



INTEGRATING MIGRANTS INTO THE ETHIOPIAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

The Integrating Domestic and Returnee Migrants and Vulnerable Host Community Members into the Economy in Adama City and its Surroundings

project facilitates inclusion through training, promotion of better job opportunities, and public services for vulnerable communities, working together with the local administration and private sector.

Enhanced Migration Resource Centres will provide voluntary registration and one-stop-shop job matching services to more migrants and displaced persons. Targeted financial services will build entrepreneurship, and an upgraded public market will ensure greater hygiene services and security for traders.

Modern medical equipment will enhance maternity services at the local health clinic, and a public health campaign will increase awareness of reproductive and mental health - an under-served need, particularly among youth migrants and the displaced.

“CREATING SYSTEMS OF REGISTERING AND IDENTIFYING IDPs AND MIGRANTS SEEM LIKE SMALL THINGS, BUT THEY MEAN A LOT BECAUSE THIS GIVES THEM THE RIGHT TO GET SERVICES, FOOD, ACCOMMODATION, AND TO FEEL SAFE IN THEIR NEW ENVIRONMENT.”

- Tsigereda Tafesse, Urban Advisor, Cities Alliance

Implementing Partners:

Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU), in partnership with the Adama City Administration and its offices responsible for job creation, labour, youth and women's affairs; the Adama Model Clinic; the Ethiopian Cities Association; and Siinqee Bank.

Location:

Adama and surrounding municipalities, Ethiopia

Duration:

April 2023 - March 2026



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Hosted by
UNOPS

Ethiopia is one of the most rapidly urbanising economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is Africa's second most populous country with a population of 120 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 population and strong overall economic growth, may lead to rapid migration flows and urbanisation over the next decade.

One area likely to be especially impacted is the Ethiopian Economic Corridor, which runs from the city of Adama - one of the fastest growing in the country - through the towns of Bishoftu, Dukem and Modjo. The corridor is strategically

located on the main road linking Addis Ababa to the port of Djibouti, with numerous private and public enterprises and industries. The Ethio-Djibouti Railway, the Addis Ababa-Adama Expressway, and the Modjo Dry Port provide multimodal transportation capacity.

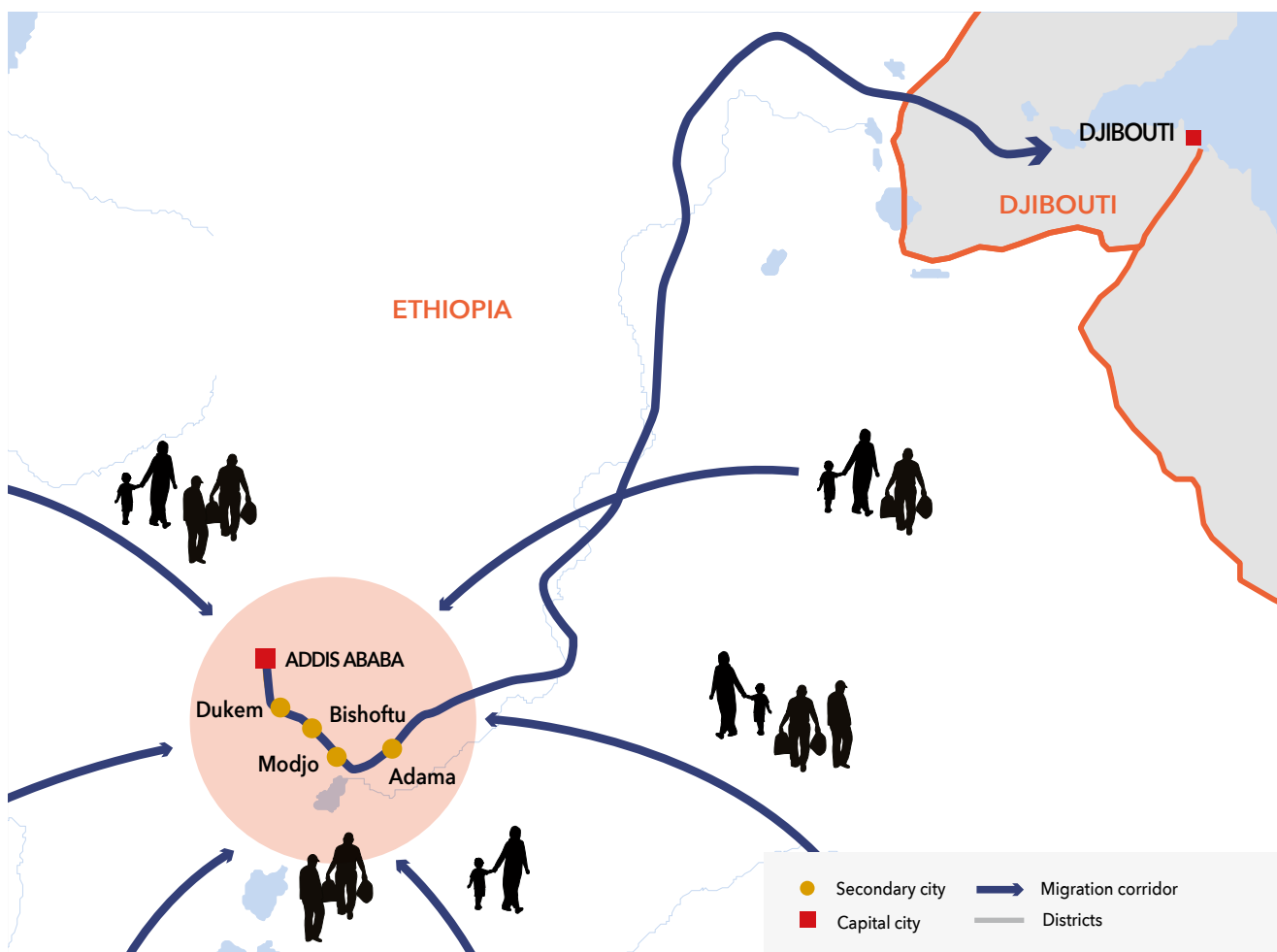
The corridor is experiencing rapid urbanisation and influx of people in search of jobs. Push factors include environmental degradation, low agricultural productivity, inadequate social services, demographic pressure, land shortages, lack of rain, recurrent drought, and conflict. Pull factors include public services, security, and job opportunities.

Adama, capital of the Oromia Region, is especially challenged

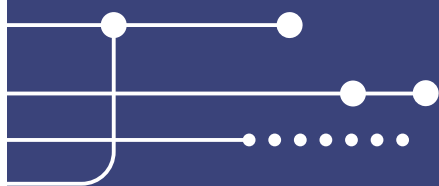
to absorb migrants and displaced persons, and city authorities are struggling to provide adequate services. Migrants and displaced people in Adama and other urban areas face challenges including high living costs, housing problems, finding decent jobs, and a lack of registration and support systems.

Many of these migrants are youth, who represent a significant share of Ethiopia's population and rural-urban migrants. This growing trend poses considerable socioeconomic challenges to urban areas, and city administrations need to proactively take advantage of the opportunities that the youth migrants bring and address the current pressure.

The Ethiopian Economic Corridor



ANTICIPATED RESULTS



From 2018–2022, the Cities Alliance collaborated with Adama City to establish resource centres where migrants and displaced persons could receive support services. Within months of their establishment, the centres provided support to 3,490 persons (61 percent women), primarily with identification documents and job matching in the industrial zones. The project also established a market space on land provided by the Adama City administration to enable displaced persons and host communities to pursue dignified livelihoods.

This project builds on that initial activity, capitalising on its results to enable greater access to work and basic municipal services to migrants, displaced persons, and vulnerable host communities beyond Adama to the Ethiopian Economic Corridor. Cities Alliance will deepen its relationship with the Ethiopian Cities Association to provide peer-learning exchanges and replication of project successes with other towns in Ethiopia. This second phase also incorporates valuable insights into the challenges faced by migrant youth gleaned during the initial activities.



Result 1: Improved labour market integration for migrants, displaced persons, and host communities in the Ethiopian Economic Corridor.

Access to better work opportunities

- At least **10,000 migrants**, forcibly displaced and vulnerable host community persons will benefit from services that enable them to access new or better work opportunities in Adama City and its surrounding rural-urban migration corridors.
- Existing migration resource centres will be upgraded to increase the number of local, voluntary registration services and one-stop shop information for job matching and urban integration.
- Financial literacy training and services will be provided by private sector partners to migrants and vulnerable community members to create new or strengthen existing businesses. Beneficiaries will include at least **60 per cent women** and 68 per cent youth.
- At least **2,800 job seekers** connected with employers

and 400 beneficiaries will receive initial capital through Siinqee Bank to start their own business activities.

- Three local multi-stakeholder initiatives and dialogues among Ethiopian city networks organised in Adama and Bishoftu on the topics of industrialisation and inclusion of labour migrants, impact investments and decent work, and remittances and diaspora engagement.



Result 2: Improved gender-responsive, climate-resilient, and sustainable provision of basic services for migrants, displaced persons, and host communities in the Ethiopian Economic Corridor.

At least **80,000 migrants**, forcibly displaced, and vulnerable host communities will access basic municipal services because of the project.

Participatory upgrading of marketplaces and a youth centre will benefit both migrants and host community. The market, which was built as part of a previous project, will be

upgraded with WASH facilities and fencing to increase both health and security for its users.

The Adama local clinic will be equipped with modern medical instruments for maternal health, benefitting migrants, displaced, and vulnerable host communities. A health campaign will increase awareness of reproductive and mental health. At least **50 per cent of the beneficiaries will be female** and at least 68 per cent youth.

Four local initiatives and policy dialogues on inclusion and social cohesion (including durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons) will be organised to engage governments, private sector, and civil society. Adama will host the first dialogue on gender, migration, and women's empowerment; Bishoftu will host the second on gender, migration and inclusive city development; Modjo will host the third on labour migration and psychosocial problems of female migrants/returnee migrants; and Adama will host the fourth dialogue on migration and city development.



Result 3: Persistent gender inequalities addressed in the Ethiopian Economic Corridor.

A gender analysis and action research on selected gender issues will inform locally appropriate gender transformative action in the context of the Ethiopian Economic Corridor. The project also focuses on the needs and opportunities of youth within Adama and its surrounding municipalities, building on the successes of its initial phase; 95 per cent of the job seekers connected with employers in the Adama Industrial Park were female.

The project team will work closely with the Adama City Women and Children Affairs Office and the Youth Affairs Office to respond to the specific needs of women, youth, and



children. The security and sanitation upgrades to the marketplace will benefit women, who make up 80 per cent of its traders.

The Adama city administration is also demonstrating additional support towards women and

youth transformative actions by refurbishing a public youth centre, which will include construction of a playground next door so that women can use the centre's facilities with their children.

THE RESILIENT SYSTEMS OF SECONDARY CITIES AND MIGRATION DYNAMICS PROGRAMME

This project is part of the Resilient Systems of Secondary Cities and Migration Dynamics programme supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The programme supports initiatives designed by secondary city stakeholders to provide migrants, forcibly displaced people, and host communities with equal access to quality public services, labour market integration, and economic opportunities. It seeks to advance global thinking on how secondary cities in developing countries can manage and seize the opportunities arising from migration and displacement.

The programme operates in North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, working with systems of secondary cities in Guatemala, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Somalia, and Uganda that are experiencing substantive migration and forced displacement.

It facilitates regional collaboration on urban planning and advocacy and fosters local partnerships among diverse city stakeholders and national and international actors to implement approaches that are locally relevant and work for all residents.