

## **The European Union grants 10 Million Euro (240 Million Birr) to support the reintegration of returnees and the management of labour migration in Ethiopia**

(29 January 2015) The European Union has granted 10 Million Euro (24 Million Birr) to support the reintegration of returnees and the management of labour migration in Ethiopia. A main objective of the grant is to improve the reintegration system and assistance to Ethiopian migrants from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through a holistic and coherent economic and social empowerment approach, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. The support will include referral to appropriate services such as schooling, medical services, and psycho-social counselling as well as assist returnees and vulnerable community members in gaining access to career guidance, skills training, finance, and employment.

The grant also aims to improve access to legal migration through enhanced capacity of relevant government institutions at federal and regional level as well as to sensitise communities to take informed decisions about migration.

The project will directly assist around 50 000 people including returnees, victims of trafficking, potential migrants, migrants and their families and other local vulnerable community members including unemployed youth. Indirect beneficiaries are estimated to be around 1.5 million people.

As families and communities play a crucial role in the migration and reintegration process, activities will be conducted to educate them on migration and help them understand the dynamics of migration and return migration, with particular focus on those at risk of exploitation and trafficking.

Such activities will include family re-orientation, community networking and awareness raising programmes. As female migrants are particularly vulnerable, the activities will include specific actions targeting women. Based upon needs, the action will support development of further policy and legal frameworks which will facilitate safe and legal migration and safe return for migrants.

The reintegration support will be implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in close cooperation with the Government of Ethiopia and civil society organisations, while the migration management and sensitisation components will be implemented by the relevant Government of Ethiopia authorities, in particular the Ministry of Labour and Social Services, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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