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Gender and Adolescence Research Panorama

Quarter 4 2020 Edition

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QUARTELY OVERVIEW

Ethiopia has seen significant political transformation in recent years but has also faced increasing ethnic tensions, fragility and violence. In the past couple of months, tensions have intensified in the northern region of Tigray, and the area has plunged into conflict. As a result, many people have faced horrific violence and large numbers of refugees have been displaced into neighbouring countries. As in most conflicts, women and young people are most impacted – leaving many unable to access their rights. However, increased instability and conflict in Ethiopia in the last couple of years have also provided opportunities for some youth to participate in their communities and support vulnerable displaced populations. This highlights the importance of listening to the voices and needs of young people and women, and supporting community-led action to support those affected by conflict.

Following this, the final GAGE Research Panorama of this year has a strong focus on voice and agency in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Throughout other capability domains we have also included studies that highlight the importance of raising the voices of young people. The Q4 Panorama focuses on Ethiopia and includes a country spotlight on adolescents' voice and agency during the recent political transformation (see Box 1). This quarter, we are delighted to share a recent set of GAGE reports and a policy brief presenting our midline findings from Ethiopia – including on adolescent voice and agency – conducted two years after our initial baseline research, that highlight key changes experienced by adolescents during this time. In addition, we would like to highlight a series of publications on adolescents working in adult entertainment in Nepal. Finally, we are excited to share three journal articles on 1) inequalities in educational attainment in Ethiopia, 2) the impact of covid-19 on the psychoemotional lives of young people in low- and middle-income countries and 3) adolescent girls' voice and agency in relation to child marriage decisions in Ethiopia.

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.

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Voice and agency

In the past few years Ethiopia has undergone significant political transformation. GAGE's midline research found that there have been **increased opportunities for some adolescents to participate in their communities and embrace active citizenship** – primarily boys and those in East Hararghe, where 35% of older adolescents reported that politics was 'very important' to them. Compared to the baseline findings, **young people are also more likely to report having a role model, though there were strong gender differences** and boys were much more likely to have role models outside the home (including political leaders) than girls (Presler-Marshall et al., 2020).

Across Africa, **online communities can empower youth and foster political engagement**. However, youth and online communities are sometimes not taken seriously by adults, which can act as a significant barrier (Maloiy and Cranefield, 2020). Furthermore, in Nepal, digital technology can help adolescents who work in the adult entertainment industry to exclude the middlemen and find their own clients, affording them greater freedom and the potential to increase their earnings. **Technology can also allow some to escape trafficking and forced sex work and get in contact with NGOs**

for support. However, technology use also comes with some risks; social media can make it easier for men to track down and harass girls, and girls can also be coerced into sharing explicit content online (Ghimire et al., 2020).

Across Ethiopia, there is high regional variability in decisions over child marriage. Whereas in Afar girls have limited input into marriage decisions, in Amhara an increasing number of girls are allowed at least some choice. **In Oromia, on the other hand, child marriage at very young ages is increasing.** The drivers of this are complex; these marriages appear freely chosen but are influenced by a number of factors such as limited economic options, peer pressure and the fear of being labelled *haftu* (meaning 'leftover' or 'unwanted') (Jones et al., 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Provide adolescent girls with access to knowledge about inspirational female role models through community campaigns and encourage their participation in community groups.

» Leverage technology to empower youth through online communities and use it to ensure vulnerable adolescents (such as those working in the adult entertainment industry) are linked with NGO programmes to offer support.

Box 1. Country spotlight: voice and agency in Ethiopia

Empowerment of girls is related to developing their agency, both their individual capacities and through community-level engagement. This can be done by 'fostering communication and negotiating skills, or raising awareness around economic opportunities, gender, health and legal rights' (CARE International, 2020). However, in the view of some parents, girls claiming their rights could be destructive to community norms and the future lives they envisage for their daughters. Agency for girls related to marriage choice is not positively perceived by many communities. Though girls are sometimes given the opportunity to get married to a person of their choosing, this puts them in a vulnerable situation during times of difficulty in the marriage, as they are not supported by their parents if things go wrong. A parent from South Gondar explained: *'I am not going to stand on her side if she gets in conflict with her husband. She is the one who chose to go and live with him, what power do I have to meddle between them; I do not know him. She has to live with the consequences of her choice.'* Among adults, this is also seen as a sign of deviance and a factor for the increasing number of divorces in some communities.

Meanwhile, boys' voices are relatively strong within the family and the community, and they have the freedom to exercise their rights. In recent times, this has been evident among older adolescent boys who have been engaging in the country's politics and protests. As a result, in places such as Dire Dawa they have been subject to arrest. Though this is worrying for parents, adolescents take this as a sign of resistance to the long-standing traditions and norms of the community that silence the views of young people and as a way to voice their opinions.

The gender divide in agency is also observed in patterns of mobility. Boys, in most places, are given the freedom to move out of the house; often to work outside their neighbourhoods. This kind of agency is perceived positively as economic independence that will enable them to lay the foundation for later in life. Conversely, communities remain reluctant to embrace increased freedom of movement for girls.

Education and learning

Ensuring that the most vulnerable adolescents are not left behind in their education is a vital component toward achieving equitable quality education for all. A study of five African countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania) found that **across all countries teachers are not appropriately trained in inclusion for students with disabilities** (ActionAid, 2020). In Ethiopia, the most vulnerable adolescents – **such as girls, those with disabilities and internally displaced adolescents** – face challenges at the household, community and institutional levels that **make it more difficult for them to achieve high levels of educational attainment** (Devonald et al., 2020). However, the World Bank has used a new metric, learning-adjusted years of schooling (LAYS), which combines both quality and quantity of schooling to assess the effectiveness of education interventions in 46 countries. It found that the **best-performing interventions can result in the equivalent of three additional years of quality education for around 100 dollars per child** (Angrist et al., 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Strengthen teacher training so that it ensures teachers are adequately prepared to teach students with disabilities, in addition to providing support staff for both teachers and students to ensure specialised education.
» Invest in tailored strategies to support the most vulnerable adolescents to continue with their education such as incentives for schools to include vulnerable groups and tailored social protection.

Bodily integrity

Crisis contexts can put adolescents at increased risk of violence. A systematic review covering literature in 22 low- and middle-income countries found that ongoing conflict can influence corporal punishment as a result of the normalisation of violence in the community (Lokot et al., 2020). Additionally, a study of four crisis contexts – in Lake Chad, South Sudan/Uganda, Lebanon and Bangladesh – found that across contexts **adolescent girls experience unique and disproportionate levels of violence**. However, despite this, consideration for adolescent girls and **their unique experiences is often absent when planning responses to crises**, which can impact the ability of these responses to be sensitive to their specific needs (Gordon and Lee-Koo, 2020). Furthermore, a review of gender-based violence in humanitarian settings **found current interventions aiming to reduce gender-based violence had had limited success** (Stark et al., 2020).

In Ethiopia, social and political changes have resulted in high levels of violence in the community. GAGE's midline report found that although the survey shows lower levels of peer violence against and by young people compared to baseline, **qualitative data found that the types of violence are significantly more severe**, due to increasing ethnic and religious tensions. Violence is particularly extreme in camps for internally displaced people. Although low levels of sexual violence were reported by adolescents in the survey, the qualitative data found that **many of the girls experienced sexual violence, and many in urban areas reported that they never felt safe**. This suggests underreporting in the survey, likely due to fears of victim blaming (**25% of adolescents in the survey believe that a woman who has been raped should be blamed for the assault**) (Presler-Marshall et al., 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Consult with adolescent girls during development, implementation and evaluation of programmes and interventions that aim to tackle gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.
» Promote school- and community-based adolescent empowerment programming to tackle peer violence through promoting inter-ethnic and interreligious relationships and combating violent masculinities.
» Work with parents and communities to provide awareness on sexual violence and to avoid blaming girls who are assaulted.

Health, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive rights

Across Asia and the Pacific, **early adolescence is where clear gender inequalities consistently appear**. Whereas girls face significant disadvantage in sexual and reproductive health and have high rates of child marriage, boys experience higher mortality due to unintentional injury, interpersonal violence, substance abuse and suicide. **There was, however, notable regional and national variation** (Kennedy et al., 2020). In Ethiopia, similar patterns emerge, with girls more likely to have urinary and gynaecological infections as a result of poor water and sanitation facilities, and boys more likely than girls to be involved in substance abuse and to have serious injuries. **Adolescents with disabilities are also much less likely to report good health** (71%) compared to their peers (91%) and are more likely to report that cost barriers prevent them from accessing healthcare (Presler-Marshall et al., 2020).

Social norms also play a key role in levels of period-related teasing in Northern Tanzanian. Although they are fairly well informed about the biological facts of menstruation (scoring an average of 60% on a knowledge quiz), **boys feel that it is**

inappropriate for girls to discuss menstruation with males. Peer behaviour and restrictions on menstruating women are also linked to higher rates of teasing (Benshaul-Tolonen et al., 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Invest in awareness campaigns to educate boys and their parents on the risks of substance abuse.
» Provide puberty education that not only focuses on biological knowledge of menstruation but also aims to reduce stigma and tackle negative behaviours among boys.

Psychosocial well-being

Research in Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire and Lebanon found that the numerous impacts of covid-19 on adolescents – such as increased child marriage, heightened time poverty and economic stressors – can exacerbate pre-existing age vulnerabilities and take a significant psychosocial toll. In these circumstances, **some adolescents lean towards negative coping strategies such as substance abuse, but others adopt positive coping methods such as volunteering in their communities** (Banati et al., 2020).

Digital approaches have the potential to address the mental health problems of adolescents; however, there is a lack of research on this in low-income settings. **Digital services can help address treatment gaps**, which is particularly important during the current service disruptions due to covid-19. They can also allow greater flexibility and can provide more anonymity. However, the **financial implications of owning technology can exclude the most disadvantaged young people** from digital interventions and can be unreliable to use in resource-low settings (Rost et al., 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Scale-up virtual mental health services in both urban and rural settings and ensure the design takes into account challenges in resource-low settings, for example, by allowing offline access.
» Combine digital mental health approaches with face-to-face services such as through community workers.

Economic empowerment

A review of the evidence on cash and voucher assistance for adolescents in humanitarian settings found that associated risks to adolescents – such as the **diversion of funds from adolescent girls' own needs to family expenses** as a result of household pressure – were not adequately taken into account at the design and planning stage. It also found that 'cash plus' programming (which complements cash assistance with additional services or inputs) was most appropriate for adolescent outcomes (Plan International, 2020). **Cash transfers can be effective in reducing adolescents' involvement in exploitative child work**. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, extreme poverty is a key driver for paid child labour and respondents highlighted that the money provided in cash transfer programmes would be beneficial in helping their children go back to school (Roelen et al., 2020).

In addition to this, training programmes in the MENA region can have positive yet heterogeneous impacts on supporting poor and vulnerable unemployed youth to engage in employment opportunities. **Cash transfers for migrants also appear to be beneficial in reducing some employment risks, such as long working hours.** However, conflict and instability can have disruptive impacts on these outcomes (Bird and Silva, 2020).

Policy and programming implications

» Ensure that associated risks for adolescent boys and girls are mitigated in the programme design, allowing them the flexibility to respond to any additional risk that come to light during programme delivery.
» Scale-up social protection and labour market programmes that yield positive outcomes and target poor and vulnerable groups.

Research

Adolescent well-being: Cross-cutting findings

Adolescence in the Time of COVID-19: Evidence from Bangladesh

This policy brief looks at the impacts of covid-19 on adolescent well-being in Bangladesh using data from 2,095 in-school adolescents aged 10–18 collected pre-covid-19 (February–March 2020), and a follow-up virtual survey undertaken early in the pandemic (May–June 2020). It presents findings on the economic, educational and psychosocial impacts of the pandemic.

Download: Baird, S., Seager, J., Shwetlena., S. Guglielmi, S. and Maheen S. (2020). 'Adolescence in the Time of COVID-19: Evidence from Bangladesh.' Policy Brief, November 2020. Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence; South Asia Gender Innovation Lab. World Bank, Washington, D.C. Open Access

Adolescents' experiences of covid-19 and the public health response in urban Dhaka, Bangladesh

This factsheet presents quantitative findings from the GAGE covid-19 survey, conducted over the phone to adolescents and their caregivers in Dhaka, Bangladesh between 7 May and 28 June 2020. The survey includes responses from 602 adolescents aged 12 to 20, as well as 637 primary female caregivers or other adults in the household. It presents the key impact of covid-19 across the six GAGE capability domains, exploring differences in experience by age, gender and marital status.

Download: Oakley, E., Baird, S., Haque, M.A., Jones, N., Raihan, S. and Seager, J. (2020) 'Adolescent realities during covid-19. Factsheet series. Adolescents' experiences of covid-19 and the public health response in urban Dhaka, Bangladesh.' London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

Adolescents' experiences of covid-19 and the public health response in Jordan

This factsheet presents quantitative findings from the GAGE covid-19 survey, conducted over the phone to adolescents and their female caregivers in Jordan between 18 May and 21 July 2020. These adolescents include vulnerable Jordanians, Syrians and Palestinians and are located in camps (Azraq, Zaatari and Gaza), as well as host communities and informal tented settlements. The survey includes responses from 3,067 adolescents. It presents the key impact of covid-19 across the six GAGE capability domains, exploring differences in experience by age, gender and marital status.

Download: Baird, S., Jones, N., Małachowska, A., Masannat, M., Qaryouti, M. and Oakley, E. (2020) 'Adolescent realities during covid-19. Factsheet series. Adolescents' experiences of covid-19 and the public health response in Jordan.' London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

Married girls have less access to **friends**, **information** and **technology** than their unmarried peers.

Married girls are less likely to:

-17%
have a
trusted friend

-14%
have a
phone

-23%
listen to
radio

-73%
read the
newspaper

Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE

Adolescents' experiences of covid-19 and the public health response in urban Ethiopia

This factsheet presents quantitative findings from the GAGE covid-19 survey, conducted over the phone to adolescents in Ethiopia between 19 May and 29 June 2020. These adolescents were from three urban areas, including Batu, Debre Tabor and Dire Dawa. The survey includes responses from 2,058 adolescents. It presents the key impact of covid-19 across the six GAGE capability domains, exploring differences in experience by age, gender and marital status.

Download: Baird, S., Hamory, J., Jones, N., Oakley, E., Woldehanna, T. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Adolescent realities during covid-19. Factsheet series. Adolescents' experiences of covid-19 and the public health response in urban Ethiopia.' London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

Addressing educational attainment inequities in rural Ethiopia: Leave no adolescent behind

This journal article uses qualitative data from adolescent boys and girls in rural regions of Ethiopia to understand the factors that influence low educational attainment. It plays close attention to the Leave No One Behind agenda and highlights key inequalities within education attainment based on vulnerabilities such as gender, socioeconomic and disability status.

Download: Devonald, M., Jones, N. and Yadete, W. (2020) 'Addressing educational attainment inequities in rural Ethiopia: Leave no adolescent behind', *Development Policy Review*. 00: 1– 17. doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12523

Interrupted Education in Ethiopia: Support for Students During COVID-19 School Closures

This short report summaries Young Lives findings, drawing from data from a covid-19 survey with head teachers in Ethiopia. It presents findings on how upper primary schools have been providing students and their families with support during the covid-19 school closures.

Download: Young Lives (2020) 'Interrupted Education in Ethiopia: Support for Students During the COVID-19 School Closures. Headlines Report: Young Lives COVID-19 survey of head teachers'. Oxford: Young Lives Open Access

How to Improve Education Outcomes Most Efficiently? A Comparison of 150 Interventions Using the New Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling Metric

This working paper by the World Bank uses the new learning-adjusted years of schooling (LAYS) metric – a measure that combines access and quality, and compares gains to an absolute, cross-country standard – to compare the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions from 150 impact evaluations from 46 different countries.

Download: Angrist, N., Evans, D.K., Filmer, D., Glennerster, R., Rogers F.H,. Sabarwal, S. (2020) *How to Improve Education Outcomes Most Efficiently? A Comparison of 150 Interventions Using the New Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling Metric.* Policy Research Working Paper; No. 9450. World Bank, Washington, DC Open Access

The bedrock of inclusion: why investing in the education workforce is critical to the delivery of SDG4. Lessons from five African countries

This report presents key lessons learned and recommendations from a study conducted in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania that looks at the current situation in regards to disability-inclusive education and priorities for investing in an education support force for students with disabilities.

Download: ActionAid, Education International and Light for the World (2020) *The bedrock of inclusion: why investing in the education workforce is critical to the delivery of SDG4 Lessons from five African countries.* London and Brussels: ActionAid, Education International and Light for the World Open Access

BODILY INTEGRITY AND FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence against adolescent girls in humanitarian settings: a review of the evidence

This evidence review outlines the limited current literature on gender-based violence against adolescent girls in humanitarian settings and identifies key barriers to effective measurement and evaluation of programme effectiveness. It calls for a more specific focus on adolescent girls when designing interventions.

Download: Stark, L., Seff, I. and Reis, C. (2020) 'Gender-based violence against adolescent girls in humanitarian settings: a review of the evidence.' *The Lancet. Child & Adolescent Health.* doi.org/10.1016/S2352-4642(20)30245-5 Open Access

Ending violence against children while addressing the global climate crisis

This working paper focuses on the links between the causes and consequences of violence against children and climate change. It highlights the need to take into account risks of violence against children in disaster reduction planning, and acknowledges children as key agents of change within climate change action.

Download: Pereznieto, P., Rivett, J., and le Masson, V. (2020) *Ending violence against children while addressing the global climate crisis.* Working paper 591. London: Overseas Development Institute Open Access

Research challenges in evaluating gender-based violence response services in a refugee camp

This journal article provides a case study on a refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya, highlighting the challenges encountered while conducting research on gender-based violence. The research uses a longitudinal mixed-methods design to investigate a comprehensive case-management intervention in the refugee camp, and provides an overview of some of the expected and unexpected challenges that occurred while doing the research.

Download: McAlpine, A., Bacchus, L. J., Muuo, S. W., Muthuri, S. K., Bangha, M., Izugbara, C., Franchi, G., Hess, T., Spangaro, J., Pearson, R., and Hossain, M. (2020) 'Research challenges in evaluating gender-based violence response services in a refugee camp'. *Global Health Action*, 13(1), 1820713. doi.org/10.1080/16549716.2020.1820713 Open Access

Addressing the security needs of adolescent girls in protracted crises: inclusive, responsive, and effective?

This research article draws on mixed-methods data conducted in four different protracted crisis settings: Lake Chad (Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon), South Sudan and Uganda, Lebanon (Beirut), and Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar). It explores experiences of insecurity that adolescent girls face in these contexts, and how far responses are inclusive, responsive and effective.

Download: Gordon, E. and Lee-Koo, K. (2020) 'Addressing the security needs of adolescent girls in protracted crises: Inclusive, responsive, and effective?' *Contemporary Security Policy* DOI: 10.1080/13523260.2020.1826149 Open Access

Corporal punishment, discipline and social norms: A systematic review in low- and middle-income countries

This journal article systematically reviews the current literature on social norms and corporal punishment in low- and middle-income countries. The paper includes 37 studies in the review. It summarises the key findings and suggests areas for future research.

Download: Lokot, M., Bhatia, A., Kenny, L. and Cislaghi, B. (2020) 'Corporal punishment, discipline and social norms: A systematic review in low- and middle-income countries'. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, (55) 101507. doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2020.101507 Open Access

'Girls don't shout if they are raped...that is taboo': exploring barriers to Ethiopian adolescents' freedom from age- and gender-based violence

This report summarises GAGE's mixed-methods midline data from adolescent boys and girls in Ethiopia aged 12–19. It explores changes in Ethiopian adolescents' bodily integrity and freedom from age- and gender-based violence, since the baseline (two years ago). It pays close attention to key gender, age and location differences. It concludes with key priorities to accelerate progress.

Download: Presler-Marshall, E., Jones, N., Dutton, R., Baird, S., Yadete, W. and Woldehanna, T. (2020) *'Girls don't shout if they are raped… that is taboo': exploring barriers to Ethiopian adolescents' freedom from age- and gender-based violence.* Report. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and universal health coverage: a comparative policy and legal analysis of Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia

This policy analysis looks at three low-income countries with varying levels of abortion restrictions: Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia. It reviews the current legal and policy landscape in each country and complements this with qualitative interviews with 330 adolescents aged 10–19 who have sought abortion care.

Download: Kangaude, G., Coast, E. and Fetters, T. (2020) 'Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and universal health coverage: a comparative policy and legal analysis of Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia'. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, 28(2), doi.org/10.1080/26410397.2020.1832291 Open Access

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Building an enabling environment and responding to resistance to sexuality education programmes: experience from Jharkhand, India

This journal article aims to analyse Udaan, a sexuality education programme that has achieved remarkable success in Jharkhand, India. It reviews programme documents and publications, and conducts key informant interviews in order to understand what methods the programme used to create a supportive environment and how it responded to any resistance.

Download: Plesons, M., Khanna, A., Ziauddin, M., Gogoi, A. and Chandra-Mouli, V. (2020) 'Building an enabling environment and responding to resistance to sexuality education programmes: experience from Jharkhand, India'. *Reproductive Health*, 17(1): 168. doi.org/10.1186/s12978-020-01003-9 Open Access

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Period teasing, stigma and knowledge: a survey of adolescent boys and girls in Northern Tanzania

This article uses data from a quantitative survey with male and female students in four co-educational secondary schools in Northern Tanzania in order to understand the stigma and teasing surrounding menstruation.

Download: Benshaul-Tolonen, A., Aguilar-Gomez, S., Heller Batzer, N., Cai, R. and Nyanza, E.C. (2020) 'Period teasing, stigma and knowledge: A survey of adolescent boys and girls in Northern Tanzania'. *PLOS One* 15(10): e0239914. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0239914 Open Access

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Boys Mentoring, Gender Norms, and Reproductive Health—Potential for Transformation

This journal article reviews the potential impact of mentoring interventions for adolescent boys and young men on reproductive health knowledge and practices, social assets and soft skills, levels of gender-based and interpersonal violence, attitudes around gender equality, and substance use and financial vulnerability. The review found 1,178 articles, of which 29 articles (evaluating 27 interventions) are included in the final paper.

Download: Plourde, K. F., Thomas, R. and Nanda, G. (2020) 'Boys Mentoring, Gender Norms, and Reproductive Health—Potential for Transformation', *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 67(4): 479–494. doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.06.013
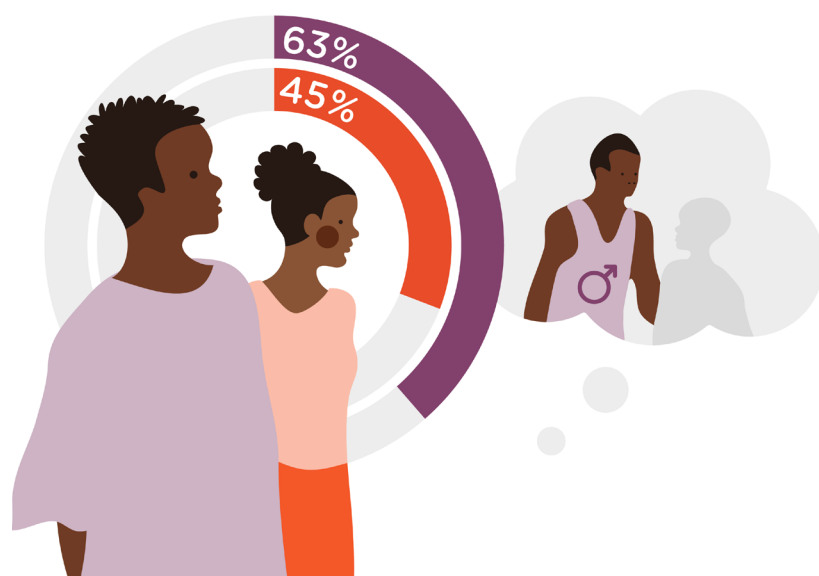

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

'They did not take me to a clinic': Ethiopian adolescents' access to health and nutrition information and services
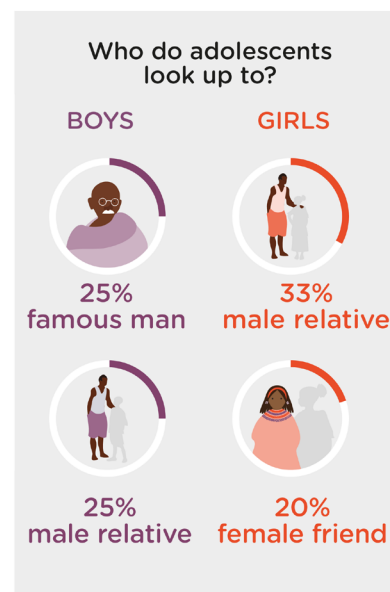
This short report draws on GAGE's mixed-methods midline data from adolescent boys and girls in Ethiopia. It highlights key changes in physical health, including nutrition, support for puberty and sexual and reproductive health, since the baseline (two years ago) and provides attention to key gender, age and location differences. It concludes with key priorities to accelerate progress.

Download: Presler-Marshall, E., Jones, N., Dutton, R., Baird, S., Yadete, W., Woldehanna, T., Workneh, F. and Iyasu, A. (2020) *'They did not take me to a clinic': Ethiopian adolescents' access to health and nutrition information and services.* Report. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

Girls are less likely than **boys** to have role models and most often **look up to men** rather than women.

Graphic designed by Ottavia Pasta for GAGE

Gender inequalities in health and wellbeing across the first two decades of life: an analysis of 40 low-income and middle-income countries in the Asia-Pacific region

This Lancet article systematically analyses gender inequality across childhood and adolescence in 40 low- and middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific. It uses a framework based on four well-being domains: health, education and transition to employment, protection, and a safe environment over the first two decades of life. It finds that early adolescence is where clear gender inequalities consistently appear.

Download: Kennedy, E., Binder, G., Humphries-Waa, K., Tidhar, T., Cini, K., Comrie-Thomson, L., ... Azzopardi, P. (2020) 'Gender inequalities in health and wellbeing across the first two decades of life: an analysis of 40 low-income and middle-income countries in the Asia-Pacific region', *The Lancet Global Health*, 8(12): e1473–e1488. doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30354-5 Open Access

Preventive malaria treatment among school-aged children in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analyses

This systematic review and meta-analyses assess the impact of preventive treatments against Malaria on lowering the transmission and infection rate of *P falciparum* as well as reducing levels of anaemia in school-aged children aged 5–15 years across-sub-Saharan Africa.

Download: Cohee, L.M. Opondo, C., Clarke, S.E., Halliday, K.E., Cano, J., Shipper, A.G. ... Chico, R.M. (2020) 'Preventive malaria treatment among school-aged children in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analyses', The Lancet Global Health. Elsevier, 8(12), pp. e1499–e1511. doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30325-9 Open Access

PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING

Intersecting Vulnerabilities: The Impacts of COVID-19 on the Psycho-Emotional Lives of Young People in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

This journal article draws on online qualitative interviews with over 500 adolescents in Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire and Lebanon. It uses a gender and age lens to explore the implications of covid-19 on the psychosocial well-being of adolescents. It calls for adolescent-centred services to mitigate these impacts.

Download: Banati, P., Jones, N. and Youssef, S. (2020) 'Intersecting Vulnerabilities: The Impacts of COVID-19 on the Psycho-emotional Lives of Young People in Low- and Middle-Income Countries', *The European Journal of Development Research*, pp. 1–26. doi.org/10.1057/s41287-020-00325-5 Open Access

Digital approaches to adolescent mental health: a review of the literature

This working paper reviews the current literature on digital interventions for adolescent mental health and highlights the key advantages and disadvantages of using digital forms of mental health services. It highlights a significant lack of research on this topic in low-income settings.

Download: Rost, L., Samuels., F., Leon-Himmelstine, C. and Marcus, R. (2020). *Digital approaches to adolescent mental health: a review of the literature.* Working paper 592 London: ODI Open Access

VOICE AND AGENCY

'Children are future leaders of the country': Ethiopian adolescents' access to voice and agency

This policy brief draw on GAGE's mixed-method midline data with adolescents aged 12–20 years old from rural and urban regions of Ethiopia. It explores adolescents' access to voice and agency in the midst of Ethiopia's recent political transformation and presents findings related to decision-making in the household and community, mobility and access to safe spaces, access and use of technology and role models. It concludes with key policy recommendations.

Download: Presler-Marshal, E., Jones, N., Dutton, R., Baird, S. and Workneh, Y. (2020) '"Children are future leaders of the country": Ethiopian adolescents' access to voice and agency.' Policy Brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

Use of digital technology among adolescents in the adult entertainment sector in Nepal

This GAGE policy brief is part of a series of publications on adolescents working in adult entertainment in Nepal. It aims to understand how adolescents working in the adult entertainment industry use technology and its impact on their well-being. It provides key recommendations in order to help bridge the information gap and help them to use technology for their protection.

Download: Ghimire, A., Samuels, F. and Bhujel, S. (2020) 'Use of digital technology among adolescents in the adult entertainment sector in Nepal'. Policy Brief. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

UMANG: RAISING HER VOICE: Agency and Aspirations of Adolescent Girls on Marriage — Evidence from Jharkhand, India

This report outlines the UMANG programme's (a comprehensive, multi-layered girls' empowerment programme) baseline survey with 15–18-year-old adolescent girls from Jharkhand, India on marriage practices, including their aspirations for marriage and their role in marriage decision-making. It also highlights key risks and protective factors for early marriage and discusses programme implications.

Download: Achyut, P., Khurana, N., Reddy, H., Gautam, A. and Verma, R. (2020) *Raising Her Voice: Agency and Aspirations of Adolescent Girls on Marriage — Evidence from Jharkhand, India*. New Delhi: International Center for Research on Women Open Access

Developing the Leadership Potential of African Youth Through Online Communities

This book chapter draws on qualitative interviews to explore how online communities can empower African youth to overcome barriers and foster civic engagement. It highlights five key facilitating factors and two key barriers that influence youths' ability to engage in civic participation in an online context.

Download: Maloiy, L. and Cranefield, J. (2021) 'Developing the Leadership Potential of African Youth Through Online Communities', in Akwala, A.O., Ngetich, J.K. and Theuri, A.W. (eds.), *Dialectical Perspectives on Media, Health, and Culture in Modern Africa* (pp. 184-205). IGI Global. doi:10.4018/978-1-5225-8091-1.ch011

Alternative Ways of Capturing the Legacies of Traumatic Events: A Literature Review of Agency of Children Living in Countries Affected by Political Violence and Armed Conflicts

This literature review looks at peer-reviewed studies that focus on children's agency in conflict-affected contexts. It uses an ecological framework to organise the literature and assess the ways in which agency manifests within children's everyday lives in countries impacted by political violence and armed conflicts.

Download: Cavazzoni, F., Fiorini, A. and Veronese, G. (2020) 'Alternative Ways of Capturing the Legacies of Traumatic Events: A Literature Review of Agency of Children Living in Countries Affected by Political Violence and Armed Conflicts', *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. doi: 10.1177/1524838020961878

Constrained choices: Exploring the complexities of adolescent girls' voice and agency in child marriage decisions in Ethiopia

This journal article explores the diverse factors that influence the high rates of child marriage in Ethiopia. It draws on qualitative data with adolescent boys and girls, their caregivers, service providers and community leaders.

Download: Jones, N., Presler-Marshall, E., Kassahun, G. and Kebedi, M. (2020) 'Constrained choices: Exploring the complexities of adolescent girls' voice and agency in child marriage decisions in Ethiopia', *Progress in Development Studies*. doi.org/10.1177/1464993420958215

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The gendered experiences of adolescent girls working in the adult entertainment sector in Nepal

This short report is part of a series of publications on adolescents working in adult entertainment in Nepal. It focuses on the gendered experiences of adolescent girls working in the adult entertainment sector (AES) and presents key findings in relation to push and pull factors, life in the AES, and key challenges facing girls and boys working in the AES.

Download: Ghimire, A., Samuels, F. and Bhujel, S. (2020) *The gendered experiences of adolescent girls working in the adult entertainment sector in Nepal*. Report. London: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Open Access

Children's Engagement with Exploitative Work in Dhaka, Bangladesh

This working paper presents findings from a study that uses qualitative data with adolescents, their parents, key informants and community leaders from two slum areas of Dhaka, Bangladesh to explore the potential for cash transfers to reduce the need for children to engage in exploitative work. The findings aim to inform the design and delivery of a cash plus intervention.

Download: Roelen, K.; Howard, N.; Paul, S. and Mathur, V. (2020) *Children's Engagement with Exploitative Work in Dhaka, Bangladesh*, CLARISSA Working Paper 4, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, doi:10.19088/CLARISSA.2020.001 Open Access

Cash and voucher assistance for adolescents: An evidence review of how cash and voucher assistance can achieve outcomes for adolescents in humanitarian settings

This report by Plan International and the Women's Refugee Commission reviews the current evidence on cash and voucher assistance for adolescents in humanitarian settings in order to bridge the evidence gap and ensure social protection in these settings is age and gender sensitive. To complement the desk review, it also includes findings from interviews with experts on this topic including UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and independent consultants.

Download: Plan International (2020) *Cash and voucher assistance for adolescents: An evidence review of how cash and voucher assistance can achieve outcomes for adolescents in humanitarian settings*. Woking: Plan International and Women's Refugee Commission Open Access

The role of social protection in young people's transition to work in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

This report focuses on the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) and analyses the role of social protection in promoting young people's transition to work through reviewing the current literature on social protection and labour market policies across the MENA region.

Download: Bird, N. and Silva, W. (2020) *The role of social protection in young people's transition to work in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*. Research Report No. 41. Brasília and Amman: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth and UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office Open Access

SPECIAL ISSUE CALLS

Global Child Health: From Birth to Adolescence and Beyond

PLOS Medicine

This special issues welcomes papers on child and adolescent global health. Topics include strategies to prevent global child mortality, adolescent health, marginalised populations and environmental impacts on child health and mortality. It invites research ,particularly from the areas of Africa and South Asia, where high rates of child and adolescent deaths are found. **Submit by 31 January 2021**. Further information can be found here.

Sexual and Reproductive Health among Marginalized and System-Involved Youth

Journal of Youth and Adolescence

This special issue is interested in quantitative studies that investigate predictors of the sexual and reproductive health of marginalised and system-involved youth, studies with strong methods such as longitudinal designs, those that take into account the intersectionalities of marginalisation, and advance intervention efforts and/or policies that promote sexual and reproductive health. **Full manuscript deadline: 1 March 2021**. Further information can be found here.

Youth and Transitional Justice

Transitional Justice

This special issues calls for papers on the topic of youth transitional justice, including studies on youth-led or initiated approaches to transitional justice, the barriers and challenges in ensuring they are youth-inclusive, and possibilities for innovation or transformation. The journal particularly encourages contributions from young scholars, practitioners and activists as this special issue would like to amplify the voices of young people.

The deadline for submissions is 1 June 2021. Further information can be found here.

Child and adolescent mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic: a call for submissions to CAPMH

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health

This special issue invites quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods papers that address child and adolescent mental health in relation to the covid-19 pandemic. **Ongoing call for papers; decisions will be provided no more than three weeks after submission.** Further information can be found here.

Opportunities

JUMP – Journal Mentoring Programme

Date: 2021
Location: Online
Outline: This mentoring programme aims to strengthen the voices of researchers from the global South in knowledge production. It will provide one-on-one mentoring by an experienced scholar for young southern researchers (particularly those from sub-saharan Africa and women) and the goal will be to develop a research paper in the field of development studies for publication in the EJDR or other similar academic journals. The call for applications 2020/2021 is open until 31 January.

More information can be found here

Events

Covid-19 and development: education policy in the Global South

Date: 14 January 2021
Time: 17:00–18:00 (GMT)
Location: Online
Outline: This webinar is part of the Sussex Development Lecture series on 'Covid-19 and development – building back better?' It will look at education in the global context of covid-19 and will discuss the potential for fundamental transformations in development.

More information can be found here

The impact of covid-19 in Ethiopia

Date: 15 December 2020
Time: 12.00–14.00 (GMT)
Location: Online
Outline: This webinar organised by GAGE and the Oxford Policy Management (OPM), brings together research in Ethiopia from OPM, World Bank, Young Lives, GAGE and the University of Oxford on the covid-19 pandemic. The webinar will focus on the findings from this research and how it will inform the policy response to covid-19 in Ethiopia and future research.

More information can be found here

Conferences

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING ICFP (2021): FAMILY PLANNING & UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Date: 8–11 November 2021 (Rescheduled from February)

Location: Pattaya City, Thailand

Conference outline: The sixth ICFP's theme highlights the key role family planning plays in achieving universal health coverage. To highlight the implications of the covid-19 pandemic on the family planning a new track has been added: 'Impact of COVID-19 on Family Planning and Reproductive Health.'

More information can be found here.

65TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Date: 15–26 March 2021

Location: New York/Online

Conference outline: The 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women has a priority theme of 'Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.' Applications for virtual parallel events are now open. Application deadline 14 December 2020.

More information can be found here.

GAGE FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you! We're improving the information and knowledge we share, and need your help. Complete this short survey to tell us what you think. To access the survey click 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).

GENDER & ADOLESCENCE: GLOBAL EVIDENCE

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