

# Child Research and Practice Forum Newsletter



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## Message from CRPF

Dear readers,

We are pleased to welcome you to the CRPF newsletter. The present issue provides you with the latest updates on the CRPF activities along with useful summaries of research pieces presented at the monthly seminar.

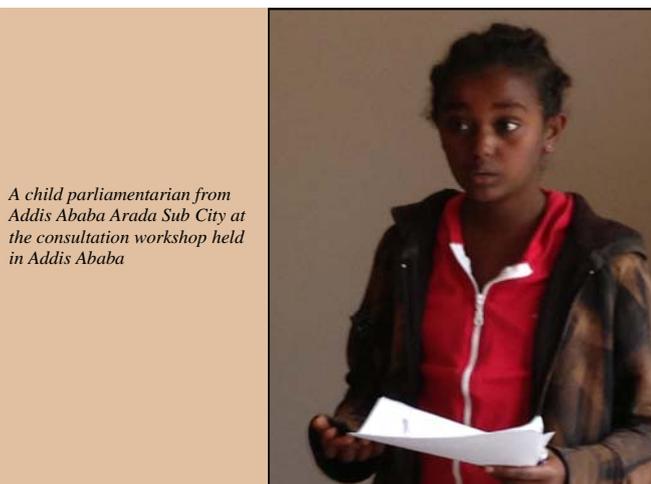
We would like to seize this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the CRPF Steering Committee for every valuable input and in particular to the Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs, the OAK Foundation, and UNICEF without the support of which the CRPF monthly seminar and other activities would not have come to a reality.

We look forward to your comments, suggestions, and contributions. For more information contact us at CRPPF@gmail.com or 011-3-720030. Enjoy your reading!

## Updates on CRPF

### *Monthly Seminar change of day and time*

It is to be recalled that the monthly seminar series used to be conducted every last Friday of the month at the Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs Office. Now there is a change of day and time from every last Friday of the month to every last Thursday of the month and from lunch time to the afternoon starting at 3:00pm and finishing at 4:30pm.



*A child parliamentarian from Addis Ababa Arada Sub City at the consultation workshop held in Addis Ababa*

## In this Edition...

- ◆ *Update on CRPF*
- ◆ *Research Summaries of the CRPF Monthly Seminars*
- ◆ *Upcoming Events*

## *Consultative Workshop on Child Work/Labour was held in Addis Ababa, Adama and Hawassa.*



*Participants on the consultative workshop held in Hawassa*

In May and June 2013, CRPF hosted three consultative workshops on child work/labour in Ethiopia. The consultations were held in Addis Ababa, Adama and Hawassa. Representatives from non-governmental organisations, government offices, community members and children attended the consultations. This diverse panel drew a range of expertise and provided an opportunity for fruitful discussions and sharing of experiences. Children who were members of the children's parliament were part of this process in particular on the consultations that were held in Addis Ababa and Adama.

The knowledge generated and lessons learnt through the consultation process will be used to feed information into a broader qualitative research on child work in Ethiopia that is being currently undertaken by Young Lives.

# Child Research and Practice Forum Newsletter

**The Challenges of International Child Labour Migration from Ethiopia, the Case of Ethiopian Minors Repatriated from Yemen (A study of New generation University and UNICEF -presented by Dr Ze-lalem Tefera)**

## **Background**

The paper reflects on the challenges of international child labor migration from Ethiopia with particular reference to emergency interim care, family tracing, and reunification of Ethiopian minors voluntarily repatriated from Yemen in 2011. Yemen stands as number one transit country attracting Ethiopian migrants because of its proximity to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reports, in February 2011 alone, IOM registered some 12,454 new arrivals, of which 10,496 were from Ethiopia. Among them, there are many unaccompanied child migrants seeking job opportunities, but ended up stranded in a Yemeni border town Hardah. Of the above indicated stranded minors, the emergency interim care, family tracing, and reunification of 481 minors repatriated by IOM in 2011 was entrusted to the Global Development PLC, a research and consultancy wing of the New Generation University College by UNICEF Ethiopia. This paper presents detailed information about these 481 minor returnees and the process and challenges of emergency interim care, family tracing, and reunification. Here the term “minor” and “child” are used interchangeably and refer to an individual below 18 years.

## **Method:**

The method used to carry out this research is mainly qualitative, but supported by some quantitative data. Pertinent data for the research was generated through participant observation, in-depth interview, focus group discussion, and critical analysis of secondary data. A total of 481 returnee minors were interviewed and out of the respondents 472 were male and 9 were female.

## **Findings:**

### *Areas of origin*

The regional states from which the migrants came were Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, Southern Nations & Nationalities, Afar and Harari. The overwhelming majority of child migrants came from Amhara region, particularly from Oromo special zone (Kamissie area of the region).

### *Literacy*

Assessment of literacy rate for 355 minors indicated that 37.7 % of the returnees were illiterate who have never attended any form of schooling and cannot read and write. In contrast, those who attended grade 11-12 constituted only 0.6 %. This shows that the overwhelming majority of child migrants are either the low achievers who failed to join higher education or the illiterate ones.

### *Factors for child migration*

The most salient factors as explained by the returnees included peer pressure, domestic violence and early marriage for girls and widely held perceptions about the availability of good job opportunities in the Middle East even for the children and the illiterate. According to the respondents, many families in rural areas want children to migrate either as a means to reduce household consumption or as a means of

earning remittances. Moreover, proliferation of smugglers, brokers and private employment agencies in recent times, which disseminate luring, but ultimately exaggerated information about the availability of better opportunities in the Middle East for all categories of migrants.

### *Problems faced by migrants*

Most of the migrants end up stranded in a transit country, particularly Yemen, facing multiple hardships: physical and sexual abuses, robberies, arbitrary arrest, and deportation. Unable to either continue to Saudi Arabia or to return to Ethiopia without assistance, these irregular migrants look for support from outside.

### *Challenges of repatriation*

The process of repatriation, reunification & reintegration faced various challenges including financial challenges to carry out the whole gamut of activities included under repatriation and rehabilitation.

- loose coordination between the efforts of stakeholders;
- much focus on emergency issues at the expense of dealing with long-term solutions; particularly post-return reintegration activity;
- Less involvement of local communities in decision making in the reintegration process;
- Lack of post-return follow up and monitoring system and
- Lack of focused research and reliable data to estimate the magnitude of child migration from the country and predict possible scenarios.

## **Conclusion:**

Overall, the study pointed out that the number of unaccompanied minors migrating to the Middle East was on the rise. Yet, not all of the migrants succeed in attaining their objectives. Apart from being subjected to untold difficulties including crossing vast and hostile desert lands along their way, the migrants face sexual, physical abuse, emotional stress and robberies. There are cases of arbitrary arrest, deportation and other forms of violation of their human rights. Moreover, the proliferation of intermediaries including illegal brokers, child smugglers, informal networks such as relatives and friends and finally Private Employment Agencies, which often manipulate the age of migrants as they wish makes the issue too intricate.

## **Recommendations**

- Through awareness raising programs, particularly among the adults (parents/agents) it is possible to impart knowledge about the horrors of illegal/irregular child migration
- It is better to design and implement a research based genuine reintegration strategy whereby community based development efforts accompany assisted voluntary return;
- Towards this end - it is necessary to involve the community, the children and their families in identifying needs and developing appropriate responses;
- Given the majority of minor migrants are illiterate or less educated, particular attention should be given to expansion of education in rural areas.

# Child Research and Practice Forum Newsletter

Using Research to Build programs for Child Domestic Workers and Other Marginalized Girls in Poor Urban Areas of Ethiopia. (A study of the Population Council - presented by Dr. Erulkar Annabel)

## Background:

This paper showed the results of a formative longitudinal research among adolescents in low-income areas of Addis Ababa conducted from 2004 onwards and how this was used to design a program in order to transform the lives of adolescent girls in poor urban areas mainly those who were engaged in domestic work.

## Findings

The outcome of the research finding revealed the considerable disadvantage of adolescent girls in poor urban areas, in particular, the significant number of girls in domestic service and migrants from rural areas. The research indicated that there are a number of adolescent girls who migrated from other rural parts of Ethiopia to Addis Ababa. The study further pointed out that these adolescent girls seemed to have few work options, with domestic work absorbing large proportions of girls who need to work to survive. These domestic workers worked several hours per week for a minimal monthly salary and most of them were socially excluded. It was found out that this exclusion has exposed them to further vulnerability such as non-consensual first sex as compared to girls who have friends, social supports or group affiliation. Overall the study demonstrated that compared to other adolescents in this poor setting, domestic workers were at a distinct disadvantage, having less education and being separated from parents and other supportive adults.

Despite their vulnerability, this large category of female adolescent has been largely absent from available youth programmes and had few opportunities for socialization and recreation. This is due probably to their heavy work burdens limited free time and restrictions by their employers. As a result, most domestic workers reported having little knowledge of HIV.

*“Where I used to work, they [employers] never let me wash myself and they wouldn’t give me food... I used to starve. And because I was not able to wash, I had sores. I was carrying so much water on my back, I used to fall down... -Female domestic worker, age 10, never been to school, migrated from Amhara at age 9, worked 91 hours in last week, earns 20 Birr/\$2.30 per month. Most of the time, the child of the employers beats me without having a reason. When I ask him why he does that, he beats me again.” Female domestic worker, age 14, migrated at age 5.*

## Developing program for domestic workers and rural-urban migrants in Ethiopia

To address this risk factor, the research identified that a program for female adolescents should build their social capital and facilitate opportunities for them to stay in school and obtain positive and non-exploitative forms of work. Based on this, ‘Biruh Tesfa’ (Bright Future) was designed with the aim of increasing social networks to address the isolation of adolescent girls, by building their social capital and participation and giving them access to basic literacy, life skills, and HIV and reproductive health information. The below table demonstrates how the program design drew directly from research findings.

Research Finding	Programmatic Content
Most vulnerable girls are house-bound with significant domestic work	House to house recruitment
Social isolation: 14% of girls report having no friends (44% of domestic workers)	Girls groups promoting interaction with other girls
Lack of supportive adult/advocate: 51% of girls don’t live with parents	Mobilization of girls with adult female mentors
Lack of education: 10% of girls had never been to school (39% of domestic workers)	Non-formal education is a core component of the group meetings

The program tries to combat social exclusion in the program areas by providing female with groups that meet weekly with an adult female mentor. Females considered eligible for Biruh Tesfa are out of school slum-dwelling females aged 10-19. This screening criterion was based on the research and resulted in identification of the most vulnerable girls, many of whom were domestic workers, migrants. They are recruited by adult female mentors who go from house to house to identify eligible females, including domestic workers. Once an eligible domestic worker is identified and she shows interest in joining the program, the mentor negotiates for her participation directly with her employer. Group meetings include basic literacy and education on HIV, reproductive health and financial literacy.

## Results of End line Survey

Surveys measured changes associated with the project, in particular in social participation and social safety nets. The evaluation included variables reflecting social participation, as measured through friendship networks, making new friends, or participating in girls’ groups.

- Analysis of the baseline found that domestic workers and socially isolated girls were twice as likely to have experienced non-consensual first sex, compared to non-domestic workers/girls who were not isolated. At end line, girls in the intervention sites were twice as likely to report social support (odds ratio, 2.0) compared to girls in the control site.
- They were also twice as likely (odds ratio 1.9) to score highly on HIV knowledge questions, to know where to obtain VCT (odds ratio 2.0) and to want to be tested (odds ratio 1.9).
- At end line, girls in the Biruh Tesfa site were significantly more likely to be considered ‘socially participatory’ compared to girls in the control site.
- At baseline girls in the project site were significantly less likely to report social safety nets, such as having a source from whom to borrow money or an alternative place to stay. At end line, there was no difference in social safety nets between girls in the two sites, suggesting that Biruh Tesfa improved the status of girls in that area.
- At end line, girls in the project site were significantly more likely to have undergone voluntary counselling and testing for HIV, compared to girls in the control site.

# Child Research and Practice Forum Newsletter

The Situation of Children on the Move in Some Selected Towns in the Southern Corridors of Ethiopia (A study of Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment - presented by Alemu Haile)

## Background

The paper presents an assessment of the situation of children on the move in the south west region of Ethiopia. It tries to reflect on the lives of children who dare a risky move from their origin to urban centers with a belief that they would live a good and better life in places away from their places of origin. Children on the Move is defined in this paper as “Those children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement might place them at risk (or at an increased risk) of economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence.”

## Objective

The general objective of the study is to identify and map out the situation of children on the move and explore the magnitude of the problem in the South West Ethiopia Corridors starting from Adama City Administration of Oromiya Regional State to Chencha town of the Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional State.

## Method

The study used a qualitative method and used both primary and secondary data which included focus group discussions (with children and community groups), key informant / stakeholders interviews with government offices at different levels, and representatives of local non-governmental organizations and community members including children.

## Findings

### *Destination and migration routes*

Large numbers of children migrate to Arbaminch from the highland Woredas surrounding the town. Shashemene is another major destination area being located at the junctions of five different zones that are economically significant in that part of the country. The migrant children in Butajira town were identified to have come mainly from the highland and lowland areas of the surrounding Woredas. Likewise most of the migrant children who come to Adama town mainly come from rural Kebeles of Arsi and Bale zones. However, owing to the dynamic nature of the town and the various opportunities it can offer to new comers there are significant number of children who come to the city migrating from very faraway places, which are as far as Jinka, Gamogofa, Gojam and Tigray. These children usually pass through commonly known urban centers such as Arbaminch, Sodo, Shashemene, Zewaye, etc. to reach Adama town.

### *Factors for children's movement*

The Study showed that there are diverse push and pull factors that drive children to leave their home villages. Push factors include problems in the families, harsh living conditions in rural areas, lack of access to education and failure in education, among others. The study has also indicated that some traditional practices contribute to children's migration. A major pull factor according to the study findings is the attraction of urban life and the influence of former residents who have migrated earlier and have come back to

visit relatives and friends on occasions of fests, holidays, weddings etc.

### *Challenges faced by children on the move (COM)*

Challenges faced by COM vary from place to place and include health problems (malaria, water born diseases, respiratory infections, STIs), psychosocial problems such as lose of hope, loneliness, and depression. The girls are mostly exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation, being subject to labor exploitation (collecting fire wood and fetching water from very faraway places) and exposing themselves to abuses such as rape, abduction, physical violence, starvation, exposed to alcohol and drug. The study participants indicated that the chance of these children becoming indifferent to life and moving around with no vision and future aims is very high. This is mainly because they are usually shocked by the huge difference between what they initially thought of the urban centers and where they actually find themselves.

### *Availability of services in the study areas*

The study indicated that there are considerable varieties of services that are available for children on the move in the four selected study areas; however, these services are not being provided in a systematic and coordinated manner. Most of the services available for children on the move include services such as reunification and/or reintegration, educational support, temporary shelter, and health services. There are some non-government organizations that provide vocational skills training and provide start-up capital for these children.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The study demonstrated the presence of mobile children exposed to various risks and noted this as a social problem in all the four study areas. It also showed some of the major socio-economic and cultural factors that cause children movement with negative consequences. Based on these the study has suggested the following measures:

- Intensive engagement with rural community to raise awareness on family planning, positive parenting is essential.
- Working with schools to disseminate information and provide some scholastic support for children from very poor households is also important.
- Reintegration should take into account the family situation in order not to return children to hostile environment and it is also crucial to think of support for reintegrated children to help them settle better. Temporary shelters in transit towns are also significant in this regard.
- Strengthening existing networks & joint efforts is required to provide community based holistic support for these children.

## Up Coming Event

Title: East African Symposium on Child Work/Labour

Venue: Harmony Hotel

Date: 20-21 March 2014

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