



# **KALU INSTITUTE**

## **Humanitarian Aid Studies Centre**

**AN ASSESMENT OF THE PUSHING FACTORS THAT LED TO THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOUR EXPRIENCES IN ONE OF THE SUDANESE REFUGEE CAMP AT TONGO (WESTERN ETHIOPIA)**

**A work submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master's in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid.**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ARRA	Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs
AU	Africa Union
CSW	Community Social Worker
CRC	Child Right Convention
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
ILO	International Labour Organization
KI	Key Informant
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PI	Plan International
RCC	Refugees Central Committee
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UNHCR	United Nation High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To date, the civil war in Sudan's Blue Nile region has produced 11,172 refugees ended in Tongo refugee Camp, settled in Tongo town, Mao-Komo Special district, of which nearly 59% are children.

However, little assistance is available to help refugees with the increasing cost of living, pushing many families to send their children to work jeopardizing their education and subjecting them to exploitation by employers looking for cheap labor.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines child labor as the work of a person under the age of 18 that is paid or volunteer, permanent or temporary, and is harmful mentally, physically, socially or morally, as well as prevents him or her from attending school.

Different discussions and other data collected for this report show that many refugee children from Tongo Refugee Camp are forced not only to work, but to work heavy manual and farm works. Most payments are below the range of 30 Ethiopian Birr per day (equivalent to 1 US\$), much less than the minimum wage stipulated in many countries labor law. Refugee children in the labor market are also exposed to dangerous, sometimes violent, working conditions.

The research gathered information for this paper through visits to workplaces in Tongo town. In addition to that interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with child laborers themselves and their families, as well as employers and staff of organizations relevant to the work of refugee children.

The goal of this paper is to indicate the prevalence of refugee children in Tongo Refugee Camp and to serve the data for advocacy and fund raising to design program for intervention.

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Ethiopia is hosting one of the largest numbers of refugees on the African continent. Ethiopia continues to be a safe haven for nearly 920,000 refugees who fled their homes as a result of insecurity, political instability, military conscription, conflict, famine and other problems in their countries of origin (Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan, 2018). The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) provides protection to refugees from some 20 countries. The majority of these refugees originate from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. This longstanding generous hospitality of Ethiopians in welcoming and hosting refugees from many countries has facilitated refugees to seek asylum in safety and dignity, thus enabling their stay in the country comfortably and cordially side by side with their hosting communities. Tongo refugee camp was established on July 2010 mainly to settle refugees from Sudan who left their country due to the crisis in Blue Nile state of Sudan. There are also few South Sudanese refugees who seek protection due to the civil war in South Sudan since 2011.

African children are often depicted as victims of war, poverty and illness, and not as agents who creatively deal with the possibilities and constraints of social life (Myers and Plateau, 2005). Refugee children are particularly at risk of child labour, especially the worst forms. Contributing factors include the economic insecurity of refugee families, the lack of educational opportunities for refugee children, insufficient ration and social norms that condone the practice. In Tongo Refugee Camp, it has been stated by different body as there are indicators of child labour as one of a critical child protection concern. And the issues of child labour were a discussion point in child protection and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) coordination meeting, Year End evaluations, different field evaluation and assessment exercises.

In many societies including refugees, the vast majority of children undertake work that directly contributes to their families' incomes or survival, whether within the home, on their land or in the formal/informal workforce. Many consider that work – within certain limits – contributes to children's development and education, especially if combined with schooling. Obviously, a disaster or conflict disrupts work patterns. Children may need to take over for an injured parent or go further afield to find and carry heavier than normal amounts of water or fuel. As defined by ILO Convention No. 182, any boy or girl under the age of 18 who is engaged in the following: forced or compulsory labour, including recruitment of children for Work which, by its nature or because of the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of the child.

There are some important points in order to deal with child labour. We need to consider: the age of the child, the hours spent working each day, the amount of pay, the level of responsibility and whether children choose to work or are obliged by circumstances or individuals, whether the child attends school and whether work contributes to or harms the child's psychosocial and physical development. Also Early experiences in the labor market can significantly influence lifetime patterns of employment, pay and unemployment (Guarcello and Furio Rosati, 2017). Therefore, this paper is aimed to identify and give an emphasis the prevailing child labour and generate action points to stop child labour.

## **1.2. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

The current paper generally aims at establishing relevant and comprehensive information based on the situation and prevalence of child labour in Tongo refugee camp as the basis for coherent interventions by relevant actors and stakeholders. Within this general objective, the current study specifically aims:

- To identify any notable trends in the prevalence and involvement of refugee children in child labour
- To determine the impacts, if any, that the insufficiency of ration had on the existence of child labour;

- To ascertain which forms of child labour are most prevalent, and in which locations;
- To identify the primary sources of pressure in child labour being perpetuated;
- To determine the impacts that child labour has on children's development and continued education;
- To elicit suggestions from key stakeholders for ideas as to ways in which organizations in the camp can effectively prevent and respond to child labour;

### **1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

It has been forwarded by different reports that a significant numbers of child labourers are working in unsafe work and are unable to get proper education, vulnerable to diseases and they struggle with long-term physical and psychological pain. The main cause that induces children to work is poverty. These children work for their survival and to support their families. This circumstance provides barrier for successful learning opportunities and development. This has created a condition where these children lose the opportunity to get educated and a chance to be a better person in their future activities.

This study has the following benefits:

- It will serve to enhance the knowledge of different stockholder's concerning the level of the problem.
- The findings of this study will serve for advocacy, fund raising and program design.
- It will be a starting point for future assessment that could benefit from conclusions and data from this work;



## **1.4 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

- Unwillingness from the side of some children to participate in the study
- Insufficient up to date published reference materials on the topic area particular to refugee's child labor experiences
- Lack of properly recorded prior data regarding child labor in the study community

# CHAPTER TWO

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 DEFINITION CHILD LABOUR

There is no universally agreed upon definition of child labour (Ghetnet Metiku, 2010). Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

Typically, the term child labour is used to refer to child time in activities that are somehow harmful to the child. Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful (Ali Khakshour, Maryam Ajilian, Abbasi Sayed, Javad Seyedi and Masumeh Saeid 2015). For example, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC) emphasizes the importance of protecting children from: "work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development".

According to the International Labor Organization, the term child labour refers to work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and

- interferes with their schooling by:
- deprives them of the opportunity to attend school;
- obliges them to leave school prematurely; or
- Requires them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work."

The ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182), obliges States Parties to fix a minimum age for employment that should not be less than the age for completing compulsory schooling and, in any event, should not be less than 15 years.

Developing countries may set the minimum age of employment at 14. Convention No. 138 explicitly introduces a distinction between child labour and light work: "National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is ... (a) unlikely to be harmful to their health or development; and, (b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received"

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 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 labour, 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.

Ethiopia has ratified the major international and regional conventions and treaties protecting children against child labour. Relevant international instruments ratified by Ethiopia include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) ratified in June 1991, the ILO minimum age convention 138 in 1999 and the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Form of Child Labor ratified in 2003. At the regional level the country has ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the Dakar Optional Protocol on Minimum Age of Admission to Employment on 4th July 2000 and in 1999 respectively. These instruments provide for universally accepted standards for the wellbeing of children and lay down the legal framework for the protection of children.

## **2.2 ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON CHILD LABOUR AND REFUGEES.**

Ethiopia does not yet have a single legislation aimed at protecting the rights of children or even more specific for protecting children against child labour. There seems to be some agreement that some minimal restrictions, such as children being prevented from working in hazardous occupations or under bonded labor conditions, are worth enforcing legally (Basu K, 1999).

In general, policy FDRE constitution dedicated a provision that is of special interest for child labour is article 36 which specifically deals with the rights of the child. Sub article 1(d) of this provision provides that: "Every child has the right: Not to be subject 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 well-being". Through specific reference to 'exploitative practices' and work harmful to the education, health or well-being of children, article 36 (1) (d) explicitly prohibits child labour.

However, there are provisions scattered in different legislations such as, especially the Civil Code, the Criminal Code, the Revised Family Code, and the Labor Proclamation contain provisions protecting children from child labour.

## **2.2.1 THE REFUGEE PROCLAMATION**

Ethiopia has a long standing history of hosting refugees. The country maintains an open door policy for refugee inflows and allows humanitarian access and protection to those seeking asylum on its territory (Ethiopia Country Refugee Response Plan, 2018. In 2004, a national Refugee Proclamation was enacted based on the international and regional refugee conventions to which Ethiopia is a party (1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention).

Ethiopia is signatory to the UN Refugee Convention ratified in 1951, and is also a signatory to the refugee convention endorsed by the then OAU in 1969 (now AU). The country enacted its own Refugee Proclamation in 2004 which was replaced by new more comprehensive proclamation 1110/2019. The Proclamation embodies international refugee laws and principles. The proclamation encompasses different parts: procedures on how refugees are recognized, ceased, rights and obligation of refugees and other basic principles. Among the very important part four Article 1 has great importance for the research, it stated that refugees shall be subject to the laws and Provisions in force in Ethiopia. Refugees whenever in the country of Ethiopia must follow all laws of the host country. All national legal instrument relates with child labour are also applicable on the refugee population.

Of particular significance concerning Children enshrined under Article 38 under the title of special protection for vulnerable groups it states recognized refugee and asylum-seeker children shall enjoy the rights and protections enshrined under relevant laws in particular; specific measures are taken to protect them from abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking.

In general, refugee child labour concerns are directed under national laws and principles which are adapted to the peoples of Ethiopia. Below we will see different legal instruments which has particular interests on protection of children's well-being and consequences for failures to do so.

## **2.2.2 THE CIVIL CODE OF ETHIOPIA**

The Civil Code of Ethiopia (1960) recognizes and provides remedies for exploitation and abuse of a child. For instance, under article 2052 of the civil code, failure to educate or supervise any person under one's charge results in extra-contractual liability. This provision states that a person is at fault, and therefore liable under the law, "...where as a consequence of his failure, damage is suffered by the person in his charge" (sub-article 2). The 1960 Civil Code also provides for civil redress in the form of compensation to child victims under its provisions relating to Extra Contractual Liability. Another relevant section of the Civil Code relates to birth registration and issuance of birth certificates. The Code, under article 3361, deals with the registration of children at birth and issuance of birth certificates.

Another section of the Civil Code relevant for child labour issues is the first chapter of Title XVI on Contracts for the Performance of Services which governs relationships of household employment. The provisions of this title (Articles 2512 - 2593) on 'Contract of Employment in General' and Section Three of Chapter two (Articles 2601 - 2604) specifically applicable to 'Contracts of domestic servants living in' govern the different aspects of the relationship from employment to termination.<sup>97</sup> To protect the household workers from entering into an arrangement of abuse or exploitation, article 2522 dealing with 'terms unfavourable to the employee' provides that where terms of the agreement between a domestic servant and an employer are less favourable than those provided under these provisions, the unfavourable will not be valid. In addition to recognizing the relationship between domestic workers and their employers, these provisions of the Civil Code set down the rights and obligations of each party.

### **2.2.3 THE LABOUR PROCLAMATION**

Proclamation number 377/2003, i.e. the Labor Code applicable to employment relationships within the private sector, explicitly prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years (Article 89/2). It also provides special protections for child workers between the ages of 14 and 18 including prohibition of employment to perform work whose nature or the circumstances under which it is to be carried out is harmful to the life or health of the young worker (Article 89/3). The Code sets the maximum working hours for young workers at seven hours a day (Article 90) and precludes the employment of young workers for night work, overtime work, work on weekly rest days (Article 97)

The provisions of the law of obligations applicable to all contracts also apply to the relationship between housemaids and employers where they are mandatory and in areas where these provisions are silent on public holidays (Article 91). Furthermore this law requires the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to prescribe the schedules of dangerous operations that are not to be performed by persons below the age of 18 (Article 89/4). The proclamation finally prescribes penalties for contravention of its provisions by the employer under articles 183 – 187. The penalty provision relevant to our discussion, article 184 (1), addresses three acts of violation by the employer: violation of provisions relating to working hours; violation of provisions on weekly rest days; public holidays or leaves; and, violation of the duty to inform the Ministry upon the suspension of the contract of employment.

### **2.2.4 THE REVISED FAMILY CODE**

The Revised Family Code, which came into force in 2000 amending part of the Civil Code relating to marriage and the family, is proclaimed with the specific aim of harmonizing Ethiopian family laws with the provisions of the Constitution and international instruments including the UNCRC. The code provides for the protection of minors defined as "a person of either sex who has not attained the full age of eighteen

years" under Article 215 and imposes a duty on guardians and care givers to ensure the safety and welfare of the child's physical and intellectual development. More specific to child labour, article 195 of the Code stipulates the revocation of adoption where the adopter enslaves the child, engages the child in immoral acts for gain, or handles the child in any other manner that is detrimental to his future.

### **2.2.5 THE CRIMINAL CODE**

The Criminal Code, which came into effect in 2005, has incorporated provisions protecting children from all forms of abuse and exploitation including child labour. It includes provisions criminalizing child labour in general as well as from the worst forms of child labour such as the production and trafficking of drugs (Article 525), maltreatment, neglect and negligent treatment (articles 576, 658 – 659), exposure to imminent danger or abandonment of a child (article 574), enslavement (Article 596), trafficking in minors for compulsory labour (Article 597), trafficking in children and child labour (Articles 596, 597 and 635), traffic in minors for prostitution (Article 636) and prostitution of another for gain (articles 604 and 634). The Code even prescribes punishment for omission to register the birth of an infant (Article 656).

## **2.3 CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD LABOUR**

Generally, child labour affects the physical, cognitive and social development of children and deprives them of education, knowledge, skills, and high self-esteem and child hood joy( ILO,2007) The labour is likely to interfere with the education and normal development of the children which can be harmful to their health and morals(Weston, H, B 2002). .Child labourer's risk to be exposed for abuse, violence and hazards which can be dangerous to their life. Effects of labour on children are not the same as on adults as there are major psychological, physical and social differences between the two groups. Children may be seriously harmed by work which makes little or no risk to adults. Hazardous work during development and growth during the childhood can



have lasting effects which can affect the children for the rest of their lives (Boyden J, Ling B, Myeres W, 1998)

The prevalence of child labour in Tongo Refugee camp has a detrimental effect on the realization of the fundamental rights of children including their right to education, health, and to rest, leisure and recreation. These children are denied the basic necessities for their holistic development to the extent that their childhoods are literally stolen. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace. (UNICEF, The State of The World's Children, 2000,)

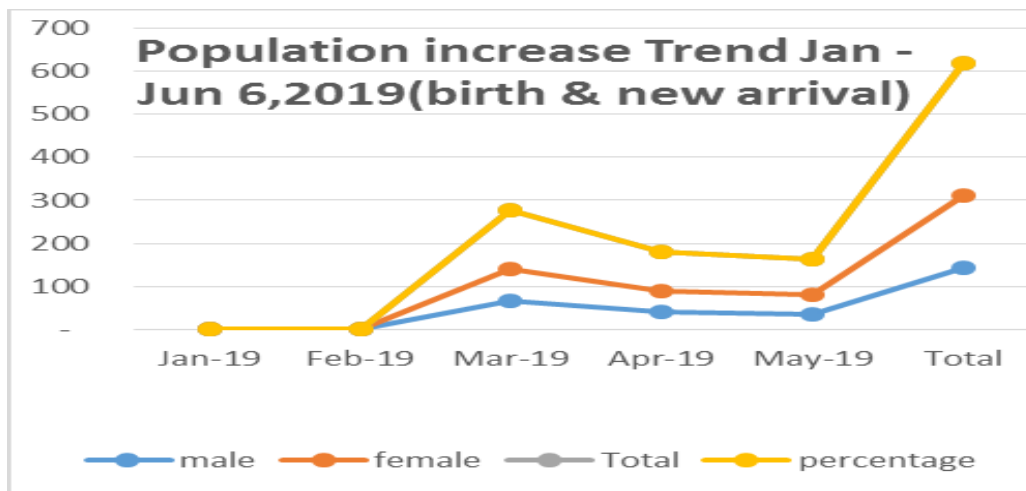
## 2.4 TONGO REFUGEE CAMP POPULATION PROFILE

Tongo refugee camp was opened in July 2011 at Tongo district, Benishangul-Gumuz regional state of Western Ethiopia. It is one of the camp among the five camps primarily



established to host Persons of Concern fleeing conflicts in Blue Nile region of Sudan seeking international protection due to the civil war in the country of origin. Currently, it accommodates Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees seeking international protection having a total active camp population of 11,172 persons as of 06 June 2019. (UNHCR database)

### 2.1 Map of Tongo Refugee camp



**Graph 2.1 Trend of Tongo population increase in the as of January 2019**

According to the refugee database (UNHCR database), 19.4 % of the Tongo camp population are adult men; 20.8% of the camp population are adult women. 59.8% of the Tongo camp population are children, of which more than 4,354 are of school going age. 15.8 % of the Tongo camp population are between 12-17 years old.

<b>Total Active Population of Tongo camp as of 06 June 2019</b>				
<b>Sudanese and South Sudanese</b>				
	Male	Female	%	Total
0-4	1,184	1,142	20.8%	2,326
5-11	1,332	1,261	23.2%	2,593
12-17	882	879	15.8%	1,761
18-59	2,005	2,170	37.4%	4,175
60+	163	154	2.8%	317
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>5,606</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11,172</b>

**Table 2.1 Sex/ Age breakdown total camp population**

The Camp settlement is divided in to five zones, each zones are also divided to five blocks and eight communities.

Name of Zones	Number of population
ZONE A	2381
ZONE B	3163
ZONE C	1541
ZONE D	2599
ZONE E	1488
TOTAL	11172

**Table 2.2 Camp population per Zone**

Currently in Tongo refugee camp there are different national and international NGO's implementing different intervention programs in line with their programme implementation agreements. Plan international (PI) is the leading partners in child protection intervention programme. Child protection programme encompasses different activities to improve the well-being of refugee children's living in the camp, these includes intervention to tackle children's from engaging in child labour activities in or around the camp. Overall Camp coordination is monitored by UNHCR Ethiopia and ARRA (GoE counterpart).

## **2.5 CHILD LABOUR IN TONGO REFUGEE CAMP**

There is customary in sub-Saharan African that children have always been part of the productive and reproductive role of societies. The fact that there have not been legal or customary laws in the long history of different communities that define the age that should have been categorized as working force, has made the society to continue to use children's labor to sustain families both socially and economically. There are a number of factors at the household level that affect whether a child is sent to work, around the household or away from the household(Robert T. Jensen).

Child labor is a very common problem in refugee communities across Ethiopia. It is also evident that it has been the issue of child labor is largely embedded in the economic condition of refugees due to insufficient assistance provided for the refugees.

Some of the community leaders of the refugee community who participated in the different engagement mentioned they witnessed their observation of many children engaging in different exploitative activities in and surrounding of the, most often in activities beyond their capacity. Furthermore, child labour exploitation is reported to be aggravating following to the reductions made on the monthly ration distributed for households. This case was particularly captured during the 2018 Participatory Assessment Exercise attended by different stakeholders. The joint assessment report on Child Protection concern conducted in November, 2018 also demonstrates the same result on the prevalence of child labour exploitation, as children's involvement in manual work in and the surrounding of the camp;

In Tongo Refugee camp, it has been said as there are indicators of child labour as one of a critical child protection concern. And the issue of child labour were a discussion point in child protection and SGBV coordination meetings, therefore this paper aimed to identify weather the child labour is exploitative or not and to give an emphasis, generate action points to stop child labour in Tongo camp.

# **CHAPTER THREE**

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 STUDY AREA**

The study area, Tongo refugee camp, is found in Mao-Komo special district, Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State, in western part of Ethiopia. The camp was established in May, 2011. It is located 1,060 meters above sea level. Tongo town and the refugee camp found with the Elevation of 1216 at Latitude/Longitude: 9.5 / 34.3333

### **3.2 STUDY DESIGN**

The study design was primarily qualitative and explanatory methods supplemented by secondary data. The intention of this research is to use the combination of both primary and secondary sources. The study design was qualitative methods, where interviews and FGDs was conducted for purposively selected Refugees and members of different associations. At last field observation will be conducted in order to reaffirm the results observed through interviews and FGD's.

### **3.3 STUDY POPULATION**

The study populations were all members of the Refugees Community, from different age and sex, who are residing in Tongo refugee camp that were able to communicate in English/Arabic at the time of the survey.

### **3.4 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

The study is descriptive and exploratory research. Interviews, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and personal observation were the main data collection

methods, during data collection. The study participants were selected (approached) by a purposive sampling method. Qualitative data were collected from different participants', school teachers, parents' children, refugee central committee /RCC/, zonal leaders, religious leaders, and local employer / business owners in Tongo. In order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the scale and details related to child labor in Tongo Refugee camp, a mixed-mode survey was designed, in total, the survey consisted of three different information-gathering mechanisms:

- Key Informant Interviews: In the first phase of the survey, with the assistance from 25 community social workers (CSW) a series of key informant interviews will be conducted with a broad range of stakeholders to determine the scale of the existence of child labour in the camp. As per the guide by the global child protection working group in choosing the key informants, we consider whether:
  - ✓ There is reason to believe that they have significant knowledge of the situation of the population of interest;
  - ✓ They will be able to understand the questions;
  - ✓ Their personal experience is representative of the community, and if not whether this will affect their answers. (e.g. having a higher level of education than other community members may not meaningfully affect answers regarding experience or impact of the disaster, but being a member of a dominant group might);
  - ✓ At least two of the KIs should be working directly with children in some capacity on a day to day basis. E.g. teacher, community care taker, etc.;
  - ✓ Gender balance should be considered. In other words both genders should be represented in the (Global Protection Cluster, Child Protection Working Group, Child Protection Rapid AssessmentA Short Guide January 2011)

The interviews were conducted individually by CSW, and consisted of equal numbers of male and female key informants interviewed in the camp. Quotas for the number of key informants were selected according to their role in the community, with the following target groups/figures identified in camp during the planning phase of the research: 10 teachers, 10 community caregivers from all zone, 10 Refugee Central Committee (RCC)

members, 5 traditional/religious leaders, 15 Women's Association members, 15 Youth Association members, 10 Parent Teacher Association members, 10 community police members, 20 Child Protection Committee members, 10 Zonal leaders, 10 local community business people and 25 from refugee community.

- Focus Group Discussions: A separate focus group discussions with the following target groups: female children, male children, parents and caregivers, and local traders. Each focus group consisted of 12 participants, with the facilitator assisted by CSW asking the same questions to each focus group. Based on the discussions of the group members, facilitators captured the feedback utilizing the form, Annex II: Focus Group Discussion (FGD). While the aim of the key informant interviews was to gather and analyze data from a wide range of stakeholders to determine the prevalence of child labour the camps, the focus group discussions allowed for a more in-depth examination of the root causes of the issue, the impacts it has had on refugee children, and an exploration of ways in which child labour can be prevented and responded to more effectively.
- Field Observation Visits: Visit to various work sites reported to be engaging in child labour activities. The sites that were visited were selected based on the information received from the key informant interviews and focus group discussions, and included locations both within the camp as well as nearby host community towns and villages.

### **3.5 METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS**

Descriptive and explanatory analysis was employed to present this preliminary assessment report on child labor in Tongo refugee camp. The qualitative data gathered from field first assembled and typed into a word processing program manually with the supporting graphs and charts. It involves classifying responses into meaningful categories so as to bring out their essential pattern and data is analyzed in agreement

with the points of discussions put on the interview guides. The raw data collected from the field through the field notes was carefully expanded.

As part of the data interpretation and analysis process, considered taking real responses from the interviews with a carefully designed questions that denote what the researcher thinks are important points in the data. While interpreting and analyzing data, tried to avoid subjectivity and involvement with the stories as much as possible.



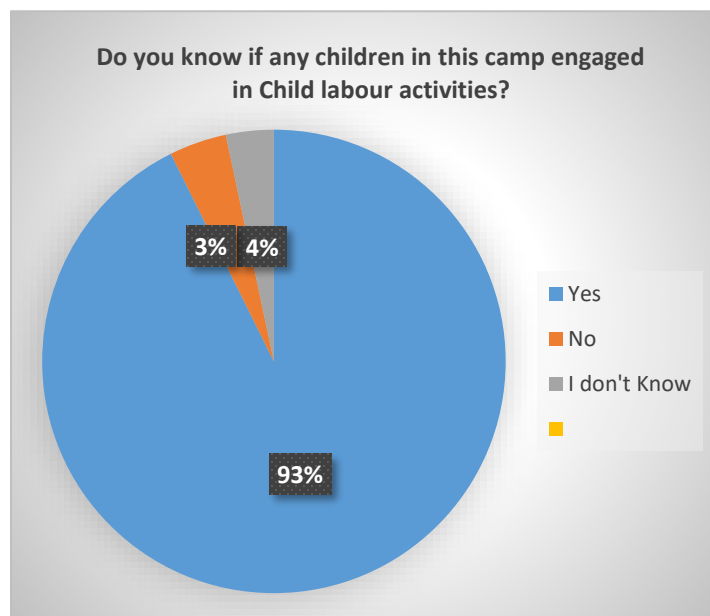
# CHAPTER FOUR.

## 4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### 4.1 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

As mentioned above, a total of 150 key informants were carefully selected and interviewed utilizing the questions contained in. The findings cached up in the questioners are summarized in the below illustrated bullets

#### 4.1.1 PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOUR IN TONGO REFUGEE CAMP.

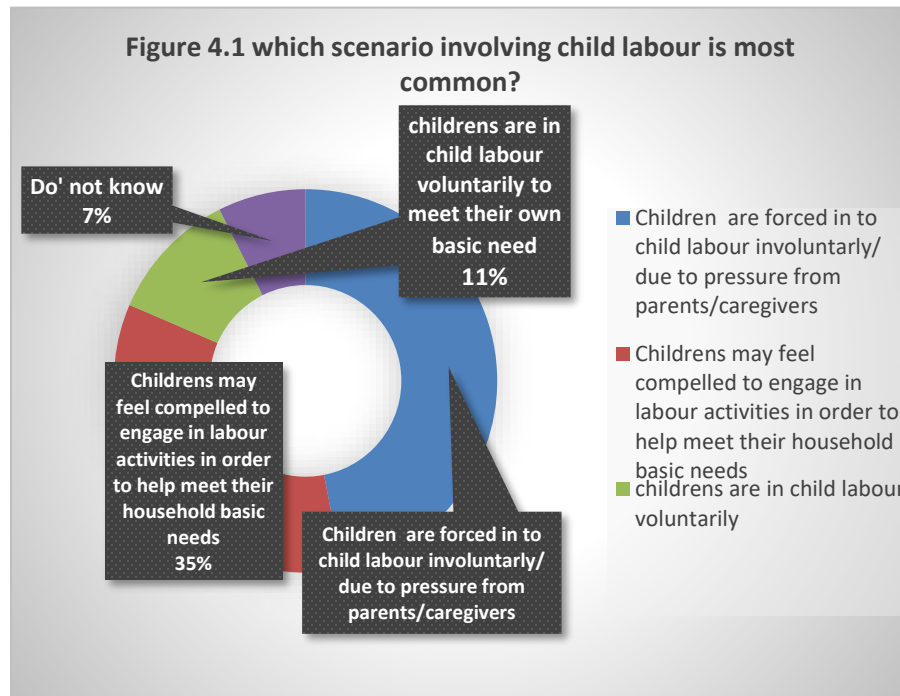


The first question asked to informants was: "Do you know of any children in this community who are gainfully employed for financial or other material benefits?" Overall, a total of 93% of informants answered yes to this question, indicating that the prevalence of refugee children engaging in employment appears to be widespread, 3% of the respondent replied no while the remaining 4%

responded don't know option. With these percentages of responses, we can conclude there is a high prevalence of child labour among Tongo refugee children's; it is conclusive that intervention and series of actions must be taken to curb the issue head on.

#### 4.1.2 PUSHING FACTORS OF CHILD LABOUR IN TONGO REFUGEE CAMP

The key informants were provided with several scenarios, and asked to specify which



was most commonly observed in cases involving child labour.

The question and scenarios sought to gauge the underlying pressures and motivations

contributing towards instances of child labour, as well as the sources of these pressures. Overall, a

total of 35% of all

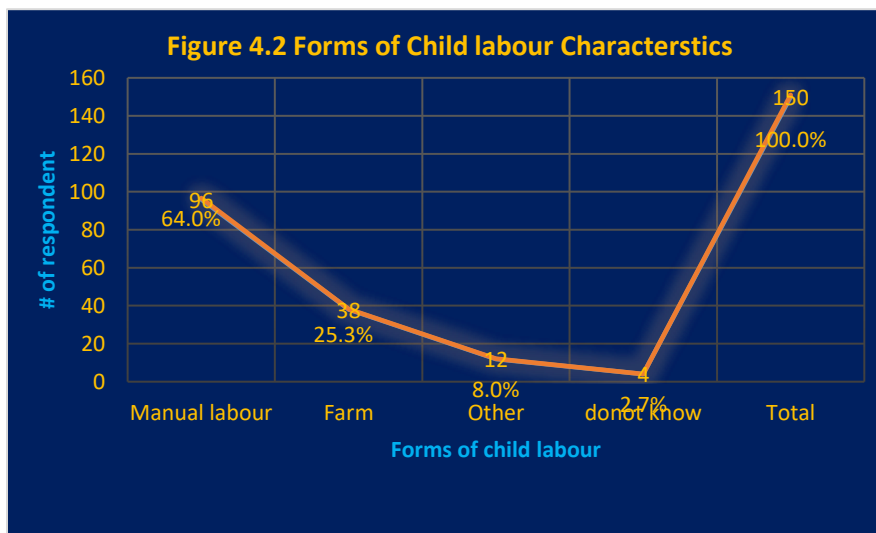
informants indicated that children feel compelled to engage in labour activities in order to help to meet their household's basic needs. Other scenarios provided, such as that children are forced into labour activities against their will or as a result of pressure from their parents/caregiver were 47% while around 11% responded children's are engaged in child labour without any intention or knowledge of parents/caregivers for the sake of fulfilling their own needs/not family and the remaining 10% of informants responded do not know about the pushing factors on children's engaged in child labour.

These findings suggest that many children engaging in labour activities are often doing so with the influence or pressure of external forces, whether they be caregivers, friends,

intermediaries, etc. Children appear to be influenced to seek out opportunities to earn an income to help support themselves and their families in meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, firewood, etc. This is not to suggest that engaging in labour activities in these instances is always in line with the child’s positive development and well-being, but also that the initial impetus behind such cases is a result of children feeling that their basic needs are not currently being met in their immediate environment.

### 4.1.3 FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

As it can be seen from the below findings on the scale of refugee child labour appears to be significant in outside camp, it is convenient to determine the forms of labour that children are engaged in. Having this 64 % of the respondent stated the most common forms of child labour is manual labour, while 25.3% of the respondent stated farm work



as common child labour forms, while the remaining informants also reported that either they do not know the specific types of labour that children are involved in or selected other forms of child labour specifying

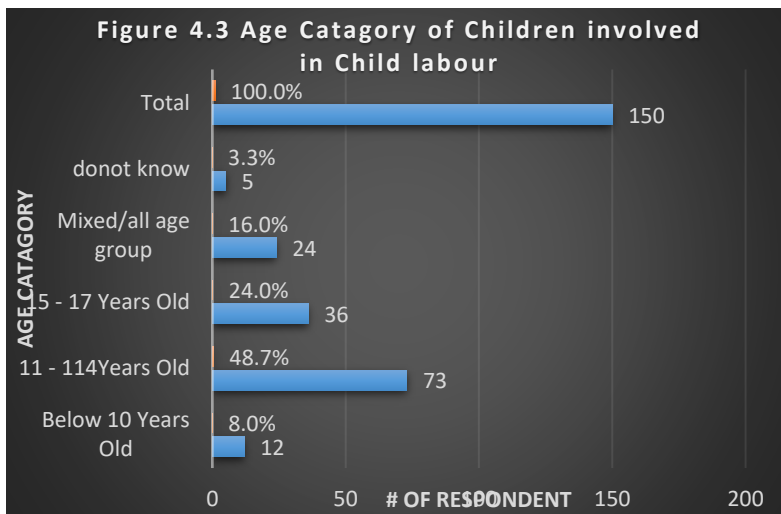
mining. With this finding manual work and farming as the main forms of child labour, which could bring physical stress and injury on the child that result impact on the child development.

### 4.1.4 AGE AND GENDER CATEGORY OF CHILD LABOUR

Informants were also asked to report the ages of children that are typically engaged in labour activities. Responses to this question can be seen demonstrates youth nearing

adulthood primarily engaging in labour activities, informants indicated the most common age group involved in labour as being 11 to 14 year olds and 15-17 year olds having 78.7% which is concerning as children of such age expected to attend school instead of spending this valuable time having engaged in income generation activities.

Besides that, quite few informants also responded children with age below 10 are also engaged in child labour activities which are equally concerning as such children's are not even physically able to conduct heavy manual and farm works. Beside, Informants

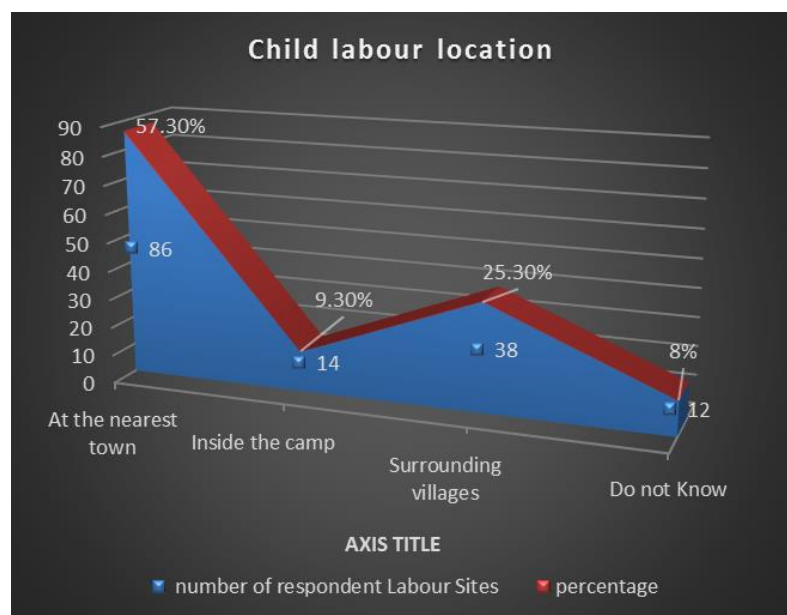


were also asked whether rates in child labour varied according to the child's gender. While the following section detailing the Focus Group Discussions explored this topic further, the key informants appear to believe that labour is more common among boys than girls. 80% of informants stated that males

were more frequently involved in child labour, compared with only 2% of respondents that indicated females as being more involved. An additional 10%, meanwhile, stated that boys and girls engage in child labour in equal amounts, the remaining respondent feels unable to answer the question.

#### 4.1.5 WORKING CONDITION OF CHILDREN'

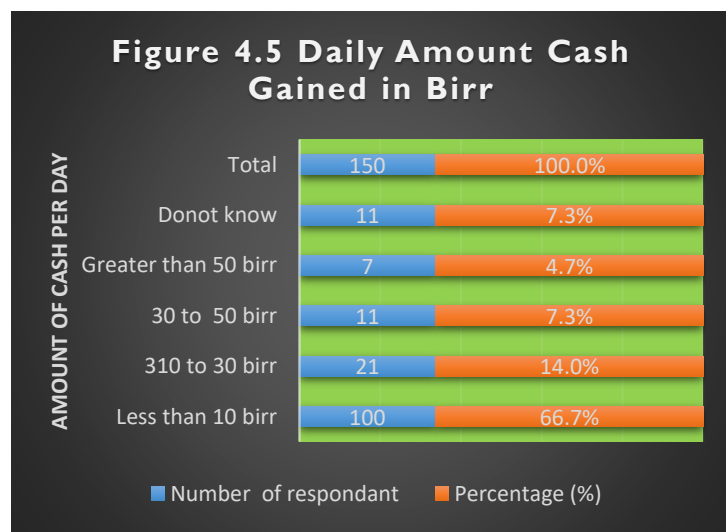
In this topic, concerning the working condition of childrens engaged in child labour, we will indicate the findings in relation to location of child labour , wage of child labour per



day,and impact of child labour on the children development.Informants when asked to provide the primary location of sites in which child labour occurs, 9.3% of respondents reported sites within the camp where they reside as being the main location of child labor, while a combined 82.6 % indicated child labor as taking place

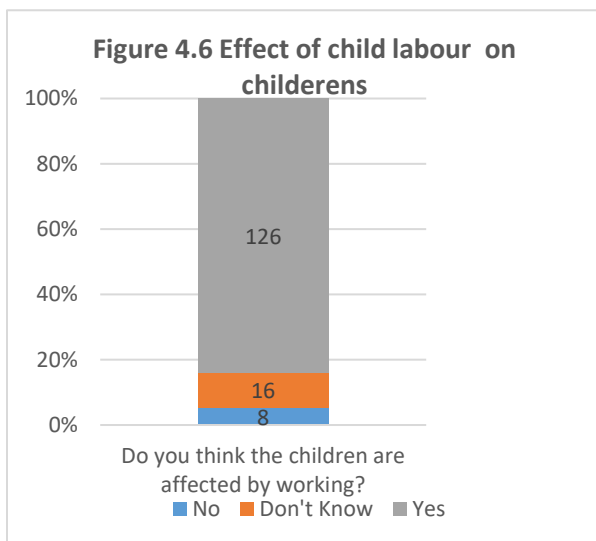
more frequently in either nearby towns and surrounding villages the remaining 8% states the don't know about the location.

This suggests that children are not employed by only one employer, but rather are engaged in labor activities by a wide range of employers located in a variety of locations, making it more difficult to address the issue effectively.



Informants were also asked to estimate the average amount that children earn when they are engaged in labour activities. While most respondents provided a

range of figures on this question, it is notable that 66.7% estimated children as earning as little as less than Ten Ethiopian Birr (Equivalent to 0.30 USD) per day. A wide range of responses(14%) were provided under the category “Other amount”, with some indicating figures between 10-30 ETB/day, others(4.7%) greater than 50 ETB/day, and still others(7.3%) reporting that do not know the mount in exchange for labour performed. While informants did not specify how many hours children typically worked to be paid at these rates, the Focus Group Discussions carried out revealed that some children are engaged in labour activities as much as 10 hours per day, which obviously would significantly impede on their overall development and well-being.

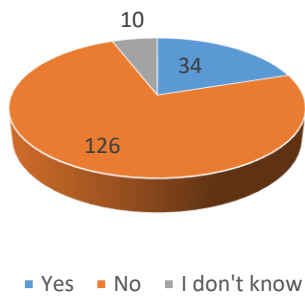


Respondents overwhelmingly felt that children engaged in labour activities are negatively impacted by the experience, When asked to specify how these children are impacted, common responses included that labour affects children’s physical and mental health, impedes their education (in some cases even causing children to drop out completely from school), and can limit their social engagement and development.

#### 4.1.6 IMPACT OF CHILD LABOUR ON EDUCATION

Most informants indicated that children engaging in labour activities do not attend school, with 45% of respondents reporting as such, compared to 30% who believe these children are attending school, and the remaining 25% of informants stated that they do not know whether these children attend school or not.

**Figure 4.7** Do you feel these children attend school?



The result is concerning as education has vital part on the child development and well-being. Respondents overwhelmingly felt that children engaged in labour activities are negatively impacted by the experience, When asked to

specify how these children are impacted, common responses included that labour affects children's physical and mental health, impedes their education (in some cases even causing children to drop out completely from school), and can limit their social engagement and development.

## 4.2 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

While the data gathered from the key informant interviews helped to ensure a wide range of sources of information were captured, a series of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were also held in the camp, with an aim towards capturing more detailed information related to this subject. Four FGDs were held, each with a specific target group (female children, male children, parents/caregivers, and local traders/business owners) consisting of 12 individuals per FGD.

Female Children (Ages 13-18): discussions were held with groups of 12 female children, who were asked a series of questions related to the issue of child labour. Feedback was consistent throughout all groups that the existence of child labour is driven by a lack of food, clothes, shoes, and school materials available to children in the camps. It was noted in several discussions that females are particularly involved in collecting and at times selling firewood, which puts them at risk of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

Most of the participants of the FGD were consistent in reporting that most cases of child labour are driven by both children themselves or through pressure by parents or

caregivers. The group stated that most parents believe their children are at school when their children are actually working in the market place or in Tongo town. The group noted that child labour is more common among unaccompanied and separated children, as they at times do not receive the same level of supervision that other children have.

Among the suggestions made to address the problem were continued training; in particular, to parents and in schools, to highlight the risks involved in child labour. The group also recommended that trainings be more targeted, and include Zonal leaders, Block leaders, and Refugee Central Committee members, so that they can all monitor the situation more closely in the camp. The groups were consistent in recommending the need for basic services to be strengthened, and particularly for food rations to be increased to reduce the desperation that children feel. Females also suggested that alternative energy sources be made available so that the need for firewood is reduced, and thus, protection risks for females is lessened.

Male Children (Ages 13-18): FGDs held with male children revealed a sense that many children insistent on involving themselves in labour activities, despite sometimes advice against it from their parents, community leaders, and schools. They added that the majority of cases of child labour involve males. They noted that unaccompanied children are particularly likely to become involved in child labour, since they have a lack of basic support available. While some unaccompanied children are assisted by foster families who are provided with limited material assistance to meet the children's needs, participants indicated that the support provided is insufficient, leaving unaccompanied children to engage in labour activities to obtain items such as food, clothing, shoes, and blankets.

Recommendations laid out by the male children FGDs included increased food rations and provision of clothing for children, alternative energy sources to help reduce the community's dependency on firewood, and a school feeding program in primary schools to prevent children from dropping out of classes due to hunger.



Parents/Caregivers: Parents and caregivers interviewed spoke to the desperate situation children were in insufficient food rations. Like other target groups, caregivers interviewed were largely consistent in stating that most cases of child labour involve the children themselves and parents/caregiver searching out work, rather than due to caregivers or third parties pressuring them to do so. Lastly, , caregivers reported that some children are living on the streets and begging, due to parents who are alcoholic and sell their food rations rather than feed their children.

Caregivers in the FGD suggested that training be made available to parents on how to better manage their income and food rations. Again, these groups were also consistent in recommending that increased material support for children's basic needs would be the most effective means of reducing child labour activities.

Traders/Local business men: Lastly, FGDs were held with traders and local business men in the town. It was noted that rates of child labour had significantly increased during the end of the month in which food rations were reduced, and that children often approach them begging for work, and that some children even steal items from their shops if they refuse to pay them to work there. The group further added that "most parents are jobless, and hence, unable to provide the need of their children", which leads to engage in child labour activities.

Recommendations made by the traders included provision of training on positive disciplining to parents, increases in food rations and non-food items such as clothing for children, increased income-generating activities for parents, and greater support to schools to encourage children to continue attending to their education.

### **4.3 FIELD OBSERVATION**

Following the completion of the key informant interviews and focus group discussions, field observation visits to sites believed to be involved in carrying out child labour were conducted. The selection of sites that were visited was made based upon the feedback

provided during the key informant interviews, focus group discussions. Personal observations and impressions of the sites, including whether children could be seen working, the working conditions at the site, any potential risks to children that could be seen at the site, etc. were done. In addition, owners and/or workers present at the site at the time of the visit were interviewed, in order to document information related to the number of children working at the site, what type of tasks they perform, and other considerations. During the visit market areas in both Tongo camp and Tongo town approximately 75-100 children aged between 10-17 years could be seen engaged in labour activities, who were believed to be combination of children from the refugee and host communities. The conditions were observed to be hazardous, particularly for the males, who were often carrying very heavy loads, performing various tasks in the restaurants. It was also noted that most of the establishments visited also sold alcohol, raising significant protection risks for children, working in the locations.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Having outlined a variety of significant findings that were obtained through several different means, several recommendations can be made to more effectively prevent and respond to the issue of child labour in the region. With the findings of the survey overwhelmingly indicate that child labour is widespread among both refugee and host community children, it is imperative that a series of actions be taken to confront the issue head on.

Among the most resounding findings of the survey are that child labour in the region is primarily fuelled by a lack of basic needs (such as food, clothing, shoes, etc.) being available to children. This is especially concerning, as the survey was carried out only weeks before an additional round of ration reductions were carried out for refugees. With the reductions being significantly more severe than the reductions carried out in 2017, it is imperative that advocacy be carried out to ensure that children in the region are provided with the basic needs required for their development and survival. Without this, and unless significant effort is made to address the problem, it is likely that instances of child labour will increase further in the coming months as the impact of the ration reductions affect refugee children and families. This advocacy may include the restoration of food and staple rations, or that refugees be provided with greater opportunities to engage in livelihood activities to achieve self-sufficiency. This is at the core of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) now being launched across Ethiopia; however, with complete implementation of the CRRF a longer-term prospect, immediate efforts to ensure refugees are provided with basic needs are required, so that children in the region are protected and supported. These advocacy efforts may be planned and implemented through the purview of the Assosa

Inter-Agency Child Protection Working Group, in conjunction with agency counterparts at national and international levels.

With child labour being observed to affect both refugee and host community children, it is also important that efforts to address the issue be coordinated and carried out together with local government offices and entities. In order to ensure this, it is recommended that the Assosa Inter-Agency Working Group invite and meet with representatives of the Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs and local Woredas to together devise a strategy to prevent, monitor, and respond to instances of child labour being carried out in refugee and host communities in the region. Included in this strategy should be concrete interventions related to activities which will sensitize local employers about the risks and consequences of child labour exploitation and abuse. As these employers involve individual from both the refugee and host communities, ensuring the involvement of local authorities will be essential in raising awareness child labour among local employers.

In the interim, more immediate interventions are required due to address some of the most urgent findings from this assessment raises significant protection concerns for the children involved. In order to address these cases, child protection case workers from PI should conduct further assessment with the children found to be working at these sites, and make specific recommendations in order to address the children's protection, psychosocial, and overall development needs.

An additional recommendation to be made relates to the coordinated involvement of child protection and education actors. With many children reported to be claiming to their parents to be attending school while they are in fact engaged in labour activities, better communication between schools, caregivers, and child protection actors is essential. To ensure this, school teachers and administrators should form contacts with child protection case workers, and regularly provide them with information related to children that have been absent from school. With this information, child protection social workers can carry out follow up actions with the children and their caregivers to ensure that the children are able to return to school, and that any cases of child labour occurring are addressed in order to meet the child's best interests.

Lastly, although most respondents reported that significant levels of awareness-raising have been carried out in all camps to highlight the risks and problems associated with child labour, the fact that the issue remains widespread and out in the open suggests further community interventions are required. In particular, all community members, including children, parents, caregivers, and community stakeholders, would benefit from targeted, practical sensitization as to ways in which they can work to combat the problem of child labour. Given the scale of labour activities occurring and the current environment in which refugees feel that their basic needs are not being met, this sensitization may also include ways in which a distinction can be made between child labour (which often involves exploitation, abuse, and limitation of development) and children engaging in work which may not impede or harm their development. There may be ways in which this can be done, but only by ensuring the investment of the community as a whole in the eradication of hazardous child labour and exploitation will the issue be systematically reduced.

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<input type="checkbox"/> below 10 years <input type="checkbox"/> 11 to 14 years <input type="checkbox"/> 15 to 17 years <input type="checkbox"/> mixed <input type="checkbox"/> D/Know
<p>4. Is there intermediary supporting the children in getting the job?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes to above, how do children manage to meet with the intermediary?</p> <p>Specify _____</p>
<p>5. Where do these children engage in these type of work?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> inside the camp    <input type="checkbox"/> at the nearest town    <input type="checkbox"/> surrounding villages    <input type="checkbox"/> D/Know</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> others specify _____</p>
<p>6. How many hours per day does the work entail? At what time of day? How many days per week and months per year? Is the work seasonal?</p>
<p>7. How much do they get for the service they provide? How is the payment effected?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> &gt;10ETB/day    <input type="checkbox"/> 10 – 30ETB/day    <input type="checkbox"/> 30- 50ETB/day    <input type="checkbox"/> &lt;50ETB/day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> others specify _____</p>
<p>8. Do you think the children are affected by working?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Please specify how? _____</p>
<p>9. Which gender do you find most frequently engaging in child labour?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male    <input type="checkbox"/> Female    <input type="checkbox"/> Equal    _____</p>
<p>10. In your opinion, which scenario involving child labour is most common?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children are forced into labour involuntarily/due to pressure from their parents/caregiver</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children may feel compelled to engage in labour in order to help meet their household's basic needs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children's are forced in to child labour voluntarily to meet their own basic need</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____</p>

## ANNEX 11: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Good morning/afternoon; welcome to our group discussion, I am-----, I came to conduct a research for my thesis as the partial fulfilment of my Master's Program In International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, at Kalu Humanitarian Aid Studies Center found in Spain.. We are here today to discuss about the prevalence of child labor and the condition of refugee children engaged in child labour activities, your recommendations to minimize the problem. All comments, both positive and negative are most welcome.

Provide anonymity and confidentiality statement:

I have now described to you the study and its purpose. I know that the information you will be telling me is sensitive and I guarantee confidentiality and anonymity with respect to anything you tell me. Your honest answers to this questionnaire will assist in making recommendations to government and UN and will hopefully lead to changes that will make your life better. Knowing all this, do you agree to participate in this study?

Yes  No

*Continue with the following questions only where the respondents have answered "yes"*

Topic for Discussion: Prevalence of child labor and the condition of refugee children engaged in child labour activities, your recommendations to minimize the problem.

Date ----- /-----/-----.

Group/Type of participants: -----

Time FGD started: -----

Number of participants: ----- Male: -----: Female: -----

Time FGD ended: -----

Venue of the FGD: -----

Are you willing to participate in the study? Yes  No

FGD Guiding Questions

1. How is the situation of children in this refugee camp?
2. In relation to the recent food ration cut in the refugee camps, have you observed any child protection issues increasing? If so, please list them and their magnitude.
3. Is child labor increasing in the refugee camps? If yes, since when and how?
4. Did the recent food ration cut contribute in increasing child labor in your camp?

*Ask also how it contributed.*

5. Is the engagement of children in labor activities seasonal? If yes, when does it increase?

*Ask also if children are engaged during school sessions.*

6. How are the children recruited for labor activities?

*Ask about method of recruitment? Through intermediaries/brokers, etc.*

7. What is the usual place and type of work for children?

*Ask how where do they go, how long they work for; certain hours or whole day; payment process – cash or kind? Etc. Also, does the type of work for children differ between boys and girls, and if so, how?*

8. Is child labor discussed in the community? How is the child labor perceived by the community?

*Ask if it is perceived as a normal practice and people do not perceive it as the risks and hazardous to the children. Ask if they are concerned about missing school sessions. If parents are concerned about their children's leisure time/playing with other children.*

9. Have you ever heard from any organizations in the camp about child labor and its negative impacts on children's health, well-being and development?

10. Anything you would like to add in child protection, specifically child labor issues?

11. Do you have any suggestions for how organizations in the camp can effectively address the issue of child labor?

## ANNEX III FIELD OBSERVATION TOOL

Date:

Site of Observation (location, Market place/farming area/restaurant, community/host or refugee:

<p>What are the main service and goods produced and/or processed in this community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>Is it small, medium or large scale entrepreneurship? <i>Observe if it uses machine or manual job, restaurant or teashop, type of activities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>Do children work at the site? If yes, how many and estimated age?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>What are your observations of the conditions of the work site?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>Are the children identified as refugee children, from host community, or both?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>What are the main tasks of the children working at the site? Do girls and boys perform different tasks? Please describe the tasks in detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>Observe if number of girls and boys are not same and in what sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>Do you perceive any risks and hazards for children in these kinds of task? What are they?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>
<p>How do the children's health look like? Are they healthy, malnourished, poor condition, etc?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write Your Observations And Remarks</li></ul>