

## Helpdesk Research Report

# Longitudinal social research in Ethiopia

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## Question

*Identify studies involving longitudinal social research in Ethiopia*

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## 1. Overview

This report identifies and collates studies involving longitudinal social research in Ethiopia<sup>1</sup>. There are a limited number of studies which fall under this classification. Much of the longitudinal research in Ethiopia focuses on health or agricultural sectors, rather than social issues. Some health studies are included in this report as they involve social dimensions or behavioural change<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Where abstracts are available, they have been directly copied into this report.

<sup>2</sup> The search terms used for this query include combinations of Ethiopia, social, sociology, anthropology, change, longitudinal.

The prominent longitudinal studies in Ethiopia, from which much of the academic and practitioner literature draws from, include:

- **Young lives:** an international study on childhood poverty involving 12,000 children in four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam) over 15 years. Research priorities include nutrition, health, education and child work.
- **Ethiopian Rural Households Survey:** a longitudinal dataset that includes 450 households over 20 years. Research areas include health, women's activities, agriculture and livestock information and food consumption.
- **Wellbeing and Ill-being Dynamics in Ethiopia (WIDE):** cross-sectoral research which looks at modernisation processes and outcomes in Ethiopia, and documents how government and donor development interventions have interacted with these. This involves three periods of study from 1994 to 2013/14.
- **Jimma longitudinal family survey of youth (JLFSY):** a study in Jimma town (Western Ethiopia's largest city) and outlying areas, involving approximately 3,700 households and 2,100 youth (ages 13-17) between 2005 and 2010. Research areas include food insecurity, school absenteeism, and educational attainment.
- **Livelihoods Change over Time (LCOT):** a study on the responses of communities and agencies to chronic crisis. Ethiopia is one of four country case studies (the others being Sudan, Bangladesh and Haiti) and research is conducted collaboratively with humanitarian institutes in host countries.
- **Ethiopia Socio-Economic Survey (ESS):** survey on household welfare and income-generating activities in Ethiopia. Surveys were carried out in 2011/12 and revisited in 2013/14.

## 2. Young Lives

Contributors and links	Research theme or topic	Research methods and location of research	Dates of data collection
<p>Lead by the University of Oxford, in collaboration with local partners. In Ethiopia, collaborators were the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) and Save the Children Ethiopia.</p> <p><a href="http://www.younglives.org.uk/">http://www.younglives.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>Young Lives is an international study on childhood poverty involving 12,000 children in four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam) over 15 years.</p> <p>The research priorities focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nutrition, health and development</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Child work</li> <li>▪ Moving into adulthood</li> </ul>	<p>A multi-method research methodology has been adopted, including questionnaires for household and child surveys, and participatory research methodologies for in-depth case study research.</p> <p>Comprehensive guidance on the research methods used can be found here:  <a href="http://www.younglives.org.uk/what-we-do/research-methods">http://www.younglives.org.uk/what-we-do/research-methods</a></p> <p>The Young Lives study sites are in 20 communities in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia, Southern National, Nationalities and Peoples' Region, and Tigray. Both 'poor and food-poor' communities were sampled<sup>3</sup>.</p>	<p>There are 5 rounds of surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Round 1 survey – 2002</li> <li>▪ Round 2 survey – 2006-7</li> <li>▪ Qualitative round 1 – 2007</li> <li>▪ Qualitative round 2 – 2008</li> <li>▪ Round 3 survey – 2009</li> <li>▪ Qualitative round 3 – 2011</li> <li>▪ Round 4 survey – 2013</li> <li>▪ Qualitative round 4 – 2014</li> <li>▪ Round 5 survey - 2016</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Summaries of selected Young Lives studies on Ethiopia</u></b></p> <p><b>Nardos Chuta and Virginia Morrow (2015). <i>Youth Trajectories through Work and Marriage in Rural Ethiopia</i>, Working Paper 135, Oxford: Young Lives</b></p>			

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://www.younglives.org.uk/where-we-work/ethiopia-1/ethiopia-1>

The paper explores young people's trajectories through work and marriage in two rural communities in Ethiopia. Global policy attention and research has been dominated by the patterns found in high-income country contexts. Although there is increasing focus on 'adolescence' in low-income countries, the concept of 'transition' has been critiqued as inadequate. The paper explores the trajectories of young people who are no longer in formal schooling, through their involvement in work/livelihoods and marriage. It draws on Young Lives survey and qualitative longitudinal data. The paper suggests that 'transitions' in Ethiopia do not occur in a neat fashion and that education and early marriage are less linked to the linearity of transitions experienced by young people. Thus, it is advisable to consider contexts that support the 'transitions' of young people while designing policies and programmes.

**Tassew Woldehanna and Adiam Hagos (2013). *Dynamics of Welfare and Poverty in Poor and Urban Communities of Ethiopia*, Working Paper 109, Oxford: Young Lives**

This paper looks at the factors associated with household welfare and poverty and the movement of households in and out of poverty in Ethiopia. The authors adopt an empirical model in which the dependent variables are the level and changes in real per adult consumption, the probability of being absolutely poor, and movement in and out of poverty. Using Young Lives Younger Cohort data, the analysis finds that the level and growth of consumption was highly dependent on households' initial level of consumption and wealth, indicating a relationship of dependence between earlier and later socio-economic status and showing that households in poor communities are trapped in poverty. The results also show that past and more recent economic shocks were negatively related to people's welfare. Government support is crucial to lift poor households out of the poverty trap and protect households from shocks, so as to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty.

**Nardos Chuta (2014) *Children's Agency in Responding to Shocks and Adverse Events in Ethiopia*. Working Paper 128, Oxford: Young Lives.**  
<http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/childrens-agency-in-responding-to-shocks-and-adverse-events-in-ethiopia>

This paper focuses on children's experiences of shocks and adverse events and their agency in dealing with the impacts of such events in Ethiopia, using survey and qualitative data collected from individuals and groups of children and young people. It draws on Young Lives data, including data from two qualitative sub-studies carried out in 2009 and 2010. It finds that children have their own experiences of shocks, different from the experiences of adults or of the household as a whole, and that some of the shocks have long-term consequences for children's well-being. The paper also argues that during difficult circumstances or crises, children are active social agents. Their agency is primarily reflected in their decisions to take on paid work and subsidise their families' incomes and their own basic needs during crises. However, it also spells out that some of their coping mechanisms are so informal and fragile that they are only applicable in specific situations and then do not necessarily bring about sustainable change. In some situations, children are seen resorting to unfavourable coping mechanisms which later give rise to other shocks with long-term developmental and health consequences for them. Finally, the paper suggests that agency of children can be described as constrained and 'thin', cautioning that it is necessary to consider contexts and to acknowledge children's agency as active while at the same time offering protection, in case children's decisions lead to other vulnerabilities in the future.

**Alula Pankhurst and Agazi Tiemelissan (2014). *Beyond Urban Relocation? Expectations and Concerns of Children and Caregivers in Addis Ababa and Hawassa*, Working Paper 126, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/beyond-urban-relocation-expectations-and-concerns-of-children-and-caregivers-in-addis-ababa-and-hawassa>**

This paper documents the views of children and their caregivers about a planned urban relocation, due to the development of central areas of Addis Ababa and Hawassa. The findings suggest that most of the children and their caregivers have heard about the planned relocation from various sources. A significant proportion of caregivers mentioned promises made to them, mainly regarding improvements in housing and services, notably water and electricity. However, they did not have a clear idea about the likely timing of the move, an indication that the people most directly concerned have not been sufficiently involved and consulted in the planning process. Some suggested that they would need time to prepare for relocation. A significant proportion of the caregivers and some children know people who have already been moved, confirming that this is a fairly common experience in the two cities.

**Yisak Tafere (2014). *Education Aspirations and Barriers to Achievement for Young People in Ethiopia*, Working Paper 120, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/education-aspirations-and-barriers-to-achievement-for-young-people-in-ethiopia>**

This paper reports on the educational aspirations and the challenges facing children living in poor communities in Ethiopia. Using Young Lives survey and qualitative longitudinal data, the paper finds that children hold high educational aspirations and make much effort to achieve their ambitions. Children in higher grades at school maintained their high aspirations. Children have demonstrated their agency in their capacity to aspire high and work hard to attain their ambitions. The results also suggest that poverty has an impact on potential achievements. Despite making every effort to attain their aspirations, some children have failed to do so, or have modified their stated desires. The findings contest at least two widely held assumptions. First, that poor people have low levels of aspiration and do not make any effort because they believe in 'fate' rather than hard work, and therefore policies should aim to 'raise' their aspirations. Second, poor children, mainly in Africa, have 'unrealistic' aspirations, thus, they should be 'reoriented'. The paper argues that interventions should not be on the 'raising' or 'reorientation' of aspirations, but on helping young people to achieve what they have aspired to. The 'raising' of aspirations is less relevant for young people motivated by the fast expansion of schooling in their country and spurred on by poverty, who do not lack aspirations. 'Reorientation' hinders children's capacity for aspirations and achievements, and is thus detrimental to the national effort for poverty reduction, which could be enhanced by people with high levels of education. Addressing the structural impediments to achievement would be more helpful because achievements inspire the generation to come.

**Workneh Abebe and Tassew Woldehanna (2014). *Teacher Training and Development in Ethiopia: Improving Education by Developing Teacher Skills, Attitudes and Work Conditions*, Working Paper 103, Oxford: Young Lives. [http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/wp103\\_abebe-woldehanna\\_ethiopia](http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/wp103_abebe-woldehanna_ethiopia)**

Research evidence shows that various kinds of teacher training, capacity building and work experience have had positive effects on education quality. Having well-trained and experienced teachers in schools is just as important as good education materials and good relationships between teachers and communities. However, children in rural Ethiopia face shortages of well-trained, experienced and motivated teachers. This paper seeks to understand the

characteristics of teachers in the Young Lives sample, the views of teachers and head-teachers on the links between teacher quality and the quality of the education they deliver, and the challenges that teachers in Ethiopia face in education. Using Young Lives school survey data, the paper empirically examines the degree to which teachers' own attitudes, school management and community perceptions impact on the quality of education. Teacher motivation (material, financial, social, etc.) is just as important as teacher training in increasing access to quality education. However, the findings emphasise the challenges in assigning experienced teachers to remote schools with limited facilities and infrastructure. Consequently, the paper concludes that it is very difficult to provide access to quality education without properly managing factors related to teacher training and professional development, such as provision of well-run pre-service and in-service training plus continuous professional development focusing on content knowledge, pedagogy and language skills. Strengthening school-level management and promoting community participation in schools also reduces teachers' dissatisfaction and reduces the likelihood of their leaving the profession. Tackling all of these issues would improve the quality of education for children in rural Ethiopia

**Daniel Vujich (2013). *Policy and Practice on Language of Instruction in Ethiopian Schools: Findings from the Young Lives School Survey*. Working Paper 108, Oxford: Young Lives. [http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/wp108\\_vujcich\\_ethiopia](http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/wp108_vujcich_ethiopia)**

This paper uses qualitative and quantitative data from the 2010 Young Lives school survey to examine the arguments around language of instruction in the Ethiopian context. Education policies regarding language of instruction are hotly debated in countries where the population speaks multiple languages, including English. Some research suggests that educating students in their mother tongue results in improved educational outcomes because it facilitates understanding of new concepts and strengthens affective measures such as self-esteem, identity, motivation and creativity. On the other hand, other research finds that mother tongue education disadvantages students in some contexts, particularly where languages are not sufficiently developed to express modern concepts in fields such as mathematics and science. This study finds that a 'large majority' of surveyed teachers favour a reduction or abolition of mother tongue education.

**Agazi Tiumelissan and Alula Pankhurst (2013). *Moving to Condominium Housing? Views about the Prospect among Children and their Families in Addis Ababa and Hawassa*, Working Paper 106, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/wp-106>**

This paper details the views of caregivers and children in four sites in Addis Ababa and Hawassa about a Government housing programme, which aims to provide low-cost housing for the urban poor, especially for those living in areas designated for redevelopment. Both children and adults expressed a strong interest in living in condominiums, particularly in the three sites in Addis Ababa. Despite the general enthusiasm for this housing option, however, respondents expressed some reservations, particularly in relation to livelihoods: people working from home, notably women preparing and selling food and beverages, were not confident of being able to do so from condominium housing. Similarly, those who work in the informal sector doubted whether they would find similar opportunities in the suburban relocation areas.

**Alula Pankhurst and Agazi Tiumelissan (2013). *Living in Urban Areas due for Redevelopment: Views of Children and their Families in Addis Ababa and Hawassa*, Working Paper 105, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/wp105>**

This report is the first of three resulting from a study conducted by Young Lives in four communities in Ethiopia, three in Addis Ababa and one in Hawassa, to examine what happens to children and their families living in areas that are due to be redeveloped. The paper presents the views of children and their caregivers about their living conditions prior to the move. It considers how children and adults view their home and neighbourhood environment and the extent of their social support networks. The study suggests that children and their families live in crowded and insalubrious conditions in these urban sites. Most households do not own their homes. Children dislike their lack of separate kitchens, latrines, and washing facilities, and more than half the caregivers thought that their neighbourhoods were bad places to bring up children. Despite the conditions of material deprivation, the children and their caregivers value the cohesive social relations. Relations with family and friends are important for children, and they like living close to their friends, schools, markets, cafés and religious institutions. Relocation could bring about improvements in their housing and neighbourhood, although this will depend on where they are relocated to, what services and opportunities for work are available, and whether families will be able to afford the new condominium housing on offer. Family relations and school conditions are likely to be crucial for children, whereas caregivers will need to rebuild social networks, and funeral, religious and credit associations can be expected to play a key role in the successful adaptation of relocated households

**Jo Boyden, Alula Pankhurst and Yisak Tafere (2013). *Harmful Traditional Practices and Child Protection: Contested Understandings and Practices of Female Child Marriage and Circumcision in Ethiopia*. Working Paper 93, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/working-paper-93>**

This paper explores local perspectives on female child marriage and circumcision in Ethiopia. Both practices are widespread still, despite international and national efforts to eradicate them, and reflect deep-rooted patriarchal values regulating transactions between kin groups at marriage and women's reproduction.

**Abebe, W. (2012). *School Management and Decision-Making in Ethiopian Government Schools. Evidence from the Young Lives Qualitative School Survey*, Working Paper 86, Oxford: Young Lives. [http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/yl-wp86\\_abebe\\_school-management-\\_and-\\_decision\\_making\\_in\\_ethiopian\\_government\\_schools](http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/yl-wp86_abebe_school-management-_and-_decision_making_in_ethiopian_government_schools)**

This study focuses on school management and decision-making in government schools and is based on the qualitative data collected in 2010 as part of the Young Lives school survey. The paper examines the extent to which the involvement of different stakeholders in schools (teachers, head-teachers, parents, students, local government administration, etc.) impacts upon critical decision-making at school level.

**Tafere, Yisak (2012). *Children's Experiences and Perceptions of Poverty in Ethiopia*, Working Paper 85, Oxford: Young Lives. [http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/yl\\_wp85\\_tafere\\_childrens\\_experiences\\_and\\_perceptions\\_of\\_poverty\\_in\\_ethiopia](http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/yl_wp85_tafere_childrens_experiences_and_perceptions_of_poverty_in_ethiopia)**

This paper presents children's experiences and perceptions of poverty. It draws on survey and qualitative data from the Young Lives study of poor children in Ethiopia. Through group exercises, discussions and interviews, children and young people aged 13-17 collectively and individually provided their perceptions of the causes, indicators and consequences of poverty in their communities. They felt that they were more victims of the consequences of

poverty while they rarely contributed to its causes. Their poverty experiences suggest the multidimensional, contextualised and intergenerational nature of child poverty. The children and young people have also demonstrated their agency and resilience by providing their lived accounts and suggestions for tackling poverty and by practically contributing to family incomes. They identified what they believed to be the root causes of poverty and suggested what the Government, parents and children should do to reduce it. For example, they thought that child poverty could be addressed by changing some of the societal values that contribute to its perpetuation. The paper argues that children's lived experiences of poverty place them in an optimum position to provide us with strong evidence to advance our knowledge of childhood poverty and develop apt policies to reduce it. Through this argument, this paper aims to provide both theoretical and practical contributions.

**Tafere, Yisak and Tassew Woldehanna (2012). *Beyond Food Security: Transforming the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia for the Wellbeing of Children*, Working Paper 83, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/beyond-food-security-transforming-the-productive-safety-net-programme-in-ethiopia-for-the-well-being-of-children>**

Using Young Lives survey and qualitative data collected in 2006 and 2009 among rural households and children, this paper investigates the possible impacts of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on children's well-being and recommends child-focused social protection that goes beyond the PSNP. The quantitative analysis finds that despite an increase in the incidence of economic shocks (such as drought and food-price inflation) and idiosyncratic family-related events such as the illness or death of family members, the value of cash and food transfers in real terms from the PSNP did not improve from 2006 to 2009, and even declined. Therefore the contribution of the PSNP to risk reduction is limited because transfers did not increase in the face of shocks. Moreover, the substitution effect of the Public Work component of the PSNP dominates the income effect and this has caused children to spend more time on paid and unpaid work.

The survey data also show that the Public Work component did not increase the time children spent on schooling and studying at home, while the qualitative data suggested that it had a negative impact on their learning. Insufficiency of PSNP transfers may encourage households to send their children to work for wages. The schooling of children engaged in Public Work and wage labour has been affected and in some cases they have dropped out of school altogether. The existing PSNP could be improved in such a way that it provides Direct Support for schoolchildren so that their schooling may not be hampered. But we argue that the PSNP on its own cannot ensure children's overall well-being. Though it protects many children from hunger, the PSNP fails to ensure food security, contributes little to poverty reduction and does not guarantee that children attend school. Ensuring children's well-being and reducing their poverty require thinking beyond the PSNP. The paper concludes that, amid limited resources and contexts of vulnerability to protracted shocks, there is a need for child-focused social protection.

**Keetie Roelen and Laura Camfield (2012). *A Mixed-method Taxonomy of Child Poverty: A Case Study from Rural Ethiopia*, Working Paper 76, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/a-mixed-method-taxonomy-of-child-poverty-a-case-study-from-rural-ethiopia>**

This paper uses mixed methods to develop a taxonomy of poverty and vulnerability and study the situation of children and their households in rural Ethiopia over time. The taxonomy is built using qualitative data from Young Lives. The approach aims identify changes over time as well as to reflect multiple



dimensions and consider issues of current well-being and future 'well-becoming'. It potentially allows for the identification of underlying mechanisms that influence and determine life trajectories. Until recently, quantitative and qualitative approaches towards the analysis of chronic and transient poverty have developed in isolation with little cross-disciplinary interaction. This paper uses a mixed-method approach to develop a hybrid taxonomy of child poverty and well-being that can be used for a dynamic analysis. It complements existing research and evidence on child poverty and well-being in the context of Ethiopia.

**Heissler, Karin and Catherine Porter (2010). *Know Your Place: Ethiopian Children's Contributions to the Household Economy*, Working Paper 61, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/know-your-place-ethiopian-children2019s-contributions-to-the-household-economy>**

This paper combines quantitative and qualitative analysis to understand children's work, including how work roles are determined. Combining findings from these different perspectives reveals that work is fundamental to children's lives and the functioning of their households, and is a source of pride, except when arduous or when not conforming to gender norms, which are quite pronounced – girls tend to work more in the household and boys in farming activities. Adults and children were asked to estimate the hours worked by children, and the answers were extremely similar, suggesting that adults do value the contribution of their children to the household. The nature and amount of work done by children is affected less by levels of household poverty than by shocks and adverse events, such as illness and death in the family – with girls being more affected by illness and the absence of mothers. Boys work more when households have more livestock. Overall, older girls work more than their siblings, and girls work more when there are younger brothers in the house.

**Barnett, Inka and Bekele Tefera (2010). *Poor Households' Experiences and Perception of User Fees for Healthcare. A mixed method study from Ethiopia*, Working Paper 59, Oxford: Young Lives. <http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/poor-households2019-experiences-and-perception-of-user-fees-for-healthcare-a-mixed-method-study-from-ethiopia>**

Ethiopia has one of the worst outcomes in health indicators in the world. In recent years, a new health policy resulted in some improvements in the population's health and a new health financing strategy led to changes in the financing structure of healthcare. However, user fees for healthcare remain an important element of healthcare financing. This study explored perceptions, attitudes and experiences with user fees at public health facilities among poor male and female household members. The objectives were to investigate (1) how poor households' members experience user fees at public health facilities and (2) how user fees influence health-seeking behaviours of poor household members. The study used quantitative data from Round 2 of the Young Lives study and qualitative data from a sub-study in four sites. It found that user fees can present a substantial psychological and financial burden and are one of the barriers to healthcare use, especially for poor households. For some families the costs of a sudden health shock combined with loss of income and assets can lead to indebtedness, distress asset sales and hardening of poverty cycles. The findings suggest that pre-payment and risk-sharing mechanisms might be an accepted and sustainable alternative to user fees and protect against impoverishment in case of major health events.

**Tafere, Yisak (2010). *Changing Education Aspirations of Children Living in Poverty in Ethiopia*. Working Paper 58, Oxford: Young Lives.**  
<http://www.younglives-ethiopia.org/files/working-papers/changing-educational-aspirations-of-children-living-in-poverty-in-ethiopia>

Using both qualitative and quantitative data, this paper examines the changing educational and occupational aspirations and educational achievements of children living in poor communities in Ethiopia. The results suggest that children had high aspirations at an earlier age but that these changed later, with poverty rarely influencing their earlier aspirations but having a strong impact later on. Children with high educational achievement, mostly urban children and some rural girls, maintained their high ambitions. Education policy imposed constraints and provided varied opportunities for rural and urban children that affected their educational achievement and aspirations. Educational achievement was influenced by age of entry to school and continued attendance. Government development programmes and agricultural livelihoods attracted rural children's labour and thereby negatively affected their education and realisation of their ambitions. The longitudinal data suggest that some children have begun considering out-of-school transitions (e.g. girls' early marriage and full-time work for girls and boys) and, as a consequence, it seems that very few poor children will be able to realise their ambitions.

### 3. Ethiopian Rural Household Surveys (ERHS)

Contributors and links	Research theme or topic	Research methods and location of research	Dates of data collection
<p>The survey was conducted by Addis Ababa University and the University of Oxford. Funding was provided by ESRC, SIDA, USAID and the World Bank.</p>	<p>ERHS is a longitudinal data set that covers households in a number of villages in rural Ethiopia. Household data was collected to study the response of households to food crises. This includes consumption, asset and income data. Topics addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Household characteristics</li> <li>▪ Agriculture and livestock information</li> <li>▪ Food consumption</li> <li>▪ Health</li> </ul>	<p>Household survey data from 450 households, across 15 villages across the country.</p>	<p>Surveys were carried out in 1989, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2004 and 2009.</p>

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|--|---|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women's activities</li> <li>▪ Community level data on electricity, water, sewage and toilet facilities, health services, education, NGO activity, migration, wages, and production and marketing.</li> </ul> |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|

### **Summaries of selected ERHS studies**

**Dercon, S. and Krishnan, P. (2000) Vulnerability, seasonality and poverty in Ethiopia. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 36:6, 25-53. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00220380008422653>**

Most studies examining the dynamics of welfare have found large fluctuations in consumption over relatively short periods, suggesting substantial short-run movements in and out of poverty. The consequence is that cross-section poverty research may not be able to identify the poor. This study explores this short-run variability further. The data comprises 1450 households in different communities in rural Ethiopia, surveyed three times over an 18 month period. On average year-to-year poverty is very similar. However, high variability in consumption and poverty, over the seasons and year-by-year, has been identified. Econometric analysis suggests that consumption is affected by idiosyncratic and common shocks, including rainfall and household-specific crop failure, while households respond to seasonal incentives related to changing labour demand and prices. The results imply that a larger number of households are vulnerable to shocks than implied by the standard poverty statistics, while some of the non-poor in these statistics are in fact otherwise poor households temporally boosting their consumption as an optimal response to changing seasonal incentives.

**Dercon, S., Hoddinott, J. and Woldehanna, T. (2011). *Growth and chronic poverty: Evidence from rural communities in Ethiopia*. CSAE Working Paper WPS/2011-18. [http://www.chronicpoverty.org/uploads/publication\\_files/CPR2\\_Background\\_Papers\\_Dercon-Hoddinett-Woldehanna.pdf](http://www.chronicpoverty.org/uploads/publication_files/CPR2_Background_Papers_Dercon-Hoddinett-Woldehanna.pdf)**

What keeps some people persistently poor, even in the context of relative high growth? This article compares the findings of an empirical growth model with those derived from a model of the determinants of chronic poverty. It asks whether the chronically poor are simply not benefiting in the same way from the same factors that allowed others to escape poverty, or whether there are latent factors that leave them behind. The authors find that chronic poverty is associated with several initial characteristics: lack of physical assets, education and 'remoteness' in terms of distance to towns or poor roads. The chronically poor appear to benefit from some of the drivers of growth, such as better roads or extension services, in much the same way that the non-chronically poor benefit. However, they appear to have lower growth in this period, related to time-invariant characteristics, and this suggests that they face a considerable growth and standard of living handicap.

#### 4. Wellbeing and Ill-being Dynamics in Ethiopia (WIDE)

Contributors and links	Research theme or topic	Research methods and location of research	Dates of data collection
<p>University of Bath, Mokoro</p> <p><a href="http://www.mokoro.co.uk/files/13/pdf/seminar/1_FinalSeminarInviteJan2013.pdf">http://www.mokoro.co.uk/files/13/pdf/seminar/1_FinalSeminarInviteJan2013.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.mokoro.co.uk/seminars/23">http://www.mokoro.co.uk/seminars/23</a></p>	<p>Cross-sectoral research which looks at modernisation processes and outcomes in countries, and documents how government and donor development interventions have interacted with these.</p>	<p>WIDE 1 1994: 15 village studies in rural communities.</p> <p>WIDE 2 2003: studies were taken in the 15 communities from WIDE 1, and simultaneously in three new agricultural sites, added to the panel by the ERHS economists in 1999 as exemplars of new agricultural livelihood systems, and two pastoralist sites.</p> <p>WIDE 3 was organised in three stages, focusing on three drought-prone and three self-sufficient communities (Stage 1, 2010); eight food insecure communities (Stage 2, 2011/12); and six communities with different types of agricultural potential (Stage 3, 2013/14).</p> <p>Research methodologies include interviews and surveys with communities, NGOs and government officials.</p>	<p>1994 – 2013</p>

### **Summaries of selected WIDE studies**

**Dom, C. (2013) Researching change and continuity in Rural Ethiopia. The WIDE Research Project. Mokoro.**

[http://www.mokoro.co.uk/files/13/file/CD\\_July2014.pdf](http://www.mokoro.co.uk/files/13/file/CD_July2014.pdf)

This short briefing paper provides an overview selected findings from WIDE 3. In all three areas, the study finds that accelerating modernisation processes brought significant changes to the communities between 1995 and 2010/2013. Particularly since 2003, all communities, in different ways, had experienced economic improvements, lifestyle changes, improved service provision, increased access to justice, and declining gender inequalities. The pace of change continued to accelerate between 2010 and 2013.

**Pankhurst, A. and Bevan, P. (undated). *Hunger, poverty and 'famine' in Ethiopia: Some evidence from twenty rural sites in Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya and SNNP regions.***

[http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Philippa\\_Bevan/publication/265074530\\_Hunger\\_Poverty\\_and\\_'Famine'\\_in\\_Ethiopia\\_Some\\_Evidence\\_from\\_Twenty\\_Rural\\_Sites\\_in\\_Amhara\\_Tigray\\_Oromiya\\_and\\_SNNP\\_Regions/links/546f80f50cf24af340c08f0a.pdf](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Philippa_Bevan/publication/265074530_Hunger_Poverty_and_'Famine'_in_Ethiopia_Some_Evidence_from_Twenty_Rural_Sites_in_Amhara_Tigray_Oromiya_and_SNNP_Regions/links/546f80f50cf24af340c08f0a.pdf)

This working paper presents empirical findings related to hunger, poverty and 'famine' based on data collected in twenty rural sites in the Amhara, Tigray, Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Regions of Ethiopia between July and September 2003.

**Bevan, P. and Pankhurst, A. (2007). *Power structures and agency in rural Ethiopia. Development lessons from four community case studies.* Paper prepared for the Empowerment Team in the World Bank Poverty Reduction Group.**

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEMPowerment/Resources/Ethiopia\\_Power\\_Structures\\_and\\_Agency.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEMPowerment/Resources/Ethiopia_Power_Structures_and_Agency.pdf)

This paper shows how iterative interactions through time between power structures and personal agents in rural communities in Ethiopia have had consequences for the personal power of community members of different social status; the overall efficacy of the communities; and the trajectories of the communities in terms of reproduction and change.

## 5. Jimma longitudinal family survey of youth (JLFSY)

Contributors and links	Research theme or topic	Research methods and location of research	Dates of data collection
Brown University, USA and Jimma University, Ethiopia	Covers a broad range of family and childhood issues, including food security and school attendance.	<p>The study area includes: the city of Jimma Town (population 120,000); three outlying market towns with populations of approximately 5,000 or less; and the rural areas immediately surrounding the market towns.</p> <p>A multi-stage stratified sample design was used in Jimma town, involving sampling frames constructed by a street-to-street count of households. Survey interviews were conducted with the household head and the spouse of the head.</p>	<p>Began in 2005-6 with a baseline household survey of approximately 3,700 households and an adolescent survey of 2,100 youth, ages 13-17.</p> <p>Subsequent surveys of youth were conducted in 2006-7, 2009-10, and households in 2008-9.</p>

### Summaries of selected JILFSY studies

**Hadley, C., Lindstorm, D., Tessema, F., Belachew, T. (2008). Gender bias in the food insecurity experience of Ethiopian adolescents. *Social Science and Medicine*. 66/2. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2791354/>**

Despite widespread interest in the sociocultural determinants of food insecurity, little is known about whether youths living in food insecure households experience food insecurity. The buffering hypothesis reviewed here assumes that, to the extent possible, adult members of households will buffer younger household members from the ill effects of food insecurity. A variant of the buffering hypothesis argues that only certain members of the households will enjoy the benefits of buffering. We hypothesize that within the context of Ethiopia, where girls have historically experienced discrimination, buffering is preferentially aimed at boys, especially as the household experiences greater levels of food stress. These hypotheses are tested using data from a population-based study of 2084 adolescents living in southwestern Ethiopia. Results indicate that boys and girls were equally likely to be living in severely food insecure households. Despite no differences in their households' food insecurity status, girls were more likely than boys to report being food insecure themselves. This gender difference was the largest in severely food insecure households. This same pattern was observed when comparing male-female sibling pairs living in the same household. These results are among the

first to show that household level measures of food insecurity predict adolescent experiences of food insecurity, and that in the Ethiopian socio-cultural context, the relationship between household level food insecurity and adolescent food insecurity varies by gender. We also show that adolescent food insecurity is strongly associated with measures of general health and well-being.

**Belachew, T., Lindstorm, D., Gebremariam, A., Jira, C., Hattori, M., Lachat, C., Huybrechts, L. and Kolsteren, P. (2012). Predictors of chronic food insecurity among adolescents in Southwest Ethiopia: a longitudinal study. *BMC Public Health*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22863140>**

Are adolescents in low income urban households more likely to suffer from chronic food insecurity than those in rural areas that may have direct access to agricultural products? This paper finds that in the context of increased food prices, household income is an independent predictor of chronic food insecurity only among adolescents in the low income, urban households. Female gender, educational status of primary or less and being a member of households with high dependency ratio were independent predictors of chronic food insecurity in urban, semi-urban, and rural areas. The fact that the prevalence of chronic food insecurity increased among adolescents who are members of chronically food insecure urban households as income tertiles decreased suggests that the resilience of buffering is eroded when purchasing power diminishes and food resources are dwindling. Food security interventions should target urban low income households to reduce the level of chronic food insecurity and its consequences.

**Belachew, T., Hadley, C., Lindstorm, D., Gebremariam, A., Lachat, C. and Kolsteren, P. (2011). Food insecurity, school absenteeism and educational attainment of adolescents in Jimma Zone Southwest Ethiopia: a longitudinal study. *Nutrition Journal*. 10/29. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1475-2891-10-29.pdf>**

What is the relationship between food insecurity and school absenteeism? This paper finds that adolescent and household food insecurity are positively associated with school absenteeism and lower educational attainment. Programmes aiming to achieve universal access to primary education in food insecure environments should integrate interventions to ensure that adolescents are food secure.

**Lindstorm, D., Belachew, T. and Gebermariam, A. (2013). *The Early Antecedents of Sexual and Reproductive Health Knowledge in Late Adolescence and Early Adulthood: Evidence from a Longitudinal Survey in Ethiopia*. Paper Presented at Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America New Orleans, April 11-13, 2013. <http://paa2013.princeton.edu/papers/132573>**

This paper uses four rounds of the Jimma survey to identify the impact of experiences during early adolescence on knowledge of HIV preventive methods, access to condoms, and contraception in late adolescence and early adulthood. Results from multivariate analyses indicate that school engagement in early adolescence, participation in youth clubs, and early exposure to reproductive health services are all associated with better sexual and reproductive health knowledge at older ages when youth have entered or about to enter romantic relationships and sexual activity. The positive impact of early program interventions on knowledge at older ages provides support for family planning and safe sex interventions that target youth before they become sexually active.

**Lindstorm, D., Hogan, C., Hadley, C. and Hailemariam, A. (2007). Traditional gender values and adolescent fertility expectations in Ethiopia.**  
<http://paa2007.princeton.edu/papers/71995>

What is the influence of traditional gender values, education, family and peer relations, and community context on young people’s family size expectations in Ethiopia? This paper tests whether the influence of traditional gender values on family size expectations varies by level of education and by the prevalence of traditional gender values among other youth in the community. The paper draws from a survey data for 2,172 never married adolescents age 13-17 collected by the Jimma Longitudinal Family Survey of Youth (JLFSY). Preliminary analyses indicate that the influence of traditional gender values on expected family size is highly conditioned by the level of schooling and the community context. Education reduces the influence of traditional values, whereas living in a community where traditional values are widespread magnifies the influence of individual values.

## 6. Livelihoods Change over Time (LCOT)

Contributors and links	Research theme or topic	Research methods and location of research	Dates of data collection
<p>Tufts University and Mekelle University, Ethiopia in collaboration with humanitarian institutes in host countries.</p> <p><a href="http://fic.tufts.edu/research-item/livelihoods-change-over-time/">http://fic.tufts.edu/research-item/livelihoods-change-over-time/</a></p>	<p>Responses of communities and agencies to chronic crisis.</p> <p>The project has four objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to understand livelihood changes at both the household and institutional level, and the factors driving these changes over the long term;</li> <li>▪ to develop improved methodologies for measuring livelihood change over time in crisis situations to facilitate cross-contextual analysis and</li> </ul>	<p>There are four country case studies: Ethiopia, Sudan, Bangladesh and Haiti.</p> <p>The LCOT survey collects panel data twice a year, in the post-harvest period and during the peak of the hunger season, from a sample of 300 households in two locations in Eastern and South Eastern Tigray.</p>	<p>Study is initially conducted over a three year time period, with the possibility of extending to five years.</p> <p>Two rounds of data collection have been completed in August 2011 and February 2012.</p>



	<p>permit broader analysis of livelihoods change;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to work with agencies to improve livelihoods programming in humanitarian emergencies and facilitate institutional change processes;</li> <li>▪ to improve the exchange of research results between academia, humanitarian organisations, and communities.</li> </ul>		
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### **Summaries of selected LCOT studies**

**Maxwell, D., Tadesse, G., Mukwavi, M., Hailu, S., Zewold, W. and Gebrekiros, A. (2009). Africa community resilience project. Tsaeda Amba Woreda, Eastern Togray, Ethiopia. Feinstein International Center. [https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/SocEcon/2010/Africa\\_Agriculture\\_project.pdf](https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/SocEcon/2010/Africa_Agriculture_project.pdf)**

This baseline report provides an overview of the LCOT study and details baseline findings.

**Maxwell, D., Vaitla, B., Tesfay, G. and Abadi, N. (2013). *Resilience, food security dynamics and poverty traps in Northern Ethiopia. Analysis of a Biannual Panel Dataset, 2011-2013.* Feinstein International Center. [http://technicalconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Resillience\\_food-security-dynamics.pdf](http://technicalconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Resillience_food-security-dynamics.pdf)**

This report summarises the findings of the “Livelihood Change over Time” study conducted jointly by the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University in the US and the College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources at Mekelle University in Ethiopia. These results tend to imply that the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) is having the intended effect of protecting household food security, although it only shows up as a significant determinant of one of the measures of food security employed in the study. Protection of productive assets is the other major objective of the PSNP, and while an independent analysis of the determinants of asset levels was not conducted here, the levels of assets—even among the lower socio-economic strata—do not decline significantly, even during the hunger season.

## 7. Ethiopia Socio-Economic Survey (ESS)

Contributors and links	Research theme or topic	Research methods and location of research	Dates of data collection
<p>Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia and the World Bank</p> <p><a href="http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTLSMS/0,,contentMDK:23635478~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:3358997,00.html">http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTLSMS/0,,contentMDK:23635478~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:3358997,00.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/2247">http://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/2247</a></p>	<p>Originally called the Ethiopian Rural Socio-economic Survey, the ESS collects data on household welfare and income-generating activities in Ethiopia.</p> <p>The objectives of the ESS are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of an innovative model for collecting agricultural data in conjunction with household data;</li> <li>▪ Strengthening the capacity to generate a sustainable system for producing accurate and timely information on agricultural households in Ethiopia;</li> <li>▪ Development of a model of inter-institutional collaboration between the CSA and relevant federal and local government agencies as well as national and international research and development partners; and</li> </ul>	<p>Sample for the ESS comprises 4,000 households in rural areas and small towns in Ethiopia.</p>	<p>Implemented every two years: surveys were completed in 2011/12 and 2013/14.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive analysis of household income, well-being, and socio-economic characteristics of households in rural areas and small towns.</li> </ul>		
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## 8. Other studies using longitudinal research methods

Study title	Contributors and links	Research theme or topic	Research methods and location of research	Dates of data collection
<b>A one-year community study of under-fives in rural Ethiopia: patterns of morbidity and public health risk factors</b>	Muhe, L., Byass, P., Freij, L., Sandström, A. and Wall, S. (1995). A one-year community study of under-fives in rural Ethiopia: patterns of morbidity and public health risk factors. <i>Public Health</i> . 109/2. <a href="http://www.publichealthjournal.com/article/S0033-3506(05)80003-4/abstract">http://www.publichealthjournal.com/article/S0033-3506(05)80003-4/abstract</a>	Prevalence of illness among rural Ethiopian under 5 years.	Weekly home surveillance study in the Butajira district in southern central Ethiopia, 130km south of Addis Ababa. This included interviews and a questionnaire.	1991
<b>Mothers' health services utilization and health care seeking behaviour during infant rearing</b>	Tessema, F., Asefa, M. and Ayele, F. (2002). Mothers' health services utilisation and health care seeking behaviour during infant rearing: A longitudinal community	This research analyses mothers' health care utilisation during pregnancy and delivery, determine their health seeking behaviour, and identify health care expenditures for infants up until one years of age.	Longitudinal community based study of 8273 live births, their mothers and families in rural and urban settings in Jimma, Illubabor and Kefecho Zones, Southwest Ethiopia.	Between September 1992 and October 1994

	<p>based study, South West Ethiopia. <i>Ethiopian Journal of Health Development</i>. 16. <a href="http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ejhd/article/view/9789">http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ejhd/article/view/9789</a></p>		<p>Mothers were interviewed about their health care utilisation during pregnancy and delivery.</p>	
<p><b>Incidence of malaria among children living near dams in northern Ethiopia</b></p>	<p>Ghebreyesus, T., Haile, M., Witten, K., Getachew, A., Yohannes, M., Teklehaimanot, H., Lindsay, S. and Byass, P. (1999). Incidence of malaria among children living near dams in northern Ethiopia: community based incidence survey. <i>BMJ</i>. 391. <a href="http://www.bmj.com/content/319/7211/663">http://www.bmj.com/content/319/7211/663</a></p>	<p>This research assesses the impact of the construction of micro-dams on the incidence of malaria on nearby communities.</p>	<p>Four quarterly cycles of malaria incidence surveys, each taking 30 days. These were undertaken in eight at risk communities close to dams, paired with eight control villages at similar altitudes. Research was conducted with 7000 children under the age of 10 living in villages within 3km of micro-dams and at altitudes of 1800m to 2225m in the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia</p>	<p>1999</p>

## 9. Additional information

### Suggested citation

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### About this report

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