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Research on Economic Opportunities for Young People



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List of Acronyms

AAZ	ActionAid Zimbabwe
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
KS	Katswe Sistahood
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
RTGS	Real Time Gross Settlement (Zimbabwe Local Currency)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
YEP	Youth Empowerment Project
UN	United Nations
USD	United States Dollar

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Executive Summary

Katswe Sistahood in partnership with ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) conducted the research on economic opportunities for young people in Hopley, Zimbabwe with funding support from Danish Television through ActionAid Denmark. The objective of the research was to explore the economic opportunities for young people to inform the implementation of economic livelihoods interventions in Hopley.

The study involved the use of both quantitative and qualitative research methods, with data being collected mainly from primary sources. Purposive sampling was used to identify key informants with consideration of whether one was strategically positioned to be knowledgeable on aspects of youth economic empowerment being the sole criterion for inclusion in the study as key informant. Quantitative data was collected through administering a pre-coded assessment questionnaire to youths while qualitative data was gathered through face-to-face semi-structured interviews of key informants and focus group discussions with youths. Quantitative data was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) while content analysis was used for analyzing qualitative data.

The research revealed high levels of youth unemployment in Hopley. The respondents explained that they miss out on employment opportunities due to lack of educational qualifications as many jobs require at least 5 'O' level subjects which most young residents do not have, having dropped out of school for several reasons. Moreso, they have not received much technical skills training and as such this leaves them at a disadvantage when employment opportunities arise. Respondents were almost unanimous in their view that for a young person to gain employment, they must offer sexual favours, pay a bribe to recruiters or agencies. There is a growing negative perception about people living in Hopley as they are regarded as thieves and sex workers. Others do not have national identity cards, passports or birth certificates which are required to secure employment.

The youth in the Hopley community are not only lacking in formal employment options. Unlike in many communities where most of the unemployed young people engage in progressive self-employment, the most cited sources of livelihoods are either criminal or would be considered 'immoral' by society. Among the examples for such activities is drug peddling and sex work. Drug and substance abuse was said to be on the rise during the survey. Youth participants in the FGDs narrated how unemployed young people, who cannot afford the dangerous drugs that are being peddled during daylight in the community, are even resorting to making their own illicit intoxicating brews as they seek distraction from the disillusionment they are experiencing.

The situation of the Hopley community has attracted a few development agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who seek to expand opportunities for young people to engage in economic initiatives. These organizations have engaged youth, mainly in training and start up financing to get them started in self-employment as individuals or in groups. The study revealed that there were

several challenges that need to be addressed for the existing interventions to meet the needs of the youth. Among these included inadequacy of the initiatives, lack of awareness about existing opportunities, corruption and nepotism, lack of interest by the youth to participate and inadequate follow up mechanisms.

Efforts by the youth to venture into entrepreneurship is affected by lack of start-up capital, lack of collateral security to secure loans from lending institutions, lack of infrastructure with water and sanitation facilities and sheds. The study also revealed lack of markets as the few opportunities available end up being subscribed. Some young people in the community have passion for sport such as soccer but they do not have spaces to practice. The yards in Hopley are too small for poultry and horticulture activities, among other home-based business ideas. They are no opportunities welding and hairdressing due to lack of electricity.

Many of the young people suggested that the cost of doing business as well as availability of resources, skills and markets were the major factors in their decisions on which economic initiatives to engage in. To this end, vending proved to be popular with the youth. However, due to infrastructural and legal challenges, the youth suggested that some initiatives were difficult, if not impossible to have in the community. Initiatives such as welding, baking and hairdressing were said to require a significant investment in infrastructure such as electricity before they can be rolled out. There was also consistent feedback to suggest that youth were in constant clashes with law enforcement agencies such as the local council for selling in undesignated points as well as the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) for undertaking economic initiatives that degrade environmental resources without approval. Such initiatives involve trading in construction material such as sand and brick moulding.

Based on the findings and conclusions of this assessment, the following recommendations are made:

- Expand the scope of work and strengthen interlinkages with other youth development programmes through:
- Approach economic empowerment initiatives holistically by training youth in both technical skills and business management, financing, and resourcing of business ideas of the young people, providing mentorship, accompaniment, and follow-up throughout the journey, providing markets and market linkages.
- Provision of infrastructure with electricity, serviced market stalls and workshop facilities to support entrepreneurship interventions by the youth.
- Advocating for an enabling policy environment to support youth business through the youth quarter system
- Work with other actors to expand reach of initiatives and to layer, upon the youth, important interventions, and skills that the project partners may not be able to offer.



Introduction

1.1 The Zimbabwe National Context: An Overview

Zimbabwe is a 390'757 square kilometres landlocked southern-African country with a total population of 14.44 million people . Women constitute 52 percent of this total while two thirds of the population is under 25 years , a demographic that presents both opportunities and challenges for the country. A total of 68 percent of this population resides in rural areas.

Zimbabwe has gone through two decades of economic instability underlined by political instability as well as governance and policy failure. Recurring droughts and natural disasters have been increasing in frequency of late, adding to the burden of a country whose economy relies significantly on agriculture for food security and export earnings. Due to these factors, according to the World Bank, extreme poverty is estimated to have risen from 29% in 2018 to 34% in 2019 - an increase from 4.7 to 5.7 million people. Electricity power cuts and fuel shortages are common due to shortages in foreign currency. A total of 95 percent of the country's productive population are engaged in an underperforming informal sector characterised by low wages, poor working conditions as well as little or no social security. The high informalisation of the economy is a major factor accounting for the high levels of poverty among the population.

1.2 The Hopley Context

As the food security situation worsens in rural areas due to changes in climate, many young people are migrating to urban areas in search of better livelihoods. However, with high unemployment and poor service delivery coupled with the paradox of a high cost of living, many young people end up in the sprouting underserved quasi-formal settlements at the fringe of the cities. One such example is Hopley farm which started as a holding camp for victims of the government's Operation Murambatsvina of 2005. Currently, the settlement is home to about 40 000 inhabitants.

Over fifteen years since its establishment, the settlement still lacks basic services. Both the national and local economic situation has left many of the

young people living in the settlement desperate. Many young people in Hopley have turned to sex work, illegal drug trade and drug abuse to get by in a harsh environment characterized by extreme poverty, exclusion and lack of education or decent sources of livelihood.

Because of its informal status, Hopley lacks the most basic services such as sanitation, schools and adequate health facilities and has become an area of extreme poverty and marginalization. The life of children and youth in this area is extremely hard. Many are orphaned and must fend for themselves and the younger members of the household and even those who have parents or other guardians must often contribute to the household income at an early age. Unfortunately, most of the ways that children and youth can earn money in Hopley are highly problematic and at the top of this list is sex work which many youth and children as young as 9 are found to be engaged in and which is extremely traumatizing, leading to further vulnerabilities including venereal diseases, early pregnancy and abuse of drugs and other substances as a means of coping with a life that no child or young person should have to endure.

The social fabric of the area is very thin owing to the haphazard settling of people from different regions of Zimbabwe, including multiple ethnic and religious backgrounds meaning that a sense of community has been difficult to establish. Another factor is the high number of child-headed households, where there is no adult role model to teach the children basic life skills.

Access to schools and other facilities to provide the youth of Hopley with skills to cope with the harsh life in Hopley remains limited hence they remain unemployable and without a decent source of livelihood. Furthermore, there are no formal governance structures in Hopley to plan and push for positive development of the area and the political establishment have yet to show significant interest in the area and are hesitant to establish permanent services there, since they view the settlement as illegal.

1.3 Economic opportunities for young people

Katswe Sistahood in partnership with ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) conducted the research on economic opportunities for young people in Hopley to inform the implementation of economic interventions. The research was carried out in the 6 zones of Hopley.

Specific objectives

- To investigate the current economic activities among young people.
- To examine young people's skills set particularly, gaps and opportunities for skills development.
- To map community assets for economic empowerment available to young people and define under-utilized assets.
- To identify viable local and national markets for goods, services and skills within the Hopley community.
- To collect recommendations from young people on the skills they want to develop in order to improve their economic situation.

Methodology

2.1 Study Design

The assessment involved both qualitative and quantitative data collection. Data collection tools were developed by Katswe Sistahood staff with the mentorship of an independent consultant. (see Annexes). Focus group discussions (FGDs) were held with young people aged 18-24 years. These were complemented by key informant interviews held with key stakeholders, including among others, community leaders, youth leaders, traditional leaders, representatives of the Ministry of Women Affairs, local council representatives, businesspeople, a local councillor and representatives of Community Based Organization (CBOs).

A mini-survey (103 respondents, 68% females) was conducted with youth from the target project communities covering 5 zones in Hopley. Additionally, the research benefited from extensive literature review, including project documents and literature on youth economic empowerment in Zimbabwe and globally.

2.2 Sampling

A total of 103 young people (68% female) took part in 6 FGDs that were conducted with the youth. Since the approaches of data collection are largely qualitative and less generalizable considering unique factors that influence experiences of youth across time, geography and individuals, sampling procedures sought to ensure that the various targeted communities were represented. Therefore, non-probability purposive sampling was applied targeting to sample the different sexes and age groups as well as the hierarchies of community and local leaderships.

2.3 Data Collection

The following table summarises the data collection activity details:

Table 1: Data collection methods and activities

Data Collection Method	Date	Number of participants	Male/Female
Youth			
FGDs	13/09/2021-15/09/2021	103	Males 37 Females 66
Questionnaire	13/09/2021-15/09/2021	103	Males 37 Females 66
Key Informants			
Ministry of Women Affairs	23/09/2021	1	1
Local Council Officials	23/09/2021	2	2
Councillors	23/09/2021	1	1
Business	23/09/2021	2	2
CBOs	23/09/2021	4	4
Traditional Leaders	23/09/2021	5	5
Religious Leaders	23/09/2021	5	5
Community Leaders	23/09/2021	5	5

All key informant interviews were carried out by the KS staff. Questionnaires were developed in English but were translated by the staff during data collection. In the FGDs, respondents were free to use any language they were comfortable with, and conversations were mainly in Shona.

2.4 Ethical Considerations

All participants had the purpose of the study explained to them. They were also informed that their responses would be kept confidential and that their participation was voluntary and that they could choose not to answer any questions they did not wish to answer. Furthermore, they were informed that a report would be written documenting the findings which would be shared with participants if they so wish.

2.5 Limitations of the Study

The research study was conducted during a period where COVID-19 regulations limited the number of people who could meet. In addition, there were travel restrictions in place thereby limiting both the number of respondents that could be reached as well as the ability of respondents to travel to central points where data collection was happening. In one instance, language became a barrier with a participant having to be dropped as they only spoke Tonga for which no translation services could be rendered.

Considering the literacy levels, the questionnaire was administered directly by the researchers with each individual participant. It helped to clarify contradictory responses in the process. In the end, much of the data collected was contradictory resulting in the research team proffering multiple phenomena to try and explain the inconsistencies. In such cases, further qualitative research to address areas of the research that were unclear.



Research Findings

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the baseline study, following the key objectives of the study.

3.2 Conceptualisation of Youth Empowerment among the Youth in Hopley

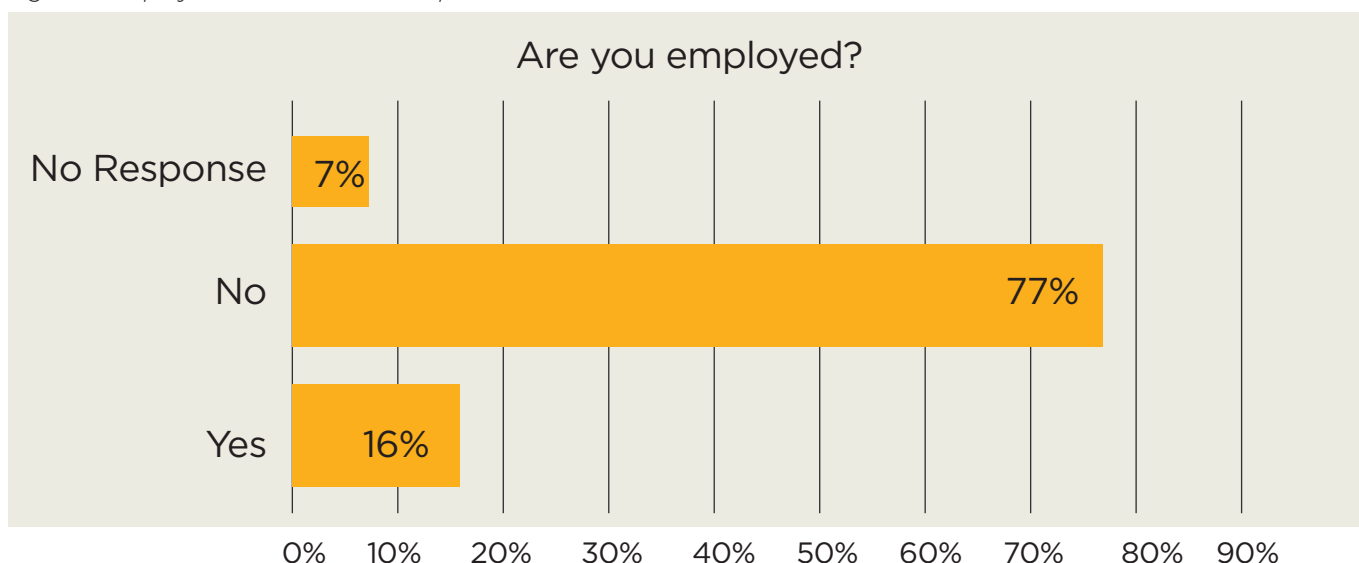
In literature, youth empowerment is a broad concept. It is a process where young people gain the ability and authority to make informed decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people. The current UN strategy perceives 'youth empowerment' holistically, not just as an end in itself but also as a means to the attainment of all global development goals in the form of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, youth in Hopley perceived the concept of youth empowerment as synonymous with material benefits deriving from formal employment as a consequence of having attained an education. Short of it, a young person ought to be productively engaged in order to be considered empowered in this community. This conceptualisation is important in informing the proposed project activities. It suggests that youth will only consider the project successful in meeting youth empowerment objectives if it addresses the economic and livelihoods needs of the young people in the community.

3.3 Current Youth Economic Activities in Hopley

Most youths in Hopley are unemployed. Only about 16% of the respondents reported being in formal employment. The low level of formal employment confirms the situation in the country where a bulk of productive young people must make do with informal economic activities.

Figure 1: Employment status of the respondents

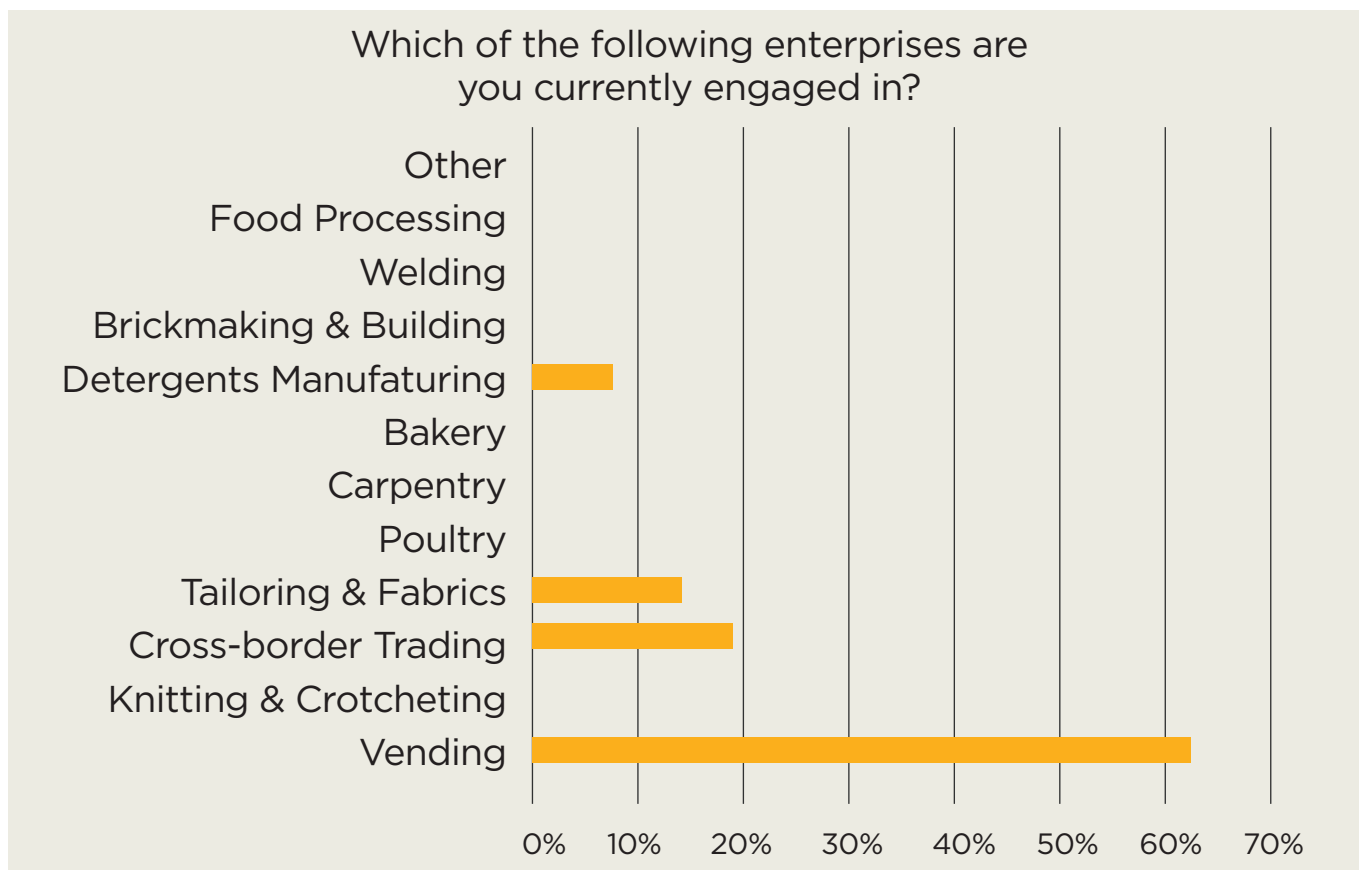


Subsequent reconciliation of responses indicated that the 16% who reported being formally employed may be in the informal sector as self-employed with follow up questions showing that none of the participants was employed formally. The following were some of the positive informal activities that the youth in the community were, generally, reported to be engaged in:

- Collecting and trading in scrap metal
- Bottle recycling
- Hairdressing
- Cell phone charging
- Brickmaking
- Touting
- Vending
- Performing arts at events
- Informal transportation (hand-pushed carts)
- Part time jobs such as cleaning houses, washing laundry & gardening

The respondents explained that they are engaged in these kinds of activities due to lack of opportunities, educational qualifications, and capital. To illustrate that lack of skills and qualifications is a key reason why many young people may not be engaged in activities requiring technical skills, of the questionnaire respondents who reported being engaged in informal economic activities, the bulk of them were engaged in less capital intensive and non-skilled activities such vending, undertaken by 62% of all the youth engaged in informal business. The popular initiatives in which the youth are engaged indicated in the graph below.

Figure 2: Nature of enterprises that youth are currently involved in



3.3.1 A Life of Crime and Stigma

However, the youth in the Hopley community are not only lacking in formal employment options. Unlike in many communities where the majority of the unemployed young people engage in progressive self-employment, the most cited sources of livelihoods are either criminal or would be considered 'immoral' by society. During FGDs, the following were often cited as sources of livelihoods for the youth in Hopley:

- Selling drugs
- Robbery
- Sex work
- Stripping in the streets
- Robbery/theft/burglary

Life of crime is almost normalized in the Hopley community. Not only were the FGDs participants openly confessing to committing serious crimes for livelihoods, but stories were also narrated of minors who have dropped out of school and are engaged in such activities.

'It (the situation) is bad. We even have a recent case of two children – aged 11 and 14 years respectively, who were apprehended by the police stealing copper wires from new pumps that are being installed by the Council in the Hopley area.' – **Youth participant in the FGDs.**

Due to the high prevalence of crime, Hopley youth have earned notoriety in the surrounding communities. The perception of youth from this community as hard-core criminals is even beginning to affect their productive lives as they tend to be stigmatized.

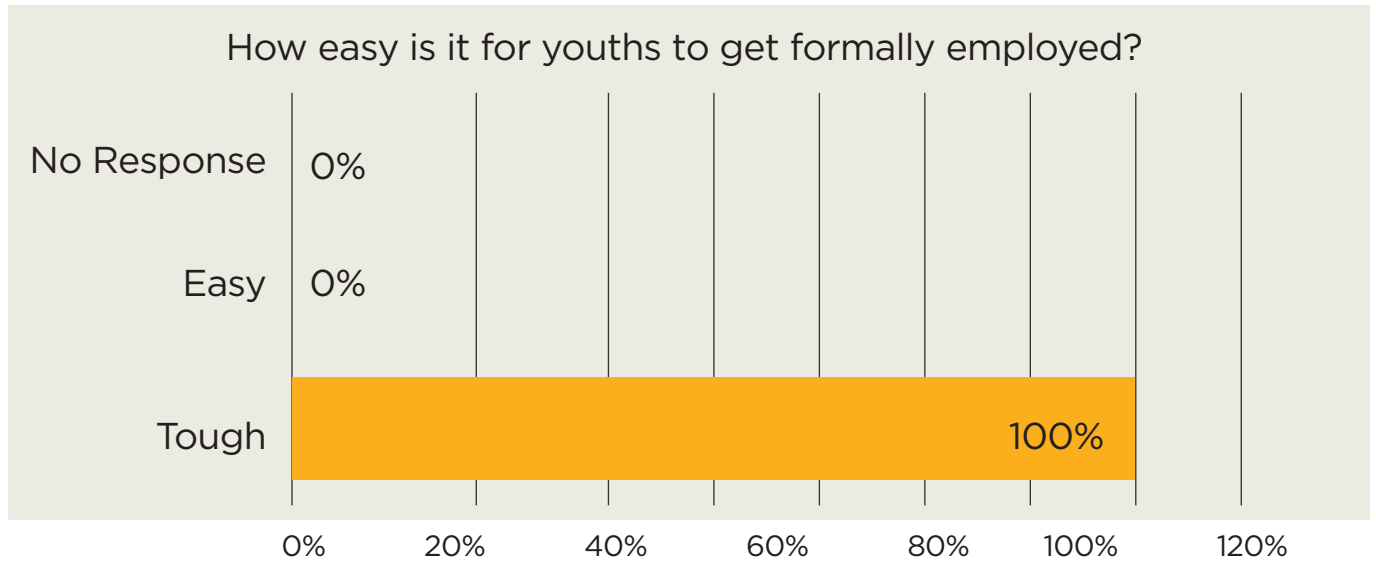
'Because we live in Hopley, we are labelled negatively, often as 'thieves' and 'prostitutes.' Even though we had opportunities to engage in livelihood projects at St Peters (a vocational training centre in a nearby suburb), I know of some young people who had to drop out as they were mocked and stigmatized daily because they are from Hopley. They were called "team Hopley thieves" or "team rekutibira" (the people who are stealing from us).'
- **Youth participant in the FGDs.**

3.3.2 A Bleak Future and Growing Hopelessness

Drug and substance abuse was said to be on the rise during the study. Youth participants in the FGDs narrated how unemployed young people, who cannot afford the dangerous drugs that are being peddled during daylight in the community, are even resorting to making their own illicit intoxicating brews as they seek distraction from the disillusionment they are experiencing.

'The young people do not always have money, so they have resorted to making their own drugs. They boil cactus plants together with "mupfuta" (a plant seed) and drink the concoction. It is so potent it can intoxicate one for up to 2 days. Some girls who took this concoction got sick and lost their senses for some time.' – **Youth participant in the FGDs.**

Figure 3: Perceptions of youths on the ease of getting formal employment



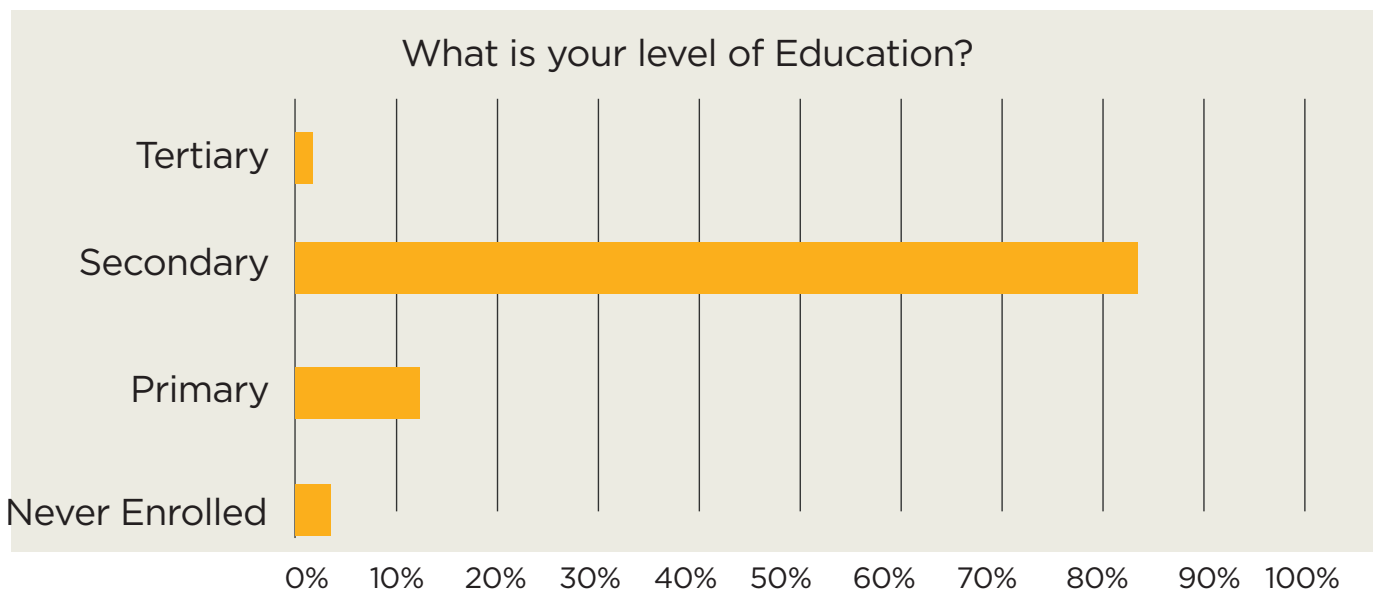
3.4 Reasons for Unemployment

With both literature review and feedback from the study indicating that formal employment remains a pipe dream for the Hopley youth, the FGDs solicited for reasons why unemployment was rampant in the community. The following were some of the reasons cited:

3.4.1 Lack of Educational Qualifications

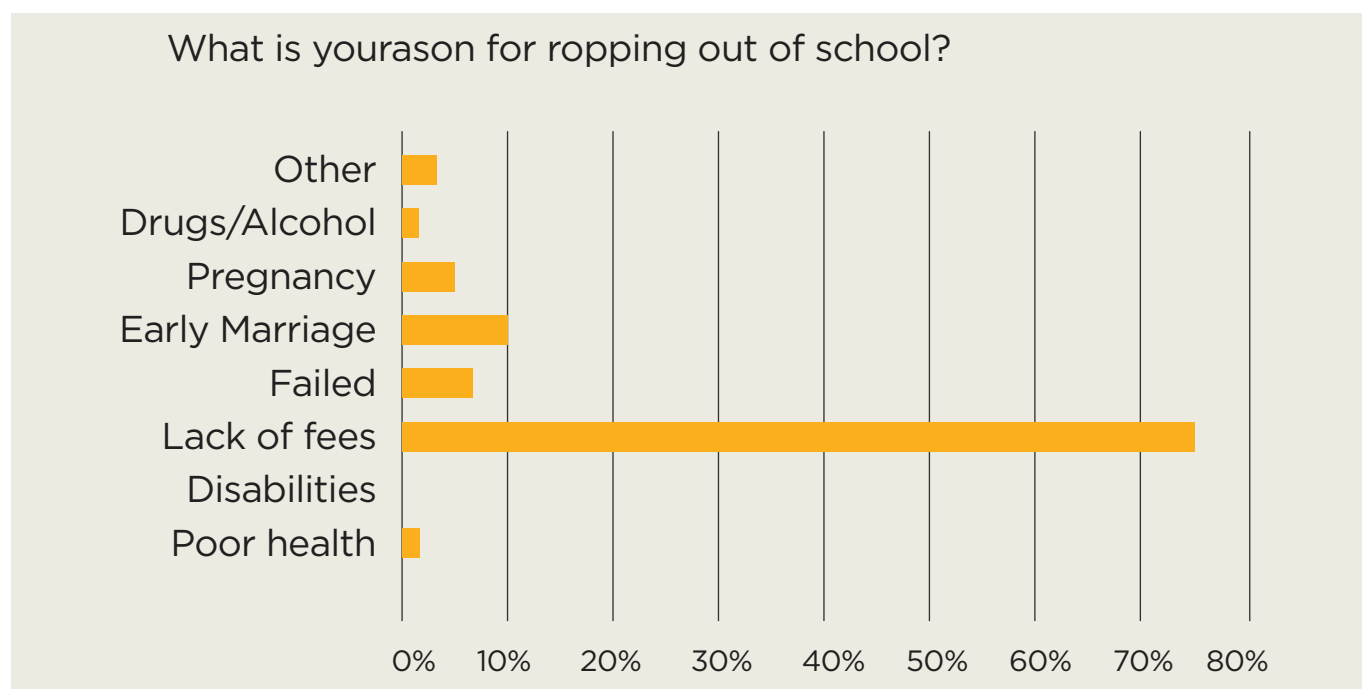
The respondents explained that they miss out on employment opportunities due to lack of educational qualifications. They explained that many jobs require at least 5 'O' level subjects which most young residents do not have, having dropped out of school.

Figure 4: Levels of education for the respondent



With quantitative data from questionnaires indicating that 83% of the respondents have gone up to secondary school, it is possible that most of them fail to attain the minimum 5 'O' levels required due to poor quality of education since the community lacks adequate schools. Another possible explanation is that many of the young people who reach secondary school drop out of school, for one reason or another, before they finish. Hopley has 1 formal public primary school and there is no secondary school. Most of the children in Hopley travel between 3 and 4kms to access schools in the nearby suburbs of Glenorah, Highfields, Waterfalls and Mbare. This explanation is made plausible by the fact that at least 78% of all participants report dropping out of school suggesting that a majority of those reporting reaching secondary school, in fact, may not have completed the minimum 'O' Levels. It appears from the findings that the rampant poverty in the community is a factor in the high prevalence of school dropouts in the community as shown in figure 5, below. Lack of school fees accounts for three quarters of all dropouts.

Figure 5: Reasons for dropping out of school among respondents



While addressing poverty is a central intervention in Hopley, considering the number of young people who drop out of school due to lack of fees, it is still important to address sexual and reproductive health issues such as child marriages and early pregnancy that account for a significant 15% of all school dropouts when combined.

3.4.2 Lack of Technical Skills

The respondents have not received much technical skills training and as such this leaves them at a disadvantage when employment opportunities arise. However, there has been an influx of development partners in the community seeking to improve technical skills among young people in recent years.

3.4.3 Corruption

Respondents were almost unanimous in their view that for a young person to gain employment, they must pay a bribe to recruiters or agencies. For instance, one of the easiest jobs to come by is that of a security guard. However, for one to be selected for the relevant training, they must pay a bribe. One participant said, “Mukuforera mabasa munhu anouya nelist rake rine mazita evanhu vakatowana mabasa kare” translated to ‘It’s a waste of time trying to queue for a job opportunity because the recruiter just brings a list of names of people who will be offered jobs’ (presumably because they would have paid for a bribe already).

3.4.4 Discrimination

The respondents stated that residents from Hopley are negatively perceived as being thieves and sex workers by prospective employers, hence when they give their residential addresses in interviews, they are disqualified on those grounds.

3.4.5 Lack of Identity Documentation

As expected in a settlement like Hopley, a melting pot of cultures, a haven of sex work and other social ills as well as a community lacking in public services, many of the youth explained that they do not have national identification cards, passports or birth certificates which are required to pass the vetting process to qualify for employment.

3.4.6 Sexual Harassment

To secure a job, many young women and girls reported that they are forced to offer sexual favors in return for a job.

3.5 Community Assets for Economic Empowerment

The situation of the Hopley community has attracted a few development agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who seek to expand opportunities for young people to engage in economic initiatives. These organizations have engaged youth, mainly in training and start up financing to get them started in self-employment as individuals or in groups. Table 2, below shows some of the organizations that have worked or are currently working with youth in Hopley in this regard:

Table 2: Organizations and their programmes on economic empowerment in Hopley

Organization	Projects Supported
Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau and American Friends	Welding, Hairdressing, Leather works
Katswe Sistahood	Sewing and Tailoring
Vale Finance	Entrepreneurship
CESHAR	Hairdressing, Interior Décor, Baking
Plan International	Dressmaking, Welding, Poultry
Empretec Zimbabwe	Entrepreneurship, Detergent making, Peanut Butter production

3.6 Challenges in Existing Initiatives

The study revealed that there were several challenges that need to be addressed for the existing interventions to meet the needs of the youth. The major challenges discussed in the study are reviewed here:

3.6.1 Inadequacy of Support Initiatives

These findings indicate that, although youth lament lack of skills as a key impediment to entry into self-employment, there has been some efforts to cover this gap. The fact that many youths lack skills may speak to the limited coverage of previous and existing projects. The FGDs with youth revealed that the biggest challenge is that these trainings are not consistent and comprehensive:

'Although there are a number of organizations training youths on economic empowerment, most of the trainings are half-baked and not consistent.'

- Youth participant in the FGDs.

3.6.2 Lack of Awareness about Existing Opportunities

Many of the FGD participants were not aware of the existing opportunities for economic empowerment in the community. There were sentiments that most of the channels used to recruit participants were not reaching the wider community hence only a few close to the sources of information would know about such opportunities.

3.6.3 Corruption and Nepotism

Many of the research participants complained that they have taken part in several consultations held by different organizations seeking to bring economic empowerment projects into the community but were left out when the projects started.

'There is no transparency in how the beneficiaries are selected. When the Tariro Centre for Youth in Hopley was built, many of us were consulted on what ideas we had but once the project started, youths employed at the centre came from areas like Glen Norah. People who were related to the nurses and a few politically connected youths from Hopley were recruited.'

- Youth participant in the FGDs.

These findings are telling on the need to ensure that the beneficiary selection criteria and processes are transparent and communicated to the community. Although the proponents and funders of the said youth centre were not implicated in the corrupt selection of beneficiaries, the allegations coming from the community may be a result of capture of such projects by the local stakeholders through whom processes are facilitated. This is a pitfall that this project must avoid. It is also possible that some of these opportunities required certain qualifications that many of the local youths did not have. If this was the case, communication and transparency still need to improve. In the worst of cases, youth spoke of the requirement for the youth to pay bribes to be taken on board in such initiatives, especially by the local leaders tasked with beneficiary selection.

3.6.4 Lack of Follow Up Mechanisms

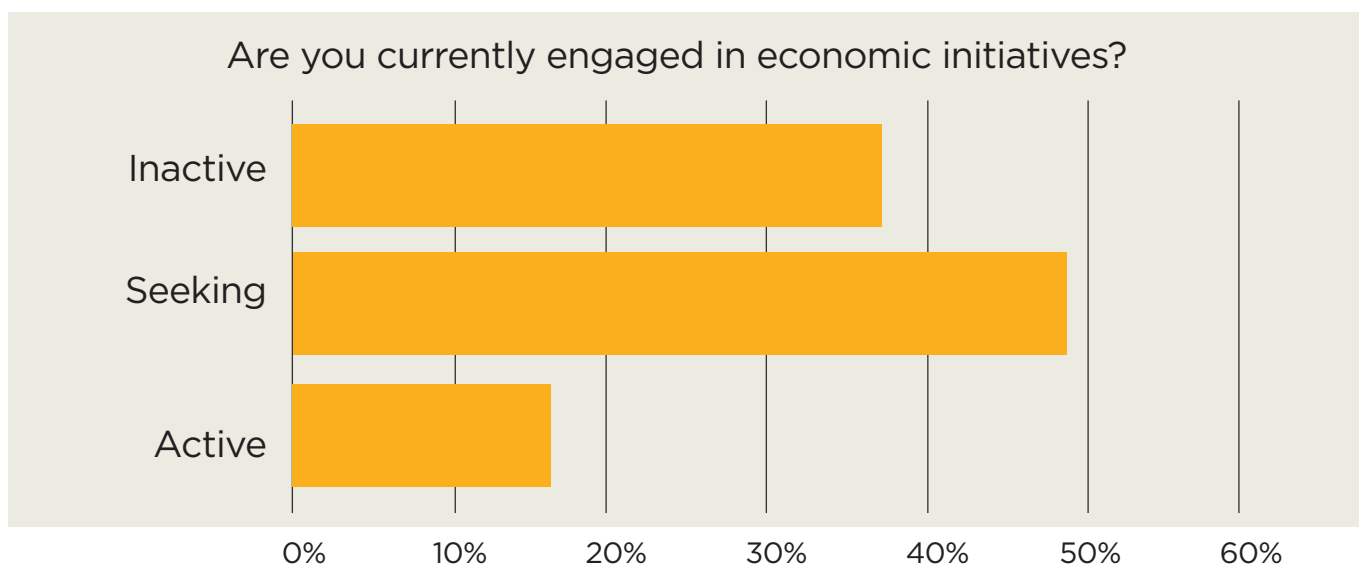
The study participants suggested that once projects have been set up, there was no follow up by the implementing organizations and funders.

'Most of the times, the implementers just train and give people start-up support then leave. For instance, one of the locals once received ingredients for a baking project as a group and on the very same day, on their way home, they shared the ingredients amongst themselves and used the ingredients for personal use. The men in the group were given chickens which they shared amongst themselves as well'. - Youth participant in the FGDs.

3.6.5 Lack of Interest to Participate among the Targeted Youth

The participants also suggested that there was, generally, a lack of interest in empowerment initiatives among the youths. Many of the youths were said to be preoccupied with drug abuse which results in them being drunk or high throughout the day and as such they find no time to follow up on projects, let alone participate. This finding from the FGDs is confirmed by the questionnaire survey where a total of 38% of the youths were inactive, neither engaged or seeking opportunities for their own economic empowerment. These youth will need initiatives that motivate them to set goals for their lives and pursue them.

Figure 6: Respondents' current status with regards economic engagement



3.7 Challenges for Youth Entrepreneurs

For the youths who are already in entrepreneurship and those seeking to enter the fray, like in seeking employment, there are several hurdles to cross. The study also sought to understand the challenges that this group of youth entrepreneurs face. The following were some of the key challenges identified:

- Lack of capital.
- Lack of collateral security to secure loans from lending institutions.
- Lack of documentation e.g. IDs.
- No educational qualifications – there is only one school in Hopley which is a primary school and some of the children have to walk long distances to reach the school.

- Lockdown has resulted in the closure of industries which used to provide part time employment.
- No opportunities to nurture talent.
- No recreational facilities. Some young people in the community have passion for sport such as soccer but they do not have spaces to practice.
- The yards in Hopley are too small for poultry and horticulture activities, among other home-based business ideas.
- Lack of infrastructure – the markets currently found in the area are informal structures with no toilets and sheds hence they are not ideal for proper sanitation.
- No opportunities for jobs like welding and hairdressing due to lack of electricity.
- Risks created by some of the business initiatives e.g. brick molding is creating pits which are death traps for children and locals especially during the rainy season.
- Lack of markets as the few opportunities available end up being oversubscribed.
- Lack of capital and resources to start own businesses: Many of them stated that they lack capital to finance any business ideas they may have.

'Everything needs start-up capital and resources. Even to be a sex worker, you will need money to buy soap, lotions and perfumes in order to attract clients. As young people we struggle with start-up capital but we have ideas.'

- Youth participant in the FGDs.

3.8 Prospects for Youth Enterprise in Hopley

Many of the young people suggested that the cost of doing business as well as availability of resources, skills and markets were the major factors in their decisions on which economic initiatives to engage in. To this end, vending proved to be popular with the youth.

I am in vending because it does not require much capital or specific technical skills. There is also a good market for the commodities we sell such as (illicit) body lightening creams, drugs such as 'mutoriro' and 'kambwa' and grocery packs commonly known as "tsaona" (Repackaged groceries for one time emergency use). **- Youth participant in the FGDs.**

Another respondent suggested that she is in cross-border trading simply because her husband lives in South Africa, As a result, it was easy for her to access groceries at a cheaper price for resell. In line with these findings, it is important that the Katswe Sistahood and Action Aid intervention provides all these requirements such as training, start-up capital and market linkages in order to improve prospects for youth engagement in such economic empowerment initiatives.

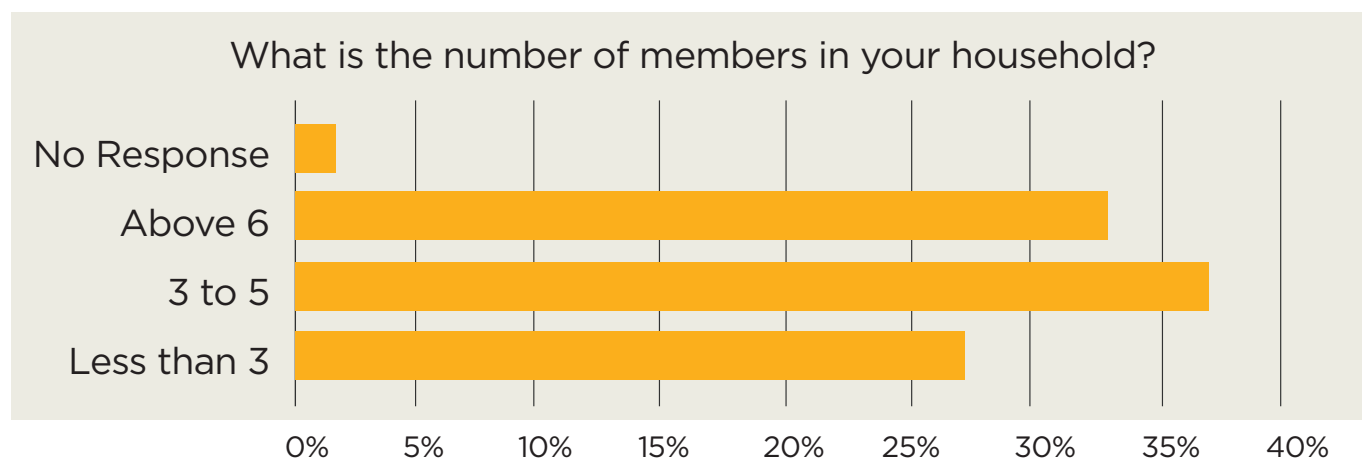
However, due to infrastructural and legal challenges, the youth suggested that some initiatives were difficult, if not impossible to have in the community. Initiatives such as welding, baking and hairdressing were said to require a significant investment in infrastructure such as electricity before they can be rolled out. There was also consistent feedback to suggest that youth were in constant clashes with law enforcement agencies such as the local council for selling in undesignated points as well as the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) for undertaking economic initiatives that degrade environmental resources without approval. Such initiatives involve trading in construction material such as sand and brick moulding.

3.8.1 Viability of Existing Initiatives

The study solicited for information on household sizes as well as monthly income to compare and make inferences on profitability of existing ventures.

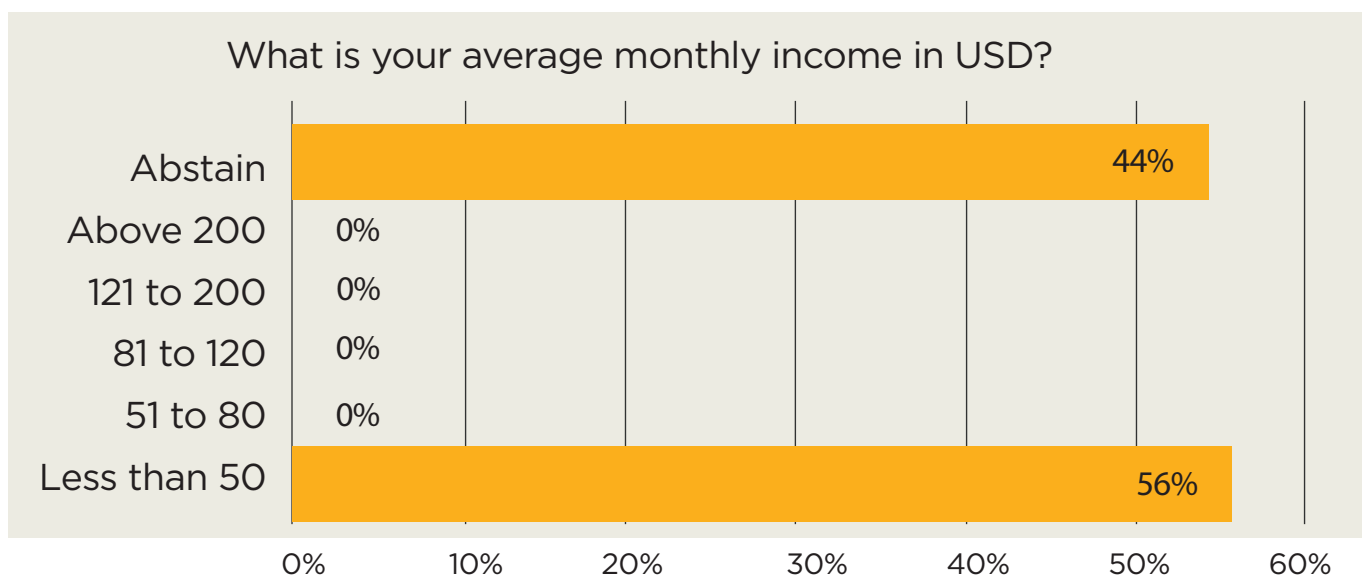
Figure 7, below relates to average family sizes in Hopley:

Figure 7: Number of people per household among the respondents



With a combined 70% of the respondents belonging to households of more than 3 members (33% having more than 6 members in their household), the findings on average incomes of the youth engaged in entrepreneurship indicate that the income they derive from their activities may not adequately support them and their families. Of the participants who reported being engaged in business, 56% reported that they earn less USD50 per month. The remainder abstained suggesting that they earn in RTGS hence the income ranges did not apply.

Figure 8: Average monthly income in USD among respondents engaged in business



3.9 Conclusion

Unemployment is a huge challenge for young people in Hopley. There are several factors at an individual, community and national policy level that reduce prospects of employment among young people in Hopley. In many societies, unemployed youths often turn to informal sector activities to earn a living. For youth in Hopley such engagement in progressive informal sector activities is made difficult by several factors reviewed in this chapter.

Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions are made:

- Limited interlinkages of economic empowerment projects with other development programmes.
- The economic empowerment activities for youth lacked comprehensive package on training, mentorship, training and marketing resulting in most of the projects not being sustainable.
- Lack of transparency in the selection of empowerment beneficiaries affected smooth roll out of projects in Hopley.
- No proper infrastructures with serviced market stalls, workshops facilities are available in Hopley to support entrepreneurship projects
- Unemployment among youth is a challenge in Hopley with the majority of them engaged in informal activities and these included vending, hairdressing, tailoring and cross border trading, recycling of plastics or tins
- Identified enterprises with the potential to turn around the fortunes of the people in Hopley included baking, hairdressing, carpentry, welding and making of detergents.

4.2 Recommendations

i. Expand the scope of work and strengthen interlinkages with other youth development programmes: Although the youth perceive youth empowerment in the narrow economic sense, the needs of youth in Hopley are varied, complex and interlinked. The prior experience of other actors in youth development and Katswe Sistahood shows that other interventions to build software life skills such goal setting and interventions on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) need to be included. It is clear from the baseline findings that some of the following issues need to be addressed simultaneously or as a precursor to economic empowerment:

- Programmes that prevent child marriages and early pregnancy. These SRH challenges result in school dropouts, in the process compromise future economic prospects of girls and young women.
- Drug and substance abuse, growing due to lawlessness in the community and growing disillusionment amongst the youth who are facing difficult situations, needs to be tackled through awareness raising and rehabilitation programs.
- Leadership and goal setting interventions, among other life skills initiatives must be built into the program. Without a sense of purpose, it is impossible to keep the youth committed and focussed to the initiated economic empowerment initiatives.

ii. Approach economic empowerment initiatives holistically: Most of the interventions that youth are engaged in seem to be less profitable to the extent that they can address the poverty that the Hopley youths and their families are in. The baseline findings indicate a need for the intervention to include, simultaneously, the following complementary components to create impact:

- Training in both technical skills and business management.
- Financing and resourcing of business ideas of the young people.
- Providing mentorship, accompaniment, and follow-up throughout the journey.
- Providing markets and market linkages.
- Incorporate advocacy for an enabling environment, especially in the face of legal challenges with such authorities as the local council and EMA.

iii. Standardise the trainings and make them comprehensive: Develop manuals and set a minimum package of what constitutes a trained youth in this respect. The feedback from the youth indicates that most of the trainings that have taken place are half-based. To this end, there is need to engage technical experts in both the identified fields of entrepreneurship as well as in business management to help develop the manuals and the training program.

iv. Strengthen male involvement. While it is important to acknowledge the vulnerability of girls and young women and to prioritise them in economic empowerment programmes, the exclusion of vulnerable young males is driving them into crime and substance abuse. In turn, this makes the community unsafe for women and girls thereby defeating the whole agenda of empowering women and girls.

v. Incorporate and/or strengthen advocacy: Promoting youth economic empowerment will require interventions of government at a large scale if such initiatives are to be effective. Some of the gaps identified include:

- Improvements in access to education for youth.
- The need for infrastructure that supports youth entrepreneurship e.g. electricity and serviced markets stalls and workshop facilities.
- An enabling policy environment for youth businesses e.g. youth quarters.
- Improved access to birth registration and identity documents.

vi. Work within the socio-ecological environment of the youths and include the parents and communities of the youth. There were recommendations that some of the challenges that the youth face require the support of their parents, guardians or the community.

vii. Develop and disseminate clear selection criteria for beneficiaries. In addition, involve young people and use neutral entry points and credible local leaders in selecting beneficiaries. This will root out corruption in the process or rid perceptions of unfairness in the implementation of the project.

viii. Expand reach of the programs by implementing training of trainers as a means to reach more deserving youth with limited resources. Consider, also, pass-on schemes of economic empowerment as there are many youths in need and many of them always feel left out when they cannot benefit from limited resources.

ix. Undertake efforts to support the youths with market linkages, contract development and decent work options. Evidence from the research suggest that youths already engaged and those preparing to venture into the enterprises need to be supported to realise profits and grow their businesses for example those that are engaged in bottle recycling can be linked to the Ministry of Youth plastic recycling plant for processing their plastic bottles for selling.

Annexure

Annex 1: Youth Focus Group Discussion Guide

- 1. What is your understanding of youth empowerment? (probe if it is something they have seen being implemented in their community. Also probe for economic empowerment.)*
- 2. Are youths involved in economic empowerment projects ? (If yes, how are they involved? If not, why? Probe on the source of financing for their economic projects and other challenges. Probe for gender dynamics.)*
- 3. What are the sources of livelihoods for young people in Hopley? (Ask questions on whether they are formalized or informal – why are they engaged in that kind of activity.)*
- 4. Are there any formal skills training that have been given to youths on any economic empowerment projects in the community? (Probe on the type of skills they were trained on, nature of trainings and the organizations that offered these trainings)*
- 5. What market linkages or opportunities are available for youths involved in income generating activities? (ask questions on challenges and successes in accessing these linkages/opportunities and for different enterprises)*
- 6. Do the youths in your community have an opportunity to borrow finances from financial institutions? (ask if there they know any financial institutions , probe on the limitations to access finances from financial institutions)*
- 7. Which project ideas do you think are viable/ profitable in your community? (Probe on the kind of assistance they need (monetary/non-monetary) or skills they require to start the project)*
- 8. What recommendations would you give for engaging youths in economic empowerment?*

Annex 2: Key Informant Interview Guide

Guide for introducing yourself and explaining the purpose of the interview:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is _____ and I work for _____. Our organization is implementing a project called Youth Empowerment Project which focuses on social and economic empowerment of youth in Hopley. We are carrying out a mapping exercise to establish the skills, gaps and economic empowerment opportunities for young people in Hopley. The finding of the research will help inform the direction in which the project should take in a bid to meet the project goal. You have been chosen to participate in the survey because of your experience and knowledge working on youth issues.

Name of the respondent: _____

Title of the respondent (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): _____

Age: _____

Organization or institution represented: _____

Position of the respondent: _____

1. From your experience what economic activities are young people in this community engaged in?
2. What are some of the challenges that young people face in participating in income generating activities? (*Probe: What hurdles do they have to overcome in order to become entrepreneurs? Scope for growth of their economic activities? Difficulties getting into newer, innovative economic activities?*)
3. What opportunities exist for young people to engage in economic initiatives? (*Probe for funding, training, markets or government policies etc*)
4. Are there certain kinds of economic activities that are particularly difficult for young people to run, or would be considered inappropriate? (*Probe: Are there any kinds of economic activities that the community doesn't think young people should run? Ask for opinion on the businesses that young people say they are engaging in such as sex work, drug peddling etc*)
5. Do young people engage and collaborate with each other in economic activities? What are some of the common collaborations? Are they formally registered?
6. Are there any vocational/entrepreneurship skills that are offered to young people in the district? If yes, what follow up support is given to people trained?
7. What economic empowerment opportunities are available for young people in Hopley?
8. Do you know national youth programs/policies such as the projects from empower bank, youth fund etc? (*Probe: Are youths able to access these programs without any difficulties such as political inclusion? Does the community of Hopley have focal persons responsible for supporting youths' initiatives in economic development*)
9. Any recommendations for supporting income generation projects for young people in Hopley?

Annex 3: Individual Youth Questionnaire

Date of interview

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Enumerator's name: _____

Guidance for introducing yourself and the purpose of the interview:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is _____ and I work for _____. Our organisation is implementing a new project, Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) which focuses on increasing economic and social participation of male and female youths. We are carrying out a survey to establish the current situation (in relation to economic and social participation by youths) in order to (i) plan and offer appropriate interventions (ii) to enable us to evaluate the project when it ends. You have been chosen at random to participate in the survey. The survey is voluntary and you can choose not to take part. The information that you give will be confidential. The information will be used to prepare reports, but will not include any specific names. There will be no way to identify that you gave this information. Could you please spare some time (around 20 minutes) for the interview?

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1	Name of respondent	
2	Location of Interview	
3	Sex of respondent	1 = Male 2 = Female
4	Age of the respondent	
5	Marital status of the respondent?	1 = Married 3 = Widowed 5 = Separated 2 = Divorced 4 = Single
6	Number of children if any	
7	Position of respondent in household	1. Father 2. Mother 3. child 4. Extended family 5. Other
8	Total number of members in the household	

SECTION B: EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

9	Level of education of respondent	<i>Encircle applicable answer</i>							
		1		2		3		4	
		Never enrolled		Primary		Secondary		Tertiary	
10	If the respondent never enrolled, what was the reason	<i>Encircle the most applicable answer</i>							
		1			2		3		
		Lack of fees			Poor health		Other (specify)		
11	Reasons for dropping out of school (for dropouts)	<i>Encircle applicable answer</i>							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Poor health	Disability	Lack of fees	Poor academic performance	Early marriage	Got pregnant	Drug/alcoholic problem	Other
12	Employment status (both formal and non formal)	Yes No							
13	Employment status details								
		1		2		3		4	
		Formal employment		Informal/ Self employment		Unemployed but seeking employment		Inactive	
14	Reasons for unemployment <i>Probe in an open discussion and note the reasons</i>	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____							
15	How easy it is for youths to get formally employed? <i>Probe for reasons in an open discussion</i>	1. Easy 2. Tough							

SECTION B: SOURCE OF INCOME

16. What is your average monthly income range in US\$?

1. 0-50 2. 51- 80 3. 81-120 4. 121-200 5. above 200

Which of the activities did you participate in during the last 12 months? (see codes)	Estimate Amount of Income (US\$)/year
Formal Employment	
Self-employment	
Receives Remittances	
NGO /Government Grant	
Other (specify)	

17	Which of the following enterprises are you currently engaged in?	Location 1. Home 2. Shop owned 3. Shop rented 4. Open stall	Have you ever received training on the enterprise? Yes/No <i>Probe for the kind of training they received and who trained them.</i>	What factors did you consider when you selected the enterprises?
	Vending (probe on goods sold)			<i>Collect this from open discussion</i>
	Knitting and crocheting			
	Cross boarder Trading			
	Tailoring and Fabrics			
	Poultry			
	Carpentry			
	Bakery			
	Detergents manufacturing			
	Brick making and Building			
	Welding			
	Food processing			
	Other (Please specify)			

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