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Reintegration Opportunities and Challenges of “Voluntary” Returnees from the Southern migration en route to the Republic of South Africa in Case of Hadiya Zone, Hossana town and Lemo Woreda

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Zone, Hossana town and Lemo Woreda

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Addis Ababa University

School of Graduate Studies

This is to certify that the thesis entitled *Reintegration opportunities and Challenges of ‘Voluntary’ returnees from Southern Migration route in Case of Hadiya Zone, Hossana town and Lemo Woreda* is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Art in Regional and Local Development Studies from Addis Ababa University and is a record of original research carried out by Simret Haile under my supervision and no part of this thesis has been submitted for any other Degree or Diploma program. Therefore, I recommend it to be accepted as fulfilling the thesis requirement. Signed by the Examining Committee:

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Acronyms

AVR: Assisted Voluntary Returnees

AVRR: Assisted Voluntary Returnees and Reintegration

BOLSA: Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs

GTP: Growth Transformation Plan

ILO: International Labor Organization

IOM: International Organization for Migration

MOWSA: Ministry of Women and Social Affairs

MOLSA: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

RSA: Republic of South Africa

SMEs: Small and Medium Enterprises

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

UN: United Nations

UNHCR: United Nations Higher commission for Refugees

UJCFSA: Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency

Abstract

The general objective of this study is to assess the reintegration opportunities and challenges of Assisted voluntary returnees from transit countries en route of Republic of South Africa (Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia) in case of Hadiya Zone, Hossana town and Lemo Woreda. Hence, the study assessed the reintegration challenges and opportunities of returnees from social, economic and psycho- social reintegration dimensions .This study has also examined the institutional barriers that affect success of reintegration program. To meet the intended objective, the study employed qualitative approach and employed snowballing sampling technique to select participants of the study and purposive sampling to select the key informants. Moreover, 14 in-depth interviews and four key informants' interview were employed. Primary data was collected from the voluntary returnees and key informants from Ministry of Women and Social affairs (MOWSA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Hadiya Zone Urban job creation and development bureau (UJCD) and Hadiya zone Bureau of Social and Labor affairs (BOLSA).The major finding of the study has shown that assisted voluntary returnees have received few economic reintegration opportunities from non-governmental organizations but had challenges such as lack of work space, shortage of capital, inadequate vocational training, delayed service and heavy taxation. There are also institutional factors that challenged the reintegration process which are stated as, lack of coordination between agencies, low motivation of returnees, lack of the follow up the progresses tracking, resource constraint. Based on the finding it is recommended that BOLSA and UJCD to link the return migrants with local micro finance, provide sheds and facilitate tax exemption for returnees. Additionally, IOM needs to speed up the reintegration assistance.

Key words: voluntary returnees, Reintegration, challenges, opportunities

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

International migration trend has changed over the years; between 1960 and 2005 the number of international migrants in the world doubled and this flow has received increased attention, particularly its link to poverty and economic development (Andrew R. Morrison, Maurice Schiff, and Mirja Sjöblom, 2008).

Globally, the number of international migrants is projected to be almost 272 million (IOM, 2020). Nearly 56 percent of them lived in countries in more developed regions, while countries in less developed regions hosted 44 percent. As many as 65 percent of all international migrants resided in high-income countries, 30 percent lived in middle-income countries, and 5 percent settled in low-income countries (UN, 2019).

According to IOM (2018), the Middle East, Europe, and Southern Africa are the three major destinations for migrants from Eastern Africa. Likewise, the four main migration routes where Ethiopians often take are: the western route via Sudan, into Libya, and across the Mediterranean; the northern route via Egypt to Israel; the southern route down the Eastern Corridor towards South Africa; and the eastern route transiting through Yemen to Saudi Arabia and beyond (IOM, 2018).

Ethiopia is a large source of migrant flows to almost all parts of the world. The major destinations of Ethiopian migrants are North America, Europe, and the Gulf. South-South migration has primarily been directed to Kenya but recently South Africa has taken over as the major destination for Ethiopian migrants in the 'south'. Over the last two decades, tens of thousands of Ethiopians have migrated to South Africa irregularly and undocumented

(Zelege&Frejeerskov, 2020) &(Frejeerskov, 2013). According to Horwood (2015), Ethiopians migrating to Southern Africa are increasingly regarded as economic migrants rather than forced migrants (Horwood, 2015). Moreover, Ethiopian migration to South Africa is gendered and Most of the migrants are young males (Zelege&Frejeerskov, 2020; Horwood,2006).).

Migrants return to their country of origin for different reasons; the motive behind returning can be a pushing factor from the host country, a pulling factor from their home country, or personal choice. Either way, the reintegration of returned migrants into their country of origin is a tough process (Chobanyan, 2013). Notwithstanding the challenges for return migrants, and for countries of origin and destination, return migration can have remarkable development potential in terms of voluntary, well-informed, and planned return and sustainable reintegration ((Honreth &Hasse, 2016).

The Ethiopian government ,local and international NGOs developed reintegration support services and programs for the returnees. However, there is no direct policy or strategy in place to improve the reintegration of returnees and the success of reintegration interventions (Kuschminder & Richard-Guay, 2018). The current study focuses on examining the reintegration opportunity and challenges of voluntary migrant returnees from transit countries such as Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique in Ethiopian Southern Nations and Nationalities People Region (SNNPR), Hadiya Zone, Lemo woreda, and Hosanna town. According to IOM and the zonal BOLSA, these areas are the destination of the highest number of returnee migrants from the southern migration route. Hence, their reintegration experience and challenges were explored empirically to contribute to the literature on the reintegration of returnee migrants in Ethiopia.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Return migration is an integral and significant element in the cycle of international migration (Debnath, 2016). Essentially, reintegration is a key part of return migration which empowers and protects returnees by providing the necessary tools and assistance to ensure reclusion into their country of origin (IOM, 2015). Following the act of return, individuals begin the process of readjustment and reintegration (Kuschminder, 2013).

However, reintegration into their home country is a tough process because returnees encounter various economic, social, and psychological challenges, such as lack, of job opportunities, difficulty to access business start-up loans, feeling of depression, a sense of failure, and a feeling of uselessness, declining family care & support and community misconception(Micheal,2014)&; (Kuschminder& Richard Guay,2017; Ndreka,2019 and Chobanyan, 2013). Hence, the absence of reintegration assistance interrupts the returnee's socio-economic situation, and living conditions and increases the chances of irregular re-immigration (Embet, 2002; Paraetyo, 2014). According to Zeleke and Frejerskov, (2020), Ethiopian returnees re-emigrate irregularly within the first year because of the debts they have accumulated, social stigma, and their inability to reintegrate (Zeleke &Frejerskov, 2020).

Moreover, many authors of reintegration literature agree that return migrants can contribute to social-economic development if governments facilitate reintegration programs that enable returnees to use skills and savings they earned abroad (King, 2000, Arowolo, 2000, Kuschminder, 2013; Paraetyo, 2014; Cassarino, 2004 &Whaba, 2015). Nevertheless, the reintegration of return migrants is overlooked in countries with low economies and labor markets (Honreth &Hasse, 2016).

Globally, reintegration has been less researched in the international migration scholarship. Kuschminder(2017), argues the topic of reintegration remains understudied, despite its critical importance to understanding the processes, outcomes, and policy implications of migrants' return to their countries of origin (Kuschminder, 2017).

Similarly, in Ethiopia, reintegration hasn't been adequately researched and little has been known about the topic. Most of the studies focused on the causes and consequences of migration, expectations, and experiences of migration. Even, the existing few studies on reintegration, Ketema(2014), Biraira(2013), (Kuschminder, 2013), Gutema (2019)& Nisrane (2020) focused only on repatriated female migrant returnees from the Middle East, and little study on the reintegration of forced male migrants from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia(Hilawet,2017; Zeleke&Fejerskov,2020). All of these researches are focused on forced migrant returnees from the Middle East.

However, based on a search of the literature, the available studies are mostly focused on returnees from Eastern and North migration routes with particular emphasis on forced returnees and little has been known about assisted voluntary returnees from en-route countries to the Republic of South Africa such as Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zambia. Even the existing study (Dawit, 2015) focused on the study also assessed Business Engagement of successful Return Migrants from the Republic of South Africa. Another study by Nardos(2020) assessed the protection and legal issues of unaccompanied migrants en route to the Republic of South Africa. Nonetheless, the study analyzed reintegration from a child rights perspective and legal framework. However, this assess the social, economic and psycho -social reintegration of voluntary returnees above the age of 18 and already in the works force being part of IOM's AVRR program. Hence, this study intends to address the existing knowledge gap by investigating the migration experience,

migration reasons, and reintegration opportunities and challenges of voluntary returnees from the southern migration route en route to the Republic of South Africa.

A qualitative research approach is employed to investigate the their subsequent reintegration needs, current reintegration status, and impediments of the returnees in Hadiya Zone, Hossana Town, and Lemon Woreda. Based on IOM (2021) data, the Hadiya zone is the major male irregular migrant origin in Ethiopia and 63% of the migrant returnees en route Republic of South Africa are from the Hadiya zone (IOM, 2020). Additionally, Hadiya zone BOLSA data indicates that a large number of returnee migrants dwell in the selected study areas.

1.3. General Objective

The general objective of this study is to assess the reintegration opportunities and challenges of assisted voluntary returnees from transit countries (Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia) in case of Hadiya Zone, Hossana town and Lemo Woreda.

Specific objectives

- To investigate the drivers of migration in the study area
- To explore the migration experience of returnees from southern migration route in these towns
- To assess the reintegration challenges and opportunities of assisted voluntary returnees in in these study area
- To investigate the institutional factors that affect success of reintegration program.

1.4. Research Questions

1. What factors motivated irregular migrants to flow the southern migration enroute to the Republic of South Africa?
2. What are the migration experiences of Assisted voluntary returnees enroute to the Republic of South Africa?
3. How do returnees perceive their challenges and opportunities of social, economic and psychosocial reintegration in these towns?
4. What are the institutional factors that affect the success of reintegration program?

1.5. Significance of the study

This study contributes to the literature in the area of return migration and reintegration experience to the global literature on migration and as well as to policies and strategies designed in the area of reintegration. This study will identify the gaps in policies and implementation and reintegration strategies. It also helps to rethink the approaches employed in reintegrating returnees and migration governance in general. Moreover, the present study informs on the reintegration needs, gaps in strategy implementation of reintegration programs. Thus, the findings of the study may be useful for the practitioners and concerned bodies to design policy, programs and plan interventions to reintegrate and to prevent the irregular migration. In general, the study contributes to betterment of reintegration programs and ultimately to policy and practice in the area. Additionally, other researchers can use the findings of the study as a reference to conduct further studies on this topic.

1.6. Scope of The study

The study focuses on male migrant returnees from transit countries towards Republic of South Africa. These migrants have returned to Ethiopia from transit countries such as Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique with support of IOM as result of failed migration and were in vulnerable condition in host countries. The study deals with male returnees since 2017 who involved in AVRR program in Hosanna town and Lemo woreda in Hadiya zone, southern Nations and Nationalities of Ethiopia.

1.7. Limitation of the study

This study mainly focused on voluntary returnees who returned to Ethiopia through IOM assistance in SNNPR, Hadiya zone Hosanna town and Lemo Woreda, from Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. The research is limited to AVRR beneficiaries in Hadiya zone and voluntary returnees from Eastern, northern migration routes or Europe are not included in this study because the present study scope is focused on Southern migration route. Moreover, this study only focused on male migrant returnees and female returnees are not included in the study since women do not usually opt for migration on foot. Generally, the migrant and returnees' information wasn't not properly documented in the Zonal BOLSA which made it difficult to trace participants of the study. Regardless, willing respondents were interviewed in-depth and their original subjective views are carefully captured in way that doesn't compromise data quality and reliability

1.8 Operational definitions

Irregular migrant: is someone who, owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The term applies to migrants who infringe a country's admission rules and any other person not authorized to remain in the host country (IOM, 2009).

Return Migrant is the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure. It is also often associated with the process of going back to one's own culture, family and home. This could be across international boundaries, between a host country and a country of origin (IOM, 2019)

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR): Administrative, logistical or financial support, including reintegration assistance provided to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country or country of transit and who decide to return to their country of origin (IOM, 2021).

Voluntary Return: Voluntary return is the assisted or independent return to the country of origin, transit or another country based on the voluntary decision of the returnee (IOM, 2019).

Detention: is the restriction on the freedom of movement through confinement, ordered by an administrative or judicial authority. In the majority of countries, irregular migrants are subject to administrative detention, as they have violated immigration laws and regulations that are not considered to be crimes. In this study, the term is used to refer administrative detention. (IOM, 2013)

Smuggler (of migrants) is an intermediary who moves a person, by agreement with that person, in order to transport him or her in an unauthorized manner across an internationally recognized State border. (IOM, 2013)

1.9 Organization of the Paper

Including this first chapter, this thesis is organized in five chapters. The second chapter deals with the review of related literature and the theoretical framework of the thesis. The third chapter describes the method, approach and all methodological aspects that are employed to conduct this study. The fourth chapter presents the findings of the study and the discussion. Finally, the fifth chapter encompasses Summary, conclusion and Recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter presents the critical review and conceptual definitions done by the researcher in the major issues of the study; irregular migration, return migration, voluntary return and assisted voluntary and reintegration of return program, the specific Ethiopian returnees from South Africa, the reintegration of migrant returnees, and the factors affecting successful reintegration. After the presentation of the conceptual definitions, empirical review of existing literature, theories of migration and the conceptual framework relevant to return migration are discussed.

2.1. Concept of Irregular Migration

Irregularity is a juridical status that describes the relation between a migrant and one or more states. As a social phenomenon, it does not derive from the migrations themselves, rather, it is the result “of the existence of a structural tension between the social preconditions and the political preconditions” that support them (Sciortino, 2007). According to IOM (2011) irregular migration is a kind of migration which is perceived by destination countries as the entry, stay or work in a country without having the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations, while from the perspective of the sending countries, the irregularity is when a person leaves the country without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirement for leaving the country. Koser (2010) indicated that those who enter a given country without having proper authorization; people who stay longer in a country in breach of authority; those who moved in by the help of smugglers or due to human trafficking and those who deliberately violate the asylum system shall be included in the irregular migration. An irregular migrant or otherwise known as a migrant in irregular situation is therefore ‘a person who, owing

to unauthorized entry, breach of a condition of entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country' (IOM, 2011).

2.3. Patterns of Irregular Migration in Ethiopia

There are central migration destinations for migrants from Ethiopia. The first and most prominent is to the Middle East (de Regt, 2010; Fernandez, 2010, 2013; ILO, 2011; Kuschminder, 2016, 2017; RMMS, 2014). The second key destination is migration within Africa, wherein the primary destination of Ethiopian migrants is South Africa. Primarily young men migrate to South Africa for economic purposes (Horwood, 2009). To some migrants South Africa is the final destination country, but South Africa is also used as a transit country for migration further afield, such as to the US, Europe or Canada. According to UNHCR (2015) report, approximately 4,000 Ethiopian migrants are also apprehended in Tanzania each year en route to South Africa.

2.4. Drivers of irregular Migration to Republic of South Africa

Various studies have indicated that most cross-border migrations in Ethiopia are driven by lack of employment opportunities (Kuschminder and Siegel, 2014; FDRE, 2015; de Regt and Tafesse, 2015). Beyond lack of job opportunity, negative attitude towards low paying jobs and lack of skills are among the essential drivers of migration (Messay&Tefera, 2017). Moreover, there are also pulling factors from receiving countries. Until 1991 Ethiopians only acquired a travel or exit visa after protracted official investigations (With the fall of the Derge regime, Ethiopian citizens were free to travel (Asnake and Zerihun, 2015).

Similarly, Migration to Republic of South Africa began in 1994 after the end of apartheid era and the democratic government introduced asylum laws that allowed temporary residence or asylum permits. This loose approach on immigration to RSA emanated from the experience of the exiled South African liberation movements leaders as response to political asylum and support received from countries like Ethiopia (Wehmhoerner, 2015). Hence, the migration of specific ethnic groups from southern Ethiopia to South

Africa also started since 2000. Moreover, the existing evidence indicated that the former Ethiopian ambassador to South Africa he had role on facilitating migration for some youth from his birthplace while he was in office (Kanko, Bailey and Teller 2013). Subsequently, young men from the villages of Hadiya and Kembata regions migrate southward to South Africa for economic needs. South Africa is an emerging migrant destination for East African migrants, including those from Ethiopia. An estimated 95% of the Horn of African migrants arrive in South Africa on an irregular basis (Horwood, 2009).

The above conditions activate youth migration and pursuit for grasping the dream opportunity (Messay &Tefera, 2017).Correspondingly, the portrayed financial, material success and remittance of Ethiopian migrants in South Africa through social media, wedding videos and photographs has painted Republic of South Africa as paradise in sending communities. Hence, youth migration from southern Ethiopia to South Africa increased alarmingly despite of the migration risks along the journey (Estifanos ,2016).

2.5. Return migration

Return migration is a complex phenomenon and has been difficult to define the concept. However, King(2000) has elaborated on the early work of Bovenkerk(1974) to define return migration as'' process whereby people return to their country or lace of origin after a significant period in another country or region .''(Assmari&Black, 2001). Recently there has been greater recognition of the challenges related with it. Migrants return for a variety of reasons and under varying legal regimes where return can be voluntarily or involuntarily (IOM,2019).Return migration has been key issue of discussions and negotiations on Migration at the global level since 2015.Migration was included in sustainable development goals in Agenda 2030. Even though return migration wasn't explicitly mentioned in the SDGs, it was understood as central component of orderly migration (Newland&Slant, 2018). Return has profound personal consequences for these individual migrants

and their families, but it also has critical financial, humanitarian, security and development implication for their country of origin with positive and negative consequences.

2.5.1 Types of return

There are no universally agreed classifications of return. Typologies of return migrants On the basis of the work and research carried out by Gmelch (1980), three main types of return migrants can be distinguished: (i) Temporary migrants: returnees who intended temporary migration; (ii) Forced returnees: returnees who intended permanent migration but were forced to return; and (iii) Voluntary returnees: returnees who intended permanent migration but chose to return.

Typologies of return migrants have been also provided by Hein de Haas and Jean-Pierre Cassarino, who also singled out key aspects in the process of return. Two rather simple but decisive questions help to classify types of returnees: Is the individual willing to return (“willingness to return”)? And is the individual capable, ready, well-equipped, and well informed to return (“readiness to return”)?(Cassarino,2008).

Forced return

IOM defines forced return as, the act of returning an individual, against his or her will, to the country of origin, transit or to a third country that agrees to receive the person, generally carried out on the basis of an administrative or judicial act or decision (IOM, 2019).

Voluntary Return

Voluntary return literally means making the decision to return according to one’s own free will or independently. It can be described as freely chosen return. However, the term ‘voluntary return’ has been used in misleading ways by destination countries and some international organizations (Webber 2011). According to IOM, voluntary return is the assisted or independent

return to the country of origin, transit or another country based on the voluntary decision of the returnee (IOM, 2019). IOM recognized that migrant's decision to return does not necessarily mean that return is the migrant's unambiguous wish. Vincent (2021) contends that the term voluntary is misused to refer Nigerian migrants, returned to their home country via support of IOM AVRR program. Vincent argues that the intervention by IOM downplays the agency of migrants and makes the degree of voluntariness unclear in the AVRR program. Pia Honerath (2016) also indicated that Voluntary return migrants have an explicit intention to return, especially once they have reached their savings goals, or acquired skills, higher education or business networks in their host countries which they can transfer and apply back home and their stimulate business development or create jobs through investments.

2.5.2 Assisted voluntary Return and Assisted voluntary Return and Reintegration Program (AVRR)

In 1979, IOM developed the first AVR program in Europe. It was designed to respond to the increasing number of asylum and the return of irregular migrants. Hence, Voluntary return programs have been implemented over decade ago in UK and has expanded almost all member states in Europe. Initially, the program was limited to providing travel assistance. However, In March 2002, the general VARP scheme was expanded to include reintegration assistance and changed its name to VARRP – the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (Benntteand & McGhee ,2014).

The approach of AVRR program and its conceptual definition has evolved over the years across IOM's literature (IOM, 2011; IOM, 2013, IOM, 2019, IOM,2020). AVRR is durable solution for irregular migrants in need the focus of AVRR handbook (IOM, 2013) was on creating an alternative means on removing immigrants with rejected Asylum case. However, the shift in the approach resulted from IOM's evolved perspective on developing broader and more

comprehensive migration management which takes into account all migrants both regular and irregular in need of return assistance and has gone beyond dealing with asylum and return as indicated in various IOM documents (IOM, 2015).

Similarly, the changed approach was also evident on IOM's (2017) key highlight document and others where the concept of AVRR was modified and included different categories of return such as stranded migrants, irregular migrants, and regular migrants and with implicit and appealing description of rejected Asylum case without literal use of the word. Furthermore, it has emphasized on AVRR assistance and beneficiaries are also mentioned as migrants in vulnerable situations, such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children or migrants with health-related needs instead of only focusing on asylum seekers (IOM, 2017).

Currently, Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) program is defined by IOM as an administrative, logistical and financial support to migrants who decide to return home and has no option to return otherwise (IOM, 2017&(IOM,2019). According to IOM, AVRR is an indispensable component of a comprehensive approach to migration management (IOM, 2013). Hence, it contributes to achieving safe, orderly and regular migration in line with target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, safeguarding the rights of migrants and upholding international principles and standards (IOM, 2017).

However, AVR programs are criticized by three reasons. First, they are not voluntary; second, they return people to countries that are not safe and third, they do not necessarily lead to return and reintegration. The question of the voluntariness of these programs has been raised by several authors (Blitz, Sales, & Marzano, 2005; Webber, 2011; Van Houte, 2014; Cassarino, 2014). Thirdly, Passche (2014) argues that AVRRs are more politicized than most social policies. Since migration is contentious there is a lack of evaluation culture in the migration policy world, as policy makers wish to exude

control and fear negative evaluation findings. This is misguided, as proactively evaluating and monitoring AVRRs substantiate policies, insulates decision makers from negative anecdotal information, and prevents ad hoc reactions to media frenzy (Passche, 2014).

Furthermore, AVRR program is also challenged when governments do not consider AVRR as a priority within their migration management strategies. Moreover, AVRR from transit countries requires a long and cumbersome process of earning governments' trust and proving that AVRR is a cost-effective and humane alternative that assists stranded migrants in destitution (IOM, 2013).

2.6. Reintegration

“Reintegration can be defined as the re-inclusion or re-incorporation of a person into a group or process, for example, of a migrant into the society of his or her country of origin or habitual residence. Reintegration is thus a process that enables the returnee to participate again in the social, cultural, economic and political life of his or her country of origin.” (IOM, 2015, p. 4)

This definition highlights two central points regarding reintegration: First, reintegration is a process. This is a process that takes time; is influenced by different factors; and should be viewed through a step-wise approach. Second, reintegration is multidimensional – meaning that reintegration occurs across different domains of an individual's life, including the social, cultural economic, and political (ILO, 2017). In fact, how they reintegrate will depend upon their experiences and choices. Agency and the life cycle of the migrant are critical elements in determining the returnees' reintegration strategy (Kushminder 2017)

Reintegration following return is a process of adaptation on part of both returnees and the communities in which they settle and it involves economic, social cultural and human security dimensions. Under right conditions and with proper support, returnees may play an important role in the development of countries to which they return through their skills. However, if immigrants,

communities of return and countries of origin are unprepared they may not be able to take advantage of returns (Newland&Slant, 2018).

Previously ,reintegration programs mainly focused on economic integration as the measure of success (Newland&Slant, 2018).However, there is growing realization among development agents that reintegration is a multidimensional concept and returnees may be reintegrated in different dimensions including , social and psychological factors which has equal significance in determining the outcome of return(Newland&Slant, 2018; Kushumaire, 2013). For all types of return migrants, reintegration is a process that is also influenced by the structural and cultural conditions of the return environment. Structural and cultural conditions include government policies, such as the rights extended to returnees in terms of citizenship, property restitution, or other privileges (Kibreab 2003).

2.6.1. Dimensions of Reintegration

IOM asserts that reintegration support can only be successful if there is a level of re-inclusion across all economic, social and psychosocial dimensions. This can require different levels of interventions. At the individual level, the specific needs of beneficiaries (and when relevant, family members or households) should be covered and support for these provided upon return. At the structural level, ensuring access to adequate local public services fosters an environment for re-establishing a dignified existence (IOM, 2019).

Economic aspect of reintegration covers aspects of reintegration that contributes to re-entering the economic life and sustained livelihoods (IOM, 2019). The process of economic reintegration is defined as the set of actions in which the migrant is accompanied, assisted, and enabled to independently generate the material means that allow him/her and his/her family to lead a dignified

life upon returning to their country of origin. In other words, having the ability to overcome situations that put the economic stability of the person and his/her family at risk(IOM , 2015).

Absuhula(2018) revealed that irregular migrants returnees mostly suffer from socioeconomic and psychological problems which are limited economic opportunities and financial constraints that contributed to their initial departure. Hence, low economic situation exacerbate their vulnerability, may hinder their potential for successful reintegration (Abushula,2018).In order to tackle this issue, Kusminder(2017) suggests that ,Information on available livelihood opportunities is crucial to ease economic reintegration .For instance, information on key employment sectors, the required skills, as well as the available mechanisms for finding work in a local labor market are helpful for returnees. However, the absence of this information and poor market knowledge can lead to economic failure of returnees' livelihood projects (Kusminder, 2017).

Social reintegration: Return migrants that have themselves undergone a process of cultural change and adaptation to the country of migration may return with new values, cognitive frameworks, and knowledge. Returnees also bring new ideas and customs that made them stand out and clash with the local culture (Kushuminder , 2017). Social and cultural reintegration is understood as the process that allows and enables reintegration or reinstatement into the social and cultural dynamics of the country of origin of migrants while reinforcing their sense of belonging and rootedness (IOM, 2015). At the heart of social reintegration are functioning social networks (Yiga,2011)).On the other hand, the local power relations, traditions and values in home countries have significant impact on the investment capacity of returnees (Cassirino, 2004).

Psycho-social reintegration is a set of support measures that helps the reincorporation of migrants into their families and communities of origin through enabling returnees to create balanced life. The migration process brings changes to migrants' emotions, feelings, thoughts, memories and

beliefs and to their relations with others (IOM, 2019). Moreover, migrant returnees might experience feelings of shame, loss, failure, disorientation, anxiety, insecurity and stress, which will hinder the reintegration process. Therefore, psychosocial assistance is imperative to help individual's reintegration as it also complement other interventions such as livelihoods support. Psychological states characterized by toxic levels of stress, deep anxieties and social stigma make it difficult to benefit from livelihood opportunities and can even make it difficult to make coherent decisions about the future (IOM,2019).

2.7. Factors for successful Reintegration.

Reintegration is a two-way process that is highly influenced by the country of return. If the country of return is open and welcoming towards returnees, this will most likely make the reintegration process faster and easier for the returnee (Kusminder, 2017). Moreover, Reintegration is also a process that incorporates multiple patterns to varying degrees. Successful reintegration can be influenced by with different factors which some of them are described (Gmelch ,1980)

The individual's experiences and social status prior to migration, their experiences in the country of migration, and the conditions of their return, all influence reintegration (Kusminder, 2013). Kushmider (2017) argues that Successful reintegration does not necessarily prevent the possibility of remigration but, may encourage individual who do decide to migrate again to do so through regular channels (Kushumaire, 2017).Ruben et.al (2009) also argue that, a person to be considered reintegrated successfully; he/she has to find and define their position in society, and feel a sense of belonging and possibilities for participation in society. He also suggested opportunities of reintegration become self-sufficient, access to social networks, and access to psychosocial health contribute to successful reintegration (2009).Dipo(2019) also argues that Reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within

their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers (Dipo,2019). Among the various factors across the literatures on successful Reintegration, the following points are discussed below.

Readiness and Decision to Return to country of Origin: A migrant's return decision is often complex and influenced by a variety of sometimes overlapping considerations. Return motivations are dynamic and therefore subject to change. Return can be a voluntary or forced such as difficulties integrating to in host country (Biligili et,al.,2018).

Return preparation refers to migrants' willingness to return but also to their readiness to return home. Readiness is one of the key aspects that influence decision for migration. It is also an issue of gathering sufficient resources and information about post-return conditions and reintegration process at home country (Cassarino, 2008).

The circumstances under which return migration takes place is crucial for reintegration of migrants back into their countries of origin (Cassarino, 2014b; King, 2000; Wickramasekara, 2011). Earlier studies have indicated that those who are well off prior to migration (for example, in terms of personal security, employment and financial resources) have a higher likelihood of also being well off on return. Likewise, the opportunity to benefit from voluntary return programs; and job prospects at home has shaped the decision of returnees(Koser&Kusuminder, 2017).

Migration Experience :The most frequently described challenge that male migrant returnees experience in the course of migratory journeys is physical torture such as beating, stabbing, electric shocks and chaining legs and hands Zeleke &Frejeerskov, 2020. In same study ,Interviews indicated that ,attempts of rape and actual rape takes place on male migrants usually at night time .However, male survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse usually hide their experience out of fear and stigma .Irregular migrants barely access medical support which worsen their situation (Zeleke &Frejeerskov, 2020) .

Social network /community :Social networks are a vital component to successful return and reintegration. Furthermore, concerns of families and the non-migrant population in the community of return should be addressed by strengthening social links and increasing the absorption capacity of communities in regions with high levels of return (IOM, 2019).According (Kushminder,2013), social networks provide access to resources and social capital that can play essential roles in the process of reintegration. Furthermore, the network of the return migrant will determine the access to resources and social capital that the network can provide (kushminder, 2013).

Government Polices

The existing mechanisms, processes, policies and legislation (at local, national, regional and international levels) that are relevant to return and reintegration, Government structure, decision-making processes, levels of decentralization and responsibilities and Existing migration and development framework matters of the reintegration programs(IOM,2019) .Except for a few countries, there is no clear legal and policy framework supporting reintegration (Wickramasekara, 2019). To support return migrants in starting a business that can contribute to job creation, governments can reduce red tape, offer financial incentives such as tax holidays, and provide information on investment possibilities. Establishing the right macroeconomic environment is also essential to encourage investment (Waba, 2015).An adverse return environment would be characterized by government policies that do not encourage return or provide support to returnees. The conditions of the structural and cultural return environment can have a significant impact on the reintegration experience of the return migrant (IOM, 2019).

2.8. Reintegration Challenges

The institutional challenges comprise three levels indicators of analysis. First challenges related to returnee registration and data collection methods are critical in shaping the constraint at destination and back home .Through registration and collecting of accurate information is essential, there is a gap with regard to data collection and the registration of returnees either at the airport or after their return to their local community. Despite it is a crucial first step and is important to provide any kind of reintegration support (Fejerskov &Zelege, 2020). While most origin countries register outflows of workers, few countries monitor or have the capacity to monitor the return flows of migrant workers or maintain databases of returnees (ILO, 2019). The absence of information makes it difficult to provide targeted services or interventions according to the profile returnees and their geographical spread (Wickramasekara, 2019)

Second, lack of effective coordination in the process of information gathering and analysis to reintegration support services and targeting are critical challenges as well .A common gap outlined by stakeholders is the lack of effective coordination among the various stakeholders. This is not to say, however, that there is no coordination. Many stakeholders from government and international organizations work together through memoranda of understanding (Chobanyan(2013); Nicholas&Parah,2018).

The third challenge relates to timing and responsiveness of the services delivered such as delays in access to services to target beneficiaries. Based on ILO report, delayed starts to training, or postponed access to working spaces (e.g., sheds, land and cumbersome bureaucracy for getting licenses to establish SMEs has been widely identified as a major hindrance (ILO, 2017).

Fourth, also that long-term monitoring and evaluations of reintegrated beneficiaries will reveal the contribution of the support to a sustainable return. Additionally, long-term evaluations provide analysis of the different stages of the processes of reintegration and this could help identify possible gaps of the entire program (Fonseca et al., 2015 ;) Cherti et al. (2013) and appropriate responses for subsequent projects.

The way returnees are perceived by the society in the country of return strongly depends on the extent to which a returnee has had a 'successful' migration experience. Deported or voluntarily returnees without assets or money are viewed as failures within their community. Furthermore, returnees may face stigma and discrimination in their own communities and families because of their failed migration experience, loss of family assets on return due to indebtedness, and forced return or removal from destination countries (Rashid and Ashraf 2018; Harkins, et al. 2016; United Nations 2018). For these reason, returnees often encounter stigma and are excluded and discriminated against. Thus, it demotivates returnees attempt to construct a feeling of belonging back to their origin (Van Houte&Davidens, 2008).

(Koser &Kusminder, 2016) indicated that the economic situation and the ability of returnees to establish a livelihood is key aspect of reintegration. The ability to establish a secure livelihood, even after having received assistance, is a critical factor in a successful reintegration (ICMPD .2015). Returnees face difficulties participating in labor market either for self- or formal wage employment. As a result they opt remigration when they cannot see other alternatives of livelihood (Parestyo& Bachitera , 2014). Independence and stability of income will contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of one's capabilities and assets. However most returnees remain in an unstable and dependent position (Van Haunt& Davides, 2008).

The finding from ILO needs assessment on returnees also indicated that 30 per cent considered their socio-economic to be “bad” prior to migration, 45 per cent considered their socio-economic to be “bad” after their return (ILO, 2014, Key challenges that were identified by returnees in these studies were a lack of financial support to start a small enterprise (92 per cent), and a lack of appropriate training (59 per cent). ICMPD (2015) found that the poor economic environment in Kosovo left the majority of returnees without long-term employment and livelihoods ICMPD (2015). Strand et al. (2015) noted that mostly returnees select for entrepreneurial forms of assistance in their reintegration, but fail to have the skills to manage the business. Thus, it is crucial to consider the professional skills and talents of returnees (Strand et al., 2015).

2.9. Context of Return Migration and Reintegration in Ethiopia

The decision to return to Ethiopia can be quite complex due to the situations migrants face abroad. The decision to return is most commonly conceptualized as either voluntary or forced. In this case, voluntary return includes those who choose to return, whereas forced returns infer the migrant did not choose to return, as is the case in deportations (Guay & Kuschminder, 2017).

Return migration has also become an increasingly salient issue in Ethiopia (Kuschminder, 2018). There are three main groups of returnees in Ethiopia; those who come from 1) the Middle East; 2) Europe; 3) Libya and other transit countries. The large number of deportation of Ethiopians started during November 2013. The repatriation was an unexpected phenomenon requiring a prompt response. The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the relevant stakeholders coordinated emergency efforts in order to manage the repatriation process (IOM, 2018).

2.10. Return and Reintegration Policy framework in Ethiopia

Return migration has also increased and the support for the reintegration of returnees has become a new area of concern. As different sources indicated, Ethiopia hasn't formulated a comprehensive labor migration policy and a national strategy and policy regarding the socio-economic reintegration of returned migrants which require a well-designed and integrated intervention of coordinated efforts by all stakeholders(IOM ,2019;ILO,2017&) . Nevertheless, there are various legal frameworks that indirectly respond to socio-economic reintegration of returnees' in Ethiopia (ILO, 2017). The Overseas Employment Proclamation No. 923/2016 identifies MoLSA as the lead Ministry to facilitate the reintegration of returnees and stipulates that a directive shall specify the details. Even though the Proclamation states the issue of reintegration under two articles (15 and 64), it hasn't included full reintegration programmes as part of its implementation. According to (Kushcminder, 2017) ,the proclamation has failed to fully address reintegration and it is significant gap of the policy (ILO, 2017).Still, Under article 64, the responsibilities, roles and actions of actors in reintegration in situation of return wasn't properly articulated (Kuschminder ,2017).

Recently, the Government of Ethiopia has adopted the GCM in Morocco in late 2018, the government has given directions to mainstream it into the country's second five-year Growth and 5 Transformation Strategic Plan (GTP II) (2015/16-2019/20) and the Ten-Year Perspective Plan for Ethiopia (2020/21-2030/31). The GoE has developed policy instruments to operationalize specific priority areas under Proclamation No. 1178/2020. These include a draft regulation on the Victims Rehabilitation Fund Management required to provide rehabilitation and restitute support to victims of human trafficking. A National Reintegration Directive (No. 65/2018) was issued on 25 September 2018 to place a legal framework around the reintegration of returnees.

2.11. Institutions Involved in Return Migration and Reintegration in Ethiopia

According to 1178/2020, the listed institutions are given the mandate and responsibility explained as follows. Previously, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) was mandated to manage social and labor affairs, and as such is responsible for labor migration, including migrant worker protection and migrants' reintegration in Ethiopia. MOLSA had responsibility of to devise approaches and design plans to formally and legally rehabilitate and reintegrate returnee migrants in the national economy (Ferejkov&Zelege,2018).The work of MOLSA is mostly carried out through its regional counterparts, the regional Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BOLSA), which handle registration at the local/regional level (administrative registration, not the registration done at the airport upon arrival) and then facilitate referrals for training program and financial support, as well as supporting returnees in developing their business plan(ILO,2017). Additionally, The BOLSA receive returnee information from the MOLSA, and they then transfer that list of returnees to the other agencies to pursue the reintegration program.

Currently, Ministry of women, children and Youth Affairs and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs are restructured as a result the aforementioned activities are undertaken by BOWSA. Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency at federal and regional level, also plays an important role in the economic reintegration of returnees through its role in Medium and Small Enterprise creation. The agency's mandate is to assist and coordinate institutions that provide support for the creation of small enterprises. The UJCFSA is involved at different stages of reintegration. First, the UJCFSA (at the federal and/or regional level) identifies jobseekers, the unemployed, and returnees, based on data provided by the MoLSA/BoLSAs now BOWSA. The UJCFSA will also support returnees in developing a business plan that will orientate and determine the type of vocational training they will need, as well as the type of loan program they could apply to. In 2012,

ARRA became involved in AVRs through the signing of a return agreement with Norway. In this bi-lateral agreement, the role of Ethiopia is to administer travel agreements and to provide reintegration support through ARRA (Edie, 2014).

2.12. Return, Reintegration and Development

Upon return, the migrant is of course no longer able to send remittances; however, decided returnees often return with financial resources acquired abroad. These resources may be invested into the local economy. This can be on a small scale such as purchasing a house or items for the return migrant and their family, or a larger scale such as investing in a new business or large projects (Cassarino 2008).

Empirical evidence suggests that return migration can have important impacts on the development of migrants' home countries. The existing empirical evidence indicates that there might be a positive impact of return on development, the question that arises is under which circumstances returnees are more likely to stimulate development in their home countries (Wahba,2015). The challenge for origin countries, therefore, is managing such return to ensure positive developmental results. One way of doing this is through the provision of effective reintegration strategies (ibid,1). It seems obvious that successful reintegration in the home country is crucial for return migrants to utilize their potentials (Erenest,2011) . Yet, the link between return processes, reintegration support and development outcomes is contested and researched .The existing literature has indicated the context of migration and return have direct impact on their contribution to development . The contribution of Returnees whose migration interrupted do not have equal implication on development as returnees who voluntarily returned completing migration period (Haase &Honerath, 2016). Similarly, Conditions of stay and return and assistance received during the return process thus matter and have implications for prospects of sustainable reintegration as

well as the contribution of returnees to sustainable development (Knoll, 2021). Ammassari (2009) argues that development through return migration can occur at the micro-, meso-, and macro- level. At the micro-level, social change includes the individual themselves and their immediate family (Ammassari, 2009).

2.13. Overview of Empirical research on Return and Reintegration

Upon return several factors have been found to influence reintegration, Strand et al. (2016), found that strong kinship networks were a key element in a successful reintegration. This relates to one of the findings from (Koser & Kuschminder, 2016) that individuals that returned to their communities of origin were more likely to be reintegrated. Schuster and Majidi (2013) find that in Afghanistan deportees report high levels of ‘shame and contamination’ that strain their ability to reintegrate. Schuster and Majidi (2013) also stress the significance of familial networks for reintegration in Afghanistan and how their families shaming has affected their reintegration.

A qualitative approach Study by Edehe(2021) investigated the experiences of male Nigerian returnees from Libya, through IOM AVRR program. The study finding indicated the socio economic challenges of the returnees as stigmatization, debt and family commitments, difficulties with reintegration on a personal level, and delays in remittance of support funds, and insufficient funds all emerge as structural challenge (Edehe, 2021). Likewise a study in Ethiopia (Micheal, 2014) confirmed that male returnees are challenges ability to pay debt, lack of job opportunity and delays in obtaining startup capital. The study also implied that these factors contribute to re- immigration. According to (Kuschninder, 2013), returnees limit social connections to close family upon return and therefore were likely to have dense networks that lacked bridging and bonding capital. They were less likely to access the services (e.g., mental health, employment) they need to improve their well-being (Kuschminder, 2013).

Some studies in return and reintegration has identified the correlation between reason for migration and reintegration. A comparative study on Senegalese and Democratic Congo returnees

reintegration experience (Flahaux, 2021) indicated that, Congolese who migrate for a better future do not intend to return, discouraged by the challenges of daily life and the lack of opportunities in DR Congo. The Findings of same study has also indicated that that Congolese who migrated for political reasons almost never return. Moreover ,the study revealed that the migration experiences of individuals in destination countries, their aspirations, and the obstacles they face are rarely taken into account by reintegration programs(Flahaux, 2021).Similarly, Another study in Armenia (Chobanyan(2013) has also indicated that the absence of targeted government programs on returning migrants has affected the reintegration of returnees. Additionally, the same study showed that lack of the Systemization of reintegration program of and deficiency of coordinated assistance has affected the reintegration of Armenian returnees (Chobanyan,2013).The study by (Nicholas&Parah,2018) echoed on Economic reintegration of African returnees confirmed that Governments often neglect and display disinterest to formulate strong reintegration policy for their returnees(Nicholas&Parh,2018).

2.14. Theories of Return migration and Reintegration

Regarding return migration, there are contrasting notions as to the role of return migration in influencing household well-being upon return. From a theoretical perspective, neoclassical economic) views labor as rational agents who leave the country basically to maximize their income and career opportunity. Quoting Todaro (1969), Cassarino (2004) said that before leaving the migrants ideally assess the cost and benefits of migration not only the wage differential between their origin and the destination country but also the possibility of finding job in the destination country. Hence, neoclassical believes that the return migration exists because of Inadequate information about condition at the destination country and the migrant do not get what expected .Hence, according to this theory, return migration is the unintended result of a failed migration

experience (Cassarino, 2004; de Haas, 2010). Conversely, the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM) theory that views return migration as the end of migration cycle. This theory considers returnees as successful with the assumption that they have accumulated saving and achieved their migration goals (Cassarino, 2004; de Haas, 2010). Even though the aforementioned theories do not directly address reintegration, it is evident that a failure of migration experience and the motive of migration has impact on post return reintegration.

According to Rogge (1994), there are structural and individual factors that impact reintegration of migrant returnees: the structural factors include the policies of the government of the country of return toward returnees, the receptiveness of the local government, the attitude of the local community toward returnees, and the number of people returning simultaneously (Rogge, 1994). For reintegration to be effective, Ruben et.al (2009), proposes availability of opportunities to become self-sufficient, access to social networks, and access to psychosocial health. A person to be considered reintegrated successfully; he/she have to find and define their position in society, and feel sense of belonging and possibilities for participation in society (Ruben et.al ,2009). Unlike, neo-classical economics and new economics of labor migration theories, Structural theorists do not emphasize on the success/failure analysis of return migration. Rather Structural theorists acknowledge the significance of contextual factors in the preadaptation of return migrants.

They do not consider the success of the migration experience abroad as a foremost factor in the decision to return, but instead focus on how well returnees adjust to the culture, norms, and values in the home country. They focus on the expected productivity and effectiveness of the returnees in the country of origin (Setrana & Tonah, 2014). Henceforth, the socio-economic and the political situation in the home country guides both the return decision and the reintegration of returnees. According to the structural theory, actual conditions in the home country, such as local power,

traditions, and values are key concepts to analyze return and reintegration (Cassarino, 2004, 2008). However, both the new classical economics of labor migration theory and structural theory acknowledge the role of families and households in migration, as well as the return and reintegration process (Mensah, 2016).

In this study the Neo classical Economic theory and structural theory have more relevance to the study, as the focus of the current study is on the reintegration of assisted voluntary returnees from transit countries towards Republic of South Africa. Therefore, these theoretical perspectives have contribution in explaining the topic under study. The subject of this study are voluntary returnees who were irregular migrants and returned to country of origin after being detained at transit countries en route to Republic of South Africa. Moreover, these returnees are assisted who had no legal right to stay at the host country. Mostly, without arriving to their destination and when they are unable to integrate to the destination country.

2.15. Conceptual Framework

This conceptual framework of this study shows the process and relationship among drivers of migration, migration experience, readiness and decision to return through assisted voluntary return and reintegration. Economic reasons are common drivers of irregular migration in most developing countries. Hence, as various studies revealed irregular migrant experience range of abuses such as physical, torture, sexual violence, suffocation and mal treatment and death in some cases. Consequently, migrant's migration experience influences their readiness to return and decision which also influences their reintegration after return.

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) program is defined by IOM as an administrative, logistical and financial support to migrants who decide to return home and has no

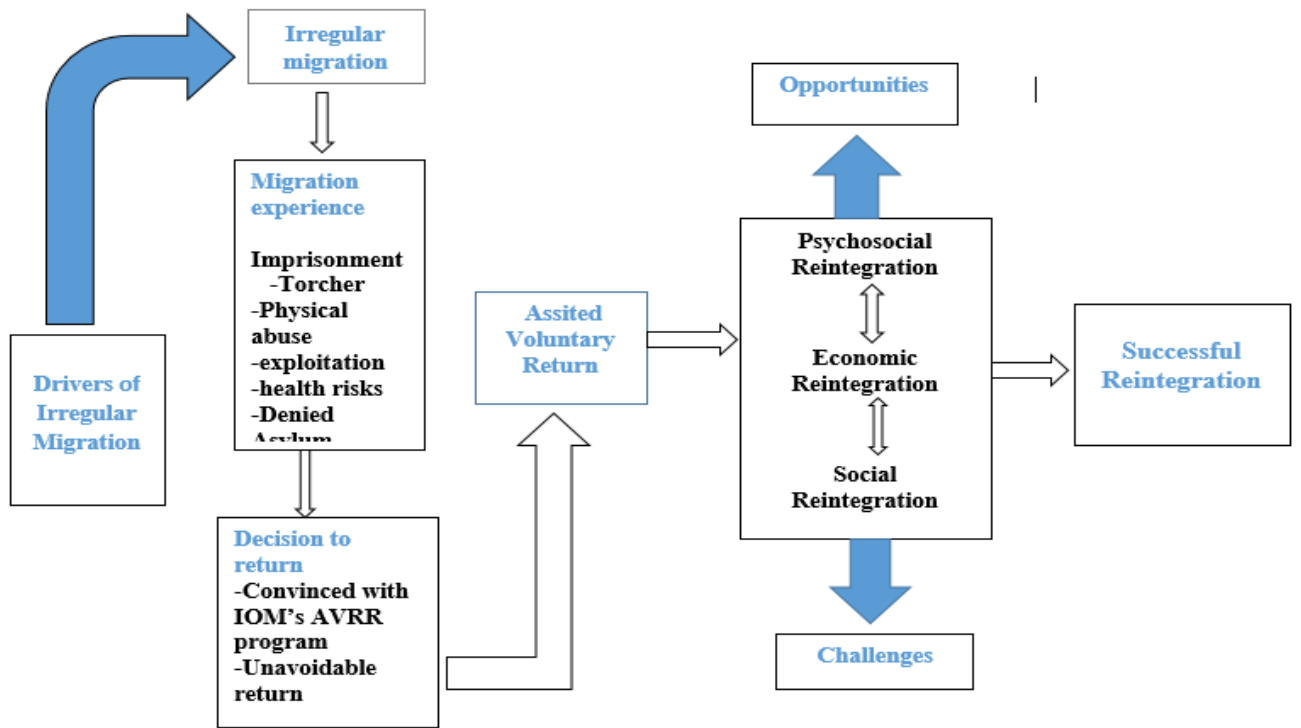
option to return otherwise (IOM,2017). Assisted voluntary return is part of AVRR program where returnees get back to their country without coercive action rather with promise of reintegration assistance and their willingness though return is un avoidable .The program is available to support vulnerable and stranded migrants in foreign land aside failed asylum cases and followed return . Then, IOM facilitate their return with host country and country of origin. Voluntary returnees who decided to return to country of origin after receiving counseling and description about the program. After their return to home country social reintegration, economic reintegration and psychosocial reintegration are provided by International Organization for Migration based on IOM's reintegration book.

Economic reintegration: is the process by which a migrant is re-included into the economic system of his or her country of origin, and by which he or she is able to earn his or her own living (IOM, 2011).

Social reintegration is returning migrants' access to public services and infrastructure in their countries of origin, including access to health, education, housing, justice and social protection schemes IOM,2019,

Psychosocial reintegration: the reinsertion of returning migrants into personal support networks (friends, relatives, neighbours) and civil society structures (associations, self-help groups, other organizations and civic life generally). This also includes the re-engagement with the values, ways of living, language, moral principles and traditions of the country of origin's society (IOM, 2019).

This study conceptual framework also shows the complementariness of each reintegration program (economic, psychosocial and social) and their relationship] with successful reintegration.



Source: Developed by the researcher based on the literature review (2022).

Summary

A number of literature indicated that returnee migrants face social, economic and psychosocial challenges of returnees with much emphasis on Europe and Middle East. The studies also revealed the inter-relationship among social, economic and psychosocial challenges and the intervention programs complementariness in mitigating the issues. Whilst, reasons of migration, readiness and nature of return has effect to return and on the reintegration of returnees. Moreover, the existing literatures given much emphasis on economic reintegration and little literature examined the psycho-social reintegration of migrant returnees. Meanwhile, the researcher has dawn the debates on concept of voluntary return among academicians and development agencies such as IOM. Definition and AVRR program in general and the literature indicated there is no agreement on the definition yet. However, the existing literature has not adequately discussed reintegration of voluntary returnee's reintegration challenges and opportunities.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design

A research design is a systematic plan to study a scientific problem. In order to achieve the aim of this study, the researcher employed qualitative research approach. This research aimed at investigating the reintegration opportunities and challenges of assisted voluntary returnees from transitional states to Republic of South Africa, Moreover, their reason for migration and migration experience are also covered in this study. Essentially, a qualitative research helps the researcher to undertake in depth analysis of data collected from a small number of respondents by using observation, interview, focus group discussion and document analysis (Creswell, 2009). Therefore, this study used qualitative research method to get deeper understanding of participant's experience since qualitative research approach allows a researcher to gain insight into the personal hopes, thoughts, and feelings of informants.

Meanwhile, both primary and secondary data is collected to substantiate the study. Subsequently, In-depth interviews, Key informants, and document review are used as the main data sources in this study. Regarding sampling, the researcher employed snowball technique to purposively trace the assisted voluntary returnees using the networks of assisted voluntary returnees from Southern migration route in Hadiya zone selected study sites. Interviews were conducted face to face with 14 male returnees from Lemo woreda and Hossana seven participants from each areas following covid 19 protocols. Afterwards, the collected interview data is thematically analyzed using proper qualitative data analysis procedures and presented using description and narration to summarize the findings.

3.2. Study area

The Hadiya Zone is one of the Zones in the SNNPR in Ethiopia. The Hadiya Zone geographically located in 7°3'19"- 7°56'1"N and 37°33'14"- 38°52'12"E. It is one of the most densely populated parts of Ethiopia. Its population reaches 1,243,776 (CSA, 2007). By 2010 based on the census report projection, it has increased to 1316962. The study's total area is 3850 square km, and the population density is 357/square km. More than 90% of its population depends on subsistence agriculture production. According to the Zonal Bureau of social and labor affairs, majority of returnees from transit countries to Republic of South Africa dwell in Lemo woreda which is the nearest woreda to Hadiya zone capital town which is named Hossana town. Hence, Lemo woreda and Hossana are selected area of this study .

3.3. Source of Data

In this study, two sources of data were used. The primary sources are migrant returnees, social, and labor affairs in woreda, zonal and Federal level. In addition, secondary sources of data were considered from relevant policy documents, journals, curriculum framework of migration and development. An in-depth interview was conducted to investigate the reintegration challenges and opportunities of returnee migrants from southern migration route. Additionally, key-informants interview also conducted with such as Bureau of social and labor affairs, job creation and urban safety net and IOM were conducted in order to examine the reintegration program service in Hadiya zone, Lemo woreda. Furthermore, the researcher attempted to substantiate the primary data with the facts from the reviewed documents as part of methodological triangulation.

3.4. Population of Study

The targeted populations of this study are male Voluntary returnees from South Africa transit countries in the past four years. Moreover, the study participants are beneficiaries of IOM AVRR program. These returnees are mostly settled in Hossana town and neighboring Lemo Woreda of

Hadiya zone. The study encompasses government sectors such as Zonal social and labor affairs in Hadiya zone, Zonal job creation and Enterprise development agency and at Federal Ministry of social and labor affairs.

3.5. Sample Selection Criteria

Participants of the study are male returnees from transit countries towards Republic of South Africa namely Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. The participant of the study are returnees who returned Ethiopia through IOM AVR program in the past two to five years .This participants are above the age of 18.These returning are residing in Hossana town and Lemo woreda .

3.6. Sampling and Sampling Techniques

Lemo woreda and Hossana town are selected because a large number of returnees from transit countries to Republic of South Africa are living in these areas. The researcher went to Hadiyz zone BOLSA to get contacts of migrant returnees. However, accessing and getting in touch with returnees was very challenging; therefore, the researcher used the referral of returnees which is an appropriate strategy depicted in the snowball sampling technique. Kreuger and Neuman (2006) pointed out that snowball sampling is an appropriate method for identifying and sampling the cases which are found in a network (Kreuger &Neuman ,2006).Furthermore, in Ethiopia there is challenge to find list of return migrants or one central organization assisting returnees. For these reasons, the only viable method for sampling was snowball sampling. In snowball sampling a gatekeeper introduces the researcher to participants and essentially uses referrals from one participant to find new participants. Hence, purposive and snowball sampling techniques were preferred for this study because they contributed to adequately select respondents who are best to meet the study objectives. The researcher used the snowball technique to ensure interviews with migrant returnees and purposive sampling to select local government agencies in the Hadiya Zone and Lemo wored and IOM key informant.

3.7. Methods of Data Collection

This study has employed an in depth interview and key informant tools to collect the data for this research .

In-depth and key informant

The study objective is investigating the migration reasons, experience and the reintegration challenges and opportunities of returnee migrant. In-depth interview was employed to allow participants describe their migration experience in detail. Therefore, Semi-structured questions were prepared to conduct in-depth interview with 14 participants and with four key informants. The research conducted four key informant interviews with the assumption that those interviewed have a profound knowledge on the Reintegration process and services for returnee migrant. The key informant are from IOM,Zonal BOLSA,MOLSA and Zonal UJCFSA as a result an ample of data has collected to suffice the research.

Document Review

In order to substantiate the primary data with the facts in available documents, policy documents, journals, on Reintegration of returnees and their experience of migration and reintegration in development studies framework and prominent authors in migration discourse particularly on return and reintegration .

3.8. Methods of Data Analysis

In this study, qualitative data analysis method was used to analyze the collected data. Accordingly, the employed thematic data analysis procedure delineated by (Braun and Clarke, 2006).In order to analyze the data, the first stage the gathered interviews data was transcribed and the verbatim translated from Amharic to English and read in detail. After transcription, the data was coded and organized into retrievable sections and were categorized into meaningful themes.

In this study data is analyzed, synthesized, interpreted using descriptive and narrative method. , the findings is summarized by using simple, more readable narrative explanation and quotes.

3.9. Ethical Consideration

First of all, formal letter was taken from collage of development studies, Addis Ababa University (AAU) and given to respective government offices which were used to get permission to interview key informants for the study .The Researcher has asked respondents voluntariness to participate on the study through explaining the purpose of the research and received their consent orally. The researcher has informed the confidentiality of any of the information and the researcher also told respondents that they have the right to withdraw from the study at any stage of the research. And the researcher has also informed participants to skip topics that are not comfortable to discuss. Generally, in this study the researcher consciously considered ethical issues in seeking Consent, avoiding deceptions, maintaining the confidentiality, respecting the privacy and protecting the anonymity of respondents encountered during the study. Moreover, COVID protocols were employed throughout the research process.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Finding

This section sets out the major findings of the study; though the main target of the research is the experience of migrants after their return, in order to see the interconnected aspects of their past experience with their return, the researcher also explored the reasons for migration and migration stories of returnees. Hence, the findings are presented in four major parts; factors of migration, migrating experience, Assisted voluntary return experience, and reintegration experience of returnees from southern migration route. Before the presentation of the major findings, the subsection below summarizes the description of the research participants.

4.1.1 Description of participants

The research enrolled respondents; seven participants from each zones. In terms of age, they were between the ages of 24 and 35 years. All respondents are living in SNNPR, Hadiya zone All respondents arrived to Ethiopia through IOM Assisted voluntary return and Reintegration program from year 2015 to 2019 .Five key informants from relevant government office and IOM has participated in this study. Accordingly, Profiles of both participant migrant returnees and key informants are summarized in table 1 and table 2(Annexed see annex.5, P.84 and annex 6.P.85.)

4.1.2. Pre migration Status and migration motivations

The extracted demographic data from the interviews shows that all the participants are high school dropouts. The verbatim of the participants on status before migration as indicated below:

(Lo.4)'s account on his education level indicates that: *'When I left, I was grade 10 student and earned 3.4 GPA .But, I wanted a better life, like the succeeded migrants in my village .So , I decided to migrate with my friends ''*

Similarly, (Ho.6) reported that:

“ I migrated after taking grade 10 National Examination .I scored 3.4 GPA and I could have joined preparatory or higher education .However, I was influenced by school mates who dressed very well and had much money. Some students came to school well groomed and their change was instant because of the remittance money their family receive. Therefore, that triggered me to migrate to Republic of South Africa irregularly.”

Two of the participants were high achieving students who scored 3.4 and 3.6 GPA at grade ten national exam and they had the chance to join higher education. However, they were persuaded by the successful peer migrants in Republic Of South Africa .Some of the participants had their own business before migration but still chose to migrate.

(Ho.7,Lo.2&Ho.2;2021) explained their pre -migration economic status as follows :*(Ho.7,Oct,2021 reported that: ‘Before starting migration journey, I was working in Jigjiga town as house painter and earned 5000 birr each month.’(Lo.1) interview also indicated that ‘I had shop and motor bike and I earned more than 2000 birr. Therefore, I paid 1000 ETB in weekly saving ‘Equip ‘.*

All of the participants of the study are migrant returnees who returned from transit countries towards Republic of South Africa and therefore they explain their migration reason as follows:

(Ho.7) explains his motivation as: *“I decided to migrate for better life and to support my family back home. It is highly acceptable gesture to families in our culture.”*(Lo.6) also added that *“I wanted better life and I assumed my life would change if I migrated to RSA. ”* This phrase is frequently mentioned by all participants in the interviews. This finding indicates that some of the

participants had means of livelihood before migration and some of them were still high achieving students. Nevertheless, they still attempted to migrate to Republic of South Africa. Pursuit of better life is the pulling factor which was indicated by most participants and peer pressure is identified as pushing factors of migration as explained by all participants. This study finding confirmed that, these returnees are migrating for economic reason and there was no other significant reason.

Migration Route

As the narratives of the participants indicated, the goal of all the respondents was to arrive at Republic of South Africa. In this section, participants have reported the migration route they took to arrive destination country and explained the migration route they went through. Participants of this study are returnees from transit countries en route to South Africa namely, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. The migration route taken in all three destination countries along southern migration route are described as below:

(Ho.1) a participant who returned from Tanzania said:

I began the migration Journey from Hossana town and travelled to Hawassa .After Hawassa, the broker arranged transportation with other migrants to Moyale which is Ethio- Kenyan border. We crossed Kenyan border and after crossing the border we travelled to Nairobi in suffocated truck which was arranged by the broker. In Nairobi, we stayed inside the car for the whole day .It was very hot weather and we were suffocated in the small space shared with five migrants. In the evening, we drove to Mombasa and walked through the bushes to the borders of Tanzania. Unfortunately, I was caught in Tanzania by local resident who then reported us to the immigration officers together with other 20 migrants.’’

The other returnee participant from Zambia also explained his migration journey as follows:

“ I lived in Lemo woreda and a came to our village to take me and other 6 migrants to Hossana town. In the next morning we travelled to Dilla through Hawassa and arrived finally arrived Moyale. After 10 days in Moyale, we crossed border to Kenya by foot. In Kenya, we also stayed two days and we moved to Tanzaina border by truck. days. The trip form Tanzania to Zambia was the by container truck .It was the most distressing part of the journey because we barely breathed”

Half of the participants revealed they were detained in Tanzania and the other half indicated they detained in Zambia, Majority of the returnees reported taking a southern migration route as Hossana-Hawassa-Dilla –Moyale-Nirobia –Mombasa –Tanzania. In terms of mode of travel and the migration channel used, all participant returnees expressed that they traveled by foot and at times used cars, motor bicycle and container trucks as provided to them by the smugglers. Five of the participants have extended their journey up to Zambia and caught in Zambia. Unlike the other respondents of the study , (Ho.7) went the furthest journey to Republic of South Africa bordering country Mozambique. He also confirmed that he went through Moyale and then crossed Kenyan border and then to Tanzania. After, Tanzania he travelled to Mozambique by Motor bicycle and car and finally detained in Mozambique. The accounts of the respondents indicate that the southern migration begins from Moyale –kenya -Tanzania is the common migration route. Yet, some of the participants went further to Zambia and one returnee arrived Mozambique crossing all the borders in southern migration route.(Ho.7) said’ *’who would believe my return, there was no history of return after arriving the final bordering country to Republic of South Africa. I could have entered South Africa if I wasn’t caught that day.*

4.1.3. Migration experience

The previous section of the finding has partly showed some of their migration experience. The response from all the respondents revealed that the migration journey involves crossing borders by foot, riding bike and loaded in suffocated truck. Moreover, the journey is precarious as the narratives of all participants described in this section.

During the interview, when participants asked about their migration experience, most of them of them were saying ” *It is better not to talk about it nor think of it.*” And when they speak about their experience, they said: “ *we were like sheep following the brokers without questioning the whole situation and the journey* “. These phrases are used almost by all participants. Details of participant’s story also confirms the dangers of irregular migration.

(Lo.3) narrates his experience as follows:

‘‘From Ethiopian border to Nairobi, we were packed inside container and drove to Mombasa. We usually leave the town at night. In day time we walk in the bushes, forests and cross valleys and pits along the way. At times, we were told to hide whenever there is suspicion that officials or residents present in the area. It was very scary journey and I was hungry all the way. We resisted all the suffering hoping to enter to SA. Eventually we arrived in Lusaka and stayed the night in some compound. Then the smuggler told us to get in to the minibus and locked the door. In the day time some people have noticed that we are migrants and the broker left us alone .Then police came and threw smoke in to the bus, then told us that we are illegal migrants and that we are arrested from that moment on. The police took us to the prison.’’

(Ho.2) also revealed that: “*Reality of migration journey isn’t what the smugglers promises you. Instead once you left Moyale, there is starvation, suffering and death at the worst situation.*”

All respondent revealed that the journey to Moyle was comfortable and brokers have treated the migrants very well until they cross the border in Kenya. However, the remaining journey was filled with hardships such as hunger, physical deprivation and trauma. According to the interview data, the migration journey took 15 days to 2 months to arrive at the transit country .All respondents have reported of severe hunger and thirst as the biggest challenges in the migration journey. They mentioned they ate food once in four days when only the smuggler bring food. Moreover, whenever a health problem arises, they barely were able to get help.

A participant has described his situation as (Ho.1)said:” *I was walking with other migrants within the bushes crossing border from kenya to Tanzania by foot. Thorn cut into my foot and it developed pus and I didn’t get help for 15 days.*”

Detention, Physical abuse and Sexual violence

All participants migration goal was to enter the Republic of South Africa as their migration destination. However, migrants have taken illicit cross border journey which was facilitated by smugglers. As a result, they were detained in transit countries en route to republic of South Africa. Subsequently, all the participant of the study were detained though the length differs individual to individual.

(Ho.4) explains his imprisonment experience as follows:

“The suffering in the prison center in Zambia was worse than what I have encountered along the journey to arrive Zambia .I was caught in Zambia by the immigration officials and taken to police officers along with the smuggler and other migrants. We were questioned by the police officers and an Amharic translator were there to translate for us. The translator told us to say yes when the police read the

statement and tells us we are guilty. Then we were sentenced for 15 years and taken to high security prison where criminal prisoners in death row and life sentence located. As migrants we were supposed to be at detention centers .However, I was charged with crime and served 5 years in prison. We learned later that we were imprisoned in place of the smuggler. The smuggler has set up the scene where we were told to say guilty since we didn't know English language. He was only prisoned for 6 months while we were sentenced for 15 years. The prison was in dire situation and our clothes were worn out. It was even banned to remove lies from your body publicly, so we secretly go to toilets to rub it from our body and hair. ''

Prison cells were not even humanely in terms of space as well. (Ho.4), also added that:'' *prison cell has no enough space to sleep .So, even in day time, we sleep outside''*. (Lo.3)'s verbatim also indicates: *'the prison cell was very small and we were suffocated and didn't even have space to sleep. It was a hell.'*'' The narrative of some participants has also revealed that returnee migrants were physically abused. Daniel talks about the beating as: *'In Tanzania prison, our rooms were periodically searched because some local prisoners smuggle drugs in to the prisons. We were also beaten by the police officers without a reason. ''*Additionally, there was more physical abuse which was described by (Lo.4) as: *'the detention centers was a hard place to live. Even worse, we were we were subjected to work on the large corn farms ''*

All participants have indicated the dangers they faced along the migration journey. They told on how they survived days without food. According to their stories, hunger and thirst are the most common described challenges of migrants during the journey as well as at the detention centers .Some of the participants have also mentioned they were suffocated in cars without ventilation. The other most dangerous part of the migration journey is detention in foreign land. All participants

have mentioned that they were hungry and didn't get enough food in the detention centers. However, the issue of sexual violence wasn't mentioned except by one of the participant who dared to raise the issue.

The narration of (Ho.4)is as stated below:

It was a terrible prison with a dire living condition. Sodom and Gomorra were real in the prison center. Homosexuality is common experience among the Prison mates. So, it was very distressing situation for Ethiopian migrants. We go to Toilet in groups, we sleep in group and we look after each other as much as possible. Unfortunately, one of our Muslim fellow was sexually violated by the local prisoners while he went to toilet to wash and prepare for ''Selat'' without the group. Sadly, our friend mental health dropped after the incident and he became mentally ill. He isolated himself and stopped talking to us.

4.1.4. Conditions of Voluntary Return from Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique

International Organization for Migration is an organization that globally implements AVRR

program .Participants of this study came back to Ethiopia through IOM AVRR program. IOM

key expert describes the conditions of return as follows:

“Vulnerability is the basic criteria to include migrants in AVRR program. The program targets are Stranded migrants and undocumented immigrants who are usually detained at foreign land such as transit countries. In order to begin voluntary return process, IOM conducts verification of migrant’s identities and country of origin. Once, their country of origin confirmed, IOM processes travel document. IOM also works with host country and foreign affairs of the migrants country consulates or Embassies to process travel

documents such as laissez- passer which is crucial document to implement voluntary return.’

One of the voluntary return from Mozambique explains his return conditions as follows:

‘I was caught in Mozambique which is the closest the transit country to the border of South Africa. Most migrants easily reached to South Africa once they arrived in Mozambique and it was unlikely to return. Unfortunately, as we were crossing rural village, we were caught by the local dwellers and we were arrested by the immigration officials. After two months, IOM staff came to talk to us from RSA. We were happy to find our country men who spoke Amharic. They explained to us AVRR program and encouraged us to return home. I longed to go back home so, I decided to get back to Ethiopia. I was the first to voluntarily sign and accept IOM’s offer to take me back home. Then IOM changed our cloth and brought us to Addis Ababa with Airplane. ‘

As the description of the participants explained, IOM has reached out to the migrants at the detentions centers at the respective host countries the migrants found. Participants have also revealed, they were visited by the Ethiopian embassy personnel. They also indicated the embassy has taken them to court and were accompanied by an interpreter who provided legal advice to smooth the prosecution.

Is Assisted voluntary Return ‘Voluntary ’’?

According to IOM key informant, AVR is a program exclusively working on voluntary return of migrant returnees. Therefore, in the case of AVR cases of Ethiopian migrants, she believes return is absolutely voluntary. The discussion of migrants to return to their country may vary from case to case.

(Lo.1) explains how he returned as follows:

“ After we served one year in prison, we came to Ethiopia through IOM. I willingly came Ethiopia even though there were no other choice. After we arrived in Ethiopia, IOM gave us a week training on life skill. Then I came back to the village. IOM gave me 10,000 birr and I bought an ox to plough my mother land in the country side. As a result, I was able to help my mother at least get grains from the land. Then with the support of woreda BOWSA and Zonal BOWSA, I got chance to go back to school. Now I am studying at Hossana Health College. “

All of participants in this study explained that they have returned to Ethiopia with support of Ethiopian Embassy and IOM in host country. They also mentioned that there was no other way they could have left the detention centers to get back to Ethiopia or remain in the host country out of the detention centers. All participants revealed that, their return has been voluntary and are happy to get back to Ethiopia with safety.

4.1.6. Reintegration Assistance opportunities for voluntary returnees

Return and reintegration program are conducted with coordination of IOM and Ethiopian Government. Recently, the government of Ethiopia has designed reintegration program

which is guided by Article 1158/2020 proclamation which deals with needs of returnee migrants and reintegration .The proclamation has stated roles of each stakeholder.

Consequently, BOWSA formerly named MOLSA’s roles are explained by (KII.1, March 2022) as follows:

‘‘BOWSA coordinates social, psycho-social and economic reintegration .At first we conduct psychosocial support for vulnerable returnees and after providing rehabilitation, we reunite returnees with their families. Mostly, Behavioral changes are observed among returnee migrants who stayed sometime in foreign land. Therefore, we give them life skill training to smooth their social reintegration .The last part of the reintegration program is economic. We register returnees and facilitate business training and are grouped to be part of small enterprise with support job creation bureau .Aside that ,IOM has its own program ,identifying vulnerable group .IOM also provides training and provides support to establish their business .On government side, loans are facilitated through microfinance to finance the startups.’’

Moreover, beyond the Mistrrial level, local structures have also vital role in reintegration of voluntary returnees. The key informant interview with Zonal BOLSA has also asserted the reintegration role of local government explained as follows:

‘‘In the past four-five years this office has been working on migrant returnees. However, prior to that, its main role has been prevention of irregular migration. The bureau is working on reintegration of migrant returnees. It has also been linking the returnees with respective offices that provide support to them. Any returnee registers at woreda level BOWSA and meanwhile receives psycho social

support within that day. The social worker role at woreda, level involves collecting the basic information of the returnee. ‘

On the government side, revolving funds are the opportunities of economic reintegration that are available to returnee migrants. However, this program doesn't specifically benefit returnee migrants and it is available for unemployed youth (K11.4, Oct, 2022). This program funds small and medium enterprises and facilitates sheds. Unlike IOM's individual assistance, Urban job creation and enterprise development focuses on establishment of enterprises (K11.4, Oct, 2022). This program can only work for groups and individual returnees should be part of the group to receive service from the local job creation bureau. Moreover, if returnees still wishes to go back to school, school and the local education bureau with BOWSA facilitates re-inclusion in to education system (KII.2, Oct, 2022). Hence ,zonal bureau has facilitated education opportunity working with bureau of education and more than half of the returnees have gone back to school.

4.1.7. Opportunities of AVRR program to migrant returnees Reintegration

According to (KII.3, Dec, 2021), IOM's reintegration program is a comprehensive tool which addresses migrant returnee's social, Psychosocial and economic needs. To provide tailored and effective reintegration assistance, IOM conducts different levels of need assessment to see the exact need of returnees. Hence, reintegration assistance is provided based on the identified needs and choices of migrant returnees. IOM, collects returnee's preferences and future plans before their return.

Economic reintegration opportunity

The economic assistance is provided according to the choices of the participant. The key informant from IOM explained about reintegration assistance (KII.3, Dec, 2022). Almost all of the participants have received economic reintegration assistance. (Lo.7) said ‘, IOM has provided me an ox, I used the ox to plough our land feed our family. I am glad that I was able to get back the land as well.

(Ho.1) stated his choice as: *‘I have opened woodwork shop with IOM support. I earn 2000-5000 ETB per month and I am also attending vocational school. I am glad about the reintegration assistance received. Most of all I am glad because I was able to repay the debts others owed me.’* Two of the participants (Ho.2) and (Lo.4) have also run a metal work business .Moreover, after return, (Ho.2) has opened metal work business through IOM reintegration assistance. Currently, he has his own family which he provides with the income he earns from this business opportunity. He added that the reintegration assistance has been helpful regardless of the gaps in the service provision.

(Ho.2, oct.2021).

(Ho.7,oct ,2021),details of account is as follows :

(Ho.7), ‘IOM has contacted us after one year since we returned from Mozambique. I chose wood work and got training for two months. After the training, I received some machines to start the business .Many have sold some of the equipment IOM gave them to start their business. However, I was determined to making living with the given opportunity. Therefore, I work hard and now I own a wood work shop. If I didn’t get this support, I would have re-immigrated or stayed at the rural village. IOM support has made my life better. I have also learned that it is possible to change our life if we work hard in country. I don’t advice others to migrate, I rather suggest if they be able to use that money to invest in their business. ‘

(Ho.4, oct.2021) has explained the success of the reintegration process .He has barber shop where he has employed four workers including him. From his monthly salary, he pays for his rent and covers his essential needs. He said, he couldn't afford this prior to the reintegration assistance. Now, he is grade 12 and waiting to take the national exam .He sees a bright future and wishes to build bigger business in his hometown .Though he is not fully satisfied with IOM's reintegration support, he still grateful for the support he received and the humanly service he received from IOM AVRRR project staff in particular .He credits the importance of the emotional support that given to him by IOM program team for the success of his reintegration. At the end, he indicated that has no plan for re-emigration at all. (Ho.4, oct.2021)

IOM has provided economic, social and psycho -social support. The social Reintegration includes reinsertion to school and to the social system in general (KII 2, Dec 2021).Accordingly, After return, (Ho.3) ,(Lo.5) ,(Lo.6),(Ho.1) ,(Ho.6) and (Ho.4) have resumed school through the social integration program implemented by IOM and BOLSA. Before migration, two of former achieving returnees (Ho.4) and (Lo.2) had scored 3.4 and 3.2 GPA respectively at the national exam. After five years of prison, (Ho.4) will take national exam this year and he hopes to continue higher education and earn his degree .On the other hand, (Lo.2) also got back to school and this year he will graduate from nursing school.

Economically, IOM has provided reintegration support such as animal fattening, poultry, metal work, wood work, barber shops and shops(KII.3,Nov,2021) .Some Participants have confirmed receipt of three month vocational training(Ho.1),(Ho.7),(Lo.4)and(Lo.2). They also asserted they have received in-kind support such as machines and equipment essential to their start up business.

4.1.8. Reintegration Challenges of AVR program beneficiaries

Psycho social challenges

Most of the migrant returnees were informed by smugglers that they would arrive their destination within two or three days. Nevertheless, they were not aware of the difficulties they would face along the journey to the Republic of South Africa. Consequently, migrants experienced hunger, imprisonment, physical attack and other abuses. Because of their dialed migration some has also reported feeling shame and Stress.

(HO,1).*‘My parents gave their land as liability to finance my migration journey. They paid 120,000 ETB to the broker who arranged the travel. So, when I return home empty handed, I was very ashamed and always thought of the burden I created to my family and the loss I caused to their valuable asset. It was stressing for me until, I was finally able to pay them back and get the land secured ‘*

Migrants also face various psycho social challenges after they arrive their community. (Ho.4) talks about his challenges as follows:

‘I came back to Ethiopia after five years in Zambian prison and when arrived I learned that both my parents have passed away. I also found out that after my parent’s death, my sisters have sold our house and shared the money among themselves. I came empty handed and nothing awaited me in my hometown. I even had no place to stay so, I moved in with my friend. After sometime, I came out to live on street since I couldn’t be burden on him any further. It was the darkest moment of my life and I didn’t know what to do with my life after all I have been through .Sadly, I couldn’t even get a job at a fuel station. So, I was stressed and my life has

turned upside down. I was even persuaded to use substance to numb the emotional difficulties I encountered. ‘’.

Social challenges

Migrant returns experience in the entire migration journey is expected to change the social interactions of migrant returnees once they arrived at country of origin. (KII.2, Oct, 2021) talked about the social challenges he observed while working with return migrants. He said: ‘ *Education status is the other issue which challenges returnees since they missed out school for years in prisons in other countries. This discourages them from joining school .Also they are more inclined to be friend with those who have been returnees instead of previous associates since it has been discontinued.’*

Few of participants have revealed their struggle to maintain friendship with their former social networks (Ho.4, Ho1. Lo.4). However, surprisingly, nearly all of the participants reported they didn’t feel stigmatized by their migration status and their families didn’t make them feel unwanted. This is mentioned as an advantage of successful reintegration by some participants. However, all participants regret on wasting big amount of money without successful migration.It has been a major social and also psycho social issue which resulted in stress and depression to participants like (Ho.1, Lo.3, Lo.7and Ho.6). Ho.7 sais’’*If I had that amount of money (110,000), I would have developed bigger business. Back then I didn’t know about the return from business.’*

Economic challenges of reintegration

According to the accounts of all participants, they have lost their money and have nothing to build again .Some of them spent their savings to finance their migration expense (Lo.2), (Ho.5), (Lo.2),(Lo.7); Oct, 2021) and others have also sold their family cattle and land to cover the

migration cost (Lo.1) ,(Ho.1),(Ho.2).When they return from transit countries, they haven't met their migration goal and they are usually detained or imprisoned .

Anticipating the economic challenges, IOM facilitated reintegration assistance which consists of , in kind support to startup businesses. However, the reintegration program has its own challenges explains as follows (Lo.5, Oct, 2021): *‘initially, IOM has promised to cover the rental for our workshops business .However, this didn't happen in reality. The equipment I received from BOLSA are not original which broke within few weeks. If the equipment's were original, I would have profited better profited from the business.’*

The need for sheds or workshops

(Lo.4, interview, Oct, 2021) Some of the economic reintegration issues are explained by the participants as follows:

‘In order to get a market for a business, the workshop should be at visible and convenient location. Accordingly, I rented my workshop for my metal work business, however, the owners increase the rent every now and then.it is difficult to leave the area where my customers already know. Because, in our business, location and networking matters. If I rent workshop with less price but, in inconvenient location, I lose my clients, so it is very challenging to deal with rent. So, if we got sheds from government the business will definitely grow. ‘

(Ho.2) also shares this view strongly and he said: *‘I want the government to provide us a shed for our metal work so we sustain our business. I would like to be part of the small enterprise. ‘* (Ho7,) has also opened a wood work business with the integration assistance and he has similar challenges with workshop space and high price of the rent.

Excess Taxation

Excess taxation was mentioned by the majority of participants as a challenge for economic reintegration and hurdle to their start up business growth. During the in-depth interview, (Ho.7,) said: *‘we are paying taxes, just like the rich business men. But, we are returnees trying to make living out of the support we received from IOM and government, so and we need tax relief until we build our business. We at least need six months. However, the local revenue office requires us to pay high amount of tax which is discouraging to our business.*

Lack of seed money and inadequate training

IOM reintegration assistance involves in kind support, vocational training and business development training .As part of its principle and previous project learning ,IOM doesn't provide cash support to returnees ,rather materials are purchased based on beneficiaries business plan(KII.2, Dec, 2021).Participants also confirmed receipt of the assistance. However, for (Lo.4) mentions the challenges as: *‘A business like mine requires flowing cash to buy materials which couldn't be covered by client's down payment. Otherwise, the business slows down because I don't have the capital to substantiate the remaining work’’*

Vocational training was given to participants who chose to build business in metal works, woodworks and hair cutting (Ho.1, Ho.2, Lo.4, and Lo.7and Lo.5). However, the returnees do not feel the duration of the training were enough to build the skills needed to start a business.(Ho.1) said: *‘I choose wood work and taken training at TEVET only for two months. I have got some knowledge about wood work basics .However, it is not enough to run the business by myself. So, I employed trained woodworker and now I am working with him .Because, I couldn't do the work with just two months of training.’’* Regarding

trainings, five participants have mentioned they didn't receive training even though they received the reintegration assistance such as cattle and chickens.

Among the five (Lo.3) mentioned that he has sold the poultry he received from IOM. His reasons are as follows: *'I was given 20 chickens to start poultry business. However. I had no training on Poultry and I didn't know to sustain the business .Hence, some the chickens were dying so I sold the remaining chickens to buyer.'*

Institutional Factors and Challenges that affect successful Reintegration

Returnee's low motivation to enroll in reintegration program: Both (KII.3, Dec .2021) and (KII.1, March, 2022) indicated that many returnees are not mentally stable enough to build their life in Ethiopia .Most of them are still planning to move and they are unhappy about the services provided to them. reported that: 'KII.1 ,March,2022 also mentioned that *'Most of the returnees easily give up during the process and has less patience to overcome the challenges .At some point they will leave the program because their mind is still on remigration.'*' This study finding has also revealed that some AVRR program beneficiaries has sold machines and materials received from IOM as reintegration part of assistance (KII.2, Oct, 2021).

Organizational bureaucracy and Delay in service provision

Majority of the study respondents indicated that IOM contacted them after a year or above since their arrival.(KII.3,Dec,2021) also agreed that IOM's reintegration services takes three month up to year even though reintegration handbook recommends that returnees needs to be contacted within one month .She explained the situation as follows :

‘According to the reintegration book we are directed to contact returnees within one month after their arrival. However, because of the limited staff and the large number of beneficiaries, and tracing returnees in scattered locations extends the contact period from three month up to one year. Moreover, IOM has long procurement process which may take months to purchase in-kind business materials to supply program beneficiaries. Hence, the support arrives at times where they felt hopeless because of the long process and this has a negative effect on the success of their reintegration ‘

Lack of periodic follow up and financial constraint.

According to Key informant, IOM’s reintegration assistance is not properly monitored neither evaluated the progresses of the program. Therefore, many beneficiaries left the program after they received the assistance and sold it to non-beneficiary buyer (KII.2, Oct, 2021). The whereabouts of the returnees neither monitored by Zonal BOLSA because of financial constraint to cover staff travel cost and lack of vehicle to do field visits as described by key informant from Zonal BOLSA. The respondent has also implied, the bureau has received less attention from zonal administration. Consequently, the status and situation of returnee is monitored and the program hasn’t be evaluated. Lack of resources in local BOWSA. Monitoring has costs and most of all the bureau do not have car to travel into rural woreda for monitoring and support (KII.2, Oct, 2021).

Nearly all participants have reiterated what (Lo.4) said:

‘There was no further support from the institutions after they gave us the in kind assistance and didn’t get follow-up on progress I have made in the business. Whether it is small or bigger business, it would have been great if we received support and monitoring from the organization which provided us the training and equipment. I

would have loved a visit from IOM to show them the progresses I have made .Let alone the material support, moral support is valuable to me since it encourages me to do better.’’

According to (KII.2, Oct, 2021), firstly, IOM doesn't usually follow up the beneficiaries of the AVRR program. Once the support provided the status of the beneficiaries are not monitored .This creates waste of resources and decreases accountability sense of the beneficiaries. Secondly, comparing to the need, the services is limited in Hadiya zone .There is high number of returnees, yet the service is for few returnees. Third, program beneficiaries are not happy with the support as they expected bigger capital money (KII.2, Oct, 2021). The finding revealed that both reintegration actors Zonal BOLSA and IOM are not actively monitoring the reintegration program. Regardless, follow visits are sought by the returnees who would like their progress and challenges be known to the organizations that supported the startup business.

Weak coordination among service providers

(KII.3, Dec, 2021), (KII.1, March, 2022), (KII.2, Oct, 2021) and (KII.4 , Oct. 2021) indicated that coordination between agencies working on reintegration, government stakeholders and other actors is a big challenge the reintegration activity is facing. Coordination problem as biggest hurdle of reintegration service. Reintegration is complex and multifaceted, it involves various stakeholders to fulfill the tasks and deliver reintegration services. However, the response and mandate issues among the government bodies responsible in carrying out the task lacks coordination. Moreover, the bureaucratic process within the government offices has delayed the services and discouraged many returnees from achieving reintegration goal. The key Informant from MOLSA detail description is read as follows:

‘It is difficult to say reintegration is properly implemented in Ethiopia. This is because of the bureaucratic nature of government procedures. Reintegration activity couldn’t be done with just one institution rather demands coordination of other relevant stakeholders. After MOLSA provided the training, there might be issues liaising with job creation such as related to land management, electricity, water utility and licensing. So there is high chance of drop out because of the obstacles during the process .’

Absence of Direct policy on Reintegration and less attention to Assisted return

Per the interview with (KII.1, March, 2022), assisted voluntary returnees are given less attention unlike deportees. The respondent elucidated that deportees from Middle East have large number and it is total responsibility of the government. However, assisted voluntary returnees are less in number and are perceived to have their own means of return. According to the key informant, returnees from southern migration are usually viewed as successful and seems do not need government intervention.

‘MOLSA has data of returnees who are only deported .MOLSA do not have its own personnel at airport and usually receive their data from IOM. Most of returnees from South Africa do not register as they return by themselves. Number of returnees from South Africa is quite less therefore, it hasn’t received much attention from government. Because, returnees from South Africa are usually successful and they do not seek support from government. In general, little is known about assisted voluntary returnees.’

According to MOLSA key informant, Ethiopia is one of migrant sending country, yet, it hasn’t still designed migration policy that follows up with migration flows and management. So far,

there hasn't been comprehensive policy on reintegration and return. Yet, proclamation were made such as 1178/2020 to lead on returnees. Key informant and from IOM and MOLSA has also confirmed that there are gaps in the implementation of reintegration policy. Still, there are gaps in the implementation of the existing proclamation. (KII.1, March, 2022),

Summary

This study finding confirmed that, these returnees are migrating for economic reason and there was no other significant reason. Moreover, this finding indicates that all participants were motivated to migrate Republic of South Africa in search of better life and the pressure from friends and neighbors. The research finding depicts that returnee migrants have been suffering multifaceted problems after their return .All participants have indicated that they have experienced various difficulties along irregular migration journey and at the detention centers .To mention them, hunger, thirst, sleeplessness, suffocation and physical deprivation are among the frequently stated experiences of the migrant returnees .Participants also reported that they were imprisoned at transit countries such as Tanzania ,Zambia and Mozambique with range of 2-5 years prison sentence . All respondents reported that they ate only once day and barely slept because of the dire situation of prison cells .Moreover, they reported beaten by police officers, sexually assaulted by prison mates and forced to work on hard labor at farms owned by the prisons. Overall, participants have been through dreadful situation along the migration journey and at the detention centers. All participants revealed that, their return has been voluntary and are happy to get back to Ethiopia with safety.

IOM has provided economic, social and psycho -social support and government also has its reintegration program implemented by MOLSA and its respective local structure. IOM program

is individual level and Government focused on establishing Small and Medium enterprise. The participant of this study haven't benefited from government program.

Socially, majority of participants reported reclusion to school through the support of Zonal BOLSA and IOM. From social structure point of view, interestingly, respondents didn't feel stigma except the fact they self-isolated because of the situation of their return.

Regarding Psycho -social challenges, few participants reported experiencing depression and had issues with sleep after their return. However, psycho social services were not available to them. From the researcher observation, Psych-social reintegration is neglected in comparison to other reintegration assistance components despite the existing psycho-social reintegration need. Economically, voluntary returnees have received reintegration assistance from IOM .They indicated they received vocational training, in kind support made to each business and five days life skill training .Nevertheless, respondents reported mainly economic challenges in their reintegration process described as: lack of working shed, shortage of capital, inadequate vocational training, and unrealistic taxation are frequently stated challenges reported by the returnees.

From institutional perspective Reintegration program challenges are identified as First, lack of coordination between agencies working on reintegration; secondly, government stakeholders and other actors; thirdly, low motivation of returnees in reintegration program, fourth ,lack of the follow up the progresses tracking ;fifth, resource constraint of government to implement reintegration is since it is an expensive program ;Finally ,Ethiopia has not yet designed migration policy that follows up with migration flows and management. So far, there hasn't been comprehensive policy on reintegration and return.

4.2. Discussions

In the following section of the study, the interpretation of the data are discussed in light of the existing literature. The first part deals with the key findings of the whole study under the themes of participants' profile, migration experiences, the post-return reintegration assistances, the reintegration challenges, and the institutional effect on sustainable reintegration. The second part focuses on discussing the new findings of the study in light of related literatures and previous studies reviewed. This section of the study provides insights over the finding of the study and the matches and mismatches with previous research.

4.2.1. Reasons for migration

In the present study, all participants have implied they emigrated searching for better life. Most of them reiterated as *''I decided to migrate for better life and to support my family back home. Supporting once family is highly valued in our culture''*. From the earliest neoclassical economics theories, (Todro 1969) has examined the the main reasons of migration are the assumptions on the difference standards of living, levels of salaries, in the host country and the country of origin. Here, the migrant is seen as a rational being that wishes to increase his income. (Todaro 1969). Empirical evidence showed that Ethiopian migrants in South Africa, through social media, wedding videos and photographs has painted Republic of South Africa as paradise to sending communities .Moreover, the flowing remittance and material success has attracted many youth to migrate to South Africa. Hence irregular migration has increased alarmingly despite of the migration risks along the journey (Estifanos, 2016).

Ethiopians migrating to Southern Africa are increasingly regarded as economic migrants rather than forced migrants. Primarily, young men migrate to South Africa for economic (Horwood,

2015). However, as low skilled migrants economic reasons do not legitimize entry to the Republic of South Africa, rather is to seek political asylum. Therefore, migration towards southern migration route is described as ‘mixed’ since in the Horn of Africa, the real migration is motivated by economic, social, environmental and political factors (Lindley & Hammond, 2014; Estifanos & Zack, 2019). In Hadiya zone, economic motivations are the main motivations of migration as the finding of the data indicated from the in-depth interviews with migrant returnees.

4.2.2. Migration experience

Voluntary migrant returnees in this study have revealed their migration experience during the interviews. Among the migration experiences, participants have reported that their passports were confiscated by the smugglers in Kenya. The migration journey has lasted 15 to one month ,possibly the length varies because of the multi factors they encounter. Most of participants have mentioned, they were hungry, thirsty, and sleepless and didn’t have cloth to change along the precarious migration journey. Moreover, health problems and death was also apparent in the migration journey and five of the fellow migrants has died while crossing border Kenya to Tanzania(Ho.1,oct.2021). Previous research also indicated that Undocumented migration to South Africa requires crossing several African countries, entails high risk, including physical and emotional stress, being imprisoned, deportation and death (see e.g., Horwood, 2009)

Detention and imprisonment are common migration experience of all voluntary returnee’s migrants. Most of them indicted that they were imprisoned 2-5 years in prison centers at transit countries such as Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. Respondents reported that even at prison centers, they only ate once a day and they were beaten several times by police officers .Respondents of this study from detention centers in Tanzania and Zambia have revealed ,they

were mal -treated and worked on hard labored farms .Prison cells were small and hardly accommodate. One of the study participant who imprisoned in Zambia indicated that he slept outside since the prison cell were tiny. All participants explained the detention centers were very bad and they suffered so much. (Lo.4, Oct, 2021) indicated that he was subjected to work on corn farms in Tanzania with free labor. Irregular migrant in detention centers were subjected to do hard labor in farms .Yet, this is not explicitly indicated in official data and usually this is an off record data and stories of many migrants (KII.3.Dec.2021).

4.2.3 Return and Reintegration process of Ethiopian Assisted voluntary Returnees

In the case of Ethiopian assisted voluntary returnees from southern migration route, IOM usually finds stranded and vulnerable migrants at detention centers and few contact IOM service points. Primarily, IOM verifies the identity of the migrants through various procedures. Migrants are included in assisted voluntary Returnees and reintegration program if they are in vulnerable situation and being a citizen outside of the host country (KII.3, Dec, 2022).Returnees also confirmed that they were contacted by IOM and their return was facilitated as a result. IOM's staff visited the migrants at detention centers and prisons to verify their identity. (Ho.4, Oct, 2021) revealed that a person from Ethiopian Embassy asked us to speak our language and speak it among us to verify our nationality.

Following identity verification, returnees were given counseling on AVRR program and their consent was also requested if they chose to go back to their home country(Subsequently, IOM prepares travel document for migrants such as Lessie- passier cooperating with Ethiopian Embassy and host government (KII.3,Dec,2022).

The circumstances under which return migration takes place is crucial for reintegration of migrants back into their countries of origin (Cassarino, 2014b; King, 2000; Wickramasekara, 2011).

Specifically, for IOM in the context of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), voluntariness is assumed to exist if two conditions apply: (a) freedom of choice, which is defined as the absence of physical or psychological pressure to enroll in an AVRR programme; and (b) an informed decision, which requires the availability of timely, unbiased and reliable information upon which to base the decision (IOM, 2013). After completion of their travel document, Returnees travel back to Ethiopia by airplane. Since their arrival in Ethiopia, IOM places them at transit center and provided life skill training for eight days and are given transportation money to get back to their village. The next step would be providing the reintegration assistance for voluntary returnees (KII .3, Dec, 2021).

4.2.4. Reintegration opportunities and Challenges

In case of Ethiopia, reintegration and return issues have got some attention after mass deportation happening from Middle East. Therefore, the government of Ethiopia has designed proclamation to attend returnee migrant needs. Reintegration assistance consists of cultural, Psycho -social and economic reintegration (KII.1, march 2022). Previously ,reintegration programs mainly focused on economic integration as the measure of success (Newland&Slant, 2018). However, there is growing realization among development agents that reintegration is a multidimensional concept and returnees may be reintegrated in different dimensions including , social and psychological factors which has equal significance in determining the outcome of return(Newland&Slant, 2018; Kushumaire, 2013). Return is part of the reintegration process and the process begins at the first contact host country. IOM AVRR program focuses on vulnerable and standard migrants in foreign land. Therefore, Ethiopian migrants in southern migration route who are in detention centers are targets of the program. The migration experience can be stressful, and so is return migration which can negatively impact the returnees in many aspects: economically, socially and psychologically (Chobayan, 2013)

Psycho social challenges: Most of participants have responded that they were in distress after their arrival. They have felt shame because they didn't make it to Republic of South Africa and reported of self-isolation. Majority of them indicated that they have paid migration cost by selling family property .Therefore, when they return, they were not capable of paying the debt and refund the cost which they promised to pay if their migration was successful. In same token, a study conducted in Armenia has also revealed that the migration experience, particularly mal treatment in host country causes returnees psycho-social instability.

According to Zeleke and Frejeerskov, (2020), Ethiopian returnees re-emigrate irregularly within the first year because of the debts they have accumulated (Zeleke and Frejeerskov, 2020). Various researchers discusses the effect of traumatic experience and abuses in mental health of human beings. Particularly, post-traumatic stress disorder is among the most common symptoms and issue irregular migrants experience. A study conducted in Armenia has also revealed that the migration experience, particularly mal treatment in host country causes returnees psycho-social instability. Consequently, majority of the study participants indicated they still suffer from stress related afflictions due to traumatic experiences during the migration cycle, often because of living conditions abroad.in same study quarter of these returnees reported experiencing traumatic memories which worsened since return a (Chobayan, 2013).

IOM provides, an average of six days life skills training to returnees emphasizing on new beginning returnees (KII.3, Dec, 2021). In the case of BOLSA, returnees are given a one day consultation with local BOLSA experts (KII.2, Oct, 2021). However, the researcher observation and formal and these experts are not trained psychosocial service providers rather their main tasks are collecting the basic information of returnees.

Social challenges: Social networks are vital component to successful return and reintegration. Furthermore, concerns of families and the non-migrant population in the community of return should be addressed by strengthening social links and increasing the absorption capacity of communities in regions with high levels of return (IOM, 2019). Interestingly, participants of this study mentioned, they didn't experience stigma as result of their migration status. Moreover, their families and communities were receptive and it wasn't a problem to easily blend into the community. Most of the respondents reported that their families are happy to welcome them. Moreover, returnees are given chances to be re- included to school system through social reintegration program. Educational initiatives complement economic support for a successful assisted return of deportees (Graviano et al., 2017; Jallow et al., 2004). Certainly, while some deportees are labor skilled, others may be less skilled or unskilled. Therefore, it is important to absorb all these concerns in the quest to reintegrate them. "However, some of the participants who stayed in prison for five years have revealed loss of circle of friends for they have been away for sometimes and it was hard to catch up (Ho.4, Ho.1).

Economic challenges of reintegration: In most cases of voluntary return migrants return, socioeconomic and psychological problems are prevalent as they return to the limited economic opportunities and financial constraints that contributed to their initial departure. Poverty, which contributed to their vulnerability, may hinder their potential for successful reintegration (Abushula, 2018).According to the accounts of all participants in the present study revealed that, they have financed their migration cost from their savings, selling their family cattle and land and land were also liability to the smuggler in exchange to the fund for migration. Therefore, when they return from detention centers, they are empty handed, in debt and are in real need of economic support. In consistent with this finding, a study focused on assisted voluntary return an reintegration of

migrants finds that 43 per cent of the returnees interviewed were currently in debt, of which 45 per cent had incurred the debt to cover the costs of their original migration. The costs of migration were generally much higher than the allowances offered by assisted voluntary return programmes (Koser and Kuschminder, 2017)

Skills development programs for migrant workers play an important role in reinforcing the view among workers and, improving working conditions, employers' satisfaction, and empowering migrant workers. During the reintegration process participants are encountering lack of working shed, shortage of capital, inadequate vocational training, and excess taxation are frequently mentioned challenges reported by the returnees Tayah (2016). It was Participants have suggested it would have been more effective, if they received 6 months -1 year training on vocational school (Ho.4, Ho.1 and Lo.3).

Additionally, they have pointed out that the received items are not enough to start the business and are low quality of equipment. Consequently, some of their machines were easily broken and fixing the materials has much cost. Thirdly, all participants who opened a business indicated that the Tax payment has been hard on them. It hindered their business from growing and it is affected the effort to build their business. Respondents have mentioned they needed tax relief at least until they be able to pay their rent.

Finally , respondents were also looking for land or shades to do their business from government side. Yet, participants explained they haven't received adequate support from local job creation bureau. Moreover, they highlighted promise was made by IOM to pay for workshop rent. Thus far, it is still not fulfilled and participants revealed struggling to pay rent to their business which is accessible to customers.

4.2.7. Institutional factors that affect success of reintegration program

Responsibilities for return and reintegration spreads across several ministries and agencies .In Ethiopia, Foreign ministry, Ministry of social and labor affairs, job creation commission, and trade and industry office has stakes in reintegration process of migrant returnees. Likewise, regional and zonal structures play major role in migrant reintegration with their respective community (Kuschminder & Ricard Guay, 2017).IOM and ILO also engage in supporting reintegration programs in Ethiopia. This study is conducted on AVRRR program beneficiary's returnee's which involves IOM and other relevant sectors in Hadiya zone .Accordingly, key informant interview was conducted with respective reintegration institutions. Accordingly, the findings are discussed below.

First, the key informant interview and Participants have indicated that reintegration assistance arrives after months and a year after the return. Similarly, ILO report showed delayed starts to training, or postponed access to working spaces (e.g., sheds, land and cumbersome bureaucracy for getting licenses to establish SMEs has been widely identified as a major hindrance (ILO, 2017). Hence participants reported feeling frustration and hopelessness for most of the returnees. In the case of AVRRR program, an integration book instructs reintegration assistance to begin within one month of returnees assisted voluntary returnees arrival. (KII.3, Dec, 2022) also revealed that delayed reintegration assistance to returnees has later flagged in the success of reintegration process.

Secondly, all the participants revealed that IOM or BOLSA do not follow up the progresses and the challenges we encounter in the reintegration process. Once they given the in kind assistance and training, they do not visit or check on the beneficiaries. Participant indicated they wanted follow up and encouragement on the changes we made after the assistance. They suggested follow up could have boosted their work morale. Cherti et al. (2013) also that long-term monitoring and

evaluations of reintegrated beneficiaries will reveal the contribution of the support to a sustainable return. Additionally, long-term evaluations provide analysis of the different stages of the processes of reintegration and this could help identify possible gaps of the entire program (Fonseca et al., 2015). Passche (2014) argues that AVRRs are more politicized than most social policies. Since migration is contentious there is a lack of evaluation culture in the migration policy world, as policy makers wish to exude control and fear negative evaluation findings. This is misguided, as proactively evaluating and monitoring AVRRs substantiate policies, insulates decision makers from negative anecdotal information, and prevents ad hoc reactions to media frenzy (Passche, 2014).

Thirdly, the other issue that is neglected in the reintegration process is, psycho social support. Even though, returnees have gone through traumatic experience in the migration journey, the psycho social training lasts only for eight days. Comparing the need from professional perspective, the psycho social support from IOM or zonal BOLSA are not well organized neither enough to support the irregular migrants who have experienced various forms of abuses along the migration journey. Nevertheless, the psycho social support hasn't taken in to account the need and addressed it properly. Fourthly, the finding from this study stated some return migrant minds are still on move figuring out how they will cross the next security check point en route to the destination (KII.3, Dec, 2022). Most of the returnees lack patience to overcome the challenges along the reintegration process. Hence, they leave the program at some point (KII, 1, March, 2022). In previous research, service providers have reported that motivations and attitudes of returnees has been identified as factors that affect reintegration beyond economic factors. Moreover, returnees have exhibited little hope to secure livelihood in Ethiopia and many want to re-migrate (Kuschminder & Richard-Guay, 2018). Likewise, Fifth, (KII.1, March 2022) indicated that,

reintegration is an expensive program and government of Ethiopia do not have enough budget to carry out reintegration package. Nicholas and Prah (2018) study finding is relevant to countries with low economies where it indicated that that lack of funds has been challenges of government's especially in Africa and it is main factor hindering factor of reintegration process. (Nicholas & Prah; 2018). Reintegration requires long-term support and requires resources to carry out the tasks. However, many countries are unable or unwilling to provide the reintegration assistance (Newland & Salant, 2018). Evidently, in Ethiopia reintegration activities are supported by development agencies such as IOM and ILO to carry out reintegration program for voluntary and deported migrant returnees. Sixth, The existing mechanisms, processes, policies and legislation (at local, national, regional and international levels) that are relevant to return and reintegration, Government structure, decision-making processes, levels of decentralization and responsibilities and Existing migration and development framework matters of the reintegration programs (IOM, 2019). Except for a few countries, there is no clear legal and policy framework supporting reintegration (Wickramasekara, 2019). Similarly, Even though Ethiopia is major migrant sending country it does not have migration policy that governs migration and interventions throughout migration cycle (KII., March, 2022).

Chapter Five

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

This chapter comprises the summary, conclusions and recommendations drawn from the study. The first part of the chapter presents the summary followed by conclusions on the challenges and expectations of returnees from the government and society based. On the last part of the chapter recommendations including suggestions on policy implications are offered.

5.1. Summary

The general objective of this study is to assess the reintegration opportunities and challenges of assisted voluntary returnees from transit countries en route of Republic of South Africa (Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia) in case of Hadiya Zone, Hossana town and Lemo Woreda. The specific objective of the research are to investigate the reasons for migration; explore the migration experience of returnees from southern migration route in these towns; to assess the challenges and opportunities of social, economic and psycho- social reintegration process in these study area and to investigate the institutional factors that affect success of reintegration program.

Methodology

The researcher used the snowball technique to ensure interviews with migrant returnees and purposive sampling to select local government agencies in the Hadiya Zone and Lemo wored and IOM key informant. Both sampling techniques were preferred for this study because they adequately contributed to select respondents who are best to meet the study objectives. Participants of the study are male returnees from transit countries towards Republic of South Africa namely Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. The participant of the study are returnees who returned Ethiopia through IOM AVR program in the past two to five years are above the age of 18.

In-depth interview and key informant interviews were in employed. Therefore, Semi-structured questions were prepared to conduct in-depth interview with 14 participants and with four key informants from relevant institutions. The question guides were validated by advisor .After the data were collected, it was analyzed by organizing it into themes and relationships in order to make easier to understand. This was followed by interpretation of data.

Finding of the Study

Reason for migration

This study finding confirmed that, these returnees are migrating for economic reason and there was no other significant reason. Moreover, This finding indicates that all participants were motivated to migrate Republic of South Africa in search of better life is and the pressure from friends and neighbors .

Migration and Return experience

The research result depicts that returnee migrants have been suffering multifaceted problems after their return .All participants have indicated that they have experienced various difficulties along irregular migration journey and at the detention centers .To mention them, hunger, thirst, sleeplessness, suffocation and physical deprivation are among the frequently stated experiences of the migrant returnees .Participants also reported that they were imprisoned at transit countries such as Tanzania ,Zambia and Mozambique with range of 2-5 years sentence . They indicated they ate only once day and barely slept because of the dire situation in the prison cells .Moreover, they reported beaten by police officers, sexually assaulted by prison mates and forced to work on hard labor at farms owned by the prisons. Overall, participants have been through dire situation along the migration journey and at the detention centers. All of participants in this study explained that

they have returned to Ethiopia with support of Ethiopian Embassy and IOM in host country. They also mentioned that there was no other way they could have left the detention centers to get back to Ethiopia or remain in the host country out of the detention centers. All participants revealed that, their return has been voluntary and are happy to get back to Ethiopia with safety.

Reintegration opportunities and Challenges

IOM has provided economic, social and psycho-social support and government also has its reintegration program implemented by MOLSA through its respective local structure. However, participants of this study are beneficiaries of IOM Assisted voluntary return and Reintegration program implemented by IOM. IOM program is individual level and Government focused on establishing Small and Medium enterprise. The participant of this study haven't benefited from government program. Socially, majority of participants reported reclusion to school through the support of Zonal BOLSA and IOM. Interestingly, didn't feel stigma except the fact they self-isolated because of the situation of their return. Consequently, Most Participants reported they have experienced depression and had issues with sleep after their return. However, psycho social services were not available to them and in this study, the researched observe psych-social reintegration is neglected in comparison to other reintegration assistance components despite the existing psycho-social reintegration need. Regarding social reintegration, interestingly, participants of this study mentioned, they didn't experience stigma as result of their migration status. Economically, voluntary returnees have received reintegration assistance from IOM .They indicated they received vocational training, in kind support made to each business and five days life skill training .Nevertheless, respondents reported mainly economic challenges in their reintegration process described as: lack of working shed, shortage of capital, inadequate vocational training, and unrealistic taxation are frequently stated challenges reported by the returnees.

Institutional factors affecting reintegration

From institutional perspective Reintegration program challenges are identified as First, lack of coordination between agencies working on reintegration; secondly, government stakeholders and other actors; thirdly, low motivation of returnees in reintegration program, fourth ,lack of the follow up the progresses tracking ;fifth, resource constraint of government to implement reintegration is since it is an expensive program ;Finally ,Ethiopia has not yet designed migration policy that follows up with migration flows and management. So far, there hasn't been comprehensive policy on reintegration and return.

5.2.Conclusion

This study finding confirmed that, these returnees are migrating for economic reason and there was no other significant reason. Moreover, This finding indicates that all participants were motivated to migrate Republic of South Africa in search of better life and because of the pressure from friends and neighbors . All of participants in this study explained that they returned to Ethiopia with support of Ethiopian Embassy and IOM. Even though, participants revealed their return has been voluntary, there was no other way they could leave the detention centers to get back to Ethiopia or remain in the host country out of the detention centers.

Secondly, the research result depicts that returnee migrants have been suffering multifaceted problems after their return .All participants have indicated that they have experienced various difficulties along irregular migration journey and at the detention centers.Reintegration opportunities are available to voluntary returnees through Assisted voluntary return and Reintegration program implemented in Hadiya Zone,Lemo and Hossana town . Socially, majority of participants reported reclusion to school through the support of Zonal BOLSA and IOM. Economically, voluntary returnees have received reintegration assistance from IOM .Participants

indicated receipt of vocational training, in kind support made to each business and five days life skill training .Nevertheless, respondents reported encountering mainly economic challenges in their reintegration process described as: lack of working shed, shortage of capital, inadequate vocational training, and unrealistic taxation are frequently stated challenges reported by the returnees.

Thirdly, Reintegration program challenges are identified as First, lack of coordination between agencies working on reintegration; secondly, government stakeholders and other actors; thirdly, low motivation of returnees in reintegration program, fourth ,lack of the follow up the progresses tracking ;fifth, resource constraint of government to implement reintegration is since it is an expensive program ;Finally ,Ethiopia has not yet designed migration policy that follows up with migration flows and management. So far, there hasn't been comprehensive policy on reintegration and return. The study concludes that the aforementioned institutional factors affect the reintegration of voluntary returnees.

5.3. Recommendation

- Drivers of irregular migration are peer pressure and culture of migration in this area. Therefore, it is vital to work on prevention and awareness creation on the consequences of the problem.
- Migrant returnees experience range of abuses at the detention and prisons at host countries. Therefore, in order to prevent human smuggling of irregular migrant and to mitigate to ensure the safety of citizens, Ethiopian government needs to strengthen bilateral partnership with transit countries to ensure protection of migrants and ensure border security.

- The reintegration challenges identified are lack of capital and lack of seed capital .Therefore, the researcher recommends IOM to consider providing startup money or link with local micro finance ,zonal BOLSA and Zonal Urban creation and enterprise creation bureau facilitate this needs to meet the economic reintegration challenges of voluntary returnees
- The finding indicated, IOM long procurement process, large number of returnees and small project staff are among the reasons of service delay. However, Delayed service has negative consequence in the reintegration of returnees. Therefore, the researcher recommends IOM to find innovative means to solve this problem and speed up the reintegration assistance per as stated in reintegration handbook
- The finding also indicated that the machineries and materials of reintegration assistance are low quality and short lived. The researcher recommends IOM ,to evaluate the delivered products quality and monitor the procurement process
- Lack of follow up: The study finding indicated that returnees didn't get follow up visit and their success and challenges were not heard nor evaluated. Interestingly, program beneficiaries perceived periodic follow up as empowering tool that encourages them to sustain their reintegration. However, some returnees left the reintegration program selling their products since there is no accountability which follows drop out in contrary to the government revolving fund .Therefore, the researcher recommends IOM and BOLSA to conduct monitoring and evaluation of their program to identify the challenges and success of the program .
- Lack of coordination between agencies working on reintegration and bureaucracy: In order to mitigate this issue, the researcher recommends, firstly, the government of Ethiopia has

to build communication system that eases exchanges among partners. Secondly, provide clear mandates and roles to stakeholders and ensure accountability and reporting on migrant returnee reintegration program. Moreover, instill the need to prioritize returnees in when they needed services which are relevant to reintegration program.

- Low motivation of returnees in reintegration program: In order to mitigate this issue the researcher recommends strong psycho social support is necessary and reintegration service shouldn't delay.
- Inadequate vocational training: The researcher recommends IOM and TVET collage to lengthen vocational training duration and provide quality training.
- Lack of direct policy on reintegration and migration policy in general: The policy should clearly state reintegration and return issues including managing entire migration data. Moreover, funding on reintegration need also be seriously considered.
- Unrealistic taxation :The finding of the study revealed that unrealistic taxes are discouraging to the returnees business .Therefore, the researcher suggests local revenue office needs to consider their situation and provide tax exemption up to six month or allow them to pay minimum amount to support the startup business
- Implications for Future Research: As far as the future research implication of the study is concerned, as the subject matter has not been well researched before, this study may somehow serve as a spring-board for the much anticipated further researches to be undertaken in the Ethiopian context. Reintegration program impact hasn't been empirically well researched in Ethiopia. Therefore, there is a need to conduct further studies on the impact of the reintegration assistances provided by the government and other actors.

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Appendix 1

Addis Ababa University

Collage of Development Studies

Department of Regional and Local Development Studies

The purpose of this interview is to collect relevant information for thesis of Master in Regional and Local development studies in Addis Ababa University. I am conducting study on the title ‘*Reintegration challenges and opportunities of Ethiopian returnees from Southern Africa in the case SNNPR of Hadiya zone, Hossana town and Lemo Woreda*’. As it is known the returnee migrants from South Africa are mainly male returnees in the case of Hadiya zone and these returnees are irregular migrants to Republic of South Africa who are detained in transit countries. This study particularly focuses on voluntary returnees (AVR) who came to homeland with support and government of Ethiopia .Moreover, the challenges Assisted Voluntary Return is less researched in Ethiopia. Therefore, I respectfully request your genuine participation in this study to complete this study successfully. The content of your responses’ are absolutely confidential that no one will have access except the researcher; your responses only be used for the purpose of this research.

Appendix 2

Key in front interview questions to MOLSA

Q1 .What is your office role regarding reintegration of returnee migrants from transit counties towards Southern Africa?

Q2 .How do you reach out returnees from Southern Africa Migration Route?

Q3.Do you have data base registers returnees? Do you think it is strong?

Q4. How do you provide information about reintegration to returnees?

Q5.What are the reintegration opportunities in Ethiopia and what are the components?

Q6. What are the reintegration services to returnees and duration of reintegration assistance?

Q7.What are the directives and policies on reintegration in Ethiopia?

Q8. Do you monitor and evaluate Reintegration programs?

Q9.What are the challenges, best practices and lessons learned from reintegration programs?

Appendix. 3

Key informant interview with IOM Expert on AVR and Reintegration

Q1.What is your organization stake on return migrants and reintegration in Ethiopia? Who are the stakeholders in migrant returnee’s reintegration program in Ethiopia?

.....

Q2 .What is assisted voluntary return and reintegration program and its objective? What is the criteria considered to categorize assisted voluntary returnees? How do you explain AVR unlike forced return migrants?

.....Q

3.How do you contact migrant returnees in host country? Do you think AVR in Ethiopian migrant cases is actually voluntary? Is there any uniqueness of Ethiopian AVR from IOM global experience or learning?

.....

Q4. What are the reintegration program carried out by your organization? And how do you identify the needs of the returnees and what approach do you use to address their needs?

.....

Q5. How many returnees were enrolled in IOM AVRR program in Hadiya zone since 2017?

.....

Q6. Do you think Assisted Voluntary returns Reintegration has been successful so far? If yes, what are the evidences that support success of reintegration?

.....

Q7. What are the unique features of AVR and service gaps on reintegration program? Is there monitoring and evaluation for AVRR program? Do you have the data on re-immigrated beneficiaries of AVR?

.....

Q8. How do you see the partnership with government of Ethiopia? What are the challenges and opportunities? Are there legal or policy gaps regarding reintegration issues in Ethiopia?

.....

Appendix 4.

A. Socio-demographic Profiles of Respondents

R. No.	Question Items	Response Categories
QA-1	What is your residence kebele before your migration?
QA-2	Were you born/grew in this kebele before you migrate?
QA-3	What is your age
QA-4	What is your marital status?	S. Single B. Married C. Divorced /separated/widow
QA-6	What is your education level?	A. Never been to school B. Primary schooling C. Secondary schooling D. Above secondary schooling
QA-7	When did you migrate to Republic South Africa ?

Objective one: To examine the reasons of irregular migration to Republic of South Africa?

Objective To explore the experience of returnees from southern migration route in these towns

Q1. Why did you want to migrate to Republic of South Africa? Is it for economic reasons or political prosecution? Please explain why? Has your family approved your migration?

. Q2. What were you doing before you migrate ? How much money did you earn monthly before migration?

Q3. How did you get the money to cover your migration cost? How much did you pay? Was it your own money or got it from other source? Please explain?

Q4. Which route did you take to migrate to South Africa? What challenges did you face during migration journey? What was it like to migrate by foot? What did you experience?

Q5. How did you come back to Ethiopia? Was it of your interest or were you forced? What was the condition of you return? Please explain?

Objective two: To assess the reintegration challenges and opportunities of social, economic and psycho social reintegration in these towns?

Q6. What have you been doing since your return? Do you have an income? What is your monthly income? Do you think it is enough to meet your needs?

Q7. Was your family supportive? Did you face any challenge to maintain social relationship? Were you discriminated in your community?

Q8. What were the reintegration opportunities? What type assistance did you receive from IOM and the government? Did you receive any vocational training? Please explain?

Q9. Was the reintegration service and assistance from IOM and government helpful? Please explain how it supported you?

Q10. What challenges did you face in the labor market, social interaction, mental health after your return and how did you overcome them? Do you receive any support to solve these challenges? If yes, who provided it and how did you experience it?

Q10. Do you think the reintegration Assistance in the Assisted Voluntary and reintegration program adequate? What are the observed gaps? What needs to be improved?

.....

Objective 3. Objective four: To investigate the institutional factors that affect success of reintegration program

Q11. Do you think you have successfully reintegrated? If yes, why do you think it is? What helped you to successfully reintegrate? If no, please explain why?

Q12. What are your strengths that you think helped you to reintegrate successfully? What do you think are the factors encouraged you to reintegrate well? Please explain?

Q13 Do you regret your return? Please explain why?

Q14 Do you have plan to re-emigrate to South Africa again though illegal means?

Q15 What is your future plan?

Appendix 5

List of Participants

False name	sex	Age	Year of Return	Education level	Marital status	Area
Ho.1	M	25	2017	Grade 9	single	Hossana
Ho.2	M	35	2017	Grade 10	Married	Hossana
Ho.3	M	24	2019	Grade 9	Single	Hossana
Ho.4	M	32	2017	Grade 10	Single	Hosaena
Ho.5	M	26	2018	Grade 9	Single	Hossana
Ho.7	M	25	2018	Grade 10	Single	Hossana
Ho.6	M	25	2017	Grade 9	Single	Hosanna
Lo.3	M	25	2018	Grade 9	Single	Lemo
Lo.4	M	26	2017	Grade 9	Single	Lemo
Lo.5	M	24	2017	Grade 10	Single	Lemo
Lo.1	M	25	2017	Grade 9	Single	Lemo

Lo.2	M	26	2019	Grade 10	Single	Lemo
Lo.6	M	25	2018	Grade 9	Single	Lemo
Lo.7	M	27	2018	Grade 10	Single	Lemo

Appendix 6

List of Key informant interviewee

	Organization	Sex	Position
KII.3, Dec,2021	IOM	F	AVRR project Assistant
KII,1,March 2022	MOLSA	M	Migrant returnees Reintegration program coordinator
KII.2,Oct,2021	Zonal BOLSA	M	Reintegration program team leader
KII,4,Oct ,202	Zonal UJCA	M	Office head