

## C4. Annual / Report Template

### Migration MPTF Annual / Year End Report (Sep – Dec 2023)

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Joint Programme Title:	<i>Provision of essential services, protection, social and economic empowerment to support the reintegration of returned migrants in Addis Ababa</i>
Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Project Identification Number:	
Start and Planned End Dates	Start: 16 September 2023    End: 15 March 2025
Convening Agent (Lead PUNO):	UN-Habitat
PUNO(s) (PUNOs):	(a) WHO and (b) ILO
Key Partners: <i>(include Implementing Partner)</i>	Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS), Ministry of Women, Children, Youth & Children Affairs, Ministry of Health (MoH), Addis Ababa City Administration, Addis Ababa bureau of Labour and Skills, Addis Ababa Planning and Development Commission, Addis Ababa Health Bureau, Addis Ababa Education Bureau, Financial Institutions (Micro-Finance Institution (MFI & Bank)), Addis Ababa University Department of Psychiatry (WHO Collaborating centre), Women in Self Employment (WISE), LIVE ADDIS and more in pipeline
Project Period (Start – End Dates):	16 September 2023 – 18 months
Reporting Period:	16 September 2023 - 31 December 2023
Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget: <i>(breakdown by PUNO)</i>	PUNO 1: UN-Habitat - \$364,195 PUNO 2: WHO - \$431,745 PUNO 3: ILO - \$704,060 <b>Total: \$1,500,000</b>
Total Funds Received To Date: <i>(breakdown by PUNO)</i>	PUNO 1: UN-Habitat - \$ 254,936.5 PUNO 2: WHO \$ 302,221.5 PUNO 3: ILO - \$492,842 <b>Total: \$1,050,000</b>

<b>Report Submission Date:</b>	31 March 2024
<b>Report Prepared by:</b> (Name, title, email)	Haregewoin Bekele, UN Habitat Ethiopia Country Programme Manager, <a href="mailto:haregewoin.bekele@un.org">haregewoin.bekele@un.org</a>

### Executive Summary

During the reporting period for the end of December 2023, preliminary groundwork was done to facilitate smooth commencement and implementation of the project. Accordingly, the PUNOs organized the first meeting with the Ministry of Labour and Skills, within weeks of receiving the project's funds to sensitize them on the project and get their buy-in, as the responsible Ministry that endorsed the project at the initial stage is no longer operational under the same mandate but had to undertake a restructuring that caused the Ministry to split with new leadership. Further communications and sensitizations took place with Addis Ababa Justice bureau, Refugees and Returnees services, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and representatives of Addis Ababa City Administration, as the project is being implemented within Addis Ababa under the city administration.

On 07 December 2023, the joint programme was officially launched in the presence of H.E. Nigussu Tilahun, the State Minister of Ministry of Labour and Skills. The launch brought together 34 key participants (8 females) from relevant government stakeholders at Addis Ababa City Administration and federal level, social partners, developmental partners and Civil Society Organizations.

The JP was challenged on various occasions on the ownership of the project as the actual implementation is geographically planned to take place within Addis Ababa jurisdiction although the endorsement was at federal level through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs at the time, which since then, has split into two ministries. The JP conducted serious of meetings and discussions with the ministry of Labour and Skills and the Addis Ababa city administration for the project to be owned by the city administration and to take a pivotal role in its implementation including through the establishment of steering committee members.

Following a joint meeting with MOLS and city administration of Addis Ababa, the JP has created the necessary network with the relevant key partners. The next step will be in confirmation of the responsible branch within the Addis Ababa city administration to the PUNOs through an internal arrangement of handing over of the role from Federal to city level. Once done, the bureau and the PUNOs will setup the steering committee and urgently focus on the selection of beneficiaries and engage with them in the provision of appropriate essential health services, trainings on life skills, motivational, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and foster female empowerment and conduct policy

reviews and recommendations to support the Federal Government and Addis Ababa City Administration to improve the reintegration of Ethiopian migrants through individual profiling and referral, and exploring the use of digital solutions that are already developed and available.

## **Annual Progress**

### **1. Summary and Context**

The joint program “Provision of essential services, protection, social and economic empowerment to support the reintegration of returned migrants in Addis Ababa” is being implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), World Health Organization (WHO), International Labour Organization (ILO) with the financial support from Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). The project aims to support Ethiopia’s federal government, the Addis Ababa city administration, and local organizations to provide returning migrants with access to essential services, including health, housing, skills development, social protection, labour market reintegration, and employment promotion. It seeks to reduce vulnerability especially for women, to re-migration, trafficking, and smuggling.

The project was officially launched in collaboration with the federal Ministry of Labour and Skills and concurrently the JP undertook a series of discussions with its key partners including Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS), Ministry of Women, Children, Youth & Children Affairs, Ministry of Health (MoH), Addis Ababa City Administration Strategic Programs Management Office, Addis Ababa bureau of Labour and Skills and Addis Ababa Justice bureau on project activities and approaches as well as selection of beneficiaries after a consensus on selection criteria.

As the project being implemented is in Addis Ababa city, the JP has agreed with the key partners that the Addis Ababa city administration should take a pivotal role in the project implementation and mainly in selection of beneficiaries.

### **2. Results**

During the reporting period of December 2023, preliminary groundwork was done to facilitate smooth commencement and implementation of the project. Accordingly, the PUNOs organized the first meeting with the Ministry of Labour and Skills, within weeks of receiving the project’s funds to sensitize them on the project and get their buy-in, as the responsible Ministry that endorsed the

project at initial stage is no longer operational under the same mandate but had to undertake a restructuring that caused the Ministry to split with new leadership. Further communications and sensitizations took place with Addis Ababa Justice bureau, Refugees and Returnees services, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and representatives of Addis Ababa City Administration, as the project is being implemented within Addis Ababa under the city administration.

On 07 December 2023, the joint programme was officially launched in the presence of H.E. Nigussu Tilahun, the State Minister of Ministry of Labour and Skills. The launch brought together 34 key participants (8 females) from relevant government stakeholders at Addis Ababa City Administration and federal level, social partners, developmental partners and Civil Society Organizations. Keynote remarks were delivered by Ms Nkiruka Chiemelu, on behalf of the UN resident coordinator in Ethiopia. Mr. Philippe Grandet, Head of the Fund Management Unit for the Migration MPTF gave a recorded message about the fund virtually as Mr. Alexio Musindo, ILO Country Director for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and for the Special Representative to the AU and the ECA gave a speech about the joint project to the audience. In their statements, all speakers underscored the need to address the multi-faceted challenges faced by returned migrants, such as financial inclusion, the creation of livelihood opportunities, and psychosocial support, particularly for women. Mr. Alexio, further stressed that, as Ethiopia marks its 100th Anniversary as a member of the ILO, “the commitment to safeguarding the rights of migrants remains a top priority”. The workshop also included presentation on government’s efforts to effectively reintegrate returned migrants in Ethiopia, with a focus on Addis Ababa city administration. The presentation dwelled on the challenges faced and success stories. Moreover, objectives and planned activities within joint programme was also presented. The project was declared officially launched by H.E. Nigussu Tilahun, State Minister, Ministry of Labour and Skills and has gotten a media coverage from government channels as well as social media<sup>1</sup> accounts<sup>2</sup> in local language. The PUNOs further distributed the news about the launch using their social media channels<sup>3 4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.fanabc.com/archives/225581>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.facebook.com/Amnaddistv/posts/pfbid0ZqVY89qAuZLPAGtrxGE1SFVPZqYLfPsXXDaTnSda6k5mTQZ5NVzwjE1vV9fewYHbI>

<sup>3</sup><https://x.com/aidasawel/status/1732669771722695009?s=52&t=VVGuMSeNzGOmn0pwJfjYvQ>

<sup>4</sup>[https://x.com/UNHabitat\\_ETH/status/1733070602200662349?s=20](https://x.com/UNHabitat_ETH/status/1733070602200662349?s=20)



*Pic: The projects launch in the presence of the state Minister of Labour and skills*

Parallely, the joint programme sensitized, on a one-to-one basis, relevant government offices at federal and Addis Ababa city administration level about the programmes objectives, outcomes and outputs and got the buy-in at Federal level, especially the Ministry of Labour and Skills. Given the large number of returnees in the country including a significant volume from Sudan after the war broke out, it was agreed on the need to revisit the suggested selection criteria indicated in the project document to identify the most vulnerable returned migrants. The previously indicated beneficiary selection criteria included:

1. Returned migrant residing in Addis Ababa and is above 18 years of age;
2. Returned migrants that have returned since 2021, priority will be given to migrants that have recently returned, i.e. 2024
3. Returned migrant that has not received other form of support from government or other non-governmental institutions for similar or related purposes/activities;
4. Returned migrant must have interest and willingness in starting a business;
5. Priority will be given to returned migrants with a child/ren;
6. Priority will be given to returned migrant with disability (a disability that does not impede them to engage in employment);
7. Priority will be given to returned migrant from single headed household;
8. Priority will be given to returned migrant who had unplanned return;
9. Priority will be given to returned migrant with medical or psychological problem (i.e., medical or psychological problem that does not impede them to engage in employment);
10. Priority will be given to pregnant/lactating mothers;
11. Priority will be given to returned migrant that are victims of trafficking and/or forced labour;
12. Returned migrant with double vulnerability will be given the most priority;

Following the consensus in selection criteria and in response to output 3.1 and 3.2 of the joint programme, ILO has developed terms of reference to provide gender-responsive socio-economic

reintegration support to the 700 beneficiary returnees as well as to the targeted 100 to improve their access to finance through cash transfer and loan provision.

ILO undertook the facilitation and ground work for the reintegration support that will (1) strengthen the entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills of 700 returned migrants, (2) ensure attitudinal change of 700 returned migrants and guarantee their motivation to engage in income generating activities, (3) ensure the development of a viable business plan of 700 returned migrants, (4) provide 6 months business development and mentoring support and (5) ensure that at least 70% of trainees have established a sustainable business. Meanwhile, through the access to finance component, with its implementing partners, ILO will facilitate cash transfer to 123 returned migrant workers in a vulnerable situation and extend access to micro-financing to returned migrants in Addis Ababa to promote formal employment and reduce poverty. The cash transfer is agreed to amount to USD 150 per returned migrant and will be provided to those undertaking an ILO skills development training programme (i.e., ILO Financial Education, ILO Start and Improve Your Business programme). The money is expected to cover their daily allowance and transportation costs to attend the training. The access to micro-finance includes the development of a dedicated revolving, loanable and one-to-one matching fund amounting to USD260,000 for returned migrants to enable them to start their own income-generating activity in the form of a small business. The ILO will provide a loanable fund of USD130,000 which will be matched by USD130,000 from the financial service providers' own funds. The objective is for the ILO to de-risk the financial service providers' provision of micro-loans to the identified target group perceived as risky. Currently, the identification of the two-implementing partner is underway.

The JP has also done desk review to select approach to integrate and strengthen the selected essential health service elements under *outcome 2. Returned migrants utilize/benefit from appropriate essential health services namely mental health, TB and Sexual and reproductive health services*: In Ethiopia mental health service is highly centralized and the treatment gap for severe mental health condition is above 90% <sup>5</sup>. The number of mental health profession per population is far lower than WHO's recommendation. This makes relying on specialists to provide services for people affected by mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) disorders is one of the barriers

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<sup>5</sup> Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Health. *National Mental Health Strategy 2012/13–2015/16. Public policy document, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. 2012*

from accessing the services they need. Due to its evidence base and appropriateness for this project we have selected the Mental Health Gap Action programme (mhGAP) which is developed with the objective of scaling up care for MNS disorders. The mhGAP approach consists of interventions for prevention and management of priority MNS conditions, which include depression, psychoses, self-harm/suicide, epilepsy, dementia, disorders due to substance use and mental and behavioral disorders<sup>6</sup>. This intervention package is selected for mental health because it is also aligned with the country's national mental health strategy<sup>1</sup>. Similarly, we have selected integrated approaches for TB and SRH (sexual and reproductive health) services.

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<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization. *mhGAP: Mental Health Gap Action Programme: scaling up care for mental, neurological and substance use disorders*. World Health Organization; 2008.

### 3. Partnerships

Implementation Agreements			
Name & Type of Partner	Type of implementation agreement (please specify if any MOU or agreement was formally entered)	Relevant outcome and/or output; PUNO counterpart	Financial value (if any)
Local government and/or related entities			
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>	Addis Ababa Bureau Of Women, Children and Social Affair (LG)	Output 1.1 / UN Habitat and WHO	
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>	Addis Ababa Bureau of Labour and Skills (LG)	Output 3.1 and 3.2 / ILO	
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>	Addis Ababa Health Bureau (LG)		
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>	Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS) (LG)	Output 3.2 / ILO	
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>	Addis Ababa City Administration Strategic Programs Management Office	Output 1 / UN Habitat and WHO	

### 4. Cross-Cutting Issues

Within this joint programme, ILO intends to provide gender-appropriate socio-economic reintegration support to returned migrants in Addis Ababa, which ensures that gender issues are mainstreamed. Moreover, selection criteria prioritizes parents with child/children, single headed households and pregnant/lactating mothers. In this regard, the implementation mainstreams the cross-cutting principles identified in the joint programme.

### 5. Constraints, Adjustments, Lessons and Good Practices

The JP has faced some challenges as the project was signed at the federal level at the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, with the assumption that movement would be restricted and hence, limiting the project at Addis Ababa city. Now that the pandemic is in the past, questions are being asked as to why the project did not consider migration hot-spots in the country to undertake preventive activities.



Considering the endorsement of the project proposal was made at federal level, the JP was challenged on various occasions on the ownership of the project as the actual implementation is geographically planned to take place within Addis Ababa jurisdiction. The JP conducted a series of meetings and discussions with the ministry of Labour and Skills and the Addis Ababa city administration for the project to be owned by the city administration and to take part a pivotal role in its implementation including through the establishment of steering committee members.

This back and forth communication on the ownership of the project from the government side had a setback in facilitating the on boarding of the steering committee members that would have worked with the PUNOs in further refining the beneficiary selection criteria to bring and engage with the targeted 700 returnees with the project activities.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

The JP was successful in creating the necessary network with the relevant key partners. The next step will be in confirmation of the responsible branch within the Addis Ababa city administration to the PUNOs through an internal arrangement of handing over of the role from federal to city level. Once done, the bureau and the PUNOs will setup the steering committee and urgently focus on the selection of beneficiaries and engage with them in the provision of appropriate essential health services, trainings on life skills, motivational, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and foster female empowerment and conduct policy reviews and recommendations to support the Federal Government and Addis Ababa City Administration to improve the reintegration of Ethiopian migrants through individual profiling and referral, and exploring the use of digital solutions that are already developed and available.