



ADAMA

Improving the Reception, Management and Integration of Rural-Urban Migrants with a Voluntary Registration Scheme, Resource Centre, Networking, and Infrastructure Development in Adama, Ethiopia

Implementing Partner: The Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU) in partnership with Adama City Level, Labour and Social Office

Location: Adama, Ethiopia

Duration: December 2019 – November 2021

SUMMARY

This project enhanced the responsive capacity of the Adama City Administration in receiving, managing and integrating migrants and displaced persons through:

- 1. Resource centres** where migrants could receive adequate care services when they arrived in the city. The voluntary registration process also provided valuable information to the city administration and helped it plan more effectively.
- 2. Networking groups** that provided space for local stakeholders – including migrants and displaced persons, the city administration and the urban ministry – to discuss the main challenges and opportunities of migration in Adama.
- 3. Improved public infrastructure** to provide migrants and displaced persons with better living conditions and economic opportunities, including two new market centres and a health care facility.



THE CITIES ALLIANCE GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON CITIES AND MIGRATION

The Improving the Reception, Management and Integration of Rural-Urban Migrants with a Voluntary Registration Scheme, Resource Centre, Networking, and Infrastructure Development in Adama, Ethiopia project is part of the Cities Alliance Global Programme on Cities and Migration, which focuses on migration management in secondary cities in low-income countries and is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The project in Adama is one of a global portfolio of nine cities that also includes Amatlán and San Marcos, Guatemala; Jendouba and Kairouan, Tunisia; Arua and Jinja, Uganda; Jigjiga, Ethiopia; and Kakuma-Kalobeyi in Kenya.

CONTEXT

Ethiopia is one of the most rapidly urbanising economies in sub-Saharan Africa. It is already Africa's second most populous country with a population of 115 million, and that number is projected to reach 188 million by 2050. Today, only 22 per cent of Ethiopia's population lives in cities. This low urban population share, combined with rapid population growth and strong overall economic growth, may lead to rapid migration flows and urbanisation over the next decade.

Adama is the second most populous city in Ethiopia and one of the fastest growing cities in the country. It is the largest city in the Oromia Region, which features industries and manufacturing enterprises, and is strategically located on the main road linking Addis Ababa to Djibouti. There are several factors that explain Adama's migration trends. The main push factors include environmental degradation, low

agricultural productivity, inadequate social services, demographic pressure, land shortages, lack of rain, recurrent drought, and conflict. Pull factors include public services, security, and job opportunities.

Adama city is increasingly challenged to absorb migrants and displaced persons, and city authorities are struggling to provide adequate services. The city administration lacks data on migrants and is unable to plan and budget accordingly. Better information, resources, and strengthened capacity would help the city develop a policy framework and strategies to incorporate migrants into sustainable urban development programmes.

RESULTS

The project improved the capacity of the Adama City Administration to manage migration by implementing three components: resource centres for migrants, networking groups to foster dialogue, and public infrastructure to improve living conditions and economic opportunities.

Result 1: Voluntary registration and resource centres that provide information and guidance to migrants

The project established four migration desks (one at the city level, and three at the sub-city level), and the city funded two additional desks for a total of six. In addition to registering migrants, these city desks serve as one-stop-shops to provide guidance on employment opportunities and available local services. They are very successful; registrations grew from 700 in 2020 to 3,490 in December 2021 (2,157 women, 1,333 males). A total of 717 service seekers (685 women, 32 men) were matched with jobs in Adama Industrial Park. Factories provided basic vocational training to 107 service seekers, a precondition for some enterprises in the park. The compensation averages ETB 3,000 per month in monetary terms, including lunch and transport services.

Result 2: A networking group that brings together all stakeholders around migration issues

The project has fostered exchanges and networking among interested local stakeholders, including city-level migration desk officers, relevant government officials, community leaders, at least one elected displaced person, and representatives of local authorities, local industries, and NGOs to increase awareness of migration topics and discuss challenges and opportunities.

The group established the Adama City Migrants Network Forum, which serves as a space for discussion and addressing issues, including a tendency among rural-urban migrants and IDPs to switch factory jobs frequently and without notice in search of higher wages and better working conditions. Employers complain about the disruption to their production cycles and loss of in-factory training efforts. This is a common challenge across Ethiopia and developing countries. While continued efforts at the national level are required to agree on a decent minimum wage and effective labour inspections for decent working conditions and contracts, workers require skills training in both vocational skills as well as employee rights and responsibilities.

The work the Cities Alliance has been doing in Adama is exemplary because it recognises that refugees and IDPs are human beings with the same needs like other people living in the surroundings, which they can be proud of also as residents.

– Tsigereda Tafesse,
urban advisor for
Cities Alliance

Result 3: Improved infrastructure and services to promote migrants' engagement in business activities

The project provided basic infrastructure in IDP settlements to improve living standards and economic opportunities. Migrants currently engage in informal business and work as street vendors, which is illegal and can lead to detainment. The Adama City Administration formally provided in-kind 1,875 sqm of land with a market value of several hundred thousand dollars for two shaded market centres, which were completed in 2022. The main building has space for 72 vendors, with an expansion adding an additional 28 spaces for a total of 100. Most of the vendors are women, who also receive business training. The markets are located close to the IDP shelters and near rural areas where local farmers grow produce in a rapidly expanding area of the city. They provide an economic stimulus for both existing and new vendors, contributing to equal opportunities and greater social and economic cohesion.

Through a partnership with the Ethiopian Family Guidance Association, the Adama Model Clinic is providing primary health services and basic training on first aid. Fourteen trained health workers (6 men, 8 women) from the IDP community provide services at the clinic.



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