



Health Education & Community Awareness Raising

Sustainable Development Goals



OECD Due Diligence Actions

2. IDENTIFY & ASSESS ADVERSE IMPACTS IN OPERATIONS, SUPPLY CHAINS & BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS
3. CEASE, PREVENT OR MITIGATE ADVERSE IMPACTS
6. PROVIDE FOR OR COOPERATE IN REMEDIATION WHEN APPROPRIATE

The accounts of health issues and sickness affecting children who engage in labour such as domestic work, farming, cattle keeping, street vending and the extractive industries were a key finding of the PACE programme. 29% of children in a PACE sample study in the Amhara region¹ reported health issues which directly related to their work, including back and head pain (19%), stomach and bowel issues, open wounds and fractures.

Early and severe spinal injury was alarmingly prevalent in such a young population. Children affected described experiencing severe back pain, which interrupted their activity temporarily or permanently, in work which included stone quarrying, construction, fetching water, and loading or unloading. Back pain also occurred when adults delegated activities to children that they were considered 'more suited' to, such as bending and ducking to harvest crops. The long-term impacts of sickness and injury not only destroy quality and longevity of life for children progressing into adulthood, but also contribute to the cycle

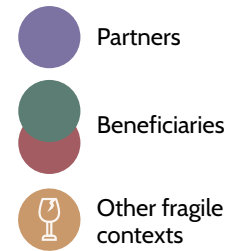
of reliance on child labour. Adults who become incapacitated by long term conditions such as spinal injury are increasingly likely to rely on their own children to supplement their loss of income.

These recommendations also support efforts to:

- Work sensitively and adaptively in relation to established cultural norms around children working alongside family members as part of their vocational and personal development
- Safely remove hazardous and harmful working practices where children and adults are impacted, without adversely endangering their well-being through loss of income or livelihood for their families
- Engage the expertise of local academic institutions, community leaders and CSOs, government and the private sector in creating solutions that are developed by and owned by Ethiopian communities.

The recommendations are coded to signify the key stakeholders that must be engaged to ensure any alternative pathway programmes are well researched, designed, effective and sustainable. See the key at the footer of each page.

Where there is application for other fragile contexts outside of DRC, you will see this icon:



A: ADDRESSING SPINAL INJURY WITH SAFE ALTERNATIVES








Key Considerations

- Both PACE's Situational Analysis of Child labour in the Amhara regions² and Sesame Supply and value chain research in North West Ethiopia³ have pointed to spinal injury and Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD), resulting from hazardous lifting and carrying practices, as being a harmful and urgent problem for children in Ethiopia's agricultural sector, alongside those working in other sectors.
- Spinal injury affects both genders and is equally prevalent among both girls and boys who participate in a range of duties which encompass farming and water carrying.
- School teachers were identified by PACE's Situational Analysis as being potentially key child protection actors in responding to concerns around children's health and well-being. They are usually uniquely positioned to know the needs of all children within a community, including those isolated in more rural areas. Teachers are often cited as being the ones to raise wellbeing concerns related to working conditions with employers and families. Engaging them to raise awareness and champion alternatives that can help alleviate the prevalence of issues such as spinal injury caused by lifting and carrying is worth exploring for interventions
- Engaging employers directly was identified in both studies as being a key factor in the enforcement of a clear child protection and well-being approach. Ensuring they are both aware of the legal restrictions on children's carrying capacity according to the 2013 Prohibited occupations for young workers regulation by Ethiopia's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and have the appropriate resources to measure and implement appropriate safeguards.
- Government enforcement of Ethiopia's labour inspection guidelines which were introduced in tandem with the National Human Rights Action Plan to address the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL).





Relevant to




Other Fragile Contexts 

Sector Partners

Local governance 
 Civil society organisations 
 National Government 
 Business 
 Investors 

Beneficiaries

Children (age 2-14) 
 Youth (age 14-18) 
 Adults (age 18+) 
 Accessible to all 

Gender neutral 
 Female focused 
 Male focused 

WHAT INTERVENTIONS COULD LOOK LIKE

i. Educating families & communities



Partnering with primary teachers, local radio/ media outlets and other key community influencers to develop education materials that can be disseminated through schools and other community forums to educate children and families; raising awareness of hazards and long-term impacts of heavy lifting/carrying on spinal injury and musculoskeletal disorder (MSD).

Recommending safer alternatives such as improved lifting and carrying techniques that will not pose a threat to established social norms around children assisting at home and on the farm whilst improving safety, well-being, and future prospects of children.

Teaching and/or media resources created in close collaboration with teachers, the Ethiopian ministries of Education and Labour, Community Care Coalitions, local radio and children & families in areas where child labour is prevalent.

Aim to integrate materials into the school curriculum as much as possible.

Ensuring materials produced are positive, aspirational and non-threatening to families

ii. Educating the private sector



Resources produced to educate employers within sectors that pose spinal injury hazards for children within Ethiopian agriculture and other forms of child labour, with a particular focus on sesame importers

iii. Creating practical resources to support safe alternatives




Partnering with Ethiopian academic institutions and private sector actors, such as engineering and product development teams, to develop affordable resources that can assist to:

- Measure and evaluate appropriate carrying loads for children
- Provide simple, affordable mechanised alternatives to assist with the moving of heavy loads that can eliminate lifting and carrying





Relevant to




Other Fragile Contexts 

Sector Partners

Local governance 
 Civil society organisations 
 National Government 
 Business 
 Investors 

Beneficiaries

Children (age 2-14) 
 Youth (age 14-18) 
 Adults (age 18+) 
 Accessible to all 

Gender neutral 
 Female focused 
 Male focused 

B MAXIMISING IMPACT

i. Local communities



Materials should be tailored specifically for specific health and safety needs within the sectors where child labour is prevalent in that community, with a localised strategy to effectively reach them

A multi-pronged approach where children, employers and families are collectively aware of the risks and hazards of back injury

Provision of viable and appropriate alternatives for safe lifting and carrying

Clear metrics on assessing lifting and carrying loads and techniques made understandable and accessible to local employers in accordance with age/height/weight/gender of a child

ii. In Country



Materials and approaches adapted for all job roles where children and adults in Ethiopia are exposed to back injury.

Good practice on lifting and carrying to be integrated into the national education curriculum

Development of innovative, affordable and safe alternatives to alleviate or eliminate the strain on children's bodies from lifting and carrying

Resources extended to other hazards for children such as chemical use and domestic abuse






Other fragile contexts

Materials and successful approaches adapted to be used wherever children and adults in fragile contexts are exposed to back injury.








Relevant to

Other Fragile Contexts 

Sector Partners

Local governance 
Civil society organisations 
National Government 
Business 
Investors 

Beneficiaries

Children (age 2-14) 
Youth (age 14-18) 
Adults (age 18+) 
Accessible to all 
Gender neutral 
Female focused 
Male focused 

Stakeholder Benefits	
Community Livelihoods	<p>Children who are not blighted by back pain and injury which interferes with quality of life, schooling, work and future prospects.</p> <p>Reduction in adults exiting the workforce prematurely due to childhood injury.</p> <p>Families not adversely impacted economically or socially by complete removal of children from work contexts.</p> <p>Children enabled to continue participating in cultural norms around vocational learning and supporting family life.</p>
Government	<p>Resources and strategic approach to more effectively educate and enforce regulations on eliminating WFCL</p>
CSOs & Organisations	<p>Engaging and effective educational resources to help support their work in protecting children and improving quality of life for communities</p>
Educational Institutions	<p>Empowering teachers with resources to support child protection for children in their care with a curriculum that supports government mandates to address WFCL</p>
Private Sector	<p>Those directly employing children are given the resources to adapt their workplaces for child needs without the risk of financial or productivity loss</p> <p>Compliance with Ethiopian regulation on safe lifting and carrying for children</p> <p>Companies enabled to engage practically and meaningfully with suppliers at grass roots by partnering with them to fund and equip training programs and practical resources in line with their commitments to safely remove children from WFCL</p>

References

- <https://news.trust.org/contentAsset/raw-data/Oc8273ca-dcdd-4324-ae9-1a3242f1f6a7/document1?bylnode=true>
- <https://news.trust.org/contentAsset/raw-data/Oc8273ca-dcdd-4324-ae9-1a3242f1f6a7/document1?bylnode=true>
- <https://www.pace-consortium.org/en/resources/sesame-supply-value-chain-assessment-NW-Ethiopia>



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government. However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.



Partnership Against
Child Exploitation

FIFTY EIGHT

www.50eight.com

See more recommendations and research at valuechains.pace-consortium.org