

# Social Support in Jimma Zone

This Policy Brief examines the exchange of general support between households, as well as support to help children in other households attend school and find employment.

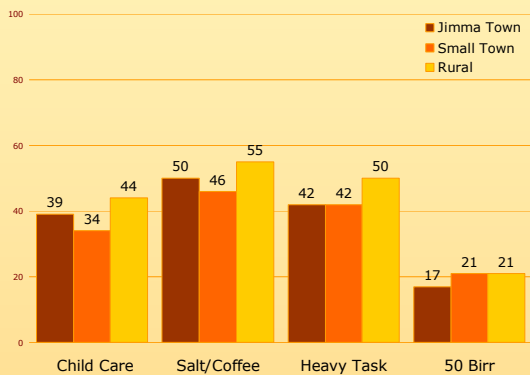
*Based on data from Round 1 (September 2005-March 2006) of the Jimma Longitudinal Family Survey of Youth*

Social support can provide a security net for families in need. Typically, social support networks link households through reciprocal giving and receiving relationships. This helps spread risks from individual households to a larger network of households.

Types of assistance include giving or receiving temporary care of a child, a small amount of coffee or salt, assistance with heavy physical tasks, and a loan of 50 birr.

What kinds of social supports are given and received in Jimma Zone? Does the type of social support differ among Jimma Town, small towns, and rural areas?

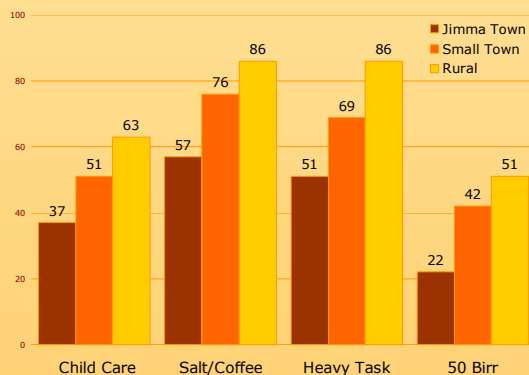
Education and job assistance includes giving or receiving help for a child to attend school, help with finding a local job, or finding a job in another place.



## Percent of Households Giving Support

The most common types of support are childcare, provision of coffee or salt, and help with heavy tasks. Monetary support is less common.

Persons in all places give about the same amount of household support.

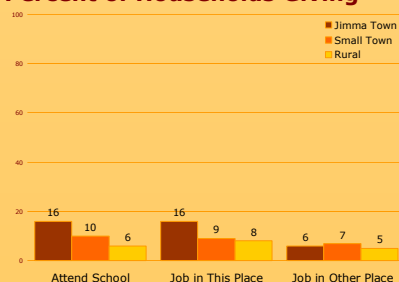


## Percent of Households Receiving Support

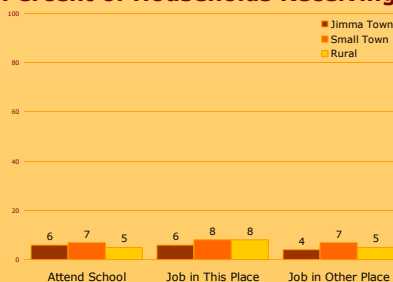
Families receive more support than they give.

Rural families receive support more often than families in small towns or Jimma Town.

## Percent of Households Giving



## Percent of Households Receiving



## Education & Job Support

Persons in Jimma Town more often help a child go to school or find a local job, but this support is given by fewer than one in five households.

Which families do support networks link? Do support networks assist families who are poor and likely to have the greatest need?

We use multiple regression models of total support to answer these questions.

In these models, urban assets include a functioning television, clock, stove, sofa, and spring or sponge mattress. Rural assets include a functioning radio, tape recorder, table, and a chair or stool. Business assets include number of oxen, cows, goats and sheep, and horses and mules and one or more cart (*gari*). Social support includes watching children, sharing coffee or salt, loans of 10, 50, or 100 birr, and help for the school enrollment and employment of children.

| <b>Factors in Support</b> | <b>Given</b>              | <b>Received</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
|                           | (regression coefficients) |                 |
| Urban Household Assets    | <b>0.27</b>               | <b>0.14</b>     |
| Rural Household Assets    | 0.02                      | <b>0.13</b>     |
| Production Assets         | <b>0.07</b>               | <b>0.05</b>     |
| Small Town vs. Jimma Town | 0.03                      | <b>0.58</b>     |
| Rural vs. Jimma Town      | <b>0.25</b>               | <b>0.87</b>     |
| Support Network           | -                         | <b>0.43</b>     |

**Families with urban household and business assets give more support.**

**Families with urban household assets and business assets also receive more support.**

**Families in rural areas give more support than urban families, regardless of assets.**

**Families in rural areas receive more social support than urban families. Families in rural areas with more assets give assistance more often.**

**Families who give social support receive more social support. A network of support links these families.**

## **Policy Recommendations**

**Families that are most likely to be in need of social support are less likely to be members of exchange networks. They cannot rely on kin and friends for social support. It is these isolated and destitute families that are most in need of immediate policy intervention.**

## **The Jimma Longitudinal Family Survey of Youth**

The Jimma Longitudinal Family Survey of Youth (JLFSY) began in 2005. It is representative of Jimma Town, the small towns of Yebu, Serbo, and Sheki, and nearby rural areas. The stratified sample includes 3500 households and 2100 boys and girls ages 13 to 17, yielding about 700 adolescents each for Jimma Town, the small towns, and the rural areas. Household data were collected from the household head or the spouse of the head. Adolescents were directly interviewed. Questionnaire data were collected by trained interviewers in the Amharic and Oromifa languages.



Jimma Zone in Ethiopia

The JLFSY is an interdisciplinary effort by specialists in epidemiology, community health, biostatistics, demography, sociology, and economics. The study examines critical challenges that youth face such as health, education and training, employment and earnings, forming families, and becoming productive citizens. A special focus of the study is on key sources of support for youth as they meet these challenges including parent and kin investments, household resources, parent and kin guidance, local community infrastructure, and informal support networks.

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This research is being conducted by faculty and students affiliated with the **Partnership in Improving Reproductive Health**



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