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Peaceful Land for Future Citizens

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INTRODUCTION

In Ethiopia, land continues to be an immensely vital natural resource for the country's emerging economy. It plays a critical role as the primary means of production for an overwhelming portion of the population. As a developing country, the economic fates of tens of millions of people is intrinsically linked with exploiting natural resources and shielding the rights of future generations in utilizing those resources. This is not only a question of morality, but also of good economics. Children's property rights are often overlooked in Ethiopia and only surface whenever a conflict occurs. The issue is compounded with apparent lack of efforts to protect records and maintain proper documentation of children's legal rights and entitlements over property.

Today, we are faced with a choice to uphold children's property rights and the decisions we make today will have far-reaching consequences on future generations and their fate to survive in a context where resources are increasingly depleting.

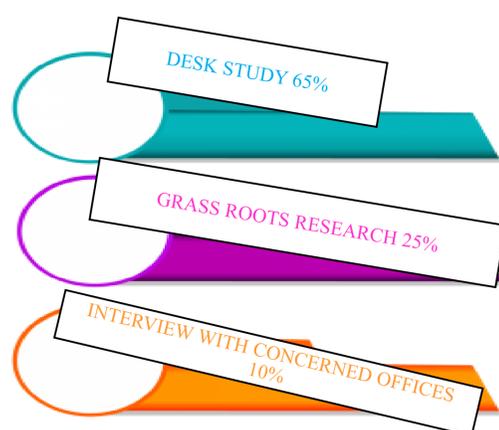
We need to institutionalize a resilient legal and administrative framework as well as a holistic policy guideline to conserve the environment for future generations. We also need to work on changing people's awareness and win the hearts and minds of leaders to make the right choices today that will have positive consequences tomorrow.

While protecting property rights of children in Ethiopia is seeing some levels of progress, there are overwhelmingly numerous cases where such rights are often neglected. The country's legal framework clearly states mechanisms by which orphans can rip the benefits of their property through the custodianship of a guardian until they come of age at 18. But gaps in implementing such legal frameworks remain wide across the country.

Therefore, due attention is required to protect children's property rights in case of inheritance during and after conflicts, displacements or other circumstances that threaten children's ability to claim ownership of property that is rightfully theirs. Children are more prone to lose their property rights, because they do not have the knowledge of their assets or their rights, nor do they have the ability to advocate for their rights against more powerful contenders for the property.

Policy interventions and strong institutional set up are needed to advance the well-being of children through protecting their future properties.

Materials and Methods



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RESULTS



2ND LEVEL LAND CERTIFICATE IN ETHIOPIA



Source: - The UNC on the Rights of the Child

In Ethiopia there is better progress in supporting and protecting the rights of future citizen (children), orphans, women and other marginal peoples. Children who lose their mothers and fathers due to death or other situation shall have the right to use rural land through legal guardians until they attain 18 years of age. Generally, the constitution, the national and regional land laws support the rights of children who are future citizen and decisive of the country but still there is a gap on the implementation.

Orphan children especially double orphans are mostly dispersed after the death of both their parents. Their relatives and elder siblings will take some of them while others migrate to places away from home in search of livelihoods in such circumstances they lost their property in remarkable amount.

CONCLUSIONS



- Policy interventions and strong institutional set up operating on proper and advanced system of legal property rights recording system in the case of inheritance and other land transactions.
- Public awareness creation regarding to rights, restrictions and responsibilities concerning with land and supporting guardians in cognizance and livelihood intervention in addition to creating a mechanism of accountability.
- Notifying orphan children on their property and inheritance rights.
- Develop strategy to provide legal support specially for orphan children and vulnerable groups.
- Humanitarian organizations should give due attention to the issue and work specially on the livelihood and sustainable benefits of children who lost their parents.

LITERATURE CITED

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