



Domestic work, sexual abuse and exploitation in Ethiopia and Tanzania

Annabel Erulkar PhD

Country Director, Population Council, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

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Background: The Population Council

- Established in 1952 by John D. Rockefeller III
- Headquartered in New York, with offices in Washington and 14 developing countries
- Mission: *To improve the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world and to help achieve a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources.*
- Areas of expertise: HIV and AIDS, Reproductive health and family planning, Adolescents, Population policy and demographic analysis, Biomedical research
- Child protection policy implemented in 2012

Child domestic work: A global review

- Globally, there are an estimated 250 million child workers, with a large proportion in domestic service
- The majority of child domestic workers are in urban areas
- However, they often originate from poor rural families
- They are overwhelmingly female, poorly educated or not educated at all
- The workplace is a private residence, and within the private domestic sphere, workers are subjected to long hours of work, for little pay
- Domestic work is considered among the lowest status work of all occupations and the most poorly paid.

Sources: Human Rights Watch (HRW), "Swept Under the Rug: Abuses against Domestic Workers around the World," *Human Rights Watch*, Vol 18, No. 7, July, 2006; UNICEF, "Child Domestic Work," *Innocenti Digest*, Florence: UNICEF, 1999. Black M. "Child Domestic Workers: Finding a Voice," London: Anti-Slavery International, 2002



Context: Ethiopia & Tanzania



	Ethiopia	Tanzania
Population	94 million	48 million
% Rural	84%	73%
Global poverty ranking, by country ¹	12 th poorest	25 th poorest
% girls 12-18 who have never attended school ²	19% (23% rural)	7% (9% rural)
% girls 15-18 who attained secondary education ²	12%	41%

¹ World Bank, World Development Indicators, 2012

² Population Council analysis of Demographic and Health Survey for Ethiopia and Tanzania

Domestic work in Ethiopia & Tanzania

- In a study in seven regions of Ethiopia among nearly 10,000 young people, domestic work was the most common form of work among urban girls (37% of working girls) ¹
- In a study of adolescents in slum areas of Addis Ababa, 77% of working girls were in domestic work ²
 - Worked an average of 64 hours per week
 - Earned average of 54 Birr (US\$ 6.00; 2007 exchange rate) per month
 - 44 percent reported having no friends
- A study in Tanzania found child domestic workers work an average of 13 hours per day, for \$10 per month

¹Erulkar A, Ferede A, Ambelu W, et. al. 2010. "Ethiopia Young Adult Survey: A Study in Seven Regions," Addis Ababa: Population Council and UNFPA, September

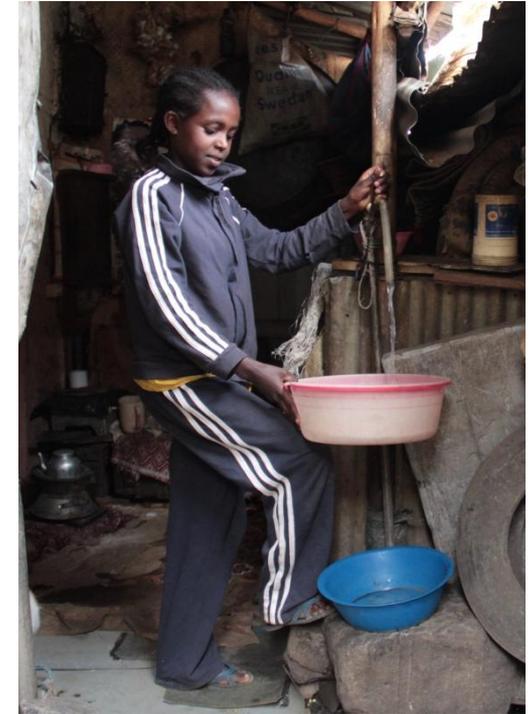
²Erulkar A and Mekbib T. 2007. Invisible and vulnerable: Adolescent domestic workers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, *J. of Vulnerable Children & Youth Studies*, 2(3): 246-256.



Domestic workers experiences...

Where I used to work, they [employers] never let me wash myself and they wouldn't give me food... I used to starve. And because I was not able to wash, I had sores. I was carrying so much water on my back, I used to fall down... -Female domestic worker, age 10, never been to school, migrated from Amhara at age 9, worked 91 hours in last week, earns 20 Birr/\$2.30 per month

Most of the time, the child of the employers beats me without having a reason. When I ask him why he does that, he beats me again. -Female domestic worker, age 14, migrated at age 5, 2 years education



Child domestic workers & sexual exploitation

- In a study of girls in three Ethiopian cities, domestic workers were twice as likely to have experienced unwanted sex compared to non-domestics ¹
- In Tanzania, 72% of domestic workers reported physical abuse and 13% reported sexual exploitation
- In a study of 2,000 commercial sex workers in Ethiopia, 44% were former domestic workers ²
- A Tanzania study found 25% of sex workers/sexually exploited children were former domestic workers

In a house I used to work, the guy used to try to get me to sleep with him. He used to talk nonsense and put on bad movies and tell me to watch.

---Domestic worker, age 19, migrated to Addis Ababa at age 14, 2 years education

¹ Erulkar A, Ferede A, 2009. "Social exclusion and early, unwanted sexual initiation in poor urban settings in Ethiopia," *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 35 (4): 186-193

² Girma W, Erulkar A, 2009. "Commercial sex workers in five Ethiopian cities: A baseline survey for targeted HIV prevention for most-at-risk populations," Addis Ababa: Population Council report, September 2009



Supporting child domestic workers & addressing sexual exploitation



- The workplace is a private residence keeping child domestic workers hidden and inaccessible
- Long hours of work keep girls locked away
- No existing platforms through which to reach girls
- Employers limit access to girls
- As a result, efforts to reach and support child domestic workers are small and scattered
- Those addressing sexual exploitation are even more rare, or non-existent



Biruh Tesfa program in urban Ethiopia



- Biruh Tesfa is a safe spaces program for out-of-school girls in urban Ethiopia
- Partnership between Ethiopia Ministry of Women, Children & Youth Affairs and Population Council
- Adult mentors recruit out-of-school girls 7 to 18 house-to-house
- Mentors negotiate with gatekeepers during house-to-house visits
- Girls' groups meet in existing facilities and receive nonformal education and life skills
- Over 66,000 girls have been reached in 17 Ethiopian cities
- Preventing sexual exploitation and protecting girls remains one of the greatest challenges of the program

'Domestic work, sexual abuse and exploitation in Ethiopia and Tanzania'

- OBJECTIVE ONE: To expand the understanding of child domestic workers, including their experiences of abuse and sexual exploitation, as well as transitions to sex work.
- OBJECTIVE TWO: To leverage interest and direct commitment from governmental actors and implementation organizations to increase programmatic attention to child domestic workers and prevention of sexual exploitation, as well as to build capacity to design appropriate programs to support child domestic workers.
- OBJECTIVE THREE: To support local partners in development and implementation of pilot programs, based on research results.





OBJECTIVE ONE: To expand the understanding of child domestic workers and their experiences of abuse and sexual exploitation, as well as transitions to sex work

- Research conducted in low income areas of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Ethical review of research protocol in each country and through Population Council's Institutional Review Board
- Research among girls aged 15 to 24, with recall to younger ages
 - Most ethical review boards do not approve of research on sensitive topics among children less than 15 years



OBJECTIVE ONE: To expand the understanding of child domestic workers and their experiences of abuse and sexual exploitation, as well as transitions to sex work

Qualitative research

- In-depth interviews among 100 **domestic workers** (50 in each country)
- Interviews will explore families, migration, living conditions, entry into domestic work, social networks, isolation, contemplation of entry into commercial sexual exploitation, treatment by employers, exploitation, etc.
- In-depth interviews among 50 **sex workers who are former domestic workers**
- Interviews will explore the transition to sex work: driving factors, levels of pay, working conditions, brokers, etc.



OBJECTIVE ONE: To expand the understanding of child domestic workers and their experiences of abuse and sexual exploitation, as well as transitions to sex work

Quantitative research

- Informed by findings from the qualitative study
- Interview among 2,000 domestic workers (1,000 per country)
- Interviews among 400 sex workers (200 per country)
- Interviews will identify drivers, triggers or points of vulnerability to sexual exploitation
- Focus groups will be held with domestic workers to feed back and interpret results
- Range of dissemination products and strategies



OBJECTIVE TWO: Direct commitment from governments & implementers to increase programmatic attention to child domestic workers and prevention of sexual exploitation

- National consultation; advisory panel supporting research and interventions; Regional convening to disseminate research and use research for advocacy

OBJECTIVE THREE: To support partners in development and implementation of research-based programs

- Identify 3-5 organizations working in the area of child domestic workers or having the capacity to do so
- Build programs based on evidence to prevent sexual exploitation
- Guiding principles are to engage large proportions of eligible girls, increase their visibility and increase their safety nets
- Sub-awards to local organizations and technical assistance from the Population Council

Research to policy to practice

- Initiatives addressing child domestic work and prevention of sexual exploitation among a wide range of stakeholders
- Quality research that will leverage greater global attention and investment to this large and underserved group
- Implementation of ILOs Convention on Domestic Workers
- Increased investment in preventing children from sexual exploitation
- Differentiated and action-oriented research that leads to effective, context appropriate, scalable programming

