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Support to the **Reintegration**
of **Returnees in Ethiopia**
Program Achievement

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Acronyms

ACSI Amhara Credit and Saving Institution

BDS Business Development Support

BoLSA Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs

DECSI Dedebit Credit and Saving Institution

EHPEA Ethiopian Horticulture and Producers and Exporters Association

EWEA Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association

GoE Government of Ethiopia

GTP Growth Transformational Plan

GYB Generate Your Business

ILO International Labour Organization

IRCE Inter Religious Council for Ethiopia

ITC International Training Center

IYB Improve Your Business

KSA Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

MoFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MoLSA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

OCSSCO Oromia Credit & Saving S.C.

PrEA Private Employment Agency

PSS Psychosocial support

RDP Return Migration and Development Platform

SACCO Saving and

SIYB Start and Improve Your Business

SYB Start Your Business

ToT Training of Trainers

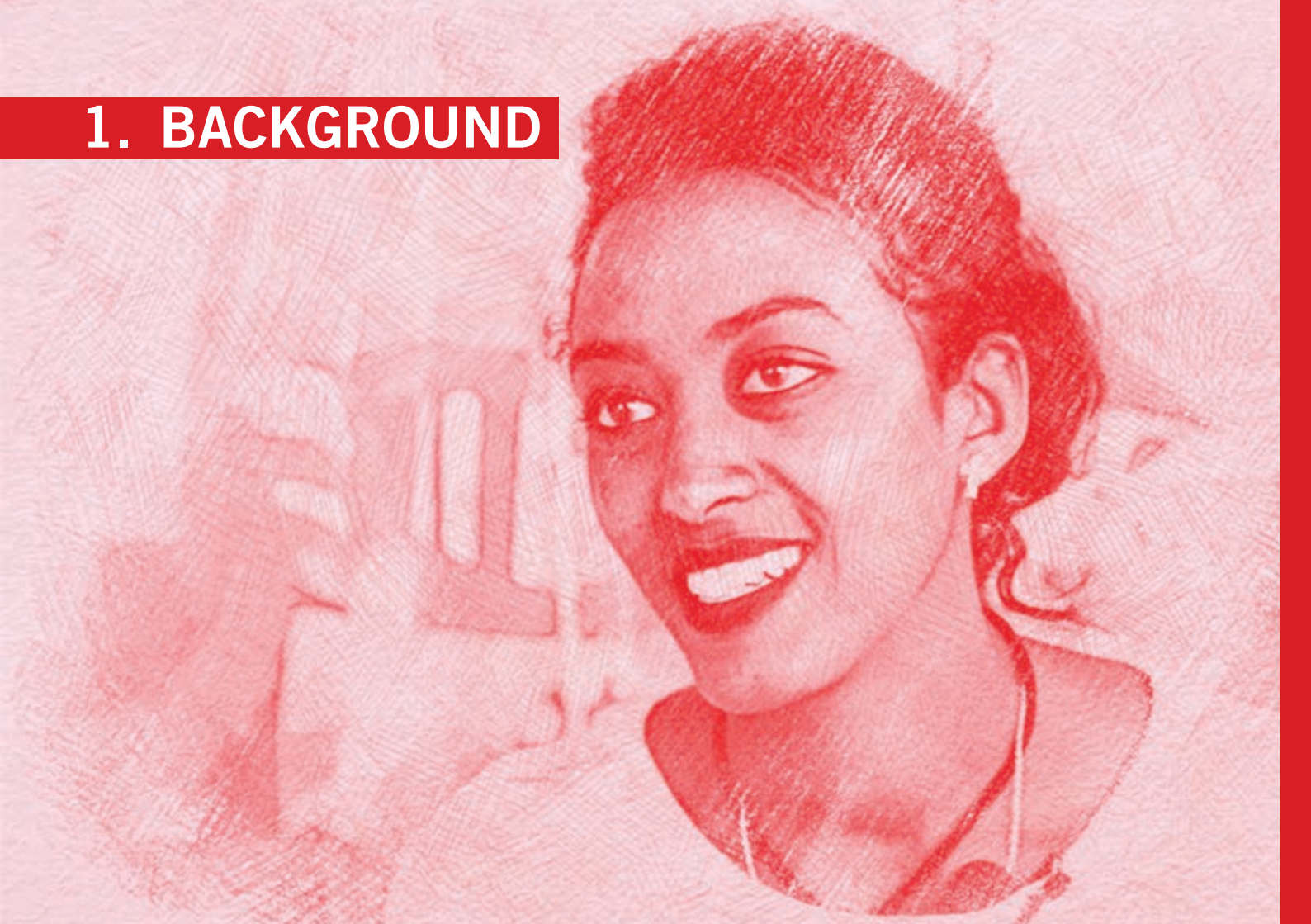
TVET Technical and Vocational Education and Training

UJCFSA Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency

UN United Nations

WISE Women in Self Employment

1. BACKGROUND



a. Return and reintegration in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of the major labour-sending countries and the second largest refugee hosting country in Africa. Although the exact number of Ethiopians who have migrated abroad is unknown, due to irregular migration and the absence of centralized registration system, according to the estimates by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), more than two million Ethiopian diaspora live abroad¹. However, the numbers are estimated to be higher. Some estimates showed that around 60 to 70 per cent of Ethiopians migrating to the Middle East are irregular migrants². Countries such as Saudi Arabia have started deporting irregular Ethiopian migrants as part of the “Saudization” of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) labour market, aimed at creating job opportunities for young unemployed Saudis and regularization of the labour market. Between November 2013 and March 2014, more than 163,018 Ethiopian migrants were forcibly repatriated. Similarly, following the KSA government announcement of the “Nation Free of Violators” campaign in March 2017 and end of the final amnesty period in November 2017, by which time all irregular migrants in KSA should have voluntarily left the country, around 260,000 Ethiopians are estimated to have returned³.

While most of these returnees had lived in KSA for several years, they came back empty-handed due to using most of their earnings for consumption and remittances. The socioeconomic situation of the returnees seems to have worsened post-return compared to pre-migration⁴. Many returnees have also had severe medical conditions, such as physical and psychological trauma, psychiatric illness due to gender-based violence/suspected rape and respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia. While the commendable coordination efforts between all partners and relevant stakeholders in the post-arrival emergency assistance

¹ MoFA Diaspora Policy

² Carter, B. and Rohwerder, B, Rapid fragility and migration assessment for Ethiopia (Rapid Literature Review). Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham, 2016

³ IOM Weekly Update No. 102 - Post Arrival Emergency Life Saving Assistance to the KSA Returnees, April 2019

⁴ ILO, Situations and Needs Assessment of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2014

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670539.pdf



allowed a timely response to the influx of migrants returning from KSA, reintegration of returnees remained a challenge. As the scale of returns has been unprecedented, the Ethiopian government and society at large lacked the capacity to deal with the large number of returning people requiring financial assistance, housing, employment, and health (including mental health) services (de Regt and Tafesse 2015).

Against similar backgrounds, the ILO and its tripartite partners have developed and promoted a proven model of sustainable return and reintegration of returning migrants which goes beyond the more typical approaches limiting support mainly to repatriation and short-term grants. The ILO approach calls for a longer-term, innovative and more sustainable process of economic and social empowerment of all returning migrants. Accordingly, in Ethiopia, the ILO in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) has provided individualized and rights based reintegration assistance to returnees with a particular focus on vulnerable women and girls with a funding support from European Union. The various forms of assistance to returnees are primarily geared towards their full recovery and successful economic and social reintegration.

b. Ethiopian legal frameworks on return and reintegration

Ethiopia lacks a comprehensive labour migration policy and a national strategy and policy regarding the socio-economic reintegration of returned migrants which require a well-designed and integrated intervention of coordinated efforts by all stakeholders⁵. There are however various legal frameworks that indirectly respond to socio-economic reintegration of returnees' in Ethiopia. The Overseas Employment Proclamation No. 923/2016 identifies MoLSA as the lead Ministry to facilitate the reintegration of returnees and stipulates that a directive shall specify the details. At the same time, the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Proclamation No. 909/2015, established a sub-committee under the National Task Force on human trafficking and Smuggling that deals with reintegration. This committee

5 ILO, Reintegration Background Report, 2017 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_647745.pdf

1 is comprised of government and non-government institutions and is chaired by the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency (UJCFSA). Moreover, the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), the Ethiopian Youth Revolving Fund, commonly known as the “Youth Employment Plan”, the National Employment Policy and Strategy (2009), and the Micro and Small Enterprise Development policy and strategy are also relevant for the economic reintegration of migrants, since these policies foster business development, employment opportunities and economic growth in the country.

c. Global approach to return and reintegration

Globally return migration is not a new phenomenon, scholars have been undertaking researches dating back to the 1970's. During the 1973 Oil Crisis, policy debates were heightened regarding the return of migrant workers. This not only attracted the attention of many scholars but was also followed by the adoption of selective immigration policies in the West. In 1974, in the essay of Frank Bovenkerk on the sociology of return migration, reference to several academics writings that dealt with returnees' patterns and reintegration in different countries was cited. Furthermore, other researchers including Gmelch (1980), King et al. (1983) and Kubat (1984) have preceded their work and developed key findings on return migration⁶.

Even though topics like “Return” and “Reintegration” are not new, like many other terms related to migration, both have several different definitions. “Return” is often understood as the end of the migration cycle and can be defined as “Persons [who] return to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short-term or long-term) and who are intending to stay in their own country for at least one year”⁷ and “Reintegration can be interpreted as the re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or process, for example, of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence”⁸. It is commonly

6 Jean-Pierre Cassarino, *Return migration and development*, 2015

7 United Nations, 2018

8 IOM, *Reintegration – Effective approaches*, 2015



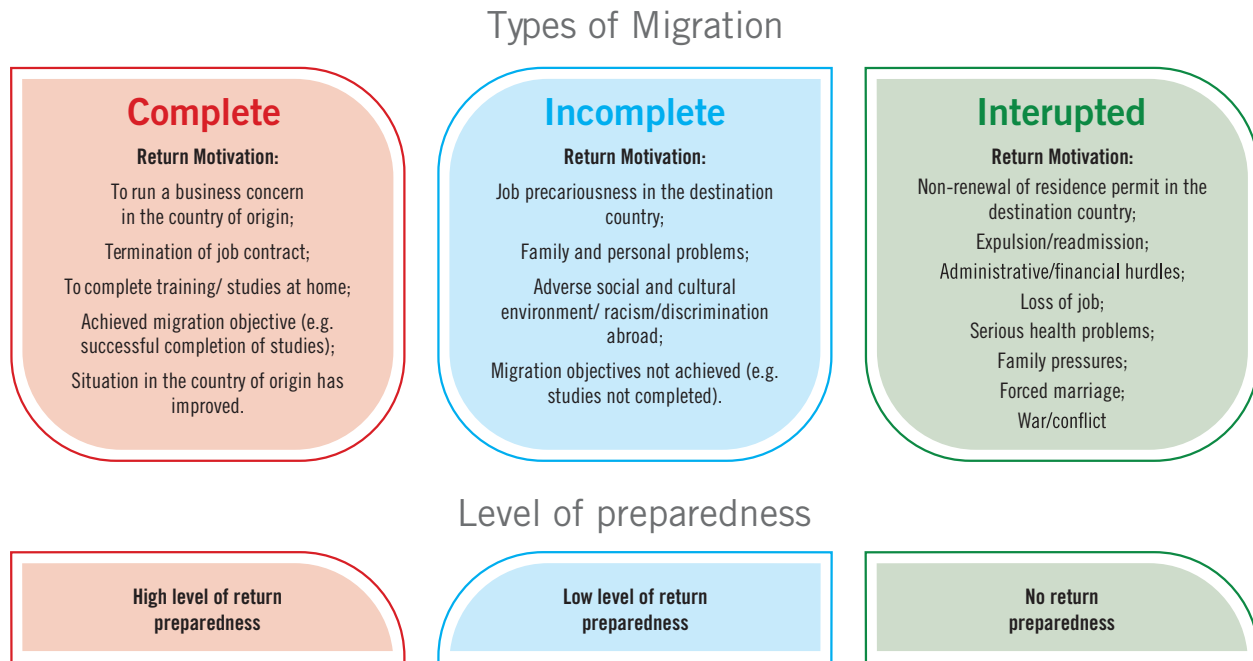
understood that reintegration is a multi-dimensional process, which considers the economic, social, cultural, psychosocial and political domain. Besides, facilitating reintegration assistance in the post-return phase can also be considered as a precondition for sustainable return while considering various elements which includes the personal conditions of the returnee, i.e. health, family abroad, personal resources, etc as well as the provision of relevant and reliable information in the pre-return phase.

The reintegration patterns of return migrants' is mainly shaped by three interrelated elements namely the context in migrants' home countries; the duration and type of migrants' experience in destination country; and the factors and conditions in the host and home countries that motivated return (pre and post-return conditions)⁹. Nevertheless, these elements are not sufficient to explain the reason for a returnee to effectively reintegrate into their country of origin and ensure their contribution to the country's development. Comparative field survey carried out in the framework of the Return Migration and Development Platform (RDP) proved the importance of social, political, institutional and economic conditions that impacted return migrants' migration cycle in reintegration and categorizes three types of migration cycles: the complete, the incomplete and the interrupted migration cycle type. Likewise, the Reintegration Package for Ethiopia¹⁰, developed with support of the ILO, highlights the interdependence of the economic, socio-cultural and psychosocial components needed for effective reintegration and envisages their occurrence in different stages namely the pre-return, immediate post return, short-term and long-term reintegration. Moreover, Cassarino (2004, 2008) also identified returnees' preparedness and resource mobilization patterns shaped by pre and post return conditions to influence reintegration and its contribution to development. While looking at the characteristics of reintegration, the level of preparedness is highly interrelated with the completeness of their migration cycles (see Figure 1 page after).

⁹ Jean-Pierre Cassarino, Theorizing return migration: The conceptual Approach to Return Migrants Revisited, 2004

¹⁰ ILO, Reintegration Package for Ethiopia, 2017 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_647520.pdf

Figure 1: The interrelationship between levels of return preparedness and migration cycles



Source: *Reintegration and Development*, Jean Pierre Cassarino



As shown in the above table, three patterns are identified:

- ▶ **High level of preparedness** occurs when migrants migration cycle is complete. Returnees feel that they have gathered sufficient tangible and intangible resources as well as the needed skills to carry out their personal project at country of origin;
- ▶ **Low level of preparedness** arises when migrants have not mobilized the necessary resource in the destination country. This is due to the incompleteness of their migration cycle. Upon return, migrant returnees tend to rely on resources available at home in order to reintegrate;
- ▶ **No return preparedness** is when the migration cycle is abruptly interrupted. Migrant returnees have not contemplated their return nor are they prepared for it. For example, repatriation due to irregular status from the territory of the destination country.

Identifying the pattern of the return has practical consequence on policy making; especially when developing interventions designed to support the successful reintegration and to enable returnees' contribution to the country's development.

2. ETHIOPIAN RETURNEES PROFILE



For the past decades, Ethiopian migrant workers have been migrating to Middle Eastern countries looking for employment opportunities, especially in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), using both regular and irregular routes, which makes it difficult to determine the number of Ethiopian migrant workers currently in the Middle East. Changes in foreign workers legislations in Middle Eastern countries made return and reintegration a critical issue for the country of origin like Ethiopia. After the 2013/14 mass deportation, again on March 20, 2017 the Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef, who is Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, announced “Nation Free of Violators” campaign to ensure undocumented migrants leave the country within 90 days starting from March 29, 2017, which was extended several times. Following the end of the amnesty period, in November 2017, an estimated 260,000 Ethiopian migrants’ have returned back as of April 2019¹¹.

Some of the Ethiopian returnees lived in KSA for more than two decades and returned home empty-handed with no belongings or assets. Before deportation, many of the returnees were held in detention centres with inadequate access to food, public utilities, and with general lack of privacy. Such returns characterized as interrupted migration cycles have severe and negative effect on the sustainable reintegration of migrant returnees. Given the sudden and unprepared nature of such return and with little or no fallback position, the reintegration of these returnees can be painfully slow and challenging. Moreover, the lack of comprehensive reintegration support mechanism in the country and the different status and needs of returnees upon their return makes the reintegration support more complex and challenging.

Majority of returnees in 2013/14 were men (approximately 70 per cent), while most of the regular labour migrants that left Ethiopia between 2008 and 2013 were women (84 per cent). This shows that majority of the male migrants travelled abroad through irregular routes, crossing the border on foot or by vehicles¹², due to lack of opportunity for regular labour migration in the Middle East for male migrants. Looking at the



¹¹ IOM Weekly Update No. 102 - Post Arrival Emergency Life Saving Assistance to the KSA Returnees, April 2019

¹² ILO, Situations and Needs Assessment of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2014
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/africa/-/ro-addis_ababa/-/ro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670539.pdf

profile of the returnees upon their return from KSA in 2013/14, majority of them were in the economically active age (79.8 per cent); were married (54.9 per cent); were Muslims (70 per cent); and have received formal education (77 per cent) even though it is mainly low level education and less than one per cent of migrant returnees have obtained a diploma or certificate.

2

Looking at the profile of the returnees upon their return from KSA in 2013/14



majority of them were in the economically active age (**79.8 per cent**)

were married (**54.9 per cent**)



were Muslims (**70 per cent**)

have received formal education (**77 per cent**)



less than **one per cent** of migrant returnees have obtained a diploma or certificate

The ILO Situation and Needs Assessment among returnees conducted in 2014 identified that seeking employment opportunities and search for better life and/or higher pay was the main reason for emigration (96.3 per cent)¹³. Generally, in terms of income, the situation of returnees seems to have deteriorated post-return compared to pre-migration, even though they were better off while in KSA.

Table 1. Returnees' assessment of their socio-economic condition

Socio-economic Status	Pre-Migration		Abroad		Post-return	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very good	56	2.8	424	20.8	81	4.0
Good	492	24.2	817	40.1	316	15.6
Medium	877	43.1	433	21.3	699	34.5
Bad	541	26.6	279	13.7	684	33.7
Very bad	68	3.3	82	4.0	248	12.2
Total	2 034	100.0	2 035	100.0	2 028	100.0

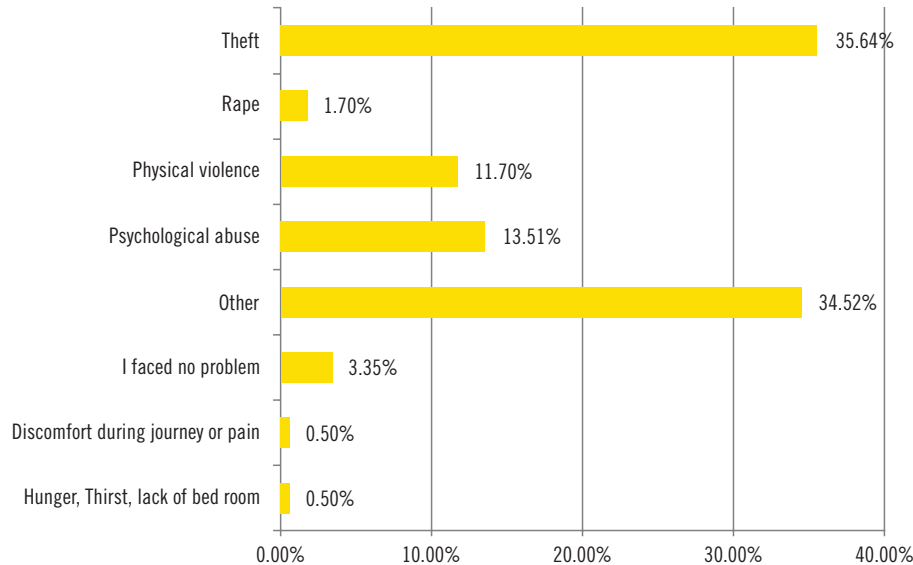
Source: National Needs Assessment of Ethiopian Returnees Survey, July 2014

The assessment also revealed that most migrants travel abroad irregularly (65.3 per cent), through illegal brokers, which is financial costly and challenging¹⁴. The returnees themselves (40.2 per cent), traffickers (30 per cent), and employment agencies (24.2 per cent) are the major facilitator of the irregular migration. The assessment also revealed that regular migration and irregular migration cost around ETB 1,891.25 and ETB 18,000 respectively. Further to the financial cost, irregular migrants also face severe challenges while migrating including theft, physical, and psychological abuses.

¹³ ILO, Situations and Needs Assessment of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2014
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670539.pdf

¹⁴ Ibid



Figure 2: Challenges faced by returnees during migration

Source: National Needs Assessment of Ethiopian Returnees Survey, July 2014

Migrants returning in such unexpected circumstances, often pose challenges for migrants and their families as well as country at large. Migrants struggle with lack of decent livelihood opportunities and stigmatization; while it puts additional burden in the entire household due to loss of income from remittances as well as additional pressure on the already saturated labour market in the country. Moreover, marginalization combined with the hardships experienced while in the destination country, returnees sometimes result

in having severe medical conditions, such as physical and psychological trauma, post-traumatic stress, depression and respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia.¹⁵

The ILO assessment further recognized a range of challenges hindering returnees' economic reintegration, such as lack of financial support to initiate micro or small enterprises (92 per cent); followed by working place (88.7 per cent); lack of training (74 per cent); lack of business development services (28.4 per cent) and lack of family support (41.2 per cent).

Table 2. Possible challenges: external and internal factors

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
External		
<i>Lack of access to credit</i>	1 296	74.0
<i>Lack of working premises</i>	1 578	88.7
<i>Lack of technical support</i>	1 337	74.3
<i>Discrimination</i>	240	13.5
<i>Policies and regulations</i>	552	31.2
Internal		
<i>Lack of motivation</i>	177	10.2
<i>Lack of working capital</i>	1 620	91.5
<i>Lack of skill/knowledge</i>	987	56.0
<i>Illness</i>	150	8.5
<i>Lack of family support</i>	724	41.2

Source: National Needs Assessment of Ethiopian Returnees Survey, 2014

15 ILO, Situations and Needs Assessment of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2014
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670539.pdf



3. ILO'S APPROACH TO REINTEGRATION IN ETHIOPIA



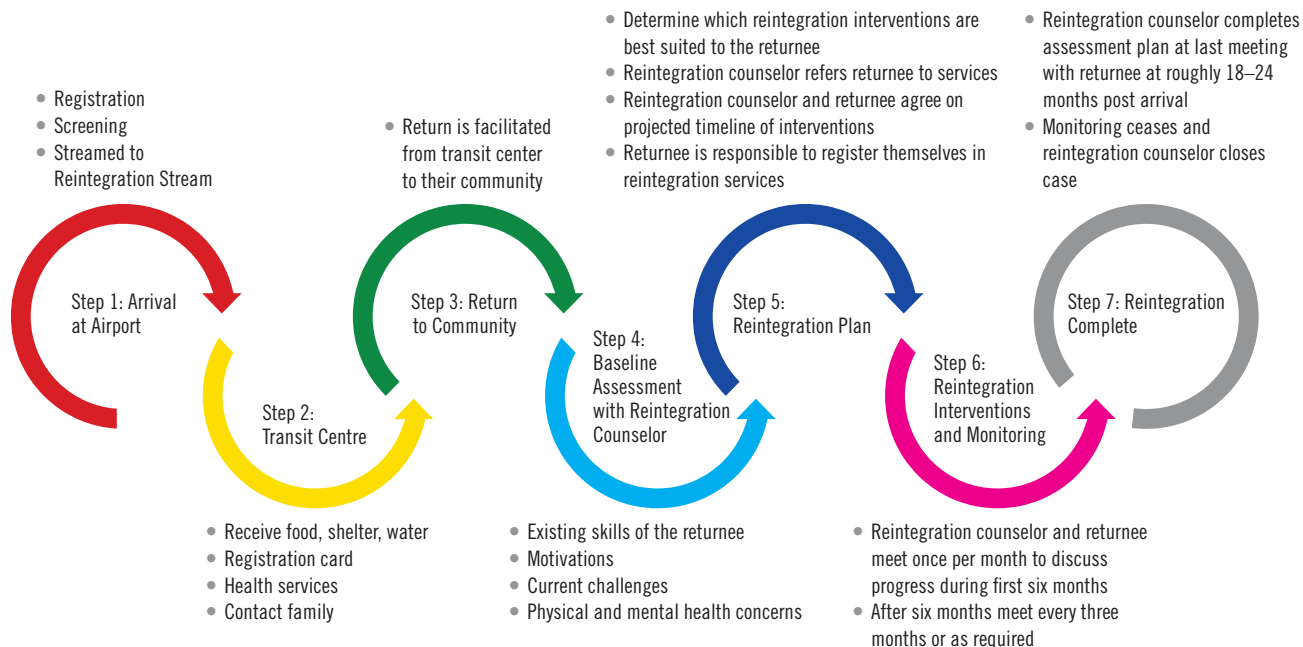
Recognizing the numerous challenges being faced by migrant returnees from KSA, the ILO in partnership with MoLSA developed a Reintegration package in Ethiopia. The ILO has identified a comprehensive reintegration package as critical to ensure the sustainable reintegration of migrant returnees. This package should consider the challenges faced by migrant returnees during their migration and upon their return and also capitalize on the skills acquired in destination country. Migrant returnees require a range of support at different stages of return such as pre-return or pre-departure, immediate post-return, short-term reintegration and long-term reintegration. Such phased approach ensures the sustainable reintegration of returnees into the society and the labour market as well as maximizes their contribution to the development of the country of origin.

The ILO reintegration approach recognizes the heterogeneity of return migrants and the importance of a holistic and comprehensive reintegration support, accordingly it addresses individual needs and combines the socio-cultural, economic and psychosocial/health reintegration as a package. Moreover, the reintegration support also contains a rehabilitation stream for migrant returnees with mental health concerns and physical trauma or occupational disease as well as disabilities. To ensure greater impact, the package emphasizes the need for a reintegration support that is gender sensitive and implemented in line with other relevant existing policies and strategies of country of origin and destination as well as in coordination and partnership with relevant government and non-government institutions. Moreover, the reintegration package considers community-based support to avoid preferential treatment and conflict between returning migrants and host community.

The case management framework below demonstrates the support being provided to returnees through the reintegration package¹⁶ and reintegration directive. It highlights the different services that are provided at the seven stage of the reintegration process.

16 ILO, Reintegration Package for Ethiopia, 2017 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_647520.pdf



Figure 3. Case Management Framework

Source: Reintegration Package for Ethiopia, ILO

The ILO has been operationalizing the above reintegration package through its 50 months (January 2015 – February 2019) project entitled “*Support to the reintegration of returnees in Ethiopia*” funded by the European Union. The project aims at providing individualized and rights based reintegration assistance to returnees with a particular focus on vulnerable women and girls. The various forms of assistance to returnees are primarily geared towards their full recovery and successful economic and social reintegration.

4. ILO RESPONSE TO REINTEGRATION IN ETHIOPIA



The ILO Country office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and for the Special Representative to the AU and the ECA as a mandated institution, supported the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and its social partners to work towards putting in place effective legal and institutional frameworks on Reintegration. To realize this objective, the ILO implemented the EU funded project of Euro 5 Million “*Support to the reintegration of returnees in Ethiopia*” from January 2015 – February 2019.

a. Objective and intervention area

This project, as part of a broader programme on improving labour migration management in Ethiopia, aims at supporting the efforts of the GoE and stakeholders from Civil Society in improving migration management and reintegration. In partnership with MoLSA, the ILO implemented the reintegration component, while MoLSA implemented the capacity building and awareness-raising component. This project was implemented in three migrant prone regions in Ethiopia namely Oromia, Amhara and Tigray National Regional States and in 21 woredas.

It is worth noting that the approach of reintegration of migrant returnees was relatively new in Ethiopia at the time the project commenced, hence the project can be cited to have laid the foundation for reintegration work in the country. Most service providers were new in providing the required support to returnees, therefore, the project focused on systematic capacity building of relevant service providers, so as to enable them to provide effective and efficient services to returnees and strengthen the reintegration system in the country.

Table 3. Project intervention area by region, zone and woreda

	Region	Zone	Woreda
1	Amhara National Regional State	North Shewa	Yifat
2			Ataye
3		North Wollo	Kobo
4			Mersa
5		South Wollo	Mekane-Selam
6			Kelela
7		Oromia Special zone	Kemisse
8			Artuma Fursi
9	Oromia National Regional State	West Arsi	Adaba
10			Gedeb Hassassa
11		Arsi	Jeju
12			Shirka
13		Jimma	Setema
14			Sigmo
15	Tigray National Regional State		Ahferom
16			Raya Alamata
17			Saesie Tseda
18			Raya Azebo
19			Hiltallo Wajirat
20			Wukro
21			Atsbi Womberta



Moreover, the various forms of assistance to returnees were primarily geared towards their full recovery and successful economic and social reintegration. The services included counselling, health care, legal assistance, job-placements, skills and entrepreneurship training, and access to finance services. Based on the KSA returnee's needs assessment of 2014 the project intervention was guided by the following four pillars:



b. ILO partners in the successful socio-economic reintegration assistance to returnees

The provisions for reintegration support to returnees requires the involvement as well as coordination among different government and non-government institutions with an appropriate referral mechanism. To this effect, the ILO partnered with different relevant government and non-government partners for the sustainable reintegration of returnees into their community and the labour market. Each partner had a role to play in the effective reintegration of returnees as cited in table 4.

Table 4. Project partners and their role in the implementation

Partners	Roles
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and their regional counterparts, Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA)	Mandated institution for labour migration. Guided and coordinated the project as a Chair of the project steering committee and taskforce.
Regional Micro finance institutions	Facilitated access to finance for the beneficiaries
Technical and Vocational Education and Training Agency (TVET) and colleges at woreda level	Provided entrepreneurship and vocational skills training for returnees
Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agencies (UJCFA) at all levels	Encouraged, coordinated and assisted ultimate beneficiaries in the establishment and expansion of Micro and Small Enterprises and provided BDS services
Local administration/ regional governments	Provided working space to returnees & other administrative support
Private sector	Supported returnees' economic reintegration by facilitating/offering wage employment
NGOs' and service providers	Involved in the reintegration of returnees mainly on specialized services



c. Project achievement

The project has made concrete contributions and achieved results in the area of effective socio-economic reintegration of migrant returnees in the three regions. Within the project intervention, four major pillars of accomplishments can be cited as:

Pillar 1: Psycho-social support (PSS)

A significant number of migrant workers in the Middle East face undue hardships and abuse in the form of low or withheld wages, poor working and living conditions, virtual absence of social protection, denial of freedom of association and workers' rights, discrimination and xenophobia, as well as social exclusion. Due to such hardship being encountered during migration or employment, many migrants return home with different form of psychosocial problems; this coupled with sudden deportation (without their belongings, savings etc.) in 2013 put them in further vulnerable situations. If such challenges are not well addressed, it can significantly interfere with the reintegration process. Hence, to alleviate their plight:

- ▶ The ILO in collaboration with Agar Ethiopia (NGO) provided PSS services for 2,962 (2,141 Female & 821 Male) returnees, including the provision of shelter, food, sanitary supplies, medical, health and counseling services;
- ▶ The ILO in collaboration with Mekelle University and Center for Victims of Trauma, provided training on PSS for 64 (22 Female & 42 Male) Tigray BoLSA staff members from 52 woredas. This training was provided for BoLSA's as they are the first point of call to deal with returnees. Generally, returnees

receive little or no support in addressing their psychological challenges and usually suffer in isolation without knowing where and how to seek help. Hence, through building the capacity of BoLSA's they can easily identify returnees that have suffered trauma and can direct them, through referrals, to appropriate service providers to seek assistance.

Pillar 2: Awareness raising programs

- ▶ As part of the effort to increase the knowledge and awareness of returnees about local opportunities, motivate returnees to engage in livelihood opportunities and to further address stigma and discrimination, the ILO produced and disseminated a 15 minutes documentary on success stories of returnees from KSA.
- ▶ Given the immense role of faith-based institutions and leaders in creating awareness and empowering the communities using faith-based values, the ILO partnered with the Inter Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE) to sensitize 193 (28 Female and 165 Male) faith-based institution leaders, experts from Labour and Social Affairs office (Regional, Zonal and Woreda level), media and representatives of returnees on issues challenging returnees with regards to psychosocial, stigma and discrimination in the three target regions (Amhara, Oromia and Tigray).
- ▶ An awareness raising radio program entitled, "I GIVE HOPE" was broadcasted for 14 weeks on FM 96.3 to avoid stigma and discrimination against returnees and combat irregular migration. It is estimated that approximately 600,000 listeners have been reached.



- ▶ To raise awareness of the public on the dynamics around migration, return migration/ reintegration, to create a welcoming environment within the local communities for returnees and to avoid stigma and discrimination of returned migrants, an awareness raising campaign “አኔም ለሃገሪ ተስፋ ነኝ”¹⁷ has been conducted for six months. A series of TV and Radio talk shows, mini media campaigns by 143 high schools, social media engagement, as well as a national arts competition was conducted to engage the public at large. The campaign has reached more than 4.5 million people through the radio and TV programmes and has achieved a total reach of 8,319 people through its social media.



National Story Competition, Photography Winner

¹⁷ Direct translation: I too am Hope for my Country

- ▶ The ILO supported MoLSA in the publication of an informational brochure in Amharic on return and reintegration.
- ▶ The ILO in partnership with FANA Broadcasting Corporate produced a news coverage to capture key results, success stories and challenges of the project.



National Story Competition, Painting Winner

Pillar 3: Economic Empowerment

The ILO 2014 needs assessment identified various needs required to enable migrant returnees engage in income generating activities, these include, access to training, government support, technical support, financial support as well as business development support (BDS) services. Accordingly, through this project, returnees were given training on life skills, financial literacy, entrepreneurship and vocational skills in the areas of their interest as well as based on the demand of the local market. Further to skills development, returnees also benefitted from BDS services as well as relevant support to initiate businesses including access to finance. Moreover, in partnership with the private sector, returnees interested in wage employment were also supported through job placement. A total of 9,200 returnees have been engaged in income generating activities, while 4,633 have been supported through wage employment; an additional 4,567 were engaged in enterprise development.



a. Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training

- ▶ A standardized entrepreneurship and motivational skills training manual was developed to train returnees.
- ▶ A Training of Trainers (ToT) on entrepreneurship and motivational skill was provided to 214 TVET teachers and experts in the three regions.
- ▶ The entrepreneurship and motivational skills training was then cascaded to 10,363 returnees in the 21 target woredas. This includes the provision of training in partnership with TVET college (9,663 beneficiaries) as well as beneficiaries trained in partnership with Adonay Relief and Development Association (local NGO) in Atsbi Wumberta woreda, Tigray region (700 beneficiaries).

Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training for migrant returnees



b. ILO SIYB Module

- ▶ The revised Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training modules of ILO, namely Generate Your Business Idea (GYB), Start Your Business (SYB) and Improve Your Business (IYB) was translated into Amharic and disseminated nationally to ensure the wide use of the tool.



<https://fragilestates.itcilo.org/2018/11/08/economic-empowerment-of-returnees/>

- ▶ A ToT on GYB and SYB component of the ILO SIYB module was provided for 161 TVET teachers and selected experts from BoLSA and UJCFSA in the three regions.
- ▶ The ToT further enabled the cascading of the training to 1,869 (722 Female and 1,147 Male) returnees in Oromia National Regional State.

c. Vocational Skills Training

- ▶ The ILO in close collaboration with the three regional technical vocational education and training (TVET) bureaus standardized ten short term skills training modules namely poultry, beekeeping, fattening, dairy production, metalwork, block production/construction, food preparation, horticulture, furniture and garment.
- ▶ Further to the standardization of the 10 training modules, 6,757 (2,294 Female and 4,463 Male) returnees in the three regions benefited from the training. This includes the provision of training in partnership with TVET college (6,277 beneficiaries) as well as beneficiaries trained in partnership with Adonay Relief and Development Association (local NGO) in Atsbi Wumberta woreda, Tigray region (480 beneficiaries).



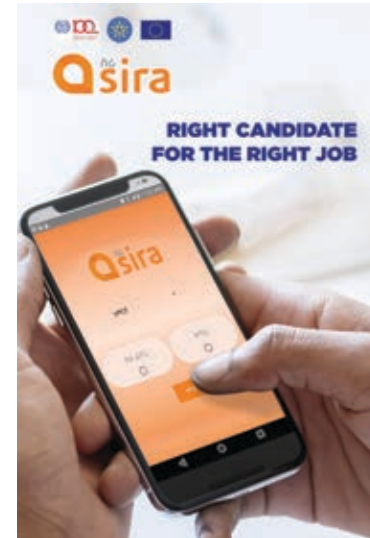
- ▶ ILO partnered with the Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association (EWEA) provided skills training on hairdressing, beautification, domestic work and housekeeping for 2,301 women returnees in the three regions and facilitated self-employment for 1,051 returnees within university campuses. Trained returnees were supplied with necessary equipment's such as laundry machines and irons to provide laundry service for university students.

d. Access to Finance

- ▶ ILO established a dedicated matching loanable fund worth ETB 20 million in each of the three regions in partnership with micro finance institutions namely ACSI, DeCSI and OCSSCO for the provision of loan for returnees.
- ▶ Currently ETB 67,083,102.00 has been disbursed and 1,967 (760 Female & 1,207 Male) returnees in the three regions have benefitted from the loan and established a business.
- ▶ In partnership with Women in Self Employment (WISE), a local non-profit organization, ILO strengthened the capacity of 1,523 (596 Female and 927 Male) returnees on Basic Business Skills, Entrepreneurship Skills, Life Skills, Leadership and Management Skills and 1,137 have been organized into Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCO) in 11 woredas of Amhara (495 members), Oromia (462 members) and Tigray (180 members) regions.
- ▶ In partnership with Adonay Relief and Development Association 111 returnees trained on entrepreneurship and motivational skills training and vocational skills training have been awarded as best performing individual and group business and enterprise operators. While the top three best performing group operators have been awarded ETB 35,000, ETB 30,000 and ETB 25,000, the individual operators have been awarded with ETB 20,000, ETB 15,000 and ETB 10,000.

e. Wage Employment

- ▶ ILO partnered with the Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association (EHPEA) to provide skills training on major activities of the horticulture sector and secure employment for 2,785 returnees and vulnerable community members in the three regions.
- ▶ ILO in partnership with Eshururu, a private employment agency and training center, provided skills training for 400 women returnees in child care services and secured employment opportunities in households and institutions in Debre Birhan and Addis Ababa. Eshururu trained additional 37 women returnees as part of its corporate social responsibility.
- ▶ ILO organized 3 job fairs in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray region to allow returnees to meet with potential employers depending on their skills and interest. Accordingly, 1,448 jobs were committed for returnees by the private sectors.
- ▶ ILO in partnership with 251 communication and marketing developed and launched a user friendly and viable mobile application “SIRA” that will facilitate employment opportunities for returnees in Ethiopia by linking employers and job seekers in the non-professional sector. In less than 2 months after the launch of the app, 132 vacancies were posted by employers and 2,088 job seekers have registered.



SIRA mobile application that link employers and job seeking returnees in the low and middle skill occupations





Professional childcare service for women returnees provided by Eshururu Training Center

Pillar 4: Institutional Development

The overall project logic is based on the need to build on national capacity and coordination to manage reintegration. There are very limited service providers in Ethiopia engaged in the reintegration of returnees. Therefore, it was imperative to build the capacity of service providers to support the sustainable socio-economic reintegration of migrant returnees through enhanced coordination and referral among focal institutions and key stakeholders.

- In order to support the Government of Ethiopia to overcome the challenges of reintegration, it was necessary to first understand the context of return and reintegration in Ethiopia including the current policies, processes and stakeholders involved in reintegration interventions and to analyse the opportunities and gaps in the current system and make recommendations. Accordingly, the ILO produced a *Background Reintegration Report*. This report provides not only the current context and returnee's



Professional childcare service for women returnees provided by Eshururu Training Center

needs in Ethiopia for reintegration, but also highlights best practices and examples of reintegration assistance in other countries that can be adapted to the Ethiopian context. Furthermore, it provides an in-depth analysis of the policy environment for return and reintegration in Ethiopia and discusses both migration specific and non-migration specific policies relevant to return and reintegration.



https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_647745.pdf

- The ILO in close collaboration with MoLSA developed and validated a Reintegration package, based on the Background Reintegration Report. This package is a tool that is expected to serve as a point of reference and practical guide for the Government of Ethiopia, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to develop programs in support of the successful reintegration of returnees back into their community and labour market. This package is a living document that identifies and lists



out systems, programs and activities that need to be put in place to support successful reintegration of returnees.



https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_647520.pdf

- ▶ Based on recommendation of the package, ILO supported MoLSA, the National Anti-trafficking task force, and the Federal and Oromia Region Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency (UJCFSA) in the development of a National Reintegration Directive. The Directive, endorsed at Ministerial level in September 2018, will serve as a legal document to reinforce the use of common methods and approaches in reintegration of returnees at the national level. The Directive, sensitized to all regions and city administrations, further articulates the specific role and responsibilities of different actors in the process of ensuring smooth and effective reintegration process in the country.
- ▶ The ILO arranged a study tour in Sri Lanka for high level government officials of the Amhara National Regional State. The delegation, led by the President's Office and Chair of the Amhara Regional Anti-Trafficking Taskforce, was able to learn good practices and experience on managing labour migration, reintegration of returnees and enhancing the developmental impact of migration.
- ▶ The ILO in partnership with International Training Center (ITC)-ILO designed a three months coaching training programme to promote entrepreneurship for 28 key government officials in the three regions. The certified 28 officials will help young returnee entrepreneurs to start new business and make it productive and sustainable in their respective regions.
- ▶ The ILO in partnership with International Training Center (ITC)-ILO designed a three months coaching training programme to promote Entrepreneurship for 28 key government officials in the three regions. The certified 28 officials will help young returnees' entrepreneurs to start new business and make it productive and sustainable in their respective regions



Exhibition on project achievements - Knowledge sharing forum - 05 December 2018 - Addis Ababa

- ▶ ILO also filled the knowledge gap on the matter by commissioning the following reports:
 - **Situation and needs assessment of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** – ILO commissioned an assessment to study the status and needs of KSA returnees in order to better coordinate efforts in supporting their sustainable reintegration, with a focus on skills development interventions towards labour market demand.



https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670539.pdf



- **Assessment of business services and training market** – ILO conducted a study to clarify the demand of the target beneficiaries, both technical and decent livelihood needs as well as identify existing financial and non-financial service providers (and their capacity) to improve livelihood opportunities for returnees.



https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670538.pdf

- **Rapid market assessment of six sectors** – ILO conducted a study to help in identifying the sectors and value chains that are most able to absorb returnees in the country.



https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_621368.pdf

- **National mapping of stakeholders working in migration and reintegration of returnees** – In collaboration with the National Anti-Trafficking taskforce, the ILO conducted a mapping of existing stakeholders working on migration governance at federal, regional and woreda levels in Ethiopia to improve coordination and collaboration.
- **Assessment on private employment agencies (PrEA) service provision in Ethiopia** – In collaboration with MoLSA, ILO commissioned an assessment on the effectiveness of services provided by PrEA at national/local level and identify challenges and opportunities vis a vis the triangular employment relationship for possible concrete and actionable policy level recommendation in order to ensure decent work for beneficiaries.
- **Assessment of the national employment services provision and labour market information collection and utilization in Ethiopia** – The assessment presented a qualitative and quantitative data related to employment service provision and labour market information system in Ethiopia. It also provided a comprehensive analysis of existing employment services provision systems,

process and labour market information system and assessed the extent of its efficiency and effectiveness. Finally, it identified the capacity gaps of MoLSA on effective response to labour market supply demand dynamics and its technical and technology gaps as well.



https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_648436.pdf

- **Awareness Raising Interventions to Prevent Irregular Migration in Ethiopia** – The study assessed awareness-raising initiatives undertaken by the GoE and other key stakeholders to deter irregular migration. The study looked at the various communication strategies including mass media, training, community conversation and infotainment programmes used to reach broader audience as well as targeted vulnerable social groups.



https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670537.pdf



Mini media engagement on the issue of regular and irregular labour migration and return and reintegration



SUMMARY OF PROJECT TARGET vis a vis ACHIEVEMENTS

S/N	Description	Project target	Achievement
1	Returnees and local vulnerable community (LVC) provided with support and started their own business or got employment	7,000	9,200
2	Vulnerable returnees have been referred to appropriate services (i.e shelter, medical services, psycho-social counselling)	3,000	2,962
3	Returnees and local vulnerable community members have acquired knowledge on technical and/or financial skills and/or business development services (BDS) by the end of the project	20,000	19,278
4	Returnees and local vulnerable community members have received entrepreneurship, motivational and financial and managerial training	15,300	13,755
5	Returnees and local vulnerable community members have received technical and vocational training	8,000	12,280
6	Returnees and local vulnerable community members have received access to credit services	3,800	3,215

5. LESSON LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES



Within the implementation period, the ILO has recorded a number of relevant lessons learned and good practices that are critical factors for success.

a. Lessons Learned

Coordination and accountability of partners and establishment of referral mechanism: Reintegration touches upon a number of crosscutting issues, especially in a development context. Therefore, return and reintegration support requires a coordinated effort and the management entails the involvement and partnership of different stakeholders mandated to administer specific components of the support. Institutional, structural and coordination are major challenges within government and non-government institutions due to lack of clarity on mandate, responsibility, commitment and accountability of each stakeholder. To this end, the project facilitated the signing of a MoU between ILO and sector offices at regional level to ensure coordination for the provision of effective support to returnees. Despite the establishment of a coordination mechanism, due to lack of accountability mechanism it was a major challenge to ensure coordination hence accountable coordination mechanism is critical for effective and efficient sustainable reintegration and better commitment of key stakeholders. With the development of the reintegration directive, coordination among key partners as well as their accountability in the delivery of effective support to returnees is envisaged with a proper referral mechanism.

Accurate and practical information on available support and services: High level of mismatch exists between migrant returnees' expectation upon return and available resources and government capacity to deliver the required services. Migrant returnees' claim that they were given a lot of promise and hope about the kind of support and assistance they will get by government, this has resulted in an unrealistic expectation and subsequent frustration. To counter balance this the project had to carry out a series of awareness raising initiatives on available opportunities to ensure that the beneficiaries are aware of possible

livelihood opportunities in their localities and to increase awareness on available service put in place for the youth, specifically returnees'. Hence awareness raising initiatives and sensitization on available services with accurate and realistic information should be conducted in all regions.

Individualized, multidimensional and phased reintegration support to returnees: The Reintegration background report commissioned by ILO in 2017 confirmed that a one size-fits all approach to reintegration support is not applicable when providing reintegration support, since it has to recognize the heterogeneity of returnees and their needs. Furthermore, the inclusion of three domains within the reintegration package namely economic, socio-cultural and psychosocial could help understand migrant returnees experience in a holistic manner¹⁸. An individual returnee can be supported through one of these domains, in two of these domains, or in all three domains simultaneously. These different domains of reintegration require different processes that will generally occur over different periods of time. This means that an individual will go through different phases of reintegration and require different support throughout the reintegration process. The reintegration package developed by ILO identifies the following four stages¹⁹:

- ▶ Pre-return;
- ▶ Immediate post-arrival assistance;
- ▶ Short-term reintegration; and
- ▶ Long-term reintegration.

State and non-state actors coordination: Returning migrant workers face various challenges during their migration and upon their return, which requires the provision of individualized and comprehensive reintegration assistance to ensure their effective socio-economic reintegration into the country. The

¹⁸ ILO, Reintegration Background, 2017 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_647745.pdf

¹⁹ ILO, Reintegration Package for Ethiopia, 2017 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_647520.pdf



assessment of business service and training market conducted by ILO in 2014 identified various government and non-government stakeholders available to provide financial and non-financial services to improve livelihood opportunities for migrant returnees. Similarly, the study encouraged the provision of services to returnees in a harmonious manner by both government actors and non-government entities. Noting the limited capacity of government partners to address issues faced by migrant returnees, strengthening their capacity and involving the non-state actors in a coordinated manner has been observed as indispensable.

Enhanced and systematized information management: The importance of effective usage of data in today's evolving business world is evident. According to the ILO assessment²⁰ appropriate tools to collect and manage data and to generate user-friendly information are needed for policy making, decision-making and to populate lessons-learned log. With this understanding, it has been perceived essential to systematically record data on returnees upon their arrival. Recording comprehensive data assist to better understand the needs of migrant returnees and customize the reintegration assistance accordingly. Furthermore, the use of database management system will minimize data inconsistency, improve data sharing and simplify the referral mechanism.

b. Good Practices

Strengthening the capacity of relevant government stakeholders': The Government of Ethiopia managed the November 2013 repatriation in partnership with humanitarian actors. However, the government's capacity to assist in the reintegration effort was limited. In line with the provision of support, the project strengthened the capacity of government institutions to enable them provide the needed service for returnees and ensure sustainability of project interventions. However, despite the effort of the project to strengthen the capacity of key government stakeholders, a system needs to be established where reintegration assistance starts immediately upon return.

²⁰ ILO, Assessment of Business Service and Training Market, 2014
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---africa/---ro-addis_ababa/---sro-addis_ababa/documents/publication/wcms_670538.pdf

Standardization of training modules specific to returnees: The situation and needs assessment commissioned by ILO stated that 32 per cent of respondents have some sort of skills to generate income (ILO, 2014, p. 26) and that more than half require training support. Taking this into account, a short training module that incorporates life skills training, financial literacy and entrepreneurship as well as vocational skills training was specifically designed for returnees as it is key for reintegration support. The ILO through the project standardized entrepreneurship and motivational skills training as well as short term vocational skills training which ensured consistency and quality of training provided to migrant returnees. These designed trainings also capitalized on the already acquired skills of returnees abroad.

Interventions designed based on research and returnees profile: The ILO conducted a situation and needs assessment of returnees; an assessment of the business service and training market as well as the financial and non-financial service providers; and a rapid market assessment in the three migrant prone regions to inform the design and intervention of the project. The situation and needs assessment of KSA returnees helped to better coordinate efforts in supporting their sustainable reintegration. Equally, the mapping of service providers' clarified the available services and identified their capacity to improve livelihood opportunities in the three regions. Finally, the market study identified sectors with viable business potential to inform technical skills service provision and enterprise development. Further to filling out this knowledge gap, profiling of returnees is critical, it would be pertinent to compile data before their return or upon their arrival.

Partnering with private sector and specialized NGOs': Given the critical capacity limitation of government partners, the project also partnered with private sector and specialized non-governmental organization. Stakeholders such as the private sector and NGOs' have a key role in assisting migrant returnees to reintegrate into their community and the labour market. On one side, specialized NGOs' provide thorough support and follow up with beneficiaries; and on the other side, the private sector plays a key role in the



economic reintegration of migrant returnees by creating employment opportunities. Partnership with these stakeholders has been recorded as best practice. ILO partnered with AGAR Ethiopia for the provision of psychosocial support and with Women in Self Employment (WISE) to support migrant returnees' establish cooperatives in their localities. Moreover, ILO partnered with different private sectors such as Eshururu Training Center, Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association and Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association to enhance beneficiaries' skills and facilitate wage employment.

Development of a Reintegration Package and Reintegration Directive: Following the massive return of migrant workers from KSA in 2013, the reintegration aspect was not well addressed. This is partly due to the absence of a comprehensive and national level reintegration support structure in the country. Most stakeholders including service providers, government, NGO's and development actors mainly focused on fragmented and non-coherent specific short-term support. The use different approaches by different stakeholders resulted in the lack of coordination, sustainability and efficiency of service provision. With this in mind, the ILO in partnership with MoLSA developed a "*Reintegration Package for Ethiopia*" so that it can serve as a point of reference and practical guide for different stakeholders involved in the support of sustainable reintegration of returnees. Moreover, the package was reinforced with a national level "*Reintegration Directive*", which is a legal document that ensures the provision of uniform approaches to reintegration of returnees in Ethiopia.

Provision of community based reintegration assistance: The ILO Reintegration Package developed in 2017 highlights the provision of community-based support as a major principle to guide interventions. In order to avoid conflict between locals/host community and returnees and avoid encouraging locals that have not migrated to migrate, the package illustrates that returnees must not be given any preferential treatment and provision of support must focus on community-based services. Accordingly, the ILO has implemented the project targeting returnees and local vulnerable community members to benefit from

socio-economic support. Particular attention has been paid to vulnerable groups within the large returnee population, including women, youth, victims of abuse and exploitation etc. Moreover, beyond the returnee category vulnerable local communities have also been targeted as beneficiaries that included unemployed youth, female headed households, persons with disability etc.

Linking reintegration interventions with existing developmental policies and strategies: Looking at the global approach, the reintegration support is highly efficient and effective when it is embedded within or closely with national economic development as well as the overall migration governance structure. The implementation of the reintegration support provided by ILO was achieved through the linkages of existing different strategies including the Ethiopian Overseas Employment proclamation 923/2016 that focuses on the protection of overseas Ethiopian workers and partly highlights the reintegration component; the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants proclamation 909/2015 that provides measures in providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking including returnees; and the GTP II that orients the government's effort toward economic development, which concerns returnees as much as any other citizen. Furthermore, implementation of the project has been designed purposefully to fit with existing government services to ensure sustainability.



6. CASE STORIES





Fatuma Seid

Woreda: Jaju

Employment during migration: Worked as a housekeeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2014

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training
- ▶ Poultry Production skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Received loan of ETB 72,000

Current living standard: Fatuma is now living in Jaju woreda, Oromia region. With ILO and the government support she started her business in petty trading in 2017. She has currently employed one person to support her in sells.



Ayelech Tilahun

Woreda: Adaba

Employment during migration: Worked as a housekeeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2014

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training
- ▶ Poultry Production skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Received loan of ETB 45,000 repaid her loan in total and received another loan of ETB35,000
- ▶ Receive working space

Current living standard: Ayelech is now living in Adaba woreda, Oromia region. With ILO and the government support she is now a coffee shop owner. Her asset is valued at ETB100,000. She has currently employed her sister Alemtsehay to support her in her business.



Mako Jemal

Woreda: Jaju

Employment during migration: Worked as a housekeeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2014

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training
- ▶ Poultry Production skills training

Additional service received:

Received loan of ETB 75,000

Current living standard: Mako is now living in Jaju woreda, Oromia region. With ILO and the government support she is a cattle trader and an onion grower. From the income of the two business Mako is raising 6 kids and is able to make a decent living.



Zenabu Sherefu

Woreda: Setema

Employment during migration: Worked as a livestock keeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2013

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training
- ▶ Beef fattening skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Received loan of ETB 200,000 in a group and each received approximately ETB65,000 to start their business in 2017
- ▶ Provided with land

Current living standard: Zenabu is now living in Sigimo woreda, Oromia region. With ILO and the government support he owns 6 cattle which he bought each for ETB10,000. The value of each beef is currently estimated at ETB18,000.



Yousouf Rago, Fuad Bedru, Ismael Dida and Abdulkerif Reshid

Woreda: Setema

Employment during migration: Worked as wood worker, factory worker and painter in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2013

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training
- ▶ Beef fattening skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Received loan of ETB 200,000 in a group
- ▶ Provided with land

Current living standard: The group with ILO and the government support purchased 11 cattle and sold them back with a profit of ETB1,000 each. Currently, they all live in Sigimo woreda, Oromia region and own 10 cattle and lead decent livelihoods.



Abrehayley Guebreziher

Woreda: Atsbi Wumberta

Employment during migration: Worked as cattle keeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2014

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training
- ▶ Beef fattening skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Received an award of ETB20,000

Current living standard: Further to ILO and Adonay Relief and Development Association support in training, Abrehayley took a loan from his family and purchased 2 cattle amounting to ETB7,500 each to commence his life as an entrepreneur. Due to his personal dedication and effort he was awarded ETB20,000 as best performing individual where he purchased additional 2 cattle. Currently he lives in Atsbi Wumberta woreda, Tigray region, and his current asset is valued at ETB52,000 with the current market.



Tarikwa Tekle

Woreda: Wukro

Employment during migration: Worked as House keeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2014

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Received loan amounting to ETB100,000

Current living standard: With the few knowledge she had in using a computer, Tarikwa opened an internet café with ILO and the government support. The café provides various service from internet utilization to photocopy and she also sells different phone accessories. Currently she has a successful business and has three employees. She plans to expand her business and purchase a fax machine.



Guebrecherkos Hailay

Woreda: Wukro

Employment during migration: Worked as cattle keeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2014

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training
- ▶ Garment production skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Received loan amounting to ETB60,000 in a group and each received ETB20,000
- ▶ Provided with working space

Current living standard: Prior to his migration Guebrecherkos was employed in a garment production shop and had interest in the area. Currently he is leaving in Wukro woreda, Tigray region. He owns a garment production shop and has two employees. He expects to fully repay his loan and take another one to expand his business.



Fozia Hassen

Woreda: Kemisse

Employment during migration: Worked as a housekeeper in Saudi Arabia

Return date: 2013

Training received:

- Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training

Additional service received:

- Land from the city administration where she built a container (6x3 sq. m) for a café from the loan she obtained of ETB 20,000 (MFI) in addition to the same amount she put up. Also receives continuous BDS support from MSE/TVED

Current living standard: “I would have returned to Saudi if it was not for ILO’s training”, Fozia had said. She plans to open a cosmetics shop elsewhere, once her lease is up. Currently, she provides for her mother and unemployed brothers.



Ahmed Mohamed Ali

Woreda: Chefa Robit

Employment during migration: Unknown

Return date: 2013

Training received:

- Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training

Additional service received:

- Work-space (container) for tailoring business; loan of ETB10,000 for business expansion

Current living standard: With the entrepreneurship training at hand, Ahmed trained himself with tailoring skills and purchased his own tailoring machine. Later he took a loan to expand his business.



Mecca Ahmed

Woreda: Mersa

Employment during migration: Unknown

Return date: 2013

Training received:

- ▶ Entrepreneurship and motivational skills training and garment and textile vocational skills training

Additional service received:

- ▶ Work-space (container) for tailoring business

Current living standard: With the entrepreneurship training at hand, She trained herself with tailoring skills and purchased her own tailoring machine, and opened a tailors shop in the shed provided from the city. She obtained a tailoring skills training in 2016. She declined to take a loan (with interest) as she believed it was against her faith (Muslim). Instead, she took a loan from family for her business start-up.



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