

Head Counting of Street Children in Addis Ababa and Adama (Nazareth)

2010/2011

Commissioned by

UNICEF Ethiopia



In collaboration with

Bureau of Women Children and Youth's Affairs, Addis Ababa

Bureau of Women Children and Youth's Affairs Oromia



StreetInvest London



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	PAG.	2
• OBJECTIVE		
LIST OF ACRONYMS	PAG.	3
DEFINITION OF TERMS	PAG.	4
• CLARIFICATION OF TERMS USED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HEAD COUNTING PROCESS		
GENERAL OVERVIEW	PAG.	6
• WHY HEAD COUNT?		
• PREVIOUS HEADCOUNTS		
METHODOLOGY	PAG.	8
KEY FINDINGS	PAG.	10
RECOMMENDATIONS	PAG.	15
CONCLUSION	PAG.	17

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

StreetInvest would like to thank the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) office in Ethiopia for their dedicated involvement regarding Ethiopian orphans and vulnerable children, especially those living in the streets of Addis Ababa and the capital city of Oromia Regional Government, Adama (Nazareth). They gave continuous support and assistance in this Head Counting Project. Without the help of the Bureau of Women and Children’s Affairs (BOWCYA), Addis Ababa and the Oromia Regional Government Women’s & Children’s Affairs Bureau of Finfinnee (Addis Ababa) and Adama (Nazareth), the Head Counting Project would not have been possible

We would like to thank all the agencies that provided staff to deliver the head counting. Without this collaboration and willingness the head counting would never have taken place. Such a demonstration of unity and working together is not a little unique in Ethiopia.

In November 2010 and January and February 2011, StreetInvest, a Charity registered in the UK, was contracted by UNICEF to be the Consultants for a head count that took place in Addis Ababa and in February 2011 in Adama Nazareth.

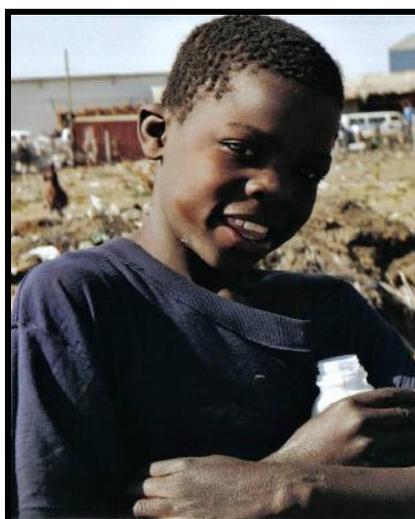
OBJECTIVE:

TO CLEARLY DETERMINE THE NUMBERS OF STREET CHILDREN IN KEY URBAN CENTRES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO WORKING WITH THEM.

We dedicate this document to the 11,830 Street Children counted on the streets of Addis Ababa, and the 4,796 Street Children living in Adama/Nazareth that were counted.

May their street life be seen and may their voice be heard:

“No child should be alone”.



LIST OF ACRONYMS

THE ACRONYMS REFLECT THE LANGUAGE THAT GRASS ROOTS PRACTITIONERS USE AND INCLUDES OTHER ACRONYMS IN USE BY LARGER INSTITUTIONS.

AIDS	= Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
GBV	= Gender based violence
MOLSA	= Ministry of Labour and Social Affaires
BOWCYA	= Bureau of Women, Children and Youth's Affairs
FMOH	= Federal Ministry of Health
H.C.	= Head Counting
HDI	= Human Development Index
HIV	= Human Immunodeficiency Virus
SI	= StreetInvest
UNCRC	= United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	= United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	= United Nations Population Fund
CRC	= Convention on the Rights of the Child
ID	= Identity Card

DEFINITION OF TERMS

CHILD: For the purpose of the UNCRC (art.1), a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years.

STREET CHILD: Any child whose life is controlled by the street.

ORPHAN: Any child who has lost one or both parents.

VULNERABLE CHILD: a child who has been orphaned by AIDS and/or affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic, including children living with sick parents, children living in highly affected communities and children living without adult care¹.

DISABILITY: The term persons with disabilities is used to apply to *all* persons with disabilities *including* those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.²

MOVABLE BUSINESS: Any kind of business all around the city, including selling chewing gum, cigarettes, fruits, kolo, National lottery tickets and shoe shining which denotes mobility and intransience.

FIXED BUSINESS: Any kind of business related to a permanent place, such as local markets, bus station areas, open spaces for bicycle hiring.

JOB-LESS: Children without any paid work, not interested in any job, and/or spending their time sleeping or chewing chat.

DAILY WORKERS WAITING FOR A JOB OPPORTUNITY: Children waiting for any paid work opportunity (piece work, irregular work, seasonal work, occasional work).

CHILD BEGGAR: A child who lives by asking people for money or food.

CHILD PROSTITUTE OR SEX WORKER: A child who has sex for money.

KEBELE: A 'commune'; the smallest administrative unit in the Ethiopian government administration system.

¹ Save the Children UK (2007), Child Protection and care Related Definitions

² UN Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2007

CLARIFICATION OF TERMS USED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HEAD COUNTING PROCESS

These descriptions arose out of discussions at a Forum in Adama when further clarification was sort on the categories or named samples within the head counting process.

CHILD: For the purpose of the head counting process, a child means any human being between the age of zero and twenty-two.

At a participatory training workshop the counters, some of whom were familiar with outreach work in Adama, agreed upon the age range. None of them wanted 0–18 as the figure to use. They settled on and agreed to 0–22. This approach is not one to undermine the universally accepted definition of child as defined by the CRC being 0–18, but was a necessary approach to take in to account that children and young people on the street often have very unclear ideas of their own age, lack ID to verify their true ages, and often give misleading physical representations of their true age due to malnutrition and the effects of street living. This is also a further reflection that a description rather than a definition of Street Children and their age is often a more flexible approach to understanding the realities for this group of children, adolescents and young people. It isn't their age that defines them or their experiences, it is street life.

STREET CHILD: 'Children have multiple identities, relationships off-street and experience complex circumstances which can defy easily definition'³. No definition of Street Children was considered as satisfactory. The workers in Addis Ababa preferred to adopt a description of Street Children to work with: "*Any child or young person whose life is controlled by the street is a street child*". This description was at the core of all the weekly meetings of the workers.

UNICEF's definition of "children under the age of 18 for whom the street is their home and/or their source of livelihood" is widely used⁴. However, this definition leaves out street families and seasonal street workers and it is often difficult to determine the exact age of a street child so terms such as "street-connected children" or "street involved youth" have evolved to capture the fluidity and differences of children's circumstances.

³ Dr. Sarah Thomas de Benítez, 'A Mapping & Gapping Review of the Literature 2000 to 2010 Consortium for Street children (unpublished)

⁴ Black, M, (1993) Street and Working Children: Global Seminar Report. Florence: UNICEF.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

According to the Human Development Index (HDI), Ethiopia is the 171st out of the 182 countries taken into account globally. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and gross enrolment in education) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity income).⁵

- The population of Ethiopia is characterised by a very young structure. Ethiopia's age pyramid reveals a very young population. During 2007, the population under 22 was 46,824,129 and under eighteen years old 41,056,492. This means 63.3% and 55.5% respectively of the total population in Ethiopia.⁶
- Amongst the under eighteen category of 41,056,492 children, 35,337,285 are under fifteen (47.8% of population) and 13,157,956 are under five years old (17.8% of the total population).⁷
- The number of Ethiopian children 0–18 years identified as one–or two–parent orphans was more than five million in 2005.⁸
- Approximately 39% of the total population live below the international poverty line of 1.25 dollars per day⁹ this equates to approximately 31,478,070 people living in absolute poverty.

Why head count?

Understanding the numbers and situations of Street Children in urban centres has been expressed by UNICEF with its commitment to the two head counts in Addis Ababa and Adama, and is now also reflected in recent objectives expressed by the African Union's African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:

- To take stock of the phenomenon of Street Children in African States;
- Conduct nation-wide studies which will provide updated data on Street Children for use by stakeholders;

This has been in response to the following key issues which face many African cities in 2011:

- Increase in the number of Street Children

⁵ UNDP, Human Development Report 2009

⁶ Summary and Statistical Report of the 2007 Population and Housing Census Results Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Population Census Commission

⁷ Ibid

⁸ AIDS in Ethiopia, FMOH, 2005

⁹ Humanitarian Action Report 2009 Outlines UNICEF's Appeal for Children and Women in 36 Emergencies around the world (2009)

- Their vulnerability to destitution, homelessness and exploitation
- Weak relationships between Street Children and families
- Gender based violence (GBV) and exploitation particularly of girls
- Street Children considered ‘problematic’ by the community at large

Previous headcounts:

It is important to understand the background to previous headcounts of street children. In 2004, according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), some 150,000 children were living on the streets of Ethiopia, about 60,000 of them in the capital. However, Aid Agencies estimated that the problem was far more serious, with nearly 600,000 Street Children country-wide and over 100,000 in Addis Ababa. By 2006, the Government estimated the number of Ethiopian children living on the street to be between 150 and 200 thousand, with approximately 50–60 thousand living in Addis Ababa. Again in 2009, there were an estimated 150,000 –200,000 Street Children nationwide, with a further 1,000,000 vulnerable or at-risk youth ending up in the streets. The National Census undertaken in 2007, published by UNFPA December 2008, does not reference Street Children.

Street Children are among the most physically “visible” of all children while they are living and working in the streets and public squares of cities. Yet, ironically, they are also among the most ‘invisible’ because it is difficult to reach them with vital statistics and services basic to their overall growth and development. Moreover, it is no longer a secret that most of the estimates are mainly based on broad definitions of ‘Street Children’ which include the different categories who work and return home and live between home and street as needed. However, it is more likely that their number is increasing as the global population and urbanization continue to grow rapidly.

ADDIS ABABA holds 30 percent of Ethiopia’s urban population with the figure having doubled every decade from 2,122,737 in 1994 and currently thought to be over 4 million. The city’s population is forecast to reach 12 million by 2024. (Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (website), 2007)

ADAMA (NAZARETH): Adama is a transit railway city located in the Eastern Showa Zone of the Oromia Region, linking Addis Ababa to Djibouti and it has a population of 220,212². In 1984, Adama population was 76,284 and in 1994, it became 127,842. (Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (website), 2007)

In about 26 years the population of the city has increased almost three times.

METHODOLOGY

Head counting is an exercise relying on observation. The method proposed here was devised by Patrick Shanahan in Accra, Ghana, in the 1990s. The agency, Catholic Action for Street Children, based in Accra first counted the city of Accra and then the port city of Tema and its satellite Ashaiman¹⁰. After the work in Accra and Tema, the same methodology was employed in Eastern Congo in September 2008¹¹. Head counting is not an exact science nor is it a statistical exercise. But it is a serious piece of observation used as a tool of social research and measurement.

Effective head counting, using a methodology that is reflective and uses the skills of street workers, familiar with the environment of the Street Child, can result in a clearer identification of the number of children, the trends within a city/town of their movements and activities. The process of observation in counting children at night can reveal places in the city where young girls congregate or are forced to congregate in order to take part in a sex work trade. It can inform more targeted programme interventions to address Street Children's realities and needs.

Teams of social workers, or those workers who have worked with Street Children and who understand Street Children's lives, count children in key areas of the city where Street Children are located. Each team counts every day for a period of five days. They then change with other workers and begin the process over again. The process includes a total of three working weeks. The workers are provided with a week of training before the actual counting activity is initiated, making it a four-week process. Every Friday afternoon all the social workers of the head counting meet together to discuss the data collected from the street. This discussion process is a crucial point of the methodology used.

Starting point: Those involved in the head counting process adopt a description of Street Children to work with: *"Any child whose life is controlled by the street is a Street Child"*.

This description was at the core of all the weekly meetings of the street workers. A child is defined by the UNCRC and National legal instruments as anyone under the age of 18 years. For the purpose of the head counting exercise the assembled workers agreed an age range of 0–22. This approach is not one to undermine the universally accepted definition of child as defined by the UNCRC of 0–18 years, but was deemed a necessary approach to take in to account that children and young people on the street often have very unclear ideas of their own age, (lack ID to verify their true ages), and often give misleading physical representations

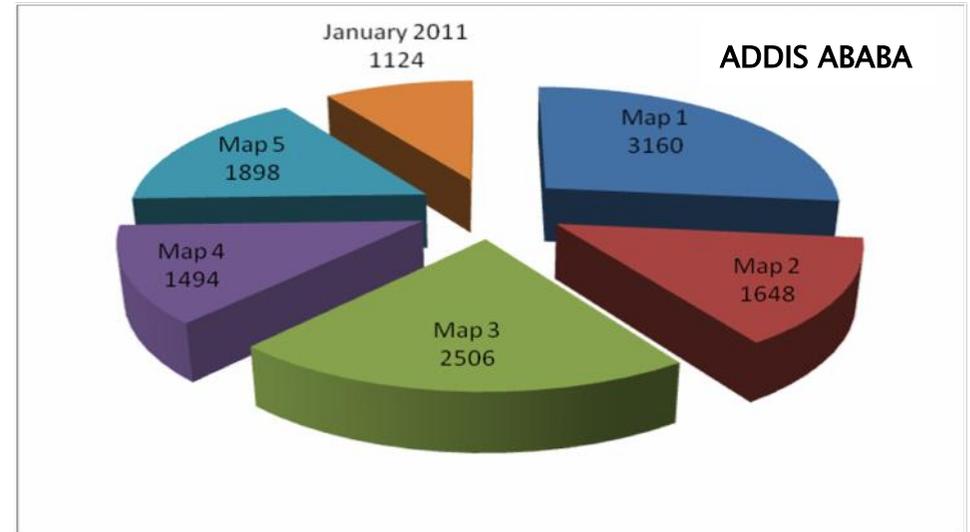
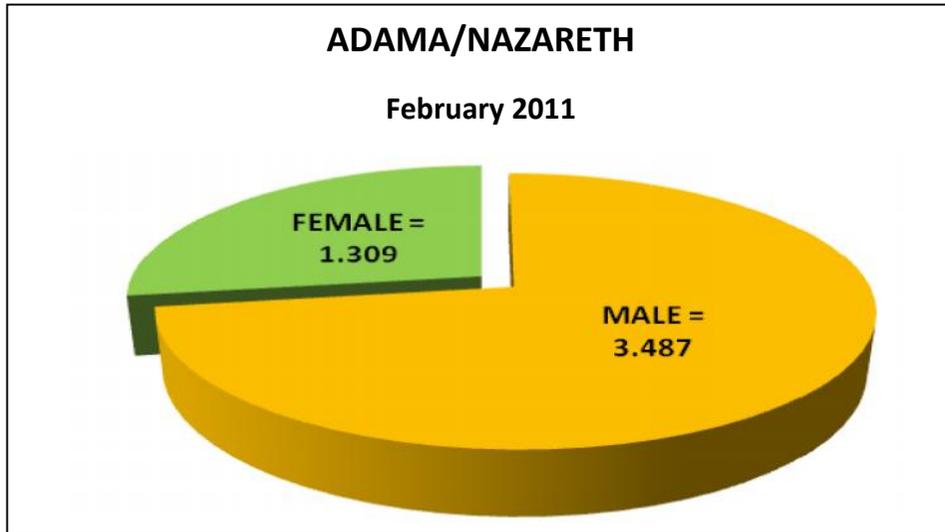
10 Damian Avevor Accra, New People Magazine No 122, September 20th, 2009

11 Thomas D'Aquin PEDER, Street children Head Counting Project in Bukavu, Eastern Congo, DRC, January 2009.

of their true age due to malnutrition and the effects of street living. This is also a further reflection that a description rather than a definition of Street Children and their age is often a more flexible approach to understanding the realities for this group of children, adolescents and young people. It isn't their age that defines them it is their experiences on the street.

KEY FINDINGS:

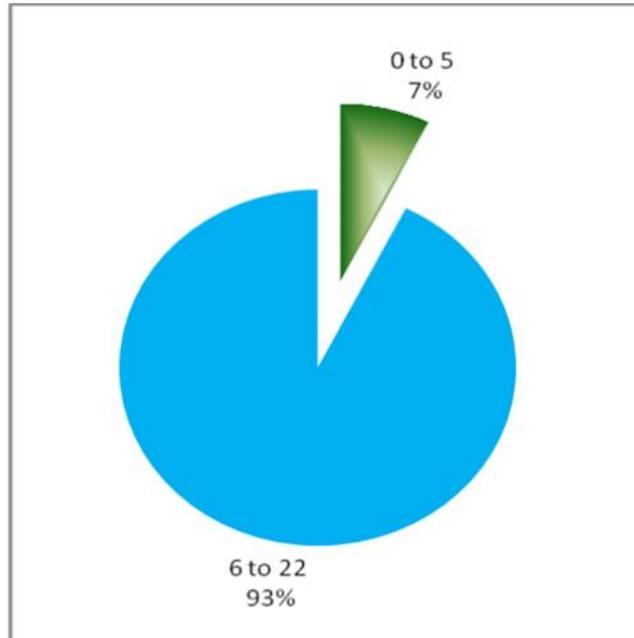
Table 1: COMPARISON OF OVERALL NUMBERS IN ADDIS ABABA AND ADAMA/NAZARETH



4,796 is the total of Adama Street Children. Compared with the total of Adama population (220,212), this means that Adama street children are 2.17% of its population. Therefore, compared with Addis Ababa, the number of Street Children in Adama is significantly higher. Adama is a crossroad city not far from Addis Ababa. This means that Street Children can move very easily between a group of cities, such as Dukam, Debrezeit, Mojo, Asebe Teferi, Diredawa, Harar, Djibuti, Somali Region and Afar Region. Adama has to be seen as an important hub in the transit patterns of Street Children.

Addis Ababa Head Counting the total of Street Children in Addis Ababa was 11,830, out of a population of 2,739,551. This means 0.43% of the Addis Ababa population.

Adama/Nazareth - By Age



Addis Ababa- By Age

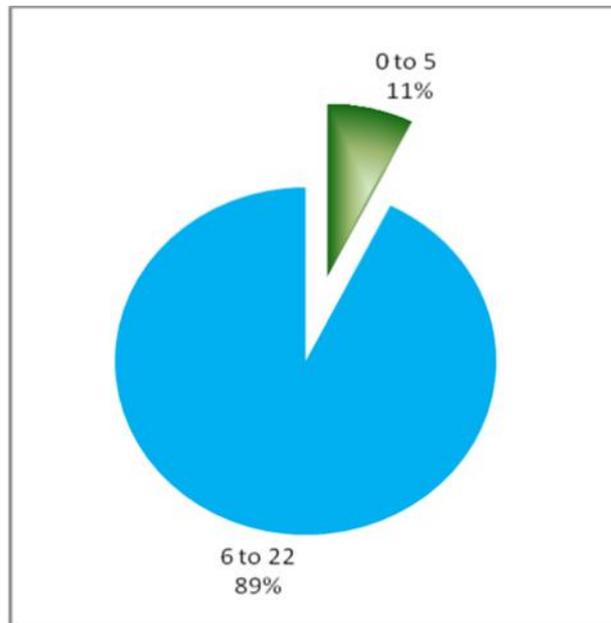


Table 2: LIVELIHOODS: ADAMA/NAZARETH

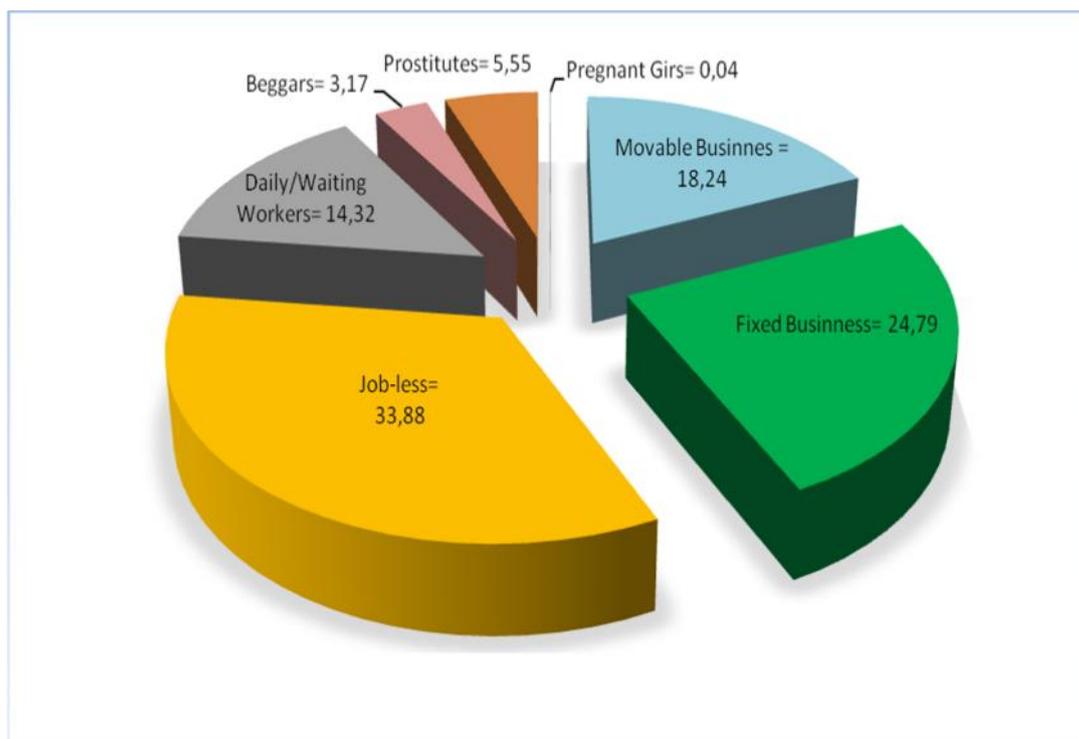


Table 2.1

		%
Movable Business	875	18.24
Fixed Business	1,189	24.79
Job-less	1,625	33.88
Daily/Waiting Workers	687	14.32
Beggars	152	3.17
Prostitutes	266	5.55
Pregnant Girs	2	0.04
Total	4,796	100.00

Table 2.1

MALE		%
Movable Business	736	21.11
Fixed Business	732	20.99
Job-less	1,290	36.99
Daily/Waiting Workers	653	18.73
Beggars	76	2.18
TOTAL	3,487	100.00

Table 2.2

FEMALE		%
Movable Business	139	10.62
Fixed Business	457	34.91
Job-less	335	25.59
Daily/Waiting Workers	34	2.60
Beggars	76	5.81
Prostitute	266	20.32
Pregnant Girls	2	0.15
TOTAL	1,309	100.00

Out of 1,309 girls, 20.32% are involved in sex work. In Adama, street girls involved in sex work are found next to the Bars (Bunna Bet, in Amharic). They are not found in the main streets (as it is in Addis Ababa main roads), but most of them are working in all the Bars.

Out of the total of Street Children in Adama, 3.17% are beggars; in Addis Ababa, the percentage is 18.40%. Compared to Addis Ababa, there are significantly fewer beggars, this may be as the government has given the children a piece of land, named Peacock, where they can live.

33.88% of the total Street Children in Adama are jobless Street Children. In Addis Ababa, the jobless Street Children are 25.44%.

Table 3: LIVELIHOODS: ADDIS ABABA

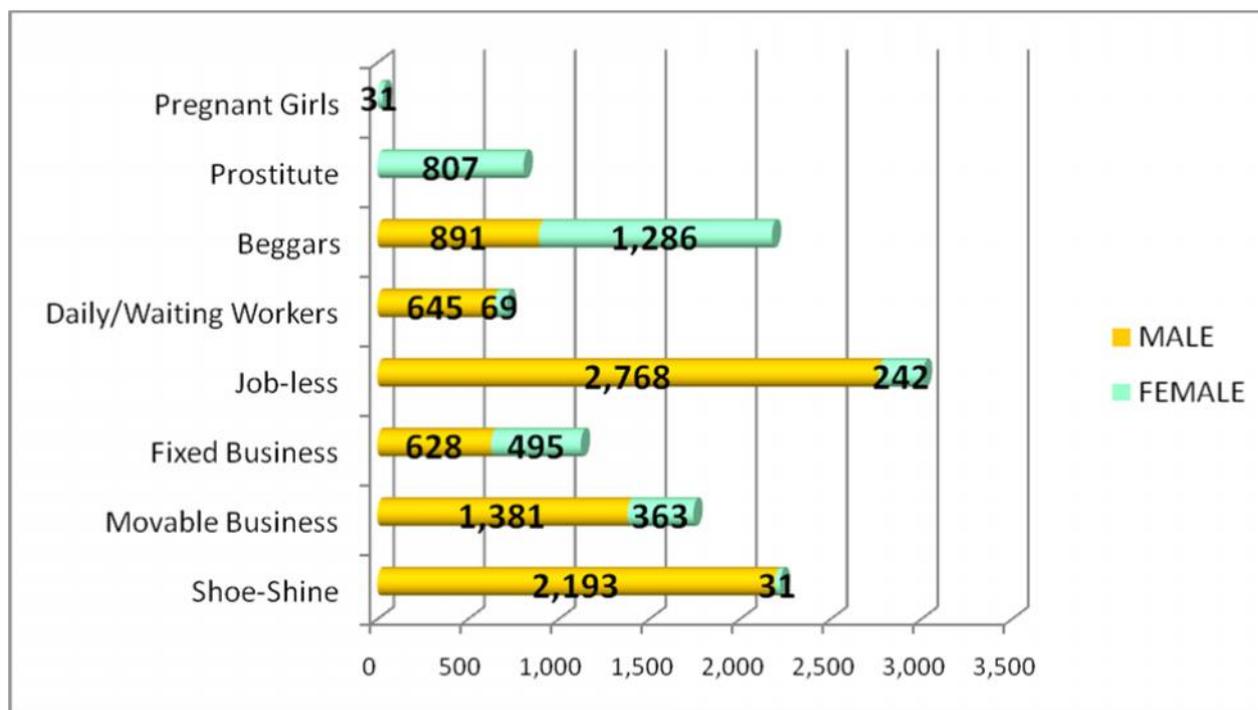


Table 3.1

		%
Shoe-Shine	2,224	18.80
Movable Business	1,744	14.74
Fixed Business	1,123	9.49
Job-less	3,010	25.44
Daily/Waiting Workers	714	6.04
Beggars	2,177	18.40
Prostitute	807	6.82
Pregnant Girls	31	0.26
TOTAL	11,830	100.00

Table 3.2

MALE		%
Shoe-Shine	2,193	25.78
Movable Business	1,381	16.24
Fixed Business	628	7.38
Job-less	2,768	32.54
Daily/Waiting Workers	645	7.58
Beggars	891	10.47
Prostitute	0	0.00
Pregnant Girls	0	0.00
TOTAL	8,506	100.00

Table 3.3

FEMALE		%
Shoe-Shine	31	0.93
Movable Business	363	10.92
Fixed Business	495	14.89
Job-less	242	7.28
Daily/Waiting Workers	69	2.08
Beggars	1,286	38.69
Prostitute	807	24.28
Pregnant Girls	31	0.93
TOTAL	3,324	100.00

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations regarding the compilation and presentation of data were acknowledged following on from a forum with representatives of UNICEF at regional and national level, as well as representatives from the Bureau of Women, Children and Youth's Affairs, Oromiya region held in April 2011.

1. To gain credibility the methodology must be reliable, accurate and consistent
2. Data collection and categorization should be agreed and reflect existing national and international criteria
3. Definitions should reflect the views of all stakeholders, be aligned with existing practise and policy and be clear
4. Research analysis should reference previous body of relevant literature and reports for both results and methodology

The head counting data has revealed segregation of children in age and gender categories, as well as livelihoods and location. Rather than treating all Street Children as a homogenous group it is recommended that all agencies working with Street Children and young people begin to understand the differing responses according to the life stages of Street Children. Childhood, adolescence, and early

adulthood programmes should be developed; to avoid a one size fits all approach that patently does not respond to the 'aged out' youth living on city streets.

Therefore future **Intervention Programme** responses should be:

- age sensitive (there is no point offering education to a youth who has been out of formal education for over 10 years for example) and addresses the ambiguities inherent in classifying children according to universal constructs of age.
- gender sensitive: (girls do not necessarily want to be shoe shine 'girls'!) but not at the exclusion of gender sensitive programmes for boys too!
- developed to measure 'success' in terms of Street Children's well-being and engagement, rather than just in terms of children returned to school and family. For many long-term street youth, these are not realistic or chosen options for their lives.

It is important to prepare and train Street Workers ready to listen and understand the problems, needs and interest of each and every child.

CONCLUSION

Figures do not give solutions, they only point the way. This is a workable figure and one that should not frighten people from engaging with the children. At the same time the total figure is not so big that it becomes impossible to work with. This means that every agency working for Street Children in Addis Ababa must be able to say, “I reunited 160 children last year but there are still another 10,000 plus to work for”. We regard this as a truly positive approach to take.



Some of the figures are very difficult even to begin to work with. The 0–5 age group presents a huge challenge. There are no magic solutions but there is one overriding first principle: you must begin to work on the street and you must continue to work on the street for as long as there are Street Children. There are no quick fixes; the easy answer is to say to get rid of all beggars. However, if 939 Street Children out of the total 1,716 Street Children are begging then the answer is not to move them but to ask why and react to that. The asking necessitates an involvement with the children themselves in order to let these young people own the decision to start to leave the street.

From protection to prescription towards participation

The message from the Honourable Chair person, Agnes Kabore Ouattara, and other statements expressed by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child stress protection. StreetInvest recognises that the street can be a harmful environment for children and those children are more likely to be exposed to danger, often life-threatening, when the street becomes their home. StreetInvest believes wholeheartedly that it is always unacceptable for a child to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the

rights and welfare of all children as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

‘Not taking children’s views into account, or not involving them in decision making, is one reason why many children who are forcibly returned to their families are back on the street before the bus that took them home’ (West: 2008)

However, through our long experience of working with agencies throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, we recognize that often ‘protective’ responses to Street Children can develop into a prescriptive approach. Prescriptive practice can be generated from a starting point that is benign and seeks to support the ‘best interests’ of the child; this again is reflected in Article 3 (1) of the UNCRC: ‘In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law,

administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.’ The flaw within this approach is that Street Children are the experts in their own lives, not the adults that ‘visit’ them intermittently on the street. Approaches that ‘remove’ the child from the street, and then proceed to remove the ‘street’ from the child, can result in disappointment for children, who do not feel their views count, and for agencies who feel they have failed, if the child reverts to the street.

We have to challenge the true meaning of participation; if participatory rights for children are not recognised and upheld we are guilty of broken promises to Street Children. By placing a trained street worker in the life of a Street Child, a process of participation commences.