



OSSREA RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS IN CHILD LABOUR

September 2022

**Organization for Social
Science Research in Eastern
and Southern Africa**

OSSREA



PROJECTS

- Covid-19 and Youth Questions an Africa (COYOQA)
- INNOFOODAFRICA
- The Social Sciences for Stigmatizing Skin Conditions (5S-ETHIOPIA)
- Protracted Displaced Economies (PDE)
- Migrating Out Of Poverty (MOOP)
- Youth Inclusive Mechanisms for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the IGAD Region (P/CVE)
- Evidence and Lessons from Latin America (ELLA)
- Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI)

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About Organization

The Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) is a regional membership-based and donor-supported research and capacity-building organization whose mission is to promote dialogue and interaction between researchers and policy-makers in Eastern and Southern Africa with a view to enhancing the impact of research on policy-making and development planning. Its headquarter is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Membership is open to all individuals and institutions engaged in teaching and/or research. OSSREA not only engages in interdisciplinary research but also provides research grants to junior and senior scholars based in the region. It also offers training in Research Methodology. OSSREA operates major projects either independently or in collaboration with other institutions and produces a variety of scholarly publications ranging from its bi-annual journal to monographs, books and research reports.



ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
(OSSREA)



Introduction

Modern slavery is a growing global challenge with serious repercussions on the wellbeing of victims. From the estimated 40 million people in modern slavery, 25 million are those under labor exploitation. Children constitute a significant proportion (1/4) of those under labor and sexual exploitation. Ethiopia is one of the source, transit and destination countries for both internal and external trafficking. Many children in Ethiopia are at risk or trapped in modern slavery in the form of exploitative child labor. This is rooted in aspects related to children, family, community as well as on government and civil society. Here are some of the research publications on child labour.

A Base Line Study On: Legal Frameworks and Actors Involved in Child Protection in Addis Ababa, Wolayita and Hadiya Districts, Ethiopia

Dr. Tekalign Ayalew

Despite Ethiopia has made some improvements in recent years still there is prevalence of worst forms of child labor in Ethiopia. This report is aimed at mapping relevant state and non-state actors and institutions engaged in child protections in Ethiopia in general and project areas (Wolayta, Hadiya, and Addis Ababa) in particular; identifying relevant legal and policy frameworks (since 2018) and the gaps in providing child protections and preventing exploitative child labor and examining actors' areas of engagement, limitations and what efforts still need to be implemented to strengthen their roles. This baseline study is documented through participant observation, face-to-face qualitative interviews, group discussions and supplemented by legal and policy analysis. Semi structured interviews (48) are conducted with government officials, judicial actors, and civil society actors CBO & FBO carried out in Addis Ababa, Hadiya and Wolayita. Structured questions as interview guides were used. Ethiopia has ratified major regional and global conventions and instruments related to preventing child labor and protection procedures. There are relevant domestic laws that prohibit worst forms of child labor. Notwithstanding the magnitude in laws, policies and protection frameworks, children and youth on the move from the study areas continue to experience worst forms of child labor including trafficking for sexual and labor exploitations within Ethiopia and along the migration routes, since the existing protection systems hardly reaches these groups. There are barriers to translate laws and policies into actions such as cultural barriers, lack of implementing guidelines and strategies. Policies and laws related to child protection and combating child labor are not harmonized and dispersed in different sectoral agencies and ministries. There are several government actors such as Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs and its regional bureaus, Ethiopian Federal Police, local police and courts and The Office of Attorney General. There are also several international organizations, NGOs and CBOs working on issues of child protection in Ethiopia. This study finds out that government organization experience challenges such as limited capacity and resource gaps, coordination challenges, lack of commitment and attitude challenges. Community based organization engagements to protect child labor is also constrained by the COVID-19 crises and conflict in the country. Generally, the coordination efforts are often ineffective across all stakeholders. This is partly because taskforces and coordination efforts are ad hoc and reactive to crises. There is less well established, funded and proactively engaged activities by stakeholders.



A Base Line Study to identify determinants that strengthen (assets and capabilities) families and communities to provide a safe and child-friendly environment that promotes children's right and to actively work with the formal child protection system

Dr. Abebaw Minaye

Child labour exploitation is a critical challenge globally as well as in Ethiopia. As one form of trafficking (modern slavery) child labor exploitations has a deleterious impact on the wholistic development of children where their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual development is compromised. Woord en Daad designed an intervention project titled "Combating Modern Slavery: Breaking the Chains of Exploitative Child Labor" which aimed to reduce the prevalence and scope of modern slavery in the form of exploitative child labor in Ethiopia'. Before beginning the intervention Woord en Daad wanted to have a base line study. As families and community environment is a key protective or risk factors for exploitative child labor studying the state of safe and friendly family and community environment is vital. Thus, the main purpose of the current study is to fill the gaps in knowledge and assumptions to inform the Theory of Change (ToC) to identify the baseline situation in order to be able to measure the impact at the end of the project. Key objectives of the study are: first identifying factors determining a child friendly environment, second to map existing family strengthening efforts aimed at combating exploitative child labor and third assess the community-based intervention efforts being carried out to combat modern slavery particularly exploitative child labor. The study is conducted in three sites Addis Ababa, Hadiya and Wolaita Sodo. The study followed mixed method design where 100 participants (30 family of victim children, 40 family of at-risk children and 30 community members) took part in a survey. A total of 31 participants took part in interviews and FGDs making the sum total 131. Two PhD candidates at Addis Ababa University collected the data with the supervision of the lead researcher. Percentage, t-test and ANOVA were used to analyze the quantitative data. The qualitative data was analyzed using thematic approach.

❖ *The qualitative study revealed the following findings:*

1. The situation of child labor exploitation remained unabated. Poverty played the key role in sustaining the child labor exploitation. Despite their awareness and attitude, economic survival forced families to avail their children to labor exploitation. Thus, people are not able to speak against child labor in the level expected because they themselves are engaged in sending their children for labor work and they are exploiting them at home.

2. Regarding family and community assets, evidences show that much change is not obtained. The only positive observation is that some families despite their poverty are working hard to make a living.

3. Concerning family and community norms there are determinants impacting child labor exploitation which inter alia include: youth not willing to do low rated job (e.g daily labor) in their locality, normalizing the problem, migration being attached to social class (high or low), silence (as most people are engaged in it), and finally unfair competition among community members in terms of having a migrant child.



4. Despite the relatively low engagement of families and communities in Addis Ababa some community members fought child labor exploitations by exposing people who exploit children for labor or sex whether they are relative, family of employers of these children.

5. From existing frameworks safety net and school feeding seem to be working better. But the support from the safety net is not sufficient. There is also tendency of engaging in similar small business which leads to too much competition and lack of diversification.

❖ *The Quantitative findings study revealed the following findings:*

1. There are improvements in awareness and understanding level of families and communities related to the situation of child labor exploitation. From the participants 41% rated the awareness either well achieved or fully achieved which is higher compared to other attributes related to family and community asset and capacity building.
2. The existing community assets both tangible and intangible are not built and are not well used to combat child labor exploitation.
3. There is relatively better achievement in terms of gender awareness where 45% of participants judged that community awareness of gender related risk on children is well or fully achieved. So does family's awareness which is 35% fully or well achieved.
4. ANOVA showed that there is significant difference among studied groups where comparatively community members have higher mean (80.5) compared to 67.2 for families of at-risk children and the mean for families of victim children is the list (56.85).
5. ANOVA also showed that there is difference across employment status whereby those employed in private business scored the highest showing perceived better achievement in combating child labor exploitation. Daily laborers and farmers reported the least.
6. ANOVA also revealed that participants from Addis Ababa perceive better achievement related to combating child labor compared to participants from Wolaita and Hadiya.

Recommendations:

- 1.** Interventions should focus on sites that are most affected for a maximal outcome. In Addis Ababa Kolfe Sub city Zenebe Work area where the interview is carried out there are so many young girls engaged in survival sex work which need to be supported to engage in a dignified job. At Addis Ketema sub city (Sebategna near Merkato) there are too many young women and families exposed to labor and sexual exploitation that need to be supported.
- 2.** Woord en Daad's focus should be on practical skills like provision of short-term trainings that help to generate income than awareness and attitude.



3. Although there are improvements in understanding gender related factors contributing to child labour exploitation the general norm of child labor exploitations is considered normal and hence combatting this norm is vital by using community leaders.
4. Woord en Daad has to be picky in that it should support those family of victims or family of at-risk children who are already doing their level best to support their children to encourage people to take their own initiatives if they are to be supported by the project.
5. Woord en Daad need to work closely with existing efforts and programmes that contributed to the reduction of child labour exploitation like safety net and school feeding programmes.
6. Finally the current quantitative data has to be used for comparison during the mid-term and final evaluation of the project as this study is meant to serve as base.

Drivers of the Demand for Child Labor: The Case of Addis Ababa, Hosana, and Wolaita

Dr. Desalegn Amsalu

This report is a study on the “Drivers of the Demand for Child Labor: A Case Study of Addis Ababa, Hosana and Wolaita”. The objective of the study was to generate qualitative information on three points: on factors that contribute to the demand for child labor, on the impact of previous interventions on the cultural acceptance of child labor, and finally on opportunities for intervention against the demand for the child labor. The fieldwork was made between September 5 and October 8, 2021 in Addis Ababa, Hosana, and Wolaita respectively. The fieldwork and writing up went side by side because of a shortage of time. The findings of the study on the first objective, i.e., factors contributing to the demand for child laborers, show the following. Child laborers are needed because they are less paid compared to those who have attained the legal age; they are obedient and submissive to their employers; there is less turnover with underage laborers; underage workers are less violent towards their employers; and they are more flexible and can easily learn language and other skills. The activities and places that young workers are more preferred for includes tea rooms, breakfast houses, hotels & restaurants, jebena bunna/street coffee vending, household work, waitressing, and “hulegeb” or mixed service. Yet, there are also some downsides with young laborers as reported by informants: child laborers have limited knowledge of cleaning and hygiene and they are less dependable to care for infants. As to the impact of previous interventions on the cultural acceptance of domestic child laborers, first of all, it was not possible to get a full image about it, since it has to be done through a survey method. Some informants who participated in this research said they have never come across interventions on this topic and others said they received intervention from governmental and nongovernmental offices in the form of trainings. The researcher has never come across parents, or victims, who said they have received at least training. On the other hand, brokers talked of several meetings and trainings with government or non-government organizations. Whether or not they have received training, all categories of participants (brokers, employers, and victims) admitted that they know child labor is illegal, but still it is fine to practice it. Many



informants questioned the law itself that prohibits child labor in Ethiopia's context. They forwarded points raising moral dilemma: it is good for those child laborers to work, or they would become street beggars. As long as they had no opportunity to go to school or make their living with their parents, then it is good for them to work. This claim generalizes the sole reason that children work is poverty. The argument tends to deny social attitudes that are also responsible for child labor. The research findings suggested the following opportunities for intervention. Since a major reason for child labor is poverty, working towards poverty alleviation is sine qua none. In the meantime, there should be awareness creation mechanisms for employers, brokers, victims, transportation service providers, law enforcement organs, parents and vulnerable children. Besides, there needs to be strong labor inspection legislative regime and its implementation, which is not overwhelmed by corruption.

Key Findings

Why do employers need child laborers?

Child laborers are less paid compared to those who have attained the legal age

They are obedient and submissive to their employers

There are fewer turnovers with underage laborers

Underage workers are less violent towards their employers

They are more flexible and can easily learn a language and other skills.

- Which areas of business are young workers preferred for? Young workers are more preferred for tea rooms, breakfast houses, hotels & restaurants, jebena bunna/ street coffee vending, household work, waitressing, and "hulegeb" or mixed service. Yet, there are also some downsides with young laborers: child laborers have limited knowledge of cleaning and hygiene and they are less dependable to care for infants.
- From the research participants (brokers, employers, and victims), brokers have most frequently reported receiving multiple awareness creation events or meetings with government or non-government organizations. Employers and victims who took part in this research have not taken part in any awareness creation activities. Yet regardless of the training, all categories of research participants (brokers, employers, and victims) admitted that they know child labor is illegal, but still, it is fine to practice it and the legal enforcement environment is loose or corrupt.
- Many informants (excluding the victims) even questioned the law itself that prohibits child labor in Ethiopia's context. They argued it is good for child laborers to work, or they would become street beggars. As long as they had no opportunity to go to school or make their living with their parents, it is good for them to work. This claim generalizes that poverty is the only driver of child labor. The view of informants does not consider social attitudes that are also responsible for child labor, proving that previous interventions have little impact in changing such attitudes. Read the policy brief for policy recommendations.

Growing up Too Fast: Rural Children Working in Addis Ababa

Emebet Mulugeta and Sissel H. Eriksen

The study explores the life situation of children who come from rural areas to work in Addis Ababa. It discusses their migration, work, relationships, and their economic contributions using data from 30 children. Findings indicate that poverty is a major push factor for migration, while a strong network of relatives living in Addis Ababa is a pull factor. In Addis Ababa, the children live in a challenging environment, drawing on their personal and social resources to persevere in the face of difficulties. Though they work hard and sometimes manage without basic necessities, they appreciate the opportunities available to help families, and for most to go to school, which reflects agency in action. Interventions need to consider not only vulnerability, but also the agency and resilience of children and the factors behind these.

Child Work and Schooling In Butajira and Its Vicinity: Beliefs and Practices

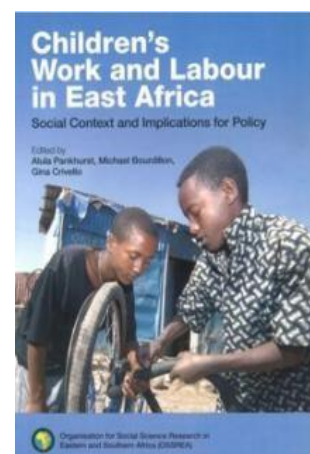
Seleshi Zeleke and Mitiku Hambisa

Although some studies show that work keeps young people away from school, others suggest that income from work covers school expenses and makes schooling possible. The major purpose of this study was to examine child work and schooling in the Ethiopian context. The study focused on factors that push children to enter the world of work early in their lives, working children's school profiles and effectiveness of the combination of work and schooling. We gathered data using questionnaire, interview, and focus group discussion from a sample of 103 child workers, 24 parents and 8 key informants. Results from both quantitative and qualitative data revealed that although poverty is the major factor that pushes children to enter the world of work early in their lives, family size and existing child rearing practices of the community also play significant roles. While one-half of the child workers were not attending school at the time of data collection, the combination of work and schooling was unfortunately not effective. Besides, relative to their male counterparts, female child workers were more likely to have no schooling.

Children's Work and Labour in East Africa

Alula Pankhurst and Michael Bourdillon

Children's Work and Labor in East Africa brings together contributions by academics and practitioners interested in strengthening the role of research in improving policies relating to children and poverty in the region. This edited collection presents evidence from working children's lives and perspectives in cases from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, spanning a variety of types of children's work, from agriculture to mining to petty trade, paid and unpaid work, inside and outside household contexts. Examples speak to experiences of child labor to discern best practices that might be applied more broadly, including meaningful ways of involving children in policy processes. The book shows how children's lives have changed with increases in paid and domestic work in addition to the demands of schooling. The book will appeal to both academics and practitioners interested in promoting the wellbeing of working children and ensuring that policies relating to children and poverty are firmly based on evidence.





Child Exclusion among Internally Displaced Populations in Rift Valley and Nyanza Provinces of Kenya

Kennedy Nyabuti Ondimu

Globally, over 25 million people are displaced within their own countries by conflicts or human rights violations. In Kenya, thousands of families are increasingly being displaced by the effect of inter-ethnic violence, environmental disasters, and forced government eviction from forest reserves. The majority of these displaced communities end up squatting in informal settlements in the nearby urban centres or at the fringes of the forest zone where they are exposed to extreme poverty and deprivation. Since almost all the displaced families originate from the rural areas, the act of displacement shatters the family-based rural economy when they seek refuge in towns. Internally displaced children face many risks due to the violence and uncertainty surrounding both their family's flight and their life in the place of refuge. They may become separated from their families, lose their homes and find themselves living in poor conditions that jeopardize their health and education. Loss of family protection and inadequate resources to address the needs and challenges that internally displaced children face can leave them at significant risk of being trafficked to places with slave-like working conditions.