

## Section 9: Sub-studies

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Alongside the major survey and qualitative longitudinal components of Young Lives, several additional studies have been undertaken that focus on particular themes in selected countries. While sub-studies carry out new fieldwork designed to address their thematic focus, they also have the advantage of being able to rely on existing survey and qualitative data to shape their research design and contextualise their findings. This section briefly describes several Young Lives sub-studies, and lists the publications associated with them. In most cases, the same fieldwork teams undertook the research who had undertaken previous qualitative longitudinal research, to build on existing relationships.

### National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in Andhra Pradesh, India

This research in 2009 involved 30 Young Lives households. It aimed to explore young people's experiences of NREGS, and whether the scheme is sustainable in the light of problems it may be causing within communities.

The fieldwork took place in three rural Young Lives sites and included both families who were participating in NREGS and some who were not. Fieldwork was conducted with Young Lives qualitative children and other Young Lives children who were purposively sampled to (i) ensure that the areas of interest were covered and (ii) include children who could be followed over the next qualitative rounds. Interviews and group discussions took place with key informants (for example, Panchayat officials, employers), male and female caregivers, and around 12 children (Younger Cohort children and older siblings) in each site over 10 days. Researchers used semi-structured interviews designed in conjunction with the survey team to cover similar areas to those addressed in the Round 3 survey.

- Camfield, L., and U. Vennam (2012) *From Policy to Implementation: An In-depth Exploration of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Andhra Pradesh*, Working Paper 82, Oxford: Young Lives.

### Productive Safety Net Project (PSNP) in Ethiopia

This research in 2009 aimed to explore the effects of PSNP on children's well-being, the impacts of local and household economic shocks, implementation of PSNP, and the possible

impacts of PSNP on schooling, work, health and food consumption.

The fieldwork took place in four rural Young Lives sites and included some families who are participating in PSNP and some who are not. Fieldwork was conducted with Young Lives qualitative children and other Young Lives children who were purposively sampled to (i) ensure that the areas of interest were covered and (ii) include children who could be followed over the next qualitative rounds. Semi-structured interviews and group discussions were held with key informants (for example, local officials), male and female caregivers, and around 12 children (Younger Cohort children and older siblings) in each site over 10 days.

- Tafere, Y., and T. Woldehanna (2012) *Beyond Food Security: Transforming the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia for the Well-being of Children*, Working Paper 83, Oxford: Young Lives.

### Risk, vulnerability and resilience in Ethiopia and Andhra Pradesh, India

This sub-study, conducted between 2009 and 2011, aimed to:

- explore the challenges of translating research into policy and practice on child protection and child poverty.
- carry out research on locally relevant aspects of how risk, vulnerability and resilience affect children's lives.

To meet these goals, researchers designed reflective, multi-stakeholder processes to identify barriers and explore challenges to translating research into practice. The study team began by using Young Lives findings and their contextual knowledge of each country to select a subject within the broad theme of risk, vulnerability and resilience which had particular relevance to policies for protecting children and alleviating child poverty. In Ethiopia, where one in five of the Young Lives children has lost one or both parents by age 12, orphanhood and vulnerability were the focus of research, while in Andhra Pradesh, child labour was selected, as it is a common phenomenon and a highly politicised matter.

Researchers, policymakers and practitioners were then brought together to reflect on the challenges and opportunities for improving the use of research in policy and practice in these two areas. This reflection served both to challenge prevailing assumptions about what puts children at risk, and to identify priority research questions for the fieldwork. The design of the sub-study differed in each

country according to variations in stakeholder priorities and prevailing policy processes.

In Ethiopia, fieldwork was carried out in 2010 in three Young Lives sites and focused on a sub-sample of children from both Younger and Older Cohorts, around half of whom had experienced the death of a parent. One hundred individual interviews and six group discussions were carried out with the children, their caregivers and community members, and researchers also drew on existing Young Lives data about the children. Data were also collected through observation and life histories.

In India, the sub-study focused on children involved in agricultural work in Andhra Pradesh (in 2011). The study aimed to explore understandings of risks at work (and in daily life) with a view to contributing to debates about what constitutes hazardous and non-hazardous work from children's perspectives. The fieldwork took place in two Young Lives sites, interviewing 44 children who were around 14-15 years old – 26 Young Lives children and 18 non-Young Lives children. The non-Young Lives children were included to ensure that the sample was large enough and that it included examples of children who worked full-time as well as those who combined work with school. Interviews and group discussions took place with around 20 children per site over one week and key informants (for example, *sarpanch*, health workers). Data were also collected through body mapping.

Findings from both elements challenged policymakers, especially within the field of child protection, to move beyond a focus on categories of children at risk, such as 'orphans' and 'child labourers', and to encourage policies aimed at addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality which put children at risk of poorer outcomes and hazardous work situations.

Lessons from the consultative processes illuminated the reasons why translating such findings into changes in policy and practice remains difficult. Principal challenges, summarised by the stakeholder group in Ethiopia, included:

- A lack of dialogue and consultation between researchers, practitioners and policymakers.
- Research is often not oriented towards action.
- Research results are frequently not adequately disseminated or easily found, and findings seldom translated into concrete recommendations.
- Donors rarely require projects to be based on research, while funding for research rarely specifies the need for consultation with other stakeholders.

One outcome has been the establishment of the [Child Research and Practice Forum](#) (CRPF) in Addis Ababa. The CRPF brings together researchers, practitioners and policymakers working on child poverty regularly to share current research and learning at the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, and build local capacity for using and engaging with research. Activities include monthly meetings, seminars, published summaries of presentations and a regular newsletter. The CRPF hosts events and consultations to facilitate evidence-based debate on topics such as harmful

traditional practices, child migration and child work. Its success indicates how valuable such a forum can be.

- Crivello, G. and N. Chuta (2012) 'Rethinking Orphanhood and Vulnerability in Ethiopia', *Development in Practice* 22.4: 536-48.
- Crivello, G., and H. Murry (2012) [Why strengthening the linkages between policy and research is important](#), Policy Brief 19, Oxford: Young Lives.
- Morrow, V., and U. Vennam (2012) 'How Children Manage Risk in Daily Life: Identifying Hazards in Agricultural Work in Andhra Pradesh, India', *Development in Practice* 22.4: 549-61.

## Parents' views of quality education, India

This was a sub-study into factors affecting school choice in Andhra Pradesh in 2011. It involved interviewing a sub-sample of Young Lives children (aged 9-10) and the key household decision-maker in three Young Lives sites. The sites and children were purposively selected from the Young Lives school component sample because they had demonstrated high rates of children moving between government and low-fee private schools between Round 3 and the school survey. The in-depth semi-structured interviews explored perspectives on education, perceptions of differences between specific private, government and other schools in each community, and detailed information on schooling decisions. The aim was to build a multi-layered picture of the forces driving, and the impacts of, differentiated and changing school choices.

- James, Z., and M. Woodhead (2014) 'Choosing and changing schools in India's private and government sectors: Young Lives evidence from Andhra Pradesh', *Oxford Review of Education* 40.1: 73-90.
- Vennam, U., A. Komanduri and U. Duggani (2014) [Changing Schools in Andhra Pradesh: The Experiences of Children and their Caregivers](#), Working Paper 131, Oxford: Young Lives.
- Morrow V., and E. Wilson (2013) *Parents' perspectives on quality of schooling in Andhra Pradesh India*. London: Save the Children.

## Beyond urban relocation: expectations and concerns of children and caregivers in Addis Ababa and Hawasa, Ethiopia

Carried out in January 2012, this relocation study comprised qualitative and quantitative components. A survey was conducted in four urban sites where slums were targeted for clearance and redevelopment. The survey included 466 caregivers and 451 children. Of the 451 children, two-thirds were from the Younger Cohort (aged 11 and 12 years old), and a third were from the Older Cohort (aged 17 and 18). In the qualitative component, interviews were conducted with 79 children and their caregivers, 10 boys and 10 girls in each of the four sites.

Forty-five key informant interviews were conducted with people from formal and customary institutions in each community. Group discussions were also conducted with children, with their caregivers, and with influential community members. Three Young Lives families who had moved to live in condominiums were contacted for in-depth interviews to obtain their views about changes in their lives resulting from the move. Three briefs translated into Amharic were produced (one per working paper).

- Pankhurst, A., and A. Tiemelissan (2013) *Living in Urban Areas due for Redevelopment: Views of Children and their Families in Addis Ababa and Hawassa*, Working Paper 105, Oxford: Young Lives.
- Pankhurst, A., and A. Tiemelissan (2013) *Moving to Condominium Housing? Views about the Prospect among Children and their Families in Addis Ababa and Hawassa*, Working Paper 106, Oxford: Young Lives.
- Pankhurst, A., and A. Tiemelissan (2014) *Beyond Urban Relocation? Expectations and Concerns of Children and Caregivers in Addis Ababa and Hawassa*, Working Paper 126, Oxford: Young Lives.

## Stimulating evidence-based approaches to child work/labour in Ethiopia

This was a sub-study of children's work in 2013 in three Young Lives sites (two urban, one rural). The study aimed to deepen understanding of the socio-biographical factors motivating children's pathways into and through work, and to record children's perspectives on the risks and benefits associated with their work. A team of experienced Ethiopian fieldworkers conducted group discussions and interviews with 88 children and young people aged between 9 and 19 years (from within and outside the Young Lives sample), evenly distributed on gender lines, but slightly weighted towards younger children who were below the legal minimum age of 14 years for waged work. We also interviewed a total of 23 caregivers and 45 key informants in the three sites.

The fieldwork was preceded by three consultations (two at regional level and one at national level) with stakeholders working on child poverty and well-being in Ethiopia in order to investigate a range of children's work activities and histories. The results were presented at regional and national consultations in Ethiopia.

- Pankhurst, A., M. Bourdillon and G. Crivello (2015) (eds.) *Children's Work and Labour in East Africa: Social Context and Implications for Policy*. Addis Ababa: Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa.

- Pankhurst, A., G. Crivello and A. Tiemelissan (2016) *Children's Work in Family and Community Contexts: Examples from Young Lives Ethiopia*, Working Paper 147, Oxford: Young Lives.
- Pankhurst, A., G. Crivello and A. Tiemelissan (2015) *Work in children's lives in Ethiopia: examples from Young Lives communities*, Addis Ababa: Young Lives.
- Pells, K. (2014) *Children's Well-Being and Work in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Young Lives, Save the Children and the African Child Policy Forum Policy Brief, Addis Ababa: Young Lives
- Tafere, Y., and A. Pankhurst (2016) 'Children combining school and work in Ethiopian communities,' in A. Pankhurst, M. Bourdillon and G. Crivello (2015).

## Child and early marriage in Ethiopia

This was qualitative research conducted in December 2015, that aimed to explore how young people and families negotiate the move from childhood to social adulthood in contexts of poverty; the changing role of marriage and parenthood; the benefits, risks, and harms associated with pathways to marriage and parenthood among children and young people; what shapes the quality of married life and young women's status within it; and whether the type and timing/age of marriage matter for young women's life chances.

The research involved 99 interviews, with 40 young people, 37 caregivers, 15 husbands, two wives, and five key informants.

- Crivello, G. (2016) 'Girls' diverging pathways to marriage', Oxford: University of Oxford.
- Chuta, N. (2017) *Young Women's Household Bargaining Power in Marriage and Parenthood in Ethiopia*, Working Paper 166, Oxford: Young Lives.

## Child and early marriage in India

This is ongoing qualitative research on decision-making and early childbearing involving the participation of married and unmarried girls (aged 15-22), couples, families and community members in four Young Lives sites in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, India. The fieldwork was undertaken in late 2016. The study focus is on those girls and young women who married below the age of 18 since this category is of special interest to policymakers in the country and globally. The study aims to generate new knowledge about adolescent sexual and reproductive health, household dynamics of young couples, their fertility decisions, and their experiences of parenthood. The findings will be communicated to relevant stakeholders who influence policies and programmes in India.