T.C.

ISTANBUL COMMERCE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MASTER'S OF AFRICAN STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

HUMAN SECURITY AND MIGRATION:

CASE OF ETHIOPIAN MIGRANTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MA Thesis

SEADA HASSEN ENDRIS

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JÜRİ ÜYESİ	Doç. Dr. İlke Çiçekoğlu	
JÜRİ ÜYESİ	Doç. Dr. Umut Uzer	

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ABSTRACT

Migration became one of the hottest issues touching lot of countries and peoples' life worldwide right now. According to UNDESA 2017 report there exist 258 million international migrants globally in the year 2017. When it comes to being a migrant destination, the Middle East region is one of the major spots especially for migrant workers. The region is also a popular destination for Ethiopian migrants. It is estimated that 44% of Ethiopian migrants globally is found in the Middle East region. Ethiopians migrate to this region because of breach and omission of their social, economic and political rights in their home country. Moreover, they face various types and degree of human right abuses and violations in their way and destination to the Middle East. This thesis paper attempts to find out, explain and analyse the situation of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East from a human security perspective. Furthermore, it emphasizes on challenges and human right violations that Ethiopian migrants face in their home country, in their way and destination in the Middle East that jeopardizes their human security. The thesis is mainly done by reviewing and analyzing various academic works on the area, related legal documents and surveys and reports of governmental and nongovernmental organizations. It concludes that in case of Ethiopian migrants human security factors are causes of migration and also migration is liable for various human security threats of Ethiopian migrant citizens.

Key words: Migration, Human security, Human right violations of migrants, Ethiopian migrants, Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East

ÖZET

Göç, şu anda dünyadaki birçok ülkeye ve insanlara dokunan en sıcak sorunlardan biri haline geldi. UNDESA 2017 raporuna göre, 2017 yılında küresel olarak 258 milyon uluslararası göçmen var. Bir göçmen varış noktası olması durumunda, Orta Doğu bölgesi özellikle göçmen işçiler için en önemli noktalardan biri. Bölge ayrıca Etiyopyalı göçmenler için popüler bir destinasyondur. Küresel olarak Etiyopyalı göçmenlerin% 44'ünün Orta Doğu bölgesinde bulunduğu tahmin edilmektedir. Etiyopyalılar, kendi ülkelerindeki sosyal, ekonomik ve politik haklarının ihlali ve ihmali nedeniyle bu bölgeye göç etmektedir. Dahası, Orta Doğu'ya giderken ve yaşarken çeşitli türlerde ve derece insan hakları ihlalleri ve ihlalleriyle karşı karşıyadırlar. Bu tez çalışması, Etiyopyalı göçmenlerin Orta Doğu'ya olan durumunu insan güvenliği perspektifinden bulmaya, açıklamaya ve analiz etmeye çalışmaktadır. Ayrıca, Etiyopyalı göçmenlerin kendi ülkelerinde, Orta Doğu'da insan güvenliğini tehlikeye sokan yol ve hedeflerinde karşılaştıkları zorluklar ve insan hakları ihlalleri üzerinde durur. Tez, alandaki çeşitli akademik çalışmaları, ilgili yasal belgeleri ve anketleri ve devlet ve sivil toplum kuruluşlarının raporlarını inceleyerek ve analiz ederek yapılır. Etiyopyalı göçmenler durumunda insan güvenliği faktörlerinin göçün nedeni olduğu ve ayrıca Etiyopyalı göçmen vatandaşların çeşitli insan güvenliği tehditlerinden göç sorumludur.

Anahtar kelemeler: Göç, Insan güvenliği, Etiyopyalı göçmenler, Göçmenlerin insan haklari ihlalleri, Orta Doğuda Etiyopyalı göçmenler

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CHS – Commission for human security

FDRE – Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council

ILO – International Labor Organization

IOM – International Organization for Migration

MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia

MoLSA – Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Ethiopia

RMMS – Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat

UAE –United Arab Emirates

UN – United Nations

UNDESA –United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNDP – United nations development program

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

Migration is currently considered as one of the foremost issues that the world is dealing with. According to UNDESA 2017 report, there exist 258 million international migrants globally in the year 2017.[1] Multiple political, social and economic factors drive and attract migrants to move out of their home country and travel seeking a better economic and social condition. While migration provides an opportunity for a better life for migrants, it can also be a source of labour and extra income for destination and sending countries, respectively. However, migration is also has been considered as a security threat and a challenge. The threat can be seen from both state and individual levels. States considers migrants mostly as threats for their established social and economic order and wants to regulate their entry, stay and movement in their territory. While trying to do that, states usually expose migrants' human security in jeopardy. Governments give more emphasis on the security, economic and social impact of migration to their state. However, the real issue of protecting the rights of individual migrants starting from curbing the reason for their migration beforehand and protection of their dignity and rights during their journey and destination is given less attention. Migrants usually forced to migrate because of breach of their social, economic and political rights at their home country. Governments' failure to provide its citizens with the appropriate social and economic condition forced citizens to seek a better situation through migration. Moreover, migrants face various types and degree of abuse and violations, from verbal abuses to life-threatening events, trying to cross territories or upon destinations in a quest for a safe life for themselves and their families. While giving much attention to the security of the state in case of migration, challenges and violations migrants encountered and their security through the process needs to be focused. The human life and dignity, whether they are a countries' own citizens or not, should be the priority in governments' goals and policies.

When it comes to being a destination for migrants, the Middle East region is one of the major spots, especially for migrant workers. The region has the highest number of migrant worker proportionate comparing to its whole work force, i.e. one-third of its work force is comprised of

[1]UNDESA, *international migration report 2017*, (New York, UN, 2017).

migrant workers.[2] The relative developed economy in the region attracts migrant workers, mostly from developing countries of Africa and Asia, to the region. However, the region is not only known for the huge number of migrants it accommodates, but also for the poor and undignified treatment of migrants and violation of their human rights. Different studies and reports by different concerned international organisations like ILO and human rights watch shows the same facts.

Ethiopia is no different when it comes to the trend in migration to this region. The region is also a popular destination for Ethiopian migrants. It is estimated that 44% of Ethiopian migrants globally is found in the Middle East region.[3] Currently, migration of Ethiopians to the Middle East became a major issue and a concern giving the huge number of migrants who are travelling to the region through regular and irregular routes and a vast variety of human right violations these migrants encountered through their journey and destinations. The poor economic condition in home country, that endanger a decent livelihood of many citizens being the main reason for migration coupled with social, cultural and political situation, forced Ethiopians to choose migration to the middle east, even though it means passing through a harsh and life-threatening situations in their journey and facing multiple degrading and inhuman treatments upon their destination and stay in the Middle East. The challenges of Ethiopian migrants start at their home country, where they struggle with unemployment, famine and poverty. Their decision to migrate mostly comes from a necessity to survive and for a quest for a better life. Lack of fulfilled basic economic and social rights jeopardise citizens' rights to live by denying the ability to get the necessary food supplement and health supplies to survive. Moreover, Ethiopian migrants suffer from more challenges in their way to the Middle East trying to cross different countries' borders, dangerous seas and deserts in a risky manner. In all these processes they experience multiple ranges of dangers and abuses against their dignity and life resulted to psychological and physical injury up to death.

[2]ILO, *Addressing Governance Challenges in a Changing Labor Migration Landscape*, (Geneva, 2017), 7.

[3]Katie Kuschminder, Lisa Andersson and Melissa Siegel,*Profiling Ethiopian migration: a comparison of characteristics of Ethiopian migrants to Africa, the Middle East and the north*, (Lisbon, University Institute of Lisbon), 2012.

Consequently, I found it necessary to study and relate the challenges of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East from the human security perspective. Migration's negative sides should be seen from the individual migrants' view as well, as opposed to states' view. Migration's challenges at the end are bold and direct in affecting individual migrants. All migrant source, transit and destination countries have their contributions in exposing migrants to the risk of various kinds of human rights abuses and violations and also in practicing it through performing or refraining from taking action. All concerning governments should take the liability and the solutions to it despite the citizenship of the migrants because of the mere fact that migrants are human beings. Accordingly, this thesis paper attempts to explain and analyse the situation of Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East from a human security perspective.

The paper has four chapters, including this introductory chapter. ***Chapter one*** generally introduces the research paper and set its aim and objective. Additionally, it puts the definition of some important terms that are used in the paper. Furthermore, the scope of the study and what materials and data are used in writing this paper are discussed in this chapter. ***Chapter two*** reviews and discusses previous works done on the areas of human security and migration in general. And factors for migration and legal frameworks related to migration and Ethiopian migrants in Ethiopia and the Middle East are also analysed. Multiple articles and studies on the area are used for evaluation in this chapter. ***Chapter three*** discusses and analyses the data collected from different sources, including raw data from different governmental and nongovernmental organisations, interviews and legal documents. ***Chapter four***, being the last part of the paper, contains the conclusion and recommendation sections of the research paper. The conclusion section of this chapter briefly summarises the whole body of the paper. And some recommendations that can be helpful for the theme of the thesis have been provided in the recommendation section.

1.2 Research question

With the following chapters, this thesis paper will attempt to explain and analyse the human security concept and relate it with migration, particularly with challenges and practices of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East.

As a result, the thesis paper addresses the following questions,

1. What kind of human security threats drive Ethiopians to migrate to the Middle East?
2. What human security threats Ethiopian migrants encounter through their journey and destination to the Middle East?
3. What are the roles of the legal and administrative system and frameworks of Ethiopia and Middle Eastern countries in keeping and violating human security of Ethiopian migrants?

1.3 Scope of the study

This paper is mainly focused on Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East. The Middle East region is defined differently through different writings. The Middle East principally is a region referring to the area located in the transcontinental area between western Asia and Egypt. It fundamentally consists of 17 countries, i.e. Iraq, Iran, Cyprus, Oman, Egypt, Bahrain, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Palestine, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Kuwait, and Jordan.[4] However, occasionally its definition extends broadly, and some other countries of northern African, i.e. Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and other Asian countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and others added to this category.[5] However, since this thesis paper is centered on migration and particularly Ethiopian migrants, its scope is limited to Middle Eastern countries that Ethiopian migrants frequently migrated to, including the ones which mostly are used as a passage (transit). Consequently, the GCC countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain and also the Arab states of Lebanon, Jordan and Yemen are the Middle Eastern countries that are included and touched in this thesis paper. And the term the Middle East in the paper is used to refer to these particular Middle Eastern countries.

Regarding the type of migrants, the paper aims at all Ethiopian migrants who migrated to the above-cited region through both regular and irregular routes. Moreover, the type of migration that this paper covered is international migration as opposed to internal migration that takes place inside the territory of a nation.

[4]Elisha Sawe, B. "why is it called the middle east?" World Atlas, April 25, 2017, https://www.worldatlas.com
[5]Tristam, P. "What is the Middle East?" Thoughtco., January 28, 2019, https://www.thoughtco.com

1.4 Method and Material

In the course of the research, primarily qualitative data analysis is used giving the nature of the thesis. Nevertheless, quantitative data analysis is also used in reviewing surveys and quantitative data from sources.

The paper is mainly based on secondary data collected from different sources. It analyzes laws, regulations and bilateral agreements related to migration and migrants, review surveys made by governmental and nongovernmental organisations and examined studies of international organisations on the area. Additionally, as primary data, information earned from interviews made with governmental officials is also used.

The secondary data used are collected from governmental and nongovernmental organisations. Particularly yearly data and surveys from the ministry of labour and social affairs of the democratic republic of Ethiopia (MoLSA) are used in identifying migration features to the Middle East, i.e. to classify the major destinations and the type of migrants. Bilateral agreements from the ministry of foreign affairs of the democratic republic of Ethiopia (MoFA) are made use of in the process of exploring legal frameworks of Ethiopia on migration. Reviews, studies and surveys of international and regional organisations like International Labor Organization (ILO) and Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) and other organisations and civil societies are utilized in the course of analysing and identifying the causes of migration and challenges of Ethiopian migrants. Additionally, national laws of Ethiopia and some Middle Eastern countries, bilateral and multilateral agreements concerning and related to migrants are also employed to examine their purposes related to rights and protection of migrants.

1.5 Definition of key terms

The following terms are used in this paper in the following contexts;

Migration – the process of moving from an origin or home country to another country for the purpose of work or settlement temporarily or permanently.

Migrant – a person who moves from an origin or home country to another country for the purpose of work or settlement temporarily or permanently.

Regular migration – A migration taken place fulfilling the migration rules and regulations of a respective country of origin and destination.

Irregular migration – A migration taken place without fulfilling the migration rules and regulations of the respective country of origin or destination. Additionally, a regular migrant might turn in to an irregular migrant when he/she violate the migration rules of a destination country after arriving regularly in destination country.

Gulf Cooperation Council – A regional political and economic union consists of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 Geographic, demographic, Economic and Political Introduction of Ethiopia

Geography and Population

The federal democratic republic of Ethiopia is the largest land locked country in the worldwith total area of 1,104,300 sq km[6] and the second most populous country in Africa next to Nigeria with 108,386,391 million number of population in the year 2018[7] . It is situated in the horn of Africa, neighbored by Eritrea to north and north east, Djibouti to east, Somalia to south and southeast, Kenya to south and Sudan and south Sudan to west.

Ethiopian population size grows with the rate 2.83% in the year 2018, which is the 11th highest in the world. The peoples' life expectancy at birth is 63 years old. It has one of the highest fertility rates with a 4.91 children born per woman (2018). Ethiopia is majorly an agrarian country. Out of the total population only 20.8% of them live in urban areas and the remaining 79.2% lives in rural areas of the country (2018).[8] High number of population lives in the northern highland and middle area, particularly in the centrally situated capital city of the country. The low lands of southeast and far east of the country are sparsely populated[9].

The Ethiopian population is highly diverse. The country is a home for over 80 ethnic groups. The Oromo, Amhara, Somali and Tigrai ethnic groups make up almost three fourth of the whole population.[10] Most of its people speak a Semitic or Cushitic language which are both part of the Afro-asiatic language family. The country's official language is Amharic, but over 80 different languages are spoken in the country in general.[11]

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[6]Central intelligence agency, world fact book 2019, *Ethiopia*, (CIA, May7, 2019). *retrieved from* https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/et.html
[7]Ibid.
[8]Ibid.
[9]Ibid.
[10]Ibid.
[11]Ethiopia treasures.com, *Ethiopian languages-semetic, cushtic, omotic and Nilo-Saharan,* accessed, March, 2019. available online http://www.ethiopiantreasues.co.uk/pages/language.htm

Economy

Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing countries in the continent and in the world in general with 8% and 11% GDP growth annually for more than 10 years before 2016[12]. However, regardless of its strive to growth and development, it remains as one of the poorest countries in the world with a per capita income of 873 USD in the year 2017.[13] Even if the unemployment rate shows whole time less record by 2015, comparing to previous years being, 16.80, but it is still evident the existence of high number of unemployment rate.[14]

The GDP of the country is mainly composed of three sectors. The service sectors take the primary place by taking the 43.6% of the economy. Agriculture is the second major economic source by covering 34.8%. The industry sector followed in third place taking up 21.6% in the year 2017. [15]

Politics

The modern Ethiopia is politically formed in the time of Emperor Minilik the second who reign from 1889 to 1913. He is well known for asserting the independence of the country by defeating the colonial power of Italy at the famous battle of Adwa.[16]After his death mainly three major different distinct governmental eras takes place in the country.

Starting from 1930, Emperor Haillesilassie created a constitutional monarch type of government which stayed until 1974. The constitution gave an ultimate, unlimited and unquestionable power to the emperor. He is the source of all powers; a head of the executive, the judicial and the lawmaker. He is known in his attempt to modernize the country in western style including the

[12]CIA world fact book 2019, *Ethiopia.*
[13]Trading economics, *Ethiopia GDP Per Capita PPP,* (tradingeconomics.com. accessed March 2019) https://tradingeconomics.com/Ethiopia/gdp-per-capita-ppp.
[14]Trading economics, *Ethiopia unemployment rate.* (Tradingeconomics.com,accessed March 2019) https://tradingeconomics.com/Ethiopia//unemployment-rate.
[15]CIA world fact book 2019, *Ethiopia*.
[16]Infoplease, *Ethiopia: history*, (Infoplease.com. Accessed March 2019) http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/ethiopia/history.

education system.[17]However, its lack of democracy and development added with his absolute one man rule led to a coup d'état and toppled down of his regime.

From 1974–1991 Ethiopia was led by the Dergue military junta who over through the Hailesillasie's monarchical regime through a coup d'état. The military government who was led by Mengistu Hailemariam follows a socialist Marxist ideology. And the country was led by one party rule, workers party of Ethiopia. Mengistu was the president of the country, the commander in chief and president of the council of ministers. Mengsitu's regime is well known for its atrocities, mass murders and forceful governance against its own people. Among its well known policies and events the reforms made about land and property ownership and 'red terror', an arbitrary rules and actions against whom ever was or suspected to be the opposition, were the majorly sighted.[18]The current government of Ethiopia came into power in 1991 through guerilla fighting against the Dergue regime. EPRDF (Ethiopian people revolutionary democratic front), a coalition of four political parties, which were leading the country's transitional government after the fall of the Dergue regime held its first national election in 1995 and won majorly without much contender in sight. Ethiopia became a federal state comprising of nine regional states which are demarcated based on the major ethnic groups, language and consent of the people of the particular states.[19]National election is held in every five years, and EPRDF is the major winner throughout the elections, which make them able to be in power for over 27 years now.

[17]Fisha, A. The Process of Centralization (1939-1991), (Abyssinia law, November 12, 2013) https://www.abyssinialaw.com/about-us/item/1089-process-of-centralization.
[18]Globalsecurity.org, *The Dergue, (*globalsecuity.org. November 23,2015), Retrieved from https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/ethiopia/history-dergue.htm
[19]Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, No.1/1995, (FDRE House of Peoples Representatives, 1995).



Figure 1: POLITICAL MAP of ETHIOPIA

Map Source –[*https://www.nationsonline.org*](https://www.nationsonline.org)

2.2 Historic overview of migration from Ethiopia

Migration phenomenon in Ethiopia has different characteristics at times, with regard to the reasons of migration and destinations. In the monarchical era of Ethiopia before 1974 migration of Ethiopians were mainly for educational purpose. Because of the quest to expand modern education among citizens, opportunities were provided for Ethiopian elites to travel abroad and return back upon completion of their education. Mostly the migration for education was to America and European countries.[20]

[20]Aaron Matteo Terrazas, *Beyond regional Circularity: the Emergency of an Ethiopian Diaspora,* (MPI, Migration Policy Institute, June 1, 2007),https://www.migrationpolicy.org

This trend has changed when the Dergue regime took power from the monarch in 1974. The oppression and fear of the military socialist government of Dergue became the main reason for migration from Ethiopia. Ethiopian refugees became one of the largest groups of refugees in Africa escaping from prosecutions and killings of the then military government.[21]The migrations were takes place to the neighboring countries like Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti and Somalia and from there resettlement programs were set to the west countries of America, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germen and Netherlands.[22]

Following the fall down of the Dergue regime in 1991, a good amount of migrants returned home and migration rate reduced in the country. [23]Nonetheless, this situation didn't stay long. Even though outward migration because of political reasons reduced comparing to the pre 1991 period, thousands of refugees and asylum seekers still migrate to neighboring and other countries. Due to various political, social and economic reasons migrationfrom Ethiopia continues till now. The ethnic based system of governance that the current government follows, the permission of labor migration in this regime, the high number of population added with the political oppression after the 2005 election are some of the reasons to escalate migration from the country. [24]

Contemporarily labor migration to the Middle East is one of the main futures of international migration from Ethiopia. The Middle East became the destination for a lot of job seeking Ethiopians. From all the migrants from the horn of Africa to the Middle East, Ethiopians are the largest groups. It is estimated that more than 350,000 Ethiopians arrived to Yemen from the year 2006 to 2014 only, having the intention of crossing to Saudi Arabia or other gulf states.[25]

[21]Marina De Regt, *Ethiopian women in the Middle East: case of migrant workers in Yemen*, (Paper for the African studies center seminar, 15 February 2007), 5.
[22]Aaron Matteo Terrazas, *Beyond regional Circularity: the Emergency of an Ethiopian Diaspora.*
[23] Ibid.
[24] MarinaDe regt, *Ethiopian women in the middle east*, 5,
[25]Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, *Behind Bars the Detention of Migrants in and from the East and Horn of Africa*, (Mixed Migration Research Series, February, 2015)

2.3 Migration and Human Security; concept and practices

2.3.1 Migration

Migration is an age-old trend as old as the existence of human being itself.[26] Currently, it became a conventional and international agenda being part of political and policy issue of countries.[27] It touches each country in one way or another, as being a source of migrants, as a passageway to migrants or as a destination.[28]With an estimated number of 258 million migrants worldwide in 2017,[29] and with its profound social, political, economic and security issues coming with it, migration is for sure among the main present-day global issues.

Nevertheless, it is cited in different writings that there is no definite and fixed worldwide meaning and definition for international Migration and Migrant.[30],[31] This is because, generally migration was seen from national level and the meaning has differences from nation to nation ,[32] it differs depending on the perception and outlook ,[33]or depending on the exact area that it is going to be used, like if it is for legal purpose, research purpose or statistical purpose.[34]However, there are some definitions that are widely accepted and used like the one constructed by UN DESA.[35]

According to UN DESA recommendations on statistics of international migration 1998 report, ***International Migrant*** means "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence."[36] It additionally clarify place of residence as "…the geographical place where the enumerated person usually resides."[37]Likewise, according to a document prepared by global migration group,

[26]International Organization for Migration, *Migration Report 2018*, (Genève, IOM, 2018).
[27]Ibid., 13.
[28]Global Migration Group, International Migration and Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities on the Threshold of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (UN Global Migration Group, 2008).
[29]UNDESA, *international migration report 2017*, (New York, UN, 2017).
[30] GMG, *interenational migration*, 7.
[31]IOM, *World Migration Report 2018*.
[32]GMG, *International Migration*, 7.
[33]Ibid
[34]IOM, *World Migration Report 2018*, 14.
[35]Ibid
[36]UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Recommendations on the Statistics of International Migration*, (New York, United Nations, 1998),10.
[37] Ibid

an ***immigrant*** is defined as "… a person belonging to, or owing an allegiance to, one state and moving into another state for the purpose of settlement."[38]

Furthermore, different factors could oblige to construct a different kind of definition of migration and migrants. As it is pointed out in World Migration Report 2008, "…Geographic, legal, political, methodological, temporal and other factors..."[39]could determine this. Consequently, different documents put more detailed and classified meaning of migrants based on different factors. The UNDESA recommendations 1998, for instance, further classifies international migrants to long term migrants and short term migrants based on the period they spent in the destination country as follows:-

"***Long Term Migrant*** - A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), So that, the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence. From the perspective of the country of departure, the person will be a long term emigrant and from that of the country of arrival, the person will be a long term immigrant."[40]

"***Short term migrant*** – A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months) except in cases where the movement to that country is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage."[41]

In other side, the UN convention which is enacted for the protection of migrant set a definition for workers, who are immigrant as follows,

"***Migrant worker*** refers a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national."[42]

Other more documents classify migration itself into different types. The 2008 world migration report put ***irregular migration*** as a movement takes place without following the proper rules of

[38]GMG, *International Migration*, 12.
[39] IOM, *World Migration Report 2018,* 14.
[40]UNDESA, *Recommendations on the statistics*, 10.
[41] Ibid
[42]UN general assembly resolution 45/158, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, (18 December 1990), 2.

countries in origin, transporting and destination. And it further elaborates it saying, "...From the perspective of a destination country, irregular migration may imply entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorisation or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of a sending country, irregularity implies not fulfilling the administrative requirements for leaving the country, or leaving such a country without a valid passport or travel document."[43]

In other hand, the report made by global migration group on migration and human rights, put another three types of classifications of migrations. ***Forced migration*** is when the migration is caused by some artificial or natural threats. And these threats became a danger for the existence of those people and oblige them to migrate. Natural disasters and political instability are among these threats.[44]***Transit migration*** is a regular or irregular journey of a person to arrive in a destination country or return back to his original country.[45]And ***Return migration*** as a coming back of a person to his origin country following a stay in another country for at least one year voluntarily or involuntarily.[46]

This same document made by the global migration group set definitions for other types of migrants. Among these are irregular migrants and environmental migrants. The document put the definition for irregular migrant citing International organisation for migration's glossary as follows "An ***Irregular Migrant*** is every person who, owing to undocumented 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 authorised to remain in the host country (also called clandestine/ illegal/ undocumented migrant or migrant in an irregular situation).[47]

*"**Environmental Migrant*** An environmental migrant is characterized as a person who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects

[43]IOM, *World Migration Report 2018*, 299.
[44]GMG, *International Migration*, 10.
[45]Ibid.
[46]Ibid.
[47]Ibid., 7.

his/her life or living conditions, is forced to leave his/ her habitual home and cross a national border, or chooses to do so, either temporarily or permanently."[48]

In general, it is evidenced from the above discussion that migration being one of the hottest issues of states internationally right now, it is hard to conclude in one definition of what migration and migrant is. The diversified cause, travelling method, types of people involving, field and purpose of study make the terms open for multiple meaning and definitions. However, mostly used common points can be picked to identify international migration and migrants. Migration being the process, to say a person international migrant, he/she should move to another state from his/her origin state for the purpose of work or settlement temporarily or permanently.

2.3.2 Human security

While explaining migration in studies, human security concept became a preferred approach by connecting and showing the root cause, effect and the solution of and for migration. The Human security concept is relatively a recent phenomenon. The concept emerges as a point of discussion after the Second World War.[49] Moreover, it gains broad popularity and attention when the United Nations gives emphasis to it and draws its human development report in 1994 in light of this concept.[50] Traditionally security was associated only with attack and violence against a nation's sovereignty and territory. The actual threats against citizens or human beings were not themain focus of the security concept.[51]

Human security concept came into being in defying the concept of Westphalia, which puts the security of the state as the main focus. Opposing to that,human security concept put human being at the center of security discussions. It expands the discussion of security in many levels, in type

[48]Ibid., 9.
[49]Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and Carol Messineo. Human Security: A critical review of the literature. *Center for research on peace and development*, CRPD Working Paper No. 11 (2012).
[50]Mary Kaldor, *La sécurité humaine: un concept pertinent?*, Politique étrangère, Winter Issue (2006): 901-914. https://www.cairn-int.info/article-E_PE_064_0901--human-security-a-relevant-concept.htm
[51]United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report 1994, New Dimensions Of Human Security*, (New York,UNDP,1994), Available at http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr1994/

and size. It is inclusive of issues from personal to international, from social to political, from local governments to nongovernmental organizations.[52]

According to human security commission, the shift from state security to human security is needed at this time of era. Basically, because the state, the security provider, is not only unsuccessful in providing security but also appear as a threat of security to its people, human security.[53]

UNDP cited that 'the concept of human security stresses that people should be able to take care of themselves: all people should have the opportunity to meet their most essential needs and to earn their own living'.[54] Human security is not about safeguarding a territory from weapon attacks anymore; rather, it is securing human beings from danger and fear of hunger, disease, poverty, losing jobs, climate change and violence.[55] It emphasizes that the meaning of security should be diverted from its old meaning to people's imminent issues. Security must focus on safeguarding humans through sustainable development rather than securing boundaries and border of nations through weapons.[56]

It further explains it saying, "… Human security can be said to have two main aspects. It means, first, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. And second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life-whether in homes, in jobs or in communities." [57]

The 1994 united nation's development report underlines that the concept of security should be interpreted broadly. Security should also be defined focusing on the real threats of humans rather than the bold image of war and weapons against nation states. The tangible insecurities of human beings encounter on a daily basis should be given the proper attention. Food insecurities, job

[52]Fukuda-Parr, S and Carol Messineo, *Human Security*.
[53]Commission on human security. *Human security now. Final Report. (*New York, CHS, 2003).
[54]UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*, 24.
[55]Ibid.
[56]Ibid.
[57] Ibid., 23.

insecurities, insecurities against gender, ethnic and religion based violence are the issues that are threaten humans' life.[58]

Similarly, commission on human security defines human security as safeguarding the fundamental element of human lives to develop free and fulfilled humanity. It illustrates it as follows, "… Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms- freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity."[59]

Moreover, it stressed that human security's definition should be dynamic, and open to broad interpretation because what constitutes a fundamental element of life in one place is different from the other. The definition should not be put in a way to strict and list those elements.[60] Similar to this line,Shahrbanou Tadjbakhshargue argues that there is no one definite meaning to human security. However, it is one fact that in this concept the general center of discussion is changed from the state-centred approach to people-centred approach.[61]

The commission on human security put human security as a complement to state security, a concept that fills the gaps which state security concept doesn't address and focus. It listed out four main areas in how human security complement state security. By making the ***individual*** and the ***community*** its focal point unlike state security, by including ***threats*** that weren't consider as a threat in state security like environmental problems and HIV in its sphere, by broaden the ***variety of actors*** from only the state to multiple participants like regional and international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and civil societies and by not only protecting people but also ***enabling people*** to protect themselves, the human security concept complement the state security concept to coup up to the new created threats and challenges.[62]

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[58]Ibid.

[59]CHS, *Human Security Now*, 4.

[60]Ibid.

[61]Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, *Human Security: Concepts and Implications with an Application to Post-Intervention Challenges in Afghanistan*. (Les etudes du ceri, no.117-118 ,2005).

[62]CHS, *Human Security Now*.

In defining human security, the UNDP in its 1994 report pin point four major characters of human security as well. Human security is not confined by territory. It is a ***worldwide*** issue. The degree and the type might differ but it affects all countries irrespective of their economic condition. Its elements are also ***connected*** to each other. The rise of one human security in one nation will cause another one in other nation. Its effect is not stoppable in a certain boundary. It is suggested that ***avoidance*** of human security threats before they happen is better than trying to stop it after. Moreover, the core of human security concept is the ***human being***. It focuses on people's livelihood, safety and opportunities.[63]

Even though security dangers and threats against citizens have a lot of diversified aspects, the UNDP 1994 report grouped them in seven major classifications. The report sorted out human security threats as economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security.[64] As a major document and start up point for human security concept it is important to discuss these classifications on UNDP 1994 report.

The document defines ***economic security*** as having a guaranteed income either from a useful and payable work or other social security programs. Economic insecurity is not only derived from not having a job and income but also from fear of losing a job in case of temporary jobs. In urban areas unemployment and under employment while in rural areas small share of land are identified as sources of income and economic insecurities of people.[65]

According to the UNDP 1994, ***Food security*** is when people are able to afford a necessary amount of food with a chance to physically access it. The fact that there is enough amount of food available in a country doesn't necessarily mean there is a security of food; the people have to have the guarantee to access that food in a regular basis. So, both availability and accessibility should exist to say that there is food security. This ability to access food is only achievable with sufficient financial revenues or benefits. Consequently, having a stable financial income is a prerequisite for security of food as per the report.[66]

[63]UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*.
[64]Ibid.
[65]Ibid.
[66]Ibid.

The report discusses ***Health insecurity*** in terms of what the major causes for it to happen are rather than defining it. Accordingly, the report cites that in developing countries, mostly health insecurity is related to infectious and parasitic diseases which are emanated from lower diet and hazardous environment. While in developed countries major health insecurities are usually associated with unhealthy diet and way of life. According to the report, the poorest people are more vulnerable to the risk of health insecurities and also have less access for medical help, in both developed and developing countries.[67]

Regarding ***Environmental security,*** the report refers that the environment is becoming more and more unsafe to live due to different environmental threats. Water scarcity and deforestation in developing countries and air pollution in developed countries are becoming a source for continuing environmental threats. As a result, draught and other natural disasters are endangering human life.[68]

As per the document, ***Personal security*** includes hostilities that are really a danger for human life physically. These are the actions that threaten human body and life directly. These threats can come from the state itself, from other states in form of war, from other groups through ethnic and other conflicts, from other individuals to vulnerable groups like women and children or it can be self inflict danger from oneself in a form of suicide and drug use. Crimes and accidents are also the major risks which are included in this category.[69]

In explaining ***Community security*** the report point out that there are times that families, groups or community could turn to a threat against its own individual members or to some group of its members. Traditional practices like female genital mutilation can be threats to women in a certain ethnic groups which practice such activity. Attacks and clashes based on community groups are also among threats against society. Ethnic group clashes and conflicts on limited resources are one of the main threats of such kind.[70]

In defining ***Political security,*** the document state that "one of the most important aspects of human security is that people should be able to live in a society that honors their basic human

[67]Ibid.
[68]Ibid.
[69]Ibid.
[70]Ibid.

rights".[71] Human rights violations often committed by governments against their own citizens in forms of torture, ill treatment, imprisonment and oppression of freedom of press. These violations tend to happen more in time of conflict and even though police and the military are meant to protect the people, they are among the main perpetrators of human rights violations as per the document.[72]

The document also point out that these human security threats are related to each other and one human security issue can cause the other one and can be a reason and a result at the same time. Furthermore, human security issues are not only confined in one nation, mostly they are cross nations. A human security issue that is a major problem in one country would be a cause to a rise of another country's human security problem and became a global human security concern. This might happen in two ways; some become global human security concern because by its nature they are transnational issues like environmental problems. The effect of emission or deforestation that happened in one country doesn't stay in the same particular country rather it will travel to all other boundaries which makes it a global human security threat. Other threats become global one when they cross country to country through people inter boundary movements. Immigration for better life or to escape conflict and prosecution fall under this.[73]

The UN works to develop a better meaning to human security with contribution of ideas from member states. In its 2005 world summit its general assembly decides the same. Consequently, series of discussions and informal deliberations within the general assembly were held in attempting for a more developed and workable definition of human security concept.[74]

After all the deliberations and input of member states, the UN general assembly in its sixty sixth session came up with a standard meaning of the human security concept. This explanation tends to help members states to have a common understanding of the human security concept for implementation. According to this UN resolution, the core focus of human security is people and their right to reside in a world which is free of neediness and desperation. Create a status which enables people to have same chance without discrimination to exercise their rights and use their

[71]Ibid., 32.
[72]Ibid.
[73]Ibid.
[74]UN General Assembly resolution, 66th Session, *Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome*. A/RES/66/290 (25 October 2012), available at, undocs.org/A/RES/66/290

ability to improve themselves. Human security needs a complete and a variety of beforehand actions to enable all citizens and societies to build up and develop their safety. It also explains that human security is not about state security and it does not involve a forceful action to take. Human security might differ as per the nation's distinct economic, social and political status and the period it happened, as a result, the solution could vary as pursuant to those specific situations. Furthermore, in identifying whose responsibility is keeping human security the resolution set some points as well. Even though, the main obligation in maintaining people's rights to live in safety and freedom goes to governments, however, partnership and help with and between international organizations and governments is important in working on human security. Moreover, the resolution state that the application of human security should be in line with the charter of UN and should respect sovereignty of a nation in its internal matters.[75]

In recent times the concept of human security gain attention and discussion among academicians and policy makers more and more. On a guidance note written by Oscar Gomez and Des Gasper, states that after the UN general assembly gave a regular definition for human security on 2012 countries' human development reports became more inclusive of the human security concept. The fact that after 2012, around 45 countries prepared their development reports by referring directly or indirectly to the human security concept shows the same truth.[76]Ethiopian human development report of the year 2018 also evident that this approach has been taking in reporting developmental reports in the country.[77]

2.3.3 <u>Human security approach in migration studies</u>

Studies show that human security approach in migration studies is better in explaining and examining migration. Des gasper and Giulia Sinatti argue that commonly the usual migration research approaches are focused on the problems immigrant host countries encounter because of migration. The insecurities the immigrants faced and their personal story and feelings are not touched usually. Human security approach is more human focused, and can deeply show not

[75]Ibid.

[76]Oscar A Gomez and Des Gasper,*A Thematic guidance note for regional and national human development report teams: guidance note prepared for the human development report office*, (New York, Human Development Program human development report office, UNDP).

[77]United Nations Development Program Ethiopia, *Ethiopian National Human Development Report 2018, Industrialization with human face,* (Addis Ababa, UNDP, 2018).

only the bigger picture of economic insecurities and nation focused problems but the social and psychological difficulties and insecurities of migrants. "The human security approach combines the person-focus with a systematic way of investigating the opportunities and vulnerabilities of complex persons, and a worldwide frame in explanation as well as evaluation".[78] Thus human security approach can analyze and explain better in migration study.[79]

Similarly Francesca Vietti and Todd Scribner argue that the traditional state security model deals with migration by securing borders, under human security approach securing borders is less focused and the emphasis is on the sources that led people to migration. State centered approach deal with migration at the final stage of migration while human security approach looks for the root causes for it and how to eliminate the problem. Working to eliminate human security issues will lead to a reduced international migration. Consequently, they conclude that human security gives better workable directions than the old state security approach in migration studies.[80]

They also acknowledge that, however, the traditional state centered approach is still important in finding out that which organ or country should take accountability and work towards curbing immigration's societal, economical and humanitarian problems. Principle of sovereignty stays intact and usually the state will be accountable for working towards eliminating the humanitarian and societal problems, provided that international and regional help when needed.[81]

Additionally, Anuar H. stated that Migration studies conducted with human security perspective demand to examine social, political and economic aspects that led to migration and migrants' situations in host countries. Migrants mostly considered and treated as dangers for host countries in terms of social, economic and cultural aspects. Human security perspective, by focusing on individual persons rather than the state, will help to examine and find out what the social,

[78]Des Gasper and Giulia Sinatti, *Investigating Migration within a Human Security Framework*, (Research Gate, August 2016), 8.
[79]Ibid.
[80]Francesca Vietti and Todd Scribner, *Human Security: Understanding International Migration from Human Security Perspective*,(Journal on migration and human security, v.1 no.1, 2013),17-31.
[81]Ibid.

economic and political challenges that migrants encounter starting from their origin country, in course of their journey and destinations.[82]

Huysmans.Jef and Squire.Vicki Put both state security and human security approaches of migration studies as problematic. They argue that both approaches tend to conceptualize migration as a threat. Both approaches work to secure either the security of state or security of humans, or sometimes security of both the state and humans. By doing so, they tend to add free movement of humans into a field of security and migration to be seen as a 'security threat'. This in turn will result into justifying marginalization and different treatment of migrants as being shown now in Europe, North America and Australia.[83]

As a result, they argue that, state and human security approaches have restraints in addressing all the sociological, political and normative relation of security and migration. Moreover, the state security approach completely ignore to analyze the normative aspect of migration, it doesn't touch effects of securitizing migration as to marginalization, violence and inequities. Additionally, it restricts the social and political issues into national security of states and as an issue of state relations.[84]

In other side they acknowledge that in contrary to state security approach human security approach give an emphasis on normative aspects of migration and be able to see and analyze migration further than only nation's security aspect, however, even this approach doesn't go further to find a middle place in between the two different arguments of security in migration, state security and human security.[85]

[82]Anuar Hassen Tsega, *The nexus between migration and human security: the case of Ethiopian female migration to Sudan*, (World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, vol.10, no.7, 2016).

[83]Jef Huysmans and Vicki Squire, *Migration and Security*, edited by Dunn Cavelty, Myriam and Victor Mauer, Handbook of Security Studies,(London, UK: Routledge, 2009). http://www.routledge.com/9780415463614

[84]Ibid.

[85]Ibid.

2.4 Conclusion

The Middle East takes high portion of Ethiopian migrants out of all Ethiopian migrants globally. The fact that the majority of Ethiopian migrants to this region being women, less educated, engaged in domestic works and use irregular routes to reach to their destinations make them the most vulnerable group for violations and threats. The discussions above show that Ethiopian migrants encounter multiple security issues. These threats stretched in time span, from home country through transit and destinations, and in type from emotional and psychological abuse to losing life.

As human security concept put it, human security issues can be a cause and/or result to peoples' insecurities. This fact is evidenced the same in Ethiopian case. The studies show that Ethiopians don't have the secured economy or job for theirsurvival, and this by itself create insecurity about their very existence at home country. Furthermore, by being main reason for migration it became a cause for other types of insecurities in their life as physical injuries, psychological damage and even life threats. Other reasons for migration, being related to the environmental degradation, societal and cultural pressures, political threats and poverty, are directly connected to the human security concept and issues. Furthermore, the discussion also indicates that administrative and legal conditions in origin and destination countries as contributing factors for the encountered human security issues.

The human security approach to migration study is better in explaining migration from the root and in finding a solution for it. From the review discussion it is understandable that how eminent and important to study the issues of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East. Consequently, studying further in deep and connecting all the stages of human security issues appear in Ethiopian migrants' case is necessary. This study will aim to further find out the factors in relation to human security concept by connecting from the source country through transit and destination countries. Moreover, it will endeavor to show solutions to reduce and eliminate these human security issues encountered for and through migration of Ethiopians to the Middle East.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 Ethiopians Migration features and trends to the Middle East

Due to a growing economy and a demand for broad working force Middle East became one of the main destinations for migrants. The main attraction for migrants to this region is the work opportunity. The Middle East hosts the largest proportion of migrant workers comparing to its whole work force in the world i.e. one third of its work force being migrant workers. [86]It also has the biggest portion of migrant domestic workers globally (27.4%) and half of male migrant workers (50.8%) in the world.[87]ILO's data shows that in 2013 only the Gulf States takes up over 22 million migrant workers.[88] Ethiopia contributes its share to this stock of migrants in the Middle East. A study by K.Kuschminder, L.Andersson and M.Siegel indicate that the Middle East region take the major number of Ethiopian migrants globally, 44 percent out of total ,comparing to the north region (Europe ,north America and Australia),which comprise 30 percent, and other African countries which comprise 21 percent of Ethiopian migrants. However, a characteristic of the migrants differs from one another based on the destination countries. According to studies Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East have certain characters in their age, gender, educational background, their motivation to migrate and the method of travel they chose to arrive at the destination countries.

Their study also shows that the number of Ethiopian female migrants is much larger than number Ethiopian male migrants to the Middle East. The number even exceeds the general average number of female migrants including to other destinations, the general average being 60 percent of migrants to all destinations being female and 68 percent of migrants to the Middle East being female. This feminization of migration to the Middle East is mainly because of the type of job demand in destination countries of the Middle East. Domestic work is the main type of work for this group of migrants.[89] Similarly, ILO referring other studies cites that Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East are dominated by female workers and the widespread job for them is housemaid.

[86]International Labor Office, *Addressing Governance Challenges in a Changing Labor Migration Landscape*, (Report presented on International Labor Conference 106th Session, Geneva, 2017), 7.
[87]Ibid., 8.
[88]Ibid., 13.
[89]Kuschminder, K., Lisa Andersson & Melissa Siegel. *Profiling Ethiopian Migration.*

100 percent of Ethiopian migrants in Oman, 81.8 percent in Lebanon and 75.5 percent in Kuwait are working as housemaid in the year 2014, according to ILO.[90]

In terms of education K.Kuschminder, L.Andersson and M.Siegels' study found out that Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East are the least educated comparing to other Ethiopian migrants in different destinations. Unlike other Ethiopian migrants in other destinations,the majority of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East work in paid jobs (85%), and only a small portion of them owned a self business. They also indicate that the main drive of Ethiopian migrants to migrate to the Middle East is economic reason (93%).[91] Similarly, Dureti Ali in her study of return migration of Ethiopian women to the Middle East confirms that economic drive is the main reason for women who returned from the Middle East to re emigrate again.[92]

Regarding the route taken to arrive to the Middle East from Ethiopia, the irregular route is a popular one among migrants than the regular one. The RMMS report cites that study conducted in 2014 shows that 60% - 70%of all Ethiopians migrated to the Middle East had migrated through irregular migration routes.[93] This is mainly done to avoid the lengthy and costly process of regular migration channel through government offices.[94]

According to RMMS report, the irregular migration route for Ethiopians to the Middle East is mainly (69%) through Djibouti crossing the red sea and Yemen then departing to other Middle East countries in between 2009 and 2013. However, due to border controls in Djibouti, this departure point has been switch to Somalia, Bossaso along the Arabian Sea to Yemen and departing to other Middle East countries (85%).[95]

Generally, the studies show that the Middle East takes the major number of Ethiopian migrants comparing to other parts of the world. And these migrants are characterized by a majority of

[90]International labour organization, *Promote Effective Labour Migration Governance in Ethiopia: Program Achievements*. (International Labour Office, 2017).
[91]Kuschminder, K., Lisa Andersson & Melissa Siegel. *Profiling Ethiopian Migration.*
[92]Dusit Abdi Ali, *The bright hopes and desoluted dream of Ethiopian women: A study of circular migration to Middle East and the Gulf States*, (Uppsala University, 2018).

[93]Maastricht graduate school of governance,*Ethiopia Migration Profile: Study on Migration Routes in the East and Horn of Africa*, (MGSoG, 2017).
[94]Ibid.
[95]Ibid.

them being women and less educated. Ethiopian migrants in Middle East destinations mostly have to take domestic work as a job and are paid in work employees. The migration from Ethiopia to the Middle East taken place mostly for economic reason and through irregular migration routes.

The data from the Ethiopian government ministry of labor and social affairs confirm the same conditions within regular migrants to the region. Until 2013 when labor migration to the Middle East countries were temporarily banned by Ethiopian government, thousands of Ethiopians traveled to the region in regular channel going through regular labor migration processes. According to MoLSA, a ministry office that is in charge of approving labor migration processes in Ethiopia, from the year 2008-2013 total of 480,480 number of migrants traveled to the middle east through regular work agreement processes. [96]

1. **Table 1 – Regular labor migrants**

	2008		**2009**		**2010**		**2011**		**2012**		**2013**		**Total**		
Destination country	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	**Grand total**
Saudi Arabia	3749	9399	1082	2396	2030	13446	10341	158959	7127	154660	388	16499	24717	355359	**380076**
Kuwait	103	6976	321	10837	663	25457	270	28476	130	2069	20	3751	1507	96156	**97663**
UAE	9	113	1	142	0	510	109	321					119	1086	**1205**
Others	14	905	148	19	12	115	16	175	12	108		12	202	1334	**1536**
Total	**3875**	**17393**	**1552**	**13394**	**2705**	**39528**	**10736**	**187931**	**7269**	**175427**	**408**	**20262**	**26545**	**453935**	**480,480**

Source –MoLSA

However, this number only indicates the number of labor migrant that pass through the regular government labor migration process. Even though it is difficult to know the exact number of migrants who traveled through irregular channel because of lack of records, the number of Ethiopian migrants who migrate through irregular channels is estimated to be double the number of regular migrants according to ILO.[97]

[96]FDRE Ministry of labor and Social Affairs, *Migrants' Record file*, (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 18, 2019)

[97]International Labor Organization, *Trafficking in Persons Overseas for Labor Purposes: The Case of Ethiopian Domestic Workers*, Edited by, Animaw Anteneh,(ILO, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2011).

3.1.1 Major destinations in the Middle East

As it can be implied from table 1 (the official statistics of MoLSA for regular migrants) the major destination country for Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East is Saudi Arabia. Out of grand total, Saudi Arabia hosts the larger amount of migrants by taking 79.1%. Kuwait takes the second place by taking up 20.3% of Ethiopian migrants and while UAE and other countries takes up the rest. However, Kuwait was the main destination country in the years 2009 and 2010 taking up 74.6% and 61.8% respectively. Number of migrants to the UAE is less and in the years 2012 and 2013 no regular migrant is recorded to this country because of UAE's ban on Ethiopian domestic workers on these years. [98]

The number of regular migrants to Saudi Arabia shows a major increase in the year 2011 from previous years. Comparing to the 2010 data the number of migrants is increased drastically from 15,476 to 169,959 in 2011. This development is mainly because of the agreement made between the government of Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia in the same year. Additionally, the decision made by Philippines and Indonesian governments to ban migration to Saudi Arabia, because of abuses on their citizens, makes the demand from Ethiopia high.[99]The number keeps growing until 2013 when Ethiopia temporarily banned migration to the Middle East countries, due to high number of reports of abuse and trafficking of migrants.[100]Currently the government of Ethiopia allowed migration to Middle East only to countries which it has a bilateral agreement with. And agreements with four Middle Eastern countries, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan and UAE, have been made. And as of this writing the government is working on administrative preparations to start up migration process to migrant workers to the region.[101]

3.1.2 Gender and age group of migrants

The record from MoLSA also verifies that Ethiopian migration to the Middle East is dominated by female migrants. As indicated from the whole migrants who traveled in regular channel from

[98] RMMS, *Blinded by hope*, 37.
[99]Daniel Lindgren, Thitaree Uaumnuay and Karen Emmons, *Improved Labor Migration Governance to Protect Migrant Workers and Combat Irregular Migration in Ethiopia Project*. Baseline survey. (ILO, January, 2018) 11.
[100]Ibid., 20.
[101]Zerihun Yeshitila, (prevention of illegal recruitment section leader at MoLSA), interviewed by Seada Hassen at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2019.

the year 2008 until 2013, 94.4 % of them are female migrants. However, this trend seems different when it comes to the irregular migration. In the irregular route the number of male migrants prevails over the number of female migrants. According to 2017 annual report of the interior ministry of punt land Somalia, out of 35,107 irregular migrants who arrived to punt land irregularly to cross to the Middle East, 59% of them were male and 41% of them were female.[102] The migration to this region is also highly dominated by the young population. 93.6 % of migrants who traveled to the region from 2008 – 2013 are of between age 20-34.[103]

Table 2 – Age group of regular migrants

	2008		**2009**		**2010**		**2011**		**2012**		**2013**		
Age group	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	**Grand total**
20-24	230	8	1023	13	5680	92	32599	612	40331	587	689	3	81867
25-29	7943	320	7090	286	22241	913	119728	4200	116872	3549	13330	217	296689
30-34	6185	1351	3839	504	8620	896	25852	3230	13975	1743	5324	159	71678
35-39	2161	1243	1196	359	2300	517	7102	1683	3247	871	695	33	21407
40-44	657	656	282	155	531	187	2086	681	763	341	173	10	6522
45-49	143	210	58	70	111	77	428	237	139	124	23	4	1624
50-54	39	62	12	22	16	16	92	67	26	41	4	1	398
55-59	17	13	11	5	10	5	20	22	18	5			126
60-64	4	8	5	4	1		6	6	15	3			52
65+	14	4	11	1	19	1	14	2	43	3	5		117
Total	**17393**	**3875**	**13527**	**1419**	**39529**	**2704**	**187927**	**10740**	**175429**	**7267**	**20243**	**427**	**480480**

Source*-MoLSA*

3.1.3 Education and Type of work of migrants

The majority of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East involve in domestic work. Because of low educational status and skill that they have, domestic work is the only option for these migrants. The data from MoLSA signifies the same fact. From migrants who traveled to the region through regular channel, from the year 2008-2013, 70% of them are at elementary and junior secondary level of education. [104]Among all Ethiopian women migrants going to the Middle East around 95

[102]Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, *RMMS mixed migration monthly summary, February 2018.* (RMMS East Africa and Yemen. 2018).
[103] FDRE MoLSA, *Migrants' Record file.*
[104]Ibid.

% of them are engaged in domestic work, while the male migrants work in construction, agriculture, hotels, hospitals or as drivers.[105]

3.1.4 Migration routes to the Middle East

Migration from Ethiopia to the Middle East is done through multiple ways. Migrants use the regular channel and the irregular channel. The regular channel migration occurred when a migrant is recruited for work migration through legally registered private employment agencies, when the migrant himself find a job through his own effort and when a work is provided through government to government agreements. And for all three types of work migrations the process should be approved by the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA). In this case the ministry office is in charge of controlling the work migration is inline of the rules and regulations and whether there is a valid employment contract or not. [106]The regular migrants use air transportation to get to the Middle East. In the other side, the irregular migration takes place through illegal brokers, smugglers and sometimes legally registered recruitment agencies working illegally undercover.[107] While there is no conclusive record as to the number of migrants who use the irregular channel, but it is estimated more than half of the migrants in the Middle East from Ethiopia use the irregular channel to migrate.[108]They use two maingates to go out of the country and reach to the Middle East. The first is through Afar region of Ethiopia to Bossaso,Punt land Somalia to Yemen and then mostly crosses to Saudi Arabia. The other route is through Afar to Djibouti to Yemen and mostly crosses to Saudi Arabia.[109]The migrants cross the Ethiopian boarder by foot, by bus and in Lorries and then use smuggler's boats to cross to Yemen's coastlines.[110]Yemen is mostly used as a transit to get to Saudi Arabia. From Yemen smuggler's takes the migrants to Saudi Arabia directly or to the boarders of Saudi Arabia through two smuggling routes from Sana'a and Aden.[111]ILO's study shows that these migrants took 2 months by average to reach to Yemen.[112]

[105]Daniel Lindgren, Thitaree Uaumnuay and Karen Emmons, *Improved Labor Migration,* 10.
[106]Zerihun Yeshitila, interviewed by Seada Hassen.
[107] RMMS, *Blinded by hope*, 36.
[108]Daniel Lindgren, Thitaree Uaumnuay and Karen Emmons, *Improved Labor Migration,* 10.
[109] RMMS, *Blinded by hope*, 39.
[110]Ibid., 40.
[111]Ibid.
[112]Ibid., 41.

Moreover, there are scenarios when the regular migrants turned to be irregular migrants after they reach in the Middle East regularly. This happens when a migrant overstay their time after their legal work contract is finished or when they change their working place breaching the legal contract or when after they got in to the destination for other purpose like visiting and stay there for another un allowed purpose without a proper documentation.[113]The irregular migrants are more vulnerable to abuse and violations through their journey.

3.2 **Why Ethiopians migrate**: ***Human security threats as a factor of migration from Ethiopia***

The Middle East became one of the major destinations for migrants, especially migrant workers. Ethiopians are among the major groups that migrate to this region. In the year 2012 only it is estimated that 200,000 regular and other 300,000-350,000 irregular Ethiopian labor migrants travelled to GCC and other Middle East countries. [114]The motives to travel to this destination have multi facets. These motives are related with both migrant source and destination countries' economic, social, environmental and political situations.

Surveys and researches show that undeveloped economy and unemployment or low salaries in Ethiopia as a major drive for outward migration. Ethiopia, being the second populous country in the continent and with high rate of population growth every year, needs to have an economic development that can address the need of the growing number of populations. Even though Ethiopia scored a great economic development for the past successive years, but it doesn't seem to catch up with the rising interest of its people. On a survey made by regional mixed migration secretariat (RMMS), on three groups of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East i.e. potential migrants, current migrants and returnee migrants, economic reasons are the most important factors for them to migrate. Out of all potential migrants and migrant returnees 97 % of them and 65% of current migrants put economic reason for migration. [115]

Similarly, Mohammed in his study on the cause and consequences of illegal migration in KutaberWereda, a place which is one of the major sources of migrants to Middle East from

[113]Daniel Lindgren, Thitaree Uaumnuay and Karen Emmons, *Improved Labor Migration,* 10.
[114]Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, *Blinded by Hope, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Ethiopian Migrants,* (Mixed Migration Research Series 6, June, 2014).
[115]Ibid.

Ethiopia, find out that, the main reason for women in the area to migrate to the Middle East is the absence of job opportunity in the country. He indicates that from this particular area 60% of illegal migration is attributed to economic reasons and the rest of 40% to non-economic reasons. Lack of different opportunities of work, land fragmentation, drought, poverty and growth of dependent young generation influence the locals to migrate to the Middle East.[116]

A socio-economic assessment made by international labor organization (ILO) in the five major regional states of Ethiopia, also shows that a high number of unemployment rate especially in the country's urban areas is a continuing issue that became a factor for migration. The assessment also reveals that not only is unemployment among the youth, but also a low salary with the employed ones is additional factor for migration. Lack of organized minimum wage scheme in the country make the amount of salary at the will of the employer in private sectors, and the minimum wage for government employees is also very low, which makes it difficult for employees to cover their life cost properly from it. These make both unemployed and low-income citizens to resort to migration options. [117]The economic condition and better employment chance in the gulf countries, comparing to Ethiopia, is one attractive factor for Ethiopian migrants to migrate to this region. According to the assessment, Ethiopians migrate to the gulf countries to work and save money so that they could return to their home country and start a better life with it.

Social factors are also major driving factors for Ethiopian migrants to migrate to the Middle East. The development of migration culture and wide acceptance of it as a way of having a better life is motivating many youngsters to travel. Majority of the migrants have a positive image about migration due to some success stories from previous migrants and usually migration is considered as positive action among the society and families. Migration became a trend that the society applauds, and at times even pressure it. The statistics and reports done by RMMS [118]and ILO [119]also confirm the same. The RMMS statistics show that among potential migrants 64% of

[116]Mohammed YA.,*Cause and Consequence of Cross Border Illegal Migration from South Wollo, Ethiopia,* (Arts and Social Science Journal, V.7 I.2, 2016).
[117]International Labor Organization, *Stemming Irregular Migration in Northern and Central Ethiopia: A socio-Economic Assessment (SEA) A Five-region Synthesis Report*, (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, ILO, 2017).

[118]RMMS, *Blinded by hope,* 22.
[119]ILO,*Stemming Irregular Migration,*40.

them say they are influenced by peer pressure, 83% of them said they are motivated by success stories of others and 64% of them said their positive image about migration help them to decide to migrate.[120]

Additionally, other societal, economic and political factors are mentioned as a reason in other studies. A Study on Migration Routes in the East and Horn of Africa by Maastricht graduate school of governance (MGSoG) puts some push factors for Ethiopians to migrate to the Middle East based on different studies and data. According to the study, the social, economic and political condition in the country drives people out of the country. Among the social factors are the high number of populations, the spread of 'culture of migration' and bad attitude against the returnee migrants in to the society are cited. Migration became a trend in the society and youngsters make to believe that they have to migrate and provide support to their families. In the meantime, the attitude of the society towards the returnee migrants is not encouraging to stay in home country. The returnee migrants from the Middle East considered as having less status in the society, which puts migrants in a difficult position to reintegrate with the society, which in turn leads to re immigration. The study also identifies price rises in the economy, less financial choices, high amount of taxation as push factors. Additionally, according to the study, the country's political situation, especially after the 2005 national election became a threat for citizens. Fear of arrest, prosecution and killing by the ruling party against the oppositions and its critics as well as prosecutions resulted from ethnic tensions in some areas of the country referred as a ground for migration. Moreover, environmental issues like drought and soil degradation are mentioned in the study as factors for migration, especially in the northern part of the country.[121]

Amongst causes of outward migration from Ethiopia environmental and land related problem and its consequences are also one of the main reasons. The country is prone for multiple droughts. And almost 80% of the population gets its livelihood from subsistence rain based agriculture. Whenever there is a shortage of rain most rural families get exposed for famine and poverty. Additionally, with the fast growing number of population the arable land which is assigned per family became smaller and smaller, which makes the amount of product and income that is shared in a rural family even less. This kind of environmental and arable land problems

[120]RMMS, *Blinded by hope*, 22.
[121]MGSoG, *Ethiopia migration profile*.

happened mostly in the northern part of the country. Majorly the Amhara and Tigray regions of the country are more prone to environmental and land related famine and poverty. Migration has been taken as an option to escape from poverty caused by environmental and land related problems. The RMMS research show that among potential migrants, environmental related problems are picked as their cause of migration for 61%of them in Tigray region and 46%of them in Amhara regions of the country.[122]

Similarly, Beneberu Assefa and Mesfin Eshetu in their study conducted in a rural area called Habru Wereda showed that problems related to farming land and lack of aid as a factor to migration. They indicate that land is the primary source of income and production for the rural society. However, environmental problems like drought, soil infertility and pest infestation contribute for more reduction of the farm land productivity, which led people to migrate for livelihood. Moreover, according to their study, because of less land sharing and less productivity of the land a lot of the people (46 percent) are food insecure and in need of help in their research area. But projects that are designed to address this food insecurity problem don't sufficiently address all the disadvantaged people. Among the people who are in need of food aid only 51% of them get the help in the study area. These factors obliged people to migrate for their and their families' survival.[123]

In the same way, a study conducted by Seid Ebrahim in Raya-Mehoni town, Ethiopia, set that the drought that regularly affected the area leads to a poverty and joblessness. These reasons invoke the youngsters in the area to migrate to the Middle East. He also put misleading information about migration destinations by the migrant returnees as one factor. Additionally, as per the study people also use migration to escape from psychological and economic issues that has created by divorce.[124]

Political factors are also among the causes of migration for Ethiopians. Oppression by the governing party, fear of unlawful imprisonment and detention, discrimination in governance,

[122]Ibid.

[123]Beneberu Assefa Wondimagegnhu and Mesfin Eshetu Zeleke, *Determinants of Rural Out-Migration in Habru District of Northeast Ethiopia,* (Hindawi International Journal of Population Research,2017). https://doi.org/10.1155/2017/4691723. March ,2017

[124]Seid Ebrahim Muhamed, *Migration of Ethiopian Youth to the Middle East and Its Impacts on the Migrants' Sending Community: Raya- Mehoni Town,* (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, 2016).

lack of rights and freedom, broad mal administration and corruption in the country are some forms of grievances that drives citizens to migrate. In the same research made by RMMS 32% of potential migrants 34% of current migrants and 22% of returnee migrants sight political reasons as a cause for their migration from the country.[125]

Migration is not conducted only once, major number of people re migrates to the Middle East after they came back to Ethiopia. Studies show that less tendency of societal reintegration and absence of support mechanisms as major reason for re migration. Both government and the society don't do much support in stabilizing migration returnees in both economic and social spheres.[126] Beside difficulties of having a regular accommodation, the returnees face a stigma from the society. A study of Dusit Abdi Ali shows that the great anticipation of the society that returnees should achieve a lot when returning back home put the returnees in difficult position. Families usually expect the returnees to have much asset and to support them. Moreover, the returnees couldn't establish a sustainable income for themselves through own business nor couldn't get employed because their work experiences usually don't fit in their home country. These factors led the migrants to re migrate again after coming back home.[127]

Furthermore, when it comes to migration to the Middle East cultural and religious reasons can be mentioned as a pull factor as well. The statistics of ILO shows that the majority of migrants to the Middle East are Muslims who came from the areas of Ethiopia that Islam is predominant.[128]

In summary, migration from Ethiopia is driven by multiple economic, social, environmental and political factors. Unemployment, small share of agricultural land, drought and less productivity of land due to environmental problems, societal attitude and problems specially related with women and marriage, development of culture of migration, difficulties in reintegration of migration returnees, ethnic conflicts and political prosecution threats, poverty and lack of sustainable support, misinformation and lack of awareness about migration facts and economic inflations are the major reasons pointed out in studies for migrations to middle east from

[125]Ibid.
[126]MGSoG, *Ethiopia migration profile.*
[127]Ali, *Study of circular migration.*
[128]RMMS, *Blinded by hope*, 20.

Ethiopia. As a pull factors the attractive relatively developed economy and work opportunity in the Middle East, especially in Gulf States, and the religious and cultural connection of Ethiopian Muslims are main ones.

Looking to these pushing factors, it is observed that the basic human security threats against citizens of the country are driving them to migrate. Ethiopians feels unsecured and endangered about their personal, economical, environmental, community and political security. Consequently, push them to decide for migration to tackle these insecurities through migration.

3.3 Human security threats through migration journey and destinations

Migrants encounter lot of challenges and abuses in trying to travel to migration destinations and upon arrival, by brokers, smugglers, agencies, in detention centers and by employers. These challenges are of many kind including physical and physiological abuses. Studies show that most Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East choose the irregular route of migration for different reasons. As per a study conducted by Mohammed the lengthy process and the near unavailability of legal migration organs make a lot of migrants to choose irregular ways.[129] Similarly, according to human rights watch, of the estimated 10 million migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, up to 500,000 are Ethiopian nationals, many of whom travel irregularly to Saudi Arabia via Yemen.[130] Irregular migrants use the irregular channels to go out of the country and to arrive to the Middle East. They don't have proper documentation to leave their home country and also to enter and work in to the Middle East countries. The illegal routes expose migrants for different human right abuses. According to Maastricht university study, Ethiopian migrants who use the irregular route through Yemen to get to the Middle East are most vulnerable to different types of violations. "Many cases of abductions, robberies, extortion, physical and sexual assault have been reported to have happened during the sea crossings from Djibouti and Somalia to Yemen as well as upon arrival in Yemen."[131] Moreover, migrants even face dangers like death and murder.

[129] Mohammed YA., *Cause and Consequence of cross border*.
[130] Human rights watch, *Yemen: Detained African Migrants Tortured, Raped. Grant Access to Asylum Procedures; Hold Abusers Accountable.* (Human rights watch, 2018).
[131] MGSoG, *Ethiopia migration profile*, 10.

According to ILO report the crossing of the sea is taking place by boats, lot of them die in the process due to harsh weather and overcrowding.[132]

Most irregular migrants obliged to pass through starvation, dehydration and life threatening encounters trying to cross deserts by foot and dangerous seas by boat.[133] Additionally, physical violence like beating, body organ removal, holding hostage for ransom by smugglers and sometimes by militaries on boarders or law enforcement personnel are encountered through their travel.[134] Most irregular migrants use Yemen as a transit to get to other Middle East countries from Ethiopia. For those migrants who made it to Yemen they face arrest and detention upon arrival in coasts of Yemen in southern part of the country or trying to transit to Saudi Arabia in the northern part of Yemen. They got detained mainly in three detention centers in Yemen, in Taiz, Aden or Sana'a.[135] In 2012 an estimated 2000 number of Ethiopian migrants were in these detention centers. According to RMMS's data in the year 2014 from 2000 detained migrants in only Sana'a detention center 99 % of them were Ethiopians.[136]The detained migrants in Yemen are obliged to stay in overcrowded and poor situational detained centers with low sanitary condition, medication and limited food supply.[137]

Human rights watch reports that migrants and refugees from Ethiopia and horn of Africa encounter lot of abuses in Yemen detention center. Authorities in Yemen forced the migrants arriving in Yemen to return back to the risky sea which endanger migrants' life. Additionally beating, stealing belongings, sexual abuse and assault on women, girls and boys, fatal shootings, killings and starvation were some of the violations on migrants performed by the guards in detention center in Yemen, reported by human rights watch.[138]

News that reports sinking of boats, which carry whole lot of Ethiopian migrants in the red sea are regular. BBC report on June, 06 2018 that out of 100 Ethiopian migrants that was on a smugglers' boat trying to cross from Bosaso, Somalia to Yemen 46 of them died due to

[132]ILO, *promote effective labor*.
[133]Daniel Lindgren, Thitaree Uaumnuay and Karen Emmons, *Improved Labor Migration,*19
[134]Ibid.
[135]RMMS, *Behind Bars,* 76.
[136]RMMS, *Behind Bars,* 78.
[137]Ibid.
[138]Human Rights Watch, *Yemen: Detained African.*

drowning and 16 of them missing.[139] Similarly, on another BBC news on December 7, 2014 70 migrants, mostly Ethiopian nationals, reported killed when a boat sunk due to a bad weather, trying to cross to Yemen.[140]

Furthermore, these troubles mostly continue upon their destinations in the Middle East through different forms. Even though the type of channel the migrants arrived in the Middle East differs, regular or irregular channels, mostly the abuses encountered by both regular and irregular migrants in destination countries are similar. ILO's report shows that in destination countries of the Middle East like Saudi Arabia Ethiopians encounter variety of abuse from their employers and recruiters.[141] The abuses vary from psychological to sexual violence to physical torture, sometimes leading to death.[142]

These abuses and challenges in destination countries mostly come from their employers and families. As Dusit Abdi Ali illustrates it the migrants encounter discrimination and maltreatment based on their ethnicity and race.[143] Mohammed in his study also explain that Ethiopian migrant women in the middle east obliged to work long time, get refused to be paid their wages, sexually attacked, denied food and medication, attacked physically and emotionally and subjected to insult and bad words.[144]

Similarly, a study held by Selamawit Bekele explain that how migrant workers obliged to work for 18 to 24 hours per day without rest, to hide their religion and act as Muslims if they are not one, not allowed to contact their families, exposed to physical injury by their employers like beating and pushing down to stairs and denial to get medical treatments.[145] Additionally, the abuses and maltreatments don't only performed by employers, there are instances that agency

[139]British broadcasting corporate, *Scores of Ethiopian migrants drown off Yemen's coast,* (BBC News, June 06, 2018). Retrieved from :https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-44391780
[140]British broadcasting corporate, *Yemen migrant boat carrying Ethiopians sinks killing 70*, (BBC News, December 07, 2014). Retrieved from : www.bbc/com/news/world-africa-30371917
[141]Daniel Lindgren, Thitaree Uaumnuay and Karen Emmons, *Improved Labor Migration,* 3.Citing ILO 2014.
[142]Ibid.
[143]Ali, *Study of circular migration.*
[144] Mohammed YA, *Cause and Consequence cross border.*
[145]Selamawit Bekele Woldemichael, *The Vulnerability of Ethiopian Rural Women and Girls: The Case of Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait*, (Uppsala University, 2013).

personnel,[146] brokers, smugglers and even embassies commit violations and treat migrants improperly.[147]

Bina Fernandez illustrates that multiple type of exploitation exerted on migrant domestic workers. The workers forced to do extra works that are not included in their contract and extra hours without extra payment. Additionally, verbal humiliations, restrictions in movement, forbidding adequate rest and sleep and forbidding communication with family and friends are common violations.[148]

According to analysis made by ILO based on its forced labor indicators, the working conditions of at least 72% of the Ethiopian migrant workers are distinguished as a forced labor working condition.[149]As per the same study and analysis different working situations of the migrants demonstrate a forced labor situation. Only 16% of Ethiopian workers have to work within the international standard of 10 hours per day, while the rest of them work by average 16 hours and 12 hours per day for female and male Ethiopian migrants respectively. Additionally, being forced to work overtime without payment, forced to work a job which they didn't agreed up on, forced to work in unhealthy working conditions, physical violations, not allowed to communicate to their family members back home, taking away of important documents like passport, harassment and humiliation, withhold of salary and not allowing to leave after end of contract, sexual abuse, restriction of movement and being in a constant surveillance are also major and common abuses that demonstrate a forced labor conditions of Ethiopian migrants.[150] The complaints made to MoLSA by migrants and their family members also confirm same facts. Most complaints made by migrants who returned from the Middle East are claims for compensations for physical injury they encountered and claims about unpaid salaries to be paid for them during they work in the Middle East and also reports of over work abuses.[151] In the other side parents and family members of the migrants has made reports and complains about not be able to communicate to their migrant family member due to their employer's refusal, asking

[146]Ibid.
[147] MGSoG, *Ethiopia migration profile.*
[148]Bina Fernandez, *Essential yet Invisible: Migrant Domestic Workers in the GCC*, (Gulf Labor Markets and Migration – GLMM, no. 4, 2014).
[149] Ibid.,13.
[150]Ibid.
[151]FDRE Ministry of labor and social affairs, *Agencies' Complaint File*, (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 15,2019).

for help to make their migrant family member to come back to their country due to harsh working conditions, and in some cases for investigation and trial of their dead migrant family member who died in alleged suicides.[152]

Due to such kind of physical, psychological and verbal abuses and challenges of migrant workers through journey and destination countries, when returning back home, they are highly likely of getting mental illness and sever physical injuries. Waganesh Zeleke, Abebaw Minaye and Gibbs Kygana in their study on mental health of migrant returnees from Middle East, conclude that mental health is a big problem among Ethiopian returnees. They explain that mental health problem is found in one in four (24 percent) returnee migrants and 23 percent of migrants show somatic symptoms. Additionally, they found out that the average mental disorder symptom among Ethiopian returnees is higher than the overall national average.[153]

Selamawit in her study illustrate a story of women who came back from the Middle East with a brutal wound in the hand and a broken leg, due to a burn with boiled water and pushed down from a first floor of an apartment by their employers respectively.[154]

In worst scenarios, there are deaths of Ethiopian domestic workers which made headlines. The daily star reported the death of a 26 years old woman called lembibo, Ethiopian migrant domestic worker drowning in a swimming pool in her agent's house in Lebanon, on august 2018. She is allegedly found dead after her former employers return her to her recruiting agent with a severe psychological and physical condition.[155] According to the national, every week up to two domestic workers died in Lebanon mostly by suicide or trying to escape from their employers.[156]

Moreover, when found being an irregular migrant in destination countries they face imprisonments, detention and deportations. A harsh treatment in the prisons and detention

[152]Ibid.

[153]Waganesh Zeleke, Abebaw Minaye and Gibbs Kygana. *Mental Health and Somatic Distress among Ethiopian Migrant Returnees from the Middle East*, (International Journal of Mental Health & Psychiatry, 1:2, 2015). http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/ijmhp.1000106

[154]Woldemichael, *The Vulnerability of Ethiopian rural women.*

[155]Albawaba, *Death of Ethiopian in pool highlights plight of domestic workers in Lebanon*,(www.albawaba.com, September 27, 2018). Retrieved from: http://amp.albawaba.com/editorchoice/death-ethiopan-pool-hihlits-plight-domestic-workers-lebanon-1192208

[156]Richard Hall*, Suspicious death of domestic worker in Lebanon sparks debate over racism*,(The National, September 24, 2018). Retrieved from: https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/suspicious-death-of-domestic-worker-in--lebanon-sparksdebate-over-racism-1.773588

centers are common. According to IOM report until late 2013 Ethiopian irregular migrants were held in 64 prisons in Saudi Arabia.[157]Furthermore, Human Rights Watch report shows that the migrants were preserved with insufficient food and shelter.[158]Additionally, after detention when they deported to their country they oblige to return without their possessions bare handed.[159]

Consequently, Ethiopians who opt to migrate to tackle their human security threats back home will be exposed for another human security threats which endanger their personal security.

3.4 Legal and administrative outlines on protection of migrants

Migration, if regulated properly, is one of the several ways to enhance peoples' economic and social life. Moreover, it is also a source of extra income for sending countries and a way to get to fulfill a demand of labor force for destination countries. However, the process of recruiting, sending and hosting migrants should take place in a way which respect and protect the safety and human dignity of migrants. One way to ensure the protection of migrants' rights and safety is by having a comprehensive legal and administrative framework to that effect. Both sending and destination countries has an obligation to work to achieve these safety and protections.

However, the existence of legal frameworks doesn't always guarantee the protection of migrants. The extent how much the legal frameworks are practiced in the ground for the good of the migrants is important in scaling the use of the law. Moreover, at times, the existence and application of laws and policies cause and became a reason for the hassle and challenges of migrants. Consequently, it is needed to examine and explore legal outlines that affect migrants positively and negatively in both Ethiopia and Middle Eastern countries.

3.4.1 Ethiopia

It is discussed in previous sections that currently migration to the Middle East became an important trend for Ethiopian migrants. Moreover, Ethiopians face multiple abuses, violations and life threatening situations in their way to and in destinations to this particular region.

[157]RMMS, *Behind Bars,* 94.
[158]Ibid.
[159]Ibid.

Consequently, even though protecting the safety and rights of migrants is an obligation of both the source and destination countries, Ethiopian government has first hand obligation to ensure the safety of its citizens whom migrate to the region. Moreover, multiple national legal documents and international and regional treaties that the country signed oblige to work for protection of its migrant citizens.

The constitution of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia in its article 18 set a rule against any inhuman and degrading treatment, slavery, trafficking of human beings and forced labor.[160]Additionally the Ethiopian revised criminal law also criminalizes the acts of enslavement, trafficking and unlawful sending of Ethiopians for work abroad, in articles 596,597 and 598 respectively. In its article 596 it criminalizes the act of forcibly enslaves another or keeps in a condition of slavery or transports a person who is found in this condition to a destination, whether by land, sea or air.[161]And article 597 of same code stipulate that recruiting transporting, receiving, hiding, importing and exporting of women and minors whether by violence, deceit and fraud is punishable.[162] Furthermore, the code in its article 598 put that the act of sending Ethiopians to abroad without having the valid legal license as a criminal act and punishable. Additionally, when the person who is sent abroad through this way encounters any human rights violation and injury whether psychological or physical, the criminal code put a more severe punishment.[163]

Among other national legal documents that enacted to protect migrants, proclamation no 909/2015 (a proclamation to provide for the prevention and suppression of trafficking in person and smuggling of migrants) is one of the significant legislations. According to its preamble, the need to enact the proclamation came due to the increase number of a serious crime of trafficking and smuggling of migrants in the country.[164]Since the proclamation is a special law dealing with illegal migration and trafficking, it is better in addressing the issue in a more broad and detailed way than the constitution and the criminal code. It criminalizes the act of trafficking and

[160]FDRE Constitution, Article 18.
[161]Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, No 414/2004, (Birhanina Selam Printing Enterprise, 2004). Article 596.
[162]Ibid, Article 597
[163]Ibid, Article 598
[164]*Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Proclamation, No.909/2015*, (FDRE House of Peoples Representatives, 2015). Preamble.

smuggling of people and moreover it put a more severe fine and punishment than the criminal code on perpetrators of the crime.

The other significant legislation dealing with migration and migrants is Ethiopia's overseas employment proclamation number 923/2016. This proclamation is one of the steps that the Ethiopian government took to regulate the migration situation especially to the Middle East, after it banned travelling for work to the region in 2013.[165] This proclamation added new and elaborated articles and contents regarding the requirements for process of migration abroad for work and requirements for establishment of private agencies' and their obligations, comparing to its predecessor proclamation no 632/2001.the proclamation set a minimum age of 18 and at least a completion of 8th grade with an occupational competence assessment certificate to be recruited for work migration.[166]This educational and age requirements are believed to help to filter and reduce the migration of the uneducated women specially migrating from rural part of the country, which in turn help to protect them from challenges encountered from their uneducated status and less experience.[167]This law also restricted deployment of workers for oversea employments only to the countries which Ethiopia has a bilateral agreement with.[168] This is very important in a way to give a better protection to migrants in destination countries through enforcing and executing bilateral agreements. Additionally, in its article 14 the proclamation also sites an establishment of a diplomatic attaché in a migrant worker receiving countries which will deal with the protection of workers' rights and safety.[169]

As a result, a decree is drafted to effect article 14 of the 923/2016. This draft Decree number 1/2018, which is enacted to provide the duties, obligations and managements of labor attaché, also has a significant importance in protection of migrants in destination countries. According to article 5 of the decree the labor attaché is responsible to deal with issues on labor contracts in destination countries and support and solve problems that encountered by Ethiopian labor

[165]Zerihun Yeshitila, interviewed by Seada Hassen at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2019.
[166]*Ethiopian oversea employment proclamation, No 923/2016,* (FDRE house of people's representatives, 2016), Article 7(1).
[167]International labor organization, *The Ethiopian overseas employment proclamation no 923/2016: a comprehensive analysis*, (ILO, 2017), 8.
[168]*Ethiopian oversea employment proclamation, No 923/2016,*(FDRE house of peoples representatives, 2016), Article 12.
[169]Ibid., Article 14.

migrants.[170]Since lacking competent supportive system to protect rights of Ethiopian migrants in destination countries is one factor that exacerbate abuse of Ethiopian migrants, to have such a body will create a good condition to progress the situation of migrants. However, at the time of this writing this decree is only a draft and given the importance of having a specific body that deals with Ethiopian migrant workers in destination countries, it would be a great advance if the draft decree can be approved and start to be practiced.

Furthermore, the Ethiopian government signed bilateral agreements with four Middle Eastern countries, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Jordan, regarding Ethiopian migrant workers in the countries. The bilateral agreements put obligations of both migrant workers' source and destination countries concerning recruiting and terms of employment. And also the bilateral agreements have annexed a standard employment contract to showcase what elements should employment contracts made between Ethiopian migrant workers and employers in destination countries should include. [171]

Ethiopia is also a signatory party for intentional and regional instruments which oblige her to work for the protection of its citizens economic, social and political rights and as well as protection against slavery, human trafficking and forced labor and respect for their human rights. These important instruments include the following:

UN conventions

- UN Convention for the Suppression of the traffic in persons and the Exploitation of the prostitution of others
- UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
- The Palermo Protocols
- International convention for economic, social and cultural rights: ICESCR
- International convention for civil and political rights: ICCPR
- Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women: CEDAW
- Convention on the rights of children: CRC

[170]*Draft Decree on the Function and Responsibility of Labor Attaché, Decree No. 1/2018*, (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, 2018), Article 5.
[171] FDRE Ministry of foreign affairs bilateral agreements with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar and UAE.

ILO conventions

- ILO C182: Worst forms of child labor convention
- ILO C105: Abolition of forced labor
- ILO C181: Private employment agencies convention
- ILO C111: Discrimination employment and occupation and
- ILO C87: Freedom of association and protection of the right to organize convention

Regional conventions

- African charter on human and people rights: ACHPR
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: ACRWC
- The African Charter on Human and People's Rights and on freedom of association and protection of the right to organize: ACHPRFAPRO

However, Ethiopia also did not ratify some significant international instruments on migration and migrant workers:

Conventions Ethiopia didn't ratify [172]

- ILO C097 migration for employment convention
- ILO C143 migrations in abusive conditions and the promotion of equality of opportunity and treatment of migrant workers) and
- UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

The exiting Ethiopian legal framework related to migrant citizens is good and workable consequently it is important to use and practice these legal frameworks for a better protection of migrant citizens. Additionally, it will have a better importance if Ethiopia could ratify other important conventions on migrants, which she didn't ratify yet, to make it part of its national law.

[172]Kidus Meskele Ashine, *Migrant Workers Rights under the Ethiopian Legal System*, (Global Journal of Human-Social Science, V.16 I.6, 2016), 23-27.

Moreover, the absence of integrated facility and rehabilitation mechanism for migrant returnees in Ethiopia became one of the causes for re immigration of lot of citizens. After migration, when citizens come back to their home country, given the traumas and challenges they have passed thorough, a system which enables them to recover emotionally and psychologically is necessary. Helping them to integrate with the society in both psychological and economic terms is important. However, lack of rehabilitation center and integration works for migrant returnees in Ethiopia is weak.[173] Consequently, exposing migrant returnees to face migration again, despite their bad experiences, or to live somehow isolated and tabooed in the society. As a result, it is possible to eliminate re immigration or at least reduce its amount by setting up a system which can help migrant returnees to integrate into the society.

3.4.2 Middle East countries

Middle East became a main destination for Ethiopian migrant workers, out of which domestic workers having the largest number. As discussed in previous sections Ethiopian migrants are exposed and face a multitude of difficulties, abuse and violations. These mistreatments of migrants are partially attributed to the gaps in national laws and administrations on respective areas. The fact that most Middle Eastern countries' labor laws exclude domestic workers in their protection and the existence of the Kafala policy, visa sponsorship system, which prohibit migrant worker to resign, change an employer or leave the country without the permission of their employer, leaves migrant workers without a proper legal protection and expose them for abuses.

The Kafala is a sponsorship system which is applied on migrant workers. The system exist in multiple Middle Eastern countries, in all the GCC countries of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, united Arab emirates and the Arab states of Jordan and Lebanon.[174]This system started around 1950s, is aimed to control and make migrant workers' stay only temporarily in the destination countries. Under this system a migrant worker should have a Kafeel (sponsor) in destination country to enter in to the country. And the worker will be attached with the Kafeel for his whole stay in there. The worker cannot change employer or leave the country without the

[173] Ali, *Study of circular migration.*

[174]Migrant Forum in Asia Secretariat, *Reform of the Kafala (sponsorship) System, Responding to Emerging and Critical Issues 1, policy brief no: 2,* (2012). https://www.semanticscholar.org.

employer's (Kafeel) permission.[175] This situation gives the employer a full power on the migrant worker and leaves the worker to be fully dependent on the employer for livelihood and residency. This full control provides a suitable condition for violations of rights and abuses against the worker. Migrant workers, especially domestic workers, oblige to live with various challenges like confiscation of travel documents like passport, denial of wage, physical and verbal abuses, unpaid overtime works, restricted movement and denial of communication with family and friends. If the worker decides to leave the employer without employer's consent they immediately became illegal migrants, even though they were trying to escape abuses, and will be exposed for arrest and deportation. This condition makes migrant workers unable to escape abusive situations until their contract expires.

The Kafala system creates a good condition for employers to violate rights of migrant workers and abuse them. Consequently, it needs to be eliminated and changed in to a system which is more suitable to protect the rights of migrant workers.

The other legal gap that jeopardizes the safety and rights of migrant workers in Middle East countries is the exclusion of domestic workers from protection of the labor law. Most GCC countries exclude domestic workers from the protection of their standard labor laws. This left domestic workers, which are the most vulnerable ones to human right violations and abuses, without even the countries standard legal protection.

Some countries like Qatar take initiatives in changing the Kafala system partially; however, these changes are not enough to guarantee the freedom and rights of migrant workers. Moreover, these some reforms of Kafala system again exclude migrant domestic workers. Additionally, another positive step towards the protection of migrant domestic workers right is preparing laws that could address them particularly. In this regard countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates enacted separate laws to cover the rights of domestic workers. However, these laws give less rights and protections to migrant domestic workers than the other workers.

Analyzing Qatar's amended labor law will give an image to how the reform of Kafala system and protection of labor law excluded domestic workers. Qatar amends its labor law which came to effect on 16 December 2016 to reform the Kafala system. According to the new labor law

[175]Ibid.

migrant workers can seek exist permission to leave the country from the government rather than the employer and also upon the termination of their employment contract they can take another job upon permission of the government not their employer.[176]This is a good step in giving more freedom to migrant workers by providing a right to leave the country and change employer with the permission of the government not their employer as it was practiced previously. However, this law excludes domestic workers from its application.[177]Domestic workers being the main groups of migrants who are exposed for multiple violations these reforms had needed to address them primarily. Qatar also take the initiative to enact domestic workers law no 15/2017 which recognizes some rights to domestic workers. It stipulates a maximum 10 hours of work per day,24 hours consecutive rest every week and 3 weeks of annual leave[178] which can be taken as a positive start towards recognizing domestic workers rights. However, it by no means, does treat domestic workers equally with other workers. Domestic workers got weaker protection of law comparing to other workers. For instance, the labor law set a maximum 8 hour of working per day and 6 hour reduced working day during Ramadan, there is no such provisions provided in domestic workers law.

As a result, mainly the system of Kafala needs to be abolished and most importantly the changes and amendments that are taken in the Kafala system should be inclusive of domestic workers. Additionally, again for a better protection of migrant domestic workers they should be included under the protection of the standard national labor laws or the special laws that are enacted to protect them should be drafted in an equal standard with the basic national labor laws.

Additionally, important international conventions on migrant workers which are either not ratified by the GCC countries or not get practiced properly makes the vulnerability of domestic migrant workers high in the region. Relevant conventions like ILO convention No.189 on domestic workers, ILO convention No.143 on migrant workers and UN international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families (ICPRMW)

[176]*Qatar labor law, No 21/2015*, The Emir of State of Qatar, (2015)

[177]Ibid., Article 3.

[178]*Qatar domestic workers' Law, No. 15/2017,* The Emir of the State of Qatar, (2017), Article 12-14.

are not ratified by the GCC countries.[179] Moreover, even the conventions that are ratified by most GCC countries like ILO conventions related to labor, right to organize and against discrimination are not easily reachable to the migrants and are not practically used.[180] This has its own negative effect in protecting migrant workers' rights since these conventions provide legal grounds for better protection of migrant workers in all aspects.

[179]Fernandez, *Essential yet Invisible.*
[180]Ibid.

CHAPTER FOUR

Conclusion and recommendations

Migration, being one of the main modern-day phenomenon, affects the life of millions of people and countries around the world. Giving its nature of being trans-boundary usually migration is seen as a security issue towards states. Accordingly, studies and concerns usually addressed from the side of the state as to what the impact of migration could be on states' security. However, the main actors in the process of migration, human migrants, are mostly ignored. States and discussions focus on pros and cons of migration on the state rather than migrants. Nevertheless, people migrate to escape from situations that endanger their human existence and safety. In addition to that, they are exposed and have to pass through multiple inhuman treatments and life threatening scenarios trough the process of migration. Consequently, the situation of migration needs to be address from the human security perspective as well. Human security is a concept that prefers defining the idea of security from perspective of human beings' safety and wellbeing, as opposed to the traditional perspective of security which sees security from the view point of violence and aggression against the state. This approach not only helps to address the issue encountered by migrants but also helps in dealing with migration from the root by explaining the causes of it. This research paper is framed to see the issues of Ethiopian migrants to the Middle East from human security perspective from the beginning to the transit until destination.

Migration to the Middle East is one of the hottest migration trends from Ethiopia right now. Every day a number of young Ethiopians flow to the region in a hope of a better life. In the very beginning the cause for Ethiopians to migrate rise from a threat of existence they face in different forms, inside their home country. Economic reason being the main one, social, environmental and political reasons drive Ethiopians for outward migration to the region. The poor economic condition and high unemployment rate toppled with low scale of salary in the country makes it difficult for lot of youngsters to have a stable and appropriate income to support themselves and their family. This loss of economic security became the main reason to migrate for Ethiopians. More to that drought and famine that resulted from environmental problems are also main cause of migration. Even though it is to a lesser degree, political oppressions and fear of arbitral arrest and prosecution also drive Ethiopians to migrate to this region. Consequently, the absence of

economic, environmental and political securities are threatening and disturbing the life of the Ethiopian citizens and forcing them to migrate to the Middle East.

Moreover, the migrants' threats against their existence and dignity continue after they left Ethiopia to the Middle East. When migrated irregularly they are obliged to pass through different physical hardships trying to cross deserts and dangerous seas in unsafe ways. Physical abuses against their body like organ removal, sexual abuse by smugglers, starvation and even death are common encounters for these migrants in their journey. Furthermore, abuses and human right violations continue in destination countries of the Middle East. The abuses ranged from verbal to physical from their recruiters and employers. They are exposed to sexual assault, forced labor, denial of food, denial of communication, restriction of movement and torture. As a result, most of them encountered psychological and physical injury and when it is sever, encounter death from suicide or related causes. Therefore, even if Ethiopian migrants are migrating in escape of human security threats against themselves and their family, however, they are getting into other form of threats against themselves in their way and destination in the Middle East.

Among other factors, the Kafala system and the legal framework in the Middle East countries is a contributing factor for the poor treatment and abuse of Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East. The Kafala system gives an absolute controlling power to the employer by prohibiting an immigrant worker to resign, change work or leave the country without the employer's permission. In addition, the national labor laws exclude domestic workers, which majority of Ethiopian migrant workers involve with, from their protection. These facts leave migrant workers, especially domestic workers, to be treated differently and badly from other categories of employees in the Middle East. Moreover, it allows employers to have a broad power over their workers which in turn lead to a vast amount of abuses and human right violations on migrant workers. Even though there are initiatives and startups to change and amend some of the rules in the Kafala system, but these changes are not inclusive of the domestic workers, which are by far the major group of migrants to be exposed to violations in the region. Similarly, the initiatives to enact laws that address domestic workers give far less protection and rights to domestic workers comparing to the other group of workers.

In Ethiopia, although there are legal frameworks which directly and indirectly framed for protection of citizens, particularly migrant citizens, however the application of the laws and the administrative steps that are taken to fulfill those rights on paper is poor.

In conclusion, Ethiopian migrants are exposed for many insecurities and threats starting from their home country against their lives and dignity. The basic necessities of their livelihood being unsecured, lead them to migration to the Middle East. Additionally, their journey and stay as a migrant in Middle East is full of challenges, abuses and violations of their rights. The poor economic condition in Ethiopia and the migration policy and laws in the Middle East are the main factors that create human security challenges against Ethiopians. Consequently, it is necessary to work towards improving these situations in both Ethiopia and Middle East countries for better protection of citizens and migrants. The governments of these countries being the primary actors in working for the betterment of these conditions, however, regional and international organizations and civil societies should keep pushing and supporting the works for the ultimate protection and security of citizens and migrants against human security challenges.

The following are recommendations are provided in averting the human security issues that Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East encountered;

- As it is discussed in the paper the main factor for Ethiopians to migrate is not having economic security. Ethiopia is a populous country with a high number of young and a fast growing population. There is a need to create a work space which can take up this population. Works should be done to reduce the unemployment rate in the country. Moreover, the minimum salary rate in private sectors should be regulated and also the amount of salary for government sector as well needs to be adjusted to enable the employed group to have a decent and moderate lifestyle. Additionally, since the majority of the population lives in rural areas and based its livelihood in agriculture, it is important to preserve the environment to control the climate change and its effects on the agricultural process and the society. If citizens have a stable and enough means and amount of income to cover their basic needs and have a relatively decent life, the chance of migrating to Middle East countries knowing the challenges and abuses they might face will reduced.

- The other main factor for Ethiopian migrants' challenges is the existence of Kafala system and exclusion of domestic workers in the national labor laws in the Middle East countries. Legal framework is the first step in acknowledging the rights of peoples. Consequently, it is important to put legal terms that could protect the rights of migrant workers. Middle Eastern countries should amend and abolish the Kafala system in a way to protect migrant workers. Moreover, these amendments should be inclusive of migrant domestic workers. Since the main groups which are exposed for abuse are domestic workers it is essential to incorporate this group of workers in the changes of the Kafala system. Similarly, the legal protections and rights that are provided in labor laws for other group of workers should also comprise domestic workers in their practice. Otherwise, the separate laws that are enacted to govern domestic workers should be framed in a way that could put more protection and legal rights to domestic workers.

- Even though a lot of Ethiopian citizens migrate for economic reasons, however, a huge number of migrants are also convinced to migrate with a false promises and images that are provided from local brokers. The success stories of some migrants added with smugglers' assurance, gives a wrong idea of what they would get in their destination hiding the real challenges and requirements needed for migration. Therefore, an awareness creation works should be done in enlightening citizens as to what pros and cons of migration to the Middle East region really is. There are works which are undertaking in this regard with NGO and government initiatives through public Medias. Apart continuing these media works it is important to go deep to the rural areas of the country which are the main sources of migrants in creating awareness in the topic.

- Ethiopia already framed important administrative and legal frameworks which directly and indirectly help in eliminating irregular migration and promote protection of migrant citizens. However, it needs to do more in practicing these laws and in creating more workable administrative arrangements. Comparing the degree of irregular migration and trafficking that exist in the country, the number of legal cases that are taken in application of the laws are small. As a result, it is necessary to take more legal action using the legal framework in tackling human smuggling and trafficking. This will help in preventing and

reducing the number of citizens who uses irregular channels and expose themselves for more abuse and violations.

Additionally, Ethiopian proclamation 923/2016 put a good ground in controlling recruiting agencies and their works as well as in limiting the people who migrate to the region to be more qualified putting minimum educational and occupational standards to migrate for work. The more qualified the migrants are the less abuse and violations they could face due to quality of work. Consequently, it is essential to continue to execute these and other rules of the proclamation to better the situation of migrants who migrate through regular channel for work in the Middle East.

Furthermore, the draft attaché decree has paramount important in protecting Ethiopian migrants in the Middle East. It will help in negotiating and advocating on behalf of migrants in respective countries, which is important since majority of the migrants has less experience and freedom to stand up for their right. As a result, it will have a great help if the draft decree can be approved soon and the attaché office to be set up in the Middle East countries.

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