



International  
Labour  
Organization

# Situations and Needs Assessment of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**International Labour Organization (ILO)  
Country Office for Ethiopia and Somalia  
and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs  
(MOLSA)**

# **Situations and needs of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Assessment report**

Habtamu Getnet Consulting Firm  
Edited version prepared by Mebratu Gebeyehu  
and Yoseph Endeshaw



Copyright © International Labour Organization 2018

First published 2018

Publications of the International Labour Office enjoy copyright under Protocol 2 of the Universal Copyright Convention. Nevertheless, short excerpts from them may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. For rights of reproduction or translation, application should be made to ILO Publications (Rights and Licensing), International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland, or by email: [pubdroit@ilo.org](mailto:pubdroit@ilo.org). The International Labour Office welcomes such applications.

Libraries, institutions and other users registered with a reproduction rights organization may make copies in accordance with the licences issued to them for this purpose. Visit [www.ifrro.org](http://www.ifrro.org) to find the reproduction rights organization in your country.

---

Title: Situations and Needs Assessment of Ethiopian returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ISBN 978-92-2-132364-8 (print)

ISBN 978-92-2-132365-5 (web)

ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data

---

The designations employed in ILO publications, which are in conformity with United Nations practice, and the presentation of material therein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Labour Office concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles, studies and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute an endorsement by the International Labour Office of the opinions expressed in them.

Reference to names of firms and commercial products and processes does not imply their endorsement by the International Labour Office, and any failure to mention a particular firm, commercial product or process is not a sign of disapproval.

ILO publications and electronic products can be obtained through major booksellers or ILO local offices in many countries, or direct from ILO Publications, International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland. Catalogues or lists of new publications are available free of charge from the above address, or by email: [pubvente@ilo.org](mailto:pubvente@ilo.org)

Visit our web site: [www.ilo.org/publns](http://www.ilo.org/publns)

Printed in Ethiopia

Design and layout by Ayaana Publishing Plc., Ethiopia, [info@ayaana.net](mailto:info@ayaana.net)

# Foreword

In the last decade, Ethiopia has simultaneously become a major sending country of migrant domestic workers to the Middle East mainly to Saudi Arabia; and the largest refugee-hosting nation in Africa. A number of pull and push factors are at interplay for outward and inward migration in Ethiopia, the major one being lack of employment opportunities. Although the exact figures are not known, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimates that there are around two million Ethiopian migrants living abroad. Despite Ethiopia being one of the fastest growing economies in Africa recording double digits, over the last two decades, this has not been job rich. Creating decent employment opportunities remain a challenge for the country, with up to 3 million young Ethiopians enter the labour market every year.

In November 2013, the Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) decided to expel undocumented migrants as part of the “Saudization” of the 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 (IOM report, 2014). Given the sudden and unprepared nature of this forced repatriation and with little or no fallback position, the seamless reintegration of these returnees has been painfully slow and largely unaddressed. The Government of Ethiopia, together with other humanitarian actors successfully managed the return, but the reintegration process still remains a challenge in the country.

To better understand the need of the returnees and develop evidence based reintegration program this “*Situation and needs assessment of KSA returnees*” was undertaken in selected migrant prone regions of Ethiopia namely Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, SNNP and Addis Ababa City Administration. The assessment was able to cover the whole migration cycle, it provides an insight on the returnees’ status prior to migration, in destination country as well as upon return.

This assessment provides a profiling of 2,039 KSA returnees including their education level, marital status, age category, gender, occupation/status prior to migration as well as upon return, asset ownership and socio-economic conditions of returnees. Moreover, it provides an in depth analysis of the causes and costs of migration as well as the needs of returnees to sustainably reintegrate into the labour market, which ranges from access to finance, working premises to access to technical support (skills and knowledge). According to the findings, the majority of the returnees came back empty handed because of the usage of their earnings for consumption and remittances. Many of the returnees also experience severe hardships during their stay and during return, which caused them medical and psychological problems.

It is expected that the findings and practical recommendations of the assessments will support the Government of Ethiopia and other development actors to develop well informed reintegration program, which will support sustainable reintegration of returnees in Ethiopia.

I would like to congratulate the Government of Ethiopia in its effort to effectively manage the sudden mass return of returnees' from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and particularly the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and its regional counterparts, the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs, for their collaboration in undertaking this assessment. Finally, I would like to thank the European Union who is funding the ILO project "Support to the reintegration of returnees in Ethiopia" under which this assessment was published.

**George Okutho**

Director

ILO Country Office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan  
and Special Representative to the African Union (AU)  
and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

# Acknowledgements

Undertaking this assessment would have not been possible without the meticulous work, strong support and contribution of a number of people and various organizations.

Foremost, thanks go to informants of this assessment: the Saudi returnees and their family members, community members, and the representatives of different levels of government organizations who committed their time to provide information and share their knowledge with us. Their accounts form the basis of this assessment.

We acknowledge the leadership and relevant staff of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Country Office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and for the Special Representative to the AU and the ECA and the FDRE Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for coordinating and playing an essential role in the assessment process. Our particular thanks go to Aida Awel and Herodawit Merid who coordinated and provided liaison services relating to different aspects of the assessment work. Our special acknowledgement goes to Mr Abebe Haile for his indispensable suggestions, guidance and the encouragement he provided on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all local and international governmental and non-governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders for their contribution to the successful accomplishment of this assessment.

We also acknowledge the principal consultants, team leaders, supervisors and data collectors of this assessment for their courageous and dedicated team efforts, which provided a crucial contribution to the completion of the assessment.

The views expressed in this report are those of the informants of this assessment as narrated and articulated by the researchers (consultants). They do not reflect the official opinion of the International Labour Organisation and the FDRE Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

## **MesKay Business**

**(Sleshi Temesgen, Shirega Minuye, Negassa Gissila, Lema Gutema, Nigussie Geletu)**



# Table of Contents

Executive Summary	XIV
Abbreviations	XIX
1. Introduction	1
1.1. Background of the study	1
1.2. International reintegration support schemes for returnees	2
1.3. Migration patterns and current trends in Ethiopia	4
1.4. Migration to the Gulf and Middle Eastern countries	5
1.5. Saudi returnees and post arrival assistance	6
1.6. Objectives of the assessment	7
2. Assessment methodology and tools	9
2.1. Assessment area coverage	9
2.2. Assessment methodology	9
2.3. Data collection techniques and tools	11
2.3.1. Quantitative data	11
2.3.2. Qualitative data	11
2.3.3. Literature review	12
2.3.4. Data collection and quality assurance	12
2.4. Data management and analysis	13
2.5. Ethical considerations	13
3. Assessment results and discussions	15
3.1. Socio-demographic profile of respondents	15
3.2. Livelihood of returnees	21
3.2.1. Occupation	21
3.2.2. Ownership of assets	21
3.2.3. Social capital	25
3.2.4. Human capital	25
3.2.5. Socio-economic status of returnees pre-migration and post-return	27
3.3. Migration history of returnees	29
3.3.1. Migration trends	29
3.3.2. Causes for migration	30
3.3.3. Pre-arrangement, facilitation and costs of migration	32
3.4. Reintegration process and implementation	39
3.4.1. Returnees overall support for reintegration	39
3.5. Sustainable livelihood needs of returnees	43
3.5.1. Needs of returnees	43

3.5.2. Access to services and possible challenges for a sustainable livelihood	47
3.5.3. Aspirations of returnees	49
3.5.4. Returnees reintegration: stakeholder responses	50
3.5.5. Returnees' reintegration within families and communities	52
3.6. Gaps and challenges in reintegration	54
4. Conclusions and recommendations	57
4.1. Conclusions	57
4.2. Recommendations	58
5. Bibliography	61
Annex A: Data Collection Tools	63
A.1 Returnees Assessment Questionnaire	63
A.2 FGD Guide for government sector	74
A.3 Focus group discussion	75
A.4 FGD Guide for government sector (region level)s	76

# List of tables

Table 1. Zones and woredas covered by the assessment by region	9
Table 2. Number of sampled returnees and their families/guardians by region	11
Table 3. Number of government staff and community participants in the FGD by region	12
Table 4. Number of the respondents by region, zone and woreda	15
Table 5. Number of interviewed returnees by sex by region	17
Table 6. Age category of sampled returnees by region	18
Table 7. Educational status of interviewed returnees by region	20
Table 8. Occupational status of returnees by region	21
Table 9. Types of assets owned by respondents by region	22
Table 10. Quantity of assets owned by returnees by region	23
Table 11. Current market price of assets owned by returnees in Ethiopian birr	24
Table 12. Returnees' membership of institutions	25
Table 13. Health problems reported by returnees	26
Table 14. Frequency of addictions in the returnees by type	26
Table 15. Returnees' assessment of their socio-economic condition	27
Table 16. Employment status of returnees pre-migration, abroad, and post-return	27
Table 17. Employment status after return by region	28
Table 18. Average monthly income (birr) of returnees pre-migration, abroad, and post-return	29
Table 19. Factors that motivated returnees to migrate abroad by region	30
Table 20. Facilitators of migration by region	33
Table 21. Returnees' average costs of migration incurred by region	35
Table 22. Typical sources of finance for migration by region	36
Table 23. Types of challenges and abuses endured by returnees	38
Table 24. Types of support provided to returnees	39
Table 25. Support provided to returnees by institution	40
Table 26. Returnees' evaluation of their return home	43
Table 27. Support for returnees suggested by interviewees per type and region	44
Table 28. Support for returnees suggested by interviewees per type, disaggregated by region	46
Table 29. Suggested types of support by returnees' families to fully reintegrate the returnees	46
Table 30. Possible challenges: external and internal factors	48
Table 31. Access to services by returnees	48

Table 32. Family members' feelings about sending family members to Saudi Arabia	49
Table 33. Family members' involvement in the decision of returnees to migrate	49
Table 34. Aspirations for the future	50

## List of figures

Figure 1. Religion of the sampled returnees by region	19
Figure 2. Migration trends (number of migrants per year)	30
Figure 3. Routes of migration	34
Figure 4. Percentage of Challenges faced by returnees during migration	36
Figure 5. Abuses suffered by returnees by region	37
Figure 6. Percentage of beneficiaries that have benefited from emergency support by region	40
Figure 7. Support provided per region and per institution	42
Figure 8. Needs of returnees disaggregated to regions	45
Figure 9. Support sought per region	47

# Executive summary

## 1.1. Background of the study and assessment approach

For the past three decades, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has been a major destination for Ethiopian migrant workers. As the migrants use both formal and informal or illegal routes, it is almost impossible to exactly determine the number of Ethiopians who travelled to Saudi Arabia. Following the changes in foreign workers' legislation in the KSA, the government recently deported approximately 370,000 irregular migrants (World Bank Press Release, 2014). Many of these migrants were from Ethiopia, Egypt and Yemen.

The bulk deportation of Ethiopians started during November 2013. Recent estimates indicate Ethiopian returnees from the KSA to date numbered about 170,000. Most of them returned empty-handed and have faced different economic and psychosocial challenges (IOM Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, 2013). The repatriation was an unexpected phenomenon requiring a prompt response. The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the relevant stakeholders coordinated emergency efforts in order to manage the repatriation process.

However, programmes supporting returnees to sustainably integrate and make a living in their homeland are still in their infancy. Such programmes would require a well-designed and integrated intervention of stakeholders at all levels, giving rise to the necessity for a study of the needs of the KSA returnees. The aim of this study is to assess the status and the needs of the KSA returnees in order to better coordinate efforts in supporting their sustainable reintegration.

The study was conducted in selected regions, based mainly on numbers of returnees, including Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Tigray and the Addis Ababa City Administration. A cross-sectional survey was undertaken in June 2014 to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. A total of 2,039 returnees and their families (1,988) were interviewed using structured questionnaires. Specifically, the assessment covered randomly selected returnees and their families from 11 zones, 30 *woredas* (districts), and 108 *kebeles* (wards), both rural and urban. Descriptive statistical procedures were used to analyse the data and present the findings. The assessment has involved different stakeholders at all levels.

## 1.2. Study results

### 1.2.1. Profile of the sampled returnees

Among the 2,039 interviewed returnees, 1,152 (56.4%) were males and 887 (43.6%) were females. Most of the returnees (79.8%) were in the economically active age group (18–30 years old); 2.9% and 17.2% of the returnees were below 18 years old and above 30 years old

respectively. Among interviewed returnees, 1,112 (54.9%) were married, 754 (37.2%) were never married, 132 (6.5%) were divorced, 14 (0.7%) were separated and 11 (0.5%) were widowed. A total of 34.4% of the returnees had at least one child, moreover 77% of the returnees had between one and fourteen dependents to support.

With regard to literacy, 15.4% of the respondents were unable to read and write, whereas 7.8% of the returnees were reported to be capable of reading and/or writing with no formal education. Among the returnees (77%) who were reported to have formal education, 15.6% of the respondents had completed the first cycle (grades 1–4), 36.5% had completed the second cycle (grades 5–8), and 21.7% of the respondents had completed secondary school (grades 9–10). Only about 3% of the respondents had attained an educational status of preparatory secondary education<sup>1</sup> or above. This shows that the majority of KSA returnees had received a low level of education. Concerning specific professional and/or technical skills, about 32% of the returnees had some specific skills that could be used for generating income, whereas 4% reported that they had attended training to upgrade their skills.

With respect to their occupations, the study found that about 56% of the returnees were unemployed at the time when the data was collected, with variations among the regions surveyed. In Tigray, Oromia and SNNP, farming was found to be the occupation that absorbed most returnees. In Amhara, farming and trading had equal importance; while in Addis Ababa City Administration, returnees primarily found private employment (10.6%), daily work (8.6%) or started trading businesses (6.8%).

Looking into asset ownership of the returnees, on average about 25.6% owned a house, 23.7% had cash at hand, and 18.2% owned livestock. The kind of asset owned varied across regions: a larger percentage of returnees in SNNPR had house and land ownership (37.5% and 35.6% respectively); returnees in Amhara and Tigray had better cash holdings. The proportion of livestock, farming tools and business ownership, amongst other measures, varied across the regions surveyed.

In terms of returnees' participation in community institutions, nearly 36.5% of the interviewees had membership of at least one social or local financial association. Nonetheless, the majority of the respondents (63.5%) were not members of such institutions. There was more participation in the youth associations in Tigray (28%), than in *Iddir*<sup>2</sup> in Amhara (22%) and in SNNPR (21%). Participation in cooperatives was greater in Amhara (8%) than in other regions. Female returnees' participation in Women's Associations was relatively high in Tigray (5%); whereas in Oromia, no participation in Women Association was recorded among the interviewed returnees.

The challenges returnees encountered were not only economic but also multifaceted. Almost 16% of interviewed returnees reported that they suffered from various health issues, such as psychological trauma (6.7%), physical disability (2.9%) and other chronic illnesses (4%). A significant proportion of the returnees (78%) indicated that their health problems hindered them to some extent from engaging in productive work.

---

1 Preparatory secondary education refers to second cycle (Grades XI and XII)

2 *Iddir* is an informal insurance arrangement used in Ethiopia

The findings show that the socio-economic condition of the returnees declined post-return compared to pre-migration. Likewise, both their employment status and income was better while they were abroad: 67% of the respondents had employment on a full time basis while they were abroad, as opposed to 5% pre-migration and 3.5% post-return. The post-return unemployment rate (56%) was slightly higher than the pre-migration rate (52.8%). Similarly, the average monthly income of the returnees had increased while abroad (3,966.45 Ethiopian birr, hereafter birr) compared to pre-migration (355.02 birr), but it was reduced after return to an average of 310.69 birr.

### **1.2.2. Causes and costs of migration**

The sampled returnees departed in different periods to their destination countries. Some migrations dated back to 1985 in the Ethiopian Calendar (EC), or 1992/93 in the Gregorian Calendar (GC), while the most recent ones were in 2006 EC (2013/14 GC). There has been an increase in departures since 1996 EC (2003/04 GC), reaching its peak in 2005 EC (2012/13 GC), only to decline dramatically in 2006 EC (2013/14 GC). More than half of the respondents (56.35%) migrated abroad during 2010-2013 GC, and most of the returnees (65.3%) had gone abroad illegally. Only 18% and 13% of the returnees attended, prior to their departure, formal orientations from the Ethiopian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and employment agencies respectively.

The main reason for migration was found to be seeking employment (64.3%), followed by searching for better life and/or higher payment (32%). According to the family members of the returnees, the major causes of migration were economic reasons (94.8%), whereas peer pressure accounted for 2.7% of departures. The participants in the focus group discussion (FGD) explained that poverty, unemployment, inflationary pressure, limited access to facilities to work such as working space, land and loans and an inability to generate income, were among the main reasons for migration. Family and peer pressure, poor education quality, deceiving information and speculation from illegal human traffickers were also mentioned as reasons for migration. Low levels of awareness on the part of the migrating workers and their families had exacerbated these factors. Among actors that had facilitated the travel abroad, the major ones were the returnees themselves (40.2%), traffickers (30%), and legal employment agencies (24.2%). The role of local traffickers was much more significant than that of those operating at a regional or national level. For example, in Tigray the role of local traffickers was rated as significant by 26% of the respondents, while the regional and national human traffickers were only mentioned by 8% and 1% of the interviewees respectively. This suggests that irregular migration was driven primarily by local brokers, being the ones who hunted, targeted, deceived and pressured prospective migrants to travel illegally. This point was further emphasized by the different focus group discussions of this assessment.

Different actors were involved in the process of migration and charged significant monetary costs, giving rise to other attendant challenges during migration. The total average cost of migration reported by the returnees was 18,000 birr. This average sum was spent mainly divided between legal requirements, broker's fees and transportation costs. The respondents reported that this money was usually drawn from different sources, among others, from a loan (40.6%), by selling assets (32.4%), or from personal and family cash (22.8%). To put the sum in perspective, the costs incurred for migrating constitute sufficient capital to start a small or micro business in Ethiopia.

### 1.2.3. Efforts for reintegration

The coordinated effort between the government and stakeholders managed the repatriation process better than expected. However, the assessment recognized that reintegrating and rehabilitating such a large number of returnees, remains an unfinished assignment for all stakeholders. The assessment revealed that there was a gap between the returnees' expectations and the implementation of their sought actions. Based on their account of events, immediately after their return, the matter became a high priority in the national agenda and received the attention of the government and donor agencies. However, the returnees argued that focus and attention faded over time.

The reasons underpinning slow and lower reintegration efforts mentioned by the returnees included a lack of integrated coordination, a lack of clear responsibilities and mandates, a lack of commitment, a lack of consistent monitoring and evaluation at the *woreda* level, as well as limited involvement of non-governmental organizations. In their accounts, returnees highlighted the potential challenges that could hinder them in their efforts to establish sustainable livelihoods. Lack of working capital (91.5%), lack of working premises (88.7%), lack of technical support (75.3%), lack of access to credit (74.0%), lack of skills or knowledge (56.0%), and lack of family support (41.2%), were among the major factors mentioned by the participants of the study that could compromise the returnees' income-generating activities, necessary to rebuilding a sustainable life.

### 1.2.4. Needs of returnees for a sustainable reintegration

The study found that approximately half of the KSA returnees believed that there were opportunities for them to economically sustain themselves and their families in their respective settlements with little support from concerned bodies. Others were not clear about the opportunities available to them, and a minority did not feel optimistic about exploiting the available opportunities in the country. Although it should be subject to further careful scrutiny and advice, the kind of support preferred and ranked first across all regions was financial support. 96% of the returnees in Tigray, 95% in Amhara, 91% in SNNPR, 90% in Oromia, and 87% in Addis Ababa preferred it. In order of preference, it was followed by training for the regions of Amhara and Addis Ababa, by business development services for Oromia, and basic needs support for Tigray and SNNPR. Furthermore, 10% of the respondents reported a need for support for their children.

Regarding the training needs of returnees, the major training areas preferred were found to be: business development services (48.4%), vocational training (37.2%), marketing training (7.9%) and computer skills training (6.0%). However, the disaggregated needs of each surveyed region indicated vocational training as the first choice for Tigray and Amhara, whereas business development was the highest priority for Tigray, marketing training for Oromia and computer skills for Addis Ababa. The participants to the focus group discussions at different *woredas* mentioned several job opportunities available in their respective areas. In urban settings, these were prevalently small businesses, such as trading, urban agriculture, poultry farming, fattening of animals, textiles, sewing, construction, and metal and woodwork. In rural areas, the following activities were suggested: farming, establishing a milling machine, production of fruit and vegetables, using irrigation systems, animal husbandry, fattening of animals and beekeeping among others.

### **1.2.5. Conclusion and recommendations**

The repatriation of Ethiopians from KSA was not only a sudden expulsion but also the first of its nature and size. It required a prompt emergency response from the Government of the FDRE, as well as a reintegration plan and action. The government managed to mobilize its resources and stakeholders and successfully repatriated and dispatched returnees to their respective localities. The responsibility of sustainably reintegrating the returnees, however, still requires much more effort and resources. It still stands as a challenge to be shouldered more effectively by the respective regional governments.

This assessment has touched a wide range of issues. However, the focus is on the reintegration and rehabilitation of the returnees. Hence, the recommendations of this report are focused on the required efforts to sustainably reintegrate and rehabilitate the KSA returnees. The following recommendations are set forth accordingly:

1. Improving employment services.
2. Increasing structural and role clarity.
3. Better coordination of stakeholders.
4. Creating an enabling environment for the returnees to make their sustainable livelihoods.
5. Enhancing opportunities for income generation and employment.

For a more detailed listing of these and further recommendations, please refer to the conclusion and recommendations chapter.

# Abbreviations

<b>BOLSA</b>	Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs
<b>DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>EC</b>	Ethiopian calendar year
<b>FDRE</b>	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<b>FGD</b>	Focus group discussion
<b>GC</b>	Gregorian calendar year
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>KSA</b>	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<b>MOLSA</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
<b>ODI</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>SNNPR</b>	Southern Nation, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>UN</b>	United Nations



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background of the study

Migration is a constant endeavour throughout human history. It is among the determining factors that shape and reshape societies, cultures and economies. Current trends indicate that migration will continue to increase in the future. Statistics from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Council indicates that the number of migrants reached 175 million at the turn of the millennium. The most recent data generated by the department revealed that worldwide migration reached a total of 232 million migrants in 2013 (UN DESA Population Division, 2013).

Migration in search of work, otherwise known as international labour migration, has increasingly become a livelihood strategy for both women and men. A number of countries are involved in international labour migration as the country of origin, destination or transit. When properly managed, international labour migration has the potential to serve as an engine of economic growth and development for all parties involved. Migrant workers benefit from skills acquired during their migration experience and countries of origin greatly benefit from remittances and from the reduction of their unemployment rate (ILO, 2010).

According to the World Bank, for many developing countries remittances are becoming an important source of foreign currency reserves. India (70 billion USD), China (60 billion USD) and the Philippines (25 billion USD) were the three largest recipients of remittances in 2013 (World Bank Press Release, 2014). While migrant workers make an enormous development contribution to both their countries of origin and destination, many – particularly those with irregular status – suffer human and labour rights violations. The problems and challenges are worse for irregular migrants. With the rise in the volume of migration over time, the need to regulate this activity, both by the sending and receiving countries as well as the international community, has also increased.

The ILO pioneered the development of international labour standards that guide the protection of migrant workers. The ILO Conventions on Migration for Employment 1949 (No.97), Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions), 1975 (No.143) and Private Employment Agencies, 1997 (No.181) are widely recognized as leading instruments for the protection of migrant workers in addition to the International (UN) Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, 1990 (Islam, 2010).

The ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) is another international instrument that offers protection for domestic workers and the right to be entitled to decent work. The Convention recognizes the right of domestic workers to join and form trade unions, which is still forbidden in many countries. It also protects the right to the minimum wage, in countries where a minimum wage exists, and defends the right to monthly payments and access to social security. The Convention gives domestic workers one day off per week and regulates their working hours. In essence, the Convention guarantees that domestic workers are treated as any other worker under labour legislation.

Despite all these international standards and the benefits reaped, international migration is marred by protracted problems that put migrants in a precarious situation before, during, and after their journey to the host country. Before they leave home, migrants are expected to pay huge sums to facilitate the migration process. If third parties are involved in the movement, the money spent for facilitation generally increases and the safety of the migrants is often in jeopardy. Trafficked persons suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, document theft, torture, debt, unlawful confinement and even death.

Even after reaching their final destinations, many migrants suffer poor working and living conditions and engage in low-paying jobs. Often they labour in unsafe working environments and are denied basic labour rights such as access to health insurance. Culture shock, language barriers and discrimination are also some of the problems faced by migrants in host countries.

Some migrants face deportation from host and transit countries even after a considerable stay in the country. Deportation of migrants has severe consequences for the migrants, their families, local communities and their sending states. Studies on the economic consequences of deportation indicate that deported workers are less likely to benefit from migrating, since they rarely acquire an opportunity to earn income, save money and gain skills and education (Kibria, 2004).

The rapid return of large numbers of migrant workers to their countries of origin within a short time period has tremendous negative consequences. These returning migrants quickly shift from being the primary provider for a family to becoming a dependant. This adjustment is often difficult and stressful for both the individual and family members. Until the returnee reintegrates and establishes a livelihood, their family may end up supporting them, placing an additional burden upon their scarce economic and financial resources (Kibria, 2004).

Social isolation and marginalization are other frequently mentioned difficulties for deportees or involuntary returnees. Migrant returnees who have lived for many years abroad may find themselves with limited social networks and lacking up-to-date knowledge on how things are done locally. The shame of returning empty-handed is almost unbearable for most of the returnees and some of them choose to isolate themselves. Furthermore, many returnees suffer from health problems, post-traumatic stress, depression or other mental health issues. The complications the returnees undergo may become severe in circumstances where there is a lack of treatment, or in the presence of social stigma and isolation, or if their families and local community fail to understand their experiences (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013).

## **1.2. International reintegration support schemes for returnees**

Reintegration of returnees into the socio-economic and political life of a society is one of the important stages of the migration process that needs due attention. Economic reintegration is especially difficult for forcibly returned migrants, as they do not have the necessary financial means upon return to sustain their families' basic needs. Returnees often experience difficult social integration issues because of the weakened social networks caused by long separation from families and community members.

Reintegration support should be based on the returnees' needs, combining economic, social and psychosocial support. Studies carried out in different reintegration schemes showed that programmes which did not fit the needs or skills of the returnees are a waste of resources and can create considerable frustration, undermining the perceived legitimacy of projects (Kleist & Bob-Milliar, 2013).

For more than 30 years, Asian countries have tried to initiate reintegration programmes that address the problems and issues confronting returnees in their home countries. The countries where reintegration programmes were implemented include Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka (Tornea, 2003). In designing programs for returning migrants, these countries considered many factors including technical and vocational skills acquired, savings and experience accumulated. Continuing support in the form of psychosocial counselling and therapy, health care, and mental health treatment are packages included in the reintegration schemes of returnees (Tornea, 2003).

In the Philippines, where the overall governance of labour migration is considered successful, the government issued a law called the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (Republic act No. 8042). The law institutes the 'policies on overseas employment and establishes a higher standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers, their families and overseas Filipinos in distress' (Republic Act No. 8042). This law was amended in 2010 through the Republic Act No. 10022, providing more protection and introducing new services for Filipino migrant workers.

The law provides specific provisions for the repatriation of workers. Under Section 15, this law places the primary responsibility for the repatriation and transport of personal belongings of migrant workers upon recruitment agencies, with the costs to be borne by the agency and/or its principals. In cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events, the law mandates that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) must undertake the repatriation of workers in coordination with appropriate international agencies.

The Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA), consular officials and labour attaches of the Department of Labour and Employment, and in a few destinations, the Social Welfare Attaches, are involved in the provision of pre-return and return interventions. For certain destinations, especially where there is large concentration of Filipino workers, a Filipino Workers Resource Centre is established. The centre provides, amongst other services, orientation for returning workers.

Upon return, the government addresses the economic and social concerns of returning migrant using livelihood and local employment opportunities. For what concerns the economic aspects of the reintegration program, the government has a livelihood development programme and provides support such as project financing, technical assistance in project planning, and training for those who would like to engage in income-generating activities. Project planning includes all stages of the process from identification of the project and preparation of the feasibility studies, to completion of various documentation requirements.

Training and short courses are provided to returnees on topics such as small business development, small business planning and management. Specific skills and industry specific

mentoring are also provided. Furthermore, technical education and skills development sessions were organised in the areas of food processing, hotel and restaurant operation and care giving. Finally, banks, financial institutions and micro- credit organizations extended various special packages to address the credit needs of returnees (Tornea, 2003).

In Sri Lanka, the government launched several programmes for the returnees, such as housing schemes and industrial establishment. Furthermore, in Pakistan, the Overseas Pakistanis Fund (OPF) has been formed to mobilize and administer funds to carry out an investment plan. This organization provides opportunities for the establishment of small and micro enterprises, as well as counselling and advisory services for investment. A good number of skilled returnees benefited from the advisory services (Islam, 2010).

How each country handled the return and reintegration of labour migrants depended primarily on the number of migrant workers involved and on the resources available to the government. Poor coordination among reintegration service providers, a mismatch between reintegration services and returnees needs, and limited financial and human resources are some of the challenges faced in implementing reintegration programmes. As a way forward, linking these programmes with existing development projects and aligning them with national development goals will ensure political will and avoid the issue of starvation of funds.

### **1.3. Migration patterns and current trends in Ethiopia**

Ethiopia faces substantial challenges with respect to migration flows. Internal migration that occurs in the form of rural migration towards the cities is considerable. However, the exact number of people who migrate internally is not known. The National Labour Force Assessment conducted in Ethiopia indicated that migration was dominated by rural-urban migration patterns for both long-term and seasonal migrants (Tadele, et al., 2006). The rural-urban migration trend in Ethiopia is attributed to a number of push and pull factors. Poverty, overpopulation, famine, scarcity of land and a lack of resources are all factors contributing to the push towards urban areas. Some of the rural-urban migrants move to the urban centres to use them as a stepping-stone for their long-term international migration plan.

The international migratory flow from Ethiopia is not a new phenomenon. However, a large exodus of Ethiopian civilians occurred after the 1974 Revolution where numerous people, primarily the elites, fled the country to escape political prosecution during the Red Terror. Since then, due to civil conflict, famine and environmental factors, numbers of people continued to flee from the country (Tadele, et al., 2006). From the 1970s to the 1990s, Ethiopians mainly migrated to the Western world. During this time, there were also others who travelled to the West to be reunited with their families or moved to the Eastern camp (Socialist Countries) for study purposes.

In more recent years, the dominant motive of Ethiopian migrants has been perceived economic necessity. In this regard, a large number of Ethiopians migrated to the Gulf States, various Middle Eastern countries, and South Africa.

## 1.4. Migration to the Gulf and Middle Eastern countries

Ethiopia is located on the East African migration route, a land route which stretches from the Horn of Africa via Sudan, Chad, and Libya, to the Mediterranean Sea. A second route in East Africa leads from Ethiopia through Somalia to Yemen and across the Gulf of Aden (ICMPD, 2008). Due to this second migration route, one of the largest current flows of international migrants from Ethiopia is occurring, both legally and illegally, to the Gulf and Middle Eastern countries. Figures on the scale of this flow are unknown as the vast majority of women migrate irregularly. However, it is estimated that up to half a million women emigrate annually to this region.

Over the past decade there has been an unprecedented rise in Ethiopian female migration to the Middle East for domestic work, such that this is now the primary migration and return corridor from Ethiopia.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 72% of Ethiopian migrants used the services of either illegal or legal employment agents. Of these, 60% used illegal agents, 20% used legal agents, and 20% did not know the status of their agents (Fransen & Kuschminder, 2009).

Young women, men and children from all parts of the country migrate primarily to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Djibouti, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, and Egypt are reported as the main transit routes in Africa for Ethiopian migrants, whereas in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen is the primary transit country for thousands of Ethiopians who want to migrate to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates.

The availability of cheap labour in Ethiopia and its demand in the Gulf States make the migrants vulnerable to various kinds of exploitation. According to informants from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, this creates a fertile ground for traffickers, mainly brokers in the source and destination countries that facilitate the illegal recruitment and departure of migrants.

Increasing migration of Ethiopians to the Middle East has led to a rise in abuse and exploitation. Many Ethiopian women are being trapped, having their travel documents confiscated, and being exposed to rape and exploitation, during transit or upon reaching their final destination. During their search for work, male migrants are subjected to forced labour in low skilled jobs including waste collection, camel and goat herding, and construction (Anteneh, 2011). A majority of migrants have little or no contact with family members and have to endure long working hours. Furthermore, they are often denied any movement, may be unpaid, and have no rest time (US Department of State, 2013).

Following reported abuses in the Gulf countries, in 1998 the government of Ethiopia issued a proclamation to establish Private Employment Agencies (PrEAs) with the responsibility of protecting the rights, safety and dignity of Ethiopians employed and sent abroad (Private Employment Agency Proclamation, No.104/1998). This proclamation was later revised as the Employment Exchange Services Proclamation (EESP) 632/2009 with additional and improved statements of strengthening the mechanisms for monitoring and regulating domestic and

overseas employment exchange services. In addition, the proclamation stipulates further provisions with regard to new requirements based on the changing nature of the labour migration process.

According to information obtained from MOLSA, in the beginning, very few organisations came forward to obtain the license fulfilling the requirements presented in the proclamation: only two in 1998. Later, the number increased in accordance with the magnitude of labour migration especially to the Gulf States. In addition, the profitable nature of the business drove many to apply for licenses. There are currently 334 registered and actively engaging PrEAs in the women's labour supply at this time according to the Ministry.

Despite the government's effort in establishing the PrEA's, there is no coordinated system in place to monitor and evaluate their activities. As a result, Ethiopian women and girls in the Gulf countries are exposed to various kinds of exploitation including forced labour, sexual assault, physical and psychological abuse, suicide, murder, as well as a multitude of other dangers. Recognising the severe problems faced by Ethiopian domestic workers migrating through informal means to the Gulf countries; the Government of Ethiopia officially banned domestic workers from moving abroad for employment in October 2013.

## **1.5. Saudi returnees and post arrival assistance**

For the past three decades, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a major destination for Ethiopian migrant workers. Many Ethiopian men and women also travelled to Saudi Arabia with a visa for pilgrimage and remained there.

Apart from those that travel directly using formal channels, Ethiopian women, men and children go to Yemen with the hope of reaching Saudi Arabia by crossing the Red Sea via Obock, Djibouti. Hence, no one exactly knows how many Ethiopians are now living illegally in the KSA. The latest US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (2013) revealed that '107,000 migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa – primarily Ethiopia and, to a lesser extent, Somalia and Eritrea – reached Yemen in 2012' (US Department of State, 2013). Many have suffered greatly. Significant numbers of migrants have lost their lives travelling these illegal routes. A recent report by Medicines Sans Frontières (MSF) summarized the pain Ethiopian migrants endure on their way to Saudi Arabia as follows:

“There seem to be scores of migrants crossing Yemen every year and the number reaching Saudi Arabia or falling prey to traffickers is uncertain. ... We see post-traumatic stress symptoms (PTSD) manifested by flashbacks, recurrent thoughts, insomnia, isolation, and deep sorrow. ... Their dignity has been deeply wounded. Many of them do not feel safe and their most basic needs are not being met. They feel uncertain; they don't know when they will be able to go back to Ethiopia, what their life will be like when they go back or how they will be able to return to their place of origin from the capital. Life for sexual violence survivors is especially difficult. Women who've already endured the trauma of having been humiliated or raped must also contend with unwanted pregnancies, shame, stigma and possibly rejection by their families when they return home (MSF, 2013).”

Following the changes in the KSA's foreign worker legislation, the Government of the KSA deported 370,000 irregular migrants from the country. Many of these migrants were from Ethiopia, Egypt and Yemen (World Bank Press Release, 2014). The deportation of the Ethiopian migrants started in November of 2013 and, since then, more than 163,000 Ethiopians have been deported from the KSA to Ethiopia. According to the data collected upon arrival of returnees, men constitute 62% of returnees, children account for 5%, while women constitute 33% (Seifeselessie, 2014).

Some of the Ethiopian returnees lived in Saudi Arabia for more than two decades and have returned home empty-handed with neither belongings nor assets. Before deportation, many of the returnees were held in detention centres with inadequate access to food, public utilities, and with a general lack of privacy. Furthermore, due to the extreme conditions experienced in detention centres, many returnees developed severe medical conditions, such as physical and psychological trauma, psychiatric illnesses due to gender based violence, suspected rape, and respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia (IOM Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, 2013).

Returnees therefore include migrants with severe health conditions that need specialized medical assistance and psychosocial support. Due to these and other factors, post-arrival emergency assistance, including food, water, non-food items and medical support, has been provided for the returnees.

In order to support returnees' efforts to lead a sustainable livelihood in their place of origin, ILO and MOLSA commissioned this needs assessment study from a legally registered consultancy firm. The study has been conducted accordingly and this report has been compiled to present its findings.

## **1.6. Objectives of the assessment**

The objective of this study is to assess the status and needs of the KSA returnees in order to better coordinate efforts in supporting their sustainable reintegration. The specific objectives include the following:

1. To identify the needs of the returnees as well as the different initiatives and efforts being made to improve the quality of the reintegration process. This will enable agencies to better adapt the services provided to the needs of the returnees for a sustainable reintegration.
2. To assess the social implications for returnees in their efforts to reintegrate into the respective communities.
3. To review the experiences and challenges encountered by returnees and highlight recommended actions and preventive measures to mitigate problems of domestic workers' migration.
4. To identify and capture information from local stakeholders for better partnership in addressing the problems of the returnees at their localities by matching returnees' potential and local opportunities.
5. To develop a profile template which will enable BOLSA to capture reliable and necessary data on the numbers and profiles of returnees.
6. To identify recommended actions for the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.



# 2. Assessment methodology and tools

## 2.1. Assessment area coverage

This assessment was conducted in the regions of Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, SNNPR, and in the Addis Ababa City Administration, focusing particular attention upon areas with high number of returnees. In each selected region, the two zones with the highest number of returnees were selected for the assessment and for each zone three woredas were picked based on the same metric. Hence, the following zones and woredas were selected:

**Table 1. Zones and *woredas* covered by the assessment by region**

Region	Zones	<i>Woredas</i>
Amhara	South Wollo	Borena, Kalu, and Legambo
	Oromia Special zone	Artuma Farsi, Bati, and Jile Timuga
Oromia	Jimma	Sigmo, Setema, and Dedo
	Arsi	Arsi Robe, Sude, and Shirka
Tigray	East Tigray	Atsbi-wenberta, Saedisaedi Tsada Emba, and Tsaeda Amba
	South Tigray	Raya Azebo and Enda Mekoni
	Central Tigray	Aheferom
SNNPR	Silte	Sankura, Silte, and Werabe
	Gurage	Butajira, Mareko, and Meskan
Addis Ababa	Addis Ketema and Kolfe Keraniyo sub-cities	

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

## 2.2. Assessment methodology

The study design was guided by the conceptual and practical framework of community based cross-sectional assessment. Mixed research methods, both qualitative and quantitative, were employed to collect the primary data from the selected regions and from the City Administration of Addis Ababa. Quantitative data was collected using structured questionnaires from a representative sample of the returnees and their families and relatives. Qualitative information was collected from government sectors and community members using focus group discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interview data collection techniques.

To ensure that all the necessary information was captured in order to sufficiently address the objectives of the assessment, a large sample of returnees and their families was chosen. For

the qualitative study, sufficient observations of concerned bodies were collected to ensure the representativeness of the sample. The sample size for the quantitative data was determined using the software EPI Info 7, so as to ensure an adequate number of interviewees. The sample size was determined for each region separately, which enabled us to analyse the data and report on the findings by region.

The sample size was determined using 50% for the expected frequency, 5% for the confidence limits, 1% design effect, the respective total returnees of the targeted regions, and a 10% non-response rate. Based on these assumptions, the calculated sample size was 2,042 returnees including at least 15% from vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women, women with children under five years old, and returnees with disabilities.

The sampling technique determined involved a multistage sampling procedure. First, zones from the selected regions were sampled; woredas were then identified from the selected zones; then, kebeles in the selected woredas were chosen; finally, returnees and their families/relatives were randomly drawn from the sampled kebeles. A list of returnees compiled at the woreda level was used as a sampling frame to select the returnees randomly for the assessment. After the lists of returnees were organized, the respondents were chosen using a systematic random sampling method.

The sample size of returnees interviewed per region was based on the total number of returnees in each respective region. The data on the number of returnees highlighted great variations across locations. For instance, there were only 16 returnees in the Borena Zone (Oromia Region), as opposed to 14,422 returnees in the South Wollo Zone (Amhara Region). Hence, the number of interviewees was proportionally allocated to the woredas and kebeles accordingly.

The number of zones, woredas and kebeles were determined as follows: among 41 zones with a relatively high concentration of returnees, i.e. more than 200 returnees, roughly 25% were chosen to be sampled. Then, three woredas from each selected zone and four kebeles per selected woreda were taken depending on the concentration of returnees and ensuring a balance between urban and rural settings. In cases where there was an inadequate numbers of returnees in the selected kebeles, the adjacent ones were included in the assessment.

The qualitative data was collected from different stakeholders selected by their significance in providing relevant information to the assessment. In particular, the following information was considered most relevant:

1. information on the numbers and profiles of returnees;
2. knowledge of the quality of the reintegration process and on how to adapt services provided to returnees;
3. information on returnees' access to employment;
4. knowledge of local partnerships with stakeholders to tackle migration related challenges;
5. information on available job opportunities considering the skills of the returnees and the working conditions and challenges faced after they returned to their homeland.

## 2.3. Data collection techniques and tools

Both qualitative and quantitative data was collected from primary and secondary sources. Specific data collection tools were prepared to meet the objectives of the study. The study employed participatory research methodologies to gather sufficient, reliable and relevant qualitative information. Furthermore, quantitative data was collected through structured questionnaires from the returnees and their families, parents or guardians. Tables 2 and 3 depict the type of respondents, methods of data collection, and the number of respondents by region.

### 2.3.1. Quantitative data

The quantitative data was collected from sampled returnees and families using structured questionnaires. The number of returnees planned to be interviewed was 2,042; however, only 2,039 returnees were interviewed. This indicated a success rate of 99.9%. Though the same number of family interviews were planned, only 1,988 interviews were accomplished due to unavailability of the families due to, for instance, the independent status of some returnees. Consequently, 1,988 families were contacted for an interview. The accomplishment rate is hence 97.4%.

**Table 2. Number of sampled returnees and their families/guardians by region**

Region	Number of respondents	
	<i>Returnees</i>	<i>Families/guardians of returnees</i>
<i>Amhara</i>	419	393
<i>Oromia</i>	417	412
<i>SNNP</i>	393	388
<i>Tigray</i>	415	402
<i>Addis Ababa</i>	395	393
<i>Total</i>	2039	1988

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

### 2.3.2. Qualitative data

Qualitative data was collected from relevant stakeholder offices and community members through focus group discussions using a guide/checklist. A participatory and interactive method was applied by moderators and note-takers in order to grasp the realities and understand the issues of the study from the social, economic, policy, and legal perspectives.

The representatives of relevant stakeholders included: *woreda* administrators, small and micro enterprises, micro-finance institutions, offices for women's and children's affairs, youth affairs and sport, police, social and labour affairs, health offices, education offices, technical and vocational enterprises, justice offices, municipalities, religious leaders, and transport and trading (or trade and industry). Representatives from each stakeholder were contacted for discussions to elicit their expert opinion.

The community FGD participants included religious leaders, elders, *kebele* administrators, youth and women associations, development agents, health extension workers, returnees' parents, and other community members.

**Table 3. Number of government staff and community participants in the FGD by region**

Region/City Administration	Number of FGD participants	
	Government staff	Community members
<i>Tigray</i>	30	25
<i>A mbara</i>	40	16
<i>Oromia</i>	50	20
<i>SNNPR</i>	50	24
<i>Addis Ababa</i>	32	16
<i>Total</i>	202	101

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

### 2.3.3. Literature review

To gather essential secondary data and obtain a clear picture of the returnees' profiles and related determinants of migration in the targeted areas, documents at different levels were reviewed. The consultants intensively reviewed relevant and available secondary sources. These documentary sources included relevant working documents from government institutions, international instruments (conventions and recommendations), appropriate laws and procedures, and working documents of the task force for the KSA returnees both at a federal and regional level.

### 2.3.4. Data collection and quality assurance

The process of data collection commenced with the selection of appropriate interviewers, supervisors, and coordinators. They were intensively trained for the purpose of the assessment on data collection tools, assessment procedures and staff responsibilities. The training for qualitative data collectors and supervisors was given jointly in Addis Ababa for two days, while the quantitative data collectors were trained at each selected zone. Consultants nominated coordinators to ensure the effective organization of the fieldworks, the efficient execution of the assessment process, and the control of the data quality.

To safeguard the reliability of the data, the team was composed of experts in different fields. An appropriate assessment methodology was applied, with structured questionnaires developed and translated into local languages to help ensure clarity and consistency. Furthermore, close follow-up and guidance of the assessment by experienced supervisors and consultants was undertaken, ensuring that possible inconsistencies and errors in data collection were corrected on-site.

## 2.4. Data management and analysis

The quantitative data collected using structured questionnaires was digitized using CSPro and exported to SPSS for analysis. To eliminate data entry errors, a double entry system was employed and all data entered was cross-checked. Descriptive statistics, such as mean, percentage and frequencies, were produced. Cross tabulations were employed to examine some variables across different locations, groups and variables.

The qualitative data collected in the focus groups as well as in-depth interviews were subjected to content analysis. Furthermore, possible standardized responses were developed and entered into a spreadsheet. Then, the responses were analysed quantitatively, by category and thematically. The qualitative results were used for triangulation purposes and to supplement the findings of the quantitative analysis.

## 2.5. Ethical considerations

A formal letter from MOLSA to the various regions, as well as from the regions to the zones and *woredas*, was obtained to gain permission to conduct the assessment. Oral consent from the respondents was obtained after informing them of the objectives of the assessment and of the value of the information they would provide in addressing the returnees' problems. The assessment was conducted without any coercion whatsoever and being involved in the study was free from harm. The data collected remains confidential and was used for the purpose of this needs assessment only.



# 3. Assessment results and discussions

This section presents the findings of the needs assessment in six subsections: socio-demographic profile of respondents, livelihood of the returnees, migration history of the returnees, causes of migration, reintegration processes, and sustainable livelihood needs of returnees.

## 3.1. Socio-demographic profile of respondents

The needs assessment study was conducted in purposely selected regions, namely Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, SNNPR, and Addis Ababa City Administration. A total of 2,039 returnees and 1,988 of their families were selected randomly from 11 zones and 30 *woredas* (both rural and urban) in the targeted areas. They were interviewed using structured questionnaires. Table 4 reports the distribution of the study respondents by region, zone and *woreda*.

**Table 4. Number of the respondents by region, zone and *woreda***

Region	Zone	Woreda	No. of Kebeles	No. of returnees interviewed
Amhara	South Wollo	Borena	3	137
		Kalu	4	59
		Legambo	4	62
	Oromia Special Zone	Artuma Farsi	5	66
		Bati	4	45
		Jile Timuga	5	50
Oromia	Jimma	Sigmo	4	72
		Setema	4	59
		Dedo	4	56
	Arsi	Arsi Robe	4	76
		Sude	4	77
		Shirka	4	77

Region	Zone	Woreda	No. of Kebeles	No. of returnees interviewed
SNNP	Silte	Sankura	7	42
		Silte	5	185
		Werabe	2	12
	Gurage	Butajira	4	37
		Mareko	4	14
		Meskan	8	103
Tigray	Eastern Zone	Atsbi-wenberta	5	171
			3	63
		Tsaeda Amba	3	51
	South Zone	Raya Azebo	6	65
		Enda Mekoni	1	1
	Central	Aheferom	4	64
Addis Ababa <sup>1</sup>	Addis Ketema	Woredas 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8		196
	Kolfe Keranyo	Woredas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14		199
<b>Total</b>				<b>2039</b>

1 No kebele structure in Addis Ababa

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

In our sample, nearly 56.4% of the interviewed returnees were male and 43.6% were female. As per the FGD respondents' explanations, the number of male returnees outweighs the number of females since a majority of the male migrants went abroad through irregular routes, crossing borders on foot or by vehicles. There were strong variations in the male-female ratio by region, and an exceptionally large proportion of female returnees interviewed (87%) were from Addis Ababa. Table 5 provides the distribution of interviewed returnee by gender in the selected regions.

**Table 5. Number of interviewed returnees by sex by region**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>No. of Returnees</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Tigray</b>	<i>Male</i>	319	76.9
	<i>Female</i>	96	23.1
	<i>Total</i>	415	100.0
<b>Amhara</b>	<i>Male</i>	217	51.8
	<i>Female</i>	202	48.2
	<i>Total</i>	419	100.0
<b>Oromia</b>	<i>Male</i>	317	76.0
	<i>Female</i>	100	24.0
	<i>Total</i>	417	100.0
<b>SNNP</b>	<i>Male</i>	248	63.1
	<i>Female</i>	145	36.9
	<i>Total</i>	393	100.0
<b>Addis Ababa</b>	<i>Male</i>	51	12.9
	<i>Female</i>	344	87.1
	<i>Total</i>	395	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<i>Male</i>	1 152	56.5
	<i>Female</i>	887	43.5
	<i>Total</i>	2 039	100.0

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

Most of the interviewed returnees (79.8%) were in the economically active age category (18–30 years old), whereas 2.9% were below 18 years old, and 17.2% of the returnees were above 30. This indicated that the majority of the migrants were in the most productive age group and could have a significant impact on the country's socio-economic outlook. However, there were also a minority of returnees, 2.9%, who were underage. The age distribution of the returnees varied slightly among the regions, with most of the underage returnees being in Oromia, Tigray and Amhara.

**Table 6. Age category of sampled returnees by region**

Age category	Unit	Region					Total
		<i>Tigray</i>	<i>Amhara</i>	<i>Oromia</i>	<i>SNNP</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	
<b>0–18</b>	No.	15	14	22	4	3	58
	%	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.2	0.2	2.9
<b>19–25</b>	No.	202	161	242	146	141	892
	%	10.3	8.2	12.3	7.4	7.2	45.3
<b>26–30</b>	No.	93	150	110	157	170	680
	%	4.7	7.6	5.6	8.0	8.6	34.5
<b>31 and above</b>	N	100	86	35	44	74	339
	%	5.1	4.4	1.8	2.2	3.8	17.2
<b>Total</b>	N	410	411	409	351	388	1969
	%	20.8	20.9	20.8	17.8	19.7	100.0

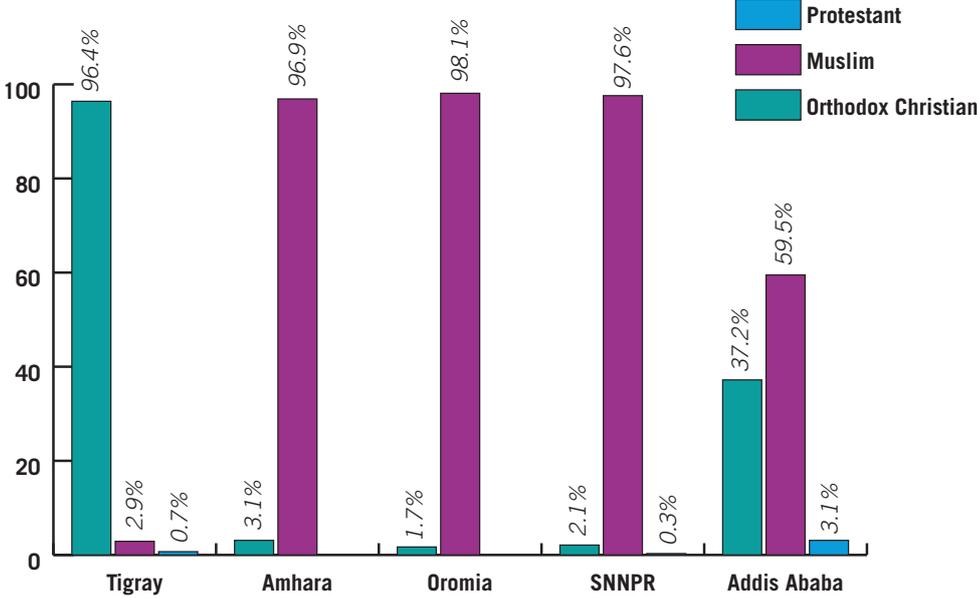
Source: National Needs Assessment of Ethiopian Returnees Survey, July 2014

Regarding the marital status of returnees, 1,112 (54.9%) were married, 754 (37.2%) were never married, 132 (6.5%) were divorced, 14 (0.7%) were separated, and 11 (0.5%) were widowed, with roughly similar figures among the regions.

Out of the total number of respondents, 702 (34.4%) had at least one child, with the average being two children. Furthermore, 1,573 (77.1%) returnees had dependents to support, ranging from a minimum of one, to the maximum of 14 per returnee.

In terms of religious denomination, the majority of the returnees were Muslim (70%), followed by Orthodox Christians (28.1%), and a minority of Protestant (0.8%) and traditional believers (0.1%). Most of the interviewed returnees in Oromia, SNNPR and Amhara were Muslims, 98.1%, 97.6% and 96.9% respectively; whereas most returnees in Tigray were Orthodox Christians (96.4%). For more details, see figure 1 below.

**Figure 1. Religion of the sampled returnees by region**



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

Looking at the literacy status of the returnees, 15% of the respondents were unable to read and write, while 7.8% were able to read and write but had no formal education. About 77% (1,574) of the returnees reported that they had received formal education, however less than one percent had a Diploma or Certificate. This showed that the majority of KSA returnees have a relatively low level of education. This might indicate low performance in their work or difficulty in adapting to the host country. Furthermore, this finding may also represent a challenge for the reintegration interventions, as skills training and business development services would be demanding for the returnees.

**Table 7. Educational status of interviewed returnees by region**

Education Status	Unit	Region					Total
		Tigray	Amhara	Oromia	SNNP	Addis Ababa	
Unable to read and write	No.	60	107	64	35	40	306
	%	3.0	5.3	3.2	1.7	2.0	15
Able to read and write	No.	15	24	45	65	10	159
	%	0.7	1.2	2.2	3.2	0.5	7.8
First Cycle (Grades 1–4)	No.	66	69	61	83	36	315
	%	3.3	3.4	3.0	4.1	1.8	15.5
Second Cycle (Grades 5–8)	No.	165	132	139	136	168	740
	%	8.1	6.5	6.9	6.7	8.3	36.5
Secondary School (Grades 9–10)	No.	97	76	102	60	106	441
	%	4.8	3.7	5.0	3.0	5.2	21.8
Preparatory	No.	6	0	0	2	5	13
	%	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6
12th Grade Completed	No.	2	4	2	5	22	35
	%	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.7
Certificate/ Diploma	No.	0	7	4	0	7	18
	%	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.9
<b>Total</b>	No.	410	411	409	351	388	2 027
	%	20.8	20.9	20.8	17.8	19.7	100.0

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

## 3.2. Livelihood of returnees

### 3.2.1. Occupation

Assessing the current occupation and employment status of the respondents, 51.9% of the returnees were unemployed during the time of this assessment. However, there were variations among regions with the highest number of unemployed returnees being in the Addis Ababa City Administration (72.4%) followed by Amhara (66.1%). The lowest unemployment percentage was recorded in SNNPR (33.8%). In Tigray, Oromia, and SNNPR, farming was found to be the occupation which absorbed most returnees. In Amhara, farming and trading contributed equally to the employment of returnees. Only in the Addis Ababa City Administration, private employment (10.6%), daily work/labour (8.6%), and trading businesses (6.8%) have better absorbed returnees.

**Table 8. Occupational status of returnees by region**

Type of Occupations	Region											
	Tigray		Amhara		Oromia		SNNP		Addis Ababa		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Farming</i>	106	25.5	60	14.3	149	35.7	192	48.9	1	0.3	508	25.0
<i>Trading</i>	90	21.7	60	14.3	66	15.8	36	9.2	27	6.8	279	13.7
<i>Private employee</i>	4	1.0	12	2.9	15	3.6	9	2.3	42	10.6	82	4.0
<i>Student</i>	2	0.5	3	0.7	6	1.4	8	2.0	1	0.3	20	1.0
<i>Daily labour</i>	29	7.0	7	1.7	4	1.0	8	2.0	34	8.6	82	4.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	184	44.3	277	66.1	175	42.0	133	33.8	286	72.4	1,055	51.9
<i>Civil servant</i>	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.5	1	0.3	4	0.2
<i>Other</i>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.5	1	0.3	3	0.1
<b>Total</b>	415	100	419	100	416	99.8	390	99.2	393	99.5	2,033	99.9

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

### 3.2.2. Ownership of assets

Table 9 below summarizes the major assets owned by interviewed returnees. As expected, ownership of assets varied across regions. More returnees in SNNPR enjoyed either house or land ownership (37.5% and 35.6% respectively) than in any other region. Returnees in Amhara and Tigray on the other hand, had better cash holdings. Interviewees in Tigray were also likely to possess jewellery and livestock. Compared to returnees in other regions, the respondents in Addis Ababa had fewer possessions, with most assets being held in cash (20%).

**Table 9. Types of assets owned by respondents by region**

Type of asset	Region											
	Tigray		Amhara		Oromia		SNNPR		Addis Ababa		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>House</i>	104	25.1	145	34.6	117	28.1	147	37.5	9	2.3	522	25.6
<i>Land</i>	84	20.3	68	16.2	65	15.6	140	35.6	1	0.3	358	17.6
<i>Jewellery</i>	96	23.2	115	27.4	8	1.9	45	11.5	15	3.8	279	13.7
<i>Cash at hand</i>	122	29.5	171	40.8	58	13.9	49	12.5	82	12.5	482	23.7
<i>Cash Saved</i>	143	34.6	28	6.7	18	4.3	12	3.1	23	3.1	224	11.0
<i>Durable goods</i>	98	23.7	18	4.3	8	1.9	17	4.3	4	1.0	145	7.1
<i>Business establishment</i>	70	16.9	41	9.8	21	5.0	11	2.8	2	0.5	145	7.1
<i>Livestock</i>	130	31.5	52	12.4	116	27.8	72	18.4	0	0.0	370	18.2
<b><i>Agricultural tools</i></b>	68	16.5	29	7.0	31	7.5	51	13.2	0	0.0	179	8.8

Note: Due to multiple responses the total percentage is above 100%.

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

In terms of asset ownership by size, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray were superior in terms of land, house, cash at hand and cash saved respectively.

**Table 10. Quantity of assets owned by returnees by region**

Region		Land (ha)	House	Cash at hand	Cash saved	Other Durable goods	Agricultural tools
<i>Tigray</i>	Mean	0.3	1.4	8,801.64	17,859.15	620.95	3.43
	N	83	102	122	142	96	68
	Std. Dev.	0.4	0.7	11,849.25	14,622.24	3,467.37	2.07
<i>Amhara</i>	Mean	0.5	1.03	9,275.18	16,582.14	1.39	1.00
	N	66	120	171	28	18	29
	Std. Dev.	0.3	0.180	12,612.15	16,842.36	1.04	0.46
<i>Oromia</i>	Mean	1.6	1.10	4,704.72	9,200.28	1.38	1.74
	N	65	117	58	18	8	31
	Std. Dev.	3.2	0.5	8,287.44	16,497.43	0.52	1.34
<i>SNNP</i>	Mean	0.4	1.11	9,540.30	7,680.10	12.36	1.84
	N	138	81	48	10	17	51
	Std. Dev.	0.35	.791	14,956.25	12,189.16	48.357	1.46
<i>Addis Ababa</i>	Mean	0	1.00	4,416.48	8,521.48	1.50	
	N	0	7	82	23	4	
	Std. Dev.		0	7,174.32	12,497.42	1.73	
<b>Total</b>	Mean	0.56	1.15	7,802.11	15,559.73	418.62	2.29
	N	352	427	481	221	143	179
	Std. Dev.	1.5	0.57	11,615.54	15,146.93	2,850.93	1.85

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

The monetary value of the reported assets at the current market price, was relatively high, especially for houses and other durable goods. Furthermore, it was found that some returnees had a considerable sums set aside as savings. Table 11 reports the average value of assets owned by returnees across the selected regions.

**Table 11. Current market price of assets owned by returnees in Ethiopian birr**

Region		House	Jewellery	Cash at hand	Cash saved	Other Durable goods	Business		
<i>Tigray</i>	Mean	62,487.12	6,063.21	6,786.67	10,391.25	4,324.73	18,594.34	9,389.23	1,443.94
	N	99	95	30	40	94	53	130	66
	Std. Deviation	6,6076.58	6,299.42	9,955.93	14,321.21	5,205.69	28,270.10	8,901.02	2,885.41
	Mean	88,166.80	3,898.65	10,926.02	24,939.29	34,741.67	25,233.17	6,476.92	736.21
	N	146	115	171	28	18	41	52	29
	Std. Deviation	114,624.34	5,879.99	2,8845.10	3,8856.31	116,206.40	46,606.74	5,051.76	810.26
<i>Oromia</i>	Mean	31,611.15	3,531.25	5,645.00	8,272.22	4,787.50	10,743.57	6605.55	1,150.32
	N	117	8	58	18	8	21	116	31
	Std. Deviation	39,781.42	3,511.30	8,120.50	13,123.25	4,788.81	10,578.30	9,210.81	1,372.57
<i>SNNP</i>	Mean	40,287.97	2,145.68	9,243.57	3,700.00	15,676.47	5,754.33	6,997.69	709.02
	N	145	44	42	9	17	6	73	50
	Std. Deviation	145,594.34	2,055.14	14,999.44	4,848.45	26,949.50	7,491.02	7,169.41	1,141.69
<i>Addis Ababa</i>	Mean	211,666.67	5,913.33	9,000.88	24,199.94	8,475.00	27,500.00		
	N	9	15	57	18	4	2		
	Std. Deviation	180,554.70	6,939.70	27,013.02	70,003.31	8,662.32	31,819.81		
<b>Total</b>	Mean	59,115.97	4,461.05	9,219.67	15,325.21	9,720.39	18,985.37	7,640.10	1,066.82
	N	516	277	358	113	141	123	371	176
	Std. Deviation	110,634.05	5,763.60	23,644.61	35,641.89	43,003.55	33,413.37	8,318.27	1,998.73

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

### 3.2.3. Social capital

The study also assessed the returnees' participation in different community institutions. Table 12 indicates that the highest participation in youth associations was in Tigray (28%), while participation in *Iddir* was highest in Amhara (22%) and in SNNPR (21%). Returnees in Amhara were more likely to be involved in cooperatives (8%) when compared to participation in other regions. Involvement in women's association was found to be more numerous in Tigray (5%), and the worst participation rate was recorded in Oromia, where no interviewee was found to be a member of a women's association.

**Table 12. Returnees' membership of institutions**

Institution	Region											
	Tigray		Amhara		Oromia		SNNPR		Addis Ababa		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Saving and Credit</i>	8	1.9	8	1.9	9	2.2	24	6.1	14	3.6	63	3.1
<i>Cooperative</i>	14	3.4	34	8.1	12	2.9	8	2.0	9	2.3	77	3.8
<i>Iqub</i>	10	2.4	4	1.0	2	0.5	10	2.5	3	0.8	29	1.4
<i>Micro and small enterprises</i>	4	1.0	8	1.9	33	7.9	28	7.1	34	8.6	107	5.2
<i>Iddir</i>	10	2.4	94	22.4	17	4.1	82	20.9	4	1.0	207	10.2
<i>Mahber</i>	29	7.0	5	1.2	3	0.7	15	3.8	7	1.8	59	2.9
<i>Youth Association</i>	117	28.2	15	3.6	11	2.6	38	9.7	4	1.0	185	9.1
<i>Women's Association</i>	21	5.1	6	1.4	0	0.0	8	2.1	3	0.8	38	1.9

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

### 3.2.4. Human capital

As discussed in section 2.1, the returnees' educational profile was skewed towards a lower level. For instance, 15.4% of the total respondents could not read and write and only about 3% of the interviewed returnees had been educated to preparatory level or above. With regard to specific professional and technical skills, about 32% of the returnees had specific skills that could be used to generate an income. Nearly 4% were attending training to upgrade their skills. In general, however, the educational profile of returnees was quite low, contributing in part to the challenges the returnees had faced abroad and back in the home country.

Table 13 presents the returnees' health problems and their effect on their participation in productive work. Almost 16% of the interviewees reported that they suffered from some health issue. The main health problems reported by the returnees were psychological trauma (6.7%), physical disability (2.9%), and other chronic diseases (4%). Among those that reported health problems, a significant proportion (78%) indicated that their health issues could hinder them to some extent from engaging in productive work.

**Table 13. Health problems reported by returnees**

Health Issue	Frequency (%)	Does it affect your involvement in productive work? %		
		Yes	Partially	No
<i>Physical disability</i>	59 (2.9%)	45.6	38.6	15.8
<i>Mental sickness/illness</i>	16 (0.8%)	53.3	26.7	20.0
<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	7 (0.3%)	14.3	28.6	57.1
<i>Other chronic problems</i>	81 (4.0%)	39.2	57.0	3.8
<i>Gynaecology and obstetrics</i>	14 (0.7%)	71.4	14.3	14.3
<i>Psychological trauma</i>	136 (6.7%)	25.7	53.7	20.6
<i>Fistula</i>	9 (0.4%)	25.0	50.0	25.0

Note: 84% of the respondents did not report any health problems

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

The study also assessed whether the returnees suffered from addiction while they were abroad. Almost 5% of the respondents were addicted to a substance at some point of their stay abroad. Table 14 below shows the different types of addictions reported. Even though khat and cigarettes are not generally regarded as addictive substances in the public health literature, shisha, khat and cigarettes were the main type of addictions or harmful habits in which the returnees were involved.

**Table 14. Frequency of addictions in the returnees by type**

Type of Addiction	Frequency	%
<i>Shisha</i>	44	2.2
<i>Khat</i>	23	1.1
<i>Cigarettes</i>	20	1.0
<i>Alcohol</i>	2	0.1
<i>Other</i>	15	0.7
<i>Total Addicted</i>	104	5.1
<i>Non-addicted</i>	1 935	94.9
<i>Total</i>	2 039	100.0

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

### 3.2.5. Socio-economic status of returnees pre-migration and post-return

The socio-economic situation of the returnees declined post-return even when compared to pre-migration. According to the sampled respondents, about 45% rated their socio-economic status as bad or worse. In comparison, only 30% of the respondents rated their pre-migration status as bad or worse. However, there were a few that benefited from the migration and improved their socio-economic status. Table 15 shows an increase in the proportion of returnees with very good socio-economic status from 2.8% (pre-migration) to 4% (post-return). Table 15 clearly indicates the improvements in socio-economic status of the respondents while abroad compared to their situation before migration.

**Table 15. Returnees' assessment of their socio-economic condition**

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

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

As expected, the employment situation of the returnees was better while they were abroad. A total of 67% of the respondents had employment on a full-time basis while abroad, however only 5% had full time employment before migrating. After returning, however, the employment situation worsened: only 3.5% had full-time employment. The post-return unemployment rate was slightly higher than the pre-migration. It was 52.8% pre-migration, 0.8% while abroad, and 56% post-return.

**Table 16. Employment status of returnees pre-migration, abroad, and post-return**

Employment Type	Pre-Migration		Abroad		Post-return	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Full Time</i>	103	5.2	1 362	67.0	69	3.5
<i>Part Time</i>	51	2.6	428	21.1	33	1.7
<i>Self-employed</i>	673	34.1	19	0.9	572	28.6
<i>Irregular job</i>	103	5.2	207	10.2	53	2.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	1 042	52.8	17	0.8	1 272	56.0
<b>Total</b>	1 972	100.0	2 033	100.0	2 499	100.0

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

As indicated in the following table, there was some disparity in the unemployment rate between the various regions. The regions with the highest full-time employment proportion were Tigray and SNNPR. Addis Ababa showed the highest unemployment rate (79%), while the lowest unemployed rate was recorded in Tigray and SNNPR (about 47%). The majority of the working returnees were self-employed (28.6%); on the contrary, part-time employment appeared to provide diminished opportunities (1.7%).

**Table 17. Employment status after return by region**

Region		Employment status after return				
		<i>Employed full time</i>	<i>Employed part time</i>	<i>Self-employed</i>	<i>Irregular jobs</i>	<i>Unemployed</i>
Tigray	Frequency	10	1	192	14	197
	% of Region	2.4	0.2	46.4	3.4	47.6
	% of Total	0.5	0.1	9.6	0.7	9.9
Amhara	Frequency	7	1	111	6	294
	% of Region	1.7	0.2	26.5	1.4	70.2
	% of Total	0.4	0.1	5.6	0.3	14.7
Oromia	Frequency	6	2	103	0	291
	% of Region	1.5	0.5	25.6	0.0	72.4
	% of Total	0.3	0.1	5.2	0.0	14.6
SNNPR	Frequency	12	20	143	18	177
	% of Region	3.2	5.4	38.6	4.9	47.8
	% of Total	0.6	1.0	7.2	0.9	8.9
Addis Ababa	Frequency	34	9	23	15	313
	% of Region	8.6	2.3	5.8	3.8	79.4
	% of Total	1.7	0.5	1.2	0.8	15.7
<b>Total</b>	Frequency	69	33	572	53	1 272
	% of Region	3.5	1.7	28.6	2.7	63.6
	% of Total	3.5	1.7	28.6	2.7	63.6

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

Table 18 summarizes the average monthly income of the returnees before migration, while abroad and post-return. The average monthly income improved while abroad compared to pre-migration by a significant proportion. However, post-return the average income declined even when compared to the pre-migration level. The decline between pre and post migration was more prevalent in Tigray and in Addis Ababa.

**Table 18. Average monthly income (birr) of returnees pre-migration, abroad, and post-return**

Region		Pre-migration	Abroad	Post-return
Tigray	Mean (birr)	478.91	4314.34	384.89
	N	335	409	330
	Std. dev. (birr)	743.31	2390.44	688.01
Amhara	Mean (birr)	292.45	4636.87	216.59
	N	331	419	314
	Std. dev. (birr)	648.87	2523.28	368.13
Oromia	Mean (birr)	141.97	3634.69	149.17
	N	384	414	372
	Std. dev. (birr)	541.23	2227.58	540.20
SNNP	Mean (birr)	557.69	3842.22	553.26
	N	371	392	368
	Std. dev. (birr)	1325.81	2489.64	1374.32
Addis Ababa	Mean (birr)	307.16	3363.04	224.86
	N	296	393	281
	Std. dev. (birr)	487.28	1693.68	524.42
Total	Mean (birr)	355.02	3966.45	310.69
	N	1717	2027	1665
	Std. dev. (birr)	834.81	2332.51	818.44

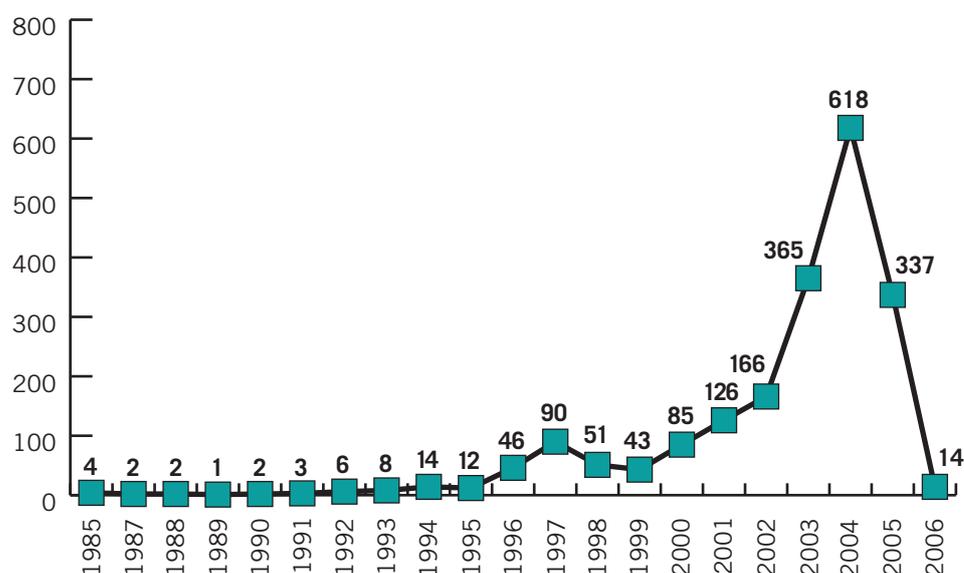
Source: National Needs Assessment of Ethiopian Returnees Survey, July 2014

### 3.3. Migration history of returnees

#### 3.3.1. Migration trends

The sampled returnees departed in different years to their destination countries: some of the departures date back to 1985 EC (1992/93 GC) while some of the most recent ones were in 2006 EC (2013/14 GC). Figure 2 shows the trend of migration based on our sampled returnees accounts. Between 1985 and 1995 EC (1992/93-2002/03 GC), the number of migrants was almost constant. The first noticeable increase in the migration numbers was evident in 1996 E.C (2003/04 GC). The rate then continued to increase until its peak in 2005 EC (2012/13 GC). Following this maximum, the number of migrants declined dramatically in 2006 EC (2013/14 GC). This sudden fall in the rate of migration in 2006 EC (2013/14 GC) can be attributed to the temporary ban by the Ethiopian Government on the migration of its citizens for foreign employment. This measure was put in place to allow the establishment of a law and services that would ensure that the rights of citizens abroad are respected and secured. More than half of the respondents (56.35%) migrated abroad during 2003-2005 EC (2010/11-2012/13 GC).

**Figure 2. Migration trends (number of migrants per year)**



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

In terms of destination, the majority of the returnees (77.7%) migrated to Saudi Arabia. The other major destinations were Djibouti (10.9%) and Yemen (6%), followed by other Middle Eastern countries (UAE, Beirut, Kuwait and Bahrain). The main reported factors for choosing a specific country were job opportunities (53.2%), pay (29%), as a transition point to emigrate to Saudi Arabia (9%), and finally friends and relatives already living in the country (6.3%).

### 3.3.2. Causes for migration

As indicated in table 19, the respondents mentioned several reasons that induced them to migrate, including the search for employment (64.3%), and the desire for a better life and higher pay (32%).

**Table 19. Factors that motivated returnees to migrate abroad by region**

Reasons	Total		Tigray		Amhara		Oromia		SNNPR		Addis Ababa	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Seeking Employment	307	74.3	234	56.1	334	81.1	168	43.1	256	65.8	1	64.3
Seeking better life/higher pay	93	22.5	162	38.8	63	15.3	213	54.6	115	29.6	646	32.0
Peer pressure	5	1.2	3	0.7	3	0.7	5	1.3	0	0.0	16	0.8
Visiting relatives/friends	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	2	0.1
Family pressure	3	0.7	2	0.5	4	1.0	2	0.5	2	0.5	13	0.6

Illegal trafficking brokers	4	1.0	4	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	9	0.4
Pilgrimage	0	0.0	11	2.6	8	1.9	2	0.5	14	3.6	35	1.7

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

The same question regarding the causes for migration was posed to the family members of the returnees. The majority of them (94.8%) pointed their economic situation as the principal reason, while peer pressure was chosen by 2.7%. The remaining respondents saw as major motivations the fact that family members were residing abroad, and religious reasons.

The push factors for migration repeatedly mentioned in FGD discussions were poverty, unemployment, inflationary pressure, poor access to facilities to work and lack of means to sustain a living.

Another factor was the pressure arising from families, in particular families putting pressure on their children who had failed to be successful at school, to go abroad and work. Family members living abroad represented to some extent a temptation for those considering migration as a shortcut to success. Hence, most families considered migration as an antidote to the wide range of problems arising from poverty. Even married women left their husbands, young children and other family members and migrated to Saudi Arabia, with the hope of gaining a higher income and improving the overall livelihood of their household.

FGD discussions reflected that some people struggled to accept the possibility of working in their country of birth and eventually changing their life. Among the reasons to move to Middle-Eastern countries, the migrants stated that they earned a much better salary compared to the standards in Ethiopia (Community FGDs, Addis Ababa).

We found the same assertions to be true in other community discussions, for instance, one FGD participant in SNNPR said, “it is very difficult here to change one’s life for the better even when working relentlessly 24 hours a day. Let alone the youth; we, the elders, even contemplate going abroad to change our life. We urge the concerned body to provide the youth the relevant training which help them to work abroad and let them go through legal means” (Community FGD, SNNPR).

The absence of skills training for potential Ethiopian migrants at the pre-departure stage was among the factors that contributed to the difficulties in handling household utilities and created tensions with their Saudi employers.

Shortages of land, drought, food insecurity, widespread unemployment – even for those holding degrees and diploma certificates, defaulting loans particularly for credit purchase of agricultural materials, and governance problems were cited as pushing forces for migration. The value of education seemed to be underestimated for livelihood improvements. A common saying within local communities is that, “it is better to emigrate than to earn a degree certificate” (Community FGD, SNNPR). The youth often remarked, “it was better to die there (Saudi Arabia) rather than living a pathetic and impoverished life in Ethiopia” (Government FGD, Tigray).

Unlike the quantitative data collected from the returnees, in the focus group discussions and informant interviews the role of brokers and human traffickers emerged as a relevant factor.

The brokers disseminated misleading and deceitful information to families and migrants to convince them they would earn large sums of money immediately. This misinformation made the families and migrants aspire prosperity within a very short time. Furthermore, some illegal brokers pretended to be agents of legal employment agencies. Some participants in FGD intimated that some legally registered employment agencies had established a network with the illegal human traffickers on the basis of mutual unlawful enrichment. To show the worst consequences of the illegal brokers' propaganda, the FGD participants in Amhara region stated: "like slave trade, some community members sold their children to illegal brokers who transferred them to another illegal broker with marginal benefits".

According to the FGDs, despite efforts to promote legal employment agencies across all the regions, many illegal brokers are still operating covertly. For instance, girls coming from the countryside wasted their money on a false hopes given by agencies or illegal dealers, and subsequently risked rape even in Addis Ababa.

The involvement of private employment agencies both in the formal and informal channels aggravated irregular migration by taking advantage of loose governmental controls. The discussions indicated that MOLSA used to provide licenses and facilitate employment processes for both formal and informal migrant citizens as the applications were presented under the cover of legally registered employment agencies. FGD participants in all of the regions believed that all of the employment agencies were part and parcel of the illegal smuggling or trafficking.

FGD participants in Addis Ababa and SNNPR said that local administrative institutions tacitly supported smuggling and trafficking by providing resident identification cards with falsified ages for those that are under the employment age. The lack of awareness among the potential migrants, families and community members, peer pressure, and poor governance represented the major causes of migration and cost the lives of many migrants.

### **3.3.3. Pre-arrangement, facilitation and costs of migration**

The assessment revealed that individuals at different levels were involved in the facilitation of migration. Furthermore, the migration process involved huge monetary costs as well as numerous challenges.

Table 20 shows the different facilitators involved in sending individuals abroad. The returnees themselves, traffickers, and employment agencies are the major facilitators of the migration process. The majority of the returnees (40.2%) arranged their travel by themselves. Nearly 30% of the interviewees, however, were facilitated by traffickers at different levels (local, regional and national), while legal employment agencies were involved in 24.2% of the respondents' travels. Local traffickers were found to be much more common than the regional and national level traffickers. For example, in Tigray, the role of local traffickers was relevant in 26% of cases, while regional and national traffickers were involved in 8% and 1% of the returnees' travels respectively. This demonstrates that irregular migrations are more likely to be supported by local brokers, which is expected as they were the ones who targeted, deceived and pressured people to migrate illegally.

**Table 20. Facilitators of migration by region**

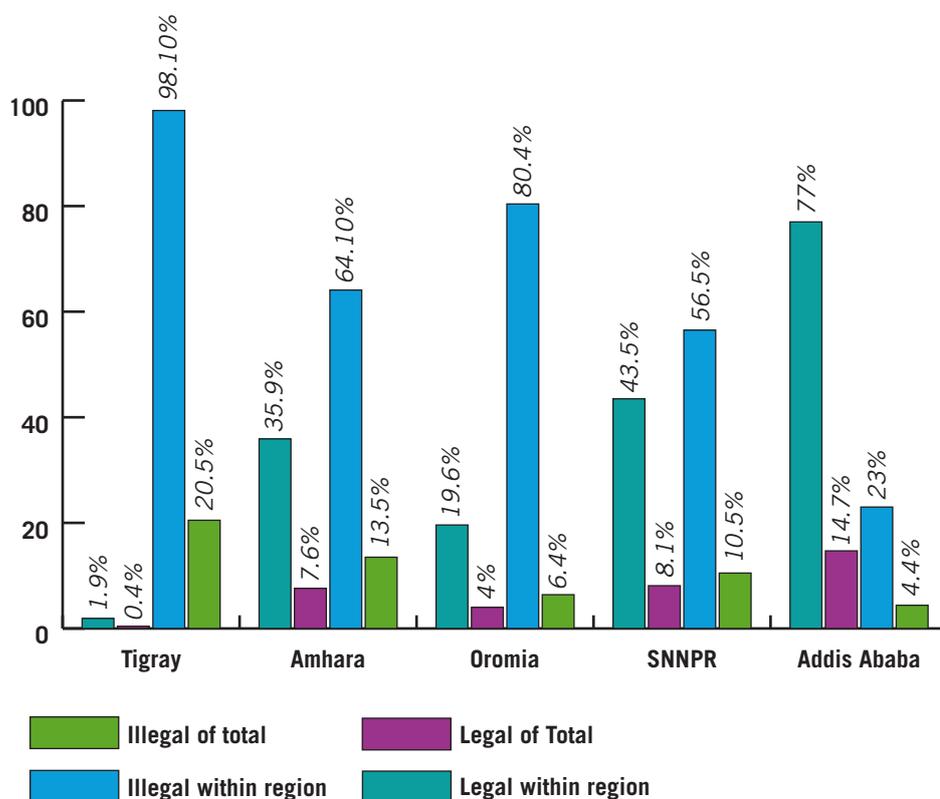
Facilitators	Region											
	Tigray		Amhara		Oromia		SNNPR		Addis Ababa		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Local traffickers</i>	108	26.0	87	20.8	11	2.7	102	26.3	28	7.1	336	16.5
<i>Regional traffickers</i>	33	8.0	57	13.6	48	11.6	26	6.7	8	2.0	172	8.5
<i>National Traffickers</i>	4	1.0	16	3.8	18	4.3	43	11.1	19	4.8	100	4.9
<i>All involved</i>	6	1.4	30	7.2	37	8.9	21	5.4	5	1.3	99	4.9
<i>My self</i>	253	61.0	100	23.9	294	70.8	116	29.9	54	13.7	817	40.2
<i>Legal Employment Agencies</i>	6	1.4	125	29.8	6	1.4	80	20.6	274	69.4	491	24.2
<i>Other</i>	5	1.2	4	1.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	7	1.8	17	0.8

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

Unlike what might be commonly assumed, the role of family members in facilitating migration was found to be insignificant. However, about 48% of the interviewed returnees had acquaintances that lived in their destination country and most of them received support in terms of finance for their travel or advice on adapting the host country (see table A1 in Annex A).

Before migrating, the few of the sampled returnees received any formal orientations from MOLSA or private employment agencies. Indeed, only about 18% and 13% of the returnees attended formal orientations by MOLSA and employment agencies respectively prior to their departure abroad.

**Figure 3. Routes of migration**



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

With regard to the modality of migration, most of the returnees travelled abroad illegally (65.3%), while only 34.7% followed the legal route. This clearly highlighted the scale of illegal migration. Analysing the data by region, the majority of migrants from Tigray used the illegal route. In contrast, from the total, only a few migrants from Addis Ababa (14.7%) travelled illegally.

The result disaggregated by gender indicated that of the total number of legal migrants (688), 565 (82.1%) were female, while 123 (17.9%) were male. Conversely, out of the total number of returnees who took illegal routes (1,294), the share of women was 23% (297).

In order to estimate the cost of migration, the returnees were asked to estimate the total amount of money, in birr, spent for activities related to migration. This included legal requirements, broker's fees, transportation costs, and other costs. The total average costs estimated were: for legal requirements, 1,891.25 birr; for the broker's fees, 5,244.24 birr; for transportation costs, 5,623.43 birr; finally, other costs totalled 928.93 birr. Overall, the average cost required for an individual to travel was estimated to be around 18,000 birr. The average cost varied by region: it was more expensive to migrate from Tigray and SNNPR, while it was cheaper to travel from Addis Ababa and Oromia. Table 21 summarizes the average costs incurred by returnees to migrate.

**Table 21. Returnees' average costs of migration incurred by region**

Region		Total	Legal requirement	Brokers fee	Transportation	Other
<i>Tigray</i>	Mean (birr)	22 213.22	283.20	4 094.97	3 417.86	15 945.83
	N	415	294	388	392	397
	Std. dev. (birr)	16 839.02	3 824.04	6 163.30	4 931.35	14 219.19
<i>Amhara</i>	Mean (birr)	19 113.21	1 245.01	7 812.64	8 014.50	3 284.08
	N	419	348	367	416	400
	Std. dev. (birr)	14 666.04	4 242.01	10 324.56	10 077.59	5 349.25
<i>Oromia</i>	Mean (birr)	12 765.65	1 762.87	3 829.29	4 194.14	2 567.87
	N	416	397	408	415	413
	Std. dev. (birr)	13 664.32	5 183.15	5 496.22	4 868.11	3 993.95
<i>SNNPR</i>	Mean (birr)	21 597.65	3 837.60	6 680.74	5 725.32	3 794.11
	N	389	364	356	348	341
	Std. dev. (birr)	18 534.26	11 266.31	9 637.05	6 834.90	5 701.34
<i>Addis Ababa</i>	Mean (birr)	12 758.12	2 010.43	3 914.66	3 264.55	928.29
	N	392	337	324	323	310
	Std. dev. (birr)	12 719.92	5 688.76	7 446.99	5 623.44	1 978.27
<b>Total</b>	Mean (birr)	17 695.76	1 891.26	5 244.24	4 995.39	5 527.25
	N	2 031	1 740	1 843	1 894	1 861
	Std. dev. (birr)	15 946.88	6 800.04	8136.67	7 048.47	9 464.69

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

The study also assessed the sources of finance used by returnees to migrate: the results are presented in table 22. Returnees used a variety of sources to fulfil their need of cash to migrate. Some 40.6% of the returnees financed their travel using a loan, 32.4% sold assets, both their own and their families, while 22.8% used their cash savings or family funds.

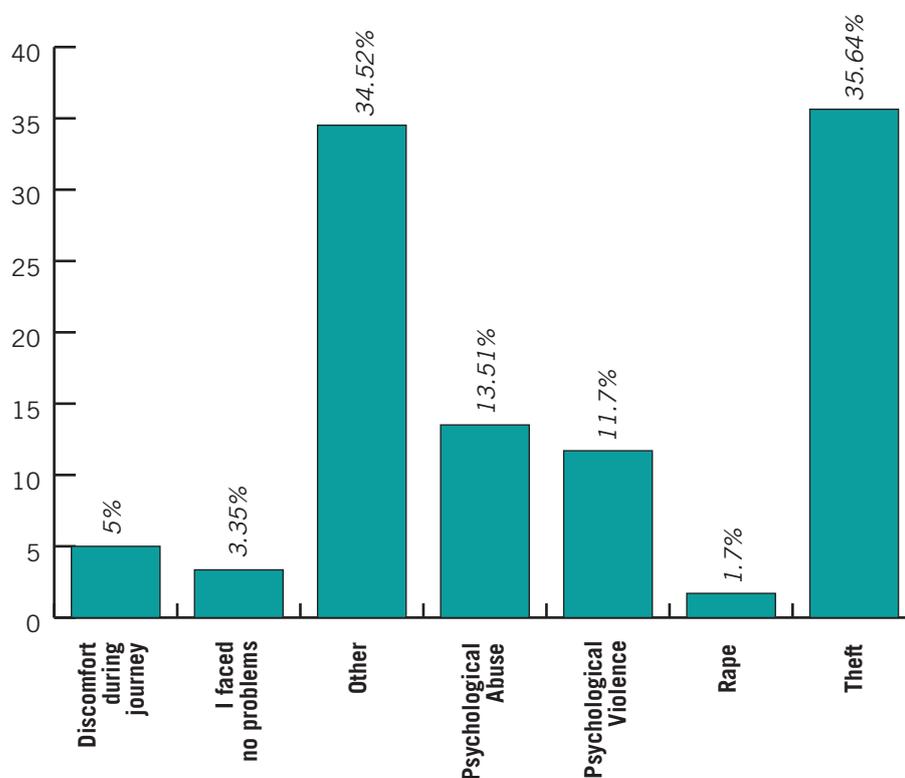
**Table 22. Typical sources of finance for migration by region**

Type of source	Region											
	Tigray		Amhara		Oromia		SNNPR		Addis Ababa		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Loan	233	56.6	179	42.7	58	14.0	57	15.4	288	73.1	815	40.6
Own asset sales	34	8.3	27	6.4	110	26.6	105	28.5	5	1.3	281	14.0
Family asset sales	24	5.8	37	8.8	136	32.9	164	44.4	9	2.3	370	18.4
Gift/remittance	10	2.4	14	3.3	20	4.8	10	2.7	8	2.0	62	3.1
Family cash	41	10.0	102	24.3	27	6.5	16	4.3	47	11.9	233	11.6
Own cash	60	14.6	60	14.3	61	14.7	11	3.0	32	8.1	224	11.2
Other	10	2.4	0	0.0	2	0.5	6	1.6	1	0.3	19	0.9

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

Since most of the returnees followed the illegal route, they not only incurred in monetary costs but also faced many challenges summarized in figure 4 below. Theft, physical violence and psychological abuse were some of the main abuses experienced by the returnees during their travels.

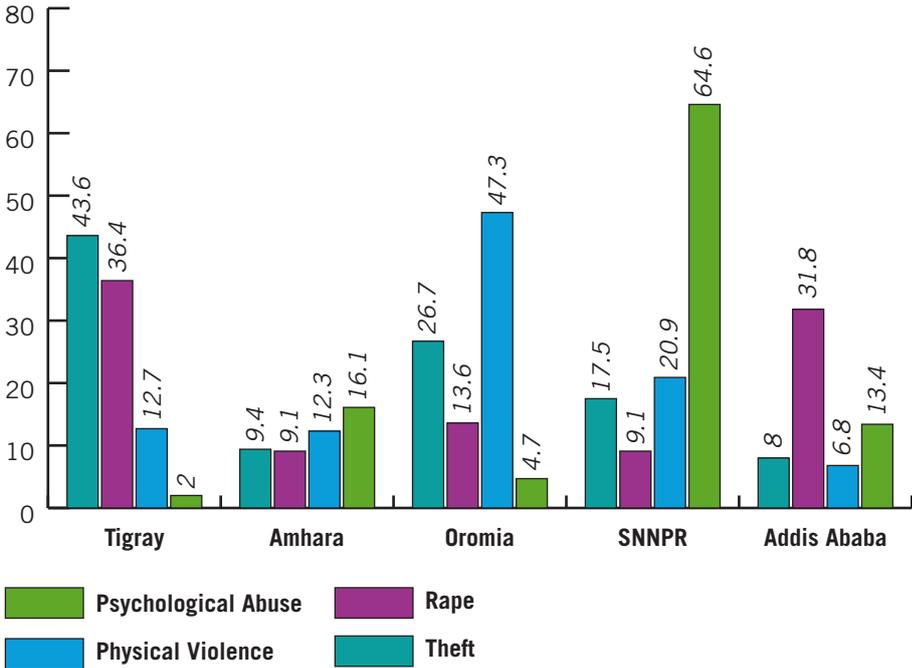
**Figure 4. Percentage of Challenges faced by returnees during migration**



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

The regional and gender related disparities were further investigated with the help of disaggregated data. All difficulties and abuses were more likely to be experienced by male returnees during migration, with the exception of rape. The data further demonstrated that the burden of each threat varied across the regions: returnees from Tigray were comparably more affected by theft and rape (43.6% and 36.4% respectively) than other regions. Similarly, 20.9% and 64.6% of SNNPR returnees reported physical violence and psychological abuse respectively, percentages which are significantly higher than in any other regions.

**Figure 5. Abuses suffered by returnees by region**



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

According to the returnees, the challenges faced and the crimes suffered did not stop upon arrival at the destination. They also faced injustices during their stay in the destination country. Table 23 summarizes the challenges and abuses suffered by the returnees while abroad, which directly or indirectly affected their health, psychosocial well-being, human rights, as well as their economic return.

Two key problems faced by the returnees in their destination country were their lack of competence to carry out the work assigned, and the language barrier that hindered proper communication with their employer. This suggests a need for a proper orientation and some training for migrants pre-departure. Furthermore, verbal violence, refusing to pay wages, discrimination, and culture shocks were all challenges faced by the returnees while abroad.

**Table 23. Types of challenges and abuses endured by returnees**

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
<i>Language problem</i>	1 446	70.9
<i>Verbal violence</i>	1 069	52.4
<i>Lack of competence</i>	1 064	52.2
<i>Abandoning wages</i>	824	40.7
<i>Discrimination</i>	785	38.5
<i>Culture Shock</i>	673	33.0
<i>Physical assault/violence</i>	468	23.0
<i>Theft</i>	448	22.0
<i>Rape/gang rape</i>	91	4.5

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

As the migrant routes were mostly informal, a number of individuals faced extremely difficult circumstances, suffering from hunger and thirst, and in some cases they were victims of theft, rape, physical violence, or psychological abuse.

Families of the migrants were forced to send huge amounts as ransom money for releasing the kidnapped migrants in Yemen, as delegated by Ethiopian nationals under the guidance of Yemen illegal brokers. The worst thing was the migrants were either flogged or burned with hot plastic or tires by Ethiopian nationals. Migrants' families were subjected to hearing their suffering voices through the telephone and thus were obliged to send the amount of money fixed by such kidnappers, otherwise they warned he or she would be killed. The kidnappers were mostly fluent speakers in Tigrigna, Oromiffa and Amharic languages. Therefore, many illegal migrants were exposed to such kidnappers according to the languages he/she could speak and this fostered easy communication between the migrants and their families. Usually, the kidnappers requested 15,000-20,000 birr to be sent in their preferred names. Some families managed to reduce the amount by abject begging (Community FGD, Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and SNNPR).

Affected families managed to obtain these sums by selling productive assets, requesting contributions from community members, or by taking loans from relatives, friends, and community members. As community FGD participants explained, "if we failed to send the payment, our children would be inflicted with different physical abuses or their internal organs would be removed or they might even be killed. There is a broker, whose name is known as Abdulgayi in Yemen, who led the Ethiopian delegated brokers that were directly responsible for the suffering of our migrant children" (Community FGD, Oromia and Amhara).

According to the respondents of this study, Ethiopian domestic workers in Saudi Arabia were treated as slaves and were considered inferior to migrants from other countries, such as the Philippines and Nigeria, even if they were employed for similar work. The inhumane treatment

suffered by the migrants included: (i) withholding food or payments, (ii) confining them in one place, (iii) sexual abuse, (iv) up to 20 hours of work per day, (v) being forced by their employers to finish work for their relatives or unrelated individuals, (vi) being fed the leftover food from dogs, (vii) being forced to sleep in dog shelters, (viii) rape, (ix) physical assault, (x) being thrown from buildings, (xi) being burnt, (xii) the removal of internal organs, (xiii) and in some cases murder.

Arab women forced Ethiopian female migrants to have sexual intercourse and commit sexual acts with their male children. If migrants refused to do so, they faced harsh physical assault and dismissal from work, with confiscation of their relevant documents’ (Community FGD, Amhara and SNNPR)

Gang rape was another extreme abuse that Ethiopian migrant domestic workers had to suffered. This started at the recruitment stage; illegal brokers confined them until it was their turn for illegal travel. Then, Djibouti gangsters, also known as ‘Dugali’, received all belongings resulting from the robbery of migrants. Male migrants experienced similar treatment (Community FGD, Amhara).

There were several examples reported by the community of families whose relative was killed, physically disabled, or had an internal organ removed. Furthermore, some families had relatives whose whereabouts were still unknown.

### 3.4. Reintegration process and implementation

#### 3.4.1. Returnees overall support for reintegration

The study investigated the different type of support received by the returnees and the institutions involved in the process. Different institutions and individuals provided support in different forms, which are documented in table 24. As it emerged, the three major categories of support were food, water and transportation.

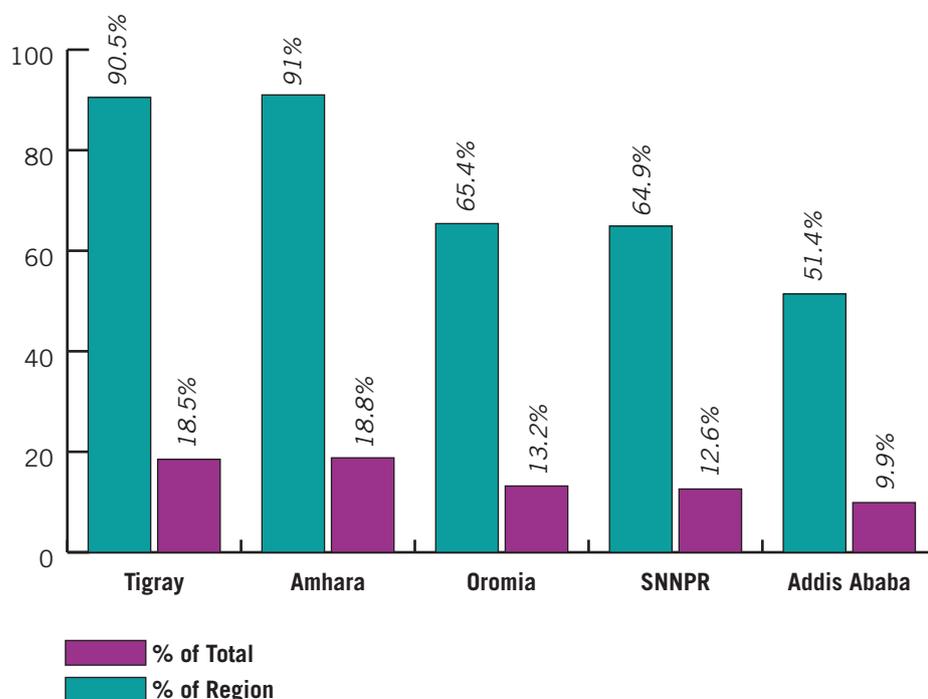
**Table 24. Types of support provided to returnees**

Type of Support	Frequency	%
<i>Food</i>	1 014	49.7
<i>Water</i>	947	46.4
<i>Non-food items-mattresses, blankets, cooking utensils</i>	333	16.3
<i>Medical support</i>	135	6.6
<i>Transportation</i>	590	28.9
<i>Communication</i>	254	12.5
<i>Financial/training services</i>	104	5.1

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

As indicated in the figure below, the proportion of returnees who benefitted from emergency support was not significant in all regions. Comparatively, Amhara exhibited the highest number.

**Figure 6. Percentage of beneficiaries that have benefitted from emergency support by region**



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

Moreover, governmental and non-governmental institutions, community members and local institutions provided various measures of support. These included both material and non-material interventions such as psychological, social, health and financial assistance. Details are shown in table 25.

**Table 25. Support provided to returnees by institution**

Type of institution	Type of support									
	Psychological		Social		Financial		Health		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Community	256	50.7	236	46.7	7	1.4	6	0.3	505	100.0
Friends	441	67.6	177	27.1	24	3.7	9	1.4	652	100.0
Families	668	52.8	223	17.6	351	27.7	10	0.8	1 265	100.0
Relatives	458	58.8	207	26.6	70	9.0	37	4.7	779	100.0
Government	124	11.0	90	8.0	848	75.4	52	4.6	1 114	100.0
NGOs	17	11.5	6	4.1	82	55.4	42	28.4	147	100.0
IOM	35	11.4	24	7.8	231	75.5	15	4.9	305	100.0

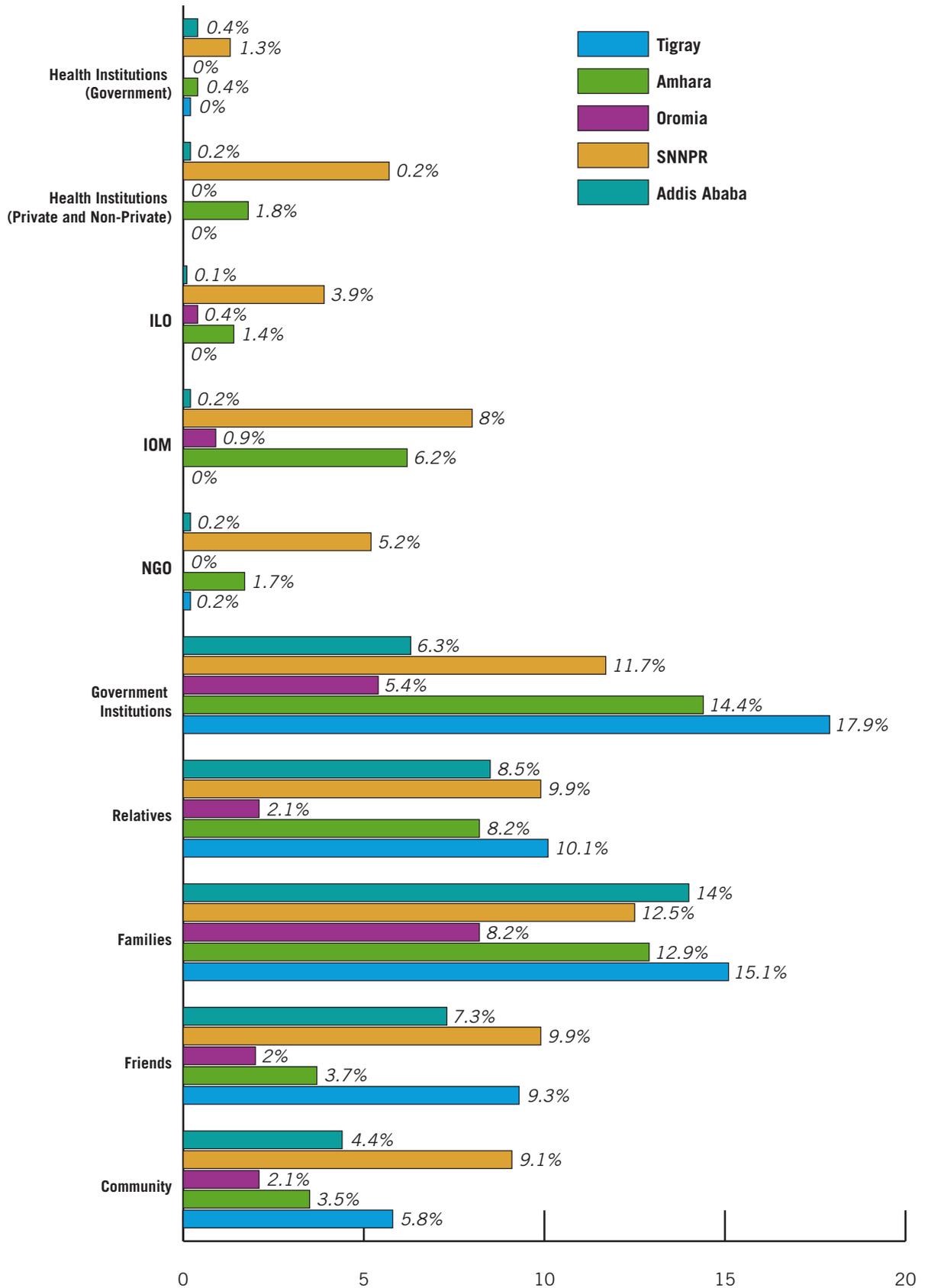
Source: National Needs Assessment of Ethiopian Returnees Survey, July 2014

Type of institution	Type of support									
	<i>Psychological</i>		<i>Social</i>		<i>Financial</i>		<i>Health</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>ILO</i>	16	14.0	25	21.9	64	56.1	8	7.0	113	100.0
<i>Health inst. (private and non)</i>	11	7.0	4	2.5	2	1.3	139	88.5	156	100.0
<i>Health inst. (gov't)</i>	5	2.2	4	1.8	4	1.8	214	93.9	227	100.0

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

Disaggregated data showed that the provision of support by different institutions varied across the regions. The majority of respondents considered government institutions and families the most important ones. With regard to the diversification of sources of support, SNNPR and Amhara occupied the first and second position respectively. Moreover, the role of communities was more important in SNNPR, while in Tigray families and relatives counted more. See the figure below.

Figure 7. Support provided per region and per institution



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

Furthermore, the study surveyed the feelings of respondents about their return to the home country. The responses were mixed and, in some cases, they reflected the dissatisfaction the returnees may have experienced during their deportation. More precisely, about 55.2% indicated positive feelings, 29.8% expressed negative feelings, and the remaining 15.0% were neutral.

**Table 26. Returnees’ evaluation of their return home**

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Very Positive</i>	258	12.7
<i>Positive</i>	865	42.5
<i>Neutral</i>	306	15.0
<i>Negative</i>	608	29.8
<i>Total</i>	2037	100.0

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

### 3.5. Sustainable livelihood needs of returnees

#### 3.5.1. Needs of returnees

With the aim being to obtain a clearer idea of the needs of returnees, the study surveyed the possible income-generating opportunities they considered and the different support obtained as they sought to reintegrate in their home country and lead a better life.

Owing to different factors including economic status, education level, availability of basic infrastructure and life experiences, the needs of returnees and their perception of the environment varied considerably. Accordingly, about 51% of the respondents believed that opportunities of income generation are present in their area, while the remaining 49% expressed a pessimistic view. Likewise, 50.3% of the interviewees reported that they do not need any support to lead their life in a sustainable manner. Table 27 below summarizes the findings on needs for intervention.

**Table 27. Support for returnees suggested by interviewees per type and region**

Types of support suggested	Region											
	Tigray		Amhara		Oromia		SNNPR		Addis Ababa		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Basic needs support (water, food)	276	67	77	18	123	29	280	71	116	29	872	43
Business startup financial support	400	96	396	95	374	90	358	91	343	87	1871	92
Technical Support	253	61	130	31	213	51	174	44	224	57	994	49
Training	368	89	197	47	153	37	217	55	261	66	1196	59
Better access to government services	158	38	165	39	97	23	250	64	170	43	840	41
Education for children	41	10	2	0.5	46	11	65	17	41	10	195	10
Employment placement	76	18	45	11	65	16	29	7	120	30	335	16
Loan/access to credit	238	57	98	23	139	33	136	35	189	48	800	39
Business development services	89	21	93	22	225	54	89	23	84	21	580	28
Access to Market	88	21	121	29	87	21	116	30	137	35	549	27
Psychosocial support	44	11	57	14	2	5	109	28	49	12	280	14
Place of work for business	52	13	173	41	40	10	2	1	56	14	323	16
Place for dwelling	12	3	5	1	17	4	0	0	5	1	39	2

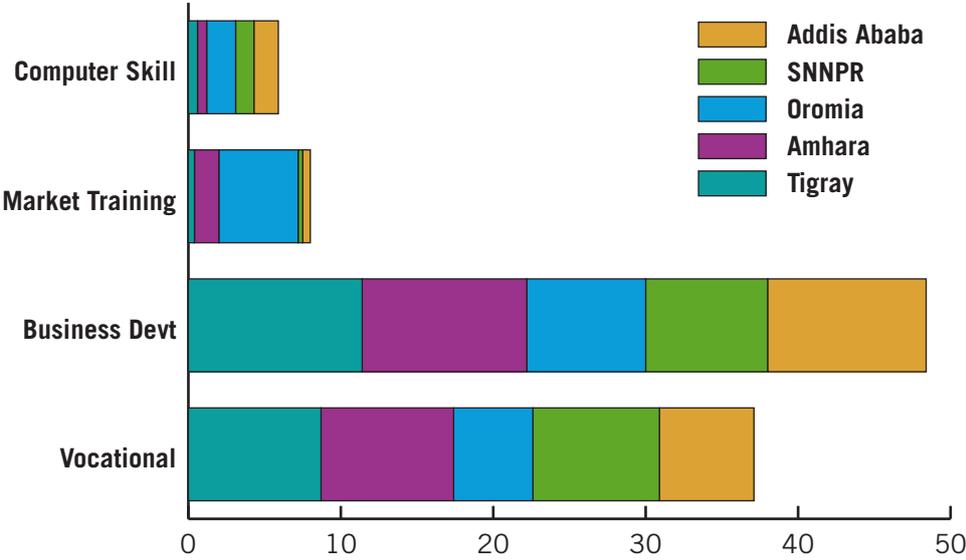
Source: National Needs Assessment of Ethiopian Returnees Survey, July 2014

Yet, respondents suggested that both material needs and various support interventions were necessary to lead their life sustainably and comfortably. The key areas of support included: (i) business start-up finance, (ii) training, (iii) access to government services, (iv) technical support, and (v) business development services. This variety requires a multitude of stakeholders, critical attention and support to implement.

The study identified different types of training. The major training areas suggested by respondents were business development services (48.4%), vocational training (37.2%), training on marketing (7.9%) and computer skills (6.0%). Nonetheless, as shown in the figure below, the disaggregated needs of each surveyed region indicated vocational training would be

the first choice for Tigray and Amhara, whereas business development appears to be the priority for Tigray, training in marketing is the first choice in Oromia, as well as computer skills training in Addis Ababa.

**Figure 8. Needs of returnees disaggregated to regions**



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

Although further market assessment will be conducted to identify effective business types, FGD participants in different *woredas* stated that several job opportunities were available in urban and rural residential settings. In urban settings, income-generating activities included small businesses in trading, urban agriculture, poultry, fattening, textile, sewing dressings, construction, metal- and woodwork; in rural areas, most common activities were: farming, establishing milling machine, production of fruits and vegetables using irrigation systems, animal husbandry, fattening, and beekeeping.

About 92% of respondents considered financial support as the first condition to sustainably reintegrate and make their livelihood. In addition, other types of support were considered highly important, including: training (58.7%), technical support (48.7%), improving access to government services (41.2%), access to loan/credit services (39.2%), business development services (28.4%) and support for education for their children (25.5%).

The following table illustrated that returnees in Tigray were more in need of all types of support, followed by Addis Ababa and SNNPR. On the other hand, demand for support in Amhara was the lowest among the surveyed regions.

**Table 28. Support for returnees suggested by interviewees per type, disaggregated by region**

Type of support	No.	Region %					Total
		Tigray	Amhara	Oromia	SNNPR	Addis Ababa	
Basic needs/food/water	1274	32.4	6.2	13.3	23.3	24.8	100.0
Business start-up/financial support	1931	21.4	20.5	19.9	19.1	19.2	100.0
Technical support	1381	29.8	10.4	18.3	19.1	22.4	100.0
Better access to government services	1386	29.7	12.5	11.4	24.3	22.2	100.0
Training	1472	27.9	13.9	13.9	20.4	23.8	100.0
Education for our children	907	45.0	1.1	7.9	17.2	28.8	100.0
Employment placement	1091	37.3	4.9	11.8	15.5	30.4	100.0
Loan access	1244	32.7	8.6	13.1	18.3	27.3	100.0
Business development services	1291	31.5	8.1	20.3	17.5	22.6	100.0
Access to market	1226	33.2	11.7	10.4	20.6	24.1	100.0
Psycho-social support	1074	37.9	8.1	9.6	17.8	26.6	100.0

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

At the *woreda* level, FGD experts also stressed the importance of financial support to provide initial capital. Moreover, from FGD discussions it emerged that awareness creation for returnees and their families is of critical importance to bring attitudinal changes and reduce illegal migration. Additionally, the respondents highlighted the need of working places (sheds in town and farming land in rural areas), training in specific fields, continuous monitoring and support, and good governance and leadership.

The families of returnees were interviewed with the aim to gather suggestions. The key areas of desired support included working premises (14.9%), economic support (54.4%) and access to finance (21.5%).

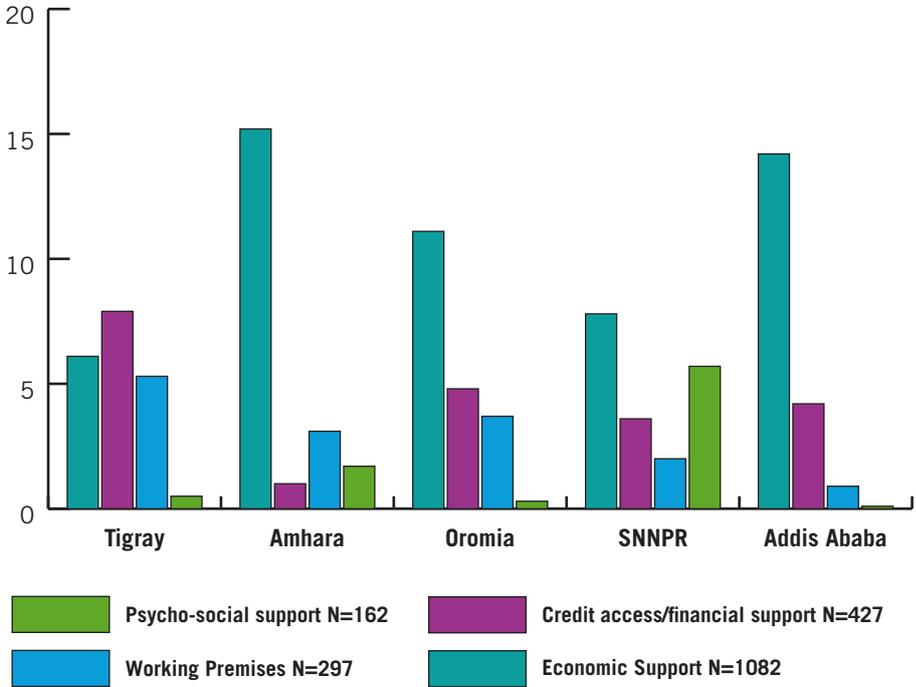
**Table 29. Suggested types of support by returnees' families to fully reintegrate the returnees**

Type of support	Frequency	Percentage
Economic Support	1082	54.4
Credit access/financial support	427	21.5
Working premises	297	14.9
Psychosocial support	162	8.1
Other	22	1.1

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

As expected, responses varied across regions: economic support was prioritized in Amhara, while access to credit, financial support and working premises were preferred in Tigray. Moreover, psychosocial support was chosen as the first priority in SNNPR.

**Figure 9. Support sought per region**



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

**3.5.2. Access to services and possible challenges for a sustainable livelihood**

The assessment asked the returnees to identify any possible challenges that could hinder their efforts to create a sustainable livelihood; and different factors were mentioned as potential obstacles.

Respondents identified lack of working capital (91.5%), lack of working premises (88.7%), lack of technical support (75.3%), lack of access to credit (74%) lack of skills/knowledge (56.0%) and lack of family support (41.2%) as being among the major factors that could compromise their income-generating activities leading to a sustainable life.

**Table 30. Possible challenges: external and internal factors**

Factors	Frequency	%
<b>External</b>		
<i>Lack of access to credit</i>	1296	74.0
<i>Lack of working premises</i>	1578	88.7
<i>Lack of technical support</i>	1337	74.3
<i>Discrimination</i>	240	13.5
<i>Policies and regulations</i>	552	31.2
<b>Internal</b>		
<i>Lack of motivation</i>	177	10.2
<i>Lack of working capital</i>	1 620	91.5
<i>Lack of skills/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, July 2014

Access to services is a pivotal factor for starting any business or activities. To this regard, the majority of respondents expressed their belief that the access to the productive infrastructure, services – such as finance – and training was poor.

**Table 31. Access to services by returnees**

Type of services	Frequency	%
<i>Water</i>	1347	66.4
<i>Electricity</i>	1050	51.8
<i>Bank</i>	613	30.2
<i>Micro-credit</i>	573	28.3
<i>Training</i>	281	14.0

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

Critical gaps and challenges included the shortage of financial resources, inadequate working places for returnees (sheds in towns and farming land in rural settings), poor infrastructure (e.g. electricity and water supply), poor access to credit services, resistance of returnees to take loans (possibly attributable to religion), and poor coordination among government sectors.

From the responses, it emerged that interest free loans were particularly attractive for Muslim returnees. For instance, returnees organized in a group hesitated to take normal loans, as it is against the Islamic principles.

According to family members, 604 (30.3%) of returnees faced serious difficulties tolerating their current situation and in trying to reintegrate within the family. Moreover, 511 (25.1%)

faced economic problems, many returnees were challenged with depression (40%) and also fell ill (13%). The underlying reasons appeared to stem from regret that they sent or supported their family members in getting to Saudi Arabia, according to 1,420 (71.3%) of the family respondents.

**Table 32. Family members' feelings about sending family members to Saudi Arabia**

Returnees Feeling	Frequency	%
I am happy	571	28.7
I regret it	1 420	71.3
Total	1 991	100.0

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

However, the family members did not seem to be the principal decision makers and only 206 (10.4%) said they had a primary role in the decision of their returnee relatives to migrate to Saudi Arabia in the first instance.

**Table 33. Family members' involvement in the decision of returnees to migrate**

Decision maker	Frequency	%
<i>Themselves</i>	1 694	85.2
<i>People outside of the family</i>	88	4.4
<i>Decision maker</i>	Frequency	Percentage
<i>Parents/family members</i>	206	10.4
<i>Total</i>	1 988	100.0

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

In addition, the majority of family members – 1,716 (86.1%) – reported that they did not recommend anyone for migration to Saudi Arabia, while 276 (13.9%) encouraged anyone willing to send their family members.

### 3.5.3. Aspirations of returnees

More than half of the respondents aspired to change their life positively through the creation of business and engagement in income-generating activities. Nonetheless, a small group of 79 (4%) did not appear to have any intention to change their lives.

**Table 34. Aspirations for the future**

Type of aspiration	Frequency	Percentage
<i>Change my life positively</i>	1013	52.3
<i>Establish my own business</i>	691	35.7
<i>Engaged in any type of job</i>	155	8.0
<i>Do not have any intention</i>	79	4.0
<b>Total</b>	1938	100.0

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

The returnees were also asked whether they wanted to go abroad if there would be opportunity again: 57.6% stated they would migrate again due to lack of livelihood opportunities in the home country, and 39.7% due to the availability of attractive remuneration abroad. Surprisingly enough; 1140 (61.1%) of the interviewed returnees would prefer to go Saudi Arabia, if the ban was lifted.

### 3.5.4. Returnees reintegration: stakeholder responses

The rehabilitation and restoration process required a multi-sectoral response. Therefore, the task force to manage the crises included the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Youth, Women and Children, Civil Aviation, the Prime Minister's Office, the International Organization for Migration and other civil society organizations.

The aim of the task force was to develop an emergency response plan to support the immediate needs of Saudi returnees and make all the necessary services accessible upon their arrival. The response focused on key sectors such as health, nutrition, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, non-food items, and shelter. At that time, a technical committee was meeting daily and reporting progress.

The repatriation process appeared to be successful because of the combined effort of the stakeholders involved. Sectorial coordination meetings were helpful to identify the priority activities and to share the costs of repatriation and transportation. With the contribution of resources from the government and support garnered from the UN and other NGOs, the returnees were transported to their home towns. According to the plan, the concerned regional organs were in charge of providing returnees with rehabilitative support.

Almost all the regions formed a task force to prevent trafficking and smuggling of people and to respond to the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts of KSA returnees. The task forces consisted of relevant stakeholders and the regional vice presidents were in charge of overseeing their activities. In most cases, the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs assumed the role of secretariat and other bureaus, including Women, Youth and Children, Education, Police Commission, Justice, and Communication Affairs. For coverage purposes, the committees were not only established at the national and regional levels, but also at *woreda*, sub city, and zonal levels, to facilitate the returnees' reintegration in the shortest time possible.

In Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR, efforts have been made to accommodate KSA returnees in different rehabilitation schemes. In all of these regions, some returnees were organized in the area of micro and small enterprises (MSE).

The *woredas* struggled to prioritise the access of returnees to counselling services and technical and vocational training (TVET). For instance, in Addis Ababa, about 36 business areas were identified whereby the returnees could train and potentially engage in an economic activities. The MSE provided training schemes in sectors such as construction (production of prefabricated bricks), industrial work, textiles and garments, culinary arts, hotel and tourism, hairdressing, urban agriculture, and urban beautification and sanitation.

Some of the Saudi returnees were reluctant to join these training sessions while others dropped out. Those who completed the training were admitted for a competency test and those successful in the exam started to organize micro and small enterprises. To this end, the City Administration allocated a special budget for the MSE sector so that working shades or workplaces could be prepared. According to the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs of Addis Ababa, it was evident that some returnees were able to successfully initiate beneficial changes to their lives.

Additionally, it emerged that most of the returnees were not ready to organize business groups and take accreditation exams. In most occasions returnees tended to be frustrated and abandoned their involvement when they were asked to meet these requirements. On the other hand, interested individuals were willing to positively react and engage in income-generating activities.

Similarly, in SNNPR, the Trade and Industry offices at the *woreda* level took the responsibility of finding suitable employment opportunities for the returnees, arranging working premises and identifying job-related needs. The Trade and Industry offices were also in charge of awareness creation, while the *woreda* Labour and Social Affairs offices were in charge of registering the returnees (including door to door visits) and providing psychosocial support. For instance, in the Markeo *woreda* of SNNPR, 14 returnees were reported to be able to engage in oxen fattening, and coffee and tea sales.

Stakeholders in Oromia and Amhara also stressed the crucial importance of livelihood support, as an essential condition to returnees' reintegration. During the interviews, it was often stated that economic support would have been a triggering condition which would enable other forms of reintegration. Some stakeholders agreed that it was important to allow returnees to engage in upgrading skills training provided by micro and small enterprises in the respective regions.

Moreover, the stakeholders underlined the importance of sustainable business projects and income-generating revolving grants for KSA returnees. Key informants in Tigray recommended that these initiatives should be tailored to the local demand of specific sectors and the available market opportunities.

The results of the survey across the regions showed that a total of 1,074 returnees (64.8%) were organized into 161 income-generating groups (in both urban and rural settings). Some 282 returnees started their own individual businesses whereas about 301 (18%) returnees were still jobless. Moreover, the discussion sessions pointed out the fact that some returnees preferred to work individually rather than in a group.

Across the regions, different microfinance institutions strived to provide loan and credit facilities for KSA returnees, including Addis Ababa Credit and Saving Association, Amhara Credit and Saving Institution, Omo Micro Finance Institution, Oromia Microfinance Enterprise and Dedebit Credit and Savings Institution (DECSI).

The most common problem identified across regions was that most of the Saudi returnees were unable to deposit the mandatory 20% of the total loan requested. The regulation of the microfinance enterprises also required borrowers to deposit for a minimum period of 6 months before they were entitled to obtain a loan.

FGD participants stated that they found it very difficult to save the required amount, especially in the case of KSA returnees that returned to the home country with no money. They suggested that returnees in this situation should be exempted from these criteria and that the requirements needed to be eased. On the other hand, some returnees were able to deposit 20%, but failed due to their reluctance to embrace the system.

Despite the suggestions given, the regulations have remained unchanged in all regions with the exception of SNNPR, where the regulations were modified to be more flexible. The microfinance institution operating in the region, the Omo Micro Finance Institution, has to date provided 1.5 million birr worth of loans for returnees. On the contrary, in Amhara, the regulations did not change to emphasize the fact that all needy individuals should be treated uniformly and should adhere to the rules.

Attempts were also made to admit drop-out returnees back to school to resume their education. In SNNPR, some of the civil servant returned to their previous jobs, were provided training and offered job opportunities. Furthermore, in certain areas, free medical services and psychosocial support were given to the returnees and their children. In Tigray (Raya Azebo *woreda*) and in certain areas of Oromia, the returnees were provided with agricultural land.

In Addis Ababa and other regions, the informants repeatedly mentioned perception as an additional challenge to the process of reintegration. They said some of the returnees developed a sense of utter dependency and showed a tendency to ask for support beyond the scope of the rehabilitation scheme. Some claimed that the Government should give them priority when allocating condominiums for residents. Representatives of the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs said that attempts were made to change the mentality of returnees through awareness creation, discussion forums and TVET.

### **3.5.5. Returnees' reintegration within families and communities**

There were both positive and negative examples of returnees' reintegration within their families and communities. When they heard news of the deportation of undocumented Ethiopian migrants, the host families and communities showed mixed feelings.

During their years abroad, returnees were often able to provide their families with a means of living through sent remittances. In most cases, the families had used all the money and only small amounts were saved for an eventual return. Upon returning, returnees were unable to continue to give economic support since they had to secure their own income and livelihood.

Some home-country families did not appear to understand or support those who returned empty-handed. In some circumstances, families denied the returnees access to property and cash. In the Amhara zone, FGD community members reported that a family denied a returnee access to her 400,000 birr and the house constructed with her remitted cash.

Some of the returnees felt ashamed to return without having earned enough money to support themselves and their families. Others felt they became a burden to their families, which triggered psychological issues and depression.

Returnees who took loans from friends or community members, or rented out their land long-term (from 15 to 20 years) but were unsuccessful in paying their debts, reported feelings of embarrassment and failure. Indeed, some families expressed the same feelings towards them. Thus, returnees recounted difficulties in renewing smooth relationships with their family members, fully reintegrating and living harmoniously with them. In the SNNPR region, however returnees and their families successfully moved to make appeasement with the involvement of the elders, religious leaders, justice offices and police force, and this provided a more positive outcome.

Family problems arising from migration such as divorce, establishing new marriages and having children out of marriage were also mentioned as one of the factors that lead the poor sentiment of acceptance of returnees among their communities and families.

The development of addictions during their stay abroad represented another failure to comply with established social norms and made it more difficult to reintegrate within families.

Especially at first, returnees found it hard to adapt to big, crowded cities and the related transportation problems. Reportedly, they were intolerant of poorly maintained roads and the substandard sanitation and unhygienic conditions in their locality. Moreover, openly expressing their disappointment and frustration at these problems was seen as anti-cultural.

The returnees' children faced several challenges in their reintegration process, including language, and adapting to local food and weather conditions. These factors were perceived as the cause of weak health of children, despite the availability of free medical treatment in some places.

The task forces across regions and *woredas* organized various awareness-raising discussion platforms. On these occasions, the adverse effects of immigration and the general situation of the returnees were discussed more broadly with the members of the families and the community. The discussions aimed to create a positive attitude towards returnees to favour their smooth reintegration. In Addis Ababa, for example, the economic opportunities that the City Administration could offer were subject of discussion with participants. Family and community members were also encouraged to consider emigration as the last option. In addition, successful stories of those who have found good opportunities in their localities to change their lives were shared with participants. Religious icons, members of police, *Iddirs*, the elderly, health extension workers and well known personalities took part in the discussion forums.

### 3.6. Gaps and challenges in reintegration

Although many efforts were made to improve the reintegration of returnees, the desired results were not achieved. In this regard, the stakeholders determined that the major reasons were lack of coordination, lack of responsibility and lack of a clear mandate.

Elements such as accountability, commitment and consistent monitoring and evaluation failed to attain the required level. MOLSA and the Heads of BOLSAs of the regions under this study recognized this gap. The mandate, duties, responsibilities and scope of involvement of each stakeholder in the task force should have been specified with the aim of facilitating the assessment of their accountability. Structurally, MOLSA and BOLSAs show accountability and are expected to function as focal government institutions.

The existence of coordination gaps at *woreda* and *kebele* level, where the real rehabilitation and reintegration processes were expected to be implemented, was fully recognized. Suggested root causes may lie in the fact that governmental structures for labour and social affairs are not decentralized to the *woreda* and *kebele* level in all regions across the country. Indeed, the absence of decentralization created an ownership gap that negatively affected coordination, in particular at the lowest administrative level.

However, the extent of this gap varies across regions. For example, in SNNPR the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder were clearly stipulated in a planning document for the fiscal year 2013/14. Notably, the Amhara regional state took extensive measures to ensure adequate attention to the problem of the KSA returnees' reintegration process. The KSA reintegration performance was set as one of the key performances of government bodies subjected to evaluation at all administrative levels. The research team recognized this effort as a best practice that other regions should follow.

Further to these challenges, the stringent criteria to access credit from microfinance institutions and the amount asked by returnees (usually beyond the maximum limit allowed by Ethiopia's financial laws) were obstacles to their involvement in business activities. Furthermore, the refusal of some returnees' parents to appear as guarantors for loan and the absence of other potential guarantors, hindered a smooth access to credit facilities.

Another obstacle to the creation of income-generating businesses was a noted lack of interest among the returnees with some property or cash to organize together with their colleagues. Likewise, some rural returnees were not prepared to engage with social or economic opportunities in these contexts.

Reportedly, some returnees who faced problems of depression, stress and mental diseases, suffered from isolation and discrimination in both their communities and families. Due to the intensity of the problems, religious leaders, elders and teachers attempted to provide guidance and counselling. This was among the most critical challenges vis-à-vis restricted local capacity, requiring further specialized technical support from a psychiatrist, skilled counsellor or psychologist.

The children of returnees represented a vulnerable category with specific needs. Apart from support for feeding and covering schooling costs, some children did not know the local languages. This necessitated special support mechanisms in local schools.

This study ascertained that many returnees appreciated the special support received after their arrival. Among the 702 returnees with children, about 5% reported that they have children with physical or mental disability. Another 19.8% stated that they received special support for their children during arrival. Moreover, 38% of these returnees reported that they needed food and nutrition support, while 33% and 17% declared they needed access to health services and psychosocial support respectively. This situation is exacerbated in rural settings, where specialised health services are scarce.

The mismatch between returnees' expectations and resource scarcity on the part of government and other stakeholders remains a challenge. On the other hand, the provision of special priority focus in some areas became a point of argument among administrative bodies, which recognize other vulnerable groups in need of support, who also face socio-economic problems. To avoid a situation where these people sense different treatment of similar vulnerabilities, they must be accorded similar support.

Some government officials argued that the administration had already established policy schemes to support vulnerable groups, such as youth, women, the unemployed, and landless citizens. Hence, rather than giving a special treatment to Saudi returnees, these officials felt they should receive the same support as other vulnerable groups in line with existing policy frameworks and schemes. Even when funding opportunities were secured for rehabilitation and reintegration, resources need to be fairly allocated to address the needs of returnees and their families, future potential victims and other vulnerable groups as well.



# 4. Conclusions and recommendations

## 4.1. Conclusions

The repatriation of Ethiopian returnees from KSA was a complex and challenging problem as the number of returnees was very high, while the repatriation resulted from a sudden expulsion. Coordinated efforts between the Government and other stakeholders allowed the repatriation process to be managed effectively. However, this assessment recognizes that reintegrating and rehabilitating such a significant number of returnees remains an outstanding challenge, which requires resources, and efficient coordination and commitment from stakeholders at all levels. Despite all efforts, the overall management of the rehabilitation and reintegration processes did not fully meet expectations.

The study of the returnees' profiles depicted many differences. More than half were married and about 77% of the returnees had dependents to support – 1 to 14 dependents per returnee. The problem of reintegration therefore does not only affect the returnees themselves, but their family members as well. Returnees generally had a lower level of education – 15% of the respondents were unable to read and write – and were lower skilled. Returnees faced language problems upon their arrival in the destination country. This hindered their capability to handle the work and develop a good communication with the employers. With such a situation, adaptation to the host country's work environment was problematic and the reintegration efforts will continue to be similarly challenging.

The findings showed that migration was highly costly compared to the economic possibilities of most of the migrants. Although the cost of migration varied across regions, on average each returnee spent about 18,000 birr to reach their destination country. It is worth noting that this amount of money represents a good amount of capital to start a small or micro business in Ethiopia. According to the interviews, 94% of returnees' family members stated that the migration was triggered by economic motivations. However, the research team believes that superficial speculation as well as deceiving and misleading information have a relevant impact on the decision to undertake migration. These beliefs are borne out in the review of pull and push factors and in the data collected.

The reintegration efforts required multi-stakeholder joint and shared efforts. However, stakeholders' accountability, commitment, and consistent monitoring and evaluation efforts were below the required levels. Recognizably, such gaps have been surpassed at *woreda* and *kebele* level, where the actual rehabilitation and reintegration processes were expected to be conducted. The lack of structural and direct reach of MOLSA and BOLSA at the *woreda* and *kebele* level is among the main reasons of unsatisfactory performance.

The lack of stakeholders' clarity and accountability caused a mismatch between the needs of returnees – which sometimes demonstrated unreasonable expectations and ambitions – and available resources and government capacity. Most often, this gap pertained to the needs of

the most vulnerable groups, and to the stringent requirements and procedures of financial institutions (credit and saving institutions). The lack of effective coordination, commitment and consistent monitoring and evaluation among the stakeholders challenged the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts of the KSA returnees.

This assessment will help both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to guide their interventions when meeting the needs of returnees. What emerged from the study is that the problems and the challenges affecting the returnees are diverse and imply multiple needs.

About half of the KSA returnees believed that the opportunities in their respective settlements allowed them to create a sustainable livelihood with little need of support. Others did not provide clear answers, while a few did not express optimism at being able to exploit the available opportunities in the country.

These results will require further careful scrutiny and advice on the feasibility of the income-generation activities planned by returnees. It emerged that respondents across all regions considered financial support the most important element according to the following percentages: 96% in Tigray, 95% in Amhara, 91% in SNNPR, 90% in Oromia and 87% in Addis Ababa. Financial support is followed by: (i) training (in Amhara and Addis Ababa), (ii) business development services (in Oromia), and (iii) basic needs support (in Tigray and SNNPR). On average, 10% of the respondents need support for their children (for details on the regions see the disaggregated table on returnees' needs).

Awareness-creation training for the returnees and the community was mentioned as a critical means to foster attitudinal changes, enhance sustainable livelihoods and therefore reduce irregular migration. Additionally, the respondents stated that they needed a working place (sheds in urban settings and farming land in rural areas) and training in specific fields, among other needs. Due to the intensity of the problem, some of the returnees required specialized health service support from psychiatrist or skilled counsellor, either for themselves or for their children. Moreover, based on the FDG discussions with the community members and *woreda* government experts, the study identified several job opportunities in urban settings, including: small businesses (trading), urban agriculture, poultry, fattening, textile, sewing, dressings, construction, metal and wood work. Likewise, for rural areas we listed farming, establishing milling machines, production of fruits and vegetables using irrigation systems, animal husbandry, fattening and beekeeping, among others.

## 4.2. Recommendations

As it clearly emerges from these findings, the suggestions made by returnees and their families, as well as the views of the key institutional informants, the case of the KSA returnees requires immediate and strategic intervention at multiple levels. This assessment has touched a wide range of issues affecting the reintegration and rehabilitation of these categories of migrants. Hence, we provide the following recommendations:

### 1) Improving employment services

- a) The legal framework must be reviewed in the light of the problems and challenges the country has faced to control and mitigate irregular migration in order to make legal

routes more attractive.

- b) Employment services inside the country should be strengthened and their scope extended to receiving countries. The adoption and customization of such a system would allow, and in turn be allowed by, intense bilateral negotiations, and rely upon settings of mutual understanding and support platforms.
- c) In order to change the attitudes of returnees, their families and communities, intensive and continual awareness-creation efforts should be planned, delivered and monitored. The planning and implementation should be participatory and involve the community, local administrative bodies and other relevant stakeholders. MOLSA offices or their representatives should be the focal points to lead such initiatives.
- d) Skills training standards, provision, and orientation for migrants should be set before departure to ensure a successful migration.

## **2) Structural and role clarity**

- a) The role and responsibilities of stakeholders at all levels should be clearly delineated. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding should also ensure accountability and guide the coordination between different government institutions at the federal, regional and local level, and between other stakeholders. The research team believes that MOLSA could be designated as the focal institution at the federal level, BOLSA at the regional level and its local offices at the local level in order to guarantee coordination.
- b) As the migration process and repatriation will be a recurring challenge, proper institutional set-up should be arranged through local administrative channels and they should be reinforced with appropriate, additional human resources and budget. The budget allocation to the *woredas* and *kebeles* should take into consideration the support needs of the KSA returnees, as they represent a special influx.

## **3) Coordination of stakeholders**

- a) It is necessary to map relevant stakeholders, governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations at all the administrative levels. The expected role of each stakeholder should be clearly determined in a joint forum of the federal and regional focal actors.
- b) Funds and financing mechanisms for the implementation of these recommendations and other activities should be found.
- c) Monitoring and evaluation frameworks with proper time frames should be set.

## **4) Creating an enabling environment for returnees to make their sustainable livelihoods.**

- a) The food insecurity problem of KSA returnees is mainly due to inadequate or absent income and to the unavailability of social security and support upon return. Hence:
  - i) Appropriate income-generation schemes should be initiated for capable and willing persons, and humanitarian support provided to those who are either not capable

or are the most vulnerable – e.g. too weak, sick, children or impaired – through the coordination of relevant stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations.

- ii) In collaboration with all the stakeholders, programmes to enable the most vulnerable returnees to have access to sufficient and quality food should be designed and implemented. This is particularly important in SNNPR and in Tigray, where a great number of returnees needed direct food support.

## **5) Income generation and employment**

- a) This assessment identified the need to encourage, organize and provide skills training and start-up capital to enhance returnees' engagement in micro and small-scale enterprises appropriate to their capacity and skills. This type of initiative should consider facilitating the access to essential inputs, such as land or space for operating business.
- b) The assessment results indicate that most microfinance institutions are not flexible enough to include returnees with special needs in their credit services. Returnees claimed that this has hindered their opportunities to engage in productive ventures. Hence, there is a need to negotiate with such institutions and to promote returnees' access to credit and savings services. This could be achieved by improving stringent policy frameworks and rules – without causing major discrepancies – to favour those who want to start a business, and thus develop a reliable income and lead a dignified life. SNNPR has modified the policy frameworks to allow for some flexibility; others can follow this example.

# 5. Bibliography

Anteneh, A. (ed.), 2011. *Trafficking in Persons Overseas for Labour Purposes: The Case of Ethiopian Domestic Workers*. Addis Ababa: International Labour Organization.

Fransen, S. & Kuschminder, K., 2009. Migration in Ethiopia: History, Current Trends and Future Prospects. *Paper Series: Migration and Development Country Profiles, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance*.

ICMPD, 2008. *East Africa Migration Route Initiative Gaps & Needs Analysis Project Country Reports: Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya*. Vienna: International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

ILO, 2010. *International labour migration. A rights-based approach*. Geneva: International Labour Office.

IOM Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, 2013. Post-arrival assistance to Ethiopian returnees. *The Migrant*, 5(2), pp.7-10.

Islam, N., 2010. *Strategy paper for re-integration of returnee migrants*. Dhaka: International Labour Office.

Kibria, N., 2004. *Returning international labor migrants from Bangladesh: the experience and effects of deportation*. [Online] Available at: [http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/migration/pubs/rwp/28\\_kibria.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/migration/pubs/rwp/28_kibria.pdf) [Accessed 28 June 2016]. (Working Paper).

Kleist, N. & Bob-Milliar, G.M., 2013. *Life after deportation and migration crisis: the challenges of involuntary return*. Copenhagen: Danish Institute for International Studies.

MSF, 2013. *Yemen: "Their dignity has been deeply wounded"*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.msf.org/article/yemen-%E2%80%9Ctheir-dignity-has-been-deeply-wounded%E2%80%9D> [Accessed 30 June 2016].

Private Employment Agency Proclamation, No.104/1998. *Federal Negarit Gazeta*.

Seifeselassie, A., 2014. *Post arrival humanitarian assistance to Ethiopians returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: an account of IOM's operation in assisting over 160,000 Ethiopian returnees*. Addis Ababa: International Organization for Migration.

Tadele, F., Pankhurst, A., Bevan, P. & Lavers, T., 2006. *Migration and Rural-Urban Linkages in Ethiopia: Cases studies of five rural and two urban sites in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions and Implications for Policy and Development Practice*. Addis Ababa: Irish Aid-Ethiopia.

Tornea, V.F., 2003. Reintegration Program for Migrant Workers. *Review of Women's Studies*, 13(2), pp.203-20.

UN DESA Population Division, 2013. *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision - Migrants by Age and Sex*. New York: UN Department of Economic and Social

Affairs. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013/Age).

US Department of State, 2013. *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Washington, DC: US Department of State.

World Bank Press Release, 2014. *Remittances to developing countries to stay robust this year, despite increased deportations of migrant workers, says WB*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/04/11/remittances-developing-countries-deportations-migrant-workers-wb> [Accessed 28 June 2016].



- II.8. What problem your child/children faced while in Saudi? 1. No access to medical service 2. No access to school 3. Psychosocial problem 4 . other (specify)
- II.9. Do you have any child with physical or mental disability? 1. Yes 2. No.
- II.10. Did you get special support upon return because you have a child/ children? 1. Yes 2. No.
- II.11. Which type of support do you think will help your child better? 1. Food & nutrition 2. Access to school 3. Access to health services 4. Psychosocial support 5. Others (specify)
- II.12. Are you a single mother? 1. Yes 2. No
- II.13. Are you pregnant? 1. Yes 2. No
- II.14. How many dependents do you manage?            number
- II.15. Education Status: 1. Unable to read and write 2. Able to read and write 3. First cycle (1-4) 4. Second cycle (Grade 5-8) 5. Secondary School (Grade 9-10) 6. Preparatory 7. 12 grade Completed 8. Certificate/Diploma 9. Degree and above

**III. Assets and Livelihood**

- III.1. What is your major occupation? 1. Farming 2. Trading 3. Civil servant 4. Private employee 5. Student 6. Daily laborer 7. Government Employee 8. Unemployed 9. other (If yes, what?)
- III.2. What is your major source of income? 1. Agriculture 2. Trade 3. Employment 4. Remittance 5. Other (specify-----)
- III.3. Do you have any special skill that you could use to generate income?
1. Yes
  2. No,
  3. I still receive training in what?

III.4. Please tell us about the assets you own (note- if not owned write zero)

Type of Assets	Unit	Quantity	Total estimated value at current market price (Birr)
1. Land			
2. House			
3. Jewellery			
4. Cash at Hand			
5. Cash saved			
6. Other durable goods			
7. Business establishment			
8. Livestock			
9. Agricultural tools			
10. Other (Specify)			

#### IV. Networks and Social Capital

IV.1. Do you belong to any association in the following table?

<i>Type of Association</i>	IV.1.1. Are you a member?	IV.1.2. Do you feel you like are benefiting from the association/networks?	IV.1.3. If yes, mention the major benefits
	1. Yes 2. No	1. Yes 2. No	1. Access to credit 2. Financial Support 3. Social Support 4. Employment 5. Skill/Training 6. Technical support 7. Other (specify)
<i>Saving and credit</i>			
<i>Cooperative</i>			
<i>Iqub</i>			
<i>Micro and small enterprises</i>			
<i>Iddir</i>			
<i>Mahber</i>			
<i>Youth association</i>			
<i>Women Association</i>			
<i>Other (specify)</i>			

IV.2. Do you have access to any type of services from the following institutions?

<i>Type of Institutions</i>	IV.2.1. Type of support	IV.2.2. Are you satisfied with the support?	IV.2.3. If not satisfied or satisfied give reasons
	1. Credit		
	2. Social Support	1. Yes	1. Couldn't help me in my endeavor
	3. Training	2. No	2. Helps me to be self-reliant
	4. Technical Support		
	5. Financial Support		3. other (specify)
	6. Other (Specify)		
<i>Microfinance Institutions</i>			
<i>Iqub</i>			
<i>IDDIR</i>			
Cooperative Promotion and Marketing Office			
Micro and small enterprises			
TVET			
BOLSA			
Municipality			
Kebele Administration			
Community			
Other (Specify)			

IV.3. Please tell us about your psycho social and health status in the following table

	IV.3.1. Do you have any health problems in 1. Yes 2. No	IV.3.2. Does this health problem affect your involvement in any productive work? 1. Yes 2. Partially 3. No
Any physical disability		
Mental Sickness/illness		
HIV/AIDS		
Other chronic problems		
Gynaecology and obstetrics		
Psychological trauma		
Fistula		
Other (specify)		

IV.4. Please tell us your supplementary habits in the following table

---

IV.4.1.	While you were abroad, have you been exposed to any addiction? 1. Yes 2. No
IV.4.2.	If yes, what type of addiction were you involved in? (multiple answers are possible) 1. Shisha 2. Khat 3. Cigarettes 4. Alcohol 5. Heavy drugs 6. Other (specify-----)
IV.4.3.	Do you think your addiction made the reintegration process difficult with your family and friends? 1. Yes 2. No
IV.4.4.	Have you ever been involved or convicted in any crime acts or offences while you were abroad? 1. Yes 2. No

---

**V. Migration History**

---

V.1.	When did you leave your country of origin? _____ EC
V.2.	What made you decide to migrate? (more than one answer possible) 1. Seeking Employment 2. Seeking better life/higher pay 3. Peer pressure 4. Visiting relatives/friends 5. Family pressure 6. Illegal trafficking brokers 7. Pilgrimage 8. Other (specify)
V.3.	Who were the facilitators of your migration? 1. Local traffickers 2. Regional traffickers 3. National Traffickers 4. All involved 5. My self-6. Other (specify___)
V.4.	What challenges have you faced prior to your migration? (multiple answers are possible) 1. Theft 2. Rape 3. Physical violence 4. Psychological abuse 5. Other (specify-----)
V.5.	Did you receive any orientation before migration from MOLSA? 1. Yes 2. No
V.6.	Did you receive any orientation before migration from private employment agencies? 1. Yes 2. No
V.7.	In what forms did you go abroad? 1. Legal 2. Illegal 3. Indifferent
V.8.	Which was your country of destination? 1. Saudi Arabia 2. Yemen 3. Beirut 4. Kuwait 5. Egypt 6. Lebanon 7. Djibouti 8. Bahrain 9. Syria 10. UAE 11. Israel 12. South Africa 13. Other African Countries 14. Europe 15. Asia 16. USA 17. Other (Specify)
V.9.	Why did you choose that country? 1. High job opportunity 2. Higher pay 3. Friends live there 4. Relatives live there 5. Other (specify)
V.10.	Did you have any acquaintances who lived in the destination country (in that country)? 1. Yes (Mention your relationship_ 1. Relative 2. Friend 3. Non- relative) 2. No
V.11.	What role did these acquaintances play in your decision and arrangements to travel to that country? 1. Helped financially to travel there 2. Oriented me about the opportunities to settle there 3. Helped to obtain travel documents 4. Supported to stay abroad 5. No particular role 6. Other (specify-----)
V.12.	How long did you originally intend to stay in the country of destination? (years)
V.13.	How many years did you stay in the country of destination (Saudi Arabia)? (years)
V.14.	Why did you intend to stay for that period of time? Reasons: 1. Better payment 2. Failure to meet my expectations and embarrassed to back home 3. Adaptation problem 4. Bonded labor 5. Other (specify)

---

---

V.15. How much did it cost you to migrate?      Birr

1. Legal requirement      Birr      2. Brokers Fee      Birr

3. Transportation Cost      Birr      4. Other Costs      Birr

---

V.16. What financial resources did you use to cover your migration cost? Loan 2. My own asset sales 3. Family asset sales 4. Gift/Remittance 5. Family Cash 6. Own cash 7. Other (Specify)

V.17. How would you describe your socio-economic situation before you migrated abroad, abroad and after return?

---

V.17.1. Before Migration	V.17.2. Abroad	V.17.3. After Return
1. Very good	1. Very good	1. Very good
2. Good	2. Good	2. Good
3. Medium	3. Medium	3. Medium
4. Bad	4. Bad	4. Bad
5. Worse	5. Worse	5. Worse

V.18. Have you improved your socio-economic position as well as your families because of your stay abroad?

1. Yes, a lot 2. Yes, a bit 3. No it has remained the same 4. No, it becomes worse 5. No, it became much worse 6. Other (specify)

V.19. Please specify your employment situation before migration, abroad and since returning to your home country?

<i>Duration</i>	1. Employed full time 2. Employed part time 3. Self-employed 4. Irregular jobs 5. Unemployed	Average monthly Income (Birr)
<i>Before Migration</i>		
<i>Abroad</i>		
<i>After Return</i>		

V.20. Have you acquired any specific professional or technical skills while you were abroad?

1. Yes a lot 2. Yes a few 3. No

V.21. What challenges did you face while staying abroad? Mention from the perspectives of

employer, agents, and individuals (local and abroad)

Type of Challenges	1. Yes 2. No
Incompetence	
Language problem	
Cultural Shock	
Discrimination	
Physical assault/violence	
Verbal violence	
Rape/gang rape	
Theft	
Abandoning wages	
Other (Specify)	

V.22. Did you receive some support upon return?

1. Yes 2. No

V.23. If yes what sort of support did you receive? (circle all that applies)

1. Food 2. Water 3. Non food items such as mattresses, blanket, Cooking utensils etc
4. Medical support such as Vaccination 5. Transportation 6. Communication
- 7 . If any other specify

V.24. Has the following institutions assisted you in reintegrating?

V.24.1. Type of Institutions	1. Yes 2. No	V.24.2. Type of Support/ Assistance 1. Psychological 2. Social 3. Financial 4. Health 5. Other (Specify)	V.24.3. How do you rate the support or assistance you received in your reintegration? 1. Very good 2. Good 3. Fair 4. Poor
Community			
Friends			
Families			
Relatives			
Government institutions (Ministry of foreign affairs,-consular section, MOLSA, BOLSA, Police etc.)			
NGOs			
IOM			
ILO			
Health Institutions (private and non-private)			
Health Institutions (Government)			
Other (Specify)			

V.25. At this point in time, how do you evaluate your return to your country of origin?

1. Very positively 2. Positively 3. Neutral 4. Negatively 5. Other (specify-----)

**VI. Needs and Future Plans**

VI.1. Do you think there are enough opportunities here for you to sustain?

1. Yes 2. No

VI.2. Do you think you can cope up by yourself to sustain your livelihood?

1. Yes 2. No

VI.3. What support do you need from government, non-government, and community to sustain yourself?

<i>Type of support/need</i>	<i>Rank in order of importance (start from 1 for highest priority)</i>
Basic needs support (water, food)	
Business startup financial support	
Technical Support	
Better access to government services	
Training	
Education for our children	
Employment placement	
Loan/access to credit	
Business development services	
Access to Market	
Psycho-social support	
Other (specify-----)	

VI.4. What kind of training would be the most useful to develop your activity?

1. Vocational training
2. Business development
3. Training in marketing
4. Computer skill
5. Other Specify

VI.5. Do you have access to the following services?

1. Water
2. Electricity
3. Bank
4. Micro credit
5. Training

VI.6. What do you aspire in your future life?

VI.7. Do you think that you would face challenges in your effort to sustain your life?

1. Yes
- 2.No

If yes, mention

External factors	1. Yes	Internal factors	Yes
	2. No		No
Lack of access to credit		Lack of motivation/interest	
Lack of working premises		Lack of working capital	
Lack of technical support		Lack of skill/knowledge	
Discrimination		Illness	
Policies and regulations		Lack of family support	
Other (specify-----)		Other (specify-----)	

VI.8. After your return how did you find the overall business environment in your locality?

1. Far better than expected 2. Better than expected 3. Same as expected 4. Not as good as expected 5. Far worse than expected

VI.9. Will you consider going abroad again if you would get the opportunity?

1. Yes 2.No

VI.10. What would be the most important reasons for making such decision?

1. Lack of livelihood opportunities here 2. Attractive payment abroad 3. Alienation from the community here 4. Alienation from the family here 5. Other (specify\_\_\_\_\_)

VI.11. Which countries of destination would you favour most?

1. Saudi Arabia 2. Yemen 3. Beirut 4.Kuwait 5. Egypt 6. Lebanon 7. Djibouti 8. Bahrain 9. Syria 10. UAE 11. Israel 12.South Africa 13. Other African Countries 14. Europe 15. Asia 16. USA 17. Other (Specify-----)

VI.12. In your opinion, What measures should be taken to ensure safe migration and avoid the hitherto problems faced by migrants particularly to Middle East?

**VII. Family Questions (Ask either Returnee's Parent/Guardian or Spouses)**

VII.1. Sex Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female\_\_\_\_\_

VII.2. Which of the following categories best describes your age?

1. Below 20 2. 21 – 40 3. 41 – 60 4. 61 -80 5. Above 80

VII.3. What is your role in HH?

1. Head of the Household 2. Child 3. Extended Family Member

4. Other Specify\_\_\_\_\_

VII.4. What is your relationship with the Saudi Returnee?

1. Child 2. Spouse 3. Father 4. Mother 5. Relative

VII.5. What prompted the migration of the Returnee to Saudi Arabia?

Economic reason 2. Family members' invitation in Saudi 3. Peer pressure 4. Religious Reason 5. If other specify\_\_\_\_\_

VII.6. Who decided on the returnees' migration to Saudi Arabia?

1. It is his/her own decision 3. You decided on his or behalf

2. Other people involved in the decision

VII.7. What financial source was used to cover travel and other expenses of the returnee before departing to Saudi Arabia?

1. Saving
2. Selling Assets
3. Borrowing from family members
4. Borrowing from neighbours
5. Took loan from financial Institutions

VII.8. Can you estimate the amount of money the family incurred to send the returnee to Saudi Arabia

1. < 5000
2. 5001-10,000
3. 10,001-15,000
4. > 15,000

VII.9. At this time, what is your feeling about sending your child/spouse to Saudi Arabia?

1. I am happy
2. I regret it

VII.10. How is the returnee coping with the situation and trying to reintegrate with family members?

1. He/she is coping well
2. He/she is finding it difficult

VII.11. What is the biggest challenge for the returnee to reintegrate with members of the family?

1. Economic
2. Psychological stress
3. Disagreement
4. Health problem
5. Other (specify)

VII.12. As a member of the family what kind of support are you providing be it economic and/or psychosocial support?

1. Economic
2. Psycho-social support
3. Moral support
4. Other (specify)

VII.13. To fully reintegrate the returnees what type of support do you recommend?

1. Economic support
2. Credit access/ financial support
3. Working premises
4. Psycho-social support
5. Others (Specify)

VII.14. Will you advise others to migrate in the future

1. Yes
2. No

**Thank you, have a pleasant time**

## A.2 FGD Guide for government sector

### I. Situations of returnees during and after deportation

1. How do you describe the situation of the recent returnees from Saudi?
  - What factors at pre-departure contributed to the current problem?
  - What should have been the role of the government (which government body and what), community, family, migrants, others..?
2. Post departure at host country
3. After return:
  - How was the situation managed? Who did what?
  - How was the coordination effort, what was lacking?

### II. Effectiveness of the reintegration process

1. What went well in the reintegration effort by the different stakeholders?
2. What are the most relevant supports your organization believes should be provided to the returnees? What and by whom? (Strategic supports, Practical/ short term supports)
3. How can the reintegration efforts be better coordinated to mitigate in a sustainable manner problems of returnees'? (Economic, Psychosocial , Health problems and problems of the most vulnerable returnees)

### III. Stakeholders participation

1. Which are the appropriate government and nongovernment organizations responsible to provide reintegration support to Saudi returnees?
2. Can you briefly state the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders with regard to the reintegration support to returnees?
3. How best should donor organizations support be utilized to ensure impact on returnees' and to adjust their means of livelihood sustainably?

### IV. Major challenges and constraints

1. What are the major challenges and/or constraints encountered during and after deportation of returnees?
2. What do you think be the social implications on returnees in their effort to reintegrate in their respective communities?
3. What should be done to curb those challenges?

## V. The way forward

1. What do you recommend for the future to

- reintegrate well and ensure sustainable employment for the returnees
- prevent illegal emigration
- manage such emergency situations

2. Any more suggestion?

## A.3 Focus group discussion

The major purpose of this assessment is to get general information about returnees to determine gaps, short and long term needs of the returnees for successful reintegration and to develop data base for strategic policy response in the future. The information you give us is very important. Why?

Anonymity and confidentiality?

### List of participants

Name	Sex Male----1 Female----2	Age	Highest Grade Completed	Position in the community

1. What are the main sources of livelihood possibilities for the returnees in your community? according to the level of importance
2. In your opinion, what proportion of members in the community are returnees? (by gender) What are the major factors for migrating abroad in your community?
3. What types of households in the community are affected and are vulnerable to

migration?

4. Please mention the promoting factors available in the community for migration?
5. What were/are migrants family expectations from the migrant?
6. Do you think that the families of migrant workers benefited from migrants as result of remittance and other economic benefits? If yes/No discuss the reasons.
7. What were the challenges faced by families of migrants starting from migration decision, preparation and to reach the destination country? Give details (mention real case stories)
8. How do you evaluate the reintegration process of the returnees? Strong points? Weak points? Threats? Opportunities? Suggestions?
9. What type of income-generating activities are available to you in your community? Mention details
10. How do you suggest returnees have sustainable livelihood? (for Government, NGO, Community, etc.)
11. Which activities in your community are best fit for returnees to generate income for sustaining their life and/or successful?
12. Are there any organizations that support returnees in economic strengthening activities? If yes list all organizations and mention their support?
13. Do you have any plan to send your family members to migrate abroad? If yes/no, Why?
14. Other suggestions

## **A.4 FGD Guide for government sector (region level)s**

### **Causes for migration**

1. How do you describe the causes of migration for returnees from Saudi from the economic, structural, and social point of view based on your region experiences, realities and perspectives?

### **Effectiveness of the reintegration process**

2. How is/was the reintegration effort managed by the different stakeholders? At federal level, regional level, zonal level, woreda level and kebele level? Does it have similar structure or implementing modalities across zones, woredas and kebeles? Are monitoring and evaluation in place? Does it have guided plans and objectives? Who is responsible for overall supervision and control and decision making if problem appears of the reintegration efforts? Are there any feedback mechanisms? If yes, how and what are /were the benefits?

3. What are/were the major achievements in your respective regions in relation to the reintegration efforts of returnees? Do you think the achievements made so far have positive contribution for ensuring sustainable livelihoods of the returnees? What is also lacking?
4. What challenges and gaps were observed in the reintegration efforts from stakeholders at all levels (i.e. coordination, accountability, commitment, actions, family relations, community relations, conflict of interests with the existing unemployed youth and etc.)
5. What are the most needed supports your organization believes should be done to the returnees from the point of (training, job opportunities, financial access methodology, access to resources, group work or individual work, etc.) to lead their life sustainably and reintegrate well with their families and communities?
6. What role do major institutions (NGOs, Private sector, Community, families, financial institutions) play in returnees' reintegration efforts so that they can lead sustainable life? What support do you suggest NGOs, private sector, communities and families should provide to the returnees from your region experiences? Give details.
7. Do you think returnees from your perspective region are responsive, active and supportive in relation to the reintegration efforts? Give details both strong points, weak points, and challenges.
8. What unique support/s in your region is /are provided to children, disabled and psycho-social problems and mental health problems? What other support do you suggest? What support do you suggest NGOs, private sector, communities, families should provide for the vulnerable groups of returnees?
9. What do you think be the social implications of returnees in their effort to reintegrate in their respective communities?
10. The way forward

**1. What do you recommend for the future to:**

- Reintegrate Well and ensure sustainable employment for the returnees
- What actions were/are taken in your region to prevent illegal migration?
- What other additional measures should be taken to prevent illegal emigration in the future
- Manage such emergency situation

11. Any more suggestion









This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the ILO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union

ISBN 978-92-2-132364-8



9 789221 323648 >