

MEKELLE UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

Assessing Irregular Youth Migration in Post-War Tigray: Causes and Consequences in the Case of Gulomokeda Wereda

By:

Solomon Berhe Hadush

Advisor:

Yohannes Hailu, (PHD)

A thesis Submitted to the Department of Civics and Ethical Studies in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in Civics and Ethical Studies

August, 2025G.c
Mekelle, Ethiopia

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Assessing irregular youths migration in post-war Tigray : Causes and consequences; in the case of Gulomokeda Wereda.**” is my original work and has not been presented for a degree, diploma or fellowship to any other University. I further confirm that all the sources of materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

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Signature: _____

Date: **August, 2025G.c**

Certification

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by entitled by **Solomon Berhe Hadush** “**Assessing irregular youths migration in post war Tigray: Causes and consequences; in the case of Gulomokeda Wereda.**”Submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Civics and ethical studies and complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

CSA	Central Statistics Agency
EEA	Ethiopian Expatriate Affairs
IADC	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NELM	the New Economics of Labor Migration
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations population division department of economic and social affair
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergence Fund
WFP	World Food Program

Abstract

This thesis investigates irregular youth migration in post-war Tigray, focusing on Gulomokeda Wereda. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative and qualitative data, the study employed a cross-sectional survey of 106 migrant returnees, complemented by focus group discussions with local elders, school principals, and community leaders, while secondary data from government offices provided historical context. Stratified sampling was used to ensure representation, and Yamane's formula determined a sample size of 98 from a population of 4,621 households across three strata. The findings show that irregular youth migration is driven by multiple interrelated factors, including socio-economic pressures, limited educational opportunities, and the lingering impacts of conflict, with unemployment identified as the most critical push factor. These migration patterns have wide-ranging consequences, particularly the disruption of family structures, the loss of productive labor that weakens local economies, and the erosion of community cohesion. In general, the study highlights localized dynamics of post-war youth migration in Tigray and offers insights to guide policy responses by local authorities and international organizations.

key words :irregular migration ,youths, conflict, migration trends, local dynamics

Chapter One

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Migration has become one of the most significant social, economic, and political issues of the 21st century. Globally, an estimated 281 million people were international migrants in 2020, representing 3.6% of the world's population (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2020). Migration provides individuals with opportunities for education, employment, and improved living standards. However, irregular migration exposes individuals to grave risks such as human trafficking, exploitation, physical harm, and death, particularly when unsafe and unauthorized routes are used (de Haas, 2021). The phenomenon of irregular migration is increasing, especially among youth who face limited access to resources and opportunities in their home countries.

In Ethiopia, both regular and irregular migration have become pressing social and economic concerns. Youth, in particular, are highly affected by the lack of employment opportunities, poverty, environmental challenges, and recurrent political instability (Kuschminder & Siegel, 2017). According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA, 2019), thousands of Ethiopian youth migrate irregularly each year, often targeting the Middle East and neighboring countries. These migrations result in significant social and economic challenges, including family disintegration, loss of human capital, and increased vulnerability to exploitation abroad.

The Tigray region has been heavily affected by these issues. The armed conflict between 2020 and 2022 devastated the region's infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and left many young people unemployed, traumatized, and socially vulnerable (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA], 2022). In such a post-war context, migration becomes both a survival strategy and a response to uncertainty. Young people, facing limited opportunities and insecurity, often view irregular migration as a necessary path to secure better living conditions and future prospects (Tassew, 2023).

Gulomokeda Wereda, located in the Eastern Zone of Tigray, exemplifies the challenges of post-war migration. The area has experienced widespread destruction of homes, schools, and health facilities, resulting in reduced social support systems. Combined with high unemployment and poverty levels, these factors have intensified youth migration, particularly irregular cross-border movement. Communities in the wereda face not only the economic loss of their young workforce but also social problems such as family separation, increased vulnerability of those left behind, and the erosion of traditional support structures.

Moreover, irregular youth migration has implications beyond the local context. It influences regional stability, labor markets, and social cohesion in both sending and receiving areas. The phenomenon also places additional pressure on governmental and non-governmental organizations to address protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration issues for returnees. Despite its severity, limited empirical research exists on the specific causes and consequences of irregular youth migration in post-war Tigray, particularly at the wereda level. Most studies focus on national trends or generalized migration patterns, overlooking the unique challenges faced by communities recovering from conflict.

Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by investigating the causes and consequences of irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda Wereda. Understanding these dynamics is essential for designing targeted interventions, informing policy decisions, and supporting community resilience in post-war Tigray.

1.2.Statement of the Problem

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) notes that defining irregular migration is complex due to its diversity and the absence of a universally accepted definition. Generally, it refers to the movement of migrants in violation of the immigration laws of sending or receiving countries (IOM, 2017). Dato-Sakib (2014) describes irregular trans-border migration as the movement of individuals across international borders from their country of origin to another destination. From the perspective of destination countries, it entails entering, residing, or working without proper authorization, while from the standpoint of sending countries, it involves failing to meet departure requirements (IOM, 2017).

Sociologically, irregular migration relates to human smuggling, which ranges from altruistic assistance to organized crime (UNODC, 2011). It shares commonalities with human trafficking, particularly illegal border crossings, though the term “illegal migration” is often reserved for trafficking and smuggling (Perruchoud & Redpath, 2011). Trafficking and smuggling are integral to irregular migration (Spener, 2012, cited in Elias, 2016). In regions like the Horn of Africa, migrants are particularly vulnerable to trafficking (UNHCR, 2014). Human trafficking involves the forceful transport, recruitment, and harboring of individuals (UNODC, 2004), whereas smuggling refers to facilitating illegal entry for financial gain (Perruchoud & Redpath, 2011). Reliance on smugglers has increased as more individuals attempt irregular border crossings (De Haas, 2011; McAuliffe, 2013), particularly Ethiopians migrating to Saudi Arabia for employment, who face high risks of trafficking (Koser & McAuliffe, 2013).

In generally, irregular trans-border migration is closely linked to human smuggling and trafficking, a critical issue in scholarly discussions.

Migration among youth in Ethiopia is driven by poverty, limited economic opportunities, environmental degradation, and social instability (Scoones, 1998; Wouterse & Taylor, 2008; UNDP, 2012). In post-conflict regions such as Tigray, these factors are intensified by war, which destroys livelihoods, disrupts

education, and weakens social support systems. Gulomokeda Wereda, in particular, has witnessed significant youth out-migration, both internally and internationally, often to the Middle East, Europe, and other African countries. Migrants face severe risks, including forced labor, domestic servitude, abuse, wage exploitation, and mental health challenges (World Bank, 2010).

Despite these challenges, limited research has examined the specific motivations driving youth in Gulomokeda to migrate irregularly, the social and economic consequences for migrants and their families, and the role of post-war conditions in migration decisions. This study aims to fill this gap by assessing the causes, patterns, and consequences of irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda Wereda, providing insight into how local post-war dynamics shape migration behaviors.

1.3. Objectives of the study

1.3.1. General Objective:

The general objective of this study was to assess the irregular youth migration in post-war of tigray, specifically focusing on the causes and consequences of this phenomenon in gulomekeda woreda.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives of the Study include:

1. Describe the socio-demographic characteristics of migrating youths.
2. Identify the main factors driving irregular migration.
3. Examine socio-economic, political, and psychological influences on youth migration.
4. Explore the challenges and coping strategies of migrating youths.
5. Analyze the effects of youth migration on families' income, structure, and well-being

1.4. Research Questions

The research was attempted to answer the following questions

1. What are the destinations of cross-border migrants from the study area?
2. What factors drive youths to engage in irregular migration?
3. What experiences, challenges, and coping strategies do youths face during their migration journey?
4. How does irregular youth migration affect the socio-economic and emotional well-being of their families?

1.5. Significance of the Study

First this study would have contribution in providing the necessary information for the concerned bodies about the problem .this study will provide awareness for individuals and for the community at whole about socio economic impacts that the migrants face and it served as base for further researches on this issue . and last but not least the research results were applicable to other areas having similar problems .

This study on assessing irregular youth migration in post-war Tigray, specifically focusing on the causes and consequences in Glomekeda Woreda, holds significant implications for several stakeholders, including policymakers, community leaders, researchers, and the affected youth themselves. In general, the significance of this study extended beyond an academic inquiry; it serves as a vital tool for understanding and addressing the complex issue of youth migration in post-conflict Tigray, with the potential to influence policy, foster community resilience, and promote international collaboration aimed at youth empowerment.

1.6. The scope of the study

This study was conducted in Gulomekda Wereda Eastern Zone Tigray Regional State in three purposively selected Tabias (Tabia Kelat, Tabia Anbessete and Tabia Fatsi town). Due to limited time, security issues and resource availability, it is impossible to cover all geographical areas and population of the wereda.

To clarify it more, the focus area of the study was specifically to examine Glomekeda Woreda within the Tigray region of Ethiopia. This localized focus allows for a detailed analysis of migration patterns and issues unique to the area. It incorporates the socio-economic, political, and cultural aspects of Glomekeda Woreda in the post-war context to understand their impact on youth migration.

Demographically, the primary participants would be youths aged 15-30 who are engaged in or have considered irregular migration. This age group would help explore the motivations and experiences specific to the youth demographic. The study may also include perspectives from family members, community leaders, local authorities, and organizations working in migration and youth development.

The study focused on migration trends and behaviors following the recent conflict in Tigray, providing insights into the immediate aftermath and emerging patterns. So the research will specify a timeframe for data collection, such as one to two years post-conflict, allowing for the examination of impacts and changes in migration dynamics during this period.

The study would investigate various factors contributing to youth migration, including economic opportunities, educational aspirations, social pressures, political instability, and environmental conditions. It also examines both the positive and negative outcomes of irregular migration for youths, their families, and the local community, considering social, economic, and psychological dimensions.

1.7. Limitation of the Study

In conducting this study, the researcher has faced with some limitations. The major limitations include some victims of irregular cross border migration were not voluntary to provide data because of its underground nature of the migration processes. The lack of well-organized current data that shows the full picture of the cross border irregular migration in the study area was another problem. In addition to this the

researcher has also faced difficulties to reach in the selected remote areas due to lack of transport access. There was also problem of accurately documented data on returned migrants, number of migrants who reach at destination, number of school dropout from year to year. Other limitations include the difficulty to access some documents that are not simply disclosed for me, particularly the documents and records of cross border irregular migration. To fill above gap the researcher had made maximum effort to make the study better through arranging conditions to be suitable.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

Generally, this research was organized into five chapters. Chapter One was an introductory part that provides the underlying principles of the study, which specially encompassed background of the study, statement of the study, objective of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study and limitation of the study. Chapter two deals with the literature review including the concept of migration, theories of migration global overview of migration Africa and Ethiopia, push and pull factors, patterns of trafficking at global level, Africa and Ethiopia, it also discussed the major actors of irregular cross border migration as well as the expected socio economic impacts of cross border irregular migration. The third chapter will come with the general background of the study area, which includes Geographical location, topography, demographic characteristics and the socio economic condition of Gulomekeda wereda. In addition to this it included research design, source of data sample size and methods of data collection and analysis.

Chapter Two

Review of Related Literature

2.1. Concepts and Definition of Migration

Concepts are fundamental to any study, as they underpin the entire content of a subject. A concept reflects an idea related to a specific theme and guides the approach taken in the study, making it essential for setting new directions. Therefore, in this research, the definitions of key concepts such as migration, international migration, irregular migration, security, and human security were clarified and discussed.

Irregular migration is defined as the movement of individuals that occurs outside the legal frameworks established by countries (IOM, 2022). This encompasses various forms, including unauthorized entry, visa overstays, and unauthorized employment. The motivations behind irregular migration often include economic hardship, conflict, environmental challenges, and the search for better opportunities. For policymakers and researchers, comprehending the complexities and dynamics of irregular migration is vital due to its significant social, economic, and political implications (UNHCR, 2023).

- **International Migration**

There is no conventional agreed definition of international migration. That is why different scholars define differently. Elias pointed out that Even there are different types of international migration but broadly categorized into irregular and regular migration (Elias, 2016).

Tacoli & Okali make clear that in the globalization period the world is interconnected and interdependent each other. So that international migration becomes features of globalization. This makes know that international migration is the movement of people across international borders (Tacoli & Okali, 2001). Either permanently or temporarily peoples move from their origin of the country by crossing international frontiers (IOM, 2017). Moreover, as perruchoud & Redpath (2011) explains International migration is the movement of persons by leaving their origin country either permanently or temporarily to inhabit in another country.

In line with Fayomi also believed that economic factors are reasons for the purpose of high favorable standards of living and employment are the most influential for international migration (Fayomi, 2013).

Within international migration comprise irregular migration, human trafficking, and smuggling of humans. In the process of international migration the term irregular migration, human smuggling is not separate each other.

- **Irregular Migration**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicates that defining irregular migration is complex due to its diversity and the lack of a universally accepted definition. Generally, it refers to the movement of migrants that occurs in violation of the immigration laws of the sending and receiving countries (IOM, 2017). Dato-Sakib (2014) expands on this by describing Irregular Trans-Border Migration as the movement of individuals across international borders from their country of origin to another destination country.

From the perspective of destination countries, irregular migration entails entering, residing, or working without proper authorization. Conversely, from the standpoint of sending countries, it involves not meeting the necessary requirements for departure (IOM, 2017). Sociologically, irregular migration relates to human smuggling, seen as actions ranging from altruism to organized crime (UNODC, 2011). Irregular migration shares commonalities with human trafficking and smuggling, primarily illegal border crossings, though the term "illegal migration" is often reserved for cases of trafficking and smuggling (Perruchoud & Redpath, 2011).

As noted by Spender (2012) and cited in Elias (2016), trafficking and smuggling are integral to the process of irregular migration. In regions like Horn Africa, human trafficking is a significant concern linked to increasing irregular migration, where migrants become vulnerable to trafficking (UNHCR, 2014). Human trafficking involves the forceful transportation, recruitment, and harboring of individuals (UNODC, 2004), while smuggling refers to facilitating a migrant's illegal entry into a country for financial gain (Perruchoud & Redpath, 2011).

The reliance on smugglers has escalated as increasing numbers of individuals attempt to cross borders illegally (De-haas, 2011 & McAuliffe, 2013). The prevalence of migrant smuggling has risen in recent years (UNDOC, 2011), exacerbating challenges for irregular migrants. In particular, Ethiopians migrating irregularly to Saudi Arabia for employment face heightened risks of trafficking (Koser & McAuliffe, 2013).

In summary, the literature shows that irregular trans-border migration is closely linked to human smuggling and trafficking. This thesis focuses on irregular trans-border migration, emphasizing its critical relevance in scholarly discussions.

- **Conceptualizing Irregular Migration**

The concepts of "illegal" and "irregular" migration are widely debated, necessitating clarification of these terms. This research opts for "irregular migration" and "irregular migrants" over "illegal migration"

and “illegal migrants,” as many scholars argue the former is preferable. The term "illegal migration" faces criticism for dehumanizing migrants, as noted by Ochoa (2004), and implies criminality, despite most irregular migrants not being criminals. The UN Special Rapporteur emphasizes that irregular migrants should not be treated as such. Koser (2005) introduces the terms "undocumented" and "unauthorized," which often mislabel irregular migrants. While "illegal migration" refers to unlawful entry into countries, migrants cannot be deemed illegal; rather, their actions may violate laws (Perkoska, 2016). The discrimination inherent in labeling migration as illegal is discussed by Vogel & Iglicka (2008). Some authors argue that illegality arises from state actions and not the migrants themselves (Collyer, 2001 in Black, 2003). Morally, humans cannot be “illegal” based solely on their migration status. According to ICHR, individuals entering or residing in a country without legal documents are not criminals but infringe on administrative rules (Kokushobokerwa, 2017). The use of "irregular migration" is increasingly favored (Kostas, 2017), with the Parliamentary Assembly supporting this terminology for its neutrality and acceptance. This research specifically addresses irregular migrants, including smuggled and trafficked individuals, and aligns with the terminology adopted by organizations like IOM, ILO, and UNHCR due to the negative implications of "illegal migration." Consequently, the study focuses on the effect of irregular trans-border migration on human security in the designated area.

2.2.Human Trafficking, Human Smuggling and Irregular Migration

2.2.1. Irregular Migration Vs. Human Trafficking

Irregular migration is the movement of humans without following the laws of the destination countries and transit stations. Thus irregular migration is a criminal activity when they are violating laws and procedures of the transit and destination countries (Shewit, 2013). In other case, for the intention of maltreatment trafficking of human is an organized act of harboring and transporting trafficked person.

Besides, irregular migration usually uses illegal means to enter destination country but trafficking person may happen by using irregular and regular means to enter into the destination country. Moreover, all migrations not necessarily involve trafficking but, all trafficking involves migration (Agrinet, 2004).

2.2.2 Irregular migration vs. human smuggling

There is no widely accepted definition connecting human smuggling and irregular migration, although many academics refer to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) definitions, which encompass key aspects of irregular migration such as illegal entry, overstaying, and unauthorized work (UNODC, 2010). Conversely, the definition of migrant smuggling is more universally recognized among scholars, typically referencing Articles 3 and 6 of the smuggling protocols outlined in the Palermo Protocol, which describes human smuggling as the act of facilitating a person's illegal entry into a state where they are not a

national or permanent resident for financial or material gain (Perruchoud & Redpath, 2011, p. 92). Furthermore, examining the relationship between these two concepts reveals that migrant smuggling significantly facilitates irregular migration, as smugglers often provide a wide range of services, from physical transportation and illegal border crossings to the provision of false documentation (Heckmann, 2007).

2.3.Human security

During the Cold War, security was understood in traditional terms focused on state security, and in modern terms emphasizing societal identity (Rukandra, 2011). However, post-1990s, the concept transformed to incorporate environmental, developmental, political, and economic aspects, evolving into human security as initiated by the UNDP in 1994. The UNDP highlighted that human security pertains to individuals rather than the state's territorial integrity (UNDP, 1994), yet no universally accepted definition exists. Various scholars have offered different definitions of human security.

Security is often defined as the absence of crises, dangers, terrorist activities, and violence in a given area, as well as the protection of individuals from threats—psychological, physical, and emotional (Keli, 2010). It can be viewed in two ways: first, as protection against sudden disruptions to daily life, and second, as safeguarding against persistent threats such as hunger, repression, and disease (UNDP, 1994).

Human security, in line with security definitions, involves protecting essential freedoms and building the capacities of people, while establishing social, economic, military, cultural, and political systems that ensure survival, dignity, and livelihood (United Nations, Balbo & Guadagnol, 2011). The UNDP report identifies two complementary elements of human security: “freedom from want,” which addresses issues like poverty and preventable diseases, and “freedom from fear,” which concerns threats from conflict and violence (UNDP, 1994). Additionally, it includes respect for human rights in social, environmental, political, cultural, and economic contexts (Upreti, 2013).

2.4.Derivers of irregular migration

Migration can be analyzed in terms of pull factors and push. Push factors include economic, social, or political problems which derive people to go away their country. Attracting factors are also attracting the people in the destination countries (perruchoud & Redpath, 2011). Another author also similarly explains pull-push factors are considered as the main deriving factors for irregular migration. ‘Push factors include unemployment, low production of agricultural, drought, and famine etc. migrants are pushed from their countries and pull factors also attract migrants in the destination countries (Mohammed, 2016). However, enforcing and attracting factors for irregular migrants are not the same for the different community across

different origin. In line with Seid (2016) also states the key drivers of Migration to the other countries are unemployment, poverty, Misconceptions and Attitude of the Local Community, the lack of interest-free loans, Migration as an Opportunity for Marriage, , and misinformation about Migration.

In addition to this unemployment, underemployment, low salaries, scarce land accessibility and fertility and poverty forces migrants to migrate through irregular migration from origin country to destination countries (Henok et.al, 2017). Besides, People migrate to improve their lives and lives of their family (Fernandez, 2017). Brown also similarly adds poverty, inequality, and lack of economic opportunities at home (Brown, 2015). Moreover, Dato-Sakib also explained about the drivers and irregular migration by categorizing as push and pull factors. Push factors are existed in the country of origin including ,Not enough jobs at origin country, Few opportunities existed, "Primitive" conditions, Desertification, Famine/drought, Political fear and persecution, Poor medical care, Loss of wealth, Natural Disasters, Death threats, Slavery, Pollution, Poor housing etc. and the pull factors are attractive situation of the destination country including , Job opportunities, Better living conditions, Political and / or religious freedom, Enjoyment, Education, Better medical care, Security, Family links, Industry / Economy, Geographical Distance, Better chances of finding courtship (Dato-Sakib, 2014).

2.5.Routes of Migration

Recently there is high growth rate population which results unemployment for the youth as a result in this interconnected world due to globalization there is increased amount of the ITBM flow. Due to push and pull factors the number of irregular migrants increased and crossing to different countries by using different routes. Accordingly, there are many irregular migration routes across Africa with final destination to different countries (Kucshminder, Debresser, & Siegel, 2015).

The young age of irregular migrants used different routes depending on the countries of origin up to their destination countries. However, most of the irregular migrants use illegal border to enter in to Saudi-Arabia (Kokushobokerwa, 2017). In general, migration from the Horn of Africa is diverse and can be described using the four cardinal directions, North, East, West and South.

Eastern routes is one of the routes which was used for a long period of time and mostly used Ethiopian and Somali irregular migrants to Saudi-Arabia (RMMS, 2016). The path of this route is Djibouti, Somaliland and Yemen in to Saudi-Arabia, Gulf countries and the Middle East (Marchand, Roosen, Reinold& Siegel, 2016). Northern route is another route used by irregular migrants. In the northern route Egypt is a main transit country (RMMS, 2015). This route is used mostly by Eritreans to go to in to European countries. The northern route runs through Sudan and Egypt and through Sinai in to Israel. In addition to this western route is also is a route out of the Horn of Africa is commonly taken by migrants from Eritrean, Ethiopia

and Somalia. This route passes through Sudan, Egypt and/ or Libya and in many cases then continues on wards to the shores of the Mediterranean in Europe (UNHCR, 2013).

2.6.The Nexus between Irregular Migration and Human Security

A few scholars developed the relation between international migration and security as early as the 1980s. While Myron Wiener (1992; 1993) was the first political scientist to discourse the link between migration and security issues, several scholars indirectly captured this linkage in their work on migration and refugees in the US foreign policy (Teitelbaum, 1984; Solberg, 1995).

Therefore, it is important in looking at the nexus irregular migration and human security since irregular migration is a displacement of people across national border of two or more states forced by different interrelated insecurities (Elias, 2016).

The relation between the security and migration is broadly viewed from two different directions: from the security and from migration studies perspectives. Indeed, the field of security migration and studies are themselves multifaceted and many-sided. Within security studies, security mean that it incorporate terms such as a value or conditions to be achieved, or it can be approached in critical terms as knowledge, argument, and technology or practice. From migration studies perspective in narrow sense it refers to economic and broadly incorporate forced migration (Huysmans, 2009). This implies that the very meaning of the notion of security and migration are highly challenged, and are used to identify different practices that articulate different rationales.

2.7.Impacts of irregular migration on human security

International migration has positive implications to the host countries and communities. International migration has both positive and negative implications for host countries (Bisrat, 2014). While some scholars view out-migration as a security threat, Tsega identifies risks to national sovereignty and state security, which stem from street crime, disease, internal conflicts, and environmental degradation, among others (Tsega, 2016). Irregular migration often involves human trafficking and smuggling, leading to violations of migrants' rights and increased vulnerability to exploitation (Jokinen, 2016; Ruete, 2016; Fiducia, 2015). This type of migration may be linked to transnational organized crime, with traffickers and smugglers exploiting migrants (Malinowski, 2015).

Kicinger argues that migration can threaten economic stability by increasing competition for jobs and undermining social cohesion, coupled with rising xenophobia and challenges related to cultural diversity (Kicinger, 2004). The entry of migrants into the job market can create tensions, especially as they may lack access to social services, potentially leading to conflicts with local residents. Furthermore, irregular

migrants are at risk of communicable diseases during their transit (Macpherson & Gushulok, 2004), exacerbating their vulnerability.

The security concerns associated with irregular migration often arise from their exploitation by traffickers, leading to economic and social insecurity. Therefore, irregular migration is frequently viewed as a threat to state sovereignty. However, scholars have questioned whether the exploitation of migrants poses the greatest threat (UNDOC, 2010). Koser notes that while irregular migration represents a significant number, it is a small proportion of total migration. Irregular migrants often work in precarious conditions and lack access to health, education, and social welfare (Koser, 2005; Levoy, 2004). Their status can prevent them from engaging with authorities, especially those with valid asylum claims.

Ibrahim highlights a trend toward the securitization of migration, where host countries frame refugees and migrants as security threats (Ibrahim, 2005). Ultimately, the true threat may not originate from irregular migrants themselves, but from organized criminal groups that facilitate their migration. The Globalization of Crime report emphasizes that human smuggling is intertwined with various criminal activities that pose serious security risks (GCTOCTA, 2010).

2.8.Theories of migration

The Human Capital/Neo-Classical Theory

According to neoclassical theory, migration occurs as a result of individual's attempts to maximize their life time income by relocating to a new destination. In doing so they make a cost benefit analysis and decided to migrate if their expected discounted net- benefit from migration is positive. More specifically, they compare the net-benefit from higher wage at the destination with the associated cost of relocation. As such migration is considered as an investment to get higher income in the future. The Harris-Todaro model is an example of the human capital model where difference in expected earnings between urban and rural areas is the driving force for migration (TODARO, 1969).

This theory posits that investments in education and skills increase an individual's ability to contribute to the economy. Migrants often seek to enhance their human capital through education or employment opportunities in destination areas. For this study, examining the educational background of youth and how it influences their migration decisions will help understand motivations behind their irregular movement.

Nevertheless, this theory focuses merely on wage differential as a determinant factor of peoples movements while it is the case that it is well to do, upper and middle class, which is seen to migrate to the developed countries more than those belonging to the lower class or the poor (Ezra, 2001).

The New Economics of Labor Migration

The NELM is developed to improve the weakness of human capital model mentioned above. It shifts the decision unit from the individual to the family it is the family who decides whether an individual should migrate or not in such a way that the family objective function is maximized. Not only does the NELM change the unit of analysis from the individual to the house hold, it also brings about new motives for migration other than maximizing income. Among other things households want to minimize risk by diversifying their source of income. To this end they send some member of the house hold to another place where income is not correlated or negatively correlated with income at the origin. Hence the migrant member will support the family during bad times. The NELM also putsthe issue of migration in a broader context and posits that households care about their relatively position /deprivation/ in their community although theNELM model has many noble contributions for the understanding of migration it is also criticized for totally ignoring the role of individuals in the migration processes. It forgets that the individual can have an important role in the decision making.

The Social Capital /Network/ Theory

This theory emphasizes the role of social ties and networks in the migration process. Youth may rely on family, friends, or community networks to get information about migration opportunities or to seek assistance in navigating the migration journey. Analyzing how networks influence the decisions and experiences of youth migrants from Glomekeda could provide insights into the interconnected nature of migration.

For the social capital theory migration is caused by social networks between the place of origin and the destination. Migration networks are considered as a social capital where members of the network have the right to set information and other supports that makes migration more beneficial by increasing the gains and lowering the costs. Friends and relatives at destination serve as sources of information about the opportunities, risks and challenges associated with migration (Massey et al., 1993).

Migrant networks which often evolve into institutional frame works help to explain why migration continues even when wage differentials or recruitment policies terminate to exist. The existence of a Diaspora or networks is likely to influence the decisions of migrants when they choose their destinations (Dustmann and Glitz,2005).The network theory also helps to explain the reasons why migration patterns are not evenly distributed across countries , but rather how they tend to form the so-called migration regimes (Faist, 2000).

Lee's Theory of Migration

Lee developed a “general scream in to which a variety of spatial movements can be placed” He divided the forces exerting an influence and migrant perception into “push “and “pull” factors.The former are

“negative” factors to force migrants to leave origin areas. While the later are “positive” factors attracting migrants to destination areas in the expectation of improving their conditions. Lee hypothesized that factors associated with origin areas conditions would be more important than those associated with the area of origin and destination are governed by personal factors which affect individual decisions and facilitate or retard migration (Lee, 1996).

The migration theories explained above are originated from a variety of disciplines. Different disciplines approach migration in different way. A major criticism applicable to most migration theories is that there is single agreed theory on migration that offers a complete explanation for all migration phenomena (Viljoen, 2005). The above migration theories were considered the social, economic and other features of the migrants based on the western experiences. Regardless of this, the theories noted so far shall be used as a basic theoretical frame work for this research and they will be evaluated based on empirical observations whether or not the model of migration applicable for this research.

The Migration Theory

Push-Pull Factors: This theory explains the reasons individuals move from one place to another, categorizing them into push factors (e.g., conflict, economic instability, lack of opportunity) and pull factors (e.g., perceived better opportunities, safety in destination locations). In the context of post-war Tigray, factors leading to migration will likely include socio-economic instability, violence, loss of livelihoods, and family reunification.

Transnational Migration Theory: This theory posits that migration is not merely a one-time movement from one nation to another but a complex process involving social networks, remittances, and cultural exchanges. For Glomekeda woreda, exploring how youth maintain connections with their home communities while migrating could be insightful.

Conflict and Migration Theory

Given that this study focuses on a post-war context, theories linking conflict and migration will be fundamental. Theories suggest that violent conflict can disrupt social structures and create displacement, thereby leading to irregular migration.

2.9. Empirical Review

2.9.1 Global Migration Trends

International migration has become one of the most defining features of globalization in the 21st century. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2022), the number of international migrants reached 281 million in 2020, representing 3.6% of the world’s population. This reflects an increase from 173 million in 2000 and only 84 million in 1970, highlighting migration’s growing significance in shaping global demographics, economies, and politics.

Migration occurs for multiple reasons: economic opportunities, family reunification, education, political instability, and conflict. Yet, irregular migration—defined as movement outside the regulatory norms of

sending, transit, or receiving countries—remains a persistent challenge. Restrictive migration policies in high-income countries often push migrants into irregular channels, facilitated by smugglers and trafficking networks (Castles, de Haas & Miller, 2014).

Globally, remittances are a major outcome of migration. In 2021, migrants sent over \$605 billion in remittances to low- and middle-income countries, surpassing foreign direct investment (World Bank, 2022). This illustrates migration's dual role: while often risky and irregular, it sustains millions of families economically.

However, studies emphasize that migration is not evenly distributed worldwide. Most international migrants move within their regions of origin: for instance, the majority of Asian migrants remain in Asia, and most African migrants remain within Africa (UNDESA, 2019). At the same time, migration to wealthier countries in Europe, North America, and the Gulf States continues to attract large numbers of young people seeking better opportunities.

2.9.2 Migration in Africa

Africa has one of the world's most dynamic migration systems. An estimated 41 million Africans lived outside their home countries in 2020, accounting for about 14% of global migrants (IOM, 2022). Contrary to popular perception, most African migration is intra-continental, with approximately 80% of Africans moving within the continent (AU & IOM, 2020).

Migration in Africa is driven by a combination of push factors—poverty, unemployment, political instability, conflict, and environmental shocks—and pull factors—job opportunities, safety, and better living standards abroad. Adepaju (2008) notes that migration in Africa is often a family and household strategy rather than an individual choice. Families encourage members to migrate as a way of diversifying income and reducing vulnerability, particularly during crises.

The Horn of Africa—Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan—remains one of the world's largest sources of irregular migration. Thousands of migrants each year undertake perilous journeys across the Sahara Desert or the Gulf of Aden to reach the Middle East or Europe (Bariagaber, 1999; de Haas, 2010). These journeys are facilitated by networks and brokers, but they expose migrants to extreme risks, including trafficking, detention, and death.

Gender dimensions are also critical. Women form a large proportion of African migrants, particularly to the Gulf States, where they work as domestic laborers. Studies highlight that female migrants face heightened risks of exploitation and abuse (Fernandez, 2017).

Despite these risks, migration persists due to its role in sustaining households through remittances, which are a major source of income in many African economies. This reflects the applicability of NELM and social network theories to the African context.

2.9.3. Migration in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has historically been both a country of origin and transit for migrants. The World Bank (2020) estimated that about 0.6% of the Ethiopian population—around 650,000 people—were emigrants, with the majority heading to the Middle East, South Africa, and neighboring African countries.

Structural drivers include poverty, unemployment, land scarcity, drought, and political instability (Mulugeta, 2012). Ethiopia's youthful population, with high unemployment rates, makes international migration an attractive option, particularly among urban educated youth. Many young Ethiopians aspire to migrate legally through opportunities such as the U.S. Diversity Visa Lottery; however, due to limited access, many turn to irregular routes (Kuschminder & Siegel, 2014).

A key feature of Ethiopian migration is the prominence of women migrating to the Middle East as domestic workers. Studies by Fernandez (2017) and Mulugeta (2012) document widespread cases of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking of Ethiopian women in Gulf States. Brokers and recruitment agencies often misinform migrants about working conditions, trapping them in cycles of exploitation.

In recent years, Ethiopia has also witnessed internal migration from rural to urban areas, driven by land scarcity, population pressure, and lack of rural opportunities. Rural youth, facing declining access to farmland, often perceive migration as their only path toward economic improvement (De Regt, 2014).

2.9.4 . Post-War Migration in Tigray

The outbreak of war in Tigray (November 2020 – late 2022) has profoundly reshaped migration dynamics. The conflict displaced millions of people internally and forced many to flee to neighboring countries such as Sudan (UNOCHA, 2022). The destruction of schools, health centers, and infrastructure, coupled with widespread unemployment, has left young people with few prospects.

In this context, irregular migration has become a coping mechanism. Young people, particularly from rural areas such as Gulomekeda Woreda, view migration as a survival strategy. Families also encourage migration, hoping for remittances to rebuild livelihoods destroyed by war. This aligns with NELM, where migration decisions are household strategies to minimize risk.

Moreover, diaspora networks play a central role. Friends and relatives abroad provide financial support and information, lowering the costs and risks of irregular migration (Massey et al., 1993). This reflects the importance of the Social Network Theory.

Conflict has also created strong push factors: insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and psychological distress. Many youth no longer see a future in their home communities, driving them toward migration despite the high risks. This highlights the relevance of Conflict and Migration Theory in explaining the case of post-war Tigray.

Despite the scale of displacement, few empirical studies have specifically examined irregular youth migration in post-war Tigray. Existing studies focus more broadly on internal displacement, humanitarian crises, or women migrating to the Middle East. This gap justifies the present study, which provides localized insights into youth migration dynamics in Gulomekeda Woreda.

Causes of Irregular Youth Migration

Economic Hardship: The war devastated local economies, leading to high unemployment rates and limited opportunities for young people. Many youths migrate to seek employment abroad or in urban areas.

Educational Disruption: The protracted conflict resulted in the closure of schools and disruption of educational programs, leaving many youth without the skills or qualifications to secure stable employment.

Social Instability: The conflict has created a climate of insecurity, pushing youth to migrate in search of safety and stability. The breakdown of social networks exacerbates this distress.

Family Pressure: In many cases, families encourage or pressure youth to migrate as a means of financial support. Remittances from abroad can serve as critical income for households in Glomekeda Woreda.

Lack of Opportunities: Young people often find that local opportunities for growth and development are scarce, prompting them to consider irregular migration as a solution to their plight.

Consequences of Irregular Youth Migration

Brain Drain: The migration of young and often educated individuals results in a loss of human capital, which can hinder development efforts in the region and create challenges in rebuilding post-conflict.

Social Disintegration: Irregular migration can lead to family separation, causing emotional distress and weakening community ties. This can result in a decline in social cohesion and support networks.

Risk of Exploitation: Many youths who migrate irregularly are vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking, and abuse during their journey and in host countries. They often lack legal protection and resources.

Economic Impact on Left-Behind Families: While remittances can provide some financial relief, reliance on irregular migration perpetuates instability and can lead to unsustainable economic models for families and communities.

Reintegration Challenges: For those who return, reintegration can be difficult due to stigma, economic hardships, and lack of skills or resources to contribute to community rebuilding efforts.

Assessing irregular youth migration in the context of post-war Tigray, specifically in Glomekeda Woreda, involves understanding the complex interplay of economic, social, and political factors. While migration may offer temporary solutions for individuals, the consequences on families and communities highlight the need for strategic interventions that promote local opportunities, support education, and enhance economic stability. Addressing the root causes of migration through comprehensive policy responses is crucial for the lasting recovery and development of Tigray.

This overview provides a foundational understanding for further investigation and intervention in addressing the issues surrounding irregular youth migration in the post-war context of Tigray.

2.10. Causes of Migration

Mostly decisions to migrate are basically made by the individual or household making the move. However, many migrants especially wives and children, do not actually make the decision. The decision to migrate depends on a wide range of factors. The continuing flow of migrants to increasingly densely populated urban areas has generated considerable interest in the study of those factors. However, it is not easy to assess the influences of the complex factors affecting the decision to migrate and the choice of destinations because migration occurs in a variety of development contexts and varies in type, composition and direction the most commonly identified causes for population movements are social, economic and demographic factors (UN, 1984).

Causes of Migration in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, rural push factors have been more influential than urban pull factors in driving migration from rural to urban areas, particularly towards Addis Ababa, primarily due to economic disparities and the concentration of jobs and services in cities (EEA, 1999). Factors pushing people from rural areas include landlessness, socio-political instability following the 1975 land reform, organizational challenges in agriculture, land scarcity, inadequate farming resources, and adverse environmental practices leading to degradation. Armed conflict and political violence have also forced many citizens to flee for safety, with cycles of violence further contributing to refugee flows (Bariagaber, 1997). Historical issues such as ecological degradation, famine, and poverty have driven migration as families seek better opportunities, often relying on remittances from household members who migrate (UNDP, 2012). Irregular migration from conflict-affected regions is influenced by violence, human rights violations, economic hardship, and environmental degradation, alongside established migration networks that facilitate escape from turmoil.

2.11. The consequences Migration

Migration has varied consequences that affect both sending and receiving regions by altering population size, composition, economic productivity, income inequality, access to social services, and family structures (Beyene, 2011). Vulnerable youth, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa, often face significant risks in urban areas, turning to crime when their basic needs are unmet, highlighting the necessity for human rights protections. Migration also influences demographic processes that link rural and urban areas, spurring urban growth and raising concerns about environmental stress and social adaptation among migrants. Urbanization is associated with policies addressing demographic, economic, and environmental issues, but it can lead to pollution and land stress (IRIN, 2007). Irregular migration, which involves crossing borders without proper documentation, presents human rights violations, economic impacts, social

tensions, health risks, policy challenges, and effects on sending countries such as brain drain. These complexities necessitate coordinated responses at national and international levels, prioritizing human rights, economic integration, and social cohesion (Koser, K. 2021).

2.11.1. Economic Impacts of Irregular Migration

Research by Wegayehu (2014) indicates that traffickers, as key facilitators of irregular migration, extract significant amounts of money from migrants and their families, often through the sale of assets like cattle and land or by taking loans from relatives and neighbors. This economic burden extends beyond the migrants, impacting their families and the broader country. Similarly, Elias Ashene (2013) found that many irregular migrants borrow money with the promise of repayment upon their return, yet they often face severe abuses, including physical violence, confinement, starvation, and in extreme cases, death. Lucas (2012) notes that while economic theories provide limited insights into how emigration affects local labor markets, it is generally believed that emigration decreases the overall labor supply and depletes specific labor categories, potentially exacerbating poverty. Additionally, studies from Nepal (BAL Kumar, 2003; Bora, 2000) reveal that outmigration of young males can worsen poverty in rural, hilly areas, particularly when remittances are insufficient to offset labor loss or invest in income-generating activities. However, in cases with more substantial remittances, the economic effects of male outmigration may not significantly harm the sending community.

2.11.2. Social Impact of Cross Border Irregular Migration

Migration can be a beneficial experience aimed at improving household welfare; however, it often incurs significant emotional costs, particularly due to family separation. Temporary circular migration heightens the risk of family breakdown and social network fragmentation (Kahn et al. 2003). This emotional toll extends to families left behind, especially in poorer households where members migrate individually, leading to weakened family structures. Prolonged separation causes children to lose their parents' authority and care, often resulting in feelings of rejection that material support cannot alleviate (D'Emilio et al. 2007). Technological advances in communication do offer some means to maintain ties (UNDP, 2012). Although migration is typically a voluntary choice, the reality can differ drastically; many migrants face exploitation, including trafficking, particularly young women promised legitimate jobs only to be forced into prostitution (Kebede, 2001). Children are also vulnerable to trafficking, suffering long-term trauma due to abuse by middlemen and recruitment agencies, with calls for stricter regulation alongside increasing migration flows (Agunias, 2010). Rapid population growth hampers access to basic healthcare and education, especially among rural youth and in urban centers where unemployment rates are high. Traditional land use customs limit rural youth's opportunities, contributing to rising unemployment and

poverty cycles (Economic Report on Africa 2005). Additionally, migrants often adjust their beliefs and habits over time, impacting their cultural practices (Anderson, 2002).

2.11.3. Household Impacts

Separation from parents has significant long-term effects on children, particularly those from migrant families who tend to have lower educational attainment. Evidence from Mexico shows that boys from these families are more likely to migrate themselves, while daughters face increased domestic workloads (McKenzie and Report). Adolescents left behind often engage in risky behaviors, with a noted correlation between maternal absence and involvement in violence; for instance, 80% of children in conflict with the law in Jamaica lacked maternal presence compared to 30% of other children (D'Emilio, 2007). Conversely, recent findings from Mozambique indicate that migration can enhance social networks, as remittances lower participation costs for migrant-sending households (Gallego and Mendola, 2010). Women in several Participatory Poverty Assessments (PPAs) expressed concerns about migration's impact on family and social structures (Moldova, 1997; Ghana, 1995; Ecuador, 1996; India, 1998; Madagascar, 1996). Yet, the absence of male decision-makers often leads to a shift in social dynamics, with women becoming more involved in community decision-making. For example, in Indonesia, women have gained influence in domestic matters due to increased cash income and asset management. Similarly, in Ecuador, women's participation in community development has risen with male outmigration, and in the Senegal River Valley, women have become more active in farming as a response to their husbands' long absences. While migration may strain family relationships, it can also provide women with new avenues for financial independence (Moldova, 1997; Georgia, 1997).

Historical Background of Migration: Migration significantly impacts population growth, influenced by various economic and socio-political factors that affect area development. According to the 2007 Central Statistical Agency (CSA) census, 9.71 percent of the population in Gulomekeda woreda were migrants, lower than the regional average of 17.6 percent. Non-migrants comprised 89.9 percent, with 89.6 percent of males and 90.16 percent of females remaining non-migrants; 10.04 percent of males and 9.42 percent of females were migrants, indicating no significant gender difference. The census also showed that 36.29 percent of the urban population were migrants, compared to only 6.63 percent in rural areas, highlighting that urban areas offer more job opportunities and that rural regions have a long history of migration.

Cross Border Migration: Gulomekeda wereda in the Tigray region has seen a significant outflow of people, particularly young boys migrating to Europe and the Middle East. These migrants often endure forced labor, with boys working as shop assistants and errand boys, while women face involuntary domestic servitude. In the Middle East, migrants experience severe abuses, including physical and sexual violence, unpaid labor, sleep deprivation, confinement, and even murder. Many return home suffering from

mental health issues and physical injuries, with some victims committing suicide or becoming victims of the sex trade upon their return, particularly those trafficked from surrounding rural kebeles and towns. This migration crisis has led to family breakdowns within the wereda due to the strain of coping with the behaviors of returning migrants (Gulomekeda Youth and Sport Government Office, 2015 EC).

Main Actors of Cross Border Migration: in the wereda, there are different groups and individuals who participate in the migration processes and they have been increased day to day. The main actors participating in cross border migration were:-

Brokers: local brokers called “**Delalas**” are either returnee from the country of destination or have relatives there. Brokers usually use facilitators from the community in order to facilitate the irregular migration processes and do not directly contact migrants and their families. According to the report of Gulomekeda wereda police office annual report of, 2015 to avoid disrepute and detection by authorities, local brokers do not have established or official place of work. They work from rented houses, neighborhood cafes or hotel rooms. In addition to this to avoid being identified, brokers also move from place to place-in large towns work through multiple facilitators even they do not know the real names and addresses of the brokers.

Facilitators: Facilitators are often relatives or friends of trafficking victims who help connect them with traffickers by promoting the supposed benefits of migrating abroad, thereby securing payments from traffickers for each successful case. This arrangement allows traffickers to operate discreetly, with facilitators perceived as innocent, well-intentioned individuals, leading to a belief that victims sought out assistance rather than exploitation (Afework & Habte, 2020; Agrinet, 2019). In the Gulomekeda wereda, the natural resource base, once rich in shrubland, has diminished due to increased population density (0.88 ha/capita) over recent decades. A sample enumeration by the CSA in 2019 revealed that of the 10,661 hectares surveyed, 77.08% was cultivated, with 60% of land devoted to cereals, while the remaining was used for pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables.

Chapter Three

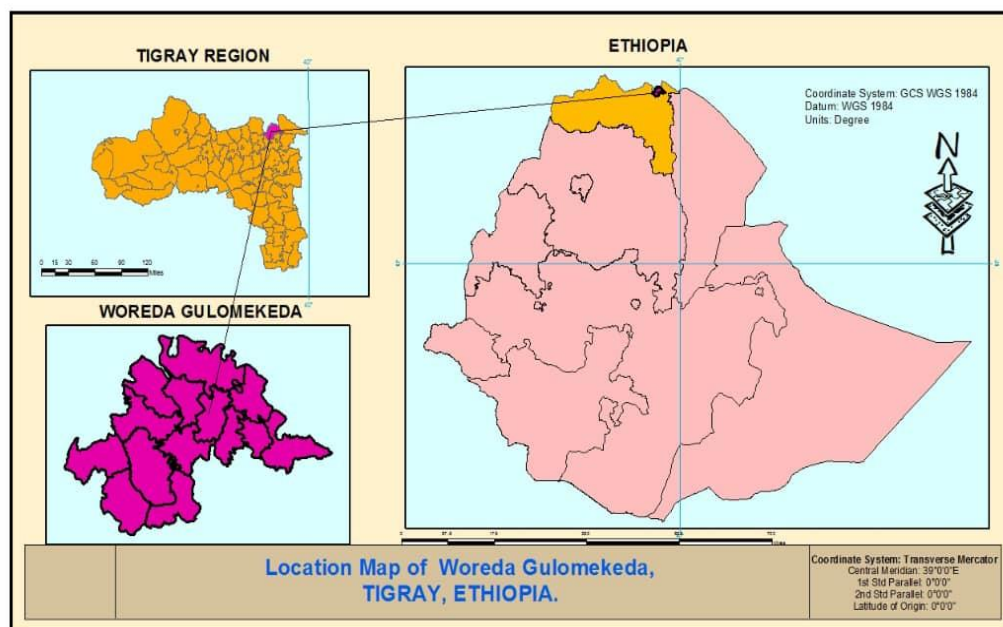
Description of the Study Area and Research Methodology

3.1 Description of the Study Area

Gulomekeda Woreda is located in the Eastern Zone of Tigray Regional State, northern Ethiopia. The woreda is characterized by rugged topography and a semi-arid climate that strongly influence its socio-economic activities (Tigray Regional State, 2021). The population is predominantly Tigrinya-speaking, with a youthful demographic where the majority are under 30 years old (CSA, 2019).

The economy is mainly agrarian, depending on subsistence farming of cereals and pulses alongside livestock rearing. However, recurrent droughts, climate variability, and the recent conflict in Tigray have severely constrained agricultural productivity (World Bank, 2022). These socio-economic challenges have intensified the trend of youth migration in search of better opportunities.

Culturally, the area is known for its strong social institutions such as churches, community associations, and elders' councils, which play important roles in local governance and conflict resolution (Addis Ababa University, 2021). However, the disruption of social services, livelihoods, education, and health following the war has created further vulnerabilities that push young people towards migration (UNICEF, 2021).



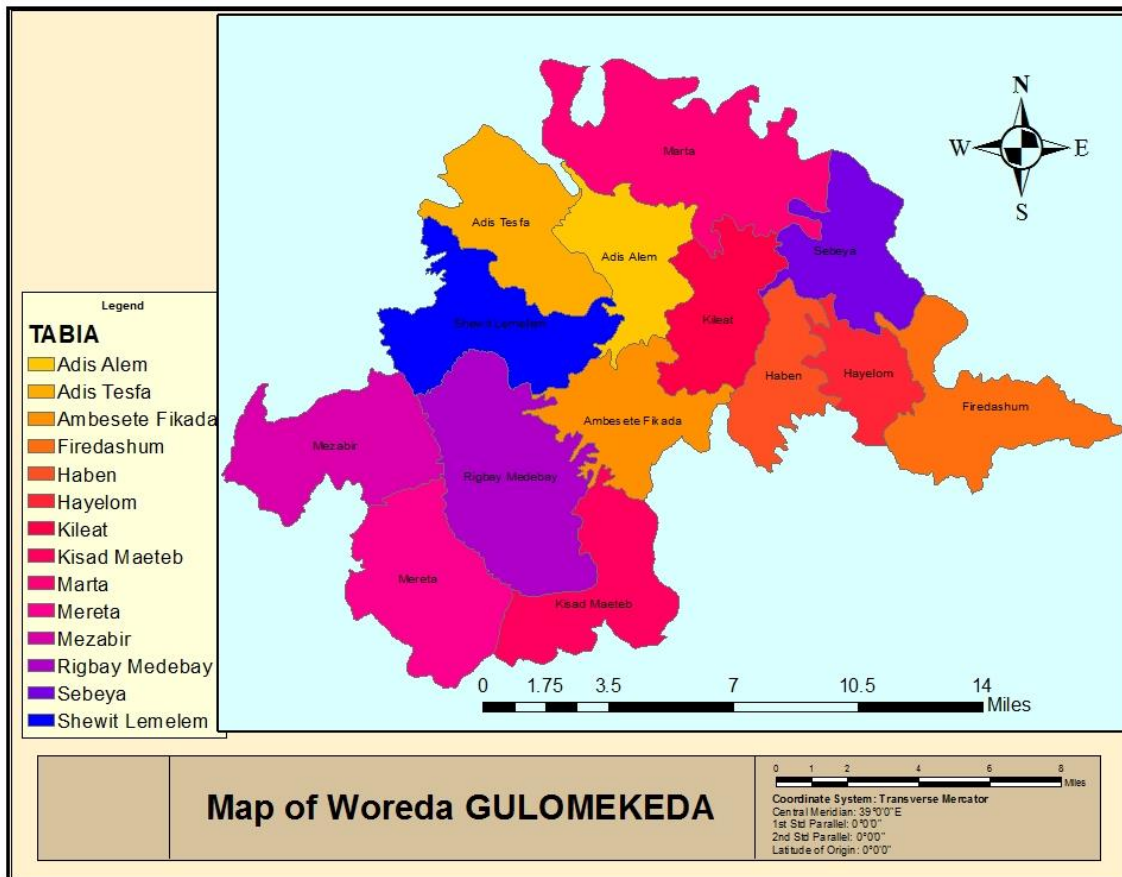


Figure 3. 1 Map of the Study Area

Source: Authors computation on GIS and CSA Data, 2020

3.2 Research Methodology

3.2.1 Research Approach, Design and Justification

This study employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative techniques. The quantitative approach was chosen because it allows for measuring the magnitude of migration (e.g., socio-demographic characteristics, economic conditions, destinations) in numerical terms, which makes findings more generalizable. The qualitative approach was included to capture the lived experiences, perceptions, and coping strategies of migrant returnees and their communities, which cannot be adequately explained by statistics alone.

A cross-sectional survey design was adopted, as it enables data collection at a single point in time from a defined population (Creswell, 2012). This design is particularly suitable because the study seeks to describe the current realities of migration in the post-war context rather than to track changes over time.

Justification: The combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches ensured both breadth and depth of understanding. Quantitative data gave measurable patterns, while qualitative insights enriched interpretation and allowed triangulation of findings.

3.2.2 Data Sources

Both This study relied on two main categories of data sources: primary and secondary. Each source and its target groups are clearly specified below.

a) Primary Data Sources

Primary data were collected directly from individuals and groups with first-hand knowledge of migration. These included:

1. Migrant Returnees (98 respondents) – Provided information on their socio-demographic background, reasons for migration, destinations, and challenges faced abroad and after return.
2. Parents of Migrants (2 participants) – Shared household-level perspectives on the impacts of migration on families left behind.
3. Community Elders (2 participants) – Contributed cultural, historical, and community-level insights into migration practices and consequences.
4. Local Officials (4 participants) – From the offices of youth affairs, social affairs, women’s association, and education. They provided expert views on institutional responses, policy challenges, and the magnitude of migration.
5. Focus Group Discussion (1 group of 8 participants) – Included representatives from elders, social affairs, youth association, women’s association, and education sectors. FGDs provided collective perspectives, helping to capture community consensus on migration causes and impacts.

Justification: Primary data ensured direct access to lived experiences and up-to-date realities of migration in Gulomekeda Woreda.

b) Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data were gathered from existing documents and records to complement and cross-check primary findings. These included:

1. Government Records – Reports from Gulomekeda Wereda offices of youth affairs, social affairs, security, and planning.
2. CSA (Central Statistical Agency) Census and Surveys – Provided demographic and migration-related statistics.

3. Academic and Institutional Reports – Publications from universities, international organizations (e.g., World Bank, UNICEF), and NGOs.

4. Police and Judicial Records – Contained evidence on irregular migration cases, trafficking, and exploitation.

Justification: Secondary sources provided historical context, statistical evidence, and policy information, which validated and enriched the data collected from primary sources.

3.2.3 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

The study was conducted in three purposively selected kebeles Kelat, Anbeset Fakada, and Fatsi town out of 16 kebeles of Gulomekeda Woreda.

Justification for site selection: These kebeles were chosen because they are hotspots of cross-border migration and represent both urban and rural settings, thereby ensuring a balanced perspective.

The total household population of the three kebeles is 4,621. From 400 identified migrant returnees, a representative sample of 98 respondents was determined using Yamane’s formula (1967) with a 90% confidence level and 10% margin of error. Proportional stratified sampling was then applied to ensure each kebele was fairly represented:

Thus,

)2 Where,

1. N= population size (4621)
2. n= sample size (number of respondents)
3. e = level of significance (level of precision~0.1=10%)

The research consider 90% level of confidence ; the desired level of significance is 0. 1, then the sample size computes as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{4621}{1 + 4621(0.1)^2} = \frac{4621}{47.21} = 98$$

There searcher believes that with 90% level of confidence, 98 of returnee are considered as a representative sample size of the population. After the total sample size is determined, respondents from the three kebeles was determined based on the population size of the three kebeles.

The sample size will thus draw from each kebele and calculated in the following manner based on stratified sampling technique. To obtain proportional number of respondents from each kebele, the researcher used the following formula:

$$P = n/N$$

Where, n = Sample size, N = total number of returnee in the three kebeles of the wereda.

Table 3. 1. sample size of respondents

Name of kebele	Number of	Number of migrtion returnees	Proportion of sample size for each kebele
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	household		
Kelat	1175	100	25
Anbessete fkada	862	75	18
Fatsi town	2584	225	55
Total	4621	400	98

Source: Survey from werweda Gulomekeda administration office, 2017E.C

Justification: Stratified random sampling was used to minimize bias and to ensure that respondents from larger kebeles (e.g., Fatsi town) were proportionally represented. In addition to this, 8 key informants were purposively selected based on their roles and experience, bringing the total participants to 106. This ensured diversity of voices while maintaining focus on those with direct knowledge of migration.

The Instruments of Data Collection and Target Groups

To collect both quantitative and qualitative data, the researcher employed three instruments: questionnaires, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs).

1. Questionnaire Target group: The 98 sampled returnee migrants.

Purpose: To collect quantitative data on socio-demographic characteristics, causes of migration, destinations, challenges faced abroad, and reintegration experiences.

Design: Both close-ended questions (for measurable data) and open-ended questions (for personal views and attitudes).

2. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Target group: 8 purposively selected participants – 2 community elders, 1 official from the office of social and labor affairs, 1 youth association representative, 1 women’s association official, 1 kebele administrator, 1 security and administration officer, and 1 high school principal.

Purpose: To generate qualitative information on push and pull factors of cross-border migration, socio-economic challenges, and possible coping mechanisms.

Procedure: A checklist with guiding open and close-ended questions was used. The discussion was conducted in Tigrigna and key points were noted systematically.

3. Key Informant Interviews (KII)

Target group: Parents of migrants, 2 community elders, and officials from the offices of social and labor affairs, youth association, women’s association, kebele administration, security and administration, and high school principals.

Purpose: To obtain deeper insights into the causes and consequences of youth migration in post-war Gulomekeda Wereda.

Procedure: Face-to-face interviews conducted in Tigrigna, ensuring a natural conversation flow and contextual understanding.

3.2.4 Method of Data Analysis

Data gathered in questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics, the important descriptive statistics such as, frequency, percentage were computed to analyze the collected data. Data gathered through focus group discussion and key informants interview were analyzed and transcribed using qualitative techniques in the form of narration and content analysis to determine that it satisfies the general purpose of this study. Finally, results were presented using tables followed with qualitative expressions.

3.2.5 Ethical Considerations

In conducting this research the researcher considered the following ethical values: - protect better the rights of the research participants. The principle of voluntary participation requires that people not be coerced into participating in research. Closely related to the notion of voluntary participation is the requirement of informed consent. Essentially, this means that prospective research participants had to be fully informed about the procedures involved in research and had to give their consent to participate. The researcher considered not putting participants in a situation where they might be at risk of harm in any way as a result of their participation. Guarantees the participants' confidentiality-they had been assured that identifying information would have not been made available to anyone who is not directly involved in the study.

Chapter Four

Data Presentation Analysis, And Interpretation

4.1. Overview of Youth Irregular Migration in the Post-War Period Tigray

In the aftermath of the Tigray war, Which Lasted from November 2020 to late 2022, the northern Ethiopian region has faced significant socio-economic Challenges. The Conflict has led to widespread destruction of infrastructure, loss of livelihoods, and disruption of education, creating an environment that drives many youths to consider irregular migration as a viable option for escaping hardship.

Economic Instability: the war has severely impacted local economics in Tigray. Youth unemployment has risen sharply due to the destruction of businesses and agricultural loss. Many young people, feeling hopeless about their future prospects, have turned to irregular migration. Reports indicate that many youths Perceived migration as a necessary escape from poverty and unemployment (United Nations, 2023).

Psychological Impact: The trauma experienced during the war, including Violence, displacement, and family separation, has psychological ramification that can contribute to migration. Many youths are seeking not only economic opportunities but also a respite from the trauma of their recent experiences. The need for mental health support is critical in addressing these underlying issues (world Health Organization, 2023).

Social Factors and Family Dynamics: In some cases, familial pressures or the desire support Family members can compel youths to migrate. Families was push for migration as a means to improve their economic situations. Further normalizing irregular migration as an option for survival (Lichtenstein & Afework, 2023).

Poly and response: In response to the migration trend, both local and international organizations are working to create supportive programs aimed at reintegration and empowerment of youths. Initiatives focused on Vocational training, mental health services, and economic development are crucial in addressing the root causes of migration (UNICEF, 2023).

Generally Speaking the post-war period in Tigray has created conditions that significantly contribute to the irregular migration of youth. Addressing the economic, educational, psychological and social factors is essential to creating an environment where young people feel empowered to build their Futures Locally rather than seeking opportunities abroad.

4.2. Socio- Demographic Characteristics of Migrant Returnees

4.2.1. Educational Status

Table 4. 1: educational Background of Returnees

Grade Level	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	9	9.18
Read and write	15	15.30
Elementary	26	26.53
High school	39	39.79

Diploma	7	7.14
Degree	2	2.04
total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

According to the data gathered from respondents table 4.1 shows that majority of respondents (39.79 %) were attended high school before they migrated. 9.18 % of migrants were illiterate where as 25.51 % of migrants could write and read and 26.53 % of migrants were attended elementary school and this shows that there is high school dropout because of migration next 7.14% and 2.04 % were diploma and degree, respectively. This shows those who are qualified migrate for better job and payment.

Even in the open ended questions respondents raised that the youth, especially students, who completed schools but unable to be successful in their school leaving examinations, prove more vulnerable to irregular cross border migration in order to search job because there is no job opportunity for those who failed in grade ten and twelve.

Generally in relation to education to educational back ground greater than 75% of the migrants were accomplished elementary school and high school and this is mainly for the sake of searching job.

4.2.2. Marital Status

Table 4. 2: marital status of Returnees

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
single	55	55.122
Married	28	28.571
Divorced and widowed	15	15.306
total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

According to table 4.2, 56.122 % of migrants were single before they migrate. This helps them to have less family responsibility. As a result they were more interested to migrate. 28.571% of the migrants were married and it was difficult to them to leave the responsibility. Next 15.306% were divorced and widowed before they migrated abroad. Then as people are divorced or widowed they can easily decide to migrate next to the single ones (mendola, 2006). Where as in the open ended questions respondents stated that young adult (15-30) who are not married and those who have no sons daughters are more participated in the migration processes. As the respondents indicated it is not only because of low family responsibility but also since the travel is challenging those who need to migrate cross border are expected to be strong enough to pass through the challenges such as hunger, lack of transport access long and on foot travel.

To sum up related to marital status the majority of respondents (56.122%) were single and with less family responsibility before they were migrated to cross border in the study area. 28.571% of migrants were married and with high family responsibility.

4.2.3 Age Distribution

Table 4. 3: Age Distribution of Returnees

Age category	Frequency	Percent
15-22	13	13.265
22-29	33	33.673
29-36	23	23.469
36-43	20	20.408
43-50	6	6.122
>50	3	3.061
Total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

One of the demographic characteristic that has influence on migration process is age. Table 4.3 below shows that majority of migrants (77.55%) were at the age category of (22-43) years, while those in the age group of 43-50 accounts 6.122%. Next to this out of the total surveyed migrant respondents those who migrate above 50 age were 3.061% generally in the wereda the most vulnerable age group is adult age (22-43).

4.2.4 Occupational Status

Table 4. 4: occupational Status of Migrants before Migration

No	Age category	Frequency	Percent
1	Self employed	12	12.24
2	Government Employed	3	3.061
3	Unemployment	42	42/86
4	Daily Laborer	26	26.530
5	farmer	15	15/30
	Total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

One of the determinant factors for the decision to migrate is occupational status of migrants they had before migration. Farmers as a result of crop Failure, drought, land shortage and/or landlessness and lack of employment opportunities as well as the need for other better opportunities need to move to other destination areas. It is indicated that about 42/86% of the sample respondent migrants were not employed before they migrated to abroad while 12.24% of the migrants were self-employed before they migrated and 26.530% were daily laborer and 3.061% were government employed. Therefore, majority of the migrants were unemployed this shows unemployment was major factor for migrants to leave their origin in the study area.

4.3. Pressure for migration

Table 4. 5: Pressure of migration

No	Decision Makers	Frequency	Percent (%)
1	Family Pressure	37	37.75
2	Pressure of migrant relatives at destination	24	24.489
3	Peer and friends pressure	17	17.346
4	Brokers and facilitators	20	20.40
5	Total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

Table 4.5 shows that majority of the respondents 37.75% have migrated to abroad due to family pressure. 24.489% migrate due to decision made by pressure of migrant relatives at destination. Whereas 17.346% and 20.40% migrate to abroad to peer pressure and brokers and Facilitators respectively. During the open ended questions most of the respondents raised that brokers and facilitators are not decision makers rather they feed a lot of information those motivates to decide for migration and basically there is individual interest. Generally based up on the provided for cross border migration is the sum result of external bodies and individual interest.

4.3. Sources of information about destination

Table 4. 6: source of information about destination

source of information	Frequency	Percent
Brokers and Facilitators	43	43.877
Migrants at Destination	27	27.551
Returned migrants	14	14.285
Family	8	8.163
Friends	6	6.122
total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

Migrants have an interest to live a place where they have sufficient information. Though the information gained Mass Medias is important, personal communication from families are considered as more relevant by the migrants in his/her migration.

Table 4.6 shows that majority of migrant respondent (43.877%) gain information from brokers and facilitators. 27.551% of the sample respondents show that returned serve as source of information about the destination. 14.285% shows that migrants at destination serve as source of information whereas friends and families accounts 8.163% and 1.22%, respectively.

In the open ended questions respondents raised that people migrants to abroad due to the wrong information that is gained from those who came back from the destination, face book, friend and families in the destination. And most probably the irregular brokers who have underground nature in feeding distorted information let them to migrate. Friends and families also have their own role.

Generally based up on the data provided migrants at destination, returned migrants, facilitators serve as source of information.

Table 4. 7: Reliability of information about destination

Reliability of information	Frequency	Percent
Correct	6	6.122
Partially correct	8	8.163
Not correct	84	85.714
total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

In the open ended questions respondents raised that people forced to migrate to cross border due to the wrong information obtained from brokers and facilitators, returned migrants, migrants at destination and mass media like Face book but the information obtained and found in the destination area is not matched.

Table 4.7: shows that 85.714.13% of the respondents found the information in the destination area not correct whereas 8.163% of the respondents found the information in the destination area partially correct and 122% of respondents found it correct.

The respondents raised that facilitators and brokers if migration processes do not tell the difficulties that could be faced migrants rather they told them the good once. And they made maximum effort to send them irregularly. Generally migrants do not get sufficient and accurate information about the destination area before their migration. Majority of the information told to them is distorted.

4.4. Push factors for migration

4.4.1. Economic Factors

Table 4. 8: Economic Push Factors of Migrants

Economic reasons	Frequency	Percent
Lack of job opportunity	35	35.71
Poverty	21	21.428
Poor agriculture product	14	14.285
Landlessness	16	16.326
Lack of credit Facility	12	12.24

Total	98	100
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Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

The tables 4.8 shows that 35.71% of respondents leave their origin due to lack of job opportunity 21.428% migrate to another destination due to poverty and 12/24% were migrated because of lack of credit that could enable them to engage in job. Next 16.326% leave their origin due to land less ness and 14.285% poor agricultural production.

An idea from the open ended questions respondents also strengths this. They raised that unemployment, small size of farm land low agricultural products, land lessens in the young adults and lack of credit are main pushing factors for migrants from the wereda. Not only this but also there are youths who migrated to abroad for better life and to be rich with in short time.

To sum up the researcher identified that poor employment opportunity, poverty, poor agricultural production, lack of credit facility and landlessness, the most economic push factors to cross border migration in the study area. And the dream of becoming rich with in short period of time is additional push factor to leave home land country.

4.4.2. Environmental factors

Table 4. 9: Environmental causes of Migration

Environmental Causes	Frequency	Percent
Drought	42	42.857
Population Pressure	28	28.571
Land Fragmentation	20	20.408
Land degradation	8	8.163
Total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

Table 4.9 shows that drought and population are the major environmental factors and accounts 42.857% and 28.571% respectively. Hill (1989) in his study of the demographic responses to drought and food crisis in the Sahel in the mid-1980s asserts that the main individual, household, and community strategy for coping with drought was out-migration. Whereas land fragmentation problem accounts 20.408% and 8.163% land degradation for cross borders migration in the study area. Not only this but also the open ended questions respondents raised that the area is drought prone area and bad geographical topography for

cultivation in some parts leads difficulty to live. Then people are forced to move from the study area to another destination. Generally due to the fact Gulomekeda wereda is drought prone area, in some parts difficult topography to Practice agriculture and presence of high population pressure that is not balanced with land distribution it is exposed to food insecurity then the only opportunity is to migrate to other area for better economy.

4.4.3. Social Push Factors

Table 4. 10: Social Push Factors of Migrants

Social Factors	Frequency	Percent
Failing in education	31	31.632
Interest of improving their families' social life	24	24.489
Religious mission	2	2.040
Death of parents	18	18.367
Lack of health service	0	0
Influence of other migrants	23	23.469
Total	98	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017 E.C

Social factors are also more pronounced and there by induce migration tendency among strength this idea death of both parents is linked to more intense poverty, increased pressure on children to work and dropping from school due to inability to get basic needs. Another family characteristic to increase venerability, adults in large families may be unable to meet the family's basic needs alone and thus may require their children to work.

Table 4.10 shows that 31.632% were migrated due unable to succeed their education and secondly the intention to improve family social life accounts 24.489% where as 23.469% where as 23.469% are influenced by others and 18.367% migration were made due to death of parents. Next religious mission has minimum influence.

To sum up, the social factor that determines people mobility in Gulomekeda wereda were failing in education, the influence of other migrants, interest of improving their families' social life and death of parents were reported as the major social reasons forced people to migrate to destination areas.

4.5. Family size

Table 4. 11: family size of migrants before migration

Family size	Frequency	Percent
0-2	21	21.43
3-5	30	30.61
>5	47	47.96
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

The respondents rose that those who have large number of family are in difficulty to provide food consumption for a year from what they have produced from their agriculture. Number of family members and farm land is not mostly matched. Then the adult aged are expected to support the family member then flying to abroad is taken as an alternative to support the family member.

As shown in table majority of the migrant respondents (47.96%) have above 5 family size and 30.61% 3-5 family size and 21.43% of migrant respondents have below 2 family size. This implies that as family size increases the intention for cross migration is high whereas the family size less the intention for cross border migration became low.

4.6. Pull Factors at Destination Areas for Cross Border Migration

Table 4. 12. Pull Factors at Destination Area

Pull Factors that attract migrants	Frequency	Percent
High currency conversion	36	36.73
Higher standard of living	22	22.45
Labor demand	40	40.82
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

Economic disparities between regions lead to more general migration flows as accounts that are more affluent draws up on the potential work force of poorer countries as a source labor. The survey results in table 4.12 show that out of the all sample respondents 40.82% people of wereda Gulemekeda migrate because of labor demand in place of destination the second major pull factors for migrants is due to high

currency conversion and accounts 36.73% next 22.45% of sample respondents indicates that looking for better standard of life in the destination areas.

The open ended questions of respondents identified that migrants are attracted due to false information told to them by others about destination areas, the changed life of returned migrants, the influence of friends, relatives, girl and boy friend influence at destination attract migrants to arrive at destination. Not only are these but also to discussant there people who are attracted by social life at destination areas.

4.7. major Destination Areas of Migrants

The national survey shows that the Middle East is popular destination for Ethiopian Women and Children due to its geographical proximity. High demand for domestic workers, large number of Ethiopian community living there and also traveling under the pretext of annual religious pilgrimages. The research conducted by Adigrat University shows that the eastern part of Tigray is marked for irregular migration. Most of the youth from that have been lured by migration to Middle East especially to Saudi Arabia.

Even areas which were not known in irregular migration are surprisingly picking the trend. In addition According to the Ministry of labor and social Affairs' report, out of the 460,000 legal migrants, between September 2008 and August 2013, about 94 percent were women domestic workers. And 79 percent were heading to Saudi Arabia, 20 percent to Kuwait and the rest to Dubai another countries. About 60-70 percent Ethiopian migrants were estimated as irregular, either trafficked or smuggled by human traffickers.

According to the Ethiopian ministry of foreign affairs report (2012) there was greater than 1000,000 Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia this strength that the country is major destination area of Ethiopian cross border migrants.

In the focus group discussion the discussant raised that Saudi Arabia is the major preference of cross border migrants in the wereda. According the discussant the reason why this area is preferred is due to labor demand and easy to arrive there with small payment, the presence of many migrants from the wereda there and their influence and long history of moving there from Ethiopian migrants.

Table 4. 13: Major destination Areas of Migrants

Major destination countries of migrants	Frequency	Percent
Middle east countries	38	38.78
European countries	21	21.42
Western Countries	15	15.30

African Countries	11	11.22
Others	13	13.28
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

Table 4.13 shows that majority of migrants in the study area 38.78% arrives at Middle East countries. Migrants select this area as their destination because there may be high demand labor and accessible to arrive there. From the open ended questionnaire also the respondents raised that when people want to migrate their first choice of destination is Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Israel etc. 21.42% of responds confirmed that European Countries like Italy, France, German etc are the second destination area next 15.30% shows Western countries like USA and Canada are destination area. 11.22% migrate to African countries like Uganda, Kenya and South Africa. The remaining 13.28% migrate to different parts to the world.

Generally, the major destination area of migrants from the study area is Middle East countries whereas the rest countries are as alternatives next to Middle East and there are destinations that serve as routes.

4.8. Economic Impact of Cross Border Migration on Migrants

Table 4. 14: Amount of Payment Required for Irregular Cross Border Migrations

Amount of Payment	Frequency	Percent
100,000-400,000	11	11.224
400,000-800,000	49	50
800,000-1,200,000	20	20.408
1,200,000-1,600,000	18	18.267
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

Table 4.14.shows that 50% majority of respondents respond that the required payment for the processes of irregular cross border migration is 400,000 birr-800,000 birr, 20.408% between 800,000 birr- 1,200,000

birr. Next to this 18.367% of respondents confirmed that payment required for cross border migration processes is between 1,200,000 birr- 1,600,000 birr. 11.224% of respondents confirmed the payment required is 100,000 birr up to 400,000 birr.

Table 4. 15: Information about Social Impacts of Cross Border Migration

Having Information about Social Impacts	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	12.24
No	86	87.76
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

Information on Social Impact of Cross Border Migration: Table 4.15 shows that 87.76% of sample respondents indicate that they did not have information about the social challenges that migrants face while and after arrival at destination. The rest 12.2% of respondents respond that they have information about the challenges that migrants face while and after arrival at destination.

To sum up most migrants lack information about the challenges that could face in their migration life. When they think migrate did not get into under consideration the challenges instead they think about the wealth that they will be owned. But as to group discussant there are people who know all the challenges but they repeated go and back and their decision ‘change or die’.

4.9. Social Impacts of Cross Border Irregular Migration on Migrants

Table 4. 16: Social Impacts of cross Border Migration

Social Impacts	Frequency	Percent
Shortage of man power at origin place	16	16.33
Educational Dropout	24	24.49
Family Breakdown	10	10.20
Cultural change	6	6.12
Death and arrested	11	11.22
Unemployment at destination	15	15.30

Sexual harassment	15	15.30
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

Migrants face challenges while they are in travel and after they reach in the destination areas as poor clothing, food, no provision for health care, physical, and sexual abuse by their employers lack of job, starvation, long hour working with payment, denied of salary, un wanted pregnancy due to discourage to use condom, corporal punishment for female migrants, sexual harassment and kidnapping.

Migrants face problems of over work, unemployment, death and sometimes they do not their salary temporary circular migration increases the risk for family breakdown, fragmentation of social networks and psychosocial stress.

Women are equally traumatized. In many cases, the women are beaten, raped, threatened, confined and/or deprived of food until they agree to the trafficker’s demands. Very often, their travel documents are confiscated and used to control their movement, make them dependent on traffickers and as debt bondage to control and coerce them. The “working conditions “of trafficked women in the sex industry are brutal. Many are forced to have sex with multiple clients per day. They also suffer from a series of diseases associated with multiple rape and physical abuse. Worse still, intimidation and violence are very common, and extreme, particularly in cases with “mafia” or organized crime connections.

Based up on the data gathered from respondents the major social impacts of cross border irregular migration on migrants of the study area are death, educational dropout, shortage manpower at origin, women sexual harassment, un employment, family breakdown long hour working with poor payment, denied of salary, and kidnapping.

4.10 Living condition of returnees after return

Table 4. 17: Living condition of returnees after return

Livelihood of Returnees	Frequency	Percent
Join urban informal sector	12	12.24
Government employee	8	8.16
Merchant	10	10.204
Daily wage laborer	18	18.37

Family dependent	50	50.02
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

The selection of different forms of employment and the choice among different income generating activities and livelihood strategies is determined by the characteristics of the labor market, economy and individual characteristics that is related to education and skill (Chambers, 1995).

As it clearly in table 4.17. large numbers of returnees, 50.02% became family dependent when back to their homeland this may be due to low payment, lack of job and less calamity after their return. The second largest proportion of migrant's 18.37% engaged in the Urban informal sector this is related with poorly educated with limited marketable skill and integrated with negative attitudes for jobs that are available. Another point noted is that about 18.37% of Respondents confirmed Victims participated in daily wage labor; next 10.204% of the returned migrants engaged as merchants, on the other hand, an insignificant number of migrants 8.16% are engaged in government employee who had better educational attainment (those who are qualified with diploma and degree).

In general most returned migrants are family dependent. And there are small in number returned migrants who made efforts to change themselves and learn from their previous mistakes. Those who had qualification are employed on the government. There are also hopeless returnees who dream to go back to the destination and thinks the only solution is returning back to abroad rather than working in their home land.

4.11. Health Problems of cross border irregular migration

Table 4. 18: Health Problems of cross border irregular migration

Personal experience in health problem	Frequency	Percent
Yes	80	81.63
No	18	18.37
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

Respondents in this sample were asked a series of questions regarding their personal experiences about cross border irregular migration. As it is seen in table 4.18. majority of them (81.63) have been faced with health problems in their life because of irregular cross border migration. Minimum number (18.37) did not faced health problems related to irregular cross border migration.

Table 4. 19: Health Problems related with irregular migration

health problem related with irregular cross border migration	Frequency	Percent
Malaria	21	21.43
STDs	37	37.76
Un wanted pregnancy	14	14.28
Loss of body parts	19	19.38
skin problems	7	7.142
Total	98	100

Source: field survey, 2017 E.C

Health Impacts of Irregular Cross Border Migration: table 4.19 also revealed that out of the total sample respondents 37.76% were exposed to STD this is due to as ETV panel discussion reported majority of traffickers who forcefully make sexual intercourse with female are HIV positive and condom is not encouraged at the destination area. Whereas 21.43% were exposed to malaria this may be due to a long journey and mode of transport that cross the desert areas % were exposed to loss of body part. And also the table indicates 14.28% were Victims of unwanted pregnancy this may be due to irregular sexual abuse towards females. At the last minimum amount (7.142%) were exposed to skin related health problems this is due to climate change.

Generally based up on the data surveyed from informants and discussants; malaria, STD loss of body part, unwanted pregnancy are major health problems that are faced returned migrants in the wereda.

4.12. Analysis of focus group discussion

In the focus group discussion the discussion was made on returnee migrants' parents and community elders (2). Office of social and labor affairs (01), youth association wereda office (01), women association wereda officials (01), security and administration affair (01), kebele administrators (01), and high school principal (1). Here are the response of the focus group discussion (FGD) on assessing the causes and consequences of youth's irregular migration in wereda Gulomekeda of Tigray, based on the provided guideline:

1. Key factors that drive young people in Gulomokeda wereda to migrate irregularly?

In a focus group discussion discussant identified several key factors driving young people to migrate irregularly. Economic opportunities emerged as a significant motivator, with high unemployment rates and

the allure of better wages abroad leading youth to seek better prospects. Political instability and insecurity following the war heightened the desire to escape local turmoil and avoid potential conscription. Many expressed aspirations for education, noting a lack of local resources and institutions, while social networks and family pressures often compelled them to follow peers or relatives who had migrated, viewing it as a rite of passage.

Humanitarian considerations also influenced migration, as lingering trauma and ongoing crises limited access to basic services and stability. Cultural factors played a role; media portrayals of life in the west set unrealistic expectations, fostering pressure to conform to societal ideals of success tied to migration. Additionally, inadequate government support left many feeling abandoned and believing that migration was their best option for survival. Environmental challenges, such as climate change and agricultural difficulties, further drove youths to seek improved living conditions. Lastly, the desire for adventure and new experiences motivated some young people, who were excited by the prospect of exploring beyond their borders. Collectively, these insights illuminate the complex motivations behind irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda.

2. How have the socio-economic conditions in your community changed post-war, and how do you think these changes influence youth migration?

In a focus group discussion regarding the discussant raised that several key factors emerged. Participants noted that the war significantly disrupted local economics, resulting in high unemployment and limited income opportunities, compelling many youths to seek better prospects abroad. Access to essential resources like education and healthcare has diminished, leaving young people feeling trapped without skills or opportunities. High endemic poverty has pressured them to find work outside the community to help alleviate financial burdens on their families. The presence of social networks that encourage migration perpetuates this cycle, as those who remain feel motivated to follow their peers. Additionally, the lingering fear and insecurity in the post-war environment prompt youths to escape political instability and violence in search of safer living conditions.

Following a focus group discussion on the socio-economic conditions in Gulomekeda wereda post-war, several key factors influencing youth migration were identified. Economic hardship has significantly impacted the local economy, resulting in widespread business closures and limited job opportunities, which compel many young people to seek employment elsewhere. Increased unemployment rates have further exacerbated this situation, leaving youths with few local prospects and driving them toward migration. The

war has also disrupted educational institutions, reducing the quality of education and leading many to believe their aspirations can only be met abroad.

Cultural aspirations have shifted, with many now equating successes with leaving home, often fueled by media portrayals of life abroad that set unrealistic expectations. The war's disruption of educational institutions has further exacerbated this issue, pushing young people to pursue education in other countries due to the lack of viable local options. Family pressure also plays a crucial role; families who see relatives succeed abroad may push their children to migrate, believing it's the only path to stability and success. Finally, the psychological trauma from the war impacts mental health, leading some youths to see migration as a way to escape their past. Overall, these insights highlight the complex socio-economic landscape of gulomokeda wereda and its influence on youth migration patterns in the post-war context.

3. In what ways do personal aspirations, such as educational and employment opportunities shape the decision of youth to leave?

The focus group discussion highlights how personal aspirations in education and employment significantly influence youth migration decisions in Gulomokeda wereda. Many youths seek better educational equality, as local institutions often fail to meet their expectations, prompting them to migrate for superior schooling. Additionally, a desire for vocational training and specialized skills drives them toward regions where such opportunities are available. Ambitious career goals further compel young people to explore job prospects outside their communities, where they believe they can achieve their dreams. The allure of networking in more developed areas also plays a role in their decision-making.

Observing successful role models from their community who have migrated inspires youths to follow similar paths, reinforcing their belief in migration as a viable route to success. Frustration with a saturated local job market and limited opportunities leaves many feeling that leaving is the only way to attain fulfilling employment. Furthermore, migration is often viewed as a means to secure financial resources for supporting their families and pursuing further education or entrepreneurship. Many youths aspire to improve their living conditions, seeking better access to healthcare, education, and overall quality of life. Social pressures to achieve success can also drive the decision to migrate, with staying home sometimes perceived as a failure. Ultimately, the desire for personal growth and new experiences encourages youths to seek opportunities through migration, understanding the urgent need to address these aspirations locally.

Financial strain on families adds to the pressure, as youths feel compelled to migrate to support their households through remittances or better job prospects. The psychological effects of the war have contributed to feelings of disorientation and hopelessness among young individuals, with migration

appearing as an escape from trauma and a chance for a fresh start. Additionally, success stories of relatives and friends abroad inspire younger generations to view migration as the optimal path to success. A diminishing social infrastructure, marked by weekend community ties, has further isolated youths, prompting them to seek belonging in other places. Concerns about ongoing political instability and insecurity enhance their anxiety about the future, motivating them to pursue safety through migration. Notably, there's also a notable trend of urban migration within the country, as many youths believe cities provide greater opportunities, underscoring a border desire for an improved quality of life, including better living conditions and career development, which they perceive as unattainable locally. Overall, these interconnected socio-economic challenges profoundly influence youth migration decisions in the region.

4. Can you discuss the role of family influence and peer pressure in the decision-making process for youth considering migration?

The focus group discussion revealed several key factors regarding the influence of family and peers on youth migration decisions from Gulomokeda wereda. Families often set high expectations for their children, promoting migrations as a path to better educational and job prospects. Successful migration experiences among family members can pave the way for others, creating a narrative that encourages emulation. Financial considerations also play a significant role, as some families view migration as a means to secure financial support for the entire household. Cultural values emphasize the importance of financial support to the family, making migration a way to fulfill these duties. Additionally, peer influence is strong; young people feel compelled to leave if their friends are doing so, fearing social isolation otherwise. Conversations about migration experiences among peers can normalize the idea, making it feel more accessible. There is often a fear of missing out on opportunities that peers encounter outside their community, as well as societal pressure linking success with migration. While some parents offer guidance, others may inadvertently apply pressure, expressing disappointment if their children choose to stay. Consequently, many youths find themselves navigating the tension between personal aspirations and family expectations, with migration appearing as a potential solution to reconcile both, overall, these dynamics underscore the complex interplay of familial influence and peer pressure in the migration decisions of youth in the region.

5. What are the most significant impacts of irregular migration on families and communities in Gulomokeda wereda?

The focus group discussion highlighted the significant impacts of irregular migration on families and communities in Gulomokeda wereda. Economically, families often face hardship when members migrate,

as expectations for remittances can be unmet due to difficult abroad. This uncertainly leads to emotional and psychological stress, causing anxiety for those left behind. Fragmentation of family structures occurs as children grow up without parental guidance, adversely affecting their welfare. Additionally, communities may stigmatize families of migrants, particularly if relatives face legal issues or return unsuccessful, damaging their reputation. The migration of young individuals also results is a loss of human capital, reducing skilled workers and hindering local development. Local economies are impacted as businesses suffer from a decline in clientele and workforce, leading to stagnation. Furthermore, more migration disrupts community bonds and social networks, result in in admonished engagement in local activities. Families may become overly dependent on remittances, creating financial instability `funds fluctuate. The stress associated with irregular migration can also lead to various health concerns within families, both physically and mentally. Lastly, with many men leaving, women often assume increased responsibilities, altering traditional gender roles within families and communities. Overall, these dynamics underscore the complex economic, emotional, and social effects of irregular youth migration, ultimately affecting the resilience and wellbeing of the local population.

6. What support systems or resources are currently in place to help young people who may be considering irregular migration?

In Gulomokeda wereda, a variety of support systems and resources are in place to assist young people contemplating irregular migration. Local organizations conduct awareness programs to inform youths about the risks associated with irregular migration and promote safe alternatives. Youth centers provide safe spaces for discussion, life skills training, and counseling, empowering young individuals to explore their options. Vocational training programs equip them with marketable skills, while mental health initiatives address the pressures that contribute to migration, especially post-conflict. Community based organizations offer resources like job placements and small business loans to create local economic opportunities. Peer mentorship programs connect at-risk youths with local leaders and successful returnees for guidance. Collaboration with government initiatives further enhances employment and vocational training opportunities tailored to youth affected by conflict. Family counseling services tackle the root causes of migration pressures, fostering open dialogue within households. Access to reliable migration information helps clarify processes and reduce the allure of irregular pathways, while cultural and recreational activities enhance community integration and provide fulfilling alternatives to migration. Overall, these initiatives focus on education, skill development, mental health, and community engagement to combat irregular youth migration.

7. What changes do you think are necessary in your community to create an environment where youth feel empowered to say?

The focus group discussion identified several key changes needed in Gulomokeda wereda to create an empowering environment for youth first, increasing job opportunities and supporting local businesses can help young people secure viable employment and discourage migration. Improving access to quality education and vocational training will equip them necessary skills, making local job prospects more attractive. Additionally, fostering entrepreneurship through resources and mentorship can inspire innovation and a sense of community pride. Encouraging youth participation in local decision-making processes can strengthen their engagement and belonging, it's also important to establish mental health and counseling service to address trauma and provide emotional support. Developing culture and recreational programs can build friendship and community connections, while creating safe spaces for dialogue allows youth to express their concerns and aspirations. Enhancing family support through educational programs can help families understand migration risks and local opportunities better. Providing access to information about local prospects and the dangers of irregular migration will empower informed decision-making. Finally, partnerships with NGOs and government agencies can mobilize resources and initiate meaningful change. Overall, these suggestions emphasize a comprehensive approach focusing on economic development, education, mental health, and community involvement to encourage youth to remain in their community.

4.13. Analysis of key information interview

An interview was conducted among returnee migrants' parents and community elders (2), office of social and labor affairs (01), youth association wereda office (01), women association wereda officials (01), security and administration affair (01), kebele administrators (01), and high school principals (01), however 1 elder remained absentee and in a total of 7 interview were conducted an interview regarding causes and consequences of irregular migration of youths in Gulomokeda wereda.

- I.** Here are summarized responses reflecting possible perspectives from seven interviews regarding the primary factors contributing to irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda wereda. Focusing on social, economic, political, and environmental influences:

Interviewee 1: stated that lack of job opportunities and economic instability are the main drives. Many young people feel there are no viable options for them here, leading them to seek better prospects abroad. Interviewee 2: described about social influences and peer pressure plays a significant role. When one or two youths migrate and share their experiences, it encourages others to follow suit, believing they'll improve their lives.

Interviewee 3: stated that political instability in the post-war conditions have created a sense of uncertainty, political disenfranchisement and the feeling of being powerless in decision-making push youth to leave in search of better governance elsewhere.

Interviewee 4: stated as the recent droughts and lack of sustainable agricultural practices have worsened living conditions. Many youths turn to migration as a means of escaping environmental issues that have made farming unviable.

Interviewee 5: educational resources are limited. Young people often feel that without quality education, their future is bleak. Migration is seen as a way to gain better skills and reduce the risk of a stagnant future.

Interviewee 6: described as family expectations and the desire to support relatives can compel youth to migrate. They often seek to find work abroad to improve their family's financial situation back home.

Interviewee 7: stated related to health and security concerns. The residential effects of the conflict, such as trauma and insecurity, make life here challenging. Many youths leave in search of a safer environment where they can rebuild their lives.

These responses collectively highlight the multifaceted nature of irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda wereda, emphasizing the intertwining social, economic, political, and environmental factors at play.

II. Here are summarized responses from seven interviewees regarding the impact of the post-war context in Tigray on youth migration patterns in Gulomokeda wereda:

Interviewee 1: stated as the chaos following the war has exacerbated economic hardships. Many youths are migrating more frequently, believing that their chances of success are better elsewhere, especially in cities or abroad.

Interviewee 2: stated that the post-war trauma has left many feeling hopeless. The psychological impact has contributed to a heightened desire to leave, as young people see future for themselves in their current environment.

Interviewee 3: relate their justification as the war has disrupted traditional community support systems. Without strong local networks, youths feel isolated and are more inclined to migrate in search of new social connections and opportunities.

Interviewee 4: describe post-war damage to infrastructure, including education and health services, has limited access to essential resources. This lack of development drives youths to leave for better conditions elsewhere.

Interviewee 5: stated in relation to economic inequality. The war has intensified social and economic inequalities. As some families recover, others are left behind, resulting in frustration among youth who feel stuck and see migration as their only escape.

Interviewee 6: in the aftermath of the war, there are fears of being drawn back into conflict. Some youths migrate to avoid being forced into militia groups or engaging in violence, viewing migrations as a safer option.

Interviewee 7: as young people are increasingly aware of opportunities abroad, thanks to social media and networks. The allure of a better life overseas contrast sharply with the stagnation they experience locally, driving migration.

These summarized responses illustrate how the post-war context in Tigray has influenced youth migration patterns in Gulomokeda wereda, highlighting both the challenges and the aspiration that drive young people to seek opportunities beyond their immediate environment.

III. Here are summarized responses from seven interviewees regarding the significant consequences of irregular migration for families and the community in Gulomokeda wereda:

Interviewee 1: describe as irregular migration often leads to family separations. Parents face emotional stress and financial burdens, especially if they lose contact with their children who have migrated.

Interviewee 2: families left behind experience economic strain. They often rely on remittances, but if the migration irregular the financial support may be unstable or nonexistent, leaving families vulnerable.

Interviewee 3: state relating to social cohesion breakdown. The community is losing its youth to migration, which disrupts social cohesion. As young people leave. Local traditions and communal networks weaken, affecting everyone's sense of belonging.

Interviewee 4: States as families are left in precarious situation. Youths who migrate irregularly face exploitation and are at risk during their journeys, which can cause further emotional and financial trauma for their families' home.

Interviewee 5: the uncertainly surrounding the fate of those who migrate can lead to mental health issues within families. Worry and anxiety become commonplace, impacting the well-being those left behind.

Interviewee 6: described as communities become dependent on remittances from irregular migrants. While this can provide short-term relief, it creates long-term economic instability if those migrants encounter obstacles abroad.

Interviewee 7: the irregular trend means the community is losing potential leaders and skilled individuals. The outflow of motivated youth weakens the community's future prospects for development and renewal. These responses stated the complex consequences of irregular migration in Gulomokeda wereda, describe the multifaceted impacts on families and the community, from emotional and economic challenges to border social and development issues.

IV. Here are the responses from seven interviewees regarding local efforts currently being undertaken to address the issue of youth migration in Gulomokeda wereda:

Interviewee 1: local organization is conducting awareness campaigns to educate families about the risks of irregular migration. They aim to provide information on safer migration options and the potential dangers involved.

Interviewee 2: stated as vocational training programs have been established to equip youth with skills that enhance employment opportunities locally. This helps reduce the urge to migrate irregularly in search of work.

Interviewee 3: counseling services have been introduced to support families dealing with the consequences of migration. This helps address mental concerns and the emotional distress caused by the loss of family members.

Interviewee 4: stated related to economic development initiatives. Local government initiatives focus on economic development, aiming to create more opportunities in agriculture and small businesses. This seeks to provide a viable alternative to migration.

Interviewee 5: youth clubs and community groups are being promoted to engage young people in constructive activities. These programs foster a sense of belonging and community involvement, reducing the desire to migrate.

Interviewee 6: Partnerships with non-governmental organization are being formed to provide resources and expertise in creating sustainable livelihoods for youth, helping counter the appeal of irregular migration.

Interviewee 7: community leaders are advocating for policy changes at higher levels to address the root causes of migration, including poverty and lack of education. They aim to influence government action to provide more support for the region.

The range of local efforts aimed at addressing the issue of youth migration in Gulomokeda wereda, focusing on community education, economic development, skill-building, and supporting families affected by this phenomenon.

The thesis investigates the multifaceted causes and consequences of irregular youth migration in the post-war period in Tigray, specifically focusing on the Gulomokeda Wereda. The findings reveal a complex interplay of socio-economic factors, educational disruptions, psychological impacts, and social dynamics that drive youth towards irregular migration.

The aftermath of the Tigray war (November 2020 - late 2022) has created significant socio-economic challenges, leading to a surge in irregular migration among youth. Economic instability is highlighted as a major factor, with high unemployment rates stemming from widespread infrastructural destruction and agricultural loss. Many young people view migration as a necessary escape from pervasive poverty and lack of job opportunities.

The conflict severely disrupted educational institutions, resulting in high dropout rates. A large number of schools were either destroyed or converted for military use, leaving many students without access to education. This educational crisis limits future employment prospects and further incentivizes migration, particularly among those unable to continue their studies due to financial constraints or displacement.

The trauma associated with the war, including exposure to violence, displacement, and family separation, has significant psychological effects, pushing youth not only towards economic migration but also as a means of healing and escaping their traumatic pasts. The findings underline the urgent need for mental health support services to address these psychological challenges.

Family pressures also play a critical role in the decision to migrate, with families often encouraging youth to seek better economic opportunities abroad. This social normalization of migration shifts perceptions, making it a viable option for survival among communities faced with ongoing economic and social challenges.

In response to the rise in irregular migration, local and international organizations are developing programs that focus on the reintegration and empowerment of youth. Initiatives aimed at providing vocational training, mental health services, and economic development are essential in addressing the underlying causes of migration.

Analysis of the socio-demographic profile of returnee migrants reveals that a significant portion had attended high school before migrating, while a notable percentage were illiterate or had only completed

elementary education. The data indicates that educational qualifications strongly correlate with migration patterns, as those who are better educated often seek better employment opportunities abroad. Youth who failed critical examinations are identified as particularly vulnerable, further emphasizing the critical need for educational and vocational support mechanisms.

To sum up, the findings underscore a pressing need for targeted interventions that address the economic, educational, psychological, and social factors contributing to youth irregular migration in post-war Tigray. Creating a supportive environment conducive to local opportunities is crucial to mitigating the challenges faced by these youths and reducing their inclination towards irregular migration.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion and recommendations

5.1. Conclusion:

This thesis assessed the multifaceted causes and consequences of irregular youth migration in past-war Tigray, with a particular focus on gulomokeda wereda. The migration has been driven primarily by the aftermath of the Tigray conflict 2020 onwards. The conflict severely disrupted educational institution, resulting in high dropout rates. A large number of schools either destroyed or converted for military use, leaving many students without access to education. This educational crisis limits future employment prospects and further incentivizes migration, particularly among those unable to continue their studies due to financial constraints or displacement severe economic collapse, disrupted education, and caused widespread psychological trauma and social pressures that collectively pushed youth toward irregular migration. These challenge, compounded by unemployment, poverty, and environmental stressors such as drought, have significantly limited local opportunities. Low educational attainment further reduced employability, while family pressure, peer influence, and misleading information from migrant networks and brokers (with 85.70% of such information found to be inaccurate) intensified the desire to migrate. Additionally, strong pull factors abroad such as labor demand, favorable currency exchange rates, and the perception of higher living standards have made irregular migration appear to be a viable path for many young people.

The consequences are far-reaching. Local communities have experienced manpower shortages and increased school dropout rates as youth leave before completing their education. Families often incur high migration costs, resulting in debt burdens, while many migrants face unemployment abroad, imprisonment, and exploitation, particularly among women. Socially, migration has led to family separation, weakened community cohesion, and overdependence on unstable remittances. Returnees frequently struggle with reintegration due to scarce job opportunities and financial dependence malaria, injuries, and unwanted pregnancies resulting from unsafe migration conditions.

In general, the findings underscore a pressing need for targeted intervention that address the economic, educational, psychological, and social factors contributing to youth irregular migration in post-war Tigray. Creating a supportive environment conducive to local opportunities is crucial to mitigating the challenges faced by these youths and reducing their inclination towards irregular migration.

5.2. Recommendations:

Based on the findings of this study, the following issues are recommended in order to improve the life condition of youths and to minimize the causes and consequences of irregular cross border migration the following recommendations are vital roles. Recommendations for Addressing Irregular Youth Migration in Post-War Tigray

1. Strengthen Economic Opportunities

Implement targeted job creation initiatives: Focus on sectors heavily impacted by the war, such as agriculture, construction, and tourism. Collaborate with local businesses and NGOs to establish employment projects specifically for youth.

Provide access to microfinance services and entrepreneurial training programs: Empower youth to start their own businesses, alleviating unemployment and creating a more stable economic environment.

Responsible Entities: Ministry of Labor and Skills, Ministry of Finance, local governments, NGOs, and development partners.

2. Enhance Educational Access and Quality

Rehabilitate educational facilities: Prioritize the reconstruction and repurposing of destroyed schools to ensure that all youth have access to quality education.

Provide incentives for teachers and educational staff: Encourage their return to affected areas to restore the education system.

Develop vocational and technical training programs: Cater to market demands, allowing young people to acquire relevant skills that can enhance their employment prospects locally.

Responsible Entities: Ministry of Education, regional education bureaus, local governments, and development partners.

3. Provide Mental Health and Psychological Support

Establish community-based mental health programs: Address trauma due to the conflict, including counseling services for youths and their families to help cope with psychological impacts.

Conduct awareness campaigns: Promote resilience and recovery, and educate the community about available resources and support networks.

Responsible Entities: Ministry of Health, regional health bureaus, local governments, NGOs, and development partners.

4. Engage Communities and Support Families

Offer family counseling services: Address dynamics that may contribute to migration pressures and educate families about the risks associated with irregular migration.

Develop community awareness programs: Foster community awareness surrounding the risks of irregular migration and promote local opportunities for education and employment.

Responsible Entities: Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, regional social affairs bureaus, local governments, NGOs, and community leaders.

5. Support Returnees and Facilitate Reintegration

Design and implement comprehensive reintegration programs: Support migrant returnees' transition back into society, including access to education, job placement services, and community support networks.

Encourage community programs: Facilitate the social integration of returnees, helping them to build connections and support systems within their local communities.

Responsible Entities: Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Labor and Skills, Ministry of Education, local governments, NGOs, and development partners.

6. Advocate for Policy and Institutional Support

Advocate for stronger collaboration between local governments and NGOs: Implement supportive policies that address the root causes of irregular migration, including funding for youth initiatives and comprehensive migration policies.

Engage with international organizations: Secure support in funding rehabilitation and development projects in Tigray to ensure a sustainable and structured recovery process.

Responsible Entities: Federal and regional governments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, international organizations, and development partners.

These recommendations aim to create a comprehensive framework for addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by youth in post-war Tigray, thereby reducing the factors contributing to irregular migration and improving their overall quality of life.

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Appendixes
Mekelle University

College of Law and Governance

Department of Civics and Ethical Education

Appendix-I

Questionnaires

The purpose of this research is to fulfill academic requirement of the Master of Arts in **Civics and Ethical Studies** with the main objective to assess the irregular youth migration in post-war Tigray, specifically focusing on the causes and consequences of this phenomenon in Glomekeda woreda.

Therefore, you are cordially requested to complete this questionnaire honestly and it is my obligation to use the information you provide only to the stated objective.

“Thank you in advance for your cooperation!!”

Part I. Socio Demographic Characteristics of Migrant Returnees

1. What is level of your educational attainment
 1. Illiterate
 2. Read and Write
 3. Elementary
 4. High school (9-12)
 5. diploma
 6. degree
2. Which social class is more vulnerable to cross border migration with related to marital statuses
 1. Married
 2. Unmarried
 3. widowed
 4. divorced
3. Which age groups are dominant to cross border migration?
 1. 15-18
 2. 19-22
 3. 23-26
 4. 27-30
 5. 31-35

Part II. Questions Related with Decision Marker

4. Are you interested to migrate abroad?
 1. Yes
 2. No
5. If you say no for Q No 4 for Q No who is the dominant decision marker when you Migrate cross border
 1. Relative
 2. Peer pressure
 3. Family pressure
 4. Brokers

Part III. Close ended and Open ended questionn

6. Which factor push away people from their origin country?
 1. Personal interest
 2. Family condition
 3. Community characteristics
 4. Political condition
7. Which attractive /pull/ factor attract people to migrate abroad
 1. High standard of living
 2. Labor demand
 3. Expansion of sex industry
 4. Climate condition

If else _____

Part V. Question Related with the Major Destination for Cross Border of Migrants

8. Where is the major destination for cross border migrants?
 1. Djibouti
 2. Yemen
 3. Beriut
 4. Saudi Arabia

9. How much payment is required for cross border irregular migration?

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 4000 Birr – 8000 Birr | 3. 15,000 – 20,000 birr |
| 2. 10,000 – 15 Birr | 4. 20,000 Birr – 30,000 Birr |

10. do you think there is any socio economic impact on your local area due to irregular cross border migration

1. Yes 2. No

11. If you say yes for Q. No 10 which socio economic impact affects your local area

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Loss human resource | 3. Death of migrants |
| 2. Educational dropout | 4. Migrants are arrested |

If yes _____

12. In your personal experience did you have any health problem?

1. Yes 2. No

13. If you say yes for Q No 12 what type of health problems face you?

1. STDS 2. Malaria 3. Mental health 4. Loss body part

If else _____

14. Do you know any challenges during migration and after arrival

1. Yes 2. No

15. If you say yes for a No 14 what were the major difficulties.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Lack of social service | 3. Stay without work |
| 2. Hunger | 4. Over work |

If yes _____

Part VI. Questions Related with Current Livelihood

16. After return to their home what is the livelihood of returnees?

1. Family dependent 2. Daily was laborer 3. Government employee 4. Merchant
5. Student

Part VII. Questions Related with Possible Suggestions

17. From your personal experience how do you explain the problem of irregular cross borders migration?

19. How to minimize or solve impact of irregular cross border migration in the wereda?

Part three: drivers to irregular trans-border migration

Dear respondents please fill the following table by using 5 for strongly agree, 4 for agree, 3 for uncertain, 2 for disagree and 1 for strongly disagree

No	Questions	Responses				
		5	4	3	2	1
24	Low productivity of agriculture					
25	Lack of job opportunities					
26	Families poverty					
27	The area of home place is prone to drought					
28	Searching better work and economic opportunities					
29	Hopeless in future employment opportunity					
30	Increased demand of individuals					
31	Economic difference in some individuals between who have relatives in Saudi-Arabia and who have not					
32	Low purchasing power in the home country					
33	Some benefited individuals used as bench mark					
34	Smugglers and traffickers facilitate ITBM					
35	Parents pressure their children to migrate than to educate					
36	Relatives in abroad motivated to migrate					
37	Discrimination					
38	Violation of rights					
39	Accessibility of land to the youth					
40	Adequate credit for the youth					
41	Availability of work place to youth					
42	Parents gender discrimination					
43	Better life in the destination countries					
44	High wages/salary in destination countries					
45	Family networks with destination countries					

46	societal pressure and attitudinal factors to migrate people to Saudi-Arabia					
47	Migrants consider migration as the unique opportunity for surviving life					

Part four: risks and impacts of irregular trans-border migration

No	Questions	Responses				
		5	4	3	2	1
48	Migrants face challenges by smugglers and traffickers					
49	Migrants exposed for extra payment than the promised one					
50	Shortage of water, food and shelter in the journey					
51	Rape by smugglers					
52	Sexual abuse of girls by smugglers					
53	Death in the journey					
54	In human treatment /punishment					
55	Violation of rights					
56	Risk of sexually transmitted disease					
57	Unwanted pregnancy					
58	Migrants not collect their property when they want to return to home country					
59	discrimination of social services in Saudi-Arabia					
60	ethnic conflict among migrants in the destination countries					
61	conflict between returnee migrant and local community					
62	death because of lack of security in the destination countries					
63	Migrants in Saudi-Arabia their security is in danger					
64	From push and pull factors the most are 1. Push factor 2. Pull factors					

Who are the actors in your local area that facilitate the migration process -----

What measures were taken by the government /other concerned bodies to minimize the problem-----

Appendix-II

Focus discussion questions

These questions aim to encourage participants to share their thoughts, feelings, and perspectives on the topic:

1. What are the key factors that you believe drive young people in Gulomokeda Wereda to migrate irregularly?
2. How have the socio-economic conditions in your community changed post-war, and how do you think these changes influence youth migration?
3. In what ways do personal aspirations, such as education and employment opportunities, shape the decision of youth to leave?
4. Can you discuss the role of family influence and peer pressure in the decision-making process for youth considering migration?
5. What are the most significant impacts of irregular migration on families and communities in Gulomokeda Wereda?
6. What support systems or resources are currently in place to help young people who may be considering irregular migration?
7. What changes do you think are necessary in your community to create an environment where youth feel empowered to stay?

These focus discussion questions are designed to encourage open dialogue and deeper insights, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda Wereda.

Appendix- III

Key informants interview questions

Key informants often possess unique perspectives and expert knowledge, making their insights invaluable for this thesis on irregular youth migration in post-war Tigray. Here are some interview questions for key informants:

1. In your opinion, what are the primary factors contributing to irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda Wereda?

- (Consider social, economic, political, and environmental influences.)

2. How has the post-war context in Tigray affected youth migration patterns in this area?

3. What do you consider to be the most significant consequences of irregular migration for families and the community in Gulomokeda Wereda?

4. What local efforts are currently being undertaken to address the issue of youth migration?

5. What strategies or programs do you think could be implemented to prevent irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda Wereda?

These questions are designed to elicit rich, informed responses from key informants, helping to gather qualitative data that can enhance the depth and scope of the thesis on irregular youth migration in Gulomokeda Wereda.