

# MEKELLE UNIVERSITY



## COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

EXPLORING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS : A CASE STUDY OF ADWA TOWN, TIGRAY  
REGION .

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES IN  
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BY:

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## APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Teklu Gebreslassie Meles entitled Exploring the Socio-Economic Reintegration Process of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): A Case Study of Adwa Town, Tigray, and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Civics and Ethical Studies, obeys with the regulations of the University and meets the a values with respect to originality and quality.

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I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university. I further declare that all sources of materials used for this thesis have been duly and properly acknowledged.

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## ABSTRACT

*This study explored the socio-economic reintegration process of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Adwa Town, Tigray, following their conflict-induced displacement. Grounded in a qualitative, phenomenological research design, the study sought to understand the lived experiences of IDPs, the role of stakeholders, and the systemic challenges hindering durable solutions. A combination of purposive and snowball sampling was used to select 33 IDPs for FGDs and IDIs and 12 key informants. Data gathered through these methods and sources were interpreted thematically through the theoretical lenses of the Rights-Based Approach and Human Security framework. The findings reveal a significant institutional support mechanisms were fundamentally misaligned with the needs of the IDPs. The subsequent reintegration programs failed to adequately address. Economic reintegration efforts, primarily through MSEs, were crippled by prohibitive loan conditions, a lack of needs-based planning, and the exclusion of IDPs from the design process. Socially, initial host community solidarity eroded due to economic pressures and stigmatization, undermining community security. The study concludes that the reintegration process in Adwa failed to achieve a durable solution, leaving IDPs in a state of dependency. This failure is attributed to systemic governance flaws and a profound disconnect from the lived realities of IDPs. The study recommends the development of a national IDP policy grounded in a Rights-Based Approach, the reform of financial support models to be conflict-sensitive, and the establishments of participatory mechanisms to ensure IDPs are active agents in their own recovery.*

**Keywords:** *Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Socio-Economic Reintegration, Durable Solutions, Tigray, Adwa, Rights-Based Approach, Human Security, Conflict-Induced Displacement.*

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AU - African Union

CAT - Convention Against Torture

CERD - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

CIID - Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement

DID - Development-Induced Displacement

DRC - Democratic Republic of Congo

FDRE - Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

FGD - Focus Group Discussion

GPID - Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

GRID - Global Report on Internal Displacement

ICCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross

IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

IDP - Internally Displaced Person

IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development

IOM - International Organization for Migration

LSAO - Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs

MDID - Man-Made Disaster-Induced Displacement

MSE - Micro and Small Enterprise

NDID - Natural Disasters Induced Displacement

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

OCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

RBA - Rights-Based Approach

SGBV - Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

UDHR - Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN - United Nations

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



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# CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Background of the Study

In the contemporary world, the issue of internal displacement has captured the interest of many scholars, becoming a central topic in academic and policy discussions. It has been just over two decades since the issue of internal displacement was permanently placed on the international agenda and recognized as a legitimate matter of international concern (Mooney, 2005).

The conceptual definition of internal displacement was traced back to the work and interests of some refugee-focused NGOs in the 1980s (Weiss, 2006; Stavropoulou, 2009). While no single, universally accepted definition of internal displacement exists, the most common one describes it as the involuntary movement of people that takes place within their national borders (Mooney, 2005). Likewise, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are defined as people who were forced to flee from their homes or places of habitual residence due to various factors but who remain within their own country (GPID, 2018; Asplet, 2019). Internal displacement was a global humanitarian, human rights, and security issue. The rights and guarantees to which IDPs were entitled stem from the fact that they are residents of a particular state and would not cross an international border, a situation often linked to large-scale insecurity and their unequal treatment (Smit, 2012).

Globally, conflict and insecurity had forcibly displaced millions of people from their homes. Others were displaced due to civil war, inter-communal violence, and government repression (UNOCHA, 2004). The number of IDPs was increased worldwide, and they face multi-dimensional challenges because displacement was linked not only to conflicts and disasters but also to issues of peace building, development, and climate change (IDMC, 2016). For instance, in 2018, conflict and disasters created over 28 million new internal displacements across 148 countries. Of these, 10.8 million people were displaced by violence and conflict, and 17.2 million by natural disasters (GRID, 2019). By the end of 2023, the number of people living in internal displacement due to conflict and violence had reached a record high of 68.3 million globally (IDMC, 2024).

Over one-third of the world's forcibly displaced persons was found in Africa (AU, 2019). These individuals were forced to flee their homes and communities because of conflict, generalized violence, and man-made and natural disasters (Kidane, 2011). In 2018 alone, Sub-Saharan Africa recorded approximately 16.5 million people internally displaced by conflict (GRID, 2019). Within this, the IGAD

region is a significant contributor, with 6.5 million IDPs, 88 percent of whom are in Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia due to conflict and violence. In that same year, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Syria were the top three countries with the largest numbers of new IDPs due to conflict, at 2.9 million, 1.8 million, and 1.6 million respectively (GRID, 2019).

There are various causes of internal displacement in Ethiopia's history, which Mehari (2017) classifies as Conflict-Induced Displacement (CID), Natural Disaster-Induced Displacement (NDID), Man-made Disaster-Induced Displacement (MDID), and Development-Induced Displacement (DID), in addition to large-scale government resettlement and economic hardship. The 2.9 million new conflict-associated IDPs recorded in Ethiopia in 2018 was the highest figure in the world and four times the number from the previous year (GRID, 2019). This surge was due to conflicts and violence becoming more entrenched and escalating along various internal borders.

The risk of displacement increased when coherent strategies to address its root causes were absent (Phuong, 2005; RSG, 2007). Furthermore, internal displacement poses a significant challenge to the international community to develop norms, institutions, and mechanisms for its prevention and to address its consequences (Davies, 1998).

Particularly, Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement (CIID) was a continuing phenomenon in numerous crisis areas of Ethiopia (IDMC, 2007). It has caused millions of people to be displaced within their region or to other regions (OCHA, 2018). For instance, Tigray regional authorities reported in 2018 that about 9,000 people had been displaced to Tigray from other parts of Ethiopia, mostly from the Oromia and Amhara regions, due to ethnic tension and violence (OCHA, 2018). According to a 2024 report from the Tigray Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (BoLSA), the total number of IDPs in the region reached 1.5 million by August 2023. This study, therefore, to provide a better understanding and exploration of the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs who were displaced from different parts of the region and other parts of Ethiopia to Adwa Town.

## 1.2. Statement of the study

Internal displacement constitutes one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges globally. The World Bank (2017) has shown that the displacement situation for IDPs is increasingly protracted, with durable solutions remaining elusive. If not addressed effectively, large-scale displacement threatens to destabilize countries, regions, and international security, thereby risking further displacement (Ferris, Mooney and Stark, 2011). Displacement not only causes the loss of property and livelihood but can also lead to death by starvation and illness (Phuong, 2005).

Inevitably, internal displacement abrogates the fundamental rights of individuals. Conflict, when combined with displacement and successive hardship, can lead to a state of "permanent emergency" (Summerfield, 1998), making the pursuit of durable solutions a far more complicated task (Smit, 2012). The role of government and other stakeholders in protecting persons from forced displacement and unlawful eviction is often insufficient (Abebe, 2009). While international law stipulates the primary duty to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of IDPs rests with the state (GPID, 2018), IDPs face distinct vulnerabilities that non-displaced persons do not (Ferris, Mooney, and Stark, 2011). Historically, the international response has focused on a relief-to-development continuum, which incorrectly assumes that displacement ends at a specific point when IDPs are able to return home, often overlooking the long-term complexities of reintegration (Summerfield, 1998).

This challenge is often compounded by an absence of political will to respond effectively to the needs of IDPs, making their lives more difficult and vulnerable (Alemayehu, 2010). In the Ethiopian context, the lack of a comprehensive legal and policy framework dedicated to IDPs has hampered effective and consistent responses (Habte and Kweon, 2018). The scarcity of literature on long-term development initiatives for IDPs reflects a broader failure to understand displacement as a multidimensional crisis that both causes and contributes to cycles of poverty and deprivation (Cohen and Deng, 1998). The limited literature that does exist remains focused on emergency assistance and protection, which are only the first stages of an effective response (Ibid).

While a number of studies on IDPs have been conducted, they vary in their regional and thematic focus. Internationally and in Africa, scholars have explored the legal frameworks of the Kampala Convention (Adeola, 2017; Solomon, 2010), the right to protection from arbitrary displacement (Stavropoulou, 2010; Adeola, 2018), and its specific limitations regarding women (Groth, 2011).

At the national level in Ethiopia, the body of research is sparse. Studies by Araya (2007) and Alemayehu (2010) provided broad overviews of displacement in Ethiopia and Africa. More specific research has focused on Development-Induced Displacement (DID) and its impacts on the livelihoods of poor urban households in Bahir Dar (Ambaye and Abelineh, 2015) or the legal implications of the Kampala Convention for Ethiopia (Mehari, 2011). A working paper by Mehari (2017) examined the causes and dynamics of internal displacement, highlighting how inter-communal violence exacerbates the vulnerability of IDPs. However, most of these studies lack a focus on the post-displacement phase of reintegration from the perspective of the IDPs themselves. A literature review carried out by Ruiz and Vargas-Silva (2013) on the impact of forced displacement on the displaced and on host communities but have only occasional references to papers covering the impact of forced migrants on host communities.

The administration of Adwa Town, like many in Tigray, is significantly impacted by the hosting of IDPs. As of 2020, there were over 35,871 IDPs registered in the town (Adwa Town, Office of Labor and Social Affairs Report, 2020). While some initiatives have been undertaken to address their needs, a critical gap in knowledge persists.

The central problem this study addresses is the lack of in-depth, qualitative understanding of the socio-economic reintegration process for IDPs in Ethiopia. While existing literature informs us of the scale and causes of displacement, it fails to adequately capture the lived experiences of IDPs as they navigate the immense challenges of rebuilding their social and economic lives. To the researcher's knowledge, no academic study has specifically focused on the socio-economic reintegration of conflict-induced IDPs in Adwa Town. Furthermore, the majority of displacement research in Ethiopia is quantitative. The few qualitative studies that do exist often focus on contexts significantly different from post-conflict Tigray, limiting their applicability.

To address these gaps, the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs in Adwa Town, providing nuanced insights that can serve as a foundation for policy and future research.

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

#### **1.3.1. General Objective**

The general objective of this study is to investigate the socio-economic reintegration process of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Adwa Town.

#### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives of the Study**

Based on the above stated general objective, the study has the following specific objectives:

1. To explore the primary challenges that hinders the effective socio-economic reintegration of IDPs in the study area.
2. To identify and assess the reintegration opportunities and support mechanisms available to IDPs in Adwa Town.
3. To examine the role of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in facilitating the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

The following are the research questions that the study intended to answer in due course of the study.

1. What are the most significant these IDPs face during their reintegration in Adwa Town?
2. How can reintegrate the IDPs in Adwa town?
3. What role do key stakeholders play in addressing the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs?

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

This study explored the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs in Adwa Town. Therefore, the study has significance to the all concerned.

Primarily, this study is conducted for the requirement of Master's degree in Civics and Ethical Studies.

As far as the researcher's information, there is no research conducted in Adwa Town that documents the actual conditions of IDPs. This exposed that, too little has been known about the challenges and opportunities for social and economic reintegration of IDPs in the study area. Therefore, the study would have a remarkable function in providing stakeholders information on how is doing with regard for reintegration of IDPs.

This study identified possible areas of research for concerned individuals like security issues related to human rights. Concerned experts can conduct a study on the impact of displacement on the human rights of IDPs especially security issues to see the trends of internal displacement.

Finally, this study would have importance to have a better understanding on the challenges and opportunities of socio-economic reintegration based on the life experience of IDPs socio-economic condition.

## 1.6. Scope of the Study

Methodologically, the study was delimited to the qualitative approach and FGD, in-depth interview and non-participatory observation instruments/ tools in the study. In addition, it was delimited to purposive and snowball-sampling technique. Theoretically, the study was confined to right based and human security approaches.

## 1.7. Operational Definition of Terms

**Displacement:** is the creation of insecurities to human beings that cause relocation to another area within or outside a particular state (Bhagwan, 2013).

**Internal Displacement:** means the involuntary or forced movement, evacuation or relocation of persons or groups of persons due to a variety of causes within internationally recognized state borders (Arbouw, 2018).

**Internally Displaced Persons:-** means persons who have been forced or obliged to flee their homes or places of habitual residence, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border (Solomon, 2010).

**Reintegration:** In this study, reintegration refers to the ability of IDPs from different regions of Ethiopia to Adwa Town to secure the socio-economic conditions needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity.

**Economic Reintegration:** is the process by which IDPs are reinstated into the economic system of their pre-displacement, and able to earn his or her own living (IOM, 2011).

**Social Reintegration:** is the reinsertion of IDPs into the social structures of their earlier life and the permanent residents (IOM, 2011).

## **CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **2. Introduction**

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of the literature relevant to the socio-economic reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It begins by establishing the conceptual definitions of internal displacement and IDPs. Subsequently, it explored the primary causes and multifaceted impacts of displacement. The review then delves into the core concept of reintegration, its various dimensions, and the significant challenges that impede its success. The

roles of state and international actors were examined, followed by an analysis of the legal and normative frameworks designed to protect IDPs at the international, regional, and national levels. This review demonstrates that while much is known about the causes and impacts of displacement, a significant gap exists in understanding the lived experiences of socio-economic reintegration, particularly in contexts like Adwa town. Finally, the chapter concludes by presenting the theoretical frameworks the Rights-Based Approach and the Human Security Approach that would guide the analysis of this study.

## **2.1. Conceptual Definition of Internal Displacement and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

The concept of internal displacement gained prominence through the work of refugee-focused Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the 1980s (Weiss and Korn, 2006). It emerged as a critical term for articulating legal standards and mobilizing the international community around the specific issues facing those displaced within their own countries (Stavropoulou, 2009).

The concepts of displacement, internal displacement, and IDPs are complex, attracting significant academic attention. At its core, displacement refers to the relocation of individuals to another area within a national state, a process that often creates profound insecurity (Bhagwan, 2013). People become displaced when they lose their security and means of survival in their place of habitual residence (Etzold, et al., 2019). More specifically, internal displacement is defined as the "involuntary or forced movement, evacuation or relocation of persons or groups of persons within internationally recognized state borders" (Solomon, 2010). Further, it refers to individuals who forced to leave their places of habitual residence while remaining within the borders of their home country (Asplet, 2019).

The term "IDP" first appeared in official use in a 1972 UN General Assembly resolution concerning Sudan, though it was not clearly defined at the time (Phuong, 2004). A formal definition was largely developed in the 1990s as the number of people uprooted within their own countries increased dramatically after the end of the Cold War (Davies, 1998).

In his 1992 Analytical Report, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali defined IDPs as:

*“persons or groups who have been forced to flee their homes suddenly or unexpectedly in large numbers, as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of rights, natural or man-made disaster, and who remained inside the territory of their own country” (UNOCHR, 1992).*

While some definitions limit the term IDP to those displaced by conflict and persecution (Fisher, 2006), others, like Mooney (2005), include those uprooted by natural disasters and development projects.

For the purposes of this thesis, the operational definition was the one developed in the UN's 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GPID), which is widely accepted as the authoritative definition:

*“Internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”*

This definition is comprehensive as it highlights two fundamental features of internal displacement: first, the coerced or involuntary nature of the movement, and second, the fact that the affected persons remain within their national borders. Its inclusion of a wide range of causes makes it a robust framework for this research.

## **2.2. Causes of IDPs**

Millions of people are forced to leave their homes, often losing their assets and being exposed to enormous hardship in the process. These displaced persons consequently face significant challenges concerning their rights and welfare (Crisp, 2010). A common and immediate problem is the inability to replace personal documents that were left behind, lost, or destroyed, which are essential for accessing services and legal protection (Kalin and Chapuisat, 2018).

Understanding the root causes of displacement is essential for designing effective socio-economic reintegration programs (Kidane, 2011). Addressing these causes is the key to preventing future displacement and creating conditions conducive to durable solutions (UNHCR, 2015). The mass displacement of populations can also pose serious threats to the security and stability of entire communities and regions, making it an issue of international concern (Global IDP, 2002). The causes of internal displacement are complex and varied (Kidane, 2011), but for the purpose of this study, they are categorized as follows.

Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement (CIID) is a major focus of the international community, yet establishing an accurate picture of its scale and dynamics remains extremely challenging (Sarzin, 2017). Access to displacement sites is often limited by security concerns and the reluctance of government officials to authorize data collection (Arbouw, 2018).

CIID is a persistent phenomenon in Ethiopia (Terminski, 2013). According to the IDMC (2007), inter-ethnic conflict is the main cause of CIID in the country, accounting for an estimated 70% of displacement cases at the time. These displacements are often triggered by conflicts between different ethnic groups over access to political power or scarce resources like water and land, as well as by generalized violence and systematic human rights violations (OCHA, 2022). Mehari (2017) suggests that CIID in Ethiopia often arises from several sources of conflict, including: disputes over administrative borders between regional states; conflicts over the recognition of ethnic identities and administrative status; and the weak implementation of constitutional protections for minority rights.

In Ethiopia, Development-Induced Displacement (DID) is frequently related to land governance issues and expanding urban development projects (Ambaye & Abelineh, 2015). As the country pursues industrialization and urbanization, the resettlement and eviction of people for development projects is expected to rise. Such relocation can severely affect the livelihoods and job opportunities of the displaced, as new areas may lack market demand or necessary infrastructure (Atalw, 2014; cited in Mehari, 2017). While the Government of Ethiopia has a mandate to implement development projects, there is often a disregard for the rights of those displaced by them, with limited mechanisms for redress or accountability (Mehari, 2017).

Man-Made Disaster-Induced Displacement (MMDID) can result from industrial accidents, arson, and competition over scarce resources (Samsom, 2004; cited in IDMC, 2007). It can also be caused by large-scale infrastructure projects such as dams, roads, and extractive industries, which can increase localized conflicts and lead to further displacement (Mehari, 2017).

Ethiopia is also vulnerable to Natural Disaster-Induced Displacement (NDID). In 2015, the country faced one of its worst droughts in 50 years, which triggered the displacement of 280,000 people (IDMC, 2016). Climate-induced displacement is driven by environmental factors such as drought, floods, and landslides. With rising temperatures expected to increase the frequency and severity of droughts, environmental degradation and climate change are significant drivers of displacement in the country (IMF, 2016; Morrissey, 2013).

### **2.3. Impact of Internal Displacement**

Internal displacement has multiple impacts, affecting not only the direct victims but also the host communities, the state, and the environment (Kalin, 2005; cited in Alemayehu, 2010). These impacts vary based on the cause and duration of displacement, as well as the pre-displacement capacities of the affected population. A successful reintegration process requires a thorough understanding of these wide-ranging effects (GRID, 2019). The destructive consequences include impoverishment, social isolation, exclusion from essential services, and the breakdown of social structures and relationships (Mooney, 2005).

Displacement severely affects economies, leading to loss of assets, property, and livelihoods. IDPs are often forced to take on low-paying jobs in host areas, and it can be extremely difficult for them to access mechanisms to restore or rebuild their homes and property (GRID, 2019).

IDPs are often exposed to poor living conditions and may face vulnerabilities such as sexual abuse, gross violations of their human rights, and stigmatization from local communities (Mooney, 2005). Displacement disrupts social networks and access to the basic necessities of life.

The rights of IDPs are often violated through restrictions on their freedom of movement and residence. The loss of personal documents can hinder their ability to vote, access schools and healthcare, or make property claims (IDMC, 2007). Displacement leads not only to the loss of

material goods but also intangible ones, such as cultural heritage and a sense of belonging (Mooney, 2005).

Women and children are among the most vulnerable groups during displacement. They face heightened risks of gender-based violence, including abduction, early and forced marriage, and sexual assault (Stephen and Shendam, 2016). Displacement also disrupts education, often leading to widespread child labor, and contributes to higher rates of maternal mortality (Government of Ethiopia and Humanitarian Partners, 2007).

The arrival of a large number of IDPs can strain the resources of host communities. It can lead to increased prices for food and housing, the overcrowding of schools and health facilities, and competition for jobs, sometimes creating tensions between the displaced and host populations (Cazabat, 2018; Mehari, 2017).

#### **2.4. Challenges of IDPs**

People forced to flee their homes face a number of specific challenges (World Bank, 2017). A primary difficulty is simply identifying and counting them. In the absence of a national policy for their protection, the Ethiopian government has not always officially recognized all conflict-induced IDPs, and there has never been a comprehensive nationwide IDP assessment (IDMC, 2007). This often leads to their exclusion from emergency aid and other support systems. Even with support, the supply of food, shelter, and healthcare is often inadequate. Moreover, IDP camps and settlements often lack access to clean water and sanitation, and their inhabitants are at particular risk of water-borne diseases. The condition spreads in particular during the rainy season when the drinking water and sanitation situation is often worst (UNOCHA, 2015).

Women and children are disproportionately affected by these shortcomings. Furthermore, IDPs are less resilient in securing permanent employment and housing, often experiencing a mismatch between their skills and the local labor market (Bradley, 2012; World Bank, 2017). Therefore, finding a durable solution to their plight requires a specific, consistent, and politically supported process (Beyani and Caterina, 2016).

## 2.5. The Rights of IDPs

All displaced persons are entitled to the full protection of fundamental human rights (Zetter, 2011). Like other citizens, IDPs should enjoy the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law and should not be discriminated against on the basis of their displacement (Williams, 2008). IDPs do not have a special legal status; rather, they are protected by existing international human rights law and humanitarian law (Fisher, 2006). These rights include the right to life, dignity, non-discrimination, an adequate standard of living, medical care, property, and education (Murray, 2005). Crucially, the Guiding Principles affirm that every human being has the right to be protected against arbitrary displacement from their home or place of habitual residence (Robinson, 2003).

Specifically, Principle 6 of the Guiding Principles states that every human being should have the right to protect against arbitrarily displaced from his or her home or place of habitual residence. Thus, all possible measures should be taken in order to ensure that persons are received satisfactory conditions of shelter, health, safety, nutrition, and appropriate psychosocial support without separating members of the family (AUC, 2018). Given the human and socio-economic toll of internal displacement, it is vital that governments and other entities engaged in protecting and assisting IDPs to secure their right (Bradle, 2019).

## 2.6. Reintegration of IDPs

The literature on the reintegration of IDPs is relatively recent. Reintegration is a dynamic and multidimensional process of re-adaptation and rehabilitation after displacement (Erdal and Oeppen, 2017). It is an economic and social process that goes beyond immediate humanitarian assistance to include safe and sustainable reinsertion into community life (Surtees and Kerchova, 2014). It is a long-term process that is primarily a national responsibility, though it often requires external assistance (Watson, 2009). It focuses more on how civilians grapple with the rebuilding of society in both the economic and social spheres. Although some refer to reintegration as a process specific to returning refugees, others also suggest that the term should include all displacement-affected persons (Kaun, 2008).

For IDPs, reintegration is focused on achieving equal rights with non-displaced persons and re-establishing their social and economic standing. This includes achieving a sustainable living,

meaning the ability to secure the political, economic, and social conditions needed to maintain life, livelihood, and dignity (UNHCR, 2004). The active participation and ownership of IDPs in this process are indispensable for its success. The effectiveness of reintegration also depends on factors such as the nature of the displacement, pre-existing economic conditions, and the availability of social networks (Cassarino, 2008). Helping displaced populations reintegrate can simultaneously address the root causes of conflict and help prevent further displacement (RSG on UN, 2007).

To achieve this, interventions should promote education, livelihood and employment opportunities for IDPs including host communities so that they left behind (Research and Evidence Facility (REF), 2018). While national and local governments have the primary responsibility to facilitate reintegration (Kuschminder, 2017), the implementation of assistance is often complex and varies significantly (Stefansson, 2004).

### **2.6.1. Economic Reintegration**

Economic reintegration is the process by which IDPs are reinstated into the local economic system and are able to earn a sustainable living (IOM, 2011). It is about equipping IDPs with the skills, resources, and confidence to support themselves, their families, and their communities economically (Surtees, 2012). This forms the basis for self-sufficiency and includes access to housing, healthcare, and other essential services.

In addition, a variety of responses has to be developed in order to ensure the appropriate delivery of reintegration assistance geared for the promotion of economic reintegration. Most importantly, it is thus imperative for reintegration projects to contribute to addressing the root causes of displacement and to incorporate the development or rehabilitation needs of IDPs related to their economic aspect (Fonseca, Hart, & Klink, 2015).

Economic reintegration forms the basis for the self-sufficiency of the IDPs. This includes helping them to get access to housing, health care, and other services enjoyed by the wider population.

Integrating IDPs into society and labor markets can enhance their capacities to reintegrate and invest in their place of destination. In practical terms, improving economic integration in the destination area alone does not improve IDPs capacities for reintegration. Rather, they need

reliable information about labor market and access for it. Cooperation of stakeholders would enhance IDPs' preparedness by providing them with reliable information on which helps them for their reintegration in the long time permanently (Cassario, 2004). More essentially, there is a lack of longitudinal, multi-dimensional and cross-sectional analysis to inform policy development related to them.

### **2.6.2. Social Reintegration**

IDPs must often cope with a changed or non-existent support structure upon arrival and need to rebuild their social networks, which are crucial for accessing information and job opportunities (Kuschminder, 2017). Group reintegration projects and the building of IDP networks can be effective strategies, but it is also important to foster integration with the wider community to prevent social isolation (Chobanyan, 2013). Displacement networks are important because of they had shared experiences, but it is also important to consider methods of integrating IDPs into the wider community to prevent them from becoming too insular. These networks would also provide emotional support, which is important for psychosocial health (Ibid).

Social networking is also important to accompany IDPs through the reintegration process by providing them with information and social capital, and assisting them in difficult situations through safety nets (Chobanyan, 2013).

### **2.6.3. Psychosocial Reintegration**

Displacement is often accompanied by feelings of shame, loss, anxiety, and stress, all of which can hinder the reintegration process (Mulugeta, 2014). Poor economic prospects and security concerns can further destabilize the psychosocial well-being of IDPs. Access to psychosocial counseling and support is therefore critical to help displaced persons readjust and cope with the impacts of their experience (Fonseca, Hart, & Klink, 2015).

Psychosocial support helps the displaced persons to readjust and reinserted in the society of his or her place of destination. This support includes begin pre-displacement, and facilitating reinsertion into social network with family members, neighbors and community leaders (Beteliam, 2014).

## **2.7. Challenges to the Reintegration of IDPs**

In the today's world, the occurrence of internal displacement has is one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges. The following are among them:

### **2.7.1. Economic Challenges**

Although its importance and the amount of resources devoted to facilitating economic reintegration for IDPs play a pivotal role, certain challenges persist regardless of the context in which it takes place (Fonseca, Hart & Klink, 2015). For instance, the experiences of the displaced persons may not match to the economy type in their current residence. Further, creating a sustainable livelihood can also be difficult because of structural challenges in the place of where they live in. Moreover, economic opportunities may be low for the population as a whole, not only just for displaced persons (Ibid).

The main reintegration obstacles faced to IDPs are lack of access to livelihoods and basic services. Supplementary, there is inadequate housing and inability to enjoy their social and economic rights (Christensen & Harild, 2009 ). Consequently, this could hamper the economic reintegration of IDPs in the state.

According to Ruben, et al (2009; cited in Meron, 2016), without access to income-generating activities that allow IDPs to meet their basic needs, it is difficult for them to become successful. In addition, there are exceptions wherein vulnerable IDPs are unable to become self-sufficient, such as in the case of displaced persons with mental health problems.

Some IDPs might have sufficient savings to start businesses or find jobs soon after arriving in a new destination, but most have lost or left behind their assets and arrive with no or little resources. Factors such as high levels of unemployment, discrimination in accessing labor markets or IDPs lacking the necessary skills, contacts or expertise to gain employment often hinder their ability to a job (Kalin and Chapuisat, 2017). Indeed, IDPs are more likely to work as daily workers than members of the host community are.

### **2.7.2. Social Challenges**

IDPs might be able to integrate into host communities and feel accepted by the wider community in some situations. However, in other situations, protracted displacement can lead to heightened social, cultural and economic marginalization and stigmatization (Ibid). Thus, those who have never displaced do not always perceive IDPs positively. Tension can develop between local

populations who did not displaced and populations who left in search of better living and economic conditions. Thus, the permanent residents may see IDPs as a potential cause for increasing the cost of goods and services.

Moreover, competition for social standards and roles can increase tensions between local populations and IDPs receiving financial reintegration assistance (Fonseca, Hart, & Klink, 2015). Most importantly, the permanent residents may not understand the problems of IDPs. Sometimes, they may consider IDPs as a potential threat to them.

As in any internal displacement situation, IDPs in protracted displacement might have difficulties obtaining or replacing lost documents that are essential for accessing IDP-related benefits, basic services, schooling, health care, employment authorization, establishing property ownership and pensions. Insufficient access to livelihoods, adequate housing, education, health services or psychosocial support is a very common reason why large numbers of IDPs cannot rebuild their lives and move towards durable solutions (Kalin and Chapuisat, 2017).

In addition, stakeholders involved in social reintegration GOs, NGOs and the community of displaced may be difficult to coordinate each other's to provide.

### **2.7.3. Psychosocial Challenges**

Beyond the challenges faced for IDPs in terms of adapting to their new host societies in their destination place, the process of re-establishing identities in relation to their host societies is often difficult (Kuschminder, 2017).

IDPs can lose their sense of belonging, which might result in serious psychological disorders, negatively affecting their livelihoods and the sustainability of their displacement. In addition, IDPs may also have with them children and adolescents, who face challenges related to language in places they have never lived in or may not remember after years of living in another area (Fonseca, Hart, & Klink, 2015). Further, a lack of political will by the government and a countries inadequate normative and institutional framework to address socio-economic needs of IDPs.

### **2.7.4. Other Challenges**

According to the Brookings Institution (2010), finding socio-economic reintegration of IDPs is a complex process that involves multiple challenges:

Human rights challenge: reintegration is about restoring the human rights of IDPs who affected by because of their displacement, including their rights to security, property, housing, education, health and livelihoods. This includes the right to compensation, impartiality, truth and solving past injustices through appropriate measures.

Humanitarian challenge: In the course of achieving socio-economic reintegration, IDPs have continuing humanitarian needs. They might need temporary shelter until their destroyed houses would rebuilt, foods, or emergency health services until the health system.

Development challenge: is related with achieving reintegration entails addressing challenges including providing access to livelihoods, schooling and health care in the place of residence, local integration in a host place or returning to their prior settlement areas.

Reconstruction challenge: After conflict or violence, reintegration might not be possible without local or national political, economic and social stabilization.

## **2.8. Actors of Reintegration for IDPs**

### **2.8.1. International Actors**

Despite the growing magnitude of the IDPs today, there is no special legal regime for IDPs reintegration (Lavoyer, 1995). As such, critics contend that there is no justifiable reason for denying assistance and protection to a person simply because he or she might not have crossing an international border (Chimni, 2000).

Several international actors assist to IDPs. The main actors mandated for protection includes states, NGOs and individual stakeholders. According to the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement (2010), a reintegration for IDPs linked to having assistance and enjoying their social and economic rights without discrimination. Thus, IDPs might successfully integrate via humanitarian action including protection of them inspired by the goal of strong solutions from the outset of any operation (Orchard, 2018). This could only do when governmental and non-governmental actors work with governments (Kalin and Chapuisat, 2018).

In a post-conflict, coherence between efforts to achieve effective solutions and broader programmes for rehabilitation and reintegration for IDPs is a necessary condition. Socio-economic reintegration refers to reintegration of IDPs according to their particular needs, rights and vulnerabilities (UNHCR, 2006). The international community's responsibility regarding internal

displacement has at least three main elements (Kolmannskog, 2009; and Kalin, 2010). First, protecting people's from displacement. There is an increasing attention on, and development of, the right not to be displaced from the peoples permanent residence ((Morel, Stavropoulou and Durieux, 2012). Second, supporting, strengthening and reducing risk of displacement. The third responsibility is seeking long-lasting socio-economic reintegration and protection of IDPs in their state.

However, humanitarian agents focus on alleviating any extreme suffering and short-term support to IDPs is the main challenge that could take as an obstacle (Sandvik, 2013). The ranges of actors that can support the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs need to work together from the beginning of the process (Brookings Institution, 2010). Thus, the assistance should promote self-reliance and livelihoods of IDPs towards the challenges and opportunities available to them (Crawford, et al., 2015). Beyond that, it should support states' efforts to provide assistance for displaced persons to ensure more coordinated efforts with national and local authorities (UNHCR, 2006). Furthermore, they should work to mobilize resources to assistance to IDPs and create institutional links between different institutions that extend reintegration of IDPs (Beyani, 2006). It should also seek to identify precisely who they are, where they are and what their particular needs is (Brusset, et al., 2004).

Relating to humanitarian assistance for IDPs there are different principles. Among these, the following are the core (UNHCR, 2006):

Principle (1): it should be carryout without discrimination for all IDPs.

(2). It should be free from political or military reasons.

(3). Competent authorities have the responsibility to establish conditions that facilitate the reintegration of IDPs.

(4) IDPs should have the right to empower, participate fully and equally in public affairs at all levels and have equal access to public services.

### **2.8.2. State or Other Local Actors**

State holds primary responsibility to secure socio-economic reintegration of IDPs within its jurisdiction (Buzoya, 2009). The prevention of internal displacement and the protection of those affected by it is the responsibility of a country's domestic authorities. Since IDPs reside within

the borders of their own countries, the responsibility for protection, social and economic reintegration and assistance including the promotion of security, welfare and liberty rests under the jurisdiction of the government (Cohen, 1998; Hickel, 2001).

Likewise, the Ethiopian government has the primary duty to establish conditions that allow IDPs to return voluntarily and safely to their homes or places of habitual residence (Brookings Institution, 2005). This helps to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration conditions of IDPs (Williams, 2008). Moreover, it has the duty to train in income-generating projects to avoid impoverishments (Adeola, 2017). Ethiopia's new government has put a number of measures in place in response to the displacement crisis, including peace-building activities to promote voluntary returns and support those who prefer to integrate into their host communities.

However, this is problematic particularly when the state is the primary cause of displacement to take responsibility for some of its citizens. The Ethiopian government firmly declined any responsibility for Displaced Persons and justified the statement they should return to their previous place. Otherwise, due to economic crisis of the country the government is unable to support IDPs (Salvatici, 2014). However, indeed its reasons were ultimately of a political nature. For instance, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) considers internal displacement as an indicator of failure of the state to prevent and respond effectively to it. Therefore, it works to deny the existence of internal displacement and IDPs in the country. Sometimes a State is unwilling or unable to provide protection to IDPs, particularly in conflict situations or in cases where the authorities are responsible for causing the displacement.

National responses for IDPs need to be inclusive, covering all situations of internal displacement without discrimination and regardless of the reason for their displacement (Brookings Institution, 2005). Beyond the normative framework of the Guiding Principles, national responsibility for addressing the problem of internal displacement includes:

1. Prevention: Governments have a responsibility to prevent and avoid conditions on their territory that might lead to population displacement, to minimize unavoidable displacement and mitigate its adverse effects.
2. Raise National Awareness of the Problem: Public pronouncements, use of the media, and the development of strategies by the government to address the plight of internally displaced populations are among the means of conveying its recognition of the problem

and its responsibility to address it. A government's acknowledgement would also be an important indication of its recognition of the special needs of IDPs.

3. Data collection: Credible information on the numbers, locations and conditions of the IDPs is essential to designing effective strategies to address their socio-economic needs.
4. National Policy or Plan of Action on Internal Displacement: the national policy or plan of action on internal displacement should spell out national and local institutional responsibilities for responding to the socio-economic reintegration of internal displacement and identify a mechanism for coordination among them.
5. Durable Solutions: National responsibility for IDPs extends to ensuring and making every possible effort to facilitate the reintegration of IDPs in accordance with their rights. Further, the responsibilities contain to assist IDPs to recover property which they were evicted as a result of their displacement and, when this is not possible, to obtain compensation or reparation.
6. Adequate Resources: Carrying out policies and programs for IDPs and providing them with necessary assistance (including food aid, shelter, medical care, education, reintegration assistance etc.) resources.
7. Cooperation with International and Regional Organizations: When governments do not have the capacity to provide for the security and well-being of their displaced populations, they should work together with international and regional organizations in addressing the socio-economic reintegration of the displaced and identifying durable solutions to their plight.

## **2.9. Socio-Economic Characteristics and Core Needs of IDPs**

The socio-economic characteristics and core needs of IDPs differ depending on their causes of displacement, areas of origin and the situation in the areas of the host communities (Mehari, 2017). For instance, NDIID move either to other rural areas to seek assistance or work in wage-earning farming activities; move to urban areas to seek government assistance. They need long-term assistance that can reestablish their livelihood sources and build their community assets.

Briefly, their specific needs should focus on building their resilience to natural disasters. This is mainly because of socioeconomic long-term development interventions. Due to MDID, the needs of IDPs more focused on preventing future failures of disaster relief and receiving fair restitution

for their property losses. Financial assistance and insurance systems have become critically important, in addition to the need for political and judicial accountability of those causing or expected to prevent such disasters.

In the case of CIID, IDPs urgent and key needs revolve around physical security and the desire to avoid threats to their lives and physical well-being. As targets of violence threatening their existence, IDPs need state protection from attacks. Peace and security in their areas of origin are the long-term needs of IDPs (Mehari, 2017). IDPs due to DID are mostly the result of planned infrastructure projects, but they are also often the least visible. Depending on the losses and vulnerabilities they face due to eviction, evacuation, and resettlement, their needs tend to focus on substitution or compensation of some kind for the losses they incur.

Their main sources of concern are not legal issues about the right of the GoE to expropriate land or other properties for specific constitutionally permitted public purposes. Since the state or companies are involved in their displacement, the main source of their concern is the agency and rights they have to consult, negotiate, and litigate in response to the actions of the GoE, and the entitlements they have under the constitutional and legal system of Ethiopia. Unfortunately, legal and judicial mechanisms of challenge and redress have a limited presence and availability in Ethiopia. A common need of all IDPs due to NDID, MDID, CID, or DID, is humanitarian and legal assistance during their displacement. Durable Solutions involve return, local integration, and relocation (Cantor, 2018).

Despite their importance, protection and assistance are temporary or first step reintegration interventions. As temporary as they are, protection and provision of aid need to be conducted with a long-term vision and in a sustainable manner to ensure that the phenomenon of IDPs ends at some point (Brusset, et al., 2004). Unless IDPs regain their livelihood, and the causes of their internal displacement cease, continuous protection and assistance have to be provided for them.

An end to the predicament of IDPs, by contrast, can come only through permanent solutions. The Kampala Convention on IDPs identifies three such solutions to internal displacement: 1) sustainable return to areas of origin; 2) local integration in areas of destination; and 3) relocation to another area (resettlement). Human rights norms need to guide the search for durable solutions. Such solutions are part of the freedom of movement and residence of IDPs; that is,

freedom from forcible return and discrimination. The government needs to give options to the IDPs and not force them to

Host communities may want IDPs to return, but the host government has to protect the rights of IDPs to move freely throughout the country. Moreover, the state should focus on removing obstacles that constrain the return, integration, or resettlement of IDPs. The most common constraints to achieving durable solutions in general and return in particular, are: 1) physical insecurity; 2) political instability; 3) lack of livelihood sources; 4) violations of rights; and 5) infrastructural problems. Unfortunately, these constraints reinforce one another: political instability increases physical insecurity; lack of livelihood exacerbates political instability and may lead to violent conflict.

For integration and relocation, the rights of host populations particularly their economic and cultural life, customary land use, and ownership need to be protected (Mehari, 2004).

## **2.10. Protection from, during and after Displacement**

The concept of protection encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual based on variety of laws (i.e. human rights law, and humanitarian law (Kolmannskog, 2013). Initially, it includes preventing abuses, restoring IDPs dignity, respecting their rights and ensuring adequate living conditions through socio-economic reintegration (ICRC, 2001).

However, since the 1990s the scope of protection has widened to encompass wider civilian populations considered vulnerable or at risk because of maltreatment and general violence to IDPs (Addison, 2009).

Assisting the Protection operation for IDPs is the most frequent way in which UNHCR becomes involved. Indeed, UNHCR's activities on behalf of the IDPs in its mandated protection and assistance activities are usually indivisible as for refugees (Buzoya, 2009). Further, UNHCR believes that activities for protecting the IDPs should not only be limited to the delivery of relief assistance, but should include a protection component towards them (Cohen, 1998).

Regarding to the reintegration, those forcibly displaced persons for different reasons are more in need of special protection and assistance (Castles, 2006; (Kolmannskog, 2013); Foresight, 2012).

## **2.11. International Community Approaches IDPs**

Unlike to the people who cross international borders i.e. refugees, no international organization established for dealing with the protection, reintegration and assistance of IDPs (Cohen, 1998). This leads to face different problems for IDPs in various issues. Whereas international law entitles refugees to physical security and human rights protection in addition to assistance, no such legal guarantees exist for those who left within the borders of a state (Weiss and Korn, 2006).

There is no single agency with overall responsibility for IDPs assistance and protection in national or international level (Fisher, 2006). Thus, protection must involve both a legal and social issues. And the protection of IDPs must be covered all kinds of rights in national and international human rights law related to civil, political, social, economic and cultural aspects (Newland, Patrick, and Zard, 2003). Therefore, the international community should continue its efforts to encourage host communities to facilitate legal local socio-economic reintegration of IDPs by issuing residency and work permits at least equally with the permanent residents (Long, 2011).

Moreover, international institutions with its own principles issued for an attempt to deal IDPs. Among these, the Guiding Principles plays in defining internal displacement which involves elements of international humanitarian law, international instruments of human rights and national policies covering all phases of internal displacement (Cohen et al., 1998; UNOCHA, 2004).

### **2.11.1. International Human Rights Instruments**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is the first human rights instrument developed by the United Nations in 1948. It establishes the main civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights to which all persons are entitled, without discrimination of any kind. Although not a binding instrument in itself, many of its principles incorporated into countries domestic laws like Ethiopia. In the same way, another international instrument is an International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1967), which sets forth a civil and political rights, including physical integrity, freedom of movement and choice of residence. Thus, these instruments clearly supports the right of persons to live in a place they were preferred. Therefore, those international

human right tools were strictly condemned the displacement of persons from place to place involuntarily through different factors.

Likewise, another instrument is the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 1967), sets out economic, social and cultural guarantees, including the rights to adequate food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, an adequate standard of living. Furthermore, it guarantees rights concerning work, social welfare, education and participation in cultural life. Besides, Convention Against Torture (CAT, 1984), defines and prohibits torture under all circumstances. This document stipulates that any intentional attacks in human beings based on different backgrounds. Thus, this prohibits actions committed IDPs before, during and after displacement. Threats to the life and personal security of IDPs include acts of violence, killings, genocide, and torture and ill-treatment (UNCHR, 1995).

In addition to the above instruments, an International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted to protect discrimination of citizens that may cause internal displacement (CERD, 1965). Other forms of discrimination often experienced by IDPs based on race, ethnicity and gender is prohibited up on this convention. This instrument deals with prohibiting racial discrimination upon when a persons or groups treated differently because of race, colour, and ethnic origin with the effect of denying their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Another international instrument designed to protect acts of genocide is a Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) that defines genocide as acts committed intentionally to destroy, totally or in part, an ethnic, racial, religious, or other groups.

In similar case, a Global Advocate for IDPs: The Representative of the Secretary General on the Human Rights of IDPs, who reports to the UN Human Rights Council engages in advocacy with governments and other actors concerning the rights of IDPs, and works to strengthen the international response to internal displacement. Activities include:

- ❖ Promoting the rights of IDPs as articulated in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- ❖ Engaging governments and other actors on specific situations of internal displacement and the human rights of IDPs, including by undertaking country visits; and
- ❖ Sponsoring national and regional seminars and undertaking research on issues related to internal displacement.

Several additional instruments strengthen the protection of human rights relating to particular issues were developed in the world. For this reason, although none of these instruments specifically addresses internal displacement, they do cover a range of risks that IDPs often face and reinforce protection for particular groups of persons who affected excessively by displacement.

### **2.11.2. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**

According to Kalin (2005), the minimum international standard for the reintegration of IDPs based on guiding principle states the main issue as follows:

Principle (1): IDPs should enjoy the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country. This principle also establishes a set of responsibilities towards IDPs on the part of the State and other actors.

(2): the primary duty to provide protection, humanitarian assistance and reintegration lies with the national authorities (GPID, 2008).

Even though this principle plays a role in measuring standard by which to measure the actions of certain actors vis-à-vis IDP groups in relation to socio-economic reintegration, it remains questionable whether or not it improve the actual realities of the IDPs. Further, no comprehensive study were conducted to be evaluated its effectiveness (Casalin, 2018).

### **2.12. Regional Protection of IDPs in Africa**

The 1998 Guiding Principles that stated mainly inspire legal instruments addressing the needs of IDPs, “Identify rights and guarantees the protection and assistance during displacement as well as socio-economic reintegration of them in current residential area” (Kalin & Schrepfer, 2012). At the regional level, particularly in Africa, there are human rights monitoring mechanisms that provide important protection. Regional mechanisms have become increasingly engaged in addressing human rights issues in situations of internal displacement and in protecting the rights of IDPs (Fisher, 2006).

Thus, like others in the world Africa have a binding instrument addressing IDPs. The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (Kampala Convention), was adopted in 2009 and entered in practice in 2012, put in place state responsibilities in relation to internal displacement and protect IDP rights in Africa (Mooney, 2005).

Further, regional human rights law requires States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full, equal and effective enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. This requires the authorities to ensure that IDPs have a legal means to prove their socio-economic reintegration in order to exercise their rights, for instance through civil status documentation (UNHCR, 2006).

### **2.12.1. The Kampala Convention and IDP Protection**

Regarding to the application of this convention different person wrote an article and reports. From these the following presented as follows.

The Kampala Convention focused primarily in building institutional regional response to the IDPs in Africa (Abebe, 2009). In another article, he traces the preparatory work, drafting meetings, policymaking processes and underlying legal sources of the Kampala Convention, and discusses its scope and enforcement challenges (Abebe, 2010). More recently, Mehari (2014) demonstrates how the Kampala Convention fills a gap in international law in relation to IDP protection and contributes to normative development at the international, regional and national levels. Adeola explores how the Kampala Convention protects development-induced displaced persons (Adeola, 2017). Others examine the articulation of the right to protection from arbitrary displacement in the Convention (Stavropoulou, 2010; Adeola, 2018) and the limitations of the convention in protecting IDP women (Groth, 2011).

Some other studies discuss the integration of international legal norms into the Kampala Convention. Kidane (2011) critically appraises how the Convention transforms the Guiding Principles into legally binding rules for the management of internal displacement in Africa, while also analyzing arguments for and against according IDPs a distinctive legal status. In addition, Ojeda (2010) discusses the extent to which the Kampala Convention integrates international human rights law norms and contributes to the development of international human rights law rules related to internal displacement during armed conflict, highlighting areas where the Convention goes beyond existing norms.

One year on from the coming into force of the Kampala Convention, a report by the African Union and Norwegian Refugee Council (2013) took stock of the progress in the ratification and implementation of the Convention by African Union member states. Focusing mainly on countries that had ratified the treaty, the report focuses on issues related to national

responsibility, forced evictions, displacement due to disasters and the role of civil society organizations and IDPs themselves (Groth, 2011)..

Moreover, in 2016, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also conducted a stocktaking exercise in 25 African countries, identifying how states could best meet their obligations towards IDPs (Stavropoulou, 2010). Several recommendations made to states and other actors related to the prevention of displacement; planning, management and monitoring of protection and assistance activities; humanitarian assistance; IDP protection and durable solutions. Academics also to be addressed national implementation of the Convention (Adeloa, 2017).

According to the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa, article 11 stated that states should have the obligations relating to sustainable reintegration as follows:

- ❖ To seek lasting solutions to the problem of displacement by promoting and creating satisfactory conditions for voluntary return, local integration or relocation on a sustainable basis and in circumstances of safety and dignity.
- ❖ To make a free and informed choice on whether to return, integrate locally or relocate by consulting them on these and other options and ensuring their participation in finding sustainable solutions; and
- ❖ Take all appropriate measures, whenever possible, to restore the lands of communities with special dependency and attachment to such lands upon the communities' return, reintegration, and reinsertion (Solomon, 2010).

## IDPs in Ethiopia

July 2021, an estimated 4.17 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were recorded in Ethiopia, primarily due to conflict, but also from drought and floods, according to EngenderHealth citing IOM and UNHCR. These displaced populations were largely in the Afar, Amhara, and Tigray regions, as the conflict that began in November 2020 spread to these areas. For detailed, specific figures and data in a PDF format from 2021, you may want to search the ReliefWeb website for reports or the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/ethiopia/s/archives>.

The conflict that started in November 2020 continued into 2022, creating a dire humanitarian situation. This site hosts numerous reports and fact sheets on internal displacement in Ethiopia, including a fact sheet for January-December 2021, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/response-internal-displacement-ethiopia-fact-sheet-january-december-2021>.

Ethiopia in 2021, internally displaced persons (IDPs) were primarily categorized by their causes of displacement, which were conflict-induced (due to war, ethnic violence) and disaster-induced (due to drought, flooding, and landslides). Within these categories, IDPs could be further described by their living conditions, such as residing in open spaces during initial displacement or in collective centers and host communities, or by their return status, like returning IDPs who had gone back to their areas of origin.

## **2.13. National Protection of IDPs**

### **2.13.1. The Federal Constitution of the FDRE**

Currently, Ethiopia is only a signatory state in the Kampala Convention but has not ratified and took any statutory steps to domesticate the Convention. Thus, it expresses its political support to the convention. However, the state is not bounded legally by this convention and may not be accountable for violations of any articles in it.

However, at the national level, national courts and human rights institutions have a critical role to play in providing a channel for individuals to claim their rights. These institutions also can work to ensure that domestic legislation, policies and programmes respect and protect human rights, including during situations of internal displacement.

Ethiopia is federal state, under which it divided into nine regions and two town administrations delimited based on settlement patterns, language, identity, and consent of the people. Article 32 of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) constitution stipulates that freedom of movement and residence within the federation are fundamental democratic rights of all citizens regardless of their socio-economic and other backgrounds (FDRE Constitution, 1995). To secure this, the constitution grants responsibility to the federal and regional governments to respect this right. Ethiopia has also taken several measures, including legislation with regard to trafficking in human beings and smuggling of persons. Further, it has also been praised for abandoning past practices including the excessive use of force to curb protests in the previous governments earlier

than 1991 and for its cooperation with aid agencies in responding to acute humanitarian needs (Jacques, 2012).

In addition, the Ethiopian government has acknowledged the presence of conflict-induced IDPs within its border that could be seen as a crucial step towards addressing the plight of IDPs (IDMC, 2006). However, there are no useful documents stipulated for the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs except for the NDID under the National Disaster Risk Management policy and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission Establishment Proclamation No. 10/1995.

Further, the focus given on IDPs by Ministry of Federal Affairs has rare. Under the Ethiopian federative arrangement, the issue of internal displacement is not exclusively and a matter to be addressed by the federal government, but also by the regional states. Therefore, cooperative work of different stakeholders is crucial for social and economic reintegration of IDPs in the national and regional level. Otherwise, in the absence of a coherent national IDP policy, the national and international responses to IDPs remain rather unpredictable.

#### **2.14. Theoretical Frameworks of IDPs Reintegration**

Effective reintegration strategies for IDPs can be analyzed through two common and interconnected approaches: the Rights-Based Approach (RBA) and the Human Security Approach. The use of these frameworks is fundamental to understanding the complexities of ensuring both the protection and the successful socio-economic reintegration of IDPs (UNHCR, 2006). For the purpose of this study, the researcher would use both approaches as an analytical lens.

A Rights-Based Approach (RBA) frames reintegration as a process geared towards the full and equal enjoyment of human rights. This approach recognizes IDPs as right-holders with legal entitlements to assistance and protection, and it identifies state and other authorities as duty-bearers with corresponding obligations (UNHCR, 2006). An RBA strengthens reintegration efforts by anchoring them in a system of legal obligations established by national and international law. It promotes sustainability by empowering people to claim their rights and strengthening the capacity and accountability of duty-bearers to fulfill them.

Therefore, the researcher applied a rights-based approach in situations of IDPs in examining barriers on socio-economic reintegration, role of different stakeholders to support IDPs in enjoying their rights; and strengthen the capacity and accountability of local authorities to meet their reintegration responsibilities (Brookings Institution (2010; JIPS, 2018).

For this study, the RBA used to examine the barriers to socio-economic reintegration by focusing on four key principles:

1. **Empowerment:** The extent to which IDPs were enabled to be active agents in their own recovery.
2. **Participation:** Whether IDPs were meaningfully included in the design and implementation of reintegration programs.
3. **Non-discrimination:** Whether assistance was provided equitably to all IDPs without prejudice.
4. **Accountability:** The mechanisms in place to hold authorities responsible for their obligations to IDPs.

The concept of human security, famously defined by the UNDP (1994), broadens the focus of security from the state to the individual, emphasizing "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want." Internal displacement is a significant symptom of a human insecurity crisis, as it strips individuals of the stability and protection of their homes and communities (Betts, et al., 2006). IDPs often become dependent on external aid, exposing them to economic, health, personal, and community threats (Emmanuelar, 2015). IDPs receive little or no attention from the government of their habitual residence. These persons leave their habitual residence that triggers their insecurity. Importantly, internally displaced persons become dependent on others for basic amenities either on the host community or on external intervention (Brookings, 2008).

With all these, crises makes very difficult for the government to protection and reintegration of IDPs (Osagioduwa & Oluwakorede, 2016). As the number of IDPs continue to increase, attempts at mitigating this crisis becomes more challenging to global civilization (Buchenrieder, Mack, and Balgah, 2017). Thus, reintegration process involves economic security, food security, health

security, and community security (Bariledum, 2013). However, it also depends upon access to these rights, but it also relies on individual factors. These factors related with relationships to place, relationships with people and confidence in human security.

A successful reintegration process, when viewed through the lens of human security, must therefore restore security across multiple dimensions. This study utilized the Human Security approach to analyze the lived experiences of IDPs, focusing on the following core components:

1. **Economic Security:** The ability to secure a sustainable livelihood.
2. **Health Security:** Access to healthcare and a safe living environment.
3. **Community Security:** The restoration of social networks and peaceful co-existence with host communities.
4. **Food Security:** Reliable access to sufficient and nutritious food.

For this thesis, these two frameworks were used in tandem as an analytical lens in chapter 4. The Rights-Based Approach was used to evaluate the actions of the state and other stakeholders, assessing whether reintegration efforts respected the principles of participation, non-discrimination, and accountability. The Human Security Approach was also used to interpret the lived experiences of the IDPs, focusing on how their economic, health, community, and food security were impacted by the reintegration process.

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Introduction**

This chapter details the methodological framework employed in the study. It begins with a description of the study area and the rationale for its selection. It then outlines the qualitative research approach and the specific phenomenological design used to guide the inquiry. The chapter proceeds to describe the sampling techniques, sample size, and data collection methods, including in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observation, and document analysis. Finally, it explains the procedures for data analysis and interpretation, as well as the ethical considerations that were upheld throughout the research process.

### 3.1. Description of the Study Area and Rationale for its Selection

The study was conducted in Adwa, a town in the Central Zone of the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Adwa holds significant historical importance as the site of the decisive 1896 battle that secured Ethiopia's sovereignty. The town's economy is primarily based on agriculture (subsistence farming of crops like teff, wheat, and barley), trade, and a small but notable tourism sector linked to its historical landmarks. Adwa served as a trading hub for the surrounding rural areas, with a vibrant local market. While the town had primary and secondary schools and basic health services, it faced challenges related to infrastructure, access to higher education, and consistent public utilities like water and electricity.

**Adwa Town was selected as the case study site for the following reasons:**

**High Concentration of IDPs:** Following the recent conflict, Adwa became a host to a significant number of IDPs. This high concentration provided a relevant and focused setting to explore the complexities of socio-economic reintegration in a post-conflict urban environment.

**Preliminary Evidence of Reintegration Challenges:** Initial inquiries with the Adwa Town Labor and Social Affairs Office (LSAO) revealed that while reintegration efforts were underway, both the authorities and the IDPs were facing considerable challenges. This indicated that the area was a rich source of data for the research questions.

**Feasibility and Accessibility:** The researcher's familiarity with the region and existing social contacts facilitated the necessary access to both the IDP community and key informants in governmental and non-governmental organizations, which was crucial for the successful implementation of the study.

### 3.2. Research Approach

This study employed a qualitative research approach to conduct an in-depth examination of the attitudes, views, and lived experiences of the research participants (Kothari, 2004).

regarding IDPs' reintegration conditions (Creswell, 2002). Given that the research questions of this study could not be answered through quantitative methods, the researcher intentionally employed a qualitative approach to get in-depth insights. With the objective to

develop concepts that enhanced understanding of the conditions of social and economic reintegration of IDPs, a qualitative approach was highly valuable (Neergaard & Parm, 2007). Thus, it is very important since fewer people take part in the research to share the experience and attitudes of participants deeply (Dawson, 2002). Moreover, this helps to stay longer with these people to explore the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs in the study area.

### **3.3. Research Design**

According to Hakim (2000), a research design is mainly concerned with aims, purposes, and plans within practical constraints of location, time, money and others. Creswell (2014) asserted that, researchers must reflect upon the strategies they intend to use within their study that informs their methods, and how they collect and analyze the information from research participants.

The study adopted a phenomenological research design. Phenomenology is concerned with exploring and understanding the essence of a shared human experience (Langdrige, 2007). This design was chosen because the central goal of the research was to understand the common experiences and constructed meanings of IDPs as they navigated the process of socio-economic reintegration (Creswell, 2009). Specifically, an interpretative phenomenological approach was applied. This meant the researcher's role was not only to describe the participants' experiences but also to interpret the meanings embedded within their accounts (Smith, Flowers, and Larkin, 2009). This design was particularly well-suited to answering the "how" and "what" questions at the heart of this study regarding the lived reality of reintegration for IDPs in Adwa.

In this design, the goal and role of the researcher was to get into the experience of the participants and see it as they saw it (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009). From the phenomenological design types, the researcher applied an interpretative phenomenological design. This design was an approach concerned with exploring and understanding the conditions of a specific phenomenon (Smith, 2004). This paradigm was important to describe, translate, explain, and interpret the process of reintegration from the perspectives of the IDPs. Thus, this paradigm is important to describe, translate, explain and interpret the process of reintegration from the perspectives of the social and economic conditions IDPs in the study area.

### **3.4. Sampling Techniques**

To select research participants, the study utilized non-probability sampling techniques, specifically purposive sampling and snowball sampling.

Purposive sampling was used to select key informants who possessed specialized knowledge and experience relevant to the research topic (Bryman, 2012). A total of 12 key informants were deliberately selected from institutions directly involved in the reintegration of IDPs. These informants included officials from the Tigray regional Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs (LSAO), the regional Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) office, an IDP community coordinator, and officials from the Adwa Town and sub-city offices of labor and social affairs. Their involvement was crucial for understanding the institutional perspectives, policies, and challenges related to reintegration.

Snowball sampling was employed to recruit IDP participants. This technique is highly effective for reaching hard-to-access or "hidden" populations for whom no official list exists (Etikan, et al., 2016). The researcher initiated contact with a few IDPs and, after building rapport, asked them to refer other individuals with similar experiences. This method allowed for the gradual building of a network of participants who met the study's inclusion criteria and were willing to share their sensitive experiences. It also applies by initially contacting a few potential respondents and then by asking them whether they know of anybody with the same characteristics (Elmusharaf, 2012).

### **3.5. Sample Size and Sampling Criteria**

A total of 45 individuals participated in the study, comprising 33 IDPs and 12 key informants. The target population for this study was IDPs displaced by conflict who were residing in Adwa Town. According to Pilot, Beck, & Hungler (2001), sampling criteria developed from the research problem, purpose, design, and conceptual and operational definitions of study. The following inclusion criteria were used for selecting IDP participants: they must have been displaced due to the recent conflict (post-2020), be currently residing in Adwa Town, be 18 years of age or older, and be willing to voluntarily share their experiences. Both male and female IDPs were included to ensure a diversity of perspectives.

The final sample size for the IDP participants was determined by the principle of data saturation. Sampling and data collection continued until no new themes or significant insights emerged from the interviews and focus groups, indicating that a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon had been achieved (Aldiabat and Navenec, 2018).

### **3.6. Sources and Methods of Data Collection**

This study utilized both primary and secondary data sources to ensure a comprehensive and triangulated understanding of the research topic. A data collection tool helps researchers to collect information and data of the study in scientific way (Elmusharaf, 2012). This study involved detailed, verbal descriptions of characteristics, cases, and explanations of the IDPs related with the socio-economic reintegration condition (Creswell, 2007). Primary data was gathered through qualitative methods of in-depth interview, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Non-Participatory Personal Observation (NPPO). Besides, secondary data was gathered through document analysis.

#### **3.6.1. In-Depth Interview (IDI)**

In-depth, semi-structured interviews were the primary data collection tool. A total of 15 interviews were conducted with IDP participants selected via snowball sampling. These face-to-face interviews allowed for a deep exploration of individual experiences and perspectives (Taylor and Bogdan, 1998).

The core reason behind selecting this tool allows a wider channel of communication between the research participants and the researcher. Furthermore, this technique offered the opportunity to ask follow-up questions based on participants' responses to previous questions. This allowed deeper exploration of the social and economic reintegration of IDPs in the study area (Vanderstoep & Johnston, 2009).

#### **3.6.2. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)**

According to Kothari (2004), gaining adequate qualitative data requires that research participants pre-selected, based on their level of knowledge and experience. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the 12 purposively selected key informants to gather data about institutional policies, program implementation, and systemic challenges.

### **3.6.3. Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)**

Three separate FGDs were conducted with a total of 18 IDP participants who had not taken part in the in-depth interviews. Each group consisted of six members and was organized by gender (one all-male, one all-female, and one mixed-gender group) to facilitate open discussion. This data collection tool helped the researcher to triangulate data collected via in-depth interviews. It is more effective for gaining information about the variety of views regarding the reintegration conditions (Kothari, 2004). Supplementary, it helped the researcher to triangulate data that collected via an in-depth interview.

Moreover, it also allowed group interaction in which participants are able to discuss each other's ideas that provide better insight to the issue under investigation that is not easily attainable through individual interview. This method which offered the researcher the opportunity to study the ways in which individuals collectively make sense of a phenomenon and construct meanings on socio-economic reintegration of IDPs (Bryman, 2004).

### **3.6.4. Non-Participatory Personal Observation (NPP0)**

The researcher conducted non-participatory observation of the IDPs' living and working conditions to provide contextual data that helped verify and enrich information gathered through other methods (Kothari, 2004). Thus, for the goal of this study, the researcher used an event sampling that involved recording all or a proportion of the specific instances of the behavior of IDPs in the study area (Vanderstoep & Johnston, 2009).

### **3.6.5. Document Analysis**

Secondary data was collected through the analysis of relevant documents, including reports from LSAO and other government offices, policy documents, and relevant legal instruments.

## **3.7. Data Analysis and Interpretation Procedure**

The data collected for this study was analyzed qualitatively using a thematic analysis approach. The purpose of thematic analysis was to identify patterns or themes evident in several cases to present experiences, perceptions and feelings of IDPs concerning their socio-economic reintegration in the area (Dudley, et al., 2005).

The process involved several distinct steps, following the framework outlined by Creswell (2009):

1. **Data Preparation:** All audio recordings from interviews and FGDs were **transcribed** verbatim.
2. **Familiarization:** The researcher read and re-read all transcripts and notes to become deeply familiar with the data.
3. **Coding:** The data was systematically coded, with labels assigned to key concepts.
4. **Theme Development:** The codes were then grouped into potential themes and sub-themes.
5. **Reviewing and Refining Themes:** The potential themes were reviewed to ensure they accurately represented the data.
6. **Interpretation:** Finally, the themes were interpreted in relation to the research questions and the study's theoretical frameworks, leading to the conclusions presented in Chapter Four.

Interviews with IDPs lasted between 30 and 90 minutes, while FGDs lasted between 60 and 120 minutes.

### 3.8. Ethical Considerations

The researcher adhered to strict ethical principles throughout the study to protect the rights, dignity, and well-being of all participants.

**Informed Consent:** All participants were fully informed about the purpose of the research and the voluntary nature of their participation. Consent was obtained from every participant before any data collection commenced.

**Confidentiality and Anonymity:** To ensure confidentiality, the identities of all participants were protected. Names were replaced with code numbers in all research materials.

**Voluntary Participation:** Participation was entirely voluntary, and no incentives were offered. Participants were reminded they could withdraw at any time.

**Minimizing Harm:** The researcher was mindful that discussing with IDPs who had traumatic experiences could cause distress. Interviews were conducted in a sensitive and respectful manner.

**Data Integrity:** The researcher maintained professional integrity by ensuring that the findings accurately reflected the views and experiences expressed by the participants, without misinterpretation.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE STUDY**

### **Introduction**

This chapter presents a systematic analysis and interpretation of the qualitative data collected for this study. The data, gathered through in-depth interviews, KII, FGDs and NPPO, are examined to show the socio-economic reintegration experiences of IDPs in Adwa town. Moving beyond mere description, this analysis captures the lived realities of IDPs, interpreting their experiences through the theoretical lenses of the RBA and the Human Security framework.

#### **4.1. Ethnic Violence and Systematic Dispossession**

Participants universally identified ethnically motivated violence as the primary driver of their displacement. They described a premeditated campaign that escalated around 2020/21, designed to enforce a complete and sudden expulsion. One participant recounted how initial threats were underestimated until individuals were forcibly evicted from their homes, businesses, and even off the street. This tactic resulted in near-total dispossession, forcing IDPs to flee without assets, savings, or personal belongings. As on 24 February one participant emotionally stated:

*“I lost behind all my property and money. Thus, you can imagine how much it is so difficult for a person who is leading one’s life via day labor.”*

This forceful expulsion represents a complete collapse of economic and personal security. From a Human Security perspective, IDPs arrived in Adwa in a state of absolute destitution. From a Rights-Based Approach (RBA) perspective, this constituted a gross violation of their right to property and security of person, creating a state of extreme vulnerability.

#### **4.2. Pervasive Human Rights Violations**

The journey and arrival were marked by severe human rights abuses. Participants in FGD detailed a harrowing file of violations, including *“insulting, beating, frightening, kidnapping,*

*...killing, violence, and ill-treatment.*” These acts constitute a severe violation of human dignity, prohibited under Article 7 of the ICCPR. The profound psychological wounds inflicted by these violations necessitated a response centered on psychosocial support and trust-building.

On the top of that, Female IDPs were exceptionally vulnerable. On 24 February 2025, the testimony of one woman who was a victim of sexual violence underscores the profound and gendered nature of this trauma:

*“...I am home worker for the past three months...my employer insults me, beating me and blew always. ...the worst part of it is he raped me... after that I asked him give me my salary ... to go back home. However, he told me that as he can't give me. I go to the police station and already told them all the problems faced to me. But, they told me 'why not even kill you?'. Lastly, I already decided to come here empty-handed”. And when I travel on my foot ... two men come to me and both of them raped me... I suffered a lot until now...”*

When she shares me this information she was crying. Such experiences demand a trauma-informed and gender-sensitive reintegration response, yet as will be shown, the subsequent programs were blind to these foundational needs. Furthermore, the failure of state actors to protect them, exemplified by a police officer's dismissive response to an assault “*why not even they kill you?*” illustrates a catastrophic failure of state protection. This signals not just a failure to protect, but a form of state abandonment that positioned the state as complicit in their suffering. This experience poisoned the well of trust before any reintegration programs even began, fundamentally shaping the IDPs' relationship with the very authorities later tasked with supporting them.

### **4.3. Challenges for the Socio-Economic Reintegration IDPs**

#### **4.3.1. Economic Challenges**

Upon arrival in Adwa, IDPs were met with an institutional response that epitomized the reintegration paradox: it was present in form, but fundamentally flawed in function, often exacerbating the very vulnerabilities it was meant to alleviate.

#### **4.3.1.1. Initial Support and Unfulfilled Promises**

The initial response focused on humanitarian aid, including food and temporary shelter (KII). As participants in FGDs, *“it is the inconsistent distribution of aid, where some received full rations while others did not receive at all”* violates the core RBA principle of non-discrimination and points to severe administrative failings. Grand promises of comprehensive support created high expectations that were ultimately unmet, fostering deep disillusionment and eroding trust. One interviewed KII stated this one as *“The promise they got for the reintegration... did not exceed from word.”*

With regard to support of stakeholders, the key informant from OLSA elucidated that:

*“We had tried to support IDPs starting from beginning of coming to the town. Then, we had begun to work on awareness raising activities to the local community to support them. However, due to the financial constraints we cannot continue so far”.*

This testimony from the key informant clearly shows that IDPs were not supported after their arrival in the town. This seriously made the reintegration of much more difficult and ineffective.

#### **4.3.1.2. Economic Reintegration: A Flawed Model**

The cornerstone of the economic reintegration strategy organizing IDPs into Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) with start-up loans was overwhelmed by systemic flaws that doomed it from the start:

**Troublesome Loan Conditions:** IDI participants clearly stated that the loan's requirement for collateral was an insurmountable barrier for a population that had been systematically dispossessed of all assets. This represents a clear failure from a Rights-Based Approach (RBA), as it created a discriminatory barrier that prevented the most vulnerable IDPs from accessing support, thereby violating the principle of non-discrimination and undermining their right to an adequate standard of living. For those who did secure loans (KII from LSAO), the demand for immediate repayment without a grace period set them up for failure, trapping them in debt and directly compromising their economic security, a core pillar of the Human Security framework.

**Logistical and Structural Failures:** Poor planning was evident in oversized business groups, a lack of basic infrastructure in allocated workspaces, and poor market access are described by participants in FGDs. This demonstrates a critical lack of coordination between responsible agencies (e.g., OSME, OLSA) and a failure to conduct due diligence, directly sabotaging the viability of the enterprises.

**Failure of Meaningful Participation:** Overwhelmingly, participants described a consistent failure by authorities to consult them in program design (FGD-01, 02; IDI-10, 11 and 03). This top-down approach is the clearest violation of the foundational RBA principle of participation and inclusion. This is not merely a procedural oversight; it is the root cause of the 'reintegration paradox.' Because IDPs were treated as passive recipients of aid rather than active agents in their own recovery, the resulting programs were fundamentally misaligned with their skills, needs, and realities. This exclusion stripped them of agency and political security, ensuring the initiatives were unsustainable from their inception."

#### 4.4. Social Challenges of Reintegration

While IDPs did not report primary concerns about physical security in Adwa, their social reintegration was elusive and marked by increasing friction, largely driven by the failures of the economic programs.

##### 4.4.1 Declining Community Support and Economic Pressure

On 28 February 2025, one research participant explained in her own words as follows:

*When I come here the local residents gave me a strong moral support regardless of.... difference. So many are motivated me in my rent house. However, in a while the support and motivation reduced more aggressively. Further, the owner of the house told me to find a house ... When I asked them for their reasons, they told me it is because of their fear not paying the required monthly money. Although I told them boldly as I can pay ... they laughed me and said "it is good even if you get a piece of Injera to eat..."*

Initial solidarity from the host community was replaced by compassion fatigue and economic anxiety. The eviction of a participant from a rental house due to the house-owner's fear of not paying the required monthly rental money illustrates how the failure to secure economic security

for IDPs directly undermined their community security, creating friction with the host population.

#### 4.4.2 Misconceptions and Stigmatization

Negative stereotypes of IDPs as described in their in FGDs “liars, greed’s, and corrupters” created a hostile environment. This was exacerbated by dismissive attitudes from some officials, which undermined the dignity of IDPs and violated the RBA principle of respect for persons. This stigmatization created a powerful, invisible barrier to social inclusion and access to services.

#### 4.4.3 Self-Imposed Isolation

The combination of economic hardship and social stigmatization led to psychological distress and self-imposed isolation. On 28 February 2025 KII from LSAO participants elucidated that “*to avoid the financial and emotional burden of social reciprocity they could no longer afford, many IDPs retreated from community life*”. This is not a personal failing but a rational coping mechanism in the face of systemic failure. However, it is deeply detrimental to long-term social reintegration, further fragmenting the social fabric.

### 4.5 IDPs socio-economic reintegration Experiences

A critical governance failure of the reintegration program was its one-size-fits-all approach, which ignored crucial differences within the IDP population. This was not a passive oversight but an active choice that produced negative consequences.

**A. Gendered Pathways:** The failure to provide a gender-sensitive response was not a mere omission but an active perpetuation of inequality. Beyond the unique trauma of sexual violence, their economic reintegration was more precarious. By designing an MSE model that did not account for women's roles as primary caregivers, the program effectively placed another barrier in the path of their economic security, compounding the gendered trauma they had already experienced (Kuschminder, 2017).

**B. Pre-Displacement Livelihoods and De-Skilling:** A significant disconnect existed between IDPs' prior skills and the opportunities offered. An IDP who previously managed a large business with a significant monthly income (as stated one participant) was now struggling for basic needs. This process of de-skilling, pushing experienced professionals into low-skill

cooperatives (FGDs), is not only economically devastating but also psychologically demoralizing. The program did not just fail to leverage existing human capital; it actively violated the right to freely choose one's employment and dismantled the IDPs' sense of identity and self-worth, a critical component of human security (Kuschminder, 2017).

#### 4.6 Durable Solutions

A durable solution is defined as the point when IDPs no longer have specific needs linked to their displacement and can enjoy their rights without discrimination. The evidence from Adwa shows a failure on every count. IDPs possess acute needs directly linked to their displacement (economic insecurity, psychological trauma), and they face profound discrimination. Thus, this show durable solution has not been approached, let alone achieved.

The cumulative effect has cultivated a profound sense of hopelessness. One study participant who stated, *“I am very dependent... I do not realize how to live”*, voices a state of disempowerment that is the antithesis of a durable solution.

This failure is pushing IDPs to contemplate desperate alternatives. The consideration of secondary migration to Europe or the Middle East (FGDs) is the most damning indictment of the local integration process. This is not an expression of free choice, but an act of desperation driven by the systemic failures of the state to provide a viable alternative. It signals that the local integration process has not only failed but may be inadvertently contributing to new patterns of precarious, irregular migration.

#### 4.7 Systemic Failures Mapped: A Rights-Based and Human Security Analysis

To synthesize the core findings, the following table maps the empirical evidence from this study to the violated principles of the Right-Based Approach and the compromised elements of the Human Security framework.

Empirical Finding from Study	Violated Right / Principle (RBA)	Compromised Security (Human Security)
Inconsistent and discriminatory food aid distribution.	Right to Food; Principle of Non-discrimination.	Food Security
Forced, immediate loan repayment without a grace period.	Right to an Adequate Standard of Living; Right to Work.	Economic Security

Sexual and physical violence during flight.	Right to Physical Integrity; Freedom from Torture.	Personal Security; Health Security
Dismissive officials; community stigmatization.	Right to Dignity; Principle of Accountability.	Community Security
Lack of IDP involvement in designing support programs.	Principle of Participation and Inclusion.	Political Security; Empowerment
Mismatch between IDP skills and jobs offered.	Right to Freely Choose Employment.	Economic Security
Insecure housing and threat of eviction.	Right to Adequate Housing.	Personal Security; Community Security

As this table visually demonstrates, the challenges are not isolated incidents but a cascade of interconnected failures. A violation of the RBA principle of non-discrimination in aid distribution directly undermines Food Security. This, in turn, exacerbates economic desperation, making it impossible to meet flawed loan conditions, thus violating the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living and collapsing Economic Security. This economic precarity leads to housing insecurity, violating the Right to Housing and destroying Community Security. This chain reaction, originating from governance failures and a lack of rights-based, conflict-sensitive planning, illustrates how the entire system designed to support IDPs instead trapped them in a cycle of insecurity and disempowerment, creating the very paradox this chapter has sought to explain.

**CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.1. Conclusion**

This study has explored the complex process of socio-economic reintegration for conflict-induced IDPs in Adwa town. The analysis concludes that the reintegration effort failed to

achieve a durable solution due to a fundamental disconnect between top-down program design and the lived realities, rights, and needs of the IDP population.

The displacement, rooted in ethnic violence, inflicted profound trauma that shaped all subsequent experiences. The institutional response was characterized by a "reintegration paradox": support mechanisms, such as the MSE model, were systematically undermined by prohibitive loan conditions, a lack of coordination, and a failure to conduct a basic skills audit of the beneficiaries. This contravened RBA principles of empowerment and the right to an adequate standard of living, while simultaneously crippling the economic security of the IDPs.

Socially, initial host community solidarity eroded into anxiety and stigmatization, fraying community security. The analysis also revealed the differentiated nature of this failure, with women and those with prior business experience facing distinct, unaddressed challenges. The cumulative effect has left many IDPs in a state of precarity and hopelessness, contemplating secondary migration as an escape. Ultimately, the lack of meaningful participation by IDPs, poor coordination, and the absence of a conflict-sensitive, rights-based strategy led to programs that were not fit for purpose and failed to restore dignity and self-sufficiency.

## 5.2. Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed.

### 5.2.1. For Government and Policymakers (Federal and Regional)

- ❖ **Develop and Enact a National IDP Reintegration Policy:** Formulate a comprehensive national policy focused on achieving durable solutions, created through a participatory process involving IDPs and host communities. This policy must be grounded in the principles of the RBA and Human Security.

- ❖ **Reform Micro-Finance for Displaced Populations:** Revise loan criteria to include the removal of collateral requirements, a mandatory grace period of 6-12 months, and subsidized interest rates to prevent debt traps.
- ❖ **Establish a Centralized IDP Coordination and Accountability Office:** Create a permanent, well-resourced office to coordinate all IDP services, ensuring accountability, eliminating bureaucratic silos, and serving as a single point of contact for IDP representatives.
- ❖ **Mandate Pre-Program Skills and Assets Audits:** Require all agencies to conduct a thorough audit of IDPs' skills, education, and prior professional experience **as the first step in program design**. This ensures that economic support is built on existing human capital.

### 5.2.2. For Implementing Partners (NGOs and Development Agencies)

- ✓ **Shift from Generic Training to Skills-Matching and Mentorship:** Design empowerment programs that match IDPs with opportunities aligned with their audited skills. Pair experienced IDP entrepreneurs with mentorship opportunities rather than placing them in entry-level training.
- ✓ **Fund Comprehensive and Integrated Psychosocial Support (PSS) Programs:** Recognize trauma as a primary barrier to reintegration and integrate long-term, professional PSS into all support packages, with specific provisions for victims of SGBV.
- ✓ **Adopt a Conflict-Sensitive and Community-Based Approach:** Design projects that require joint participation from both IDP and host community members, such as joint business ventures or community infrastructure projects. This approach mitigates tensions by ensuring resources are seen to benefit the entire community.

### 5.2.3. For the IDP Community

- **Establish Representative IDP Committees:** Organize formal committees to proactively engage with the proposed Coordination Office, ensuring their collective voice is central to the design, implementation, and monitoring of all support programs.

- **Leverage Peer-to-Peer Support Networks:** Strengthen informal support networks to share information, provide emotional support, and enhance collective agency in advocating for their rights and needs.

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Appendix Consent Form

MEKELLE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES

EXPLORING SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED  
TIGREAN: THE CASE OF ADWA TOWN

Consent Form to the Interviewees

My name is Teklu Gebreslassie and I am a candidate for a Master degree of civics and ethics at Mekelle University. I cordially invite you to participate in a study that aims to explore the socio-economic reintegration conditions of IDPs in Adwa town. Findings of this study will help to identify the barriers of the reintegration efforts and promote successful socio-economic assistance and the result of this interview is quite important to the success of the study. The study is purely an academic project and your views would be kept confidential, your name will never be used in any report, and there is nothing to affect your personal circumstances. If you are voluntary to participate, the interview will last 40-90 minutes.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. There are no foreseeable risks and direct benefits (incentives) to you for participating in this study. However, results of this interview as well as the others will help us in solving the problems of IDPs and their socio-economic reintegration. Feel free, you have the right to ask for clarification, stop answering or withdraw altogether at any time with no consequence at all. Moreover, it is according to your full consent for the interview to be recorded (tape-recording).

Confidentiality and privacy would be maintained by ensuring that the respondents answer the questions on a separate place where no one can see them. Therefore, I really need your honest and genuine response to questions prepared to attain the objective of this study.

Feel free to contact me if you have any question by the following address 0914039102

### Part I. Personal Background of Research Participants

1. How old are you?
2. Your educational level?
3. Have you had a job before you engage in to military (fighting)?
4. Are you currently employed? If so what is your current occupation?
5. Your marital status now? With whom are you living with now?

### Part II. Interview Guide for an In-depth Interview with IDPs

1. Would you express why you are displaced? What do you feel about the condition? Would you please tell me in detail all your experiences of displacement?
2. Have you faced any sexual, physical or emotional harassment or abuse during displacement period? Would you tell me about the problems you faced in detail?
3. What is your opinion about the action of Ethiopia's government with regard to internal displacement?
4. Is there anything that you want to add in relation with the factors of your displacements? (Cause, its process and impacts)
5. How would you elaborate the reception process after your displacement to Adwa town? Compare and contrast conditions before and after the reception process in relation with your anticipation?
6. How do you evaluate the support you got during the reception time? Would you tell me about the conditions after you arrived to this area?
7. Were there any socio-economic reintegration support offered to you? If yes, how was the reintegration process involved when you displaced to Adwa town? Who has provided support?
8. What type of rehabilitation and reintegration activities (shelter, psychological, medical, social, training, technical, and financial support) were carried out? How long?
9. How can you describe the supports you have got from different bodies (local community, GOs and NGOs)?
10. What were the specific roles of different actors in reintegrating IDPs social and economic status?
11. What were the strengths and limitation of service providers in rehabilitating and reintegrating the IDPs? Explain please in detail.
12. What were your opportunities and challenges of socio-economic reintegration in Adwa town?
13. How is the social support in regards to your reintegration to the community? How is your relationship with the community?
14. How is your economic status and social life now?
15. Can you describe the actual benefit you received from the process? What is the outcome of the reintegration process in your life?

16. How do you compare your life before and after displacement in terms of economic and socio conditions? If you want to add something about your current situation .....
17. What challenges you faced in socio-economic reintegration? In your opinion, what measures should be taken to avoid problems faced to IDPs and to effectively reintegrate them to the community?
18. What more could be done to address social & economic reintegration of IDPs in the area?  
Do you have anything else to further suggest or ask?

Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Part III: Guide for In-depth Interview with key Informants

1. What is your position in the institution you work in?
2. What is your understanding about the problem of IDPs in Tigray regional state particularly in Adwa town? How do you describe it?
3. What kind of assistance/services your institution is providing for IDPs? Did those services/ provisions are sustainable/ long term?

4. How IDPs rehabilitated and reintegrated in Adwa town? What type of rehabilitation and reintegration activities (shelter, psychological, medical, social, training, technical, and financial) support carried out? How long is it?
5. What governmental or societal measures devised to bring socio-economic reintegration of IDPs? Please describe briefly. What do you think are the weakness and strengths of actors in the overall protection and socio-economic reintegration of IDPs in Adwa town?
6. What changes/progresses have been registered owing to programs implemented to address economic and social reintegration of IDPs in the area?
7. What are the main challenges facing in the overall socio-economic reintegration of IDPs? Explain these. What measures done to respond the challenges and address the problem of IDPs in this town? Explain please.
8. Are there any guidelines for effective reintegration of IDPs? What kind of guideline do you use?
9. How better can the reintegration efforts be coordinated to mitigate the problems of the IDPs sustainably (economic, psychosocial, social, health needs and problems of the most vulnerable IDPs)?
10. What is the role of your institution/ office for socio-economic reintegration of IDPs?
11. Does your organization monitor the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs? If your organization is monitoring the reintegration, how does your organization determine that IDPs has successfully reintegrated back into their previous socio-economic status?
12. In your opinion, what can help to improve the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs? Do you have any other information you would like to add?

#### Part IV: Guide questions for FGDs with IDPs in Adwa town

1. Discuss about the displacements causes, its process and impacts in detail.
2. What problems have you faced during and after your displacement?
3. How would you elaborate the reception process after your displacement to Adwa town? Compare conditions before and after the reception process in relation with your anticipation.

4. How is the social support with regard to your reintegration to the community in the destination period? How was IDPs relationship with the local community?
5. What kinds of services/projects (such as legal, socio-cultural activities and psychological support) have been granted for you by families, community, government and non-governmental organization contribute to the social and economic reintegration with in the area? Discuss about its effectiveness and efficiency
6. What protection opportunities exist to effectively address the socio-economic reintegration interest of IDPs in Adwa town?
7. What changes/progresses have been registered in the town owing to programs implemented to address socio-economic reintegration problems of IDPs?
8. What are the challenges faced to IDPs in addressing the socio-economic reintegration in the area? How do the government and other stakeholders copes challenges they encountered during socio-economic reintegration of IDPs in the study area
9. What were the strengths and limitation of service providers in reintegrating the IDPs?
10. Mention what measures should be taken to avoid problems faced by IDPs and to effectively rehabilitate and reintegrate them to the community?
11. Can you discuss the actual benefit you received from the process of economic and social reintegration? What is the outcome process in the life of IDPs?
12. Was there any activities promised by the different Government or Non-governmental organizations (actors) involved in the reintegration?
13. According to your opinion what should be done to minimize (if possible to avoid) problems IDPs and in turn to increase the social and economic reintegration of IDPs in the area?
14. Please, you are welcome to add if any information left, your expectations for the future improvement of social and economic reintegration of IDPs in the area.

Thank you very much for your cooperation!

### Appendix D: Observation Guide for the Researcher

This observation guide is prepared to assist the researcher to provide better directions while carrying out the observation of the living and working environment of research participants.

Topics to be observed by the researcher

1. Overall observation of existing institutions resources, capacities and coordination to manage the social and economic reintegration process of IDPs

2. Observation of work, physical and conditions of IDPs and the surrounding environment they are living in.
3. Are the IDPs engaged in income generating activities? If yes, what kind of business activity they do, their working condition, and financial capabilities. (With a purpose to understand if IDPs are economically reintegrated)
4. Is there any evidence visible on healthy social relationship between IDPs and local communities? (With a purpose to understand if, IDPs are socially reintegrated)
5. Identification of challenges that hinder the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs in Adwa town