

International Conference on Advancing Adolescent Wellbeing, Rights and Resilience in a Changing World

22 – 23 September, 2026
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Conference Programme

Day 1 — 22 September 2026

Time	Activities	Details	Presenters	Chair
8:30 - 9::00	Attendance			Rahel and Rediet
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Remarks	CSSAH	Dr Ezana Amdework, Executive Dean, College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Addis Ababa University	Dr Kassahun Tilahun
		GAGE	Dr Nicola Jones, GAGE Director / ODI Global Principal Research Fellow	
		QUEST	Workneh Abebe, QUEST Managing Director and GAGE Uptake Coordinator	
9:15 - 10:30	Panel Speakers	EHRC	Sindu Tekalgn, Director, Women's and Children's Rights	Professor Christophe Van de Beken
		Gates Foundation	Makda Getachew, Senior Program Officer, Economic Opportunity	
		Embassy of Ireland in Ethiopia	Mary Healy , Deputy Head of Development (Governance, Health, gender)	
		UNICEF	Diba Abunejeila, UNICEF	
		The Lancet Commission / GAGE	Prof. Sarah Baird, George Washington University	
		CHR	Dr Kassahun Tilahun, Center for Human Rights, Addis Ababa University	
		Q & A		
Coffee Break				



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10:45 - 11:15	Poster Presentation	Judges: Dr. Anchinesh Shiferaw and Workneh Abebe Judges: Prof. Sarah Baird and Dr. Guday Emirie	Track 1: Adolescent Rights, Protection and Wellbeing Fitsum Dagmawi Desta, Laterite Ethiopia <i>Adapting to field realities: lessons from Longitudinal Research (GAGE) in Ethiopia (2017–2025)</i> Lebeza Alemu Tenaw, Lebeza Tenaw: Woldia University, Ethiopia <i>Effect of Salutogenic Childbirth Education on Preventing Postpartum Depression Among Adolescent Mothers: RCT Study</i> Abebe Kassa, Pathfinder Ethiopia Barriers of out of school adolescent and youth for sexual and reproductive health services utilization in Ethiopia Fitsum Workneh and Abreham Alemu, GAGE Ethiopia Beyond the averages: Exploring young people's SRH and adolescent pregnancy across Ethiopia Track 2: Health and Wellbeing Tesfaye Temesgen Chekole, Graduate Student, Dilla University, Ethiopia <i>Geographic inequities of adolescent pregnancy in Ethiopia: Evidence from the 2021 Performance Monitoring for Action survey</i> Muluken Altaye Ayza, School of Pharmacy, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Hawassa University <i>Quality of Tuberculosis Care in Conflict-Affected Health Facilities in Northern Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Assessment Using the Donabedian Framework</i> Endalkachew Dellie Getahun, Assistant Professor, University of Gondar <i>Role of public health leadership competencies to empower women and mitigate gender-based violence: A scoping review</i> Asmeret Gebrehiwot, GESDI Senior Advisor, Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia <i>Cost-Effectiveness of Youth-Friendly Health Services in Health-Post Settings in Jimma Zone, Ethiopia</i> Dr Anchinesh Shiferaw, Head, Center for Human Rights, Addis Ababa University <i>Trend Analysis of Legal Aid and Rights Awareness Through Support to Teaching, Research and Community Engagement Project II (STRACE – II Project 2023 - 2026)</i> Yitagesu Gebeyehu, Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) <i>Same practices, different systems: FGM and child marriage in Afar and Somali regions, Ethiopia</i>	Dr Kassahun Tilahun



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11:15 - 12:45	A Decade long longitudinal Evidence by GAGE	1. GAGE Cross-Country Endline Findings	Dr Nicola Jones , GAGE Director <i>A decade of adolescence in six countries</i>	Fikreselam Getinet, UNICEF
		2. Adolescent Education in Ethiopia	Professor Tassew, Professor Sarah and Dr Kefyalew Endale , GAGE Ethiopia <i>Ethiopian young people's education and learning: Endline findings from GAGE</i>	
		3. Age and Gender Base Violence in Ethiopia	Dr Guday Emirie and Workneh Yadete , GAGE Ethiopia <i>Ethiopian young people's bodily integrity: Endline findings from GAGE</i>	
		4. Adolescence in Humanitarian Settings	Yitagesu Gebeyehu, Mishalle Kayani, and Asmeret Gebrehiwot , GAGE Ethiopia <i>Young people's disrupted developmental trajectories in conflict-affected northern Ethiopia: findings from GAGE</i> Endline	
		Q&A		
Lunch Break				
1:45 - 3:15	Paper Presentations	Theme 1 (Adolescent Rights, Protection, and Wellbeing) Breakout Session 1 (Ras Mekonnen Hall)	Dr Getnet Tesfaw Demsie , Assistant Professor of Social Psychology, Department of Psychology, Wollo University <i>Disrupted Childhoods: Arts-Based Perspectives on Conflict, Displacement, Wellbeing, and Peace among Displaced Adolescents in Northeastern Ethiopia</i> Jara Samuel Tura , Lecturer of Laws, School of Law, Arsi University <i>Forced Recruitment of Adolescents into Military Service in Ethiopia: A Doctrinal Analysis of Legal Protections and Implementation Failures</i> Dr Anu Dandona , Associate Professor, D Y Patil International University, India <i>Adolescent Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing in a Changing World</i>	Dr Anchinesh Shiferaw, CHR



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			Gezahegn Girma Meshesha, PhD Scholar, Department of Forensic Psychology, National Forensic Science University, India. <i>Adolescent Rights, Protection, and Wellbeing in Ethiopia (2006–2025): A PRISMA 2020 Systematic Literature Review of Evidence, Challenges, and Future Directions</i>	
		Theme 2 (Health, Nutrition, and Sexual and Reproductive Health) <i>Breakout Session 2 (Bahiru Zewdie Hall)</i>	Mekuriaw Nibret Aweke, Department of Human Nutrition, Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Gondar <i>Global Folate Deficiency Among Adolescent Girls: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis</i> Alemu Kumilachew Tegegnie, Faculty of Computing, Bahir Dar Institute of Technology, Bahir Dar University <i>Artificial Intelligence for Early Identification of Mental Health Risks Among Ethiopian Adolescents Using Amharic Social Media Data: A Personality Recognition Approach</i> Morrish Obol Okello, MBChB, Research Associate, TASO Uganda, Kampala <i>Prevalence and factors associated with viral non-suppression among adolescents and young adults aged 15–24 years living with HIV in Uganda: Uganda Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (UPHIA) 2020–2021</i> Prabha Raghavan, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA <i>Knowledge, access, and use of modern contraception and economic empowerment among adolescent females in Ethiopia: a longitudinal analysis</i>	Abebe Kassa, Pathfinder
		Theme 3 (Education and Skills Development) <i>Breakout Session 3 (Room 110)</i>	Dr Adane Hailu Herut, Assistant Professor of Education, Center for Education Studies and Research, Dilla University <i>Education in Emergencies and Crises: A Systematic Review of Global Studies on Crisis Drivers, System Recovery and Reconstruction (2000-2025)</i> Dr Meseret Getachew Tessema, Associate Professor, University of Gondar, Ethiopia <i>Political and Social Contexts in Shaping wellbeing and Educational Outcomes of Adolescents in</i>	Ambachew Teferi, Save the Children



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			<i>Ethiopia: Academic Achievement Gaps and Promoting Student Engagement through Collaborative Psychosocial Interventions in Schools near Conflict Areas.</i> Shivanshi Mishra, Psychologist, Sukoon Nest, India <i>Beyond Confidence: Gender, Emotional Intelligence and Academic Procrastination among Indian Youth in the Global South.</i>	
Coffee Break				
3:30 - 5:00	Paper Presentations	Theme 1 (Adolescent Rights, Protection, and Wellbeing) <i>Breakout Session 1 (Ras Mekonnen Hall)</i>	Banchiamlak Eshetu Yimam, Graduate Student, Centre for Human Rights, Addis Ababa University <i>The Psychosocial and Educational Impacts of Armed Conflict on Adolescents in Kobo and Raya Kobo, North Wollo, Ethiopia</i> Bisma Saleem Memon, Master's Research Scholar, College of Clinical Psychology, Ziauddin University, Karachi, Pakistan Governance for Advancing Adolescent Girls' Rights in Sindh Nouroudine KOALA, Deputy National Coordinator, Communauté des Jeunes Engagés Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, Burkina Faso <i>Youth Networks as Rights Enablers: Building the Social Foundations for Adolescent SRHR Rights in Burkina Faso</i>	Dr Ayalew Ejigu, Organization for the Development of Women and Children Ethiopia (ODWaCE)
		Theme 2 (Health, Nutrition, and Sexual and Reproductive Health) <i>Breakout Session 2 (Bahiru Zewdie Hall)</i>	Zerihun Wondimu, MPH, Dilla University <i>Effect of Nutrition Counseling Intervention on Knowledge, Practice and Nutritional Status of Pregnant Women in Dilla Town: Quasi-Experimental Study</i> Abere Woretaw Azagew, Department of Medical Nursing, School of Nursing, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Gondar <i>Prevalence of primary dysmenorrhea, its intensity, impact and associated factors among adolescent female students' at Gondar town preparatory school, Northwest Ethiopia.</i> Bright Mpindo, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), Blantyre, Malawi <i>Between Protection and Autonomy: Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Africa's</i>	Dr. Aster Teshome, Centre for Adolescent Girls Health



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			<i>Changing Legal Landscape</i> Alidah Mmaphuti Kekana, Graduate Student, University of Pretoria, South Africa <i>Knowledge, Attitudes, and Contraceptive Practices Among Undergraduate Students at a South African University: Implications for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights</i>	
		Theme 3 (Education and Skills Development) Breakout Session 3 (Room 110)	Dr. Alemante Amara, Department of Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hawassa University <i>Quality Education and Social Inclusiveness Training as a Resilience to Irregular Migration for Shallela Secondary School Students and Teachers</i> Joyce Yemilo Bello, Society for Family Health, Nigeria <i>From Skills to Opportunity: Strengthening Adolescent Girls' Human Capital, Agency and Economic Participation Through an Integrated Life, Family and Health Approach</i> Sarah Martelli, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Italy <i>Fostering Resilience and Realizing the Rights of Adolescents on the Move: Education, Skills and Pathways to Inclusion in Italy</i>	Semira Alhadi, FAWE Ethiopia



Day 2 — 23 September 2026

Time	Activities	Details	Presenters	Chair
9:00 - 9:45	Poster presentation	Judges: Dr Alula Pankhurst and Abduletif Kedir	Track 3: Digital Issues Biruk Tegegn Mezgebu, Graduate Student, Center for Human Rights, AAU <i>Social Media Usage and Psychological Wellbeing among School Adolescents in Addis Ababa: A Child Rights Perspective</i> Tewodros Getachew Tsegaye, Department of Midwifery, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Hawassa University <i>Cyberbullying, its associated factors, and coping mechanisms among female health science students in Hawassa city, Sidama, Ethiopia</i> Bisrat Getachew Worku, Laterite Ethiopia. <i>Automated management of a survey of physical activity and dietary intake patterns of adolescents across 2,000 households in Ethiopia</i> Sisay Alemayehu Kassa, PhD Student, School of Psychology, College of Education and Language Studies, Addis Ababa University <i>Reducing the Risk Level of Female Students Against OSAE: A Peer-Mentorship Intervention in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</i> Track 4: Humanitarian Crises and Resilience Mishalle Kayani, Department of Global Health, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University, Washington DC, USA <i>What Forms Does Climate Resilience Take Among Ethiopian Youth, and What Earlier-Life Factors Shape Them?</i> Padmini Suvasini Balaji, Laterite Ethiopia <i>Evaluating a Cash Transfer Program for IDPs in Tigray: Adapting Methodologies for Treatment Crossover in Fragile Humanitarian Settings</i> Fikreselam Getinet, UNICEF <i>Accelerating Action to End FGM & Child Marriage in Ethiopia</i> Shirega Minuye Share, Research and Consultancy Director, Enlighten Consultancy PLC, Ethiopia	Workneh Abebe, QUEST/GAGE Ethiopia



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Time	Activities	Details	Presenters	Chair
			<i>Climate-Induced Disasters and Adolescent Resilience: A Rights-Based Framework for Recovery and Climate Adaptation in Gofa Zone, South Ethiopia Region</i>	
9:45-10:45	Youth Panel	Panelists from Addis Ababa University clubs	Anatolia Merid, Herani Tenna, Bezawit Sisay and Haile Leul	Selam Endale, GIZ
Coffee Break				
11:00 - 12:30	Paper Presentations	Theme 4 (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) Breakout Session 1 (Ras Mekonnen Hall)	Tsalafo Chaka Chame, PhD Student in Multiculturalism and Governance, Dilla University <i>Assessing the Effects of Gender-Based Violence on Educational Outcomes among Adolescents in South Ethiopia Region Secondary Schools</i> Rama Sufeni Abebe, Independent Researcher, Ethiopia <i>The Invisible Tax: How Modernization Reshaped Women's Economic Rights in Ethiopia</i> Pintu Paul, Assistant Professor, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, India <i>Unpaid Household and Care Work and Children's Learning Outcomes: Longitudinal Evidence from Four Low- and Middle-Income Countries</i> Claytos Chimoto, Clasmael Radical Innovators (Pvt) Ltd, Zimbabwe <i>Strengthening Adolescent Resilience Through Inclusive Livelihoods Training: Evidence from Adolescents and Young People with Disabilities Transitioning to Adulthood in Zimbabwe</i>	Dr Guday Emirie, AAU
		Theme 5 (Digital Transformation and Adolescents) Breakout Session 2 (Bahiru zewdie)	Esther Kadzuwa, Researcher, Ekwendeni youth Organization, Ekwendeni, Mzimba District, Malawi <i>Advancing Adolescent rights and resilience from a community led health, climate & Digital inclusion model in rural Malawi.</i> Oluwaseyi Samuel Akinpelu, Helix Biogen Institute, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria <i>Artificial Intelligence Enabled Digital Mental Health Interventions for Adolescent Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review of Effectiveness, Equity, Safety, and Rights-Based Safeguards</i>	Fitsum Dagmawi, Laterite
		Theme 6 Climate Change, Humanitarian Crises, and Resilience Breakout Session 3 (Room	Dr Siraj Aden Hasen , Jigjiga University and East Action Organization (EAO), Jigjiga, Ethiopia <i>Advancing Adolescent Rights, Protection, and Resilience Amid Humanitarian and Climate Crises in Ethiopia's Somali Region</i>	Abduletif Kedir, CHR



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Time	Activities	Details	Presenters	Chair
		110)	Asmare Shetahun Alemneh , Department of Political Science and International Studies, Bahir Dar University <i>Climate Change, Pastoralism, Conflict and Traditional Institutions under Drought Stress: The case of Ethiopia Borana and Kenya Gabra Borderland Communities</i>	
Lunch Break				
1:30 - 2:45	Paper Presentations	Theme 4 (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) Breakout Session 1 (Ras Mekonnen Hall)	Melkam Andargie Belay , Department of Public Health, School of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dilla University <i>Socioeconomic inequities in the uptake of cervical cancer screening among HIV-positive women in Ethiopia: Findings from the Ethiopian Population-based HIV Impact Assessment Survey</i> Abdiaziz Mohamed Ali , Department of Sociology, Jigjiga University <i>Life Courses of Adolescents from Minority and Lower Socio-Economic Backgrounds in Somalia</i> Joburg Mahuyu , Research Fellow, Midlands State University Gender Institute, Zimbabwe, and PhD Candidate, University of South Africa <i>Dismantling gender barriers: Social inclusion drives adolescent resilience in Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe</i>	Nina Negash, Care Ethiopia
		Theme 5 (Digital Transformation and Adolescents) Breakout Session 2 (Bahiru Zewdie Hall)	Lidiya Dereje Mekonen , Jimma University <i>Social media use, effects, and parental mediation among school adolescents in a developing country</i> Mmbone Jessicah Christine , ICT Officer and Jitume Digital Skills Trainer, State Department for ICT and Digital Economy, Ministry of ICT, Kenya <i>Digital Skills Development and Adolescent Resilience: Expanding Opportunities for Young People in the Digital Economy</i>	Padmini Suvasini Balaji, Laterite Ethiopia
		Theme 6 Climate Change, Humanitarian Crises, and Resilience Breakout Session 3 (Room 110)	Dr Guday Emirie Kassahun , Associate Professor of Social Anthropology, AAU <i>Climate Change as a Risk Multiplier: Gendered Vulnerability to Child Marriage, FGM and Teenage Pregnancy in Somali Region of Ethiopia</i> Yared Tadele Tedla , Graduate Student, Centre for Human Rights, Addis Ababa University. <i>The Invisible Wounds of War: A Psychosocial and Mental Health Assessment of Conflict-</i>	Dr. Messash, Ethiopia Conflict Sensitivity Hub



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			<i>Affected Children in the Bora Community, Tigray</i> Ibsa Aliyi Usmane, Haramaya University <i>Resilience is Not Enough: Forging the Rights-Resilience Nexus for Adolescents in Climate Change and Humanitarian Crises</i>	
Coffee Break				
3:00 - 4:15	Paper Presentations	Policy and Practice Paper Presentations	Tesfaneh Shimels Ayele, Lecturer, Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia <i>Provider Attitudes Toward Safe Abortion Care and Implications for Adolescent Access: A Mixed-Methods Study from Amhara Region, Ethiopia</i> Wubareg Seifu, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Institute of Health Science, Jigjiga University <i>Communities Are at the Preplanning Stage for Female Genital Mutilation Abandonment in the Somali Region, Eastern Ethiopia: Findings from a Community Readiness Assessment</i> Blaire Okoma, Program officer, Buyeti Centre for community Empowerment, Kenya <i>Disability-Inclusive Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health at Community Level</i> Santa Kumar Dangol, PhD scholar, Department of Development Studies, Kathmandu University, Nepal <i>Readiness of Local Governments to Deliver Adolescent-Friendly Contraceptive Services under Nepal's Federal Health Structure</i> Caroline Wainaina, African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi, Kenya <i>Girl-Led Advocacy: Young Women Driving Community Shifts to end FGM in Ethiopia and Kenya</i>	Workneh Abebe – QUEST/GAGE Ethiopia
4:15 - 5:00	Wrap up (10 Minutes)	Dr Alula Pankhurst , Young Lives		Dr Kassahun Tilahun
	Certification	Dr Anchinesh Shiferaw , Dr Nicola Jones, Workneh Abebe		
	Closing Remark	Dr Anchinesh Shiferaw, CHR		

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