



Young Lives Two Decades of Findings and Future Research Opportunities: Employment

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Overview

Equal access to secure, decent jobs is critical to improving the lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and enabling inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Young Lives' unique mixed-methods longitudinal research provides a holistic, life-course perspective to understanding employment trajectories in low- and middle-income countries, including the compounding impacts of shocks and crises, such as climate change, conflict and COVID-19. With its data now spanning more than two decades, Young Lives has collected [comprehensive information](#) about labour market participation, working arrangements and types of work activities, as well as job-related and digital skills. This is complemented by data on time use, job aspirations and subjective earnings expectations.

Labour markets across the four Young Lives study countries are diverse and complex, typically with widespread informality, high levels of self-employment and limited

access to social protection. With an increasing number of study participants now part of the labour force, [Young Lives' longitudinal data](#) is uniquely positioned to enable in-depth research on how these challenges have an impact on school-to-work transitions, labour market participation and employment. It enables detailed analysis of how individual characteristics and family background – such as childhood poverty, gender, cognitive and socio-emotional skills and life-course inequalities – shape young people's transition from school to work, their access to decent employment and their engagement in entrepreneurship in early adulthood.

This report presents the key findings emerging from over 20 years of Young Lives' quantitative and qualitative data and research on employment, with a strong focus on women's economic empowerment. It also highlights Young Lives' significant contribution to related policy debates, showcases impact case studies, presents the latest trends based on preliminary analysis of Round 7 data and sets out unique opportunities for future research.

The Young Lives study

Young Lives has been following the lives of 12,000 young people in Ethiopia, India (in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam, from infancy into early adulthood, since 2002. In each country, the study is divided into two age groups: 2,000 young people born in 2001 (the Younger Cohort) and 1,000 born in 1994 (the Older Cohort).

This report is one of a series of four legacy reports – [Education and Skills](#), [Health and Well-being](#), [Employment](#), and [Family Lives](#) – which together provide a comprehensive overview of Young Lives' holistic research and policy findings from the last two decades.





1. What we know: evidence from the Young Lives study

Many of the young people in the Young Lives study began their working lives during childhood, often in unpaid roles supporting their family farm or business.

Despite early aspirations to secure stable, high-quality jobs in the formal sector (Tafere and Chuta, 2020; Tafere *et al.*, 2020), many young people – particularly those from poor households and rural areas – ultimately end up in insecure employment or in subsistence entrepreneurship. In Ethiopia and Peru, between 66% and 80% of 22-year-old workers are employed without a written contract, whereas in India this rises to 94%. In contrast, only 40% of workers in Vietnam at the same age are employed without a written contract. In addition, between 70% and 80% of dependent workers across the four study countries perform tasks that involve some form of occupational hazard, such as carrying heavy loads or using dangerous tools (Favara, Chang and Sánchez, 2018).

Early disparities in educational achievement are closely linked to labour market inequalities later in life.

In particular, employment opportunities in early adulthood are strongly influenced by the development of cognitive skills and positive learning outcomes during childhood and adolescence. For example, better numeracy skills at age 15 are highly correlated with continued enrolment in education at age 22, thereby delaying the transition from school to work across all four study countries (Favara, Chang and Sánchez, 2018). In times of economic crisis, having a higher education degree and stronger skills act as protective factors by increasing the likelihood of securing a stable job (Sánchez, Favara and Porter, 2021; Perez-Alvarez, Porter and Ramachandran, 2023).

Socio-emotional skills also matter in securing good-quality jobs. In Vietnam, socio-emotional skills are better predictors of earnings for employed 19-year-olds than

cognitive skills (Nguyen and Nguyen, 2018). In Peru, the gender wage gap is mostly due to men being more likely to work in jobs that reward cognitive skills they are more endowed with, compared to women (Lavado, Velarde and Yamada, 2022). Socio-emotional skills help reduce this gap, as women usually earn more than men with comparable levels of these skills.

Gender also plays a significant role, with young men and women following markedly different pathways after leaving school. Across all four study countries, the transition to work happens earlier for young men than for young women (Favara, Chang and Sánchez, 2018). In Ethiopia, girls are more likely than boys to remain in school at every grade and by age 22, more young women have completed high school or tertiary education (Admasu, Crivello and Porter, 2021). In Vietnam, gender gaps emerge during mid-to-late adolescence, with girls more likely to stay in school through upper secondary education and to delay their entry into the workforce (Zharkevich, Roest and Thanh, 2016).

However, staying in education longer does not necessarily translate into better labour market outcomes for young women. Early marriage remains a key barrier to women's participation in the labour force. In Ethiopia, job opportunities for young women are more limited than for young men and early marriage is a key factor pushing women out of the labour force. Many women face additional challenges in combining unpaid care work with income-generating activities and often leave employment when they get married or have children (Pankhurst and Tafere, 2020). Similarly, in India, early marriage significantly disrupts young women's educational and work trajectories (Reddy *et al.*, 2017), with 98% of the gender gap in regular salaried employment among 22-year-

olds associated with women's marital status (Singh and Mukherjee, 2022). In Peru, 19-year-old women who are married or have children are twice as likely to be not in education, employment or training than their unmarried and childless peers (Favara and Sánchez, 2018).

A persistent gender wage gap also remains, although it narrows with better cognitive skills. Young men continue to secure better-paid jobs than young women (Zharkevich, Roest and Thanh, 2016; Perez-Alvarez, Porter and Ramachandran, 2023), with early marriage a contributing factor in India (Reddy *et al.*, 2017). Gender wage gaps become smaller as cognitive skills increase, although this relationship varies by context: stronger cognitive skills predict smaller gender wage gaps in Ethiopia and Peru, but not in India and Vietnam (Perez-Alvarez, Porter and Ramachandran, 2023). Nevertheless, even after adjusting for different cognitive and socio-emotional skills between women and men, gender wage gaps persist.

Unpaid care work is also a major barrier to gender equality in young people's employment. By age 22, a significant proportion of young women not in the labour force cited childcare and domestic responsibilities as their primary reasons for not seeking employment – 59% in Peru, 57% in India, 49% in Vietnam and 34% in Ethiopia. In contrast, almost no young men of the same age reported these reasons as a barrier to paid work (Ford, Ahlborn and Von Rusdorf, 2023). In India and Vietnam, even highly skilled women may remain economically inactive due to unpaid care work (Perez-Alvarez, Porter and Ramachandran, 2023). Although spending more hours on unpaid household work during adolescence – which disproportionately affects girls – increases the probability of being employed in early adulthood, it has a scarring effect, reducing job quality across all four study countries (Carmichael *et al.* 2023).

When including both economic activities and unpaid care responsibilities, women work longer days than men in Ethiopia, India and Peru. By age 29, women in Ethiopia work an average of 1.2 additional hours per day compared to men, while women in India and Peru work 0.5 and 0.7 additional hours, respectively (Ford *et al.*, 2025). This pattern persists despite women spending fewer hours in paid employment compared to men in all three countries.

Negative shocks experienced during childhood and adolescence can pose significant barriers to young people's access to decent employment. For example, increased food insecurity has a direct impact on employment trajectories for young people, often forcing children and adolescents to leave school early, work more and marry at a younger age (Morrow *et al.*, 2017). Similarly, being bullied during adolescence is associated with reduced enrolment in tertiary education and earlier entry into the labour market (Hasnat and Fakir, 2023).

Having a job does not automatically lead to greater well-being; rather, well-being tends to depend more on the nature and quality of the work. Across all four study countries, being employed does not always have a positive effect on an individual's well-being compared to being out of work or in education. Factors such as the type

of employer, pay, quality of the work environment and the sense of pride that individuals derive from their work are stronger determinants of well-being than just having a job (Carmichael, Darko and Vasilakos, 2022).

The impact of shocks and crises (climate, conflict and COVID-19) on employment

The young people in the Young Lives study are beginning their adult lives having to navigate the profound economic and social impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the increasingly urgent and growing challenges of climate change due to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that typically affect poor countries considerably more than high-income countries. Many Young Lives families in Ethiopia have also been severely affected by the ongoing armed conflict (Endale *et al.* 2025).

The loss of work and income during national lockdowns and related COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 was widespread across all four Young Lives study countries.

Even in Vietnam, which initially reported relatively few COVID-19 cases, over 25% of Younger Cohort households experienced job or income losses in 2020. In Ethiopia, Peru and India, the economic impacts were even more severe, with over 70% of households in Peru reporting a loss of employment or earnings (Favara *et al.*, 2022; Ellanki *et al.*, 2023). There was also a significant shift towards self-employment and agricultural work, suggesting that job quality may have deteriorated in some areas during the pandemic (Ellanki *et al.*, 2021; Scott *et al.*, 2021; Sánchez *et al.*, 2021; Woldehanna *et al.*, 2021).

Although job and income losses were widespread during the pandemic, Young Lives' longitudinal data in India, Peru and Vietnam showed why **some young people were more resilient than others – more able to preserve their jobs and/or to recover more rapidly.** Young workers were generally more able to keep their job, at the cost of accepting a worse-paid job (or lower earnings) and possibly worse working conditions. Exemplifying this were own-account (self-employed) workers prior to the pandemic, who were more likely to preserve their job (although less likely to recover their job if they lost it). Given that informality is higher among own-account workers than among wage workers, these results are consistent with the fact that adjustments via quality or increased informality are common features of labour markets in developing countries. Individuals' pre-pandemic labour market characteristics (such as their status as an employee or own-account worker or the economic sector in which they worked) therefore tended to predict work resilience much more than young people's education and skills characteristics (Chacaltana *et al.*, 2021).

While the pandemic's detrimental consequences on employment and wages also varied by gender, notable differences emerged across the four study countries.

In the early stages of the pandemic, job and income losses disproportionately affected men in Ethiopia and India – countries with strongly male-dominated labour markets. In

contrast, in Peru and Vietnam, where women's integration into the formal labour market is much higher, men and women experienced similar job and income losses (Hossain, 2021).

As government restrictions relaxed, **most young people had returned to work by the end of 2020, though employment recovery remained partial in Peru and Vietnam** (Scott *et al.*, 2025). Notably, employment among young women in the Older Cohort (aged 29–30) remained significantly below pre-pandemic levels throughout 2020. Analysis shows that increased unpaid care work for young women during the pandemic directly contributed to widening gender disparities in employment (Scott *et al.*, 2025). Employment recovery continued in 2021, although Ethiopia experienced some reversal – most likely due to the ongoing conflict – and Vietnam experienced a significant reversal following the dramatic fourth wave of COVID-19 in April 2021 (Scott, de los Angeles Molina, *et al.*, 2022;

Scott, Freund, *et al.*, 2022; Scott, Hittmeyer, *et al.*, 2022; Sánchez *et al.*, 2022).

Of particular concern is the **significant increase in the post-pandemic gender employment gap in Peru and India**, especially among young women aged 26–27.

While young men in both countries have achieved a full employment recovery, exceeding pre-pandemic levels, young women's employment remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels. Vietnam has also experienced a modest increase in its gender employment gap (Scott *et al.*, 2025).

Other shocks linked to conflict and climate change can also negatively affect young people's job opportunities.

In Ethiopia, young people living in areas affected by armed conflict have experienced significant disruptions to their employment and household income, including job losses (Endale *et al.*, 2025).



2. Policy implications and how Young Lives is making an impact

Young Lives' longitudinal research provides a holistic, life-course perspective to understanding employment outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, highlighting the compounding impacts of inequality, gender, shocks and crises – such as climate change, conflict and COVID-19. The evidence generated over the past two decades is crucial for shaping policies aimed at achieving SDG8, to 'promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all'.

Young Lives' research shows that early inequalities in learning and socio-emotional and cognitive skills shape later employment outcomes, with young people from poorer or rural backgrounds less likely to secure decent jobs. Persistent gender gaps mean that even with more

education and skills, young women continue to face significant barriers to accessing decent work – including unpaid care work and early marriage. Shocks and crises can exacerbate these disparities, often due to reinforced gender norms that discriminate against women and girls.

Reducing the gender employment gap involves addressing the socio-economic constraints and gender norms that keep young women out of the workforce, together with initiatives to improve their access to high-paid and high-status jobs. This includes relieving the burden of unpaid care work, improving access to affordable childcare and reducing early marriage, alongside targeted investment in girls' education and skills, including higher education and vocational training.

While policies must be tailored to specific countries and regional contexts, the following recommendations outline broad strategies to ensure that all young people, and especially young women, have access to decent work. These actions should focus on supporting the most vulnerable groups, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, who are disproportionately affected by intersecting inequalities and compounding crises.

1. **Early investment in children’s skills development can have long-term benefits for lifelong learning and employment opportunities.** Investment in programmes that promote early child development and reduce inequalities in foundational learning, including affordable access to quality preschools, alongside social protection to reduce poverty and improve nutrition, can improve skills in later childhood and adolescence. In turn, this can have long-term benefits for completing secondary and higher education and accessing a decent job.
2. **Socio-emotional skills also matter for accessing a decent job.** Providing targeted support to strengthen adolescent girls’ and young women’s socio-emotional skills – including their self-efficacy and agency – is vital for reducing gender inequality and advancing women’s economic empowerment. Successful initiatives often combine education, life skills training and mentorship, in schools and other community settings. Empowering adolescent girls to confidently manage everyday challenges, build healthy relationships and navigate the transition to adulthood is increasingly important in times of crises and crucial for their long-term opportunities – including access to higher education and decent employment.
3. **Keeping adolescent girls in school, particularly during adolescence, is important for increasing access to higher education and future access to decent jobs.** Providing safe transport to schools and colleges (which are often at a distance from rural communities) and ensuring safe and girl-friendly environments within schools, including suitable facilities for water and sanitation needs, is essential. Targeted scholarships can also make a big difference, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. However, improving skills and educational outcomes may not translate into increased women’s participation in decent paid work without addressing country-specific barriers to gender equality.
4. **Reducing early marriage and teenage pregnancy is also vital to keep girls and young women in education, training and employment.** Policymakers need to tackle the underlying causes of early marriage, including alleviating poverty through social protection systems and addressing harmful gender norms which continue to reinforce early marriage and form barriers to paid employment. Targeted initiatives are required to ensure that young mothers and those who are married early, whether by choice or not, are appropriately supported, including opportunities to continue their education and training.
5. **Reducing the gender employment gap requires a broad intersectional approach to address the socio-economic constraints and gender norms that keep young women out of the workforce or in the worse-paid occupations.** Challenging social norms that discriminate against girls and women involves actively engaging whole communities, including men, boys and community leaders, to help transform unequal power relations. This includes eliminating gender discrimination in the labour market and workforce, challenging gender stereotypes about what constitutes ‘appropriate’ work for women and supporting policies such as maternity and paternity leave, flexible working and childcare provision.
6. **Addressing gender bias in the highest-paid jobs requires advocating for fair pay and promotion practices, while also challenging stereotypes that limit the career aspirations of girls and the aspirations their parents have for them.** Schools and the media can both play an important role in challenging preconceived beliefs about what careers are suitable for boys or girls and related educational aspirations for girls – including widening access to quality higher education. Partnerships with professions and major employers where women are underrepresented can help reshape public perceptions and broaden their appeal to female employees, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, which may lead to higher-paid jobs.
7. **Promoting women’s economic empowerment requires a fairer division of unpaid care work.** Alongside initiatives to shift discriminatory gender norms that place caregiving responsibilities solely on women and girls, investment in public services and infrastructure is essential to help young women and men balance unpaid care work with paid employment. This includes measures to support mothers returning to paid work through access to quality, affordable childcare and creches, as well as elder care and support for people with disabilities.
8. **Active labour market policies for young people should consider a combination of measures** such as matching jobseekers with vacancies, upgrading and adapting skills and offering incentives to individuals or firms, alongside long-term job creation, notably by the private sector. This is particularly important to support effective job recovery after shocks and crises, which may involve creating temporary public employment programmes for vulnerable young people (such as infrastructure programmes), expanding or introducing job training programmes and improving access to credit for small businesses. Labour market policies should also prioritise supporting women’s return to the labour force by expanding measures in sectors with high female employment, offering targeted training programmes and promoting new skills development.

Young Lives' impact: protecting young people's mental health following job losses in global crises

Young Lives' longitudinal evidence directly informed the [2025 WHO Guidance on Policy and Strategic Actions for Mental Health and the Employment Sector](#) (World Health Organization, 2025), which cited its evidence on the mental health cost of job loss among young adults (Freund *et al.*, 2022). Young Lives' research shows that job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic were a significant driver of mental health issues among young people at a critical period in their lives when resilience to mental health issues is typically built. These findings underscore the urgent need for employment policies that reduce precariousness and promote stability as a means of protecting mental well-being, as called for in the WHO Guidance.

The Guidance is part of a series of global guidelines provide policy directives and strategic actions to protect and promote mental health and well-being across government sectors. It reflects Young Lives' recommendations to stress the profound effects that the unprecedented convergence of multiple global crises and shocks is having on mental health and recognises adolescence and young adulthood as crucial periods for building resilience and laying the groundwork for future opportunities.

This exceptional resource has the potential to support transformational change in mental health action around the world – setting out comprehensive recommendations for strategic action to help shift predominantly biomedical approaches to mental health towards a person-centred, recovery-orientated and rights-based approach.

9. **Expanding gender-responsive social protection is essential to overcoming many of the barriers that young women face in accessing decent work and advancing their economic empowerment – particularly among those from the poorest households and rural areas.** As well as easing immediate financial stress and reducing food insecurity, well-designed social protection measures can improve women's access to decent jobs by reducing and redistributing unpaid care work, supporting girls to stay in school and lowering rates of early marriage and teenage pregnancy. Improving income security and access to credit can also strengthen women's bargaining power within households and provide the stability needed to invest in education and skills, supporting long-term economic independence.
10. **Climate finance should be gender responsive and support women's economic empowerment in the just transition.** As climate finance is scaled up to meet the New Collective Quantified Goal and the target to triple adaptation finance, it is vital to advance methods for improving the gender responsiveness

of climate finance, as called for in the Belém Gender Action Plan. The Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility, development banks and individual countries' climate finance mechanisms should prioritise gender equality, support women's economic empowerment and ensure that the women and girls most affected by climate change, particularly those from the most vulnerable communities, such as rural, Indigenous and migrant women, can access finance. It is also important to improve women's employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the green industries expected to grow during the just transition, including by reducing the gender gap in STEM subjects, eliminating gender discrimination in the labour market and workforce and challenging gender stereotypes about what constitutes 'appropriate' work for women.

Young Lives' impact: demonstrating the overlooked impact of the climate crisis on women's economic empowerment

Young Lives continues to highlight the connections between climate change and women's economic empowerment in global policy debates, including through a recent policy brief (Curtin *et al.*, 2025) and a [submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) on the development of the new gender action plan and future work on gender and climate change (Young Lives, 2025).

The submission stressed the importance of the action plan being informed by robust longitudinal data and presents Young Lives' unique findings on the distinct vulnerabilities of adolescent girls, gender-related intergenerational impacts of climate change, effects on women and girls' mental health and the disproportionate burden of unpaid care during shocks and crises. It also includes evidence that gender bias and inequalities affect women and girls' job choices and earning expectations, which can put them at a disadvantage in accessing green jobs. Young Lives' findings in Peru show that young women, particularly from poorer households, are less likely to enrol in universities with the highest graduate incomes and less likely to study subjects that lead to more highly paid jobs, especially engineering and other STEM subjects (Sánchez, Favara and Porter, 2021).

The Belém Gender Action Plan adopted at COP30 in November 2025 raises global ambitions to enhance gender equality and the just transition of the workforce through the creation of decent work and quality jobs for women and men. Young Lives will continue to encourage the implementation of effective gender-responsive climate policies that take a proactive, targeted approach to women's economic empowerment, education and employment opportunities in the face of climate change and the just transition.



3. Latest findings from the Young Lives Round 7 survey

In 2023–24, Young Lives completed its seventh round of data collection in India, Ethiopia and Peru, surveying the Younger Cohort at age 22 and the Older Cohort at age 29.¹ A series of factsheets provides a preliminary overview of Round 7 data on education and learning, health, nutrition and well-being, as well as employment and family lives. The country-specific employment factsheets (Campos and Lopez, 2025; Tamina, 2025a, 2025b) present recent trends and changes in these outcomes as participants transition into adulthood.

Preliminary findings show a declining trend in employment at age 22 as more young people stay in education longer, particularly in Ethiopia and India.

In Ethiopia, the proportion of 22-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training has increased over the past seven years, while the proportion who are working – either exclusively or alongside studying – has declined. This pattern may be related to multiple crises during this period, including the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflict and severe droughts. India faces the most challenging situation, reporting the highest rates of those not in employment, education or training among the three countries.

Job quality remains poor across all three countries.

Only a small proportion of employed 22-year-olds have written contracts (10% in Ethiopia and Peru and 7% in India). A substantial proportion work more than 48 hours per week (37% in Ethiopia, 36% in India and 30% in Peru) and nearly half of those who are employed are not satisfied with their jobs (48% in Ethiopia, 54% in India and 47% in Peru).

Conflict and regional disparities are significantly related to employment outcomes. In Ethiopia's conflict-affected Tigray region, young people have a high employment rate (64% compared to the national average of 54%) but extremely low job formality, with only 3% having written contracts, compared to 10% nationally.

Gendered labour patterns persist from an early age.

Across all three countries, men and boys have consistently higher employment rates than women and girls from age 15 onwards. In addition, women undertake more than twice as much unpaid care work each day, which likely constrains their participation in formal employment.

Early inequalities continue to shape employment outcomes at age 22. Household wealth in early childhood is a strong predictor of employment, with a higher proportion of young people from the poorest households employed at age 22, compared to those from the least-poor households, highlighting how socio-economic disadvantages persist into early adulthood.

¹ Data was not collected in Vietnam in this survey round due to a change in government regulations regarding the international transfer of personal data.



4. Looking forward: harnessing the power of longitudinal research

Economic growth, globalisation and structural transformation are reshaping labour markets and the nature of work across all four Young Lives study countries. These changes create new opportunities for young people who possess the relevant skills, while increasing the challenges for those who do not have such skills. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these inequalities, with disadvantaged groups experiencing greater disruptions to their education and more severe employment losses.

Unique research opportunities in employment:

Young Lives' latest survey, combined with the extensive quantitative and qualitative data collected and research evidence generated over the past 20 years, will enable a thorough investigation of employment trajectories and skills development. This will build on existing insights into transitions from school to work and labour market inequalities, while enabling cutting-edge analysis of the unprecedented challenges young people face during the post-pandemic labour market recovery in the Global South.

The Young Lives study offers a unique opportunity to conduct policy-relevant research on the following overarching themes, while examining the influence of gender and intersecting inequalities as key factors behind the differences observed:

1. The effects of being born into and/or growing up in poverty on the age of entry into the labour market and the type of work performed.
2. The subjective effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ethiopia on labour market participation and employment trajectories.
3. The link between early job aspirations and the reality of work later in life.
4. The association between the quality of education and individuals' earnings and likelihood of securing decent employment.
5. The relationship between job quality and overall life satisfaction and mental health; gender and marriage/partnership status differences in time use relating to unpaid care and domestic work versus paid work in pre- and post-pandemic contexts.
6. The gap between the most-valued job attributes and actual job attributes, considering gender, fertility and marriage/partnership status.
7. The role of digital literacy as a factor for individuals' employability.
8. The potential disincentives to work created by income-benefit programmes.
9. The life-course predictors of being a young adult not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The future of Young Lives

Young Lives' vision to 2030 is an ambitious plan to extend its longitudinal research, creating a unique 'birth-to-thirty' evidence base to track the long-term, intergenerational impacts of global crises on young people's lives. The core goals of this vision include:

- expanding the recently launched Research Hub on Climate Change and Environmental Shocks to generate policy-relevant evidence on the long-term and intergenerational effects of extreme weather events across the life course and across three generations of children and young adults.
- pioneering new research to uncover the profound impact of crises (COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the recent armed conflict in Ethiopia) on mental health, alongside an innovative analysis of cortisol stress levels in hair samples – an approach never before undertaken in the Global South.
- launching a new nationally representative longitudinal cohort study in the Global South. Building on the existing Young Lives study, the SDG Generation study will collect new data on the children of Young Lives participants and their peers, including expanding into new countries where possible. This cohort study will generate groundbreaking evidence on the life trajectories of a new generation born into a time of unprecedented crises, enabling in-depth intergenerational analysis.

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Young Lives is a longitudinal study of poverty and inequality, following the lives of 12,000 young people – from infancy to adulthood – in four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam).

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