

POPULATION COUNCIL IN ETHIOPIA

POPULATION COUNCIL COLLABORATORS IN ETHIOPIA

Abt Associates
 Addis Ababa Youth and Sport Commission
 Bahir Dar Youth and Sport Office
 EngenderHealth
 Ethiopia Ministry of Youth and Sport
 Ethiopian Muslim Development Agency
 Ethiopian Orthodox Church
 Ethiopian Women with Disabilities Association
 Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE)
 Ministry of Health
 Nia Foundation
 Nike Foundation
 Organization for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Female Street Children
 Packard Foundation
 Population Services International
 The Turner Foundation, Inc.
 UK Department for International Development
 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
 USAID/PEPFAR

The Population Council's involvement in Ethiopia began in 1993 with the introduction of Norplant® contraceptive implants into the national family planning program. Subsequently, Ethiopia's Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sport requested that the Council help the government develop and implement projects to improve family planning and reproductive health, and to support the country's most vulnerable adolescent girls. The steady growth in activities eventually increased the need for an in-country presence, and in 2007 the Council opened an office in Addis Ababa. Here, the Population Council develops context-appropriate programs for adolescents, especially the most vulnerable girls and women. To maximize its efforts, the Council collaborates with governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations in its programs. The program descriptions below represent a brief overview of the Council's activities in Ethiopia.



Photo: Annabel Erulkar

- Premature marriage significantly increases a girl's reproductive risks, including the risk for HIV/AIDS and fistula. The Population Council in Addis Ababa is training community leaders, specifically Ethiopian Orthodox and Muslim religious leaders, to provide information and counseling on early marriage, HIV, safe motherhood, gender-based violence, and other reproductive health issues.
- The Council has collected data on young people that have been pivotal in reshaping the National Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy and supporting an expanded national policy to meet the needs of young people aged 10–24.
- The Council evaluated a two-year program of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, with the objective of increasing school enrollment and delaying marriage age. The program, which included economic incentives and mobilization of girls with mentors, made positive impacts in terms of educational participation, marriage age, and family planning use.
- The Council is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Youth and Sport in designing and implementing a program for the most vulnerable urban girls, including migrants and child domestic workers. “Biruh Tesfa,” meaning Bright Future in Amharic, serves more than



Photo: Annabel Erulkar

4,000 destitute slum-dwelling girls with non-formal education, life skills, and basic housing and medical services.

- The Council is convening a network of international and national NGOs engaged in programs for rural Ethiopian girls. The so-called Brain Trust coordinates exchange visits and learning opportunities for program implementers supporting girls in remote rural locations of the country.
- The Council has partnered with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in expanding the training curriculum for priests in Ethiopia. The “Developmental Bible” will include reproductive health training for priests in parallel with their religious training, and has the

potential to reach a large number of Ethiopians, especially in rural settings.

- The Council is monitoring a new project to decrease the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, specifically targeting most-at-risk populations by distributing a new brand of condoms, working in partnership with President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) affiliates.
- The Council is evaluating a new home-based care package for the 2.1% of Ethiopians living with HIV/AIDS. The care package will include products to minimize the risk of contracting opportunistic infections: disinfectants, soap, water purifiers, and insecticide-treated bed nets.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

These publications and many others on Population Council research in Ethiopia are available at www.popcouncil.org/ethiopia

2008

“Biruh Tesfa: Creating a ‘Bright Future’ for migrant girls in urban areas of Ethiopia.”

2007

“The girls left behind: Out of the box and out of reach.”

“Invisible and vulnerable: Adolescent domestic workers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.”

“Reaching disadvantaged rural girls, creating social support, and discouraging child marriage in Amhara, Ethiopia.”

“Leave no woman behind, Ethiopia: Baseline report.”

“Evaluation of Berhane Hewan: A pilot program to promote education and delay marriage in rural Ethiopia.”

http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/Ethiopia4-07_Erulkar.pdf

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