Community-Based Reintegration Assistance in the Horn of Africa

Projects implemented under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration and the Individual Measure Project between March 2017 and April 2023





In IOM's Integrated Approach to Reintegration,¹ community-based reintegration assistance programme aims at strengthening community networks and improving the conditions for sustainable reintegration. Initiatives at this level are implemented using a participatory approach involving returnees and their communities of return to address wider needs and concerns, increasing support for reintegration among local actors.

Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration² in the Horn of Africa, IOM and its partners implemented 60 community-based reintegration assistance initiatives.³ In several instances, the initiatives targeted areas with high incidence of irregular migration where several returning migrants concentrated, allowing to reduce tensions between returnees and local communities, or serve as extra capacity when a community has been stretched to accommodate returnees' needs.







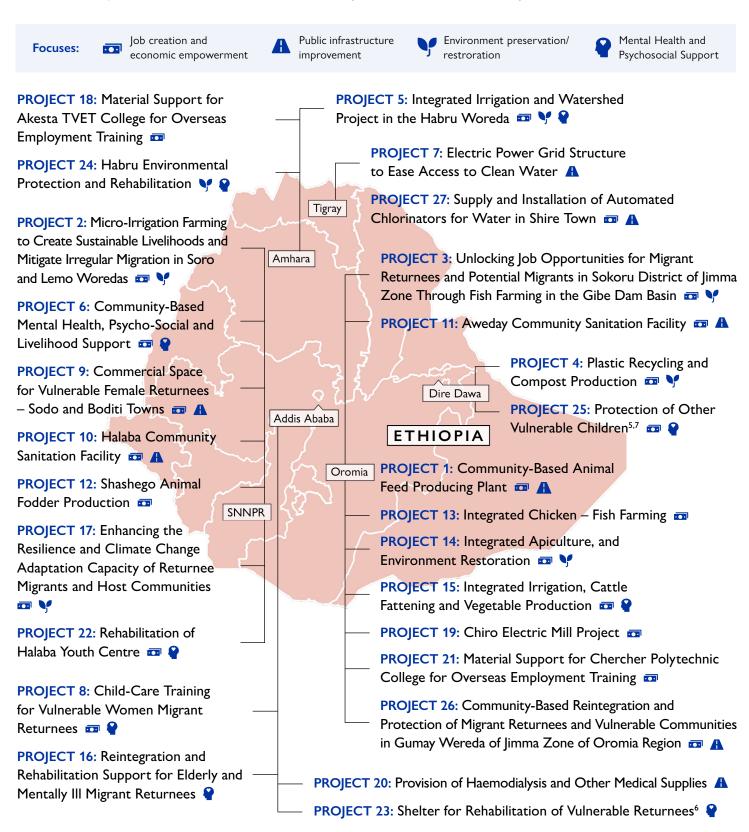
60 Initiatives



Community Response⁴

- **92%** feel involved in the identification, design and/or implementation of a project
- 92% believe that the projects addressed the need of returnees in the community
- **94%** agree the projects had a positive impact on the whole community
- For more information on the Integrated Approach to Reintergation, please consult the first chapter of IOM's Reintegration Handbook.
- 2 https://migrationjointinitiative.org/.
- The estimated number of direct beneficiaries of Community-Based Reintegration projects is 77,973 (29,223 male, 48,750 female). A number of initiatives entailed the improvement of public infrastructure and services in communities with high incidence of irregular migration: in such cases, the number of direct beneficiaries was estimated based on population size residing in the catchment area of the facilities or infrastructure improved. These estimates were possible in Somalia and Sudan only, but not in Ethiopia due to lack of data.
- 4 Source: survey of residents of the areas targeted by Community-Based Reintegration projects, administered between February 2021 and July 2022 (n=809, 476 male, 333 female).

In Ethiopia, 31 Community-Based Reintegration projects were implemented between April 2019 and April 2023



⁵ This initiative entailed five different projects.

⁶ This project is also held in Amhara Regional State.

⁷ The project is also held in Amhara, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples, Oromia Regional States and Dire Dawa City Administration.



Community-Based Animal Feed Producing Plant

Oromia Regional State

Responding to community's expressed need for locally produced animal feed, a group of 25 people including young vulnerable returnees and potential migrants were organized into a microenterprise producing compound animal feed for chicken, dairy cattle and small ruminants. The youth acquired technical, financial and entrepreneurial skills through trainings delivered by a partner university and the local job creation bureau. The community-based feed processing plant created sustainable jobs by addressing the shortage of reliable and affordable animal feed in the area. Donations and support from the local city administration and a private sector contributions made this project possible.

Project Timeline

January – December 2022

Focuses

ob creation and economic empowerment



Finvironment preservation/restoration

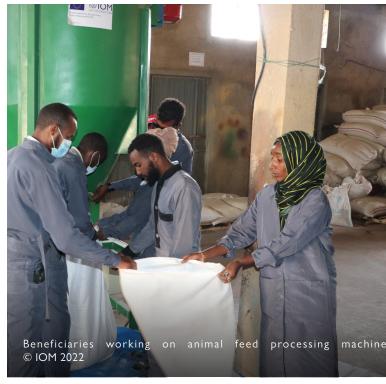
Implementing Partners

- Madda Walabu University (primary implementing partner)
- Jimma University (College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine)
- Goba City Administration
- Bale Zone Job Creation and Vocational Bureau
- Bale Zone Agriculture and Natural Resource Development Bureau
- Bale Zone Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs

Direct Beneficiaries

13 male 12 female







Micro-Irrigation Farming to Create Sustainable Livelihoods and Mitigate Irregular Migration in Soro and Lemo Woredas

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State

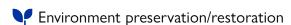
Implementing a modern irrigation system on a rented land allowed 186 project participants to engage in vegetable farming and generate income. Both Soro and Lemo woredas are hotspots of irregular migration along the Southern Route and are characterized by growing population and shortage of farmland. The local agriculture and job creation authorities have trained the beneficiaries in modern irrigation agronomic practices, microenterprise and financial management.

Project Timeline

February 2022 – January 2023

Focuses

ob creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

Mary Joy Ethiopia

Direct Beneficiaries

143 male 43 female







Unlocking Job Opportunities for Migrant Returnees and Potential Migrants in Sokoru District of Jimma Zone Through Fish Farming in the Gibe Dam Basin

Oromia Regional State

The beneficiaries of the Gibe Dam Fish Farming project are organized into five microenterprises engaged in diversified income generating activities (integrated fishery, poultry, small ruminant fattening, recreation service and animal feed production business) to improve sustainability. The project is implemented in partnership with government and academic institutions and builds on initiatives by government authorities to create jobs, especially for youth, while also reducing irregular migration and improving the reintegration outcomes of returnees in the area. The project also contributed to the replenishment and protection of fish species through sustainable fishing.

Project Timeline

December 2020 - August 2022

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Environment preservation/restoration

Implementing Partners

Jimma University

Direct Beneficiaries

192 male 58 female





Plastic Recycling and Compost Production

Dire Dawa City Administration

A group of 120 people including local youth and returnees in the city of Dire Dawa are engaged in plastic recycling and compost production income generating activities that also aimed at reducing irregular migration. Dire Dawa lies on the main migration transit route to Djibouti and onward across the Red Sea to Yemen, with the Arabian Peninsula usually being the intended destination. Youth unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities, compounded by congestion and environment degradation, are the main push factors for irregular migrants. Project participants were trained on entrepreneurship, personal financial management, branding, marketing and working with the equipment received. The project contributed to addressing the environmental and public health problems caused by the large amounts of unmanaged plastic and organic waste. The Government facilitated access to stalls, transport and market to sustain the intervention.

Project Timeline

November 2021 – September 2022

Focuses

ob creation and economic empowerment



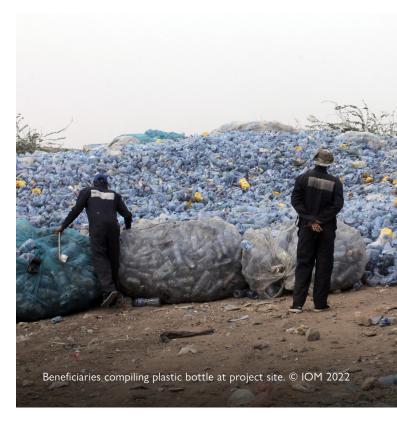
Environment preservation/restoration

Implementing Partners

Positive Action for Development (PAD)

Direct Beneficiaries

87 male 33 female







Integrated Irrigation and Watershed Project in the Habru Woreda

Amhara Regional State

A group of 293 people including returnees and community members engaged in modern irrigation practices and rehabilitation of degraded land. Close to 2,200 meters of irrigation canal have been constructed with the support of the programme, covering 120 hectares of land. Targeted communities now can farm three times a year and generate income by cultivating vegetables. The project also contributed to improving social cohesion between vulnerable returnees and the host community by creating a platform for community dialogues to raise awareness on agronomic practices, water management and environmental conservation as a means to sustainable livelihood, and on the protection and rights of returnees.

Project Timeline

April 2020 - March 2023

Focuses

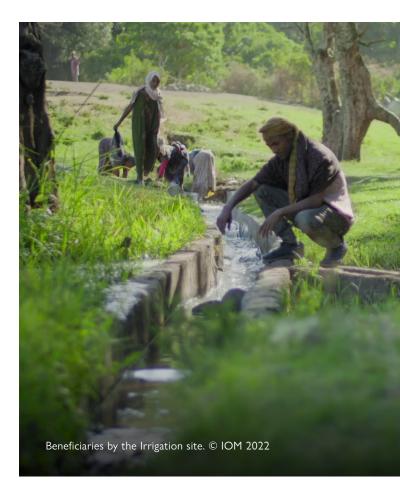
- Job creation and economic empowerment
- Finvironment preservation/restoration
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementing Partners

- Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekaneyesus
 Development and Social Service Commission
- Ethiopian Synod Branch Office

Direct Beneficiaries

253 male 40 female





Community-Based Mental Health, Psychosocial and Livelihood Support

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State

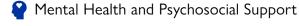
A group of 300 people including returnees and members of the community in Silte Woreda participated in the project combining livelihood and community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions. The community-based MHPSS component included group counselling (five sessions), community conversations and social events to raise awareness on mental well-being and stigma related to return migration. Under the livelihood component, participants were trained on poultry management, irrigation techniques and financial and enterprise management.

Project Timeline

November 2021 – January 2023

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

 Integrated Service on Health and Development Organization (ISHDO)

Direct Beneficiaries

215 male 85 female





Electric Power Grid Structure to Ease Access to Clean Water

Tigray Regional State

A migration hotspot area, Mai-Tsebri hosts a significant number of migrant returnees, two refugee camps, and five internally displaced persons sites. The project supported the installation of an electrical power grid infrastructure that facilitated access to potable water. The community had been using borehole water before humanitarian partners installed temporary reservoirs which were exposed to water-related health risks. Addressing the lack of access to diesel to run the water pumps due to conflict in Northern Ethiopia, the infrastructure connected the pumps to the main hydroelectric power gridline, thereby improving access to potable water for an estimated population of 69,000.

Project Timeline

June - August 2022

Focuses



A Public infrastructure improvement

Implementing Partners

 Direct implementation by IOM and Shire District, Mai-Tsebri town Electric Utility Centre, South West Tigray Region

Direct Beneficiaries

Not available





Child-Care Training for Vulnerable Women Migrant Returnees

Addis Ababa City Administration

A total of 120 female migrant returnees have been trained on childcare services, through both theoretical and practical sessions. Essentials of childcare including first aid, parent and child psychology and child development were covered. The trainees also received additional life skills and entrepreneurship training. Upon passing a quality assurance tests, migrant returnees were enrolled in the 'Goodayon' online platform connecting gig-economy workers with employers.

Project Timeline

May – December 2022

Focuses

- ob creation and economic empowerment
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementing Partners

Eshururu Training Centre (ETC)

Direct Beneficiaries

120 female







Commercial Space for Vulnerable Female Returnees – Sodo and Boditi Towns

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State

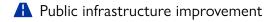
To address the shortage of working space that undermine migrants' businesses, production and sales sheds were built in the town of Sodo and Boditi to host the businesses of 100 female returnees and other community members. The respective city administrations ceded the land to construct the sheds and supported the installation of necessary facilities. The beneficiaries will use the sheds for five years without having to pay any rent, and will then handover the sheds to other vulnerable female migrant returnees.

Project Timeline

April – September 2022

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation by IOM

Direct Beneficiaries

100 female







Halaba Community Sanitation Facility

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State

A group of 20 people including migrant returnees and unemployed youth were hired to provide sanitary services, in a washroom block constructed by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative on a plot of land provided by the city administration. As the first social enterprise of its kind in the area, the project addressed the lack of sanitation facilities in the busiest market area of the Halaba Kulito city, while also allowing vulnerable groups to generate income. Beneficiaries were organized into microenterprises, trained on water, sanitation and hygiene and entrepreneurial skills. A three-year rotation scheme overseen by the local Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs will allow other groups to be engaged in the project.

Project Timeline

July 2019 - September 2022

Focuses

ob creation and economic empowerment

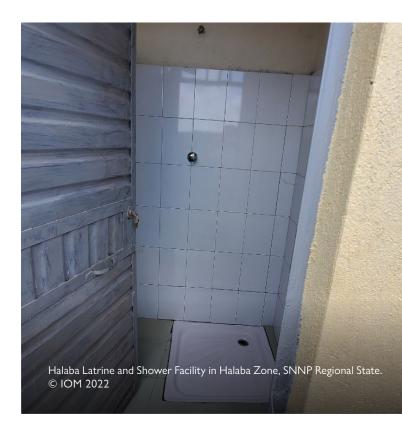


Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation by IOM

Direct Beneficiaries

11 male 9 female







Aweday Community Sanitation Facility

Oromia Regional State

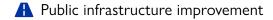
Although it is one of the most congested commercial cities in the country with its extensive cash crop transactions, Aweday city's community does not have sufficient public sanitation facilities. The sanitary facility engaged 10 migrant returnees and unemployed youth in the commercial provision of sanitary services, that is, shower and toilet services. As a social enterprise, it will not only address sanitation facility needs of the community but also generate income for a group of youth identified to run the centre. The group is organized into a microenterprise and trained on the basics of how to manage a sanitation facility.

Project Timeline

June 2022 - February 2023

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation by IOM

Direct Beneficiaries

6 male 4 female







Shashego Animal Fodder Production

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State

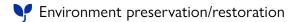
Thirty returnees generated income from the harvesting of fodder grass on a 2.5-hectare plot provided by local authorities. Fodder grass is in high demand by local livestock farmers, especially dairy farmers. The plot was rehabilitated and the activity is improving dairy production in the area, thereby improving food security. Participants were trained on modern fodder farming, soil conservation, landscape and drainage management — and they have also started a side-business in cattle fattening.

Project Timeline

July 2019 - June 2022

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation by IOM

Direct Beneficiaries

19 male 11 female







Integrated Chicken - Fish Farming

Oromia Regional State

In chicken–fish integrated farming, the waste from chicken is used to feed the fish. This innovative and ecologically efficient solution, implemented in partnership with Jimma University, involved a group of 120 returnees and potential migrants who were trained on technical, entrepreneurial and financial management skills. The increased supply of chicken fish improved the availability of nutritious food in the area. Local authorities ceded communal lands for the construction of the pond and poultry faming. Returnees and other community members contributed with free labour to dig the artificial ponds.

This intervention was awarded the prize of best scientific community project of higher education in Ethiopia in 2020.

Project Timeline

June 2020 – September 2022

Focuses

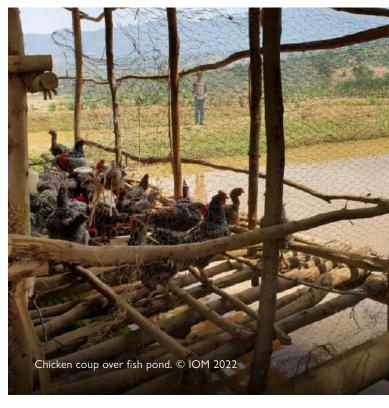
Job creation and economic empowerment

Implementing Partners

 Jimma University (College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine)

Direct Beneficiaries

74 male 46 female







Integrated Apiculture and Environment Restoration

Oromia Regional State

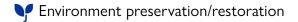
A group of 100 people including returnees and unemployed youth have been engaged in an integrated apiculture-poultry-plant nursery initiative implemented on a 26-hectare plot ceded by local authorities that was also rehabilitated as part of the project with afforestation and water stream restoration. Participants harvest honey from bees that collect pollen from the flowers of a coffee forest nursery established by the project. Participants were trained on beekeeping, hatchery, plant nursing, soil conservation and erosion prevention. A private-sector partner has also trained the beneficiaries on microenterprise management and life-skills.

Project Timeline

August 2021 - September 2022

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

 Jimma University (College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine)

Direct Beneficiaries

92 male 8 female





Integrated Irrigation, Cattle Fattening and Vegetable Production

Oromia Regional State

Cattle-fattening, vegetable production and small-scale irrigation income generating activities were established in coordination with Facilitator for Change and local authorities targeting a group of 150 vulnerable youth, including returnees and other community members. The project involved beneficiaries in small-scale irrigation and modern cattle fattening practices. The government supported the project by ceding irrigable land and shade for cattle fattening. Beneficiaries were trained on integrated soil fertility management and vermin compost production. The project raised community members' awareness on migration and mobilized community support to the reintegration of returnees in the area.

Project Timeline

November 2021 – January 2023

Focuses

- ob creation and economic empowerment
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementing Partners

Facilitators for Change (FC)

Direct Beneficiaries

67 male 83 female





Reintegration and Rehabilitation Support for Elderly and Mentally III Migrant Returnees

Addis Ababa City Administration

IOM partnered with Makedonia to assist elderly returnees who have mental health conditions and returnees who are unable to return to their communities of origin, sometimes due to loss of memory. As part of this collaboration, IOM donated food and non-food items and provided training on psychosocial support provision to Makedonia's staff. A total of 10 returnees were referred to Makedonia and received services.

Project Timeline

May 2019 - June 2019

Focuses



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementing Partners

 Makedonia Home for the Elderly and Mentally Disabled

Direct Beneficiaries

Not available





Enhancing the Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Capacity of Returnee Migrants and Host Communities

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State

IOM in collaboration with Wolayita Sodo University and local authorities, particularly the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs of Areka woreda, implemented an income generating community project that supports 55 vulnerable migrant returnees and unemployed youth in Wolaita Zone of SNNPR.

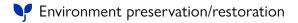
The Government contributed to the project by donating 2.3 hectares of land to plant sisal and produce sisal fibresx. Two locally assembled sisal producing machines are provided to project beneficiaries. The project facilitated market linkages and trained beneficiaries on the production of fibre from sisal and on land management.



July 2020 - March 2022

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



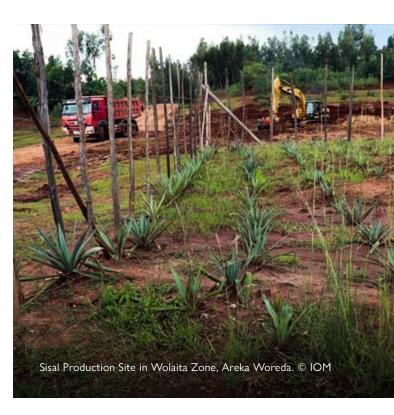
Implementing Partners

Wolaita Sodo University (WSU)

Direct Beneficiaries

21 male 34 female







Material Support for Akesta TVET College for Overseas Employment Training

Amhara Regional State

To address the gap of pre-departure training materials for overseas employment, materials useful for preparatory trainings on housekeeping and caregiving were provided to the Akesta TVET College in South Wollo Zone, an area from which several women migrate to become domestic workers in Gulf Cooperation Council and Middle Eastern countries. The materials donated were selected in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Skills and Amhara Regional Labour and Training Bureau. By equipping the technical training institutes and preparing women for regular overseas employment, the intervention contributed to mitigating irregular migration and its human cost.

Project Timeline

April 2019 - March 2020

Focuses

ob creation and economic empowerment

Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation

Direct Beneficiaries

Not available

PROJECT 19

Chiro Electric Mill Project

Oromia Regional State

In close cooperation with local authorities, IOM installed an electric flour mill in Chiro woreda, sparing at least 4,500 residents in the catchment area from having to travel for kilometres to grind cereals. A group of 10 people including both returnees and other community members, were selected, organized into microenterprises and trained to work at the mill.

Project Timeline

February 2021 - August 2022

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment

Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation

Direct Beneficiaries

10 male



Provision of Haemodialysis and Other Medical Supplies

Addis Ababa City Administration

St. Paul's Millennium Medical College received haemodialysis equipment and consumables that can be used for 500 dialysis sessions. In exchange, IOM can refer to this health-care provider returnees who need dialysis and related medical needs. Two beneficiaries referred by IOM who needed urgent treatment received care as part of this initiative.

Project Timeline

June 2020

Focuses



A Public infrastructure improvement

Implementing Partners

St. Paul Referral Hospital

Direct Beneficiaries

Not available





Material Support for Chercher Polytechnic College for Overseas Employment Training

Oromia Regional State

IOM donated materials useful for trainings in domestic work and caregiving to Chercher Polytechnic College in Chiro West Hararghe Zone to enhance the capacity of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. The training materials consist of household equipment to provide skills training for potential Ethiopian labour migrants, primarily heading to the Middle East. The West Hararghe Zone is known for irregular migration among female migrants who take the Eastern route to Yemen, and the Middle East. The training equipment was provided based on a joint needs assessment conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Skills. This intervention is a capacity-building initiative for TVET institutions to train aspiring migrants, especially female migrants, enabling them to migrate through regular channels.

Project Timeline

April 2019 - March 2020

Focuses

ob creation and economic empowerment

Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation by IOM

Direct Beneficiaries

Not available





Rehabilitation of Halaba Youth Centre

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State

The Halaba Kulito youth recreation centre has been provided with the necessary equipment to establish a cafeteria business, which has engaged 12 returnees. More beneficiaries will have the opportunity to participate in the programme through a rotation system. This initiative not only provides a source of income for the returnees but also creates a secure space for recreational activities for youth in the region, where irregular migration is common.

The beneficiary returneeshave received training in business and enterprise management skills from the local job creation office to run the business effectively.

Project Timeline

July 2019 – June 2020

Focuses

- ob creation and economic empowerment
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementing Partners

 Direct Implementation by IOM in collaboration with Halaba zone Labour and Social Affairs Bureau

Direct Beneficiaries

5 male 7 female







Shelter for Rehabilitation of Vulnerable Returnees

Addis Ababa City Administration and Amhara Regional State

The project supported two shelters in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar that provided accommodation and support to vulnerable returnees. In total, the project served 337 individuals, two thirds of which were female. Life skills training was provided to 268 returnees to enhance their ability to manage daily challenges and navigate life more effectively. Formal education was also offered to 290 returnees to equip them with basic literacy and numeracy skills. Additionally, 46 returnees received medical services through referrals to State facilities to address their health needs. All 337 returnees who participated in the project were provided with economic, social and psychosocial reintegration assistance to help them rebuild their lives and reintegrate into their communities.

Project Timeline

December 2019 - July 2020

Focuses



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementing Partners

- Agar Ethiopia Charitable Society

Direct Beneficiaries

75 male **262** female



Habru Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation

Amhara Regional State

Returnees and community members were organized to rehabilitate severely degraded land with an integrated watershed development approach. The project also facilitated community dialogues to raise awareness on environmental conservation as a means to sustainable livelihood, and on the protection of returning migrants. The project was successful in rehabilitating and conserving 70 hectares of degraded land, whereby suitable soil conservation structures have been constructed to harvest rain water and trap silt sediments. This, in turn, improved vegetation on the watershed and protected low-laying farms from flood hazards. As a result of this initiative, a total of 16,480 tree and fruit seedlings were planted in the watershed area, which helped to improve animal fodder production and availability. Trainings provided for targeted communities on soil and water conservation, watershed management, environmental protection and on producing fuel-saving cookstoves improved their skills and knowledge. Local communities also benefited from the cash-for-work activities during the construction of soil and water conservation structures.



Project Timeline

April 2019 - June 2020

Focuses



Environment preservation/restoration



🎴 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementing Partners

- Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekaneyesus Development and Social Service Commission
- Ethiopian Synod Branch Office

Direct Beneficiaries

415 male 402 female





Protection of Other Vulnerable Children

Amhara, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples, Oromia Regional States and Dire Dawa City Administration

A total of 534 vulnerable children in Amhara, SNNPR, Oromia Regional States as well as Dire Dawa city administration were provided with micro-business start-up assistance and received technical, financial literacy and life-skill trainings. These interventions were implemented in three areas known for being the origin of many irregular children migrants. Beneficiaries have also benefited from need- and rehabilitation-based referral services such as food, medical support, temporary shelter and educational materials. Beyond the individual level assistance, the project also contributed to stabilizing the families of potential child migrants and their communities.



April 2019 – July 2021

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

- Save the Children International
- Positive Action for Development
- Mary Joy Development Association
- Facilitator for Change
- Forum for Sustainable Child Empowerment

Direct Beneficiaries

251 male **283** female







Community-Based Reintegration and Protection of Migrant Returnees and Vulnerable Communities in Gumay Wereda of Jimma Zone of Oromia Region

Oromia Regional State

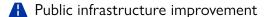
The Jimma Zone in the Oromia National Regional State is characterized by irregular migration and child trafficking, which have led to a high volume of returnees in the area. Gumey Woreda in particular has suffered from declining agricultural productivity, high population growth and limited employment opportunities for local youth. Through this project and with a contribution of 51 hectares of land from the Government, integrated farming through an irrigation project was launched, benefiting 349 individuals directly. Among them, 235 (158 male and 67 female) unemployed youth were able to engage in 15 productive microenterprises centred around farming vegetation using organic soil fertilizers. The project took a whole-of-community approach, educating residents on modern farming techniques, to ensure its sustainability.

Project Timeline

November 2021 - April 2023

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



Implementing Partners

 Facilitators for Change and government offices including the Bureau of Agriculture, Bureau of Labour and Skills and Gumay Woreda Administration

Direct Beneficiaries

271 male **78** female





Supply and Installation of Automated Chlorinators for Water in Shire Town

Tigray Regional State

Shire Indaslassie town hosts internally displaced persons; some live in shelters, while and many live in the host community. The town has been accessing water from the nearby boreholes and Mai-Dimu dam through pressurized pipelines. The pumped water is filled into the big reservoirs in the town and supplied to the community with manual chlorine treatment. Lack of standardized and adequate water treatment often resulted in negative health impacts for local communities. The project supplied and installed four automated chlorine dosing machines which will be connected to the city's water reservoirs. An estimated 229,949 host communities and 144,949 internally displaced persons benefitted from the intervention.

Project Timeline

February – December 2022

Focuses

Job creation and economic empowerment



A Public infrastructure improvement

Implementing Partners

Direct Implementation by IOM

Direct Beneficiaries

Not available