# Harresaw site-specific topic: Youth migration to Arab countries

## FGD community members

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.N | Sex | Age | Educational status | Kushet |
| 1 | M | 30 | 8th | Limat |
| 2 | M | 28 | Not able to read and write | Equnta |
| 3 | M | 51 | 4th | Harresaw |
| 4 | M | 61 | 2nd | Equnta |
| 5 | F | 23 | 10th | Ma-ekel |

### Pattern of migration

The migration to Saudi Arabia started a long time ago, before 1985. At that time there was drought and it was a cause for some to migrate. One of the FGD discussants was one of those who migrated to Saudi Arabia at that time. He travelled to Saudi Arabia in 1985. At that time there was good communication and he started a business and got information about Saudi Arabia from the Afar. There were many Afar who migrated to Saudi Arabia since a long time. People were migrating to Afar for business and animal rearing. There are also marital ties between the Afar and some people from Harresaw. In the past the people from Harresaw were taking butter, goats, sheep and honey. It used to be taken to Arab countries through the Afars in Eritrea. Those people who had the ability and financial capacity were directly going to Arab countries with their goods to sell. Those who did not have the capacity used to sell their goods to the Afar. They were going to market places like Quneba and Bada. Bada is found on the Eritrean border. In this business involvement the way to Saudi Arabia became known.

One of those who went first from Harresaw migrated through trade. He took honey by bringing it from Edaga-Arbi. He took it to Saudi Arabia through Eritrea in 1985. He sold the honey to Arabs in Saudi Arabia. It was 150 kg of honey. He travelled by camel to the sea. He crossed the sea with a small boat. He sold the honey to Arabs and remained there. He had friends there. He started labour work there. In the past there were no brokers.

At that time the route from Harresaw to Saudi Arabia was,

**Harresaw \_\_\_\_\_ Queneba \_\_\_\_ Bada\_\_\_\_ Eritrea Afar\_\_\_\_ Sea \_\_\_Saudi Arabia.**

Since the start of migration the evolution was steady but after 1991 the interest to migrate and the number of migrants increased. The reason was because changes were seen in the families of those people who sent remittances and those who came back. The change observed was in clothing. There was success as well as death since the past.

At this time there is huge migration and the significant increase in the number of migrants was seen in the last three years. The reason for the huge migration was the drought that happened in 2008. There are many youth migrants from the neighbouring tabias, Gebrekidan, Ruba Feleg and Hadnet, but the highest number is from Harresaw. The reason for the highest number of migrants from Harresaw is because the land holding size is small in Harresaw and there is more than six months food gap.

The youths migrate through illegal ways. The do not use legal ways to migrate; only a very few go by plane when they have residence permits after staying there for long time. There are changes over time in the routes of migration. The route that existed at the beginning does no longer exist at this time. The first route was through Eritrea. Through Sudan via Humera but there were not many from Harresaw. The migration route through Somalia was most common before the conflict among the Somalis. The current mostly used route is through Djibouti. It has been 6 or 7 years since this route started to be used.

Current route:

**Harresaw\_\_\_\_ Desse\_ Logia/Semera\_\_\_ Djibouti\_\_\_ Yemen\_\_\_ Saudi Arabia**

Those who stayed who have a residence permit called *Egema* go legally by airplane. Very few and successful use *Egama*. Those without *Egama* do all kinds of works compared to those with *egema*. The current illegal route is only through Djibouti. The processes involved are that someone who wants to go to Saudi Arabia collects money which is 4,000-5,000 birr. They get this money by borrowing from relatives. In the past before 2008 people were going through government credit and Dedebit. They take credit saying they are going to use it to do development activities.

There are brokers in different places like Mekelle and Desse. Most of them are found in Desse. The ethnic background of most of the brokers is Tigrayan. People get information about the migration process from friends and relatives.

The work that male migrants do in Saudi Arabia is farming, herding and labour work on construction sites. Most migrants are involved in construction work. Women started to migrate recently. The women do mostly household chores, mainly cooking, cleaning house and washing clothes. There are also migrants who do some illegal activities in Saudi Arabia. The illegal activities are selling alcohol, drugs and chat. The most successful migrants are those doing labour work. The maximum payment for men is 2700 Real per month (approximately 12,400 birrs). The minimum payment is 1500 Real (6,900 birrs). The Arab employers know that there are illegal migrants working but they let them work.

The duration of time that migrants stay in Saudi varies. There are some who stay for very long. Majority of the migrants stay up to 4-5 years. The majority of those who return home go back. They do not want to stay and live here. Those who return soon, like after six months, are those who are evicted. Some of them hate to stay in Saudi Arabia for health related reasons and come back for health reasons. There are not many who come back due to lack of jobs. Some of them do not send remittances because they may not get a job. Some come back and live here. Those who are landless prefer to live in towns, not in Harresaw.

### Backgrounds of migrants

Most of the migrants are 18-30 year old males. Most of those who migrated recently are 10th complete. The 10th grades migrate because there is nothing to do in Harresaw. There are many 10th complete who migrated. People spend a lot of money to teach their children up to 10th grade. Previously there were some jobs after completing 10th grade. Youth in tabia Harresaw are engaged in selling cows, sharecropping, trading and labour works. Most of the migrants are single, not married. There is the same destination for males and females. The destinations for both males and females are Riyadh and Jeddah. The destination for many is Riyadh. Both men and women use the same route. Men stay longer than women; it is not known how long they stay because they started to migrate recently.

##### Causes of migration

Failing to pass 8th and 10th grade examinations is one reason for migration. The 10th grade complete youths migrate because there is nothing to do in Harresaw. The magnitude of migration is increasing over time. Most migrants are youths. There are many 10th complete who migrated. The land of their parents cannot feed them. There is shortage of land to rear animals. There is lack of jobs and income generating activities. Land was given recently to some youths but still shortage of land is a serious problem among the youth. There is drought and there are financial problems. Many do not want to stay in Harresaw and do farming because they want to get more at once.

The factors that attract migrants to the destination are the job opportunities and good payments. The improvement and remittances in the migrants’ relatives indicates to them the good opportunities there. The pull and push factors are the same for all ages and both sexes. Even the rich go there to improve their wealth status. Parents have interest to send their children to Saudi Arabia but they do not do openly say it.

### Economic impacts

Migration has a good economic impact in the households of the migrants. They have improvement in their life. The migrants send remittances. They buy houses in the community and outside the community in Atsbi and Wukro towns. Some migrants buy cars. Many of them have clean beds, good clothing, enough food, good household furniture and good cooking utensils. Most of the migrants take their brothers and relatives.

At community level they construct churches and buy electricity generators for churches. All churches have generators. When death happens they send money to the family of the deceased. The migrants also support their relatives who are poor. All of the migrants paid their credit including their families’ and relatives’ credit. The drought made the community to be in debt. Animal breeding is problematic; there is not enough grass to feed animals. During migration they send remittances and after they come back they buy houses; most of them come back and go back again.

The impacts vary among migrants based on the activities and earnings of migrants and their financial management. Initial wealth status also varies; if they are poor they use it to pay credit first. The migrants buy animals and houses. They have also better access to health services with payment. There are many people in the community who want to get health treatment but stop due to lack of money. There is better food consumption among those who have family members who have migrated. They eat more vegetables, meat, eggs, honey and butter. The families of migrants have better school materials. Those children from poor families get in to trouble even if they get their pen lost. But the rich and those with family in Saudi do not get punished even if they get their pen lost. They have better school bags. The adults have better mobile phones with music.

### Social impact

Those with family members in Saudi Arabia or when they come by themselves make huge expenditures on weddings and death commemorations. In the past those who came from Saudi Arabia or their families used to be respected, now there is no special respect and no attention given to the migrants and their families.

There is a labour shortage for those married migrants but they solve that by hiring daily labourers. Most of those with family members in Saudi Arabia have mobile phones and they communicate with them so that they have better knowledge about life in Saudi Arabia but no new ideas.

### Effect of Youth migration on community as a whole

Youth migration is not good for the government but for the community it is the only solution. The reason is that there is shortage of land and the land is not fertile. Most of the youth do not own land. The improvement is in individual households, there is no visible improvement at the community level.

The visible thing at community level is that the migration of the youth has created shortage of labour in community activities. The shortage is seen in activities done in weddings, burial and death commemorations. In the past when somebody died, youth used to take the body to church. Young people used to take the pregnant to health centres for delivery.

Debt was high in the community but now it is solved by youth migration. Even the elders choose migration of their children. There is a gap in PSNP public works. The public works are difficult and cannot be done easily. They work always at the same pace because most of the people who participate are women and weak. If there were many youths the work would have been done faster.

The majority of the households have sent their children to Saudi Arabia. There is a shortage of labour to take care of livestock so the animals may be eaten by wild animals.

For the coming ten years the community will be improved by remittances and many will be hard workers. Gaps will be seen. People will depend on remittances and women will be involved in a lot of labour works. Gaps will be created in development activities.

The migration will have a negative impact on education because male and female youth will have a mind to stop learning and migrate.

The government should do something. It is good if dams are constructed so that the youth will get involved in irrigation. If there is water there will be grass and there will be animal rearing. The PSNP does not bring change in the community. The payment given in PSNP is less than the labour they consume. Migration is less in Limat kushet because there is water and they are involved in irrigation.

## Successful returned migrant

He is a 38 year old man. He is not able to read or write. He is married. He went to Saudi Arabia after he got married and having 4 children. His wife was waiting for him while he was in Saudi Arabia and they got together again. He is staying here and has no plan to go back. He went in 1997 and he came back last week 2011.

Youths migrate to Arab countries due to financial problems in their country. They migrate to pay credit; when they take credit and buy animals the animals die due to drought and they go to pay. There is shortage of land which makes the youth migrate. The perception of people has also changed into having interest to migrate to Saudi and work there. Psychologically; when people see that the migrants from Saudi Arabia get improved they want to go to Saudi Arabia.

The pull factor in the destination area is that there are job opportunities. There is a lot of labour work there and there is good payment.

### Causes of his migration

The reason for his migration was that he had no land and there were children. He was involved in trading but it did not have much change. He had 1500 birr debt from the multipurpose cooperative. He took it in a group loan. He did not have land so before his migration he used buy food and feed his children. He had economic problems due to absence of land. When he migrated the main cause of migration was debt. What attracted the respondent to go to Saudi Arabia was good job opportunities.

The most important thing that made him to decide was the presence of debt and the need to pay that. He used the money to go to Saudi Arabia. At that time he paid 1500 birr to go to Saudi Arabia. He decided to go and he did not even tell to his wife about his going.

### Migration experience

He was trading in Afar and he got the information about migration at that time. He migrated with Afar. They were from Quneba and from other parts of Afar. He went to Addis then to Djibouti. He travelled there on trucks. He used a boat to cross the sea from Djibouti to Yemen. The journey was illegal and was made during the night. People who had the financial capacity were travelling legally but it was very expensive.

It took him one month to get from Harresaw to Riyadh. He joined Afar in Riyadh and they made him do labour work. He was engaged in masonry work. It was inside the city. He changed his name in Yemen. Getting Afars was an opportunity for him. His journey and his work in Saudi Arabia were peaceful. He stayed there for 14 years from 1997 to 2011.He was doing labour work. He was successful in his stay in Riyadh. Factors for his success were getting Afars in Riyadh. Those with better skills were able to do masonry work, it is better work. Those who are involved in selling firearms, chat, or alcohol get imprisoned, evicted and sometimes killed. He stayed in prison for a month before he came to Harresaw. He was taken to prison and then to the airport. He was imprisoned because he wanted to come without transportation cost.

### Economic impact

He was sending money for his children who are currently learning at 8th,7th,1st,4th and small. He bought land for 30,000 birr and he added 40,000 birr for construction. He constructed 2 rooms on the land he bought. The good change is that now he is free from credit, it is change by itself. For the future he wants to work in his country in farming.

It has been a week since he came back; he could not tell the social impacts of the migration on his family and himself. There is no change in attitude that he has observed from the community since he came back.

### Migration effect

The effect of migration is the coming of new materials like mobiles, clothing and household goods. They also get information about Saudi Arabia and the life of migrants because they communicate with their family members. There is less labour in PSNP and free labour work.

For the coming ten years migration will help the community to be improved. They will have financial capacity. People will have better food clothing and money to start businesses. Migration is a good thing for the community.

## Unsuccessful returned migrant

He is a 23 year old male. He is single. He has completed 10th grade. He migrated to Saudi Arabia in order to get income.

Youths migrate to Saudi Arabia because there is no means get income and youths who complete 10th grade do not get jobs. There is not enough land for the youth. What youths get by working on their parents’ land is not enough at all.

He heard and observed that those who migrate to Arab countries get good incomes. He has no land so he went to get a better income. He had no income, he was living with his parents. He went in the year he completed 10th grade. He could not be engaged in trading because he did not have enough capital. The most important thing that made him decide was the absence of income in Harresaw and the presence of good income in Saudi Arabia.

He got information on where to go, how to go and who to contact from relatives and friends who migrated to Saudi Arabia before him.

He went to Riyadh to a place specifically called Jebelhaser. He used an illegal route to migrate because that is how many youths migrate. He paid 3400 birr until he reached Yemen. He paid 1700 Real to go to Jebelhaser and Riyadh. He got this money by doing daily labour works and some support from his family and friends.

He was working but he was caught soon, on the 5th day. He was caught when going to work. The good thing is that he did not face problems when travelling. He went twice, in 2009 and 2011. In 2011 he came back before he arrived in Saudi Arabia. On the first migration he stayed for five days. He came back before starting a job.

The opportunities were that he had friends there and the problem was that he was not successful because he was caught at once. On his second attempt he did not even arrive in Saudi Arabia. He was not successful because he did not have a residence permit. Newcomers are easily identified. He tried two times but he failed both times so he does not want to migrate again.

### Economic impact

His migration experience made him lose money. Most of the money was given by his friends as a support, it was not loan. There is no effect that migration brought in his life because he failed in both cases.

### Social effects

His migration has not brought any kind of social impact on him or his family.

### Effect of youth migration

The migration of youth has brought economic improvement at household level. The improvement is only at household level. Things that should be done by the youth in PSNP and free labour works are not done. There is a labour gap in the community. They have new mobile phones. There is no new idea that is introduced because of migration to Arab countries. If there is success migration is good but sometimes death happens to migrants.

## Wife of successful migrant

She is a 34 year old woman. She is married and her husband lives in Saudi Arabia. She is not able to read or write.

The pull factors that make young people attracted to go to Saudi Arabia are presence of good incomes by doing labour work.

Her husband migrated because he did not have land. She has land. Now after he migrated he was given land in 2009. He migrated after he got the land. He went before starting to plough the land. The main reason he migrated is that there was 4500 birr debt and the government was forcing them to pay. He again borrowed 4000 birr from relatives and migrated. She discussed with her husband and she was convinced by his idea. At the beginning the idea was his.

### Experience

Her husband got all necessary information about his friends in Saudi Arabia. Her husband migrated illegally and he is in Saudi Arabia. He borrowed 4000 birr from his relatives. He is in Saudi Arabia since 2009.

When he was here he was doing share cropping of four people. Now he is doing labour works.

Her husband is successful and he has paid the credit of 4500 birr. He has built 2 tin roof houses. Now they are replacing the *hidmo* into tin roof and with better building. He sends regularly for the house 30,000 birr and 8500 birr to pay debts. Now he said he does not have money because he does not have a lot to do.

Currently she meets with her husband weekly on the telephone. The respondent knows that her husband will come back after finishing the house they have started to work on.

### Economic Impact

Her husband’s migration has brought many economic benefits. They are building a house, they have paid credit and they are free from credit, and they have enough consumption in food and clothing. She has let her house for rent. She rented one house and has enough school materials for her 3 children, one is small. She sells siwa and the start-up capital was from her husband.

In the next five years she expects a better living status, he will come back and they will rent a house. Both the husband and the wife have a plan to be involved in trading.

### Social impact

There is change in social participation; there were relatives that she was not visiting on big holidays, now she is visiting her relatives and friends by having *tihini*. She was not participating in some weddings and death commemorations that needed taking of grain or flour now she can because she can afford to. There is no change in attitude in the community to her and there is no new idea.

### Family

Her husband paid his mother’s 2500 birr debt which was 3000 birr including the interest. He also promised to pay her mother’s debt which is 4000 birr. In her household they are having better clothes, school materials and enough food to eat.

### Impact on community

Nowadays there is individualism, there is not much done for extended relatives. Migration of the youth has created shortage of labour in PSNP and for carrying mothers to delivery. There is a labour gap in households; even though daily labourers are hired with payment it is not like what husbands can do.

Those who have migrated are doing a lot of changes so it is good. The bad thing is that there are deaths and many get evicted.

In the next ten years the lives of many households will be improved. But there will be shortage of labour in various community works.

## Mother of unsuccessful migrants

The respondent is a 49 year old woman. She is divorced. She is not able to read or write. The relationship she has with the migrant is that he is her son. He is 20 years old.

Youth in Harresaw migrate because they see their friends improving their lives by migration. When students fail 10th grade they migrate. Her son failed in the tenth grade and he migrated. Youth migrate to pay their mothers’ or relatives’ debts. The land is not fertile in Harresaw. Youths cannot earn a living in Harresaw. There is good payment in Saudi Arabia and this attracts young people.

The reasons for her son to migrate were debt in the household and that he failed to pass to next grade after completing 10th grade. He wanted to migrate because he wanted to pay his mother’s debt which was 2800 birr. What attracted him to go was that there are job opportunities and good payment. The son also observed improvement in his friends. The main thing that made her son to migrate was the credit. The respondent was happy with his decision to pay the credit, she discussed with him and she told him that she can let her land for rent. Even though she was happy about his migration she also had a fear in case her son might face problems during migration.

The respondent’s son got information about the whole process of migration from his friends and relatives. She has a brother and her son got information from him. Her son went through the illegal route. He chose this because there is huge difference in the cost in the legal route by airplane. He used a car in some places and he was travelling on foot in deserts. He paid 4500 birr. Her brother gave 3500 birr and the her son had some money that he earned through labour work. After fulfilling necessary things he went to Saudi Arabia, but it failed. Currently he has not planned to go back. Before migrating he was doing labour work in Afar. He was not successful, he was caught and came back.

### Economic

There is no economic or social change that the respondent’s son brought to her because it failed.

In one way youth migration is good because it improves the lives of migrants and their families. There are health risks if the migration is in the hot season. In the next ten years those who went will come home and will be involved in trading. There will be improvement in the community.

## Tabia officials (manager and vice-chair person)

The migration started since 1988 but at that time it was not well known. There were 2 or 3 persons who migrated at that time. Since 2003 the number of migrants has increased and a huge migration happened in 2008.At the beginning of the migration people used to migrate through Eritrea Some of the people who migrated to Saudi Arabia did not come back.

At this time people migrate to Saudi Arabia through Djibouti. When people migrate they go through Desse-Logia by car and after that they walk on foot. It takes 7-8 days from Logia to Djibouti. Those who migrated first were people who had business relations with the Afar.

There are many youths who migrate from Harresaw. Women started to migrate recently and they are roughly 5% of the total migration. The female migration started since 2008.There are many youths who migrate by divorcing.

Harresaw is one of those tabias with a higher number of youth migrations. There is the exposure to those who have changed their lives. There is also government credit. A lot of credit was lost in the drought because many livestock died. More than 3000 livestock died during the drought. 1500 cattle and 2000 sheep and goats died during the drought. More than 60 donkeys and mules died. Many people used credit to buy grain during the drought. The tabia is drought-prone but the percentage of people who migrate is higher when compared to neighbouring tabias.

Almost all migrants go through illegal migration. There are some people who use legal migration but the legal process lasts for some time. In the legal process they go to Mekelle and get passports, now it is closed. Those who have work permits in Saudi Arabia are very few, not more than four people.

The change of route was after Ethio-Eritrean war. Now it is through Djibouti—Yemen—Saudi Arabia. The migrants go through brokers found in Mekelle. Some of the brokers live in Atsbi, some in Dera. The payment given to the brokers is 4000 birr for male migrants and for females, 5000 birr. From the total payment 2800 birr is for the broker and 1200 birr for their accommodation. When they are women 3000 birr is given for the broker and 1200 birr for the migrants’ accommodation. People get information from organiser groups. The brokers do not ask or convince people to migrate. There are three brokers in the tabia who take people.

**Harresaw \_\_\_Mekelle\_\_\_ Desse\_\_\_ Logia\_\_\_ Djibouti /sea shore\_\_\_Saudi Arabia**

What migrants do in Arab countries are labour works which includes digging, herding, driving and masonry works. What females do is work as maid servants to do household chores. The most successful migrants are those involved in selling alcohol and chat but the problem is that they may lose their lives. These bring changes within a short period of time. These are men, women are not involved in illegal activities.

Migrants usually stay for an average of 3 years. Some of them bring money and they waste their money and go back again. In general many of the migrants come and go back again.

There are those who are immediately evacuated from the area. The majority are the youths who became successful. They also get successful by doing labour works.

Roughly 15% of the migrants return and remain in Harresaw. Those who have become successful buy houses at Dera and Atsbi. Some of them buy houses at Wukro. Most of them come and go back again, there are only a few who have made permanent settlement here. Most of the migrants come and go back. Those who come back do different things based on their capacity. Those who have money are engaged in business.

### Back ground of migrants

The majority of those who migrate are the poor and the majority of the tabia residents are poor. The age range of the migrants varies from 15-50 years. Most of them are 18-35 years old. Women are 5% of the recent migrants. Most youth migrants are from the kushet Harresaw because they are linked to the Afar. Their land is not fertile. The youths do not want to do agricultural activities. Those who complete 10th grade and youths who fail 8th grade go to Saudi Arabia. The majority of those who migrated in the past were married; those who have migrated recently are usually single.

Males and females have the same destination. The destinations are Riyadh, Jeddah and Jebel Hasser. They all go through the same route. Those who stay longer are men but how long women stay is not known because migration of women is a recent phenomenon.

### Causes of migration

The main push factors that make youths migrate are economic problems. Even though there is credit access they still migrate. The psychology of the current youths is to migrate; they are not willing to do agricultural activities in the tabia. What attracts the young people to migrate to Saudi Arabia is that they get job opportunities which make them to earn enough money. The pull and push factors are the same for all migrants.

### Economic impacts

The migrants support their family a lot. They send money, clothes and mobiles. They pay their relatives debts. Their children have good school materials and enough food. During migration they send money to their parents, wives, children and relatives. When they come they have better clothes, money, and better mobile phones. They also buy things when they come back.

The impact varies based on the amount of money they send. Those who have children and wives send more. Those with richer background also send more. Those who have debts send money to pay debts so they bring effects after they finish paying the debt. Those who have no debt buy assets soon.

They pay credit. They use money to start business. They eat better and more food. They have better clothes, they buy livestock.

### Social impact

There is no difference in the social life of those who migrated and their family.

Whenever there are weddings, mournings and death commemorations, those from Saudi Arabia spend more money. Those with a family member in Saudi Arabia can pay so they have people work for them. Some of those who come from Saudi Arabia marry women from towns. The community does not have a different attitude towards migrants and their families. There is use of better mobiles and better clothing and blankets in the families of the migrants.

### Effect on community

The migrants support churches. They have bought generators for churches. The new idea that came to the community is the perception of the community improving their lives by migration. Previously the idea of improvement was only in relation to agricultural works. The migration of young men created labour shortages in PSNP public works; the activities which are not covered are many. If there are married couples with 7 family members both work for 7 family members but if the husband has migrated the PSNP work will be done only by the wife which is half of what is expected of the household. There is the same effect on free community labour. Migration has a contribution in informal protection because migrants send money to their extended family.

Youth migration is good for individuals and families, but for the country it is harmful because there is a gap in community development interventions. The government interventions require the active participation of the youth.

In the coming ten years if migration continues like this the migrants will bring good changes individually and in the community. For the future it is good if they go legally.

## Youth affairs chairperson

The respondent is youth affairs head and he is a 21 year old man. He has completed 10th grade.

Migration to Saudi Arabia was started in 1986. The reason for migration at that time was drought in 1985. At that time they were going to Adikeyh (Eritrea) then after that they started to migrate to Saudi Arabia. A considerable number of youths migrated after 2008.

So many youth have migrated and are working in Saudi Arabia. There are also many who were unsuccessful and came back here. Compared to other neighbouring tabias there are more youths migrating from Harresaw because there is drought and there are many youths who are tenth grade complete. Most of those have migrated. At wereda level also many youths migrate.

Most of the youth migrants migrate illegally. The youth take cars up to Desse and after that they travel on foot until they arrive at Djibouti.

Since the start of huge migration in 2008 there is no change in the routes. In the past there was a route through Eritrea.

The payment given to go to Saudi Arabia is 4500 birr; out of this 2800 birr is for the broker, the rest is used for transportation of the migrant. To get the amount of money mentioned some of them take credit from a package. Some of them sell animals from their parents. The migrants ask information from those who have come back and from brokers. The brokers are in Harresaw and some of them are from Harresaw but living outside of Harresaw.

What migrants do in Arab countries is labour works including construction, herding and farming. Women migrants do cleaning in houses. Those who are most successful are those who are involved in illegal activities (selling chat and drugs) but if they get caught it is problematic; most of them get killed. Those who participate in illegal activities are men migrants.

Migrants usually stay there up to 7 years. Those with work permits can stay up to 10 years. They come here to buy houses or something and they go back again. There are those who stay 1 month, 2 years if they get caught.

Most of those who are successful do not come back. Those who come buy houses in Atsbi and they go back.

### Bac ground of migrants

Most of the migrants are poor. Mostly they are tenth grade complete youths. Most migrants are from kushet Harresaw because they have stronger links with the Afar. Most of those who migrated are not married. There are also those who go after marrying. Most migrants are men.

There is the same destination for males and females. Most of them migrate to Jeddah. The route they go is also the same. The amount of money paid for men is 4500 birr and for women is 5500 birr. The increase for women is because women do not tolerate many things.

Those who stay longer are those who have Egema.

### Causes of migration

The push factors for migration are poverty, shortage of land, lack of jobs, drought and debt. Many migrated to pay debts. People took from a package and the maximum amount was 7000 birr. This amount of debt increases as time goes on. There are also youths who migrate because their friends have migrated

What attracts migrants in the destination is the presence of job opportunities and good payments. Both the poor and the rich migrate for the same reason.

### Economic impact

There is a big change because of migration. The economic background of migrants and their family has been improved. Debt was a problem in the community and those who migrated paid their debts. They bought houses in towns. They bought cattle. If there is someone in their family instead of sending them to higher education they make efforts to take their relative to Saudi Arabia. Some of them support their extended relatives. The change is in their parents, wives, children and some extended families.

The impacts vary on the income of the migrants and the amount they send. If they have good income and send a lot there is good change. Those who were poor bring change because they make efforts to achieve the status of the wealthy. There are some who have nothing even though they stayed for five years.

They buy assets, they get treated when they get sick, they have capital for trading, they buy houses, they buy livestock and they have enough food and clothing.

### Social impact

The migrants and their families spend a lot in wedding ceremonies. They give gold as a prize. They invite many people even from outside of the tabia. They also spend a lot in mournings and death commemorations. Even though there is a labour gap they send money to hire labour. There are also some women who do farming activities by themselves. The migrant’s family has early exposure when new things like mobile and new clothes come. Exposure to new ideas is the same as the rest of the community.

### Effect on community

PSNP public works are influenced. Whenever there is a family husband and wife work and cover for children but if it is only the woman she does the PSNP public works for herself but what a husband should do remains uncovered. The role of youths was high in PSNP but now it is done by the weak and women. The same thing happens for free community public works.

In general terms migration of the youth is good because they pay credit and live a good life. The bad thing is that some die due to hunger and thirst on their way to Saudi Arabia. Some of them go anywhere to escape from being caught.

For the coming ten years the majority of youths will get improved and change their lives. There will be a problem in PSNP public works. The older people will remain helpless in labour. When people get sick there will be a problem to take them to health facilities. There will be changes in the traditional practices that involve the youth. In the past at Christmas there was ceremony involving the church and households; it has not been done for the last four years.

If there is insecurity and an enemy the community will be attacked. There are 350 youths who migrated; women started to migrate since 2008. Women are roughly 50. There are some who came back.