

Objectives of the project

The project aims to contribute to the reduction of irregular migration by creating decent livelihood and employment opportunities for youth through two specific outcomes which are spread across two phases – the Inception Phase and the Implementation Phase. The Inception Phase deals with substantiation on migration, employment and decent livelihood opportunities in selected woredas (districts) that will inform SINCE on project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The Implementation Phase seeks to **enhance smooth school to work transition for university and TVET women and men graduates, in an inclusive and sustainable way.**

Beneficiaries

Project beneficiaries include:

- unemployed youth;
- university and TVET graduates;
- potential and returning migrants; ...with particular support given to women and girls.



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This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the International Labour Organization and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

Migration should be a matter of choice and not necessity

ILO Project on Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Ethiopia
as part of

SINCE

Stemming Irregular Migration in Northern and Central Ethiopia

Can a national challenge promote growth?

Presently 71% of the Ethiopian population is under the age of 30. The Youth Development Index measures critical domains – education, health, employment and opportunity, and civic and political participation, and Ethiopia recently ranked in the middle to low range. **This current situation of Ethiopia's youth presents both a challenge and an opportunity.**

Ethiopia is now Africa's fastest growing economy. As per the 2013 National Labour Force Survey, the National Unemployment Rate is 4.5%, Urban Unemployment Rate is 16.5% and Rural Unemployment Rate is 2%. Rural to urban migration and international migration have proved challenging. Most importantly, a critical mismatch of employment trends and skills continues.

Despite these successes, obstacles continue to lay in the way of sustaining inclusive growth.

Turning the ILO's response into success

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is implementing the project on "Addressing root causes of migration in Ethiopia" under the support of the SINCE (Stemming Irregular Migration in Northern & Central Ethiopia) programme. SINCE is funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa, and implemented by the Embassy of Italy in Addis Ababa.

It focuses on strengthening the provision of national employment services and emphasizes youth employment, aiding young potential migrants in making informed choices about migrating. The goal is to close the gap between potential workers and the widening labour market's demands.

Ethiopia suffers from an imbalance between the supply of and demand for workers.

OUTCOME 1: INCEPTION PHASE

A socio-economic assessment (SEA) was conducted to understand migration dynamics and the need to employ a sectoral approach to identify potential job creation and employment opportunities for migrants. The findings of the SEA, validated in a May 2017 Addis Ababa workshop, with the participation of 67 representatives of various local and international NGOs, the government, UN and EU counterparts, contributed to the design of the SINCE project. Based on the analysis of the comprehensive study on the five migration-prone regions of the country, the intervention areas and themes for the SINCE programme were selected.

A youthful population gives a country the chance to build an educated and civilized community.



“Young Ethiopians often migrate from rural to urban areas and onward to outside the country, in search for employment and livelihoods, in particular to the Middle East countries and Europe. In response to this problem, the Government of Ethiopia, with technical support from the ILO has established the YES Centre in Bahir Dar.”

Mr. George Okutho, Director of ILO, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and for the Special Representative to the AU and the ECA

Socio-Economic Assessment report key findings

- The study indicates that **Ethiopia has recorded a significant economic growth in recent years.** Agriculture dominates the economy, and smallholder subsistence farmers produce more than 94% of the total agricultural production.
- The country's population is currently estimated to be nearly 95 million, with a high population growth rate averaging at 2.6%.
- There has been an increase in rural-urban migration; however unemployment remains more prevalent in urban areas.
- Ethiopia has a youthful population, but the youth suffer due to the gap between education/training and labour market demands.
- The rate of poverty has been declining in recent years, declining from 38.9% in 2004 to 29.6% in 2010

(World Bank, 2016) and to 22% in 2014/15 (National Bank of Ethiopia, 2015).

- **There is limited access to employment services** and limited collaboration between public employment services and labour market information producers.

OUTCOME 2: IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Expected outcomes include piloting of a Youth Employability Services (YES) Centre at the regional level; expanding the range of the existing youth employment services offered by the public employment services; and facilitating partnerships between the YES Centre and potential employers in order to increase placement of youth in decent jobs and apprenticeship programmes. The Amhara region was selected to pilot the YES Centre due to the high migration flows and high rate of youth unemployment listed at 18.32% (2013 Labour Force Survey). The Centre started services in April and was officially launched on 19 June 2018 in Bahir Dar, Amhara region in collaboration with the regional government.

Youth Employability Services (YES) Centre

The YES Centre promotes **decent work and equality of employment opportunities for all youth** and will strengthen and expand the existing employment facilitation services of the government.



- Be a source of information on employment opportunities and labour market demands, ensuring timely and efficient delivery of employment services;
- Provide counselling and career guidance for unemployed youth in the region on a regular basis;
- Provide a venue where young people could explore various employment options and seek assistance;
- Serve as referral and information Centre for the various services and programmes of Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA), Polytechnic and vocational colleges, and other relevant service providers in the locality;
- Engage with the private sector, NGOs, colleges and universities for generating job exchanges and also developing a repository of employment opportunities;
- Organize periodic job fairs at the regional level to bring together job seekers and employers.

YES clients/users

- Youth jobseekers
- Employers
- College/university graduates
- Out of school youth
- Returning young migrants

The YES Centre is a joint initiative of the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFEC), Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA), Bureau of Technical Vocational Enterprise and Development (BoTVED), Bureau of Youth and Sports (BYS), Confederation of Ethiopia Trade Union (CETU) and Amhara Employers Federation (AEF). ILO supports the Centre technically and financially as part of its project “Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Ethiopia”. The project is funded by the European Union Trust Fund and managed by the Italian Embassy in Ethiopia.

“The rollout of the Youth Employability Services (YES) Centre in Bahir Dar is an important pilot initiative that aims to improve and give more effectiveness to the Public Employment Services (PES). The youth will take advantage of a public service that actively engages companies and which will facilitate the search for employment for the young generation.”

Mr. Pierpaolo Bergamini,
SINCE Programme Coordinator,
Embassy of Italy

International Convention on Provision of Employment Services

The Government of Ethiopia ratified Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88), which entails the provision of free employment services to ensure, in cooperation where necessary with other public and private bodies concerned, the best possible organization of the employment market as an integral part of the National programme for the achievement and maintenance of full employment and the development and use of productive resources.

Public employment services (PES) are not enough...

While in principle the National Employment Policy includes the operation of the public employment services, ILO's assessment reveals that the efforts in this direction are fairly fragmented and nonfunctional. Despite some progress, some of the challenges that persist are:

- limited technical capacity and resources;
- shortage of computers and electronic equipment, poor internet connectivity;
- limited access and flow of information across zones and woredas (districts);
- limited participation of private sector in providing information on its labour demands and the corresponding skills requirements.

The lack of regional level laws/regulations guiding the private sector to recruit, employ and share labour demand information is a strong impediment as it hinders the creation of a robust labour market information system.

8 important things to know about Ethiopia

107 million: approximate population of Ethiopia

2.6%: average population growth rate

71%: of the population is under the age of 30

4.5%: National Unemployment Rate

41%: of employed women were employed in the informal sector in 2011

3 million: young Ethiopians entering labour force each year

1,227,000: international Ethiopian migration stock in 2015

40%: Ethiopian migrants travelling with legal documents



International Labour Organization



About the ILO

As the only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent

work for all women and men. The ILO is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace.

