Child Protective Outcomes among ultra-poor families in Burkina Faso

An evaluation study of economic strengthening and child rights interventions

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- **Funder**: Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund at Network of European Foundations; Child Protection Working Group (UNICEF)
Background

- Globally **168 million** 5-14 year olds are involved in child labor

- **UNICEF’s definition of ‘child labor’**
  - Children ages 5-11: being involved in any economic activity for children or spending > 28 hr/wk week on household chores
  - Children ages 12–14: being involved in economic activity for >14 hr/wk or spending > 28 hr/wk week on household chores (expect for light work)

- Over the past decade: **1/3 decrease** from 246 million to 168 million (?)
Child labor (ages 5-14)

• **Largest numbers** of child labors
  • Asia and the Pacific: 78 million or 9.3% of child population

• **Highest prevalence** of child labor
  • Sub-Saharan Africa: 59 million, 22% on average
  • Burkina Faso: 39% of nation’s child population (or 1.25 million)
    • ongoing food and nutrition crises due to repeated droughts in the Sahel Desert

• **Child labor in BF:**
  • Family-based businesses (e.g., farming, tending animals, petty trade)
  • Children comprise 30-50% of all workers in gold minds
  • Cotton fields, cacao plantations in BF or outside (e.g., Ivory Coast)
Study Aims

To evaluate:

1. the effects of household economic strengthening (*Trickle Up program*) on children’s exposure to violence and exploitation;

2. The additive effect of child protection and child’s rights sensitization competent (*Aide aux Enfants et aux Familles Démunies / ADEFAD program*).
Study outcomes

1. **Child labor**
   - working under the age of 14
   - working under hazardous conditions (e.g., heavy loads, exposure to toxins)
   - involvement in the worst forms of child labor (slavery, debt bondage)
   - labor-related family separation;

2. **Violence and exploitation at work**
   - exposure to physical deprivation and physical and sexual violence
     - (e.g. risk of sexual abuse among girls working as maids; Boys studying in Madrassas are forced to beg on the streets).

3. **Other child protection issues**
   - forced and early marriage
   - transactional sex
   - not attending school (40% of children in BF attend primary school)
Assumptions about underlying causes of exposure to child labor and other child protection issues

- **Trickle Up Program**
- Economic strengthening (saving groups, seed grants, etc.)

- **ADEFAD’s Child Protection**
- Parents unaware of negative effects of child labor (e.g., risk of sexual violence), undervalue the importance of education for girls.
Study methodology
Study Site

Study site:

- Yatenga Province, Barga Commune, Nord Region
- Selected due to high level of poverty and limited economic opportunities.

Selection criteria for villages:

- TU & ADEFAD select 12 villages **poorest villages** (poorest yield for their crops and other local indicators of poverty)
- Comparable socio-economic characteristics (limited access to schools, limited access to clean water and limited NGO interventions).
Selection Criteria

Selection criteria for households:

1. Household classifies as ultra-poor;
2. Household has at least one child ages 10-14;
3. Male head of household provides permission for his wife and child to participate;
4. Eligible child and female caregiver/parent can commit to study participation.
Sample

- **Sample size (Number of households) = 360**
  - about 30 households per each village

- **In each household:**
  - One female caregiver + all her eligible children
    - ‘Caregiver’ includes a woman with biological children (mother) or any other children under her care.

- **Total number of participants:**
  - 360 female caregivers + 360 children = 720 individuals
Study Design

Screening of households (assessing for eligibility)

Ineligible

Randomization
at village level
(12 villages)

Control group
‘Wait List’
4 villages, 120 HHs

Trickle Up Group
4 villages, 120 HHs

Trickle Up ‘PLUS’
Group
4 villages, 120 HHs

Baseline interview

12-month follow-up interview
Data collection

- **Two questionnaires**: child and caregiver surveys
- Baseline and 12-follow-up interviews.

- **CHILD’S QUESTIONNAIRE**
  - Demographics and family structure
  - Child Education
  - Child labor
  - Exposure to violence
  - Emotional wellbeing (depression, self-esteem, trauma)
Questionnaire topics

- **CAREGIVER QUESTIONNAIRE**
  - Demographics and household composition
  - Wealth and food security
  - Family relations
  - Child protection issues (*younger children & children living away*)
  - Caregiver’s wellbeing (*stress, depression*)
  - Women’s Empowerment (*decision making power, financial autonomy, exposure to domestic violence*)
Challenges

- Complex family structure
- Literacy
- Language
- Measurement instruments
- Incentives