

ZEPPELIN UNIVERSITY

Politics, Administration and International Relations

Bachelor Thesis:

**Hope at the Horn of Africa –
A qualitative study on the return decisions of second-generation
Somalilanders from the United Kingdom**

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Abstract

This bachelor thesis examines the return decisions of second-generation Somalilanders from the United Kingdom (UK) to relocate to their parents' country of origin. This thesis fills a gap in the literature by providing an exploration of the motivations of an increasing number of young men and women to intentionally relocate to a state which they may not have directly had prior ties to. The first hypothesis tested was that second-generation migrants are pushed out of the UK because of their poor socio-economic status and cultural discrimination. The second hypothesis examined was that young persons of Somaliland descent choose to move to their parents' country of origin because of emerging economic opportunities which they may be uniquely positioned to benefit from. To test these hypotheses, eleven in-depth interviews were conducted in Somaliland with returnees from the UK who were selected through a chain-referral sampling. In addition, a one-hour expert interview was conducted with two representatives of Somaliland's Diaspora Agency.

The overall findings are consistent with transnational literature on return migration: the respondents possess multiple identities, and are well prepared for their return due to global communication and mobility. The first hypothesis was rejected as the majority of returnees had reasonable jobs in the UK and perceived their lives very positively. The second hypothesis was confirmed because the predominant motivation among the returnees was driven by economic considerations. A survey study with a larger sample size and more random sampling is needed to confirm the results of this thesis. Furthermore, evidence has been found indicating that there are gender-specific differences in the migration experience that could serve as an interesting and valuable subject of further research.

Keywords: transnationalism, return migration, second-generation, ethnic return, Somaliland, United Kingdom