rehabilitative Measures.

Preventive Measures

- Gender mainstreamed rural development and poverty alleviation programs
- Access to education and health services for girls and women is vital.
- Off-farm activities should be introduced to create alternative sources of livelihood.
- The issue of child marriage need to be addressed.
- Behavioural change at community level is imperative.

Rehabilitative Measures

Rehabilitative measures need to be adopted at the points of transit or temporary stay, as they should at the major destinations. Rehabilitative measures may include facilitating the involvement of target children in income generating activities and establishment of drop-in centres at strategically located sites.

