

Project Background

For more than a decade Ethiopia showed a double-digit growth. However, the economic progress achieved in the last decade, has not been accompanied by considerable reduction in poverty and job creation, particularly for young people. The number of unemployed and underemployed educated youth has increased over the past years. In addition, employed youth do not have access to decent work; they have no or limited social protection, lack of freedom of association, poor working conditions, they are mostly under employed and found in precarious self-employment and unprotected informal jobs. Furthermore, the rural population faces persistent food insecurity due to natural hazards and seasonal climate changes such as El Nino and La Nino from droughts. Absence of decent work conditions coupled with recurrent drought force a great deal of Ethiopian youth to migrate overseas' looking for better job opportunities.

The exact number of Ethiopians migrants are unknown due to irregular migration and absence of centralized registration system. However, Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimates that more than two million Ethiopians live in the Diaspora. On the same note, data from Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs indicate that 460,000 Ethiopians migrants migrated regularly to the Gulf States mainly Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Dubai from September 2008 to August 2013. However, it is estimated that double the number of regular migrants migrate irregularly. Household survey result depicts 39 percent migrate with no legal documents, which illustrated a relatively high level of irregular migration (Kuschinder and Siegel, 2011). The irregular migrants face abusive and exploitative situations during their journey and at destination countries by smugglers, brokers and employers.

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has banned low-skilled migration to the Middle East and Sudan since 2013 and is taking multiple initiatives towards improving labour migration governance in the country. Accordingly, the GoE has revised Overseas Employment Proclamation, started negotiation of Bilateral Agreements (BLAs) with major destination countries and is building the capacity of key government institutions to effectively and efficiently govern the regular labour migration process. Despite the ban, the numbers of Ethiopian migrants crossing borders in search of employment continue to rise.

Recognizing the numerous decent work deficits faced by Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East and ambit of improving the labour migration governance and strengthening the protection of migrant workers' rights by making regular labour migration more accessible and desirable, the ILO has developed a project entitled *'improved labour migration governance to protect migrant workers and combat irregular migration in Ethiopia'* funded by United Kingdom's Department for International Development. The project aims at supporting the efforts of the Government and Civil Societies to address and reduce irregular migration by improving labour migration governance and making regular labour migration more accessible and desirable to potential migrants in Ethiopia.

Project Description

Outcomes

- Migrant workers are better protected by labour migration governance frameworks and have access to support services that empower them to make informed decisions and claim their rights
- Enhanced capacity of government and relevant institutions to enhance protection of migrant workers and improve coordination with major countries of destination

Outputs

- Improved implementation of labour migration framework
- Enhanced capacities of local to national level government structures to provide quality service and pre-departure orientation
- Increased awareness and knowledge of migrants on legal and policy frameworks for protection
- Potential migrants are equipped with entrepreneurial motives and financial planning and management
- GoE, regional states, foreign mission and migrant associations are able to make informed and evidence based decisions (Enhanced information and
- Improved capacity and engagement of GoE, Ethiopian communities, trade unions, NGO's, employer's federations and private employment agencies in protection and assistance
- Enhanced capacities of foreign missions to support for migrant worker

Major activities

- Support GoE to develop a national action plan for overseas employment proclamation
- Assess the capacity and practices of overseas private employment agencies
- Material and skill enhancement training support for TVET colleges
- Training on pre departure and labour migration governance for government structures
- Develop and disseminate information about international labour standards and ILO conventions concerning migrant workers
- Develop and disseminate information passport about countries of destination
- Produce audio and video information packages about regular migration:
- Financial literacy, Entrepreneurship and life skills training for migrants:
- Conduct research and advocate for better evidence decisions by GoE
- Publish information on regular labour migration in Ethiopia
- Provide training on BLA and MOU drafting and negotiation
- Support signatories to follow up the implementation of BLAs and MoUs
- Develop training curriculum for labour attachés and train them.
- Organize experience sharing forums
- Support Ethiopian Missions and NGOs to provide shelter and other basic services for migrants.
- Build capacity of migrant workers' associations/communities on migrant workers' rights

Project Beneficiaries

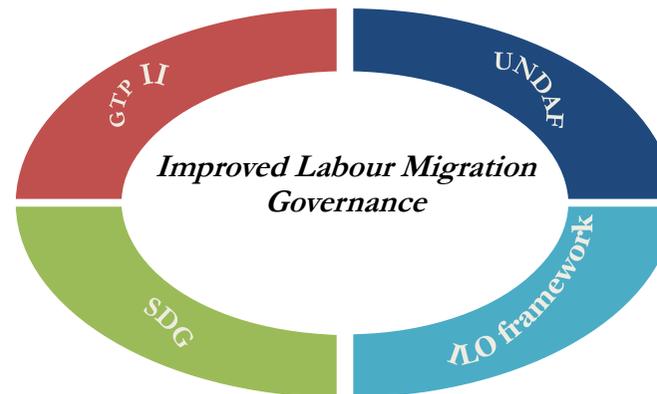
As mentioned in the project objective, capacity of service providers will be strengthened. Therefore the direct recipients involve:

- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Bureaus of Labour and Social Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ethiopian Diplomatic Missions
- National Anti-Trafficking Task Force
- Social Partners: Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) and Ethiopian Employers Federation (EEF)
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training Agency (TVET)
- The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are potential migrants and migrants.

Project Contribution

The project will contribute to the achievement of results of national and global development frameworks:

- **Pillar 6:** Accelerating and ensuring sustainability of human development
- **Pillar 7:** Establish democratic and good governance
- **Pillar 8:** Promote women and youth employment, participation and equity



- **Outcome 1 of Pillar 4:** Governance, Participation and Capacity Development

- **Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Goal 10 target 7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- **Decent Work Country Programme for Ethiopia – ETH 155** “Improved management of labour migration and reduction of irregular migration”
- **Programme and Budget 2016/17 – Outcome 9** - Promoting fair and effective labour migration policies

Contact Detail

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