

What Gets Measured, Gets Managed

With no central location, data on child well-being related issues is scattered among several agencies in different locations. The new Child Well-Being database allows the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to store and manage critical data used to improve the lives of Ethiopia's children.



N.Parkinson/FHI360

The Child Well-Being Database Management System is a web-based platform housing data on the demands and provision of child-related services in every region of Ethiopia. The data—including child protection, health, education and disabilities, among others—will be accessible through the government website.

THE USE OF DATA

The database gives the federal, regional and local government agencies access to critical information that will shape service delivery, budget alignment and public policy in the arena of child protection and other child related issues.

FHI 360 supported the development of the database by first assessing the current situation for maintaining child well-being data at the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs—MoWCA and found a shortage of available data. As a result, civil servants are forced to locate usable data from other ministries and agencies. FHI 360 provided technical assistance on the centrally-located, harmonized database system and trained federal and regional MoWCA staff, and regional Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs staff on collecting data and managing the database. Data is aggregated by local implementing partners, international NGOs and civil society organizations and uploaded through a mobile application on a smartphone, tablet or PC. In 2015, the database management was piloted in 20 woredas in five regions, and will expand to 170 woredas in 2016.

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

HOW THE DATABASE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Education: Improved data on school dropout rates can provide regional government education bureaus with insight into challenges faced by the children. This information is key to shaping new policies and services aimed at keeping children in school.



Nutrition: Up-to-date malnutrition rates enables services providers and emergency food providers to improve targeting and delivery of child-appropriate food aid.



Child Protection: Rates of child abuse and violence can help inform and strengthen prevention efforts.

“This is the first time MoWCA has access to information from a central database. This tool enables our staff to design better policies, improve service provision and implement evidence-based programming. The database will ultimately strengthen the MoWCA and increase the efficiency of the ministry.”

Yayesh Tesfahuney, Director of the Child Rights and Welfare Directorate. The Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

Yekokeb Berhan Program for Highly Vulnerable Children has improved the lives of more than 500,000 children in Ethiopia by strengthening the capacity of government and community systems and structures to deliver essential human-development services and increase resiliency. The program works with over 40 local civil society organizations, local government agencies and the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. FHI 360 provides technical leadership in psychosocial support; protection and legal aid; shelter and care; food and nutrition and health.