

RESULTS SUMMARY

Leave No Youth Behind Project Drives National Guideline for Youth Leaving Care Minimum Standards in Ethiopia

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PROJECT	Title: Leave No Youth Behind
	Partner: SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia
	Country: Ethiopia
	Period: 2022-2026

CHANGE

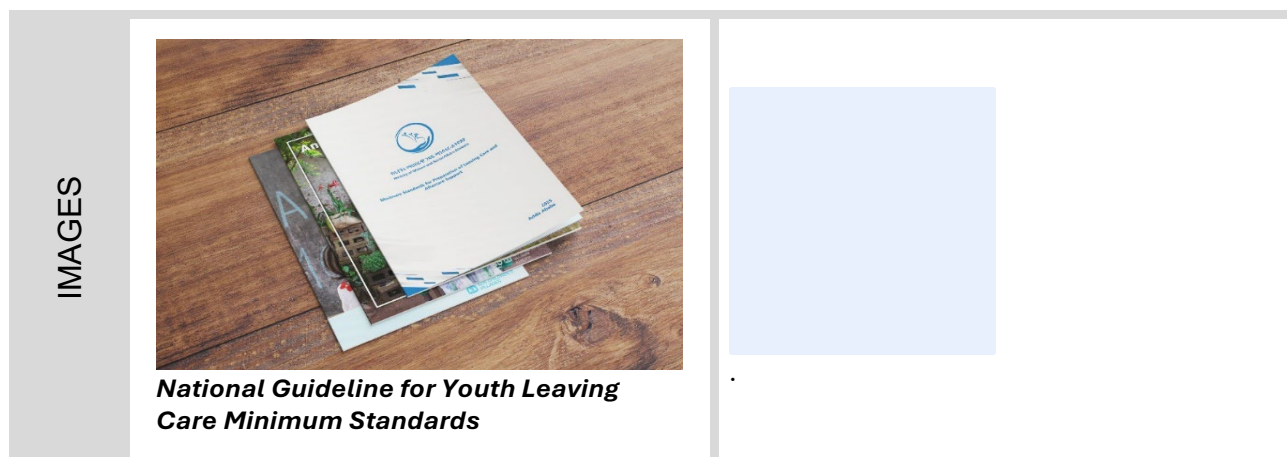
Following sustained advocacy efforts, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) developed and rolled out the National Youth Leaving Care Guideline, marking a significant policy milestone in Ethiopia. The guideline strengthens government leadership in care reform, increases recognition among decision-makers on the importance of structured and long-term support for young people leaving care, and incorporates the perspectives of care-experienced youth to ensure relevance and inclusiveness.

CONTEXT

In Ethiopia, children in alternative care, including residential and foster care, eventually transition to independent adulthood. Without consistent preparation, life skills, education or employment opportunities, and emotional support, many care leavers face homelessness, unemployment, exploitation, and mental health challenges. The lack of a unified national framework highlights a significant policy and service gap.

CONTRIBUTION

To address this gap, the Leave No Youth Behind (LNYB) Project, implemented by SOS Children's Villages in Ethiopia, collaborated closely with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) and other partners to advocate for a National Youth Leaving Care Guideline. The project facilitated multi-stakeholder consultations with government institutions, civil society organizations, and youth representatives, actively engaged care-experienced youth to share their insights, and provided technical assistance to MoWSA throughout the drafting and validation processes.



[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

The Leave No Youth Behind (LNYB) Project implemented several key activities to support the development of the National Youth Leaving Care Guideline. The project conducted continuous advocacy with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) and partner organizations to prioritize care leaver support. Multi-stakeholder consultations were facilitated, bringing together government institutions, civil society organizations, and youth representatives to discuss the needs of care leavers and inform the guideline. Care-experienced youth were actively engaged through focus group discussions and interviews to provide their insights and recommendations. In addition, the project provided technical assistance to MoWSA during the drafting, reviewing, and validation of the guideline, and organized workshops to build the capacity of government and civil society partners on supporting care leavers effectively.

LESSONS

Several important lessons emerged from the project. Involving youth with lived experience is critical to ensure that policies and guidelines are practical, relevant and inclusive. Collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including government, NGOs and civil society, enhances the sustainability and ownership of policy reforms. Sustained advocacy and technical support at every stage of policy development are essential for successful outcomes. Finally, having a national framework in place helps harmonize care leaver support across regions and institutions, addressing inconsistencies and gaps in services.

EVIDENCE

The project's contribution is evidenced by the official development and rollout of the National Youth Leaving Care Guideline by MoWSA, marking a major policy milestone. Documentation from multi-stakeholder consultations and youth engagement sessions, including meeting minutes, reports and recommendations, demonstrates the participatory process. Technical support records, such as draft revisions and validation notes, show the project's direct involvement in shaping the guideline. Additionally, statements from MoWSA acknowledge the LNYB Project's role in advocating for and facilitating the development of the guideline, further confirming its impact.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	<i>Insert strategy priority</i>
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	+
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	+
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	+
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	+
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	+