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Gender and Adolescence Research Panorama

Quarter 3 2020 Edition

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QUARTERLY OVERVIEW

On 12 August, this year's International Youth Day (IYD) with the theme of 'Youth Engagement for Global Action' was commemorated. This day provided an opportunity to encourage the active participation and engagement of young people across the world and it highlighted the importance of empowering youth to become agents of change in their communities. As the covid-19 pandemic continues, it is essential that we bring young peoples' voices to the forefront of policy and programming. In conjunction with IYD, GAGE – on behalf of the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP) coalition – has released a cross-country report that highlights the adolescent- and gender-specific impacts of covid-19 across four low-income countries.

Throughout the current pandemic the indirect health impacts of covid-19 have become clear, particularly in relation to a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. This was also a clear theme in our recently produced series of policy briefs on urban youth with different vulnerabilities (sex workers, domestic workers, factory workers and those with disabilities or HIV+) in Ethiopia. In line with this, the Q3 GAGE Research Panorama has a strong focus on sexual and reproductive health. This quarter's edition also has a country spotlight on Rwanda and includes a summary of some of GAGE's key findings in relation to adolescent pregnancies in Rwanda (see Box 1), drawing on findings from two new policy briefs that explore 1) adolescent capabilities and empowerment programming and 2) adolescent pregnancies and SRH in Rwanda.

Finally, we are happy to share two new policy briefs in our 'covid-19 series': one on the impacts of the pandemic on Rohingya adolescents in Cox's Bazar in partnership with IPA and UNHCR, and one on the consequences of covid-19 on child marriage in Ethiopia, as well as a policy brief on adolescent international migration for work in the adult entertainment sector in Nepal. GAGE consortium members have also published three recent journal articles on: 1) gender norms and adolescent experiences of violence in Ethiopia in Global Public Health 2) a gender-equitable school (GES) index to measure factors that impact secondary school pass rate in International Health and 3) an analysis of a new index designed to assess the existence and strength of legislation on violence against women and girls in LMICs in BMC International Health and Human Rights.

Education

The new Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 by UNESCO focuses on inclusive education for all. It highlights poverty as a key reason for exclusion in education. **Those with multiple vulnerabilities face the most exclusion,** for example, very few poor, rural women in 20 countries have completed secondary education (UNESCO, 2020). The covid-19 pandemic is highly likely to exacerbate these vulnerabilities. New analysis by Save the Children finds that **the impact of the covid-19 pandemic is likely to stall or reverse progress in education in a number of at-risk countries,** with 9.7 million children in danger of dropping out of school due to increasing levels of poverty (Save the Children, 2020).

However, programming can be effective in supporting marginalised adolescents to continue education. In Nepal, a review of a non-formal education programme for out-of-school girls finds **that 89% of participants that completed the programme (with a 95% completion rate) made the transition to formal school** (Chavez et al., 2020).

The GAGE Research Panorama provides an overview of current research on adolescents over the most recent GAGE quarter, as well as external grey and published literature, specifically looking at articles that relate, from a gender perspective, to GAGE's key capability domains: education and learning; bodily integrity and freedom from violence; health, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health; psychosocial well-being; voice and agency; and economic empowerment. It also aims to look at the ways specific vulnerabilities such as age, disability and refugee status further disadvantage adolescents in achieving these capabilities.

Policy and programming implications

» Prioritise engagement with community-level voices to feed into the design of inclusive education policy.
» Introduce covid-19 education action plans, including inclusive campaigns aimed at getting children back into school and targeted poverty alleviation interventions.
» Expand non-formal education programming that supports (re)enrolment of marginalised adolescents in education.

Bodily integrity

In the context of the covid-19 pandemic, **adolescents in Ethiopia are at an increased risk of child marriage.** This is largely due to schools closing – since they usually act as a protective measure against child marriage – and a **lack of surveillance and reporting mechanisms at the community and school levels as a result of covid-19 closures** (Jones et al., 2020). Additionally, in a study of adolescent girls across 12 different countries, **73% of girls highlight gender-based violence as a prominent concern,** particularly for those in rural areas and under the covid-19 pandemic, as a result of girls being trapped at home with their abusers (Plan International, 2020).

In Nepal, **high numbers of adolescent girls migrate to India to work in the adult entertainment sector (AES).** Many are influenced by stories from friends or social media and rarely check the credibility of the information they are receiving, resulting in widespread misconceptions that the AES in India is safe and does not involve sexual exploitation (Ghimire and Samuels, 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Ensure alternative child marriage reporting mechanisms are provided during the covid-19 pandemic and that adolescents and the community are aware of how to report threats of child marriage using these systems.
» Use social media to target youth with correct, up-to-date information about the risks of working in the AES, provide advice on how to stay safe, and information and support on returning to their communities if they decide to leave the AES.

Sexual and reproductive health

In Rwanda, rates of adolescent pregnancy are high and are influenced by a number of factors: girls often feel embarrassed to negotiate condom use, and they **lack sexual and reproductive health (SRH) communication and support from their parents.** Additionally, limited access to adolescent-friendly SRH services is a major challenge as those under 18 require permission from their caregivers to access contraception and abortion services (Cressey et al., 2020). Adding to this, a review of SRH services in Rwanda finds that 57.2% of healthcare providers stated that at their facilities adolescents' opinions are not incorporated into the design of feedback mechanisms (Ndayishimiye et al., 2020). The covid-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on adolescents' access to SRH services. In Ethiopia, HIV positive **adolescents reported that they lack access to counselling and support groups due to the limited availability of healthcare services** and fears of visiting health facilities during the pandemic (Emirie et al., 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» During covid-19 ensure that health services are maintained and provide outreach to support vulnerable populations such as those living with HIV so that they can have regular check-ups and keep on top of their medication.
» In Rwanda, increase access to stigma-free and adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including reducing the legal age limit for accessing contraception without parental consent to 14.

Box 1. Country spotlight: Adolescent pregnancies in Rwanda

Rwanda is experiencing a rapid increase in unintended pregnancies among adolescent girls. High numbers of early pregnancies present challenges for the government, the community and adolescent mothers alike. The financial resources needed to raise a child pose significant concerns, especially due to the high number of adolescent mothers with little income to support their children.

GAGE, through a study conducted in 2019, finds a number of additional implications of early pregnancy on adolescent girls, including school dropout, a lack of voice in their homes, as well as rejection by their friends, families and communities. A lack of support from her family results in the adolescent mother becoming a sole caregiver, with multiple parental responsibilities that include providing financially for their child. Furthermore, the majority of adolescent mothers who participated in the study dropped out of school before or after giving birth. This was due to poverty, the need to be involved in income-generating activities, stigma, rejection by family and/or childcare challenges.

The Health Sector Policy of 2015 highlights reproductive health as a key policy area. The government of Rwanda has prioritised bringing sexual reproductive health services, including contraceptives, to the population. GAGE findings indicate that condoms are provided to community health workers to be distributed. Rwandan law, however, restricts the provision of contraceptives to individuals below the age of 18 without parental consent. It is also worth highlighting the strong cultural beliefs in Rwanda that condemn sexual activity out of wedlock. As such, most parents will not consent for their adolescents to access contraceptives. As a result, adolescents are sexually active in secret and most likely unprotected.

Additionally, contraceptives are not well perceived by adolescents. Findings from the GAGE qualitative pilot reveal that adolescents who are mothers still do not want to use contraceptives. This is driven by fears of adverse health impacts when using contraceptives: *'They tell me about using family planning methods. But I think how I can use family planning method while I don't have a husband. What happened [getting pregnant] was because I was young and for now, there is no one who can entice me anyhow … I heard from people that when women use family planning methods, they get headache, dizziness or have eye problems. So, I think those things can destroy my health.'* (19-year-old adolescent mother from Eastern Province).

Voice and agency

Role models and the involvement of local organisations are key motivators for adolescents to take up activism in West Africa. However, many girls highlight that they are often **not taken seriously by adults, lack free time to partake in activism and face verbal and physical abuse** on and offline, with limited structures in place to ensure their safety (Plan International, 2020). Additionally, in UNFPA-UNICEF's joint programme on the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM), **empowering girls and women as agents of change has been highlighted as a vital component in the fight to eliminate FGM,** and in the last three years the number of communities that are strengthening girls' awareness and ability to claim their rights have risen 50% (UNICEF and UNFPA, 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Ensure spaces are created for young women to be involved in activism that support and develop their active participation and have appropriate reporting mechanisms in place to ensure their safety.

» Continue to build girls' awareness of their rights in the community and engage men and boys so that they can challenge the cultural norms that result in FGM.

Psychosocial health

In Rwanda, although the psychosocial implications of adolescent pregnancy are clear – owing to stigma, lack of parental support and social isolation – **interventions aimed at early pregnancy and SRH rarely address psychosocial well-being,** resulting in a major gap in programming (Cressey et al., 2020).

The covid-19 pandemic is also having significant impacts on mental health. **In Bangladesh, 19% of children and adolescents experienced moderate and 7.2% experienced severe mental health problems** during the course of lockdown (Yeasmin et al., 2020). Adolescents with disabilities are also facing strong psycho-emotional consequences of the covid-19 pandemic. A new GAGE/UNFPA Ethiopia and Ministry of Women, Children and Youth policy brief highlights that in Ethiopia this is due to social distancing measures creating disability-unfriendly environments and as a result **adolescents with disabilities are staying at home and experiencing social isolation, with some facing symptoms of depression and many feeling left behind** (Emirie et al., 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Ensure that interventions aimed at adolescent pregnancies take into account the psychosocial impacts and direct those in need to appropriate services, especially in cases where the adolescent has been rejected by her family.

» Scale up online and community-based psychosocial support services during covid-19 ensuring that they are disability friendly.

» Create more opportunities for adolescents with disabilities to connect with their peers (for example, through online forums or socially distanced meet-ups).

Economic empowerment

Young Lives' recent phone survey in Ethiopia finds that **27% of respondents reported that at least one member of their household had lost their job as a result of the current crisis.** Those employed in the informal sector are most at risk, as well as males and those in urban areas (Scott et al., 2020). Domestic workers in Ethiopia are at heightened risk of economic vulnerability, many reported receiving **lower wages, resulting in live-out workers struggling to pay rent** and, in some cases, ending up on the streets (Amdeselassie et al., 2020).

A review of the Hajati cash transfer programme in Jordan for vulnerable households with children in school finds that children enrolled in the programme are more likely to be in school, **less likely to be engaged in income-generating activities, more likely to have three meals a day and less likely to have depression than those who are not.** Funding shortages have resulted in a scaling down of the programme, and the review considers that funding volatility should have been considered during planning stages (Natali and de Hoop, 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Scale up social protection services for those who have lost their jobs as a result of the covid-19 pandemic that are inclusive of young women and adolescent girls.

» Ensure potential funding volatility is considered in the design and planning stages of social protection programming.

Research

Adolescent well-being: Cross-cutting findings

'I have nothing to feed my family…': Covid-19 risk pathways for adolescent girls in low- and middle-income countries

This cross-country report highlights the short-term implications of the covid-19 pandemic across four country-contexts (Jordan, Gaza, Bangladesh and Ethiopia). It discusses the impacts in relation to 6 key domains: health, economic risks, age-and gender-based violence, water and sanitation, digital inclusion.

Download: Jones, N., Małachowska, A., Guglielmi, S., Alam, F., Abu Hamad, B., Alheiwidi, S. and Yadete, W. (2020) *'I have nothing to feed my family…' Covid-19 risk pathways for adolescent girls in low- and middle-income countries.* Report. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

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'People won't die due to the disease; they will die due to hunger': Exploring the impacts of covid-19 on Rohingya and Bangladeshi adolescents in Cox's Bazar

This policy brief highlights key findings from virtual research which focuses on the impacts of covid-19 on Rohingya and Bangladeshi adolescent boys and girls in Cox's Bazar. It presents findings in relation to key capability domains (education and learning, bodily integrity, health and nutrition, psychosocial well-being and economic empowerment) and provides a number of policy and programming implications.

Download: Guglielmi, S., Seager, J., Mitu, K., Baird, S. and Jones, N. (2020) '"People won't die due to the disease; they will die due to hunger": Exploring the impacts of covid-19 on Rohingya and Bangladeshi adolescents in Cox's Bazar.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

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Experiences of vulnerable urban youth in ethiopia under covid-19 series

This series of policy briefs produced by GAGE in partnership with UNFPA Ethiopia and MOWCY explores highly vulnerable youths' experiences under covid-19 in four different urban regions of Ethiopia (Adama, Bahir Dar, Hawassa and Addis Ababa). It uses virtual qualitative research methods to interview youth from two age cohorts, 15–19 and 20–24, to explore their experiences of covid-19 in relation to their sexual and reproductive health, vulnerability to violence, psychosocial health and economic risk, and provides a number of key policy recommendations. The five policy briefs in this series are highlighted below and each focus on a different vulnerable population: young people involved in commercial sex work, youth living with HIV, domestic workers, youth with disabilities, and youth working in factories and industrial parks.

The case of street-connected youth and young people involved in commercial sex work

Download: Amdeselassie, T., Emirie, G., Iyasu, A., Gezahegne, K., Jones, N., Mitiku, E., Negussie, M., Presler-Marshall, E., Tilahun, K., Workneh, F. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Experiences of vulnerable urban youth under covid-19: the case of street-connected youth and young people involved in commercial sex work.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

The case of youth living with HIV

Download: Emirie, G., Iyasu, A., Gezahegne, K., Jones, N., Presler-Marshall, E., Tilahun, K., Workneh, F. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Experiences of vulnerable urban youth under covid-19: the case of youth living with HIV.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

The case of domestic workers

Download: Amdeselassie, T., Emirie, G., Gezahegne, K., Jones, N., Presler-Marshall, E. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Experiences of vulnerable urban youth under covid-19: the case of domestic workers.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

The case of youth with disabilities

Download: Emirie, G., Iyasu, A., Gezahegne, K., Jones, N., Presler-Marshall, E., Tilahun, K., Workneh, F. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Experiences of vulnerable urban youth under covid-19: the case of youth with disabilities.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

The case of youth working in factories and industrial parks

Download: Amdeselassie, T., Emirie, G., Iyasu, A., Jones, N., Presler-Marshall, E., Tilahun, K., Workneh, F. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Experiences of vulnerable urban youth under covid-19: the case of factory workers.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE 2020

What Works for Adolescents' Empowerment

This learning review by ICRW with support from the Ford Foundation, looks at 12 empowerment programmes for adolescent girls in order to understand different pathways to solutions highlighted in the programmes, and puts forward some remaining challenges in the context of creating empowering spaces.

Download: Nanda, S., Sharma, S., Anand, S., Pal, P., Nandi, S. (2020) *What Works for Adolescents' Empowerment: A Learning Review.* New Delhi: International Center for Research on Women. Open Access

Setting the Agenda: Girls Platform for Action

This report uses evidence from a consultation with over 350 adolescent girls across 12 different countries in order to better understand their views on the Beijing Platform for Action and to inform a common set of priorities and recommendations globally. It highlights a number of key themes as priorities for action: gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy, climate justice, technology and innovation, feminist movements and leadership.

Download: Plan International (2020) *Setting the agenda: Girls platform for action*. Woking: Plan International. Open Access

Exploring adolescent girls' and boys' capabilities and the role of adolescent empowerment programming in Rwanda

This brief explores adolescent boys' and girls' outcomes across six key capability areas: education and learning, health and nutrition, bodily integrity including freedom from age- and gender-based violence, psychosocial well-being, voice and agency, and economic empowerment, using qualitative and quantitative methods. It also assesses the role of the 12+ programme for adolescent empowerment, a 10-month life skills intervention for young adolescent girls in Rwanda. It concludes with a number of policy and programming implications.

Download: Baird, S., Buzby, S., Dutton, R., Isimbi, R., Jones, N., Le Saux, L., Ngabo, E. and Pereznieto, P. (2020) 'Exploring adolescent girls' and boys' capabilities and the role of adolescent empowerment programming in Rwanda.' Policy Brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

Changing the COVID-19 Narrative in Africa: Using an Implementation Research Lens to Understand Successes and Plan for Challenges Ahead

This article highlights key facilitators or barriers that impact prevention interventions aimed at controlling the spread of covid-19 in Africa. Seven key factors are highlighted in the paper.

Download: Binagwaho, A., Frisch, M., Ntawukuriryayo, T., & Hirschhorn, L. (2020) 'Changing the COVID-19 Narrative in Africa: Using an Implementation Research Lens to Understand Successes and Plan for Challenges Ahead.' *Annals of Global Health*, 86(1): 104. https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.3001 Open Access

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Creation of the gender-equitable school index for secondary schools using principal components analysis

This journal article assesses a gender-equitable school (GES) index that measures institutional factors that impact female pass rates at secondary level using data from 159 secondary schools in Nepal. It finds that the index has potential to work in assessing programmes that support girls' education.

Download: Bergenfeld, I., Jackson, E. and Yount, K. (2020) 'Creation of the gender-equitable school index for secondary schools using principal components analysis', *International Health*, https://doi.org/10.1093/inthealth/ihaa032. Open Access

The 2020 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report: Inclusion and education – All means all.

This report is the 2020 GEM report by UNESCO, which this year is on inclusion. It focuses on populations that have been 'left behind' and aims to understand the key factors that influence their exclusion. It finds that poverty is the main challenge to accessing education but also affects completion and learning outcomes. It also highlights that the covid-19 pandemic is likely to increase exclusion. The report is also complemented with an online database 'Profiles Enhancing Education Reviews, (PEER)' that provides data on laws and policies for each country on inclusion within education.
Download: UNESCO (2020) *Global Education Monitoring Report 2020: Inclusion and education: All means all.* Paris, UNESCO. Open Access

Bringing Education to the Most Marginalized Girls in Nepal: Evidence from the Girls' Access to Education (GATE) programme Let Us Learn: Nepal research brief

This research brief reviews the impact of the Girls Access to Education (GATE) programme in Nepal – a nine-month, non-formal education and life skills programme that aims to bring highly marginalised out-of-school girls into school. The programme has positive impacts and the majority of participants joined school after completing the programme; however, some key challenges persist, such as the draw of paid work and barrier of school fees.

Download: Chavez, C., Rigole, A., Gurung, P., Paudel, D, P., Manandhar, B. (2020) 'Bringing Education to the Most Marginalized Girls in Nepal: Evidence from the Girls' Access to Education (GATE) programme Let Us Learn.' Nepal research brief, Innocenti Research Briefs no. 2020-19. Florence: UNICEF Office of Research. Open Access

Save Our Education: Protect every child's right to learn in the COVID-19 response and recovery

This report by Save the Children highlights the countries that are most at risk of falling behind in education due to the covid-19 pandemic and estimates the impacts the pandemic will have on the reprioritisation of global education funding. It also highlights key recommendations for ensuring children are not left behind in their education.

Download: Wagner, E. and Warren, H. (2020) *Save Our Education: Protect every child's right to learn in the COVID-19 response and recovery.* London: Save the Children. Open Access

BODILY INTEGRITY AND FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

Child marriage risks in the context of covid-19 in Ethiopia

As part of the 'Listening to young people's voices under covid-19' series this policy brief explores the impact that the covid-19 pandemic and resulting policy response is having on the risks of child marriage in Ethiopia using remote phone interviews with adolescents and key informants. It highlights a number of key challenges such as school closures and limited surveillance that are putting adolescents at increased risk of child marriage, and suggests a number of policy recommendations to mitigate these risks.

Download: Jones, N., Gebeyehu, Y., Gezahegne, K., Iyasu, A., Workneh, F. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Listening to young people's voices under covid-19. Child marriage risks in the context of covid-19 in Ethiopia.' Policy brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access
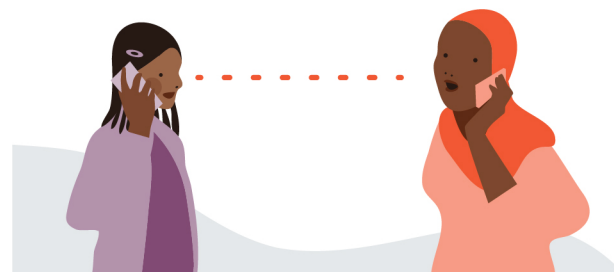
Maintain focus on child marriage and FGM/C

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Evidence:

• Schools are the primary way in which most child marriages are reported—and canceled. **With schools closed, child marriage is now easier to arrange** as adolescents have no one to whom to report planned marriages.

• **Reporting and prosecution** of both child marriage and FGM/C is heavily **dependent on oversight** which is effectively no longer possible given restrictions on movement. Woreda level officials are not visiting kebeles to ensure compliance with the law.

• **Government messaging aimed at HTPs has ground to a halt in the face of the pandemic.** Messages are now primarily aimed at COVID-19.

• **Basic health services are redirecting towards COVID** away from sexual and reproductive health, in part due to international funding priorities. With more limited access to contraception and abortion, girls are at increased risk of child marriage due to pregnancy.

Recommendations:

a) Woreda- and zonal-level hotlines should be immediately set up to **enable HTP reporting via phone, text message, and social media.**

b) Adolescents, teachers, HEWs, NGOs and local women's leaders should think through **alternative reporting and protective mechanisms** and how they might be quickly operationalized to protect girls from HTPs during the time of COVID.

c) Woreda-level officials (especially those at Justice and WCYA) should **develop action plans for ensuring the safety of girls at immediate risk of harm**, given that local protective structures may be compromised by the pandemic and that reporting may move to technological platforms.

d) Kebele- and woreda- level officials must be **encouraged to maintain open communication with one another**, via phone where face-to-face visits are no longer possible, and to continue enforcing the law. Messaging must highlight that the pandemic is temporary, and that backsliding will not be tolerated.

e) Funding and focus on sexual and reproductive health should be maintained and expanded, given that pregnancy not only drives child marriage, but strains health care systems and families in an already strained time.

Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE 2020

Gender-norms, violence and adolescence: exploring how gender norms are associated with experiences of childhood violence among young adolescents in Ethiopia

This mixed-methods journal article uses GAGE data to explore how gender norms influence experiences of violence among young people in Ethiopia. It finds that in rural areas norms at the community level are significantly associated with experiences of violence in the household, whereas in urban areas adolescent attitudes have a stronger impact than community norms.

Download: Murphy, M., Jones, N., Yadete, W. and Baird, S. (2020) 'Gender-norms, violence and adolescence: Exploring how gender norms are associated with experiences of childhood violence among young adolescents in Ethiopia.' *Global Public Health*, 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2020.1801788 Open Access

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Development and validation of the LoVI: the Laws on Violence against women and girls Index

The Laws on Violence against Women and Girls Index (LoVI) measures global progress in order to develop legislation on violence against women and girls. This journal article assesses the dimensionality of the LoVI and finds that is it a good index to measure progress on gender-based violence.

Download: Yount, K. M., Lewis, P. C., Clark, C. J., Heise, L., Naved, R. T. and Maxwell, L. (2020) 'Development and validation of the LoVI: the Laws on Violence against women and girls Index.' *BMC International Health and Human Rights*, 20, 13. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12914-020-00233-z Open Access

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Understanding the link between child maltreatment and adolescent future expectations in Northern Uganda: a serial mediation analysis

This journal article assesses the association between child maltreatment and harsh parenting and adolescent future expectations in northern Uganda. It finds that child maltreatment was linked with negative future expectations.
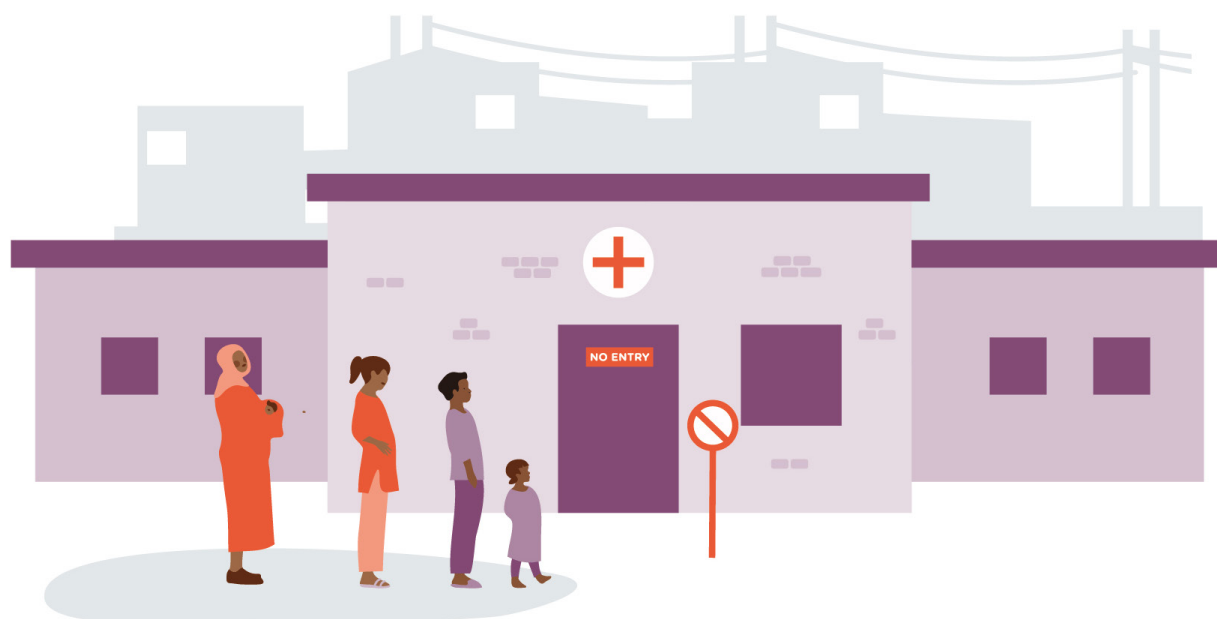
Download: Saupe, L. B., Gößmann, K., Catani, C. and Neuner, F. (2020) 'Understanding the link between child maltreatment and adolescent future expectations in Northern Uganda: A serial mediation analysis.' *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 106, 104511. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104511

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Development and Validation of the Sexual and Reproductive Empowerment Scale for Adolescents and Young Adults

This journal article outlines a new empowerment scale that measures sexual and reproductive empowerment for adolescents. It was informed by a literature review, qualitative and cognitive interviews. The scale contains seven sub-scales: comfort talking with partner; choice of partners, marriage and children; parental support; sexual safety; self-love; sense of future; and sexual pleasure and they are all significantly associated with sexual and reproductive health information and access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Download: Upadhyay, U. D., Danza, P. Y., Neilands, T. B., Gipson, J. D., Brindis, C. D., Hindin, M. J., ... Dworkin, S. L. (2020) 'Development and Validation of the Sexual and Reproductive Empowerment Scale for Adolescents and Young Adults.' *Journal of Adolescent Health.* https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.05.031. Open Access

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Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE 2020

Parent–child sexual and reproductive health communication among very young adolescents in korogocho informal settlement in nairobi, kenya

This journal article, based on research in informal settlements in Nairobi, aims to explore parent–child communication about sexual and reproductive health topics. It finds that girls are more likely than boys to communicate with their parents; however, communication is often one-sided and authoritarian, with parents presenting hostile attitudes towards romantic relationships which impacts open discussion.

Download: Maina, B. W., Ushie, B. A. and Kabiru, C. W. (2020) 'Parent-child sexual and reproductive health communication among very young adolescents in Korogocho informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya.' *Reproductive Health*, 17(1), 79. https://doi.org 10.1186/s12978-020-00938-3 Open Access

Adolescent pregnancy and sexual reproductive health and rights in Rwanda

This brief uses primary and secondary data to explore adolescent pregnancy and sexual and reproductive health in Rwanda. It provides a snapshot of the implications of early pregnancy and the factors that contribute to it. It also provides a non-systematic mapping of intervention aimed at addressing adolescent pregnancy. It ends with a number of policy and programming implications.

Download: Cressey, S., Gupta, R., Li, M., Palavajjhala, R. (2020) 'Adolescent pregnancy and sexual reproductive health and rights in Rwanda.' Policy Brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

Availability, accessibility, and quality of adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services in urban health facilities of Rwanda: a survey among social and healthcare providers

This journal article uses quantitative methods with healthcare providers to understand the availability and accessibility of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services in Rwanda. It finds that services generally are poorly equipped to deal with the needs of adolescents as they are not fully involved in service provision.

Download: Ndayishimiye, P., Uwase, R., Kubwimana, I., de la Croix Niyonzima, J., Dine, R. D., Nyandwi, J. B. and Ntokamunda Kadima, J. N. (2020) 'Availability, accessibility, and quality of adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services in urban health facilities of Rwanda: a survey among social and healthcare providers.' *BMC Health Services Research* 20, 697. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-020-05556-0 Open Access

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets

This new report – the 2020 edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) – assesses food security and nutrition around the word. It highlights that although some progress has been made, most indicators are not on track to achieve zero hunger by 2030 and the most vulnerable are likely to further deteriorate due to the impact of the covid-19 pandemic.

Download: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO (2020) *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets*. Rome, FAO. Open Access

Characterisation of the types of anaemia prevalent among children and adolescents aged 1–19 years in India: a population-based study

This journal article assesses the prevalence and type of anaemia among children and adolescents in India. It finds that 28.4% of adolescents in the sample have anaemia, with the most prevalent type being anaemia of other causes, followed by folate or vitamin B12 deficiency.

Download: Sarna, A., Porwal, A., Ramesh, S., Agrawal, P. K., Acharya, R., Johnston, R., ... Saxena, R. (2020) 'Characterisation of the types of anaemia prevalent among children and adolescents aged 1-19 years in India: a population-based study.' *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, 4(7): 515–525. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(20)30094-8. Open Access

PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

The effect of family and neighbourhood social capital on youth mental health in South Africa

This article uses data from the National Income Dynamics Survey of youth aged 15–24 in South Africa in order to understand the protective impact of familial and neighbourhood social capital on young people's mental health. It finds high levels of mental illness in the cohort and that high perception of crime is associated with higher odds of depression.

Download: Somefun, O. D. and Simo Fotso, A. (2020) 'The effect of family and neighbourhood social capital on youth mental health in South Africa.' *Journal of Adolescence*, 83: 22–26. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2020.06.009

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of children in Bangladesh: A cross-sectional study

This cross-sectional study examines the impact of covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh on children's mental health. It finds that children are experiencing high levels of mental health problems (19.3% experience moderate and 7.2% severe mental health problems). Mental health problems in children are associated with parental stress and abnormal behaviour.

VOICE AND AGENCY

Girls' and young women's activism and organising in West Africa

This report by Plan International aims to understand girls' and young women's activism in West Africa and is informed by a literature review and interviews with key informants and young female activists. It finds that role models and local organisations in the community play a key role in motivating youth to be involved in activism; however, many challenges persist, such as lack of responsibility, decision-making and spare time, in addition to threats of physical violence.

Download: Plan International (2020) *Girls' and young women's activism and organising in West Africa*. Woking: Plan International. Open Access

The YouthPower learning project: advancing youth development

YouthPower Learning aims to provide an evidence base on what works for positive youth development (PYD) in low- and middle-income countries, in order to expand knowledge on how youth can contribute to development outcomes. It uses a PYD approach to establish a sense of community among participants globally. This work suggests that focus should be placed on how to better engage youth as contributors to policy and programming.

Download: Jessee, C. and Wolkof, L. (2020) 'The YouthPower learning project: advancing youth development.' Washington DC: YouthPower Learning. Open Access

Empowering girls and women to lead change annual report 2019. UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on the elimination of female genital mutilation: accelerating change

This annual report by the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on the elimination of female genital mutilation targets the most vulnerable and marginalized girls and women, who are at risk of undergoing the practice. It highlights the significant progress made in combatting FGM but also the importance of empowering girls and women as agents of change.

Download: UNFPA and UNICEF (2020) *Empowering girls and women to lead change annual report 2019. UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on the elimination of female genital mutilation: accelerating change.* New York: UNFPA & UNICEF. Open Access

Life skills for adolescent girls in the COVID-19 pandemic

This brief provides guidance on how to design, deliver and monitor life skills programming for adolescent girls and presents a life skills framework for implementers to use when adapting their life skills programmes to meet the unique needs of the current covid-19 pandemic.

Download: Boost, E., Jones, N. and Kwauk, K. (2020) 'Life skills for adolescent girls in the COVID-19 pandemic.' London; Washington, DC: Girls' Education Challenge; Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence; Brookings Institution. Open Access

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Adolescent girls' experiences of cross-border and international migration in the adult entertainment sector in Nepal

This policy brief explores the cross-border and international migration of adolescents from Nepal to work in the adult entertainment industry and aims to understand the factors that influence migration, girls' aspirations to working internationally in this sector and the process of recruiting and financing migration. It uses qualitative interviews with Nepalese adolescents and key informants.

Download: Ghimire, A. and Samuels, F. (2020) 'Adolescent girls' experiences of cross-border and international migration in the adult entertainment sector in Nepal.' Policy Brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence. Open Access

Listening to Young Lives at Work in Ethiopia: COVID-19 Phone Survey Headlines Report

This report provides headline findings from Young Lives at Work phone surveys, which aim to investigate the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the future trajectories of respondents. It contains a number of key findings, including significant income losses for adolescents and their families, particularly in the informal sector, in urban areas and for males.

Download: Scott, D., Favara, M. and Porter., C. (2020) *Listening to Young Lives at Work in Ethiopia. COVID-19 Phone Survey Headlines Report*. Oxford: Young Lives. Open Access

Addressing Informal Labour Intermediaries in the Context of Child Labour: Evidence Review Across Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar

This review examines informal labour intermediaries – an understudied area in contrast to more formal recruitment agencies – in Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar, which have high rates of child labour. It finds that most intermediaries are close relations or friends of the children, such as parents or neighbours.

Download: Yunus, R.M. (2020) *Addressing Informal Labour Intermediaries in the Context of Child Labour: Evidence Review Across Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar*. CLARISSA Emerging Evidence Report 3. Brighton: Institute of Development Studies. Open Access

The Difference a Dollar a Day Can Make: Lessons from UNICEF Jordan's Hajati cash transfer programme

This brief outlines lessons learnt from the UNICEF Jordan's Hajati cash transfer programme – a humanitarian cash transfer programme for vulnerable households with children in school, in order to encourage enrolment. The programme also had positive impacts that went beyond education, and improved mental health and nutrition outcomes.

Download: Natali, L., de Hoop, J. (2020) *The Difference a Dollar a Day Can Make: Lessons from UNICEF Jordan's Hajati cash transfer programme*. Innocenti Research Report. Florence: UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Open Access

SPECIAL ISSUE CALLS

Special Issue: Youth Exposure to Online Risks: Theory, Predictors, Consequences, and Intervention Efforts

Journal of Youth and Adolescence

This special issue seeks papers that address youths exposure to risks online, by looking at the consequences of online risks, risks for specific populations (such as those with disabilities, or other minorities) and the development of effective and sensitive interventions and policies. It is looking for papers that have strong methodologies, such as longitudinal studies or mixed-methods, and a diverse sample. **Full manuscript deadline is 15 October 2020.**

Further information can be found here.

Special Issue (2022): 'Child and youth mental health & the global ecological crisis'

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

This special issue accepts manuscripts that are centred around the impacts of the global ecological crisis on the mental health of children and youth. Suggested topics include: the effects of direct and indirect climate impacts on the mental health of children; ecoanxiety; interventions to build resilience and self-efficacy; and the effect of social media exposure about the global ecological crises. **Letters of intent should be submitted by 31 October.**

Further information can be found here.

Perspectives on COVID-19 Impacts on Children, Youth, Families, and Educators and the Roles of Human Services Professionals Addressing Diverse Needs

American Psychological Association

This special issue calls for papers (empirical studies or concept and review papers) that aim to highlight the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the diverse needs of children, youth, families, and professionals. In particular, it is looking for papers that relate to the most vulnerable youth such as those with disabilities, English language learners, undocumented youth, or those in foster care or experiencing homelessness. **Initial drafts are due on 15 January 2021.**

Further information can be found here.

Special Issue: Adoption and Trauma

Child abuse and Neglect

This special issue aims to explore the relationship between adoption and trauma by bringing empirical research and and critical/experiential perspective, looking at both positive and negative outcomes of adoption. The scope of this special issue is broad and invites a broad range of resesarch from all over the world. **Full manuscript deadline is 1 February 2021.**

Further information can be found here.

EVENTS

ADOLESCENT GIRLS' VISION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN GENERATION EQUALITY

Date: 30 September

Location: Online

Event outline: This virtual GAGE event – in collaboration with the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP) – discusses the girls' rights agenda and will explore Generation Equality's accountability structure. It is a girl-centred event and will feature girl advocates from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America who will share their priorities on the Action Coalitions (AC) and Generation Equality.

More information can be found here.

STRENGTHENING DISABILITY INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Date: 7 October

Location: Online

Event outline: This webinar will discuss disability-inclusive practices and approaches being used in humanitarian context. It will also highlight what more needs to be done to ensure that rhetoric around disability inclusivity is being translated into action.

More information can be found here.

WEBINAR SERIES ON GENDER, COVID-19 AND WORK

Date: Biweekly

Location: Online

Event outline: This online webinar series by The Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women — East Africa program, IDRC and Women's Empowerment in Development Lab (WED Lab) highlights the economic impact of covid-19 on women globally and links this to possible policy solutions. Previous topics have included: 'Using a gender lens to address COVID-19 response in Refugee Settings' and 'How can we adopt a gender lens to social protection programs in the face of the COVID-19 crisis?'

More information can be found here

CONFERENCES

16TH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE [EDC2021]

Date: 5–7 March 2021

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Conference outline: The Education and Development Conference [EDC] is a platform for stakeholders to come together and discuss global education.

More information on the conference can be found here (deadline for proposals is 10 February 2021)

GPG'S VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: PREVENTING GROWTH IN TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING COVID-19 AND ITS AFTERMATH

Date: 6 October

Location: Online

Conference outline: This conference will aim to map the primary and secondary impact of covid-19 risks on rates of trafficking of women and girls and will put forward methods to reduce this risk. It will include high-level experts including and will be chaired by Lord Jeremy Purvis of Tweed.

Sign up here.

Send us your UPDATES!

Please send us details of upcoming events, publications or opportunities which you would like featured in subsequent editions of the digest. You can email the details to Megan Devonald (m.devonald.gage @odi.org.uk).