Stranded Ethiopian migrants return from Tanzania, Zambia and Yemen

INSIDE

IOM Creates Livelihood Opportunities Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian communities

IOM Bolsters Efforts in Support of Ethiopia’s Newly Enforced Overseas Employment Proclamation

IOM assists Drought Affected People in the Afar Region

African Union Meets for AU-Horn of Africa Counter Trafficking Initiative

IOM Conducts Community Conversation Facilitators Training in Jimma Zone

First-Ever Migration Profile for Ethiopia: Validation of Preliminary Findings Completed

www.ethiopia.iom.int  twitter.com/IOMEthiopia  facebook.com/iomsloet
AFRICAN UNION MEETS FOR AU-HORN OF AFRICA COUNTER TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

EGYPT – 30 JUNE 2016

IOM Egypt supported the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organize the second ministerial meeting of the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU-HoAI) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The AU-HoAI was formally launched through the signing of the Khartoum Declaration on 16 October 2014. Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan are core countries to the initiative. The neighboring countries of Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan also are taking part. The initiative provides a forum to improve cooperation on migration management in the Horn of Africa and to address the challenges of human trafficking and irregular migration.

The event was attended by ministers from Kenya, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tunisia, Djibouti, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Yemen, in addition to representatives of partner countries, including Italy, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Britain, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia.

At the meeting, ministers agreed to: “ratify and implement relevant international and regional instruments that address human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and organized international crime.”

IOM – which with UNHCR and the African Union Commission forms the Initiative Secretariat – was mandated to follow up on implementation of decisions taken at the conference.

Ambassador Naela Gabr, Chair of Egypt’s National Coordinating Committee on Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration, said: “Egypt will engage with all [its] African neighbors in order to reach a consensus on the best way to confront illegal migration from and within the continent in a way that preserves the dignity and life of [its] citizens.”

The Initiative supports the implementation of a “Migration Policy Framework for Africa” and the “Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.”

Editorial

IOM SLO Addis Communication Group
Editor/Designer: Alemayahu Seifeselassie
Copy editors: Rikka Tupaz

International Organization for Migration
Special Liaison Office (SLO) in Addis Ababa
P.O. Box 25283 Code 1000 Addis Ababa
Tel +251 116 611 097/98
Fax +251 116 611 101
Email: iomaddis@iom.int

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

www.iom.int  www.ethiopia.iom.int  twitter.com/IOMEthiopia  facebook.com/iomsloet
Dr. Jill Biden, the Second Lady of the United States, visited the IOM Refugee Transit Center in Addis Ababa on 18th July 2016. She was greeted by 70 singing refugees and IOM Ethiopia Chief of Mission and Representative to the AU, ECA and IGAD Maureen Achieng.

UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia Clementine Nkweta Salami, Deputy Director of Ethiopia’s Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs Zeynu Jemal and IOM Head of Operations for Africa Lori Seymour were also present to greet the Second Lady.

Briefing Dr. Biden, Ms. Achieng highlighted the recent massive displacement of people that has increased the burden on countries hosting refugees. Ethiopia hosts some 730,000 refugees – the largest refugee population in Africa.

“Today more than ever, there is urgent need for a new approach that ensures that this burden is not disproportionately borne by countries adjacent to conflict-affected states: Ethiopia and Kenya fall into this category,” she said.

Noting that the United States has led by example over the past six decades, she said that it remains the most generous resettlement country in the industrialized world. “This fiscal year alone, the US ceiling for admissions is 85,000 refugees from around the world, nearly 35 percent from Africa and 30 percent from the Middle East and Near East. This is set to increase to 100,000 refugees in the next fiscal year,” she observed.

“Over the last 10 years, the United States has resettled 30,000 refugees from Ethiopia and will resettle approximately 27,000 refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa this year,” she said.

Dr. Biden spoke with refugees at the transit center and observed a cultural orientation class preparing refugees for life in the United States. She also spoke to IOM medical staff who provide health assessments for refugees preparing for resettlement in the United States.

This was Dr. Biden’s first visit to Ethiopia and she will also visit Malawi and Niger.

IOM has a critical role in the US Refugee Admission Program. It provides transportation for refugees from remote camps to the transit center for interviews, health assessments, cultural orientation and pre-departure medical screenings. It also arranges transportation to their final destination in the United States.
IOM RECEIVES 2,400 SOLAR LANTERNS FOR EL NIÑO-AFFECTED FAMILIES IN ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA - 21 JULY 2016
IOM has received 2,400 solar lanterns from Panasonic Corporation, a Japanese multinational electronics company. They will be distributed to internally displaced families in Ethiopia, notably in communities affected by El Niño drought.

The in-kind donation is part of a Panasonic campaign to provide 100,000 solar lanterns to people in need by 2018. The aim is to improve and enhance the quality of life in emerging economies and developing countries with limited access to electricity.

The handover ceremony was held on the 14th July 2016 in Addis Ababa and was attended by Panasonic executive Noriko Tanaka, from Panasonic, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia Kazuhiro Suzuki and IOM Ethiopia Chief of Mission Maureen Achieng.

Thanking Panasonic, Achieng noted that the contribution highlighted how the private and humanitarian sectors can work together to help populations in need.

“Displacement often occurs in rural settings where social amenities like electricity are limited, a fact that further exacerbates the vulnerability of displaced populations, especially women and girls. These lanterns will contribute significantly to the protection of affected communities, reducing risks and insecurities and enabling them to pursue their lives and livelihoods in safety and dignity,” she said.

“The lanterns will also be made available for community spaces, including health posts, youth centres, for community policing and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Offices,” she added.

Ambassador Suzuki noted that development should matter to everyone, including private companies. “This (contribution) will help pave the way for a new type of future cooperation between international organizations and private companies in the area of African development,” he said.

Tanaka said that the company will continue to contribute to the resolution of social challenges faced by people living in areas without access to electricity.

SURVIVORS OF THE DEADLY SMUGGLING WHICH CLAIMED 19 LIVES IN ZAMBIAS RETURN TO ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA - 26 JULY 2016
IOM assisted 25 stranded Ethiopians intercepted in Zambia while trying to reach South Africa to safely return home.

The returnees were among the 76 survivors found in a container truck that claimed the lives of 19 Ethiopian irregular migrants in Zambia in June 2016.

All of them are male between the ages of 18-30 and were on the road for up to nine months crossing borders of Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.
IOM provided the migrants with return assistance as they did not have the means to return to Ethiopia. The assistance included an in-country transportation allowance to help them to get back to their regions of origin in Ethiopia.

Asfaw*, one of the returnees, said: “A friend of mine travelled to South Africa some years ago. He called and convinced me that I should get there somehow. So I sold my cattle, left my job as a waiter at a grill shop/restaurant in Hossana (southern Ethiopia) and left for South Africa.”

Asfaw said the smugglers promised him a safe bus journey upon payment of the money required. The situation he faced, however, was far from what had been promised.

“I stayed for four months in different dormitories and in the bush until the smugglers eventually succeeded in arranging the promised bus transportation. There were 41 of us when we got to Zambia, then another batch of 49 Ethiopians joined us.” The 19-year-old recalled how 90 of them were then loaded into a container at the back of a truck.

“We knew that this was not a safe way to travel. But the smugglers had machetes and they were beating us with sticks and whips when we refused to get on board,” he explained.

Asfaw said that they were hidden behind a large pile of sacks filled with fish. “The temperature was hot, we were suffocating, the smell was terrible, some people collapsed and 19 died. We started banging on the container after the truck had travelled for a day and a half.”

In total, Asfaw said he paid 60,000 birr (approximately USD 3,000) to the smugglers. He explained that he had to borrow some of that money from his father. Despite his losses, he is glad to be back home and alive. “I will not look to the South ever again, let alone accept to travel under such conditions,” he said.

Girum*, another returnee, shared a similar story. “I had to pay 90,000 birr (approximately USD 4,500) to get there. I was a grade 11 student and had a small shop. I had to sell it to pay for my travel. It was a big mistake. Now I will go back to my school,” the 20-year-old said.

This year IOM has helped 79 Ethiopians to return home from Zambia. The number of irregular migrants thus far provided with voluntary return assistance from Africa’s southern migratory route is 159.

“That so many migrants continue to be lured by people smugglers to choose this irregular path further underscores the need to reach out to communities, some of them remote, with a clear message on the hazards of irregular migration,” said IOM Ethiopia Chief of Mission and Representative to the AU, ECA and IGAD Maureen Achieng.

IOM recently completed a monitoring mission to initiate the return of additional 165 stranded Ethiopians from Malawi. IOM’s evacuation operations out of Yemen also resumed in July 2016, with 150 vulnerable Ethiopian migrants safely returning from Hodeidah, western Yemen, on 17 July.

**DETAINED ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS RETURN HOME FROM ZAMBIA**

Similarly IOM has helped additional 39 Ethiopian migrants stranded in Zambia en route to South Africa to return home. The migrants included 24 adults and 15 unaccompanied minors, who were intercepted by the Zambian authorities and gaol for illegal entry.

The migrants were promised an easy journey and well-paid jobs in South Africa by their smugglers. “I left Ethiopia to go to South Africa in the hope of getting a good job that paid well to send money to my family back home,” said Bahiru* (*name changed).

The journey was in fact a nightmare. “We were placed in containers so tightly packed we could barely breathe. We were beaten with sticks and belts. We saw the smugglers bribe the border patrols and that’s how we were able to cross countries until we were caught in Zambia,” said Dereje.*

The conditions in Zambian gaol were little better. “The prison cells were congested and squalid and insults were thrown at us constantly,” he added, promising to warn others in his home town when he eventually got home to Ethiopia.

On arrival in Addis Ababa, the adult returnees were provided with temporary accommodation, medical support, reininsertion allowance and onward transportation to their respective hometowns.

The 15 unaccompanied minors were accommodated at the IOM Transit Center in Addis Ababa until their family tracing and reunification support was finalized. This was jointly carried out by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs of Ethiopia and UNICEF.

IOM worked with the Governments of Zambia and Ethiopia to facilitate the return of the migrants.

“Since the beginning of 2016 we have helped over 1,700 Ethiopians to safely return home. We hope to continue our operation to provide safe return support to additional 1,000 Ethiopians from Yemen,” said Fumiko Nagano, IOM Ethiopia’s Migration Management Programme Coordinator in Addis Ababa.

**Note:** Names of the returnees have been changed to protect anonymity.
ADDIS ABABA - 16 JUNE 2016

Community Conversations (CC) is an IOM flagship program that provides a platform for local communities to discuss reliable and regular information on challenges of irregular migration enabling them to access information on alternative livelihood options, including legal labour migration channels.

Under this program, IOM conducted a Community Conversation Facilitators Training in Jimma zone, Oromia Regional States for 3 woredas and 25 kebeles. The selected locations are irregular migration hotspots whereby migrants primarily take the eastern migratory route: heading to Djibouti, Yemen and onwards to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or other oil-rich Gulf countries.

During the training, a total of 60 (34=male, 26=females) community facilitators from government staff of the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) and woreda administrators attended the three day training from 31 May – 02 June 2016 in Jimma town.

IOM aims to enhance and strengthen the existing Community Conversation activities through community based Behavioral Change and Communication to help communities make well-informed decisions on migration underlining that humane and orderly migration benefits all.

Specifically, the training is based on the IOM community conversation manual tailored to communities at grassroots level within the Ethiopian context and is delivered using participatory methods that encourage participants to contribute their experiences in relation to TIPs, people smuggling and irregular migration practices in their respective places.

“Community Conversation sessions have encouraged communities to build resilience and promote social cohesion through finding home-grown solutions to address challenges of irregular migration”, states Liyunet Demsis, National Programme Officer in IOM Ethiopia.

The training was organized by IOM and Regional and Zonal Social and Labor Affairs under the Population Refugee and Migration (PRM) project entitled “Horn/Gulf of Aden/ Yemen: Improving Protection of Migrants, Phase VI”.

As part of a comprehensive approach, IOM Ethiopia is actively engaged in sensitizing the public through other avenues and channels, including peer education, forum theater, and media campaigns with tailored messages for specific groups.

IOM BOLSTERS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA’S NEWLY ENFORCED OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROCLAMATION (923/2016)

ADDIS ABABA – 15 JUNE 2016

In partnership with Ethiopia’s Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, IOM is conducting 10 consecutive trainings on labour migration management to a total of 420 experts working on the newly endorsed overseas employment in 10 clusters covering 5 regional states and two self-administered cities. The first training was conducted in Dessie, Amhara region with the participation of 42 government focal persons. The second and third trainings were conducted in Jimma and Assala of Oromiya region with 50 and 49 participants attending the training respectively.

These events are the next step following the Training of Trainers (ToT) on labour migration
management held last December 2015 in Addis Ababa. The duly trained government officials will be able to cascade knowledge, skills and lessons on labour migration management among and between regional, zone and woreda focal persons.

The training aims to increase knowledge on the potential opportunities and challenges for labour migrants from Ethiopia and will help promote labour migration. “The training broadened my knowledge on the numerous ways of harnessing the immense potential of labour migration. This will help improve projects we are currently implementing in this field”, enthusiastically states Ato Getachew, one of the participants, and job process owner of North Wello labor and social affairs. Policy makers and other stakeholders who are engaged in the labour migration management process in Ethiopia will also have the opportunity to use the results of these assessments for promoting policy and strategy development for effective labour migration management over the long-term.

This project funded by the IOM Development Fund aims to enhance the GoE’s capacity to gather the requisite information to develop effective labour migration policies and practices. The agenda includes sessions on, inter alia, labor migration principles within an international and regional legal framework, guidelines for facilitating labour migration policy development process, protection and integration of migrant workers and the principles of two key proclamations: Proclamation to Provide for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Person and Smuggling of Migrants (909/2015) and Ethiopia Overseas Employment Proclamation (923/2016).

The Ethiopia Overseas Employment Proclamation (923/2016) entered into force in 19 February 2016 to ensure the safety, rights and dignity of Ethiopian migrant workers. The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is strengthening institutional and legal frameworks to effectively govern, operationalize and implement the overseas employment proclamation. It is also preparing to lift the ban on domestic workers to travel to the Middle East among other destinations whereby Ethiopia has signed bilateral labour migration agreements. In view of this, and following the GoE’s lead, IOM Ethiopia is equally scaling up its efforts and support to the government through different capacity building trainings and technical back up.

IOM VOLUNTARILY RETURNS 150 VULNERABLE MIGRANTS FROM YEMEN BACK TO ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA - 21 JULY 2016

IOM evacuation operations out of Yemen resumed on 13th July with the voluntary return of 150 Ethiopian vulnerable migrants from Hodeidah, western Yemen, back to Ethiopia via Obock port, Djibouti.

The group, which was comprised of 61 children (7 girls and 54 boys), most of whom were unaccompanied children and 83 females in total, included six medical cases and a pregnant woman.

Of the group, 117 of the migrants been detained in Hodeidah Central prison under very bad conditions, while others were stranded in Yemen for more than five months. Most suffered from various diseases - such as skin infections, diarrhea and urinary tract infections and they also suffered from low nutrition as a result of food shortages due to the crisis in Yemen.

The migrants were welcomed in Obock by an IOM team and officials from the Ethiopian Embassy, who provided temporary travel documents to enable them to enter Ethiopia. IOM Djibouti arranged their transportation to the Ethiopian borders where the IOM Ethiopia team provided onwards transportation to their final destinations. All unaccompanied minors received special assistance, including family tracing, organized jointly by IOM and UNICEF.

In response to a noticeable increase in smugglers preying on desperate migrants, IOM Yemen had created safe havens where migrants could receive care, shelter and counselling within the IOM Migrant Resource Centre.

IOM started operating in Yemen in 1994 when the organization assisted in evacuating migrants from Aden stranded during the civil war. The government of Yemen has been a Member State of IOM since 1999 and a first status agreement with the government was signed in 2001. IOM has worked closely with the Ministry of Expatriate Affairs on Yemeni migrant communities abroad and/or returning to Yemen.

In addition, IOM Yemen has been providing transportation assistance to migrants stranded in Yemen and victims of trafficking in conjunction with the Yemeni Immigration authorities.

Since the beginning of 2016, IOM Yemen has been providing emergency voluntary returns, in close cooperation and coordination with the relevant governments and IOM missions in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and other countries.

The majority of the assisted cases have been Ethiopian nationals in addition to migrants from Niger, Nigeria and Sudan. The approximate number of migrants provided Assisted Voluntary return on 2016 to date is about 1,400. The operations had been halted for few months because of budget and other logistics constraints out of IOM control but resumed with this latest movement this week.

The evacuations will continue throughout 2016 and with IOM Yemen aiming to assist more than 2,000 migrants to return home safely.
KHARTOUM HOSTS 7th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON MIGRATION

KHARTUM– 24 MAY 2016

The 7th Meeting of Regional Consultative Process on Migration (RCP) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was held on 18th and 19th May 2016 in Khartoum to consider recommendations of the Regional Migration Coordination Committee.

The two main recommendations that emanated from IGAD Member States during this 4th RMCC meeting were the strengthening of National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs) and the inclusion of IGAD as an institution in the Khartoum Process. The Khartoum Process, launched in October 2014, is aimed at strengthening all efforts in order to combat smuggling and human trafficking by addressing the root causes of migration and irregular migration. The RCP provided a regional platform for senior officials of IGAD Member States and representatives of development partners as well as other relevant stakeholders to report and engage on the status and dynamics of migration governance in the region. The goal was to have an information exchange on the topic and to learn from each other with a view to strengthen national and regional coordination efforts in the IGAD region to better address regional migration initiatives and programmes.

Since establishment in 2008, this RCP platform has ensured that IGAD Member States remain seized with different migration issues in the region ranging from migration and development, irregular migration, labour migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants amongst other issues.

Major stakeholders include the International Organization for Migration, the African Union, the European Union, COMESA, EAC, UN agencies such as UNHCR and ILO, as well as the World Bank and selected IGAD Partners’ Forum (IPF) members like the Netherlands and Germany.

74 STRANDED ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS RETURN FROM TANZANIA

ADDIS ABABA - 14 JUNE 2016

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted 74 Ethiopian migrants stranded in Tanzania to safely return home in Ethiopia on Thursday, 9 June. En route to South Africa, all male migrants comprising 53 adults and 21 unaccompanied minors had been intercepted in Tanzania, shortly after crossing the Kenyan border irregularly.

“I overheard a smuggler making travel arrangements for clients. Intrigued, I asked her about the whole process. She responded with certainty that it was all legal and that I would earn lots of money. I decided to go and she charged me 100,000 birr (around 5,000 USD) for the trip”, 22 year-old Eshetu Abako explains the modus operandi of the unscrupulous smugglers which depleted his four-year savings in less than a week. “To raise the amount, I had to work four years then sell my motor cycle and my small kiosk which gained profits of 800 Birr (40 USD) per week”, lamented Eshetu. Similarly, 21 year-
old Teketel Kassa handed over his 75,000 birr (3,750 USD) savings to a smuggler in the hopes of arriving to South Africa to lead a better life. “I was the first born child and my father passed away when I was young. As the bread winner of the family, it was becoming impossible to survive with the 1,800 birr I was earning every month - working as a machine operator in a wood workshop. With house rent increasing, and food prices inflating, I had to give South Africa a try”.

Both suffered the same unimaginable ordeal: “the smuggler promised us the required visa, transportation by bus and sleeping arrangements in different places. But it was a scam, we were locked-up in airtight containers on board packed boats. We were suffocating, some of our friends started to collapse, so we started to pound on the containers and screamed for our lives. That was how we were discovered at the Tanzanian border and imprisoned thereafter”.

After serving their term in prison, they were released and were granted a seven-day visa. They started their journey back to Ethiopia on foot. However, upon reaching the Kenyan border, they were intercepted by the Kenyan border patrol who incarcerated them once more. “After our release, all we wanted was to go back home”, explains Eshetu recollecting his devastation caused by the consecutive tribulations he faced. Fortunately for Eshetu and his countrymen, he had learned enough Swahili while serving his term in prison and effectively pleaded their case. The Judge revoked their second sentence and they were free to go.

Despite losing their savings, both returnees are thankful to be alive and are enthused in reclaiming their lives and starting anew. Eshetu states with resolve: “now that I have lived through all this hardship and lost all my belongings, I will not try this path again”.

“These returnees are among the lucky ones for whom IOM has managed to secure the funds to provide the much needed support, thanks to the generous funding from the donors. This southern irregular migratory route is becoming one of the major routes followed by irregular migrants where we come across youthful Ethiopians stranded under harsh conditions. IOM in the recent past has also assisted a few groups of irregular Ethiopian migrants for their voluntary return from Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. However, due to funding constraints, IOM is yet to fully respond to the requests that come from migrants and governments”, states Abraham Tamrat, Senior Assistant Program Manager in IOM Ethiopia.

Upon their arrival in Addis Ababa, the adult returnees were provided with temporary accommodation, medical support, reinsertion allowance and transportation to their respective hometowns. The 21 unaccompanied minors are at the IOM Transit Center in Addis Ababa awaiting family tracing and reunification support which is carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs of Ethiopia and UNICEF.

IOM worked with the Governments of Tanzania and Ethiopia to facilitate the return of these migrants. This operation was funded by the International Cooperation and Development – European Commission (DEVCO) under the project ‘Addressing the needs of vulnerable stranded migrants’.

IOM is currently coordinating with the Governments of Ethiopia, Zambia, Malawi and Yemen for expediting the return of hundreds of additional stranded Ethiopian irregular migrants.
Migration profiles are country-owned tools that provide a framework and foundation for monitoring and managing migration. In addition to providing a comprehensive “at a glance” overview of countries’ migration situation, migration profiles suggest approaches to setting up systems and mechanisms for tracking migration over time, as well as evaluating the link between migration and development and assessing the socio-economic impact of migration. The final document that will come out of this process will identify and help develop strategies to address data and policy development needs to encourage evidence-based migration policy-making.

In November 2015, in close collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, IOM launched the Migration Profile initiative for Ethiopia. It is envisioned that the initiative will be carried out in two phases, the first of which consists of a preliminary assessment of the existing migration framework, including data, policies, and governance structures, in Ethiopia.

The first phase was completed and a validation workshop was held on 11 April 2016 in Addis Ababa to present and discuss the preliminary findings with the members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) representing various government ministries and agencies, including the Ministries of Justice, Labour and Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Education, the Administration for Returnees and Refugees Affairs, among others, as well as relevant UN agencies and NGOs. The preliminary assessment identifies gaps and strengths in migration data management in Ethiopia and maps out the migration management and governance system and structures.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Mesfin Abebe, State Minister of Justice of Ethiopia and Chair of the TWG, expressed his appreciation for the commitment of TWG members and for IOM’s technical support in this initiative, which should fill the information gap and shed light on mixed migration trends in Ethiopia.

The IOM consultant in charge of the initiative, Dr. Mehari Taddele, presented the preliminary findings, drawing attention to sources of migration data in the country, data-collection and maintenance infrastructure at all government levels, information-sharing mechanisms as well as the use of migration data by the Government. He also made action-oriented recommendations on how to enhance the use of migration data for policy formulation and harness the development potential of migration for Ethiopia. Furthermore, Dr. Mehari underlined the unique dynamics that Ethiopia faces as one of the main migrant source countries and host to the highest number of refugees in the region.

The identified push and pull factors include, inter alia, unemployment, peer and family pressure, poverty and low income, high income differentials with destination countries, low public awareness on realities in countries of destination, divorce and interfamily quarrels, and inducement by traffickers and smugglers.

Following the incorporation of technical feedback received from TWG members and IOM, the report will be finalized, leading to the official closure of Phase I of the Migration Profile Initiative. Phase II will focus on the development of a comprehensive document. Based on the identified migration data gaps, comprehensive data collection will be conducted in order to enhance the knowledge base on mixed migration, including the identification of trends, root causes, socioeconomic impact, and migration governance and partnership.

**PRESIDENT DR MULATU VISITED THE IOM ACTIVITIES AT (ERCS) 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY BAZAR**

The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Mulatu Teshome visited the IOM booth which showcased its ongoing projects and activities at the Ethiopian Red Cross Society’s (ERCS) 70th Year anniversary bazar held at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center starting today, 6th May, 2016.

IOM Special Liaison Office Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Jian Zhao and Project Assistant for the Emergency and Post Crisis Unit Mr. Tsegaye Asrat briefed the president on IOM’s partnership activities with the ERCS on Emergency Non-Food Items distribution to drought-affected populations in Ethiopia as well as emergency operations.
IOM CREATES LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES:
“ I’VE NEVER HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY BEFORE”

TIGRAY REGION, ETHIOPIA
ADDIS ABABA - 25 APRIL 2016

A Basic Business Skill training was provided by IOM to Eritrean refugees and Ethiopian communities in Tigray Region at the Shire Town Poly Technique College. The first group of beneficiaries included 30 men and 30 women from Mayayni and Adi-Harush refugee camps and from the host community.

“I’ve never had this opportunity before” exclaims an Eritrean refugee with sheer excitement further explaining how this training could be a turning point in his life. Most of the refugee trainees have been living in the camp for 6-8 years with their families. This entrepreneurial project provides a first step towards prospects of a better future and financial autonomy.

Trainees will submit a business plan and once approved, will be given in-kind start-up kits to materialize their business ventures.

The second group of beneficiaries will receive training by the end of May. This livelihood project is funded by UK-FCO and implemented in partnership with ARRA and UNHCR both in Refugee Camps and host community in Northern Ethiopia, Tigray Region.

SMUGGLED MIGRANT: “MY HUMANITY WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM ME”

ADDIS ABABA - 03 MAY 2016

Smuggling - “The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident”

- IOM Key Migration Terms

Tempted by the new house that his neighbors could afford and propelled by his dreams for a better life, Ahmed left his motherland imagining that he would get better opportunities when he arrived in the Middle East. The opposing reality could not have been more palpable. This 21-year-old from the northern part of Ethiopia paid smugglers to transport him across the Red Sea. This is when his traumatic ordeal began. Never in his life could he imagine the inhuman tribulations that he was about to face.

Ahmed, together with fellow countrymen, recounted to IOM how they were handed over to multiple smugglers en route to the Middle East, and upon crossing over to Yemen, were tortured for extortion and ransom. Those who were able to provide the sum were free to go but the unlucky ones were “taken to a place called Jebel where they were hung upside down and beaten with chains.” He witnessed how men and women alike were raped in front of them and added, “they also forced us to torture one another by melting plastic materials on each other’s bodies, even dousing a companion with inflammable liquid and setting him ablaze.” He recounted how his torturers tried to strip him of his identity: “I felt as if I had no country.” Jumping from one torture detail to another, he stated how “my humanity was taken away from me.”

Now that Ahmed is back in Ethiopia, and though deeply grateful to be alive, his worries extend to his family who lost everything, including their house and cattle – their source of livelihood – to pay the ransom money. With no money to offer his family, he solemnly asks himself: “What are we going to do now and how do we pick up the pieces of our lives?”

Human trafficking and smuggling are crimes that beleaguer countries worldwide. In Ethiopia – a country of origin and transit for three major migration routes (Northern, Southern, and Eastern) – through the technical assistance of IOM and other organizations, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has bolstered its legal framework to fight this phenomenon. Proclamation 909/2015 entered into force in August 2015. The new legislation levies harsh penalties against traffickers and smugglers and focuses on safeguarding the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants in the country and within the region.

Ahmed is one of the fortunate Ethiopian smuggled migrants that were evacuated from war-torn Yemen in April 2016 through the combined efforts of IOM and the GoE.

To date, the current evacuation operation has returned 1,220 migrants through the IOM emergency funding sponsored by DFID, ECHO, the US State Department, Sida, UN CERF and USAID.

Like Ahmed, many Ethiopians are still choosing the Eastern Migratory route and are falling into the hands of preying traffickers. The Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat 2016 Report states that the total estimated number of migrants who crossed the Gulf of Aden, using 110 boats, in March 2016 alone is 10,424. Of this total, 83% were Ethiopians. Furthermore, the report states that a 35% increase in arrivals was recorded from those of February 2016.

*Name changed to ensure privacy and confidentiality.
IDMR FINDINGS
EVER MORE PERTINENT AND INSTRUMENTAL FOR HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS IN ADDRESSING THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON

ADDIS ABABA - 21 APRIL 2016

Due to the ongoing and protracted El Niño phenomenon, IOM’s quarterly Internal Displacement Monitoring Report (IDMR) is ever more relevant and crucial to help partners in providing coordinated, efficient and timely response to displaced persons. The 15th (IDMR) workshop held on the 21st of April, 2016 with participants from the Government, UN agencies, donors, INGOs and local NGOs highlighted the alarming increase in numbers of displaced persons and the aggravating hazards caused by the El Niño phenomenon mainly in the regions of Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Somali. The workshop focused on the displacements that occurred during the quarter, including information on newly displaced persons and the protracted caseloads, as well as displacement attributable to El Niño in previous quarters, so that partners could coordinate and provide a timely response.

The International Organization for Migration Special Liaison Office (IOM SLO) in Addis Ababa collects data on displacement and drives of displacement on a quarterly basis through the IDMR, as part of IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programming. It aims to strengthen information dissemination on internal displacements and thereby support a timely inter-cluster humanitarian response. Since August 2015, the quarterly IDMR started presenting information on displacements and its drivers - drought, drought-related social-tension and unseasonal flooding - caused by the El Niño phenomenon in addition to other casual factors - conflict, fire, flooding and effects of volcano.

During discussion, a new strategy to scale up IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programming was also announced and will be implemented in mid-May. More specifically, the new plan of action will employ three layers of data collection tools at three levels (zone, woreda and site). Prior to this, the IDMR focused data collection on woreda and site levels. IOM will work closely with the Government of Ethiopia, Danish Refugee Council and Ethiopian Red Cross Society in implementing the new strategy, and as a major outcome, it is expected to provide a comprehensive nationwide data primarily on displaced persons disaggregated, inter alia, by age and sex, but also on the drivers of displacement. This information will help enhance coordination mechanisms amongst humanitarian partners to provide more timely, expedited, efficient and targeted response.

Since August 2015, Emergency Shelter / Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) cluster members distributed at total of 16,927 full and 9,135 partial NFI kits as well as 18,015 full and 3,657 partial ES kits. The gaps on ES/NFI provision remains significant and less than 50 percent of the needs of displaced people are being addressed. This calls for an urgent need to combine and raise humanitarian efforts not only in the delivery of services but mainly in sourcing the necessary funds to cover the financial lacunae.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS