

Italy Supports UN's Job Creation Project in Migration Prone Areas

By Myc James Macho

ADDIS ABEBA - Italy moved to support United Nations Industrial Development Organization's project that aims to create more jobs in Tigray and Addis Abeba.

The two signed on Tuesday a financial deal worth 2.5 million Euros that will finance UNIDO's project named 'capacity building and job creation for youth and women in the textile sector in migration prone areas in Ethiopia'.

The project which is funded and acknowledged by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation will be implemented in Tigray and in Addis Abeba in a 36 months period.

Training and institutional support will also be offered to government programs in the textile sector.

Ambassador of Italy to Ethiopia, Giuseppe Mistrretta, highlighted that "creating job opportunities in migration prone areas is a fundamental step to tackle the root causes of irregular migration".

"By doing so, the project indirectly helps the youth to engage in alternative activities by keeping them out of life-threatening and challenging situation which might derive from illegal migrations, trafficking and smuggling," the ambassador



Top officials from both UNIDO and Italy's embassy in Addis Abeba signed the finance agreement on Tuesday. (Photo Dario/Italy Embassy) added.

In the year 2017 alone, more than 2,300 migrants have died while attempting to cross to Europe.

Office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation claims the new initiative will complement SINCE- Stemming Irregular Migration from Northern and Central Ethiopia program.

Ginevra Letizia, the Agency's Addis Abeba office, said her office allocated parallel bilateral funds to the project implemented by UNIDO activities by Italian Civil So-

ciety Organizations.

It would also "foster employment and demand-driven training capacity", she added.

UNIDO's project is expected to promote private-public partnership while building the capacities of entrepreneurs and workers of textile sector and strengthen the know-how

of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Eritrean refugee community out of camps in Ethiopia will be also a target of the project.

UNIDO's Representative to Ethiopia, Gustavo Aishemeberg, said "Thanks to this project, UNIDO will be able to support Ethiopia in creations of decent and productive job opportunities for young women and men through the development of textile sector, which play a fundamental role in the Ethiopia economic growth."

Meanwhile, Italy signed

another 200,000 Euro worth finance deal with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to finance a project entitled "Economic and Social Opportunities for Female Eritrean Refugees in Hitsat and Shimelba Camps and Ethiopian Women of Host Communities" (ESOFEE).

The project will be implemented in the two camps and their surroundings in 12 months period and work on mitigating secondary/irregular migration of female Eritrean refugees and potential female Ethiopian migrants.