# PUSH-PULL FACTORS ON CHILD LABOR AND CHILD TRAFFICKING AMONG CHILDREN IN THE WEAVING SECTOR

# AAU in Collaboration with World Vision Ethiopia, E-FACE Project









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# Disclaimer

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# **Table of Contents**

Table of Contents	3
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	6
Executive Summery	7
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	13
1.1. Background of the Study	13
1.1.1. Child labor and Child trafficking	13
1.1.2. Magnitude of the Problem	15
1.1.4. E-FACE Project	17
1.2. Objectives of the Research	17
1.3. Basic Questions of the Study	18
1.4. Delimitation of the Study	18
1.5. Limitations of the Study	19
1.6. Definition of key Terms	19
1.7. Organization of the Study	21
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE	21
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	36
3.1. Research Design	36
3.2. Data Gathering Tools	36
3.3. Sampling Techniques and Procedures	37
3.4. Data Analysis	
3.5. Procedures of the Study	
3.5. Ethical Considerations	
3.6. Data Matrix	
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	
4.2. Presentation and Analysis of Data	
·	

4.2.1. The Magnitude of child labor and trafficking in the project areas	42
4.2.2. Push Factors for Child Labor and Child Trafficking	43
4.2.3. Pull factors for Child labor and Child Trafficking	49
4.2.4. Main Actors in Child Labor and Child Trafficking in the Project Areas	53
4.2.5. Child Trafficking Routes in the Project Areas	58
4.2.6. Victims' Experiences	61
4.2.7. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor and Trafficking	65
4.2.8. Major Institutional and Capacity Gaps	68
4.2.9. Gender Dimension of Child Labor and Trafficking	69
4.2.10. Socio-economic Background of Children Engaged in Child Labor and Trafficking	71
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	73
5.1. Summary of Major Findings	74
5.2. Conclusions	76
5.3. Recommendations	78
References	79
Appendix (Data gathering instrument)	82

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#### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**ABE** Alternative Basic Education

**ACRWC** African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

**BCC** Behavioral Change Communication

**CRC** Convention on the Rights of the Child

**CSTCS** Community Skill Training Centers

**E-FACE** Ethiopia-Fighting Against Child Labor and Child Trafficking

**FDRE** Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**HIV** Human Immunodeficiency Virus

**IEC** Information Education Communication

**ILO** International Labor Organization

**ILAB** Bureau of International Labor Affairs

**IOM** International Organization for Migration

**IPEC** International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor

MCDP Mission for Community Development Program

**MEDA** Mennonite Economic Development Associates

**MOLSA** Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

**NFE** Non-formal Education

NGOs Non-government Organizations

**OAU** Organization of African Unity

OCFT Office of Child Labor and Human Trafficking

**SIMPOC** Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labor

**SNNPR** Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region

**UDHR** Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**UN** United Nations

**UNCRC** United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child

**USDOL** United States Department of Labor

WV World Vision

**WFCL** Worst Forms of Child Labor

# **Executive Summary**

The E-FACE project is funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT). The project works to reduce the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) through creating education opportunities for children who are at risk of or engaged in child labor, improving livelihood status of their families, enhancing social protection systems, and increasing the knowledge base on child labor. The main objective of this study was, therefore, to provide information on factors contributing to child labor and child trafficking mainly in the traditional weaving sector in Ethiopia. The research includes information on the reasons why children engage in child labor and what factors are contributing to child trafficking within the country both from the source (push) and destination points (pull). Based on the major issues to be addressed in the study, basic research questions were raised to serve as guidelines in the course of study. These questions address:

- the extent of child labor and child trafficking
- push and pull factors for child labor and child trafficking
- the main actors in child labor and child trafficking
- the effects of child labor and child trafficking on children
- policies and laws put in place to protect children from child labor and child trafficking
- major institutional and capacity gaps to protect children from child labor and child trafficking
- gender differences in on the push-pull factors for child labor and child trafficking
- the socio-economic background of children engaged in child labor and child trafficking in the project areas.

The study was limited to three zones Gamo Gofa Zone and Wolaita Zone both from SNNPR, and Addis Ababa. Specifically, the researchers randomly selected eight sample woredas or districts from the two zones and a city administration. The study mainly employed qualitative research and a descriptive survey design to describe current problems of child labor and child trafficking in three project areas. To obtain pertinent data on child labor and trafficking, data gathering tools such as documents, key informant interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and case stories

were used. The data were collected from different groups of respondents that include: experts drawn from sample Government offices and NGOs, parents, victims of child labor and child trafficking, students, teachers, principals, employers, traffickers, parents and elders. A total of 532 respondents were selected and included in the study out of which 158 of them were drawn from Addis Ababa, 176 from Wolaita Zone, and the remaining 193 were drawn from Arba Minch Zone. The qualitative data obtained through key informant interviews, FGDs and documents, case stories, and in depth interviews were first coded and categorized under pertinent themes in preparation for analysis. The pertinent themes were directly corresponding to the research questions. After categorizing the data, the respondents' opinions or views were then weighed in terms of the frequency of respondents endorsing it and presented in the study. Finally, the study came-up with the following major findings:

- 1. The major push factors which force children to engage in child labor and trafficking were poverty; loss of parents, parental conflict, mal-treatment of children at home, bad traditional practices such as mutilation of females' genital organ, home-based sexual harassment, forced marriage etc, and heavy work load in their homes.
- 2. The major pull factors were a desire for modern life, role model/peer pressure, aspiration for better education, need for economic independence, and exaggerated information about the destination places from traffickers and who had previously migrated.
- 3. In terms of gender, the study indicated that both male and female children do engage in child labor and become victims of child trafficking. However, there are slight differences in terms of degree of vulnerability and the intensity of the push factors. The demand for female children's labor is higher than that of their male counterparts as employers pay boys more than girls and therefore seek out the cheapest labor source. Female children are unique from their male counterparts in that they are sought for commercial sexual exploitation. Poverty and deprivation being the major push factors for both male and female children, the situation is especially dire for girls as fewer resources are allocated to them at the household level. Whereas boys are vulnerable to child labor and trafficking due to a desire for economic independence and the effects of peer pressure, girls have the added desire to escape bad traditional practices.
- 4. The data obtained regarding the major actors in child labor and trafficking indicated that brokers (both locals and those who come from the destination places), relatives, and peers

- who leave their home earlier. These actors meet and convince the children at different places such as schools, work place or even at home with or without the consent of the parents as well as the children themselves.
- 5. The study disclosed that the victims' face a number of visible and invisible mental and physical health problems including social segregation, deprivation of basic provisions including food, medical care, hygienic working and living place, leave of absence, and commensurate pay and education. Many victims of child labor and trafficking are engaged in prostitution (if female), child rearing and different home chores, collecting fire wood, and shoe shining. Some of them become juvenile delinquents and engage in different crimes.
- 6. Regarding the existence of policy against the act of child labor and trafficking, the study indicated that although the policy exists at national and regional levels the bodies working against these crimes at different levels of the structure, including the experts, are not clear about the policy and how to execute it in fighting child labor and trafficking. They also lack the motivation to put the laws into effect.
- 7. The capacity gaps of various institutions working on fighting child labor and trafficking are also a major hindrance to ending these crimes. The study found that the major capacity gaps are those related to the competence and awareness of officials who are sometimes even negligent in their duties surrounding these matters. There is also a lack of smooth coordination among different agencies working on the issues, little effort to create community awareness and few capacity development trainings for the officials, as well as inadequate resources to fully mobilize all the concerned bodies to fight the problems.
- 8. The study also tried to indicate whether males or females are more susceptible to the child labor and trafficking in the study areas. In this regard therefore, it is attested that both sexes are vulnerable to these crimes but they are exposed to different problems as they are made to engage in different kinds of activities. Females are usually susceptible to problems of spinal cord as they are made to transport water on their back, carry babies for long hours, and collect firewood while males are more prone to abdominal painas they are forced to sit for long hours and carry out weaving without appropriate restroom breaks.

9. The study also confirms that the socio-economic background of the parents is one of the major factors aggravating the problems of child labor and trafficking. Accordingly, almost all of the victims of child labor and trafficking in the study areas are found to be from destitute and illiterate families, as well as large family size. So a parent with meager income but leading a large family has no choice other than to send his/her child to earn money.

Based on the findings the following conclusions were drawn in the study:

- 1. The push factors for child trafficking and child labor are rooted in the different *economic*, *social*, *and cultural* situations in the project areas. The children vulnerable to child trafficking and child labor exploitation desire to escape poverty that they suffer from when they live with their parents or guardians. Born to poor parents that cannot afford providing their offspring with basic necessities, the child has little choice but to resort to another means of earning livelihoods. The parents' traditional livelihood (subsistence agriculture) cannot be a choice to meet the ends as farmland is sliced down to nothing due to the huge population within Ethiopia. As the networks of child traffickers are already in place, the children will fall into the recruitment traps easily. The push factors are social in a sense that the influence of peers, neighbors, relatives, brokers, and family members are profound in the study areas. Finally, the push factors are cultural in a sense that the parents expect their children to give them money despite the children's maturity level. Shortly put, parents depend on their children for survival or expect their children to support themselves at best.
- 2. By the same argument the pull factors do relate to the push factors and in a way they are coping mechanisms for the push factors. Pushed by deadly poverty and social deprivation, the urban areas, as opposed to the home village, is perceived as full of opportunities as presented by peers, brokers, traffickers and relatives. The information about the destination place is not only distorted but also deceptive. The actors, as they drive benefit from this business, use different mechanisms and routes while recruiting and transporting the victims.

The routes are complex and difficult to contain by law enforcing bodies. Despite the efforts made by law enforcement bodies, the problem prevails as the traffickers have stronger networks than the police and enjoy better popular support than that of law enforcing bodies. This seems evident from the fact that it has not stopped the practice despite the presence of formal organization structures, polices at national and regional levels, media campaigns, and a host of project interventions.

- 3. Despite the empty promises made by actors of child trafficking, the victims are exposed to a worse situation than was the case in their hometowns. Victims are treated inhumanly. They suffer from work related physical, psychological and social hazards. Victims suffer from working long hours, ill health, malnutrition, social isolation, humiliation, physical assault, and fatal diseases. They are subjected to double violations of their rights. First, they are forced to take up age-inappropriate jobs. Secondly, they are not properly compensated for their services nor have access to a safe working environment.
- 4. Local polices and laws for protecting children are not only rarely formulated but also inconsistently applied. The task of formulating polices and laws and enforcing them is perceived as an additional task that can be carried out only if conditions allow. Even when some actors try to set local laws, it is difficult to apply them as officials could not find any accordance between articles in the criminal codes and locally set by-laws. Additionally, shortage of staff, budget, office facilities and vehicles are commonly cited as reasons for not acting decisively on combating child trafficking.

Based on the findings of the study and conclusions drawn, the study forwards the following recommendations.

1. As poverty remains the main cause of child trafficking and child labor, it is suggested that the district level actors work towards improving the livelihoods of parents and their children. This can be done by helping local communities engage in labor intensive small businesses and cultivating cash crops that can support big families rather than the traditional subsistence agriculture. In addition to this, improving livelihoods requires creating awareness on family planning so that the available resources are enough to

- support the community. The local level actors can also work on raising awareness on gender issues, parenting styles and parental responsibilities.
- 2. Distorted information about destination locations, coupled with the persuasion of brokers and the victims' speculation about the opportunities available at the destination, remain the main pull factors. Such pieces of information are taken up readily as it is brought by people trusted by victims and their parents. The same informants about the destinations can be used to persuade young people not to aspire for migration. It is recommended that local level actors can recruit and mobilize the returnees as volunteers for raising awareness of young people and the local community about the situation of child labor and its consequences. The returnees can help to denounce child trafficking as they can use the same social legitimacy they usually use when they urge and recruit young people for child labor.

It is advisable to build local capacities to implement laws and policies and strengthen or create a workable structure equipped with the required personnel and facilities. This suggestion is aligned with the current government structure that follows a decentralized approach to decision making approach whereby localities are supposed to address issues locally. This, however, requires that local governments have the human, financial, and structural capacities to materialize the promises of decentralization.

The local offices in charge of protecting children's right need to be restructured and staffed by trained and committed personnel, and provided with the required facilities as deemed important.

#### **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

# 1.1. Background of the Study

## 1.1.1. Child labor and Child trafficking

As stipulated in the first article of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child "a child means every human being below the age of 18 years". The ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, 1999 (No. 182), and their corresponding Recommendations Nos. 146 and 190, respectively, serve as the primary guide for a formal definition of child labor. Convention 138 obliges States Parties to fix a minimum age for employment that should not be less than 15 years, with the exception that developing countries may set the minimum age of employment at 14. Convention No. 138 explicitly introduces a distinction between child labor and light work. While Convention 138 provides flexibility for countries to establish a younger minimum age for children to partake in "light work", it requires countries' minimum age laws to ensure that no person under 18 is allowed to be employed in "hazardous work".

### Convention 182 is more explicit and prohibits the following:

- 1. All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.;
- 2. The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- 3. The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- 4. Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Related recommendation No.190 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor regarding Hazardous Work under Article 3(d) of Convention No. 182, delineates hazardous work as: (i) work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuses; (ii) work

underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces; (iii) work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads; (iv) work in unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health; and, (v) work under particular conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

In more concrete terms, ILO/IPEC defines child labor that concerns "all children under 15 years of age who are economically active excluding (i) those that are under 5 years old and (ii) those between 12-14 years old who spend less than 14 hours a week on their jobs, unless their activities or occupations are hazardous by nature or circumstance. Added to this are 15-17 years old children in the worst forms of child labor.

The current criteria for identifying child labor used by the ILO's Statistical Information and Monitoring Program on Child Labor (SIMPOC) for its global child labor estimates is: (i) a child under 12 who is economically active for one or more hours per week; (ii) a child 14 and under who is economically active for at least 14 hours per week; (iii) a child 17 and under who is economically active for at least 43 hours per week; (iv) a child 17 and under who participates in activities that are "hazardous by nature or circumstance" for one or more hours per week; and, (v) a child 17 and under who participates in an "unconditional worst form of child labor" such as trafficked children, children in bondage or forced labor, armed conflict, prostitution, pornography, illicit activities.

The definition of working children under the Ethiopian legal system includes different aspects of child labor. It, for example, includes children working in domestic work in their own household. It also consists of child labor - children's work that deprives girls and boys of their childhood and dignity, and which is harmful to their physical and mental development. In more comprehensive terms, whether a particular kind of work performed by a child is to be considered child labor may depend on the child's age, the type and conditions of work, and the effects of the work on the child. Child labor is a subset of children's work.

A close observation of some previous studies reveal that some child laborers may have been victims of trafficking and require additional legal protections. A case in point is the situation of Ethiopia's traditional weaving sector which is the focus of the present study. The trafficking of children from rural to urban areas is well-known as a means recruiting child laborers.

According to the Palermo Protocol (Article 3), trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Trafficking covers the whole process of movement of persons starting with securing the consent of victims at the point of origin to the receipt of victims at the point of destination. As such, all persons involved in any aspect of the trafficking process are traffickers. Moreover, processes related to transit are also considered part of the trafficking process.

Although not expressly indicated in the Palermo definition, the trafficking of persons can take place within national borders of one country or across one or more international borders. Understanding these two dimensions of trafficking is important in comprehensively understanding trafficking especially in terms of highlighting the role of intermediate or transit places and actors.

#### 1.1.2. Magnitude of the Problem

According to the ILO 2006 report, around 218 million children were involved in child labor while 126 million children were involved in the worst forms of child labor (including hazardous work, debt bondage, soldiering, prostitution and pornography, and illicit activities). The ILO report also disclosed that about 122 million children in the age group of 5-14 are engaged working around the globe.

Further, a large number of women and children suffer from different types of inhuman abuses and exploitations as a result of trafficking within Ethiopia. Existing studies indicate that trafficking in women and children from rural to urban areas is a prevalent and steadily increasing practice in the country.

#### 1.1.3. Effects of Child Labor and Child Trafficking

From the ILO definition of WFCL, it is easy to understand that child labor could harm the health, safety and morals of children and exposes them to physical, psychological or sexual abuses. ILO's finding on the number of child laborers for the years 2004-2008 is partly based on the threat that the nature of the work poses to a child's health, safety or morals (ILO: 2010). Similarly, the effects of child trafficking can also be discerned by examining its definition. The purpose of trafficking is exploitation including for prostitution other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, and servitude or the removal of organs. Harm to a child's health, safety and morals will be witnessed in any child exposed to these horrendous acts.

Other studies (e.g., McCoy, 2011; Rafferty, 2008) also confirm practices/ trends reported pertaining to the effects of child labor and child trafficking. A study by Rafferty (2008), listed the deprivation of educational opportunities, physical and health problems, effects on emotional wellbeing and behavioral outcomes of child trafficking. Similarly, another study McCoy (2011) indicated that child victims of trafficking are likely to experience various forms of maltreatment and harm including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse. Neglect pertaining especially to lack of adequate care and supervision, disregard for health, educational and social needs, and sensory and food deprivation are findings reported in the same study (McCoy, 2011).

Ethiopia is no exception to the aforementioned effects of child labor and trafficking. The prevalence of child labor in Ethiopia is reported to have a detrimental effect on the realization of the fundamental rights including their right to education, health, and to rest, leisure and recreation. Health, education, and development problems are widespread realities. Moreover, violence against children including physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse broadly exists.

A study on child labor (Save the Children Denmark, 2003), attested that of the subjects covered by a survey, 48.21% revealed facing health problem while 26.79% & 25% of them suffered from malnutrition and exposure to various drug addiction, respectively. A research study conducted in four regional states (Rafferty, 2008) showed that household need for child labor is a major driver

of late arrival at school, absenteeism and dropout at all levels. Additionally, it was indicated that trafficking generally resulted in developmental delays, language and cognitive difficulties, deficits in verbal and memory skills and poorer academic performances (Ibid).

# 1.1.4. E-FACE Project

While talking child labor in Ethiopia, it is worth discussing the contribution being made by E-FACE project in protecting children. The E-FACE project is funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), Office of Child Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT). The project is being implemented by a consortium of three NGOs: World Vision (WV), Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and Mission for Community Development Program (MCDP).

The E-FACE project works to reduce the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) through creating education opportunities for children who are at risk of or engaged in child labor, improving livelihood status of their families, enhancing social protection systems, and increasing the knowledge base on child labor.

## 1.2. Objectives of the Research

The main objective of this study is to provide information on factors contributing to child labor and child trafficking mainly in the traditional weaving sector in Ethiopia. The research attempts to investigate why children engage in child labor and what factors are contributing to child trafficking within the study areas. The study also examines the factors from the source (push) and destination points (pull).

More specifically, the present study aims to:

- Identify the root causes as push-pull in child labor and child trafficking from the source and destination areas.
- Provide information to better understand the complex issues and relationships among the causes and consequences of child labor and child trafficking.
- Provide valuable information on the appropriateness of project interventions.
- Identify the main actors in child trafficking and the reasons for their involvement.
- Understand community's knowledge and perception of child labor and child trafficking and level of efforts on mitigation of child labor and child trafficking.

- Identify the institutional and capacity gaps to combat child labor and child trafficking.
- Identify opportunities, vulnerabilities, capacities and resources in child labor and child trafficking.
- Make recommendations on how to address child labor and child trafficking.

## 1.3. Basic Questions of the Study

Based on the major issues to be addressed in this study the following basic questions were raised to serve as guidelines in the course of the study.

- 1. What is the extent of child labor and child trafficking in the project areas?
- 2. What are the different push factors for child labor and child trafficking from the source in the project areas?
- 3. What are the different pull factors for child labor and child trafficking at destinations in the project areas?
- 4. Who are the main actors in child labor and child trafficking in the project areas? What are child trafficking routes in the research areas?
- 5. What are the main problems children face at child labor and child trafficking in the project areas? What are the effects of child labor and child trafficking on children in the project areas?
- 6. Are there policies and laws put in place to protect child labor and child trafficking in the project areas?
- 7. What are the major institutional and capacity gaps to protect child labor and child trafficking in the project areas?
- 8. Are there differences between male and female children on the push-pull factors for child labor and child trafficking? Is age also a factor?
- 9. What is the socio-economic background of children engaged in child labor and child trafficking (parents' education, family size, parents income, etc)?

# 1.4. Geographic Regions of the Study

The study was delimited to three zones: GamoGofa Zone and Wolaita Zone in SNNPR and Addis Ababa. The study was conducted in eight selected sample woredas or districts chosen randomly from the two zones and a city administration. Accordingly, the study included: three

districts from GamoGofa zone (Chencha, Arbaminch Zuria and West Abaya) two districts from Wolaita Zone (Soddo Town and Humbo woreda) and five woredas from Addis Ababa (woredas 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6). The woreda/ districts included in the study were chosen purposively. The study also randomly selected three KAs from each sample woreda to collect the required data from sample respondents.

## 1.5. Limitations of the Study

One of the constraints faced during the survey for the study was lack of data on the number of children engaged in child labor and child trafficking in all the three zones at all levels. There is limited data collected and recorded on children engaged in child labor and child trafficking in the project areas. As a result, it was difficult to come up with the exact estimate of children affected by the problem and thereby report the magnitude of the problem in the project areas in the study.

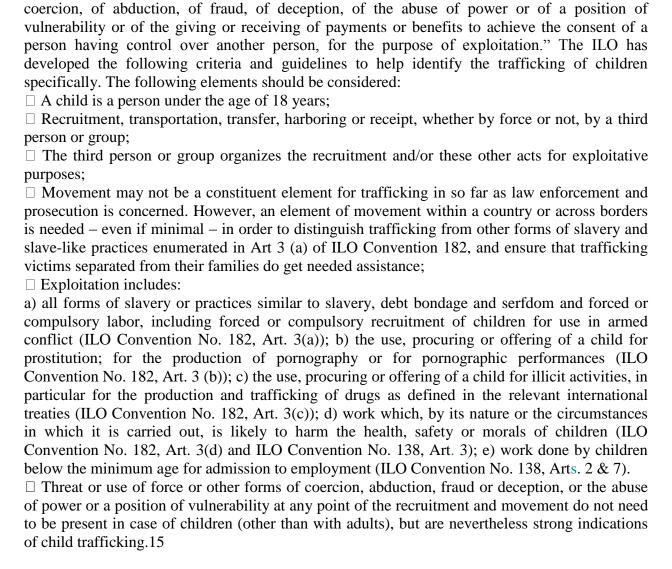
## 1.6. Definition of key Terms

**Child labor**<sup>1</sup> includes those children (minors under age 18) working in the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) as outlined in International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 182 and children engaged in work that is exploitative and/or interferes with their ability to participate in and complete required years of schooling, in line with ILO Convention 138. ILO Convention 182 defines the WFCL as:

- 1. all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- 2. the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- 3. the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; and
- 4. work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

**Child Trafficking**: The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and children, defines trafficking as: "...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of

<sup>1</sup> http://www.dol.gov/ilab/child-forced-labor/What-are-Child-Labor-and-Forced-Labor.htm. Accessed on Feb 10, 2014



**Human traffickers**<sup>2</sup>: include those who recruit, transport, harbor, obtain, and exploit victims, often using force, threats, lies, or other physical and psychological methods of control Essentially, human traffickers can be anyone who is willing to exploit another human being for profit. The traffickers lure and ensnare individuals into labor trafficking and sex trafficking situations using methods of control such as force, fraud, or coercion.. A wide range of criminals, including individual pimps, family operations, small businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal operations, can be human traffickers.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www<u>.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/overview/the-traffickers</u>. Accessed Feb 13, 2014

# 1.7. Organization of the Study

This report is organized into five chapters. The first chapter introduces background information of the problem of child labor and child trafficking in general. This is followed by review of the related literature. The chapter briefly discusses the meanings of child labor, child trafficking, root causes of child labor and child trafficking both from national and international perspectives. This chapter is followed by brief discussions on methodology that discusses research designs, sample selection, data gathering tools, procedures of the study and data analysis, and finally ethical considerations of the study. Chapter four presents data, presentation, analysis and interpretation. Beginning with discussions on background characteristics of respondents, the chapter presents analysis and interpretation of data organized across the key questions raised in the study. Provided in the fifth chapter are the summary of major findings, implications of the study and recommendations.

#### CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter focuses on brief review of the related literature. The chapter incorporates issues related to the magnitude of the problem, push-pull factors on child labor and child trafficking, policy and legal issues, and finally international and national initiatives against child labor and child trafficking.

#### 2.1. Child Labor and Child Trafficking Defined

#### 2.1.1. Child Labor

In defining child labor it is first necessary to define child. This can be seen from the most pertinent instrument on children, that is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The very first article of the convention stipulates that "a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier." It is however worth noting that notwithstanding the provision of the convention, a lesser age can be set under national laws where childhood and thereby child labor ends.

In addition to that of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, almost all research conducted on child labor make reference to International Labor Organization's (ILO) Convention Nos. 138 and 182, and their corresponding Recommendation Nos. 146 and 190 in giving meaning to child

labor. Concerning minimum age for admission to employment ILO Convention 138, in particular, obliges states parties to:

- pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labor and to raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment or work to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons (Article 1);
- specify a minimum age for admission to employment or work within its territory and on means of transport registered in its territory (Article 2(1)) which shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and in any case, shall not be less than 15 years (Article 2(3)) which however could exceptionally be lowered to 14 years in case of Countries whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed (Article 2(4)); and
- set 18 years as the minimum age for admission to any type of employment or work; in situations where it is believed likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons (Article 3(1)). In some cases this may be brought down to 16 years (Article 3(3)).

This Convention also introduces a distinction between 'child labor' and 'light work'. Thus, as stipulated under Article 7 of the Convention, National Laws or Regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is:

- not likely to be harmful to their health or development, and
- not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programs approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received.

Issued in part to complement the convention and the recommendation concerning minimum age for admission to employment, and recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly, ILO Convention 182, the following include worst forms of child labor:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labor or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict (Article 3(a))
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for production of pornography or for pornographic performances (Article 3(b));
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties (Article 3(c)); and
- work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (Article 3(d)).

The convention thus seeks measures to prohibit the above worst forms of child labor, in light of its definition of a child being in harmony with the proposition of the UN CRC to include all persons under the age of 18. The corresponding Recommendation 190 gives meaning to hazardous work that is stipulated under Article 3(d) of the Convention. In identifying hazardous nature of any activity children are engaged in, the following are set as criteria:

- work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
- work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- work in an unhealthy environment which may for example expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging their health,; and
- work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

In light of these conventions and recommendations, child labor deals with engaging a person less than fourteen years of age in any type of work, engaging children age fifteen through seventeen in hazardous labor, or engaging a child of any age in works categorized as the unconditional worst forms of labor.

#### 2.1.2. Child Trafficking

The Palermo Protocol revolves around preventing, suppressing and punishing trafficking in persons, especially women and children. That protocol is supplemental to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (The Palermo Protocol) which is used as a parameter in many studies. Article 3 of the Protocol defines 'trafficking in persons' as:

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of ... threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. [where]exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

While this definition involves a number of acts, means and end results having their own legal understanding and significance as constituting the term trafficking in persons, another study traces out the following as points identified in the above definition:

- trafficking covers the entire process starting from the point of origin to the point of destination;
- so long as coercion, fraud or deception are the means through which it is secured, consent of the victim doesn't preclude the act from being one of trafficking;
- the purpose of trafficking is exploitation;
- though not explicitly indicated in the Protocol, the trafficking could take place within the boundaries of a single nation or could be transnational;

- unlike in the case of human smuggling, illegal crossing of borders is not a prerequisite to make trafficking illegal; and
- women and children are more vulnerable to trafficking in persons than men.

#### 2.2. Magnitude of the Problems

Child labor and child trafficking are undoubtedly global challenges faced by nations all over the world. As indicated in an ILO report (2006) titled 'The End of Child Labor Within Reach,' 218 million children were involved in child labor while 126 million were involved in the worst forms of child labor (including hazardous work, debt bondage, soldering, prostitution and pornography, and illicit activities). The report also disclosed that about 122 million children in the age group of 5-14 are engaged working around the globe.

According to ILO/IPEC (International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor) publication (2010) 'Global Child Labor Developments: Measuring Trends from 2004-2008' issued though the global trend in child labor have witnessed a slight decrease, the figure pertaining to working children in general and child labor in particular remained alarmingly high. The study indicated that there were 306 million children ages 5 to 17 in employment in 2008. Amongst these, 215 million were engaged in child labor out of which more than half were engaged in hazardous work. The regional distribution of child laborers and trends in employment covered by the study also confirmed the global nature of the problem. The report states that of all the children in Sub-Saharan Africa, 25.3 percent are engaged in child labor. This percentage is followed by Asia and the Pacific and Latin America where 13.3 percent and 10 percent of children are engaged, respectively.

As human trafficking has continued to be a global challenge, child trafficking has remained a matter of particular concern. Key findings of a UNODC global report on trafficking (2012) indicated that trafficking of children appears to be increasing. According to the report, of the detected victims whose age profile was known and reported in the period 2007-2010, some 27% were children showing a 7% rise compared to the period 2003-2006. An ILO study issued in 2006 on its part, estimated that about 1.2 million children are affected globally every year. The 2012 UNODC report further indicated that trafficking for forced labor accounts for 36% where

the share of detected cases has doubled over the preceding four years. It was further reported that trafficking for forced labor is more frequently detected in Africa and the Middle East.

An IOM study (2012) indicates that among the trafficked persons it provided assistance in the year 2011, around forty percent were minors. The report also showed that 53% of these individuals secured the assistance after having been trafficked for the purpose of forced labor. In its 2009 survey study the IOM estimated that at least 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking in Ethiopia every year. Children and women between the ages of 8 and 24 years are the most vulnerable to such abuse and exploitation and the violence associated with them.

Children in Ethiopia are reported to be engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in dangerous activities in agriculture and domestic service. It was indicated that of the 50.1% of children aged 5-14 who are working, 95.2 % are engaged in the agriculture sector (US Department of Labor, 2011).

Likewise, findings of a baseline survey (World Vision Ethiopia, 2012.) on child labor in two zones of SNNPR and Gullele Sub-City of Addis Ababa City Administration (which are also subjects of this study) revealed that about 52.99 % of the surveyed children of age 5 to 9 years are engaged in some kind of work in the surveyed areas. It was also found that 25.81 % of all children below 5 years of age are engaged in activities in the surveyed sites. The survey further indicated that children are engaged both in non-economic and economic activities and that 42.45 percent are engaged in paid work. In terms of the type of work the children are engaged in, the survey revealed the following were the primary sectors of children's labor force participation: traditional weaving (50.13 %), daily casual labor (16.54 %), agricultural activities (12.76 %), and domestic work (10.81%).

#### 2.3. Push-Pull Factors to Child Labor and Child Trafficking

A number of reasons are mentionable as push-pull factors to child labor and child trafficking and the reasons range from what can collectively be categorized as economic factors explainable both from the perspective of the victims and the victimizers to other social, and policy and legal issues.

#### 2.3.1 Economic Factors

Extreme poverty, youth unemployment, and restricted market for unskilled labor are amongst the factors that push victims to child labor. Demand for cheap labor and promises of steady development and better living conditions act as pull factors both to child labor and trafficking.

Poverty is the most usually cited reason for the persistence of child labor. When family income is inadequate, children go to work either to increase the income or even be sole bread winners (Save the Children Denmark, 2003). The high levels of engagement in labor activities among Ethiopian children have been attributed to high poverty levels prevalent in most parts of the country especially in rural areas where access to basic social services is limited. According to the Ethiopian child labor survey conducted in 2001, 90 % of children working in economic activities were working to supplement family income.

Apart from poverty, unemployment and a restricted market for unskilled labor are mentioned as factors which aggravate child labor. Unemployment and restricted market access further entice individuals to take risks in order to seize opportunities elsewhere. The demand for cheap unskilled labor in the informal economic sector also makes children easy prey to trafficking finally ending up in cases of worst forms of child labor.

With regard to the demand for cheap unskilled labor, it was highlighted that domestic servants render important services in many households in urban areas and legally securing one with low payment can be difficult. This stimulated traffickers to recruit and traffic women and children from poor regions in the rural areas to urban centers.

#### 2.3.2 Social Factors

Various social factors which at times have economic implications play their role in the ongoing problem. Natural and human made calamities, harmful traditional practices affecting specially women and children, early marriage, disintegration of family due to HIV/AIDS and other reasons are mentioned in various studies as social factors that contribute to the magnitude of the problem.

When we see the international landscape of child trafficking, persistent war, civil strife and natural disasters leave many to struggle for the daily necessities for basic survival. Prevalence of biased gender structures in rural areas that are manifested in the widespread practices of harmful

traditions affecting women and children also play a significant role as push factors towards trafficking. Deeply engraved gender disparities contribute to the vulnerability of girls to child labor in Ethiopia. The prevalence of harmful traditional practices like abduction, early marriage, and female genital mutilation, especially in rural areas, contribute to the problem by fueling migration and trafficking in girls to urban areas. As a result, girls are pushed into domestic work and child prostitution wherein the worst forms of child labor occur.

Family disintegration due to divorce and other reasons such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic is another factor worth mentioning. Particularly pertaining to the later it has fueled a rise in the number of orphaned and vulnerable children. The sickness and death of parents and older siblings compels children to engage in labor to take care of sick family members, pay for their treatment, supplement family income and take care of younger siblings. This, in turn, increases their vulnerability to exploitative work. Social exclusion of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and caring for HIV positive parents and sibling further increases their vulnerability to child labor and exploitation.

#### 2.4 Policy and Legal Issues

Studies also indicate that legal factors, especially the absence of specific laws and protective policies, as well as effective implementation and enforcement mechanisms contribute to the prevalence of child labor and trafficking. Institutional capacity limitations, awareness related problems and limited attention to child labor cases among law enforcement bodies have been identified as contributing factors. One study indicated that 'pertaining to trafficking linked to various types of forced labor, inadequate labor laws and regulations and poor enforcement create serious problems for the victims'. An inadequate legal measure against perpetrators/child traffickers was also raised as a major concern in the study.

#### 2.4.1. International and National Initiatives against Child Labor and Child Trafficking

#### 2.4.1.1. International and Regional Instruments

There are a number of International and Regional instruments used as tools in fighting against child labor and child trafficking. While some of them broadly deal with the right and protection that needs to be accorded to children, others concentrate on addressing specific issues.

#### a. The UN Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC)

The CRC was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20, 1989 and entered into force on September 2, 1990. It defines and upholds basic rights for all children in the world. The Convention is considered a guiding tool in most major child protection strategies because it comprehensively represents all children's rights in one document.

These rights apply to all people under 18 unless majority is attained earlier under national laws everywhere in the world regardless of race, religion, gender, personal status or situation, whether they live in rich or poor countries. The CRC has the following four main principles:

- best interest of the child (Article 3): demanding decisions that affect children should be based on the assessment of the best interest of the child;
- non-discrimination (Article 2): obliging States to provide equal opportunities to all children regardless of their origin, birth, gender, social origin, religion, race or any other status;
- survival and Development (Article 6): stressing the duty of the State and all adults to ensure that all resources are deployed to support optimal survival and development of children; and
- participation (Article 12): seeking children's participation and consideration of their view in all matters affecting them.

Based on the above principles, the convention covers the rights of the child that states are duty bound to respect, protect and fulfill. Of particular interest for the topic of discussion will be Articles 32, 35 and 36. Article 32 reads that state parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. It further obliges state parties to take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures through in particular providing for a minimum age for admission to employment, appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment, and appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the article.

Article 35 in its part obliges states parties to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form. This is further strengthened by Article 36 which demands states parties to protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

#### b. ILO Minimum Age Convention 138

Although child labor was already recognized as a priority issue in the 1919 ILO Constitution, the minimum age convention was reached in 1973 (ILO, 2010: 13).

#### c. ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labor

This treaty commits each State, which ratifies it to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition of the worst forms of child labor as a matter of urgency (Article 1). According to the convention, the term 'child' applies to all persons under the age of 18 (Article2).

The Convention listed down worst forms of child labor to comprise the following:

- All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict (Article 3 (a));
- The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances (Article 3 (b));
- The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties (Article 3 (c));and
- Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (Article 3 (d)).

The recommendation accompanying convention 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labor Recommendation 190) on its part calls upon states to provide as punishable offences those worst forms of child labor listed down under Article 3 (a)-(c) of the convention.

#### d. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)

This is a regional treaty that complements the UNCRC. It was adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and addresses issues of child rights. Article 15 of the ACRWC requires that every child shall be protected from all forms of economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development and obliges parties to the Charter to take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures to that effect.

Article 29 of the Charter prohibits sale, trafficking and abduction. It asks state parties to take appropriate measures to prevent the abduction, the sale of, or traffic for any purpose or in any form, by any person including parents or legal guardians of the child and use of children in all forms of begging. Peculiar to the Charter is the provision of its Article 31 imposing responsibilities on the African Child. Accordingly every child shall have responsibilities towards his family and society, the State and other legally recognized communities and the international community including:

- to work for the cohesion of the family, to respect his parents, superiors and elders at all times and to assist them in cases of need;
- to serve his national community by placing his physical and intellectual abilities at its service;
- to preserve and strengthen social and national solidarity;
- to preserve and strengthen African cultural values in his relations with other members of society in the spirit of tolerance, dialogue and consultation and to contribute to the moral well-being of the society;
- to preserve and strengthen the independence and the integrity of his country; and

• to contribute to the best of his abilities at all times and at all levels, to the promotion and achievement of the African Unity.

#### 2.4.2 National Instruments

#### a. The FDRE Constitution

The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) (1995) devotes a whole chapter (Chapter 3) to fundamental rights and freedoms. Amongst the rights and freedoms enshrined under this chapter are the rights of children. More specifically, Article 36 recognizes rights of children which include the right to: life, name and nationality, know and be cared for by his or her parents or legal guardians, not to be subjected to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his or her education, health or wellbeing, to be free of corporal punishment or cruel inhumane treatment in schools and other institutions responsible for the care of children.

As is enshrined under the article providing for scope of application and interpretation of the fundamental rights and freedoms, it is stipulated that they shall be interpreted in a manner confirming to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenants on Human Rights and International Instruments adopted by Ethiopia. Article 9 (4) of the Constitution provides that all international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are an integral part of the laws of the land. Accordingly, not only that the article providing for child right needs to be given meaning in light of the international instruments previously discussed, but also all the international conventions themselves are integral parts of the domestic laws as they are all ratified by the country.

#### b. Policies

The national policy framework does not include a single and comprehensive national policy dealing with child labor and trafficking. However, a number of policy documents (e.g., Development and Social Welfare Policy, the Education and Training Policy) contain provisions on child labor issues.

'The Development and Social Welfare Policy acknowledges poverty and economic marginalization of families as two of the major factors driving children into labor and

incorporates child labor as one of the key policy issues of the country in providing for the overall framework for interventions on social development issues' (Getnet 2010). It also includes a specific provision for protection of children against abuse and exploitation, and identifies creating a suitable and appropriate environment for orphans, abandoned children, and the mentally challenged children as a policy focus. Extending support to families to improve the economic capacity of households and thereby eliminate one of the factors forcing children into child labor is the other component to the policy. However, the policy does not provide for measures for tackling these specific problems (Ibid).'

The Education and Training Policy specifically provides that "grain mills and water supplies will be provided close to the communities so that children will be spared domestic labor, which is an impediment to their schooling. The policy also provides for non formal education (NFE) targeting out of school children and the establishment of community skill training centers (CSTCS) in rural Communities" (Getnet, 2010:55).

#### c. Other Legislation

There is other legislation that plays a role in tackling issues of child labor and child trafficking. These include:

- The 1960 Civil Code of the Empire of Ethiopia;
- Private Employment Agency Proclamation No. 104/1998;
- The Revised Family Code Proclamation No. 213/2000;
- Labor Proclamation No. 377/2003; and
- The Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 2004.

The Civil Code holds a person liable for failing the duty to educate and to supervise persons entrusted to his charge or supervision by law (Article 2025). It also contains provisions that govern household/domestic services. The Private Employment Agency Proclamation criminalizes the performing of employment services in Ethiopia without having obtained a license (Article 18) which assists to tackle problems of trafficking.

The Revised Family Code in its part is proclaimed with the specific aim of harmonizing Ethiopian Family laws with the provisions of the Constitution and International instruments including the UNCRC. It provides for the protection of minors and imposes duty on guardians and care givers to ensure the safety and welfare of the child's physical and intellectual development.

Labor Proclamation No. 377/2003 is the main legislation that governs worker-employer relationships and includes a chapter on working conditions of young workers. It defines young worker as a person between 14 and 18 years of age and prohibits employing a person less than 14 years of age. It also makes it illegal to employ young workers in a position on account of its nature or due to the condition in which it is carried out endangers the life or health of the young worker (Article 89). The proclamation further stipulates that the normal hours of work for young workers shall not exceed seven hours a day (Article 90) and explicitly prohibits employing young workers on night works between 10 pm and 6 am, over time work, weekly rest days or public holidays (Article 91).

The Penal Code criminalizes acts and omissions with the intention of protecting children both from child labor and trafficking. Acts and omissions it penalizes include: Maltreatment of Minors (Article 576), Enslavement (Article 596), Trafficking in Women and Children (Article 597), Habitual Exploitation for Pecuniary Gain (Article 634), Trafficking in Women and Minors (Articles 635 & 636); and failure to bring up (Article 659).

#### CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter briefly presents the study design, sampling techniques, sources of data, data gathering tools, procedures of the study, data analysis and ethical considerations in the study.

#### 3.1. Research Design

This study mainly employed a qualitative research approach with very limited quantitative data in order to get rich data and to promote in-depth understanding about child labor and child trafficking in the project areas. Additionally, to identify and describe current problem of child labor and child trafficking in the three project areas, the study employed exploratory research design. In brief, the necessary data were collected using multiple data gathering tools from different stakeholders as described below.

#### 3.2. Data Gathering Tools

To obtain pertinent data on child labor and trafficking, four data gathering tools were used. The tools used include: documents, in-depth interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, and case studies. Given below is a brief description of each of these tools.

#### **Documents**

As part of the data sources, the present study has consulted some pertinent documents. Documents reviewed for this purpose include: existing national and international policies on child labor and child trafficking, laws and conventions as well as secondary data from previous related works on child labor and child trafficking (e.g., reports, past researches and other document). International policies, laws and conventions pertaining to child labor and child trafficking have also been used.

#### **Key Informant Interviews**

Interviews were conducted with different groups of respondents drawn from government partner organizations, NGOs, community leaders, school principals, teachers, parents and children engaged in child labor and child trafficking. Experts from government partner organizations such as Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), Women's and Children's Affairs Office, Police, Judges, and Prosecutors at different levels were included in the study.

# **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**

Focus group discussions were conducted with community representatives, children who are victims of child labor and child trafficking and teachers. Participants of the FGDs range from 8 to 12 in number. The FGDs were moderated by data collectors by the principal investigators and the principal researchers themselves. While conducting the FGDs, due attention was given to the demographics of the group members (sex, age, educational status, etc.) of the participants in each group. Each discussion took place for one to one and half hours.

#### **Case Studies**

Different case studies on child labor and child trafficking in the project areas were identified and documented in the research report. Accordingly, the case studies included accounts/stories narrated by sex workers, trafficked children, and children engaged in hazardous work were collected and narrated in the study.

### 3.3. Sampling Techniques and Procedures

The study was conducted in the 12 districts incorporating Chencha, Dita, Arbaminch Zuria, Arbaminch Town, Western Abaya from GamoGofa Zone, SoddoZuria, Soddo Town, Damot Gale, and Humbo from Wolaita Zone, and woreda 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 from Gulelle sub city of Addis Ababa.

From these districts the study was carried out in selected eight sample woredas or districts selected randomly from the two zones and Addis Ababa city administration. Accordingly, whereas the three districts chosen from GamoGofa zone include: Chencha, Arbaminch Zuria and West Abaya, the two districts selected from Wolaita zone were Soddo Town and Humbo woreda. The five woredas chosen from Addis Ababa were: woreda 1,2, 3, 5 and 6. On top of this, the study randomly selected three KAs from each sample woreda to collect information from sample respondents.

The selection of sample respondents from each sample woreda was carried out as follows. A purposive sampling technique was used to select sample experts drawn from different Government and NGOs in the sample zones and woredas included in the study. Accordingly, 2 experts from each government organization mentioned above were included at zonal and woreda

levels and they participated in the individual interviews. At school level, students and staff (teachers and principals) were included in the study. Whereas students consisted of 8-12 children who had returned from trafficking destination areas, the staff comprised of 2-3 teachers as well as the principals/vice principals who were selected purposely. While the students and teachers took part in the FGDs, the principals were used as interviewees. On the other hand, 2 officials were selected from 3 sample NGOs working on child labor and child trafficking in the project areas. The experts were participated as interviewees. Besides, sample employers, child traffickers, and child sex workers were chosen using Snow ball sampling technique and were included in the study. Parents of the victims and children engaged in child labor and child trafficking were also selected from each sample KAS as part of the research. These participants were using accidental sampling and participated in the informant interviews. (For details about the samples included in the study and for total number of participants, see chapter four).

#### 3.4. Data Analysis

The data collected in the study was mainly qualitative. Hence, the qualitative data obtained through key informant interviews, FGDs and documents, case stories, and in depth interviews were first coded and categorized under pertinent themes in preparation for analysis. The pertinent themes presented in the findings were directly corresponding to the research questions. After categorizing the data, the respondents' opinions or views were then weighted by frequency of respondents endorsing it. The organized data were then presented in the results section of the report sometimes verbatim for each type of respondent group and other times paraphrased. To maintain the anonymity of the victims of child labor and trafficking, pseudonyms have been used.

# 3.5. Procedures of the Study

The data collection for the study was carried out as follows. First, the study was led by three senior researchers. Each senior researcher was responsible for managing the data collected at each zone/project area. In addition, each researcher was assisted by one PhD student and five assistants who have a minimum of college diploma and selected from each local area or project site for the survey. All the data gathering tools were prepared in English and then translated to Amharic. Then, a pilot study of the instruments was carried out at woreda 2 of Gulelle sub-city of Addis Ababa which is not included in the three samples to check the validity and reliability of

the instruments. After the necessary feedback was collected on the instruments, the final data collection was prepared.

The selection of 3 PhD students was carried out by the three senior researchers. Following that, the three 3 PhD students involved as assistant researchers were briefed on the purposes and the instruments developed for the study. The final data collection at each project area was led by a senior researcher and a research assistant (i.e. a PhD student). Accordingly, the data collection at Addis Ababa was led by Dr. Jeilu Oumer and assisted by Dejene Nigusie, a PhD student at Addis Ababa University. Similarly, the data collected at Wolaita Zone was led by Ayalew Shibeshi (Associate Prof.) and Ashebir Bezabih, a PhD student. The data collection at Arab Minch Zone was led by Dr. Befekadu Zeleke and Demoze Degefa, a PhD student at Addis Ababa University. After trips to each sample project area or zone, contacts were made with E-FACE project staff and brief introductions were made. Then, the purposes of the visits, which was already communicated to the respective zones and even to woredas from WVE E-FACE Project Head Office in Addis Ababa, was further elaborated to the bodies concerned prior to data collection. That was followed by the recruitment and selection of five enumerators at each project area of each sample zone. The data collectors were trained for one day on each data gathering tool and conducted a practice test on the instruments in the nearby KAs. The final data collection in the sample Woredas and KAs was conducted following comments and discussions between the researcher, his assistant and data collectors.

#### 3.5. Ethical Considerations

The study was conducted in a way that meets ethical standards. First, the consultants clearly communicated the purpose of the study to each sample respondent. Secondly, the researchers informed respondents that (1) participation is fully based on their willingness; (2) the data will be used only for the purpose of the study, and (3) information will be used without the name of the respondents attached to it (that is, under anonymity). Overall, therefore, the respondents were informed about their rights not to participate in the study. They participated only after securing informed consent. Special attention and efforts were also given to ensure the consent of

trafficked children, traffickers and commercial sex workers during interviews so as to get their willingness to participate in the study.

# 3.6. Data Matrix

No	Key Issues/Basic Questions	Data Sources	Instruments	Data Analysis
1	What is the extent of child labor and child trafficking in the project areas?	Documents	Document review	Qualitative Quantitative
2	What are the different push factors for child labor and child trafficking from the source in the project areas?	Experts, parents, elders children, students, teachers, principals, employers	Key informant views, FGDs	Qualitative
3	What are the different pull factors for child labor and child trafficking at destinations in the project areas?	Experts, parents, children, students, teachers, principals, employers	Key informant interviews, FGDs	Qualitative Quantitative
4	Who are the main actors in child labor and child trafficking in the project areas? What are child trafficking routes in the project areas?	Experts, parents, children, students, teachers, principals, employers	Key informant interviews, FGDs	Qualitative
5	What are the main problems children face at child labor and child trafficking in the project areas? What are the effects of child labor and child trafficking on children in the project areas?	Parents, elders, children	Key informant interviews, FGDs, case stories	Qualitative
6	Are there policies and laws put in place to protect child labor and child trafficking in the project areas?	Document reviews, experts	Document reviews and Key informant interviews,	Qualitative
7	What are the major institutional and capacity gaps to protect child labor and child trafficking in the project areas?	Experts	Key informant interviews	Qualitative
8	Are there differences between male and female children on the push-pull factors for child labor and child trafficking?	Experts, parents, children, students, teachers, principals, employers	Key informant interviews, FGDs,	Qualitative
9	What is the socio-economic background of children engaged in child labor and child trafficking (parents' education, family size, parents income, etc)?	Parents, children	Qualitative	Qualitative

#### CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter deals with data presentation, analysis and interpretation. Beginning with discussion of informants' background characteristics, the chapter presents empirical materials collected from the field in detail.

# 4.1. Informants' Background Characteristics

As shown Table 1 below, a total of 532 respondents participated in the study. As data in tables 2-4 in the annex section indicates, of these respondents, 158 were drawn from Addis Ababa, 176 from Wolaita Zone, and the remaining 193 were drawn from Gamo Gofa Zone (for details see Tables 2-4 and the annex). Regarding sex of respondents, the majority 382 (71.8 %) were male respondents while the remaining 150 (28.2 %) were females.

Table 1: Background Characteristics of Respondents

Informants	Sex		Age Cate	Age Category				Total
Group	M	F	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	>51	
Experts	59	19	-	32	27	13	6	78
Parents	64	24	-	-	22	42	24	88
Victims	40	20	60	-	-	-	-	60
Students	56	31	87	-	-	-	-	87
Teachers	94	37		45	37	19	-	101
Principals	22	13		16	14	5	-	35
Employers	20	1		-	4	10	7	21
Elders	57	5		-	12	14	36	62
	382	150						532

The data in Table 1 further indicates groups of informants that participated in the study. And the groups of respondents who took part in the study include: experts (14.66 %), parents (16.54 %), victims (11.28%), students (16.35%), teachers (18.98), principals (6.58%), employers (3.95 %), and elders (11.65 %).

As indicated in the table above the majority of the respondents are male. This is due to various reasons, the major ones are the social structure (patriarchal society) where only males are considered as community elders, besides, most of the office positions such as principal ship and woreda experts are represented by males. Moreover, females were not available by the time of data collection, though both male and females were invited for the interviews.

# 4.2. Presentation and Analysis of Data

The data gathered from the sample informants mainly through interview and focus group discussion are presented and analyzed under different thematic areas.

# 4.2.1. The Magnitude of child labor and trafficking in the project areas

As discussed in the preceding sections, in its 2009 survey, the International Office of Migration study estimated that at least 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking in Ethiopia every year. Children and women between the ages of 8 and 24 years are the most vulnerable to such abuse and exploitation and the violence associated with them.

Various efforts exerted to compile data on the extent of child labor and child trafficking in the project areas were not fruitful. That was because there were no available records at all levels starting from the lowest kebele administrations to zonal level other than the data obtained from Gamo Gofa Zone Women's, Youth and Children's Affairs Department for the year 2009 as shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Number of Children Trafficked from the Project Areas (2009)** 

No	District/Site	No Children
1	Kucha	1
2	Kamba	45
3	Daramalo	59
4	Bonke	39
5	Arba Minch Zuria	31
6	Dita	2

7	Chencha	5
8	Boreda	2
9	Uba	2
10	Wolayta	8
11	S. Omo	2
12	Segen	1
13	Arba Minch town	42
14	Gofa sawla town	33
15	Other areas	2
	Total	274

Source: MOLSA, Arab Minch Zonal

office

# 4.2.2. Push Factors for Child Labor and Child Trafficking

Factors that push children to child labor and force them to child trafficking were discussed and enumerated by experts interviewed for the study. For the sake of clarity and brevity, the major push factors for child labor and trafficking are summarized in the Box 1 below.

Box 1: Push Factors for Children's Trafficking and Child Labor: Expert's views

Due to poor economic background of parents children leave their homes seeking for a better life.			
To escape from overloaded duties both in the farm and in their homes.			
Searching for better life			
Parents are unable to satisfy the basic needs of their children such as food, clothing, etc.			
Children leave their homes to do manual work in different institutes of agriculture in order to buy			
new clothes like their friends			
Problem of attitude to work and change their life with in their own hometown			
Most of them leave because of poverty, lack parents and searching for work to live better life			
Some parents encourage their children to go to other places to work, get money and help them			
Poor management of the family make the children leave their home and go for other places			
weak follow-up of the family			
Large family size			
Parents let them to go to their relatives' houses and work to get money			
Disagreement with parents			
Those who lost their parents leave their homes to fulfill their basic needs			
Most parents in this area don't have adequate income to satisfy the basic needs of their children			
Some parents encourage their children to go to other places and get money through their labor and			
help them economically			
Brokers provide with false information that their life will be changed if they go and work in other			
areas			
Divorce of parents			

To improve themselves and help their family economically

To overcome poverty, to fulfill their basic needs and to support their family

Their parents do not fulfill children with their basic needs for living

Disliking their birth place

Heavy labor work both at home and in the fields

Peer influence

Observing the role models and accepting false information from them

Parents are unable to cover school costs and advise the children to engage in work

The above statements from experts indicate various reasons for children's engagement in child labor and trafficking to other places. The following push factors could be summarized from the above information from experts.

Parents' poor economic background or poverty is the major push factor that force children for trafficking and child labor. When parents are poor and fail to provide children with the basic necessities, children don't want to live in a desperate life. As they grow up, they flee their family to look for better opportunities and try to change their parents' as well as their own life by working in different sectors. Particularly, when parents fail to afford the educational costs for their children, they advise them to work as well as learn by covering school expenses through their labor. This forces children to go to other urban areas in search of jobs particularly during the summer season when schools are closed. This introduces children to modern urban life. They start getting relatively better food, clothes, and in general modern life. As they become more familiar with urban life, they hesitate to go back to their miserable life with their parents and decide to continue working in these urban areas. Some parents also encourage their children to go to other areas to work and help them through the income they get from their labor. Particularly when parents see children who left the area have changed their parents' life from the income they collected, they insist their own children to go and do same for them.

The fact that children are overburdened by domestic chores at home is one other key trend that stood out from the discussions held with experts. Prior to departing from their family, children are engage in different chores. They carry out activities such as looking after cattle, fetching fire wood and water, caring for babies, farming, which over burden them beyond their ages. To make matters worse, parents penalize their children when they think they have 'failed' to discharge their responsibilities. That leads to children developing hatred toward their family and rural life

in general. This makes children want to get rid of all these duties and responsibilities and leave their homes and flee to urban areas to get employments.

When children lose one of their parents, either father or mother or both, due to death or divorce, they are exposed to different problems. They lack someone who looks after them for their clothing, food, education, etc. and the only possibility is to go and work either in relatives' homes, employed in different activities by their labor, or gets some money for survival. When parents are divorced, children are forced to live with one of their parents who could get married to another wife or husband. This is another challenge that children face due to lack of peace with their step father or mother. When they do not get their freedom from these parents they decide to go and work and/or leave their homes for other areas.

As it is clearly stated by respondents, children who left their home and succeeded also influence other children flee their rural areas. These children always come with better clothing, shoes, mobiles, etc. during their family visits on national and local holidays. They also observed supporting their families with some money they collected through their labor. Children, who witness these advantages of leaving these areas, decide to go to urban areas looking for better life through their labor. They are also advised by these role models to go with them and work to assist their parents with the income earned from their labor.

Brokers are also other factors that force children into trafficking and child labor from the sources. As it was iterately discussed by respondents, brokers approach parents and children themselves, and provide false information and entice children flee their localities. Promising children to get them good jobs, brokers are reported to convince children that their life and their family's would change if they leave the area and work in other places and promise them to get jobs. By so doing, brokers get money from employers as well as children later after taking them to urban areas.

Parents also have the following concern on factors that push children to trafficking and child labor.

### Box 2: Push Factors for Child Trafficking and Child Labor: Parent's views

Parents low economic status to satisfy the children's basic needs

Parents' continuous punishment of their children

When their basic needs are not satisfied children flee their local areas

Large family size due to polygamy and lack of family planning

Small size of farming land

Limited awareness about the conditions of living in other places

Pressure from peer groups

**Brokers** 

Lack of proper guidance and counseling from parents to children

Discussions held with parents are also in agreement with that of that of experts regarding factors that push children to trafficking and child labor from the sources. In the eyes of the parents, poor economic backgrounds, poor disciplinary methods of parents, large family size caused by lack of adequate information on reproductive health service and polygamy coupled with small farming lands, and overburden duties are emphasized as root causes for children's trafficking and child labor. The roles played by brokers and peers were also presented as additional push factors.

It should be noted that it is stories told by the by children who are victims of child labor and child trafficking, which were quite telling and more powerful. According to one of the victims of child labor:

I come from a very large family of 12 children. Besides, because they are poor, my parents couldn't send me to school. Instead I was forced to be employed to get money As a child labor I had to do many chores: prepare thread, look after the cattle, cook, fetch water, and gather wood, go to the local market and sell and buy stuff and other places. My employer told me that I could get a better living with him through working.

Another victim further states that he had to engage in child labor due to his "inability to learn following my father's death and my mother's economic problem. To help myself and to wear clothes, I decided to go to another place and get employed". Obviously, these statements from the victims support experts' and parents' views of push factors on children's trafficking and child labor.

Teachers, principals and students involved in the FGDs and interviews at school level echo the views of the experts, parents and victim children discussed above. Summarized also underline the following reasons for children's trafficking and child labor.

Box 3: Teachers, Principals and Students Views on Push factors for Children's Trafficking and Labor

To live a better life
Due to deaths of their family
Because of lack of sufficient food in their homes
Heavy family workload
False information from brokers
Because of family punishment, pressure
Because of unfulfilled needs for their education
Because of large family size
Peer pressure

One of the teachers who took part in the FGDs has, for example, this to say:

Though in rare cases, child labor and trafficking could result in unfortunate incidents taking place at schools or in relation the teaching-learning process in general. For example, students tend to flee the school when they quarrel with their teachers in a classroom. They may also leave the school for good and mover to other places for work when they frequently fail to do their class work and assignments or come to class, miss classes and conflicts occur following that.

A remark by a student who participated in one of the FGDs is even more detailed:

Children leave their family for different reasons. People with better income want their children to be effective in education .These people fulfill any educational materials for their children. However, those with low economic background could not fulfill basic needs and educational materials for their children. Because of poverty, children are forced to leave their family. On the other hand, there are a lot of people who want to use child labor in different towns. The brokers and children's 'relatives 'agitate the children

to go to other places not for the benefit of the children but for their own. They cheat parents, their children and they attract the children referring to some of their role models. Most of the time children leave their parents because of peer pressure. When the peers come to celebrate holidays with their family, they contact their friends who are with economic problems. Then, they start convincing children saying what are you doing here? If you go this or that place you will get better income and live better life. Due to these factors children leave their homes.

Generally, the above discussions indicate that poverty fueled various actors as the main driving forces behind child labor and trafficking.

Children were also asked if parents are behind children's engagement in child trafficking and child labor in their localities. The following remark by one FGD participant could be considered as representative view:

Some children discuss about going to other places with their family. Accordingly, parents with low economic background encourage their children to go to another places and work. Because of poverty these parents could not feed their children properly. Most of the time, children go to other places during the summer time when schools are closed. Summer is a break time for all children and their parents permit them to go to other places to get money to cover their school expenses such as school uniforms, shoes, buy exercise books, pens, pencils, etc. and help themselves and their parents from the income they collect.

# Box 4: Push Factors for Child Labor and Child Trafficking views of Students, FGD Participants

Most of the time family conflict, death, and poverty are the major factors which make the children to leave their home. Generally they may leave their family due to home related, school related and environment related factors.

There are circumstances when children are given to adoption because of economic problems. A mother from country side sends her child to Addis Ababa in order that he/she works and helps the mother. Sometimes individuals steal small kids from their parents in the country side to use them as agent of

begging on the streets of Addis Ababa.

Children may also think that the life in the cities are better than that of the rural villages and decide to work as shoe shiner, laborer ...etc. and flee to urban areas.

One of the participants who came from Southern Ethiopia said "I used to discuss about the issue with my parents when I was in the countryside, but the brokers already convinced my parents that I can get good education and job, so my parents forcefully sent me to Addis"

Sometimes children on their own will come to Addis to get rid of harmful traditional practices, like early marriage of girls, genital mutilation and also due to peer pressure.

In the discussions held with student returnees, three major reasons have stood out: aspiration to have a better life in cities, tantalizing features observed from returnees and malicious behaviors of brokers. Here a typical remark by a male participant in an FGD held with students on some of reasons that gravitate to child labor/tracking: "Both male and female children aspire to have better life here in the cities as well as support their parents. There is a tendency of assuming urban life as best of all from both the children and parents side. Mainly the returnees or those who visited their parents during Meskel festival are considered as good models. The issue is more accelerated by the propaganda of brokers."

Employers were also asked if they are aware of the push factors for child trafficking and child labor. They maintain that that: "When we [employers] ask most of the children as to why they leave their home," responds an employer "most of them answer it is because of poverty. We have realized that their parents let them be employed or give them to people willing to adopt them". They often do that for fear that their children would die of hunger if they stay with them. In some cases, some parents hand over to relatives who promise to rear the children properly by sending them to school, feeding them well and even supporting the parents of the children. In such cases, the relatives [who are technically the employers] are considered as a guardian for the child."

# 4.2.3. Pull factors for Child labor and Child Trafficking

In line with what pulls children from their destination places to urban areas in particular. It could be said that distorted information about the destination is one of the major reasons raised by all group respondents. The information they obtain from different sources about their destinations gives them the impression that they are comparable to heaven. And it was learnt that children obtain this kind of information from brokers, family members and peers who were trafficked and worked elsewhere. The following excerpt from discussions held with experts could be quite informative:

When the children and parents see those children who left the area for some years and come back with better dresses, offer gifts to friends and family members, the community tend to conclude places they stayed at are full of opportunities. The returnees rarely tell the truth; they rather try to induce the decision to leave the place in the eyes of the potential migrants. Parents, too, take it for granted that the destination place is worth going to.

As pointed out earlier peers, relatives, brokers are the main sources of distorted information. As According to experts' views, peers i.e. returnees supply distorted information in two ways: by providing false information about paces they have been to and by failing to reveal the problems/ challenges they have encountered in the places they have stayed. The discussions held with teachers and school principals also strengthen that idea: In their views, the information brought by peers plays a great role in attracting the children. A number of children come back to their hometown for holidays with new clothes, shoes, bag, and cell phone and of course with some money. As the children see these changes they tended to be attracted by the situation of the destination place. To quote one participant,

The extent of peer influence in attracting the children is very high and takes the highest share. Peers often cheat their mates by saying "you will live better life in towns/cities, you will eat delicious food, you will make much money, you will live in Apartments, you will wear precious jewelry like necklace, bracelet, etc."

The role of brokers, the discussions further revealed, is not to be underestimated. While tantalizing children to leave their homes, brokers take advantage of their families' financial problems and the children's desire for better life. Brokers, particularly the local ones, often make empty promises to children. Here is what an informant from the experts group says:

The brokers' persuasion influences the decision of children born to poor family very easily. The brokers substantiate their arguments by referring to those trafficked children who come home with some better money or other visible materials. The relatives, family members and peers all urge the children to follow the footsteps of those seemingly fortunate ones and the children's peers also agitating the children to go to other areas.

Another informant agrees. "Brokers are quite deceptive. They say to children, 'if you leave for Addis, you will get better income, you will be changed holistically, and you and your family will be changed completely (an elder reports)". The role of brokers is not however limited to sharing deceptive information. In some instances, their role is more direct and they openly recruit young people for trafficking and labor. According to an expert from Wolaita Sodo, "At the end of the month August, there is a campaign that is carried out by the employer agent at market area through loud speaker. They come with a huge truck and invite those who able to work. Some children are attracted by their agitation and go with them."

The second pull factor is speculation about the comparative economic advantage of the destination place as perceived by children and their parents, family members and relatives. An economic problem is not only a push factor but also a pull factor as compared to current status of the children at their homes. The desire for economic betterment has been indicated as a profound pull factor:

The drive for better livelihood is very high. Parents with economic problem cannot send their children to school because they cannot afford to cover school related expenses such as food, uniforms, books, exercise books, and writing materials. Most of the children who leave home for other places are those who are too poor to fulfill these things.

The desire to meet these ends coupled with influence of the persuasion of peers, brokers and relatives makes the destination place an attractive option. Even those whose parents can afford the basics could be tempted by the desire for modern life styles. This includes the desire for personal care materials and accessories as well as new technology. "The desire for modern clothes, using a mobile phone, watching TV and film etc., attract the children", an expert mentions. The desire to learn other languages (for example Amharic) and speak it fluently, dressing style, hair style, dressing handbag (for girls) are some signs a modern life."

It is not only the peers who set this life style as a standard for the children's decision to search for such living styles. The media, particularly video materials including the television, are of paramount force in attracting children to cities. In the eyes of one expert,

When children frequently use mobile phones, when they watch movies in a nearby town, or listen to video music, when they watch films, inevitably, they aspire to have more of these To meet these ends, the only option they have is to migrate to urban areas.

In short, access to a variety of information about different life styles makes the children start thinking about the possibilities of realizing what they see and hear through technological devices. When children were asked about their future aspirations and what they would like to own most in the future, the majority respond that they would like "To make money and to help their parents; to be a rich business man; to get money and to become a merchant; to enjoy modern life."

In contrast, it is worth noting that none of the returnees or victims of child trafficking mentioned any aspiration to advance their education. It is equally important that the economic speculation of the destination area has been mentioned very frequently by informants as the major pull factor. A remark by one respondent is quite indicative of the overall trend,

Because of economic problem, children do not get sufficient food and do not get basic needs for living. To fulfill these needs they aspire to go to other places. The impact of economic problem plays a great role in attracting the children. Its impact is very high. Parents with economic problems could not send their children to school. They cannot afford to cover school costs. Due to economic problems children fail to dress decently to eat, properly and so on.

# An employer agrees and notes that:

The children, at their homes, do not get adequate food and clothes. Even in situations where they are sent to school, they are forced to drop-out of school because of their parents' inability to fulfill their education materials. Due to these reasons, they leave their home with the motives of getting enough food, clothes and to live modern life.

In sum, it could be said that it is the need to escape poverty and the perception to have advantage in urban areas to meet their goals remain the main pull factors for children to migrate to urban areas. The economic advantages of urban areas are heralded via different actors and different mechanisms. Peers, brokers, family members and the media play a great role in sending distorted information to the children and their families. Children readily buy into these kinds of information with little scrutiny since they obtain most of the information from the persons known to them (e.g., peers, neighbors, and relatives).

# 4.2.4. Main Actors in Child Labor and Child Trafficking in the Project Areas

Different group of respondents stated that various individuals are involved in child trafficking and child labor in the project areas. Discussions held from experts drawn from different Government organizations and NGOs, for example, indicated that the following the main actors: Illegal brokers and traffickers, children's families (relatives), friends/peers who return to their villages, neighbors, other people in the area, agencies sending children to foreign countries, traffickers, and employers.

According to some experts, the role of brokers found in the rural areas and large cities such as Addis Ababa is very high. In fact, those who are in the villages are mostly children's relatives. But in reality they transfer children as simple commodity from their villages to these cities. The experts further explain that brokers are paid money to trafficked children from their localities; most earn their livelihood from the money they are paid for doing that. Quite often, the experts add, these brokers in each and every locality in the regions obtain the children with little or no difficulty. Particularly, Arba Minch areas are known sources, transporting children from Chencha to Addis Ababa. After recruiting children, brokers transport them using public transportation and trucks to Addis Ababa. Then they meet or contact employers and ask them about the number of children they require. Interestingly, the employers take the children as their adopted children and not as their employees. To this effect, they undergo all the procedures that an adoption process requires.

Other experts point out different processes of child trafficking. Some say that brokers meet children through their peers. Some others note that the other way of recruiting children is looking for children moving from rural areas to the nearer towns. According to the informants,

by assigning a number of agents at different corners of the nearby towns, the bookers make sure that their agents receive the new children and hand them over. On top of this, through agents in the localities, brokers convince children to meet them in schools, work places, at home and other places. Then, they take them to big cities and give them to employers and get money for their services as brokers.

Parents involved in interviews have more or less similar views with the experts. They explain that brokers and relatives bring children to Addis. The interviews, in fact, revealed that local brokers are emerging from the Gamo community itself. According to these parents, the business of bringing children for weaving in Shiromeda is dwindling. In contrast, the parents add, the practice is mushrooming in other quarters, particularly in the peripheries of Addis Ababa such as Kotobe, Sabata and Gafarsa. Shromeda, which is already known and could be easily identified, is losing its vibrancy.

On a positive note, the interview with the parents have also shown that it is becoming to increasingly difficult to traffic children from the regions (e.g. from Gamo Gofa) to Addis. A remark by a parent corroborates this trend:

These days, it is not easy to transport children from Gamo to Addis Ababa, all the routes are protected or closed and nobody is allowed to bring a child without a pass from Kebele officials, under some justifications. Even a child who wants to visit his parents in the local areas from Addis Ababa could not come back without his student ID card.

Even though it is becoming difficult to traffic children along some routes to Addis, traffickers, particularly family members, appear to have some way out. A child victim who came to Addis Ababa narrates his experience of trafficking as follows, "I came with my sister in consultation with my parents. My sister first promised them to send me to a school, but she has changed her mind and made me work in the weaving activities (dyeing and spinning)." Another victim of child trafficking says, on his part has this story to tell:

My mother first brought me to Addis Ababa. She was economically poor and unable to support me financially. Because of that, she decided to give me to another person who can take care of me. Then, she met my stepmother and asked if she would volunteer to take me. My stepmother accepted my request and took me.

Still another victim has an even more touching story narrated as follow.

I was brought to Addis Ababa by a person whom I have never met before. He met me when I was on my way to me to my hometown. I willingly went with him to Addis Ababa since he asked me to accompany him. He didn't meet and discuss the matter with my parents. He just brought me with him by bus on his own accord. I stayed for one day with him and then he took me to my employer's house and I was employed.

Another victim of child trafficking also narrated how his uncle brought him to Addis Ababa. "My uncle came to me and asked me to go to Addis Ababa with him and get employed," he recollects, I also volunteered to go with him without consulting my parents. I didn't know the type of job I would engage in. He brought me by bus. My employer knew my guardian very well and contacted him directly."

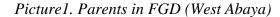
Interviews conducted with employers confirmed the victims' stories about child trafficking. Most say getting child laborers is not that difficult but the mechanisms they use are quite varied. Here is an employer reflecting on his experience:

Meeting employees or children for their labor is not difficult. In my case, for instance, I use my own parents and relatives in the countryside as my contact persons and I tell them to bring me children. Or else I tell brokers. The brokers get some money and sometimes bring us the children and we simply give them local alcohol such as 'tela' in return. The brokers sometimes go home and dissuade parents to bring children to towns and cities themselves. Sometimes they obtain potential child laborers from other brokers and bring them to us.

"I have my own broker in a local area," the informant added, "I communicate with him when I need children for employment. I need only males for weaving. I need kids/ small children since they are likely to stay with us for long. They don't leave us until they grow up and begin to run their own business. They are also easy to give orders. They do their job weaving for 8 hours in a day with no complaints."

Another employer has a similar experience with other informants but he is more directly involved:

I meet children themselves while they roam looking for work. Sometimes I go to the place where they children are living with their parents and convince them and their parents to live with me. It is also possible to get children through brokers who get some Birr. I get the brokers through the informants. These brokers meet children at market places, on the roads, at meeting places, at churches, at wedding place and so on. Then, they bring us the number of children we need for employment.





Other employers explain similar processes of recruiting and trafficking children from local areas. We meet children through the brokers. The brokers have their own address (working place). When we want to hire the children, we will go to the broker's house and hire children. Our brokers select the children or receive them from other brokers. The children know the broker's address and they come themselves from the rural areas to towns on foot. The other way is that the brokers have a chain of communication from source communities. At the community level, there are people engaged in child trafficking who bring children from rural areas and hand them over the main broker in the town.

The issue of how children are trafficked has also been examined from the perspectives traffickers and child victims of trafficking themselves. A detailed process narrated by a trafficker involved in recruiting and trafficking children is worth quoting:

There are people who bring children from different areas to me. There are also different agents at woredas that send the children to me. Instead of bringing the children themselves, they directly send them to my office by giving them my address. As soon as they report to my office, I tell them that they will be employed in a good place and live in a house with a good facility and earn a good salary. We used to transport them by bus, but now a days traffic police started checking public transportation and scare us. As a result, I stopped transporting children myself. Luckily, no police agents know my current place, and I use different places to hide myself from policemen. The employers know my house so at times they themselves come and take the children. Then they give me my commission. I get 50 birr from the employee and 100 birr from the employer per child. It is my only income generating task and hence I manage my family by this money. Most of the time, I get children from the streets and bus stations and bring them to my house. Some children also come from rural areas and ask where my home is and people bring them to my home, as I am the known broker in the city.

#### A child exploited for commerical sex tells her experiences as follows:

My name is Asmarech Bekele (name changed for anonymity) and I am 14. I lost both my parents six years ago. My uncle brought me to Humbo and made me live with his family (five children, his wife and his wife's two sisters). From the outset, my uncle's wife was unhappy with my arrival and she continuously told him to return to my parents' house. But my uncle didn't want to do that and told her that he had taken responsibility from his dead brother and it is unthinkable for him take me back. As time went on, things began getting worse and I decided to make myself free from this pressure. Thus, I decided to be hired as a servant. The big challenge in my life began at the age of 12. I was hired as house servant and started living peacefully with my employers for a year. My employer has a husband, one small daughter and a brother who was about 19. I had a very good time with this family but my employer's brother started harassing me from every day. He asked me to have sex with him but I refused to do so because my objective was to change

myself and to pursue my studies. However, he continued his pressure and one day he harassed me. I was very much disturbed by what was happened and told the situation to my employer. But my employer didn't want to accept her brother's mistake and told me to leave the house immediately. Finally, I left the house and decided to pass the rest of my life in the streets. Now I am supporting myself and my two younger brothers by working as commercial sex worker. The major problem here is sometimes you couldn't find any customer or when you could you come across irresponsible people. Though rarely, you can find very good and honest individuals. So life in the street seems miserable. Another problem here is my life is at in risk as many customers don't want to use condoms and hence I am exposed to HIV and other transmittable diseases. If things get better for me, I want to return to my two brothers, work and pass the rest of my life with my family members. Life on the street is very bad and I don't have words powerful enough to express my bad feelings. I hope God will help me to achieve my wish.

In sum, from the discussions conducted and the interviews held with various groups of respondents, it was learnt that multiple actors are involved in child trafficking and child labor with labor brokers playing a prominent role. On top of this, parents, relatives, employers, children themselves, children's friends, etc. were found to be the main actors.

### 4.2.5. Child Trafficking Routes in the Project Areas

As different respondents mentioned the history of migration from the Southern parts of Ethiopia started from Gamo Gofa to the capital, Addis Ababa, during the reign of Menelik II. Particularly in recent times labor intensive weaving and looking after cattle attracted migration of children to the different parts of the country. According to most of the respondents in this study there is a shift from weaving and looking after cattle to other activities such as daily labor, working as house servants/maids, commercial sex work, agricultural activities (expansion of flower farms in different rural areas of the country) that exacerbated the problem of child trafficking.

As stated above, in the past Chencha is the known source of child trafficking while Addis Ababa was the major destination. Currently the source has changed from Chencha to other woredas to different parts of the country as destinations. The problem of trafficking is seen in all districts, with highland districts especially vulnerable. These districts from GamoGofa zone include: Arba

Minch Zuria, Daramalo, Kamba, Bonke, Kucha and Boreda. The destinations are becoming diverse such as Arba Minch town, farms of Arba Minch Zuria, Gumaide, Konso, Moyale, Shashemene Arsi, Bale, Dilla, Flower farm areas- Ziway, Meki, Koka, Gibe Dam, FinfineZurea Zone of Oromia- Bishoftu, Sebeta, Wolete, Burayu, Dukem, for work as day laborers in factories, and Addis Ababa – for weaving, and daily labor in different construction sites in the city.

There are different routes and transitions from districts in Gamo Gofa Zone. The routes are dynamic and that change from time to time depending on circumstances. To mention some of these routes from Bonke district/woreda are:

The other routes from Kamba district/ woreda are:

Still other routes from Daramalo district/woreda are:

Daramalo (Elli areas)→Ditta→ Gircha/Chencha→ Ezo /Arba Minch → Konso/Moyale /Bale/Arsi/ Shashemene

Daramalo (Guge areas) Kuta → Zigiti → Arba Minch (interrupted by internal conflict)

Daramalo other kebeles→ Wacha → Sawla/Selamber → Wolaita → Dawro/ Ziway/Meqi

Different routes from Dittaditrict/woreda follows:

Ditta (Doqama) → Zute → Dorze → Chano/Arba Minch

Ditta (Genakere and Woyza areas) → Zada → Gircha → Ezo/Chileshe → Wolaita → Addis Ababa/Findfinne Zurea

The transits for child trafficking in GamoGofa includes: Arba Minch Zurea, Boreda, Kucha and Arba Minch town were mentioned by most of the respondents. In addition, there are neighboring towns outside GamoGofa zone that serves in transiting children such as Wolyta zone and Segen Areas.

The other group of respondents drawn from Wolaita Sodo, project site of this study underlines the following routes of child trafficking from the local areas. The most known trafficking routes in the areas are:

Humbo → Sodo → Addis Ababa

Soddo → Shashamane → Hawasa

Soddo → Sreka → Hosana → Addis Ababa

Soddo → Oromiya region(Arsi, Bale, Borena) Ziway → Addis Ababa

Soddo → Bedesa → Hawasa

Soddo → Shashamane → Mojo → Addis Ababa

Soddo → South Omo

Soddo → Gambela

According to an expert from Soddo town, "In this zone, children start moving from rural areas of the zone (Kindo Didayeworeda, Damot Sore woreda, Ofa woreda) and travel to Shashemene and Jimma (cities in Oromia region). The chain begins from rural kebeles and ends at Addis Ababa. Children are transported from rural woredas of Wolaita Zone (Kindo Dedaye and Ofa woreda) to the zone capital, Sodo. And then they are transported to different parts of the country, including Addis Ababa."

Another respondent states that the route extends to Gonder and Mettema where they are trafficked to the neighbouring South Sudan.

Wolaita → Shashamane → Oromiya region → Metema

As data presented above indicates the routes for child trafficking from the sources particularly from the southern part of Ethiopia begins from different local areas following complex routes and directions unless one is familiar with those areas mentioned/listed above. Another issue that makes the problem of child trafficking complex similar to the routes from the sources is the complexity of destination areas. Earlier the destinations were limited to Addis Ababa, this time however, the destinations include different neighboring zones in Oromia and extends to some neighboring countries to Ethiopia.

# 4.2.6. Victims' Experiences

The trafficked children face unexpected hardships. The situation in the destination place contrasts to what has been promised by brokers and the children's peers who have returned home from such places. Trafficked children suffer from shortage of the basics for their survival. These include shortage of food, rest, and hygienic living conditions, exposure to life threatening hazards and labor exploitation. For example, a victim says: "I do not benefit from the work, everything is for their advantage. Rather, I suffer from malnutrition. I used to dine once a day. The 3 birr I am paid cannot get me more than a dry bread".

This quote tells that the situation of the destination place is worse for the children than their homes. Poverty being one of the major push factors, the situation simply turns out to be worse than assumed. The impact of malnutrition is worsened by lack of rest. The victims say that they work long hours even by adult standards:

I am not allowed to sleep for reasonably long hours; they force me to work in the night as well. I am not allowed to rest except on Sundays. My only free time is the Sunday afternoon.

Adding to this, children in FGD maintain that:

We work 7 days a week 24 hrs a day, we do not really know what a break is. We are hardly given a single day off. We don't have any idea of work place safety measures and policies. Rather there are some scars on my head as a result of physical assault.

Picture2: Female children in FGD (West Abaya)



Sometimes I suffer from eye sickness (I see blurred images), back pain since I sit for long hours. Even then I am forced to work, while facing all this health problems. At other times I suffer from headache while working. Yet, I am not entitled to any medical care. I am not even given sick leave, let alone allowed to see a doctor.

# Another victim echoes the same point:

The major problem I encounter is 'Abdominal pain" as I sit for long hours. I work before and after school, on weekends, on holidays. I spend at least 7 hours on work every day.



Picture3: Child engaged in weaving (Chencha)

Parent informants explain the poor health situations as a follows:

Most of the time, because of sanitation problem, the children are subject to skin disease. They are not allowed to move far from their working rooms or compounds or not sent to school, the entire working conditions are extremely bad...In few cases children may protest and flee from the work site and found on streets and these days there are organizations that are supervising such situations. They even sent children back to their parents in Chencha. The health problems go as far as contracting HIV/AIDS.

# **Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

Name: Abeba Woiza (name changed), Age: 14

Two years ago I was with my father and my stepmother. My mother died when I was four. I have one younger brother. After the death of my mother my father married a woman. I was very happy by my family immediately after my father married my step mother. But this love and affection didn't last more than two years. Hence, life started to be difficult after two years and my stepmother started complaining about my presence in the house. My father then started listening to her. Then I left the house and started working in coffee house at the nearby hotel. At that time I was only 12.

There was no salary I got from that work but they only provided my daily food and clothes. I spent almost one year in this condition. After one year I decided to leave the hotel and started searching for a new job. All the jobs people recommending are not in my capacity and interest, so that I decided to become a street child hoping for a better life. However, life became very difficult; because I had to engage myself for commercial sex to meet my basic needs.

When you are sexually exploited, you may have multiple sex partners. Most of them usually forced me to have sex without condom. I often told my situation and life for those customers but, nobody paid attention to may request.

When she was also asked about her future, she said that she is dreaming to complete her education and become one of the strong ladies in the world. She also wants to challenge those individuals who acted irresponsibly. She wishes if she would be able to return back to the normal life

The victims of child trafficking further complain that they suffer from poor health and work related hazards. It was also reported that work related hazards are common in the workplaces of trafficked children. Local community elders witness that:

The children are forced to undertake heavy tasks for their ages. Yet, the payment is insignificant. They work at night as well. Nobody cares about their safety. They are not given enough food nor break. Sooner or later they fall sick.

They further mention that:

The children fall and die from worked related illness. Girls are exposed to Sexual harassment on by their employers which would expose them to HIV/AIDS. It is common to see young people committing suicide due to excessive abuse of their rights.

The harm also includes social stigma and deprivation. This includes: humiliation, insult, assault, and the like by their employers. They are not treated in a humane way. The lack of family care and love being the main push factor for children, the mistreatment gets even gets worse in the destination areas.

# 4.2.7. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor and Trafficking

Any effort of abolishing the problems of child labor and trafficking is hardly possibly without developing sound macro and micro regulations and their effective execution. The ILO has a convention concerning child labor and child trafficking and urges its member states to develop their own policies against child labor and trafficking with due consideration to their specific contexts.

Accordingly, the Ethiopian Constitution, which was developed in line with international and regional conventions on the rights of the child and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against children and women also formulated a policy and indicated the responsibility of the state to provide special protection for different categories of society including children. This includes victims of violence, abuse, trafficking, and child labor.

In this study we assessed the awareness of the concerned government bodies such as experts working at woreda level under the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, judges, prosecutors and police officers about the child labor and child trafficking policy and its implementation at national and local levels. The data obtained from the informants indicated that most of these individuals are not even aware of the existence of any such a law at national or local levels.

One of the informants said, "No regulation exists regarding the issue of child labor and child trafficking; we work by common sense." Similarly, another informant said, "I am not quite sure whether there are separate laws against child labor and trafficking; it is treated with other human right regulations and policies."

These groups of informants are working as "experts" and they are supposed to know at least the basics of the laws and discharge their responsibilities accordingly; including providing various awareness creation trainings for the community. The reality however is that the experts themselves are not well equipped with the necessary knowledge about the policy and the skills to properly execute it.

Even those who said that they know how to execute the laws, vehemently complain that the policy is not pushed down and implemented at the grass root level where the actual problem occurs. Therefore, serious work needs to be done in communicating the laws to those who work at the grassroots level.

Although there is a national policy regarding child labor and trafficking, the majority of the informants, except few experts, do not clearly know even the existence of a law pertaining to this issue. Therefore, this indicates that mere formulation of the laws and regulations in itself is not adequate unless it is communicated to the experts working at the grassroots level.

Similarly, the informants were asked whether there is the same policy at local level and most of them said there is no such a local law. Some of the informants however said that there is local regulation on child labor and trafficking. One of the informants from Sodo town for instance said, "There is legislation 'No. 07-2005, about child labor and trafficking, which was developed by Sodo city administration."

Regarding the gaps in the execution of the laws and regulations, the experts and other informants said that the main problems are:

- its minimum concern for community awareness creation
- little effort to push it down and communicate to the executors, which makes it remain as a "secret document" for most of the experts
- low competence of the executors
- lack of cooperation from the community
- problems related to securing concrete evidence about the cases
- lack of resource to carry out awareness creation work
- some corrupt and inefficient judiciary practices.

Although there is significant variations in the responses of the informants, the data indicated that children as young as four years of age are victims of child labor by involving in laborious tasks in some of the study areas. According to the data in some areas of Wolaita Sodo, for instance, children start to engage in laborious works, such as collecting fire wood and fetching water from rivers, at about four years of age, while in Addis the children are forced to engage in some laborious tasks at about six years of age. In this regard however, proclamation number 377/96 clearly states that the minimum age for a child to start simple tasks is fourteen years.



Picture 4: Victims of domestic child labor (Arba Minch Zuria)

This indicates that what is actually observed in this regard is far removed from what is stated in the laws and regulations. This is also another weakness in executing the policy properly. In this regard most of the informants said that "Although the seriousness of the problem of child labor and trafficking is clearly known by everybody, including the government, no one has taken any measures so far on the traffickers as well as those who exploit children's labor". The following quotation taken from the responses of one of the informants seems pretty good explanatory of this complaint. The informant said

There is a law that prevents child trafficking and child labor. But the problem is its implementation. For your surprise, in many cases police officers caught criminals

(traffickers and employers) red handed but nobody wants to push the case to the court. Most of the time people deal informally with the employers about victim children and solve the problem by negotiation.

Therefore, the problem of negligence and negotiating on children's right seem to be a serious obstacle to enforcement.

# 4.2.8. Major Institutional and Capacity Gaps

Successful control of the problems of child labor and child trafficking requires building strong structure and institutional capacity at different levels of social affairs.

Accordingly, we assessed the existence as well as the capacity of the structure and institutions working against child labor and child trafficking. The data indicated that although the structure exists, the link among the institutions at various levels is very weak, creating a challenge to addressing the problem in collaboration.

In this regard some of the informants complain that the structure is very weak and yet some others question even the existence of the structure at all. One of the informants for instance said "No structure exists for child protection except the offices at woreda level". He complains that that unless strong structure is set from the national to the local level, it is very difficult to fight the problems of child labor and child trafficking. Another informant also said, "There is no strong institutional capacity tailored to tackle child labor and trafficking; the structure is there but very weak." Some other informants said there is no separate structure but merged with other structure. Most informants in Wolaita Sodo responded that, "There is no separate structure to combat child labor and trafficking rather it is embedded in other structures and work processes." Generally, the informants stressed that unless strong collaboration is established among the concerned bodies at various echelons of the structure, a mere existence of the structure is worthless.

Regarding the capacity gap of the institutions, the informants unanimously agree that there is a problem of competence and negligence on the part of the employees, especially experts. One of the informants said, "A serious capacity gap of the institution is the lack of knowledge/competence on the part of the workers; the employees hold the position but most of

them do not know what is expected of them." The problem of employees' competence is one of the common gaps indicated by all of the informants. Another informant said, "It does not seem their major job rather it is taken as a part time work; the concerned bodies carry out the activities when they have extra time." The informants therefore urged awareness creation and capacity building trainings for all the individuals working on the rights of children.

Some of the informants however, acknowledged that especially the judges are highly concerned about the issue of child labor and trafficking. The informants strongly attested that the judges are very sensitive to the issue and give priority if the case is taken to court. One of the informants for instance said, "There are adequate judges with full capacity to combat child labor in courts. The courts give priority to cases related to child labor and trafficking and give immediate solution."

The data indicated that the problem lies mainly on those who are meant to prevent the problem before it occurs as well as those who are to follow the case and take to the court after it occurs.

Another bottle neck contributing to institutional gap is the problem of coordination among different bodies working against child labor and trafficking. Various government bodies and offices are established for this purpose but they couldn't bear fruit owing to their fragmented efforts. In this regard most of the informants said, "There is no integrated effort on the part of the concerned bodies in protecting the problem." The informants also indicated that lack of resources, including budget, and the awareness of the community about the issue are other major challenges for the institutions working against these crimes.

According to the data there is no clear structure to fight the problems of child labor and child trafficking and there is no uniformity as to how the structures are established across the study areas. For instance, in some areas of Arba Minch the institutions designed to combat these problems stand as a separate structures while in some areas of Wolaita Sodo they are merged with other structures pertaining to social affairs. In Addis Ababa Gulele sub-city however, there exist a separate structure to combat child labor and trafficking but it is not seriously followed.

# 4.2.9. Gender Dimension of Child Labor and Trafficking

Inquiry was made if there are variations between the sexes on the push factors, pull factors and the situation of children after they have been trafficked. Despite the common understanding

about the gender dimension of child labor and trafficking, some informants think that female children are vulnerable to child labor due to cultural influences. An expert maintains:

Females are more vulnerable to child labor and trafficking than males. This is because the prevailing attitude of the community towards females is not good and females are expected to do many activities including fetching water, collecting firewood, caring for children, carrying goods to and from markets, assisting farming activities and all the family care and reproductive activities. In addition, females are the primary victims of various harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation. An expert makes the following comment:

Females are involved in child labor mainly due to; family divorce, bad cultural practices and economic problems whereas males get involved in such things due to economic problems, family divorce, and peer pressure.

Cultural stereotypes write a roadmap about what kinds of activities are meant for both sexes. We observed that both males and females are exploited; however, the kinds of activities in which they are involved differs with males mostly involved in weaving while females are involved in pottery. For example, a community leader says:

Females are considered fit for housework and they are submissive in that they don't claim their rights and they are more obedient than boys. It is thus easy for employers to manage females than males. Males are more fit for work that demand high energy like weaving, carrying, etc.

Though both sexes suffer from poverty and deprivation at home, girls are also subject to other push factors. According to one expert these include "to escape early marriage, family-based sexual harassment, mistreatment by family members and labor exploitation at home."

Likewise the pull factors for girls are different. Brokers, traffickers and employers prefer girls to boys. A traffickers sates the reason has been mentioned as follows:

Girls are preferred to boys as the former are more needed for cheap labor. As the bargaining capacity of girls is very limited they can be readily employed in a cheap labor with low payments compared to boys. The job opportunity is better for females than

males. Many employers want to hire females. The employers want females for different purposes- for household activities, for commercial sex.

# 4.2.10. Socio-economic Background of Children Engaged in Child Labor and Trafficking

Data on parents' socio-economic background of the victims of child trafficking and child labor was collected from their parents and the victims themselves and presented as follows.

According to parents' responses, most of the parents of the victims are poor and illiterate with large families. Most of them are from rural areas and engaged in subsistence agriculture where the limited annual income is not enough even to feed all family members. Still parents in urban areas are engaged in small scale/petty trade and cannot afford to provide their children with the basic necessities. For instance, a mother interviewed during the field survey says the following:

My husband is a weaver and uneducated. There are five children in the family. I can't afford the costs of schooling for all of these children. My husband's monthly income is only 650 Birr. It is very difficult to even feed all members of the family with the income.

Another parent who is head of the family states, "I'm a farmer and completed grade ten. My monthly income is less than 150 Birr. My family size is eight where six of them are dependents." A woman interviewed said,

I'm engaged in small trade in the market selling potatoes, onions, etc. I have completed grade eight. I cannot afford to cover the educational cots of my children as my daily income is not better than five Birr every day (nearly 150 Birr per month). With this income there are eight members of the family out of which six are dependents income. Another mother who is head of the family states that: "I sell coffee and tea in the market. I have ten family members. They are all dependents. It is very difficult to afford the living for all of them due to the increasing costs of living."

Victims also have the following to say regarding their parents' socio-economic backgrounds. One of the females involved in the interview states that her mother is a wood bearer while her father is a weaver. They are ten in number and eight of them are children. Her parents (father and

mother) are not educated. Their monthly income is not enough to cover the living expenses of the family. So it would be impossible to expect the family to send the children to school due to school costs.

Another victim states that: "my family attended only ABE i.e. they read and write only. My father is engaged in weaving while my mother do pottery and they earn about 400 birr per month. Our family members are four with a father being the head."

The other victim interviewed states that: "My father and my mother have completed grade 10 and 9respectively. They used to support with my education. My parents do farming and blacksmith for their living with a monthly income of 300 Birr per month. The family size is eight members with six of us children depending on our parents' income only."

Another victim of child labor discusses that:" my parents are illiterate and they don't support my education. They are engaged in subsistence farming with a monthly income of less than 150 Birr. With this small income they feed about eight members of the family." Another respondent mentions that: "My parents are illiterate and are wood bearers. Their monthly income is less than 100 Birr per month. There are 14 family members where ten of us are dependent on the family."

A victim interviewed further states, "My parents are illiterate and unable to support my education. My father is a farmer with poor economic background. On top of this, we are nine in number out of which five are children totally dependent on the families' income." A female respondent says that her father has completed primary education while her mother is illiterate. They are working as small scale retailers with limited daily income collected from the market. There are three family members depending on this income. Another male respondent replies that: "My parents are illiterate and farmers with subsistence farming. They produce twice in a year but the income from the farm is not enough to provide family members with the basic necessities. We are nine in number out of which seven of us are children who are totally dependent on our family." A father states, "I've completed grade nine. I'm a farmer with monthly income of 600 Birr on average. I support the education of my children by providing them with the necessary clothes, food and taking care of them. Our family size is eight out of which six are totally dependents."

Picture 5: victims of domestic child labor (Wolayta Sodo)



The above responses from victims of child labor and their parents indicated that they live in a miserable economic situation. Most of them are illiterate with very large family sizes where most of them are dependents. The average monthly family income is very small. Most of them are engaged in subsistence farming, small scale trade, and few of them are wood bearers. Thus, the poor socio-economic situation of parents coupled with the increasing living costs does not allow them to support the education of their children. As the result they force their children to engage in child labor in their local areas so that they can afford to cover their educational costs as well as flee from their localities through child traffickers and get employed to overcome their economic problems.

# CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main objective of this study was to provide information on factors contributing to child labor and child trafficking mainly in the traditional weaving sector in Ethiopia. The study also categorized these factors as push and pull. Based on the major issues to be addressed in the study the following basic questions served as guidelines for the research:

- extent of child labor and child trafficking
- push and pull factors for child labor and child trafficking
- main actors in child labor and child trafficking
- effects of child labor and child trafficking on children

- policies and laws put in place to protect child labor and child trafficking
- major institutional and capacity gaps to protect children from child labor and child trafficking
- gender differences in the push-pull factors for child labor and child trafficking
- socio-economic background of children engaged in child labor and child trafficking in the project areas.

The study included to three zones: Gamo Gofa Zone, Wolaita Zone and Addis Ababa. Specifically, the study was conducted in selected eight sample woredas or districts selected randomly from the two zones and a city administration. The study mainly employed qualitative research and a descriptive survey design to describe current problems of child labor and child trafficking in three project areas. To obtain pertinent data on child labor and trafficking, data gathering tools such as documents, key informant interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and case stories were used. The data were collected from different groups of respondents that include: experts drawn from sample Government offices and NGOs, parents, victims of child labor and child trafficking, students, teachers, principals, employers, traffickers, parents and elders. A total of 532 respondents were selected and included in the study out of which 158 of them were drawn from Addis Ababa, 176 from Wolaita Zone, and the remaining 193 were drawn from Gamo Gofa Zone. The qualitative data obtained through key informant interviews, FGDs and documents, case stories, and in depth interviews were first categorized under pertinent themes in preparation for analysis. The pertinent themes were directly corresponding to the research questions. After categorizing the data, the respondents' opinions or views were then weighed in terms of the frequency of respondents endorsing it and presented in the study.

# 5.1. Summary of Major Findings

Pertinent data were collected from various groups of informants regarding the push-pull factors of child labor and trafficking and analyzed qualitatively as indicated in the methodology. Thus the following are the major findings of the research:

1. The major push factors which force children to engage in child labor and trafficking are poverty: loss of parents, parental conflict, maltreatment of children at home, bad

- traditional practices such as mutilation of females' genital organ, home-based sexual harassment, forced marriage, and heavy work load in their homes.
- 2. Pull factors include desire for modern life, role model/peer pressure, aspiration for better education, need for economic independence, and exaggerated information about the destination places.
- 3. In terms of gender, the study indicated that both male and female children do engage in child labor and become victims of child trafficking. However, there are slight differences in terms of degree of vulnerability and the intensity of the push factors. The demand for male children's labor is higher than that of their female counterparts in the weaving sector. Yet, female children are more vulnerable to child labor exploitation (especially in child rearing and fire wood collection) than male children since they are often paid less than boys. The search for cheaper labor catches the attention of employers. Employers want girls for commercial sexual exploitation which is not case for the male children. While poverty and deprivation are the major push factors for both male and female children, the situation is worse for female children whose needs are often not prioritized in the household. Whereas male children usually engage in child labor and trafficking owing to ambition for economic independence and peer pressure whereas females have the added pressue of hoping to escape bad traditional practices.
- 4. The data obtained regarding the major actors in child labor and trafficking indicated that labor brokers (both locals and those who come from the destination places), relatives, and peers who have left their home earlier. These actors meet the children at different places such as schools, their work place or even at home and recruit them with or without the consent of the parents.
- 5. The study disclosed that some victims are deprived of any kind of basic provisions including food, medical care, hygienic working and living conditions, leave of absence, and commensurate pay and education. Some victims of child labor and trafficking are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation (if female), child rearing and housework, collecting fire wood, and shoe shining. Some of them become juvenile delinquents and engage in different crimes.
- 6. Regarding the existence of laws and regulations against the act of child labor and trafficking, the study indicated that although the laws and regulations exist at national and

regional levels the bodies working on these issues at the local level, including the experts interviewed, are not clear about the laws and regulations and how to execute them in fighting child labor and trafficking. They also lack the motivation to put the laws into effect.

- 7. The capacity gaps of various institutions working on fighting child labor and trafficking are also a major hindrance. The study indicated that the major capacity gaps are those related to the competence, awareness and sometimes negligence of the experts, lack of smooth coordination among different agencies working on the issue, low level of effort to create community awareness on the issue and capacity development trainings for the experts, as well as inadequate resources to fully mobilize all the concerned bodies to fight the problems.
- 8. Both sexes are vulnerable to child labor and trafficking but they are exposed to different problems as they are involved in different kinds of activities. For instance females are usually susceptible to spinal problems as they are made to transport water on their back, carry babies for long hours and collect and transport firewood while males are more prone to abdominal painas they are enforced to sit for long hours and carry out weaving without adequate restroom breaks.
- 9. The study also confirms that the socio-economic background of the parents is one of the major factors aggravating the problems of child labor and trafficking. Almost all of the victims of child labor and trafficking in the study areas are found to be from destitute and illiterate families, as well as large families. So a parent with meager income but heading a large family has no choice other than to send his/her child to earn money.

## **5.2. Conclusions**

Based on the data drawn from different informants in the project area and the analysis made, the following conclusion can be formulated:

1. The push factors for children trafficking and child labor rooted in the different economic, social, and cultural situations in the project areas. The children vulnerable to child trafficking and child labor exploitation hope to escape poverty that they suffer from when they live with their parents or guardians. Born to poor parents that cannot afford to provide their offspring with basic necessities, the child's choice will be to resort to

another means of earning livelihoods. The parents' traditional livelihood (subsistence agriculture) is no longer adequate as available farmland is diminishing due to the growing population. The push factors are social because the influence of peers, neighbors, relatives, brokers, and family members is profound in the study areas. Finally, the push factors are cultural in the sense that the parents expect their children to give them money despite the children's maturity level. Parents depend on their children for survival or expect their children to support themselves at best.

- 2. The urban areas, as opposed the home village, are perceived as full of opportunities as presented by peers, brokers, traffickers and relatives. The information about the destination place is not only distorted but also deceptive. The traffickers use different mechanisms and routes while recruiting and transporting the victims. Trafficking routes are complex and are not be contained by law enforcing bodies. Despite the efforts made by law enforcement, the problem prevails as the traffickers have got stronger networks than the police do. This seems evident from the fact that it was not stop the practice despite the presence of formal organization structures, polices at the national and regional levels, media campaigns, and a host of project interventions are made consistently.
- 3. Despite the empty promises made by child traffickers, the victims are exposed to a worse situation than it in their hometowns. Victims are treated inhumanly. They suffer from work related physical, psychological and social hazards. Victims suffer from working long hours, ill health, malnutrition, social isolation, humiliation, physical assault, and fatal diseases. They are subjected to double violations of their rights. First, they are forced to take up age-inappropriate jobs. Secondly, they are not properly compensated for their services nor do they have access to safe a working environment.
- 4. Local polices and laws for protecting children are not only rarely formulated but also inconsistently attended to. The task of formulating polices and laws and enforcing them perceived as an additional task that can be carried out only if conditions allow. Even when some officials tried to set local laws, it is difficult to apply them. The reason for this is a shortage of staff, budget, office facilities and vehicles for not acting decisively on combating child trafficking.

# **5.3. Recommendations**

Based on the major findings and objectives the study, the following recommendation are suggested:

- 1. As poverty remains the main cause of child trafficking and child labor, the district level officials should work towards improving the livelihood of parents and their children. This can be done by helping local communities engage in labor intensive small businesses and cultivating cash crops that can support big families. In addition to this, improving the livelihood requires creating awareness on family planning so that the available resources are adequate to support the community. Community officials can also work to raise awareness on gender issues, parenting styles and parental responsibilities.
- 2. Distorted information about destination places, coupled with the persuasion of brokers and the victims' speculation about the opportunities available at the destination remains the main pull factor. Such pieces of information are accepted because they are often brought by people victims trust such as family members and peers who have returned to the hometown. These same informants could be used to persuade the young people not aspire to migrate. Community officials can recruit and mobilize the returnees to volunteer to raise awareness among young people and the local community about the situation of child labour and its consequences after adequate capacity building and facilitation is done of the returnees so that they will transparently communicate the reality at destinations. Yet, these returnees have the right not to disclose issues which they consider are sensitive to them. The returnees can help to denounce child trafficking as they can use the same social legitimacy they usually use when they urge and recruit young people for child labor.

To protect children from trafficking and implement the above recommendation, it is advisable to build local capacities to put in place the right policies and laws, strengthen or create a workable structure equipped with the required personnel and facilities. This suggestion aligns with the current decentralization of decision making approach whereby localities are supposed to address local issues. The local offices in charge of protecting children's right need to be restructured, staffed by trained and committed personnel, and provided with the required facilities as deemed important.

3. Further research in the future on child trafficking especially child trafficking and traffickers or brokers might help to provide more information on these issues.

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# Appendix (Data gathering instrument)

INST 01
E-FACE (Ethiopia)
Interview Guides for experts
1. Personal Data
1.1. Age
1.2. Sex
1.3. Occupation/profession
1.4. Educational Background
1.5. Position
1.6. Total years of service in the current services
2. Thematic issues
2.1. Push factors
<ul> <li>Do you think children leave their home for other places? Yes/ no</li> <li>If yes, why?</li> <li>Who do you think frequently leave their homes for other places? Male, female, both?</li> </ul>
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Why do you think female children leave their home for other places?

What does the life style of the community in the district looks like?

• Why do you think male children leave their home for other places?

Are school aged children involved in education in the district?

- What is the attitude of the community towards letting the children to go to another area?
- What kind of activities do parents want their children to engage in?

#### 2.2. Pull factors

- What factors attract children to leave their family for other places?
- How do you see the impact of role model in this regard?
- What is the impact of economic problem in attracting the children?
- What about the search for modern life, fashion, and globalization in attracting the children?

# 2.3. Actors in child trafficking and the routes

- Who are mainly involved in child labor and child trafficking?
- What are the most known trafficking routes in the area?
- Why do they engage in such type of activities?
- How do they meet and recruit the children?
- How do they transport them?
- How do they find the employers?

## 2.5. Policy provisions

- Are there policies to protect the child from being trafficked?
- Are you aware of the minimum age limit for child labor?
- At what age does a child start working?
- Does the child protection policy exist at the nation, regional and local levels?
- What legislation exits on child protection?

- What policies and laws exist in favor of child labor at national, regional, local and community levels?
- Do local level regulations on child protection exist?
- What are the gaps in legislation enforcement?

## 2.6. Institutional capacities

- What is the local enforcement capacity of child labor regulations?
- Does a structure exist for child protection?
- What are the capacity gaps to enforce the child protection law?
- What is the institutional capacity to combat child labor?
- Is there a mechanism for monitoring child labor at the community level?
- What are the capacity gaps for labor inspectors?
- Is a training need on child right protection?
- Are there enough labor inspectors to properly monitor the situation on child labor?

## 2.7. The gender dimension

- Who are more vulnerable to child labor and trafficking, females or males?
- Why do you think female children vulnerable to child labor and trafficking?
- Why do you think male children vulnerable to child labor and trafficking?
- What kind of activities do parents want their male children and female children to engage in?
- What factors push female children engage in child labor?
- What factors push male children engage in child labor?

# INST 02

# E-FACE (Ethiopia)

# **Interview Guides for parents**

1. Personal Dat	ta
1.1. Age	<del></del>
1.2. Sex	
1.3. Occupat	cion/profession
1.4. Education	onal Background
1.5. Region_	
2. Thematic is	ssues: Push-pull factors for child trafficking and child labor
2.1. Push fa	actors
•	Are you aware of child trafficking and child labor? If yes, what is it?
•	Do you have child/children who left home for another place? If yes, how did he/she/they
go?	
•	Were you nagging your child/children for not having his/her/their own business?
•	What kind of activities does/do your child/children carry out at home?
•	Do you think you are over exploiting them?

Do you send her/him/them to school? If no, why?

• Why do you think the children leave their family/home for another places?

#### 2.2. Pull factors

- What do you think attract the children to leave their family for other places?
- Are there role models in the area who left for other places and attract others for the same?
- How do you like your child/children to support you?
- Do you encourage your child/children to leave for other places? if yes, why?
- Whom do you encourage most to go to other places? your daughter or your son?

## 2.3. Actors in child trafficking and the routes

- Who took your child/children when he/she/they left?
- How did he/she/they find you?
- Did he/she/ they tell you where and for what purpose they took the child?
- How do they convince the child/children?
- Is that you who first contacted them or they first contacted you?
- Has she/he ever visited you since he/she left?
- What time did they take the child?
- What did they benefit from you?

#### 2.4. Victims' experiences

- Are you aware of the problems your child might face in the workplace?
- Do you have a child who comes back because of problems in workplace? What was the problem?
- How serious is the problem(s) of child labor and child trafficking in the woreda?

#### 2.7. The gender dimension

- Do you have a child has been engaged in child labor?
- Of your children, who are prone to child labor and trafficking daughters or sons? Or both?
- What factors push your daughters engage in child labor?
- What factors push your sons engage in child labor?
- What kind of activities do parents want their male children and female children to engage in?
- What kind of activities do you want your sons and daughters to engage in?
- Why do you think your daughters are vulnerable to child labor and trafficking?
- Why do you think your sons are vulnerable to child labor and trafficking?

#### 2.8. Familial backgrounds

- Can you afford the cost of your kids schooling?
- What do you do for living?
- What is your monthly income in Ethiopian birr?
- What is your educational background?
- Do you support your children with their studies? How?
- What is your family size? How many dependents?
- Who is the head of the family? A) father, b) mother C) both D) other specify

INST03	

# E-FACE (Ethiopia)

Interview	Guides	for children	(victims)
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1. Personal Data	
1.1. Age	
1.2. Sex	
1.3. Occupation/profession	
1.4. Educational Background	

## 2. Thematic issues: Push-pull factors for child trafficking and child labor

#### 2.1. Push factors

- Have you ever got married?
- Have you ever got a chance to go to school?
- What was your age when you first left your family?
- What factors forced you to leave your family when you first decide to go to another place?
- How was your interaction with your family members?
- What type of activities did you carry out when you were with your family?
- What outlook did you have for the conditions in which you were living?
- Did you experience any humiliation or harassment while you used to leave with your family? If yes where?

- Were you happy with your living style when you were with your family?
- What bad experience did you encounter when you were with your family?

#### 2.2. Pull factors

- When did you leave you family for this place?
- What was your dream before you start this business?
- What things really caught your attention when you were with you family?
- What is the greatest possession that you aspire for in your life?
- When you first left your family what really attracted you in this place?
- What things did you aspire to get/secure when you left your family?
- What is your life philosophy?

#### 2.3. Actors and routes

- Who took you when you first left you family?
- How did you meet them?
- Were you voluntary to go or they convinced you?
- Did he/she/they meet and discuss with your family?
- Did you actually know for what type of job he/she/they took you?
- What benefits did he/she/they get from you?
- How did he/she/ they bring you here?
- How did they contact you with your employer?
- Where did you stay till you are taken/employed?

• Have you ever meet him/her/them till then?

#### 2.4. Victims' experiences

- What major problems have you encountered since you left your family? Mentally, physically, morally, economically or socially?
- What types of activities do you carry out?
- For how long do you work per day? And how many days per week?
- Can you get permission if you want to get rest?
- Is there any safety policy in your work place?
- Do you involve in works that include the use of pesticides, exposure to fumes, night work, lifting of heavy weights, use of knives, etc
- What accidents do you face during your work?
- What illness do you face when you are carrying out your job?
- Are you paid for your work? How are you paid (in cash or in kind)? If paid in cash, how much do you earn per day?

#### 2.7. The gender dimension

- Why have you decided to engage in child labor?
- What factors have pushed you to engage in child labor?
- Have you been to school? Grades completed; Then why discontinued your schooling?
- Did you manage to get better income than you used to live on?

#### 2.8. Familial backgrounds

- What is the educational background of your parents?
- Do your parents used to support you with your studies?
- What do your parents do for living?

- What is the monthly income your parents in Ethiopian Birr?
- What is size of the family you belong to? How many dependents?
- Who was the head of the family? A) father B) mother C) both D) others specify

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## E-FACE (Ethiopia)

#### **Interview Guides for students**

1. Personal Data				
1. Fersonal Data				
1.1. Age				
1.2. Sex				
1.3. Occupation/pro	ofession			
1.4. Educational Ba	ckground			
1.5. Region	Zone	Woreda	KAS	

## 2. Thematic issues: Push-pull factors for child trafficking and child labor

# 2.7. The gender dimension

- In terms of sex of these victims, who are the majority, girls or boys? Or both?
- What factors push them to engage in child labor?
- Do you the situation in school has forced to drop out of school and engage in child labor? If so, can you mention some of these school related situations?
- Would you aspire to engage in child labor? If so, what is your reason?

#### **FGD** with Students

## Theme: push factors

• Why do you think children leave their family for other places?

- Have you ever discussed about going to another place with your family? If yes, what is their attitude?
- Where do most of the children go?
- Do you aspire to go to other places for work before you complete your education? If yes, why?

## **INST 05**

# E-FACE (Ethiopia)

#### **Interview Guides for teachers**

1. Personal Data	
1.1. Age	
1.2. Sex	
1.3. Occupation/profession	
1.4. Educational Background	
1.5. Work experience as a teacher	

## 2. Thematic issues: Push-pull factors for child trafficking and child labor

## 2.7. The gender dimension

- Do you know of students of your school who engaged in child labor?
- In terms of sex, who are the majority, girls or boys?
- What factors push female children engage child labor?
- What factors push male children engage in child labor?
- Why do you think female children vulnerable to child labor and trafficking?
- Why do you think male children vulnerable to child labor and trafficking?
- What can teachers do to protect the children from being trafficked?

# **FGD** with teachers & principals

# Themes: push factors

- Are you aware of child trafficking?
- Are there victims of child labor and child trafficking from your school?
- Which gender is most affected?
- Why do you think children leave their family and go to other places?
- Do children involve in laborious activities in the district?
- Do you think is the impact of the teaching learning process and the school environment in enforcing the children to drop-out and leave other places?
- What is the interaction of the teachers with students?

## Themes: Pull factors

- What factors do you think can potentially attract the children at destination when they leave their family?
- What is the extent of peer influence in attracting the children?
- What is the relation of teaching learning practice with child mobility?

#### **Themes: Actors and Routes**

- Do clubs working on child protection exist in your school?
- Do you know who take the children to other places?
- Are they leaving in the community or come from other areas?
- Who is their focus? In terms of literacy/educational level, gender and age?
- How and when do they transport the children?

## **INST 06**

# E-FACE (Ethiopia)

# **Interview Guides for principals**

1. Personal Data
1.1. Age
1.2. Sex
1.3. Occupation/profession
1.4. Educational Background
1.5. Work experience as a teacher
2. Thematic issues: Push-pull factors for child trafficking and child labor
2.7. The gender dimension
• Do you know of students of your school who engaged in child labor?
• What do they complain being in school? With parents at home?
<ul> <li>Why do you think female children vulnerable to child labor and trafficking?</li> </ul>

• What kind of activities do parents want their male children and female children to engage in?

• What efforts have been made by your school to protect children?

Does the curriculum and school polices promote the rights of child

#### **INST 07**

# E-FACE (Ethiopia)

# **Interview Guides for employers**

1. Personal Data	
1.1. Age	
1.2. Sex	
1.3. Occupation/profession	
1.4. Educational Background	
1.5. Work experience as a teacher	

# 2. Thematic issues: Push-pull factors for child trafficking and child labor

#### 2.1. Push factors

- Are you aware of child trafficking? If yes. What is it?
- Do you ask the children the reason they leave their home when they come to you?
- Are you aware of ILO international children's right? What is it?
- How do you see child trafficking in light of the ILO children's right?

#### 2.2. Pull factors

- What incentives do you provide for the children when they leave their family and come to you?
- What are the criteria to select the children?

- With what motives do the children leave their family (if you ever heard from them)?
- Is there any benefits the children get when they come here?
- What is the turnover rate? And why do they go?

## 2.3. Actors in child trafficking and the routes

- How do you meet your employees/the children?
- What do they/the brokers, benefit from you?
- How do you meet the brokers?
- Do you have your own broker or just contact any one of them when you want?
- Do they go to the source and select the children or receive from other brokers here?
- If they don't go to the source, are there specific places where they meet the children?

## 2.7. The gender dimension

- Who do you prefer to employ? Female or male children?
- What is comparative of employing under children?
- What is the comparative advantage of employing boys over employing girls?
- How many hours do children work?
- Do both girls and boys enjoy equal benefits

INST 08
E-FACE (Ethiopia)
Interview Guides for elders
1. Personal Data
1.1. Age
1.2. Sex
1.3. Occupation/profession
1.4. Educational Background
2. Thematic issues: Push-pull factors for child trafficking and child labor
2.4. Victims' experiences
• What hazards do you think the victims of child labor and child trafficking may face?
• Which problem is apparent and serious?
• As community elder, what measures have you taken/efforts have you made to stop child trafficking?

• What do you suggest to solve the problems of child trafficking and child labor?