

## Child poverty, ‘no one left behind’, and the Global Goals

May 2017

Young Lives’ aim in relation to child poverty is to create ‘a strong evidence-base showing when and why differences emerge through the early life-course; with a framework of how policy can respond to inequality and poverty to equip policymakers and advocates looking for how to improve policies for poor children’ (Theory of Change 2015). This year, Young Lives has continued promoting the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, in particular through its active participation in the [Global Coalition to End Child Poverty](#), through which Young Lives is able to disseminate key messages about child poverty. Young Lives’ role in the Coalition is to strengthen it as a platform and contribute strong evidence on the drivers of poverty and the ways in which policy change can address this. Partnership in the Coalition has also resulted in ongoing work with Save the Children, the Overseas Development Institute, and World Vision International on the impact of poverty on youth transitions.

The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty raises awareness about children living in poverty across the world. Its initial aim was to engage with debates about the Sustainable Development Goals as they developed; the Coalition particularly played a role in terms of the decision to include child poverty overtly in the SDGs (through arguing for the age disaggregation of poverty measures). Young Lives has been involved since the Coalition’s inception, building on previous engagement with SDG processes. A Young Lives paper based on analysis of our data, *What Inequality Means for Children*, was submitted to the UNICEF/UN Women consultation on inequalities, and used extensively in their report to the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Agenda.

“ The Young Lives publication on inequalities and children was one of the top five submissions to UNICEF’s global thematic consultations on the SDGs. It meant that we were able to offer some solid evidence of the damage done to children by inequalities. It is a significant part of the process that helped the goal on inequalities come into being. ”

Richard Morgan, Director, Child Poverty Global Initiative, Save the Children, and former Head of Policy at UNICEF & Special Advisor on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Young Lives is one of over 20 partners of the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, which also includes UNICEF and Save the Children. The Coalition is now entering a new phase of providing regional and national tools that will support global and national action to alleviate poverty. Young Lives led on behalf of the Coalition on a policy positioning paper called ‘Putting Children First’, which outlines key building blocks for how countries can address child poverty, and offers evidence and experience to support national discussion on the best

policy options for children. This paper is being used by the Coalition to encourage policy change to help overcome child poverty. Young Lives is also part of the organising group for an international conference on child poverty in Ethiopia later in 2017, with the aim of bringing together research on child poverty and policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa.

“ Young Lives carried out a piece of work on the impact of poverty on youth transitions. Part of Young Lives’ analysis was published by Save the Children as a chapter entitled ‘Building strong foundations for later livelihoods by addressing child poverty: evidence from Young Lives’ in *The Global Child Poverty Challenge: In search of solutions* (published by Practical Action). Young Lives also presented to Save the Children’s steering group for its Global Initiative on Child Poverty, and took part in a Save the Children/Practical Action webinar following the book’s publication. Looking forward, Young Lives has agreed further collaboration, including film and webinars, with the Save the Children global initiative which will aid dissemination of key messages. I co-convened with Young Lives the Adolescent Transitions policy briefing paper working group for the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty. Young Lives brought a depth of subject matter knowledge backed up by evidence from their research, which greatly enhanced the quality of the paper. The collegial spirit and constructive collaboration between the agencies was in a large part down to the openness and professionalism of the Young Lives team. They also have contributed to other significant papers and policy direction for the Coalition, often taking on the lead drafting role. For World Vision, collaboration with Young Lives has helped to shape our own understanding and approach to working with adolescents. ”

Paul Stephenson, Senior Director Child Development and Rights Technical Cluster, Child Development and Programme Effectiveness, World Vision International