Migration should be a matter of choice and not necessity

ILO Project on Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Ethiopia

Can a national challenge promote growth?

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

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

Turning the ILO’s response into success

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

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

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

Objectives of the project

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

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

Beneficiaries

Project beneficiaries include:

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

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This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the International Labour Organization and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.
A socio-economic assessment (SEA) was conducted to understand migration dynamics and the need to employ a sectoral approach to identify potential job creation and employment opportunities for migrants. The findings of the SEA, validated in a May 2017 Addis Ababa workshop, with the participation of 47 representatives of various local and international NGOs, the government, EU and UN counterparts, contributed to the design of the SINCE project. Based on the analysis of the comprehensive design of the SINCE project, the following evolution and thematic areas for study were identified:

**INCEPTION PHASE**

**OUTCOME 1:** The SINCE programme was selected.

**INTRODUCTION**

**OUTCOME 2:** Intervention areas and themes for study on the five migration regions of the country, the intervention areas and themes for the SINCE programme were selected.

**A socio-economic assessment** gives a country the information and data needed to make informed decisions in the planning and implementation of policies and interventions. A socio-economic assessment (SEA) conducted in 2017 in Ethiopia highlighted the following:

- The National Unemployment Rate for 2017 was 23.4%.
- The youth unemployment rate was 38.9% in 2004 and 29.6% in 2010.
- The study indicates that there has been an increase in youth unemployment in recent years, declining from 38.9% in 2004 to 29.6% in 2010.
- The study indicates that youth unemployment remains more significant among the female population.
- The average population growth rate of 2.6%.
- The high rate of youth unemployment is a critical issue in Ethiopia.
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**Youth Employability Services (YES) Centre**

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

**YES clients/users**

- Youth jobs
- Employers
- College/university graduates
- Out of school youth
- Returning young migrants
- NGOs, colleges and universities for migrants.
- Youth jobseekers
- Youth employability services offered by the public employment services; and
- Public employment services.

**Socio-Economic Assessment**

**OUTCOME 3:**

- There is limited access to employment opportunities and limited cooperation between public employment services and the informal sector.
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**Public employment services**

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

**Public employment services**

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

- limited technical capacity and resources;
- shortage of computers and electronic equipment, poor internet connectivity; and
- limited access and flow of information across zones and woredas (districts).

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**International Convention on Provisions of Employment Services**

The Government of Ethiopia ratified the Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88), which sets out provisions for free employment services to ensure, in all their activities, cooperation where necessary with other public and private bodies concerned, the best possible match between workers and employers.

- **8 important things to know about ETHIO**

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