

IDRC Project on Early Labour Market Transitions of Women in Low Income African Countries, Sentrim-Boulevard Hotel, January 26th-29th 2015

Workshop objectives:

- To provide a platform for the interaction of researchers, project coordinators and donors;
- To present the research project to stakeholders;
- To understand research methodologies and sources of data for the research by participating institutions;
- To provide a way forward for the project.

Workshop Participants were drawn from the following institutions:

- Representatives from IDRC
- University of Sussex
- University of Nairobi
- Ethiopia Economic Policy Research Institute
- United Nations Commission for Africa
- University of Ghana, Legon
- Institute of Rural Development- Tanzania
- Economic Policy Research Center- Uganda
- University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- African Population and Health Research Institute
- Ministry of Labour and Social Services, Kenya
- Ministry of Devolution and Planning

Opening remarks

The workshop was kicked off by Professor Jane Mariaria of the University of Nairobi. She welcomed all participants to the meeting and expressed hope that participants would feel free and would participate actively in the meeting. She passed a special welcome to Kenya to participants from other countries, noting that some had travelled for many hours to get to Nairobi. She invited all participants to introduce themselves and indicate their relationship to the project.

Official Opening: IDRC Regional Director– Simon Carter

The IDRC director welcomed all participants and expressed hopes that the workshop would be fruitful. He noted that IDRC has been present in the region for 40 years and that IDRC works in partnership with other donors like DfID. He said the early labor market transitions of women in low African countries project was of importance to IDRC because:

- It will contribute towards building leadership,

- It will contribute to policy and thus assist policy makers, especially with regards to youth unemployment and women issues.
- It deals with women's inclusion and economic relevance

GrOW Presentation: Madiha Ahmed, IDRC

Madiha made a presentation of the GrOW Programme, focusing on the aims and themes. She noted that GrOW's ambition is fourfold namely: (i) To understand how growth affects women's economic empowerment and vice versa (ii) Peer learning across projects (iii) New partnerships and alliances to support dialogue regionally and globally on women's economic empowerment (iv) Provide evidence of what works and why for upcoming policy windows

Overview of Early Labor Market Transition of Women in Africa Project: Jane Mariara

Jane took the participants through an overview of the 'Early Labor Market Transition of Women in Africa Project' focusing on the motivation, hypothesis, research question and methodology. The aim of the presentation was to bring everyone on board concerning the project and thus provide a primer for the deliberations over the next 3 days.

Policy Presentation: James K Maru.

The presentation focused on labor market dynamics in relation to female youth in Kenya, citing highlights from a recent manpower survey. The preliminary statistics from the survey, which focused on formal sector jobs, only seem to suggest that young women (aged 15-35 years) are not necessarily marginalized in formal jobs in Kenya. It was however noted that there is a mismatch between skills taught in schools and those required by the labor market

Further highlights on young women friendly policy interventions in Kenya were elucidated by Mr. Joseph Njagi from the Ministry of devolution and planning as including:

- i). Re-entry into formal schooling after drop out due to pregnancy
- ii). Affirmative action on university admission for girl
- iii). Gender mainstreaming of programs to attain gender parity
- iv). Targeted skills development for females
- v). Enhancing of a parallel vertical growth in education and training
- vi). Youth enterprise fund
- vii). Women enterprise fund

It was however noted that though policies are in place, it would be important to evaluate achievements from the same. For instance, though there is a policy of girls re-entry into schools after drop out due to various causes, but is no follow up made on their grades and completion rate.

Creating Better Economic Opportunities for Women in Nairobi Slums - Korogocho by Stella Muthuri, APHRC

Stella made a presentation of another GrOW funded project focusing on improving child care in order to enable slum women concentrate on productive activities. Project aims to provide two types of interventions to mothers: vouchers for regular day care and vouchers for enhanced quality daycare. Evaluation of the impact of the vouchers will then be carried out after some time.

The rest of the workshop was devoted to country presentations and discussion on way forward. The meeting ended on a high note with project participants vowing to work extra hard towards project deliverables. The project coordinators expressed their optimism and thanked IDRC for financial and technical support including heavy presence in the workshop.

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Participant List

No.	Name	Institution
1	Joseph K. Njagi	Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Nairobi
2	James Maru	Ministry of Labour and Social Services, Nairobi
3	Simon Carter	Regional Director IDRC, Nairobi
4	Stella Muthuri	IDRC GrOW project African Population and Health Research Institute
5	Milka Njeri	IDRC GrOW project African Population and Health Research Institute
6	Paul Okwi	IDRC, Nairobi
7	Martha Melesse	IDRC, Ottawa
8	Madiha Ahmed	IDRC, Ottawa
9	Abbi Mamo Kedir	UNECA, Addis Ababa
10	Seid Nuru Ali	Ethiopia Economic Policy Research Institute, Addis Ababa
11	Adalbertus Kamanzi	Institute of Rural Development, Tanzania
12	Andy McKay	University of Sussex, UK
13	Andy Newell	University of Sussex, UK
14	Cinzia Rienzo	University of Sussex, UK
15	Francis Medard Zida	University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
16	Claude Wetta	University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
17	Louis Boakye-Yiadom	University of Ghana, Legon
18	Nkechi Owoo	University of Ghana, Legon
19	Gemma Ahaibwe	Economic Policy Research Center, Uganda
20	Ibrahim Kasirye	Economic Policy Research Center, Uganda
21	Sarah Ssewanyana	Economic Policy Research Center, Uganda
22	Edna Jonny	University of Nairobi, Kenya
23	Phyllis Machio	University of Nairobi, Kenya
24	Anthony Wambugu	University of Nairobi, Kenya
25	Jane Mariara	University of Nairobi, Kenya