

# **Determinants of Return Migration Decision among Ethiopian International Returnees of Addis Ababa: Implications for Sustainable Livelihoods of Returnees**

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**Abstract.** Scientific evidences on determinants of return migration decision were scanty in Ethiopia. The study is an endeavour made to unveil the determinants of return migration decision in Addis Ababa. A cross-sectional study was conducted on a sample of 402 international returnees drawn via a simple random sampling method to provide a platform for future intervention efforts. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive, inferential statistics, and binary logistic regression model (BLRM). The chi-square test indicated that there is no statistically significant relationship between forced and voluntary return modalities and the sex, roles in the family, religion, and educational status of the returnees at the 0.05 level of significance. Results of BLRM depicted that destination area factors had more substantial positive impact with the odds ratio of 85.70 than homeland and personal factors with the odds ratio of 25.58, and 9.12 respectively, despite, all the three factors have a positive effect on likelihood of making return migration decision at ( $P < 0.001$ ). The results disclosed that Ethiopian emigrants that constitute a significant number were subjected to coercion in the destination areas to evacuate instead of making free choice to return, which inexorably could lead the returnees to unsustainable livelihoods in the study area.

**Keywords:** *Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, return migration decision, returnees, sustainable livelihoods*

## **1. Introduction**

In today's globalizing world, return migration remains a demanding agenda. Currently, in the migration literature, the subject of return migration has been receiving growing attention (Hahn-Schaur and Segeš-Frelak 2019; Cassarino 2004; Rodriguez and Egea 2006). Globally, return migration has become one of the priority agendas of increasing number of countries (Organization for Economic Co-operation/OECD 2017; ILO 2019; Debnath 2016). Return migration is common, albeit our knowledge of its extent is hampered by lack of data, and whether those exiting return to their home country or move on to another destination is rarely known (Wahba 2014; Global Migration Group/GMG 2017; Zenou and Wahba 2012).

In Ethiopia, though exact figures are not yet at hand, available evidences

reveal an increase in return migration and the country is hallmarked by frequent international return migration. Over the past decades, return migration has increased to Ethiopia (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Ethiopia/MoLSA 2021; Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs of Addis Ababa/BoLSA2021; and Kuschminder 2013). On the one hand, a growing number of studies indicate that many of the returnees continued to grapple with: difficulty of accessing jobs and other services, food and health complications, loss of personal belongings, poor relationships, family separation, and economic hardship (Kodom and Dako-Gyeke 2017). Returnees' previous social network has either been lost or damaged, they are obliged to rebuild their social network and develop their means of livelihood in a new setting (ILO 2013; Jacobsen 2014).

Undoubtedly, the foregoing discussions demonstrate that return migration is not always a process of simply 'going-home'. Rather the process is entangled with severe obstacles. In this respect, despite, long-standing efforts accorded by Ethiopian government to mitigate irregular fluxes and to reintegrate the returnees, return migration still remains a predominant phenomenon and the trends are expected to present in the foreseeable future in the country.

On the other hand, most studies that were conducted in Ethiopia often tended to omit crucial factors associated with origin and destination countries and personal attributes as a result core actors have been fallen out of a full understanding of the dynamics of the issue under way. Hence, here is a clear need for targeted evidence and the urgency of the issue for scientific investigation to start filling the gap at a propitious moment. Accordingly, the main intent of the study is to highlight the determinant factors and panorama of return migration decision in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## **2. Conceptual and theoretical frameworks**

### ***Conceptualization of Return Migration***

An extensive literature has underlined that return migration is a relatively new area in migration studies. IOM (2019), Battistella (2018), and Schüring et al. (2017) invariably have concluded that the concept has lacked a universally accepted definition; and it is the concept entangled with conceptual difficulties and has even less consensus unanimity (Kuschminder 2017; Battistella 2018). The lack of a clear definition generates confusion on the assessment and estimates of the size of return migration. The absence of administrative tools to register returning migrants means

that in many countries the number of returnees is unknown (Global Migration Group/GMG 2017); return migration is often badly understood and even more badly planned, and its dimensions and modalities are often poorly recognized (Battistella 2018; Wahba 2014; Kuschminder 2017).

Return migration has historically been thought as a specific moment of migration cycle, however, in reality, return constitutes a specific moment of the migration process and it is often followed by repeated migration as people lead increasingly fluid lives of mobility (Riiskjaer and Nielsson 2008; Stefannson 2004; Battistella 2018). An alternative definition that does not imply a resettling is given. Return migration may be defined as the process whereby people return to their country or place of origin after a significant period in another country or region (King 2000); nonetheless, King does not clearly indicate what a 'significant period' entails as suggested by Ammassari (2009).

There is heated dispute as to how long one has to be abroad to be considered a return migrant. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/UNDESA (1998) has illuminated that a return migrant is an individual who has been abroad for at least 12 months. Alternatively, there is also the argument that a period of three months can also be viewed as significant enough to be considered as a migration episode, especially in terms of circular or seasonal migration. Return is a catch-all term which can apply to a whole range of situations, and in general, it refers to the return of migrant workers from a country of destination back to the country of origin (ILO 2019); return migrants are individuals returning to their homelands after having been international migrants (short-term or long-term) in another country and who are intending to stay in their own country for at least a year (UNDESA 1998; IOM 2004). While this definition indicates the home country with nationality, some argue that it is by far better to use birth place as the criterion for identifying returning migrants since those who were naturalized in destination areas may otherwise be neglected (Dumont and Spielvogel 2008).

Migrants may also move to a third country or countries before returning to homeland. It is the process of going back to the point of departure, which could be within the boundaries of the origin country or between host and origin countries which could be forced or voluntary, assisted or spontaneous (IOM 2011; ILO 2019). In the views of IOM (2019), return in general sense, is considered as the process of going back to the point of departure; and 'return is no longer viewed as the end of the migration cycle; rather, it constitutes one stage in the migration process'

(Cassarino 2004:28). Generally, it is evident that definitions of return migration are not necessarily straightforward and must remain broad to include the multiple categories of return migrants as a whole.

Thus, the authors would argue that a basic definition provided by King is best suited to return migration, and that scholars should define a ‘significant period’ for their work. Accordingly, in this study, return migration is considered as the process whereby people return to their country of origin after a significant period in another region (King 2000) wherein a significant period is considered as a minimum of one year stay at abroad as recommended (UNDESA 1998; IOM 2004). During the journey of the current study, tremendous literature reviews were made to capture the true picture of the issue under investigation. Albeit, the presence of an overwhelming number of factors associated with return migration decision, to make the study manageable, it only hinges on the most common known framework the ‘push-pull model’ introduced by Everett Lee (de Haas 2007; Hagen-Zanker 2008); and the decision to return to the country of origin is influenced by factors similar to those affecting the decision to emigrate (Schüring et al. 2017).

In short, the present study capitalizes that the decision to return can heavily rely on situations in the country of origin, destination, and personal factors as the main framework of investigation for their practical significance to broaden better understandings of the major interactive elements interwoven with the issue in the area under study.

### ***Theoretical framework of the Study***

In the modern literature, there are a number of theories and versions of theories associated with migration in general and return migration in particular. As the result considerable debates exist in the scientific community about the definitions of “theories of migration” (Drbohlav 2011; Wimalaratana 2017). It is evident that, research into migration conceptually as well as empirically is challenging due to the complexity and diversity of the area covered by international migration (King 2012; Battistella 2012; Kurekova 2010); the discipline has been challenged by a number of factors inherent to its subject matter when the study of migration has advanced (Kurekova 2010; King 2012). By the same token, some scholars and organizations vindicated that an immense number of variables are at the heart of a variety of theories of migration to deal with the dynamics, degree and factors of return migration. For instance, Naveed, Bhatti, and Ullah (2017) and

International Centre for Local Democracy/ICLD (2018) have argued that some theories discuss the economic aspects of the return migration at individual and household levels (neo-classical and new economics of labor migration approaches), whereas others explore the micro and macro aspects of return migration (transnationalism, structuralism and social network theory). All the aspects of international migration could not be covered only by a theory of migration (Wimalaratana 2017; Todaro and Smith 2006; Faist 2000); in migration arena, an all-encompassing and all-explaining theory of migration will never arise (Castles and Miller 2009; de Haas 2011). Furthermore, bringing together the existing theoretical lines of thinking help us to advance our conceptual and empirical understanding of migration (de Haas 2007, 2010; Skeldon 1997; World Bank 2007).

Generally, the above discussions demonstrate that there is no single theory that captures the full complexity of migration, and nor will there ever be. Moreover, a range of individual, household, community and national factors influence return migration decision in which no single theory can be able to consider broader factors and provide satisfactory all-embracing explanations in Ethiopian context. To this effect, amongst a bundle of migration theories, only neo-classical economics, structuralism, and the new economics of labour of migration (NELM) were used as framework of investigation for their practical significance to test these theories of migration and ultimately to single out determinants of return migration decision in the study area.

The central argument of the neoclassical approach concentrates on wages and predicts a linear relationship between wage differentials and migration flows, and it is stimulated primarily by rational economic considerations under the assumption of full employment (Bauer and Zimmerman 1999; Massey et al. 1993; Borjas 2008; Todaro and Smith 2006; de Haas 2007). The structural approach assumes that the decision to return cannot be analyzed only with perspective of migrant experience, but social and institutional factors of homeland also play an important role (Cassarino 2004; de Haas 2007; King 2012); whereas the centre of argument for NELM is that, migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors but typically by families or households, and the decisions of migrants are influenced by a comprehensive set of factors, which are shaped by conditions in the home country (Kurekova 2010; King 2012; de Haas 2007). Furthermore, the aforementioned theories are amongst the major theories that underpin many scholarly works and most widely used for the study of international migration

including return migration (Kodom and Gyeke 2017; Cassarino 2004); and these theories offer valuable explanations on why people return to their communities of origin (Cassarino 2004).

### **3. Materials and Methods**

#### ***Research Setting***

The study was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Fig.1 Appendix 2), which is located on a well-watered plateau surrounded by hills and mountains, in the geographic centre of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa Plan and Development Commission/AAPDC 2020; Addis Ababa City Administration/AACA 2015). It is located at geographical coordinates: between 8055' and 9005' North Latitude and between 38040' and 38050' East Longitude. Its average elevation is 2,500 meters above sea level, and hence has a fairly favorable climate and moderate weather conditions. Addis Ababa is the capital and largest city of Ethiopia and it is the educational and administrative center of the country (UN-HABITAT 2008; AAPDC 2020).

Moreover, it is the seat of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commissions for Africa (UNECA), as well as various other continental and international organizations. It is often referred to as "the political capital of Africa" for its historical, diplomatic and political significance for the continent (UN-HABITAT 2008). The total land area of Addis Ababa is about 527 km<sup>2</sup> or 54, 000 hectors; and the city has a complex mix of highland climate zones, with temperature differences of up to 10°C, depending on elevation and prevailing wind patterns(World Meteorological Organization 2019). It is a chartered city having three layers of government: City government at the top, 10 sub-city administrations in the middle (of course, Lemi Kura, the 11th sub-city isn't considered in the study as it is the newly emerging sub-city that isn't well established), and 121 woreda administrations at the bottom (AAPDC 2020).

#### ***Research Methods***

In the present study, mixed methods research approach was employed to associate both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Mixing both qualitative and quantitative data in a single study allows for the limitations of each approach to be neutralized while strengths are built upon thereby providing stronger and more

accurate inferences (Creswell 2009; Bryman 2006; Tashakkori and Creswell 2007); and using both approaches in combination provides a better understanding of research problems than either approach alone (Creswell 2009; Creswell and Clark 2007; Johnson and Onwuegbuzie 2004; Creswell and Clark 2010). Amongst the major types of mixed methods design, 'Concurrent Embedded Design' was used as the primary design in which both quantitative and qualitative data were gathered simultaneously.

In concurrent embedded design, both qualitative and quantitative data were collected concurrently, though the weight between the two may vary depending on the nature of the research questions to be considered and the secondary method is embedded within the predominant method (Johnson, Onwuegbuzie, and Turner 2007; Creswell 2009; Creswell and Clark 2010; Johnson and Onwuegbuzie 2004). Correspondingly, in this study, the quantitative data were given more weight and the qualitative data were embedded within the former one to substantiate the numerical data obtained.

A cross-sectional study was conducted on sample of 402 returnees selected from four sub-cities (two inner-urban and two peri-urban areas) of Addis Ababa using a simple random sampling method. The sample size of the study population was determined by employing Yamane (2001) sample size determination formula which assumes 50% ( $p = 0.5$ ) variability and 95% confidence level with  $\pm 5\%$  precision error.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where,  $n$  = sample size;  $N$  = population size; and  $e$  = level of precision.

As a whole, based on sample size determination formula, out of 5,228 returnees a sample of 416 returnees was drawn randomly for sample of the study for structured survey questionnaires. Moreover, purposive sampling technique was used to select and conduct Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with key officials found at various levels; and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with returnees and other core actors in order to triangulate quantitative data obtained from structured survey questionnaires. The data gathering tools were piloted for clarity; and the computed overall reliability co-efficient of the items was found to be  $r = 0.838$  at Cronbach alpha level which indicates a very good internal consistency of the items. The survey questionnaires were also translated into the local Amharic language and tested for face validity. The data collected via structured survey questionnaires were analyzed

using the latest SPSS (version 22.0) and STATA (version 13.0) computer programmes.

Moreover, a principal component analysis (PCA) was carried-out to reduce the factors into a smaller set of components and to summarize data so that relationships and patterns can be easily interpreted and understood. PCA is a statistical data reduction technique that helps to reduce data set consisting of a large number of interrelated variables into a smaller set of components (O'Rourke and Hatcher 2013; Abdi and Williams 2010); used for transforming a set of related variables and regroup variables into a limited set of clusters based on shared variance (Everitt 2004; Field 2009; Gray 2017). Before plunging into conducting factor analysis, the sample adequacy was tested by employing Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's test to check the suitability of data for factor analysis on return migration decision. Measuring sampling adequacy (MSA) is at the center of scientific investigation as insufficient inter-correlations among variables can lead to unusable exploratory factor analysis results (Chan and Idris 2017; Hair, Black, Babin, and Anderson 2010) ; and it is good practice to obtain the MSA to assess sampling adequacy prior to performing a factor analysis (Pallant 2007; Tabachnick and Fidell 2007).

As a result, the KMO measure demonstrated the goodness-of-fit of the variables for the factor analysis with a KMO equal to 0.851, which is rated as 'meritorious' as the minimum acceptable value for KMO is 0.60 (Field 2009; Hair et al.2010). Bartlett's test of sphericity (Chi-square = 3647.960, df = 231, and P-value = 0.000) indicated the inter-correlations among variables were generally considered adequate for performing a factor analysis as the significance level for Bartlett's test below 0.05 suggest that there is substantial correlation in the data (Hair et al. 2010; Pallant 2010; Tabachnick and Fidell 2007). To this end, PCA was conducted as an extraction method on the 22 variables with varimax rotation method. Nevertheless, existing literature does not provide a definite answer to the question: which cut-offs to use, in the current study, instead of a much more strict and relaxed criterion, the middle position is held and the absolute value of 0.50 was used as it is a more acceptable cut-offs in many fields of study. Descriptive, inferential statistics and binary logistic regression model were employed to analyze quantitative data. The qualitative data collected were analyzed in the form of texts and quotes, and incorporated into the analysis of quantitative data to supplement the numerical data secured through survey questionnaires.

## **4. Results and Discussions**

### ***Economic characteristics of the Returnees***

The economic characteristics of the returnees at abroad and homeland is treated briefly (Fig. 2 Appendix 2). Accordingly, the results of the analysis discerned that the overall mean income of the respondents at abroad and homeland was found to be about 6233.46 Ethiopian Birr (ETB) and 1038.06 ETB respectively. The overall mean income of the study population at abroad is about six times the average income at homeland which may imply that returnees having significant number found in the study area had poor purchasing power so as to acquire enough and nutritious food and did not have access to sufficient food to meet their dietary energy requirements.

The medians monthly income of the study population at abroad and homeland were found be about 6,000 ETB and 800 ETB respectively. Furthermore, as can be noted from the given data, the mean income of the respondents at abroad was about 6147.69 ETB and 6250.00 ETB for male and female returnees respectively. On average the homeland income on monthly basis of the male respondents was 1938.46 ETB and female respondents was 864.39 ETB suggesting income differentials among the two groups. This finding is in harmony with the finding of Schuerkens (2010) which states that in most nations' discrimination in employment is remained entrenched and women still earn less than men. By taking on average the current exchange rate of one USD for 50 ETB, male (\$1.29) and female returnees (\$0.58) earned a day which is below the threshold that has been defined by the World Bank for extreme poverty (\$1.90 per person per day).

### ***Occupation of the Returnees at abroad and homeland***

As illustrated in Table 1, on the one hand, domestic work is the most predominant occupation category in which returnees were engaged in their respective destinations, and the vast majority of the returnees were not engaged in any occupation category at their homeland upon return on the other hand. Numerically speaking, 76.4% and 52.2% of the study population were engaged in domestic work when they were abroad and without any kind of job in Ethiopia upon their return respectively. Moreover, as it is observed from the given data, company employee (both private and government) as an occupation was the most suffered

occupation and the percentages of returnees who were working as employee at abroad and homeland were below 1.0% and 3.7% in the order mentioned which directly related with their education levels in the study area as a whole.

### ***Modality of Returns among Returnees***

The study population reported that they came back to their homeland in forced and voluntary return modalities with the percentages of 59.7% and 40.3% respectively (Fig. 3 Appendix 2). This depicts that relatively majority of Ethiopian emigrants were subjected to coercion to leave the destination regions instead of making free choice to return to their country of origin. The forthcoming section is dealt with the correlation between demographic characteristics of the returnees and modality of returns and the results of analyses are presented hereunder.

### ***The Effects of demographic variables on modality of returns***

As shown in Table 2, the number of female returnees assumes high figure in both forced and voluntary return modality with percentages of 84% and 83% respectively. This may indicate that majority of the migratory group in irregular manner is female-dominated in Ethiopian contexts. Another observation from the result of the analysis is to see whether sex, roles in the family, religion, and educational status of the respondents as demographic characteristics exhibit significant variation in the modality of returns a chi-square test was calculated. The result of the test revealed that the critical value of ( $\chi^2 = 5.991$ ) for the first two items (sex and roles of returnees in their respective family); and the calculated value of ( $\chi^2 = 0.050, 3.803, df = 1, P > 0.05$  in both cases) respectively.

Thus, it would be, therefore, possible to conclude that there is no enough evidence showing the relationship between sex and roles of the returnees in the family and the two modalities of returns. By the same token, as observed from the result of the analyses, regarding the religion and educational status of the returnees, while the calculated values are ( $\chi^2 = 4.455$ ; and  $\chi^2 = 1.814$ ;  $df = 4$ ; and  $df = 4$ ;  $P > 0.05$  in both cases), whereas the critical values are ( $\chi^2 = 9.49, P < 0.05$ ) respectively. This shows that there seems to be no statistically significant relationship between attending education at schools and religion and the modality of returns. In conclusion, the chi-square test indicates that there is no statistically significant relationship between the two modalities of return and the aforementioned

characteristics of the returnees at the 0.05 level of significance; and that the variables the modality of returns and the four demographic characteristics of the returnees are independent.

### ***Determinants of Return Migration Decision in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***

This section is concerned with the results of analysis of dominant components that influenced Ethiopian emigrants to return back from destination areas to homeland (Fig. 4 Appendix 2). The decision to return to the country of origin is presumably influenced by the following two dominant factors as a whole in the study area as reported by the respondents: determinants related to the destination areas (65.8%), and personal factors of emigrants (55.8%) in descending order. The response of the returnees on the return migration decision is a clear indication of the conditions in the destination areas was more influential to return migration decision. Moreover, as revealed above, majority of the respondents of the study rated that determinants in the origin had no sound effect on the decision to return migration with percentage of 72.4% (Fig. 4 Appendix 2).

Some of these findings were corroborated by studies conducted on the same issue. In general, the conditions in the country of origin are more relevant to the decision to emigrate than to the decision to return (Koser and Kuschminder 2015 as cited in Schüring et al. 2017).

Besides, different participants of the study raised concerns about the determinants of return migration decision during Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) in the study area. They expounded that the challenges and hurdles associated with return migration are very tremendous and linked with both destination areas and homeland; however, the challenges vary in degree wherein the challenges in the former are more complex than in the latter due to the fact that Ethiopian emigrants are much more forced to return for reasons of security or political decisions made by the country of destination than country of origin. Furthermore, based on the results of Principal Component Analysis, categorization was made on the determinants of return migration decision to better understand and make the results of analyses more sound (Table 4 Appendix 1).

Accordingly, the first four variables (factor 1) are denominated as homeland factors as seem to signify the conditions that were pervasive in country of origin as a whole. Nine items ranged from 5-13 (factor 2) are labeled as destination area

factors due to the fact they are the most commonly cited underlying latent factors in literatures associated with destination regions. About four items indicated from 14-17 (factor 3) that are named as personal factors as in one way or another entirely linked with personal attributes. Based on these, a binary logistic regression was performed to clearly distinguish which variables or combinations of variables are important and have sound impact on return migration decision in Ethiopian contexts.

As noted in Table 3, about 76.3% (Nagelkerke R Square = .763) of the variance in return migration decision is explained by the three underlying latent factors: homeland, destination area, personal factors when other parameters are unchanged. With regard to the impact of these factors in driving Ethiopian emigrants out of destination areas, all the three factors have a positive effect on the likelihood of making return migration decision among returnees ( $P < 0.001$ ). That is, they are positively correlated with the 'decision to return'.

In sum, the above results vividly reveal that these factors had statistically significant positive impacts among the returnees to make return migration decision. Moreover, the results disclosed that in all cases the odds ratios is greater than one (Odds ratio  $> 1$ ) indicates a positive relationship between the three predictors and the outcome (return migration decision (more likely decide about returning)). The above Table 3 also presents that the returnee respondents assigned the greatest rating responses to destination area factors than the rest two factors (homeland and personal factors) with the odds ratio of 85.70, 25.58, and 9.12 respectively.

Moreover, in terms of their positive influence on return migration decision destination area, homeland, and personal factors took the first three ranking positions with the Wald statistics and logistic regression coefficients of (Wald = 77.144 and  $\beta = 4.451$ ; Wald = 43.600 and  $\beta = 3.242$  ; and Wald = 31.946 and  $\beta = 2.211$ ) in descending order respectively. Above all, destination area factors had substantially affected Ethiopian emigrants more likely to decide about return. The decision to return to the country of origin is influenced by factors similar to those affecting the decision to emigrate (Schüring et al. 2017). Overall, the results are best shown by the following binary logistic regression equation:

$$Y = 6.024 + 3.242X_1 + 4.451X_2 + 2.211X_3$$

Where: Y = Return migration decision;  $X_1$  = Homeland factors;  $X_2$  = Destination area factors; and  $X_3$  = Personal factors.

Moreover, KIIs and FGDs were also held with participants of the study found at various levels to point out the leading factors of return migration decision and other variables pertinent to the study. Accordingly, they forwarded their ideas as follows:

.... A myriad of challenges forced the Ethiopian migrants to make return decision: unbearable work load in the destination area, employer's bad character, working any rest on full time basis, absence of willingness to salary on the part of employer, grabbing of salary by employer, difficulty of accessing jobs at abroad, low expectation to bring change on self and respective family, poor social interaction with others at abroad, monotonous domestic work in the same house and household for many years, health complications, termination of contract and disagreement with employer, deportation, request of return by Ethiopian government based on dialogue made with host community, loneliness and psychological depression, language problem, sexual harassment, low adaptability with weather conditions, high labour exploitation, homesickness, for marriage purpose, engaged in activities of many households forcefully, death of family, violation of human rights, inadequate food provision amongst others (2 July 2021 and 7 July 2021).

Therefore, one can conclude that participants of KIIs and FGDs put more powerful grip on destination area factors as more dominant contributing factors in compelling returnees to make return decision than homeland and personal factors do. In other words, these participants are on the positive side and have similar ideas about determinants of return migration decision among Ethiopian returnees with returnees who responded to the survey questionnaires. This shows that data obtained from qualitative analysis of determinants of return migration decision importantly revealed certain congruencies with data obtained from the above quantitative analysis. That is, the decision to return is strongly associated with the factors related the destination area conditions.

These findings are not in consonance and harmony with what Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/OECD (2017) had observed that destination area factors are amongst the least reasons cited to come back to homeland. Moreover, OECD (2017) ranked on average personal preferences (for example to reunite with family in their homeland); unable to obtain legal status for residency or work in the destination country (the second); and difficulties of integrating economically and socially in destination countries the first, the second, and the third most important factor for the decision to return respectively. Similarly, except for forced return, personal factors seem to play a much more decisive role for return migration decision (Battistella 2018); the reason for return is a failure or

success of the migration process (Cassarino 2004). The following may lead to a return migration decision: higher preferences for consumption in country of origin, or high purchasing power of the host country currency in the migrant's homeland, or accumulation of human capital in the host country that improves productivity back home (Weiss and Dustmann 2007).

## 5. Conclusions

The central concern of the study was endeavouring to vividly shed light on the major driving factors behind return migration decision in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A Principal Component Analysis result has demonstrated that there are three main factors compelling Ethiopian emigrant to make return migration decision: homeland, destination area, and personal factors; the study population attached a great deal of importance to all the three aforementioned factors and the results of the analyses appeared to show that all are positively correlated with the '*decision to return*'. This might clearly indicate that such return has substantial negative impact on returnees' livelihood strategies in achieving food security upon return as in developing world including Ethiopia migration is considered as a part and parcel of livelihood strategies and a good weapon for poverty mitigation. This may often lead to a rise in unemployment and decline in wages and incomes, challenging access to food and basic social services for the urban poor including the returnees. Besides, the results of analysis disclosed that the overall mean income of the study population at abroad is about six times the average income at homeland and currently the vast majority of them were not engaged in any occupation category upon return.

In a nutshell, from the current study, the following two main conclusions were emerged: the conditions in the destination areas by far had more sound impact on making return migration decision than factors in the origin country as well as personal attributes; and returnees having significant number found in the study area had poor purchasing power so as to acquire enough and nutritious food and did not have access to sufficient food to meet their dietary energy requirements and consequently unable to ensure sustainable livelihoods in the study area. Therefore, targeted interventions are required to address the multiple burden of return migration via reforming the immigration laws and implementing regularization programmes and bolstering voluntary returns, thereby building sustainable livelihoods of the returnees.

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**Declaration of Originality:** The authors declare that this study is an original one.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: List of Tables

**Table 1: Occupation of returnees at abroad and homeland**

S.No	Major categorized occupations	Occupation at abroad		Occupation at homeland	
		N = 402	%	N = 402	%
1	All-round Worker	8	2	-	-
2	Cleaner	19	4.7	8	2.0
3	Daily labourer	21	5.2	53	13.2
4	Employee/Company Worker	4	1.0	15	3.7
5	Domestic Worker	307	76.4	14	3.5
6	Driver	11	2.7	7	1.7
7	Garage Worker	2	0.5	-	-
8	Guard	11	2.7	3	0.7
9	No job	4	1.0	210	52.2
10	Shepherd	6	1.5	-	-
11	Petty Trader/Trader	8	2.0	50	12.4
12	Private Work (House rent, etc.)	-	-	35	8.7
13	Student	-	-	4	1.0
14	Broker	-	-	2	0.5
15	Tailor	-	-	1	0.2

Source: Authors tabulation from Survey Data (2021)

**Table 2: The Effects demographic variables on modality of returns**

No	Parameters		Modality of returns		Chi-Square Tests		
			Forced	Voluntary	χ <sup>2</sup>	df	Sig.(2-tailed)
			%	%			
1	Sex of the returnees	Male	16	17	.050	1	.824
		Female	84	83			
2	Roles in the family	Head Household	49	39	3.803	1	.051
		Household Member	51	61			
3	Educational Status	First Degree	4.2	3.1	1.814	4	.770
		Diploma	8.3	6.8			
		Certificate	5.8	4.3			
		Secondary School	47.5	46.3			
		Primary School	34.2	39.5			
4	Religion	Orthodox Christian	44.4	46.3	4.455	4	.348
		Muslim	45.1	38.8			
		Protestant	9.3	14.2			
		Catholic	0.6	0.8			
		Other	0.6	10			

Note: df = degree of freedom; χ<sup>2</sup> = chi-square; sig. (2-tailed) = significance probability (the two-tailed p-value).

**Table 3: Summary of binary logistic regression on latent variables**

No	Constant and key factors	β	S.E	Wald	Sig.	Exp(B)	Model Summary		
							-2Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
	Constant	-6.024	.676	79.516	.000*	.002	212.910	.570	.763
1	Homeland factors	3.242	.491	43.600	.000*	25.58			
2	Destination area factors	4.451	.507	77.144	.000*	85.70			
3	Personal factors	2.211	.391	31.946	.000*	9.12			

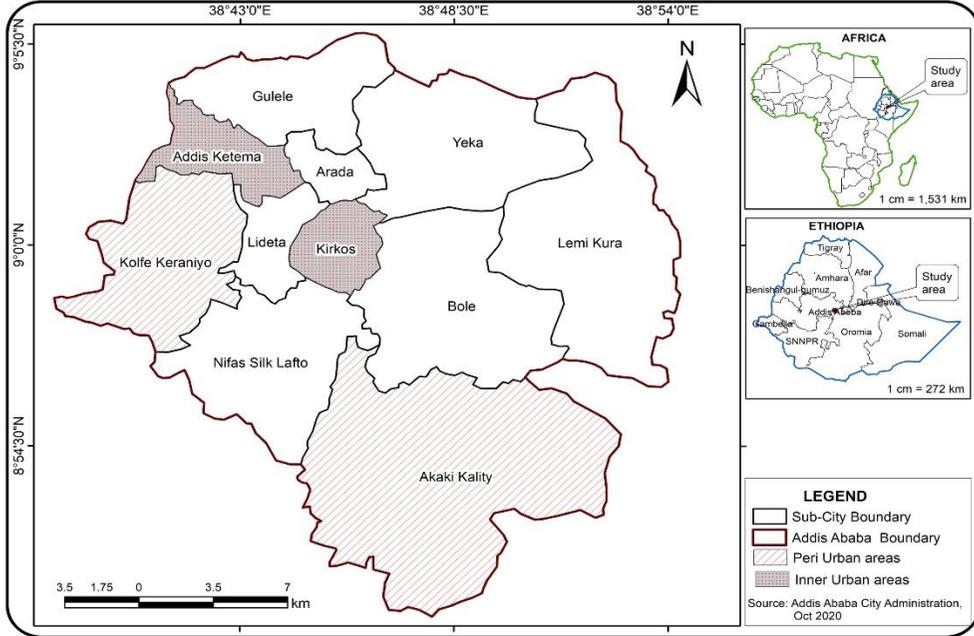
\* P-value significant at 0.001. β = beta; S.E =Standard Errors; sig. = significance probability.

**Table 4: Rotated Component Matrix (Return migration decision)**

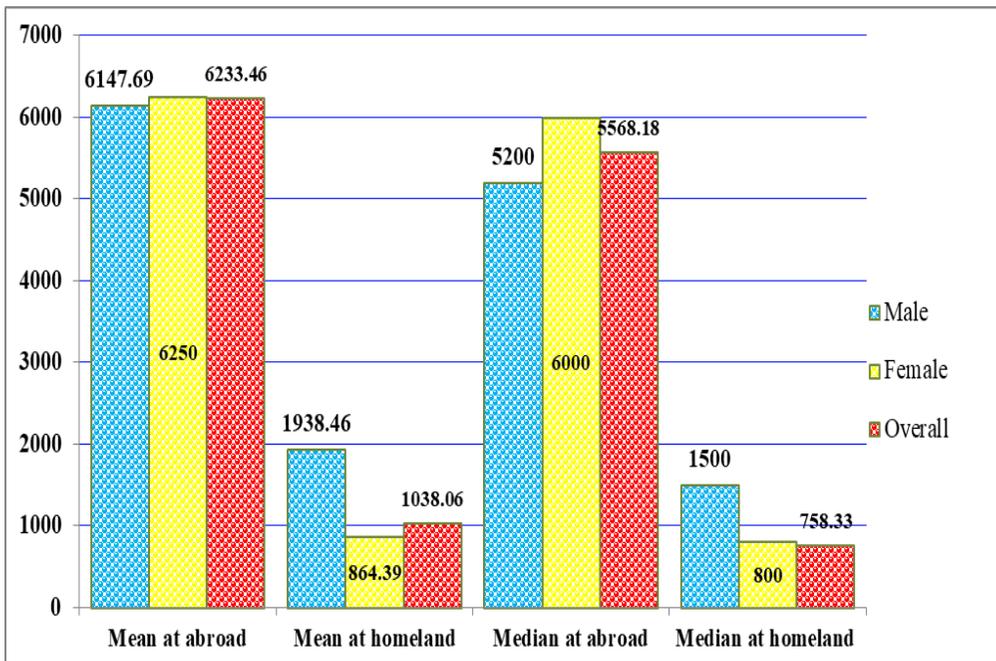
S.No	Determinant factors	Component		
		1	2	3
1	Political stability in the origin country	.785	-	-
2	Availability of access to credit services	.775	-	-
3	The growing of participation in social networks in the origin country	.853	-	-
4	The growing of more job opportunities in the homeland	.795	-	-
5	Absence of legal documents upon entry in the host country	-	.622	-
6	Unable to enter labour market without permission in the host country	-	.659	-
7	Poor social interaction in the host community	-	.703	-
8	Rejection of asylum application by the host country	-	.742	-
9	The growing of restrictive immigration policies in the host country	-	.725	-
10	The rise of irregular migrants deprived of basic human rights	-	.756	-
11	The problem of homelessness in the host country	-	.680	-
12	The growing of sexual harassment in the host country	-	.561	-
13	Political instability in the host country	-	.541	-
14	Homesickness	-	-	.844
15	Family reunification in the home country	-	-	.881
16	Ill-Health or due to health problem	-	-	.552
17	Need to support family back home	-	-	.785

Only variables with rotated factor loadings above 0.5 were considered

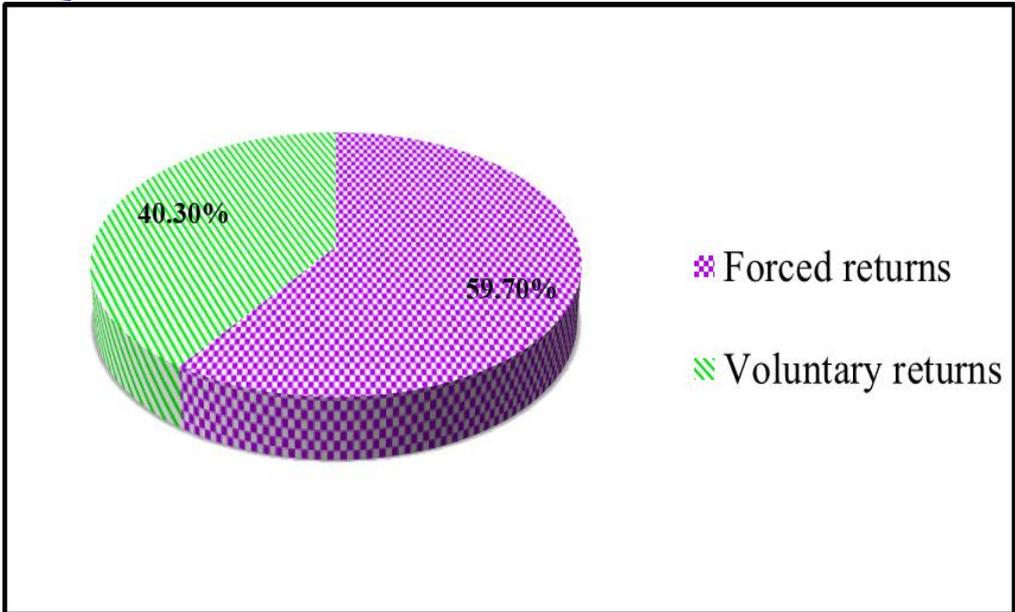
**Appendix 2: List of Figures**



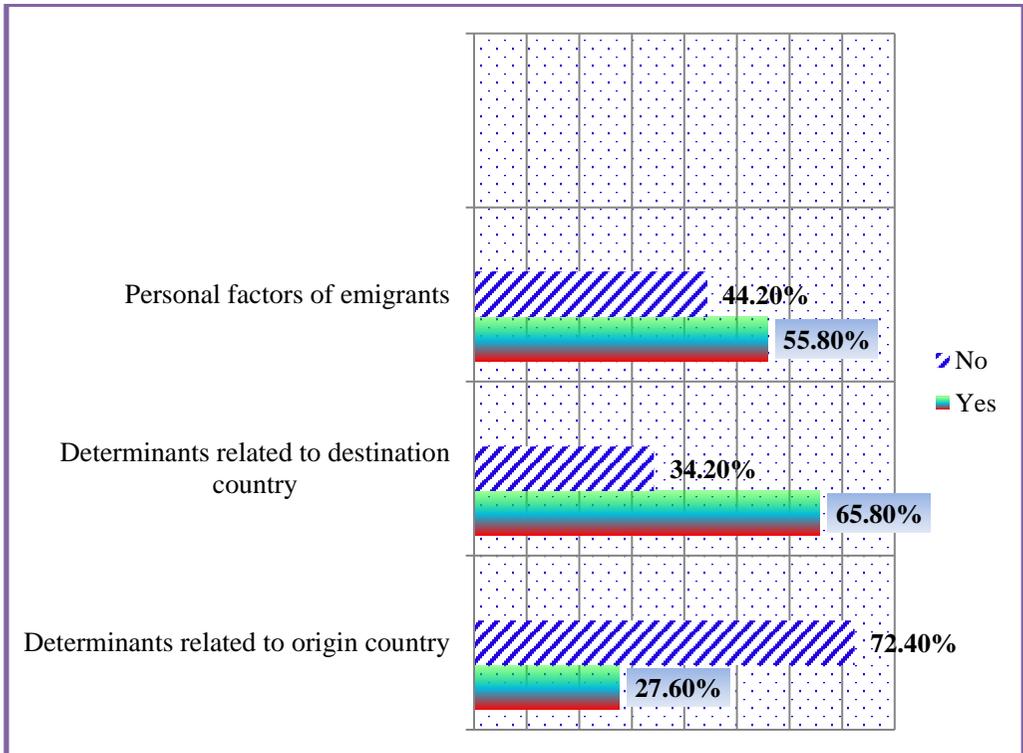
**Fig.1: Map of the Study Area (Source: Adapted from Addis Ababa City Administration, 2020)**



**Fig. 2: Monthly income of returnees at abroad and homeland in Ethiopian Birr (ETB)**



**Fig. 3: Results of modality of returns among the returnees**



**Fig. 4: Responses of the Returnees on Return Migration Decision**