



Concept Note

Mission to Kuwait City, Kuwait and Doha, Qatar

Workshop: Strengthening the Capacity of Ethiopian Migrant Workers Association

Background

The ILO's Country Office for Ethiopia and Somalia is implementing a project entitled, *“Development of a Tripartite Framework for the Support and Protection of Ethiopian Women Domestic Migrant Workers (MWDs) to the GCC States, Lebanon and Sudan” with the financial support of the European Union (EU)*. The project aims at better providing decent standards at work and protect human rights of women migrant domestic workers from Ethiopia throughout the process of migration – from their place of origin to their destination, all through their employment in private households in the Middle East and in Sudan, and up until their return home. It places special emphasis on young women, who make up the majority of migrants in this group. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the policy and operational framework of migration in Ethiopia to ensure safe and legal migration workers to Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC) and improve the protection and reintegration of returnees as an integral part of the socio-economic development agenda for possible expansion and replication.

Rational of the Mission to Kuwait and Qatar

The project working in partnership with national and regional governments, civil society, employer's organization, trade unions, the private sector and other international organizations seeks to take on a mission to Kuwait and Qatar to empower Ethiopian MWs by strengthening institutional and social environments to claim their rights and entitlements. In this context, the ILO in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign affairs –Women Affairs Directorate General

intends to support the Ethiopian MWs association in Kuwait and Qatar by building the capacity of the association by providing leadership and management, financial literacy, and life skill training to the association's management and members. The workshop aims to discuss the main achievements, challenges, opportunities and partnerships established by the association; to review and provide guidance for activities by the association aimed at promoting decent work for migrant domestic workers; to review and advise on priority areas of the association and to ensure that the synergies with parallel initiatives in protecting and promoting the rights of MDWs is created and further amplified between the Ethiopian Consulate, the association and MoFA

The proposed capacity building initiative on strengthening associations will assist in enhanced monitoring of the situation of Ethiopian MDWs on arrival, placement and return.

Objectives of the Mission to Kuwait and Qatar

To provide financial literacy and life skill trainings to assist the migrants to save, build assets and insure their livelihood risks against death, disability and accidents affordably;

- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices in protecting and promoting the rights of Ethiopian MWs and those of their families in Kuwait and Qatar;
- To understand the required structure necessary to support and empower Ethiopian women MDWs in Kuwait and Qatar;
- To support Ethiopian Migrant association to serve as a catalyst to ensure that: migrants' have access to health and legal services, social security and health insurance schemes; and improve services of diplomatic and consular missions to protect and ultimately assist women MDWs in Kuwait and Qatar;

Methodology

The forum is designed as an interactive and participatory exercise encouraging situation and gap analysis as well as information sharing through discussions and working group activities. The forum will involve the participation of women MDW's. Participants will be provided with relevant information through presentations, personal accounts and multi-media materials.

Expected results

1. Strong Ethiopian migrant association that stands to protect the rights of migrant workers;
2. Domestic workers enjoy their basic rights as per international labour standards;
3. Protect Ethiopian migrant workers in their struggle for freedom of association and social justice;
4. Access to financial services especially savings and insurance;
5. Increased membership base Ethiopian Migrant Women's Association;
6. Improved social protection of Ethiopian's in Kuwait and Qatar; and
7. Enhanced knowledge of MWs regarding their rights, duties and obligation.
8. Secured equal conditions for migrant workers and non-migrant workers alike, and combat exploitation and social dumping.
9. Tripartite consultation and decision-making mechanisms to address situations related to the status of migrant workers, social protection aspects and facilitating the regularization of the status of migrant workers trapped in irregular situations

Duration:

Doha, Qatar: 26-27 May, 2016

Kuwait City, Kuwait: 2-3, June 2016

Participants

- Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign affairs –Women Affairs Directorate General
- Ethiopian Consulate General in Kuwait and Qatar
- International Labour Organization
- Members of the Association
- Ethiopian Migrant Domestic Workers in Kuwait and Qatar