

Report from the regional symposium on
Child Research in Southern Africa:

***Children and Youth living in circumstances
of Poverty and Marginalization***

8 – 10 October 2004

Holiday Inn Lusaka, Zambia

Childwatch
INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH NETWORK

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Introduction

Childwatch International Research Network organized a symposium in Lusaka, Zambia, 8 – 10 October 2004, to gather researchers in Southern Africa with an interest in child and youth studies. The symposium focused on presentations of existing research in the area. Discussions among the participants were an important part of the program to inspire development of existing and new research projects as well as to map possibilities for collaboration and the constitution of a regional network.

Internationally we seem to experience an increase of research with a child focus. Still we see the need for more context based knowledge on children and youth and their every day lives. It is important to support capacity building to build and improve applied research in order to understand children within their specific contexts and to improve the life conditions of young people around the world.

The possible build-up of a thematic regional network in Southern Africa may serve to identify, initiate, promote and coordinate interdisciplinary, academic and policy-oriented research with the support of a wider international network.

The participants of the symposium were from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and South Africa. They presented a wide range of themes on empirical research as well as theory and methodology issues relevant to the theme “Children and Youth in Southern Africa living in circumstances of Poverty and Marginalization”.

Present at the conference were also members of the Childwatch International Research Network Advisory Board and Secretariat.

Programme

Friday 8 October

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome

*Jon-Kristian Johnsen, Director of Childwatch International and
Pernille Skotte, Project Coordinator of Childwatch International*

Short presentation of participants

Presentation of Childwatch International

Vice President Per Egil Mjaavatn

Keynote speaker

Children and Youth Living in Circumstances of Poverty and Marginalization: A global perspective

Irene Rizzini, President of Childwatch International

Presentations and discussion I

Voice and visibility I: Methodological issues

Poverty, vulnerability and social policy: Research tools for understanding children's vulnerability

*Annie Leatt, Children's Institute, University of Cape Town,
South Africa*

Research experiences in a context of HIV/AIDS with a focus on children with disabilities in contemporary South Africa

Camilla Hansen, Section for International Health, University of Oslo, Norway

Children's perception of well-being: A basis for the construction of child well-being indicators

Shazly Savahl, University of Western Cape, South Africa

The Station Day Innovation: Data Collection made fun

Constance Chasi, Tsungirirai, Zimbabwe

Discussant *Bawa Yamba, Diakonhemmet University College, Norway*

Discussion led by *Rose September, University of Western Cape, South Africa*

Presentations and discussion II
Dependency, care patterns, protection and resilience

Child-headed households in Africa: What we know/What we don't know
Lydia Wambugu, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Counting on Children: Realising the Right to Social Assistance for Child-Headed Households in South Africa
Solange Rosa, Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Teenage mothers and re-admission into schools
Beatrice Hamusonde, Zambia Association for Research and Development, Zambia

Poverty and its consequences and challenges to child protection in Zambia: Children in Prostitution and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, labour and crime
Merab Kiremire, MAPODE, Zambia

Discussant *Annie Leatt, Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa*
Discussion led by *Robbie Gilligan, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland*

Saturday 9 October

Presentations and discussion III
Research collaboration and networking

Keynote speaker

Multi-disciplinary collaboration in Child Research in Africa
Fredrick Moses Okatcha, Department of Educational Psychology, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Presentations

Presentation of the CODSRIA Child and Youth Study Programme
Carlos Cardoso, CODESRIA, Senegal

Presentation of the Childhoods 2005 conference
Per Egil Mjaavatn, Vice President, Childwatch International

Presentations and discussion VI
Child autonomy, vulnerability and resilience

a) Displacement and Migration

The rights of refugee children (Title to be announced)

Regina Ossa Lullo, CORD, Zambia

Children and Adolescents in a Post War Crisis – The case of Angolan refugees

Joachim Cuthbert Mumba, CORD, Zambia

The problem of Street children in Kampala City

Roger Simasiku, University of Zambia

Discussion led by *Jon-Kristian Johnsen, Director of Childwatch International*

b) Youth transition and livelihood

Exploring Youth Enterprise Skills and Livelihood Development in Malawi

Amon Kabuli, Bunda College of Agriculture, Malawi

Youth Transition and Livelihoods in Urban Zambia in the New Millennium

Francis Chigunta, Department of Development Studies, University of Zambia

Discussion led by *Carlos Cardoso, CODESRIA, Senegal*

c) Child labour

Child Labour in Urban Areas in Malawi

Levison S. Chiwaula, Department of Economics, University of Malawi

Child Domestic Workers in Zambia: Caught between a rock and a hard place: Insights from a rapid assessment in the cities of Lusaka and Kitwe.

Robert Tembo, Department of Development Studies, University of Zambia

Discussion led by *Usha Nayar, Vice-President of Childwatch International*

Sunday 10 October

Presentations and discussion V
Voice and visibility II: Research and strategies for improved practice

A Costing comparison of OVC organizations

Sheperd Mupfumi, STRIVE, CRS, Zimbabwe

The Block Grant Innovation: A Cost-Effective Approach to reaching more children
Lovemore Tinarwo, STRIVE, CRS, Zimbabwe

A situation analysis study: Reducing community vulnerability to hiv/aids in Chipinge and Cheredizi program areas.
Stanley Mashumba, Plan International, Zimbabwe

Using a simple and structured model to understand and address the psychosocial needs of marginalied children in Southern Africa: Case studies of Makoni and Chimanimani districts in Zimbabwe
Ashbel Vudzijena, DOMCCP, Zimbabwe

Discussion led by *Irene Rizzini, President of Childwatch International*

Panel on future strategies for regional research co-operation

Panelists:

Rose September, University of Western Cape, South Africa

Fredrick Okatcha, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Merab Kiremire, MAPODE, Zambia

Carlos Cardoso, CODESRIA, Senegal

Moderated by *Jon-Kristian Johnsen, Director Childwatch International*

List of participants

Listed alphabetically by country and surname

KENYA:

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Research expertise and interest:

Please list or describe your experience and professional interest child research:
Health and nutritional interventions among children.
Class retention and dropouts.
Head of Childwatch International Key Institution

MALAWI:

LEVISON S. CHIWAULA
University of Malawi

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Research expertise and interest:

- 1. Child labour in the urban areas: A case study of the Municipality of Zomba.** This research is the one I am about to present at this workshop and modelled household decisions in using child labour.
- 2. Demand for Complementary Foods in Malawi: The case of Zomba and Chiradzuru Districts.** This particular research activity was modelling household behaviour in acquiring additional foods for their infants. Rural and Urban households were compared.

AMON MKONDAMBIRI KABULI
Bunda College of Agriculture

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Research expertise and interest:

My experience and professional interest in child research relates to the application of socio-economic tools in analysing and understanding youth and children livelihoods in rural and urban areas of Malawi as well as research and in enterprise and poverty eradication strategies for young people particularly those living in poor economic environments such as the unemployed, illiterate and street vending youths. I have also developed research interest in understanding environmental and reproductive health issues that affect children and the youth in general. I have also participated in some work on child labour issues amongst Malawian households and the farming sector in the country.

NORWAY:

CAMILLA HANSEN
University of Oslo / General practice and Community Medicine

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Research expertise and interest:

Disability

Children/household, South Africa

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Research expertise and interest:

I have conducted research on Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Zambia since the mid-1990s. At the Nordic Africa Institute, where I held the Nordic Research position between 1998 and 2003, I collaborated with researchers working in aspects of children's vulnerability in Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. I am currently the coordinator of a NORAD funded project on OVC in Southern Africa. The main objective of the project is to combine research with appropriate interventions in order to improve the lives of vulnerable children and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

SENEGAL:

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Research expertise and interest:

Programme officer of the CODESIRA Programme in Child and Youth

SOUTH AFRICA:

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Research expertise and interest:

I am a social scientist, researching policy responses to child poverty. I monitor the uptake of the Child Support Grant in South Africa as well as other social assistance programmes to poor households. I am co-principal investigator on a two year research project on Targeting Mechanisms for poverty alleviation and the realization of socio-economic rights in South Africa.

**SOLANGE ROSA
Children's Institute**

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Research expertise and interest:

Solange Rosa is currently a senior legal researcher in the Child Rights Programme at the Children's Institute; with special focus on children's socio-economic rights, in particular the rights to social security. She has been in this position since November 2002. During this time, she has also provided advocacy advice and support to Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security and is chairperson of the Basic Income Grant Coalition. She has conducted research, written reports and submissions on the right to social security and made presentations to Parliament. Ms Rosa has extensive experience in human rights advocacy and development work. She was also a researcher at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, University of Witwatersrand, on issues of freedom of expression, access to information and media freedom. She has a Masters of Law in Human (LLM), a bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a Bachelor of Arts.

**SHAZLY SAVAHL
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Research expertise and interest:

Child participation, Social constructionism.
Ideology, Qualitative research

**ROSE SEPTEMBER
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Head of Childwatch International Key Institution, **Child and Youth Research and Training Programme** at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town

**LYDIA WAMBUGU
University of the Witwatersrand**

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Research expertise and interest:

Children affected by armed conflict and HIV/AIDS pandemic such as refugee children, internally displaced

children, children heading households, child soldiers and orphans in Africa. I am also interested in the problems children face as they struggle to cope with their special situation arising from above, the coping mechanisms they adapt and the responses from government and communities.

ZAMBIA:

FRANCIS CHIGUNTA Department of Development Studies, University of Zambia

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Research expertise and interest:

- Urban youth
- Youth livelihoods and transitions
- Youth unemployment
- Entrepreneurship
- The urban informal sector
- Child labour processes
- Street kids.

MUMBA JOACHIM CUTHBERT Christian Outreach relief and Development

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Research expertise and interest:

I am a social worker by profession and the following are traces of my experience:

- I have had interest in working with Orphans and vulnerable children in peri-urban areas
- I have developed a project proposal for Urban Self-help (PUSH) an organization I worked with on "Kabwe Street children Support Project".
- I have been trained as a facilitator and trainer on protection of women and children from sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian crisis. I have also facilitated a number of workshops under the auspices of WFP and UNICEF contracted by Malitaba, a South African consortium from November 2002 to March 2003.
- I have also worked with separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children in a refugee situation. This included identification of such children spearheading sensitization campaigns on care and proactive responses to the needs of such children.
- I have attended a number of workshops on promoting the rights of the children.
- My research interest is also in "Refugee Children, their rights, needs, self esteem, psychological development and dignity".

BEATRICE SIMWAPENGA HAMUSONDE Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD)

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Research expertise and interest:

I have a great interest in child research because I have realized that children face a lot of challenges that limit their realization of their rights.

During my post graduate studies, I studied Master of Arts in Gender Studies and did a study on Teenage Mothers and Re-admission to school. This was all based on the interest I have had in children's issues. The study identified a number of hindrances to teenage mother's re-admission into school. It also identified factors that lead to girls falling pregnant.

ZARD has initiated the proof in print on Child defilement. This is the capturing of reported cases of child defilement in our local newspapers to highlight the extent of child defilement in Zambia. The information is meant to feed into the advocacy work of the women's movement. We have also conducted a research on HIV/AIDS and child labour.

ESIASA KELVIN
Global Youth Network – Zambia

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Research expertise and interest:

- Youth Programme development, Youth business development, Early child education, Juvenile health and education, Youth and child policy analyst, Business economist (profile)

MERAB KAMBAMU KIREMIRE
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Research expertise and interest:

Children/Women in poverty & risk lifestyles (prostitution and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, labour and crime; and STIs/HIV/AIDS)

REGINA OSSA LULLO
Christian Outreach Relief and Development (CORD)

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Research expertise and interest:

Children living in circumstances of poverty and marginalization, Refugee children/internally displaced, Children in war-torn areas, HIV/Aids orphans, Physically disabled children

PETER KARIUKI MUNENE
African Network of the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)
Zambia Chapter)

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Research expertise and interest:

I work with and for children as a professional social worker. I have been working for the African Network for the prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect – ANPPCAN Head office, Nairobi – Kenya as the Head of Child Labour Department, last seven years. I have been involved in child research in the organisation, programming and implementation of various projects. Currently supporting efforts of Zambian Chapter to establish a secretariat and programming as part of capacity building through an exchange programme involving 11 countries.

ROGER NAMATE SISMASIKU
The University of Zambia

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Research expertise and interest:

I conducted a survey on Street children in the City of Kampala, Uganda. The survey brought about the poor conditions the children are subjected to. If funding is to made available, I intend to carry out a similar project in our capital city of Lusaka here in Zambia.

My interest is really to see to it the relevant authorities do something about street kid in Zambia if nor the entire Africa, because the children need to be assisted so that they can live a better life just like everybody else! The authorities should not ignore kids because they graduate to become habitual criminals that are a menace to society as a whole. We need authorities to do something about street kids now before it is too late!

ROBERT TEMBO
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Research expertise and interest:

The researchers have strong interest in child labour issues in developing countries. This interest culminated into initiation of a social action research on child domestic work in Zambia 2003. The researchers conducted a rapid assessment of the problem of child domestic work in the cities of Kitwe and Lusaka on behalf of ILO/IPEC in 2004. A draft report has since been disseminated to a wider audience in Zambia.

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Research expertise and interest:

I have previously not been involved much with child research, but my current work on Child rights Advocacy has introduced me to the area of child research.

My organisation is involved in advocacy for children's rights, and thus research has become one of the major tools to identify areas that require advocacy.

- I am currently working with a team of researchers who conducted a study on Zambia's commitment to children's rights, a budget perspective. Our organisation is responsible for carrying out advocacy around some of the research findings. One of the recommendations that came out from participants during the launch of the report this year in June is the need for further research on the same issues, but targeted at the rural child.
- Our organization is also preparing to participate in a research that will be looking at the prevalence of corporal punishment for children both in schools and at home as a mean of discipline. The research will be done in South Africa and Zambia. The idea is also to compare the prevalence in the two countries.

ZIMBABWE:**CONSTANCE CHASI
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Research expertise and interest:

- I have personal experience in child-centered issues.
- I have and 'am still working with orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe, and child research is my daily objective. In order to address problems faced by OVCs, it is wise to find out their socio-economic constraints and then mechanisms to curb those problems will follow. Thorough assessment is of paramount importance in order to achieve goals in child research. I am equally interested in child research through achievable methods.

**STANLEY MASHUMBA
Plan International, Zimbabwe**

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Research expertise and interest:

15 years of experience in research and evaluation of development activities. Special interest in child research – conducted several studies with published papers.

SHEPHERD MUPFUMI
Catholic Relief Service

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Research expertise and interest:

I conducted the following child focused studies

*Children's emergent pre-school literacy in UK and Zimbabwe (1991-2)

*Children's rights-a perspective from the children's point of view from mid Zambezi region—a joint action research with Save the Children (UK) (2000-2001)

*Conducted mini-action researches with children to assist in the development and publication of children's environmental health magazines(1995-98)

LOVEMORE TINARWO
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Research expertise and interest:

Please list or describe your experience and professional interest in child research:

As operations research manager for CRS-Zimbabwe my role is to utilize scientific data in order to predict and compare the outcomes of alternative decisions and strategies. In this way I assist management to determine its policy and actions with systematic and methodical information and analysis.

CRS/Zimbabwe Operations Research Unit's mandate is to facilitate learning amongst partners and to uncover lessons learnt and emerging practices. The many functions of operations research in CRS project management are to track achievement of partners' planned activities in interventions; establish units of analysis from which data will be collected (e.g., individuals, families, communities); develop techniques or tools to be used to collect data (e.g., structured questionnaires, direct observation, loosely structured interview guides, instruments to measure quality of service to children).

ASHBEL VUDZIJENA
DOMCCP-STRIVE (Zimbabwe)

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Research expertise and interest:

Vudzijena is social work graduate from the University of Zimbabwe. Work as welfare officer in Zimbabwe's Ministry of Social Welfare where child welfare was in the centre of the practice. Worked as an Operations Research Officer/Monitoring And Evaluation Officer in an NGO that supports village efforts to provide care to Orphaned and Vulnerable children. The name of the organization is "DOMCCP-STRIVE". I founded and am running a consultancy organisation called "CLAW Welfare Consultancy" whose mission is "to promote and preserve the welfare of children, labour and women through rendering refined consultancy services to willing government departments and non-governmental organisation in South Africa.

Childwatch International Advisory Board

BRASIL

IRENE RIZZINI
CIESPI

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VENEZUELA

MARIA ANGELICA SEPULVEDA
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NORWAY

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NORWAY

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Abstracts

Listed chronologically according to the program

Voice and visibility I: Methodological issues

1. Poverty, vulnerability and social policy: Research tools for understanding children's vulnerability

Annie Leatt, Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa

The ability to identify children that are “vulnerable” is essential for the development of effective social policies and programmes. Government benefits are targeted at those deemed most vulnerable by some implicit or explicit standard, and through a mechanism considered appropriate to that vulnerability. The “AIDS orphan” is one such category of the vulnerable, as is the child living in poverty. Yet there are many ways to understand vulnerability, and they are informed by different research methodologies and orientations around poverty, social psychology and social development.

This paper draws on the author's current work on targeting for poverty alleviation, recent primary research conducted at the Children's Institute, and a review of selected literature. Although they are South African research studies, they can be used to examine general principals. The first is a report on orphans and vulnerable children conducted by Giesa et.al at the Children's Institute, and the second is an analysis of targeting mechanisms for grants and services to poor children in South Africa by the author.

This paper analyses the ways or domains in which children can be identified as vulnerable, and endeavours to map out different kinds of vulnerability in relation to poverty. How can the ways in which children and communities define vulnerability be translated into an evidence base that policy makers can and will use? How should we investigate different levels of vulnerability within communities with similar levels of poverty, or in communities experiencing the same threats? How can the idea of vulnerability be used in a rights analysis for children? How can vulnerability be quantified in a way that allows for demographic projections and targeting? These questions can help us shed light on how quantitative and qualitative research needs to be combined to provide adequate evidence for policy analysis and development.

2. Research experiences in a context of HIV/AIDS with a focus on children with disabilities in contemporary South Africa

Camilla Hansen, Section for International Health, University of Oslo, Norway

Managing to reach and meaningfully include marginalized children with disabilities living in poverty within research creates methodologies challenges. Despite the many initiatives that takes place to assert the rightful place of children in general on the human rights agenda, children with disabilities still needs to be included as part of this agenda.

The Hiv/Aids pandemic raise new urgent needs towards children and adolescent with disabilities. Ingstad newly following up research from Botswana indicate that many adolescent/ adults get pregnant (2003). Ingstad argue that there is a lack of contextual acknowledgment that this is happening within the household but also within health workers' service provision and other service providers. Ingstad emphasis on the tendency to acknowledge that adolescent with disabilities does not have sex. The same experiences are to be found within the South African context, which is facing a precious need to develop good strategies for protecting children and adolescent with disabilities from sexual abuse, violence and to create and secure a human rights environment for safe sex.

This presentation, framed within a social human rights developmental framework of disability, will focus on some specific needs and challenges within the social and political context, with specific bearing to the context HIV/AIDS and adolescent and adult disabled persons.

3. Children's perception of well-being: A basis for the construction of child well-being indicators

Shazly Savahl, University of Western Cape, South Africa

This paper presents a project which follows a qualitative research design premised on using children's perspectives as the conceptual and methodological point of departure. The design was based on an adaptation of Rothman and Thomas's (1994) Intervention Research (IR) methodology.

The project aims at exploring children's perspectives on the nature of child well-being, identifying domains of child well-being based on children's perspectives and constructing relevant and credible child well-being indicators.

The task of monitoring and evaluating the state of South Africa's children has been plagued by a veritable lack of data and information. Historically, the data and research that does exist is relatively fragmented and weak, almost exclusively obtained through secondary processes. Subsequently, the generation of knowledge on children's rights and well-being has not been a priority and is under resourced. Developing a monitoring system that can provide a comprehensive, consistent and reliable account of South Africa's children remains a key challenge. The development of child well-being indicators presents the ideal conceptual and methodological vehicle to accurately measure and monitor the well-being of children in various aspects of life and society. Indicators that are currently being utilised are often inadequate, do not use children as the unit of analysis, and fail to take the perspectives of children into account.

The project works specifically from the perspectives of the children. Using the child participation model as the methodological point of departure the current project acknowledges children as valid social actors and key participants and collaborators in the development of child well-being indicators

4. The Station Day Innovation: Data Collection made fun

Constance Chasi, Tsungirirai, Zimbabwe

One of the most significant challenges of collecting data from children is finding a way to do it that is beneficial to both the child and the organization. Often times, and especially with children, data collection easily becomes extractive and can sometimes become exasperating for all parties. Tsungirirai, a CRS/STRIVE partner organization, has developed an innovation that not only makes it possible to regularly collect accurate data on children's health and psychosocial status, but also provides a useful tool for distributing material goods and disseminating information to children.

Tsungirirai holds station days on a regular basis at a centralized location. All children participating in the implementation partner's interventions participate in the activity. On a station day, children pass through various "stations" that vary with the type of information to be collected or given, e.g. height/weight, medical check up, counseling, an informational station. Once a child has been through all stations, they can move to the final station, where they can play a game or receive a donated item such as soap or a school notebook.

Data on interventions and specifically gathered from station days is compiled on a quarterly basis and is contained in STRIVE partner organizations' reports to CRS/STRIVE. The CRS/STRIVE OR Unit has also carried out direct observation and interviews regarding the station day innovation. The CRS/STRIVE OR Unit then generates reports showing lessons learned across partners and progress on project indicators and operations research variables on the impact, cost- effectiveness, replicability, and quality of care that STRIVE interventions provide.

Station Days have proven to be an exciting and extremely promising means of combining data collection with other activities for children. Most importantly, the data collected at station days has proven to be consistent, reliable, comparable, and much simpler to collect than with other methods.

NGOs and CBOs must make specific adjustments to conventional M&E and research methodologies and tools in order to adapt them to the specific ages, interests and situations of the children they serve. Most importantly, data collection activities must be interesting and fun for kids.

Dependency, care patterns, protection and resilience

5. Child-headed households in Africa: What we know/What we don't know

Lydia Wambugu, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

The HIV/AIDS pandemic, wars, internal strife, and droughts are exacerbating the already-serious poverty problem in sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa was the only region in the world where the millennium development goals (MDGs) of halving poverty and hunger remained as elusive as ever half way to the year 2015 when they were to be attained. In fact at current trends it will be nearer the end of the century that MDGs will be attained.

The most affected are children as families break up under the stress of poverty and as parents die from the effects of the dreaded disease and as a result of armed conflicts. The whole fabric of African families, with their much-lauded extended structures is falling apart, particularly in the urban areas while it remains intact in rural areas, where the majority of the African population reside, and where, therefore, we are witnessing a new phenomenon: families headed by grandparents. The same phenomenon exists in urban areas, where households are headed by children.

This paper aims to highlight the specific situation of children orphaned by AIDS and armed conflict, their survival strategies as they seek to overcome not only newly-imposed poverty and bereavement, but also social stigmatisation, and the kinds of support which could be given by communities and states. Further to this, the paper will seek to assess the situation of child-headed households, the socio-cultural and economic effects on children, the hazards they face, and solutions available to ameliorate the situation. The paper will provide practical suggestions on issues that need to be explored in identifying, designing and appraising related policies and projects on child-headed households'.

6. Counting on Children: Realising the Right to Social Assistance for Child-Headed Households in South Africa

Solange Rosa, Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa

As a consequence of the increasing numbers of orphans in South Africa in the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a relatively small number of children are remaining in households where there are no adult care-givers – in so-called 'child-headed households'. Despite the lack of accurate national data on the prevalence of child-headed households at this point in time, it is likely that the number of child-headed households in South Africa will increase as the HIV/AIDS pandemic progresses. This paper argues that in light of the current reality and future projections, it is critical that child-headed households be recognized as a legitimate family form. It is argued that under certain circumstances, it may be 'in the best interests of the child' to remain in the child-headed household, where no other suitable alternative exists.

This paper goes on to argue that, once recognised, children living in child-headed households require social assistance from the state where they are not able to support themselves or their dependents, and are equally entitled to that assistance under the South African Constitution. Children living in child-headed households are currently unable to access this financial assistance from the government, in the form of the Child Support Grant, for two reasons: the administrative identification requirements placed on the applicant 'primary care-giver'; and the lack of political anxiety to give grants directly to these children.

Under the Constitution, the State is obliged to provide social security to everyone, including social assistance if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants. In addition, the State has a responsibility to children who are orphaned and have no parental care. This paper therefore argues that the Government has an obligation to provide social assistance to these children, via a mechanism that is practical, reasonable and appropriate.

This paper therefore analyses the problems experienced by children living in child-headed households in accessing social assistance, in particular the Child Support Grant; outlines the constitutional obligations of the State towards these children, in respect of social assistance; and presents a number of mechanisms to ensure that child-headed households are able to access social assistance from the State, directly and through a mentor.

7. Teenage mothers and re-admission into schools

Beatrice Hamusonde, Zambia Association for Research and Development, Zambia

This study was conducted in 2000 following the 1997 government policy that allows girls that become pregnant while schooling to return to school. The study investigated the teenage mothers' socio-economic backgrounds, experiences and problems, views of parents, teachers and girls themselves, about the policy, and the extent to which they were returning to school. For the purposes of this paper and the theme of discussion I will dwell more on the teenage mother's socio-economic background, experiences and problems.

The girls who fell pregnant were in the age range of 14 to 20. The majority (78%) were in the age range of 15 to 18. There was a lot of sexual activity among these but little use of pregnancy, STIs and HIV/AIDS prevention measures. This exposed them to great risks of unwanted pregnancies and contraction of the deadly HIV/AIDS.

The study revealed that most girls were getting pregnant because of the following reasons: Lack of or little knowledge about pregnancy prevention methods; Denied access to contraceptives and family planning services; Lack of girls' control on the male condom; Poverty; Low Social Status and lack of control and power to decision-making; Irresponsibility and lack of care and concern by men involved who were much older in most cases.

The study revealed that most teenage mothers from poor socio-economic backgrounds (poor homes) were not returning to school while most of those from homes that could afford to pay for the girls' education and meet the costs of the child's food and nunny returned to school. It was revealed from the study that most girls with parents with little formal education did not return to school while most of those with highly educated parents did return to school. These results indicated that teenage mothers from poor families do not have same opportunities like those from families which can afford to meet education costs and baby costs.

Poverty is a serious cause of problems experienced by girls especially those from poor families. Gender inequalities and society's perceptions about the roles of men and women/girls in sexual relations have serious negative consequences on girls' progress in education and their empowerment.

8. Poverty and its consequences and challenges to child protection in Zambia: Children in Prostitution and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, labour and crime

Merab Kiremire, MAPODE, Zambia

Street prostitution as a means of income generation is a fairly new trend in Zambia, first seen around 1979 when 20/30-year old women were seen parading themselves along some Lusaka streets soliciting passing cars for customers shortly after the 1975 World copper price fall and simultaneous oil price rise. Over the years it has grown dramatically, with children as young as 11-years old involved, and there has been evidence that children and young women were willingly or unwillingly being taken to other countries for prostitution, labor and crime.

From the time MAPODE Initiators started working with children and young women in street sex in the streets and night spots of Lusaka, one of the issues that kept coming out again and again was the fact that the so many young girls in the streets were there, not because they liked it, but because they were there because they needed money for their survival. Many of them, mainly, teenagers, had children or old parents and siblings they were looking after. And many of the stories that came out of the streets clearly indicated that there were young children and girls being trafficked to neighboring countries and abroad for commercial sexual exploitation. Some were going to work as young domestic or farm laborers. Others were being used as carriers of drugs and other things.

In 2002 MAPODE carried out a research on 'Children and young Women in Prostitution and Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Labor and Crime in Zambia. The findings of this research serve to confirm the serious challenge to child protection and the promotion of women's rights, not only in Zambia where the research was undertaken but in Africa as a whole.

The paper will highlight MAPODE 6-years experiences as well as the results of its above mentioned research, together with its other researches on Teenage Mothers, Street Girls in Lusaka, and AIDS Orphans, and provide some recommendations on the way forward in the strengthening of the family in order to better prevent children from hazardous lives.

Child autonomy, vulnerability and resilience

a) Displacement and Migration

9. The rights of refugee children

Regina Ossa Lullo, CORD, Zambia

Children need special attention and care. But children in war situations spend most of their childhood struggling to survive, without much hope for secure and productive life. They face incredible odds and are particularly at risk with uncertainty and unprecedented upheavals.

Many a time, refugees and internally displaced children get separated from their parents or legal caretaker during the time of flight from their homes. This could at times result into permanent separation. Some children witness their parents being killed, and take flight unaccompanied and traumatized. Such children become most vulnerable. Separation is a distressing and traumatic experience for children in situations of conflict and displacement and can have serious long-term consequences for the child's well being.

When children are separated from their parents they become vulnerable. They become susceptible to disease, malnutrition and physical injury and some times in mischief and abuses. Treatable illnesses, such as pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea and malnutrition, become life threatening when combined with poverty, poor sanitation, inadequate health care and insufficient preventive measures special in war situations.

For those who survive childhood, the paths to a secure and happy future are still filled with obstacles. Children in situations of conflict and displacement have limited access to education, which limits their opportunity and reduce their potentials.

Refugee children's psychosocial well-being is as important as their physical health. The term "psychosocial well-being" is used to reflect the intimate relationship between psychological and social factors. Consequently, protecting and promoting the psychosocial well-being of refugee children has two main driving forces: It involves as a preventive measure, enhancing all those factors that promote the well being of children; and it includes providing the special reliable assistance necessary to ensure that children who have been harmed or have special needs are provided assistance to ensure a full recovery.

10. Children and Adolescents in a Post War Crisis – The case of Angolan refugees

Joachim Cuthbert Mumba, CORD, Zambia

This paper discusses the many sufferings of children in a post-armed conflict situation with focus on children at Nangweshi refugee camp in the western province of Zambia, hosting Angolan refugees. Children are the future of every nation and their suffering and marginalization has negative effect on their physical and psychological development. The paper also reiterates the fact that armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, abject poverty and marginalization are major factors that can be attributed to the plight of the children.

The paper seeks to reflect on the many sufferings of children during an armed conflict as well as a refugee situation. It looks at how living in circumstances of poverty, armed conflict and marginalization has negatively impacted on children in a refugee situation, a case of Nangweshi refugee camp.

Armed conflict is one of the main root cause of abject poverty and marginalization of children in most countries in African. For example in Angola armed conflict has taken about three decades. This has brought about a lot of misery sufferings as a result of loss of parents, displacements and lack of right environment for child growth. Many children have lost their parents as result of armed conflict in Angola. These children are living without protection and assistance. Most such children fled from their war torn countries into Zambia to seek refuge at Nangweshi refugee camp as unaccompanied children. In most refugee camps, orphans and unaccompanied children are the most vulnerable to the ills of society. In Nangweshi refugee camp separated and unaccompanied / orphaned children have been grafted with foster families whilst others have been forced by circumstances of their vulnerability to prematurely take on adult roles as household heads. This has brought about a considerable paradigm shift in their roles and responsibilities due to their quest for survival strategies. Most of the young girls have become single adolescent mothers and at the same time looking after their young brothers and sisters. Adolescent girls are usually forced to engage in gainful prostitution as well as forced early but short-lived marriages. Much as most children are employing these survival mechanisms, such are merely making them more vulnerable and exposing them to HIV/AIDS infections.

11. The problem of Street children in Kampala City

Roger Simasiku, University of Zambia

Street children are defined as those children for whom the street is the home and the family ties are non-existent ineffective. They are aged below 18 years and below and spend most of their active hours of the day and/or night on the streets. These children are normally located in urban areas and in Kampala, they are commonly found in the high-density areas of Kisenyi, Katwe, Nateete, Bwaise and Makerere Kikoni. They live in gangs and scavenge in garbage dumps and disguise their ways by performing petty work like selling 'Buveera'.

Our main objective of the analysis is to describe the nature and magnitude of the problem so as to identify a suitable alternative policy to minimize it. The policy envelope entails to street children aged 5 to 18 years and the number is restricted to 1500 street children.

The evaluation criteria used looked at the technical, economic, political and administrative feasibility of the alternative policies. The feasible alternatives solutions to the problem include re-uniting these children with their families, resettlement homes, adoption, orphanage, prescription to the armed forces, employment, government intervention, in family affairs, employment and community based interventions.

We used the Matrix display system to display the alternative policies. The best policy was selected on basis of better satisfying the criteria. The selected policy is the establishment of resettlement homes for street children. This policy involve numerous activities such as acquisition of land in the outskirts of Kampala preferably Mukono, setting up residential homes, schools, recreational facilities, health care facilities, agricultural farm, and workshop for skills training and equipping the facilities.

This policy will be monitored through the assessment of the extent to which it will be achieving the main objective of solving the problem of children in Kampala city that is to say how effectively and adequately it gets those children off the Kampala streets.

In conclusion, we recognize that the street children problem is very complex and no single policy can completely eradicate it. However, the selected policy once implemented as designed will adequately and effectively address the problem.

b) Youth transition and livelihood

12. Exploring Youth Enterprise Skills and Livelihood Development in Malawi

Amon Kabuli, Bunda College of Agriculture, Malawi

The youth in Malawi represent vast human resources potential which if properly prepared and tapped can contribute positively to national development. However, if neglected, the youth can spell disaster for the nation. The youth profile in Malawi shows lack of basic opportunities available to them although they constitute a large proportion of the population. Unequal access to the already limited opportunities has marginalized many youth groups particularly girls, disabled and deviant youths. Consequently, the development of enterprise skills among the youth has therefore been considered as one of the potential areas for creating sustainable livelihood systems to reduce youth poverty.

A research study on youth enterprise and livelihood skills development was carried out to better understand the types of entrepreneurial and skill development strategies that could be promoted to enhance youth livelihoods within the cultural, social and economic context of the country.

The research focused mainly on examining the livelihoods activities of sampled urban young men and women, rural youth and urban street vendors. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies to identify the types of activities the youths were involved in, the motivations driving these activities and the attributes and behavior that form the basis of their decisions and choices.

Findings showed that in terms of access to social services, credit and business opportunities favored urban and peri-urban youths compared to their rural counterparts. Most of the urban youths were involved in a number of income generating activities. The major problems faced by these youth programmes included lack of diversified credit providing institutions. Higher interest rates in major commercial banks also discouraged the youths from venturing into the higher capital businesses. Additionally, lack of organized youth associations or network to bargain for youth interest slowed down service delivery to youth businesses as well as payment for inputs.

The study concluded that creating sustainable enterprises remained the best option for the young men and women to achieve sustainable livelihood systems. However, to achieve this, there is a need to link the youth initiatives to credit institutions in order to solve problems of capital, tools and raw materials.

13. Youth Transition and Livelihoods in Urban Zambia in the New Millennium

Francis Chigunta, Department of Development Studies, University of Zambia

As the urban opportunity structure continues to decline in the face of continued economic stagnation, the youth in Zambia are navigating the opportunities and difficulties of urban life in economically creative as well as socially destructive ways.

This paper explores the problematic transition of urban youth in Zambia and the implications of this for the work socialization of young people. It discusses the nature of the transition of Zambian youth, factors influencing the transition, and the symbols, strategies, and tools that youth employ to build self-esteem, make a living, and protect themselves physically and emotionally within the urban settings. It asks:

To what extent does the existing urban environment create opportunities for youth to pursue 'independent' livelihoods? How are the different options that urban youth exercise influenced by gender, ethnicity, religion, and other factors? What will be the likely impact on urban society and living spaces of the increasing number of youth who have joined gangs? Alternatively, what mechanisms and modes have young people themselves adopted and adapted to confront the challenges of 21st century urbanism in Zambia? Have youth social networks and the informal economy mitigated some of the hardships that urban youth face?

We contend that the rising number of young people with a largely urban experience represents a significant cultural and political shift in Zambia that merits considerable attention from scholars.

c) Child labour

14. Child Labour in Urban Areas in Malawi

Levison S. Chiwaula, Department of Economics, University of Malawi

This paper is based on a study that was conducted in the Municipality of Zomba in Malawi in the year 2000 with an objective of finding the extent and causes of different forms of child labour at household level. The study was based on sample of ninety-seven households that was drawn using stratified sampling technique. The stratification was with reference to densities of the residential areas. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data and the data was analysed using descriptive statistics and regression analysis. Two logistic regression models were also estimated to find the factors that influence families either to employ a house servant or use child labour from their own children.

The results obtained indicate that 32 per cent of the sample households use child labour in their homes (13.4 per cent from their own children and 18.6 per cent from domestic servants). In the study 30.9 percent of the households in the sample have domestic servants and 55.6 per cent of the servants are children (equal or less than 16 years). The study also showed that 65 per cent of these young servants are girls while the remaining 35 per cent of them are boys. The minimum age observed for the servants was 13 but the minimum age at the date of employment was observed to be 12.

Household income was the only explanatory variable that was found to significantly affect the use of domestic servants (5 % significance level) in the households. Age of the household head, size of the household, household income and marital status of household head tend to significantly affect the use of the child labour from the family's children.

The study concluded that the extent of child labour is high in the urban areas and that both economic and demographic factors play significant roles in determining whether a household will use child labour or not. There is a difference in the factors that influence family decisions to use child labour either from house servants or family's children with demographic factors significant only in the use of own children. This difference indicates that economic reasons are more significant when a household is making a decision to employ a house servant while both economic and demographic reasons are significant when a household is making a decision to use child labour from their children. This signifies the role of culture and tradition.

15. Child Domestic Workers in Zambia: Caught between a rock and a hard place: Insights from a rapid assessment in the cities of Lusaka and Kitwe.

Robert Tembo, Department of Development Studies, University of Zambia

Child labour is a growing phenomenon in many developing countries. The socio-economic environment in a number of these countries has continued to deteriorate under the weight of austerity measures associated with liberalised economic programmes whose effects have pushed many households into extreme poverty.

Increasing household poverty has resulted in a rearrangement of the way families cope with such changes, with children increasingly assuming roles unsuitable for their age and normal development. Child labour is one example of such roles, taking many forms. Child domestic labour is one form of child labour that is on the upswing although largely unnoticed by society as a problem.

This paper draws from a rapid assessment of the problem of child domestic work in Zambia carried out on behalf of the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conducted in 2004. It looks at the peculiarities of the problem, causes, community perceptions and the challenges the Zambian society faces in the battle to combat the problem. The paper notes that children faced with a situation of general economic downturn, conservative societal attitudes and weak or non-existent legal framework to protect them are 'caught between a rock and a hard place'.

Voice and visibility II: Research and strategies for improved practice

16. A Costing comparison of OVC organizations

Sheperd Mupfumi, STRIVE, CRS, Zimbabwe

In the wake of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the resulting orphan crisis, information on cost effectiveness is crucial for determining how best to allocate limited resources between different kinds of activities in order to provide services that achieve the best overall result for children.

Through a comprehensive operations research strategy, the STRIVE Project identifies proven models of care and support that have the greatest impact on the well being of children in Zimbabwe. The operations research process involves the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, before, during, and after implementation of project activities. The sixteen partners' monitoring and reporting systems provide most of the essential data for the operations research process, including monthly cost-effectiveness analyses. Data on the various interventions, primarily how many children are served, is gathered on a quarterly basis and is contained in STRIVE partner organizations' reports to CRS/STRIVE. Using this data, cost effectiveness is compared and analysed in this paper using the cost per child per month per partner organization and the intervention area(s) covered by partners.

STRIVE partner organizations involved in only one or two interventions, primarily psychosocial support, had some of the lowest costs per child per month. However, some partners offering a mix of interventions had an even lower cost per child per month. Organizational capacity was a factor with regards to large international NGOs, whose costs per child per month are higher than any local community-based organizations which the STRIVE Project supports.

Comparing cost per child has very wide implications, especially for donors, as the orphan crisis continues. Considering this cost analysis, the STRIVE Project will continue to encourage its partner organizations to offer a combination of interventions, which is consistent with the STRIVE Project's holistic approach. Offering a mix of services to children increases the quality of care to orphans and vulnerable children by addressing their diverse needs. While organizations offering one intervention may have a low cost per child, organizations offering a package of services can also be just as cost-effective in their programming.

17. The Block Grant Innovation: A Cost-Effective Approach to reaching more children

Lovemore Tinarwo, STRIVE, CRS, Zimbabwe

With the overwhelming number of orphans in Zimbabwe, Catholic Relief Services Zimbabwe (CRS/ZW) is assisting local organizations to enhance their capacity to respond to the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS in an effective and sustainable manner. This paper discusses some efforts by one project, Support To Replicable Innovative Village/Community Level Efforts to care and support for vulnerable

children in Zimbabwe (STRIVE), to measure the impact of psychosocial support, food assistance, education assistance intervention and economic strengthening interventions in assisting children affected by HIV/AIDS.

In its quest to providing measure on the effectiveness of interventions, STRIVE has developed a number of tools to collect both quantitative and qualitative data to measure the accomplishments of the interventions. STRIVE has observed that in many child-centered projects, children often benefit from more than one activity for concurrent periods of time, as part of a holistic services package to children and families. As a result, children are often double counted in projects by being included in multiple intervention areas and/or in concurrent reporting periods. STRIVE as developed a tool that eliminates the double-counting of children reached.

The STRIVE double-counting elimination tool has proved to be a major breakthrough, however the challenge remains to “tell the story” from the data that the STRIVE tools provide. There is need when investigating the effectiveness of interventions to go beyond M&E. For instance, if a tool has been showing a general trend of more school drop-outs, there is every need to further understand *why* children are dropping out of school. STRIVE is moving fast in commissioning special studies to get more insight on trends that have emerged through analysis of data collected by the STRIVE M&E tools.

It is important that other projects be encouraged to move beyond general monitoring and evaluation systems into more methodological means of data collection and analysis to tell the story of what works for children. Because operations research tracks what is being done in a project, and whether it is making a difference, it can help program managers determine policy and actions methodically and systematically. In order to meet the scope of HIV/AIDS impact on children, their families and communities, it is of vital importance that all stakeholders utilize the learning facilitated by operations research activities to scale up successful interventions in child-centered programming.

18. A situation analysis study: Reducing community vulnerability to hiv/aids in Chipinge and Cheredizi program areas.

Stanley Mashumba, Plan International, Zimbabwe

The objective of this study was to establish HIV/AIDS vulnerable groups within Chiredzi and Chipinge, Zimbabwe. The study further explored issues that pre-cursor their vulnerability, the community and household responses to these issues and to establish the intervening groups and their capacity in mitigating on the situation in each village. Though the survey was intended to investigate issues relating to HIV/AIDS, our theme was not looked at as a health problem but as development problem at a broader spectrum. The data was collected through qualitative methods (Focus groups, semi-structured interviews and transect walks).

The study found linkages between factors that make some groups vulnerable and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The study found that there is a linkage between laws/rights and HIV/AIDS vulnerability. The legal laws are considered contrary to the traditional laws as these give children and women liberty that tradition and culture consider unwarranted and taboo. The same laws that are liberating the girl child are also leaving her vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infections. The study shows that most traditional laws are biased towards the male gender leaving the rights of the female gender suffocating and making them more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. It also showed a linkage between food security and HIV/AIDS vulnerability due to the fact that HIV/AIDS weakens and reduces productive labor resulting in lowered food production. Food shortages man caused or happening naturally pushes people towards immorality (prostitution) to access food physically and economically. When sexual indulgence becomes an avenue to access food (a basic need) then such populations are left susceptible to HIV/AIDS.

Lastly the study focused on the link between orphan-hood and HIV/AIDS vulnerability. OVCs constituted the “without” groups in community wealth ranking. The fact that this group of children has no cushion against any shocks it makes them very vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. The children face peer pressure at schools to keep up with the Jones and at the same time needing income to meet their basic needs in the form of food, clothes and toiletries. Many times indulging in immoral behavior like prostitution looks to be a better avenue of getting money within their limited time with less energy invested.

19. Using a simple and structured model to understand and address the psychosocial needs of marginalised children in Southern Africa: Case studies of Makoni and Chimanimani districts in Zimbabwe

Ashbel Vudzijena, DOMCCP, Zimbabwe

This submission emerges from the realisation that marginalized children are not only those who are economically-restrained but they tend to include those who are psychologically and socially underprivileged. It has become needless to mention that the majority of these psychosocially marginalized children in Zimbabwe are those who are AIDS-orphaned. Compelling evidence and accumulated experience over the years has demonstrated above criticism that the deadly assortment of psychosocial problems compromising the well-being of children in circumstances of marginalisation in Zimbabwe embraces the following: feelings of insecurity, isolation, suppression, oppression, worthlessness, truancy, inferiority, loss of concentration, extravagancy, aggressive outbursts, intolerance, frustration, drug abuse, record of arrests, impulsiveness and poor long-term planning. These are the issues that the simple model seeks to understand and address.