

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A Study on Reintegration of Returnee Child Migrants; The Case of Child
Returnees in Hadiya zone, SNNPR

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirement of the Degree of Master of Arts
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Addis Ababa

Declaration

I Nardos Girma Wolde, hereby declare that this thesis is original and has never been presented in any other institution. I also declare that, any secondary information, and materials used has been duly quoted and acknowledged in this thesis.

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Abstract

The study focuses on understanding the reintegration assistance provided for child returnee migrants in the Hadiya Zone and the practical application of normative frameworks in protecting the rights of returnee children. The study assesses the reintegration of returnee child migrants based on the four fundamental principles relating to children's rights, survival, and development, non-discrimination, right to be heard and the best interests of the child. The study mainly employed qualitative research methodology and various data collection tools, including focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and field observations. Drawing on the empirical data collected from Hadiya Zone Misha Wereda and Lemo Wereda the study reveals the gaps in the legal system and practical challenges and prospects in the reintegration of the child returnees. Based on the analysis of the data and the gaps observed, this thesis recommends various measures to be undertaken, for stakeholder's further engagement and future enhancements on the rights of the study group in the study area.

Keywords: -, Migration, Irregular Migration, Return Migration, Child Returnees, Reintegration,

Acronym

ACHPR: -	African Charter on the Human and Peoples Right)
ACRWC: -	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ARRA: -	Administration of Refugees and Returnees Affairs
AVRR: -	Assisted Voluntary, Return, and Reintegration
BOLSA: -	Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs
BoWCYA: -	Bureau of Women Children and Youth Affairs
CAT: -	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman Degrading Treatment
CEDAW: -	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSOs: -	Civil Society Organizations
E.C: -	Ethiopian Calendar
ERIC: -	Ethical Research Involving Children
ETB: -	Ethiopian Birr
EU: -	European Union
F.D.R.E: -	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD: -	Focus Group Discussion
G.C: -	Gregorian calendar
GDP: -	Gross Domestic product
IASC: -	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCPR: -	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR: -	International Convention of Economic Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ: -	International Court of Justice
ICRMW: -	International convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
IDP: -	Internally Displaced People
IGAD: -	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO: -	International Labor Organization
IOM: -	International Organization for Migration

JGC: -	Joint General Comment
KSA: -	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MAP: -	Migration Action Plan
MOLSA: -	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
MoWCYA: -	Ministry of Women Children and Youth
NGO: -	Non-Governmental Organization
OPRIFS: -	Organization for Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Integration of Female Street Children
OVC: -	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
RFC: -	Revised Family Code
RRP: -	Return Reintegration Plan
RSA: -	Republic of South Africa
SDGs: -	Sustainable Development Goals
SNNPR: -	Southern Nation Nationalities Peoples Regional State
SOM: -	Smuggling of Migrants
TIP: -	Trafficking in Person
TVET: -	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UDHR: -	Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UJCFA: -	Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency
UNCRC: -	United Nations Child Right Convention
UNHCR: -	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
UNICEF: -	United Nations Children Fund
UNODC: -	United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTOC: -	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Chapter One

1. Introduction

Migration has for long been a common phenomenon in human history whereby people have been moving from one place to another, with different intentions of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location, they move to. The 2020 world migration report shows that 3.5% of the world population has migrated from the place of its origin to destination countries. Child migration is a phenomenon on the rise. The mobility of young people grows, as a result of several factors including; economic factors such as unemployment, poverty, income inequality, environmental and demographic factors (such as climate change, natural disasters), and lack of peace and security. The number of global child migrants has shown an increase from 28.4 in 1990 to 37.9 in 2019.¹ In 2019 migration data, among the overall number of migrants at the global level, 14 % of the migrants are young population below the age of 20 including children below the age of 18 and with a constant share (around 12%).²

The share of children among Africa's migrants and displaced populations is currently the largest for any region. Nearly one in four international migrants in Africa is a child, more than twice the global average, and some 55 percent of the 7.4 million refugees in African countries are children".³ Ethiopia is one of the migrant-sending and refugee-hosting countries in Africa. Ethiopia hosts 928,663 registered refugees and asylum-seekers as of 31 July 2018, from more than 20 countries, with the majority originating from neighboring South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, and Yemen. Among these, 50.2 percents are women and girls, 59.4 percent are children, while 18.4 percent are youth aged between 15 and 24 years old.⁴

¹ Ibid page 236.

²Ibid

³UNICEF.2017. *African Action Agenda for #Children Uprooted*, Page 68

⁴ UNHCR.2011, *Submission by The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Compilation Report, Universal Periodic Review: 3rd Cycle, 33rd Session, page 1-6*,10.1017/CBO9781139583428.005

The child is an individual below the age of 18 as per the convention on the rights of children.⁵ The same definition is used under Article 12 of the ACRWC and other International, Regional, and National legal frameworks. The irregular nature of their journey is one of the factors that increase the vulnerability of children, endangering the human rights of children, and aggravating their susceptibility for abuse and exploitation. Evidence show child migrants encounter different forms of physical, economic, and psychological glitches. They are widely exposed to smuggling, child labor, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking as compared to adult migrants. Even after returning to their country of origin, they face stigmas and stereotypes. The effect of these stigmas and stereotypes harm the physical and psychological wellbeing of the returnees, particularly on vulnerable groups of the society such as women and children. Furthermore, they face physical disability, detention, death, and economic hitches at the different phases of migration and after a return. Lack of adequate support and coordination by government and development actors creates frustration among the returnees and encouraging re-migration by some of the returnees.⁶ Successful reintegration has various advantages not only for the wellbeing of the returnee children but also for the creation of a stable and strong society in different aspects. This study focuses on understanding the reintegration of child returnee migrant drawing the empirical evidence.

Ethiopia is a party to various International, and regional human rights and child right related instruments such as an international bill of rights (UDHR, ICCPR ICESCR), CRC, CAT, CEDAW, ACHPR, the ACRWC, and other pertinent human right instruments. Particularly related to child rights protection, Ethiopia adopted a number of conventions dealing with the rights of children in different aspects. The country also adopted national policies, strategies “ and to some extent, it has put in place laws and institutional frameworks aimed at securing the mental, physical, social and legal needs of children⁷”. Ethiopia has domesticated international agreements pursuant to Article 9(4) of the FDRE constitution⁸. Besides, it has endorsed and adopted International,

⁵ UNCRC Article 1 “for the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier’.

⁶ FDRE. 2014. Action document for “Support to the reintegration of returnees and to the management of labor migration in Ethiopia “European Development Fund Bridging Facility, CRIS number: FED/2014/037-325 2014 page 4

⁷ Tadesse Kassa. 2016. *Baseline Study for a Comprehensive Child Law in Ethiopia. Baseline Study for a Comprehensive Child Law in Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa university Center for Human Rights Studies.

⁸ FDRE. 1995. *Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia constitution*, Article 9(4). “All international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are the integral parts of the law of the land

Regional, and Sub-regional development plans including Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union Agenda 2063.

The child right convention has four major principles for the protection and promotion of the rights of children the best interest of the child, the right to life, and survival, non-discrimination, and the right to views and opinions. Those principles are enumerated under Article 36 F.D.R.E constitution. Despite the recognition and domestication of International and Regional human rights standards, different socioeconomic and political factors impede children from enjoying their rights. Migration, internal displacement, child labor and servitude, war and conflict, poverty, natural disasters, separation of families due to different factors, and other related dynamics increase their vulnerability often leading to the child rights violation. This thesis emphasizes the reintegration assistance by drawing on the lived experiences of child returnee migrants in Southern Nation Nationality and Peoples Regional state specifically in the *Hadiya* zone. Likewise, it examines the reintegration supports/packages for the returnee child migrants in line with the constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms of children, international and regional standards, and other related engagements of the country. It also scrutinizes the legal and institutional gaps in the areas of child migration and return migration. The study is conducted by applying a qualitative method of research and employing exploratory research design through an empirical method of data collection including document review, key informant interviews, and focus group discussion, and field visits. This study analyzed the gaps and challenges in the reintegration process of child migrants. Finally, the study presents recommendations to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of returnee migrant children.

1.1.Statement of the Problem

As stated above, Ethiopia is one of the major labor migrant-sending countries and the second-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa.⁹ International migrant stock in Ethiopia makes 1.3 million people/migrants, which placed Ethiopia in the second place from East African countries.¹⁰ Moreover, regular and irregular migration trend is showing a significant increase in

⁹ ILO.2019, ILO *Support to the Reintegration of Returnees in Ethiopia Program Achievement FROM 1919-2019*,

¹⁰https://migrationdataportal.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAiNnuBRD3ARIsAM8KmlswWwImjvARf9oclIajSyUitOU49TNVooI9KltEcu0SHoWdUdWfN9IaAl-EEALw_wcB&i=stock_abs_&t=2019&cm49=231. Accessed on September 2019

number and scale. Among the nine regional states in Ethiopia Addis Ababa city administration *Oromia* region, *Amhara* region, *SNNPR* region, and *Tigray* region are susceptible to migration.¹¹ Among the three migration prone regional states in Ethiopia, *SNNPR* (Southern Nation Nationalities Peoples Regional State) is one of them. *Hadiya*, *Kambata*, and *Guraghe* zones are the three major migrant-sending areas within the Southern Nation Nationalities Peoples Regional State.¹²

Studies show that the phenomenon of the migration of unaccompanied children is on the rise in Ethiopia¹³. For instance, there are several young Ethiopian labor migrants and transit migrants in Djibouti.¹⁴ As stated above, migration exposes children to further exploitation, smuggling, trafficking, child labor, and abuses. Reintegration is a crucial step to reinstate the mental and physical health of the child. International organizations, civil society groups, and government stakeholders are working on the reintegration of migrants with particular attention on women and children. There are different returnee support programs run by various International organizations (such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), ILO (International labor organization) and UNICEF (United Nations Children Fund), and local and international civil society organizations. One of the IOMs programs is assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR). *Hadiya* zone is one of the places of origin for child migrants often heading to South Africa who receive support from IOM to return to their natal villages and reintegration.

Most of the studies conducted on child migrants in Ethiopia tend to focus on the internal migration of children from rural to urban (E.g, Sintayehu 201, Melese 2014, and Girma 2014)¹⁵. Several other studies are looking at the lives of street children in Addis Ababa both children of local and

¹¹https://ambaddisabeba.esteri.it/ambasciata_addisabeba/en/sinceprogramme Accessed on November 2019

¹² Interview with Haddiya Zone BOLSA Ato Bereket Feleke interview date on February 21, 2020, Ethiopia, Hossana

¹³ Sintayehu Meshshea. .2016. *Child Rural-Urban Migrations and Migrant Sending Families Perception towards Child Migration: The Case of Haleha Kebele, Kucha District, Gamogofa Zone, and SNNPR*. Master's thesis. Addis Ababa University.

¹⁴ Meron Zeleke.2018. *Sisters on the move: Ethiopia's gendered labour migration milieu, Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue Canadienne des études africaines*, DOI: 10.1080/00083968.2018.1519451

Sintayehu Meshshea. 2016. *Child Rural-Urban Migrations and Migrant Sending Families Perception towards Child Migration: The Case of Haleha Kebele, Kucha District, Gamogofa Zone, and SNNPR*. Master's thesis. Addis Ababa University.

Melese Semebo.2014. *Challenges and survival strategies of migrants from hadiya zone to Addis Ababa: the case of shoe shinning Children in gulele sub –city*. Master's thesis. Addis Ababa University.

Girma Gebreselassie Gebre.2014. *Child trafficking and its forms of child labor: the case of traditional weavers in Shiromeda area of Addis Ababa,Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Masters of Art in Social Work (MSW)*

migrant backgrounds (E.g., UNICEF 2000). There is a gap in the study of international migration of children. Moreover, most of the studies conducted on the returnees tend to focus on female returnee migrants and reintegration assistance¹⁶. Drawing on the existing gap of study on lived experiences of reintegration of returnee child migrants, this research examines the practical reintegration process of child migrants in the Southern nation nationalities and peoples' regional state(SNNPR) particularly focusing on migration prone districts within *Hadiya* zone. Likewise, it attempts to indicate different components of the reintegration process i.e. economic, psychosocial, and socio-cultural reintegration of child returnees. The study assessed the existing plans and activities of the different stakeholders working on reintegration based on the four fundamental principles relating to children's rights: survival and development; non-discrimination; child participation; the best interests of the child¹⁷

1.1. Objectives

1.1.1. General Objective

The general objective of this study is to explore the prospects and challenges of reintegration of child migrants in Ethiopia, drawing on the case of returnee child migrants in the *Hadiya* Zone.

1.2.2. Specific Objectives

1. To understand the International, Regional and National legal and policy frameworks designed to protect the rights of children in general and child migrants in particular
2. To get an insight into existing reintegration initiatives, programs targeting child migrants in Ethiopia, and SNNPR in general, in particular in the *Hadiya* zone.

¹⁶Betelhem Mengistu.2015. *An Assessment on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Female Returnees: A Case of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Returnees*. Master's thesis. Addis Ababa University.

Adamnesh Atnafu & Margaret E. Adamek. 2015: *The return migration experiences of Ethiopian women trafficked to Bahrain: '... for richer or poorer, let me be on the hands of my people ...'*, African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal, DOI: 10.1080/17528631.2015.1083176

Yemisrach Feraw.2015. *Experience of Eight Deported Women Ethiopians Who Returned from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, MA thesis.

¹⁶Arapidou, A., Di Giglio, S., Di Pasquale, L., Roger, J.-F., & Tampakis, C. 2012. *Protecting children on the move*. Prova Corpo, page 11, 29–2.

¹⁷ Ibid, page 11, 29–2.

3. To assess if existing initiatives of reintegration of child migrants are developed based on the four fundamental principles relating to children's rights: survival and development; non-discrimination; right to be heard and the best interests of the child
4. To explore the challenges and prospects of the reintegration of child returnees,

1.3. Research Questions

Based on the research objectives the researcher would like to address the following questions in 'this research.

1. What are the different International, Regional, and National legal, and policy frameworks designed to protect the rights of children, in general, and child migrants in particular?
2. What are the existing reintegration programs targeting child migrant returnees in Ethiopia and SNNPR in general, in particular in the *Hadiya* zone?
3. How do the child returnee reintegration initiatives and programs consider the four fundamental principles relating to children's rights: survival and development; non-discrimination; child participation; the best interests of the child?
4. What are the challenges, and opportunities for the reintegration of the child returnees?

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research is significant in giving insights about the current child migration pattern and the reintegration process, policies, practices, and institutional frameworks designed to address the rights of child returnees in Ethiopia, in SNNPR and *Hadiya* zone. The study will indicate the gaps in the protection of the human rights of migrant children based on the international regional and national human right standard. This study will have significance in providing recommendations for the improvement of the human rights situation of child returnee migrants in Ethiopia. It will serve as a baseline for further policy adoptions and implementations in this regard. Furthermore, it will help to trigger further researches on the area.

As exploratory research, this study aims to contribute in many ways. The research will help to show the effects of migration on the rights of children regarding the child's right standards to the human right community for better improvements and advocacy in the future. The study will also elicit further action on the full protection and promotion of the protection of the rights of children

particularly children on the move in Ethiopia. Furthermore, it will create awareness for the local community on the child right protection and reintegration process.

This research has a significance to show the gaps in the reintegration process of returnee migrants and it is expected to spectacle the disparities between the practical gaps and the international, regional, and national standards to protect and promote the rights of migrants and the rights of the child migrants in particular. Moreover, the research will also indicate the magnitude of child migration in the SNNPR regional state, in *Hadiya* zone, and the reintegration process, challenges, and prospects. It will indicate the incongruities between the reintegration needs and the service provision, sustainability, accessibility, and whether it is right based or not.

1.5. Scope /Delimitation of the Study

Due to time and resource constraints, the study is thematically and geographically limited. Geographically, the study is delimited to returnee child migrants residing in the *Hadiya* zone (*Misha* and *Lemo Weredas*) of SNNPR Ethiopia. The study will assess the return experiences and the reintegration assistance provided for child returnees below the age of 18.

1.6. Research Methodology and Design

The study follows mainly qualitative research methodology that inquires to understand the holistic representation of reality through allying words, accounts of respondents, and views to study a situation in a more naturalistic procedure¹⁸. Qualitative research method helps to explore a wide dimension of the social world and to understand the experience of the participants (in this case child returnees). Moreover, the Qualitative research method provides the researchers with insight into the trends of thoughts, attitudes, and perceptions of a particular population¹⁹. Moreover, it attempts to get an in-depth understanding of the opinion, perception, and experience of the participants.²⁰ Given the nature of the subject matter under study, an exploratory qualitative research method is found to be the most apposite method for the study to develop a well-grounded picture on the situation, facts, settings, and concerns of the child returnees' reintegration process.

¹⁸ Deribsa Abate.2018, *Research methodology handbook for research students and practitioners*, mega printing press. Addis Ababa p 61

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Dr Cathrene Dawson.2002. *practical research methods, a user friendly guide to mastering research*. Cromwell press. Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

A case study is taken as a research design best identified to be the relevant research design employed to address the research objectives since it provides a holistic understanding of the reintegration of child returnees and provides an overview of the case and interactional dynamics.²¹

1.6.1. Data Type and Source

The study draws on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data used in the study was obtained from accounts of informants consulted during the data collection and the fieldwork. Secondary sources were gathered through document analysis and review of related literature. Hence, as a way of assuring the validity of research, the study has validated the data by using a variety of methods to collect data. The primary and secondary data for the assessment were gathered using the following methods.

1.6.2. Data Collection Tools

Data collection tools used in the study include observation, in-depth interviews, focus group discussion, and cases study. The researcher triangulated the data from different stakeholders (child returnees, government bodies, CSOs, international organizations, and community members).

A. Documents Review

The researcher reviewed various documents at different stages of the study starting from the initial phase of developing the research proposal, to the final stage of analysis and write up. Some of these documents include International human rights treaties, declarations, policy documents, historical documents, academic papers, articles, journals, national laws, and cases. These documents were reviewed to assess the legal regime, to analyze the social practice, to ascertain institutional frameworks designed to assist the returnees.

B. In-depth Interviews

To capture the nuances of the reintegration of child migrants from differing backgrounds, the various push and pull factors, the routes child migrants use, the potential and actual risks

²¹ Ranjit Kumar. 2011. *RESEARCH METHODOLOGY a step-by-step guide for beginners*, www.sagepublications.com, 3rd edition New Delhi page 122

associated, the lived experiences of returnee child migrants, reintegration assistances received, and prospects of further mobility or settlement 10 children were interviewed. These informants are children between the ages of 15 and 18 since the dominant number of returnees are within this age range. The ten respondents were selected based on their age upon return and based on their migration and return status and reintegration position considering the data saturation challenge. Purposive (judgment) sampling was employed to identify the samples from the overall study group for the intensive study.²²The interviews were conducted in Amharic and later translated into English.

C. Key Informant Interviews (KII)

Using a semi-structured interview tool, the researcher interviewed different key stakeholders, relevant resource persons from different government and non-governmental institutions, and other notable local key informants. To comprehend the legal and policy frameworks as well as the practical reintegration approaches, and to understand the challenges on the child returnee's reintegration, the researcher conducted key informant interviews with government stakeholders at the Federal and Zonal level. Those are the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women Youth and Children, and regional counterparts (BOLSAs and BoWCYA). Four experts have interviewed these institutions. Concerning the non-governmental organizations, two experts from the international organization for migration (IOM) were interviewed at the Addis Ababa head office and in the study area. Additionally, two experts from the Mery joy Development association (implementing partner for IOM) in Hadiya zone were also key informants). Moreover, the researcher has interviewed two *Hadiya* Community Leaders. The data collected through this method has served in generating additional relevant information used to corroborate or triangulate information gathered by other data collection tools and collected from informants using different interview tools.

D. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Two focus group discussions were held in the study area. The first set of FGD is conducted with a group of six child returnees while the second FGD consisted of five community members

²² H.Russel Bernard.2000. Social research methods, qualitative and quantitative approaches, international educational and professional publisher. London. Sage publication page. 143

(consisting of a teacher, a parent, a community elder; head of local community association such as *idir*, representative of local *kebele* women's forum).

1.6.3. Method of Data Analysis

The data gathered in the aforementioned forms are transcribed into the English language and organized in a meaningful way to fit the major research objectives and questions addressed (i.e. sorting the data to a framework), and used the framework for descriptive analysis. Finally, the organized and analyzed data are written up to develop the final research findings.

1.7. Ethical Considerations

Virginiai (2009) argues that a study on minors requires ethically sensitive research strategies.²³ Accordingly, the researcher has taken different Ethical considerations at the different levels of the research at the data collection (interviews, focus group discussions, case studies, and on the field observation), data presentation and analysis. The study has capitalized on UNICEF's Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC) project specifically the four key areas for ethical consideration for a study dealing with children namely harm and benefit, informed consent, confidentiality and privacy, and payment and compensation²⁴. As carefully designed research in a study is helpful to avoid any potential harm to the participants' life, this study is designed in reference to the ethical guidelines of confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent of the informants²⁵. Hence, the researcher has taken necessary precautions on approaching child returnees due to the sensitivity of the matter and the psychological status of the returnees. The researcher received the informed consent of the children and notified the participants of the fact that the data will not be used for more than academic purposes, the data, the sound recordings, other data will be held confidential, and they will not be obliged to tell their names and other vital basic information. Moreover, the researcher requested the permission of the respondents to record

²³ Virginia, Morrow. 2009. *The Ethics of Social Research with Children and Families in Young Lives: Practical Experiences; Young Lives*.

The detailed guideline is accessible on ; <https://childethics.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ERIC-compendium-Ethical-guidelines-review-section-only.pdf> Accessed on march 15,2020.

²⁵Graham, A., Powell, M., Taylor, N., Anderson, D. & Fitzgerald, R. 2013. *Ethical Research Involving Children. Florence: UNICEF Office of Research- Innocenti*. Accessed from <https://childethics.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ERIC-compendium-approved-digital-web.pdf>. Accessed on 05.11.2019.

their voices at the time of the interview. Based on this, most of the respondents in the interviews and focus group discussions agreed for their interview dialogues to be recorded after agreeing that the data will be held confidential. Hence, the researcher proceeded accordingly. Furthermore, in particular circumstances, the informants' permission was asked to take a picture of them when it was essential. In the focus group discussions, the researcher took the same precautions as an ethical consideration of the research.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

The thesis has five chapters. The first chapter (i.e. this introductory chapter) introduces the facts about the research, background of the subject matter, research question, objectives, significance of the study, scope and delimitation of the study, methodology and research design, methods of data collection and analysis and descriptions on the demographic and socio-economic situation of the study area.

The second chapter presented a review of related literature. It explored the literature on the areas of migration, return migration, and reintegration; it assessed the normative standards on child migration, return migration, and reintegration. It addressed academic papers, publications, and international and regional development plans.

The third chapter discoursed the findings of the fieldwork and data collection (i.e. interview, FGDs, document review, field observation, and case study). It addressed the trends of child migration and return migration in the study area including push, and pull factors of migration, lived experience of returnees, protection risks involved, and return process.

Reintegration packages and supports at a different level of return migration are covered in chapter four of the thesis. Besides, chapter four presents key actors providing reintegration support and their service packages. It assessed, the support based on fundamental principles relating to children's rights. Challenges and prospects in the process of child returnee's reintegration are also covered in this chapter. It addressed research findings and results on the structural and practical challenges. It covered prospects of the reintegration services.

The last part of the thesis is the conclusion and recommendation. It summarized the overall finding of the research and it made a recommendation for further action on the protection of the rights of

child returnees in Ethiopia and the study area particularly. It followed a structured approach to present recommendations for different stakeholders.

1.9. Brief Background Information about the Study Area

Hadiya zone is located in Southern, Nation, Nationalities, and people's regional state of F.D.R.E. It is one of the 14 zones and 5 special *Weredas* in the region. The zone is composed of 10 *Weredas* and 2 town administrations. It is located in the margin of great Ethiopian rift valley at the western fringe in the Northwestern part of the region. In the northwest, it shares a boundary with the Oromia region and *Yem* special *Wereda*. In the East and Northeast are it shares a boundary with *Halaba* special *Wereda* and *Silte* zone and in the south, it shares a boundary with *Kambata – Tembaro* zone. It neighbors with or Oromia region in the Southeast of the zone. There are two *Weredas* detached with the zones (namely *Misrak* and *Mireab-Badewacho*) but they are included under the administration of the zone neighbors with *Wolayta-Sodo* zone.²⁶The zone is situated in the north of the equator and east of the prime meridian in the absolute location of 7°07'-7°92'N and 37°29'-38°13' E. The zone is greatly influenced by the location factors.²⁷

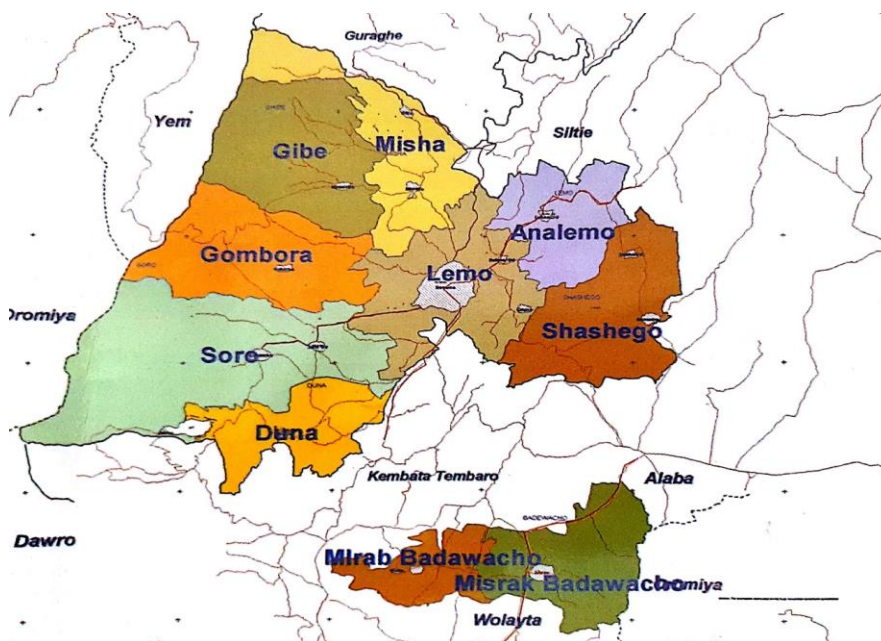
The mean annual temperature ranges from 12.6 to 27.5 Celsius and the mean annual rainfall ranges from 801 to 1400 mm. The livelihood of the *Hadiya* zone population is dependent on Agriculture even though there is an extreme shortage of farming land in the zone. The total land area of the zone is about 363478.549 hectares among this, 256410.09 hectares is cultivated land, 16484.32-hectare grazing land, 27440.05 hectares is forest coverage, 26030.078 is cultivatable land and 7244.804 hectares is not suitable for farming. This data shows the farming land is incompatible with the growing population number and the dense settlement in the area.²⁸Likewise, from the overall land coverage (346958.5) hectares, 12.9% is *Qola* (low altitude area), 68.1% *Woinadega* (moderately undulating land) and 19% is *Dega* (high altitude areas). The altitudinal variation ranges between average high peak 2970 at Sengiye in *Duna Wereda* and 840m and 800 *Gortancho* and gibe valley in *Soro Wereda*.

²⁶Hadiya zone.2018. *SNNPR Hadiya Zone statically abstract 2017-18*, Ethiopia, Hosanna, page 2

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid, page 49

FIGURE 1 HADDIYA ZONE ADMINISTRATIVE MAP



Source: -SNNPR Hadiya zone statically abstract 2017-18

1.9.1. Hadiya People Demographic Background

Hadiya people are Cushitic language speaking people, *Hadiyisa* is the language spoken in *Hadiya* zone. It has its origin from East Highland, Cushitic Language Group. Historical accounts show that *Hadiya*, *Aalaba*, and *libido (Mareqo)* have the same ancestral background. *Hadiya* people dominantly live in *Wolayta*, *Kamabata Tembaro*, *Gurage*, *Silte* zones, and the *Oromia* region²⁹. Currently, *Hadiya* population is estimated to be more than 1.7 million the table below presents the population of the zone in a gender-disintegrated manner and disintegrated data in *Weredas* in 2010/2018. The figure above shows that, *Soro Wereda* is the most populated *Weredas* in the zone followed by *Misrak-badewcho Wereda* with 130,698 and 117,742 numbers of populations respectively. Studies show that the rapid growth of the population is incompatible with the available farming land Habte (2015)³⁰. In the study, a greater birth rate is stated as the major factor for the increasing number of population in the zone. Significant numbers of people migrate to

²⁹ Hadiya zone.2018. SNNPR Hadiya Zone statically abstract 2017-18, Ethiopia, Hosanna, page 2

³⁰Habte Haile Degelo.2015. *Socio-Economic Impacts of Migration of Ethiopians to the South Africa and Its Implications for Ethiors Relations: The Case of Kembata-Tembaro and Hadiya Zones*, Addis Ababa University Ma. Thesis, page 47

different areas of destination every year through regular and irregular migration. The major destination areas are the republic of South Africa, Australia, Arab countries, and the USA. Internal (rural-urban migration is also evident in practice in the study area.³¹ Among these *Misha Wereda* and *Lemmo Wereda* hold 87369 and 82143 population that placed them at the third and fifth populated *Weredas* in *Hadiya zone* respectively

0	Name of <i>Wereda</i>	Population Number		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Soro	134488	134384	268872
2.	Misrak Badwacho	121156	122614	243770
3.	Misha	87369	92097	179466
4.	Duna	85833	86287	172120
5.	Lemmo	82143	83880	166023
6.	Gibe	76496	72719	149215
7.	Shashogo	74600	72719	147319
8.	Gumbora	65005	64855	129860
9.	Hosanna city	63124	61256	124380
10.	Meirab Badwacho	57327	59703	117030
11.	Anlemo	46743	48306	95049
	Total	894284	898820	1793104

TABLE 1. HADIYA ZONE POPULATION NUMBER BY 2018

Source: -Hadiya zone BOLSA, February 2020

Chapter Two:

2. Review of Relevant Literature and Legal Instruments

This chapter presents conceptual and legal frameworks on the return migration and reintegration based on the literature review conducted. The researcher covered books, journals, articles, research findings, statics data, and other related academic papers. This chapter has three subsections; the first section covers the conceptual frameworks mainly presenting working definitions of key concepts of the study while the second part presents a review of relevant normative frameworks.

³¹ IBID

The third subsection presents a brief review of existing studies on migration return migration and the reintegration of migrants.

2.1. Definition of Key Concepts

This section presents definitions of key concepts used in the study. It hence presents the working conceptualizations of the key terms and concepts adopted throughout the thesis. It further presents the summary of the review of relevant literature reviewed on different important themes addressed by the study and topics of great relevance to the thesis ranging from; migration, return migration, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and reintegration.

A. Migration

There is no universally agreed definition for the term migration. However, IOM defined it as “*Migration is the movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border or within a State*”³². We can infer from this definition the fact that migration can be internal or external.

B. Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking, and Smuggling of Migrants

The acts of trafficking in person, smuggling of migrants, and irregular migration are interrelated to each other but comprise some different elements. They are three common terminologies in the study of migration. Irregular migration is defined as a migratory movement that takes place outside the regulatory frameworks of the origin, transit, and destination countries. It involves the illegal procurement of migrants and the facilitation of their illegal entry to another country.³³ Whereas smuggling of migrants does not involve procurement for illegal entry to destination or transit countries it rather means, use of illegal entry of a migrant or stay of another person in a country of which he or she is neither a national nor a permanent resident, for obtaining, pecuniary or material earnings directly or indirectly.³⁴ Hence, the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) is a process where smugglers exploit irregular migrants entered the country of transit or destination by irregular means and manner for their financial purpose.³⁵

³²IOM. 2004. *Glossary on migration*. Vasa, 338. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107415324.004> P. 62-63

³³<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/tip-and-som/module-1/key-issues/migrant-smuggling-v-irregular-migration.html>.

Accessed on January 2020

³⁴ IBID

³⁵ IBID

On the other hand, trafficking in person (TIP) involves in recruitment, conveyance through use of force, coercion, fraud, deception abuse of power, and vulnerability to gain financial benefits, exploit (sexual, slavery, servitude, organ sale, forced labor and so on).³⁶ Consent is not a requirement in case of child trafficking in the convention. Hence, the aforementioned acts might be acts and means with one another. Irregular migration may result in further smuggling and trafficking in persons. Therefore, migrant returnees can be victims of human trafficking, smuggling, and irregular migration at the same time.

C. Child Migrants

Children move from one place to another due to various reasons and factors. Children on the move are children voluntarily or forcibly move from one country to another or within a country for various reasons with or without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement, may place them at risk of abuse, exploitation, abandonment, and violence or may bring up opportunities³⁷. This definition gives a comprehensive depiction of child migrants or children on move. This study adopted this definition, as a child migrant is a child who is below the age of 18, who is moving alone/independently and voluntarily for various reasons.

D. Unaccompanied children

Unaccompanied children are children, which are separated from their parents or caregivers, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore include, children accompanied by other adult family members.³⁸ Thus, the researcher for this study adopts this definition from IOM glossary on migration.

³⁶United Nations.2000. UNTOC, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*. Article 3 trafficking in person is Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, through use of force, coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability. For the purpose of financial benefits to achieve the consent of a person. Such exploitation can be through forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

³⁷Save the Children. 2018. *Protecting children on the move, a guide to programming for children affected by migration and displacement*. 1 St John's Lane London EC1M 4AR UK Page 7

³⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6: Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children outside Their Country of Origin (1 September 2005) UN Doc CRC/ GC/2005/6, para. 8.

E. Return Migration

Return migration is defined “as a movement of a person returning to his or her country of origin or habitual residence usually after spending at least one year in another country.”³⁹In this regard, child returnee is a child below the age of 18 who moved alone to the destination country or transit countries and returned after stay for a certain period, who repatriated willingly and with informed consent to his home state. Moreover, returnees are former refugees who have re-entered their country but who have not yet re-integrated their homes and communities⁴⁰. The return could be voluntary and involuntary.⁴¹ Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration(AVRR) defined under the IOM Glossary on migration as “Administrative, logistical or financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants impotent or disinclined to remain in the host country or country of transit and who decide to return to their country of origin.”⁴² IOM, and similar international organizations and civil societies implement AVRR to assist returnees through reintegration packages. This thesis covers assisted voluntary child returnees, particularly on the reintegration assistance after they return to their country of origin.

Migrants want to return to their home country based on different motives. These motives can be based on positive or negative drives. For a successful migration, return motives could be based on social, economic, and family-related factors. Social factors such as family-related factors, i.e. homesickness, family ties, problems on adjusting at the host country, racial discrimination, and xenophobia, a motive to enjoy the better status of life in the home country, changes in needs and preferences. Family-related factors such as interest to raise their children in their home country, to form a family) and other related motives could serve as a ground for the return of migrants.⁴³Economic motives could be an interest to invest their money in their country. However, when it is a failed migration attempt it is different. After being smuggled, exploitations, and human rights violations irregular migrants are interested to travel back to their homes to save their lives.

³⁹ IOM.2004. *Glossary on migration*. 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, p. 86

⁴⁰*Monitoring and Protecting the Human Rights of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons*, Training Manual on Human Rights Monitoring 281 page 3,

⁴¹IOM.2004. *Glossary on migration*. 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland page 40

⁴² *ibid*, page 11

⁴³ Savina Assamari and Richard Black.2001, *Harnessing the Potential of Migration and Return to Promote Development*, International Organization for Migration (IOM) page 23

Since most of the returnee's in the study, area irregular migrant returnees who had failed to attempt to reach destination country the motives are related to survival.

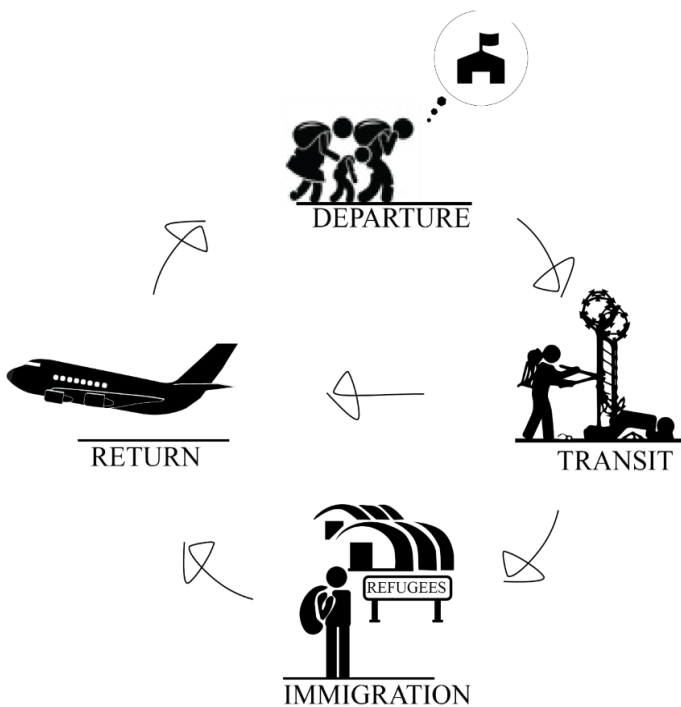


FIGURE 2 MIGRATION CYCLE, COMPILED BY THE AUTHOR

As indicated in the figure, return migration is one phase in the migration cycle. The cycle involves indifferent stages of migration starting from departure and extends to the return process. It encompasses *departure from the home state, transit through one or more States, immigration to the destination, and return.*⁴⁴ The cycle might only encompass departure, transit, and return in the case of the failed attempt of migration (i.e. when an irregular migrant repatriated/deported to his/her home country after detention in the transit states). The migration cycle repeats itself as a vicious circle in case of repetitive migration attempts and remigration process.

Different scholars classify return migration into different categories. The classifications are based on interest to return, on length of stay in the home country, on time spent abroad, and degree of acculturation. The first common classification is based on the migrant's interest to return as a forced return and voluntary return. Voluntary return is abetted or autonomous return of the migrant through the free will of the returnee to the home state, transit, or another country⁴⁵. On the other hand, Involuntary (forced) return is the return of a migrant to the home state, transit, or third-country compulsorily, based on an administrative or judicial act.⁴⁶ The thesis addresses voluntary child returnees in the study area. Based on the length of stay in the home country, return migration is classified into four. These are Intended temporary migration with the return, Intended temporary migration without return, Intended permanent emigration with the return, and Intended permanent

⁴⁴IOM.2004. *Glossary on migration*. 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, International Migration Law Page, 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, page 136

⁴⁵IOM.2004. *Glossary on migration*. 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, International Migration Law Page, 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland page. 338. 62-63

⁴⁶IOM.2004. *Glossary on migration*. 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, International Migration Law Page, 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, page 40

emigration without return.⁴⁷ As far as the time spent in the country of origin is concerned, it is categorized as a return for a short-term visit, seasonal return, temporary return, and permanent return⁴⁸. Reintegration services mostly intend to provide sustainable and subsistence mechanisms and to avoid further migration thus, a permanent return is relevant to the reintegration activities. Reintegration services assume the permanency of the return. Thus, the thesis is intended to address permanent child returnees' reintegration in the *Hadiya* zone. Based on time spent abroad and degree of acculturation in the host society return migration is classified as;⁴⁹

1. Return of Failure: - deals with failure to overcome traumatic experiences in the host state.
2. Return of Conservatism: - this type of return is when a migrant works hard in the host state and saves money to realize his/her dream back home.
3. Return of Motivation: - is when the returnee is driven by the interest to bring new ideas and values to their home country.
4. Return of Retirement: - is a return driven by the termination of their work in the host country.⁵⁰

Empirical data shows that most of the returnees in the study area may fall under the first category, which is the return of failure.

F. Returnee

A returnee is a person who returned from a country of migration to the country of origin. United Nations defines returnee as “an individual who has been abroad for at least 12 months”. As per this, a person shall stay at least for 12 months in the country of migration or transit state. The same definition is used by IOM under the glossary on migration. Whereas for this thesis, the returnee is a person who returned to his/her country of origin after attempted or successful migration in the transit states since the period of stay is irrelevant as compared to the protection risks they face.

⁴⁷Katie Kuschminder. 2017. *Reintegration Strategies. Conceptualizing How Return Migrants Reintegrate, Migration, Global Governance Program* European University Institute Florence, Italy
Diasporas and Citizenship page 7

⁴⁸ IBID cited as King 2000

⁴⁹ Francesco P. Cerase, 1974. *expectation and reality: a case study of return migration from united states to southern Italy*, international migration review vol.8, no. 2, page 245-262

⁵⁰ Savina Assamari and Richard Black. 2001. *Harnessing the Potential of Migration and Return to Promote Development*, International Organization for Migration (IOM) page 24

G. Reintegration

For this study, the term reintegration is taken as, “A process, which enables individuals to re-establish the economic, social and psychosocial relationship needed to maintain life, livelihood, dignity and inclusion in civic life”, as IOM defines it.⁵¹ Integration and reintegration are very different concepts of migration. Integration is the social inclusion and social cohesion of a migrant in the country of migration; it includes social, economic, cultural, and political inclusion of the immigrant in the recipient community.⁵² It is the process of a migrant integrating with the psychological makeup, socio-cultural values, economic opportunities, and political matters of the destination country. On the other hand, reintegration refers to returnee migrants, psychosocial, social, economic, and political inclusion after returning to their home country. Reintegration is a significant process since it protects the rights of returnees and ensures the sustainability of return by providing them with the necessary support for the reengagement of the returnee in its home state⁵³. For this study, the word reintegration is used interchangeably with re-assimilation and re-adaptation. Reintegration is part of a durable solution that includes, *any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.*⁵⁴

As to Molla, B, and Berhanu, Z(2018), migrants encounter various forms of abuses such as household chores; working more than standard working hours; sleep deprivation, denial of water and food, lack of physical safety and health care, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse including rape and sexual exploitation while they were in the host state⁵⁵. Particularly, migrants using irregular means for migration are more vulnerable to smuggling, human trafficking, and other sexual and physical exploitations. In the transit states, they face imprisonment in the process of migration, which makes them exposed to human rights violations in prison. IOM study on the socio-economic needs of returnees from KSA demonstrates that returnees show disappointment, hopelessness, disharmony with the community besides the economic, physical, and mental conditions they

⁵¹ IOM.2019. *Glossary on Migration*, International Migration Law Page,174

⁵² Supra note *Glossary On Migration* page 104

⁵³ Roberto Biella-Battista, Hanna Mark and Andrea Salvin.2019. *Reintegration handbook. Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*,International Organization for Migration (IOM)1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, page 57

⁵⁴ IOM.2019.Glossary on Migration, International migration law. Geneva 19 Switzerland, page

⁵⁵ Molla, B., & Berhanu, Z.2018. *The Experiences of Ethiopian Unaccompanied and Separated Migrant Children in Yemen*. Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities, 14(1), 1–30.

encountered. They might have experience reverse culture shock, which involves distress and anxiety after return and social stigmas⁵⁶. Moreover, empirical data show, returnees face ostracism because society sees them as a failure, they have faced with feelings of seclusion and hopelessness and they faced ill-treatment and stereotypes from the public.⁵⁷International experts have also highlighted that unsustainable return practices often amplify the vulnerability of migrants to precarious re-migration, putting them at risk of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.⁵⁸ Thus, it is crucial to rehabilitate returnees from traumatic experiences and grave human rights violations. Besides the returnee's need to regain their social status. Hence, the reintegration process on the return of migrants should be sustainable enough to address the different needs of the returnees.

Reintegration is a process that is largely focused on the rights of returnees and equalizing those rights of returnees with the rights of locals.⁵⁹ It is intended to reinstate their status in the community.⁶⁰Therefore, sustainable reintegration has an effect on rehabilitating the returnees and equalizes the rights of returnee with the locals. Moreover, reintegration activities help to address the root cause of migration. Balayneh Genoro Abire, G. Y. Sagar (2016), describes that the key push factors for migration in Ethiopia are poverty and unemployment.⁶¹ It deters the other families (siblings) of the returnee from migration and prevents remigration of the returnee. It discourages further migrations of the returnee. Because research findings show most of the migrants attempt from two to four times before they succeed and enter their destination⁶². Likewise, it reduces the exposure of the returnees for further smuggling, trafficking, and related human rights violations. Similarly, reintegration is one of the means for the government to fulfill it's international, regional, and national human rights commitments for the protection and promotion of human rights of migrants in general and child migrants in particular. It serves as a means to protect and fulfill the

⁵⁶IOM and FDRE. 2014. *Assessment of the social-economic situation and needs of Ethiopia returnees from KSA*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. page 42

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ CEDAW.2013. General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, CEDAW/C/GC/30, paras. 39-40,

⁵⁹Kuschminder_Katie. 2013. *Female Return Migration and Reintegration Strategies in Ethiopia*, to obtain the degree of Doctor at Maastricht University,

⁶⁰IOM and FDRE, (2014) *Assessment of the social-economic situation and needs of Ethiopia returnees from KSA*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

⁶¹ Interview with ministry of women, children and youth. Interviewed on February 11, 2020 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

⁶²Belayneh Genoro Abire, G. Y. Sagar. 2016. *The Determinant Factors of Illegal Migration to South Africa and Its Impacts On the Society in Case of Gombora District, Hadiya Zone in Ethiopia: A Bayesian Approach and Interview with a community elder*. Interviewed on February 22, 2020 at Hossana city, SNNPR Ethiopia

human right of the returnees, and assures the protection fulfillment of the right to education, right to health, right to physical integrity, right to food, right to a house, the best interest of the child, and so on. It uses to make the returnees' industrious citizens for their country. Moreover, it provides additional revenues for the country's economy, through returnees' investments and additional revenues for the country's economy. Thus, upon providing reintegration services, individual vulnerabilities shall be taken into account. Individual vulnerabilities to consider include whether returnees have health needs, whether they are victims of trafficking, violence, exploitation, or abuse, or whether they are unaccompanied or separated children⁶³. Age is one of the factors that determine the vulnerability of the returnee. Child returnee reintegration is re-engagement of a child into his/her community and or a process⁶⁴.

2.2. Components of Reintegration

The components of reintegration assistance adopted by different international organizations and civil societies working on migration and return migration are economic, social, and psychosocial reintegration. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) defined four major components of a child-sensitive durable solution framework, that may apply for the reintegration of child returnees⁶⁵. Those are Material safety of child returnees including financial support for the subsistence survival of the child and his/her families), Physical safety (physical health and physical integrity), Legal safety, Mental and psychosocial safety⁶⁶ shall be taken into account. International organization for migration has adopted integrated reintegration guideline it addresses the major components of migration social, economic, and psychosocial. It followed multidimensional need-based and holistic approaches to the reintegration of migrants. This study adopted these components to measure reintegration supports for the child returnees. Those major components of reintegration are explained as follows.

A. Economic Reintegration

Economic reintegration is the process by which a migrant is reinserted into the economic system of his or her country of origin, and able to earn his or her living. It helps to sustain the livelihood

⁶³IOM. 2004. *Glossary on Migration*, International Migration Law Page, 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland,

⁶⁴Ibid

⁶⁵ Samuel Hall.2018., *Achieving Durable Solutions for Returnee Children: What do we know?* Save the Children

⁶⁶Ibid

of the returnees. In developmental terms, economic reintegration also aims at using the know-how, which was acquired in a foreign country to promote the economic and social development of the country of origin⁶⁷. It could be manifested based on creating economic opportunities like providing seed money in kind or cash for a startup business, providing training such as technical and vocational training, entrepreneurship training and creating employment opportunities, and so on. It has a revenue implication for the government, for the returnees and his families and society. It helps to minimize the unemployment rate by creating a platform for a startup business.

B. Social Reintegration

Social reintegration is the reintegration of a migrant into the social constructions of his or her home state. This includes, on the one hand, the development of a personal network (friends, relatives, neighbors) and on the other hand, the development of civil society structures (associations, self-help groups, and other organizations)⁶⁸. IOM reintegration handbook states some of the examples for the social reintegration packages as access to public services such as housing, justice, education, health, and other social security frameworks.⁶⁹ Social reintegration is manifested by providing medical services (medications and treatments) for the returnees upon return based on their needs, assisting them with the court cases concerning migration, reinsertion of the returnees to the school if they are dropouts from school and legal supports so on.

C. Psychosocial Reintegration

Psychosocial reintegration helps the returnees to cope with the social environment through different techniques including psychological treatment techniques such as counseling based on their specific situations. It includes the re-engagement with the values, ways of living, language, moral principles, and traditions of the country of origin's society) dimensions of reintegration of migrants.⁷⁰ Psychosocial treatments are essential particularly for the child returnees because of their vulnerability to psychological disorders. Hence, special counseling and training mechanisms shall be embraced for them. Social workers trained for this purpose shall provide psychotherapy

⁶⁷IOM. 2004. *Glossary on Migration*, International Migration Law Page, 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland,

⁶⁸IOM. 2004. *Glossary on Migration*, International Migration Law Page, 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland,

⁶⁹ Roberto Biella-Battista, Hanna Mark and Andrea Salvin.2019., *Reintegration handbook. Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*,International Organization for Migration (IOM) 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, page

⁷⁰Ibid

and psychosomatic treatment and it shall be referred to the higher psychiatric treatments in case of the severe psychological and mental condition of the returnee.

2.3. Requirements for Successful Reintegration

United Nations agencies and partners work together to render returns sustainable and respond to the longer-term reintegration needs of returnees, including livelihood opportunities and economic self-reliance.⁷¹ Besides, the sustainability requirement, the assistance provided for the returnees, refugees, and displaced persons should be timely and adequate.⁷² Hereafter, for the better protection and promotion of the rights of child returnee, migrants and the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration and it shall be in line with the right to life and survival, nondiscrimination and right to be heard. In particular, reintegration services for the child returnee reintegration shall follow a child-sensitive and child rights-based approach.

The child right approach is the establishment and championing of the children's rights, their dignity life survival, wellbeing, health, development, participation, non-discrimination as rights-bearing persons in government policies concerning children.⁷³

IOM effective reintegration manual contemplates a Successful reintegration program that shall encompass the requirements of sustainable, measurable, balanced, complementary, and innovative.⁷⁴ The publication on effective approaches or reintegration enumerates the following qualifications that can be used to measure the sustainability of reintegration. Those are the Involvement of the returnee, stable economic environment, mitigation of security risks, psychosocial supports, sufficient time, adequate skill training and financial support, the reestablishment of social networks, social protection schemes and not harming third parties such as the community.⁷⁵

⁷²United Nations, General Assembly, 2016, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)*, A/RES/71/1 page1-24

⁷³UNCRC, Committee on the rights of children. 2011.General Comment No 13 paragraph 59

⁷⁴Ana Fonseca, Laurence Hart and Susanne Klink. 2015.Reintegration, *Effective approaches*, International Organization for migration(IOM) 1211 Geneva 19 SWITZERLAND

⁷⁵Ibid

2.4. Review of Relevant Legal Instruments

2.4.1. The International Norm Standards on Return Migration and Reintegration

Return migration and Reintegration are contemporary concepts in the field of migration. Hence, it is not addressed directly and sufficiently under the normative standards at the International, Regional, and National Level. However, there are recent developments to adopt norm standards that can narrow the gap at the regional and international levels. Among these developments, the African and EU heads of state leaders held a summit on the reintegration support upon return of migrants adopted a political declaration and an action plan to work more closely to improve, among other things, reintegration after a return⁷⁶. The recent global compact on safe migration also included the reintegration matters as one of the objectives. So also, other related human rights instruments, development plans, and interrelated documents could apply to address the return migration and reintegration process. Based on this assumption this part of the thesis reviews the International, Regional, and National binding and non-binding normative standards that addressed the issue of child returnee migrants directly or indirectly. Ethiopia has been one of the members of the UN and it is a party to core Human Rights conventions in addition to regional human rights commitments.

2.4.1.1. International Norm Standards

Article 38 of the ICJ statute has been accepted as providing an authoritative statement of sources of international law. It infers that international conventions, international customary rules, general principles of law, and judicial decisions respectively can serve as a source of international law. Hence, the normative standards of migration emanate from the above sources. International conventions are the major sources of rights of migrants in general and child migrants in particular. Some of these international instruments are UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC, CAT, UNTOC, and its protocols (the so-called Palermo convention), ILO conventions, ICRMWF and multilateral and bilateral treaties between and among states. States ratify and domesticate these treaties under their local jurisdiction. Ethiopia is a signatory to most of the conventions stated above, except the convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Duty to

⁷⁶Bollag, M. 2012. *Home sweet home*. Economist (United Kingdom), 404(8792), page 1–17.

implement and enforce follows the ratification of treaties. The most important legislation and their stipulations directly addressing child return migration and reintegration are stated as follows.

A. Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC)

The child right convention is a comprehensive document that addressed the needs of children. It was adopted for the reason that of his/her physical and mental immaturity of children, because they need special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection. The convention and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children addressed the rights of vulnerable children including children on move (migrants, refugees, returnees, and internally displaced children). As stipulated above, the convention has four principles of child rights protection⁷⁷ those are the best interest of the child, the right to survival and development Non-discrimination, and views of the child.⁷⁸

States are also obliged to take measures to ensure the protection and promotion of the civil, social, economic, and cultural rights of children. This applies to the returnee child migrants.⁷⁹ Since Ethiopia is one of the states, that has ratified the convention on the rights of children. As a member state, it shall protect and promote the rights of children recognized under the convention. Likewise, the member States shall ensure that the institutions and services responsible for the protection of the rights of children are compatible with international standards⁸⁰. Accordingly, the convention Article 39 mandated States Parties to take

All appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Also, it requires the support to take place in surroundings that fosters the health, self-worth, and dignity of the child.⁸¹

This provision can be a baseline for the reintegration assistance for the child returnees, it protects children from any kind of neglect, exploitation, and abuses of victims (it includes victims of

⁷⁷ United Nations.1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly* UNCRC Article 3(2) Article 6(2), Article 2 and Article 12(1)

⁷⁸<https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/stories/four-principles-convention-rights-child>. Accessed on January 2020

⁷⁹ United Nations.1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly* Article 3(2,3) and Article 4

⁸⁰ *ibid* Article 3(3)

⁸¹ United Nations.1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly* Article 39

smuggling of migrants) and it requires states to abide psychological, physical and social reintegration and recovery of the children. Moreover, it tries to lay a standard on those services to be conducted in a safe environment that fosters the physical, mental health, and dignity of the child. The best interest of a child is a standard that requires all decisions affecting the interests of the child to be considered paramount to all other interests⁸².

The convention has stipulations for the physical, material, legal and psychological safety of children. Physical safety includes physical wellbeing and psychological health includes the health and safety of children in many ways. Moreover, states are required to take appropriate measures to promote and ensure physical and mental repossession and social rehabilitation of child victims according to article 39. Protections to ensure the physical safety of children are enumerated under the conventions. Some of them are inherent right to life and survival and development⁸³, protection from abuse and trafficking (Article 19, 34-37), children do not suffer from inhuman or demeaning treatment or illegitimate detention.⁸⁴ So also, states shall ensure Children not to suffer from poverty (Article 27) and they are obliged to ensure adequate living standards to ensure the psychological, physical, spiritual, moral, and social development of children.⁸⁵ It shall also take necessary measures to support the guardians of children in fulfilling their material needs. The economic reintegration of children shall fall under this part of the legislation. Legal safety includes children have documents, children are united with their families, to express their views freely in all matters affecting them and so on⁸⁶ Hence, United Nations child rights convention states that all returns must be consistent with the rights of children and it shall be in line with the best interest of the child.⁸⁷ In no circumstance should a person be returned if there is a risk to his or her life of safety including the risk of trafficking, and return assistance should be provided. Besides, after return, a child shall be reintegrated into the community so that the physical, psychological, and social recovery of a child is ensured in an environment that fosters safety and dignity.⁸⁸

⁸² Kokebe Wolde, (n.d.). *Judicial application of the best interest of the child in Ethiopia, policy, law, and praxis*, kokebe wolde, center for human rights. P. 157

⁸³ UNITED NATIONS.1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly Article 6*,

⁸⁴ Ibid Article 37.

⁸⁵ Ibid Article 27

⁸⁶ Samuel Hall. 2018. *Achieving Durable Solutions for Returnee Children: What do we know?* Save the Children

⁸⁷ UNITED NATIONS.1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly Article 39*

⁸⁸ Ibid

The United Nations child right committee issues general comments on specific matters concerning the rights of children. General comments are policy-oriented stipulations on the issues that need general attention and on the normative gaps.⁸⁹The committee on the rights of children adopted, General Comment on Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside their home stipulates providing a durable solution for the protection of the child migrants upon a journey, transit, return, reunification and reintegration.⁹⁰ It requires returns to be to the best interest of the child, it articulates the determinant factors such as the existence of care arrangement for the child returnee in the country of origin.

In 2017 the committee on the rights of the child and the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW Committee), adopted two joint General Comments (JGCs) – on children in the context of international migration i.e. JGC No and 4. The former articulates the general principles while the latter enumerates state obligation regarding children in the context of international migration.⁹¹ This JGC address the interest of all children in the context of international migration including Child returnees⁹². The joint general recommendations aim to provide authoritative guidance on legislative, policy, and other appropriate measures that should be taken to ensure full compliance with the obligations under the Conventions to fully protect the rights of children in the context of international migration.⁹³ Children shall be treated as a child no matter what *States should ensure that children in the context of international migration are treated first as children.*⁹⁴ It is to mean that despite their migratory status they shall be treated as a child primarily. This applies to their situation after returning to the country of origin they shall enjoy equal protection with other children in the country of origin and it prohibits mistreat due to migratory status. Moreover, the general recommendation no 4 stipulated that states shall adopt equal protection standards for all

⁸⁹Frédéric Mégret, Philip Alston.2020. *The United Nations and Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal*, oxford university press,

⁹⁰Committee On the Rights of the Child. 2005.General Comment No. 6 (2005) *Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside Their Country of Origin*, Thirty-ninth session 17 May-3 June 2005CRC/GC/2005/6

⁹¹Benyam Dawit Mezmur 2019. *Every “I” Dotted And Every “T” Crossed? : Reflections on the Joint General Comments on the Human Rights of Children in the Context of International Migration, and Their Application in The Horn of Africa*. Ethiopian Journal of Human Rights

⁹² Ibid para 9

⁹³ Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW), *Joint General Comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration*, 16 November 2017, CMW/C/GC/3-CRC/C/GC/22, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a2f9fc34.html> [accessed 7 June 2020] para 7

⁹⁴ JGC NO 3 Ibid para11

children including that above age of 15.⁹⁵ Both committees expressed their concerns about that the children between 15 and 18 years tend to be provided much lower levels of protection, and are sometimes considered as adults or left with an ambiguous migration status until they reach 18 years of age. It urged for equal standards of protection shall be provided for every child, including those above the age of 15 years and regardless of their migration status. This stipulation has great relevance for the equal protection of returnee child migrants since they are within the age range between 15 and 18 and since they are mostly treated as an adult as to the empirical analysis of the researcher.

The Joint general recommendation no 3 addressed the issue of the child returnees and reintegration. It recommends countries of origin, transit, and destination to develop comprehensive frameworks and inter-institutional mechanisms to ensure the effective reintegration of children.

Frameworks should ensure, in cases of children returning to their countries of origin or third countries, their effective reintegration through a rights-based approach, including immediate protection measures and long-term solutions, in particular effective access to education, health, psychosocial support, family life, social inclusion, access to justice and protection from all forms of violence.⁹⁶

Moreover, state obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination, and return are addressed in the Joint general comment No. 4. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and Committee on the Rights of the Child No. 23 (2017) adopted it. It addressed the needs of children in the context of migration and recommends states to ensure safe, dignified and protected migration, returns migration, and return supports for the physical, psychological, and social wellbeing of the child.⁹⁷

⁹⁵ JGC para3

⁹⁶Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on *the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration*** Para 1

⁹⁷ Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Committee on the Rights of the Child.2017. Joint general comment No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on *State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return*.

B. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo conventions) adopted in 2000 is the first comprehensive and binding instrument to fight against transnational organized crimes. It has two protocols those are Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea, and air and Protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons. As explained above, Irregular migration can aggravate exposure of the child migrants for further smuggling of migrants. These crimes committed on irregular migrants including children have transnational nature. Accordingly, the Palermo conventions are relevant legal instruments to address transnational organized crimes committed against irregular migrants including child migrants. This convention and its protocols provide special protection for children. Beginning from the definition, Article 2 of the Trafficking Protocol indicates at the first two purposes of the Protocol at a minimum are “to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children,” and “to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking with full respect to their human rights.”

Victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants are endowed with a wide range of rights under the UNTOC and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, thus, Article 6 of the protocol obliges states to take necessary measures to ensure the protection of the rights of the victims of human trafficking. They have the right to privacy and identity,⁹⁸ right to information, right to receive support and assistance, the right to receive compensation, and the right to be repatriated. Victim’s protection and reintegration is a main concern of the convention to address the needs of victim returnees including children.

C. New York Declaration on the Rights of Migrants

The additional comprehensive human right document that addressed the issue of migrants including child migrants is the New York declaration on the rights of migrants. It reaffirms states' obligation to support heightened returnees' reception and reintegration support packages. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations who return, such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and victims of trafficking.⁹⁹The returning

⁹⁸ United Nations.2000. *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, Article 6(1)

⁹⁹ United Nations General Assembly.2016.*New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* PAGE 58

or receiving states should ensure the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants upon pre-removal, return process, and after the return. It calls upon the international community to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees, and displaced persons¹⁰⁰.

These protection needs should be taken into account and be addressed in the process of reintegration. Ethiopia is a member of the declaration, reiterated its commitment to protecting the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, to provide access to education, basic health, and psychosocial facilities considering the best interest of the child in all administrative and legislative measures concerning child migrants.¹⁰¹

2.4.1.1. International policy instruments

A. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

In December 2018, the global compact on safe, orderly, and regular migration was adopted in Morocco. One of the principles in the global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration includes, adopting child-sensitive programs in the governance of migration. It states that

Concerning the rights of the child, it promotes existing international legal obligations ensures the best interests of the child as regards children in the context of international migration, including unaccompanied minors and separated children.¹⁰²

One of the objectives of the global compact is Objective 21, which requires states to *Collaborate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration*.¹⁰³ To fulfill this objective, states shall work to promote gender-responsive and child-sensitive reintegration programs including legal, financial and social supports to guarantee that returns to be based on free, prior and informed consent of the returnees, by promoting partnership and cooperation to avoid further violations and problems upon return of the migrant. The global compact on migration requires child returnee's reintegration programs to take into account the best

¹⁰⁰United Nations.2016.71/1. *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*/RES/71/1 715-743, p.13

¹⁰¹United Nations General Assembly.2016.*New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)*A/RES/71/1, p.29

¹⁰²United Nations.2018. *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, Page 5

¹⁰³Ibid, Page 29-30

interest of the child, right to family life, unity, legal guardianship to ensure the proper reintegration and reception cares for them.¹⁰⁴ The compact also addresses the sustainability of the reintegration supports as a condition. It requires

The reintegration process to provide, social protection, justice, vocational training, employment, psychosocial assistance without discrimination for the returnees to be better citizens and to contribute to their countries development¹⁰⁵.

This will have an impact on the psychosocial, physical, and economic safety of the returnee. Moreover, a document states that states shall identify and address the needs of the community based on the policy, strategies, infrastructure plans and budget allocations, and other relevant decisions.¹⁰⁶ This statement has an implication on the supports to be based on their capacity as progressive realization requirement in the socioeconomic and cultural rights.

B. Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

United Nations adopted agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are planned to be achieved by member states by 2030. It includes 17 major goals and 169 targets. Our country Ethiopia is one of the party states to the SDG goals. SDGs have addressed the issues of returnees in the different goals and targets. Under its preamble, it states that sustainable development goals are intended to ensure the returnee migrants are duly received. It dictates states to ensure the safe and proper reception of the returnees in their country. Among the 17 goals, the following specific targets address the issues of child migration and reintegration assistance.

- ❖ SDG target 8.7:- take measures to eliminate forced labor, human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and secure the prohibition and eliminating of worst forms of child labor by 2025.¹⁰⁷
- ❖ SDG Target 10.2: Social, economic, and political inclusion of all; this target supports the socio-economic reintegration assistance for the returnees without discrimination and differentiation with non-migrant children.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid

¹⁰⁵ Ibid

¹⁰⁶ United Nations. 2018. *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations. 2015. *Transforming Our World, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, A/Res/70/1, and Sustainable development. Un.Org. goal 8.7

- ❖ SDG Target 10.7:- facilitating safe, well--ordered, and regular, migration, and mobility of people through the implementation of premeditated and well-managed migration policies.¹⁰⁸
- ❖ SDG Target 16:- necessitates states to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking in persons, violence, and inhuman and degrading treatments, against children.¹⁰⁹

As a member of the agenda, 2030 SDGs Ethiopia shall implement planned and well-managed migration policies for the achievement of safe, orderly, and regular migration in the country to avoid the trend of irregular migration. These plans and policies shall incorporate all cycles of migration including the return and post-return process (reunification and reintegration) as enumerated in the SDGs.

2.4.2. Regional Normative Standards

A. African Charter on the Human and Peoples Right (ACHPR)

African charter on human and peoples right the so-called the Banjul Charter, Article 12(2) every individual shall have freedom of movement including leaving his home country and return to his/her country of origin.¹¹⁰ Moreover, other civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights under the Convention shall be protected by the member states without discrimination of any kind. These human rights standards are helpful to back reintegration assistance for the child returnees. The convention established the institutional system for the reporting, inquiry, communication, and other enforcement of the rights guaranteed in the recognized rights.

B. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)

African states have adopted separate conventions on the rights of children. It was adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 11 July 1990, entered into force on November 29, 1999. On July 4, 2000, Ethiopia ratified the charter. It recognized the different rights of children; it recognized non-discrimination, the best interest of the child, survival, and development, and so on. The ACRWC lays out the rights of the child including the right to life, which is broader than that provided for

¹⁰⁸Ibid goal 10.7.

¹⁰⁹Ibid. goal 16

¹¹⁰Organization of African Unity .1981. *African charter on human and peoples right (ACHPR Article 12,)* Nairobi, Kenya, and entered into force on 21 October 1986.

under the UNCRC.¹¹¹The convention does not address the issues of child returnees directly. Whereas it prescribed, different protections like the right to health, education, physical integrity, psychosocial safety, and so on that can serve as a legal background for the reintegration and rehabilitation assistance for the children. The convention established an institutional framework to oversee the enforcement of the convention.¹¹²

2.4.2.1.Regional and Sub-Regional Policy Framework

The General assembly resolution on the assistance of refugees and returnees in Africa articulates susceptibility of refugee children and the fact that they are exposed for the physical and psychological injury, inhuman treatments and death summed up with other factors such as environmental factors and individual risk factors, generate further needs for protection.¹¹³ The returning or receiving states should ensure the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants upon pre-removal, return process, and after the return. Furthermore, the particular vulnerability of the children shall be taken into account on that having the fact that they are exposed to physical and psychological injuries in connection to different individual factors including migration. Hence, these protection needs should be taken into account and be addressed in the process of reintegration. Hereafter, sustainable and accessible reintegration and rehabilitation services should be provided by the government for better protection and promotion of the rights of migrants and the best interest of the child.

Moreover, at the regional and sub-regional levels, states have adopted different policy frameworks one of them is the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030). It recognizes the issues of sustainable return and readmission of irregular migrants in their country of origin. The plan of action requires cooperation and mutual understanding within the country of origin and destination to ensure a sustainable return in a manner that should not jeopardize the free movement of persons on the Continent.¹¹⁴ The comprehensive regional migration policy

¹¹¹ Rachel Murray. 2004. *Human Rights in Africa from the OAU to the African Union*, United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York, page, 167

¹¹²Organization of African Unity.1990. *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49, entered into force on 29 Nov. 1999 *Article 32*

¹¹³ UN. 2014. *Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa*, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014 [on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/482)] 69/154. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa,

¹¹⁴ African union. 2018. *Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030)* African Union Commission P.O. Box 3243 Roosevelt Street Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. <https://au.int/sa>.

framework also addresses the reintegration strategies for the returnees after they return to their home state. It recognizes Reintegration as an important strategy to prevent further irregular migration in the continent. Therefore, it requires states to promote reintegration assistance as one means of tackling further irregular migration trends.

The other sub-regional policy document is the IGAD migration action plan (MAP). IGAD is a sub-regional organization comprised of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. The IGAD region is one of the source regions of migration to different parts of the world. Thus, to address this matter the organization has adopted the IGAD Migration Action Plan (MAP) which was being applicable from 2015-2020. Strategic priority 3 under this policy document is labor migration and protection of the human rights of migrants within and outside the IGAD. Under this strategic priority, one of the actions highlighted in developing mechanisms for Assisted and voluntary return and reintegration assistance.¹¹⁵ This gives an insight into the reintegration becoming the most important part of the migration plan of action in the sub-regional and regional migration management programs.

2.4.3. National Normative Standards

A. F.D.R.E Constitution

Under the Ethiopian constitution “*international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are an integral part of the law of the land*” pursuant to Article 9(4) of the constitution. Therefore, Ethiopia has exhibited a commitment to protect and promote Human Rights by domesticating international human rights instruments as an integral part of the law of the land. Moreover, it has incorporated major fundamental rights and freedoms under chapter 3 of the constitution. The government shall abide by these human rights commitments. Freedom of movement is one of the constitutionally guaranteed rights under the Ethiopian constitution. Any Ethiopian national has a right to leave his country and to return to his/her country as per Article 32 FDRE constitution¹¹⁶. While; Irregular migration, trafficking in persons, and smuggling of migrants are outlawed practices under the criminal code and other proclamations articulated below. The constitution has specific provisions

¹¹⁵ IGAD. 2014.IGAD-Migration Action Plan (MAP) to operationalize The *IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework (IGAD-RMPF)* 2015-2020 priority three, action 17 and IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework, July 11th, 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia page 41

¹¹⁶The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.1995. *FDRE constitution*, Article 32 Freedom of Movement

for vulnerable groups like women and children. The rights of children are provided under Article 36 of the FDRE constitution and SNNPR constitution¹¹⁷ besides the recognition of the child's right convention. It stipulated the best interest of the child principle under Article 36(2) of the FDRE constitution; it states that the best interest of the child to be the primary consideration in actions concerning the child those are enforced by administrative, judicial, legislative and welfare institutions whether public or private¹¹⁸. This can be interpreted as the reintegration supports being provided for the child returnees in the country to be implemented only taking into account the best interest of the child. Article 36(1(d) of the constitution enumerates that, the children are shall be protected from *exploitative practices, works that may be hazardous or harmful to his or her education, health, or well-being*.¹¹⁹Hence, the government is obliged to ensure the protection of children from exploitative activities such as irregular migration and the smuggling of migrants.

FDRE constitution under chapter 10 discusses national policy, principles, and objectives. Under this chapter, Article 89 lays a duty on the government to formulate policies for the benefit of every citizen. It is also mandated ensuring equal opportunity for Ethiopians to improve their economic condition, to provide timely assistance in case of manmade and natural disasters, duty to use participatory methods in case of adoption of policies and strategies, it shall endeavor to protect and promote the health, welfare and living standards of the working population of the country. As per the provision the government is mandated to protect and promote the right to health, to ensure a better living standard of citizens (this may include the creation of economic opportunities and other financial support), to provide timely assistance in case of unexpected disasters. This provision is pertinent to the economic and social reintegration of child returnee migrants.

The other relevant Article regarding reintegration is Article 90 Social Objectives, which leaves a duty to provide access to public health, clean water, housing, and social security, to the extent the countries resource permits without any discrimination of any kind including migration status. Education shall also be provided without any discrimination based on religion, political partisanship, and cultural prejudice.¹²⁰Like any human being, returnees enjoy the right to health, education, food, housing, water, and so on, as they are internationally and regionally recognized

¹¹⁷ The revised constitution 2001, of the Sothern Nation, Nationalities and peoples Regional state. Article 36

¹¹⁸Ibid Article 36(3)

¹¹⁹Ibid 36(1(d)

¹²⁰Ibid, Article 90

socio-economic rights of human beings. Because of their vulnerability, children shall enjoy better protection. The national policies and strategies shall be enacted to fulfill the best interest of the child. These policies and strategies shall follow the child's sensitive and right based approaches. Therefore, child returnees equally enjoy these rights and the government is mandated to provide the socio-cultural and economic assistance for the reintegration with the community.

B. The Revised Family Code (Proclamation No. 213/2000) and SNNPR Family code

The revised family code of Ethiopia adopted in the year 2000 defined minor as “*minor is a person who has not attained the full age of eighteen years.*”¹²¹ About the proof of age, Article 217 states that the certificate of birth serves as proof for the age of a person. In the absence of a certificate of birth, the age of a person shall be decided by the court based on reliable documents or by the testimony of not less than two witnesses.¹²² Whereas this article applies when the age of the child is contested by the other parties, not under any circumstances, it placed incapacity of a minor to proper care of a person and for him to be placed under the authority of his/her guardian. Under this law, minor (child) cannot directly take care of its administrative and pecuniary interests. His/her tutor can only take care of these matters.¹²³ It is also prohibited to perform juridical acts (sue and be sued, perform contractual agreements, to make a testamentary will, and so on) unless the law permits to this effect.¹²⁴ Under exceptional circumstances, Article 312 child can be deemed to attain the majority¹²⁵ before he/ she reached the age of 18 under specific circumstances mentioned under the family law. Emancipation is an exceptional circumstance on which a child can be considered equally with the person who attained the majority. This can imply a child who is emancipated by a court or impliedly emancipated at the age of 14 can enjoy equal rights with someone who attained the majority this can include employment and other juridical acts. *According to Article 310 disability of the minor shall cease where he attains majority or He is emancipated.*¹²⁶ Furthermore, article 184 of the SNNPR family code stated that a minor should be

¹²¹The Federal democratic republic of Ethiopia. 2000. *The revised family code*, Proclamation No. 213/2000) Article 215

¹²²Ibid Article 217

¹²³IBID Article 216

¹²⁴ The Federal democratic republic of Ethiopia. 2000. *The revised family code*, Proclamation No. 213/2000 Article 216(3)

¹²⁵ Ibid Article 313.

¹²⁶ Ibid article 310

represented by his/her tutor on the issues related to his/her pecuniary interest¹²⁷. Article 176 of the SNNPR family code endows a right to collect the income of the child to the legal guardians¹²⁸. Reintegration supports child returnees shall take the disability of the minor to perform juridical acts into consideration unless he/she attains majority or he/she is implicitly or explicitly emancipated. Thus, different components of reintegration supports shall consider these facts.

C. The 2004 Criminal Code of Ethiopia

The 2004 criminal code of Ethiopia criminalized trafficking against women and children under Article 597 and Article 598. However, the above provisions are repealed by virtue of article 45 of the proclamation number 1178/2020(proclamation adopted for prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons and smuggling of persons). This is an indication of the recent determinations of the government to prevent, and punish the acts of TIP and SOM and provide better protection and promotion of the right of victims of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

D. Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Persons (Proclamation No. 1178/2020)

The proclamation repealed the criminal code and proclamation number 909/2015 provisions on the trafficking and smuggling of migrants¹²⁹. It defines a child as any person under the age of 18 years.¹³⁰ It criminalized the act of trafficking and unlawful sending of a person abroad for work.¹³¹It discusses the aggravating circumstances like (if the victim is a child).¹³²

In relation to reintegration, under section four of the proclamation addressed the protection of the victim, rehabilitation, and compensation. Ministry of foreign affairs, MOLSA, and diplomatic missions in the country of migration are given different mandates. Ministry of foreign affairs is mandated to repatriate the victims of TIP and detained victims. Moreover, under article 24 protection and rehabilitation of victims are including special protections for vulnerable groups

¹²⁷ SNNPR family code (1996), SNNPR family code, Dehub Negarit Gazzeta no 75/1996 Article 184

¹²⁸ Ibid Article 176

¹²⁹The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. 2015. Proclamation Number 923/2015 Article 15(2(B), Federal Negarit Gazzetta Article 45.

¹³⁰ FDRE.2020. *Prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons and smuggling of persons*. Proclamation No. 1178/2020, Article 2(10), Federal Negarit Gazzetta

¹³¹Ibid Article 11

¹³²Ibid Article 3 and article 4(1(a))

such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. It grants victim returnees have a right to be provided with health, social service, legal and psychological counseling and support, temporary shelter and similar service, protection from detention, right to information, right to access to justice, and so on. It mandated the federal urban employment creation and food security agency in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental bodies to provide rehabilitation supports for the victims in rural areas. Likewise, the proclamation established victims fund under section five, the fund is aimed to rehabilitate victims (TIP(trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants), and unlawful sending of a person abroad for a job. The objectives of the fund as per article 29 is, to cover costs of medical, psychosocial, legal, transportation, and others, to provide material support, technical training, family reunification, and reintegration with the community, to construct temporary shelters and to compensate the victims. It established the national council accountable to the prime minister and national partnership coalition though it is not fully functional. Child victims are provided special protection in the proclamation.

E. Overseas Labor and Employment Proclamation 923/2016

Overseas labor and employment proclamation is adopted to encourage lawful overseas employment and to avoid human trafficking tendencies.¹³³ It addresses the labor migrants above the age of 18 and those who migrate in a regular manner and those who fulfill the competency requirements as stated under the proclamation. The proclamation states different types of services provided by the ministry of labor and social affairs including pre-employment and pre-departure orientations, facilitation of departure of employed workers, and other similar services. It is not clear that it governs the return process and reintegration assistance. Even if it is not comprehensive, enough to address the matter some of the articles of the proclamation imply the issues of returnees. Article 15 discusses the national coordinating team established by the proclamation number 909/2015 now by proclamation number 1178/2012. It has the power and duty to ensure the proper provision of cooperation and support relevant to the objectives of organs engaged in counseling and reintegration activities of returnees.¹³⁴ Additionally, Article 64(4) obliges the ministry of labor and social affairs, and any appropriate authority to facilitate reintegration supports for Ethiopian overseas workers returned in cooperation and collaboration

¹³³ FDRE. 2016. *Overseas Labor and Employment Proclamation 923/2016*, Preamble, Paragraph 3

¹³⁴ FDRE. 2015. *Proclamations Number 923/2015 Article 15(2(B)*, Federal Negarit Gazzetta.

with other concerned bodies. Likewise, it says the details will be addressed in the directive to be issued. This provision implies that the reintegration assistance mentioned under this proclamation will only address the returnees who migrated for overseas employment only in a manner conforming to the qualifications mentioned in the proclamation. In other words, the reintegration packages under this provision are not intended to address the interests of irregular migrants traveling unlawfully. Moreover, it has a vague expression about who is a concerned body. Therefore, it can be argued that these provisions are not comprehensive and clear enough to address the needs of returnees' particularly vulnerable groups (women and children). Because, it lacks clarity on stating who is responsible for the reintegration of returnees, how the service is provided, what services, who allocates the resources, and so on are not properly addressed in these proclamations.

2.4.3.1.Policies and Strategies

Reintegration measures are weakly developed in the bilateral instruments concluded between Ethiopia and other states.¹³⁵ This shows the fact that lesser attention is given for the reintegration of returnee migrants in Ethiopia. In other words, Ethiopia does not have a comprehensive migration policy nor does it have a reintegration policy or national strategy.¹³⁶ Though there is no explicit legal or policy structure to address the issue of child migration, we can use other related legal and policy documents to address the issue through a contextual interpretation for the implementation of social, psychosocial, and economic reintegration of child returnees in Ethiopia. Some of those policies and strategies are:- national children policy, Small and Medium enterprises policy, national social security policy, National Program of Action for Children and Women (1996-2000), National Plan of Action on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2004-2006) and National Plan of Action for Children (2003-2010)¹³⁷.

¹³⁵ FDRE. 2014. Action document for “Support to the reintegration of returnees and to the management of labor migration in Ethiopia “European Development Fund Bridging Facility, CRIS number: FED/2014/037-325 2014 page 4

¹³⁶ Katie Kuschminder and Alexandra Ricard Guay. 2017. *reintegration background report, international labour organization(ILO)*, European university institute. www.ilo.org/publns.

¹³⁷ Tadesse Kassa. 2013. *Baseline Study for A Comprehensive Child Law in Ethiopia Baseline Study for A Comprehensive Child Law in Ethiopia Center for Human Rights Studies*. Page

The 2017 national children policy addresses the protection of the rights of children including children in vulnerable situations.¹³⁸ Hence, child reintegration supports shall be integrated with the policies and strategies and implemented for the better protection of their social, economic, civil, and political rights. One of the aims of the convention is to protect children from violence, human trafficking, child labor, and harmful traditional practices. Under this objective strengthening rehabilitating and reintegrating platforms for the child victims of trafficking in person and various abused is given proper consideration.¹³⁹

Furthermore, standard operating procedures on the child rights protection adopted by the international, regional and national human rights institutions working on the rights of children including returnee child migrants can be taken as a policy and procedural guideline for the reintegration process. A standard operating procedure for child protection adopted by government and non-governmental stakeholders in 2018 addressed the protection and promotion of the rights of unaccompanied children.¹⁴⁰ Moreover, alternative childcare guidelines on community-based childcare, reunification and reintegration program, foster care, adoption, and institutional care service adopted by the Ministry Of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs addressed the guidelines for thee reintegration and reunification of the children deprived of their family and community environment. Children exposed to trafficking and separated children are included under the definition of orphan and vulnerable children.¹⁴¹ Through interpretation, returnee child migrants are included in the stipulations under the guideline since it stipulated the list is a non-exhaustive list.

The second growth and transformation plan, also highlighted, the child right protection issues stating that goal of the plan is to ensure that children equally benefit from the economic growth, to support orphan and vulnerable children, their participation, in the development of their county, minimize traditional practices harmful for the safety of children, and ensure the child right

¹³⁸ Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.2017.*National Children's Policy*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, www.abysinnialaw.com

¹³⁹ F.D.R.E.2017. *National Child Policy*, Paragraph 3.8(B)

¹⁴⁰ Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA),United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Development and inter-Church Aid Commission (EOTC-DICAC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Opportunities Industrialization Center Ethiopia (OIC-). 2018. *Standard operating procedures for child protection*, Addis Ababa. Ethiopia

¹⁴¹ Ministry Of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. 2009, community-based childcare, reunification and reintegration program, foster care, adoption and institutional care service adopted by the PARAGRAPH 6.25

protection scheme in the country¹⁴². Whereas, it does not enumerate the issues related to child migration, return migration and reintegration,

2.5. Overview of Migration, Return, and Reintegration of Children in Ethiopia

A) Migration Trends in Ethiopia and Child Migration Patterns

In 2019, child migrants (aged 19 years and under) accounted for 14 percent of the total migrant population and 5.9 percent of the total population (of all ages).¹⁴³ UNICEF data in the same year shows that 1 in 4 International migrants in Africa is a child, with a total number of 6.5 million child migrants. Likewise, more than half of African refugees and 7 million IDPs are children.¹⁴⁴Based on the 2017 migration stock data, Ethiopia is placed in third place from African countries by having 530,000 child migrants in the country.¹⁴⁵There are both internal and international migrations of children in Ethiopia. Internal migration is a significant social phenomenon in Ethiopia Sintayehu (2016), Tom Bundervoet, (2018)¹⁴⁶. Children migrate from the rural areas of Ethiopia to the urban cities using different migration routes. The empirical analysis indicates that the most dominant types of internal migrations in Ethiopia are the rural- rural migration and rural-urban migrations. In relation to rural-urban migration, Sintayehu (2016) mentioned in his study that, the age range of rural-urban migrants is 15-18 years old (with a share of 71.43%) of the overall number of migrants. Likewise, rural-urban migration aggravates the vulnerability of the child migrants for further child labor, domestic violence, abuse, and exploitation. Worldwide 215 million children were estimated to be subjected to child labor and exploitation as to the 2010 ILO) report. Girls, face exploitation being prostitutes or domestic servants, while, boys are “exposed to compulsory work *including street vending, construction, weaving, and farming* in Ethiopia.¹⁴⁷According to the National labor survey conducted in 2015,

^s FDRE National Planning Commission. 2016.Second growth and transformation plan GTP2

¹⁴³<https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/child-and-young-migrants>. Accessed on March 2020

¹⁴⁴ UNICEF.2019. *Data Snapshot of Migrant and Displaced Children in Africa, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)*, February 2019

¹⁴⁵ Ibid

¹⁴⁶Tom Bundervoet. 2018.*Internal Migration in Ethiopia Evidence from a Quantitative and Qualitative Research Study*, 017 The World Bank 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433

¹⁴⁷Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG). 2017.*Ethiopia MIGRATION PROFILE Study on Migration Routes in the East and Horn of Africa*, US Department of State, 2016: 167)

24.2% of children between the age of 5 and 17 were engaged in child labor¹⁴⁸rural-urban migration is considered one of the factors creating a fertile ground for scaled child labor.

Concerning international migration, there are both irregular and regular international migrations out of Ethiopia. Regular labor migration takes place based on overseas employment proclamation in a regulated manner. On the other hand, irregular migration takes place in an unregulated, risky, and exploitative manner. The Republic of South Africa is the major destination country for the irregular migrants from *Haddiya, Kambata, and Guraghe* zones (Balayneh Genoro Abire G. Y. Sagar. 2016). Accordingly, around 45,000 to 50,000 Ethiopians live in South Africa as to the estimation of the Ethiopian embassy of RSA. Among these 95% of the migrants are irregular migrants.¹⁴⁹UNICEF. (2012) international migration stock data shows that 176,140 children between the age of 5 and 19 migrated from Ethiopia to different areas of destination¹⁵⁰. Besides, Child and young migrants are often at risk of abuse, trafficking, and exploitation, especially if they travel alone through irregular migration pathways.¹⁵¹Balayneh Genoro and Abire G. Y. Sagar (2016), in their study, assessed the human rights violations that irregular migrants faced during their ways. Some of these violations are being robbed, beaten by police, death due to lack of food and water, eaten by wild animals, lack of shelter in the journey, infected and affected by diseases and some of them died of health complications.¹⁵²

Studies indicate the existence of three routes of migration namely the northern route, the eastern route, and the southern routes in Ethiopia. The migrants travel through these routes each day to different destination countries. The Northern Route of migration extends from, Sudan, Egypt, and Libya through the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Most of the migrants traveling in this route are

¹⁴⁸ UNICEF and Ministry of finance .2017., *National Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Ethiopia*, The United Nations Children's Fund., page vii

¹⁴⁹ Balayneh Genoro Abire , G. Y. Sagar.2016.,*The Determinant Factors Of Illegal Migration To South Africa And Its Impacts On The Society In Case Of Gombora District, Hadiya Zone In Ethiopia: A Bayesian Approach*, IOSR Journal of Mathematics (IOSR-JM) e-ISSN: 2278-5728, p-ISSN: 2319-765X. Volume 12, Issue 3 Ver. VI PP 51-65 www.iosrjournals.org.

¹⁵⁰UNICEF. 2012. Ethiopia Migration Profiles. <https://esa.un.org/migmgmprofiles/indicators/files/Ethiopia.pdf> page 1-4, unpublished work accessed on january 20, 2020

¹⁵¹ Ibid

¹⁵² Balayneh Genoro Abire , G. Y. Sagar.2016,*The Determinant Factors Of Illegal Migration To South Africa And Its Impacts On The Society In Case Of Gombora District, Hadiya Zone In Ethiopia: A Bayesian Approach*,IOSR Journal of Mathematics (IOSR-JM) e-ISSN: 2278-5728, p-ISSN: 2319-765X. Volume 12, Issue 3 Ver. VI PP 51-65 www.iosrjournals.org.

from *Amhara*, *Oromia* and *Tigray* regions.¹⁵³The Eastern Route passes through Somalia and Djibouti, the Gulf of Aden, Yemen to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) some travel onwards to Turkey and Europe.¹⁵⁴ Researches show that 146,000 irregular migrants from *Oromia*, *Amhara*, and *Tigray* communities in transit through Djibouti every year. Their destination countries are Yemen (despite the conflict and instability in the country) and gulf countries.

The average number of daily arrivals – mainly from Ethiopia to Djibouti is estimated to be 400. Of these migrants, adult males comprise approximately 35 percent, adult females 18 percent, male children 27 percent, and female children 19 percent¹⁵⁵.

The Southern Route: covers Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa. Sometimes it continues to North America and Europe. Migrants from the SNNPR mainly from *Guraghe*, *Hadiya*, and *Kambata* zones dominate this route.¹⁵⁶ South Africa is the most significant destination country in Africa with around 3.1 Million international migrants residing in the country (around 6% of its total population) in 2015¹⁵⁷. Empirical data show the migration trend in the study area also indicates that South Africa is the main destination for the continued movement of the youth and children. Around 80% of the migrants travel to the Republic of South Africa through East and Southern African states as a transit.¹⁵⁸Migrants from the SNNPR mainly from *Guraghe*, *Hadiya*, and *Kambata* zones use the southern route of migration covering east and southern African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and extending to South Africa. South Africa is the major destination country for migrants from different parts of Africa including Ethiopia. According to Zeleke (2016), the foreign-born population in South Africa is around 1.6 million with an estimated number of 65,500 refugees and 230,000 asylum seekers in 2014.¹⁵⁹ The historical accounts show that the flow of

¹⁵³ IOM .2014. *Assessment of Socioeconomic Situation and Needs of Ethiopian Returnees from KSA*, Addis Ababa Ethiopia Page 9

¹⁵⁴ Ibid Page 10

¹⁵⁵ IGAD. 2014. *IGAD-Migration Action Plan (MAP) to operationalize The IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework* (IGAD-RMPF) 2015-2020 priority three, action 17

¹⁵⁶ Balayneh Genoro Abire , G. Y. Sagar.2016,*The Determinant Factors Of Illegal Migration To South Africa And Its Impacts On The Society In Case Of Gombora District, Hadiya Zone In Ethiopia: A Bayesian Approach*,IOSR Journal of Mathematics (IOSR-JM) e-ISSN: 2278-5728, p-ISSN: 2319-765X. Volume 12, Issue 3 Ver. VI PP 51-65 www.iosrjournals.org.

¹⁵⁷IOM.2020. *World Migration Report*.International Organisation For Migration(IOM),(1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland page 13

¹⁵⁸ Ibid

¹⁵⁹Zeleke worku.2016. *A Socioeconomic Analysis of Ethiopia Migrant Entrepreneurs in South Africa, Problems and Perspectives in Management*, page 449-456

Ethiopians to RSA become noticeable at the beginning of 1991 after the downfall of the Dergue regime.¹⁶⁰ It suggested that it is due to the opening of the ways to obtain national passports and the opening of the free international movements.¹⁶¹ The other phenomena are linked to the role of the Ethiopian ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Tesfaye Habiso, in 2000/2001. The ambassador who is from the South (*Kembata Zone* helped in the facilitation of labor migration of a group of individuals from Southern Ethiopia emigrate to South Africa (Yordanos 2019)¹⁶² and Teshome D. Kanko(2010)¹⁶³.

Despite the rise of the phenomenon of child migration, Ethiopia does not have official statistics on migrants in general and child migrants in particular. Moreover, there is no consolidated database providing basic information. Child migration, return migration, and reintegration, is an understudied concept in the study of migration despite the increasing internal and international child migration in Ethiopia. Thus, there is a study gap on the child returnee migrants and the reintegration process.

B) Overview of Return Migration and Reintegration of Migrants in Ethiopia

Migration is not a unidirectional act. It can rather be both ways (from and to the country of origin). As discussed in the above sections, return migration is part of the migration process. Having a returnee status can bring additional protection in the home country. One protection mechanism is the sustainable reintegration of the returnee in society. In Ethiopia, return migration and repatriation of irregular migrant children are increasing from time to time. The data on returnee migrants by IOM shows since March 2017, 7833 migrants have returned through the EU-IOM joint initiative program. Of this, 1936 were unaccompanied child migrant returnees¹⁶⁴. This accounts for 24.71% of the overall number of returnees. They returned voluntarily from different countries dominantly from Tanzania, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Yemen, and other countries.

¹⁶⁰ IOM.2009., *in pursuit of the southern dream, victims of necessity, assessment of irregular movement of men from east Africa and the horn to south Africa*. April 2009 page 31

¹⁶¹ IBID

¹⁶² Yordanos S, Estifanos and Tanya Zack.2019. *Follow the money, tactics, dependencies and shifting relations in migration financing on the Ethiopia-south Africa migration corridor*. Migration out of poverty, research program consortium.

¹⁶³Teshome D. Kanko. 2010. *Causes and Consequences of Irregular Migration of Young Adults from Southern Ethiopia to the Republic of South Africa: The Case of Kembata-Tembaro and Hadiya Zones*. MA thesis, Addis Ababa University School of Graduate Studies, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

¹⁶⁴ IOM 2020, *protecting unaccompanied and separated children in Ethiopia*,<http://www.iom.int/news/protectingunaccompaniedandsepartedchildrenethiopia>. Accessed on April 2020

There are also involuntary returnees. For example, around 21,657 minors involuntarily returned to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia. Since the EU-IOM, a joint initiative started IOM assisted close to 3000 Ethiopians migrants detained in Yemen 41.2% of them or 1,236 of them are unaccompanied minors are safely returned home. The number of child returnees is increasing in recent years. Since the beginning of 2019, over 2,100 cases have been assisted by IOM. The number has doubled from 1000 child returnees in 2018.¹⁶⁵ This shows the increasing need for the reintegration supports for the child returnees. Concerning reintegration, among the overall reintegration assistance provided for the returnees, around 20 % of the returnees assisted by the EU IOM joint initiative are minors.¹⁶⁶

However, a few studies conducted on the issue of reintegration of migrants in Ethiopia; there is a study gap especially on the child migrants and returnee migrants. Some studies addressed the return migration and reintegration in Ethiopia. For instance, a Ph.D. dissertation by Katie Kuschminder(2013) on “Female Return Migration and Reintegration Strategies in Ethiopia” addresses the return migration and reintegration strategies in particularly focusing on female return migrants.¹⁶⁷ In her dissertation, the author identified four elements that shape the reintegration strategies of returnees. Those are the importance of cultural orientation, social network, self-identification, and access to rights, institutions, and the labor market. However, the child returnees ‘reintegration strategies, dimensions, and vulnerability aspects were not addressed in the study.¹⁶⁸ Likewise, the recent study by Katie Kuschminder and Alexandra Ricard Guay (2017)¹⁶⁹, on the reintegration background report on Ethiopia assessed the needs and situation of the returnees, policy frameworks on reintegration, key stakeholders, and existing response to reintegration, achievements, challenges, and opportunities. The document gives an insight into the overall status of returnee’s reintegration in Ethiopia. The other study by Michael Temesgen (2014) explored the reintegration challenges of irregular migrant men returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

¹⁶⁵ IBID

¹⁶⁶ IOM, 2020, *IOM and UNICEF strengthen partnership to respond to needs of migrant children, international organization for migration*, Accessed on march 2020

¹⁶⁷ Kuschminder, K. 2013. *Female Return Migration and Reintegration Strategies in Ethiopia*. Dissertation Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for Degree of Doctor at Maastricht University.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid page 185-186

¹⁶⁹ Katie Kuschminder and Alexandra Ricard Guay.2017.*reintegration background report, international labor organization (ILO)*, European university institute. www.ilo.org/publns.

(KSA) focusing on deportees residing in Addis Ababa¹⁷⁰. His research is intended to address reintegration assistance for the forced returnees. Moreover, it presented the economic, social, and psychosocial assistance provided for the returnees by the IOM and government stakeholders like (MOLSA and MoWCYA).¹⁷¹ It also provides insights into the challenges faced by the returnees in the process of reintegration. Likewise, it unveiled the challenges of economic reintegration such as a challenge to earn an income owing to a monthly repayment of the startup loan, lack of effectiveness of the training, excessiveness of members of the families, market problems, and access to startup loan and so on.¹⁷² It further made recommendations for the future improvement of the reintegration services. On the other hand, Miheret Betscha's (2016) thesis on reintegration challenges of deported Ethiopian migrant workers from Saudi Arabia also addressed the challenges on the reintegration process focusing on forced returnee migrant workers from Saudi Arabia. This thesis unpacked the reintegration supports and challenges on the reintegration of the female returnees in Ethiopia (such as lack of owed Business Sheds, Challenges Associated with Stringent Measures, challenges related to working in groups, government bureaucracy and so on).¹⁷³ Moreover, Betelhem 2015 also addressed reintegration activities that took place in the case of Returnees from the kingdom of Saudi Arabia the research addressed the major gaps in the reintegration and rehabilitation activities being implemented for returnees from Saudi Arabia.¹⁷⁴ As the above-mentioned studies, the highlighted gaps, and challenges in the reintegration are institutional and legal/policy gaps. None of the aforementioned studies addresses the status of return migration and the reintegration and rehabilitation process of child returnees in Ethiopia. The underlying similarity between these works is that they tend to focus on female returnees and their reintegration process. Furthermore, they focus on labor migration to Middle East countries. Forced repatriation was also their area of coverage, unlike this study. Moreover, none of the above research has addressed the status of return migration and reintegration assistance for the irregular migrant child returnees from South Africa.

¹⁷⁰Michael Temesgen. 2013, *Exploring the Reintegration Challenges of Irregular Migrant Men Returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, Addis Ababa University School of Social Work. page 77-79

¹⁷¹ IBID PAGE 48-51

¹⁷²Michael Temesgen .2013., *Exploring the Reintegration Challenges of Irregular Migrant Men Returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, Addis Ababa University School of Social Work.

¹⁷³Miheret Betscha.2016. *Exploring the Aftermath of Forced Mass Return: Reintegration Challenges of Deported Ethiopian Migrant Workers from Saudi Arabia*, MA thesis Addis Ababa University. page 46-57

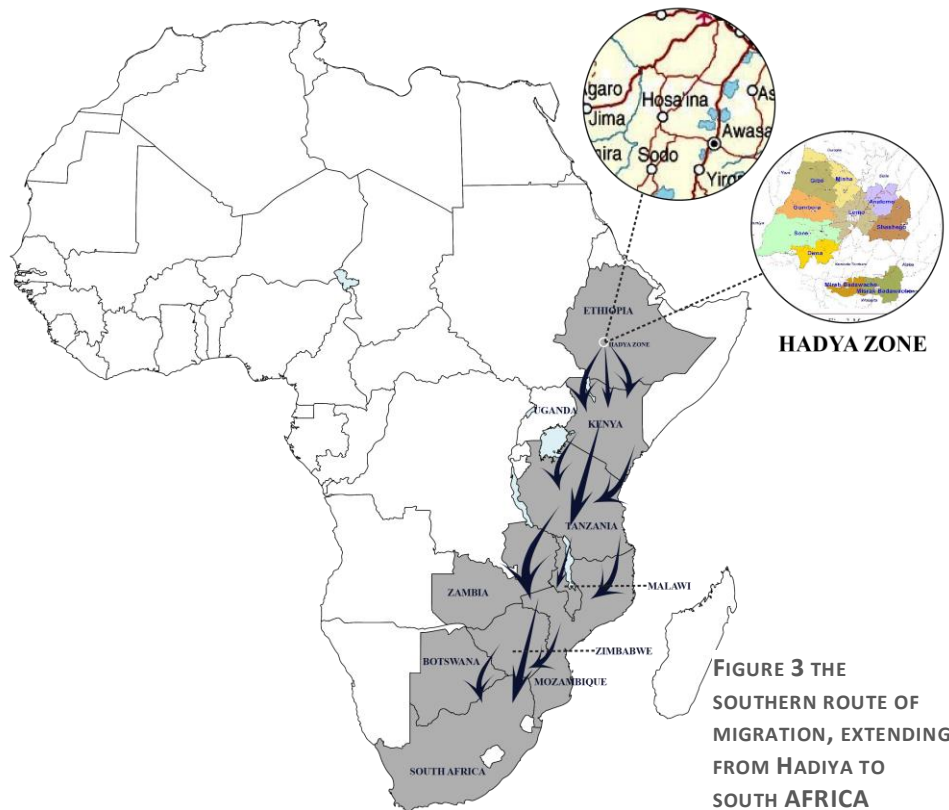
¹⁷⁴Betelhem Mengistu.2015. *An Assessment on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Female Returnees: A Case of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Returnees*. Master's thesis. Addis Ababa University

3.2. Migration and Return Migration in *Hadiya* Zone

This chapter presents trends of migration and return migration in the *Hadiya* zone. The first section presents trends of irregular migration in the *Hadiya* zone administration based on the findings of the researchers. The second part presents the findings on child return migration trends, return process, and experience upon return.

3.2.1. Migration in *Hadiya* Zone

Both Internal and International migrations are a common phenomena in the *Hadiya* zone.¹⁷⁵ As stated above the southern route of migration is dominantly used by the child migrants from Hadiya zone.



¹⁷⁵Interview with BWCY and BOLSA (2020), February 18,2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

The above figure shows the southern route of migration extending from *Hadiya* to South Africa. The highlighted section in the map of Africa shows the transit countries linking to the destination state and passed by the child returnee respondents in the study. Smugglers chose ways based on the existence of border controls and financial references. Concerning this, child returnee respondents, Beyene, and Akililu shared their experience in the southern migration corridor.

We traveled to *Hawassa* by bus then to *Hageremariam* then to *Moyale*. They let us stay for two days therein *Moyale* and they processed our visa and took us to Kenya (Nairobi), we stayed there for a week until they made sure money is wired in their bank account. Then they collected our passports and took us with cars and a motor to Mombasa. After Mombasa, they contact the brokers in Tanzania and they took us passing through the forest to avoid border securities in Tanzania. Unfortunately, Tanzanian police arrested us.¹⁷⁶

I journeyed to *Hawassa* then to *Moyale*- to *Gambo* (crossing forest), then to Kenya (we stayed in a dorm in Nairobi for a month) - then to Mombasa (crossing a sea) to Tanzania then journeyed to Zambia. Unluckily Zambian police apprehended me. There are two ways after Zambia the first one is to Malawi the other is Zimbabwe or Mozambique having a final destination to South Africa. The route/ways and means of transportation depends on the interest of the broker.¹⁷⁷

The number of migrants from the *Hadiya* zone from 2012 to 2019 is illustrated in the following table. The figure illustrates that 49,237(Forty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Seven) individuals have migrated to different destinations from *Hadiya* zone with in the year 2012 to 2019 G.C.¹⁷⁸ However, this figure is not representative of the total number of migrants from the area, as

¹⁷⁶ Interview with child returnee Beyene. Age 16, Interviewed on February 19 2020 Hadiya zone Misha Wereda

¹⁷⁷ Interview with, child returnee. Akililu Age 16, Interviewed on February 22 2020 Lemo Wereda Balesa, Hadiya zone.

¹⁷⁸ Field survey (2020), Haddiya zone Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs, February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

the official accounts often do not account for the number of all irregular migrants and returnees who do not use the official routes.

TABLE 3 HADIYA ZONE MIGRATION REPORT 2012-2018

year	Male	Female	Total	Rank
2012	5313	2163	7,476	2
2013	5572	2385	7,957	1
2014	5261	1783	7,044	3
2015	4475	2027	6,502	4
2016	2562	959	3,521	8
2017	3572	2477	6,049	5
2018	3920	1988	5,908	6
2019	3181	1599	4,780	7
total	33856	15381	49,237	

Source; - Hadiya zone BOLSA, February 2020

In addition to the above figure, *Hosanna city* has the most migrants with a total number of 1,475 migrants 26.6% followed by *Duna Wereda* 15.2%, and *Gibe Wereda* 12.6% has a considerable number of migrants with 850 and 705 migrants respectively as illustrated in the following table in the 2019/20 data. It is a gender-disintegrated representation of the number of migrants registered in all administrative districts and *Weredas* in the *Hadiya zone*.

TABLE 4 NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN WEREDAS WITH IN HADIYA ZONE /2019/20

0	Name of Wereda	Number of migrants			
		Male	Female	Total	rank
1.	Soro	262	140	402	6
2.	Misrak Badwacho	149	99	248	7
3.	Misha	110	77	187	10
4.	Duna	772	78	850	2
5.	Lemmo	119	79	198	9
6.	Gibe	700	5	705	3
7.	Shashogo	173	314	487	5
8.	Gumbora	100	40	140	11
9.	Hosanna city	908	567	1475	1
10.	Meirab Badwacho	140	80	220	8
11.	Anlemo	460	194	654	4
	Total	3893	1673	5566	

Source: -Source; - Hadiya zone BOLSA, February 2020

The above figure demonstrates that 5,566 individuals have migrated from Hadiya Zone in the year 2019/20. The other inference that can be taken is that 786 increases within seven months from August 2019 to February 2020 as compared to the previous table. The dominant groups of migrants are young men with a number of 3,893 males, it accounts for 69.9% and 1,673(30.0%) of the overall migrant population are female. However, in recent years the number of migration from the zone is declining as it can be inferred from the following graph.

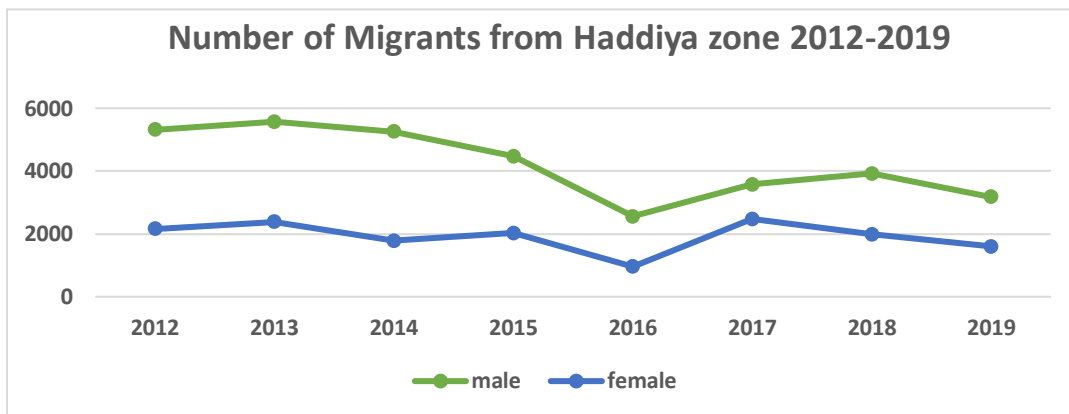


FIGURE 4 NUMBER OF MIGRANTS IN HADIYA ZONE 2012-2019

The figure shows a momentous decline within the past 8 years. This resonates with the data found through interviews and focuses group discussions held with community members and the child returnees the area. According to local informants, there are several reasons for the significant decrease in number from time to time. Some of the factors accounting for the decline include attitudinal change of the community and the socioeconomic and political situation in the destination country that is becoming a disincentive. As to the attitudinal changes, In-depth interviews with the BOLSA, BoWCYA, IOM, and community elders assured the changes in the social cognizance as it is due to immense awareness-raising campaigns and community mobilization by the joint efforts of various stakeholders. According to the child returnee respondents,

“Before a few years, we couldn’t talk about depraved effects of migration. Because the community believed that migration is the only choice out there to change their lives. They even see RSA as a dreamland. However, after a lot of effort, we have put on it, this belief

is shifting.” In 2014, our office launched a pilot testing on activities to prevent irregular migration in *Gibe* and *Soro Weredas*. Formerly, there was a perception gap in the community, even government officials; religious leaders drive their relatives for the irregular migration. Church and community leaders pray, bless, and send them off South Africa. Moreover, they raise funds to support the journey. Therefore, to achieve attitudinal shift, we created social cohesion and consciousness on the bad impacts of migration. We covered nine *Kebelles* conducting community discussion¹⁷⁹

The activities involved in a public dialogue with 25 to 30 participants every two weeks at the *Kebele* level. The church leaders and elders also played a significant role in creating public awareness. For instance, they imparted that married males not to travel leaving their wife and kids behind, stopped their farewell and post-migration prayer services and condemned human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and irregular migration, etc. Such regular campaigns are being held by local authorities together with other stakeholders devoted to averting the situation. Likewise, wide collaborative engagements, workshops, media coverage, and similar joint activities contributed to the decline of the number of irregular migration.¹⁸⁰ IOM and Merry Joy development association are among the stakeholders working on the prevention of migration at the grassroots level. The research finding shows that introducing success stories of individuals working in their country and returnees’ experiences by using different media outlets are among various prevention methods being undertaken by the stakeholders. Additionally, they are working with orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) to address the driving factors of potential migrants is among the measures. Likewise, collaborative engagement and partnerships with various stakeholders such as *Wachemo* University, Hosanna polytechnic college, BoCWY, and the Zonal justice sector (judiciary, attorney general, and police) are also one of the actions. The informant said, “*Due to the collaborative measures taken by the different stakeholders (police and justice) sector, the brokers no more recruit the migrants openly*”.¹⁸¹

The second reason for the decrease in number is the less attractive socio-economic and political situation in the major destination country. Different factors are raised as reasons, those are

¹⁷⁹Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hosanna city office of bureau of labor and social affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm

¹⁸⁰Ibid

¹⁸¹Ibid

perceived ease of entering Europe, therefore, changing the routes of migrants, continuous ‘Afro-phobic’ and xenophobic attacks faced by migrants, increased border patrols, worsening of employment conditions and immigration policy changes.¹⁸² This has made the destination country an unsafe place for the refugees. Child returnee FGD discussants said,

We know there are xenophobic attacks and looting of foreigners’ property in South Africa; we track the news on the death of migrants other related attacks. Besides, unlike previous times the socioeconomic and political conditions in South Africa are not encouraging while it is better to try and fail than not to try. We do not know what our luck has set for us.¹⁸³

In the *Hadiya* zone, most of the migrants are young boys and girls within the age group above 14 to 25.¹⁸⁴ As to the 2017/18 *Hadiya* zone returnees data, the age range of child returnees is from 13 to 17 years old, this shows how common child migration in the area. In the rural parts of *Hadiya*, children are expected to act and live as an adult and sometimes they are expected to be breadwinners of the family.¹⁸⁵ They carry family burdens (economic and social) at their early ages, one of the common means of achieving this is to travel to urban cities or countries and sustain their life. This substantiates the increasing rate of rural-urban and international child migration in the area. Also, one community leader said; -

Many children wander from home; they come to Hosanna or Addis Ababa. They work as shoe shiners, street vendors, and “*weyalas* (taxi assistants) and they support their families. When they grow up (mostly above the age of 14), they start to look for the means of heading to South Africa and start their journey. Many of them die in the desert and the forest, some of them succeed, some of them disappear and some of them return after being imprisoned in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, or Mozambique. This is a very common incident in *Hadiya*.¹⁸⁶

Hadiya zone migration trend shows the existence of gender element on the choice of the destination country, choice of route, and conveyance. Male migrants chose the southern route

¹⁸²Ibid

¹⁸³ FGD with child returnees, (2020), February 21 2020 Hosana, Ethiopia

¹⁸⁴Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hosanna city office of Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm

¹⁸⁵FGD with community elders and religious leaders, (2020), February 21 2020 Hosana, Ethiopia

¹⁸⁶IBID

migration having their destination to South Africa whereas; women migrants use the Eastern route to travel to different Arabian countries, Djibouti, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia¹⁸⁷. Likewise, male migrants tend to choose irregular migration than those of the female. Moreover, as indicated in the above tables the number of male migrants is twice the number of female migrants.

3.2.1.1. Positive contributions to migration

Migration generates different benefits for migrants, their families, and countries of origin¹⁸⁸. One of the benefits is the increase in earning and remittance. Countries in the world generate plenty of income from their citizens who have been residing abroad. Ethiopian migrants in foreign countries use formal banking systems and informal means to transfer the remittance. Remittance has a significant advantage for the development of the home and host states. Increasing remittance leads to the advancement of infrastructures and it can help to reduce poverty in the home country. The increasing number of foreign remittances from South Africa is a positive contribution of migration in the *Hadiya* zone. Hosanna town, the zonal capital, is an emerging bustling town for which migrants contributed a lot through remittances and investment. *Hadiya* community in South Africa is also engaged in collective remittance. A case in point would be the financial contributions they make to local development associations. Because of this, transactions and financial movements in the zone are relatively better than in other areas¹⁸⁹. One of the indications is unlike other zones in the SNNPR, the growing number of private investment and escalating of capital in government banks in the zone. Moreover, apart from other areas of the same level, numerous financial institutions are available in the city of Hosanna and small towns in the zone. For instance, from the total number of 27 banks 15 banks are private and 14 banks are branches of commercial banks of Ethiopia.¹⁹⁰ These publicly and privately owned financial institutions are operating effectively in the zone due to the foreign remittance. This has a contribution to the state's economy. On the other hand, migration can also result in the transfer of skills, knowledge (tacit and explicit) and technology, which can contribute to amplify productivity and economic growth.¹⁹¹

¹⁸⁷Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

¹⁸⁸ IOM.2018. *world migration report page 3* Switzerland, Geneva

¹⁸⁹ Informal discussion with community members in Hosanna city, February 21 2020 Hosanna, Ethiopia

¹⁹⁰Hosanna.2018. *SNNPR Hadiya Zone Statically Abstract 2017-18*, Ethiopia, Hosanna

¹⁹¹ IOM.2018. *world migration report page 4* Switzerland, Geneva

Migration can also contribute to the development of the country of their destination through generating incomes, increasing the GDP, sharing of knowledge, skill, and technology, increasing productivity through labor supply from the country of origin to country of destination, and so on. Consequently, migration entails a positive impact on both countries of origin and destination besides the negative impacts articulated in the following part of the thesis.

3.2.2. Push and Pull Factors of Child Migration in *Hadiya* Zone

The factors contributing to migration are quite diverse and very subjective¹⁹²Likewise, children's migration is a phenomenon impacted by the interplay of several factors ranging from economic factors, family dynamics, political instability, and more.¹⁹³The majority of migration is for the reasons related to work; family and many leave their home for compelling reasons such as conflict, prosecution, and disaster.¹⁹⁴The following section enumerates the push and pulls factors of child migration in the study area.

3.2.2.1.Push Factors of child migration in the *Hadiya* zone

Driving factors of child migration are numerous relating to socioeconomic, environmental, and demographic factors. They are summarized and presented as, unemployment, poverty, peer pressures, and environmental and demographic factors, a diminution of value for education, ethnic tensions, and political instability in this study. Those factors can jointly and severally, serve as push factors.

a. Demographic and Environmental Factors

The population of the *Hadiya* zone is increasing from time to time. The current total population is estimated to be above 1.7 million from which about 86.87% is residing in rural areas and 13.1% of the population in urban areas. The livelihood of the rural population is dependent on traditional

¹⁹²Francesco Castelli. 2018. Drivers of migration: why do people move? Journal of Travel Medicine, Volume 25, Issue 1, 2018, tay040, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/tay040>.

¹⁹³UNICEF.2019. "No Mother Wants Her Child to Migrate" Vulnerability of Children on The Move in The Horn of Africa. Available at <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/1041-no-mother-wants-her-child-to-migrate-vulnerability-of-children-on-the-move-in-the.html>

¹⁹⁴IOM 2018 world migration report page 13

agriculture¹⁹⁵. As elaborated in chapter one of the thesis, the total area surface of the zone is 346,958.5 hectares. Among this 71% of the overall land-coverage is cultivated land. Only 26,030.078, which is around 7.5% of the overall land area is cultivatable land¹⁹⁶. This is disproportional to the growing size of the rural population i.e. 86.7% of the overall population of the zone. The FGD conducted with the community elders and with the child, returnees assured that, land scarcity and other demographic factors serving as one of the push factors of increasing child migration in the area.¹⁹⁷ These factors aggravate the economic problems within the household that may lead to the incapability to linger in education and the survival of the family might be imperiled. The situations can be intensified with the growing number of siblings and unproductive agricultural undertakings insufficient to provide for the family. This serves as a pressing factor for the children to be the caretakers of the family, to choose migration as a means to the livelihood of their family's life, and to look for better opportunities. Respondent child returnee said,

I have extended family (my parents, my eight siblings, and other family relatives) that are dependent on us. I was the eldest of the nine of us. Life was very hard. Our livelihood was reliant on agriculture. We have a very small landholding that we could not get inefficacious outcome out of it, enough for the sustenance of my families.¹⁹⁸

b. Poverty

Poverty and economic difficulties are accounted to be one of the main push factors of migration in the world as well as in the study area. As portrayed above environmental and demographic factors are one of the causes of poverty in the area. Respondents shared their stories as follows; -

The motive that made me leave my homeland in poverty. We had difficulty in meeting our basic daily needs in the house. The conditions were hard enough to make me decide to drop out of school and think about other life paths such as migration. Therefore, I had to look

¹⁹⁵Haddiya zone. 2018. Southern, *Nation, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Hadiya zone statical abstract 2017-18, HOSSANA, Ethiopia*

¹⁹⁶Ibid

¹⁹⁷ FGD with the community and with the returnees, hosanna city, February 21 2020 Hosanna, Ethiopia

¹⁹⁸), February 18,2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

for better opportunities. I assumed if I can work hard in South Africa, then I would be able to change my life as well as my family's life within a short period.¹⁹⁹

I was a good student whereas there wasn't any high school in my village for me to pursue my school and hence, I moved to the city to continue my study. However, my families were unable to cover my living cost in the city. Therefore, I dropped out of school and started to help my dad with the farming. It was not ample to sustain my families' livelihood. Therefore, I started to see other options in life i.e. traveling to RSA. I was arrested in Tanzania for two years until 2010 E.C. I around 150,000 ETB.²⁰⁰

I was born in Shurmo Dacho a small city 20 km far from Hosanna city. My dad passed away when I was a little kid. My mother left me with my grandmother and she got married. I grew-up working on farming because my grandmother is too old to work hard that she is impotent to support herself and me. I was the only person who can support our family. I was studying 9th grade but life was hard because of family responsibilities and education. I was 15 years old when I decide to migrate.²⁰¹

c. Unemployment

Unemployment is one of the push factors of migration in Ethiopia as well as in the area. World Bank report on the unemployment rate shows that in 2018, 1.81% of the annual unemployment rate in Ethiopia.²⁰²

TABLE 5 NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT OF THE HADIYA ZONE IN 2018

	Male	Female	Total
Number of unemployed population in <i>Hadiya</i> zone	42,011	13,299	55,310
Percentage	75.9%	24.11%	100%

¹⁹⁹Interview with child returnee Beyene. Age 16, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 12; 00 Hadiya zone Misha Wereda

²⁰⁰ Interview with child returnee Niguse. Age 17, Interviewed on February 19, 2020. Morsito Misha Wereda

²⁰¹Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11;00 am Lemo Wereda, *shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia*

²⁰² <http://www.macrotrends.net/countries/ETH/ethiopia/unemployment-rate-Ethiopia-unemployment>. Accessed on April 27 2020

This figure shows the overall rural-urban unemployment rate and the number of the unemployed population in the *Hadiya Zone*. From the overall unemployed population, 75.9% of them are Male and 24.1% are Female²⁰³. This can be one of the justifications for the increasing male migration as compared to the female migration in the area. As per the respondents from government office and returnees, one of the reasons for the increasing unemployment rate is the lack of labor-intensive factories and industries in the area.²⁰⁴

Under Ethiopian law, the minimum working age is 18 years unless under exceptional circumstances such as the emancipation of the child at the age of 14.²⁰⁵ Children raised in households with the number of unemployed siblings and parents face economic hardship might be a pressing factor for migration. Besides the financial hardship, it causes hopelessness in the future livelihood and education in the country of origin. To this end child returnee said,

I saw my unemployed brother who graduated from college stayed home for 2 years. In the Hadiya zone, educated individuals could not get a job easily. So why would I continue my lessons? I saw youths with no job wandering around the village. Therefore, I thought I have to look for other opportunities before it is too late.²⁰⁶

d. Peer Pressure

The other dominant underpinning factor for child migration from the area is peer pressure. Children are physically and psychologically vulnerable social groups that can easily be influenced or sometimes deceived by fraudulent third party pressures. They tend to be predisposed by their relatives and friends.

My cousins influenced me to travel to South Africa. They accumulated wealth for themselves and their families after working for three or four years in RSA, they bought

²⁰³Haddiya zone(2018),*Southern, Nation, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Haddiya zone statical abstract 2017-18 ,HOSSANA, Ethiopia*

²⁰⁴ FGD with community elders, FGD with child returnees February 20, 2020 and interviews with BOLSA, February 21, 2020

²⁰⁵ The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.2000. The Revised Family Code. Article 312 and 213

²⁰⁶ Interview with child returnee Niguse. Age 17, Interviewed on February 19, 2020. Morsito Misha Wereda

houses for their families, they built buildings in the city and so on. This initiated my dream of heading to RSA.²⁰⁷

The other driving factor for child migration in *Hadiya* zone is Diminution of value for education, one community elder said,

Nowadays children do not want to carry on their education. They see their teacher's life, other educated individuals' life they compare it with those who migrated to South Africa.²⁰⁸Hence, they ponder about dropping out and emigrating to RSA.

A child returnee said *I would rather go to South Africa and change my life rather than wasting my time in school.*²⁰⁹

Ethnic tensions and political instability are also other factors affirmed as one driver of migration results in tempting a lack of interest to live in Ethiopia and impeding the free movement of individuals from one region to the other.

3.2.2.2.Pull Factors of child migration in the *Hadiya* zone

Pull factors are the factors related to the destination state that entice the migrants to the host state. Some of the pull factors as to the finding are peer influence from the Diaspora relatives and friends residing in the Republic of South Africa. The child returnee respondents stated better wages for the same work in the country of migration and attractive work environment in the host country as driving factors of their migration.

My uncle domiciled in South Africa persuaded me into migration. He told me I would change my life if I had headed to South Africa. He helped me to pay 90,000(ninety thousand birr or 2,200 USD) brokers fee. Moreover, I had been in touch with immigrants from my hometown headed to South Africa, I see the modernity and luxuries living situation they have, in their fancy pictures on Facebook and WhatsApp, I weigh it with mine. That makes me be tempted me into migration.²¹⁰

²⁰⁷ Interview with, child returnee Taddale Age 17, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 4:00 pm. Morsito Hadiya zone, Ethiopia,

²⁰⁸ IBID

²⁰⁹ Interview with child returnee. Berhanu Age 16, Interviewed on February18, 2020 at 11:00 am Hosanna, Ethiopia Hosanna, Ethiopia.

²¹⁰Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, *Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Lemo Wereda, shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia*

As we can infer from the above finding, influence of the social media, better infrastructures, modernity, better living situation, and deceptive brokers and traffickers in the transit and destination states are accounted to be the other pull factors of migration in the study area.²¹¹

3.2.3. Lived Experiences of the Returnees in Hadiya Zone

This section presents to readers a lived experience of child migrants by drawing on the lived experiences of returnee migrants.

3.2.3.1. The Migration Journey and protection risks

United Nations child rights convention obliges state parties to protect the rights of children against different forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.²¹² It imposes an obligation on states to take measures for the full enjoyment of the rights of children. Article 11 of the convention requires measures to be taken to eliminate the unlawful transfer and non-return of children abroad. Likewise, it encourages states to promote the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements with fellow states for the better protection of the rights of migrant children safe, dignified migration and return migration, and to promote regular and regulated migration patterns than irregular migration trends. Migrants are considered as secondary citizens for the country even after successful arrival. They face not only isolation, xenophobic and racist attacks from the locals, but also, they may be attacked physically for their money or some other reasons, and so on. Migration affects vulnerable groups like women, children, elderly people, and persons with disabilities, and more. Children are adversely affected by the consequences of migration. They can be smuggled /trafficked for juvenile labor, prostitution, and other forms of abuse.²¹³ The international office on migration estimates that 1.2 million children are victims of human trafficking in Ethiopia. Children traveling alone being affected by this case and face similar challenges.²¹⁴ In addition to the above-stated protection risks of child migration, this part of the study addresses the child right desecrations faced by the child returnees due to the migration

²¹¹Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020, *HOSSANA, Ethiopia*

²¹² United Nations.1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children*, CRC Article 36

²¹³IGAD.2014. IGAD-Migration Action Plan(Map) (To Operationalize *The IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework* (IGAD-RMPF) 2015-2020, Page

²¹⁴ United Nations and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. 2012. *Investing in boys and girls in Ethiopia past present and future*, 2012, page 31

process. Irregular migration has been one of the factors that increase the vulnerability of children for different forms of abuse and exploitation. The ways and means of travel exacerbate the degrading experiences, risk of inhuman and degrading treatments. Besides, the respondents encountered abuse and exploitation by traffickers, smugglers, and police officers.

Child migrants from *Hadiya* zone use services of smugglers who facilitate their journey in the transit states. The returnee children confirmed at the time of interview that they voyaged through precarious and perilous conditions like unsafe transportations means such as cars, motorcycles, yacht, on foot, bicycle, oil tanks, trucks, airless containers and so on. The times (at nights) and risky topographical conditions of travel aggravate their vulnerability, particularly for the child returnees.²¹⁵ All of the child returnee respondents said they traveled through dangerous landscapes such as crossing forests, seas, and lands at nights. One of the respondents said, “*We journeyed three days and three nights’ around-the-clock using different means of transportation on the bus, walking, motorcycle, and boats*”.²¹⁶

Despite these protections, empirical evidence, the interviews with the child returnee respondents and the stakeholders assured that child migrants had to pass through protection risks and inhuman treatments in their journey to South Africa. Migrants have some prior information about the potential challenges they might face like death, absence, arrest, and other human rights violations even before they start the journey. Taddele 17 year’s old informant mentioned his interest in migrating and facing the risk than staying; “*I would rather die in the forest than living here*”.²¹⁷ Thus, migrants traveling on the southern route reported Deaths, disappearances, kidnappings, sexual violence, trafficking in person, and other forms of abuse and exploitation.²¹⁸ Some of these cases are articulated in the following paragraphs.

a. Death

The right to life is inherent and universally recognized human right applicable to all human beings to enjoy without discrimination of any kind. The right to life is one of the cardinal principles of

²¹⁵Interview with child returnee Eyasu, Age 17, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 10; 00 am. *Lemo Wereda, Ethiopia*

²¹⁶Interview with, child returnee Biruk. Age 16, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 12;00 pm. *Lemo Wereda, Hadiya*

²¹⁷Interview with, child returnee Taddele Age 17, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 4;00 pm. *Morsito Hadiya zone, Ethiopia,*

²¹⁸ Bram Frouws and Christopher Horwood. 2017. *Smuggled South, an updated overview of mixed migration from the Horn of Africa to southern Africa with specific focus on protections risks, human smuggling and trafficking* Page 25

the child rights convention as well as the African convention on the right and welfare of the child. Irregular migration is an internationally known common reason for the death of numerous human beings worldwide²¹⁹. It has been one of the factors impeding the right to life of child migrants in the world, in Ethiopia, and the study area. Recently 64 Ethiopians were found dead in a truck in Mozambique on March 2020 while traveling to South Africa. Among the 78 passengers, only 14 of them survived from asphyxiation.²²⁰ A child by the reason of his/her, physical and mental immaturity, they are more susceptible to death. In support of this, the committee on the rights of a child under the general comment number 6 recognized the susceptibility of unaccompanied child migrants for abuse and exploitations (sexual exploitations, trafficking in person, smuggling,) endangering their life, survival, and development that could cause death.²²¹

In the *Hadiya* zone, having to hear the sad news about the deaths of thousands of irregular migrants is a common incidence. One community elder said, “*Sometimes we hear at least five deaths a day but the journey continued*”.²²² In addition to the above empirical pieces of evidence, the following data obtained from the *Hadiya* zone Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs support this fact. It shows the number of death of migrants registered in the zone due to the impacts of migration over the past 8 years.

TABLE 6 NUMBER OF DEATH DUE TO MIGRATION IN HADDIYA ZONE

year	Number Of Death		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
2012	552	100	652
2013	637	185	822
2014	723	225	948
2015	650	140	790
2016	301	84	385
2017	238	36	274
2018	162	12	174

²¹⁹ Martin, S Susan, Sanjula Weerasinghe and Abbie Taylor.2014. *Humanitarian Crises and Migration: Causes, Consequences and Responses*. Abingdon, Rutledge

²²⁰ The Guardian.2020. *The guardian sixty-four Ethiopians found dead in truck in Mozambique*. <http://amp.theguardian.com/world/2020/march/24/64-ethiopians-found-dead-in-truck-in-mozambique#referrer=http://www.google.com>. Accessed on April 27 2020

²²¹CRC/GC/2005/6 PAGE 9 PARAGRAPH 25

²²²FGD with community elders and religious leaders, 2020, February 21, 2020 Hosanna, Ethiopia

2019	172	48	220
total	3435	830	4265

Source: - Hadiya zone BOLSA February 2020

Over the past 8 years, 4265 migrants were reported to be dead on their way to the destination countries in Hadiya zone. As we can infer from the table, 2014 was a year with most of the deaths documented, with around 948 migrants followed by 2013 and 2015 with 822 and 790 numbers of deaths respectively. Deaths occur at different phases of migration mostly during their ways to transit, and after they reach destination countries. As to the finding, in the study area, death of migrants occur during their journey and in custodial, caused by drowning in the water, starvation, bitten by animals in the forest (snakes and hyenas), sickness, and suffocation in the containers, physical abuse and torture and so on.²²³The perilous journey affects children more than any social group because of their physical and mental immaturity they are incapable of protecting themselves from the above factors that may lead to death, disability, and absence of the migrants. In support of this, child returnee informants have witnessed the deaths of their fellow child returnees. Eyasu 16 said *around 68 migrants who traveled before us drowned, some of them were minors around my age. We were terrified that the same thing may happen to us as we travel.*²²⁴ Dejene One of the 14 survivors rescued alive from the back of a truck on the Malawi Mozambique border on March 24 said,

I was beating the sides of the container, I was even beating people near me, I knew that others are dying and in my heart that I was dying too. When I opened my eyes, I saw a cloudy sky and that is how I knew that I was alive. Migrants were barked at crowding into a small container to make the border crossing, but smugglers lashed out, forcing the desperate group inside. I Passed out and woke up with the body on top of me and was carried out of the container by my friend.²²⁵ Reuters May 15, 2020

²²³ Interview with, child returnee Taddede Age 17, Interviewed on February 19 2020. misha Wereda Morsito city Ethiopia,

²²⁴ Interview with child returnee Eyasu, Age 17, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 10; 00 am. Lemo Wereda, Ethiopia

²²⁵ Dawit Endeshaw, 2020. *Ethiopia migrants recall nightmare when 64 died in a metal container.* Friday May 15, 2020 Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-migrants-idUSKBN22R18H>.

b. Physical Injury

Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) defines persons with disabilities are those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which hinders their full and effective participation in the society.²²⁶ Migration has been one of the factors for the disability of migrants. Accidents, Physical exploitations, and abuses in the process of migration may result in permanent and temporary physical injuries and physical disabilities. The following table shows the number of migrants who reported having physical injury because of the migration in the Hadiya zone over past years. As the table indicates, 2005 individuals have encountered physical injury and disability over the past 8 years due to the effect of irregular migration among those 1528 are male accounts for 76.2% and 477 were female returnees it makes 23.8%. The physical injury exacerbates the vulnerabilities of the child migrant in many ways in addition to the socioeconomic impacts on the family of the migrant as well as the community.

TABLE 7 NUMBER OF DISABILITY DUE TO MIGRATION IN THE HADIYA ZONE

	Number Of Disability		
Year	Male	Female	Total
2012- 2016	1364	407	1771
2017	37	23	60
2018	58	22	80
2019	69	25	94
total	1528	477	2005

Source: - field survey 2020. Hadiya Zone BOLSA

The physical and mental immaturity of children summed up with dangerous ways and means of migration, the abuses, and exploitation they may face at the transit and destination country increases the vulnerability of children for physical impairment and psychological disorders. Disability is one of the effects of the perilous movement of the child migrants in the *Hadiya* zone. Interview with BoWCYA assured that *many Child migrants face physical disability during their journey to the destination country. They are even more exposed to physical and mental impairment.*²²⁷ on the other hand, a child returnee explained the causes of the physical disability,

²²⁶ UNCRPD convention on the rights of persons with disability, article 1 paragraph 2

²²⁷ Interview with Bureau of women, children and youth, February 22, 2020 Hadiya Zone Hosanna city

*Physical disabilities occur due to the migration journey (perilous transportation conditions, harsh weather conditions and topography, physical abuse by the smugglers, and prisons.*²²⁸

c. Disappearance / Missing

One of the crises informants mentioned concerning child migrants is the phenomenon of missing migrants in general and child migrants in particular. Some of the migrants physically disappeared with no information about their whereabouts. The following figure assures that, over the past 8-years from 2012 to 2019, 1,766 individuals were reported to be missing with 1,540 males 87.2% and 226 females 12.7 % in *the Hadiya zone*. Child migrants are more susceptible to disappearance/missing because of physical and psychological vulnerability.

TABLE 8 NUMBER OF MISSING/DISAPPEARED MIGRANTS

Table 8. Disappearance/Missing			
Year	Male	Female	Total
2012-2016	1116	168	1284
2017	147	19	166
2018	124	18	142
2019	153	21	174
Total	1540	226	1766

Source: - Hadiya Zone BOLSA February 2020

Many families were despaired due to the disappearance of their children on their ways to the destination states. Within three years, we have lost 1766 migrants. We have no information about their whereabouts. Child migrants are more susceptible to this due to their physical immaturity.²²⁹

d. Heath disorders

In addition to the above-mentioned effects of migration, child migrants from the *Hadiya zone* experience health disorders because of their experience in the migration process. As to the

²²⁸ Interview with, child returnee Tesfaye. Age 16, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 11; 00 am. Morsito, Hadiya zone Misha Wereda, Ethiopia,

²²⁹ Interview with Haddiya Zone BOLSA Ato Bereket Feleke interview date on February 21, 2020, Ethiopia, Hossana

respondents, the malnutrition, food contamination, risky travel experience, torture, forced labor, and other degrading experiences cause health disorders.

Child returnee informant said the following,

Throughout my stay in prison, I was very sick that I could not eat food. I had a near-death experience several times. It is a miracle that I am alive, it was hard for me to survive the demeaning treatment there, on top of being sick, and I was traumatized by the horrifying experience there.²³⁰

e. Arbitrary Detention

Children should never be detained for immigration purposes, even for short periods, whatever their status or the status of their parents.²³¹ In relation to unaccompanied and separated children, the general comment no. 6 stipulates that, children shall not be deprived of their liberty and that being unaccompanied or separated, or on their migratory or residence status or lack thereof cannot justify the detention.²³² Despite such protections, child migrants are apprehended in transit and destination states for their reason for migration status. Despite this, some countries in the southern route of migration including Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Zambia have tightened laws on immigration infringement and increased fines or jail terms.²³³ These laws are equally applicable to the child migrants without screening the age qualifications. Concerning this, all of the respondent child returnees have faced prison term ranged between 6 months to 2 years in Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique prisons. Most of the irregular migrants face equal sentences and imprisonment as other inmates. Child migrants share a huge portion of the captives 'in transit states.²³⁴ The returnees also experienced repetitive imprisonments because of remigrations attempts. A child returnee respondent said *I was arrested in Kenyan prison on my*

²³⁰ Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, *Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Lemo Wereda, shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia*

²³¹ Convention on the Rights of the Child, arts. 2, 3, 9, 22 and 37; *CRC, general comment No. 6, para. 61 CRC, report of the 2012 day of general discussion on the rights of all children in the context of international migration*, paras. 78–80; CAT/C/AUS/CO/4-5, para. 16; CMW, general comment No. 2,

²³² *Ibid*

²³³ Bram Frouws and Christopher Horwood.2017., *Smuggled South, An updated overview of mixed migration from the Horn of Africa to southern Africa with specific focus on protections risks, human smuggling and trafficking*, Danish refugee council and regional mixed migration secretariat (RMMS), horn of Africa and Yemen. page 22

²³⁴ FGD with child returnees, (2020), February 21 2020 Hosana, Ethiopia

*first trial of migration. Then after being deported, I tried to re-migrate and was apprehended again in Tanzania.*²³⁵ Moreover, another respondent said,

First, I was arrested in Kenya for 6 months then the smuggler assisted me to break out of prison. Then I continued my journey and passed through Tanzania and I was imprisoned in Zambia.²³⁶

Despite the general principle not to detain children based on their migration status, if the child is apprehended for the exceptional reasons she/he shall be treated in a manner that ensures the protection and promotion of the rights of children. UNCRC requires children deprived of the liberty to be treated humanely, respecting their dignity taking into account the age of the child.²³⁷ In contrast to this, the experience of child returnee respondents shows the degrading and inhuman treatments they faced in prison. Child rights convention prohibited torture and cruel inhuman treatments of children, *shall not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*²³⁸. Besides, international customary law, CAT, ICCPR, and other human rights conventions prohibit the torture, inhuman and degrading treatments. The respondents faced torture during their prison term and by the smugglers. Informants explained the health risks, deaths, physical and psychological disabilities they had seen in prison²³⁹. The following child returnee respondents shared their experiences as follows: -

The situation in the prison is demeaning, the cells are so overcrowded, we had no sleeping mats, we were sleeping on the floor uncovered (with a tiny cloth on), we were denied sufficient food and drink. The police officers were violent and harsh towards us, we were insulted incessantly, we were tortured, and two of our inmates (our friends) died of hunger, dehydration, and sickness in prison. They force us to work hazardous works, in harsh working conditions such as farming, carpentry, cooking their meals, and so on without any rest.²⁴⁰

²³⁵Interview with, child returnee Tesfaye. Age 16, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 11; 00 am. Morsito, Hadiya zone Misha Wereda, Ethiopia,

²³⁶ Interview with child returnee Beyene. Age 16, Interviewed on February 19 2020 Hadiya zone Misha Wereda

²³⁷United Nations. 1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children*

²³⁸ ibid CRC article 37 (a)

²³⁹FGD with child returnees, (2020), February 21 2020 Hosana, Ethiopia

²⁴⁰ Interview with child returnee Niguse. Age 17, Interviewed on February 19, 2020. Morsito Misha Wereda

“Some of our friends died of hunger throughout our journey, and, in custodial, we were physically maltreated (sexually assaulted and raped). They offer a small portion of food once in 24 hours, they make us work hard jobs such as carrying stone, digging a hole, building a house, and so on in prison. They threaten us. They say nobody cares even if you die, nobody will find you and save you²⁴¹.”

The above quotes of the informants are indications of the multifaceted human rights violations (right to food, freedom from torture and inhuman treatment, right to liberty and security, right to life, survival and development, and so on) faced during the prison terms. Additionally, as per the Child Right Convention, every child has the *right to maintain contact with his or her family through communication and visits*;²⁴² in detention centers. Even if they were detained in a foreign country, the migrants have a right to keep their contact with their families through phone communications. However, they were denied their right to maintain contact with their families. In this regard, child returnee Akililu said,

I had no contact with my family they believed I was dead, they felt disheartened about my safety nobody thought I would be alive. I felt hopeless. I was despaired waiting for my death.²⁴³

f. Financial hardships

The journey of child migrants is prearranged and planned by the chain of illicit brokers Child migrants are obliged to pay plenty of money for illicit brokers for their role in facilitating the journey residing in different transit states.²⁴⁴ To achieve this purpose, the family of child migrants obtains this money through solemn challenges. Such challenges could be selling off assets like land, house, and cattle, borrowing money from third parties, receiving assistance from families

²⁴¹Interview with child returnee Beyene. Age 16, Interviewed on February 19 2020 Hadiya zone Misha Wereda

²⁴² United Nations.1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children*, CRC article 37(1)

²⁴³Interview with, child returnee. Akililu Age 16, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 11; 00 am Lemo Wereda Balesa, Hadiya zone.

²⁴⁴ Interview with Haddiya Zone BOLSA Ato Bereket Feleke interview date on February 21, 2020, Ethiopia, Hossana

abroad, and so on.²⁴⁵ According to the interview, five out of the ten respondents said that to get this money their families have to sell their house, cattle, or land. (Eyasu age 16) confirmed that, “my family sold their land here in Hosanna. It was 500 square meters of land; they sold half of it and used it to pay for the 140000 broker’s fee.”²⁴⁶ While two of the respondents said, they had been working as street vendors for two years in Addis Ababa to save up the money. The other three interviewees alleged their relatives in South Africa subsidized them to pay the amount. As far as the amount of money paid to the broker is concerned, the amount is different from the migrant to the migrant. As per the respondents, the least amount is 80,000 birr (3,000\$) and the maximum is 150,000 birr or around (5000\$). The average amount paid by the respondents is 122,000 ETB. In exchange for the payment, the smuggler identifies the routes to be used, arranges deceitful travel credentials and means of conveyances, and procures food and water (*which was usually insufficient and/or contaminated*).²⁴⁷

g. Increasing Illiteracy and Dropout Rate

Data obtained from the *Hadiya* zone Education Bureau shows that the school dropout rates of the students from high schools have significantly increased. The major reason is identified to be the effect of internal and international migration of youngest students. According to the *Hadiya* zone bureau of education, in 2017/18, 1248 students dropped out of primary school (598 males and 650 females). Among 167 child returnees returned on one round in 2017/18, 111 or 66.4% are elementary schools and 53(31.7%) high school dropouts. According to the bureau of education, *Misha* is one of the *Weredas* with high school dropout rates. In 2017/8, 374 students dropped out of primary school (124 males and 250 females). Similarly, in *Lemmo Wereda* 188(80 females and 108 males) students dropped out of high school. Moreover, among the ten child returnees’ respondents, five of them are primary school dropouts while the other four are high school dropouts. Only one of the respondents has completed the 10th-grade national examination. During

²⁴⁵Yordanos S, Estifanos and Tanya Zack.2019. *Follow the money, tactics, dependencies and shifting relations in migration financing on the Ethiopia-south Africa migration corridor*. Migration out of poverty, research program consortium.

²⁴⁶Interview with child returnee Eyasu, Age 17, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 10; 00 am. *Lemo Wereda, Ethiopia*

²⁴⁷Bram Frouws and Christopher Horwood.2017., *Smuggled South, An updated overview of mixed migration from the Horn of Africa to southern Africa with specific focus on protections risks, human smuggling and trafficking*, Danish refugee council and regional mixed migration secretariat (RMMS), horn of Africa and Yemen.

FGD, conducted with community elders and religious leaders, they expressed their concern on increasing illiteracy as follows,

“Future of this community is worrisome since intellectuality is fading from time to time. Children have no interest in enrolled in school. They dream about wandering to Addis Ababa to work as a shoe shiner or other business or to South Africa. Sometimes they even joke at their teachers saying “Teacher why don’t you go to South Africa”. This dispirits the teachers to share their wisdom and to work on the future generation. Government staffs, nurses, teachers, and others also travel after graduating from college. So the little ones see this and lose their attentiveness and courage for education.”²⁴⁸

One of the community elders said,

My child has insisted on dropping out of school in 9th grade to go to South Africa. I passed through different challenges to convince him to continue his school, church leaders and relatives brough him to stay. So that he can continue his education, I opened a small business in Hosanna city for him.²⁴⁹

To sum up, irregular migration has a severe impact on the right of the child migrants at each phase of migration (departure, transit, and immigration). Moreover, it leads to a grave human right violation against emigrants in the destination country. Furthermore, it hinders the enjoyment of human rights protection and the successful integration of migrants into host societies.²⁵⁰ Additionally, such violations may give rise to tensions between the transit/host state and country of origin, which may bring out diplomatic glitches.

3.2.4. Return Migration in Hadiya Zone

3.2.4.1. Trends of return migration and profile of returnees

An informant from BOLSA reveals the groups of a returnee who have been returning to *Hadiya* are irregular migrants, victims of human trafficking, vulnerable groups like women and children. These groups of people return to their homes in different ways. The first mechanism is through the

²⁴⁸ FGD with Community Elders and Religious Leaders, February 21, 2020, Hosanna Ethiopia

²⁴⁹ FGD discussant community Elder, February 21, 2020, Hosanna Ethiopia

²⁵⁰ IGAD.2014. IGAD-Migration Action Plan(MAP) (to operationalize *The IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework (IGAD-RMPF)* 2015-2020, page 26

government support channel through diplomatic negotiations i.e. bilateral and multilateral agreement with the country of destinations and transit states, ample citizens return to their home safely. Secondly, plenty of returnees return independently by themselves without any institutional support, and thirdly, they return to their home by the support of IOM, the Red Cross, and other humanitarian institutions.²⁵¹ As stated in the above sections, these returns could be voluntary and involuntary (forced repatriations). The child returnees in the study area are voluntary returnees of failed attempts to enter the country of destination. The following parts of the thesis address the trends of return migration in the *Hadiya* zone. Gender disintegrated information about the number of returnees over the past three years in the *Hadiya* zone is presented in the following figure.

TABLE 9 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES IN HADIYA ZONE 2017-19

NUMBER OF RETURNEES			
Year	Male	Female	Total
2017	1221	1,016	2,237
2018	1193	595	1,788
2019	1966	1,604	3,570
Total	4380	3,215	7,595

Source; -field survey 2020, Hadiya zone BOLSA

Around 20% of the returnees are child migrants between these ages of 15 to 17.²⁵² The number of child returnees in *SNNPR* is dominantly from, *Hadiya*, *Kambata*, *Silte*, *Guraghe*, *wolayta*, and *Alaba* zones.²⁵³ These returnees are from various destination states, in support of this, 192(91.4%) of the total number of 210 child returnees in 2017/2018 in *SNNPR* returned from Tanzania and 8.6% of the returnees are from Malawi and Zambia.²⁵⁴ Concerning their origin 167 (79.5%) of them are from the *Hadiya* zone, 34(16.1%) of them are from the *Kambata Tembaro* zone, 5(2.3%) from *Alaba* zone, and *Wolayta* zone 3(1.4%). This shows that the *Hadiya* zone is the major hotspot area for child migration and return migration in *SNNPR* as presented in the table, within three years from 2017 – 2019, 7,595 irregular migrants returned to the *Hadiya* zone from different destination countries. Among these returnees, 4,380 of them (57.6%) are male while 3215 were

²⁵¹Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hosanna city office of Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm *HOSSANA, Ethiopia*

²⁵² *IBID*

²⁵³ Field survey (2020), Haddiya EU-IOM project office, February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

²⁵⁴Field survey (2020), Haddiya IOM and Merry Joy Development Association, February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

female 42.4%. *Misha* and *Lemo Weredas* have registered 146 and 288 number of returnees respectively.

TABLE 10 WEREDAS WITH MOST OF THE RETURNEES IN HADIYA ZONE

No	Name Of The Wereda	Male	Female	Total
1.	Soro	559	882	1441
2.	Misrak Badwacho	13	0	13
3.	Misha	99	47	146
4.	Duna	160	87	247
5.	Lemmo	194	94	288
6.	Gibe	122	5	127
7.	Shashago	152	59	211
8.	Gumbora	141	133	274
9.	Hossana City	320	164	484
10.	Mireab Badwacho	22	10	32
11.	Anlemmo	314	156	470
	Total	2096	1637	3733

This table shows the recent data on the number of returnees in the *Hadiya* zone and the most susceptible areas of return migration 2019/20. *Soro Wereda* is the most populated *Wereda* in the zonal administration. It also consists of the greatest number of the returnee migrants with 1,441 and covers the 38.6% of returnees in the zone that is followed by Hosanna city administration. The number of returnees in the city administration within the stated time is 484 that accounts for 12.8%, followed by *Anlemo Weredas*, which is 12.5% of the overall share. The total number of returnees within one year is 3,733 in the *Hadiya* zone. From this, the number of male returnees is 2,096 that accounts for 56.1 %, and 1,637 are female returnees that are 43.9%. This indicates the number of male and female returnees having the different status of the return.

When we see the age range of the child returnee migrants the minimum age of returnees is 13 years old and the maximum age is 17 years old. We can infer from the table that 10.4% of the returnees are under the age of 15 and 89.5 % are 16 and 17 years old. The following table better illustrates the age range of the child returnees.

TABLE 11 NUMBER OF CHILD RETURNEES IN HADDIYA ZONE

Child returnees in 2017/2018 in the Hadiya zone	Total
--	--------------

Age	13	14	15	16	17	
No	7	1	14	41	147	210

3.3. Return Process and Experiences after the return

All respondents/participants of this research assured that they are returned by the support of IOM in collaboration with government and non-governmental stakeholders. One respondent said that he had returned from Tanzanian prison through the help of IOM. *Ethiopia does not have an embassy in Tanzania so there were no means that the Ethiopian government could know about us Thus, IOM returned us safely to our homeland.* Most of the returnees were detainees in the host states. As it is elaborated in the above section of the thesis, the child migrants face arbitrary detentions due to their migration status. After they finish the prison term, claim to return to their home states. The child returnees explained their experience of release and return as follows,

We were 347 when we returned to Ethiopia; I was detained, for a year and 6 months in Tanzania. After I finish my prison term, my fellow prisoners and I requested the prison administration to send us back to Ethiopia whereas; they could not accept our demand. One of our friends died in prison then we decided to go on a hunger strike. The officer queried us on why we were not eating, and then we were beaten hard. We said that ‘we want to return to our country’. Hence, they communicated IOM, and experts from IOM came and promised to return us to Ethiopia, they took a picture of us and told us to eat. After 3 months of stay in custodial, they returned us to Ethiopia.²⁵⁵

We went on a hunger strike because we believed death is better than our life in Prison so we refused to be ruled by their commands. Therefore, they called IOM and it assisted us to return home safely.²⁵⁶

²⁵⁵Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Lemo Wereda, shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia

²⁵⁶ Interview with child returnee. Berhanu Age 16, Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Hosanna, Ethiopia Hosanna, Ethiopia.

We were stuck in the middle we did not arrive at the destination or return to our country. We felt lost so we prayed for someone to get us out of there so, God sent us IOM to Rescue us from the misery. They asked us if we plan to re-migrate, we gave our words not to consider irregular migration again so they conveyed us back to our country.²⁵⁷

IOM covered their transportation cost. Likewise, different assistances articulated in the following paragraphs were provided to the returnees while they were in the host state. After returnees reach their country of origin, the circumstances might not be at ease for the survival of the children. Basic humanitarian standards are may not be met, their rights are endangered, and their psychosocial well-being not guaranteed and without sufficient information on the contexts and without the means of reintegration²⁵⁸. Besides, they face different forms of physical, psychological, and economic glitches upon return to their homeland. They face ostracism and stereotypes from the local community and even from their families. Nine of the respondents said their families had been compassionate of them, that they are happy about their safe return and ready to support them with the next life ahead of them. Whereas, one of the informants shared his experience on how an unsupportive family environment affected his life after return, which is articulated in the following chapter of the study.

Chapter Four

4. Reintegration of Child Returnees in *Hadiya Zone*

4.1 Overview of Various Actors Working on Reintegration of Child Returnee Migrants and their initiatives

As it is explored in the earlier chapters, reintegration is one means of protection and promotion of the rights of returnee children. A meaningful reintegration shall be in line with International, Regional, and National child rights standards. In this regard, the duty of states including Ethiopia emanates from international, regional, and national norm standards including UNCRC, and ACRWC. UNCRC imposes an obligation upon member states to take “*all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child*”.²⁵⁹ Thus,

²⁵⁷ Interview with, child returnee Biruk. Age 16, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 12:00 pm. *Lemo Wereda, Hadiya*

²⁵⁸ Samuel Hall.2019. *Save the children, achieving durable solutions for returnee children: What do we know?*

²⁵⁹ United Nations.1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children, CRC Article 39*

Ethiopia as one of the parties to the convention shall take measures that promote the physical, psychological, and social recovery of the returnee children. Reintegration is one of the manifestations of such engagements. The reintegration process shall take place in safety and dignity and mainly under conditions of legal safety, physical safety, material safety, and psychological safety of child returnees.²⁶⁰ Furthermore, Reintegration services for the child returnee shall follow a child-sensitive, child rights-based approach, and it shall include the long-term safety and security, adequate standard of living including employment access, education, housing, health, family reunification, access to justice and participation and so on.

In this respect, stakeholders are operating on the issue of migrants, returnees, and reintegration support including child returnees at the federal and regional levels. They provide technical and material supports for the ongoing reintegration initiatives of the child returnees. Based on the research finding, some of the stakeholders working on the reintegration of child returnees in SNNPR and *Hadiya* zone are comprehended as follows,

4.1.1. Governmental stakeholders

i. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA)

As stated on the overseas employment proclamation number 923/2016 MOLSA is endowed with a mandate to coordinate and follow-up reintegration activities for the returnees. Article 64(4) obliges the ministry of labor and social affairs and any appropriate authority to facilitate reintegration supports for Ethiopian overseas workers returned to their country of origin. It is mandated to work in collaboration with different stakeholder's governmental and non-governmental organizations. To this end, it has established a division working particularly in coordinating and following up reintegration initiatives. It works with regional counterparts on assisting and facilitating safe and dignified returns and reintegration supports. The proclamation under article 5 scope of application states that the proclamation covers overseas employment relation of Ethiopians' conducted by public employment organs, through an agency or on direct employment²⁶¹ and or Ethiopians traveling abroad to engage in overseas contracts of housemaid

²⁶⁰United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)'s *Annual report of the United Nations Refugee Agency for human right on principles and practical guidance on the protection of human rights of migrants in vulnerable situation*.

²⁶¹The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.2015. *Proclamation Number 923/2015 article 5(1)*, Federal Negarit Gazzetta.

service for non-profit making purposes²⁶². Thus, one can argue that the mandate to coordinate and follow up the reintegration of returnees only applies for the regular overseas employments and returnees (conducted by public employment organs, through agency and direct employment). Hence, Irregular migrant repatriates are not addressed in the proclamations as beneficiaries of the reintegration process. The key informants from MOLSA and BOLSA said that,

Our office works on overseas employment undertakings, preventing, irregular migration, and human trafficking trends in our zone. We also work on returnee migrants including child returnees. However, our mandate is only limited to assisting, coordinating, and providing technical support for the NGOs engaged in such activities. We budget constraints allocated for this purpose. Most of the services are delivered by international organizations and civil society organizations. We work with different government divisions to ensure the returnees are enrolled in schools, their medical needs are treated, and employment opportunities created, and so on.²⁶³

The BOLSA at different levels (zonal, *Wereda*, and *Kebelle*) of *Hadiya* zone assists and coordinates the reintegration services being provided by stakeholders through direct and indirect engagement. It assists and coordinates the activities governmental and non-governmental organizations working on the reintegration of returnees. IOM and Merry Joy development association are the main actors in the reintegration process. Recently, more civil societies are showing an interest to be engaged in the reintegration of returnees particularly women and child returnees, for example, Catholic NGO called Catholic CVM (community volunteer peer-mond) agreed for three years' project to work on the reintegration assistance for women returnees in *Hadiya* zone. As a first move, 37 women were trained on entrepreneurship and other psychosocial training moreover, they agreed to provide material support for the reintegration of women returnees.²⁶⁴

²⁶²Ibid

²⁶³Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hadiya zone bureau of labor and social affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm

²⁶⁴Interview with Haddiya Zone BOLSA Ato Bereket Feleke interview date on February 21, 2020, Ethiopia, Hossana

ii. Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA)

One of the government stakeholders working on the child returnee's reintegration is the ministry of women, children, and youth and regional and zonal counterparts. Key informant interview with MoWCYA indicated that the ministry has a children affairs support and Inspection Directorate working on socio-economic challenges of the children particularly aiming to support susceptible children (victims of human trafficking, returnees, migrants, orphans and so on). The ministry is mandated to coordinate, support, improve, and monitor national programs to support vulnerable kids. Article 20(1(m)) of proclamation number 1097/2018 endowed the ministry with the mandate to "Coordinate actions of all stakeholders to protect the rights and well-being of children." Moreover, designing strategies to ensure local options of care and support, including adoption, for orphaned children and children exposed to risk due to various reasons is also endowed to the ministry.²⁶⁵ Based on the legal framework the ministry is mandated to coordinate all actions designed to protect the rights of children including child returnees and to design strategies to ensure care and support of vulnerable children including children in the context of international migration. As per the key informant interview, the ministry designed programs to support children, which comprise activities such as, community-based support, reunification and reintegration, Foster care programs, domestic adoption, and institutional care. Community-based support is a program where the community itself supports the children. We have a structured community support system from the federal to the regional level. The second is foster care; it is a program to support the orphan children by handing orphans for the temporary care of a family. Domestic adoption in the third program designed to protect the rights of children. Institutional care; service for children with a special needs of institutional support is the fourth program addressed to support the needs of vulnerable children. Reintegration is one of the support packages designed by the project. As to the reintegration, the key informant said,

Formerly, the reintegration assistance was provided at the Addis Ababa city administration BoWCYA in collaboration with IOM and UNICEF. We brought it to the ministry because of the increased need and government attention to the issue. IOM provides the financial support, UNICEF hires the social workers and when we receive the lists of the returnees,

²⁶⁵ FDRE. 2018. Proclamation no 1097/2018 *A Proclamation to Provide for The Definition of the Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*, article 28(1(o))

we communicate them with their contact address, using our government structure and support the process. We tried to incorporate it with our plans, coordinate the family tracing, reunification, and reintegration of child returnees.²⁶⁶

After receiving the list of the child returnees, Hadiya zone BoWCYA supports and coordinates the family tracing and reunification of the child returnees using its *Wereda* and *kebele* structures and in collaboration with BOLSA. Moreover, it supports the reintegration of child returnees through supporting the reintegration initiatives by different stakeholders and through facilitating re-enrollment of the child returnee to formal education and other reintegration support packages in collaboration with stakeholders. Likewise, it addresses their needs based on the initial assessment upon arrival to the zone.²⁶⁷

iii. Technical and Vocational Education and Training Agency (TVETA)

Technical and Vocational Education and Training agencies are one of the stakeholders assisting the reintegration of returnee migrants being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental organizations at both federal and regional levels. As a part of economic reintegration, vocational training is being provided for the adult returnees in the study area. The partnership of TVETs plays a significant role in this regard. In *Hadiya Zone* TVET, mainly the *Hosanna* polytechnic college supports the child returnees 'reintegration process by providing vocational training for the returnees based on agreements between different stakeholders. In this regard, the college is playing its role in providing the training space for the psychosocial, entrepreneurship, and vocational training; training equipment's and provide trainers in support of the reintegration packages. During the fieldwork, the researcher had visited the *Hosanna* polytechnic college mainly training spaces, training facilities, and the overall process.

In Addition to the above governmental stakeholders, International organizations such as IOM, ILO, UNICEF, UNCHR, and UNODC, and so on, are working on the matters of migrant (refugees, returnees, internally displaced people, victims of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, unaccompanied minors, etc.). Among these organizations, particularly IOM, and ILO have been working on assisted, voluntary, return, and reintegration (AVRR) programs in collaboration with

²⁶⁶ Interview with Mr Belete Dagne(2020), Ministry Of Women, Children And Youth, interviewed on February 11, 2020, at 2:00 pm Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

²⁶⁷Interview with Hadiya Zone BWCY interview date on February 21, 2020, Ethiopia, Hosanna

government stakeholders and local NGOs in Ethiopia²⁶⁸. The program aims at providing orderly, safe, dignified, and cost-efficient reintegration of migrants for the asylum seekers, refugees with no legal recognition, and documentation to live in the host state and who are willing to return voluntarily to their countries of origin. Henceforth, it involves administrative, logistic, and financial support for the return process and reintegration²⁶⁹. Vulnerable migrants including child migrants are given priority in the implementation of the program. Hence, the thesis addresses the overall process of reintegration in *Hadiya* zone. The main components of reintegration addressed in this thesis are economic, psychosocial, and social reintegration activities taking place for the child returnees in the study area. Likewise, it addresses multidimensional reintegration supports at different levels. The main actors of child returnee reintegration in the study area are BOLSA, BoWCYA, TVET, IOM, and Merry Joy Development Association. These actors play their respective roles based on their mandates and resource capacity. They provide reunification, rehabilitation, and reintegration of child returnees into the family and social structures of the community. The following part of the study presents the collaborative efforts of the governmental and non-governmental actors to provide reintegration supports for the child returnees in *Hadiya* zone.

One of the reintegration initiatives in the study area is the EU-IOM Joint initiative for migrant protection and reintegration. The project is under implementation in 26 African countries including Ethiopia. In *Hadiya* zone, the project is under implementation with an implementing partner Merry Joy Development Association. Merry Joy Development Association has been serving the community working on vulnerable children, elders, youth, and women for the past 25 years. It has been engaged in different socioeconomic issues like education and health.²⁷⁰ The project is under implementation in *Haddiya* and *Kambata* zones of SNNPR. IOM project coordinator assured that the project is under implementation through collaborative efforts from the government side, he stated that

²⁶⁸Katie kuschminder and Alexandar Ricard GUAY 2017 and IOM 2019 *reintegration handbook Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*

²⁶⁹ Ibid

²⁷⁰Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

We received an office space from *Hadiya* zone Bureaus of Women, Children, and Youth worth of 5000 rent per month. Besides, we are working together on establishing the child protection committee and community mobilization teams consisting of different stakeholders in each *Weredas*. BoWCYA leads the teams established to follow-up on the implementations of the project. Furthermore, BOLSA and BoWCYA engage in coordinating and supporting the reintegration process through partaking and assisting the verification, reunification, and reintegration process. The other decisive support is the 1-year tax exemption for the startup business of the returnees.²⁷¹

Data obtained from the project office in Hosanna shows that the project implementation started in May 2019. Meanwhile, the project served 225 beneficiaries from which 60 of them are OVCs, and 165 of them are returnees, 90 % of them are male, only 10 % are female 133(59.1%) of them are child returnees.²⁷² The informant from IOM said that this place is chosen because it is the hotspot mainly the Southern and on some level the Eastern Route migrants.²⁷³ The project is under implementation on Ten *Weredas* in both *Hadiya* and *Kambata* zones i.e. eight *Weredas* in *Hadiya* and two *Weredas* in the *Kambata* zone. Thus, return assistances in the host state, upon return and post-return reintegration services taking place mainly in the *Hadiya* zone are articulated in the following discussions.

4.2.Return Assistance in the Host State

Reintegration supports start while the returnees were in the country of migration upon the first contact. Since the returnees were under detention in the transit/destination state, transfers from prison to shelter including necessary supports such as temporary accommodation, food, water, and clothing. Acceleration of return encompassing travel documentation, transportation fee (air tickets), and facilitation of return reception in the host state is undertaken in collaboration with both countries' governments and other partners. The child returnee informants from the *Hadiya*

²⁷¹Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

²⁷²Ibid

²⁷³I Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

zone passed through this support while they were at the host state. Minors (child migrants) are always given priority in return due to their vulnerability.²⁷⁴

Informants said that they have received priority of return, as they are child migrants. One of the child returnees said

When I was in Tanzanian prison IOM representatives came and discussed with us on our experience, they asked us, if we have a sickness, plan to re-migrate and other issues. They gave us food and medications. Finally, they covered our transportation fee to return to Ethiopia safely. As I was a child (under the age of 18), I was given a priority of return

After the first contact with IOM, they took our pictures and promised to return us so they asked about our names, age, where we are from our health status and they gave us food, water, and clothing so on. Some of my friends received medical assistance before return. They identified those who are eligible for priority return based on our age. They prepared our travel documentation and returned us home through airplane.²⁷⁵

Among these assistances, the counseling helps the migrants to make informed decisions to return to the country of origin or to remain in the host state and it informs the migrants on the available support packages upon return.²⁷⁶ Pre-departure vulnerability assessment helps to determine the feasibility of return based on the available health facilities in the country of origin and it helps to decide, for example, if a child migrant can stay on the same prescription or cure regime (especially for mental health and autoimmune disorders) in the country of origin.²⁷⁷ Thus, the feasibility of the return for the safety and dignity of the returnee is determined while he/she was in a host state since the return might not be feasible in case there is a continued risk for the health and safety of the returnee (child returnee).

²⁷⁴Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

²⁷⁵ Interview with child returnee Tamiru. Age 16, Interviewed on February 22, 2020 at 10:00 am. *Lemo Wereda, Hadiya zone Ethiopia*

²⁷⁶ Interview with IOM Addis Ababa and IOM.2019. *Reintegration Handbook Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*, Geneva, Switzerland

²⁷⁷ibid page 46

Based on the vulnerability assessment in the host state the child returnee received different forms of reintegration assistance. The following section addresses the reintegration packages the child returnees received upon arrival in Addis Ababa and at their respective *Weredas* and *Kebelles*.

4.3. Assistance upon Arrival

The return assistance upon return is provided as soon as they arrive in Ethiopia. Upon arrival at Addis Ababa Bole international airport, IOM received the child returnees at its temporary shelters.²⁷⁸ IOM experts in collaboration with government stakeholders (such as MOLSA, MWO CYA) and other partners assist upon arrival. IOM has two temporary transit centers in Addis Ababa and emergency transit centers at the border points in the regions.²⁷⁹ Since the capacity of the transit centers is incompatible with the number of returnees, it works collaborating with partners like Agar Ethiopia, Good Samaritan, and OPRIFS, and so on, based on their respective areas of engagement. Most of these partners work on female victims of abuse and exploitation including female returnees. Child returnees are being equally sheltered with other returnees due to lack of specifically assigned shelter for the child returnees in Ethiopia. In this regard, the committee on the rights of the child, concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Ethiopia acknowledged lack of safe houses for the vulnerable children and recommended Ethiopia to,

Establish reception and rehabilitation centers for the safe return, medical and psychological support and reintegration of all children victims of sale, trafficking, and abduction, with a particular focus on rural and remote areas.²⁸⁰

Based on the initial vulnerability assessment undertaken in the host state, IOM provides assistance such as food, water, clothing, accommodations, medications, and transportation allowance upon arrival. Child returnee respondents said they had stayed at shelters from 3 to 15 days.²⁸¹ The informants said that an amount ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 Birr transportation allowance was paid to let them reach their respective *Weredas*. Child returnee Nigussie said, *I stayed for 14 days in*

²⁷⁸ Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

²⁷⁹ Interview with IOM expert, march 2020, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

²⁸⁰ Child right committee.2015. *Convention on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Ethiopia* 10 July 2015 CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5 Paragraph 70

²⁸¹ FGD with child returnees, (2020), February 21 2020 Hosanna, Ethiopia

Addis Ababa IOM shelter and received 1,300-birr pocket money and transportation allowance so that I can go back to my hometown.²⁸² Other Informant child returnee shared his experience as,

On June 19, 2019, I came back to Ethiopia with my fellow returnees from Tanzania. IOM covered my travel expenses. Upon initial arrival to Addis Ababa, they took us to a safe house. I stayed there for 5 days. They gave me clothes, food, medications, and a 1000-birr transportation allowance.²⁸³

The period of stay is determined based on the medical needs and the time it takes to trace the family of each returnee. Upon the medical screening in the host state, Post arrival medical care including referral mechanisms in case of the severe medical case was one component of the support provided for the child returnees. Another respondent shared how the medical assistance upon arrival saved his life.

I was utterly ill during my stay in prison, I never thought I would survive but upon the initial health screening, my sickness was identified. I received medical assistance upon arrival. That saved my life.²⁸⁴

Moreover, family tracing activity takes place in collaboration with different stakeholders like MOLSA, and MWYC. The following section addresses the process of reunification of the child returnees after the tracing process is ended.

4.4. The reunification of the child returnees

Article 10 and Article 25(2)(b) of the UNCRC and ACRWC respectively, bind States parties to ensure that applications for family reunification follow a positive, humane and expeditious manner, including facilitating the reunification of children with their parents.²⁸⁵ Moreover, the family reunification shall be pursued based on the principle of the best interest of the child and in

²⁸² Interview with, child returnee Nigusse. Age 17, Interviewed on February 18 2020 at 10:30 pm. Hosanna, Ethiopia

²⁸³ Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Lemo Wereda, *shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia*

²⁸⁴ Interview with child returnee Tamiru. Age 16, Interviewed on February 22, 2020 at 10:00 am. *Lemo Wereda, Hadiya zone Ethiopia*

²⁸⁵ UNITED NATIONS. 1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly Resolution Article 10 of CRC and Organization of African Unity (1990), African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49, entered into force on 29 Nov. 1999; Ethiopia ratified the Charter on 4 July 2000.*

consideration of the sensible perils thereof.²⁸⁶ Based on this, child returnees shall be reunified with their families in a positive, human, and prompt manner and after assessing the existence of any risks attached to it. One of the respondent child returnees said he has to travel alone to be reunified with his families without any special procedures of reunification.

During my stay at the shelter they contacted my families through the address I gave and they contacted them to ensure my reunification with my families thus I was given a 1500 birr transportation allowance to let me reach and reunify with my families waiting for me at home. I traveled with some of my friends from my hometown and reunified with my family.²⁸⁷

Different stakeholders at the Federal and Regional levels are engaged in the family tracing and reunification activities for the child returnees. The family tracing activity starts as soon as the basic information of the returnees is received from the organ that facilitated their return such as IOM. Government stakeholders such as MOLSA and MoWCYA and their regional counterparts (the respective zonal, *Wereda*, and *kebele* structures) facilitate the family tracing process. The family tracing process incorporates verifying basic information of the returnees (name, age, address, family names, contact, and so on) through contacting their families using *kebele* structures, phone communications, and other relevant schemes. As soon as the family tracing is completed, the child returnees can travel to their hometowns and reunify with their families after having being given the transportation allowance mentioned above. One of the key informants from MoWCYA said,

We have a program that addresses the overall process of reunification of children including child returnees. The process includes (assessing the family situation, the readiness of the child, preparation of legal documents, and other related issues), reunification (covers incurring transportation cost, financial support for the family). Reunification takes place with the presence of police, government representatives, civil societies, and social workers.²⁸⁸

²⁸⁶United Nations. 1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly Resolution Article 10 of CRC*

²⁸⁷ Interview with, child returnee. Berhanu Age 17, Interviewed on February 18 2020 at 3:00 am. *HOSSANA, Ethiopia*

²⁸⁸ Interview with Mr Belete Dagne (2020), Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, interviewed on February 11, 2020, at 2:00 pm Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

However, one of the child returnee respondents said *I was reunified with my family by myself after IOM experts verified and contacted my families in Hadiya zone.*

4.5.Process of determining eligible returnees for the reintegration

After the returnees are reunified with their family, the next step is verifying their information and calling them up for the process of determining vulnerability and eligibility for further reintegration packages. In relation to the profile of the beneficiaries, Interviewee from IOM said that they are working on all kinds of returnees including irregular migrant returnees, victims of human trafficking, labor migrant returnees. BOLSAs said all returnees regardless of their age, gender, or vulnerability status are part of their work. On the other hand, an informant from Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs said,

The profiles of the returnees we work with are teenagers below the age of 18 in general and particularly returnee migrants between the age of 10 and 18 including unaccompanied child migrants and children returning with their parents.²⁸⁹

Whereas, IOM and Merry joy development association work with returnees that are more vulnerable without differentiation based on age and gender. An interviewee from Merry Joy Development Association explained that they verify the data and contact the child returnees based on the bio-data they receive from the IOM head office. The verification is pursued to make sure whether the returnees are accessible for the service and to understand their status on if they have re-migrated if they had changed their residence. *Some might not be accessed due to the remigration, change of address, or other factors. Sometimes when we call them after verifying the data we find out that, they have re-migrated.*²⁹⁰ Among the 240 bio-data received on the first round reintegration, 14.9% of them were inaccessible and 5.4% of them re-migrated.

Furthermore, verification of the data is the first step in identifying eligible returnees for the reintegration. The screening process proceeds to determine their eligibility for the reintegration components. As discussed in the above sections it takes place twice, once in the host state and the

²⁸⁹ Interview with Mr Belete Dagne (2020), Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, interviewed on February 11, 2020, at 2:00 pm Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

²⁹⁰ Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

other in a home state. The initial screening and assessment in a host state are enumerated in the above paragraph presenting the assistance delivered in the host state. Identifying eligible returnees takes place based on the standard screening process. Standards and tools adopted by IOM to assess, prioritize, and address the returnees, psychological, physical, material, social, and legal needs are employed. It has to be implemented to identify the needs of each returnee, its vulnerability status, family assessment, risk assessment, skill assessment, and so on. Risk assessments are applied to identify risks if the returnee is a victim of human trafficking and to identify additional needs of the returnee, whereas, the family assessment includes the situational analysis of the family of the returnee.²⁹¹ Vulnerability assessment takes place using interviews and counseling sessions as a tool. Thus, this section addresses the screening process and vulnerability assessment that has been performed by the reintegration experts from merry joy and IOM in the *Hadiya* zone through counseling sessions and interviews.²⁹²

The process includes assessing the informed consent of the child returnee, guardian, at the different levels of the reintegration. The informed consent shall be obtained during necessary service provisions such as medical examinations and assisted voluntary return and reintegration. Thus, based on the format prepared, the child itself, his guardians, or caretakers shall give their assurance of informed consent through their signature. All the returnees said that they have given their informed consent for the services; Besides, general personal information like their name, sex, age, address, and living situations are included under this part of the assessment. The assessment tries to uncover General health conditions like physical, mental and psychological illness, safety and security issues such as fear of abuse and exploitation after return, it includes identifying child/minor migrants, highly vulnerable children, and their protection needs (medical needs, children at risk, child trafficking, separated child, children with disability and so on).²⁹³ This phase is important in the overall process of reintegration. So also, it helps to prioritize child returnees in the process. Merry Joy Development Association and IOM reintegration experts trained in this field, perform the assessment process.

²⁹¹ IBID

²⁹² Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

²⁹³ EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project, vulnerability assessment sheet and score to assess' vulnerability of for minor returnee's complimentary reintegration support scoring sheet.

Scoring their vulnerability is the next step in the process to determine their eligibility for different packages of reintegration for example it helps to identify those eligible for general support, for comprehensive support, medical support, and economic support²⁹⁴. Since, all returnees cannot be reintegrated equally due to the budget constraints, determining eligibility based on clear standards is necessary. Returnees eligible for the reintegration are identified based on the scoring sheets availed by the EU-IOM joint initiative for migrant protection and reintegration. Assigned reintegration experts from IOM and Merry joy development association perform the scoring. The scoring sheet has three levels of rating those are, 3, 2, and 1. The vulnerability level increases as the number (score) increase. Thus, three and above are eligible for the complimentary reintegration and below three are eligible for the general reintegration. Sometimes even if the returnees are not eligible for the complimentary reintegration and if they have a chronic illness they may receive medical reintegration supports. The determinant factors are, age, (12-17 or 14-17), gender (girls are given priority), unaccompanied and separate children, impalements and disability, occupation (student or unemployed, daily laborer, farming), an education level (unable to read and write, able to read and write only, grade 10 complete), medical condition and victims of abuse. Vulnerable Children with psychosocial trauma such as children threaten to commit physical harm to themselves or others, children showing signs of distress and children in conflict with the law are taken into consideration based on the respective qualification. Likewise, Children without proper access to service (children with no shelter, lack of food and water, abandoned, victims of abuse, without proper clothing, access to school, sleeping mat, and so on) are level from high score to low respectively. Thus, based on this score the child returnees receive the reintegration supports. Until now the EU-IOM joint initiative for return and reintegration has received 410 bio-data of returnees from *Hadiya* and *Kambata* zone, 144 of them were eligible for the reintegration support based on the assessment. Besides this, Informant from BOLSA explained their methods of identifying the needs of the returnees.

We have structures at the zonal, *Wereda* and *kebele* level, using this structure and personals at each level, we register the general information of the returnees including their name, country of migration, their age, level of education, physical disabilities and how long they were arrested, and so on. After we take, the data, we identify assistance each returnee

²⁹⁴Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

needs based on their informed consent of the returnee or his/her custodians (education, employment, medical needs, economic needs, or any special need). If they are minors, we refer them to the Bureau of Women, Children, and Youth they proceed with the same process.²⁹⁵

BoWCYA said they are working with various stakeholders on addressing the needs of the child returnees once they are referred to them.

4.6.Components of Child Reintegration Packages in *Hadiya* zone

As discussed in the above chapters, various norms and standards require states to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures to ensure the economic, social, and cultural rights, to the maximum extent of the available resources. Thus, providing reintegration assistance is one mechanism to ensure an adequate standard of living. Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders provide such services for the child returnees. After a safe return to the country of origin, reintegration packages including, reception assistance, psychosocial supports, economic assistance, and social reintegration supports. If the returnees have security issues, the government shall give them proper protection besides the criminal justice structure interference in the case of reported criminal incidents related to human trafficking or smuggling²⁹⁶. State parties to UNCRC are mandated to provide material assistance programs concerning nutrition, clothing, housing, education, and other necessary supports following national condition and means²⁹⁷. This has a notion of implementation of the notion of progressive realization. However, vulnerability shall be prioritizing factors for child returnees, victims of abuse and exploitation, refugees, disabled children, IDPs, and so forth.²⁹⁸

Henceforth, *Hadiya* zone EU-IOM project office, Merry Joy development association, BOLSA, and BoWCYA are perusing the components of reintegration for child returnees. The EU-IOM project coordinator described their project status from the beginning of the project that the office

²⁹⁵Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hosanna city office of Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm

²⁹⁶Key informant interview with BWCYA), February 18,2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

²⁹⁷ United Nations.1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children*, CRC Article 27(2)

²⁹⁸Ibid

received three-round biodata of the returnees from Addis Ababa office and explained the number of returnees supported in the package as follows: -

In the first round, we received 240 bio-data among these 59 of them were eligible for the reintegration service. In the second round, we received 110 bio-data among these 75 of them were eligible for the reintegration process. In the third round, we received 60 bio-data 10 of them are under the reintegration process, thus we are providing reintegration support for the eligible candidates²⁹⁹.

Based on this, the next part of the thesis presents the psychosocial, economic, and social reintegration supports being provided by the stakeholders for the child returnees in the *Hadiya* zone.

4.6.1. Psychosocial Reintegration

Psychosocial reintegration includes the re-engagement of the returnees with the values, ways of living, language, moral principles, and traditions of the country of origin's society.³⁰⁰ As presented in chapter two, psychosocial reintegration is manifested by psychotherapy and psychosomatic treatments aimed at reinstating the psychosocial well-being of the returnee. It is aimed at rehabilitating the psychological well-being of the child returnees and to treat traumatic experiences due to the migration.

Thus, handling those psychosocial disorders plays a decisive role in the success and sustainability of other reintegration components since it determines the mental stability of the returnee. The returnees and the informants agree on the necessity of the multifaceted psychosocial and mental health care services particularly for the child returnees since psychosocial treatments have a positive impact on the emotional wellbeing of a returnee. Due to the grave child rights violations, abuses, and exploitations, all of the respondents said they have been devastated and psychologically affected. A child returnee said he has experienced distress and anxiety due to the effect of migration. *I feel depressed, lonely, and helpless due to the painful and traumatic*

²⁹⁹Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

³⁰⁰Roberto Biella-Battista, Hanna Mark and Andrea Salvin. 2019. *Reintegration handbook. Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*, International Organization for Migration (IOM)1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland, page

*experience I had. I had sleep deprivation for the first 2 months after the return.*³⁰¹ On the other hand, Government stakeholders said,

Some of the returnees have even forgotten their names, address, and families; they have communication problems because of unstable psychological conditions that can be inferred from some of their actions for example making phone calls to reintegration experts in the middle of the night. They want everything to happen instantaneously.³⁰²

Thus, for the child returnee to cope with the realities in the country of origin and to build healthy interaction with the community comprehensive and personalized psychosocial treatments and assistance shall be provided for the child returnees.³⁰³ Country-wise psychosocial care system is fragile. Hence, the UNCRC committee concluding observation recommends Ethiopia to improve mental health services and to increase the numbers of mental health personnel³⁰⁴

In *Hadiya Zone*, psychosocial reintegration support is being provided through training and counseling. Psychosocial counseling was provided while the returnees were in the host state, it includes psychosocial empathetic and emotional support; it may help to identify additional psychological counseling or mental health treatment needs. Based on the prior information of vulnerability, identifying the possible new vulnerabilities upon return and understand the case thoroughly is part of the support.³⁰⁵ However, the informants assured that the psychosocial treatment is the weakly developed component of the reintegration.³⁰⁶ Merry Joy Development Association and IOM make psychosocial interventions with the available resources and to the extent possible capacity to ensure the returnee's inclusion with the community and to help them with the traumatic experiences. All respondents of child returnees assured that they have received psychosocial assistance and training as one package of the reintegration. In this regard, IOM and Merry joy are providing psychosocial reintegration support. The child returnees received one day

³⁰¹ Interview with child returnee

³⁰² Interview with BoWCYA,), February 18, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

³⁰³ Ana Fonseca, Laurence Hart and Susanne Klink. 2015. Reintegration, *Effective approaches, International Organization for migration (IOM)* 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland

³⁰⁴ Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: Ethiopia. 21/02/2001. CRC/C/15/Add.144, *consideration of reports submitted by states parties* under article 44 of the convention

³⁰⁵ *ibid*

³⁰⁶ Interview with Haddiya Zone BOLSA Ato Bereket Feleke interview date on February 21, 2020, Ethiopia, Hossana

of psychosocial training in Hosanna polytechnic collage.³⁰⁷ However, it is believed that the attention given to the psychosocial management service is insufficient.³⁰⁸ Different factors are stated as factors impeding psychosocial reintegration; the First factor is a lack of professionals to provide sustainable psychotherapeutic and psychosomatic treatments.³⁰⁹Key informants stated a lack of professionals to provide full-fledged psychosocial support as a challenge in the study area.

We do not have professionals to provide comprehensive psychosocial treatment to the child returnees. We provide them with slight support based on training but it is insignificant as compared to the psychosocial and psychiatric complications the child returnees may have.³¹⁰

There is an evident gap in special child-sensitive psychosocial support designed for the child returnees since; all psychosocial services are similar for all types of returnees. The other factor is Long-term follow-up on psychosocial wellbeing to ensure their traumatic pains are healed, though it is not the case in the *Hadiya* zone. Furthermore, the societal attitude towards the returnees aggravates the psychological distress in many ways, affect the psychosocial reintegration and respondents expressed it as follows: -

My families welcomed me with utmost love they even cried out of happiness because they thought I was dead; they were happy to see that I am alive. Whereas society disparages me and sees me as a loser this hurts my feeling. Sometimes feel lonely and hopeless.³¹¹

On the other hand, the families of the returnees can aggravate the psychosocial problems of the child returnees. The following case is the main pointer of this.

Case study

My name is Nebiyu, I am 17 years old when I left my birth village for the first time; I was 15 years old, I planned to go to South Africa. My family sponsored me by selling their property

³⁰⁷Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hosanna city office of Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm

³⁰⁸Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator, interviewed on February 20, 2020

³⁰⁹ Interview with, MWCY, BOLSA, and IOM (February 2020)

³¹⁰Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

³¹¹Interview with, child returnee. Berhanu Age 17, Interviewed on February 18 2020 at 3:00 am. HOSSANA, Ethiopia

specifically their land in Soro Wereda to pay for the brokers. I was arrested in Mozambique. I have passed through horrifying experiences on my way there, I saw my friends die out of hunger; I was physically and psychologically tortured. When I was waiting for my death in prison, IOM saved my life and brought me back to my country. My dream was just to return to my country, I was so happy that I survived, I did not think about how life would be here in Ethiopia.

However, my families were not welcoming, they always remind me of my failures saying; “How do you sit back after we lost our money and property because of you. You have to go back there or you have to get us our money back”. I told them I never want to pass through the distress again, I want to work here and change my life but they keep pushing me. So I had a disagreement with my family I felt so disheartened and secluded. I even had attempted to commit suicide, whereas, the villagers saved my life. Let alone the community my families blame me and they do not want me to stay with them. Even if I tell them how I suffered, they do not understand my pain. This makes me feel dejected; I wanted to show them how I could change my life by working here in my country. I want to be an example for my friends who want to migrate.³¹²

Hence, one can infer from this case that, psychosocial ailments can be aggravated by a lack of sympathetic treatment of the family and the community. Psychosocial wellness of the returnees can only be persisted with the engagement of the relatives of the returnees and the society. Thus, supports shall be delivered for the re-establishment of social networks by involving family members, friends, and the local community in the reintegration process through group counseling. In case of severe psychological and mental conditions, there shall be a referral mechanism for better institutional care. A respondent from IOM assured that there is a mechanism to refer to better medical facilities with the costs being covered by the project³¹³. However, there are very few mental health care facilities in the country and there is no such facility in the *Hadiya zone*. This has been a challenge in the process. The referral mechanism shall include psychiatric/psychological causes (in the case where the child returnee had tried to commit suicide,

³¹² Interview with, child returnee. Nebyu Age 17, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 10; 00 am, Hosanna, Ethiopia

³¹³ Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

aggressiveness, alcohol or substance user, forget their name or address, diagnosed with a mental health condition), Psychotherapy, and referral for additional psychosocial support.³¹⁴Based on this stipulation, Cases like Nebyu’s need to be referred to better psychiatric and psychological care and treatment since, he has shown a suicidal behavior that shows that his psychosocial well-being is highly endangered.³¹⁵Furthermore, the study found out the major gap in the vulnerability assessment concerning psychosocial reintegration. The assessment is often done in a rush and upon arrival of the returnee, lacking continuous follow-ups. Likewise, the Absence of rehabilitative or recreational activities and mechanisms particularly for the minor returnees are the factors that impede the success of the psychosocial reintegration programs.

4.6.2. Economic Reintegration

As it is clarified under chapter two of the thesis, Economic reintegration is intended at re-inclusion of the returnee to the economic system of the home state to enable them to sustain their lives. It can be ensured by creating employment opportunities, long term (Technical and vocational), and short-term training and in-kind (in cash) financial supports. The existing economic reintegration packages for the child returnees are aimed at ensuring the right to life survival and adequate living standard of the child since migration has a financial repercussion on the life of the returnee and its families. Likewise, Economic reintegration is also a means to equalize the right of the child returnees with the existing population and reorienting the losses incurred due to the impacts of irregular migration.

The economic reintegration of minors shall take different approaches than those of the adult returnees. The revised family code of Ethiopia article 216 placed a minor in the proper care of and authority of guardian.³¹⁶ Thus, in matters concerning his pecuniary interests and administration of his property, a tutor shall represent a minor.³¹⁷ Similarly, SNNPR family code article 184 stated that a minor should be represented by his/her tutor on the issues related to his/her pecuniary interest³¹⁸. Article 176 of the code endows a right to collect the income of the child to the legal

³¹⁴ IOM.2019. *Reintegration Handbook Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*, Geneva, Switzerland

³¹⁵Interview with, child returnee. Nebyu Age 17, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 10; 00 am, Hosanna, Ethiopia

³¹⁶The Federal democratic republic of Ethiopia (2000), *The revised family code*, Proclamation No. 213/2000) RFC 216

³¹⁷Ibid

³¹⁸ SNNPR family code.1996. *SNNPR family code*, Dehub Negarit Gazzeta no 75/1996 Article 184

guardians³¹⁹. Furthermore, minor is prohibited to perform juridical acts such as concluding contracts, buying and selling, sue and be sued, and so on, unless the law allows them. Hence, child returnees receive their economic reintegration support through their representatives or guardians and tutors. In this respect, Interviewee from IOM said, the family (caretakers) of the child returnees take part in the process of the economic reintegration representing the child returnees, they administer the pecuniary interest of the child until he/she attains majority. Economic reintegration shall be based on the skill assessment at the initial state, identifying the existing educational and skill status of the returnee. The first step is training that incorporates entrepreneurship, kaizen, psychosocial, and other life skill training. The second step is selecting their business plan and providing them with in-kind business support. For the Adult returnees, there is a possibility of professional vocational training that allows he/her to be enrolled based on his/her area of interest such as textile, beauty salons, metal, construction, woodwork, and so on.

4.6.2.1. New Life Beginning Sensitization Training

To change the perceptions of the returnees about opportunities in their country and to motivate them to see new life perspectives, sensitization training is provided to child returnees. Likewise, it is targeted to inform the returnees about entrepreneurship ideas, kaizen, and empowering them with necessary personal development issues³²⁰. Child returnees take the training directly whereas, regarding OVC (orphan vulnerable children), caregivers of the minors take the training on behalf of the child. The training materials are common for all returnees including child returnees. They are not child-sensitive. The content of the training includes psychosocial training for the first one or two days, Kaizen, and entrepreneurship training for the other three to four days. The trained experts from IOM and Merry joy development association provide it at Hosanna polytechnic collage. IOM covers their daily allowance during their stay in *Hosanna*. One of the child returnee respondents said,

After returning to our locality in June, they called us back in August for the training. They trained us for five days in Hosanna polytechnic college; they gave us 300 birr daily

³¹⁹ IBID Article 176

³²⁰Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

allowance. The training was helpful; it changed our attitude about our life here. It helped us see new life perspectives.³²¹

After the callback, we received the training on psychosocial kaizen and entrepreneurship at hosanna polytechnic collage the training was helpful towards changing our perception about working in our country and changing our lives.³²²

4.6.2.2. Business Plan and in-kind support

The business plan and in-kind economic support are aimed at ensuring the self-sustenance of the returnee and to address the main migration drivers such as unemployment and poverty. The reintegration of child returnees follows a special approach to economic support. Returnees' access to business development support should be made contingent on an assessment of adequate capacity, skills, motivation, and business acumen and based on clear selection criteria.³²³ Based on the assessment on the capacity, skill, motivation and choice, informed consent, the child returnees, and their custodians chose the specific business as a means of subsistence. Based on the assessment on the interest of the returnee, experts from IOM design business packages, and fill the Return Reintegration Plan (RRP) and send it to the head office for the budget approval. After it has been approved, the procurement of the necessary supports packages is the next step. The procurement and the delivery of the in-kind support are conducted in the presence of BOLSA and BoWCYA. At the time of delivery, the custodians of the child returnees sign a contract assuring that they have received the support on behalf of the child and they (the returnee and the guardian) swears to work hard and change their life. BOLSA and BoWCYA as an eyewitness sign in the contract assuring that they have witnessed the whole process.³²⁴ A respondent from IOM said

³²¹ Interview with child returnee Tamiru. Age 16, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 10; 00 am. *Lemo Wereda, Hadiya zone Ethiopia*

³²² Interview with child returnee Eyasu, Age 17, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 10; 00 am. *Lemo Wereda, Ethiopia*

³²³ IOM.2019. *Reintegration Handbook Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*, Geneva, Switzerland

³²⁴ Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

Having the incapacity of the children to perform juridical acts, we cannot directly provide the economic reintegration support to the child returnees. Thus, their caregivers receive support and administer their property on behalf of them until they attain the majority.³²⁵

The economic support sometimes depends on the seasonal business enterprise; such as if, their business project is cattle fattening it might be based on the cost of the cattle in the market since it has a seasonal nature.³²⁶ As to the amount of support that is concerned, the Merry Joy Development association and IOM jointly provide the in-kind financial support with a maximum limit of 60,000 Birr. Under the material and financial support given to them, child returnees have been engaged in different fields of work through the reintegration program. The business packages are cattle fattening, driving, merchandise shop, retail shop, motor spare part shops, pool game house, soft drink shop, electronics shop, grain trade, construction material shop, and so on. some of the economic support packages and the number of beneficiary returnees in 2018 are cattle fattening 58 returnees, construction material shops 32 returnees, retail business/shop 81 returnees, grain trade 52 returnees, pool game house 18 returnees and restaurant 2 returnees, in agriculture 30 returnees, were reintegrated in the study area. Hence, Individual returnee may receive 40,000 to 60,000 Birr worth in-kind support based on the type of business he/she chooses.³²⁷ Respondents feel indebted to the support since it reinforced them to recreate their dream in their country.

After 2 months after return, they brought me the in-kind support worth off 30(thirty thousand) birr. Therefore, I am working hard to be an example for my friends and other community members. My families are delighted that I am back in my country. The financial support was very helpful, but as compared to what I lost due to migration, it is insignificant.³²⁸

Based on my interest, they brought me cattle's so that I can work on cattle fattening I am becoming profitable with the business. The support has helped me to sustain my life.³²⁹

³²⁵ Ibid

³²⁶ Ibid

³²⁷ Ibid

³²⁸ Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, *Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Lemo Wereda, shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia*

³²⁹ Interview with child returnee Beyene. Age 16, *Interviewed on February 19 2020 Hadiya zone Misha Wereda*

Whereas the economic reintegration is challenged by different factors, the first challenge is Delay in the economic support, and child returnee respondents assured that they are facing economic and psychological challenges due to the unforeseen delay of the financial support.

“We are waiting for support. It took much longer than we expected we are wasting time waiting for the support. Some of our friends re-migrated because they were tired of waiting”³³⁰

As stated above, life sensitization training lacks child-sensitive elements (training materials and contents are not child-sensitive) and it is designed to all returnees commonly. Tax exemption is one of the support packages being provided for the returnees by the zonal tax and revenue office. While after the exemption period is ended, high taxation challenges the startup business to compete in the market. A child returnee said *I am working hard to change my life very hard whereas the tax amount levied on my little business has been challenging.*³³¹

Likewise, Unrealistic expectations on the reintegration support impede the sustainability of the child returnee reintegration in the *Hadiya* zone. Unrealistic expectations as mentioned by the children are often due to the unclear and incomplete or misinformation they get from different parties. This results in a mismatch between the returnee’s expectation and the resource available for the service. In this regard, respondents from IOM said, *returnees have unrealistic expectations on the reintegration supports; they do not comprehend the resource constraints.*³³² Likewise, the expectation of reimbursement for the expenses incurred during the migration process is a major challenge since it creates a lack of satisfaction, which affects the sustainability and results in remigration.

4.6.3. Social Reintegration

As presented in chapter two of the study, Social reintegration is the re-assimilation or re-adaptation of a migrant into the social constructions of his or her home state. It shall be multidimensional including different forms of social supports. It shall redress health needs, education, housing,

³³⁰ Interview with, child returnee Tesfaye. Age 16, Interviewed on February 19 2020. Hadiya zone, Misha Wereda, Ethiopia,

³³¹ Interview with, child returnee Biruk. Age 16, Interviewed on February 22 2020 at 12:00 pm. *Lemo Wereda, Hadiya,*

³³² Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

access to justice, and any support that is necessary for the reinsertion of the returnees to the social structures of the community. Children shall be endowed with right to education, right to health, an adequate standard of living, and right to participate in the cultural life of the society, and so on as per the international, regional, and national child rights standards. Thus, Sustainable social reintegration is a means to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of children. Various stakeholders are working in collaboration on providing social reintegration assistance. *Hadiya* zone BOLSA coordinates and addresses the social reintegration needs of the returnees in partnership with other government stakeholders, IOM and Merry joy development association. It follows separate registering, screening, and assessing the situation and needs of the returnees in addition to the above-stated screening process; the assessment includes education, health, employment, physical disability, and other related needs of the returnees. Based on the assessment at the *kebelle* level stakeholders provide the required assistance. Some of these supports for the child returnees are enrolling the returnees back to their education, medical treatments, and other social security supports, which are elaborated separately as follows. The key informant described the supports as follows: -

Based on our assessment we identify their needs and address them accordingly. In the case of physical infirmity, the specific office working on the disabilities addresses their needs. If he/she has physiological disarrays, we refer him or her to the social workers and other authorities working on this. If he /she dropout from school we send them to the education bureau so that he/she can continue the class. For adult returnees, if he/she has lost his/her job we discuss with the stakeholders for his/her return to his/her former career. If he is unemployed, we send him to the office working on employment issues so that he can be employed. We work in collaboration as our resource and capacity allow us to work”.³³³

The facility of housing can be manifested through access to temporary housing/shelters immediately upon return depending on individual vulnerability³³⁴. All of the child returnee respondents were in the temporary transit centers in Addis Ababa, whereas, as soon as the family tracing is ended they are sent back to their families’ home and to the family situation that made

³³³Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hosanna city office of bureau of labor and social affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4; 00 pm

³³⁴ Interview with IOM Addis Ababa.

him/her migrate. However, child returnees may not feel comfortable returning to their previous community or family as soon as they return due to fears of stigma, shame, debts owed. In this case, other options shall be seen to rehabilitate the child from a traumatic experience and to protect him/her from further abuse. There is no such facility of temporary shelter and safe house for the rehabilitation of child returnees, to protect them from potential risks, the returnee may face due to early reunification with the families in Ethiopia and *Hadiya* zone. The study has indicated the stigmas and stereotypes the informants faced from society and their families in the above sections. Eyasu 16 said, “*The society considers me as failures and they blame me for losing family money and property. This hurts my feelings; the spitefulness had dispirited and affected my life*”. Thus for care, protection, of his/her physical and mental health reintegration he/she shall be placed in a safe environment including temporary housing or shelters, though its disregarded component social reintegration. Committee on the rights of the child issued concluding observation on Ethiopia to establish reception and rehabilitation centers for the safe return, medical and psychological support and reintegration of all children victims of sale, trafficking and abduction, with a particular focus on rural and remote areas.³³⁵

On the other hand, Education is one of the social reintegration packages. It aims to ensure the development of the child’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential” and preparation of the child for “responsible life in a free society and rehabilitating them from their part experience.”³³⁶ It shall be free from barriers such as transportation barriers, and it shall be based on the informed consent of the child and or its legal guardians. Article 28 of the CRC mandates states to ensure the equal right of children with an intent to ensure them progressively. Migration is one of the hindrances on the children's right to education. Pertaining to this, 90% of the respondents are primary or secondary school dropouts as it is more articulated in chapter 3 of the thesis. Thus, after return to their homeland, they shall be enrolled back in their education. In this regard, the BOLSA and *Hadiya* zone bureau of education is working to ensure the enrolment of a child into formal education. Respondent child returnees said *I continued my*

³³⁵ Convention on the Rights of the Child, *Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Ethiopia* 10 July 2015CRC/C/ETH/CO/4-5 Paragraph 70

³³⁶ GC 5

*education from where I dropped out with the help of the BOLSA and BoWCYA. I want to study hard and finish my class successfully.*³³⁷

As part of social reintegration, affordable, tailored and quality health care facilities shall be provided for the child returnees. The health facilities shall be appropriate and adequate including both physical and mental health facilities. Hence, child returnees shall have equal access to public health care facilities for physical and psychological rehabilitation. Article 24 of the UNCRC mandates state parties recognize the right of the child to health. They shall endeavor to safeguard *that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services*³³⁸. This provision gives both positive and negative obligations of states concerning health facilities. As a part of social reintegration, health care facilities were provided for the child returnees based on the initial screening as stated above. Accordingly, child returnee respondents have received medical treatments while they were in the host state and upon arrival. Whereas the health disorders may have a continuance effect, that needs to be treated after reunification. Thus such a healthcare facility shall be accessible or the child returnees. An informant from BOLSA assured that they are working on creating access for the child returnees to use public health care institutions in collaboration with the *Hadiya* zone health bureau. Whereas, the medical assistance lacks the referral mechanism in case of severe medical cases.

Access to adequate food and clean water aimed at protecting the returnee from malnutrition and health complications that may arise through a shortage of food shall be part of the social reintegration package for the child returnees. States are obligated to provide the necessary food and clean water for the child returnees since they have devastating migration experience and to protect them from malnutrition and sickness as a result of it. In this regard, child returnees have the assured that they have received food and water upon arrival and during their stay in temporary transit centers whereas there is no such support in the *Hadiya* zone.

Based on the above analysis social reintegration of child returnees are not adequate and efficient enough to address the needs of the child returnees, there are different factors raised as hindrances. The first factor is social reintegration packages stated above are resource-intensive support

³³⁷Interview with, child returnee Taddele Age 17, Interviewed on February 19 2020 at 4:00 pm. Hosanna, Ethiopia

³³⁸United Nations.1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children*, CRC Article 24

packages thus resource constraint is one of the limitations. Lack of adequate and accessible healthcare facilities and healthcare professionals is also a challenge in the health component of the child returnee’s social reintegration. The other factor is the lack of government commitment to address the social needs of the child returnees. Moreover, social stereotypes and stigmas affect the sustainability social reintegration process as it affects the other components as well.

SUMMARY ON REINTEGRATION OF CHILD RETURNÉES



FIGURE 5 SUMMARY ON THE REINTEGRATION OF CHILD RETURNÉES IN HADIYA ZONE COMPILED BY THE AUTHOR

4.7.Evaluating the Reintegration Services Based On the Four Principles of the Child Right Convention

The reintegration service to be sustainable and child right based it shall be in line with the four fundamental principles of CRC, those are equality and non-discrimination (Article 2), the best interest of the child (Article 3), right to survival and development (Article 6) and right to be heard

(Article 12). Thus, this portion of the thesis evaluates the above provided economic, social, and psychosocial reintegration assistance based on these cardinal principles.

4.7.1. Best Interests of the Child Principle

The best interest of the child is a cardinal principle that shall be established at each level of decision making directly or indirectly affect children.³³⁹ It is the fundamental principle for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. It should guide the design, monitoring, and adjustment of all humanitarian programs and interventions including reintegration of returnee children.³⁴⁰ It is anchored under article 3 of the UNCRC and article 4 of ACRWC. As per the convention, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning children in the public or private welfare institutions.

The Committee on the rights of children emphasized that the Convention should be considered as a whole and has stressed its interrelationships between protections, in particular between those articles it has elevated to the status of general principles (articles 2, 3, 6 and 12)³⁴¹. Hence, the best interest of the child is interrelated to other principles and other rights recognized under the convention that it should be seen holistically. Thus, the protection of other principles is a relevant precondition to determine the best interest of the child. It is linked with other general principles i.e. nondiscrimination, right to life, survival, and development, and right to be heard.³⁴² The principle applies to all actions and decisions undertaken by the private institutions and government bodies concerning the children³⁴³. Reintegration can be seen as a humanitarian intervention to safeguard the rights of returnee children. In this case, humanitarian organizations and private institutions such as IOM and Merijoy development association shall be abided to apply the best

³³⁹United Nations.1989. *United Nation Convention On the Rights of Children, General Assembly* article 3 and ACHPR 4

³⁴⁰ Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, UNICEF Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) (2012).Minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action

³⁴¹ United Nations Children’s Fund 2007. *Implementation Handbook For The Convention On The Rights Of The Child*, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe

³⁴²UN Committed On The Right Of The Child (CRC) General comment No. 14(2013) *On The Rights Of The Child To Have His/her Best Interest S Taken As Primary Considerations*(ART.3, para 1), 29 may 2013,CRC/c/GC/14 available at <http://www.refwerld.org/docid/51a84b5e4.html>. accessed on 4 may 2020.

³⁴³ United Nations Children’s Fund 2007. *Implementation Handbook For The Convention On The Rights Of The Child*, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe. *wording of the principle indicates that its scope is very wide, going beyond state-initiated actions to cover private bodies too, and embracing all actions concerning children as a group*

interest of the child principle in their reintegration services for the child returnees. Moreover, it requires

Every legislative, administrative and judicial body or institution is required to apply the best interests principle by systematically considering how children's rights and interests are or will be affected by their decisions and actions including those which are not directly concerned with children, but indirectly affect children.³⁴⁴

United Nations committee on the rights of a Child (the principal body for the above-mentioned convention) under its General comment number 6 stated that, the process of determining the best interest of the child to follow clear and comprehensive assessment on the identity, vulnerability and protection needs of the child. It also enumerates the assessment to be conducted by qualified professionals in a friendly and safe environment and following age and gender-sensitive assessment approaches.³⁴⁵ Moreover, a Periodic review on the treatment of the child placed in the care institutions for care and protection shall be conducted. Based on this, the researcher assessed the overall process of reintegration.

Likewise, the committee adopted General Comment No 14, to elucidate the nature and scope of the principle of the best interest of the child. accordingly, the process of determining the best interest of the child shall participate the child itself, unique activity should be undertaken at the level of the individual case (such as returnee child, family situation, experience, physical or mental disability, relationship with the family and caregiver, the environmental factors and so on).³⁴⁶ The elements of determining the best interest shall be non-exhaustive and nonhierarchical. As elaborated under the previous paragraphs of the thesis, the reintegration process followed a comprehensive vulnerability assessment and scoring process to determine the eligible candidates for the reintegration. In this process, the best interest of the Child is the primary consideration. In this regard, the respondent said, *Child returnees are provided with primary considerations for the*

³⁴⁴ committee on the rights of the child. 2003. General comment no. 5 (2003) general measures of implementation of The Convention On The Rights Of The Child (Arts. 4, 42 And 44, Para. 6)

³⁴⁵ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Thirty-Ninth Session 17 May – 3 June 2005 *Treatment Of Unaccompanied And Separated Children Outside Their Country Of Origin General Comment No. 6 (2005) Para 20*

³⁴⁶ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Thirty-Ninth Session 17 May – 3 June 2005 *Treatment Of Unaccompanied And Separated Children Outside Their Country Of Origin General Comment No. 6 (2005) Paragraph 48-51*

*support considering their best interest. Whereas it is not determined by trained professionals.*³⁴⁷ As discussed in the above parts of the study the vulnerability assessment takes place at the individual case level, it implies the determination of the best interest of the Child. The assessment consists of assessing the family situation, past migration experience, social, economic, and environmental concerns. Thus even if the assessment is said to be vulnerability Assessment, it helps to determine what is best for the Child since it addresses the qualifications under the general comment. Whereas, the Best interest of the child shall be considered not only as the individual situation of the child but also their interest as a group. In this sense, determining individual child returnees case individually may not be a guarantee thus it shall consider the overall child returnees interest as a group.³⁴⁸ Besides, the wording used in the convention is not a single expression the overriding factors to be considered shall be overseen and conflicting interest between; individual children, between different groups of children and between children and adults³⁴⁹. Thus, one cannot argue that the best interest of the Child is overseen just by assessing individual reintegration case's, rather the group interest and other conflicting interests shall be seen together.

Moreover, the committee enumerated the elements that shall be taken into account while determining the best interest of the child. Those are the child view, identity, preservation of the family environment, and maintaining relation, care, protection and safety, a situation of vulnerability, right to health, and education.³⁵⁰ Based on these above non-exhaustive elements the study assesses the process of reintegration based on the principle of the best interest of the child. Procedural Guarantees for the implementation of the Childs's best interest stipulated in the general comment are right of a child to express his/her view, the establishment of facts, time perception, qualified professionals, legal representation, legal reasoning, a mechanism to review or revise decision and child right impact assessment. In addition to this, the joint general recommendation no 3 stressed the higher value for the best interest of the child in relation to other conflicting

³⁴⁷ Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

³⁴⁸ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-first session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 GENERAL COMMENT NO. 12 (2009) The right of the child to be heard PARA 72

³⁴⁹ United Nations Children's Fund 2007. *Implementation Handbook For The Convention On The Rights Of The Child*, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe page 38

³⁵⁰ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Thirty-Ninth Session 17 May – 3 June 2005 *Treatment Of Unaccompanied And Separated Children Outside Their Country Of Origin General Comment No. 6* (2005) Paragraph 52-79

interests as “a larger weight must be attached to what serves the child best”.³⁵¹ moreover, it has stated actions that shall be taken to ensure best interest of the child in the country of origin, destination, and transit states.³⁵²

Though it needs persistent assessment based on the above qualifications by the trained professionals in this regard, the researcher assessed the fulfillment of the best interest of the child by interviewing different stakeholders on their thoughts on whether the services are in the best interest of the child. Based on this assessment, the overall process lacks some of the procedural, elements elaborated in the general comment. Thus, in the process of reintegration of child returnees, the stakeholders acknowledge the rights of the child to provide his/her views at all levels of reintegration. Furthermore, the child returnee’s reintegration takes place in a manner that allows preserving the identity and family environment of the child to maintain its relationship with the family and the community. Whereas it shall consider that, the family environment can be a ground for further abuse and exploitation of child returnees and it might not be in the best interest of the child as it is articulated in the above sections. As discoursed above, the vulnerability assessment follows in a stringent process so that the more vulnerable child benefits from the services. Besides, government monitoring and evaluations are required to ensure the best interest of the child is fulfilled.³⁵³ Institutional structure with a Clear-cut mandate to follow up and evaluate the fulfillment of the best interest of the vulnerable children including migrant and returnee children in the country is necessary though it is not the case for Ethiopia and SNNPR. To sum up, the overall assessment of the researcher shows that the reintegration assistants lack some of the above-mentioned guarantees stated by the UN Committee on the right of the child under the general comment no 14. Different factors impeding the fulfillment of the best interest of the child are enumerated in the above and following sections of the study. In this regard, Respondent from IOM

³⁵¹Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration**

Para 28

³⁵² Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration**

Para 29

³⁵³ UN Committed On The Right Of The Child (CRC) General comment No. 14(2013) *On The Rights Of The Child To Have His/her Best Interest S Taken As Primary Considerations*(ART.3, Para 1), 29 may 2013,CRC/c/GC/14 available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51a84b5e4.html>. accessed on 4 may 2020. Paragraph 85-99

said that they are trying to safeguard the best interest of the child as much as they could though it is not fully secured. Key informants from IOM and government (BOLSA and BoWCYA) said that the best interest of the child is not actualized in the process of the reintegration clarified the reason as follows.

The services are not to the best interest of the child, I rate its 50 % because of different challenges, lack of structured administration mechanisms to provide support for the returnees particularly for child returnees. After reunification, they go back to their life before migration in a situation where the factors that made a child migrate in the first place are not addressed with the possibility of remigration.³⁵⁴

The researcher would like to stress on the necessity of adopting systematic and separated procedures of determining the best interest of the child by the government and humanitarian organizations on the feasibility of return, on the necessary support packages, on the reunification and reintegration process.³⁵⁵

4.7.2. Right to Life, Survival, and Development

The right to life is the inherent right of human beings recognized under the UDHR (art.3) and ICCPR (art.6) in addition to article 6 of the CRC. States must ensure the survival and development of the child in all aspects of life necessary for their physical, psychological, and social development. State parties are mandated to ensure, the survival, protection, and development of the child³⁵⁶. It is a holistic right interdependent on other rights recognized under the convention in this regard, the committee on the rights of a child under its general comment no 7 stated that,

The right to life survival and development can only be implemented holistically, through the enforcement of all the other provisions of the Convention, including rights to health, adequate nutrition, social security, an adequate standard of living, a healthy and safe

³⁵⁴ Interview with Mr Belete Dagne (2020), Ministry of Women, Children and Youth, interviewed on February 11, 2020, at 2:00 pm Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

³⁵⁵ Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the *general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration*** para 31 and General comment no 14

³⁵⁶Organization of African Unity.1990. *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49, entered into force on 29 Nov. 1999; Ethiopia ratified the Charter on 4 July 2000.ARTICLE 5(2)

environment, education and play (arts. 24, 27, 28, 29 and 31), as well as through respect for the responsibilities of parents and the provision of assistance and quality services (arts. 5 and 18).³⁵⁷

To determine the right to development, other protections are relevant

The Committee expects States to interpret “development” in its broadest sense as a holistic concept, embracing the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral, psychological, and social development. Implementation measures should be aimed at achieving the optimal development for all children.³⁵⁸

Thus, the right to life survival and development is a wider principle that requires holistic enforcement of other protections under the convention. Thus, the right to life survival and development is a right that can be implemented holistically relating to other cardinal principles of the convention. The humanitarian actions and emergency responses including reintegration assistance provided for the child returnees shall consider the right to life survival and development of the child and it shall oversee the effects of these measures on the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual wellbeing of the returnee children.³⁵⁹ Moreover, the JGC(joint general comment) no 3 indirectly articulated the necessity of child-friendly, gender-sensitive and non-judicial remedies to protect and promote the rights of children to facilitate their ability to continue their life, survival, and development.³⁶⁰ whereas the JGC fails to address the vulnerability of Child returnees that may jeopardize their life, survival, and development after return to their country of origin it rather focused on the vulnerabilities during transit and immigration.

Various actions can be taken to ensure maximum survival and development. These actions can be positive measures and negative measures. As to positive measures, states shall uphold the right to life survival and development through undertaking actions that could be legal, economic, social,

³⁵⁷ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fortieth Session Geneva, 12-30 September 2005 General Comment No. 7 (2005) Implementing Child Rights In Early Childhood Para 7

³⁵⁸ Committee On The Rights Of The Child. 2003. General Comment No. 5 (2003) General Measures Of Implementation Of The Convention On The Rights Of The Child (Arts. 4, 42 And 44, Para. 6)

³⁵⁹ Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, *UNICEF Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) (2012). Minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action. Page 15*

³⁶⁰ Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on *the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration***
Para 42

political, and cultural. Among the measures that ensure the safety and security of the child returnee's reintegration plays a crucial role since it enables the returnee to lead stable and sustainable living in their country of origin through providing economic, social, and psychosocial supports for their life, survival, and development. Hence, reintegration frameworks are one means of ensuring the right to survival and development of children, particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable returnee children. Since reintegration is one means of protection and promotion of the right to life, survival, and development, the government as well as stakeholders working on children create a favorable environment for the right to life and survival of the children. As to the negative obligations, State party to the Convention shall protect children (returnee children) from any forms of violence and exploitation, which may jeopardize the enjoyment of their right to life, survival, and development. Thus, the state shall protect returnee children from any form of violence that affects their life and survival, since they are vulnerable to further abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and other violence after returning to their home state.³⁶¹ Returnee children are vulnerable social groups with lots of economic, social, physical, and psychological disorders. This principle requires states to take measures to protect them from violence, abuse, and exploitation after return, taking prompt measures and reunification and reintegration assistance, providing relevant information on the possible risks and should follow-up the effectiveness of the decision.³⁶²

Thus, the researcher assessed the social, psychosocial, and economic reintegration supports based on the stipulation and the general comments addressing this principle. Based on this the respondents said

The reintegration supports aim to ensure their maximum life survival and development whereas due to resource and other constraints we cannot confidently say they are to the maximum survival and development of the child. Whereas we try to ensure they are protected from violence and we take positive measures to ensure their physical, emotional, and social development.³⁶³

³⁶¹ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Thirty-Ninth Session 17 May – 3 June 2005 *Treatment Of Unaccompanied And Separated Children Outside Their Country Of Origin General Comment No. 6* (2005) Para 23

³⁶² Committee On The Rights Of The Child Thirty-Ninth Session 17 May – 3 June 2005 *Treatment Of Unaccompanied And Separated Children Outside Their Country Of Origin General Comment No. 6* (2005) paragraph 23 and 24

³⁶³ Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

As stated above, this principle requires holistic implementation, thus all physical, psychological, and economic hindrances shall be resolved to argue that this principle is well addressed. The factors hindering the sustainability of reintegration are mentioned in the discussion above under the components of reintegration. These factors hinder the right to life survival and development of children. For example, psychosocial reintegration is the most important component to safeguard the mental and psychological development of the returnee, whereas the study finding shows it is a weakly developed component due to a shortage of professionals and lack of referral mechanisms for the aggravated cases for the psychiatric illness of child returnees. These shortcomings have an impact on the protection and promotion of the right to life since psychiatric cases may lead to hurting oneself or others. Moreover, it has an impact on the physical and psychological development of the child.

The health assessment on the needs of the returnees may not be sufficient to determine the actual physical and psychosocial health needs of children. A short-lived assessment done right upon arrival might not be sufficient to show the mental health issues a child migrant might have. However, it should rather be a continuous assessment at least done in a participatory of the families of the returnees. Thus, life, survival, and development can only be ensured when the mental, physical, and material safety of the returnee is ensured. As to the economic and social reintegration packages, they are important components of reintegration since they create sustaining the life of child returnee and his/her families although they have their limitations in ensuring life, survival, and development. Likewise, it requires positive measures including rehabilitating their health, providing nutritious food clear drinking water and housing, and so on.³⁶⁴ Whereas, the reintegration services lack such components, for example concerning housing, the services do not include housing/shelter supports despite the temporary accommodation provided upon arrival. Besides, their psychological and social development is hindered by the stigmatizations and social seclusion they face upon return and reunification. Thus based on the researcher's assessment the maximum life, survival, and development is ensured in the process of reintegration.

³⁶⁴ United Nations Children's Fund .2007. *Implementation Handbook For The Convention On The Rights Of The Child*, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe. Cited as v

4.7.3. Right to Be Heard Right of the child to express his or her views freely (art. 12)

Article 12 of the conventions recognized one of the fundamental principles of the convention, that is right to be heard, to express their views in all matters affecting him/herself and consideration shall be given to the views of the child with the age and maturity of the child.³⁶⁵ Besides, article 4(2) of the ACRWC recognized, the right to express his/her views in judicial or administrative procedures that affects him/her. Thus, the opportunity to express his/her view shall be provided directly or indirectly through an impartial representative as a party to the proceedings, and their views shall be given proper consideration.³⁶⁶ In addition to stipulations in the convention, the committee on the rights of the child adopted a general recommendation no 12 defining the nature and scope of the right to be heard under the CRC. It started about the unique nature of the provision that, it addresses the legal and social status of children, who, on the one hand, lack the full autonomy of adults but, on the other, are subjects of rights.³⁶⁷

It assures, to every child capable of forming his or her views, the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, with the views of the child being given due weight per age and maturity³⁶⁸

The right to be heard bears the recognition of the child as an active citizen respecting their dignity, it recognizes their capabilities and desires, and it puts them at the center of the issues that directly affect them, recognizing their capacity³⁶⁹. The right to be heard is a fundamental right that serves as a precondition for the enjoyment of other rights recognized under the Convention on the rights of a child. Moreover, the general comment states that children shall be presumed to be capable of forming their views that it is not up to the child to prove his/her capacity.³⁷⁰ Moreover JGC no 3 stated that *Children should be heard independently of their parents, and their circumstances*

³⁶⁵ United Nations.1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children*, CRC article 12(1)

³⁶⁶ Organization of African Unity.1990. *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/24.9/49, entered into force on 29 Nov. 1999; Ethiopia ratified the Charter on 4 July 2000.article 4(2)

³⁶⁷ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-first session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 GENERAL COMMENT NO. 12 (2009) The right of the child to be heard Paragraph 1

³⁶⁸ Ibid

³⁶⁹ GERISON LANSDOWN, *promoting children's participation in democratic decision-making (2001) (discussing the importance of children's right to participation)*.

³⁷⁰ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-first session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 GENERAL COMMENT NO. 12 (2009) The right of the child to be heard para 20

should be included in the consideration of the family's cases. ³⁷¹Therefore, the presumption shall be that child returnees are capable of forming their views. This right can be enjoyed at the individual level (individual child) and in-group level (child returnees as a whole).³⁷² In this regard, the service providers shall provide due attention to the views of the child returnee, their ages, vulnerabilities, different perspectives, and abilities shall be given proper consideration and respect.

The service provider shall develop appropriate ways of child participation considering their physical, psychological, and emotional vulnerabilities. Whereas the reintegration process adopted the same platform for child participation as adult returnees.³⁷³ The process of participating children does not involve child-sensitive procedures considering their ages and vulnerabilities. The other issue is the lack of professionals working on adopting child-sensitive procedures.³⁷⁴

The committee made necessary recommendations for the enforcement of the right the first is that article 12 requires recognition of, and respect for, non-verbal forms of communication including play, body language, facial expressions, and drawing and painting, through which very young children demonstrate understanding, choices, and preferences. State parties must undertake all necessary measures to ensure that the right to be heard is exercised ensuring full protection of the child.³⁷⁵ They shall express their thoughts without any influence freely his/her views, in an environment, the child feels respected and secure providing sufficient information necessary for the expression of his/her views in matters affecting his/her interest.³⁷⁶ Furthermore, their thoughts shall be given due weight and consideration and their views shall be seen case by case since the maturity level might not be compatible with their biological age.³⁷⁷

³⁷¹ Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the *general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration***

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³⁷² Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-first session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 GENERAL COMMENT NO. 12 (2009) *The right of the child to be heard*

³⁷³ Interview with child returnees and reintegration experts from IOM and MOLSA

³⁷⁴ FDG with child returnees

³⁷⁵ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-First Session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 General Comment No. 12 (2009) *The Right Of The Child To Be Heard* Para 21

³⁷⁶ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-First Session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 General Comment No. 12 (2009) *The Right Of The Child To Be Heard* QQra 22-25

³⁷⁷ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-First Session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 General Comment No. 12 (2009) *The Right Of The Child To Be Heard* Pa29

The right to be heard in social reintegration services such as healthcare, education³⁷⁸, housing recreational services, and other related support packages shall be seen. The CRC general comment no 12 also emphasized on the importance of overseeing the principle for the better protection and promotion of the rights of a child. Concerning health care, a child shall be involved in the decisions that are related to one's own health care.³⁷⁹ The aforementioned general recommendation also addressed the requirements for the enforcement of the principle these are transparent and informative, voluntary, respectful, relevant, child-friendly, inclusive, supported by training, safe and sensitive to risk, and accountable³⁸⁰.

Based on this principle the researcher assessed whether the principle of the right to be heard is properly overseen in line with the above-mentioned principles. Empirical evidence shows that children were given a proper platform to express their views at different stages of the reintegration(social, economic, and psychosocial), their views were given due weight unless it is believed that their view affects the best interest of the Child.

Freedom of expression is related to freedom of information since; the latter is a prerequisite for the former right.³⁸¹ Thus, Proper information shall be provided for the beneficiaries. In this case, the child returnees concerning the services available (including family tracing, reunification, and reintegration, to enable the child to express his informed views and wishes³⁸². Besides, the general comment no 6 states that the information shall be presented in a manner considering the maturity level of the child, in a simplified manner for the child to understand, using reliable means of communication, and considering language barriers into consideration. In this regard, the child returnees in Hadiya zone said they were provided necessary information's in Amharic at Addis Ababa temporary shelters and they were communicating with the social workers in Hadiyisa language upon arriving their locality. Among the respondents, Habtamu said he did not receive information about the reintegration services available while he was at the host state. *IOM did not*

³⁷⁸ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-First Session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 General Comment No. 12 (2009) *The Right Of The Child To Be Heard* Para 105-114

³⁷⁹ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-First Session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 General Comment No. 12 (2009) *The Right Of The Child To Be Heard* Para 99

³⁸⁰ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-First Session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 General Comment No. 12 (2009) *The Right Of The Child To Be Heard* Para 132-134

³⁸¹ Committee On The Rights Of The Child Fifty-First Session Geneva, 25 May-12 June 2009 General Comment No. 12 (2009) *The Right Of The Child To Be Heard* Para 80 JGC 3 para 35

³⁸² Treatment Of Unaccompanied And Separated Children Outside Their Country Of Origin General Comment No. 6 (2005) Committee On *The Rights Of The Child* Thirty-Ninth session 17 May – 3 June 2005 paragraph 25

*make any promise about what will happen after return they asked us if we plan to re-migrate, we said no so they brought us back to our country.*³⁸³

Empirical findings of this study indicated that the views of the child their caretakers were ensured at each process of the reintegration through, the procedural issues addressed in the process of determining their participation are not fully upheld. At each level of the reintegration, the right of the child to provide/his/her free opinion is respected without any restriction. The informed consent of the child returnees and caretakers is produced during the vulnerability assessment and screening. In this regard, a child returnee said

They asked my mother and me if we are willing to proceed with the reintegration process and we showed our interest. Moreover, the business package I want to be engaged in was asked thus I chose to engage in cattle fattening, thus they designed a business package for me to be engaged in based on my choice.³⁸⁴

A respondent from Merry joy said,

After the screening is ended the child returnee and his caregivers are required to give their signatures on their consent to proceed with the next steps of the reintegration. Furthermore, they are requested to forward their business interest after the short-term sensitization training is ended. We proceed with the other support packages based on their consent and view.³⁸⁵

Moreover, at the different components of the reintegration such as, In the process of the psychosocial reintegration process, the child is required to provide his/her informed consent to proceed with psychosocial counseling and training. Besides, upon the social reintegration process, the right to express his/her view is requested as elaborated above. Likewise, the economic reintegration precedes the training, and choice of business package respect the informed consent

³⁸³ Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, *Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Lemo Wereda, shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia*

³⁸⁴ Interview with child returnee Tamiru. Age 16, *Interviewed on February 22, 2020 at 10:00 am. Lemo Wereda, Hadiya zone Ethiopia*

³⁸⁵ Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

and interest of the child and his custodians³⁸⁶. However, in some cases, if the returnee's view is detrimental for his/her health, survival and development it can be an exception as the respondent said,

We do not force a child to be engaged in some kind of business, we respect his/her opinions but if his/her choice is disadvantageous to his/her safety and security or if the business he/she chose is against his/her best interest we may not fulfill his/her wish. For example from my experience, if the child wants to open on prohibited business or drug business such as Khat retail center, we may not fulfill his interest, since it may affect his health and security, and Since it is not to the best interest of the child.³⁸⁷

In conclusion, even though the right to be heard was given due consideration at different levels of reintegration, the process lacks the above-mentioned elements, some of them are, the returnee children were not provided with sufficient information about the reintegration while they were in a host state whereas, they were provided with slight information upon the screening process. Likewise, the process lacks child sensitivity considering their age and vulnerability; it was not supported by training as mentioned in the General comment 12. Thus, the researcher argues that, though their interest was overseen, their views were requested, and given due attention, the qualifications to determine the fulfillment of the right to be heard under the general comment no 12 are not fully applied.

4.7.4. Non-Discrimination,

Nondiscrimination is not defined under the Convention on the rights of the child whereas, the human rights committee under its general recommendation no 18 defined it as

Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference which is based on any ground such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or another opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or another status, and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or

³⁸⁶Interview with Biruk EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

³⁸⁷Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all persons, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms.³⁸⁸

Like any human being, a child is protected from any kind of discrimination, based on the Child's, his or her *family or guardians' color, race, sex, religion, or any other ground or status*.³⁸⁹ The UNCRC binds states to safeguard that the child is protected against discrimination or punishment based on status, activities, expressed views, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

Discrimination is classified as formal and substantive discrimination as per the committee of economic, social, and cultural rights. Formal discrimination can be eliminated through, ensuring the legal frameworks; constitution, laws, and policies are not discriminatory of the interest of the child, whereas, substantive discrimination is through addressing historically or persistently prejudiced. Thus, nondiscrimination requires eliminating such prejudices, and taking positive measures to provide equal access³⁹⁰ and ensuring equal access to social services, housing, education, healthcare, and so on, helps to overcome discrimination against the child. To eliminate substantive discrimination, state parties in some cases are, under an obligation to adopt special measures to attenuate or suppress conditions that perpetuate discrimination.³⁹¹ In this regard, JGC no 3 recommends that states shall work to ensure de facto equality besides de jure equality. It requires them to take positive measures to eliminate de facto discrimination in addition to refraining from discrimination and protecting them.³⁹² The process of reintegration is one of the means or special measures to suppress conditions that perpetuate discrimination; those are irregular migration and related abuses and exploitations, which ensure the elimination of substantive discrimination. One of the very purposes of reintegration is to redress economic, social, and cultural and other inequalities might be created due to the migration status and experience. It is

³⁸⁸ United Nations Human rights committee general comment no 18 paragraph 7 Thirty-seventh session (1989) General comment No. 18: Non-discrimination

³⁸⁹ United Nations, 1989. *United Nations Convention On the Rights of Children*, CRC Article 2 and Article 3 of ACRWC

³⁹⁰ United Nations Economic and Social Council. 2009. *Committee On Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Forty-Second Session Geneva, 4-22 May 2009* E/C.12/GC/20, paragraph 8

³⁹¹ Ibid

³⁹² Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child *on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration*** para 26

one means of equalizing the rights of returnee children with other children in the community. So the purpose itself agrees with the main notion of non-discrimination. Likewise, the general comment number 5 states that,

“Non-discrimination obligation requires States actively to identify individual children and groups of children the recognition and realization of whose rights may demand special measures. Addressing discrimination may require changes in legislation, administration, and resource allocation, as well as educational measures to change attitudes.³⁹³

Thus, special measures shall be taken having the special needs of the returnee child migrants. These measures could be legislative, administrative, and educational. As elaborated under chapter one of the thesis, Migration has been one of the factors creating physical, mental, economic, and social disadvantages, abuses, and exploitations. It creates inequality in different aspects of life among returnee children with migration status and other children. Moreover, it is noted that returnee children are vulnerable to further exploitation and stigmatizations 'after a return. All of these factors create discriminations and prejudices. Whereas, reintegration aims to equalize then inequality and overcome discriminatory practices. While, please the reintegration support shall follow clear and consistent procedures to avoid discrimination even between beneficiaries. The reintegration assistance shall not amplify the existing discrimination and the process shall redress future tendencies through proactively identifying and providing redress. It shall not aggravate inconsistencies among the beneficiaries. Thus, the service providers shall avoid the risk of discrimination, they shall also identify the existing and future possible discrimination tendencies and shall work to address such discrimination possibilities.³⁹⁴ Moreover, it shall adopt a transparent and clear procedure to identify the actual beneficiary child returnee, the process of determining the vulnerable shall be consistent and objective. Concerning this, the process of child returnee reintegration in the *Hadiya* zone follows the stringent assessment procedure to avoid preferential treatment, discrimination, and to address the needs of the most vulnerable child returnee. Since the reintegration is a redress mechanism for the disadvantages faced by the child

³⁹³ Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), General comment no. 5 (2003): General measures of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 27 November 2003, CRC/GC/2003/5, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4538834f11.html> [accessed 30 July 2020]

³⁹⁴ Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, UNICEF Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) (2012). Minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action. Page 188

returnees. The reintegration process follows objective and common criteria to address the needs of more vulnerable children. These objective criteria are articulated above as general health condition, impairment and disability, protection and care, psychosocial health and emotional behavior, educational skill training, and vulnerability assessment. As mentioned in the above sections the assessment follows a scoring procedure to determine eligibility. Concerning this, the respondent from IOM said

We follow clear and objective criteria to determine the vulnerability, this helps to avoid preferential treatment and discrimination based on any qualification. The experts fill the assessment form based on the questions and criteria's in the form. Moreover, there is a reporting mechanism placed to ensure the fairness of the process. Furthermore, the assessment form is prepared in a manner to avoid preferential treatments for example it does not require returnees to tell their religious affiliation, place of birth, race, and so on.³⁹⁵

Based on this stipulation from the respondent, the reintegration procedure emphasizes avoiding discriminatory and prejudicial practices, likewise, the scoring sheets and the requirements and the scoring system are identically applicable for all returnees.

The other scenario that is used to avoid discrimination in the procurement process and delivery, which is conducted in the presence, participation, and observation of IOM, Merry joy development association, BOLSA, BoWCYA, and other stakeholders. The main purpose of this process is to avoid unnecessary prejudice and discrimination during the procurement and delivery process.

As per the general comment number 6 this principle prohibits intersectional discrimination based on the different protection needs such as age and gender unless exceptional circumstances are requiring special measures. Moreover, Measures shall be taken to address possible misperceptions and stigmatizations against the specific social group in this case, child returnees.³⁹⁶ unlike the previous stands of the committee the JGR no 3 stipulated the exceptional circumstances that discrimination can be acceptable. It states that discrimination can be legitimate when it is lawful,

³⁹⁵ Interview with Shikureto EU-IOM *Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator*, interviewed on February 20, 2020

³⁹⁶ Treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin GENERAL COMMENT NO. 6 (2005) committee on the rights of the child thirty-ninth session 17 May – 3 June 2005

proportional, and if it is done in pursuit of a legitimate aim and inline with the best interest of the child.³⁹⁷

The JGC no 3 recommended that states shall protect children from discrimination based on migratory status after return to their country of origin and to adopt measures to combat intersectional discrimination since it has an impact on the psychological, psychosocial and economic development and recovery of the child.³⁹⁸ Moreover, it suggests changes in negative perceptions of child migrants.³⁹⁹ Based on the finding, in contradiction to the above-recognized right to be protected from discrimination, child returnees in the study area face stigmatizations and stereotypes based on their migration status. These stigmas affect the sustainability of the reintegration process and their numerous rights under the convention. Thus, the process of reintegration shall consider these social stereotypes. Different stakeholders shall identify such discriminatory practices and create redress mechanisms to eliminate such ostracism against returnees (child returnees). One of the mechanisms could be engaging the community in the reintegration process, creating a supportive environment, and forming awareness creation platforms to change cognizance on the return migration and to eliminate social stereotypes. To sum up, as we can infer from this discussion, the services are not holistic and sustainable enough to argue that, they fully address the positive and negative obligations of nondiscrimination under the provision.

³⁹⁷ Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child *on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration***
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³⁹⁸ Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Committee on the Rights of the Child Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child *on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration***
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³⁹⁹ Ibid

4.8. Prospects and Challenges of Reintegration of Child Returnee Migrants in *Hadiya* zone

There are prospects for the reintegration of child returnees in the *Hadiya* zone and Ethiopia. The first opportunity is the growing interest and upcoming initiatives to participate in the reintegration process. In this regard, international organizations, faith-based organizations, and local civil societies are showing interest to support returnees. This is a promising prospect to address the growing demand in the reintegration of returnees since, it serves as driving factors for the other bodies including government stakeholders to take part in the process, to institutionalize and legitimize the process. The additional prospect is the success stories of the reintegrated returnees in the existing programs since it helps to ensure the sustainability of the reintegration and deter further irregular migration trends.

In addition to the challenges enumerated under each component (economic, psychosocial, and social) of the child reintegration process, the following are identified as a further hindrance to the sustainable reintegration of child returnees in the study area.

a. Gaps in the policy framework

The first challenge the study identified is the lack of policy frameworks and the weakness of the existing frameworks. As elaborated in chapter two of the study there are various international, regional, and national normative standards on the reintegration of child returnees. Whereas, the existing legal frameworks do not provide clear mandates to any government stakeholders that would make it responsible for implementing the reintegration of irregular migrants including child returnees. Thus, it incapacitates the government stakeholders to provide structured, well designed, and financed reintegration supports to the returnees at the federal and regional levels. Moreover, there is a policy gap in addressing the major migration dynamics, return migration, and reintegration. In this regard, the Philippines has both policy frameworks as well as an institutional framework to address the needs of the returnees it can be taken as a good example for Ethiopia. Additionally, Sri Lanka has adopted a national action plan on the reintegration of migrant workers in 2015. It has been endorsed by the Government of Sri Lanka to cover the economic, social, and psychosocial needs of the returning migrant workers and their families. This can be taken as the best experience to implement in Ethiopia. Since the government has an International Human Right

obligation, to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of its citizens without any discrimination. It also has to adopt the legal and policy frameworks for the reintegration assistance of returnee migrants, by giving due attention towards the vulnerable returnees like women, children, people with disabilities, and elders. It has to consider these groups of people under the social safety net programs, policies, strategies, and development plans.

b. Lack of sustainability and the Prospect of remigration

Reintegration is considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial wellbeing that allows them to cope with re-migration drivers⁴⁰⁰. Sustainability of child returnees' reintegration can be affected by factors such as psychological readiness of the returnees, traumatic past experiences, family and community support, legal frameworks, and policies and strategies and permanent overseeing and follow-up process.⁴⁰¹ As discussed in the above chapters, unsustainable reintegration practices heighten the vulnerability of migrants making them more susceptible to precarious remigration, putting them at risk of further trafficking, exploitation, and abuse⁴⁰². The main purpose of reintegration is to avoid possible remigration intents and attempts, to enable the returnee's lead stable life in their homeland and to protect them from further abuse and exploitation. Remigration is a common incident among returnees in the study area. Seven of the ten respondents said that they do not have a plan to re-migrate at all.

I do not have any plan to re-migrate I feel outraged to even think about it. My friends and families in South Africa are consistently inspiring me to migrate, but I refuse to accept their offer because I am hopeful with what I have now and I certainly do not want to pass through the disparaging experience again. I have suffered enough to know the hardship of migration.⁴⁰³

⁴⁰⁰ Return, A. V. 2017. *Enhancing Migrant Well-Being upon Return through an Integrated Approach*. September 2016.

⁴⁰¹ IOM.2019. *Reintegration Handbook Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*, Geneva, Switzerland

⁴⁰² CEDAW. 2018. general recommendation No 30 *women in conflict prevention, conflict and post conflict, situations*, para 39-40

⁴⁰³ Interview with child returnee. Habtamu Age 16, *Interviewed on February 18, 2020 at 11:00 am Lemo Wereda, shurmo Dacho Haddiya Ethiopia*

Dejene one of the survivors of the March 24, 2020 accident in Mozambique said, *I would rather beg to feed myself than go back.*⁴⁰⁴ In contrast, three of the child returnee respondents mentioned their plans for remigration. The drivers of remigration are stated to be, delays in the reintegration support and socioeconomic challenges they faced after the return.⁴⁰⁵ A respondent from IOM said that

Re-migration is a common incident in the *Hadiya* zone after the returnees are reunified with their families we verify their data to make sure, if they are available for the support, whereas, we find out they have re-migrated. Some of them re-migrate even after starting the process of reintegration. This affects the sustainability of the reintegration process.

c. Institutional Capacity

Lack of clear mandate stated in the above paragraphs is a challenge on the overseeing and implementation of the reintegration programs in line with international standards. Moreover, the zonal BOLSA and BoWCYA assured that they have a huge institutional capacity gap (human resource and financial capacity) to address the increasing return migration and reintegration needs. In support of this, the key informant from BOLSA said,

We received more than 8,000 returnees over the past three years. Among those, we did not even reach out to serve more than 1,000 returnees. If we had reintegrated them sustainably, they would have been an example for those planning to migrate, and we would have prevented potential migration and remigration. The government shall capacitate the institutions by capacitating the human resource and allocating budget for reintegration activities. The effort from the federal level to support us and to address this is insignificant. We have budget constraints; we do not even have computers to register the returnees 'data. We have a logistics set back to address the issue (such as transportation, stationary, and so on).⁴⁰⁶

⁴⁰⁴ Dawit End eshaw.2020. *Ethiopia migrants recall nightmare when 64 died in a metal container* Friday May 15, 2020 Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-migrants-idUSKBN22R18H>.

⁴⁰⁵ FGD with child returnees, (2020), February 21 2020 Hosana, Ethiopia

⁴⁰⁶ Interview with Ato Bereket Feleke, Hosanna city office of bureau of labor and social affairs interviewed on February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm

Unlike Ethiopia, other countries like the Philippines and Sri Lanka have best practices on the reintegration of returnee migrants. For example, the Philippines developed a reintegration program for the returnee migrants under the office of the president of the Philippines. These programs and organizations serve the needs of Filipino returnees by providing information and different services like medical treatments, psychosocial services, economic reintegration services, and social reintegration services for the returnees and their families.⁴⁰⁷ This program is a government-led support system for the returnees of the Philippines.

d. Dispersed Settlement of Beneficiaries

Additionally, dispersed settlement of beneficiaries makes it harder to make the services accessible for the returnees. Spotting returnees is also a challenge because most of them are traumatized by their experience so they hide from being spotted⁴⁰⁸. Moreover, this creates additional financial, logistics, and human resource needs such as transportation and additional human resource.

e. Lack of Post Reunification and Reintegration Follow-Up Mechanisms

IOM 2019 highlighted the necessity of the post reintegration follow-up process; *Reintegration plans shall be reviewed periodically, with the returnee and adapted as necessary, especially when and if a returnee's needs, risks, or goals change*⁴⁰⁹. Returnees in vulnerable situations, in this case, child returnees should receive more frequent follow-up sessions⁴¹⁰. Post reunification of the status of reunified migrants and post reintegration follow-up is necessary to ensure the sustainability of the child returnee's reintegration. However, it has been mostly ignored element of reintegration, which can be stated as a challenge in the overall process of reintegration. In *Hadiya*, zone experts have assured that they conduct post reintegration follow-up and assistance for the child returnees through field visits phone calls and so on. However, they believe it is not adequate. Dispersed

⁴⁰⁷ Katie Kuschminder and Alexandra Ricard Guay.2017.*ILO Reintegration background report, European university institute 25 September 2017*. Page 11

⁴⁰⁸Interview with SHIKURETO EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative project coordinator interviewed on February 20, 2020

⁴⁰⁹ IOM.2019. *Reintegration Handbook Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance*, Geneva, Switzerland

⁴¹⁰ Ibid

settlement of the beneficiaries and lack of transportations outlets has been a challenge affirmed for the lack of post reintegration follow-up in the study area.⁴¹¹

Chapter Five

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

This chapter has two subsections. The first section presents brief concluding notes followed by the final section with recommendations.

5.1. Concluding Remark

This study examined the different reintegration programs and assistance for child returnees in the *Hadiya* zone. Addressing the objectives of the study, it identified the international, regional, and national normative frameworks in place to protect and promote the rights of migrant children and to address the reintegration of child returnees. To this end, it explored the legal and policy gaps and the weakness of the existing frameworks in shielding and promoting the rights of child migrants and child returnees. The absence of a comprehensive migration management policy is identified as a loophole in the legal framework affecting the protection of the rights of child migrants and returnees. Furthermore, the existing frameworks have a gap in addressing the different migration dynamics such as irregular migration, return migration, and reintegration of returnees and the protection of vulnerable migrants. Moreover, it does not provide a clear-cut mandate to any government stakeholder to provide reintegration assistance for returnees.

Hadiya zone child migrants prefer the southern route of migration extending from Ethiopia to South Africa and irregular migration is the most commonly used channel. Male migrants often use the route destined to South Africa, while the female uses the Eastern route destined to the Middle East. Irregular migration brings about severe protection risks for child returnees. One of the risks is arbitrary detention in countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, and Malawi. So also, starvation, thirst, physical injury, risk of road accidents, snakebite, sickness, suffocation in the containers disability, disappearances, torture, and death are among the most protection risks faced by children. Besides, the ways and means of transportation used to add up to the risk ranging from, unsafe transportations, trekking long routes traveling at nights and in the dark, etc.

⁴¹¹Interview with Henok Haile Merry Joy development association Ethiopia, EU-IOM Joint migrant protection initiative sustainable community worker interviewed on February 20, 2020, Hosanna, Ethiopia

exacerbates the vulnerability of child migrants for abuse and exploitation. In addition to this, Smuggler's role in facilitating the journey through by arranging fraudulent travel documentation means of transportation, food, and water necessary for the travel in exchange for brokerage fees ranging from 80,000 birr (3,000USD) to 150,000 birr or around (5000\$). Ways of acquiring the money are either selling of cattle, house, or some other goods or saving up the money for a long period to achieve the purpose.

In the study area, child returnees return using different means including through the support of the government, independently on their own, and with the help of the humanitarian organizations. Thus, various governmental and non-governmental actors (IOM, Merry joy, MOLSA, MoWCYA, TVET agency, and their regional counterparts) working on the reintegration of child returnee migrants and their initiatives in Ethiopia as well as the study area are explored in the study. The EU-IOM Joint initiative for migrant protection and reintegration is one of the major initiatives working on child returnees' reintegration in the *Hadiya* zone. IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) is one of the active programs operating in the study area. Child returnees are given priority of return and support including; temporary accommodation, travel documentation, pre-departure screening, transportation fee (air tickets), and facilitation of return reception while they were in the host state. After returning home, child returnee migrants often return to a deteriorating rural economy and experience stigmatizations and stereotypes. This often forces the returnee child migrants to reconsider migration. Drawing on the empirical research, this thesis argues the reintegration of child returnee migrants plays a decisive role in the rehabilitation of the returnee from demeaning physical and psychological harms.

In addition, the study examined the different family tracing and reunification activities, and assistance child returnees get upon arrival including temporary accommodations, food, water; clothing, medications, and transportation allowance. More vulnerable are eligible for the reintegration support. The vulnerability assessment done upon arrival of child returnees to Ethiopia, takes into consideration different individual, structural, household and family, and community factors as a way of scoring to determine the eligibility of returnees for the reintegration assistance. As far as the different components of the reintegration are concerned, the study found out that the IOM reintegration and assistance support offers the psychosocial, economic, and social reintegration supports for the child returnees in *the Hadiya* zone. It understood psychosocial

Reintegration supports were provided through individual counseling and training. In this regard, the lack of experts and specialists, the inadequacy of mental health institutions for further referral treatment, social stigmas, and stereotypes are specified as a setback in the psychosocial reintegration of child returnees. Furthermore, the study found out the major gap pertaining to the vulnerability assessment concerning psychosocial reintegration i.e. the assessment is often done in a rush and lacking continuous follow-ups.

The economic reintegration of child returnees in the *Hadiya* zone is implemented through sensitization training, business plan, and in-kind business supports. Child returnees receive the economic reintegration support through their guardians (caregivers) since they are incapable of performing juridical acts unless they attain majority under Ethiopian law. The procurement and delivery of the in-kind support are conducted in the presence of representatives from the government, IOM, and Merry joy development association. The in-kind support is worth of 40,000 to 60,000 Birr. It is provided based on the business packages choices such as cattle fattening, driving, merchandise shop, retail shop, motor spare part shops, pool game house, soft drink shop, electronics shop, grain trade, construction material shop, and so on. Concerning the economic reintegration lack of separate and child-sensitive sensitization training, delays in economic support, inconsistency on the daily allowance, unrealistic expectations due to unclear and incomplete misinformation about reintegration, and high taxation on the startup business are identified.

Social reintegration schemes mainly focus on issues related to health, housing, and education. The housing i.e. temporary shelter is one component of social reintegration. Since, child returnees may not feel comfortable returning to their home and family environment as soon as they return due to fears of stigma, shame, debts owed, and fear of further abuse and exploitation. Thus to rehabilitate the child from a traumatic experience and to protect him/her from further abuse, temporary shelter facilities shall be in place whereas, there is no such facility in the area as well as in Ethiopia. In relation to education, government stakeholders are working to ensure the re-enrollment of a child into formal education. Health care facilities, medications, and treatment supports delivered in the host state, upon return and after return are discussed as a part of social reintegration. The overall challenges in social reintegration are highlighted as resource constraints, inadequate and

inaccessible healthcare facilities, lack of government commitment to address the social needs of child returnees.

One of the key objectives of the study was examining the reintegration supports based on the four cardinal principles of UNCRC and ACRWC. Those are the best interest of the child, non-discrimination, right to life, survival, and development, and right to be heard. Based on the overall assessment of procedural guarantees, such as delays in time perception, lack of qualified professionals, and absence of mechanisms to review decisions indicate that services are discordant to the best interest of the child principle. On the other hand, challenges such as lack of trained professionals to provide psychological counseling and psychiatric treatments and lack of referral mechanisms for the aggravated cases for the psychiatric illness and other challenges and underpinning factors affect the full protection and promotion of the right to survival and development. The empirical evidence of this study indicated that the views of the child and their caretakers were ensured at each process of the reintegration (at the psychosocial, social, and economic supports) based on the principle of the right to be heard. The stringent vulnerability assessment procedures to avoid preferential treatment or discrimination in the overall reintegration process and transparent procurement and delivery process in the presence of stakeholders during the economic reintegration are acknowledged as traits to eliminate discriminatory practices. However, stigmatizations and stereotypes based on migration status are emphasized to be a discriminatory factor that needs due attention in the process of reintegration.

The study explored the upcoming efforts and success stories of reintegrated returnees' prospects for the improvement of the reintegration process, uncovered challenges in the protection of these rights. In addition to the above-stated challenges, the Institutional capacity gap (financial and human resource capacity) to address the increasing return migration and reintegration needs is also highlighted as a setback in the research. In order to cope with remigration drivers' economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, the reintegration process shall be sustainable. However, the lack of sustainability and the possibility of remigrations are challenges impeding the protection and promotion of the rights of returnee children. The other challenge is a dispersed settlement of beneficiaries, which creates additional financial, logistics, and human resource needs. Post reunification and reintegration follow-Up mechanisms are necessary to ensure the

sustainability reintegration even though it is a disregarded component of the reintegration and identified as a challenge for the sustainability of the reintegration.

Ethiopia adopted the international bill of rights, UNCRC, ACRWC, and so on. It has also domesticated these obligations under article 9(4) and 36 of the FDRE constitution. Thus, it must ensure the protection of rights of child migrants upon migration, during transit, in the destination states, and upon return to Ethiopia. It must protect, fulfill, and respect the rights of children on the move without discrimination based on their migration status or any kind of qualification. Reintegration is one means of protecting, promoting, and fulfilling the rights of children through ensuring the physical, psychological, and social recovery of the child returnees.

5.2. Recommendation

The researcher would like to make the following recommendations based on the findings of the study.

Policy Related recommendations

1. As presented in the study, an unregulated migration scheme is endangering the human rights of migrant children. Thus, Ethiopia shall enact a “comprehensive migration policy” to protect the rights of migrants at each migration phase including departure, transit, return, and reintegration of returnees. Such a policy measure shall encompass the reintegration measures to address and redress the physical, psychological, and social recovery of the child returnees. It shall institutionalize and formalize the reintegration assistance being undertaken by stakeholders and shall provide clear-cut mandates and institutional structures in addressing the reintegration of returnees including child returnees.
2. The study identified a lack of collaboration among and between the home state, transit states, and destination state as a setback on the protection of child migrants and on ensuring a safe and dignified return process. Thus, bilateral and multilateral agreements shall be concluded or the existing agreements among and between source, transit, and destination countries shall be enforced.

Recommendations for Economic Reintegration

1. The study found a high unemployment rate in the family members and related socioeconomic challenges as a driving factor for child migration. Hence, this study recommends establishing labor-intensive industries in the migration prone areas to minimize the unemployment rate and increase productivity.
2. Misinformation is one of the challenges that may lead to unrealistic expectations on the economic support to be provided upon return. Based on such a gap, the study recommends institutions to develop a mechanism of providing clear and, adequate information on the reintegration process to the beneficiaries and follow transparent working procedures to avoid unrealistic expectations of returnees.
3. Lack of child-sensitive training and training facility is one of the setbacks on the economic reintegration process. Consequently, child-sensitive training facilities (training materials and training spaces) shall be provided for the child returnees, considering their physical and mental immaturity.

Recommendation for Psychosocial reintegration

1. There is an evident gap in the psychosocial care system (institutional and human resource) in the study. Thus psychosocial and psychiatric care system shall be improved through institutional and human resources capacity building in Ethiopia as well as in the study area.
2. The study found out that lack of shelter and temporary accommodation is a setback for the rehabilitation of the returnees. Thus the study recommends establishing shelters and safe houses for the vulnerable children to ensure the physical and mental rehabilitation of child returnees and victims of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants with priority for the migration hotspot areas.
3. It is discernable that psychosocial treatment lacks a child-sensitive approach in psychosocial treatment such as counseling and training. Therefore, child-sensitive psychosocial treatment packages including psychological and psychiatric treatments including referral mechanisms shall be adopted.

Recommendation for *Social Reintegration*

1. There is an evident loophole in coordination among vertical and horizontal stakeholders, hence, the study recommends strengthening collaboration and

- coordination among various actors (health, education, justice sector) and other relevant stakeholders to improve the social reintegration scheme.
2. Stigmatization and ostracism against returnee migrants are one of the major setbacks that emanate from lack of awareness on return migration. Thus, effective awareness-raising programs on the stigmatization and marginalization of child returnees shall be undertaken using different outlets.
 3. To ensure the re-assimilation and re-adaptation of the migrant into social structures of his/her country of origin, the community, religious institutions, *idir*, and other traditional institutions shall be engaged, in the process of social reintegration

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A Study on Reintegration of Returnee Child Migrants; The Case of Child Returnees in Hadiya
zone, SNNPR

By Nardos Girma wolde ,

Appendix

Interview tools

Interview Guide child Returnees

Hello, my name is Nardos Girma and I am working on research on returnee child migrant's reintegration assistance. I do not work for the government; I am a student at Addis Ababa University center for human rights. Thank you for your cooperation, everything you may speak is confidential; I will not disclose it to any individual or institution. If you disagree, I will not use your name. The information you provide is very helpful for the future research and pragmatic actions on return migration. I would like to ask you about your experience on pre-migration, while migrating and after returning home and the reintegration assistance you received from the government and other stakeholders; I would like to hear your recommendations on the reintegration packages and prospects. If you have any questions, you may ask me. If you agree I would like to record your voice, it will serve only for my educational purpose. Would that be all right with you? Thank you in advance.

Date of interview _____

1. Name _____ age, _____ sex _____ education level _____ place of birth _____
2. Tell me about your life prior to migration, where did you live? With whom? Were you enrolled to school? What was your economic situation?
3. Was this the first time you migrated? If you have migrated before?
4. How old were you when you chose to migrate? Were you alone? Why did you decide to migrate? Where to? What was the reason that made you chose the place? Who was involved in your decision?
5. When did you leave Ethiopia? Did you travel with anyone else? How did you travel (air, bus, car, etc.?) What were your experiences of the journey?

6. What information did you have on this country before you migrated? Did you want to migrate? Who assisted you in the migration process (gave money or other resources)? Did you receive pre-migration training? What kind? How long? What did you learn?
7. What was your expectation? Did you get what you expected?
8. What was experience living in the country of migration?
9. During your migration, did you maintain contact with your family and friends in Ethiopia? How often? In which way?
10. Did you take any classes/ learn any new skills (can include formal training ie: What kind of training/ class? For how long? What did you learn?

Questions related to return and reintegration

1. How did you return to Ethiopia (forcibly or voluntary?)
2. When did you leave the country of migration?
3. Who assisted you in the return process (gave money or other resources)? Did you receive assistance from any organizations in the host state? What kind or assistance?
4. What were your expectations of return?
5. How do you experience living in Ethiopia since returning? What happened when you returned? Who met you at the airport? Did you receive any assistance upon arrival (food, cloth, transportation, accommodation)?
6. How did you reunify with your families? Who assisted you?
7. Do you participate in local events? Cultural events? What kinds? Do people treat you differently since your return? How does this make you feel?
8. Did you receive psychosocial support? In what way? Do you think it is helpful?
9. What are your plans for the future? Do you plan to re-migrate? If yes, where? Why do you want to migrate/ why do you not want to migrate? Would you encourage others to migrate?
- 10.** Have you gotten special support (education, Health, Counseling, economic)? From whom? Was it helpful to sustain your livelihood? Is there anything else you would like to share with me?
11. What have been the greatest challenges for you in your return? How have you dealt with those challenges? Who helped you to deal with them (IOM, government, other

organizations, church, family, friends)? In what ways? What could the government do to help you with these challenges?

12. Have you done any training programs since your return? Which organization?

2. Interview questions for other stakeholders

Organization: _____

Person Interviewed: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

1. Can you please tell me about your organization/ministry?
2. What is the work/program provided to returnees by your organization? Are there specific services you provide to child returnees? Can you specify?
3. How long has your organization been doing this work/ running this program? Who funds the program?
4. How many returnees have you assisted? How many child returnees have you assisted?
5. What is the target group of your services? Do you have returnee specific program? What is the profile of the returnees that you work with? (I.e. group, age, gender, forced or voluntary returnees, victims of human trafficking). Why do you chose this specific group?
6. Do you give a specific economic, psychosocial and other related reintegration supports especially for child returnee migrants? Do you believe the services are to the best interest of the child?
7. How do returnees access your service? At what point do returnees access your service? (Immediately upon return, after a few weeks)
8. How do returnees get information or know about your work/ program?
9. From your experience, what do you see as the main needs of child returnees to Ethiopia? Particularly child returnees in Haddiya zone shashago district.
10. What are the key challenges facing returnees to Ethiopia? How does this program assist returnees in meeting the challenges you mentioned?
11. Do you have any screening process to identify vulnerabilities? If so, what is your process? If returnees have specific needs, do you have a referral mechanism in place? How does it work?

12. Do you have shelters for the returnee migrants?
13. Do you have any service/activity tailored for child returnees? What ways?
14. How do you think this program contributes to returnees' reintegration?
 - a. Economic reintegration
 - b. Social reintegration
 - c. Psychosocial reintegration
15. What has been the impact of return migration on the community where you work?
16. Is there an institutional strategy to address the reintegration of returnees?
17. What are the limitations and/or challenges that you faced in your work? How did you tackle/pass these challenges?
18. Based on your work, what are they key factors to help/facilitate reintegration. Particularly child returnees?
19. Do you work with other organizations in delivering return services? What are its components? Which organizations work with returnees in your area?
20. How do you rate your service provision? Is it satisfactory? What do you think are the main successes of your program? What has enabled these successes?
21. Do you think it is sufficient?
22. Any other comments?
23. Do you have any documents regarding the reintegration support? Can you share?

FDG (Focus group discussion) questions

Two focus group discussions will be held. The first set of FGD will be conducted with a group of 5-6 children while the second FGD will consist of 5-6 community members (consisting of a teacher, a parent, community elder; head of local community association such as *idir*, representative of local *kebele* women's forum,)

1. What do you think are the push and pull factors for the child migration in Haddiya zone/Misha or Lemo district?
2. What are the key challenges of return migration in your community? What could the government do to help you with these challenges?
3. What are the missing services/program concerning reintegration in your area?

4. Do you believe the reintegration assistance is to the best interest of the child?
5. What recommendations do you have for the future prospects?