Post-arrival Assistance to Ethiopian Returnees

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The International Migrant’s Day (IMD) was marked today (18 December 2013) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The day was colourfully marked in the capital’s City Hall whereby participants included members of the women federation, youth association, representatives of the elderly, the media and other invited guests.

Children choir, theatre shows, poetry recital and the testimonials of women returnees who endured different challenges in Saudi Arabia were the highlights of the event, jointly organized by the Addis Ababa City Administration Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

This year, the theme of International Migrant’s Day reads “It’s time to Take Action and Save Lives of Migrants Caught in Crisis.” The theme reflects perfectly in the context of Ethiopia as IOM and the Government of Ethiopia are continuously providing post arrival assistance to tens of thousands of Ethiopian Migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

At the event, Ato Kemal Ahmed, Special Advisor of the Mayor of Addis Ababa on Social Affairs, stated that irregular migration is posing a serious problem on the human and economic wellbeing.

Head of the Addis Ababa City Administration Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs, Ato Ephrem Gizaw on his part said that “the Government of Ethiopia is taking action to formalize overseas employment, putting in place the appropriate legal and procedural frameworks.”

Representing IOM as OIC for the Chief of Mission, Mr. Gabriel Okutoi gave his remarks on the event. Mr. Okutoi stated that, “As we speak, Ethiopia is welcoming thousands of Ethiopian migrants returning home following the Saudi Government crackdown on irregular migrants residing in the Kingdom. IOM is collaborating with the Ethiopian Government in the repatriation efforts with the returnee’s figure now exceeding 135,000.”

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On the International Migrant’s Day, IOM warns that unless the international community takes decisive action to address the causes of irregular migration, more migrant lives will be lost at the hands of people smugglers and traffickers. IOM also stated that the year 2013 may have been the costliest year on record in terms of lives lost, for migrants seeking to cross international borders clandestinely. The International Migrants Day is celebrated every year on the 18 of December as it is proclaimed by the UN General assembly. The UN took this decision taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world.

The show is part of the project “supporting governmental and non-governmental partners to protect migrants’ human rights along the East African Route” funded by EU.

“It’s time to take action and save lives of migrants caught in crisis.”

International Migrant’s Day theme 2013

IOM - OIC for the Chief of Mission, Mr. Gabriel Okutoi making an opening remark at IMD 2013

**Ethiopia Marks International Migrants Day**

**The IOM Mission**

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with partners in the international community to:

- Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management
- Advance understanding of migration issues
- Encourage social and economic development

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**Editorial**

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Ethiopian Labour and Social Affairs Ministry and IOM Deputy Director General launch World Migration Report 2013

Ethiopian State Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Dr. Zerihun Kebede and IOM Deputy Director General Ambassador Laura Thompson launched IOM’s World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-Being and Development, in Addis Ababa on Wednesday November 6th.

The event was honoured by the presence of different country Ambassadors based in Addis Ababa, high level African Union delegates and senior Ethiopian high government officials.

At the launch, the State Minister stated that the Ethiopian Government acknowledges the serious challenges irregular migration pauses and has started to take serious measures to curb irregular migration from Ethiopia. Commenting on the worsening irregular migration to the Middle Eastern countries, the State Minister highlighted Ethiopian government’s decision to temporarily cancel licenses of private recruitment agencies in Ethiopia. “Given the growing horrendous problems that migrants are facing in many countries, including the recent tragedies that happened off the cost of Italy, Ethiopia strongly believes that comprehensive approach is required to mitigate the plights of migrants wherever and whenever they occur.”

Also speaking at the launch, the Deputy Director General for IOM emphasized that, “the shape of the global development agenda beyond 2015 is yet unknown, but it is evident that there will be a need for a much stronger evidence to better reflect the linkages between migration and development.” She also stated that countries often report on the progress they have made towards the achievement of development goals such as the MDGs, yet there is hardly any mention of migration, partly due to a lack of data and relevant indicators.

This year’s report is the seventh in IOM’s World Migration Report series and builds upon the conclusions of the 2011 World Migration Report entitled Communicating Effectively about Migration. “The WMR 2013 is the first ever global report that gives a voice to the migrants and seeks to establish how migrants themselves, rather than researchers or advocates assess their migration experience.”

This year’s report draws upon the findings of a unique source of data – the Gallup World Poll. The Poll surveyed 25,000 migrants taking into consideration various factors contributing to their well-being. The WMR 2013 takes a fresh look at what life is really like for migrants in the world today, whether they migrate to and between rich countries in the North, or to and between poorer countries in the South.

IOM conducts International Migration Law training

In a two days session held on November 5th and 6th at the Capital Hotel and Spa Addis Ababa, IOM SLO Office conducted International Migration Law (IML) training for 28 officials. The training was conducted by Fanny Duvenmark, a Migration Law Expert, Tagel Solomon, National Program Coordinator Ethiopia, Rocio, Aznar Daban UNICEF’s Child Protection in Emergencies Specialist and Marouane Tassi, UNHCR Liaison Officer. Attendees of the event include members of the Ethiopian House of People’s Representatives, House of Federation Secretariats, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Federal Police Crime Investigation Unit, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission staffs, Addis Ababa University School of law, Ethiopian Red Cross Society and members of the media.

The training gave the officials an insight on the broad range of principles and rules relating to numerous branches of international law, such as human rights law, humanitarian law, labour law, refugee law, consular law and maritime law. The training introduced and provided tools that will be useful in developing migration policies and legislation that would enhance the rights and protection of migrants and ultimately help the country to manage migration more effectively and in a manner consistent with international law.

The IML training was opened by Ambassador Laura Thompson, the Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration IOM who was in Addis Ababa for the launch of the World Migration Report 2013. At the opening the DDG commended the high level of attention the Government has given to the issue of migration.

The Ethiopian State Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Dr. Zerihun Kebede stated that the Government of Ethiopia is taking serious measures to stop the irregular migration to the Middle Eastern countries. He highlighted their decision to cancel licenses to brokers in Ethiopia in their attempt to manage migration and to prevent inhumane treatment many Ethiopian migrants face in the Middle Eastern countries.

“The training is very vital for Ethiopians. I have a sister in the Middle East who has also been a victim of the irregular migration.” One of the participants commented at the opening. At the completion of the two days IML training the trainees received a certificate from the hands of Ambassador Laura Thompson.
IOM launches Overseas Refugee Vaccination Pilot Project

A pilot vaccination program for approved refugee applicants in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) was launched on 18th November at the IOM Addis Ababa. The vaccination program is funded by the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) of the U.S. Department of State. Aiming to provide cost-effective public health interventions, improve refugee health and limit the number of vaccinations refugees require after their arrival, IOM is implementing the pilot project for refugees departing from five countries of asylum: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, and Thailand. During the fiscal Year 2012, refugee arrivals from these countries accounted for 58 per cent of all U.S.-bound refugees. The pilot will include refugees primarily from Bhutan, Burma, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. The proposed vaccination schedule was developed in consultation with a group of CDC experts, taking into consideration the availability and cost of vaccines. The pilot will be implemented with a phased approach as vaccines become available for use by IOM in the countries of asylum. Accordingly, vaccines will be administered at the time of the initial migration health assessment, the first health examination by IOM for refugees funded by United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) conducted three to six months before departure to the United States, followed by second and third doses, as appropriate, starting approximately eight weeks after the first one and at least 1 month before departure. This timing should facilitate the medical examination process for refugees after their arrival in the United States. If refugees provide documentation of previous vaccination from another health care provider, such as the nongovernmental organization that provides health care services in the refugee camp under authorization of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or the Ministry of Health of the country of asylum, IOM will review the vaccination record and determine whether these vaccinations and documentation are reliable and acceptable to fulfill the criteria. Currently, some refugees are receiving vaccinations at both the initial migration health assessment and the pre-departure health check. Administration of live-virus vaccines (such as measles, mumps and rubella [MMR]) at the pre-departure health check has resulted in scheduling challenges for the post-arrival health assessment, since additional live-virus vaccinations and certain tuberculosis testing (tuberculin skin test [TST], interferon gamma release assays [IGRA]) must be delayed at least 1 month after the administration of live virus vaccines. With this new program schedule, all live-virus vaccines will be given at least one month prior to departure so that refugees, if eligible, can receive live-virus vaccines and tuberculosis testing immediately after arrival.

IOM conducts NoVASP workshop

The IOM SLO office in Addis Ababa conducted a Network of Victim Assistance Service Providers (NoVASP) workshop on Tuesday November 12, 2013. The workshop which aimed to form a network between victim assistance service providers was attended by 15 participants from Addis Ababa. In the workshop it was stated that it is high time that service providers form a network and integrate their efforts to mobilize resources and best help the victims. NoVASP hopes to set up a National Referral Mechanism which serves as an umbrella unit that monitors and assigns different service providers in their designated field. Through the National Referral Mechanism, the providers will be able to share their best practices, form a victim assistance network, and provide immediate and long-term assistance and including protection and capacity building programs. The participants of the workshop suggested that IOM should take the leadership of the Network as most of the participants only have limited experience of dealing with rural to urban and urban to urban (inter-country) trafficking. The participants also suggested Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Women and Children, as well as the Ministry of Justice to be part of the network.

“We need to broaden the scope from only focusing on victims’ assistance and go beyond. We also need to invite more actors from the Government and the United Nations agencies.” One of the participants said. According to a presentation at the workshop, the number of Ethiopians migrating regularly/irregularly and end up in traumatizing situations has been steadily increasing over the last three years. The data released on the presentation revealed the number of arrivals in the Yemeni shores has risen from 34,000 in 2010 to 84,000 in 2012. The data also highlighted that the number is going to show a steady increase in the year 2013 with already 42,025 arrivals recorded up to 31 July.
The Reintegration of Former Combatants of BPLM Officially Launched

On the 30th October 2013, IOM organized an event to celebrate the launch of the program to reintegrate BPLM (Benishangul-Gumuz Peoples Movement) former combatants in Benishangul-Gumuz Region. In attendance were key stakeholders that included amongst others; Benishangul Gumuz Regional Government representatives, BPLM leadership and the project beneficiaries.

Early this year, the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Regional Government of Benishangul-Gumuz requested IOM to provide technical assistance for the reintegration of Former BPLM Combatants. Following this request, IOM with funding from the European Commission through the Instrument for Stability (IFS) and African Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP), of the UK Government, commenced project implementation in May 2013 with the registration and profiling FCs. One of IOM’s key technical assistance is geared towards ensuring the sustainable reintegration of FCs through small scale income generation schemes focusing on agriculture, mining, micro and small enterprises and job placements.

Upon this request, IOM signed a memorandum of understanding with the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State on June 23, 2013 as a pre-requisite for the implementation of the activities. The implementation will be in two phases: 1) IOM aims to provide assistance to the Government during the rehabilitation training at the Bambasi Police Training Centre for initial reinsertion and to address immediate health and psycho-social needs; 2) IOM aims to support the return and reintegration of the former combatants based on needs assessment findings.

In order to ensure a successful and participatory approach to project implementation, IOM has developed a Reintegration Strategy that clearly outlines feasible areas of reintegration and modalities. This entails consultations with the project beneficiaries including Former Combatants and regional government officials. Moreover, the Reintegration Strategy was also based on findings of the socio-economic profiling exercise during the reception of the Former Combatants. IOM has introduced contents of this strategy to former combatants and has started to receive business plans from former combatants.

Quoting the Vice President of BPLM Former Combatants, Jafar Mustafa, “this event marks the start of a partnership between BPLM, IOM and BGRS to reintegrate FCs”. He said “Today’s event is just like rain. Rain starts with a few drops before it starts to shower. Today’s assistance is just a drop before the grand assistance begins.”
The 14th Session of Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) Africa meeting was held from 21 -22 November 2013 with “the African Union Agenda 2063” as its theme. RCM, which is a UN system support to the African Union (AU), had its latest session at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and H.E Dr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of UNECA.

The first session was dedicated for the second triennial review of the UN 10-Year Capacity Building Programme (TYCBP) for the AU, including resources mobilization for its implementation. The meeting also focused on the Regional Development Assistance Framework that would include Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the Capacity Building programme. The meeting also tried to link the work of MDG Africa Working Group and the RCM.

The meeting contributed to a better understanding of the ongoing consultations on the “African Union Agenda 2063” which responds to a long term 50 year development plan for the continent.

The 14th session also highlighted the role of the United Nations system and its support to the AU in the context of RCM-Africa. One of the major decisions to strengthen this coordination program is the agreement to align RCM-Africa annual meetings with the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Recognizing Migration as an important social agenda of the African Continent, IOM was invited to be a panelist at the meeting. The Regional Director for Eastern and Horn of Africa, Mr. Ashraf El Nour represented IOM in this capacity and made a presentation entitled ‘Social dimensions of the African Union Agenda 2063’. Mr. Ashraf presented IOM’s perspective on the social dimensions of the Agenda 2063 and emphasized the need to tap into the potential of Migration to contribute to the socio-economic development of the African continent.

“Agenda 2063” is undergoing a comprehensive consultative process, involving member states of the AU, RECs and other continental stakeholders (e.g. women, youth, civil society, parliamentarians, academia, private sector and trade unions). It benefited from policy analysis, research inputs, and technical support through its preparation. It will be considered at the AU Summit in January 2014, before a planned endorsement at the subsequent summit in July 2014.

United Nations agencies and International Organizations working in support of Africa represented at the meeting include the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank (AFDB), The New Partnership for Africa’s Development | NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Partners and friends of RCM-Africa and IOM.  

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The KSA Government has previously given time for undocumented workers to correct their status. However, many of the returnees from KSA said that they could not use the amnesty due to bureaucratic difficulties and disputes with their original sponsors. Often they stated that the reason for leaving their sponsors is employer’s excessive work demands and harassment.

On 13th November, 23 Ethiopians were deported from KSA with no luggage, and most with no shoes. The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) said that they were only the first batch of Ethiopian returnees and the number will increase over the coming days. On the following day, the GoE, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officially requested IOM to provide post-arrival and reintegration assistance to Ethiopian returnees from the KSA.

As of December 30, over 148,648 thousands of Ethiopian migrants have been brought to Ethiopia in what is known as the most colossal airlift the world has ever witnessed.

Many irregular migrants were held in one of the 64 detention centres, primarily in Riyadh and Jeddah before they were sent back to Ethiopia. Often the migrants reported of staying in centres with

Following the changes in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA’s) foreign workers legislation, the government crackdown on what it called illegal migrants. On 4th November KSA police instructed irregular migrants to “surrender” themselves at detention camps in Riyadh until they could be deported. Following the previous police raid, workers of African origin were highly impacted. A report of an Ethiopian man’s death was heard and the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry issued a statement which condemned the killing and mistreatment of its citizens residing in KSA. Soon it was announced that thousands of irregular migrants from KSA will come back home.
limited access to public utilities, inadequate supply of meals, and a general lack of privacy. Many of those detained and returned to Ethiopia arrive in need of medical support and with little of their personal belongings. Therefore, the urgent need to provide humanitarian support and assistance to the returnees was eminent. IOM was called for the task and responded immediately.

At the beginning of the operation, the GoE indicated that the number of migrants registered and waiting at deportation centres and police stations in KSA was no more than 30,000. However, within seven days of the operation, the number was revised by the Government indicating that many more Ethiopian migrants were still held at the centres awaiting identification and the actual arrivals have been revised to 80,000 returnees. A further revision upwards was likely as that estimation has also been surpassed and soon a 120,000 returnees’ projection figure was set. In mid-December the government gave an estimation of 155,000 returnees.

WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

It is November 26th, 13 days after the operation to bring back Ethiopian irregular migrants from KSA started. Sitting and waiting for a bus at the Civil Service Temporary Transit Centre, Fozia, pampers her one year-old child. After 10 years stay at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), leaving her husband, her house hold work and belongings behind to return to Addis Ababa was the last thing on her mind. “I was afraid that they will attack my husband and brother when they come to get me. They both have work permits. But I don’t.” the 29 year-old said explaining why she has decided to “surrender” herself to the camp in KSA to be brought back home. Fozia thought she would continuously live in Saudi Arabia; however, with the Saudi Government’s crackdown on irregular migrants, she rushed to the camp in a hurry leaving all her belongings with her husband. When asked if she and her husband have discussed how they will be together, she shrugs with bewilderment as tears roll down her eyes. “I don’t know, I never thought I would ever have to leave like this.”

Lidya might be sitting eight kilometres away from where her countrywoman Fozia is sitting. Yet, at the Airport Processing Center, the 26 year-old also shares a similar story. “My husband has stayed behind, but I had to come here. I was afraid of the Shebab (the youth which took justice to their own hands and attacked the irregular migrants in Manfouha district KSA)” she explains. Coming back home with a newborn, Lidya said she will be leaving for Wollo and wait for the reunification with her husband that will come a month later. Coming to Addis Ababa after eight years of stay, Lidya says her luggage contains all her savings and she said that it is not something she can start a living with.

The two young women are not the only ones who have sad stories to share. The nearly 50,000 Ethiopian women returnees also share a similar state of confusion as to what to do next with their life.

The GoE has promised the returnees that they will come up with ways to help them find work and establish themselves in Ethiopia. Yet, at this stage it is not yet finalized. The one thing that many returnees say is that they will not go back again.
REALIZING THE FALSE PROMISES

It has been two years and five months since Kebede, 26, left Mekele and headed for KSA in search of better opportunities. To his dismay however, he has only spent five months of those years working as a construction worker in KSA. “I didn’t have the work permit and I went through the route in Yemen. We had to also take a 15 days walk across a desert, after we got to Yemen on a boat trip.” He recalls how he arrived to KSA. Before leaving Ethiopia, Kebede has worked as a construction worker for four years in Mekele. Arriving in KSA however, he could not find work quickly as he has previously anticipated he would.

Kebede is not the only one who has had his high hopes smashed. The stories that many young irregular migrants returning from KSA share often start with a false promise they were fed by traffickers and smugglers. The common promise they receive is that they are travelling to the country of gold and they will send a lot of money and mitigate their parents from poverty. Often they report that such promises fail too short from reality.

As IOM SLO Addis Ababa office took part in the post-arrival assistance of the Ethiopian returnees from KSA, it came across many irregular migrants who have fallen prey to such false promise.

After five months of working, Kebede has made it back to Ethiopia; but he said he regrets not having anything to show for it. “I have not been able to send much money. I was paid 2,000 Riyals from which I paid 1,000 for a house rent and most of the remaining on food. I was only able to send very little amount. I’ve heard of many women being raped, I’m lucky I’ve only endured minor beating during my stay there.”

Despite coming back home empty handed, Kebede claims that he considers himself lucky to have come home with no physical abuse.

Tesfatsion, was not so lucky. Travelling from Wollo-Kombolcha (northern Ethiopia) area with his friends, the 28 year-old spent five months in Jail, four on the streets, and one month working. With his education limited to only eighth grade, no work permit and official sponsor, the only job he found was to work as a goat shepherd. “My salary was 800 Riyals. But I was arrested one day before payday, so I didn’t get paid.” He explains how his luck turned bad. “The police were searching for undocumented migrants and they almost caught me. But I escaped and started living on the streets as a beggar.” Living on food hand-outs from Ethiopian housemaids with work permits, he stayed on the streets for four months before he got caught and was sent back to Ethiopia. “There are many Ethiopian women and men living on the streets; some are beggars and some have even gone insane. Sometimes the police arrest people from the streets. I was arrested from the street. I do not want to be reminded of the bad treatment I received in Jail, the beating, the insult, the hunger... some Ethiopians die in jail. I am glad to be back to Ethiopia.” Having not told his parents of his return, before getting on board the bus to the station, Tesfatsion said he will “head home unannounced just as he left his house and surprise his parents.”

IOM’S RESPONSE - POST-ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE OPERATION FOR KSA RETURNEES

As of December, IOM has provided post-arrival assistance (including provision of food, water, health support and NFIs) to over 120,000 returnees who started arriving since 13 November 2013. Seven transit centers (Bole Airport, Gerji TC2, Millennium, Kotebe Teacher’s College, Civil Service College 1 and 2, Addis Ababa Leadership Institute) were opened to accommodate the returnees. According to the data collected upon arrival of returnees, women constitute 34 per cent, children account for 5 per cent, while unaccompanied minors who are at the age of 12 and above constitute 0.5 per cent of returnees. Returnees also include migrants with severe health conditions and IOM has referred migrants for specialized medical assistance and psychosocial support.

Due to their abrupt departure, many of the returnees had no time to arrange
for their return to Ethiopia or take most of their personal belongings and they cannot afford to continue their journey to reach their areas of origin once in Ethiopia. Hence, IOM has assisted them with a transportation allowance.

At least 410 unaccompanied migrant children have returned up until 30 December.

Furthermore, due to the difficult situation of the migrants in KSA, many return with severe medical conditions, such as physical and psychological trauma, psychiatric illness due to gender based violence/ suspected rape and respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia.

The situation of returning women was of particular concern. A significant number of women were pregnant and were in need of pre and post-natal care, while many young migrant children have not been properly vaccinated and are prone to illnesses. Hence, vaccinations were provided to the infant returnees.

The GoE has immediately responded to the emergency by opening three transit reception centres for the migrants. Due to the sudden increase of the returnees, the GoE had allocated four more centres. Two of these centres were dedicated specifically for women and children while the unaccompanied minors were catered for separately at the IOM transit facility until they are reunited with their families. Most of the centres were within government institutions and have limited capacity and infrastructure.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

To respond to this emergency situation, IOM has received US $2,500,000 from the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) and in addition, has accessed an internal emergency loan worth US$ 1,000,000. In-kind contributions have also been provided by International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, Plan International, MSF Spain, Ethiopian Red Cross Society, ICRC, VEDIKA Ethiopia Telugu –Association, Association of French in Ethiopia (ADFE), Ethio-French Association and Medhanialem Church Fellow Members Association, among others. The contributions include blankets, water tanks, mobile toilets, ambulances, dignity kits, pharmaceuticals, large tents, high-energy biscuits and telephone communication facilities, among others.

However, given the magnitude of the problem, there are still significant gaps and there is a need for continued humanitarian assistance to these vulnerable migrants.

As the lead, GoE was responsible for coordinating the movements and providing arrival assistance at the airport, including immigration clearing procedures. GoE’s role in the whole process was very significant, ranging from provision of airport arrival assistance, securing facilities for temporary accommodation, including meals and sourcing NFIs such as mattresses and blankets, as well as providing reintegration support once returnees reach their areas of origin.

IOM has responded directly to the humanitarian needs of the returnees and the GoE’s request for support in complementing its efforts in providing the returnees with basic support to return home safely and with dignity. IOM closely liaised with the Government and other active partners to ensure the smooth conduct of the operation.

Active partners in the implementation of the project include the: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture through the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS); Ministry of Health; Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs and the respective bureaus; UN agencies (OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP); international and local NGO partners, such as AGAR Ethiopia focusing on the rehabilitation of female victim migrants; Ethiopian Red Cross; IRC and IRC among others. UNICEF, along with the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA), is responsible for the family tracing and reunification process including data collection among the unaccompanied migrant children. AGAR Ethiopia provides shelter and psychosocial support to female vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking.

To ensure coordinated resource mobilization given the magnitude of the problem, IOM, in close coordination with donors, UN agencies, international and local NGO partners, hosts weekly meetings, as required.

“The police were searching for undocumented migrants and they almost caught me. But I escaped and started living on the streets as a beggar.”
High Level Visits

Josiah Ogina, IOM SLO Chief of Mission and Representative to the AU/ECA/IGAD, discussing with Dr. Tewodros Adhanom, Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the Emergency operation at the Gerji Transit Centre November 14, First day of the operation.

Patricia M. Haslach, US Ambassador to Ethiopia, talking to an Ethiopian returnee at the Bole Processing Centre.

Aidan O’Hara, Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia, visiting the Bole processing centre after making a donation to assist with the operation.

Ambassador Greg Dorey British Ambassador to Ethiopia briefed by Mihretab Mulugeta, Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chief of Protocol, at Bole Processing centre

Alexander Rondos, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, and ECHO officials from HQ and Addis Ababa Office talking with Ethiopian returnees at the Airport Processing Centre

Gabriel Okutoi, IOM’s Senior Operations Officer in Addis Ababa, giving Mr. Sanjay Verma, Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, and the Indian Business Forum representatives a tour around the Bole Processing Centre.

Odd-Inge Kvalheim, Royal Norwegian Ambassador visiting the Gerji Transit Centre TC 2

Alejandra Rojo Losada, Humanitaria Aid and Gender Officer Etiopia/ Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and Barbara Profeta Counsellor for Humanitarian and Development Affairs Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Embassy of Switzerland visiting the Bole Processing centre.
When a new law was put in place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and migrants have to return to their origins in tens of thousands, reinsertion and post-arrival assistance has become crucial for the vulnerable returnees. In Addis Ababa, IOM provided post-arrival assistance to tens of thousands returning from the KSA.