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**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CROSS- BORDER ILLEGAL MIGRATION TO THE  
MIDDLE EAST CASE OF WOGIDE WOREDA, SOUTH WOLLO ZONE OF AMHARA  
REGIONAL STATE OF ETHIOPIA**

**BY: MOHAMMED YALEW**

**AUGUST 2024**

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**A Thesis Submitted to Department of Geography and Environmental studies of Addis Ababa  
University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Degree of Master of Arts in Geography  
and Environmental Studies**

**AUGUST 2024**

**ADDISABABA**

## **Declaration**

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis, entitled “Causes and Consequences of Cross-Border Illegal Migration in Wogide Woreda, South Wollo Zone of Ethiopia,” is my original work, prepared under the guidance of Dr. Teferi Makonnen. All sources of materials used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged. I further confirm that this thesis has not been presented, either in part or in full, for the purpose of earning any diploma or degree at any other higher learning institution.

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**Chair of Department or Graduate program coordinator**

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

EESP: Employment Exchange Services Proclamation

EPRDF Ethiopia People Revolutionary Democratic Front

EU:European Union

FY:Fiscal Year

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

ILO: International Labor Organization

IOM: International Organization for Migration

MOLSA: Minster of Labor and social Affairs

OECD Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development

PrEAS : Private Employment Agencies

TICAD: Tokyo International Conference on African Development

TPLF Tigray People Liberation Front

UNDP: United Nation Development Program

WWA : WogideWoreda Administration

## *Abstract*

*Illegal migration is a pressing global issue, particularly affecting developing countries in Africa. Many migrants leave their countries for various economic and non-economic reasons. Ethiopia, as one such developing nation, is significantly impacted by human migration. This study aimed to examine the causes and consequences of illegal migration in Wogide Wereda, South Wollo Zone, and Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia. To achieve this objective, a questionnaire survey was conducted with 179 household respondents from three kebeles in the woreda, providing quantitative data. The study employed a cross-sectional research design, supplemented by key informant interviews and focus group discussions to gather qualitative data. The study found that the primary driver of illegal migration in the area is economic, particularly the search for employment and the desire to improve living conditions. Migrants faced severe challenges during their cross-border journeys, including exploitation, rape, hunger, and theft of their earnings. Despite these negative consequences, some positive outcomes were noted, such as access to remittances, education, acquired skills, and improved living standards. Given that the negative consequences of illegal migration outweigh the benefits, the government should focus on facilitating safer migration practices. Regular and ongoing awareness campaigns should be conducted by the human resource management office, vital registration office, and woreda communication affairs to highlight the dangers of illegal migration. Additionally, the enterprise office should create job opportunities for returnees and potential migrants through revolving funds. The Wogide Wereda police office should also strengthen its control over illegal agents and brokers involved in migration.*

**Keywords:** illegal migration, migration route, broker, destination country, causes, consequences, wogide worda

# CHAPTER ONE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Human populations have historically moved for various reasons, including conflicts, trade, pilgrimages, droughts, famines, development programs, land tenure systems, and both natural and man-made factors. Environmental degradation has increasingly influenced migration decisions, either by reducing food production or diminishing an area's attractiveness as a place of residence (Andrejasevic, 2004).

Illegal migration is a pressing global issue, particularly affecting developing countries in Africa. Many migrants from nations such as Eritrea, Sudan, and Ethiopia leave their homes for various reasons, often opting for illegal routes. Ethiopia, as one of the emerging nations impacted by significant migration flows, faces challenges due to illegal migration, which has adverse effects on livelihoods and national perceptions, especially in poorer regions. The presence of unlawful agents exacerbates these issues, while many young people pursue illegal migration, viewing it as a preferable option compared to legal routes. However, it is important to note that those who migrate illegally often lack legal protection and face significant risks abroad (Bauer and Haisken, 2004).

The migration situation has worsened in recent years, prompting concern from state governments and international organizations such as the UN. Cross-border illegal migration continues to exacerbate the socioeconomic challenges faced by nations. In the case study area, a significant number of both male and female migrants have encountered severe difficulties. Migration is driven by both economic and non-economic factors, affecting individuals in both large cities and small towns, as well as across national borders. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the primary drivers of illegal emigration include the desire for improved facilities and urban amenities, the need for employment, and the urge to reunite with family and friends. People are moving not only from rural to urban areas but also migrating internationally, both legally and illegally.

Illegal out-migration and the involvement of undocumented people and organizations have led to numerous problems. Migration patterns have significant short- and long-term effects. Studies indicate that economic incentives are a major factor driving recent Ethiopian migration, with better living conditions and improved amenities in other locations also serving as key motivators (IOM report, 2010).

The IOM-World Migration Report (2010) highlights that the lack of employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas, rapid population growth, absence of draft animals for many farmers, and land fragmentation have been major factors driving high levels of migration from Ethiopia. This migration primarily affects the most productive and well-educated segments of the population, leading to severe consequences for rural-urban livelihoods and the country's overall image. While some migrants achieve better living standards and incomes, many face significant challenges along their journey and at their destinations. These issues have motivated the researcher to undertake this study.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In Ethiopia, the movement of people has been significantly influenced by both natural and manmade disasters. Research has identified several major factors contributing to this spatial mobility, including landlessness, agricultural policies, land fragmentation, environmental degradation, population pressure, recurrent droughts and famines, as well as war and political crises (Andrejasevic, 2004). Migration is generally driven by a mix of economic and non-economic causes, and understanding the root of illegal migration is particularly important. In the era of globalization, advancements in transportation and communication have greatly facilitated global interaction, leading to a notable increase in migration rates, both legal and illegal, at national and international levels. This trend is especially pronounced in developing countries like Ethiopia, where illegal migration has become a particularly persistent issue.

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In Ethiopia, there is a notable scarcity of research on human migration, particularly concerning its causes and effects on both migrants and their families. This lack of understanding has impacted the nation's image and its ability to address migration-related issues effectively. This

study aims to fill this gap by examining migration patterns in Wogide Woreda, located in the South Wollo Zone of the Amhara Regional State.

The primary purpose of this study is to provide valuable insights to policymakers, the Woreda's vital registration office, kebele administrators, academic institutions, and other relevant stakeholders. By focusing on Wogide Woreda, a region experiencing significant migration to the Middle East through illegally. This research seeks to explore the flow patterns and characteristics of migrants. The study will investigate both the causes and the consequences of cross-border illegal migration. The findings of this study are expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of migration in Wogide Woreda. By shedding light on these issues, the research aims to inform and guide policy decisions, improve migration management practices, and contribute to the development of more effective support systems for migrants and their families. Additionally, it seeks to enhance the overall image of Ethiopia by addressing migration challenges in a constructive and informed manner.

The South Wollo zone, an administrative region in the Amhara regional state, is significantly impacted by human migration, encompassing both legal and illegal movements. Within this zone, Wogide woreda is particularly affected by the adverse consequences of migration. Evidence points to increasing landlessness among the youth and rising unemployment in the woreda. Environmental factors such as drought and land degradation are contributing to these migration patterns. In response, there has been a notable rise in illegal emigration from Wogide woreda over the past few decades, with many heading to the Middle East. This migration trend carries both positive and negative implications for the households in the origin area and the migrants themselves. Research into this phenomenon is framed within this context (WWA, 2012).

Several studies have examined the causes and consequences of human migration in South Wollo zone. For instance, Kemal A. conducted an assessment of trans-border migration in Wogide woreda in September 2020, and Mohammed Y. (2009) analyzed the causes and effects of illegal migration in Kutaber woreda within the same zone. However, these studies have not fully explored the current situation in Wogide woreda, nor have they adequately addressed the adverse

impacts of cross-border illegal migration. The local community often believes that illegal migration abroad is a pathway to a better life.

Wogide Woreda, there is a lack of comprehensive studies on the characteristics, patterns, causes, and consequences of human migration. This study aims to address this gap by investigating the flow patterns and characteristics of migrants, as well as the causes and effects of migration, with a specific focus on three selected kebeles: Yeshum, Bola, and Lemi. The research particularly emphasizes migrants who have traveled to the Middle East. It is anticipated that this study will contribute to the limited and insufficient body of literature on illegal migration both from the woreda and at the national level.

### **1.3 General Objectives**

The general objective of the study was to examine the causes and consequences of illegal Migration to the Middle East: the case of WogideWoreda South Wollo Zone Amhara regional state

#### **1.3.1 Specific objectives**

The specific objective of the study was:

1. To investigate the causes of illegal migration to the Middle East from the WogideWoreda
2. To examine the economic, social, and psychological impacts of migration on migrants at the destination
3. To examine the consequences of cross-border illegal migration in the study area

### **1.4. Research Questions**

The main focus of this study was to investigate the cause and consequence of cross-border illegal migration in WogideWoreda. The findings of the study were answering the following main research questions in the study area.

1. What are the causes of illegal migration to the Middle East from the study area?
2. What are the economic, social, and psychological impacts of migration on migrants at the destination?
3. What are opportunities of migration in the study area?

4. What are the consequences of cross-border illegal migration in the study area?

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to collect critical data on the reasons behind and effects of migration. This data was shared with the researcher, Woreda administrative sectors, workers at the district vital registration bureau, the education sector, and other relevant parties in Wogideworeda. The study aims to educate the public about the negative impacts of cross-border unlawful migration and the preventive measures that can be taken, particularly in the study area. Additionally, it provides valuable insights that may benefit other researchers by offering a foundation for further investigation into this field. Finally, the results of this research could contribute to future studies by expanding the understanding and providing comprehensive information on cross-border illegal migration in the study area.

### **1.6. Scope of the Study**

The geographic scope of this study was confined to the Amhara regional state, specifically the South Wollo Zone and Wogide Woreda, due to time and budgetary constraints. This woreda comprises thirty-four kebeles, of which Yeshum, Bola, and Lemi were selected for the implementation of the program. The primary objective of the study was to gather comprehensive data on both economic and non-economic factors contributing to cross-border illegal migration in the region. To achieve this, the researcher used data from the woreda administrative office to identify the kebeles most affected by unlawful migration. After consulting with the administrative office to determine the most severely impacted kebeles, the researcher selected Yeshum, Bola, and Lemi for the study.

### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

The study primarily relied on data gathered from households that had sent migrants. This approach may introduce inaccuracies, particularly concerning the effects of migration on individuals residing in the Middle East. Additionally, the researcher faced several challenges, including limited time, difficulties with transportation, an excessive workload, regional conflicts, and unreliable internet connections. Despite these obstacles, the researcher mitigated their impact

by walking long distances and utilizing private Wi-Fi. Consequently, these limitations did not affect the study's discussion or findings.

## 1.8. Operational Definition of key terms

**Broker:** illegal agents or illicit, they push young boys and girls to move abroad

**Destination country;** receiving country or arrived area of migrants

**Causes:** variables or driving forces that enhance cross- border migration

**Consequences:** impacts that resulted from migration

**Illegal migration:** The act of crossing borders without fulfilling the requirements for a valid entry into the receiving state

**Migration route:** the travelling corridors or transportation route that most Ethiopian migrants move towards Middle East

**wogide worda :**an administrative unit located in south wollo zone, north central Ethiopia

## 1.9. Organization of the Thesis

This research output is organized into five units. The first units mainly concerned on the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives and research questions, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. The unit that follows is unit two which presents the related review literature. Chapter three comprises research methodology used in the research. It includes description of the study area, research design, sampling frame and sample size, data collection instrument, data analysis method and presentation. Chapter four comprises data analysis and interpretation and result discussion based of finding. Chapter five comprises the researcher conclude the finding and put best recommendation for the stakeholders

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.1. Conceptual Review

##### 2.1.1. Concepts and definition of migration

Migration is a multifaceted process that encompasses economic, social, and political dimensions. It involves locales—both the places of origin and destination—where individuals change their residency for either short or extended periods. The complexity of migration processes makes them challenging to define within a comprehensive explanatory and analytical framework. According to the UNDP (2009), Africa was expected to account for 10.2 percent of global migration by 2010. Despite this, only 3% of people globally engage in migration, with approximately 1.9 percent of the African population participating in international migration (UNDP, 2009). Recently, there has been a notable increase in Ethiopian migrants moving to Africa and the Middle East, primarily seeking employment as domestic workers in private households. This migration offers both potential benefits and risks, providing opportunities for personal and economic advancement while simultaneously posing significant dangers of exploitation and abuse.

The arrival and residency of individuals in a foreign nation without the host state's legal consent is termed illegal migration, also known as irregular migration (International Council on Human Rights Policy, 2010). This occurs when individuals cross borders without meeting the requirements for lawful entry into the receiving state, thereby operating outside the established rules and guidelines for managing the legal movement of people (International Organization of Migration, 2003). Destination nations refer to this unauthorized entry, stay, or employment as irregular migration when individuals lack the necessary documentation or authorization required by migration legislation. From the perspective of the home country, the irregularity is evident when someone exits without a valid passport or other necessary documentation (Bisrat et al.,

2017). Migration itself is a complex concept to define and quantify, involving the physical movement of individuals from one geographical location to another with a change of residence lasting at least a year. It encompasses a range of factors, including spatial or geographic mobility, changes in habitation, shifts in physical and social environments, and varying distances and times. Due to the lack of specific criteria for these elements, particularly time and distance, migration is often defined in a flexible manner. Ultimately, it refers to any movement where a person changes their place of residence temporarily or permanently, with the length of time and distance covered being determined based on the purpose of classification and the criteria used.

Migration can be broadly categorized into two main types: international migration and internal migration. International migration involves the movement of people across political boundaries to a country other than their place of origin. In contrast, internal migration refers to the movement within a single country's national borders. In Africa, internal migration is a major driver of significant demographic changes. This type of migration can be further divided into four categories based on the direction of movement: rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural, and urban-urban.

Migration can also be classified based on its legality and the planned length of stay. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2011), migration can be categorized as long-term or temporary.

**Long-term migration** includes:

- Labor migrants, who may be highly qualified or unskilled workers seeking permanent employment in a new country.
- Professional, business, or investor migrants, such as individuals with specific professions or those investing in or starting businesses in the host country.
- Forced migrants, including political or religious refugees and asylum seekers.

**Temporary migration** encompasses:

- Labor migrants, such as seasonal workers, those with temporary work permits, or commuters.

- Professional and business migrants, including diplomats and other business professionals, as well as religious migrants.
- Student and scholar migrants, which include degree-seeking students, short-term students, and exchange scholars (Muniz et al., 2010).

Migration can take various forms, including those of nomads, agriculturalists, traders, and other groups. These movements may be seasonal, long-term, or permanent, depending on the migration goals. Rather than being a one-time event, migration often involves multiple relocations throughout a person's life. Movements can be generally classified as transitory, semi-permanent, or permanent, without distinguishing between internal and international migrations or limiting the distance or duration of travel (Muniz et al., 2010).

Migrants are defined as individuals who have relocated at least once in their lives from their birthplace or a certain geographical region to another part of the country for an extended period, typically to make a living. Analysis of migration patterns using 1984 Census data reveals notable regional differences in net population loss or gain due to migration. Wollo experienced the greatest net loss due to migration in the years leading up to the 1984 Census, followed by Tigray and Gonder—three northern provinces of Ethiopia (Fitsume, 2014).

To address migration challenges, the African Union established the Joint Africa-EU Declaration on Migration and Development. This agreement aims to manage migrant influxes from Africa through a partnership dedicated to eradicating poverty, unemployment, and diseases, thereby fostering comprehensive and sustainable development. The Declaration seeks to address issues related to illegal or irregular migration flows.

Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa, serves as a destination, transit, and origin country for international migrants. Inbound migration predominantly comprises refugees, while outbound migration includes forced, involuntary, and voluntary movements. Ethiopia has become a significant "migration hub" or transit station for irregular and transit travel along Eastern African migratory routes. Addis Ababa functions as a key junction for two major land routes: one leading from the Horn of Africa to the Mediterranean Sea via Sudan, Chad, and Libya, and the other passing through Somalia and the Gulf of Aden to Yemen. According to the International Labor

Organization (2011), irregular migrant flows from Asia are believed to traverse Africa and enter Ethiopia, with Bole International Airport serving as a pivotal transit and irregular migration hub on the aviation route to Europe (ILO, 2011).

### 2. 1.2. History of migration in Ethiopia

Researchers have found that colonial ties play a crucial role in shaping migration patterns out of Africa, with most emigrants opting to settle in countries with which they have colonial and linguistic connections. Ethiopia, having never been colonized, lacks such connections with both African and European countries, leading to less defined migration patterns. Although the Middle East has historically been a popular destination for labor migrants, Ethiopia's diaspora extends across various continents.

Over the past 50 years, Ethiopia has faced numerous socioeconomic, environmental, and political challenges, driving significant internal and cross-border migration. The country has endured severe political unrest, recurring droughts, famine, and a devastating civil war. Since the mid-1960s, catastrophic droughts and famines have often led to involuntary internal relocation and "villagization" land reform schemes, which resettled rural inhabitants into villages. Additionally, international migration has been notable; during the mid-1980s famine, exacerbated by ongoing civil conflict, approximately 600,000 Ethiopians migrated to neighboring Sudan

Ethiopia faces significant challenges regarding migrant movements, both internally and internationally. Internal migration, particularly the movement from rural areas to cities, is substantial, though the exact number of internal migrants remains unclear. Ethiopia's National Labor Force Assessment indicates that both long-term and seasonal migrants predominantly move between rural and urban areas (Tadele et al., 2006). Various push and pull factors drive this rural-urban migration trend, including poverty, overpopulation, food scarcity, land shortages, and limited resources. Some rural-urban migrants use urban areas as a stepping stone for longer-term international migration plans.

International migration from Ethiopia has a long history, with a notable surge following the 1974 Revolution. During this period, many Ethiopians, especially elites, fled the country to escape

political persecution under the Red Terror. Since then, waves of migration have continued due to civil conflict, famine, and environmental challenges (Tadele et al., 2006). From the 1970s to the 1990s, Ethiopians primarily migrated to Western countries, either to reunite with family or to move to Eastern bloc countries during the socialist era.

In recent years, economic necessity has become the predominant driver of Ethiopian migration. As a result, many Ethiopians have relocated to South Africa, the Gulf States, and other Middle Eastern nations. Large-scale foreign emigration from Ethiopia has often coincided with periods of political repression and transition. Prior to the 1974 revolution, a few elites sought training and education in Western nations. During the military government and the QeyShibir ("Red Terror") from 1974 to 1991, migration increased significantly. Although many refugees returned to Ethiopia after the fall of the Derg regime, periodic ethnic violence, political repression, and the lure of economic opportunity have continued to drive migration.

### **2.1.3. Ethiopia as a country of origin and transit**

Emigration from Ethiopia has surged in recent years, with the country playing a crucial role as a transit hub for migrants traveling through the Horn of Africa. However, much of this movement has become irregular, as traditional migration channels remain inaccessible, especially for the economically disadvantaged. While the Ethiopian government estimates that its diaspora exceeds 3 million people, the UN Population Division places the figure at less than 1 million emigrants. Ethiopia's emigration patterns, in the absence of colonial ties, are shaped by a range of factors, including geographical proximity, established migratory networks, destination country policies, and historical events. For instance, in the 1980s, the Israeli government facilitated the transfer of tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa and Sudanese refugee camps to Israel. More recently, economic hardship has emerged as the leading driver of Ethiopian migration, with political factors like oppression, insecurity, and ethnic tensions also playing significant roles. Among rural youth, migration is often viewed as the only viable route out of poverty. Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries have long been favored destinations for Ethiopians seeking better economic prospects. Many are influenced by traffickers, smugglers, or even family members to embark on the migration journey (UN, 2020).

While the majority of Ethiopian labor migration involves low-skilled workers, there has been a notable rise in the emigration of professionals to Western countries and other emerging African economies. A particularly stark example is the healthcare sector; by 2012, more Ethiopian doctors were reportedly working in Chicago than within Ethiopia itself, according to the country's health minister. By 2015 and 2016, about one-third of Ethiopians living in OECD countries had attained education beyond the high school level. These highly skilled migrants primarily settle in the United States and Europe (UN, 2020).

Although Ethiopia's humanitarian migrant numbers are a fraction of what they were in the twentieth century, the country remains one of the continent's top sources of refugees and asylum seekers. As of 2020, an estimated 280,000 Ethiopians fell into this category. Recent years have seen a rise in these numbers, largely due to the violent conflict in northern Tigray, which began in November 2020 between the federal government and TPLF commanders. Over 60,000 people fled the fighting, primarily from Tigray, in what became Ethiopia's most significant refugee exodus in decades, with most seeking refuge in Sudan. The conflict has also caused widespread internal displacement, with approximately 4 million Ethiopians internally displaced as of September 2020.

Ethiopia has also become a vital transit point for migrants moving in and out of the Horn of Africa, particularly for those from Eritrea and Somalia. Positioned at the crossroads of the Horn and East Africa, Ethiopia serves as a crucial route for migrants from the region aiming to reach Europe or other northern destinations.

Migrants traveling from or through Ethiopia generally follow three major migration corridors: eastward to the Persian Gulf states and the Middle East via the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden; southward to South Africa; and northward across the Sahara, into Sudan, and often on to Europe. The choice of route is influenced by a migrant's income, social status, migration history, and international connections, with those facing the most limited options often taking the most dangerous paths (UN, 2020).

#### **2.1.4. Return and reintegration**

In recent years, return migration to Ethiopia has surged, often involuntarily, as more migrants travel irregularly in search of employment, and migration policies in destination countries like Saudi Arabia have become increasingly strict. The Ethiopian government, the general population, and development partners are deeply concerned about providing essential reintegration support. This issue became particularly prominent following the large-scale forced repatriation of irregular Ethiopian migrants from Saudi Arabia in 2013 and 2014, when approximately 170,000 Ethiopians were returned. Since then, the trend has continued, with an additional 415,000 Ethiopians returning from Saudi Arabia (Government report, 2021).

Many of these returnees have arrived in Ethiopia facing severe economic and mental challenges. A significant number were victims of trafficking, reported experiencing harsh treatment, and lost most or all of their belongings. Some migrants detained in Saudi Arabia reportedly had limited or no access to water, bathrooms, food, or privacy. A recent wave of returnees from Tigray, who made up 40% of returnees between November 2020 and June 2021, have faced further challenges, as they remain stranded in urban areas due to ongoing conflict in their home region.

Although the Ethiopian government and aid organizations have provided urgent humanitarian assistance—such as medical care, shelter, and transportation—there have been persistent difficulties in reintegrating returnees into the labor market and local communities. Reuniting returnees with their families has also been a challenge. Returnees often struggle to re-enter the local labor market due to a lack of capital and skills. This situation has significant implications for families that rely on remittances from migrants. Many returnees, unable to find a foothold back in their home country, opt to migrate again, despite the difficulties of their initial migration experience. Evidence suggests that ineffective reintegration processes often lead to remigration (Government report, 2021).

#### **2.1.5. Migration role in Ethiopia development policy**

Ethiopia is one of the leading remittance destinations in Sub-Saharan Africa, with remittances constituting about 5% of its GDP, according to the National Bank of Ethiopia. Over the past two decades, these financial flows have grown substantially. Despite the challenges posed by the

COVID-19 pandemic, the Ethiopian Diaspora Agency reported that official remittances reached \$3.6 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2021, a sharp increase from \$104 million in FY 2000. The actual remittance figures are likely much higher due to significant informal transfers, which are common but unrecorded. Informal channels are especially prevalent among emigrants in Saudi Arabia and South Africa (Government report, 2021).

Since the early 2000s, the Ethiopian government has increased efforts to engage the diaspora. The 2011-2015 Growth and Transformation Plan recognized the diaspora as crucial development partners, referring to them as an "opportunity" for national growth. This shift coincided with the establishment of the Ethiopian Expatriate Affairs General Directorate in 2002, which later became the Diaspora Engagement Affairs General Directorate under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2018, the ministry launched the Ethiopian Diaspora Agency to further strengthen collaboration and ensure that the diaspora's concerns were integrated into development plans. Labor attachés were also assigned to diplomatic missions (MOFA, 2018).

To encourage diaspora investment, the government introduced tax and customs incentives that allowed emigrants and Ethiopian heritage foreign nationals to open foreign-currency bank accounts in Ethiopian banks. At one point, the government even offered free land plots to these individuals. Ethiopian Origin ID Cards, also known as yellow cards, were distributed to those who had acquired new nationalities, granting those benefits such as visa-free entry into Ethiopia. However, during the era of the TPLF, diaspora policies were largely shaped by political motives rather than development goals. Many diaspora members backed opposition parties, especially after the disputed 2005 election, which resulted in unrest and government crackdowns. This strained relations, as the government often viewed the diaspora as potential adversaries, while expatriates were wary of investing their resources in the country.

In 2013, the government introduced a comprehensive diaspora policy, offering voting rights to nationals abroad and enabling them to serve as election observers for the first time. However, as of now, these reforms have yet to be fully implemented, underscoring the need for significant governance reforms to rebuild trust between the government and the diaspora (MOFA, 2018)

## 2.2. Migration to the Gulf and Middle Eastern countries

Ethiopia is strategically located along the East African migratory route, which stretches from the Horn of Africa through Sudan, Chad, and Libya to the Mediterranean Sea. Additionally, another significant East African route connects Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen via the Gulf of Aden (ICMPD, 2008). This second route is a major conduit for the flow of international migrants, particularly Ethiopian women, to Gulf and Middle Eastern countries, both legally and illegally. While the exact scale of this migration is unclear due to the sporadic nature of female migration, estimates suggest that up to 500,000 Ethiopian women migrate to this region annually. Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic increase in Ethiopian female migration to the Middle East, primarily for domestic labor, making it the primary migration and return corridor from Ethiopia. Whether legal or not, 72% of Ethiopian migrants reportedly used job agencies, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with Fransen and Kuschminder (2009) noting that 60% used illegal agents, 20% used legal agents, and 20% were unaware of their agents' status.

The primary destinations for young Ethiopian women, men, and children are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bahrain, Djibouti, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates. Yemen, in particular, serves as a major transit country for thousands of Ethiopians hoping to reach Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and the UAE. Other key African transit points for Ethiopian migrants include Djibouti, Sudan, Egypt, and Somalia. Due to the high demand for cheap labor in the Gulf States and the availability of workers in Ethiopia, migrants are highly vulnerable to various forms of exploitation. According to informants from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, this creates an environment ripe for traffickers, primarily brokers in both the source and destination countries, who facilitate the unlawful recruitment and departure of migrants.

Ethiopian migration to the Middle East has led to a surge in cases of abuse and exploitation. Many Ethiopian women have found themselves trapped, with their travel documents confiscated, leaving them vulnerable to rape and exploitation either during transit or upon reaching their destination. Male migrants, on the other hand, are often relegated to low-skilled jobs such as garbage collection, camel and goat herding, and construction (Anteneh, 2011). Most migrants

have little or no contact with their families and endure long working hours under harsh conditions. Their movement is frequently restricted, and many experience non-payment, lack of rest, and isolation (US Department of State, 2013).

In response to these abuses in the Gulf countries, Ethiopia's government issued a proclamation in 1998, establishing Private Employment Agencies (PrEAs) tasked with safeguarding the rights, safety, and dignity of Ethiopians employed abroad (Private Employment Agency Proclamation, No.104/1998). This was later revised and replaced by the Job Exchange Services Proclamation (EESP) 632/2009, which introduced stronger regulations for monitoring and managing local and international job exchange services. The proclamation also included provisions to address the evolving challenges associated with labor migration.

According to data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), only two organizations initially applied for a license in 1998, meeting the criteria outlined in the proclamation. However, as labor migration to the Gulf States increased, so did the number of applicants, driven in part by the profitability of the business. As of 2020, there are 334 registered and active PrEAs involved in facilitating the employment of Ethiopian women (MOLSA, 2020).

Despite the establishment of PrEAs, there remains no comprehensive system to monitor and evaluate their operations. Consequently, Ethiopian women and girls in the Gulf countries continue to face severe abuses, including forced labor, sexual violence, physical and psychological abuse, and even death. In recognition of these issues, the Ethiopian government officially banned the migration of domestic workers to foreign countries for employment in October 2013.

### **2.3. Types of Migration**

Migration processes are rarely homogenous, and this research explores various types of migration and their challenges to livelihoods. Migration has long been a prevalent phenomenon in Africa. Traditionally, it was driven by the search for better farming or pasture grounds (Cassarino, 2008). Some herders relocated seasonally, moving their livestock to areas with available water and forage. During colonial times, labor migration to mines and plantations became widespread. Southern Africa, in particular, has a long history of intra-regional migration,

dating back to the mid-19th century. By the 20th century, migration had become one of the most significant factors in uniting the subcontinent's colonies and countries into a unified regional labor market. In recent years, a growing number of people have migrated within African cities not only to meet basic needs but also to pursue higher economic or social opportunities (McDonald, 2000). Cyclical migration, where individuals move back and forth between urban areas and their hometowns, is also common. Migration occurs for various reasons, and it is possible to identify key types of migration.

### **2.3.1 Internal Migration**

Internal migration refers to the movement of people from one location to another within the borders of a state where they are citizens, often to find employment and establish residency for at least six months (McDonald, 2000). This type of migration occurs within a country and frequently involves movement from economically disadvantaged rural areas to large cities. Internal migration also includes relocation from one area (province or municipality) to another within the same country.

### **2.3.2 International Migration**

International migration involves the movement of people across national borders. According to the United Nations (1990), it entails crossing the boundary of a political or administrative unit for a specific period. This includes the movement of refugees, internally displaced persons, uprooted individuals, and economic migrants. Both legal and illegal migration are part of this category. Legal migrants possess official documentation and reside in a country other than their place of origin, while illegal migrants do not (McDonald, 2000).

## **2.4. Causes of Illegal Migration**

Traditional push-pull factors are essential for understanding illicit migratory flows. The "push factor" refers to unfavorable circumstances in the home country that drive people away, such as famine, drought, low agricultural production, unemployment, and more. In contrast, the "pull factor" describes the conditions in foreign countries that attract migrants. A variety of independent variables, including these push-pull dynamics, contribute to the dependent variable—illegal migration (De Haas, 2008).

Most analyses of migration focus on the destination, i.e., immigration. However, migration has profound implications for the countries migrants leave behind. Emigration is not only growing in volume but also gaining importance due to its impact on development, as noted in recent years (McDonald, 2000).

The causes of illegal migration vary depending on individual circumstances and societal conditions, encompassing ecological pressure, economic incentives, psychological motivations, and political events. In Africa, rapid population growth exacerbates both internal and external migration. Hance (1971) identified areas facing population pressure with indicators like poverty, soil degradation, declining crop yields, food shortages, hunger, and malnutrition. These factors—coupled with land fragmentation, property disputes, homelessness, and unfavorable cultural traditions—further drive migration.

In less-developed nations, household decision-making often predicts illegal migration, particularly for short-term travel and remittance practices. Understanding how migration and remittances influence development programs offers fresh perspectives on broader development challenges. Migration is driven by various motives, including war, material aspirations, political or religious freedom, and economic opportunities. According to Michael (1999), people migrate when they perceive comparative advantages elsewhere.

Another significant motivator is the lure of metropolitan centers, which offer more authority, privilege, and access to resources and services. These factors pull people from rural areas to cities, contributing to both legal and illegal migration. The push-pull model is closely tied to economic imbalances (Michael, 1999), and migration, particularly in developing countries, often results in the growth of the informal sector. Instead of providing equilibrium, migration reinforces market inefficiencies as rural migrants settle for lower-paying jobs outside the formal sector (Michael, 1999).

## **2.5. Legal versus Illegal Migration**

Over the past five years, reports of young Ethiopian men and women found dead inside overcrowded containers loaded onto large trucks have been a tragic and familiar sight in both local and continental media. The victims in these horrific stories are often Eritreans and Somalis,

though sometimes entire truckloads consist of Ethiopians. They perish while attempting to cross borders into countries such as those in the Middle East and Southern Africa (ILO, 2010). Modern internal and external labor migration is a relatively new phenomenon with diverse dimensions in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia. The majority of African migrants are illegal migrants. In 2006, illegal migration generated between 5-7 billion dollars in profit, making it second only to narcotics and firearm trafficking. This was the case in Southern Wollo and Ethiopia at large. According to an ILO assessment conducted in 2010, 76.7% of workers in the Middle East are Ethiopian, both legally and illegally (ILO, 2010).

The Ethiopian government defines lawful external migration as a process facilitated by state employment services and private employment agencies registered with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), which adhere to governmental norms and regulations. In contrast, illegal migration abroad is facilitated by private job agencies or traffickers. In 2005, MOLSA granted working licenses to 24 lawfully established private employment firms. Between 2004 and 2006, 57,084 Ethiopian workers legally migrated to the Middle East, with women accounting for 98.6% of this group (Fernandez B., 2009). However, it remains difficult to determine the total number of Ethiopian work migrants during this period since many women organized their migration illegally. MOLSA only recorded those who used state employment services and legitimate employment agencies (Kebede E., 2002). According to the South Wollo Labor and Social Affairs Bureau, by 2012, police had apprehended and returned 2,355 illegal migrants to their families. Additionally, 40 unlawful agents were charged with endangering migrants. MOLSA issues work permits to foreigners and regulates foreign employment services for Ethiopians, while the Main Immigration Department is responsible for issuing residence and stay permits. The Private Employment Agency Proclamation mandates that all Ethiopians seeking to work abroad must do so through a private employment agency (Fernandez, 2009).

This proclamation outlines requirements regarding the agency license, lawful conduct, prohibitions on charging job seekers fees, deposit protections for migrant workers, reporting obligations on worker conditions abroad, and punitive sanctions. The proclamation regulating travel documents, visas, and the registration of foreigners in Ethiopia also includes a provision requiring a valid international health certificate for migrant workers before entering or exiting the country. However, the East African Migration Route Initiative identified three key barriers to

effective migration management in Ethiopia: insufficient financial resources, disparities in human resources between central and regional levels due to inadequate transport and communication infrastructure, and limited regional and bilateral cooperation on migration. According to the IOM Special Liaison Mission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's migration dynamics are shaped by its geopolitical and socioeconomic conditions, leading to migration into, out of, and within the country. Many Ethiopians seeking a better life are deceived by traffickers' promises of lucrative work and ultimately find themselves stranded in transit or destination countries. Thousands of undocumented Ethiopian migrants leave their villages in search of better opportunities abroad, particularly in South Africa, often unaware of the risks of illegal migration (IOM, 2011).

Migrants, especially women, frequently face challenges even before leaving their home countries, as unethical practices by illegal brokers and private employment agencies exploit them. Migrant workers are often taken advantage of due to a lack of accurate information about living and working conditions in receiving countries. In Ethiopia, Article 12(2) b of the Private Employment Agency Proclamation mandates that agents must provide workers with proper orientation regarding their work and the country of employment before signing the employment contract. However, many returning migrants have reported that agencies fail to disclose the true working conditions for fear of losing business, instead painting an idealized picture that encourages workers to migrate (ILO, 2010).

Despite the existence of authorized commercial employment agencies, migrants often opt for illegal routes due to the faster services provided by brokers. Migrants also claim that the hiring process through legal agencies is slow. The issue with illegal migration is that workers are required to pay substantial fees, which many cannot afford, forcing them into debt (Fernandez B., 2009). A recent IOM report, *Pursuit of the Southern Dream*, found that 17,000–20,000 male illegal migrants are trafficked from the Horn of Africa and East Africa each year. Some never reach their intended destination. Additionally, the report estimated that smuggling Ethiopians and Somalis to the Republic of South Africa generates between USD 34 million and USD 40 million annually for the criminal networks involved, excluding other fees paid along the journey. According to Tanzania's Ministry of Home Affairs, approximately 1,640 irregular migrants from the Horn of Africa were intercepted in 2009, including 1,130 Ethiopians and 514 Somalis, as

they attempted to cross the border. A performance illustrating the dangers and risks of irregular migration toured rural communities in Ethiopia's Amhara Region, spanning from eastern to southwestern Ethiopia, as part of the *World Migration Report 2010*. Every year, thousands of young people from drought-prone areas embark on perilous journeys across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen and beyond. Others are trafficked through Kenya and Tanzania en route to South Africa, Europe, and increasingly, South and Central America (IOM SLM/Addis Ababa). This program is part of a larger regional project supported by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which is being implemented in Kenya, Somaliland, Puntland, Yemen, and Ethiopia (IOM, 2003).

## 2.6. Consequences of Illegal Migration

Migration has far-reaching effects on both sending and receiving regions, influencing aspects such as population size, social roles, family and kinship structures, economic productivity, financial inequality, access to social services, values, and national image. The impact of migration on the place of origin and destination is significant, though often not fully understood. Research by Essang and MabaWonku, as cited by Beyene, highlights that migrant families who are not dependent on agriculture tend to benefit more than non-migrant families because their children have not migrated (Beyene, 2011).

Migration poses challenges, particularly when migrants return home with savings and material possessions, making it difficult to quantify the overall consequences. Nonetheless, migration has a direct impact on both saving and wealth in sending and receiving countries. Besides influencing wealth accumulation, migration can affect an area's productivity. Migrants may bring technical expertise with them, which can improve during their absence and enhance productivity upon their return. Advances in communication and transportation technology have made it easier for migrants to stay connected with their communities of origin, strengthening resource-sharing practices such as remittances.

Migration also affects the demographic processes linking rural and urban areas, often leading to urban growth. This growth can raise concerns, including environmental strain and the migrants' social adaptation. Urbanization is associated with various policies addressing economic,

environmental, and demographic issues. Rapid urban growth can lead to land sprawl and industrial expansion, potentially compromising air and water quality, and growing cities are often seen as sources of environmental contamination (Beyene, 2011).

### 2.6.1. Household and country-level effects

Migration is a common household strategy in developing nations, aiming to improve opportunities for both migrants and their extended families while addressing challenges related to human mobility and the expansion of extended family networks. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has noted that most households experience positive outcomes, particularly in terms of higher income generation and increased technical expertise. Once a migrant is established, families often expect financial remittances in return for supporting the migration process. These remittances help fund critical investments and meet urgent consumption needs (ILO, 2010).

Despite the financial benefits, migration remains a challenging decision, often carrying significant emotional consequences for both the migrant and those left behind. The willingness of many parents, spouses, and partners to endure these hardships highlights the perceived rewards. Financial remittances substantially improve the quality of life for millions of people in developing nations such as Ethiopia. Numerous empirical studies have shown the positive effects of remittances on living conditions, food security, nutrition, and household welfare in migrants' countries of origin. Migration also influences social, class, and ethnic hierarchies, particularly when lower-status groups gain access to higher income sources. However, Ethiopia's reputation has been impacted by the negative consequences of illegal migration, including discrimination and fatalities (EB, 2002)

The gender aspect of migration is crucial, especially for women from regions like Wollo in northern Ethiopia, where sociocultural factors such as early marriage, divorce, spousal death, lack of access to land, low educational attainment, and environmental factors like drought drive migration. Religious pilgrimages, such as the Hajji and Umrah, also influence migration. The strategies migrants adopt are often shaped by the experiences of returnees or visitors from urban areas, as well as ongoing contact with family and friends in rural communities (Beyene, 2011).

## 2.6.2 Positive consequence of illegal migration

Both legal and illegal migration benefit the nation's domestic workers, their families, and the broader economy. One of the most visible outcomes of migration is the flow of remittances. While it is difficult to obtain precise data on the total amount remitted by Ethiopian migrants due to the use of both official and unofficial channels, the National Bank of Ethiopia reported that in 2007–2008, private official remittances totaled 804 million dollars. Most of this money was sent to support families back home. These remittances, often rooted in social networks, play a critical role in alleviating severe poverty in developing countries. In particular, women migrants act as change agents through their contributions. Remittances have a positive economic impact on sending countries, but the specific effects on Ethiopia's economy are not well understood, despite a wealth of global literature. The Global Commission on International Migration (ILO, 2008) emphasized that international migration should be a key element in national, regional, and global development strategies for developing countries. However, some scholars argue that remittances do not have a lasting positive effect on human development. While remittances contribute significantly to the GDP of receiving nations, some studies indicate that they are primarily spent on consumer goods, and small businesses financed by remittances often fail due to a lack of sustainable funding or technical assistance (ILO, 2003).

Migration can foster economic independence, self-confidence, and even new family dynamics, such as fathers taking on caregiving roles. However, as various scholars have noted, women only truly benefit from international migration if they are registered migrants and not live-in domestic workers. Since a large portion of Ethiopian domestic workers are live-in employees and many are undocumented, it is challenging to conclude that these women are genuinely gaining power or autonomy through their roles abroad (Andrejasevic, 2004).

## 2.7. Theoretical Review

### 2.7.1 The human capital (Neo-Classical) theory

According to the human capital hypothesis, migration occurs when individuals attempt to move to a new location to optimize their lifetime income. They conduct a cost-benefit analysis and, if the projected discounted net-benefit from migration is positive, they decide to migrate. Specifically, they weigh the costs associated with relocation against the net advantage of higher

income at the destination. Hence, migration is seen as an investment that will yield long-term benefits by increasing earnings (Sjaastad, 1962; Lee, 1966). This idea is further developed by the Harris-Todaro model (Todaro et al., 1970), which posits that migration is largely driven by income disparities between urban and rural areas. Differences in personal characteristics lead to variations in the expected benefits and costs of migration, making the process more advantageous for some than others. Individuals who are younger, better educated, unmarried, and male are generally considered more likely to migrate, as they are believed to benefit the most and face lower costs of relocation (Navratil et al., 1970).

Despite its widespread use, the human capital concept has significant shortcomings. It implicitly assumes that certain markets, especially credit and insurance markets, function perfectly, and it overlooks other important factors influencing migration beyond wage differences. Additionally, it presumes that migration decisions are made at the individual level, with no consideration of the family's role in the process.

## **2.8. Conceptual framework of the Study**

Cross- border illegal migration is driving by different socio-economic and other factors. Some of the most common independent variables that enhance youth to migrate abroad are peer pressure, illegal agents' pressure, and related to family problems. There is also an economic related cause that enforce young boys move through illegal way of migration, such as unemployment, landlessness, poverty and needs of better payment.

Those economic and non-economic causes are identified as the main driving forces and escalate illegal way of migration in the study area in particular and nationwide in general. This conceptual framework is prepared from the literature and collected data to analyze causes and consequences of cross- border illegal migration in the study area

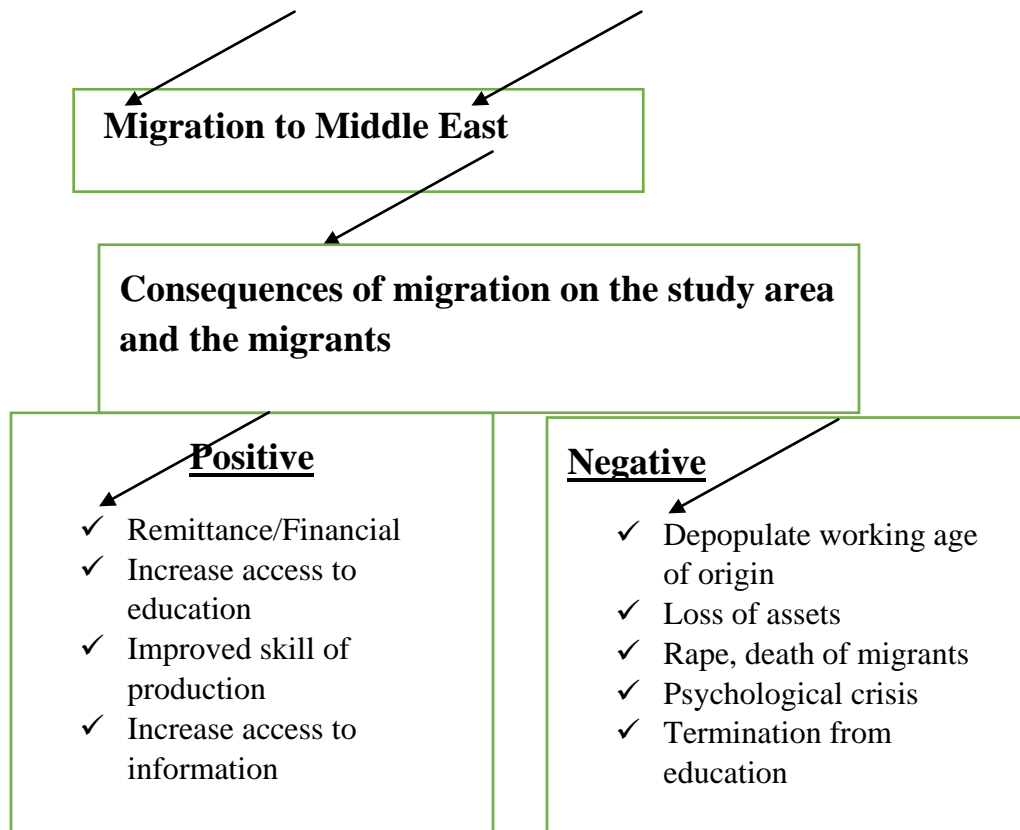
**Causes of illegal migration**  
**(dependent variable)**

**Economic causes**

- ✓ Unemployment
- ✓ Landlessness
- ✓ Poverty
- ✓ Desire to buy materials

**Non- economic causes**

- ✓ Peer pressure
- ✓ Illegal agents' pressure
- ✓ Unhappy marriage



Source: own prepared

Figure2. 1: The conceptual frame work for analysis of illegal migration

## CHAPTER THREE

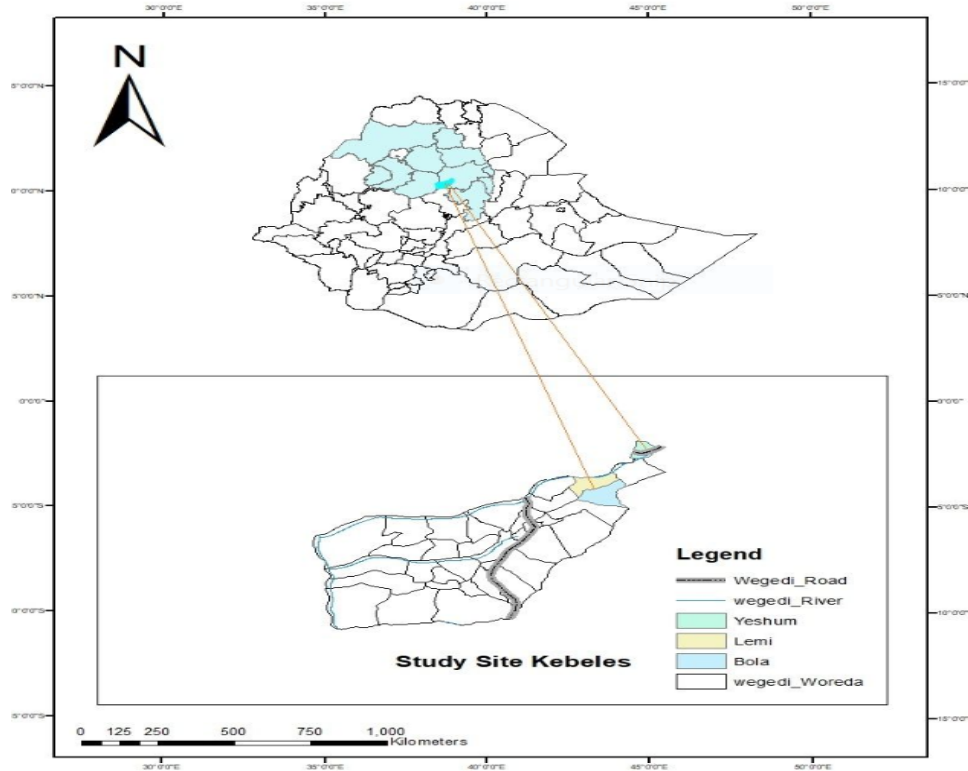
### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Description of the Study Area

This section aims to provide a brief overview of the study area, including its geographic location, population, sociocultural background, economic context, and historical background of the woreda.

##### 3.1.1. Geographical location

Wogide is located north central Ethiopia in South wolloZone, Amhara regional state. Its absolute location lies in  $10^{\circ}15'00''\text{N}$ - $10^{\circ}45'\text{N}$  latitude &  $38^{\circ}30'\text{E}$ - $39^{\circ}0'00''\text{E}$  longitude. The district is found east of Borena *Woreda*, North of Shebelberta, West of Kelala and south of legambo woreda and 583kms far from the capital city, Addis Ababa and about 182kms from Dessie Town. The area high number of migrants move through eastern route by crossing Afar, Djibouti to Yemen (WWA, 2012).



Source ArcGIS software (Arc map, 2010)

*Figure 3. 1: map of the study area*

### 3.1.2. Topography and climate

Currently, the woreda comprises 34 kebeles and covers an area of 112,188 hectares, with altitudes ranging from 468 to 2,700 meters above sea level. Its topographic features include mountains (12%), rugged lands and hills (27%), plains (50%), and valleys (11%). The average temperature is 22°C (WWA, 2012). According to the Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development report, crop production is highly dependent on rainfall, with the main rainy season occurring during kremt (July-September). The average annual rainfall ranges from 1,100 to 1,880 mm. The soil types include sandy, clay, and loam, with moderate fertility. The study area is predominantly characterized by the woinadega agro-climatic zone, which makes up 50% of the region, while qolla comprises 34%, berha 15.2%, and dega 0.8% of the climate types.

### 3.1.3. Population

According to the Woreda Vital Registration Office report for 2012, the total population of Wogide Woreda was approximately 157,445. This includes 79,128 males and 78,317 females. Of this population, 13,879 are urban dwellers (comprising 3,978 males and 3,901 females), while 143,566 are rural dwellers (including 72,151 males and 71,415 females). The population density is relatively high, averaging 127 people per square kilometer.

The demographic structure is notably youthful, with 53% of the population classified as young, 40.5% as adults, and 6.5% as elderly. The population is growing rapidly, with an annual growth rate of 2.6%. However, this increase is not proportional to the available resources, such as cultivated land, water, and vegetation. Consequently, the shortage of arable land has led to its fragmentation. The imbalance between population growth and economic resources has resulted in increased landlessness among the youth, driving many to seek opportunities abroad (Agricultural Office of Wogide Woreda Administration, 2012).

### 3.1.4. Socio-economic activity

It is well known that the majority of Ethiopian population resides in rural area engaged in agricultural activities. The number of people involved in agriculture and the requirements of poverty alleviation never that we take close at this sector.

Accordingly, in wogideworeda almost all the population depends on agriculture which accounts around 91.2% of the total population. According to the *Woreda* Agriculture and Rural Development report, Crop production is highly dependent on rainfall and the main rainy season is in *kremt* (July-September). The main food crops grown are *teff*, sorghum, chickpea (*shibra*) bean and pea, wheat, barley, maize, vetch are the main cereals and other pulses. Land preparation is done by oxen plough. The plowing is made by men. While both men and women participate in weeding and harvesting. Important inputs in this woreda are artificial fertilizer, home-produced compost as fertilizer and improved cereal seed from households.

The rest 8.8% of the population is engaged in non-farming activities, such service sector and daily labor

### **3.1.5. Religion and ethnicity**

In Wogideworeda, there is a relatively small ethnic and religious diversity, and the community lives in a peaceful manner. The dominant ethnic groups in this woreda are approximately 92% Amhara and 8% Oromo. The two most prevalent and dominant religions in the area are Islam and Christianity. Among the total population, about 65% are followers of Islam, 30% are Christians, and the remaining 5% adhere to other religions, according to the Vital Registration Office of Wogideworeda.

## **3.2. Research Methods**

### **3.2.1. Research design**

A research design is a comprehensive plan for gathering data. For this study, the researcher employed a cross-sectional research strategy, which provides strong control over the measurement procedure. A cross-sectional study involves collecting data from a specific area at a particular point in time, typically from local communities. This approach enhances the precision of sampling procedures. Researchers often take samples from various groups, regions, or individuals and compare these subgroups to the overall population. Such studies allow for the assessment and conclusion of data by anyone, and they are particularly useful for secondary data analysis. Cross-sectional research design also facilitates a descriptive analysis by offering insights into various results and exposures. Although cross-sectional studies do not investigate the reasons behind specific events within a population group, they lay the groundwork for future studies that may explore these issues further (Kothari, 2004; Bhattacharjee, 2012).

### **3.2.2. Research Approach**

The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative research approaches to gather respondents' ideas, opinions, and knowledge regarding the causes, consequences, and socio-economic impacts of cross-border illegal migration in Wogide Woreda and its surrounding Kebeles. The quantitative research method was employed to collect and analyze numerical data, identify patterns, make predictions, test causal relationships, and generalize results to the broader population. Conversely, the qualitative research method was used to obtain non-numeric data. By

integrating both approaches, the researcher was able to comprehensively analyze both numeric and non-numeric data (Kothari, 2004; Bhattacharjee, 2012).

### **3.2.3. Data type and sources**

The investigator utilized both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data were gathered through questionnaires, focus group discussions, and interviews. Secondary data were obtained from the woreda vital registration office, published and unpublished documents, research reports, government policy documents, NGO reports, and websites.

### **3.2.4. Sampling techniques and selection procedures**

#### **3.2.4.1. Sampling techniques**

For this study, three Kebeles were selected using purposive sampling, targeting those significantly affected by human migration to ensure they represent the broader population of the Wogide woreda (Wogide Woreda Administration Office, 2012.). A total of 179 household respondents were chosen using a simple random sampling technique, giving each individual in the population an equal chance of being selected. Additionally, migrants, the woreda vital registration office, and various woreda sectors participated as key informants, and discussions were held with returnees using purposive sampling. In general, simple random sampling was employed for selecting household respondents, while purposive sampling was used to choose key informants.

#### **3.2.4.2. Sample size selection procedures**

The research provides a representative sample from three Kebeles within Wogide woreda, which consists of 34 Kebeles in total. Specifically, Yeshum has a population of 4,468 (2,048 males and 2,420 females), Bola has 5,216 individuals (2,590 males and 2,626 females), and Lemi has 5,825 people (2,943 males and 2,882 females). The combined population of the three selected Kebeles is 15,509. These Kebeles have a total of 3,820 household heads, the majority of which have been impacted by migration, while others are concerned about potential future migration (WWA, 2012). The sample size for this study was determined using the Kothari formula (2004). This formula is different from the Yamani formula because it uses more sample size.

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pqN}{e^2(N-1) + Z^2 pq} \text{ (Kothari, 2004)}$$

Where N=the size of population (household size)

n=sample size

e=0.02 acceptable error

z=1.96 is the score for confidence level at 95%

p=0.02 sample proportion

q=1-p (0.98)

$$\frac{(1.96)^2 * 0.02 * 0.98 * 3820}{(0.02)^2 (3820-1) + (1.96)^2 * 0.02 * 0.98}$$

$$\frac{287.6282752}{1.60289536} = 179$$

$$287.6282752$$

1.60289536 = 179 THEN  $n_i = n (N_i/N)$  sample proportion for each kebele

Where n= sample size, i = number of strata, N= total household head

N1(yeshum )=1020, N2(Bola)= 1116, N3(Lemi)=1684=3820, n = 179 N=3820

Table 3.1: total house hold and Sample Households by Kebele and Agro-ecological Zone

Rural kebeles	Agro-ecological zones	Total Household Heads			Sample Household Heads		
		M	F	T	M	F	T
Yeshum	dega	892	128	1020	42	6	48
Bola	WoinaDega	912	204	1116	45	7	52
Lemi	Woina dega	1428	256	1684	70	9	79
Total		3232	588	3820	159	28	179

Source: wogide woreda administration office (2012) E.C

A total of 179 sample households were selected from the household heads of the target population for the survey. This number was chosen to represent the population of the selected kebeles in the study area. The selected kebeles included Yeshum, Bola, and Lemi. The sample size proportion was determined using the specified formula.

### 3.2.5. Methods of Data Collection Instruments

Data were collected using various tools in the three selected kebeles of Wogide Woreda—Yeshum, Bola, and Lemi—located in the South Wollo Zone of the Amhara Regional State.

#### 3.2.5.1 Primary Data Sources

Primary data sources included sample respondents, key informants, and participants in focus group discussions. The data collection instruments used were questionnaires, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions.

#### **Questionnaire**

The primary data collection instrument was a guided structured questionnaire with carefully constructed questions. The questionnaire was designed based on field observations and literature reviews and was delivered to randomly select household heads. Given that many farmers were unable to read and understand English, the questionnaire was translated into Amharic to facilitate data collection. Enumerators, who were high school graduates familiar with the local language and culture, were recruited and trained by the researcher. They received one-day training on the questionnaire content, ethical considerations, and data collection techniques. Enumerators were instructed to explain the purpose of the survey to respondents before beginning the interviews. The researcher continuously supervised the data collection process to ensure data quality. Each household interview took, on average, one hour.

#### **Key Informant Interview**

Semi-structured interview questions were developed for key informants, including relevant officers and returnees from illegal migration. Key informants were purposefully selected based

on their roles, such as vital event officers and kebele officers. Interviews with key informants typically lasted between 30 to 45 minutes.

### **Focus Group Discussion**

Data for focus group discussions were gathered from purposefully selected returnees in the households. Two focus group discussions were held with a total of eight returnees, each lasting approximately one and a half hours. These discussions involved victims affected by cross-border illegal migration. The focus group discussions utilized a semi-structured checklist with open-ended questions to encourage debate and cover various issues, including demographic, psychological, and socio-economic characteristics, travel systems, agent payments, and other related topics.



Source: own filed survey, 2022

Figure 3. 2: focus group discussion with returnees

#### *3.2.5.2 Secondary Data Sources*

The researcher utilized secondary data from a variety of published and unpublished sources, including books, journals, research reports, magazines, and official statistics and reports. This secondary data encompasses information on the causes and consequences of illegal cross-border migration, serving as supplementary material to compare and contrast with results obtained from primary data sources.

### **3.3. Data analysis and Presentation**

This study employed both quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques. Qualitative data analysis involves examining, explaining, understanding, and summarizing text data to describe events. After collecting data from key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and personal observations, the data were analyzed textually to enhance the findings from the questionnaire survey.

Quantitative data analysis involves tabulating, interpreting, and summarizing numerical data to describe or generalize about a population based on sample data. Once data collection was complete, the data were coded, edited, and entered into the statistical software SPSS Version 21 (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). Analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, figures, and tables.

### **3.4. Ethical consideration**

The effectiveness and credibility of research depend significantly on adherence to ethical standards. Research ethics encompass the responsibilities and conduct of the researcher to protect participants involved in the study. Ethical considerations were applied throughout the research process. Participants were informed that their data would be used solely for academic purposes. Special care was taken to maintain data confidentiality and to acknowledge all sources of information used in this study.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1. Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

##### 4.1.1. Gender status of the respondents

Migration is sex selective, basically young boys are largely affected by cross- border illegal migration. In the study area high number of young Male migrate abroad when compared to Female youth.

Table 4. 1: Gender status of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	151	84.4
Female	28	15.6
Total	179	100

Source: own survey

The above table shows that 84.4% of the household respondents are male while 15.6% are females. This data indicates that both male and females are participated

##### 4.1.2. Age group of respondents

As the same as sex, migration is also age selective that predominately young male and females are strongly influenced by cross- border illegal migration

Table 4. 2: age group of respondents

Age groups	Frequency	Percent
15-20	1	0.6
21-25	11	6.7
26-30	33	18.4
31-45	57	31.8
46-65	55	30.7
+65	22	12.3
Total	179	100

Source: own survey

the above table indicates that (32)% of the respondents are between the age of 31-45),30.7% between the age of (46-65),18.4% between the age of (26-30),12.3% between the age above 65 and only 0.6% between the age of (15-24). This data shows the researcher give chances for different age groups to get relevant information for the study.

#### 4.1.3. Marital status of the respondents

For this study the researcher collected data from different social background of the selected households. This is important to get reliable information about family related problems regarding with migration and other issues.

Table 4. 3: marital status of respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Single	12	6.7
Married	153	85.5
Divorced	9	5
Widowed	5	2.8

Source: own survey

The above table shows that 153(85.5%) of the household respondents are married and the rest 12(6.7), 9(5%) and 5(2.8%) of respondents are single, divorce, and widowed. This implies that the majority of household respondents are household heads and they are heavy responsible to fulfill the basic needs of their families. In addition to other difficulties, illegal migration aggravates the socio- economic conditions of the communities.

#### 4.1.4. Family size of the respondents

Moving is a common household strategy in developing nations aimed at improving opportunities for both the movers and their extended families while addressing challenges such as human mobility and the expansion of family networks. According to the ILO, most households experience positive effects from this movement, including increased income and enhanced technical skills. Once migrants are well-established, their families can often anticipate receiving financial remittances as compensation for supporting the migration. These transfers can then be used to fund significant investments and meet urgent consumption needs (ILO, 2010). Despite these financial benefits, relocating is always a difficult decision with substantial emotional repercussions for both the migrants and those left behind. The number of parents, spouses, and partners willing to endure these hardships indicates the significant rewards they perceive in such endeavors

Table 4. 4: family size of the respondents

Family size	Frequency	Percent
Single	18	10.1
2-3	75	41.9
4-6	69	38.5
7-8	17	9.5
Total	179	100

Source: own survey

The table above indicates 42% of the respondents have (2-3), 38.5% of the respondents have (4-6), 10% of the respondents are single and 9.5% of the respondents have (7-8) family sizes. This data indicates that migration is more or less related to family size of the community

#### 4.1.5. Educational level of the respondents

The researcher collected data from different educational background of the society for the purpose of obtain balanced and varied information.

Table4. 5: educational level of respondents

Educational level	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	98	54.7
1-4	41	22.9
5-8	23	12.8
9-12	16	8.9
diploma/degree	1	0.7
Total	179	100

Source: own survey

above shows that 98% of the respondents are illiterate and the rest 41%,23%, 16% and only 1% of the respondents are one-four, five-eight, nine-twelve, and diploma educational level

respectively. This indicates that the majority of the population is illiterate societies, but some groups of the population have basic educational level. Low level educational background of the society is easily influenced by illegal agents' pressure.

#### 4.1.6. Job status of the respondents

Like other parts of the country the economic sectors of the selected households are agriculture and most of the communities are engaged in farming activities.

Table4. 6: job status of the respondents

Job status	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	8	4.5
Farmer	134	74.9
self employed	13	7.3
house wife	24	13.4
Total	179	100

Source: own survey

Based on the above table 134(75%) Of the respondents are farmers, 24 (13%) of the respondents are house wife, 13 (7.3%) of the respondents are self-employed which means and 8(4.5%) of the respondents are unemployed. this indicates that the primary economic activities of the communities are farming.

#### 4.1.7. Income level of the respondents

On this study the researcher collected data about the economic-status of the selected households that are relevant to the studies that easily understand whether economic status related or not to cross-border illegal migration

Table4. 7: income level of the respondents

Income level	Frequency	Percent
200-500/month	136	76
501-1000/month	33	18.4
no income	10	5.6
Total	179	100

Source: own survey

Even though the households are not volunteer to tell about income they generate per year or mouths, but the researcher obtain approximate income of the respondents through systematic ways. This table shows that more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  (76) of the respondents have (200-500 birr/month), 18.4% of the respondents have (501-1000 birr/month) and 5.6% of the respondents are totally no income /months. The data indicates high numbers of selected households are low economic-status. Those low income level households are directly related to migration. Due to households send their children to abroad for the purpose of improved living standards and solve financial problems

#### 4.1.8. Religious –status of the respondents

The researcher collected data from the two religious groups of population (Muslim and orthodox Christianity) to obtained balanced information

Table4. 8: Religious-status of the respondents

Religious-status	Frequency	Percent
Orthodox	10	5.6
Muslim	169	94.4
Total	179	100

Sourceown survey

The above table indicates 169(94.4%) of the respondents are Islamic believer and 10(5.6%) of the respondents are belief orthodox religion. This indicates that from the selected households, large number of the population belief Islamic religion and this is also related to cross-border migration on the study area through HAJJI and Umrah program and causes for illegal way of migration. Because the Hajji program only participate adults age above 40 years

#### 4.1.9. Respondents lived in the area

For this study the researcher collected data from selected households, they live in the area at least more than 10 years. This is important to get exact information for the study.

Table 4. 9: respondents lived in the area

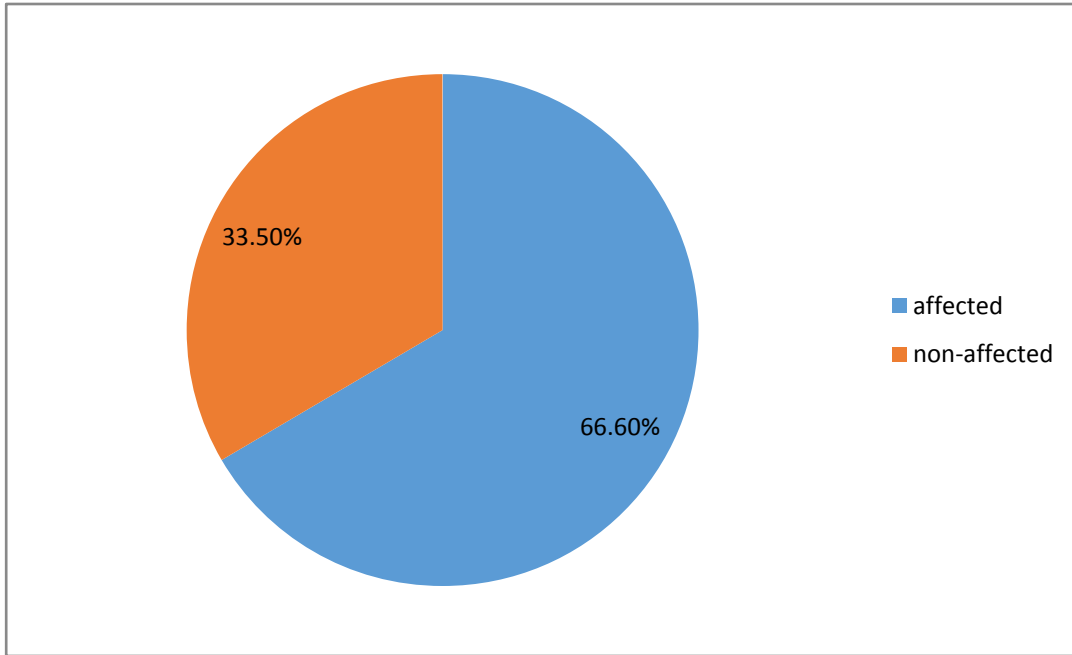
Lived in the area	Frequency	Percent
since birth	167	93.3
for the last 20 years	7	3.9
for the last 10 years	5	2.8
Total	179	100

Source: own survey

The above table shows out of 167((93.3%) of the respondents are lived in the area from birth to now. but only 7 (3.9 %) and 5(2.8%) of the respondents lived in the area after 20 years and 10 years respectively. This indicates the researcher could collect data from the original community

#### 4.1.10. Families affected and non –affected by cross-border illegal migration

For this study the researcher collected data through survey questionnaires, the majority of household respondents are affected by cross-border illegal migration.



Source: own survey

Figure4- 1: Families are affected and non –affected by cross-border illegal migration

The above figure shows that out of 179 total household respondents, 63.5(119) respondents (households) say yes, one or more family members are affected by illegal migration and 33.5% (60) respondents are not affected by illegal migration. This implies that cross-border illegal migration is the serious problem in the study area

#### 4.1.11. Age group affected by illegal migration

Migration is more associated with the age structure of the given population, especially adult males and females are strongly affected by cross-border illegal migration

Table4. 10: age groups strongly affected by migration

Age groups	Frequency	Percent
15-24	75	63
25-35	44	37
36-45	0	0
≥ 46	0	0
Total	119	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows 75 (63%) of the respondents response adult youth(15-24) are highly affected by cross-border illegal migration and also the other 37 % of the respondents response enough matured adults(25-35) age groups are strongly affected. This indicates that cross-border illegal migration strongly influence the educational system and the economic activity of the study area by losing economically active power.

#### 4.1.12. Major destination country

From the study area most migrants are travelled to middle-east, especially Saudi Arabia and UAE are the main destination of the migrants.

Table 4. 11destination countries

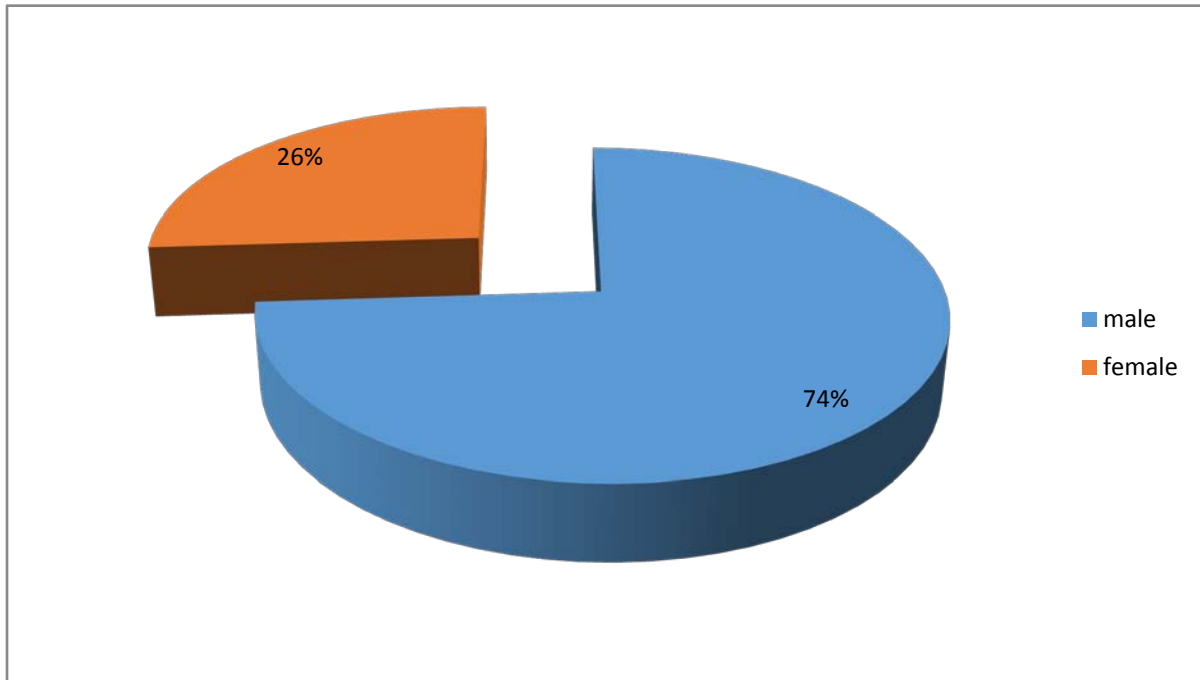
Destination country	Frequency	Percent
Saudi Arabia	84	70.6
UAE	35	29.4
Total	119	100

Source: own survey

The above table shows that 84 (70.6%)of the respondent response the major destination of migrants are Saudi Arabia and the other 35(29.4%) of the respondents response migrants arrived at UAE rather than the other middle east country ,like Kuwait and Qatar.

#### 4.1.13. Sex strongly affected by illegal migration

On the study area migration affected the community without discrimination of sex. Especially, males are highly affected by cross-border illegal migration because the economic burdens more influence males.



Source own survey

*Figure 4- 2: sex affected by illegal migration*

Figure above indicates that 88 (74%) Of the respondents said that male youths are strongly affected by illegal migration and female adults (26%) are also affected by this cross-border illegal migration. This implies that illegal migration is sex selective, which seriously affected male sexes in the study area

#### 4.1.14. Ways of migration

Migrants moved from their country towards abroad through two ways. These are legal and illegal. On the study area most migrants move through illegal way

Table4. 12: ways of migration

Ways of migration	Frequency	Percent
Legal	25	21
Illegal	94	79
Total	119	100

Source: own survey

The above table shows 94 (79 %) of the respondents response migrants moved through illegal way but only 25(21 %) of the respondents response migrants travelled through legal system. This indicates that high number of migrants prefer illegal way of migration due to pushed by brokers (illegal agents), peer pressures and complex bureaucracy of legal system

#### 4.2. Migration to Middle - East countries

Ethiopia is positioned along the East African Migration Route, which extends from the Horn of Africa to the Mediterranean Sea through Sudan, Chad, and Libya. Another significant route traverses the Gulf of Aden, connecting Ethiopia to Yemen via Somalia (ICMPD, 2008). This second route has led to a notable flow of international migrants from Ethiopia, both legal and illegal, to Gulf and Middle Eastern countries. Although exact figures are unclear due to the infrequent migration of women, it is estimated that up to 500,000 women migrate to these regions each year.

In the past decade, Ethiopian women have increasingly migrated to the Middle East for domestic labor, making this the primary migratory route from Ethiopia. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 72% of Ethiopian migrants have used employment agencies, whether legitimate or not. Fransen and Kuschminder (2009) report that 60% of these migrants employed illegal agents, 20% used legal agents, and 20% were uncertain about their agent's legitimacy. Migrants, including children, men, and young women, primarily travel to Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Bahrain, Djibouti, and the United Arab Emirates. Within Africa, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, and Egypt are key transit countries,

while Yemen is a crucial transit point for those heading to Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates.

*Table4. 13: major destination of migrants*

Destination country	Travel cost	Frequency	Percent
Saudi Arabia	50,000-100,000	12	14.3
	100,000-200,000	24	28.6
	200,000-300,000	36	42.8
	300,000-450,000	12	14.3
	Total	84	100%
UAE	15,000-25,000	9	25.7
	26,000-50,000	16	45.7
	51,000-80,000	6	17.2
	81,000-150,000	4	11.4
	Total	35	100%

Source: own survey

The above table shows that most of migrants from the study area moved towards middle- east countries. Such as Saudi Arabia, to reach the destination country, they paid different amount of Ethiopian birr(from15,000-350,000). This is confirmed by victims (returnees) through focus group discussion and also the key informants are response most of migrants from the study area are travelled through illegal way of migration by paid large amount of money for illegal agents (brokers). When the researcher asked the key informants and returnees why not doing business in the local area rather than paid this large finance for brokers. Unfortunately the response is they

have not gained this money before they move. The main source of this money is by selling property .like land, cow, ox and their house to save life.

#### 4.2.1 Causes of migration

Exactly, the causes of illegal migration are indeed complex and multifaceted. Push and pull factors often intersect, creating a nuanced picture of why individuals and communities might migrate illegally.

**Push factors** are those that drive people away from their place of origin. These can include:

- **Political instability:** Conflict, persecution, or lack of political freedom can drive people to seek safety elsewhere.
- **Economic hardship:** Lack of job opportunities, low wages, or extreme poverty can push individuals to find better economic conditions.
- **Environmental degradation:** Natural disasters or deteriorating environmental conditions can force people to leave their homes in search of safer living conditions.

**Pull factors** are those that attract people to a new location. These can include:

- **Economic opportunities:** The prospect of higher wages, better job prospects, or improved living standards can attract migrants.
- **Political stability:** A stable and safe environment can be a strong pull factor for those fleeing instability.
- **Social networks:** Connections with family, friends, or communities in the destination can influence migration decisions.

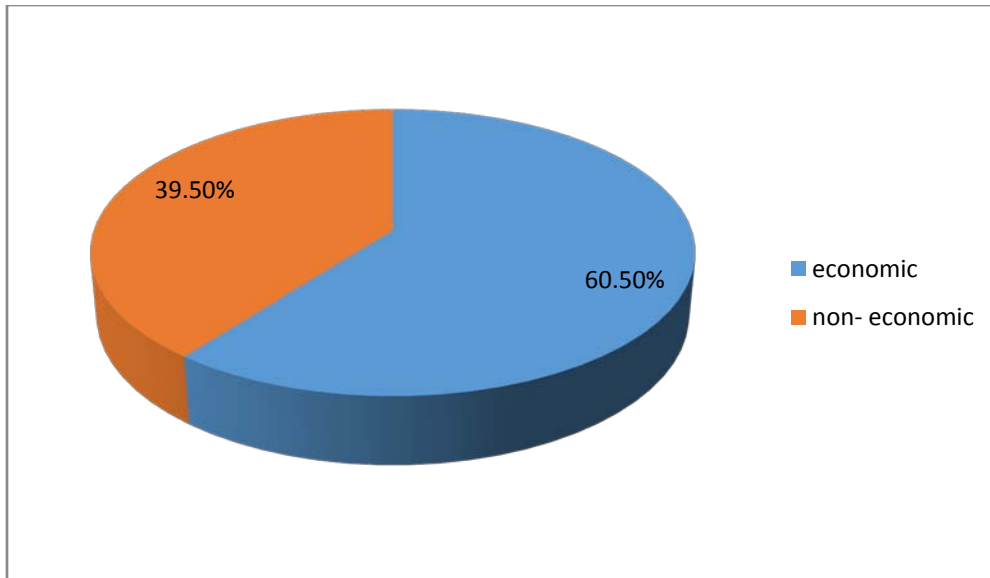
Additionally, individual psychological motivations, such as the desire for personal or professional growth, can play a role in the decision to migrate. Understanding the interplay between these factors can help in developing more effective policies and interventions to address illegal migration.

*Table4. 14: causes of illegal migration*

Causes of illegal migration	Frequency	Percent
Unemployment	44	25.3
Landlessness	34	19.5
Poverty	37	21.3
illegal agents	48	27.6
peer pressure	11	6.3
Total	174	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows the researcher collected data from selected households. Out of the total (179), respondents, (174) households have good understanding about the causes of illegal migration but only 5 of respondents have not hints about the causes. So the table indicates the major causes of illegal migrations are illegal agents (27.6%), unemployment 25.3%, poverty 21.3%, landlessness 19.5% and peer pressure 6.3% .In addition to the above table the researcher collected data from key informants and focus group discussions. The main causes of cross-border illegal migration are broadly grouped in two to: these are push and pull factors (independent variables). According to key informants and confirmed by the returnees, push factors means problems in the local area and pull factors means conditions that attract migrants outside the country (abroad).furthermore the above factors can also categorized in to two :these are economic and non-economic causes. From the selected household sample (172) respondents listed out the economic and non-economic causes, however (7) respondents have not information about whether economic and non-economic causes. Fig (4.3) shows the proportion of economic and non-economic reasons for cross-illegal migration in the study area.



Source: own survey

*Figure 4- 3: economic and non-economic causes for illegal migration*

Figure above shows that 104(60.5%) and 68(39.5%) respondents response the main reasons of migrants leave their home land due to economic and non-economic reasons respectively. This indicates migrants are not only leaved their country by economic reasons but also move by other non-economic problems.

#### **4.2.1.1 Economic causes of migration**

On the study all most all adult boys and girls are challenged by economic problems. Those conditions enforce adults migrate to abroad and also they think migration is the only alternative that solve their economic problem. For this study the searcher was selected 179 sample households, 104, respondents could be identified the major economic factors. However, the rest 68 respondents are identifying non-economic causes and 7 respondents have not information about the two causes.

Table 4. 15: economic causes of illegal migration

Economic causes	Frequency	Percent
Unemployment	41	39.42
Landlessness	24	23.07
Poverty	32	30.8
need of better job	7	6.7
Total	104	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows 41(39.42%) of the respondents response unemployment, 32(30.8%) of the respondents response poverty, 24(23.07%) of the respondents response landlessness and the rest 7 (6.7%) of the respondents response need of better job

This indicates there are high unemployment rate in the study area and high number of adults haven't farm land and also income poverty is very serious problem in the area.

This is also confirmed by key informants with in interview, one kebele officer said that there are more than one thousand (1000) unemployed persons, out of this 450 persons are returnees, they deported from Saudi Arabia in 2013 E.C. and also the other interviewee, land administration office said that, more than 100 landless adult youth in lemi kebele administrative unit, They are dependent on families.

#### **4.2.1.2 Non- economic causes of illegal migration**

Migrants are not only pushed by economic related problems, but also pushed by social and family related problems. From 172 aware households about economic and non-economic causes for illegal migration 68, respondents pointed out non-economic causes of migration

*Table 4. 16: non-economic causes of migration*

Non-economic causes	Frequency	Percent
illegal agents	32	47
peer pressure	21	31
Divorce	10	14.7
unhappy marriage	5	7.3
Total	68	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows 32(47%) of the respondents response illegal agents, 21 (31%) of respondents response peer pressure, 10 (14.7%) of respondents response divorce and the rest 5(7.3%) of respondents response unhappy marriage. this indicates cross-border illegal migration strongly challenged by brokers.

In addition to the above table the issue is confirmed by key informants and discussions with returnees (victims) and Bola kebele community police said that illegal agents are enhance illegal way of migration by giving missed information to the adult youth about the route and the destination. Brokers are only talk about the positive outcomes of migration by hidden challenges faced on migrants in the route and at the destination. The police also add, there are four illegal agent that captured by police in June 2014 E.C, but difficult to control totally. Because the society is not give information to police about who is broker.

The other responses the researcher obtained from returnees during focus group discussion witness that, illegal agents are taken the major role for illegal way of migration. Agents only talk about migration is the simple, short cut of development, simple way of success for the youth in the study area. other returnee in lemi kebele said that the main reason for his migration are family problem, he faced divorce from beloved wife and he made a decision to migrate and immediately contact with brokers, then moved to Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately he is deported after nine months.

## 4.2.2. Consequences of illegal migration

The effects of migration could take many different forms. Both the sending and receiving regions' population sizes are significantly impacted by migration. This includes the effect on the country's ideals and image as well as the population composition, economic productivity, income disparity, family and kinship structure, social roles, and access to social services. (Beyen M., 2011)

### 4.2.2.1 Positive consequence of illegal migration

Both legal and illegal migration benefits the nation's domestic workers, their families, and themselves in particular. It also advances the nation as a whole. One of the migration's most obvious repercussions is remittances

Table4. 17: positive consequences of illegal migration

Positive consequences of migration	Frequency	Percent
Remittance	89	75
increased access to education	18	15
improved skill of production	12	10
Total	119	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows 89 (75%) of the respondents response migrants benefited from migration is gained remittance, 18(15%) of respondents responses increase access to education, 12(10%) of respondents response migrants improved their skill of production. this indicates that more or less migrants and their families are benefited from migration by gained remittance (high exchange rate) that improved living standards. Migrants also gained good skills and access of education (religious, vocational and technology). In focus group discussion the returnees confirmed that some migrant friends, relatives and themselves could construct houses, bought ox, cow for families and do small business in the local area.

In addition to the above survey result and FGD, the key informants also witness that the lemi kebele municipal officer said that more than 70% of the new settlement site build by diasporas and the other interviewee said that he is benefited from migration, he has one mini shop in lemi kebele and he support himself and other two parents. The other returnee said, she is gained good religious education, like Quran and Hadis in Saudi Arabia that is essential to current way of life. Such as she wears jelbab, she pray Allah five times per day and she has good personality than before.

#### ***4.2.2.2 Negative consequences of cross-border illegal migration***

Recently, when prejudice and deaths happened, Ethiopia's reputation has been negatively impacted by illegal migration Richard (EB (2002)). The migrants are susceptible to several forms of exploitation because of the desire for inexpensive work in the Gulf States and the availability of labor in Ethiopia. Informants from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs claim that this fosters an environment that is conducive to the activities of traffickers, who are mostly middlemen in the countries of origin and destination who help with the unauthorized recruitment and departure of migrants. Abuse and exploitation of Ethiopians living in the Middle East have increased due to their increasing migration. While traveling or after arriving at their destination, a large number of Ethiopian women are being imprisoned, having their travel documents seized, and being subjected to rape and abuse. Male migrants are forced to work in low-skilled tasks including construction, rubbish collection, and camel and goat herding while they look for work (Anteneh, 2011)).

#### **4.3. Socio-economic impacts of cross-border illegal migration on the study area**

According to wogide Woreda administration office cross-border illegal migration is complicate the social and economic condition of the society.

Table 4. 18: socio-economic impacts of cross-border illegal migration

<b>Socio-economic impacts of migration</b>	Frequency	Percent
left aging people without supporter	11	9.3
a division in families	7	5.9
decrease the working age population	77	64.7
termination from school	23	19.3
Increase population pressure at destination	1	0.8
Total	119	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows 77(64.7%) of the respondents response cross-border illegal migration is loss economical active labor forces from their local area and 23(19.3%) of respondents response students terminate from school, 11 (9.3%) of respondents response left aging people without supporter and the rest 7(5.9%) and 1(0.8%) of respondents response family division and population pressure at destination respectively. This indicates that cross-border illegal migration resulted direct economic impacts on the society. They are lived with in absolute poverty and supported by safety net program and the other social crises are students terminate from school, those resulted enhanced illiteracy rate in the study area, in particular and in Ethiopia in general. In addition to survey result, the researcher collected data from key informants and returnees through interview and group discussion about socio-economic impacts of cross-border illegal migration with in the selected three kebeles and the surrounding area

In focus group discussion returnees confirmed that in addition to economic crises, they faced psychological and social problem, like hopelessness, aggressive behavior, depression. other returnee also said that now he feels bad by his decision migrate to Saudi Arabia and live only two years, but he return to Ethiopia his father is die and now he regret by his decision that left his aging father and mother without supporter

### 4.3.1. Impacts of cross-border illegal migration on crop production in the study area

Migration is directly affected the adult youth that are economically active labor forces. When the society loss those active forces that directly leads to decrease agricultural productivity in the study area in particular and in Ethiopia in general.

*Table4. 19: impacts of cross-border illegal migration on crop production in the study area*

Impacts of migration on crop production	Frequency	Percent
Decrease yield production	61	51.3
decrease soil conservation practice	10	8.4
use inadequate input (fertilizer)	33	27.7
loss soil fertility	15	12.6
Total	119	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows 51.3% of the respondents response migration decrease yield production in the area, 27.7% of the respondents response use inadequate input (the land tilling without adequate input(fertilizer )12.6%respondents response decrease soil conservation practice and the rest 8.4 %respondents responses are decrease soil conservation practice and loss soil fertility

### 4.3.2. Impact of cross-border illegal migration on migrants in the travelling route

Three main migratory pathways are typically used by migrants leaving and entering Ethiopia: eastward to the Middle East and Persian Gulf states, via the Red Sea or the Gulf of Aden; southward to South Africa; and northward across the Sahara, into Sudan and frequently to Europe. Depending on their financial situation, social standing, past migration experience, and international connections, migrants will select a different route; those with the most options typically take the riskiest one.

Table4. 20: impact of illegal migration in the route

Impact of illegal migration in the route	Frequency	Percent
Rape	8	6.7
hunger and thirst	34	28.6
Physical challenge	62	52
Arresting	13	11
Death	2	1.7
Total	119	100

Source:own survey

Table above shows 52% of the respondents' response migrants faced physically challenge, 28.6% of the respondents' response hunger and thirst, 6.7 % of the respondents response rape, 11% of respondents response arresting and 1.7% of death happened on migrants in the travelling route. this indicates that most migrants are enter in to the route by getting missed information by illegal agents(brokers) but the reality is very dangerous for migrants.

In focus group discussion the returnees confirmed that there are several dangerous challenges that faced from the beginning mile in afar region to Saudi Arabia border. Some of the challenges (problems) are; transport with container that difficult to breath, they move long distance on foot and feel tired, hunger and thirst, on this situation the illegal agents are forced to move without rest. In this case number of migrants tired and also attack by brokers. They remember four friends die in Yemen December 2012

The other interviewee (returnee) witness that he attack by illegal agents in Yemen due to late payment for the agents. As a result, he has hearing impaired and the other interviewee in bola kebele administration officer said that, he know two mental disorder returnees in bola kebele that resulted brokers rap, due to lack of payment and deported from Yemen , before they reached at Saudi .

### 4.3.3. impacts of cross-border illegal migration on migrants at destination country

According to wogide Woreda administration office, migrants always think about success, outcomes, benefits from the destination country, but they have been taken risks in Saudi Arabia.

*Table4. 21: impact of migration on migrants at destination*

impacts of migration on migrants at destination	Frequency	Percent
physical abuse(exploitation)	65	54.6
sexual harassment	5	4.2
rob salary	12	10
rap(physical challenges)	7	6
Deported	30	25.2
Total	119	100

Source: own survey

Table above shows 65(54.6) of respondents response migrants faced physically abuse (long time in work) 30(25.2) responses are deported, 12(10%) of the respondents response migrants not get salary regularly in all months, 7 (6%) of respondents response rap and remain 5 (4.2%) of the respondent response migrants faced sexual harassment. This indicates migration is not totally benefit migrants but also leads to unexpected risks. The above survey result is witnessed by returnees and key informants through discussion and interviews. In focus group discussion the returnees confirmed that, number of friends and themselves faced in Saudi work more than 14 hour per day, rob their salary by employer, they faced physical challenges (rap) by employer and always search by police.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1. Conclusion

As discussed in previous chapters, this research aimed to explore the causes and consequences of cross-border illegal migration from Wogideworeda in the South Wollo Zone of the Amhara Regional State to the Middle East. The study examined the implications of illegal migration for the country, migrants, and their families. Data were collected through both primary and secondary sources, employing qualitative and quantitative methodologies to analyze both numerical and non-numerical data. The researcher utilized various data collection instruments, including survey questionnaires for 179 households, focus group discussions with 8 returnees, and interviews with 10 key informants from three Kebeles in the woreda. Additionally, data from focus group discussions with returnees, key informant interviews with police, kebele administrators, and other stakeholders, as well as both documented and undocumented materials (such as videos and newspapers) were analyzed. The collected data were interpreted descriptively using percentages, frequencies, and charts, with responses from focus group discussions and key informant interviews serving as supporting evidence in the results and discussion sections.

The study found that economic causes (60.5%) and non-economic causes (39.5%) significantly contribute to cross-border illegal migration. Major economic drivers include the search for employment, landlessness, poverty, the need for better jobs, and the desire to purchase goods. These issues are exacerbated by large family sizes and small landholdings. Among non-economic causes, illegal agents (brokers), peer pressure, divorce, and unhappy marriages play substantial roles in illegal migration.

The research revealed that both males (74%) and females (26%) are highly susceptible to cross-border illegal migration. Furthermore, 66.5% of respondents are directly or indirectly affected by migration, highlighting it as a severe socio-economic issue. Migrants from Wogideworeda,

particularly those traveling to Saudi Arabia via the Red Sea and Djibouti, face significant challenges including hunger, physical abuse, and sometimes death during the journey.

Migration has profound effects on host and destination countries, families, and migrants themselves. Positively, returnees often invest their earnings, apply their newly acquired skills, and use their training to start small enterprises, thereby improving their own livelihoods and creating job opportunities for others. This also contributes to the growth of the local service industry. However, the negative impacts on migrant families include increased workloads, debt crises, loss of assets (such as homes, land, and livestock), physical and psychological stress, and heightened vulnerability to poverty, especially for families reliant on remittances. The study offers a comprehensive analysis of the primary causes and consequences of illegal migration and provides conclusions and recommendations based on the findings.

## **5.2. RECOMMENDATION**

The researcher discovered that the current measures to mitigate cross-border unlawful migratory practices in Ethiopia, particularly in the South Wollo Zone of Wogde Woreda, are inadequate and fraught with difficulties. To address illegal migration effectively, it is essential for the Woreda administrator, vital registration office, police office, enterprise office, human resource office, and other relevant organizations to be actively involved in corrective actions. The findings of this study are significant as they will guide the development, enhancement, and implementation of policies and strategies aimed at increasing public awareness about the seriousness of cross-border illegal migration in Ethiopia, especially within the study area. The complexity of the situation reveals numerous gaps in the management of cross-border unlawful migration, including poor coordination among various stakeholders, insufficient commitment, lack of awareness, and technical and economic challenges. To address and ultimately prevent these issues, the researcher recommends that the woreda's governing authorities collaborate with non-governmental organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The study provides recommendations on the causes and effects of cross-border unlawful migration based on the research findings.

- ✓ Regular and continuous awareness campaigns should be conducted by the human resource management office, vital registration office, community police in each kebele, religious leaders, and other concerned bodies to address the various problems faced by migrants from their origin to their destination.
- ✓ The wogide *woreda* communication affairs should give awareness about the severity of cross-border illegal migration on migrants by inviting returnees from Middle East
- ✓ The wogide *woreda* police office should have strongly control illegal agents(brokers) connected with the society by spreading phone number of the office to reduce the danger of illegal migration
- ✓ The enterprise office of the *woreda* should have created job opportunities for the returnees and potential migrants by giving revolving funds.
- ✓ Each kebele leaders of the *woreda* strongly control the system of giving identification card for youths, especially for students, to minimize termination and dropouts from primary and secondary school.
- ✓ The *woreda* administration should have effective and efficient supporting and monitoring systems on each sectors of the *woreda* up to lower administrative unit(got) to solve socio-economic problems of the society
- ✓ The *woreda* cabinet should be allotted budget for researches to be conducted on cross-border illegal migration.
- ✓ As the researcher indicated in the statement of the problem, this thesis is the first research work conducted concerning cause and consequence of human migration to Middle East from wogide *woreda*. So, the researcher strongly recommends that the researchers should conduct other researches for further findings.

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## APPENDICES

### ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

#### COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

#### DEPARTEMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

**Appendix I:** Structured and semi-structured questionnaires prepared for household respondents

**Instructions:** I'm now researching "Cause and consequence of cross-border illegal migration in wogideworeda, south wollo zone, Northern Ethiopia" as part of my MA thesis. Thus, gathering the data required for the study is the purpose of this questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire is to get your opinions regarding the causes and effects of unlawful cross-border migration. For the researcher, getting your sincere answers to the questionnaire is crucial. For this reason, we kindly ask that you complete the questionnaire. Please be honest when answering all questions. Your answers kept confidential.

Thank you for your collaboration in advance!

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#### Part I. General information of household's respondents

I. Zone \_\_\_\_\_ ii *Woreda* \_\_\_\_\_ iii *Kebele* \_\_\_\_\_

1. Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Male  2 Female

2. Age: 15-20  21-25  26-30  30-45  46-65  >65

3. Marital status; Single  Married

Divorced  Widowed

4. Family size;

Single  2-3  4-6  6-8  above 8

5. Educational status (Qualification):

Illiterate  1-4  5-8

9-12           Diploma or degree     Masters & above

6. Job status

Teacher     Working in a gov't     Business

Farmer     self-employed           House wife

7. Income level;

200-500 /Month    600-1000/month    1100-1500/Month >1500/month

8. Religious status;

Orthodox     Muslim           Protestant  Others

**Part II. Other general information of the respondents**

9. How long have you been a local?

A /since birth                      B/for the last 20 years

C/ for the last 10 years          D/ for less than 10 years

E. Other information.....

10. Do your family are affected by cross-border illegal migration?

A. Yes                      B. No

11. Which age group is highly affected by cross-border illegal migration in your locality?

A. 15-24    B. 25- 35    C.36-45    D. > 45

12. To which country does the majority migrants move?

A. Saudi Arabia    B.UAE    C. America    D. South Africa    E. If any other

13. Which sex is strongly affected by cross-border illegal migration in your locality?

A. Male                      B. Female

14. Which migration type is the most frequently occur in your locality or area?

- A. Legal                      B. illegal

15. If your answer is legal why adult youth migrate illegally?

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16. can you tell me the range of expenses what you paid to travel to SaudiArabia?

1. 50000-100000 birr..... 2. 120,000 -200,000 birr ..... 3. 250,000-300,000  
birr..... 4. 310,000-350,000.....5. Others.....

17. can you tell me the range of expenses what you paid to travel to UAE?

1. 15000-25000 birr..... 2. 30,000 -50,000 birr ..... 3. 60,000-80,000 birr.....  
4. 100,000-150,000.....5. Others.....

18. can you tell me the range of expenses what you paid to travel to Kuwait?

1. 15000-30,000 birr..... 2. 31,000 -45,000 birr ..... 3. 50,000-80,000  
birr..... 4. 100,000-150,000.....5. Others.....

19. can you tell me the range of expenses what you paid to travel to Qatar?

1. 15000-30,000 birr..... 2. 31,000 -45,000 birr ..... 3. 50,000-80,000  
birr..... 4. 100,000-150,000.....5. Others.....

20. Which countries are most expensive?

- 1 Saudi Arabia      2 UAE      3 Quit      4 Qatar      5 if any other

**Part III. Questions regarding cause of cross-border illegal migration**

21. Do you know Causes of cross-border illegal migration?

- A. Yes                      B. NO

22. If yes, what are the major causes of cross-border illegal migration in your area/locality/?

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23. . Are you aware of the push and pull forces causing illegal cross-border migration in your area?

- A. Yes                                      B. No

24. If your answer is yes, which factor is most responsible for cross-border illegal migration?

- A. Push factors                      B. Pull factors

25. Do you know economic and non-economic causes of cross-border illegal migration in your locality?

- A. Yes                                      B. No

26. If your answer is yes, what are the economic and non-economic causes of cross-border illegal migration?

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27. Are you aware of economic causes of cross-border illegal migration in your locality?

A. Yes

B. No

28. If your answer is yes, what are the economic causes of cross-border illegal migration in your locality?

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29. Are you aware of non-economic causes of cross-border illegal migration in your locality?

A. Yes

B. No

30. If your answer is yes, what are the non-economic causes of cross-border illegal migration in your locality?

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**Part IV/Questions regarding the negative and positive consequences of cross-border illegal migration**

31. Which positive consequence is obtained from cross-border illegal migration?

A. Remittance /financial      C. improved skill of production

B. Increased access to education      D. Increased access to information

32. How could you describe the negative consequences of cross-border illegal migration in terms of impacts on the socio-economic activities in your locality, especially inside the kebele and its surroundings?

A. Depopulate the origin    B. Increase population pressure at the destination

C. Decrease the working population from the origin D. termination from school

33. How could you describe the effects of cross-border illegal migration on crop production in your locality, especially in agricultural farm land?

A) Yield loss    B) decrease soil conservation practice C) use inadequate input D) loss soil fertility

34, what challenges faced on migrants in the travelling route?

1, rape 2.hunger and thirst 3, physical challenges (rap) 4, arresting 5, death

35. What problems that faced on migrants at the destination country

1, physical abuse 2, sexual harassment 3, unpaid or rob their salary 4, physical challenge (rap) 5, deported

#### **Part V: check list questions for focus group discussion**

1. Is there cross-border illegal migration in your local area?

2. What is the cause for this cross-border illegal migration for you?

3. Why you prefer illegal way of migration rather than legal way of migration?

4. What is the minimum cost that you paid for this illegal migration?

5. If you paid large amount of money, why you are not doing business in your local area?

6. What challenges you faced in the travelling route?

7. Have you benefited in any way from that migration

**Part VI: checklist questions for interviewed respondents**

1. Is there cross-border illegal migration in your local area?
2. What is the cause of that illegal migration?
3. What socio-economic problems that resulted from cross-border illegal migration in your area?
4. Which age groups are strongly affected by illegal migration? Why?
5. Why adult youth are prefer to migrate rather than doing business in the local area?
6. Do you have any information about problems that faced on migrants in the route and at the destination?
7. Do you think all migrants are benefited?
8. Is there practical solution that reduce illegal migration in your area?list some of them
9. What is the level cross-border illegal migration in your local area?