

# **GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

## Addressing Safer Migration

(Dessie Town and Kalu Woreda, South Wollo)



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## **INTRODUCTION**

PADet has implemented more than 20 projects in the Amhara region of Ethiopia targeting the protection of vulnerable children, girls and youth. The project below is mainly addressing the protection of migrant children and their reintegration to their communities of origin. Over a five-project plan, in the north and south of Wollo, PADet has to date reunified close to 3000 migrant children (27% being girls). The projects provided various services and resources to migrant children. These included psycho-social services, skills trainings, while also providing sanitary materials, medication and clothing services for children staying in temporary retention centre. They were then provided with transport and IGA support during the reunification process with their chosen family. At the time of reunification most participants had grown physically and in mental capacity and were able to run small business (ie. Sheep-rearing) to sustain themselves while they attended their institute of education.

In close collaboration with European Union and IFRSC, PADet had also implemented a project entitled "Migration Awareness and Action project". In this project, PADet had reunified 300 young children and provided vocational training to 347 young children above the age of 14. Currently, PADet runs three projects focusing on migration and creating youth livelihood options. These projects are supported by the Freedom Fund, Save the children/USAID and OAK Foundation.

PADet has created strong partnership with regional, zone and woreda level government structures. In particular strong partnerships, with the Bureau of Social and Labor Affairs, the Bureau of Children, Youth and Women Affairs. PADet also has coordinated systems supporting project implementation, monitoring, and optimizes possibilities on the GO-NGO platforms.

## **PROMOTION OF SAFE MIGRATION WITH FREEDOM FUND**

Migration is a complex phenomenon that touches the intersectionality of economic, social and security vulnerabilities affecting the daily lives of marginalized demographics, especially in an increasingly interconnected world. Migration encompasses a wide variety of movements without discrimination, it touches all states and people in an era of deepening globalization. Although this has helped improve quality of life, in both origin and destination countries, by providing opportunities for millions of people worldwide to forge safe and meaningful lives abroad, this has not been the case for everyone. There has recently been an increase in migration and displacement occurring due to conflict, persecution, environmental degradation and change, and a profound lack of human security and opportunity.

PADet with the support of Geneva Global Inc. and Freedom Fund Foundation work in South Wollo (Dessie & Kombolcha- Kalu Woredas) to promote safe migration among potential migrants, with emphasizing attention on girls & women. The project was designed to increase

awareness and understanding to encourage the practice of safe migration amongst source communities. Additionally, to provide economic alternatives for potential migrants who are challenged with economic stability. This contributes to strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to operate and influence systems that better prevent unsafe migration while empowering migrant workers. Through various assessments, both formal and informal, family members, peers and other community members have been found to hold significant weight as push factors for unsafe migration. As a result, the project conducted facilitated peer-led awareness raising education, community conversation and door-to-door education about unsafe migration. This was possible through the efforts of trained volunteers.

The project intervened at schools and on a community level. The objective was focusing on potential migrants and aimed at increasing awareness to the consequences of both safe and unsafe migration, there was then special attention to Middle Eastern countries. To increase peer co-education, we selected peer educators in schools and provided equipping training. Thus, enabling them to facilitate learning experiences for themselves. Those selected conducted peer education programs while also organizing education to school and communities. In addition, the specific attention to female students, returnees, and other volunteers training was provided on effective safe migration techniques. These were based on well prepared manuals for potential migrants and community members gathered through community conversation, peer education and home-to-home visits.

In order to minimize unwanted risky behaviors among target groups various awareness interventions were designed and employed as a local school level and community levels. The project has supported potential migrants, returnees and other vulnerable groups enhancing their employment opportunities. This has been accomplished through organized vocational training for potential migrants' in collaboration with **W/o** Siheen and kombolcha polytechnic colleges. Skills training included culinary skills; including but not limited to bakery work, fast food preparation, and garment making.

The project also gave support to strengthen the capacity of schools, CBOs, FBOs, vocational training centres and government offices. This including; Labor and Social Affairs office, Women and Children Affair office, Education Office, Justice and Police Office in Dessie and Kalu Woreda Administration. CBO leaders and members increased their knowledge on the effects of unsafe migration and human trafficking. The positive result of these efforts has been the increased understanding around the consequences of unsafe and safe migration, despite it needs further coordinated effort to bring sustainable change of behaviours.

For PADet, sharing experience, solution, idea for effective management of project have all carried important roles in the healthy and successful project management. Good practices included the active inclusion of knowledge gained during a project which. Herein, showing how project events were addressed with the purpose of improving future performance. Identifying

lessons learnt in the course of implementation of the project are also part of project management which are essential for quality improvement in the project process. Lessons learnt help project stakeholders in general and implementing partner in particular to gain specific experience while providing input for future implementation.

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate this best practice and lesson learnt. This document demonstrates the:

- Improvement on current project delivery standards by the adoption of proven result based practices
- Responses in the active inclusion of changes in project management including new priorities and strategies
- Organizational growth by including improvements and shared project management of good practices

Ethiopia is amongst the major labor exporting countries in all of Africa. South Wollo, holds a high exit rate for work enforcements migrating to the Middle East, in many cases the migration of young persons. According to recent IOM study an average 130 young people illegally cross through Bati to the Middle East every day. In some cases, these illegal migrations are linked with poverty, the need to join those already in the Middle East, or for income generation. In Ethiopia, young women have been the majority of migrants to relocate to the Middle East.

This movement is most often is risky and unsafe, additionally it is predominately done via illegal routes. Their status of vulnerability is heightened both physically, emotionally, and psychologically when they embark on dangerous migrations without sufficient information or legal travel document. They then encounter problems at the initial period of adjustments and adaptation. The often-unknown negative effects of migration include moral deterioration, work load, rejection by their families and community as they failed to meet expectations to return with adequate material wealth. Furthermore, migrants can often be humiliated by their employers because of skills limitation. The pressure exerted on young women by family members and their peers as a means to escape poverty, lack of proper employment information on country of destination and unfair financial exploitation by illegal brokers can be mentioned as aggravating circumstances to illegal migration.

Building upon the hardships of migration and quality of life while abroad, returning migrants create false impression on potentiality to other migrants and their families. Returnees tend to hide the risky travel, labor abuses, sexual and physical assault they experienced rather they emphasize on the attractive job opportunities in the Middle East. The lure and enticement presented to potential migrants from recruiting agencies and illegal brokers is another factor for fueling illegal migration. Despite government effort to reduce illegal migration potential migrant smuggling still operates secretly. Unfortunately, due to this illegal travel for work thousands of Ethiopians have become forcefully returned to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia in recent year.

In an attempt to prevent prevailing hurdles regarding illegal migration, and to support government effort, PADet has successfully achieved the following results in its safe migration project in south Wollo.

### **Intervention Achievements**

Significant achievement on safe migration were obtained as a result of project implementation in Dessie and Kalu woreda. These efforts range from institutional capacity building to assisting potential migrants and returnees who have experienced abuse and exploitation. Amongst these hurdles includes victims of human trafficking through;

- ✓ **The creation of platforms for local community members to discuss and address issues and challenge affecting returnees and potential migrants**
- ✓ **Illegal migration movement is reduced substantially**

- In two years project period a total of 2492 potential migrant have cancelled their illegal journey to middle east.
- ✓ **Accountability for unsafe migration perpetrators**
  - As a result of continuous community forum /discussion 6 illegal brokers apprehended and handed over to justice
- ✓ **Skill training and safer migration increased in the areas PADet is active**
  - In the last two years a total of 1400 young people received skill training and pre-departure orientation which was not in place before in illegal migration. Migrants are now well informed about the country for overseas employment. Since then potential migrants are planning to migrant in a legal way.

Its origin, in 2016, three objectives were core to program planning:

Objective1- Improve Understanding and Practices Around Safe Migration within Communities.

This was achieved through:

- The recruitment and training of **74** community facilitators and 90 peer-to-peer educators
- Establishing 150 freedom groups: CC groups and peer to peer groups
- Reaching **8494** community members on community conversation on the prevention of unsafe migration, human trafficking and promotion of safer migration through regular base 1 to 2 months
- Reaching 5862 households in a home to home based to educate them on the prevention of unsafe migration, human trafficking and promotion of safer migration
- Reaching **8656** girls through peer-to-peer education in school settings in a regular base
- The enhanced awareness level of target community 3492 various IE/BCC materials including brushers, leaflets, manuals, and Booklet that focuses on legal migration distributed for targeted community members during the community conversation and peer-to-peer session.
- The distribution of materials mainly focused on information of legal migration way and how to practice safer migration
- Community response of 582 potential female migrants cancelling their planned journeys, post community conversation activity
- **2582** potential migrants (domestic worker, school girls and returnees) received life skill training

## Objective 2: Developing and Improving Alternative Economic Alternatives for Increased Prevention and Recovery

This was achieved through:

- 857 potential migrants and returnees receiving life skill, business skill and entrepreneurship training
- 138 potential migrants and returnees graduating from vocational training in different profession (food preparation and garment preparing).
- Women vocational training by food preparation started their own business becoming available as an option
- 1400 potential migrants training vocational training for oversea employment, among the trainees 232 traveled to Middle Eastern countries

## Objective 3: Strengthen the Capacity of Civil Society Organizations to Operate and Influence Systems to Better Prevent Unsafe Migration and Empower Migrant Workers

This was achieved through:

- Establishing and strengthening 11 Anti-human Trafficking taskforces to have annual plan and regular meeting days
- Organized and provided training for **264** government officers, CBO leaders and individuals on human trafficking and human migration; the roles and responsibilities of the Anti-human Trafficking task force as per proclamation 909/2015 and on proc.923/2016
- Capacitated sectors like TVET college, government sector offices: provided more than 556,000 birr to Wro sihen poly technic college to equip the overseas employment training department, material support for Dessie Town Labor and Social Affairs Office
- Provide mini media materials to three selected school girls' clubs
- Organize consultative meeting workshop for Dessie town and Kaluworeda Anti-human trafficking taskforce in collaboration with Dessie town Labor and Social Affairs Office



## **GOOD PRACTICES**

### ***The strong project coordination among all project stakeholders of safer migration project***

PADet together with local government organs and NGOs work closely to bring the desired result. All project stakeholders including beneficiaries have ownership in the project and, as a result, are committed to end the adverse situation of illegal migration. This is achieved through regular meeting and review of project progress with stakeholders. Thus, roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and understood by all key actors.

### ***Transparency is clearly exhibited at all level among all project stakeholders.***

Utilization of project resources including project budgets are properly communicated to all key actors involved in the project planning, implementation and evaluation. In terms of how the budget was allocated, all beneficiaries and signatory offices were properly utilized according to project implementation period, and accountability was available through transparent communication.

### ***Community active participation is in place to expose illegal human traffickers and brokers as a result of continuous community conversation and peer education intervention approaches.***

The CC forum has given way to community members to confront illegal brokers in collaboration with police and justice offices. Success is also reordered in apprehending illegal migration perpetrators to justice. The demand of potential migrants to vocational trainings and to fulfil other requirements for safe migration has been increased.



***Various trainings and workshops in progress***





## Community Conversations (CC)

As part of increasing awareness on safe migration, the community conversation is proved effective project intervention approach ever carried out in all project impact areas. The CC is carried out by all members of the project community in such a way that issues will be identified on illegal migration and after series of discussion over migration issues led by trained facilitator participants will pass a decision on resolving problems affecting young potential migrants.

CC session have already impacted around 582 young women who previously decided to travel Saudi Arabia illegally. Alternatively, they have begun the process to migrate legally. Families of potential migrants have also changed their minds on sending of their daughters away. The effects of this on local illegal human trafficking is immeasurable. Above all, these efforts taken by community members to expose illegal brokers and bring them to justice deserve appreciation.



*Community conversation sessions in progress*

## Peer- to- Peer Education

The other awareness raising activity on safe migration is school based peer education program. This activity has also brought substantial result in resolving school drop out because of migration for work. The peer education program created an open learning forum on illegal migration and its adverse effect to the life of young people through mini media program and distribution of relevant IE materials.



## *School peer education groups*

### **Pre-departure training**

The pre-departure training is given to those selected migrant workers who have completed the skill training and pass the COC. The training lasts for a week and is given to out-going domestic workers by the Office of Labor and Social Affairs. The training covers 9 topics which is very important for migrant workers to avoid unnecessary hurdles during travel and working period abroad.

The topics gone over are:

1. Pre-departure airport and customs procedure preparation
2. Legal prerequisite on relationship with employment agencies and overseas employers
3. Rights and duties of migrant workers for overseas employment
4. OHSP
5. Precautionary measures in avoiding sexual violence
6. Management of wages and remittance
7. Resisting difficult circumstances in the course of duty
8. Knowing the culture and religion of middle east people
9. Back to home safely and reintegration

### **Peer Education Training on Illegal Migration**

Students who are trained in peer education will in turn facilitate the peer learning process with their peers on migration concept in general and illegal and legal migration in particular. The training is conducted for a week by a training manual prepared by PADet and the Amanuel Development Organization. There are four major learning topics;

- **The meaning of migration and ways of occurrence**
  - meaning of migration, features of human trafficking
- **Main causes of migration and actors of migration**
  - root causes of legal and illegal migration, push and pull factors for migration
- **Life-skills**
  - self-esteem and self-confidence, effective communication, and negotiation skill, etc.
- **Setting value**
  - critical thinking, good decision making, problem solving and resisting peer pressure

## LESSONS LEARNED

- **The need for systematic involvement of project opponents like illegal brokers and human traffickers in the project implementation process**

Involving project opponents would minimize prevailing perpetuated problem, and with their vast knowledge on the movement of people their perspective could provide valuable. Additionally, understanding their motives might provide place for alternative projects aimed at reducing the need for such employment, and potentially, positively supporting the safe migration process.

- **The need for expansion of the project to more other affected area in Amhara region elsewhere based on a needs assessment**

The community conversation and peer education intervention approaches have proven effective in addressing safe migration project in the area. Using these intervention styles the project could be expanded to other illegal human trafficking prone areas.

- **The need for Improving the TVET training both in facility and provision of skill trainings types including foreign language.**

Although assessment is not done so far on the impact of the vocational skill training there remain a lot of tasks to improve the quality of the components of skill training to potential migrants. Various skill training has to be included in the provision of COC center by assessing the types of skills required in the middle east countries. Capacity building in providing technologically advanced materials and skill provision to the existing active COC centers. Furthermore, demonstrative educational materials like videos shows on real domestic work management has to be incorporated in the training component provided by the existing COC centers

- **The need for serious consideration in rendering social support and other Income generating schemes for young women who are not eligible to overseas employment because of their educational status.**

The implementing NGOs, local administration and the private sector have to device a mechanism to create employment opportunity while protecting the sporadic illegal human trafficking observed in the project area. Expanding the income generation scheme and basic business skills provision at their respective home town would help in minimizing the illegal migration for overseas employment.



- **The Importance of working with local administration, law enforcement bodies and community structures like CBOs, Volunteers to ensure sustainability of project and to enhance community ownership at large.**

The community structure is the most important project intervention entry points to address effectively the safe migration project. Working together with law enforcement bodies and other relevant government institutions also help in alleviating the prevailing migration related problem. The free movement of illegal human traffickers will be curbed as long as the law enforcing bodies and other concerned bodies jointly work together in identifying and controlling the den where those illegal brokers commit their criminal act. The local community members role in this regard deserves appreciation because they have started to betray illegal brokers to justice.

## **CONCLUSION**

Labor migration is filled with hopes and dreams of obtaining a better life for migrant workers and their family. These aspirations are frequently not matched with a clear understanding of potential risks involved. The safe migration project aims at helping potential migrants to have access to accurate information even before decision is made to migrate. Community conversation sessions organized at community level can help to save potential migrant from their uninformed decision.

Returning migrants who are victims of labor exploitation normally share their experience to some of potential migrants. Especially maximum effort has to be exerted by key government actors in curbing the emotional exodus of potential migrants to Arab countries where there is no bilateral agreement.

Awareness of critical information on how to migrate safely is given by the project intervention down at community level. There is still room for an awareness increase, this by employing the best interventions of approaches for high vulnerable areas. Many potential migrants receive misleading information from overseas employment agencies and brokers. They prefer the illegal way in exercising migration for work. Potential migrants who are well informed about overseas employment would not be deceived easily by brokers.

The ongoing coordination effort of all project stakeholders including beneficiaries in addressing safer migration will continue to be successful provided it is carried out in a sustainable manner. The provision of basic business skill and small business scheme helps young people to make up their mind in working at their own country. The governments commitment in addressing illegal migration and human trafficking is encouraging. The recently drafted illegal human trafficking proclamation would give an impetus for safe migration to overseas employment.

## Partnership Testimony



*Ato Asfaw Ambaw- Education and Training Monitoring Officer for the Office of Labor and Social Affairs, in Dessie*

This ongoing safe migration project is currently in its second phase of operation. For this the Labor and Social Affairs Office is a major stakeholder of the safe migration project. When discussing the situation of migrant workers skill, one of the concerns was lack of proper skill in household keeping and other domestic tasks. To resolve this problem, additional training was provided targeted towards ensuring a minimum standard of knowledge for domestic workers ready to migrate. This training was provided by a local polytechnic college. This institute was assessed for its capacity and decided that it was equipped with all necessary household materials for conducting skill training.

The second hurdle to ensuring safe migration was to ensure those unable to financially afford the cover costs for passport and travel expense were not left in a vulnerable place. Here, we the support of local NGO's was vital. The methods of knowledge transfers that were optimized to communicate these services was through our community conversations programing. During community conversation, in three sub-cities in Dessie Town, various sessions were on revolving topics. Once again, previously selected and trained women facilitated these community conversations in various places. The platform of community conversations was proven to be most effective for a training platform, raising awareness in safe environments, while also revealing illegal brokers who used to make human trafficking in an abusive way.

Building on this foundation, community members felt encouraged to handed over culprits engaged in illegal act. This was observed in Tita, a sub-city of Dessie Town. Other good observed through the work of community conversations was viewed through the lives of

approximately 80 young females. In the case of these females, they had previously drop out of school to go to the Middle East, but have recently, made up their minds to go back to school. The peer to peer education was also found to a good forum in curbing the illegal migration of women. In relation to this mini media program in selected school in Dessie town school is conducted successfully.

There is protection taskforce regarding illegal migration which is led by the deputy prime minister at the federal level, and continues for the local level. In each zone, there are protection councils led by respective town counselor. In this task force, there are four working groups; protection, rehabilitation, legal enforcement and research. The protection working group is led by social affairs office. Members are included from Education Office, Women Affairs, Culture and Tourism, along with religious and youth groups. Our relationship with local NGOs like PADet deserve appreciation. In order to make the safe migration project successful PADET has provided meaningful support. The NGO has equipped the training center at W/roSihen polytechnic college which worth Birr 550,000 for smooth operation of various skill trainings like House hold keeping and care giving. PADet has also provided our office with important office equipment's and furniture's.

Pre-departure training is provided by our office to those who completed the skill training and passed the COC. So far, 1400 have been cleared for safe migration. The recruitment for domestic work, in the Middle East, is carried out by the Labour and Social affairs office first and the selected recruited will be send to W/roSehin Polytechnic College for skill training.

The Labor Office regularly monitors and evaluates the provision of skill training provided by private agencies operating in Desse town according to the standards. There are around 4 NGOs working on safer migration program in Dessie area. PADet's performance in this regard is quite significant. Last year out of a total of 40 NGOs operating in the zone PADet stands first on overall performance of NGOs. PADet is well recognized by Dessie town council and by our office for its commendable performance in safe migration and protection programs.



There are 33 private employment agencies operating in Dessie town. They are supervised by office of labor and social in line with the new proclamation no. 923/2016. In Dessie area 1400 young domestic workers have received pre-



departure training out of which 232 have travelled for domestic work to middle east countries through 12 private employment agencies.

Regarding sustainability ground work has been done in the beginning together with all stakeholders in this area. There is structure established by the concerned government body down at grass root kebele level to sustain the program. Now we are sure that there will be no difficulty on continuous operation of safe migration program if PADet and other similar NGOs project period terminates. The school base peer education is active all the time using the existing established girl's clubs. I could dare say that sustainability is guaranteed to run the safe migration by already established government institutions and CBOs.

Significant changes have been observed in controlling the care free movement of illegal brokers who disregard the interest of migrants. Now they are not working conspicuously in public. At least they do it in secret knowing that they will be exposed to justice if found in illegal trafficking of domestic workers to Arab countries. This result is obtained by improved and continuous awareness level of the community.

The other change suggested is the school activity and absence of drop out around schools as a result of continuous school peer education activity in safe migration for employment.

There is also a good awareness at family level. We know that one of the push factor for migration is family pressure. Now this situation is alleviated as a result of family awareness on illegal migration.

Last year around 80 young women cancelled the illegal migration to Arab countries. Local Idirs and religious groups have also started active role by teaching their respective community members on the adverse effect of illegal migration.



*Ato Solomon Yimer, W/roSehin Poly Technic College, Education and Training Coordinator*

Our polytechnic college mainly provides skill training in two major areas namely House hold keeping and Care giving. We provide both theoretical and practical aspects in these areas in order to enable trainees to be knowledgeable in skill, attitude and technical aspects. After the training, they will be evaluated by COC in areas of skill training their received. There is no major problem arise in the course of the skill training except that some trainee is attending poorly. Regarding resource limitation PADet and other NGOs like Amanuel in the area are supporting as required. Especially PADet's support is enormous for realizing this COC center. Various household materials like Fridge, Electric oven, Vacuum cleaners, Arabian majilis etc has been provided by this NGO to run the skill training to the standards.

So far, we have trained more than 1000 women coming from different areas. We can see great improvement currently in equipping migrants with the appropriate skill which was not existed before. However there still remains a lot to be done in improving skill imparting. When we compare our level of training with other countries like Philippines they provide internationally standard multi skill trainings including physical exercise and language skills. So, the government needs to work more in this area.

The coordination work among key actors in the implementation of safe migration in Dessie area is good so far. Review meeting and experience sharing are carried out regularly to strengthen the progress of the project.

The college has provided building facilities for pre-departure and skill trainings. In addition to the existing provision, quality materials have to be provided in order to create competent job

seekers in the overseas employment. Even the training has to be done much better than this. I think gov't has to take the leading role in this regard.

Private agencies have to take serious concern rather than being money minded. Since the enactment of the new proclamation there are now many overseas employment agencies in Dessie town. These agencies have to work not only for money but also to serve their citizen in a fair and honest way so that the process for migration of young women will be safer.

At this point, I am very much grateful to PADet and its staff. We did not see them as NGO staff because PADet staff regularly work with us and we treat them as part of the college staff. They are always ready and close to support. I am hopeful that the project will continue to be sustainable provided that each concerned stakeholder fulfills their responsibility for sustainability of the project when NGOs complete their task. PADet and other collaborating NGOs have done their best so far for the project success and on our part, we have to make every effort to sustain the program.

Again, I would like to give my sincere gratitude to PADet project staff for their ceaseless technical and material support in materializing our COC center.



*Ato WoldeGashaw- Project Coordinator, PADet Dessie Project Office*

In my opinion Practices of illegal migration, lack of information about destination countries, false information of illegal brokers, family and peer pressure are the major risky behaviors of most females' and girl's potential migrants which fueled the practices of unsafe migration. To reduce those unwanted and risky behaviors among target groups, various awareness creation interventions were designed and employed home to home, small group (peer education at school levels) and Community conversation at community levels. Community conversation and peer education session cascading is the key intervention approach for ensuring beneficiaries (potential migrants) active participation and involvement for the prevention aspects of unsafe migration.

## Stories of Program Participants



*Muluwork Fesseha,  
Age, 23  
Place of Residence- Dessie Town*

Muluwork Fesseha now working at Desse, in the post-office employee's café. Previously, she had no source of income to support herself and her daughter. Muluwork learned of

PADet through an awareness program in her community. At the time abandoned by her partner, she gained life skills, and safe migration lessons through PADet community engagement programming. She has also got a chance to join the training on business development and vocational training.

Before this, she had opened a small tea room under a plastic shelter on the roadside. After long effort, she happened to get to a better level of providing snack service to post office employees at Desse town. PADet has helped her in creating market linkage. Now she is happy with the business she managed and say to her peers that ceaseless effort is very important in getting the desired result in life.

Although Muluwork has no experience of overseas employment she extends her advice to her peers that exhausting all possibilities to work at one's own country is better than attempting to migrate illegally to Arab countries.





*Zinet Mohamed*

*Age, 28*

*Place of Residence:-Harbu*

I have first experienced migration in an illegal way to Qatar by paying broker service fee of Birr 8000. As I secured the job through illegal route I was forced to work 24/hrs without rest and the task was tiresome. After serving two months I complained to the broker who brought me to Qatar. The respond I received from the broker was simply *'Do not complain, keep working what you are given'*. It is a common respond given to women who migrated illegally. I then keep working for almost two years with certain improvement being done on working hours.

The work was tiresome and boring. And then I get back home denied of my one month salary. After this again I migrated to Saudi Arabia in legal way. This time I have made no payments like I have done when I went illegally. I then worked in Saudi for two years and returned home due to health problem. The working environment in Saudi was conducive. I was clearly briefed about my job, my working hours and my salary.

Now I have no job but I have no intention to go back to Middle East because I have to closely support my father who is now bedridden patient.

I have received better awareness in legal migration which is provided by PADet. There is misconception by some young women on new education level requirement to travel middle east. This is just a complaint by those who did not completed grade 8. Now I am living with my family. I am not employed and have no intention to migrate for work again until I am sure that my father health status is improved.

What I learned with interest in the community conversation was that I have cleared all misconception about migration for work. It is good when it is done in a safe way as it is helpful to lead better life.

*ZebibaSeid ,  
Age,30  
Place of Residence: Habru*

We understand about legal and illegal migration. As we all know illegal migration exposes to physical and moral abuse whereas legal is safe. For example, I on my part would like to travel through legal way. I am married and have three children. I have completed grade 10 and entitled to travel for overseas employment.

I have decided together with my family to work abroad in order to improve the life of my children. I have information that our government has signed agreement with government of Saudi to send domestic workers and I am planning to go to that specific country for domestic work. I preferred Saudi because the wage payment is good.

Now the movement for work to Middle East countries is dragging on so some impatient young women who completed the skill training are thinking to resort to illegal migration.

Our community does not support illegal migration thanks to the continuous awareness creation activities carried out in our residential areas. I know that some of our returnee migrants do not advice travelling to Middle East and say it is good to work at home. But now the situation is improved by a new proclamation that working hour is fixed to 8hrs.

Payment is also fixed. So there is no reason to fear that migrant workers will be exposed to all forms of physical exploitation. That is why I am ready to travel legally. I have received training on care giving under private employment agency and wait for COC exam. I have also received training organized by PADet about legal and illegal migration. This training has helped me a lot to analyze about migration for work before I decided to travel to Saudi. Now young women like me complain because the legal migration process is protracted. It takes much time to reach to final stage.

I know that working at one's own country is good. Jobs are available but the purchasing power of our money is declining so it is better to travel abroad for better life improvement. Now I am ready to travel to Middle East in a legal way. When I do this, It does not necessarily mean that my young sisters and school girls do as I do. I rather advise them to stay persistently in their education and work at their own country.







*Samrawit Demissie,*

*Age 22*

*Place of residence: Harbu*

My image about migration (i.e illegal migration) is not good. I on my side did not decided yet but thinking to migrate legally to Arab countries.

I am married and have one female child. My husband is not happy with my idea to migrate for work to Arab countries. He advises to improve life here together. But I am not sure. I may or may not change my mind. It all depends on the availability of job here in Ethiopia.

If I happened to get good job here in my residential area there is no need to migrate. Returnees do not normally tell about the painful situation they experienced in the Middle East.

They simply tell friends and their family on all attracting things (like money and ornaments etc) they have received. The government has to work properly and take serious measure in controlling illegal brokers. They are known and do their illegal act in public. They induce young girls to migrate illegally.

What I learned through community conversation and safe migration training which is organized by PADet has immensely helped me to improve my attitude towards migration in general. I want to advice my peers that they should explore all alternatives at their own country before deciding to go overseas for employment.



*Meseret Woldu*

*Age 22*

*Place of residence: Harbu*

My name is Mesert. I live in Harbu. I see migration in both good and bad ways. It has disadvantage when it is done illegally. It is also good when it is done legally. Now the government recently decided by law that anyone planning to travel to middle East has to bear at least 8<sup>th</sup> grade completion certificate. This means those who have not completed 8th grade are not entitled to overseas employment and this has created illegality. Those young women who have not completed grade 8 are now resorting to illegal route which is the only alternative for them to go to the middle east.

The government has to do something to avert this situation otherwise illegality will increase from time to time. There are very active and skilled young people who unfortunately fail to complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There also inactive 10<sup>th</sup> grade complete young people who cannot speak and write elementary English. It is just a matter of paper.

The government has to create alternative employment opportunity for those who are not able to go to Middle East because of their education level. I on my part have not tried migration and have no intention at all to travel for domestic work. I have attended the community conversation for 4 weeks which is organized by PADet. It is a good educational opportunity to young people like me who did not have sufficient information on overseas migration for work.



*Zinet Mohamed Yosuf*

*Age 25*

*Place of Residence: Habru*

I discontinued my grade 9 education when I was first traveled to Arab countries in a legal way. After serving for three months I have disappeared in order to switch to illegal employment. Illegal employment wage is high compared to the legal employment one. But the personal expenses you pay for illegal employment is very high.

Those who are employed legally did not spend much. Some of their expenses like medication will be covered by their employees. I prefer to be legal anyway. When I traveled to arab countries I misconceived that money can be grabbed easily. But that is not the reality. The reality is that there are many difficult situations especially when you work illegally. When you are illegal you will be exposed to drug abuse. You have no right to get proper medical service. You are forced to spend more money for shelter, food etc.

Now most of my friends have gone to Arab countries. I decided that I have to create employment at my home country.

My elder sister helped me to establish a laundry shop by providing materials and the local government has furnished me piece of land through micro entrepreneurship program.

Now I am doing well with this small business. It took me solid five years in order to secure land for this small laundry business.

I advise my young fellow sisters to travel legally to Middle East.

What is forsaking me is that we Ethiopian have limited skill and we are humiliated by Arab employers. Those who come from Philippines and India have various skills including language.

They are paid well and respected by their employers because of their education level and skill. Those who come from Ethiopia are limited to domestic work because of lack of proper education and their wage is very low. Higher educational requirement is should be mandatory in order to be competent with the rest of other countries young workers in overseas employment. The requirement should at least be a minimum of grade 10 and above so that young Ethiopian workers will have many employment options.



*Rabia Jemal*

*Age:33*

*Place of Residence: Harbu*

I learned about illegal and legal migration through training and community conversation sessions organized by PADet. I, on my side, support that migration for employment is good when it is done legally because many young women have improved their life. I have never exercised migration before but I am planning to migrate for work to Saudi if it is in a legal way.

Many young women from Harbu area migrate for work because of demonstration effect. When they see their next door neighbour returnee migrate improve their life in a meaning ful way others will be tempted to go to middle east with hope to improve their life like their neighbours.

I have got financial support from PADet to get the skill training through private agency. Illegal brokers who indulge on illegal migration have to receive punitive legal measures. They are known and the law enforcement bodies and the community members together have to send them to justice and be punished properly so that the penalty would be exemplary to othersperpetrating illegal migration of young women to arab countries.

*Household and kitchen material support provided by PADet to W.ro Sehin polytechnic college to strengthen the COC center for outgoing domestic workers*













