



Embassy of Italy in Addis Ababa



Stemming Irregular Migration  
in Northern and Central Ethiopia



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# SINCE PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

## SINCE Song Competition Event

The Song entitled "sidet Lemn" by Mr. Dawit Nigatu Demissie, Mr. Nuru Umer Adem and Mr. Tesfaye Mamo Wendimagegnehu has won the SINCE Song contest entitled "New tunes on the risks of irregular migration" and was awarded the 1st prize by the Ambassador of Italy in Ethiopia, H.E, Arturo Luzzi. The event, attended by 300 guests from the Government Authorities, diplomatic community, international agencies, SINCE implementing partners, celebrities and public, has taken place on 30th January evening at the Italian Cultural Institute in Addis Ababa.



The Song "Sidet Lemn" has been selected from a grand jury of artists including the internationally renowned father of Ethio-Jazz, Dr. Mulatu Astatke.

## EU COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT VISIT TO SINCE IN ADDIS ABABA



**H.E Charles Michel, President of EU Council  
visit at Ramsey**

On 10 February 2020, His Excellency Charles Michel, President of European Union Council paid a visit to Ramsay Shoe factory in Addis Ababa. The President, accompanied with the EU delegation Head and high officials, visited the factory workshops and discussed with the SINCE Programme beneficiaries whom have been trained by SINCE Addis Ababa Project for three months and currently are attending their apprenticeship programme with the aim to achieve a full employment contract.



**Vice-President of EU Commission Borrell  
visit at ELCO**

On 28 February 2020, high Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of EU Commission Josep Borrell Fontelles, visited SINCE Programme beneficiaries who are working at ELICO in Addis Ababa. H.E. Arturo Luzzi Ambassador of Italy to Ethiopia, government officials, implementing partners and media attended the visit. The Vice President discussed with the SINCE beneficiaries and implementing partners on SINCE activities and results.

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## Zubeyda Usman form Oromia Region



Zubeyda Usman, 25, lives with her 7 years old son in Sinana woreda, Bale zone Oromia Region. Her difficult life journey started when she dismissed from Bahir Dar University in 2010 and went back to live with her parents. Zubeyda used to feel that there were limited opportunities to earn income in her village, which led her decision to migrate to Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, Zubeida's plans for her future in the Middle East did not turn out as she had hoped. Her family forced her to marry in 2011. However, after her marriage, her husband was irregularly migrated to Saudi Arabia and meanwhile, after 7 months, she got a baby boy and continued a difficult life with her child.

She had been waiting for her husband for the last 7 years if in case she may hear from him but she did not. However, she learned about the SINCE Oromia project from her friends and went to kebele for registration. She was selected by the kebele administration to become SINCE beneficiary and was trained in Accounting and Cooperative Management. After Successful completion of the skill training and the apprenticeship programme, she got finally hired as Accountant in the nearby SINCE supported Producer Cooperative "Sanbitu Multipurpose Cooperative" in Sinana Woreda, with a basic salary of 1000 birr. Now she is supporting her family including her parents. Moreover, she is taking care of one of her brothers with her child.

## SINCE Beneficiaries from Tigray Region



### LABOUR MARKET LINKAGE CONFERENCE CONDUCTED IN KOMBOLCHA

A conference entitled with "linking skills to the labour market" was held on February 17, 2020 in Kombolcha, Amhara region. The conference which conducted with the team of "addressing skills mismatch through promotion of matching skills supply with current labour markets needs", highlights the significance of aligning governmental, NGOs and Private sectors involvement in labour market assessment to provide quality training which relevant and needed by the potential employers.

The meeting was attended by over 120

participants' representatives from ANRS TVED Bureau, BoFEC, BoLSA, BoWCA, Zonal and woreda TVED offices, SMEs, Industrial Park, SINCE targeted TVET colleges, SINCE supported graduates, and SINCE Amhara Project implementing partners. The participants discussed on good practices and lesson learned form SINCE project objectives, project implementation strategy, labour market assessment methods and tools. The conference hits its target through increasing the employment rate of SINCE beneficiaries.

### SINCE Beneficiaries Participation on Face Mask Production to Fill Coronavirus Shortages

Different textile companies in Ethiopia are working on the fight against Coronavirus by manufacturing face masks for the community. A total of 236 SINCE trained beneficiaries are also contributing their parts by working with those textile companies. SINCE Tigray 115 beneficiaries are engaged in face mask production at DBL Group, Velocity Apparel Production, MAA and M&Y Private Garment Factories. In addition, 76 textile and garment graduates of SINCE Oromia project beneficiaries are working at Ako textile, one of the company that is preparing face masks in

Bishoftu town. Furthermore, 45 Amhara Project trained beneficiaries are working as apprentices in the mask production at Kombolcha TVET college.



*SINCE Beneficiary in mask production at DBL Mekelle*

## PPP and Institutional Arrangements in Addis Ababa

The SINCE Addis Ababa project established 3 new Private Public Partnerships in the metal sector with the involvement of BoLSA, TVET Agency and 3 different private companies. In addition, during the first quarter of 2020, 50 metal sector SMEs got training support on marketing and managerial skill. Furthermore, Six subcontracting arrangements have been facilitated between the 2 companies New-Wing Leather Products and Koket Trading and 6 SMEs/MSEs with the aim of enhancing their productivity/profitability and increase the potentialities for new employment opportunities.

## Job Opportunity Creation and Decent Work Promotion in Amhara SMEs Cluster

During the first quarter, with the support of the SINCE Amhara project, 23 (15-garment, 1-weaving and 7-welding) new SMEs were established in Raya Kobo, Woldia, Dessie, Kalu and Kemissie city administration, with the involvement of 122 SINCE Amhara project trained beneficiaries. Beyond the establishment, all the SMEs secured operational licenses and the woredas TVED office offered working place/sheds for the licensed SMEs to work as a cluster. As a result, 12 SMEs already started running their business.



*SINCE Amhara Project beneficiary*

## SINCE Oromia Support to Cooperative



SINCE Oromia has supported 13 primary producer's cooperatives in Sinana and Adaba woredas, in order to enhance their production capacity and to differentiate their activity through the establishment of input suppliers, collector, processors, and distributors groups. The supports has been provided with the assistance of the woredas cooperative and the agriculture offices, through training on how to apply and use agriculture inputs and equipment supply.

After conducting market need

## COOPERATIVE PROMOTION IN SOUTHERN REGION

In Miskan woreda, there are two irrigation cooperatives composed by SINCE beneficiaries whom voluntarily rented land to create income for them and their families. Both cooperatives have produced seedlings and transferred the seedlings to their main farmlands.

Similarly, three irrigation cooperatives at Silti woreda were given the farmlands by wereda government. The Sodaberengo kebele cooperative is the first to get the farmland and start the production. The second cooperative, which is at Agira kebel, is using part of the land for seedling production and working hard on preparing the

assessment and a proper business plan design in order to diversify the cooperative groups activities, SINCE Oromia project has established: four bread bakeries in Hisu and Sanbitu kebele of Sinana woreda, four grain milling processing and distribution points in Alola and Haro kebeles of Adaba woredas. The SINCE beneficiaries cooperatives groups are totally involving 320 members (47 of them are returnees). The project has purchased and installed 2 bread ovens, mixer, steam and 2 grain milling machines including construction of two working shelters. Currently, Hisu and Sanbitu have started to bake breads by producing 600 loaves of bread per day and grain milling groups are also operational.

second part of land for farming. The third cooperative is found in Ashute kebele whereby the farmland provision took much time, recently, through the interference of the woreda administration, the cooperative got 2 hectares of land and they started the summer production.



*SINCE Team with Silti woreda cooperative members during monitoring mission*