



**EXISTING GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT
SYSTEM PROGRAMMES TO RESPOND TO THE ISSUE OF STREET
CHILDREN IN ADDIS ABABA CITY ADMINISTRATION**

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ABABA CITY ADMINISTRATION

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Statement of Declaration

I, the undersigned declare that this thesis work entitled “Existing Government and Non-Governmental Support System Programmes to Respond to The Issue of Street Children in Addis Ababa City Administration” submitted to Addis Ababa University School of Social Work for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Social Work, is my original work and has not been presented for the award of any other degree or diploma in this or any other university. All sources of materials used for the study have been duly acknowledged.

Declared By: Bethelhem Zegeye

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Abstract

Children are forced to live on the streets for a variety of socioeconomic reasons. This study aimed to shed light on the responses of the government and non-governmental organizations response to the needs of street children living on the streets of Addis Ababa. The study has viewed that there are two different types of response processes in effect when it comes to street children in Addis Ababa City Administration. These responses are implemented as in by the project-based response and fully government funded sponsored response. This program is financially supported by the government budget and the World Bank fund. The responsiveness to the needs of street children was studied through interviews with 11 respondents who work directly on the program from both government and non-government agencies. A descriptive qualitative approach was used in the investigation. Non-probability judgmental sampling was used to choose the respondents. The programs established to support the street children are through a forcibly and voluntarily means of actions support for the street children. The strategy included locating hotspot areas, engagement, rehabilitation, life skills training, family and community reunification, and reintegration of these street children. The replies from the key informants were provided to establish a comprehensive knowledge of how the program of the support system dealt with street children. The themes of intervention, stakeholder participation, implementation, challenges, and program sustainability give strong signs that the focus on street children was represented in those areas. The BOWCSA has stepped up the overall execution, and various stakeholders are involved. The study has concluded that the government monitor and assess of each response by contracting NGO organization to implement the program. The study also included social work implications to highlight potential directions

Abbreviations and Acronyms

BoWCA – Bureau of Women and Children Affairs

BoLSA - Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs

NGO- Non –Government Organization

CSA – Central Statistic Agency

STD – Sexuality Transmitted Disease

IGA - Income Generating Activities

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

According to the United Nation Convention in 1992, child right includes the right to health, education, family life, play and recreation, an adequate standard of living, and to be protected from any abuse, and have needed special protection. It is a shared responsibility of parents, families, community, and government to ensure that all children are safe and harmonious and grow up in nurturing environments. To ensure this, children have special legal rights which are enforced by the state.

According to the Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia's projection, the total population of the country in 2022 is estimated to be 115,946,202 and, Addis Ababa's total population in 2022 is estimated to be 3,859,638 people. The study conducted by the Bureau of Women Children and Youth's Affairs, Addis Ababa, and Bureau and Women Children and Youth's Affairs Oromia in 2010/2011 there were approximately 600,000 street children and youth nationally. According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs report (MoLSA, 2010/2011), an additional one million are at risk to go to the street. In Addis Ababa alone it is believed that over 100,000 people are living on the streets, and more than half of these are young people. This number is increasing every day due to social, political, cultural, economic and political and insecurity problems in general and the specific factors could be such as poverty, dysfunctional family, and man-made or natural disasters. Children are migrating from rural to urban areas because of the above-mentioned reasons. This has increased the number of children going to the street.

Young children on the street are often involved in delinquent practices, such as frequent drug use and alcohol abuse. The criminal activities they are engaged in have created an adverse state of behavior in children within the social values and norms. Hence living on the street has

several disadvantages for children at a young age. The social support system is a scheme of assistance given to street children or to individuals and families through different programs in health, food security, housing, childcare, and unemployment. Based on an assessment of their economic situation and family size, different support services could be provided to children (Ennew & Kruger, 2003).

The purpose of this study is to understand the existing government and non-government organization support systems that respond to accommodate the needs of street children in Addis Ababa City Administration. It also illuminates the government's response to the issue of the increase of street children. The responsibility of the government and non-government organizations that are closely working with street children was also examined. The study also assessed the programs that have been implemented so far and the outcome of these programs and the status of the current activities.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Many scholars researched the issue of street children all over the world as well as in Ethiopia to mention a few they include by Shimies Kassa (2015), Owoaje, Adebisi, and Asuzu (2003), Ennew (2003), and Malayer and Karim (2019). Different aspects of the problem of street children have been assessed by these intellectuals. These studies identified the different kinds of factors that had pushed these children to live on the street.

Among these Hanson, Tatek Abebe, Caitken, Balagopalan, and Punch (2018) studied that there was a sustainable ethical correlation between the internal and global policy entwined. At the Micro-level aspect of children's everyday life, the policies towards street children might undermine local resources and values. The existing practices are guided by the research conducted by the minority.

Tatek Abebe and Kusi (2016) study views that children are brought up by their parents and adults that can take care of them. Africa is a very much diversified continent and children in Africa have their own cultural social values, norms and identity. The intervention by the non-Africans using their own view of understanding of the way of life and the children's experience will not match up with the basic groundwork that might contradict the African perspective that involve the cultural ,norm and values that are reflected in their day to day way of living that set its own identity. The socio-economic aspect is somehow lacking in Africa compared to the western set of living conditions. The study states that there is no modern way of registration of children for school, marriage, and other activities. Formal education is replaced by informal education. The implementing polices that Non-Government organization that currently implementing should be revised according to the perspective of the lives of Africans that needs to be readopted.

Nieuwenhuys (2001), conducted a brief assessment that there is a constant relationship between givers and receivers to beggars. Western charity has an agenda of economic liberation from the rough environment by working with the government and the NGOs use techniques of preventive methods rather than curative and children that are already on the street. In regards to preventive methods that the NGOs implement on families that are already poor or and whose children are on the verge of going to the street, NGOs would accept one child from the each poor family and while the livelihood of the other children are highly likely to go to the street is very high since the family is not secured fully.

Abebe Tatek (2008), the study reviewed children were considered a risk to society through their poverty and begging. Urbanization also contributed to the construction of marginalized families. Begging has also become a source of income for both children and their families. As the children start begging at an early age, their attitude toward begging will change

as they age and develop their positive view their perspective towards begging changes and they start working on the street.

Roberts (1991), defined Street children as abandoned children or single parented children. They shelter themselves on the verandas, in the alleys, or at the bus stations. They get their food from the leftovers of hotels and charity organizations that distribute food through their feeding centers. Medical services were provided free of charge by the government or non-governmental organizations. Education was also provided and there was a high dropout level. This group of children in the street had identified their own identity, and NGOs had the means to deal with children through development implementing policy they have constructed.

Daniel Gebretsadik (2017), studied that Streets are places of work for survival and studying on street children found out that socialization, and learning playing. The street children occupy prohibited places and were considered a risk. In this study, children considered their lives as an opportunity. Whereas Getnet Tadele (2018), conducted sexual abuse against male street children in the Merkato area of Addis Ababa. Male street children especially new comers were found are also sexually abused. The rich and older men were the found by this study as most abusers and committed this crime as they use money as a means and give food to these children to gain their trust before they abuse them. The children that were attacked by the abusers were not aware that they were abused unless they share the experience with their peers. The main focus of sexual abuse was on the female street children and attention was not given to the males' sexual abuse.

Habtamu Wondimu Alem and Leha (2016), have conducted research that reviewed types of children living on the street. These were children working on the street, children living with street families, and children that stay on the street during the day and return home at night.

And these children had make their livelihood through street begging, street daily laborers, and as street vendors.

The majority of the previous studies on Ethiopian street children focused on the circumstances that drove children to the streets. The government should also assume responsibility for street children, who should be the duty of families, communities, and the government as a whole. If families and communities fail to support children, they will eventually become the responsibility of the government. This study sheds light on the government's duty, responsiveness, and partnership with non-governmental organizations in establishing various programs in the Addis Ababa City Administration to meet the needs of these street children.

1.3 The objective of the study

1.3.1 General objectives

The objective of the present study is to find out how the Ethiopian Federal government social support system for street children and those of non-government organizations respond the basic needs of street children in Addis Ababa city Administration.

1.3.2 Specific Objective

The specific objectives of this study includes:

- To identify the street children social support program/projects that are implemented the federal ministry of Addis Ababa City Administration Government and non-governmental organizations for street children in Addis Ababa.
- To analyze government and non-governmental organizations' current programs responses to the problems of street children in Addis Ababa City administration sustainability.

- To identify gaps in the government and non-governmental responses to the problem of street children in Addis Ababa.

1.4 Research questions

The study aims to find answers to the following research questions:

- A) What are the responses program designed by the government and non-government support systems implemented toward the street children in Addis Ababa city Administration?
- B) How the implementation process, responsibility, and sustainability of the social support system of government and non-government organizations in Addis Ababa city administration?
- C) What are the gaps in support system programs by the government and non-government organizations that are involved in the response?

1.5 Significance of the study

Children need to be cherished and taken care of by their guardians or parents. They need protection and the basic necessity to be raised with family love, shelter, education, and security. Many children go to the street due to different factors beyond their capacities. This study is on the street children that dwell on the streets of Addis Ababa city. This study aims to investigate street children the support system programs that has been implemented and their attempt addressing priority basic needs of children Addis Ababa city street children. The finding of this study are hoped to contribute the government and non-government actors responding to street children problems and their involvement will help different stakeholders to have a better understanding.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This research comprehends the government and non-government actors' support system response towards the street children and their responsibility and implementation process at Addis Ababa. It only focuses on the Addis Ababa City Administration Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau and sub-city offices to understand the government support system. Three non-governmental organizations that closely work with the government also took part in the study. Hence, this research documented responses from the above-mentioned organizations only. The viewpoints of street children on the support system are not included.

1.7 Operational Definitions of Key Terms and Concepts

- 1) Outreach – after identifying the street children a task of convincing the street children to be part of the support program
- 2) Rehabilitation – Street children placed in centers for treatment
- 3) Reintegration – reunification of the street children with their family and community after receiving psycho social support and financial support.
- 4) Government fully funded - This program for the street children is implemented by the total budget cost from the government and solely implemented by the Government entities.
- 5) Project based Program – This program is a short term support program implemented from the fund of World Bank both the Government and Non- Government Organizations are involved.
- 6) Support System – The activities done to support the street children that currently exist

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Definitions of concepts of Street children

Tetake Abebe, and Kusi (2016), studied the significance of looking beyond the "deficit model" of childhood to discover a theory to characterize how children cope with activities in their surrounds and living conditions was elaborated on. Children are raised by their parents and immediate kin or relatives who are adults and capable of caring for them. These African children have their own unique social values and conventions. Non-African involvement, utilizing their own understanding of the way of life and the children's experiences, will not match up the basic groundwork, which contradicts the African perspective, which has societal values norms and its own identity. Africa's socioeconomic system falls short when compared to the Western way of life. In the contemporary era, children could not be registered for school, marriage, or other activities. Formal learning has given way to informal learning. Organizations should revise existing policies to reflect the African perspective, and new policies should be drafted as needed.

Grundling and Grundling (2005), also indicated that street children of Namibia as compared to the other third world countries, this study found out that have degenerated patterns of behavior caused by the factors that forces children to leave their parents homes and to live on the streets, which contradicted the way people live in their cultural aspect or pattern. This pattern is caused by poverty.

The economic situation in the country and unequal distribution of resources such as land lack of employment and etc. that leads to poverty and income inequality which leads force

children to divert their parents /kin and community and to live in the street of big cities street: The number of children going to the street has been increasing every day. The majority of the street children are located in urban areas rather than rural areas. These children are exposed to different barriers that could possibly be found to be around violence, crime, drug abuse, and delinquent behavior. Street children have no guardian to protect them and reshape them through socialization this will lead to depending on themselves to find support from each other (Grundling & Grundling, 2005).

Richter (1991), in his study concludes that Children were forced live on to the street by their abusive parents and by peer pressure. Children are neglected by their parents and family or community due to poverty, parents' death leaving them orphans, and children with abusive parents and peer pressure are forced to go to the streets. Because the country is one of the poorest underdeveloped countries in the world, the governments and other NGOs' failure to meet the requirements of these children has grown increasingly challenging.

Politics, the economy, housing, health and welfare services, unemployment, and rapid urbanization are all factors at the macro (community) level. The primary indices of child poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to Young (2004), are economic poverty, HIV/AIDS, and internal conflicts.

Breakdown or fragmentation of the family structure, single-parent households, remarriage, desertion, poverty, child abuse, child neglect, family violence, lack of bonding and parental discipline, and a general lack of proper care and attention are all factors at the meso (family) level. Micro (individual) factors include: escaping an unbearable circumstance (hunger, abuse, embarrassment, etc.), failure in school, a lack of money, or feeling undesired and a burden to the family (Young, 2004)

According to DiCarlo, Gibbons, Kaminsky, Wright, and Stiles, (2000), drawing allows children to communicate their day-to-day activities while also displaying emotional indicators such as loneliness and apprehension about learning to draw. These children enjoy sketching and try to communicate their feelings and visions. The primary perception about street children is that they are helpless victims and weak, however, they are faring considerably better in terms of mental and physical health than the general public expects. These artistic drawings reveal a lot about the socioeconomic situations, morals, and goals of these street children. They also indicate how they reflect on their lives on a regular basis, including cleaning, childcare, and earning money.

2.2. Factors pushing children to become Street Children

According to Sofiya and Galata (2019), study finding Harar city in the eastern part of Ethiopia may attract different migrants from different ethnic groups. According to this study majority of these children left home and went to the street mainly to avoid punishment from their parents. Poverty has impacted the relationship between children and parents, hatred towards their step- parents, Use of substance abuse, and finally shortage of food at home force these children to go to the street. This study classified types of street children through their relationships with their family or community as street children that have lost contact with families or relatives and the secondly, street children that have contact with their families. These children are highly exposed to substance abuse mainly “chat” one of the stimulating drugs used and also the cash crop of the city.

In order to safeguard and care for children, parents and communities must take an important role. Children should be taught culturally relevant skills, attitudes, and ways of thinking in every home and community ARC (2001). "Children 'of the street' are those who are homeless, work, sleep, or spend the majority of their time on the street without family support,

while children 'on the street' are those who are primarily engaged in street economic activities but have relationships with their families" (UNICEF, 2006).

According to John and Andargatchew (1994), the number of street children has increased dramatically as a result of the rapid growth of the population, as urbanization progresses and living conditions change. This study attempts to provide an overview of the government's and non-government groups' engagement in the country's child welfare policies. The welfare program is given low priority for a variety of reasons, resulting in under budgeting. Natural and man-made disasters can cause children to be displaced and uprooted from their origin of families and communities. These children are forced to live on the streets of towns and cities since it is the only area where they can meet their basic needs without recourse to resources. This government and non-government welfare system tries to cover three ways of implementation removing the children and placing them in foster families, reunification with their own families, and finally vocational training for these children for self-economic gain.

Street children are classified and defined as “Deprived children” that are physically and mentally impaired, “Rejected children” are those who have parents but failed to take care and support their children and are forced to go out to live on to the street. “Survivalist children” are those prompted by a threat to their basic welfare or belonging to the family but try to feed themselves and make the street their survival destination, runaway children are those who reside on the street with their willing fullness to urban areas (John & Andargatchew, 1994).

According to Abeje Berhanu (2008), Family disorder typically results from a crisis in the creation of families with the husband and wife coming from diverse backgrounds. Urban families tend to be more nuclear than their rural counterparts, which can make it difficult to have a sense of belonging and share emotions. Families in urbanized settings are also subject

to economic constraints, and the ability of women to support themselves challenges the patriarchal structure of family formation and the cultural norms that are ingrained in the society. The relationships between people, families, and communities, both direct and indirect, have an impact on one another when a person is harmed, the family will also be harmed and resources will be divided, which will lead to a loss of prestige in the community and the accusation that the family is dysfunctional. Children are impacted by this process and are compelled to live on the streets in order to meet their requirements. As a result, orphanages, single-parent families, juvenile delinquency, beggarly behavior, and rampant prostitution spread to the streets.

The majority of street children are the product of dysfunctional family situations brought on by the deaths of one or both parents, by stepparent abuse, by parents unable to provide for their children's basic requirements, or by youngsters fleeing their abusers (Abeje Berhanu, 2008). Children are brought into the world by their parents, who care for them and meet all of their requirements, including food, shelter, clothes, education, and health care, according to Emebet Mulugeta (2005). This study aims to examine the social, psychological, and economic issues that Addis Abeba's street children face. All children come from low-income households, and they all work to support their families; this is how poverty is one of the main causes of children living on the streets and try their best to bring their share of contribution to the table.

Boys mostly face physical abuse from law enforcement (police), customers do not pay them after their service, and verbal abuse is also a challenge, while girls who work as sex workers are also abused by customers who refuse to pay them, resulting in both physical and psychological problems. Finally, they face car accidents, which could be due to the pressure to survive. Humans have an inherent predisposition to behave in a protective and healing manner. Children may feel rejected by their parents. The study has reviewed that poverty is the major

denominator and the death of their parents forces these children to go to the street (Emebet Mulugeta, 2005).

According to Ennew and Kruger (2003), there is a paradigm shift that street children are either thrown away on the street or run away due to the reason of poverty and dysfunctional family that stigmatize their living conditions and children are the victims of all in this process. The shortage in the income of the family has economic burden children are forced to go to the street and death of the parents of the children are forced to live on the street because there is no kinship to take of these children. There is a perception culturally boys need to go to the street and work as soon as possible. Children are considered as the site of problems, victims or delinquents, which the environment faces as it shifted its paradigm. The street is the home of these children in the daily routine they go through that labeled them as anti-social in contrast to the social setting and finally consider delinquent that they challenge the state of their social existence and in a continuous conflict with the society and the law. Street children and delinquency are related and changes in their path of working will affect their living conditions. Their means of survival and sharing their resource and information to look for one another.

According to Beazley (2003), this is a problem or possibly a "new culture." These children believe a certain area to be their home on a daily basis, regardless of the presence of adults. Since the teenagers cause dissatisfaction and annoyance in society, elder street children monitor the younger children who may easily earn a living by begging. Changes in age will have an impact on dirt and street children being placed in the same space, which has created a significant barrier to their hygiene and cleanliness, as well as exposing them to sickness on a regular basis. Children's interactions with a variety of circumstances in their street settings generate shared understandings and, in some cases, a unique language of "subculture."

2.3. Living condition on the street

According to Roberts (1991), Street children are classified as 'abundant' or 'single parents.' They seek refuge on the balcony, in the alley, or at bus stops. Famine and single parenting have increased the number of street children, and migration from rural to urban areas is another factor contributing to the increase in the number of street children. They make a living by begging on the street, shining shoes, selling things, and washing cars. They eat the leftovers from restaurants, hotels, and other organizations that provide feeding services. They seek shelter in various locations because they are constantly pursued by authorities. They may also rent rooms to sleep in overnight, which will cost them money, therefore they usually move from place to place. The government and non-governmental organizations are concerned about the projects of orphanage institutions but due to high demand, the NGOs mainly focus on self-sufficiency in an income-generating and eradicating dependency.

The government and non-government devise a plan for foster families and reunification with their families, but this process has not been very successful, with a bad reputation that children run away from their families, and are highly unlikely to be able to communicate, adjust to the new environment, and abuse will reoccur, and they run away, while the foster system is also vulnerable to abuse because these children are not considered family members and instead face domestic abuse. Medical services are obtained from locations where free medical services are provided by the government or a non-governmental organization. Access to education is difficult to come by and is prone to drop out. Education is not readily available and is likely to drop out. These children on the street have discovered their own identities, which are socially unacceptable and considered abnormal, Children's development policy for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) examines the lives of street children and their access to basic necessities (Roberts, 1991).

Habtamu and Arindam (2016) conducted a review of 31 studies from four continents, observing various political, economic, social, and environmental elements. Rural-urban migration is a typical occurrence around the world; larger cities have more economic options to give than rural poverty, which has impacted the country's political, social, and economic conditions. The government and non-governmental organizations are working together to address the concerns of street children. The non-governmental organization's mission is to fill up the gaps left by the government in the areas of education, health, and physical protection for these children. The majority of the programs are based on preventative concepts. To address this issue, street children are introduced to various skills and services that link them to a local resource to earn revenue, which can help them transform their socioeconomic situation and boost their self-esteem.

These street children, as well as those who work on the streets, Children found life in street families and children who spend the day on the street and return home at night. These children also make a living as street beggars, day laborers, and street vendors. Begging, everyday labor, and selling are some of the ways that street children make a living. Abebech Gobena orphanage center collected these children and sent them to school. Living conditions, literacy level, gender makeup, and livelihood opportunities are the four key features of African street children. Africa has a higher rate of illiteracy than the rest of the continents (Habtamu & Arindam 2016).

“The problem of children living on the street is a global phenomenon. It has created countless problems for millions of children in all parts of the world UNICEF (2007)”. This study shows that street children found in the city of Hawassa are vulnerable to a wide range of violations of rights and physically, verbally, and sexually abused. They lack basic necessities such as food, health care, and a safe place to stay. The basic reasons for children to the street

are poverty and family disintegration which are followed by different issues within these factors. Street children are oppressed by the society which socially views them as an outsider rather than seeing them as a child that needs protection and nurturing. The push factors are poverty, family disintegration and domestic violence play a major role while the pull factor is preserved as freedom and looking for a better life. These children become also victims of economic growth, war, poverty, loss of traditional values, and domestic violence resulting in physical and mental abuse to avoid these problems they run to the street where they will face another form of abuse that may result in losing their lives. They try to gain income by begging by working manual labor which might result in affecting their health and vulnerable to using drugs as well as attending to crime Shimelis Kassa (2018).

The demographic characteristic has gotten little attention, according to Owoaje, Adebisi, and Asuzu (2009). The perception of a street child in rural communities differs from that of an urban street child, which is typically based on one's living situation. Children of the street, children on the street, children who are part of a street family, and children in institutionalized care are the most common categories, but they fail to reflect the cultural diversity throughout countries. In rural places, street children have relatively little touch with their relatives. These children may attend school, but due to a lack of adult supervision and follow-up, they will eventually drop out. The street children work different work on the street to gain money and form a family on the street and work on the street to raise their children.

According to Ennwe (2003), Children on the street attempted to communicate their emotions through artistic drawing. They express their feelings, but adults try to interpret their drawings in ways that are inconsistent with the reality of the child's perspective. One might assume that children living on the street lack moral values and are anti-social, but when they

share their feelings, they demonstrate dignity and social sensitivity. Instead of asking children directly about their feelings, adults assume that they know what they are feeling.

Nonverbal communication, such as artistic drawing, can reveal more than what the children are feeling on the inside. The explanation should be interpreted by the children since the adults' interpretation is not close to the genuine sensation that the child was attempting to express, and the result is completely different from the visual on the drawing. There are several scenarios that children face all across the world. Even if they endure the burden of surviving on the street alone, children in Africa have a different expression than children in Latin America. In public opinion, society in Latin America has an unfavorable perception of street children. While children in Africa are more likely to migrate from rural to urban settings, this causes intergenerational conflict over values that will not continue after they are exposed to an urban setting. The African approach is built on people's traditions, religions, and social norms, whereas the rest of the world is more focused on the modern nuclear family (Ennwe, 2003).

2.4. Challenges of street children

According to Ayana and Amsale (2018), street children are prone to physical, psychological, and social isolation. In this study, sexual and physical exploitation are frequently discussed. Children are exposed to drug usage on the street for a variety of reasons, including poverty, family dysfunction, and abuse. Children also leave their extended families in search of work in the city, and they end up on the street to meet their basic requirements. Children are vulnerable to physical and psychological discomfort due to a lack of protection and direction. They are subjected to sexual abuse, rape, sexual bartering, and exchange, and are eventually exposed to homosexual activity, which leads to a variety of health problems.

Because street life is difficult to survive, it is typical for people to engage in unsafe sexual behavior, exposing them to a variety of health problems such as STDs and HIV/AIDS.

According to gender classification, new girls who come to the street use sex as a tool with older boys as a means of protection and engage in sexual relations seeking protection for survival during the nights on the street, and also reach an agreement that earning money using sex with others and sharing the money earned as a couple, street boys also face those encounters that use homosexual activity to earn money to survive. Begging is also a viable option for making money and working on the street, such as gathering metals and plastic from trash, exposes children to a variety of health risks (Ayana & Amsale 2018).

According to Berhanu, Dinaol, and Getachew, (2019), study finding street children face psychosocial problems while handling to survive on the street. Street children exist in both developed and developing countries due to poverty and other problems they face in their social and family life. While physical, psychological, social, and sexual abuse continues ongoing obstacle. Children from underprivileged families or societies live in stressful environments and lack fundamental needs. Children living on the street, eating from the trash, and sleeping on the street, experience stress and disconnection, leading to feelings of hopelessness, vulnerability, and depression. Because these youngsters are unable to obtain a suitable job due to tyranny, torture, and other barriers, they are forced to live on the streets.

As a result of their social standing being regarded antisocial and inconsequential, street children have psychosocial consequences and lack interpersonal relationships. When these street children reach puberty, they join gangs, commit crimes, and become addicted to drugs, all of which have negative consequences for society's production. Children on the streets confront a terrible reality of psychological, social, and economic challenges as a result of various violations of their rights, including physical and sexual abuse. Many children move to the city in search of a better life and a career, only to wind up on the streets (Berhanu, Dinaol, & Getachew, 2019).

According to Getnet (2010), study findings street children are sexually abused and it has become a social concern affecting children's physical, social, and psychological well-being in Addis Ababa. Male children are sexually abused, and these victims receive less attention. Sexual behavior is both voluntary and consensual, and both individuals have given their consent. More than 20% of the incidents in which boys are assaulted are investigated in this study. The majority of these instances occurred in Ethiopia's largest cities. The abusers of these victims are all Ethiopians, according to the studies.

These street children have little prior knowledge of the situation or its psychosocial implications in their daily lives, making them vulnerable to attack. Assaults on these victims are becoming increasingly common. 'Newcomers' on the street are more likely to be abused than those who have lived on the street for a longer period of time; however, newcomers are more likely to report if the cases are reported; however, most children do not report because they do not know where to report their case, they do not want anyone to know about their assault for fear of stigmatization. Finally, there is isolation and labeled and called by names as "bushit". Rich and older males are the perpetrators of this crime, and they utilize money and food to gain the trust of the children before attacking them. Unless they share their experiences with their peers, children who are abused are unaware that they are being abused. The attention paid to males is not the major focus of the sexual abuse of girls (Getnet, 2010).

In the article by Demelash and Addise (2013), the knowledge of information about health services and sexual development during adolescence is very low. Street children are exposed to abuse and exploitation and most of these children have no family members or may be neglected or abandoned by their families. The factors that push these children to the street will create a platform for children to use the drug and engage in sexual activities to survive on

the street and gain money as they are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS and STDs.

The lack of access to sexual reproductive health information and services has exposed higher risk behavior and the existing institutions are farfetched for the street children to get access to. More unwanted pregnancies result in low birth weight exposure to infection and illness also occur in addition to that 2/3 of children on the street children use substance relationships using substance use and sexual intercourse have a high risk of transmission of disease and the rate of rape and use of condoms fail to be used properly and also same-sex intercourse among boys high (Demelash & Addise, 2013).

2.5. The Issue of the Sustainability of Economic gains and source of income

According to Tatek Abebe (2008), study findings, historically begging is part of a practice of giving support to the needed ones that at the same time receiving a blessing through the thought of religious beliefs and teachings. Poverty is the main trigger for the children to go to the street. Through begging children earn a living and use begging as a means of income in addition to other activities that they could make money. There is a general perception that street children are delinquent and risky on the other hand children begging on the street have taken the role of adults to bring income to their families as they lost their childhood that require protection and nurturing. Gender, age, and ethnicity as the perspective that tries to categorize their career on the street.

The marginalized sector of society pushes their child into begging so that they can contribute to the family household whether full or part-time after attending school. Begging is conducted near churches, traffic lights, near hotels where people are mostly crowded. Most children are on and off of begging because they don't want to be stigmatized by their friends at school or in their community. Children with disability physical and mental retardants also

go into intergenerational begging on the other hand with disabled family members also conduct begging to tackle their poverty. Street children that beg don't want to go empty-handed to their homes so they prefer to stay on the street. Urbanization also contributed to the construction of marginalized families. As the children start begging children will change as they age and grow they change their perspective towards begging and start working on the street (Tatek Abebe, 2008).

This research by Daniel Gebretsadik (2017), is conducted in the town of Dilla in the southern part of Ethiopia where children use the street as a workplace for their livelihood for survival, socialization, play, and learning ground growth. These children work on the street to contribute to the family's well-being. The Ethiopian culture encourages children to work because it has an impact on socializing them for the role of adulthood future. Street work has become a livelihood and source of income in the urban areas for survival and to tackle poverty. More or less these children working on the street express that they can work and feel that they become useful and important within their families.

According to the children, street employment has taught them how to work and run a business. Children take responsibility for duties to contribute to their family and define themselves as good children, allowing them to communicate effectively with adults and giving them a sense of self-sufficiency. On the other hand, society expects children to go to school and play, but these children work on the street, causing the out-of-place to occupy a banned space and be regarded as a threat to the proper development of a child. Streets are locations where people go to work, socialize, and learn by playing (Daniel Gebretsadik, 2017).

Children working on the street face a variety of issues, according to Scanlon, Francesca, and Lamaraao (1993). Street children are those who spend their days on the streets after being kicked out of their homes by their families or relatives. Society has already categorized them

as delinquents, which has frustrated the poorly defined children's ambitions and resulted in indescribable consequences, as well as leaving a scar on the children's ability to reintegrate back into society. The majority of children leave their families for a variety of reasons, including poverty, parental abuse, and rejection. The majority of children have been enrolled in school, but due to their inability to keep up with their formal education, they return to the streets after a while.

While working on the street to earn money, the older siblings keep an eye on the younger ones, but they end up facing brutality from the police, who challenge them to work on the street. As a result, boys are forced to be thieves, while girls are forced to become prostitutes to survive and gain more money if the additional work is insufficient, and these children lose their self-esteem (Scanlon, Francesca & Lamarao, 1993).

According to Nieuwenhuys (2001), the givers and receivers of beggars maintain a continuous relationship. The goal of western generosity is to provide an economic escape from the hard surroundings rather than assisting orphans and children who are already homeless. The work with the government and non-governmental organizations to implement prevention methods. In terms of the preventive techniques used by NGOs on families that are already destitute and on the verge of being homeless, they accept one child from the family, and the other children are highly unlikely to become homeless, but the family's long-term viability is not assured.

To make up for the lack of financial gain, children are obliged to work on the streets to supplement their income. When these NGOs return children who had previously gone out to the street to their parents, the children become rejected by their parents and become orphans. Organizations and governments have long chastised policies and objectives that contradict and

fail to fully exhaust the beneficiaries (children), who, in turn, are unsatisfied with the work and program of the NGOs implementing the feeding program (Nieuwenhuys, 2001).

Children may encounter one of two scenarios in the food program: they may receive a meal that is solely for them, or they may always think about their siblings and parents. While the second set of children has all of the food they require for the day, they are dependent on the program and are confident that they will not have to worry because the money they earn will be spent on additional substance addiction activities considering the street as a playground and a place of independence (Nieuwenhuys, 2001).

2.6. Psycho-social, reunification, and reintegration

In Rwanda, street children are divided into three types: (1) those that require special protection, (2) those who are vulnerable, and (3) those who are committed to the protection of children's rights. The Rwandan children's protection policy states that a child's support should come from his or her own family or adoptive family, not from the streets, but this policy has failed to prevent children from being forced to live on the streets, as children from various parts of the city continue to do so. Despite the fact that after the 1994 genocide, conventional family behavior and structure have degraded (Kayiranga & Mukashema, 2014).

According to a study conducted in Jimma town Worku, Urgessa, and Abeshu, street children exist around the world, in both developed and poor countries (2019). Children are pushed to live on the streets for a variety of reasons. Psychological, social, physical, and sexual factors are the most significant challenges. Because of the issues, they confront on the streets, they get agitated and separate from reality in order to survive. These children prepare to commit crimes since they are unable to obtain work while they grow up on the streets and reach adolescence. Because of a lack of critical resources and support, the majority of the children in

this study experience anxiety, sadness, and deprivation, and these children are abused and their rights are violated.

Ethiopian culture supports children in an informal manner by providing guidance or counseling, and children are occasionally disciplined. Children are considered by parents and community as the means as source of labor, social insurance in old age, and a source of income through marriage and thus adults are in a position to do whatever they want to them. Marital stress has three effects on a child's psychosocial well-being: parental stress, traditional authoritarian parenting style, and marital stress. There is no comprehensive support for people with mental illnesses, and the country's plan of action that was intended to be implemented failed due to a lack of financial and institutional support (Northcut & Hailu, 2016).

According to Shrivastava, Shrivastava, and Ramasamy (2015), around 100-150 million children live on the streets around the world. Micro subsystems at the individual or entity level, meso subsystem interactions between multiple micro subsystems, exo-subsystems from social settings, macro subsystems in relation to governance and policies, and chrono subsystem settings with the environment are all potential risk factors. Children are subjected to a variety of abuses, and they are also unaware of the importance of hygiene, leaving them vulnerable to a variety of health problems. Children are being pushed out onto the streets, and welfare should be prioritized in terms of implementation on the ground.

According to Raemdonck and Khan (2018) case study, street children in South Africa encounter a variety of push and pull forces on their way to the streets. Government-funded NGOs' social services during the reunification process are deficient in quality coordination while providing services through outreach, temporary care facilities, brokerage, and eventually mentorship. Even while this approach has benefited street children, it needs a monitoring and evaluation service.

According to Feeny (2005), religious groups handed over the research on the problem of street children to the government, which saw street children as a negative image. Orphanages were created in the early 1980s and 1990s to separate children in accordance with UN Convention rights to family and reconsider the family reunion programs.

CHAPTER THREE

3. METHODS

3.1 Research Design

The study has used a descriptive qualitative method to understand the life of street children concerning “the support system” that is available in Addis Ababa. A descriptive study's purpose is to characterize a process and its features (Nassaji, 2015). The study has focused on the government support systems to intervene in the life of street children. It also attempted to understand the role of the non-government organization that closely works with the support system and their program sustainability. The challenges and outputs of such a support system were also examined.

3.2 Description of the Study Area

I have conducted this research in the Addis Ababa city Administration Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, a significant proportion of the population are children. Street children dwelling on the street of Addis Ababa has increased in the last few years. There are many factors that have contributed to its increment. Some of the factors are poverty, family dispute, migration, and addiction to different substances (drugs and alcohol). There are different groups that work on the issue for children on the street, these are both government and non-government organizations that are involved directly to reach out to these street children. The currently existing support system also includes these children and this study has reviewed the process, implementation, and outcome of the program.

This study was identifying the implementer working on the support system; the responsible persons who are directly assigned to the task by the organization both in

government and non-government organizations. The sub-cities that are identified area by the bureau are known as the most concentrated areas of street children.

3.3 Sampling and Sample Size

This study utilized a non-probability purposive sampling method. This method is purposive sampling is based on the researcher's assessment of who will provide the most useful information for the study's objectives (Etikan and Bala, 2017). The respondents from the governmental and non-governmental organizations were selected due to their engagement in the support system, minimum of two years of experience, and willingness to take part in the study. A total of 11 key informants from the government (eight) and non-government organizations (three) who have direct or indirect involvement in the support system for street children were engaged in this study. The total sample size in this study was determined based on data saturation.

In general two qualitative interview guides were prepared for the two groups. The government and non-government organizations. The two interview guides were interrelated to understand the understanding and process of the program. Probing was included to get participants to give detailed and more information. The interview guide prepared for the gov't entity was based on the general support system process and implementation policy and responsibility towards the response to the needs of the street children. The guide developed for the non-government organization includes the general view of the organization program and the response to the needs of the street children.

To select the study participants first, I have identified both governmental and non-governmental organizations that were providing support to street children in Addis Ababa. These organizations were Bright Star, Hope for Justice, and Almaz Ashene from non-governmental organizations, and the Bureau of Women and Social Affairs of Addis Ababa City

Administration and Arada, Kirkos, Addis Ketema, and Ledeta Sub-city Office of Women and Social Affairs from the governmental organizations. One respondent each was interviewed from the Non-governmental organizations and Arada and Ledita Sub-city Office of Women and Social Affairs. Of the rest, two individuals each were interviewed.

3.4 Method of Data collection

In order to collect data, the necessary support letter was collected from the School of Social Work at Addis Ababa University. Having the letter, I have communicated with the respective organizations. I have discussed the purpose of my study and whom I would like to interview. They helped me to identify individuals who were working in supporting street children in Addis Ababa. Once I know the right person, I have asked about the willingness of the respective individuals providing the consent form. All the key informant interviews took place in their offices. During data collection, I used a mobile voice recorder asking their willingness. Each interview on average took forty minutes. During the interview, I used probing when I felt that I require additional information or if it wasn't clear to me.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

The descriptive qualitative method according to Dulock (1993), for data analysis gathers data from a subset of a target community to describe preferences, practices, characteristics, similarities, and differences. A study's advantages include the ability to collect data on a limited number of variables from a large number of individuals and the ability to be utilized for a variety of themes and populations.

The data was collected using a voice recorder, and the interview dialogue was responded to in Amharic. After that, the data was transcribed and translated into English. The translated data were then color-coded to reduce the amount of raw data and breaks to be

manageable for description and interpretation. The colors were assigned to various themes that contemplated the storyline. The themes were divided into subtitles: existing intervention, implementation program, engagement of stakeholders, challenges, and sustainability. Participants' stories were presented to support the themes and enable readers to make their own meaning of the stories.

3.6 Ethical Consideration

After receiving the letter of collaboration from Addis Ababa University's School of Social Work, it was submitted to the respective offices. Before the interview, the respondents were well informed about the study and signed the consent form and they were informed they have the right to withdraw from the interview if they don't feel comfortable responding. To protect and secure the confidentiality, their identity name was changed to a pseudonym. In order to avoid any deceptive practices requested any supportive data and documents for cross-checking purposes.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this chapter presents the data presentations and its analysis. It contains data from interviews held with key informants drawn from both from government and non-government organizations. The study's findings are organized around five major themes: Existing intervention, engagement of stakeholders, implementation of the program, challenges, and sustainability. Themes have been defined according to the coding and presented along with direct quotes from the respondents.

4.1 Backgrounds of the Respondents

In this study, 11 key informants participated in the interview. 8 of the key informants were from Addis Ababa City Administration government social service providers and 3 from Non-government Organizations who were closely working in the street children support system activities. The participants' educational background levels 4 of them hold master's degree qualifications and seven bachelor's degree holders. Among the participants, two were female and nine were male key informants. The details of the respondents' backgrounds are presented in the following table.

Table 1. Background of Key informants

Key Informant Names (pseudonym)	Age	Sex	Marital status	Professional background of the Key informants	Key informants General work experience	Key informants experience related to social Welfare work
Abebe	38	M	Married	Degree in Psychology	11 years	11 years
Kebede	40	M	Married	Master's in Social work	9 years	8 years
Belete	34	M	Never married	Degree in Economics	8 years	8 years
Daniel	42	M	Married	Master's in Community Development	15 years	8 years
Tamerat	39	M	Married	Degree in Cooperative	7 years	7 years
Micheal	38	M	Married	Degree in Management	8 years	8 years
Alemenesh	36	F	Never Married	Degree in Sociology	10 years	10 years
Haile	39	M	Married	Degree in Special Needs Education	12 years	10 years
Henok	35	M	Married	Master's in International Cooperation in human care	7 years	7 years
Bruke	41	M	Married	Master's in Psychology and Leadership	14years	4 years
Tsega	25	F	Never Married	Degree in Psychology	2 years	2 years

Source: Compiled by the research, May, 2022

Children who live and work on the city's streets and verandas were disintegrated as street children by the Addis Ababa city Administration and Non-government organization from whom I have collected data. These children roam across the city to have more regular access to food and shelter. They make a living by begging or form different income generating activities which includes shoe shining, daily labor, guarding cars, assisting taxi drivers, and selling gums and tissue papers to their passing customers.

According to key informant interviewees views , street children are subjected to various

forms of abuse, drugs and alcohol addiction, accidents, and involvement in petty crimes (thefts) and that the Addis Ababa residents considers as delinquent behavior that threatens which Addis Ababa residents and should not be tolerated . As a result of the street children's above stated behaviors these children are viewed as neglected by their parents and as threats to the cities resident's security. There are a various of reasons why youngsters end up to live and work on the street. As reported by the interviewed key informant the most important prevalence the phenomena of reasons children are financial difficulties of parents, the dysfunctional families, and peer pressure.

4.2 Existing Interventions

In Addis Ababa, street children live in the center of the city. Even though Addis Ababa is divided into 11 sub-cities, four of them are considered inner cities, where a huge number of street children call the streets home. These sub-cities, identified by the Addis Ababa City Administration Bureau as a concentrated area by street children are; Arada, Kirkos, Ledeta, and Addis Ketema are highly populated with street children. Each sub-city includes an average of ten woredas. The Addis Ababa City Administration's Bureau of Women and Children Social Affairs implementing Social Protection Policy since 2004 works with street children. And they have offices in each sub-city and Woredas as it escalates from higher to lower process of implementing the social protection policy. They claim that they are implementing the Social Protection Policy As the key informant Haile from Ledeta Sub-city indicated *“The Social Protection Policy was implemented in 2004 and formal manuals and working documents were designed for implementation purposes as there was no prior guideline. Before 2004 the support system was conducted informally.”* (At Lideta subscity office on May 17th, 2022)

The two types of interventions that are currently implemented for street children are project-based programs funded by the World Bank and government-funded programs. Street

children are enrolled in both support programs. Children supported by the gov't funded program were taken off from the streets forcefully while the project-based program enroll children voluntarily. Abebe, a key informant from the Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau explained.

“There are two projects in regards to street children. The first one is fully funded by the gov't and the other support system is funded by the World Bank. For the past three years, this project was conducted as part of the Safety net program.” (At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 10th 2022)

The Addis Ababa City Administration Bureau has divided street residents into four groups: (1) children under the age of 18, (2) women with children, (3) adults, and (4) the elderly. However, each group includes persons with disabilities and those with mental illnesses. The program's main goals focus areas are: reunification, reintegration, need-based evaluation, and institutional care.

The process of taking children back to their hometown to be reunited with their parents or close relatives is known as reunification. After outreach and assistance, children who have been separated from their families for various reasons can be reunited with their families. It is the first and most preferred alternative, and it is the focus area of the service program.

After obtaining psychosocial support, addiction treatment, and life skill training reintegration is a process that involves returning them to the community. As a result of this process, the reunified children's families benefit financially and in-kind, and they will reconnect with family and community.

Needs-based assessment is completed after they have received any assistance they may be eligible. The assessment is being done for these children who want to work based on their interests and become self-sufficient. This is because financial difficulties were one of the major reasons for their decision to live on the street. As the key informant, Abebe from the Women and Social Affairs Bureau reported:

“What both projects of the support system do is outreach. This is to make contact with the children to provide them with psychosocial support. Initially, they are often provided with support to help them to calm down and return to normality in the institutions before they integrate with their family and community.”(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 10th 2022)

Institutional care is for people who don't have a family and are unable to look after themselves. These centers are where the children are placed to receive all of the basic needs that institutions provide. As the key informant Kebede from the Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau

We are decreasing and planning to reduce the number of institutions that provide institutional care for children. Institutional care tends to impact children to develop a behavior of isolating themselves and that have made it difficult for children to interact with others.”(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 12th 2022)

As previously indicated, the Bureau of Women and Children Social Affairs of the Addis Ababa administration has two types of solutions to street children: project-based funding from the World Bank and fully backed government plans to support street dwellers. Taking children off the streets as part of a project entails a sequence of well-thought-out steps carried out by the government and non-governmental organizations based on the children's own free will after

reaching out to them. This activity brings together government and non-governmental social workers to select young people under the age of 18. As the key informant, Daniel from Kirkos Sub-city reported d *“When it’s time to pick up these street children, we make sure that they are the ones on the spot areas we have identified earlier along with the organizations.”* (At Kirkos sub city office on May 13th 2022).

Although the implementation task is differentiated by the government and NGOs as escalating downwards. The Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau oversees both forms of support responses to the street children. The government-sponsored program relocates children from the streets and places them into facilities in an unprecedented timetable. If there is a possibility of security concerns, these initiatives will be implemented. The budget comes directly from the government for these specific task.

The project-based support system has pre-planned activities that are carried out within a specific time range. This is a five-year plan as a pilot project in Ethiopia that is currently being implemented. The project is based on a proposal that clearly states the number of beneficiaries to be served, the type of service, and the time frame for completion.

4.3 Engagement of stakeholders

In responding to the needs of street children, a various stakeholders are involved. The government-sponsored program is largely implemented by major Government Agencies including: The Addis Ababa City Administration Peace and Security Office is in charge of protecting sites, conducting background checks on assigned staff, and issuing identification passes to maintain accountability.

Another government institution involved in the activity is the Addis Ababa City Administration Police. They keep the peace and prevent any undesirable confrontations with

street children during their removal. The Addis Ababa City Administration Transport Office also plays an important role in providing transportation from the street to the prepared temporarily shelters or centers. The Health Service also is present to supervise and address any health issues that may arise. The shelters are assigned with in schools and youth center halls. As the key informant, Tamerat from Kirkos sub-city has explained the engagement of the different Stakeholders as follows

“We inform the peace and security ahead of time that we will be working on the street children. They are well aware of the task and they will prepare badges and run a background check on us as well as the temporary employees to provide clearance. The police will also be available to avoid crowded gatherings and resistance from these children.”(At Kirkos Subcity office on May 13th 2022)

Different Agencies were involved in the project-based response activity. Their level and form of participation in this project operation might differ. The various government offices at different levels include the administration, sub-city, and woreda levels. The Addis Ababa City Administration will contract (hire) NGOs to assist with this project as a service provider. The project team of the Addis Ababa city Women and Children Social Affairs Office will monitor and evaluate the outsourced task at the Bureau level. This is explained by Abebe, the key informant from Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau *“We outsource the Service for the NGOs using 70/30 scheme. The NGOs administration cost is deducted from the children’s overhead budget.”*(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 10th 2022).

The engagement NGOs in the operation process is characterized by direct collaboration, It begins with the development of a proposal. Implementation and evaluation of

the task allocated for the relocate and placement of street children in institutions, as well as intervention activities, and ultimately executed follow-up, and reporting. The Bureau closely follows up right after the contract of NGOs. The project office reviews and gives comments for adjustments for approval. Creating a communication channel will enhance any delays in the implementation of the project. In the process of implementation, the Bureau will evaluate the process in accordance with the agreed term of service and the result. The women & Children Social Affairs Bureau representative Kebede reported the following:

We give them suggestions about their project. This will be followed by a technical appraisal evaluation. This includes the process of reunification, reintegration, and follow-up service. These organizations should provide basic needs such as shelter and, food until reunification. The project appraisal will monitor and evaluate the program.”(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 12th 2022).

4.4 Implementation of the Program

As for the two types of street children support schemes programs, the government-supported street children support system services are said to be not well designed for the planners of the operation decisions are reacted. They were based on assumed concerns that they think but consider on issues that may pose a threat to the city's resident's security and image, as well as some extraordinary events such as AU summit that might happen in Addis Ababa. The government in collaboration with various sector offices removes street children after midnight. These allow them to truly distinguish who are the real street dwellers. There are street children who stay on the street and engage in various activities such as begging, shoe shining, selling gums as "jebelo," and staying in rented housing to return to their families. Abebe from Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau explained that: z

“Our main priority is for the children who stay day and night on the street since there are children who have families. They go back to their homes after staying the day on the street. There are also children who have rented a place to stay during the night.” (At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 10th 2022).

After the children have been removed from the streets, they will be temporarily placed in the Addis Ababa City Administration-run centers that provide food, drink, shelter, and clothing. The local government will work with other government agencies such as Customs and Revenue to provide clothing for these children. For 15 days, these children will get psychosocial assistance and life skill training in the form of two-hour training and counseling.

The children in the center will entertain the concept of reuniting with their families and returning to their homes. If they were previously enrolled in school they will have a chance for them to continue their education. The purpose of Counseling Services for children is to help them recover from drug addiction. Hence, it will enable them to rehabilitate from their addictions. When these children are ready to be reunited with their families, the Rehabilitation Service will assist them to have smooth communication with their family members.

Those children who refuse to comply with reunification will have the opportunity to begin their lives by working or enrolling in training programs. These part of a scheme is set up through Job Creation to place them on large farms, and factories. They will have a job to choose from like working as coffee beans preparation, or technicians, and performing other chores that they may assigned to. Every year the government allocates about 50 million Ethiopian Birrs for the street persons who have accepted the program to be removed from the street. Those children who are part of the program had the opportunity to change their own lives and support their parents or families. Micheal from Addis Ketema sub-city explained that:

“The Addis Ababa city administration has executed the program of rehabilitation, life-skill training, and vocational training. This is through creating the linkage with construction companies and large farms association for employment.” (At Addis Ketema Sub city office on May 18th 2022).

The project is planned and carried out by two primary groups: the government and non-governmental organizations. The non-government organization's project will be examined by the department of women and children's social affairs. After competing and winning the bid based on the term of reference the non-government organizations will sign a contract and commence their task.

The team from the non-government organization will submit their developed project proposal to the Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau for approval. After coming to a formal agreement from both sides on the proposal. The approved plan will be submitted to Finance and a three-month advance budget payment will be settled. The advance payment enables the organizations to begin the service by identifying hotspot areas, streets, and Woredas. As the key informant, Haile from Ledeta Sub-city reported on the issue as follows *“We give them three months' advance payment so that they can secure all the necessary inputs to commence. The advance payment is settled based on the calculation set by the city administration.”*(At Ledeta Sub city office on May 13th 2022).

The Addis Ababa City Administration Street Children support Project Office examines and determines the magnitude of the problem together in order to take further action. Following the evaluation and agreement, the agencies will form a committee and begin outreach to persuade children to participate in the initiative. The conversation with the street children to see if they are interested in receiving assistance in changing their lives and reuniting with their families. Tamerat from Kirkios Sub-city stated: *“Our social workers along with the*

nongovernmental organizations conduct the outreach on the hot spot areas.”(At Kirkos Sub City office on May 13th 2022).

Following the assessment and outreach is conducted, the street children who agrees to join the program will enter the centers and receive psychosocial support, life skill training, and need-based assessment for three to six months duration depending on the level of their social distress.

These centers are transitional temporary shelters to stay for catering the children. It is not preferred by the operation process for the children feel at home or get comfortable in this temporary shelters. The main function of the temporary shelter is for the children to stay until they rehabilitate and reunify with their families and reintegrate them into their origin community.

The budget allocated for the children that are staying in the centers will cover the maximum cost of 18 months. But the program for rehabilitation takes three to six months before reintegration. A need-based assessment is conducted and the reintegration grant will be used after the result of the assessment. Based on the assessment the grant is nonmonetary to enable the children and their families to generate an income to discourage them from returning back to the streets. Since the most typical reason for children’s decision to live on the street is due to their family's financial difficulties. Kebede from the women & Children Social Affairs Bureau

“We want the centers to be a temporary transitional stations for these children until they are rehabilitated and reunited with their families. The children will receive psychosocial support and life skill training and counseling while staying in the centers. Even though life on the street for these children is very difficult due to different reasons, the program plans to give service for a long

period and create independency.”(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 12th 2022).

One of the first aspects in the process of responding to the concerns of street children is to follow up on authorizing the budget for the subsequent process of selecting the children to enroll in the program. After children are selected and placed in the centers, the Addis Ababa City Administration Office prioritizes monitoring if the basic human rights of the children are respected and not being mistreated or harmed. Kebede from Woman and Children Social Affairs Bureau stated that, *“We check on the children’s well-being and we make sure that they are not being abused or neglected in the centers.”*(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 12th 2022)

For the duration of 18 months accommodation at the temporary shelters, the budget allocated per month is 1,759 ETB out of this total months budget allocated per child was 1759 Ethiopian birr amount, 20% is allocated for covering administrative cost for the Non-Government organization. Depending on the duration of stay of the children the allocated budget of a total of 18 months varies from three to six months cost will be deducted from it. The remaining money will be used for the reintegration of the children, but as stated earlier, the reintegration is non-monetary. In a government-funded program by the Addis Ababa City Administration a total number of 14,216 children have received support from the program by the fiscal year 2021/22 on the other hand project-based program by the Non-Government Organization have been enrolled in the program and supported a total number of 13,774 children. Abebe from Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau, a random study was conducted by the city administration that showed around 50,000 to 70,000 children live on the street 2021/22. The project- based services are unable to cover even half of these numbers. (Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau) reported that: *“Our target for*

rehabilitation is 5000 per year even though more than 80 thousand people live on the street.”(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 10th 2022).

4.5 Challenges

Several obstacles have been identified by the study participants interviewed from both Governmental and NGO’s supported programs who were involved in administrating the programs designed to support street children. The lack of sufficient shelters or centers and limited capacity of the facilities that are currently active are the main constraints raised identified by the informants. Schools, youth centers, and government halls which are being used as temporary holding centers which also makes it difficult to guarantee that these places would be available in a timely manner.

The government-funded street children support program are not scheduled or completed unlike the project based support program. This has in turn made the activity incomplete and inadequate as a support program. And also the limited number of rehabilitation centers made the recovery children from their addiction very difficult. The insufficiency time children were allowed to stay, to get treatment, for their addiction is insufficient for recovery. According to from the Women and Children Social Affairs Bureau, Kebede,

“It is very challenging to get the children out of their addiction as they are immersed in addiction and are so used to the life they live on the street. The lack inadequacy of rehabilitation centers makes it almost impossible for us to persuade these children to come to the centers of their own choice.”(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 12th 2022)

The overall status of the country, concerning man-made and natural disasters, has made it difficult to control the reduce migration of children from rural areas to the city. The instability

of the country all over has affected the economy as well as the social value. The prevalence of natural disasters and rural poverty forced rural community members to migrate into the cities in search for better life and security as the idea of Addis Ababa being the center and the safest place has increased the number of children on the street at an alarming rate. This has become a burden on the overall activities of the programs that are being implemented in Addis Ababa.

The budget constraints encountered by the projects hampered the smooth operations and the misleader outputs of both types of support programs for street children by Government and NGO's programs. And in addition to that lack of commitment given to the programs from the government and its officials has lagged the functionality and standard of the projects that are expected to bring changes. Due to the country's present political and economic crisis, the authorized budget was found as insufficient to meet the needs of these children. According to an interview from Arada Sub-city Belete "even though the policy is adequate enough to meet the standard but the lack of sufficient budget has made it difficult for the policy to be implemented." (Belete from Arada sub city office on May 12th 2022).

The lack of knowledge among the staff of professionals that were assigned to the project management areas, lack of giving priority, and inadequate resources allocated have negatively affected the achievement of the set goals of the programs. Program Managers were assigned based on their political loyalty and affiliation rather than based on their professional merit or leadership skills. The constant change of project management of leadership has created a gap in the work. This frequent change in leadership had a negative consequences on the outcomes of the program. As the key informant, Kebede from Women and Children Social Affairs office explained "*The lack of knowledge and capacity of the manager assigned to implement the policy has affected the functionality of the program.*" (At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 12th 2022).

During review meetings different agencies, the activities implemented are examined and a campaign strategy will be conducted to run and fulfill the gaps identified by the evaluation. These evaluations are not result-oriented but rather they are only used for reporting purposes of the enrollment against the target plan. An interview from Ledeta Sub City Haile stated *“There is a lack of commitment and also continuity in implementing the program by all stakeholders. This resulted in gaps that led to only campaigning activities for the purpose of fulfilling the numbers required.”* (At Ledeta Sub City office on May 17th 2022).

Another reason for young children’s decision to return and live on the street is due to the of program’s implementations failure. The children who have returned to their families with the grant after rehabilitation and reunification are not as such successful. However, for some the reintegration programs have brought value to their families' economically due to start-up capital. This makes them compelled to push their children others send their children so that they can be benefited from the reintegration support from the government. An interview women and Children Social Affairs Bureau Abebe reported. *“It is very difficult to differentiate those who are in need from those who don’t. We would like to deal with children who need support.”*(At Addis Ababa Women and Children Social Affairs office on May 10th 2022).

Street Children Parents believe that the lives of these street children are simple and they are able to earn extra money. Parents who have received financial assistance from their children on the street are likely to demand further help from their children on the street. They regard their children as a source of income. Moreover, there is no law holding parents accountable and prohibiting individuals from living on the streets. The street children are well-aware of the services given by the Government organizations and NGO’s that support. And they have benefited from a variety of organizations previously. And when outreach is carried out, the street children anticipate ahead of time what kind of service they will receive from the program.

The lack of a controlling mechanism has created loopholes in the support program and made it problematic and difficult to keep the children's status on track that have already received support from the program and avoid from wasting the budget. The repeated usage of the service provided has caused the program to be unfairly distributed. With that, the number of children increases progressively and this has made it hard for the program to have control of the beneficiaries. An interview from Bright star NGO Bruke explained, "*There is no controlling system in use to register the children from enrolling more than once.*" (At Bright start NGO National office Addis Ababa on May 19th 2022).

There is also a lack of commitment from the partner the burden of running of the street children support program is date is solely carried by the Addis Ababa City Administration. The City Administration will not be able to deal with this problem of street children unless the Regional Authorities sending the source of street children get involved. The responsibility and a follow-up strategy following reintegration should be carried out by the regional governments. The tendency of the NGO to keep the children and are not willing to enroll new children. This has negatively impacted the smooth running and success of the programs. They especially consider teenagers as bring into their programs very are difficult to smoothly run and manage the organization focus on limited number of children.

4.6 Sustainability (The Issue of Sustainability of Street children support programme's

The project-based activity has been in place for the past three years and will come to end in October 2022. The new project with a five-year plan will continue in providing service in the coming years. According to information gathered from both the government and non-governmental organizations, community-based reintegration services and Income Generation programs have been implemented throughout in order to attain retain economic independence

and self-sufficiency from the support program that support in the non-monetary support schemes.

The Program's sustainability will be ensured by giving the community ownership and community developing capacity. Based on a community program that uses community Owen resources and has a small budget that could be funded by the government without the involvement of humanitarian organizations, ensuring the program's sustainability. An interview from Hope for Justice NGO reported by Henok

“We have already capacitated the community members through training to feel in the gaps with minimum finance and resources on hand which can guarantee the sustainability of the programs.”(At Hope for Justice site office in Addis Ababa on May 19th 2022)

Foster families and local adoption will also have an impact on reducing the number of street children. If this programs are provided with care and assistance to be adopted or practiced, they will make a huge contribution in regards to children going to the street life.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. Discussion

This part of the study discussed the major findings obtained from the key informants in line with the existing literature on the issue. The purpose of this study was to better understand how the government and the non-government response of support system to street children respond to the basic needs of street children in Addis Ababa City Administration.

The support system for street children is included in the National Social Protection Policy implemented in 2004. The section that is dealing with street children defines the street children as “children at risk”. It utilizes a broad description of how the support system is responding to the needs of street children. The response to assist these children through the process of selecting and enrolling from the street was made possible by collaborating with a non-governmental organization. Similarly, Habtamu Wondimu and Leha (2016), study also indicated that the government should be responsible for the increasing number of street children since children are the responsibility of the families, the community, and the government at large. If the families and communities fail to provide support to children, taking care and protection of children will be the responsibility of the regional, and federal government. This study illuminates the government's responsibility, the response, and the collaboration of the non-government organization in implementing different programs.

These street children receive services from the Government and NGOs support systems which are beneficial but are found as having a detrimental impact. Given economic hardships, both children and their parents have encountered Government and NGOs the street children support system the systems support have boosted their livelihood. The budget constraints encountered by Government and NGOs run street children programs have made it difficult for

this programs to contribute to delivering support on a larger scale. The support the children receive will have a direct linkage with the families as stated by UNICEF (2006), children 'on the street' are those who are primarily engaged in street economic activities but have relationships with their families.

The response to the street children problem was to put them in facilities where they receive appropriate support rehabilitated and reunite with their families. They will receive life skill training and counseling. Similarly, according to a study by John and Andargatchew (1994), this welfare system studied to cover three ways of implementation removing the children and placing them in foster families, reunification with their own families, and finally vocational training for these children for self- economic gain.

Based on the finding the project-based program has pre-planned activities before the commencement of the project. These children will receive psychosocial support, life skill training, and counseling, and conduct a need-based assessment in the rehabilitation centers. After completing their sessions, these children will be reunited with their families and reintegrated back into society. This support has enabled children to overcome the issues they face. Similarly, the study in Jimma town by Worku, Urgessa, and Abeshu (2019), Children were pushed to live on the streets for a variety of reasons. Psychological, social, physical, and sexual factors are the most significant challenges. With the lack of critical resources and support the majority of the children according to the study they experience anxiety, sadness, and deprivation, these children were abused and their rights were violated.

According to the Bureau of Women and Children Social Affairs of Addis Ababa City Administration, the activities implemented ranged from taking off children of the street, to rehabilitating and reintegrating back into society. Providing a safe environment with various supports allows them to take charge of their lives and be motivated for change. The most

prevalent factors for children to leave their families and decide to live on the streets are economic pressure, a dysfunctional household, and peer pressure. As the stated in the response the factors are also stated in the article by Grundling and Grundling (2005), conducted the street children of Namibia relatively to the other third world countries lead to a degenerated pattern of behavior and cause the phenomenon that forces to push children to live on the streets that contradicted the way people live in their cultural aspect or pattern. The economic situation in the country and unequal distribution of resources that lead to poverty and income inequality leads to children going to the street.

The support system implemented and monitored by the government will not affect the objective program-based cultural perspective. The government will also follow up with these NGOs, to ensure the service is based on the signed contract agreement. On the contrary as noted by Tetake Abebe and Kusi, (2016), the intervention by the non- Africans using their own view of understanding of the way of life and the children's experience will not be match up up and the basic groundwork will contradict with the African perspective. The socio-economic intervention somehow lacks in African culture to which compared to the western set of living conditions.

According to the data collected by this study, there are several flaws in the planning and organization and implementation of the street children support system that restrict the response. The allocated budget doesn't match up with the number of street children that needs the service. The amount assigned per child did not consider the economic inflation. This indicates that the result from a response to the needs was found as insufficient and very limited. Similarly Richter (1991), also emphasizes that the lack of attention and commitment seen among the government official's and other NGOs failure to fulfill the needs of these children has become difficult due to the increase in the number of street children since the country itself

is one of the least underdeveloped counties.

The street children that migrated from all corners of the country due to different reasons such as poverty, man-made and natural disasters, and Political unrest has also contributed to the an increased number of street children coming to Addis Ababa and now living on the streets. Similarly, the study by Young (2004), also confirms politics, the economy, housing, health and welfare services, unemployment, and rapid urbanization are all factors at the macro (community) level. The primary indices of child poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, are economic poverty, HIV/AIDS, and internal conflicts.

The lack of commitment observed among all stakeholders and poorly trained individuals assigned to the task has hindered the attainment of the set goals of the programmes outcome. The lack of attention given to this sector of response is a major issue for the response. Similarly, the articles by an article by John and Andargatchew (1994), studied that because of the different reasons, there is low priority and budget is given to the welfare program. . These children go to the street to survive since the street is the only place where they feel that they can get their basic needs met through their engagement in informal begging or other income generating activities.

CHAPTER SIX

6. Conclusion and Social Work Implication

6.1 Conclusion:

The study has reviewed the support systems that were organized by the Government and NGOs Agencies to respond to the basic needs of street children on the Addis Ababa City Administration streets. The implemented support system programmes were supervised by the BOWSA in accordance with the guidance of the National Social Protection Policy of 2004. There was a collaboration partnership between the government and non-government organizations so as to provide services to street children. The data collected from the participants of this study of this study that there were different services that were provided to demonstrate that the street children.

The process of rehabilitation, reconnection, and reintegration in all parts of their lives is emphasized in this response program. This procedure begins with an outreach program designed to locate children and place them in facilities for three to six months. The children receive emotional help, as well as life skill and vocational training. They were reintegrated into the society and given a grant to help them support themselves. Opportunities for children are established by involving stakeholders and entities in order to help the children and families become self-sufficient.

The study has shown that there are gaps in commitment in the implementation of stakeholders. The system being used currently needs to be amended and failed to protect the children from all sorts of violations. On the other hand, the lack of keeping records of the street children that have enrolled in the support program by both government and non-government

created an unfair distribution of resources in the system used by the government. The overall implementation of the support system is monitored and evaluated by the BOWSA.

6.2 Social Work Implication

The Bureau of Women and Children's Social Affairs should not be the only responsible body for the support response for the needs of the street children. The other stakeholders should also have a sense of ownership and commitment to the successful implementation of the response programmes. Only then will the burden carried by BOWCSA could be reified.

BOWCSA emphasizes that the government funded system is a response to the needs of the children. But the system was found as working against the policy and violates the human rights of the children. The method used to take street children off the street has more of a political objective than being regarded as a response. Instead of pushing their political agenda the BOWCSA leadership should use the policy as legal instrument to protect the rights of the children.

The Ministry of Health should prioritize the rehabilitation treatment for the children by making psychiatry and consulting services as mandatory in their practice. Concerning the lack of attention given by the legislative and judiciary bodies'; the human rights of the children are violated during getting them off the street. The judiciary body was the one who is supposed to protect the children from violation. But currently, they are the ones violating their basic human right. While on the other hand the legislative body should amend the regulations and legislate strict regulations to protect the rights of street children. The judiciary, like the police, must be held accountable for their brutal treatment of the children.

The Ministry of Transport should enact strong regulations prohibiting youngsters from using public transportation alone. Adults traveling with children should be able to validate that they

are the children's relatives or guardians. Since the majority of these children are from SNNPR, notably from the Wolyita area, the regional administration offices should take special responsibility and act by focusing on the development of regional street children support service facilitation.

As more programs and finances are allocated to refugees and migration. Non- governmental organizations should give more attention to supporting street children. The general public should be compelled or be mobilized to contribute to such programmes. Even a modest sum would make a major difference in supporting the support system. It may also allow the program to reach a larger number of beneficiaries and ensure a long and sustainable system. This will result in a shift in society's attitude toward giving money to children on the street which will have no impact on their lives. Citizens might inquire about the project as an owner and the outcome of its implementation and its social responsibility.

The National Social Protection Policy refers to Article 90 “To the extent the country’s resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food, and social security” as to the Ethiopian constitution Ethiopia has also endorsed the African Union Social Policy Framework (AUSPF), which they have integrated into their development agendas and strategies. In pursuing measures to reduce chronic poverty and vulnerability. Based on the policy's execution, efforts are made to define the extension of various schemes for economic and social development programs. To be able to eliminate supply chain constraints that can benefit residents. For the impoverished and vulnerable. The governments must provide unrestricted access to essential services through formal and informal response mechanisms. According to the policy, the vulnerable group includes children, as well as women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In general

through the involvement of federal and regional organizational structures collaboration to improve employment opportunities, livelihood, and legal protection for the vulnerable.

However, in place of the general policy, it should develop a children's social protection policy. Priority and attention should be given to children's needs. The approach fails to acknowledge vulnerable children nationwide as a whole, rather than just focus on the concerns of street children. There should be a strategy in place so that the details of the variation may be seen as a distinct difference in the degree of response. The merging of other bodies causes a reason for not responding as it should. The policy lacks accountability for the practice in terms of response and outcome.

Other Research Nationwide could be conducted on the implementation of the practices and children's rights to access services of the support system. A quantitative study could be conducted on the response including the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Initiation of developing controlling mechanism and database of these children. How the support system responds to street children in Ethiopia can be used to teach family and children-related courses.

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B. Primary Source Background of Key informants

Key Informant Names (pseudonym)	Age	Sex	Place of Interview	Date of Interview
Abebe	38	M	Bureau of Women and Children Social affairs Office	May 10,2022
Kebede	40	M	Bureau of Women and Children Social affairs Office	May 12,2022
Belete	34	M	Arada Sub City Office	May 12,2022
Daniel	42	M	Kirkos Sub City Office	May 13,2022
Tamerat	39	M	Kirkos Sub City Office	May 13,2022
Micheal	38	M	Addis Ketem Sub City Office	May 18,2022
Alemenesh	36	F	Addis Ketema Sub City Office	May 18,2022
Haile	39	M	Ledeta Sub City Office	May 17,2022
Henok	35	M	Hope For Justice Site Office Addis Ababa	May 16,2022
Bruke	41	M	Bright Star Office	May 19,2022
Tsega	25	F	Almaz Ashennay Site Office	May 16,2022

Annex I

Participant Consent

Dear Respondent!

I am Bethelhem Zegeye and I am studying my graduate program in Social work at Addis Ababa University. Now, I am conducting thesis research entitled “Existing Government and Non-Governmental Support System Programmes to Respond to the Issue of Street Children in Addis Ababa City Administration” as partial fulfillment of obtaining a master’s degree. The purpose of the study will conduct how the government responsibility, the response and the collaboration of the non-government organization are implementing programs.

Dear respondent, the objective of the research can only be attained when you are willing to provide your genuine responses to the series of questions that have been asked’. I will assure you 100% that your responses will never be used for any other purpose other than research.

All this is completely voluntary bases and you have the right to refuse participation. This is a consent form urging you to sign on the space provided for you hereunder to show your agreement and willingness to participate in the study. By signing, you demonstrated that you have agreed to the terms and conditions mentioned above. Thank you in advance!

Respondent’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Data Collector's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Annex II

Data Instrument

Interview Guide for Key Informant interview for a Government

Organization

1. Background Information

- Sex
- Age
- Marital
- Educational level
- Work place and position?
- How many years did you work in this position?

2. What are the activities you are engaged with to respond to the needs of street children

3. What are your organization responsibilities to respond to the needs of street children

4. Tell me about the government welfare system to street children

- What is the gov't policy?
- When did the gov't welfare system start
- Which areas of focus by the system
- How much budget is allocated for this program
- How many children are currently enrolled
- What are the criteria to be part of the welfare system
- How transparent is the selection system /is their background checking

- Which programs are given priority in the welfare system
- Which other governmental entities work closely with a social welfare system

5. What is the overall status of the welfare program?

- How do you collaborate with other non-governmental organizations
- With whom do you collaborate
- What is the basic plan of collaboration
- What are the long and short term plan
- What is the success of this program
- What are the challenges this program faced

6. What concerns or gaps are there in the welfare system to street children that needs improvement

- Policy issues
- Sustainability
- Commitment
- Communication /advocacy

Interview Guide for Key Informant interview for a Non-Government Organization

1. Background Information

- Sex
- Age
- Marital status
- Educational level
- Marital Status
- Number of years of experience
- Current position
- How long did you work in your current position
- Previous experience

2. Tell me about your organization

- When was the organization formed?
- Who are the donor of means of income?
- Area of focus
- Priorities of the organization program
- Overall budget /annual budget?
- How much budget is allocated for this specific program
- How many different programs do you have?

3. Tell me the overall task that has been done so far

- How many children have been enrolled in general?
- How many children are currently in the system?
- What are the major future plan?

4. How is the collaboration with gov't?

- What is the long and short term plan?
- What are the means of communication?
- Is there any challenge in this collaboration?
- Is there any difference in regards to priority between the two entities?
- What is the handover over exit plan if the project ends?
- Is there improvement are that needs to be addressed