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IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

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## FINAL REPORT TO UNHCR

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### RAISING AWARENESS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING THROUGH BOSSASSO

<b>Project Category:</b>	Counter-Trafficking and Smuggling
<b>Project Sub-Category:</b>	Prevention of human trafficking and smuggling
<b>Executing Agency:</b>	IOM Special Liaison Mission - SLM Addis Ababa
<b>Project Partner Agencies (or National Counterparts):</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Members of the National Task Force to combat trafficking in persons, including the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Education, local NGOs, Members of the Mixed Migration Task Force (UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS etc.)
<b>Geographical Coverage:</b>	Addis Ababa and 4 regions in Ethiopia (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Somali regions)
<b>Project Management Site:</b>	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
<b>Target Group(s):</b>	Victims of Trafficking, Smuggling, and families
<b>Project Duration:</b>	Two months: December 01 –January 31 2008
<b>Budget:</b>	USD 7,486

### SUMMARY

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the efforts of the Ethiopian government to reduce the vulnerability of Ethiopians to trafficking situations and the dangers associated with smuggling across the Gulf of Yemen. The immediate objective is to increase awareness about the dangers of irregular migrants from Ethiopia and Somalia through Bossasso to Yemen.

The major components of this project include; a) sensitization of communities most affected by trafficking and smuggling in persons, b) raising awareness about the dangers related to crossing the Gulf of Aden. In this endeavour, the project aimed at airing tailored information on the national radio with messages focused on the risks and dangers of crossing the Gulf of Aden. The already established IOM hotline numbers were also advertised for those seeking more information about migration.

## **1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project was designed to build upon the results and experience of on-going activities to combat trafficking and smuggling in persons. A total of 60 radio spots containing key and tailored information were aired in 4 languages since the Ethiopian radio reaches almost 80 % of the total population of the country. The messages contained advice on safe migration, myths and realities of smuggling with particular focus on the hazardous journey through the Gulf of Aden.

This Project aimed at:

- 1) Raising the awareness level of victims of trafficking and their families about the risks of irregular migration
- 2) Increasing dialogue within communities on issues related to irregular migration
- 3) Providing accurate and timely information on migration, so as to enable potential migrants make informed decisions that would prevent irregular migration
- 4) Gathering information on the profile of migrants.

## **2. RESULTS**

- A total of 60 radio spots of 30 seconds per spot were aired on the national radio of Ethiopia in 4 languages i.e. Amharic, Tigrigna, Oromiffa and Somali along with the IOM hotline numbers. (See annex 1 for the complete details of the radio spots).
- A total of 194 callers were provided with accurate and reliable information about irregular migration and legal alternatives for labour migration. (See attachment for the profile of the callers). Although the actual number of callers was in effect 184, some were calling in groups ranging from 5 to 20 potential migrants seeking information. Another important number have also called directly the Ethiopian Radio Agency that has in turn requested IOM to provide them with accurate information about migration.

## **3. ACTIVITIES**

- IOM coordinated the production and airing of radio spots in 4 different languages.
- Three full time IOM staff and one intern provided hotline counselling to callers.

- Liaison with media personnel established and continuous discussions held.

#### **4. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN**

The language barrier could not allow for smooth communication among Oromiffa and Somali speakers and the IOM counsellors. At times, people capable of translating were available thus making the communication smoother. In addition, feedback obtained from the Ethiopian radio journalists indicate that the need for information is very broad and the radio spots have revealed the existing information gap. IOM has thus continued providing journalists (working in the private and government media services) with information about irregular migration.

Many calls were disconnected because of language barriers between those seeking information and IOM counsellors in addition to network problems.

#### **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This small project has allowed IOM to profile the potential migrants and get first hand information about the information needs from those desirous of better opportunities beyond the Gulf of Aden.

In order to tackle the problem of irregular migration, IOM plans to continue the mass information campaign in collaboration with UNHCR and other partners. It has become obvious that the majority of the young population still remains uninformed about basic facts in relation to irregular migration including human trafficking and smuggling as well as the risks and dangers of crossing the Gulf of Eden. The radio spots have been instrumental in addressing the problem and putting a new light to the gravity of the situation. Opportunities will be further explored to launch radio programs in local languages as well as organize community dialogues in selected regions in the country.

## Annex 1: Radio spot programmes

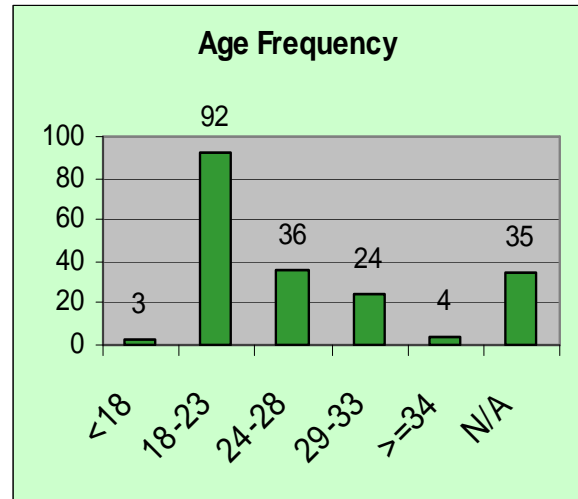
No	Date and Time	Amharic	Oromiffa	Tigrigna	Somali
1.	Tir 15/ January 24	x1			
2.	Tir 17/ January 26 After the News	x (WE)1 Weekend	x	x	
3.	Tir 18 /January 27 Morning After news Sunday	X (WE)2 Weekend	x	x	
4.	Tir 19/ January 28 After news morning	x2	x	x	
5.	Tir 20/ January 29 After news Midday	x3	x	x	x
6.	Tir 21/ January 30 Before Entertainment program	x	x	X	x
7.	Tir 22/ January 31 After early news	x	x	x	x
8.	Tir 23/ February 1	x	x	x	x
9.	Tir 24/ February 2	x ( WE) Weekend	x WE	x(WE)	x WE
10.	Tir 24/ February 3	x WE	X (WE)	X(XE)	x WE
11.	Tir 26/ February 4	X	x	x	x
12.	Tir 27/ February 5	x	x	x	x
13.	Tir 28/ February 6	x	x	x	x
14.	Tir 29/ February 7	x	x	x	x
15.	Tir 30/ February 8		x	x	x
16.	Yekatit 1/ February 9	X WE			X WE
17.	Yekatit 2/ February 10	X WE			X WE
18.	Yekatit 4/ 12 February	x			
19.	Yekatit 5/13 February	x			
20.	Yekatit 6/14 February	x			
21.	Yekatit 7/ 15 February	x			
22.	Yekatit 8/ 16 February	WE (2)	WE	WE	WE
23.	Yekatit 9/ 17 February	WE (2)	WE	WE	WE
24.	Yekatit 10/ 18 February	X			
25.	Yekatit 11/ 19 February	X			
26.	Yekatit 12/ 20 February	X			
27.	Yeaktit 13/ 21 February	X			
28.	Yeaktit 14/ 22 February	X			

29.	Yekatit 15/ 23 February	WE	WE	WE	WE
30.	Yekatit 16/ 24 February	WE	WE	WE	WE
31.	Yekatit 17/ 25 February	X			
32.	Yekatit 18/ 26 February	X			
33.	Yekatit 19/ 27 February	X			
34.	Yekatit 20/ 28 February	X			
35.	Yekatit 21/ 29 February	X			
36.	Yekatit 22/ 1 March	WE(2)	WE(2)	WE(2)	WE(2)
37.	Yekatit 23/ 2 March	WE (2)	WE (2)	WE (2)	WE(2)
38.	Yekatit 24/ 3 March	X			
39.	Yekatit 25/ 4 March	X			
40.	Yeakatit 26/ 5 March				
41.	Yekatit 27/ 6 March				
42.	Yeaktit 28/ 7 March				
43.	Yekatit 29/ 8 March	WE (2)	WE(2)	WE(2)	WE(2)
44.	Yekatit 30 / 9 March	WE (2)	WE	WE	WE
45.	Megabit 6 / 15 March	WE (1)			WE

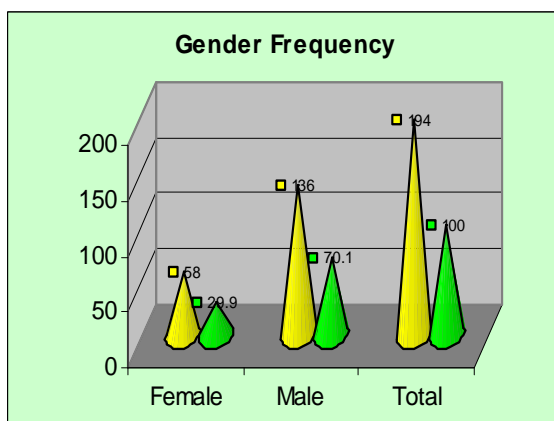
## Annex 2: The Users

### 1. Age

The age of the beneficiaries range between 14 and 38. Forty one percent of them (79 callers) are between 18 and 23 years of age, while 25.8 percent are aged between 24 and 28 years. Another 12.4 percent are aged between 29 and 33. Only very few beneficiaries are in their mid-thirties. The age of 17.5% of the beneficiaries is not available as the respondents considered such information to be private and did not want to reveal it or the network and language problems did not allow for lengthy discussions.



### 2. Gender



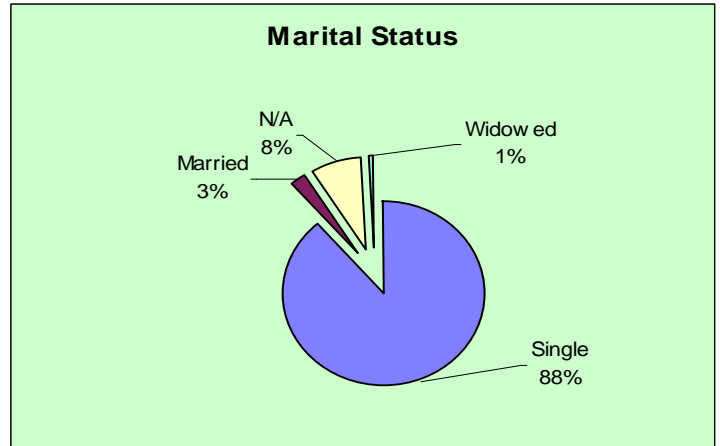
Seventy percent of the beneficiaries are males. Female callers are 58 in number and represented a third of the total number of callers requesting for information about migration. This further confirms the proportion the higher number of male migrants going through Bossasso. Female migrants usually seek information about private employment agencies that send workers to the Middle East.

### 3. Returnees

Of the total number of callers, 25 were returnees. The majority (10) sojourned in Saudi Arabia, while the rest had returned from Bossasso, Kenya, Djibouti and Sudan.

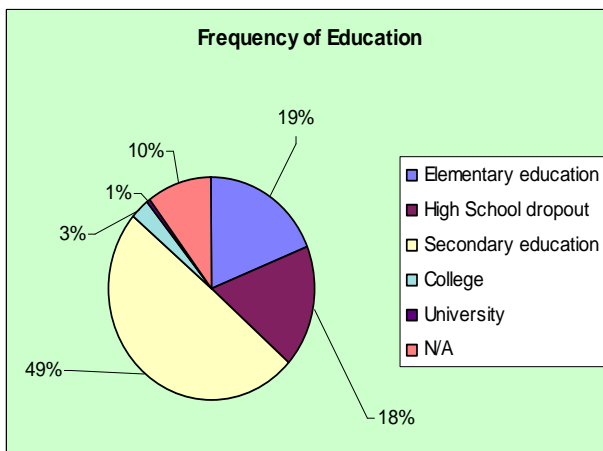
#### 4. Marital Status

The majority of the beneficiaries, which accounts for 85.5% of the total number of callers, are single. Only 4.9% are married, 0.5% divorced and 0.2% separated. However, 8% of the callers were not willing to mention their marital status for various reasons.



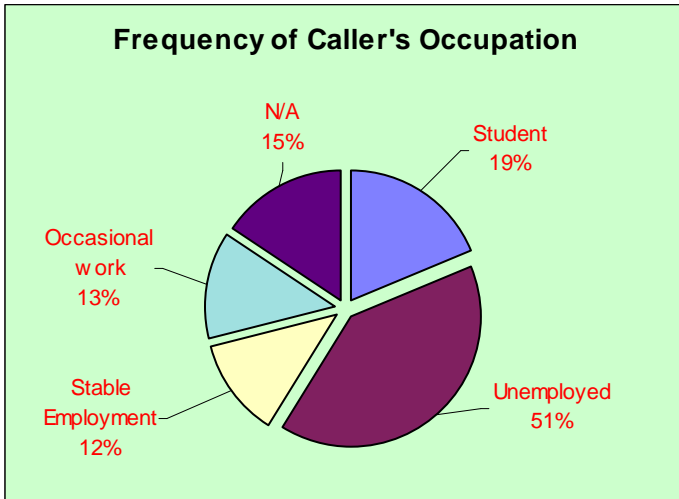
#### 5. Education

Forty nine percent of the beneficiaries have completed secondary education. However, 10 percent of the beneficiaries have not provided information about their educational level. Nineteen percent have completed elementary education, while 17.5% are dropouts at grades 8, 9, or 10, 3.5% are at college level or have completed college.



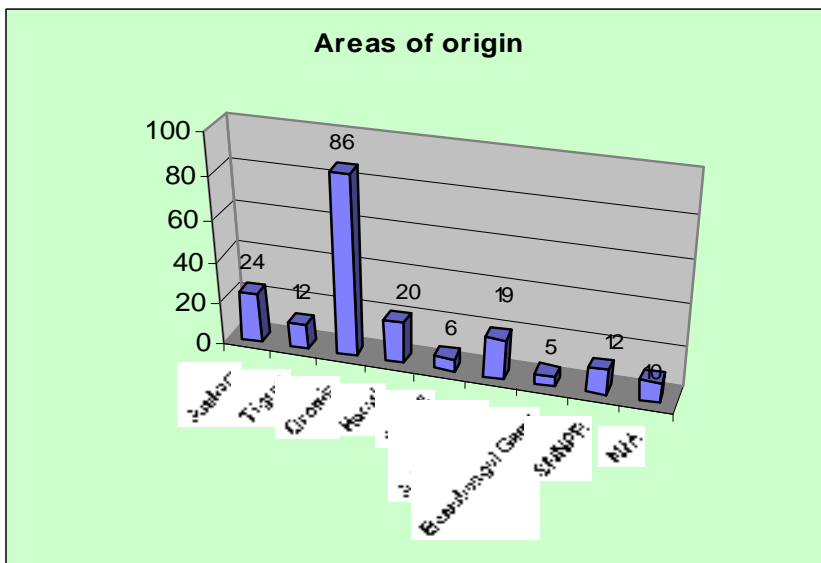
#### 6. Occupation

A little less than half of the total numbers of beneficiaries are unemployed (49%). Nineteen percent of the beneficiaries are students, mostly during the evenings while another 13 per cent are involved in occasional work (farmers, daily labour etc.). Twelve percent of the callers can be said to have stable employment (traders, farmers, and drivers). Fifteen percent of the callers did not disclose their occupation.



### 7. *Places of origin*

Most calls were from the Oromia region (49.5%). Twelve percent of the calls originated from the Amhara region. The rest were from Addis Ababa, SNNPR, Somali and Benishangul Gumz by order of importance.





### 8. Desired Destination

The majority of the callers (28.8%) wish to go anywhere within the Middle East. This could be because their knowledge of the countries within the Middle East is limited (in Amharic they simply say “Arab Hager” meaning “Arabian country”). Another significant number of callers expressed their desire to migrate to Saudi Arabia. This confirms with the movement through the Gulf of Aden and the use of Bossasso and Yemen as transit countries. Other preferred countries of destination include Djibouti, the UAE, Sudan, South Africa and Yemen. An interesting finding is also Korea, callers naming this country have informed IOM counsellors that they had heard of mass recruitments of workers bound for Korea, it is assumed that this is another deception propagated by smugglers.

