

Addendum – Evidence Review Comparison Matrix

		Evidence Review	Findings from the Participatory research with youth in Ghana, Mozambique and Vietnam
1	Impacts on young people's access to decent employment		
1.1	Risk of unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and labour shocks have typically resulted in major rises in youth unemployment; • Young people suffer disproportionately; • In post-crisis recovery periods, youth unemployment levels have often remained stubbornly high; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana and Mozambique - unemployment and under-employment seen as persistent problems over the years, rather than the result of the current crisis (although they feel it has been aggravated by the crisis); • Youth felt that un/underemployment was a particular concern for them; • Vietnam - labour market perceived as particularly slow over the past two years possibly due to exposure to Western markets (exports); • Other key obstacles included the need for 'connections', insufficient funds to pay bribes (Ghana and Mozambique) and lack of political will to improve conditions for youth (Ghana);
1.2	Risk of deteriorating working conditions and increasing informal employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed young people experience underemployment and declines in income or wages during the economic downturn; • Youth are often forced to shift to irregular employment, predominantly in the informal sector; • Workers are often forced to accept precarious working conditions, as new jobs tend to be temporary and lack formal sector benefits; • Threat of layoffs may lead to increased risk of sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ghana and Mozambique, most young people find work in the informal sector; • Some respondents stated that employers' attitudes toward young employees had hardened, with young people being less respected than adults due to the increased competition for jobs; • In Ghana and Mozambique, sexual harassment of female workers by employers was reportedly widespread and accepted; • Other abuses ranged from being forced to work long hours without additional pay and the stoppage of work without warning; • Vietnam - young people tend to have more access to formal jobs than in Ghana and Mozambique; • Migration (mainly to cities) was universally identified as a phenomenon that has increased in recent years, and was blamed for increased job competition (Vietnam) or identified as a condition of particular deprivation (Ghana and Mozambique); • In all three countries, the types of activities young men and women engage in tend to be gendered, leading to differences in wages.
1.3	Groups of young people most vulnerable to employment shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New labour-market entrants; • Low-skilled vs better-educated youth; • Evidence mixed on whether older or younger workers are most severely affected; • Young people in a household can have a protective effect on household incomes; • Strain on households leads to increase in child labour; • Women's net work hours increase; • Young women more affected by employment shocks; • Young migrants; socially excluded groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth particularly at risk of lack of formal, long-term, safe employment perceived to be those with incomplete or poor-quality education, and inadequate qualifications or work experience; • Vietnam - young female migrants who, far from home, are more likely to accept poor treatment and lower working conditions; • In Ghana and Mozambique, several respondents said it was easier for young females to obtain jobs than young males and that employers (usually men) tended to hire women more readily because they are more flexible to work with and they may 'have a relationship' with them.
1.4	How young people cope with employment shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find new and/or additional work through outsourcing, contract work or jobs in the informal sector; • Engage in high risk activities e.g. sex work and transactional sex (women), petty or more serious criminal activity (men); • Economic support from informal or social networks; migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghana and Mozambique - reports that women use sexuality to procure income through prostitution, the granting of sexual favours to gain employment or transactional sex; • In Vietnam, increased levels of migration were reported and to a lesser extent in Ghana and Mozambique; • Reports of engaging in harmful forms of work, and in some cases have become involved in robbery and other illicit activities; many young people obtain informal loans from family or friends; • Vietnam - reports of young people cooking together in order to reduce expenditure

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2	Impacts on young people's education		
2.1	Effects on secondary school enrollment and attendance, drop out and progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In poorer countries and more deeply affected middle-income countries, educational enrolment declines during periods of crisis, due to schooling costs and need for young people to contribute economically to their households; • Dropout rates increase for similar reasons; • Increased proportion of youth combining school and work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ghana and Mozambique it is a common coping strategy to drop out of school to find an income earning activity; • Overall the affordability of education was reported as being aggravated by the fall in real incomes over past two years; • In Ghana and Mozambique drop out reasons include poverty, high schools fees, school related costs, teenage pregnancy and lack of parental support; • Mozambique -perception that young people demonstrate a lack of interest in attending school, partly because of the cost of fees, but also because they prefer to earn 'easy money' through odd jobs or prostitution. • Vietnam - higher costs unrelated to crisis impacts but still resulted in some families being unable to afford schooling costs
2.2	Effects on gender, rural/urban and socioeconomic inequities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depends on the cultural context although these are more affected in poorer socio-economic contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear gender difference in access to education in all three countries; • Ghana - many respondents noted a higher number of girls dropping out of school than boys with pregnancy and the interference of domestic responsibilities cited as reasons; • In rural areas of Vietnam the percentage of female dropouts was higher than males, given that there is a preference for girls staying at home to get married; • Many of these obstacles were not seen as particularly related to the crisis instead affecting young people's development on a more permanent basis.
2.3	Changes in household spending on young people's education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private education spending declines; • Decline in HH spending on education (fees and associated costs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research found evidence that the impact of the crisis on prices of basic goods meant that households had less disposable income to spend on school related expenses which has caused many students to drop out or reduce attendance; • In Vietnam however it was mentioned by one respondent that young people coming from poor families can usually receive a reduced tuition fee per year; • Younger respondents in Ghana said they were no longer given money to buy food at school.
2.4	Impacts of public expenditure on education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed picture - often governments have had to cut public expenditure on education although most attempt to protect it in comparison with other sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ghana, interviewees noted that since the inception of a 'capitation grant' whereby the government pays school fees and certain costs per student, more children and young people attend school from primary to junior-high level, which it covers; • In Vietnam, some favourable opinions of government investment on education – despite the crisis – were mentioned in relation to investment in school infrastructure; • Nevertheless, both these investments were still seen as insufficient given the number of young people still out of school.
2.5	Impacts on quality of education and learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased costs of materials may affect quality of education; increased teacher absenteeism; • Low teacher morale; • More likely to suffer in longer-term crises; • Quality of education more affected by poor attendance rather than funding cuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although some responses (particularly in Mozambique) referred to lower quality of education, this was perceived to be a structural problem, • In Ghana and Mozambique respondents frequently referred to increased levels of teacher absenteeism and poor quality of teaching.

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3	Impacts on young people's health		
3.1	General health of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No systematic relationship between economic downturn and youth mortality although cases exist of increased death rates from suicide, alcohol poisoning, homicide and STDs; • Newly unemployed more likely to develop new health problems; • Declined use of health systems combined with increased self-medication or non treatment; • Public health budget cuts could have bigger effect on youth (reproductive services, emergency and substance abuse treatment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth in the three countries mentioned health as being costly, although in Ghana and Mozambique, many respondents did not feel the need to access health services; • In Ghana, some respondents mentioned the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), a subsidised health programme but there were mixed opinions about its service and coverage, and no reference to impacts of the crisis; • In Vietnam many mentioned that they would like to seek health services at hospitals for the body aches caused by work, but they could not afford them. In most cases, they seek the help of local healers or rely on self-medication.
3.2	Impacts of crisis on diet and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many households shift to cheaper and less nutritious foods; • Cases of individuals going hungry (girls more likely than boys); • Unhealthy eating can lead to obesity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Vietnam young people reported adapting to higher prices of food by buying cheaper and lower quality food; • The reduced capacity to purchase food was reported as a significant problem by youth in all sites in Ghana - several respondents spoke about having to skip meals while two respondents said that they had started to sleep from the afternoon to the evening because they cannot afford lunch, and were too hungry to remain awake; • In Mozambique respondents reported difficulties in meeting food requirements, and also being forced to make adjustments to individual and household budgets because of rising prices with many needing to cut back on basic foodstuffs.
3.3	Demographic impacts and reproductive health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people tend to delay marriage; • Declining fertility rates likely; • No evidence of contraceptive use patterns changing; • Maternal mortality rates linked to longer-term economic stagnation rather than short-term crises; • Increased rates of women giving birth at home; • Fewer pre-natal checkups; • Higher rates of infant mortality; • Little or no evidence on abortion; • HIV/AIDS budgets often cut impacting on access to treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ghana and Mozambique, most respondents knew about contraception and STI prevention saying that though not free, young people can purchase contraception at cheap prices although only one woman said she used family planning; • Some linked adolescent pregnancy with traditional customs, while other respondents, including in Mozambique and Vietnam, linked it to young people's lack of opportunities; • A few young people spoke about HIV/Aids prevalence in their communities – particularly in Mozambique – but it was not widely discussed during interviews; • In Vietnam it was reported that programmes to address reproductive health for youth focus mainly on married young women; • The research found little evidence from respondents about changes in the provision of related health services as a result of the crisis; • Some sexual risk behaviours, such as prostitution, have been linked with the crisis; • Young women seemed to downplay the potential risks they face from engaging in unprotected sex with clients

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3.4	Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased levels of reported stress and clinically diagnosed mental health problems such as anxiety and depression; • Increased emotional and behavioural problems among young people and adolescents; • More likely to be affected by parental stress; • Young women tend to adjust better to underemployment than young men; • Funding for mental health particularly vulnerable; • Increased levels of suicide (particularly among young men) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor working conditions, job insecurity, unemployment and precarious wages were all seen as factors causing young people significant stress and were reported as being exacerbated by the economic crisis; • In Ghana, the reduction in the money available to young people and their households was reported to be triggering anxiety, with youth worried about what will happen the next day; • Young people saw a clear link between substance abuse and mental and other health problems.
3.5	Use of harmful substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis does not usually triggered increased substance abuse, rather it may exacerbate existing tendencies during periods of economic stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption of narcotics and alcohol has increased in all four sites in Ghana over the years, as reported by most interviewees; • Alcoholism and drug abuse amongst youth in Mozambique and Vietnam was also commonly reported as a problem, although not all respondents attributed it to the worsened economic situation, they often linked it to idleness, Many young people in all countries saw substance abuse as a factor deteriorating communities
4	Impacts on young people's social wellbeing and citizenship		
4.1	Intrahousehold tensions and domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships between spouses subject to tensions; • Associations between economic crisis and increased levels of domestic violence; • Very little evidence on effect of crisis on young people's voice and decision-making power within the household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor working conditions, job insecurity, unemployment and precarious wages were all seen as factors generating tensions within households and communities; • Domestic violence was cited as a problem mainly in Ghana and Vietnam (young people spoke less about it in Mozambique). While some respondents felt that it had worsened recently because of rising stress and pressures, other spoke about it as a persistent issue, so that its link to the crisis is ambiguous.
4.2	Social capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declining levels of trust due to higher competition for jobs; some examples of increased civic action to assist most vulnerable; • Fewer opportunities to participate in organised leisure activities; decrease in social contact activities could increase isolation and decrease social capital of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are diverse opinions in each country – and between research sites within the countries – about the availability and use of social networks by youth; • In Ghana, while some reported having access to social networks, such as families, friends and youth clubs, others did not mention having access to them or said they had little time for linking with a formal social network; • In Mozambique, those that spoke about social networks said they were useful to help young people access economic resources, and expand opportunities. • While a few respondents identified youth groups active in their communities, none of them were active members and many mentioned that they were highly politicised; • In Vietnam referred to the Youth Unions and the Women's Union as important social groups that provide support and which could be instrumental to accessing some government programmes.
4.3	Social exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of increased social tensions over distribution of resources; • Evidence of minorities being discriminated against in social protection schemes; • Existing structural inequalities can be exacerbated by economic crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Mozambique, young people often felt excluded from jobs in the city because of the neighbourhood they came from. • No other evidence could be drawn out on this issue

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4.4	Citizenship and political engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of increased alienation from political engagement due to unemployment; • Evidence of young people participating in protests and uprisings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people’s citizenship or their participation in decision-making spaces was not seen to have changed as a result of the crisis; • Several complained about the government’s inadequate response to the situation of youth; • In Mozambique, young people spoke about youth groups from the political party in power who do some activism at the local level, but those who do not align to their ideas, find it difficult to form an opposition movement; • In Ghana, there were mixed opinions with some feeling that youth were excluded from politics and others feeling that they had opportunities to participate; • It was more common for Vietnamese respondents to mention that they participated in local government decision-making processes, including being involved in decisions related to public works.
4.5	Crime and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising youth crime directly related to economic crisis; • Increased incentives for theft and robbery; • Increased gang membership due to breakdown of traditional support networks; • Evidence of increases in property crimes, homicides, rape and sexual assault, drug-related crime and human-trafficking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ghana and Mozambique, crime and insecurity were seen to be on the rise in the past two to three years. • In Mozambique, young people felt the situation endangered the security of the community; • Young people (and mostly males), were identified as those most commonly involved; • Thus, as indicated by evidence in past crises, young people’s involvement in crime and insecurity is one of the adverse consequences of adverse economic impacts and frustration with the lack of opportunities they face.
5	Policies and Programmes		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This review found no analyses of the impacts of macroeconomic crisis management measures on young people. • Most of the literature on policy responses to economic crisis focuses on large-scale, government-led action. There is very little literature on civil society approaches. • There is little detailed evidence concerning how far social spending which is either targeted to or particularly likely to benefit young people is prioritised or de-prioritised during crises and recovery periods. • Most critically of all, there is very little cost-benefit analysis of different policy options for investing in young people and mitigating the impact of crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In none of the countries were there programmes that related to the crisis that directly impacted on youth or directly targeted them. • From the people interviewed, they had very limited knowledge about national policy and expressed that they found it to be complex to access and very bureaucratic • While there are large national action plans focusing on young people, often their implementation is very limited resulting in little or no impact on their target demographic