

Returnees Reintegration Project Management Office (RR PMO)

Summary of 2023 Project Core Achievements

Supporting individual returnees

- The readmission procedure was launched after several consultations with the EU and EUMS embassies here in Addis Ababa.
- The Ethiopian international Airports Authority designated a space for a returnee's service desk, securing minimal rental costs.
- IOM & RRS has proposed a multi – stakeholder engagement protocol to the responsible Ministry of Women and Social Affairs. The ministry accepted the proposal and is working to coordinate the activity.
- Information booklets were provided to three returnees (two males and one female).
- In the reporting period, temporary project ID cards were issued to 31 returnees (24 males and 7 females).
- 5 EU+ returnees (4 males and 1 female) received transportation and accommodation support.
- A total of 24 returnees (10 males and 14 females) accessed short-term medical and psychosocial assistance through healthcare service referrals.
- The project office covered three months housing rent costs for 3 (2 males and 1 female) returnees.
- Educational support was extended to four (2 males and 2 female) returnees.
- In-kind business start-up materials were provided to four returnees (two males and two females). Of which, additional assistance was offered for two returnees in Tigray whose businesses were affected by conflict.
- 56 returnees (46 males and 10 females) received a three-day psychosocial and entrepreneurship training program at the Ethiopian Management Institute.
- On-site follow-up support and mentorship were conducted for 49 returnees (29 males and 20 females) who initiated various businesses during this reporting year.

Community Based Reintegration Supports Provided

Community dialogue sessions on the risks of irregular migration and available opportunities

- In the reporting period, a total of 19 Community Dialogue (CD) sessions were successfully conducted in Somali, former SNNP, Oromia, and Amhara regions. A total of 714 community members, comprising 402 males and 312 females were attended these sessions.
- A comprehensive Training of Trainers (ToT) was carried out, focusing on finalizing pending CD sessions and officially handing over fully completed CD sessions. This training involved CD facilitators from all target regions, except for Tigray, along with Woreda stakeholders. A total of 57 participants (44 males and 13 females) engaged in this three-day training session.
- The project office facilitated video production of CD sessions. A total of 8 CD sessions were documented in the reporting period and the videos were shared with the EU and other project stakeholders in various occasions/meeting events.

Returnees Storytelling & experience sharing Efforts:

- The project office has identified more than 26 returnees with different migration backgrounds across the target areas and their case stories have been prepared.
- We are now processing airtime and additional video production service procurement by an external competent firm. Upon completion, returnees case stories will be broadcasted through mass medias along with other video productions.
- In addition, the project office has facilitated proper video productions of other important events such as CD sessions 4th concluding events, one database training workshop, one coordination workshop, 7th PSC meeting and CSI handover ceremony in Kallu woreda, Amhara region.

Community Support Initiative:

- Four CSI projects (two markets sheds in the Somali region and one in Oromia Region) and one irrigation project in the Amhara region were successfully completed and handed over to the local government authorities and project beneficiaries.
- While accomplishing some of the CSI projects such as installing irrigation machines in Kallu woreda (Amhara region) as well as hallow block production & stone crusher machines in the

former SNNPR three woredas, we went further miles to arrange and provide technical trainings to project beneficiaries on how to operate the installed machines.

- Already started animal fattening shed construction in Silte woreda (former SNNPR)
- Poultry farm supports (cage production, shed infrastructure improvement, pullet chicken & feed & vaccine purchases) in Addis Ababa were also accelerated and soon they will be handed over to the respective local government and project beneficiaries.
- Similar CSI project interventions resumed in the Tigray region. In consultation with the region's interim administrator, we have revised and identified new three migration-prone woredas for the CSI intervention namely Freweyni, Fatsi and Mohoni city administrations.
- The project office has also signed a project agreement to construct animal fattening shed in Freweyni & Fatsi and Dairy shed in Mohoni. The project office has also selected competent contractors in the target city administrations and construction has already started in Fatsi and Freweyni. Contractor selection in Mohoni city is still ongoing.

Capacity Building Supports for Government Institutions

- Three Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges in the Tigray region received various machinery, equipment, tools, and training materials to enhance their capacity in providing short term vocational training programs to returned migrants.
- In the reporting year, a total of three regional coordination workshops were conducted in Amhara, Tigray, and Addis Ababa City, attracting 142 participants (112 males and 30 females).
- To ensure national database system, validation workshop training was organized in Adama town. A total of 30 experts (23 males and 7 females) from 12 federal agencies have taken part in the training.
- In addition, ICT infrastructure assessment was undertaken to identify the gap and needs of these federal agencies (TWG member organization) and RRS is in process of procuring ICT materials as part of the capacity building program to establish and operate return & reintegration central database management system.
- The comprehensive labor market study titled "Opportunities and Challenges of Reintegrating Returnees in Selected Migration-Prone Areas" was completed and the external firm submitted first draft of the final study report. RR PMO has reviewed and forwarded comments on the draft

report and expecting the final refined study report which is again to be shared with the EU for additional comments and suggestions.

Overall, the project achieved significant progress in assisting returnees, raising awareness, building community resilience, and empowering government institutions despite the insecurity & sporadic conflicts in target woredas, high price inflation and coordination gaps among project stakeholders.

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