

Ending Gender-based Violence Against Children: a Systems Approach to Community Engagement

BACKGROUND

Ethiopia has a high rate of poverty (47%) and many live in a social environment which exposes them to myriad types of violence. Reported figures are quite alarming: **60% of adults admit to tying up and/or punching a child, 70% of children report to have been hit with a stick or other instrument, and 60% of children interviewed know of children who have been kidnapped.** Recently, rape and sexual abuse against girls has increased, resulting in unwanted pregnancies, illicit abortions, and single motherhood. Men and boys are the majority of perpetrators as a result of socialization and social expectation.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

The overall goal of this comprehensive intervention was to develop a functional and sustainable child protection system in Yeka and Gullele, two sub-cities of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The program had two main objectives: **(1) to engage boys and men in gender-based violence prevention, and (2) to strengthen child protection systems.** In addition, efforts were made to educate community members about child development and sexual health, and to develop positive attitudes and child-friendly practices.



CHANGING SOCIAL NORMS

The intervention was successful in **promoting personal and cultural transformation** by increasing awareness, developing positive attitudes, and a readiness to address the causes and consequences of increasing rates of VAC within the communities.



SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The intervention had some success in creating the basic foundation needed to engage stakeholders in the development of a more effective and coordinated child protection system. However, ongoing efforts and commitment is needed to ensure development and **sustainability of the child protection systems** of Yeka and Gullele.



VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Despite the comprehensive and system-wide approach, the intervention did not appear to reduce the prevalence of VAC within the project sites.



ENGAGEMENT OF BOYS AND MEN

While the program was successful in implementing a range of activities for children, **efforts to engage boys and men** did not produce the results anticipated. The support groups and edutainment activities reported a low proportion of male attendees (below 30%) and only about 57% of activities explicitly addressed the role of boys and men in preventing violence.

INSPIRE STRATEGIES

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children ([read more](#))



Norms and values



Response and support services



Education and Life Skills

ISSUES ADDRESSED

Violence Against Children (VAC)
Gender-based Violence (GBV)
Community Engagement
Child Protection System Strengthening

TIMEFRAME

September, 2012 – January 2013



LOCATION

Yeka and Gullele, Sub-cities of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



LEARN MORE

Read more about this project and its findings at theevaluationfund.org

KEY LESSONS



Projects that aspire to build the capacity of a community should be led and driven by community members, rather than the implementing organization that designed the intervention. **The focus should be on the transfer of skills**, as this type of capacity building is about empowering the community.



A formative study of the existing child protection system should be conducted prior to the intervention in order to identify and measure the expected outcomes.



Successful violence reduction initiatives require **a clear logic model or theory of change** in order to develop goals, objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities into a meaningful system.



A project designed to foster creativity and engage children as change agents must include **engaging and stimulating child-friendly activities** such as movies, music, games, dance, and drama to increase participation, and receptiveness.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The project aimed to engage men and boys and the wider community in the establishment of a functional child protection system in Addis Ababa through the enhancement of knowledge, positive attitudes, and community practices. The program organized and facilitated group discussions on parenting, child development, and reproductive health. A core element of the intervention was the active involvement and participation of children, parents, civil society organizations, local government bodies, and prominent community leaders. Three approaches were utilized:

- **Awareness raising:** community sensitization campaigns, production of child-friendly educational materials and communication programs including interactive street drama and music performances.
- **Direct support:** establishment of support groups, facilitation of referral arrangements, establishment or strengthening of a library, playground, and child-led clubs and a child advisory body.
- **Capacity building:** facilitation of stakeholder partnerships and networking, establishment of community advisory body, trainings on a range of topics such as resource mobilization

PARTNERS

Role	Organization
Implementing partners	Save the Children Sweden
Researchers	The African Child Policy Forum
Implementing partners	Hiwot Ethiopia
Implementing partners	Local government bodies: Police & Women, Children, and Youth Affairs Bureaus

STUDY DETAILS

The evaluation used a mixed research, using a concurrent nested design and a comparative design. A multi-stage sampling method was used to sample households and respondents for the qualitative data, using interviews, focus groups, observation, and file review. Quantitative data were collected using structured interviews and surveys.

TARGET POPULATION

35,500 children and their parents in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The number of children alone is estimated to be 21,300.

CONTACT

Getachew Desale

Program Manager,
Save the Children

Getachew.Desale@savethechildren.org

www.ethiopia.savethechildren.net/

LEARN MORE

Read more about this project and its findings at theevaluationfund.org

STRENGTHEN THE FIELD

Visit this project on our website where you can easily share it with your networks and partners.



The Evaluation Fund
Reducing Violence Against Children