



The impact of longitudinal research

The policy impact of *Young Lives*

Young Lives at glance:

Young Lives project is coordinated out of the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford.

Funding: Young Lives has been core-funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Duration: 2001 – 2016

Young Lives has been extensively used in a number of high-impact publications and by major global institutions that have had, or will have, influence on global policy. The longitudinal study is conducted in four developing countries: Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam from 2001 to 2016.

Evaluating and Informing Cash Transfer Program

The Young Lives Peru data has been used to evaluate and induced changes in **Juntos – a conditional cash transfer program in Peru.**

- The research suggested that the program needs to be accompanied by improving access and quality of health and education services (Escobal and Benites, 2012; Andersen et al., 2015).
- The suggestions were taken by Juntos in revising its annual strategic plan as confirmed by Aurea Cadillo, Head of Planning & Budget of the program.
- From 2013, Juntos requires compulsory school enrolment from preschool to high school level and offers annual student bonus tied to high school graduation.

Legislative changes in child's protection laws

Studies on children's experience of violence using Young Lives data has been the core of the Multi-Country Study on drivers of violence (MCS) led by the **UNICEF Office of Research.**

The analyses played crucial roles in leading to national legislative changes that bar corporal punishment in **multiple countries.**

They include the issuance of Law 30403 in **Peru** and the enactment of the *Child Protection Creed* in **Vietnam** (Young Lives, 2018).

The *National Action Plans for Children* in four countries – **Italy, Peru, Vietnam** and **Zimbabwe**, have been partially informed by MCS research using the Young Lives data (Young Lives, 2018)

Issuance of Indian's Law on Child Marriage

Young Lives research on child marriage has direct and powerful impact on the issuance of an **Indian Supreme Court Judgement October 2017** on child marriage.

- Young Lives report on the cause and consequences of child marriage in India has been quoted at great length as supporting arguments for the Judgement (Indian Supreme Court, 2017).



The wider policy impact of *Young Lives*



Global Institutions' Strategies on Child's Health

Young Lives research on nutrition using 15 years of data has made a discovery that there are points in later childhood and adolescence during which early deficiency in physical health and cognitive development can be reversed.

The research findings has been incorporated into policy recommendations for tackling early health deficiency by major global institutions, including **UNICEF**, the **World Bank** and **Save the Children**.

In 2016 and 2017, Young Lives research has informed **Save the Children's** three-year Global Campaign "*Every Last Child*", focusing on nutrition, excluded groups and adolescent girls.

Save the Children also included Young Lives analysis into their report, "*Food for Thought*", for the **G8 Summit pre-meeting 2013**.

Banning Child Marriage in Ethiopia

Boyden et al. (2012) have used Young Lives Ethiopian data to show that child marriage is persistent and widespread in **Ethiopia** with strong support of social customs, parents and children themselves.

- In 2013, the **Ethiopian Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs** (MoWCYA) then asked Young Lives team to comment on the "*National Strategy and Action Plan on Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children*" as well as participate in consultation workshops preparing the legislative draft.
- In 2016, Young Lives provided training to the MoWCYA staffs and moderated a disseminating workshop of the **Population Council** about Ethiopian adolescents and children.



"Thanks to the Young Lives study, JUNTOS have had a source of knowledge on the poverty impact in children. Their advice and technical assistance has helped us to clarify issues, and provide evidence to show how a cash transfer programme should function. JUNTOS has taken on board reflections and recommendations from some of the Young Lives findings in the revision of its annual strategic plan.."

Aurea Cadillo

Head of Planning and Budget at Juntos (2016)



Young Lives



Young Lives is a multi-disciplinary longitudinal study of childhood poverty conducted in four developing countries: Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam from 2001 to 2016.

Background to Young Lives Study

The study follows two cohorts of children over 15 years: the younger cohort consists of 2000 children born in 2001/2002; the older cohort consists of 1000 children born in 1994/1995.

- At the core of Young Lives is the household and child survey, conducted every three years, which covers topics related to the children's personal, familial and environmental contexts.
- The school survey, started in 2010, complements the core data by providing information on schooling outcomes.
- A subset of 200 children is selected for qualitative longitudinal research, conducted over a seven-year period, which provides a more in-depth perspective over the impact of poverty on children's lives.

The research project is coordinated out of the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford, led by Professor Jo Boyden.

Young Lives has been core-funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) (2006–09 £7 million; 2009–17 £16 million) and by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010–14: £2.7 million).

Additional funding came from the Bernard van Leer Foundation, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Irish Aid, the Oak Foundation, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Hanoi, UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (University of Oxford, 2014).

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EuroCohort is a proposed European longitudinal survey of children and young people's wellbeing

Growing Up in Europe: EuroCohort

EuroCohort will directly benefit children and young people by collecting both objective and subjective wellbeing measures which will be used to ensure that social policies are evidence based. Major themes covered in the survey include: *Inequality, Learning, Digital Life and Lifestyle*.

The survey is currently being developed through the **European Cohort Development Project (ECDP)**, led by the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK.

Funding: The study is funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 7770449.

The aim of EuroCohort is to provide deep, insightful, comparative and longitudinal data on the wellbeing experiences of children and young people across Europe. By doing so, researchers, governments and others might better understand – and take steps to improve – youth's life chances, outlook, happiness and wellbeing.

The Potential Impact of EuroCohort

To understand whether and how EuroCohort might have such impact, researchers from Manchester Metropolitan and University of Bologna (UNIBO) have developed a series of impact case studies. These examine the policy impacts that other longitudinal surveys have delivered.

These impact case studies explore how and in what ways these studies have effected government policies, by asking three important question:

- *How did the survey affect policy?* Did survey analysis directly lead to new or changed policies? Did it contribute to wider discussions on the need for policy change?
- *What type of knowledge or insight did the survey provide?* Did the survey provide insight into social problems? Of what policy interventions worked and did not work? Of how to make policies more effective?
- *Was the policy effective?* Is there any evaluation or other research evidence that the policy was effective and had a positive effect in the ways intended?

