

Negotiating the Livelihoods of Children and  
Youth in Africa's Urban Spaces

---

Négocier sa vie : les enfants et les jeunes dans  
les espaces urbains d'Afrique

This book is a product of the CODESRIA Child and Youth Institute

Ce livre est une compilation des articles issus de l'institut sur l'enfance  
et la jeunesse du CODESRIA

—

# Negotiating the Livelihoods of Children and Youth in Africa's Urban Spaces

---

Négocier sa vie :  
les enfants et les jeunes dans  
les espaces urbains d'Afrique

Edited by

**Michael F.C. Bourdillon**

with

**Ali Sangare**



Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa  
DAKAR

© CODESRIA 2012

Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa  
Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop, Angle Canal IV  
BP 3304 Dakar, CP 18524, Senegal  
Website: [www.codesria.org](http://www.codesria.org)

ISBN: 978-2-86978-504-5

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage or retrieval system without prior permission from CODESRIA.

Typesetting: Daouda Thiam

Cover Design: Ibrahima Fofana

Printing: Imprimerie Graphiplus, Dakar, Senegal

Distributed in Africa by CODESRIA

Distributed elsewhere by African Books Collective, Oxford, UK

Website: [www.africanbookscollective.com](http://www.africanbookscollective.com)

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is an independent organisation whose principal objectives are to facilitate research, promote research-based publishing and create multiple forums geared towards the exchange of views and information among African researchers. All these are aimed at reducing the fragmentation of research in the continent through the creation of thematic research networks that cut across linguistic and regional boundaries.

CODESRIA publishes *Africa Development*, the longest standing Africa based social science journal; *Afrika Zamani*, a journal of history; the *African Sociological Review*; the *African Journal of International Affairs*; *Africa Review of Books* and the *Journal of Higher Education in Africa*. The Council also co-publishes the *Africa Media Review*; *Identity, Culture and Politics: An Afro-Asian Dialogue*; *The African Anthropologist* and the *Afro-Arab Selections for Social Sciences*. The results of its research and other activities are also disseminated through its Working Paper Series, Green Book Series, Monograph Series, Book Series, Policy Briefs and the CODESRIA Bulletin. Select CODESRIA publications are also accessible online at [www.codesria.org](http://www.codesria.org).

CODESRIA would like to express its gratitude to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA/SAREC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Danish Agency for International Development (DANIDA), the French Ministry of Cooperation, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Rockefeller Foundation, FINIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), TrustAfrica, UN/UNICEF, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Government of Senegal for supporting its research, training and publication programmes.

## Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <i>Notes on Contributors .....</i>  | vii |
| 1. Introduction .....   | 1   |
| <i>Michael F.C. Bourdillon</i>  |     |
| 2. Chômage et conditions d'existence des jeunes de<br>la ville de Ouagadougou.....  | 17  |
| <i>Ali Sangaré</i>  |     |
| 3. Familles en survie dans un espace défavorisé à<br>Ouagadougou .....  | 33  |
| <i>Marie-Thérèse Arcens Somé</i>  |     |
| 4. Villes et créativité des enfants et des jeunes au Cameroun .....   | 49  |
| <i>Jean-Marcellin Manga</i>   |     |
| 5. The Representations of Unaccompanied Working Migrant<br>Male Children Negotiating for Livelihoods in a<br>South African Border Town..... | 67  |
| <i>Stanford Taonatose Mahati</i>  |     |
| 6. Scavenging by Minors at Huruma Garbage Dumpsite:<br>The Children's Story .....   | 87  |
| <i>Josephine Atieno Ochieng'</i>  |     |
| 7. Les jeunes commerçants handicapés moteurs dans la négociation<br>de la vie entre Brazzaville et Kinshasa (1970-2009) .....               | 105 |
| <i>Jean Félix Yekoka</i>  |     |
| 8. Youths' Poverty and Livelihood Strategies in Fegge, Onitsha<br>Urban Local Government Area, Nigeria .....                                | 123 |
| <i>Peter Ezeah</i>  |     |

9. Hunting and Gathering by Children and Youths in Owerri  
Urban, Nigeria: Negotiating Dietary Supplements ..... 135  
*Okechi Dominic Azumike*
10. Youth Livelihoods and Karaoke Work in Kampala's  
Nightlife Spaces ..... 151  
*Joseph Wasswa-Matovu*
11. Patronage of Local Cinema Halls among Urban Youths  
in Ado Ekiti, Southwest Nigeria ..... 169  
*Babatunde Joshua Omotosho*
12. Dynamique urbaine et nouvelles formes de négociation  
de l'existence sociale : les jeunes et les « grins de thé »  
dans la ville de Ouagadougou ..... 187  
*Oollo Pépin Hien*
13. The Value of Socialization in Negotiating Livelihoods among  
the Youth: A Case of Bugembe Youth Group in Uganda ..... 201  
*Tabitha Naisiko*
14. La « prostitution alimentaire » juvénile à Yaoundé ..... 217  
*Achille Pingbane Yonta*
15. The Trajectories of Survival of the Mungiki Youth in  
Nairobi ..... 229  
*Susan M. Kilonzo*

## Notes on Contributors

**Marie-Thérèse Arcens Somé**, sociologue, Institut des Science des Sociétés, Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

**Okechi Dominic Azuwie**, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria.

**Michael F.C. Bourdillon**, Professor emeritus in the Department of Sociology, University of Zimbabwe, Harare.

**Peter Ezeah**, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria.

**Ollo Pépin Hien**, Politologue, chercheur à l'INSS/CNRST, Département de politologie, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

**Susan M. Kilonzo**, Department of Religion, Theology and Philosophy, Maseno University, Kenya.

**Stanford T. Mahati**, Forced Migration Studies Programme, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Jean-Marcellin Manga**, Département de Sociologie de l'Université de Yaoundé I, Cameroun.

**Joseph Wasswa-Matovu**, Department of Economic Policy and Planning, Faculty of Economics and Management, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

**Tabitha Naisiko**, School of Post Graduate Studies, Uganda Martyrs University, Kampala, Uganda.

**Josephine Atieno Ochieng'**, Department of Psychology and Counselling, University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Eldoret, Kenya.

**Babatunde Joshua Omotosho**, Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ado Ekiti, Nigeria.

**Ali Sangare**, Sociologue, Chargé de recherche à l'Institut des Sciences des Sociétés, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

**Jean Félix Yekoka**, Historien/Sociologue, IGRAC, FLSH, Université Marien Ngouabi, Brazzaville.

**Achille Pinghane Yonta**, Attaché d'Enseignement et de Recherche, Université de Yaoundé I / Département de Sociologie, Yaoundé, Cameroun.