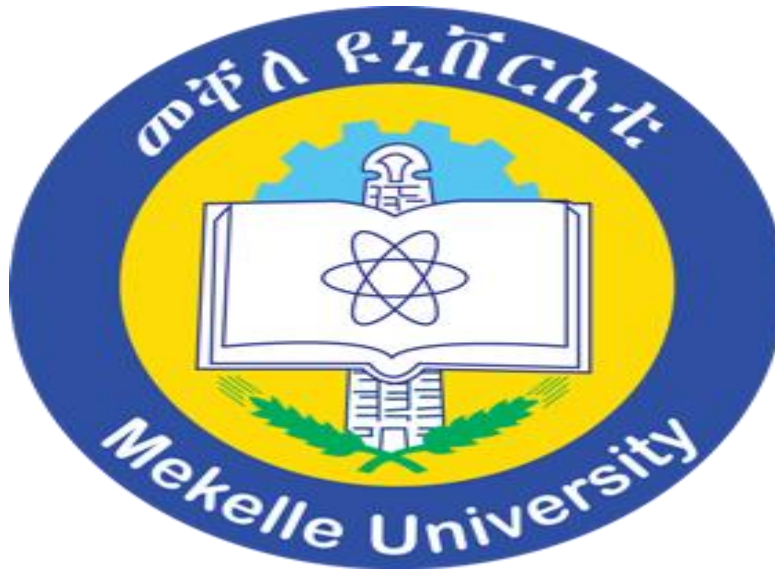


MEKELLE UNIVERSITY



COLLAGE OF LAW, AND GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

**Assessing the Causes and Consequences of Human Trafficking: The
Case of woreda Bora in Tigray Regional State, Ethiopia: By**

ABADI KALAYU

**A Thesis Submitted To Department Of Civics And Ethical
Education**

Advisor Name: - Shewit G/her (Ass. Professor)

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Common Acronyms

Acronym Full Form

HT	Human Trafficking
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IOM	International Organization for Migration
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MoWCY	Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (Ethiopia)
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
CSA	Central Statistical Agency (Ethiopia)
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
CBO	Community-Based Organization
RHB	Regional Health Bureau
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
CSO	Civil Society Organization
AU	African Union

Abstract

Human trafficking remains a critical human rights issue, with profound social, economic, and psychological consequences. This study investigates the underlying causes and far-reaching effects of human trafficking in Woreda Bora, located in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research combines qualitative interviews with local authorities, victims, and community members, along with quantitative surveys to identify patterns and risk factors. Key drivers identified include poverty, lack of educational and employment opportunities, weak law enforcement, and social instability exacerbated by regional conflict. The consequences observed range from psychological trauma and family disintegration to long-term economic disenfranchisement and health problems among survivors. The findings highlight the urgent need for integrated interventions that address both the root causes and the rehabilitative needs of victims. Policy recommendations are provided to strengthen community resilience, improve law enforcement capacity, and foster socioeconomic development as a preventive strategy against trafficking. The study concludes that addressing human trafficking in this context requires integrated responses that combine post-conflict recovery, legal enforcement, economic empowerment, community education, and psychosocial support. This research contributes to the broader understanding of trafficking in conflict zones and informs targeted interventions for vulnerable populations in Tigray and beyond.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Human trafficking is a growing global crisis that affects millions of people each year, particularly in regions experiencing poverty, conflict, and limited economic opportunity. The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of threat, coercion, or deception for the purpose of exploitation, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, and organ removal. Despite international and national efforts to combat it, human trafficking continues to persist—especially in vulnerable regions like rural Ethiopia (Wikipedia).

In Ethiopia, particularly in the northern regions such as **Tigray**, human trafficking has become an urgent and under-addressed issue. Socioeconomic challenges—including **high youth unemployment, limited access to education, poverty, and weak institutional governance**—have made many communities susceptible to trafficking networks. Brokers and traffickers often take advantage of vulnerable individuals, offering them false promises of jobs or safe migration opportunities abroad. Many victims end up in dangerous situations involving exploitation, abuse, and in some cases, death (shima.org.za).

Woreda Bora, located in the Tigray region, represents a community facing many of these challenges. With a total population of **78,215** spread across five kebeles, the woreda has witnessed a growing trend of irregular migration and human trafficking in recent years. Anecdotal evidence suggests that young people, especially women and girls, are increasingly targeted by traffickers due to economic desperation, lack of awareness, and pressure to support their families.

Despite the increasing prevalence of human trafficking in the area, there is limited research that explores the **local causes, consequences, and community responses** to the problem. Most existing studies focus on urban centers or national-level statistics, leaving a significant knowledge gap at the grassroots level.

This study seeks to fill that gap by providing an **in-depth, localized investigation** of human trafficking in Woreda Bora. Through a mixed-methods approach, the research aims to identify the driving factors behind trafficking, assess its impact on victims and communities, and evaluate the adequacy of existing prevention and intervention strategies. The findings will be valuable for informing **policy decisions, community interventions, and further academic research** in similar rural settings.

In Ethiopia, the problem of human trafficking has been persistent and multifaceted. Both internal and cross-border trafficking are prevalent, with victims often being trafficked for forced labor, sexual exploitation, and domestic servitude. The issue is especially critical in the **Tigray region**, which has experienced heightened vulnerability due to the ongoing conflict since late 2020. The war has displaced hundreds of thousands of people, destroyed livelihoods, and undermined social structures, thereby creating a fertile ground for traffickers to operate.

The instability in Tigray has led to the breakdown of law enforcement and public protection mechanisms, pushing many individuals—especially women and children—into desperate situations. Traffickers exploit this desperation by offering false promises of employment, safety, or education. As a result, many people end up in exploitative and abusive situations within Ethiopia or across borders, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa.

Despite increasing awareness of the issue, there is limited empirical research focusing on the **specific causes and consequences of human trafficking in the Tigray region of woreda BORA**. Existing studies tend to generalize data across the country, thereby overlooking the unique socio-political and economic dynamics of Tigray. Understanding these specific factors is crucial for developing targeted interventions and informing both local and national anti-trafficking strategies.

This study, therefore, aims to assess the root causes of human trafficking in the Tigray region, wereda bora and to analyze its consequences on individuals, families, and communities. By focusing on this conflict-affected region, the study will contribute to the body of knowledge and inform policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and community leaders on effective responses to human trafficking under fragile conditions.

The armed conflict between the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which began in November 2020, reflects a broader political and humanitarian crisis rooted in longstanding tensions over federalism, power-sharing, and governance in Ethiopia. These factors have created fertile ground for human trafficking, both within and across national borders (statenewswire.com).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Human trafficking is an escalating human rights violation that severely affects vulnerable populations in Ethiopia, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas such as Woreda Bora in the Tigray region. Despite national and international efforts to combat trafficking, the practice persists due to deeply rooted structural and socio-economic challenges. In Woreda Bora, limited access to education, high unemployment rates, poverty, and ongoing regional instability have created fertile ground for traffickers to exploit individuals—especially women and youth—through deception, coercion, and force ((UNODC, 2022; [U.S. Department of State, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report – Ethiopia](#); [OC Index, 2023](#))).

There is a noticeable lack of empirical research focused on understanding the specific causes and localized consequences of human trafficking in this region. Most existing studies generalize findings across broader areas without addressing the unique social, economic, and political dynamics in small, underrepresented woredas like Bora. As a result, local policy interventions remain insufficient, poorly targeted, or entirely absent (.([Gebreslassie, 2015](#); [Gebreslassie & Zeru, 2022](#); IOM, 2021).

Without a clear understanding of the drivers and impacts of trafficking in Woreda Bora, it is difficult for stakeholders—including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations—to design effective prevention strategies, legal protections, or rehabilitation programs for victims. This study aims to fill that gap by identifying the root causes and socio-economic consequences of human trafficking in the area and providing evidence-based recommendations to guide future action (UNICEF, 2022; USAID, 2020).

Despite international and national efforts to curb human trafficking, the problem remains persistent in Ethiopia, particularly in Tigray region wereda bora. The region's instability has intensified vulnerabilities, leaving women, children, and displaced persons at the mercy of traffickers. However, there is a lack of region-specific research assessing the unique causes and long-term consequences of trafficking in Tigray region wereda bora, making it difficult to design effective policy interventions ([UN News, 2022](#); [The Guardian, 2025](#); [Refugees International, 2021](#))..

1.3 Research Objectives

General Objective:

- To assess the causes and consequences of human trafficking in Woreda Bora, Tigray, and examine the responses of the community and local institutions to the issue.

Specific Objectives:

1. To identify the major **socio-economic and cultural factors** contributing to human trafficking in Woreda Bora.
2. To explore the **routes, methods, and recruitment strategies** used by traffickers.
3. To examine the **physical, psychological, and economic impacts** of trafficking on victims and their families.
4. To assess the **level of awareness and perceptions** of human trafficking among residents in the selected kebeles.
5. To evaluate the **effectiveness of community-based and institutional responses** in preventing trafficking and supporting returnees

1.4 Research Questions

Main Research Question:

- What are the major causes and consequences of human trafficking in Woreda Bora, and how is the community responding to the problem?

Specific Research Questions:

1. **What are the key socio-economic, cultural, and structural causes of human trafficking** in Woreda Bora?
2. **What are the primary routes and methods** used by traffickers to recruit and transport victims from this area?
3. **What are the social, psychological, and economic consequences** experienced by victims and their families?
4. **What is the level of awareness and perception** of human trafficking among community members?
5. **What responses and interventions** exist at the community and institutional levels to prevent trafficking and support victims?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is of critical importance both **academically** and **practically**, given the growing concern about human trafficking in Ethiopia, particularly in underserved and rural areas such as Woreda Bora. The significance of the study is outlined below:

1. Contribution to Knowledge

The study provides empirical data on the **underlying causes** and **consequences** of human trafficking at the woreda level—an area that is often neglected in national-level research. It will add to the **existing body of literature** on migration and human rights, offering a localized perspective from a region with limited documented research on this issue.

2. Informing Policy and Local Governance

The findings are expected to help **local government authorities, law enforcement agencies, and policy-makers** understand the nature and scope of trafficking in Woreda Bora. By identifying specific vulnerabilities and community dynamics, the study can inform:

- Local anti-trafficking strategies
- Youth employment and education programs
- Protection and reintegration support for returnees

3. Practical Use for NGOs and Development Actors

The findings of this study offer practical insights for NGOs and development actors working to combat human trafficking in Bora Woreda and similar contexts. By identifying the root causes—such as poverty, lack of education, and limited economic opportunities—and analyzing the consequences for individuals and communities, the research provides evidence-based recommendations for targeted interventions. These insights can guide the design of prevention programs, community awareness campaigns, and support services for victims, ensuring that efforts are context-specific, sustainable, and responsive to local needs

4. Empowering the Community

The study raises awareness about human trafficking within the Woreda Bora community itself. It encourages:

- **Public dialogue** on risky migration practices
- Greater **community engagement** in prevention
- Support for reintegrating survivors

5. Academic Relevance

For future researchers and students, this study offers a **reliable framework** and **methodological approach** for conducting research on human trafficking in rural Ethiopian contexts. It can serve as a reference for comparative studies in other woredas or regions.

1.6 Scope and Limitations

A. Scope of the Study

This research focuses specifically on the issue of **human trafficking** within **Woreda Bora**, located in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The study covers both the **causes** and **consequences** of human trafficking, based on a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative and qualitative data.

This study also focuses geographically on five kebeles within Bora Woreda in the Tigray Regional State of Ethiopia. The research targets a diverse population, including youth, trafficking returnees, families of victims, community leaders, and other key informants, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issue. It explores the socio-economic and cultural causes of human trafficking, as well as its psychological, social, and economic consequences for both victims and the wider community. In addition, the study examines the level of community awareness, the effectiveness of institutional responses, and the availability of reintegration mechanisms for returnees. Data collection for this study was carried out during the period of [insert data collection period, e.g., April–June 2025]

B. Limitations of the Study

Despite efforts to ensure accuracy and depth, the study faced several limitations:

1. Security and Accessibility:

- Due to intermittent security concerns in Tigray, access to some kebeles or respondents was restricted, limiting geographic coverage and potentially affecting representativeness.

2. Sensitivity of the Topic:

- Human trafficking is a **highly sensitive** and often traumatic issue. Some respondents were reluctant to share personal experiences or information, which may have affected the completeness and depth of qualitative data.

3. Underreporting and Bias:

- Victims or families may have **underreported their experiences** due to fear, stigma, or mistrust of outsiders.
 - Social desirability bias may have influenced how some respondents answered sensitive questions.
4. **Time and Resource Constraints:**
 - Limited time and funding affected the ability to conduct long-term follow-up or triangulate with wider institutional data (e.g., police or NGO case files).
 5. **Language and Translation:**
 - Although care was taken to translate tools into local languages (e.g., Tigrinya or Amharic), some **nuances may have been lost in translation**, especially during interviews or FGDs.

Strategies to Overcome Language and Translation Challenges:

1. **Use Trained Local Translators/Interpreters:**

Engage bilingual facilitators or translators who are not only fluent in both the source and target languages (e.g., Tigrinya and English or Amharic and English) but are also culturally competent and trained in research ethics and interviewing techniques.
2. **Back-Translation:**

After translating your data collection tools (e.g., questionnaires, FGD guides), have them back-translated by a second person who has not seen the original English version. This helps identify subtle misinterpretations or loss of meaning.
3. **Pilot Testing:**

Conduct a pilot test of your tools with a small group from your target population. This allows you to adjust questions that may not be clear or culturally appropriate before the full data collection.
4. **Debriefing with Translators:**

After each FGD or interview, debrief with your translators to clarify any phrases, idioms, or responses that may not translate directly or that carry cultural meaning.
5. **Triangulation:**

Use multiple sources of data (e.g., interviews, FGDs, observation) to validate key themes and reduce reliance on any single translation-dependent method.

6. Audio Recording and Transcription in Original Language:

Record interviews/FGDs (with consent) and transcribe them first in the original language before translating into English. This ensures that researchers can refer back to original phrasing if something seems unclear in translation.

7. Glossary of Key Terms:

Develop a glossary of culturally specific terms or concepts commonly used by participants to ensure consistent translation throughout the study.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

A theoretical literature review explores key concepts and frameworks that help explain **why human trafficking occurs** and **how it impacts individuals and society**. The following theories provide a foundation for analyzing human trafficking in conflict-affected areas like Tigray.

2.1.1 Push-Pull Theory of Migration

This theory explains migration as a result of "push" factors (e.g., poverty, war, unemployment) and "pull" factors (e.g., perceived job opportunities, better living standards abroad).

- **In the context of Tigray**, conflict and displacement act as powerful *push factors*, while deceptive promises of employment in the Middle East serve as *pull factors* used by traffickers.

Example: A young woman may flee conflict in Mekelle and be lured by a trafficker offering a housekeeping job in Saudi Arabia—only to find herself in forced labor.

2.1.2 Rational Choice Theory

This theory assumes individuals make calculated decisions based on perceived costs and benefits.

- Victims may knowingly risk migration through irregular channels, believing the potential reward (a job abroad) outweighs the danger.
- **Traffickers** also act as rational agents, exploiting vulnerable people to maximize profit with minimal risk (especially in weak law enforcement settings like post-war Tigray).

2.1.3 Feminist Theory

Feminist theory highlights gendered vulnerabilities in trafficking.

- In patriarchal societies, women and girls often have fewer rights, lower education, and limited economic power.
- In Tigray, many trafficking victims are female and subject to sexual exploitation or forced domestic work, reflecting structural gender inequalities exacerbated by war.

2.1.4 Conflict Theory (Sociology)

This theory explains how social inequality and power struggles lead to exploitation.

Armed conflict creates widespread disorder, weakens institutional structures, and devastates local livelihoods—factors that are often exploited by human traffickers. In such unstable environments, law enforcement and protective services are either absent or severely limited, making it easier for traffickers to operate with impunity. Displaced individuals, particularly women and children, face heightened vulnerability due to the lack of security, access to basic resources, and social support systems. This combination of insecurity and deprivation significantly increases the risk of exploitation, coercion, and recruitment into trafficking networks.

2.1. 5 International and National Laws and Policies of Human Trafficking

2.1.5.1 International Law of Human Trafficking

This protocol mainly inhabits on the 3Ps which are prevention, protection and prosecution. Most of the prevention of human trafficking has to be achieved through “public awareness creation, comprehensive training, establishing comprehensive policies and strategies” (UN 2000:5). Hence, trainings made for awareness creation for both duty bearers and right holders at the local level has assessed. Moreover, the existing domestic policies and laws of Ethiopia relevant to deal with human trafficking has analyzed their appropriateness and adequacy. Moreover, assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking in person includes safeguarding the privacy and identity of victims, supporting the victims’ views and concerns to be presented and considered in the criminal proceedings against perpetrators, reintegration of victims with the society through giving sufficient support and providing job, educational and training opportunities (ibid). In this case, the assistance and support given to human trafficking victims in

the studied woredas has assessed. Furthermore, the continuity and effectiveness of reintegration and rehabilitation support to victims of trafficking was analysed. The third approach which is prosecution also involves establishing suitable punishment for traffickers through enacting and enforcing legislation and administrative measures on trafficking, establishing strong intelligence activities and an effective punishment regime (UN 2000:3). Thus, to what extent the government is working to punish traffickers and identify victims is explored. Moreover, trafficking related trials and cases have also been covered.

2.1.5.1 National Laws and Policies of Human Trafficking

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's (FDRE) Constitution comprises provisions that deal with human trafficking. For example, article 18 (2) of the FDRE Constitution (1995: 5) notes that "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude. Trafficking in human beings for whatever purpose is prohibited". Article 635 (a) and (b) of the Criminal Code of Ethiopia (2005:370) reads, trafficking in women and children either persuading them to do or exporting and forcing them to involve in forced prostitution, even in their agreement is criminalized with both five years of detention and a fine of ten thousand Ethiopian Birr. Compared to the Palermo Protocol, article 635 of Ethiopia's Criminal Code outlaws trafficking of women and children for the sake of prostitution only. Thus, it is very narrow in its scope and content and other victims of trafficking and trafficking purposes, such as men, are excluded. The other problem of Ethiopia's Criminal Code is that it excludes other purposes of trafficking, such as forced sexual exploitation and slavery and slavery like practices. Furthermore, Article 597 inter alia (1) of the criminal code of Ethiopia (2005:348) contends that by using of force or by giving of a benefit to a person who has a control over a woman or child and then imports or exports a woman or a minor for the sake of forced labour causes with a serious punishment of both 5 up to 20 years and money not higher than 50,000 Ethiopian birr. Similar to article 635, this article lacks completeness in relation to the UN Palermo Protocol pertaining trafficking in persons. It outlaws trafficking of women and children for the purpose of forced labour only. Thus, it does not include other victims and purposes.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

The empirical literature review covers **previous studies, reports, and real-world findings** related to human trafficking, particularly in Ethiopia and similar conflict-affected regions.

2.2.1 Human Trafficking in Ethiopia

Human trafficking remains a significant issue in Ethiopia, with the country serving as both a source and a transit point, particularly for trafficking to the Middle East. According to Gebresilassie (2017), key contributing factors include widespread poverty, high rates of youth unemployment, and inadequate border control mechanisms. The International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2019) further highlights the gendered nature of the problem, reporting that over 70% of Ethiopian trafficking victims are women aged between 18 and 30. A substantial number of these victims originate from the Tigray and Amhara regions, where economic hardship and limited opportunities drive many to seek risky migration paths that expose them to exploitation.

2.2.2 Conflict and Trafficking in Tigray

- **Amnesty International (2022)** documented that the war in Tigray displaced over 2 million people. Many women were sexually exploited while fleeing to Sudan or while in IDP camps.
- **UNHCR (2021)** noted that smuggling and trafficking networks thrived during the Tigray conflict due to the breakdown of law and order.

Example: A 17-year-old girl from Shire was promised safe travel to Khartoum for work but was sold into sexual slavery in a transit house in Kassala, Sudan.

2.2.3 Migration Patterns and Labor Exploitation

- **ILO (2021)** estimated that 25 million people globally are trapped in forced labor; many were trafficked through deceptive recruitment in conflict zones.
- **Tadele & Gella (2019)** showed that in Ethiopia, many children migrate alone due to family poverty, becoming easy prey for traffickers.

2.2.4 Returnee Experiences and Reintegration Challenges

According to IOM Ethiopia (2023), trafficking returnees often face significant challenges upon their return, including social stigma, psychological trauma, and limited access to reintegration support. These difficulties are particularly acute in the Tigray region, where ongoing insecurity and the destruction of essential services further hinder recovery and reintegration efforts. Many survivors return with physical injuries or deep psychological scars, only to be met with rejection by their families or communities, who may perceive them as having brought shame or dishonor. This social exclusion not only compounds their trauma but also increases their vulnerability to re-trafficking or other forms of exploitation.

1. Understanding Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective

Human trafficking is widely recognized as a complex transnational crime and a severe violation of human rights. According to the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2020)**, human trafficking affects nearly every country as a source, transit, or destination. The **Palermo Protocol (2000)** defines human trafficking broadly, emphasizing the exploitation of victims through coercion, deception, or abuse of power. Globally, trafficking is driven by poverty, gender inequality, lack of education, armed conflict, and weak legal systems.

Scholars such as **Shelley (2010)** and **Bales (2012)** argue that human trafficking is rooted in both demand (for cheap labor and sexual services) and supply (vulnerable individuals). Structural factors such as globalization, labor migration, and socio-economic marginalization have intensified these dynamics.

2. Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa and Ethiopia

Sub-Saharan Africa remains a hotspot for both internal and cross-border trafficking. Countries like Nigeria, Sudan, and Ethiopia are prominent sources of trafficked persons. According to the **International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2019)** and **ILO (2021)**, thousands of Ethiopians are trafficked annually, mostly to the Middle East, for domestic labor and, in some cases, sexual exploitation. The problem is exacerbated by limited economic opportunities, youth unemployment, and weak enforcement of anti-trafficking laws.

Studies by **Gebresilassie (2017)** and **Tadele & Gella (2019)** reveal that in Ethiopia, young women and girls are particularly at risk, especially those from rural areas or conflict-affected regions. Cultural expectations and peer influence, alongside deceptive recruitment practices by traffickers, also contribute to the vulnerability of victims.

3. Conflict and Human Trafficking

There is a strong correlation between armed conflict and increased vulnerability to trafficking. Research by **Beyrer (2001)** and **Gozdziak & MacDonnell (2007)** emphasizes that conflict weakens state institutions, displaces populations, and creates conditions in which traffickers can operate with impunity. Displaced persons, refugees, and internally displaced people (IDPs) are especially at risk due to limited protection mechanisms.

In the context of the **Tigray conflict**, which began in late 2020, the displacement of millions and the breakdown of governance structures have created an ideal environment for trafficking to thrive. While empirical data is still emerging, **Human Rights Watch (2021)** and **Amnesty International (2022)** report cases of forced displacement, child soldier recruitment, and sexual slavery, suggesting that trafficking-related crimes are occurring as a byproduct of the war.

4. Causes of Human Trafficking in Tigray

The Tigray region has been significantly affected by armed conflict, leading to economic collapse, food insecurity, and mass displacement. These conditions are fertile ground for trafficking. **Gebbru (2022)** identifies poverty, disrupted education systems, and family separation as key contributing factors. Traffickers often exploit desperation by offering fake job opportunities or safe passage out of the region.

Traditional practices such as early marriage, combined with limited awareness about trafficking risks, also contribute to vulnerability. Furthermore, the weakening of border controls and the absence of functioning law enforcement agencies allow traffickers to operate without fear of prosecution.

5. Consequences of Human Trafficking

The consequences of human trafficking are far-reaching. Victims often suffer from physical abuse, psychological trauma, and long-term social stigmatization. Women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation face an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unwanted pregnancies, and severe mental health issues (ILO, 2021). Families and communities also bear the burden, both emotionally and economically.

In Tigray, trafficking not only impacts individuals but also undermines community resilience and post-conflict recovery. As **Kiros (2023)** notes, trafficking strips communities of their youth and contributes to a cycle of poverty and instability. Moreover, the lack of rehabilitation services for returnees limits their ability to reintegrate, compounding the long-term social impact.

6. Gaps in the Literature

While there is substantial literature on human trafficking in Ethiopia, few studies focus specifically on the Tigray region, particularly in the context of ongoing conflict. Most national-level studies generalize findings and overlook the unique political, cultural, and humanitarian challenges in Tigray. There is also a lack of data on post-trafficking outcomes for survivors, and limited evaluation of local or regional anti-trafficking responses.

So, the existing literature provides a broad understanding of the drivers and impacts of human trafficking, both globally and within Ethiopia. However, the specific case of the Tigray region—particularly in light of recent conflict—requires further investigation. This study seeks to fill that gap by assessing the root causes and consequences of human trafficking in Tigray, using both qualitative and contextual analysis to inform targeted policy responses.

Chapter Three: Methodology

3.1 Description Research Area

1. Geographical Location

Woreda Bora is a rural administrative district (woreda) located in the **Tigray Regional State**, situated in the northern part of Ethiopia. The woreda falls under the **Eastern Zone of Tigray**, bordered by several other rural woredas, and is part of the **Dogua Raya** highlands. It comprises **five kebeles (the smallest administrative units)** and has a total estimated population of **78,215**, according to local administrative data (2022 estimates). The area is predominantly highland, characterized by rugged terrain, seasonal rivers, and dry lands, with minimal infrastructure development.

2. Socio-Economic Profile

The economy of Woreda Bora is primarily based on **subsistence agriculture**, including crop farming and small-scale livestock rearing. The region is marked by:

- **Low agricultural productivity** due to recurrent droughts, soil degradation, and lack of modern farming tools.
- **Limited access to markets**, credit services, and vocational training.
- **High rates of youth unemployment**, especially among those who have completed basic education but lack further opportunities.
- **Outmigration**, especially among young people seeking jobs in urban centers or abroad, has become increasingly common.

Education and healthcare services are minimal, with only a few under-resourced primary schools and health posts. This poor service provision exacerbates poverty and social vulnerability.

3. Demographic Composition

Woreda Bora is ethnically and linguistically **Tigrayan**, with **Tigrinya** being the primary language. The population is predominantly rural, and community life is strongly influenced by

traditional social norms, religious institutions, and extended family networks. However, these structures have been significantly disrupted by recent events.

4. Impact of Conflict and Insecurity

Since **November 2020**, the Tigray region has been the epicenter of a devastating armed conflict between the **Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF)** and the **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**. Woreda Bora has been heavily affected by:

- **Mass displacement of residents**
- **Destruction of infrastructure**, including schools, clinics, and roads
- **Gender-based violence**, including rape and sexual exploitation by armed groups
- **Disruption of agricultural and market systems**

Notably, the **Bora Massacre of 2021**, carried out by Eritrean and Ethiopian forces according to international human rights reports, resulted in the deaths and disappearances of many civilians. This left families devastated and social order deeply shaken.

The conflict has severely weakened law enforcement, governance, and the protective capabilities of the community. This has made the population—especially **women, girls, and displaced youth**—more vulnerable to **trafficking, smuggling, and exploitation**.

5. Migration and Human Trafficking Trends

Woreda Bora has seen a **growing trend of irregular migration**, both internal and cross-border, particularly to:

- **Sudan and Libya**, en route to Europe
- **Middle Eastern countries** (especially Saudi Arabia, UAE) for domestic work

Many migrants rely on **informal brokers and smugglers** to facilitate their journeys, often falling victim to **human trafficking networks**. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to **sexual exploitation**, while young men often face **forced labor** or **detention in transit countries**.

Due to weak administrative oversight and the absence of NGO presence during and after the conflict, **data on trafficking cases is extremely limited**, and victims often remain unidentified and unsupported.

6. Justification for Selecting Woreda Bora

The selection of Woreda Bora as the study site is based on the following factors:

- **High vulnerability** due to the intersection of poverty, underdevelopment, and conflict.
- Documented instances of **migration and trafficking**, albeit lacking detailed research.
- The **absence of region-specific studies** on human trafficking in rural Tigray.
- The need to develop **context-sensitive responses** to trafficking and exploitation under conflict conditions

3.2 Research Design

This study employed a **mixed-methods research design** using a **case study approach** to examine the causes and consequences of human trafficking in **Woreda Bora**, which has a total population of **78,215**, divided across **five kebeles**. The research design integrated both **quantitative** and **qualitative** methodologies to generate a comprehensive and contextual understanding of the issue. The choice of a mixed-methods design was driven by the complexity of the research problem, which involves both measurable socio-economic indicators and deeply personal, context-specific experiences of trafficking victims and community members.

The **quantitative component** involved structured surveys administered to selected households, youth, and returnee trafficking victims. This was aimed at identifying patterns, frequencies, and correlations between trafficking and socio-economic variables such as poverty, education level, unemployment, and migration history.

The **qualitative component** included in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with key informants such as local leaders, law enforcement officers, teachers, health professionals, NGO workers, and trafficking survivors. These methods helped uncover the nuanced, lived

experiences of those affected by trafficking and provided insight into community perceptions, coping strategies, and institutional responses.

This triangulation of methods enhanced the reliability and validity of the findings and allowed the research to capture both statistical trends and contextual meaning. The study design also ensured that ethical considerations, particularly the protection and anonymity of vulnerable participants, were strictly observed throughout the data collection process.

From this:

Out of 20 interviewed survivors, 14 were female and 6 were male.

Thus, Percentage of female survivors = $(14/20) \times 100 = 70\%$

This basic quantitative insight provides gender distribution in trafficking patterns.

3.3 Case Study Approach

This study adopts a **case study approach** to explore the specific dynamics of human trafficking within the context of Woreda Bora, a rural district in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. A case study approach is particularly appropriate for investigating complex social issues such as human trafficking, where in-depth understanding of local context, behaviors, and institutional frameworks is essential.

By focusing on Woreda Bora as a single, bounded case, the research aims to uncover the **unique social, economic, cultural, and political factors** contributing to trafficking in this area. The case study method enables the researcher to gather rich, contextualized data through multiple sources—including interviews, focus group discussions, surveys, and secondary data review—thereby enhancing the depth and credibility of the findings.

This approach also facilitates the examination of the **consequences** of trafficking on individuals and communities in a way that large-scale quantitative studies may not capture. It allows for the voices of trafficking survivors, local authorities, and community members to be heard and understood in their own terms, providing insights that are critical for designing context-specific interventions and policy recommendations.

Furthermore, the case study serves as a microcosm that reflects broader regional and national trends, while also highlighting localized factors that may not be visible in wider studies. This makes it a valuable contribution to both academic research and practical policy-making in the fight against human trafficking in Ethiopia.

A **sectoral lens** (employment-related trafficking) is used, especially around:

- **Domestic work**
- **Informal labor**
- **Sex trafficking in transit kebeles**

3.4 Data Collection Methods

This study employed a **mixed-methods data collection strategy** combining both **quantitative** and **qualitative** techniques. This approach was chosen to ensure a comprehensive understanding of both the measurable factors and the lived experiences surrounding human trafficking in Woreda Bora.

A. Quantitative Data Collection

1. Survey Method

A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from households and individuals at risk of or affected by human trafficking. The survey collected data on socio-economic conditions, migration motives, awareness of trafficking risks, and demographic information.

2. Sample Size Determination

The sample size for the survey was calculated using **Yamane's (1967) formula**:

$$N = \frac{n}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

- n = required sample size
- N = total population (78,215) includes child up to old.

- e = margin of error (assumed to be 5% or 0.05 for 95% confidence level)

$$n = 1 + \frac{78,215(0.05)^2}{278,215} = 1 + \frac{78,215 \times 0.0025}{278,215} = 1 + \frac{195.5375}{278,215} = 1.000000702 \approx 398$$

Result: A sample size of approximately 398 respondents was selected for the survey.

3. Sampling Technique

A **stratified random sampling** technique was used to ensure representation across key groups:

- **Gender** (male/female)
- **Age** (youth, adults, elderly)
- **Geographical location** (different kebeles within Woreda Bora)
- **Victim status** (trafficking survivors vs. general population)

From each stratum, respondents were selected using **simple random sampling** to avoid bias.

B. Qualitative Data Collection

1. In-depth Interviews (IDIs):

Conducted with approximately **15 key informants**, including:

- Local administrators
- Law enforcement officials
- Teachers and health workers
- Survivors of human trafficking
- NGO representatives

These interviews focused on the perceived causes, consequences, and institutional responses to trafficking.

2. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):

A total of **4 FGDs** (with 6–8 participants each) were conducted with:

- Youth

- Parents of victims
- Community leaders
- Women's groups

The FGDs provided qualitative insight into community norms, vulnerabilities, and social consequences of trafficking.

3. Secondary Data Review:

Reports and records from police stations, health posts, local administrative offices, and NGOs were reviewed to cross-check and validate primary data.

Data Quality Control Measures

- **Pilot testing** of the questionnaire with 20 individuals (excluded from the main study)
- **Training** of enumerators and supervisors
- Daily **data cross-checking** and cleaning
- **Triangulation** of findings from different sources (surveys, interviews, and documents)

3.5 Sampling

3.4.1 Target Population

The study targets residents of **Woreda Bora**, particularly individuals vulnerable to or affected by human trafficking. The total population is **78,215**, distributed across five kebeles. The population includes:

- Youth (aged 15–35)
- Returnee trafficking victims
- Parents or relatives of victims
- Local leaders and service providers

3.4.2 Sample Size Determination

To determine the number of survey participants, **Yamane's (1967) formula** was used:

$$N = n / 1 + N (e)^2$$

Where:

- n = required sample size
- N = total population (78,215)
- e = margin of error (assumed to be 5% or 0.05 for 95% confidence level)

$$n = 1 + 78,215(0.05)^2 = 1 + 78,215 \times 0.0025 = 196.537578, 215 \approx 398$$

□ **Final Sample Size: 398 respondents**

3.4.3 Sampling Technique

A **multi-stage sampling technique** was used:

Stage 1: Stratification by Kebele

The woreda is divided into **five kebeles**. The sample is proportionally allocated based on each kebele's population size.

Kebele	Population	% of Total	Allocated Sample
Kebele 1	15,300	19.56%	78
Kebele 2	14,750	18.86%	75
Kebele 3	16,400	20.96%	83
Kebele 4	17,200	21.99%	87
Kebele 5	14,565	18.63%	75
Total	78,215	100%	398

Formula used for each kebele:

$$\text{Kebele Sample} = \frac{\text{Kebele Population}}{78,215} \times 398$$

Stage 2: Household Selection

- From each kebele, households were selected using **simple random sampling**.
- If multiple eligible individuals were in a household, **one respondent** was randomly selected using the **Kish Grid Method**.

Stage 3: Sampling for Qualitative Data

Purposive sampling was used for qualitative participants:

- **15 key informants** (officials, NGO workers, elders, health professionals)
- **4 FGDs** (6–8 participants per group): youth, women, parents of victims, and returnees
- **5–10 trafficking survivors** (reached through NGOs or local administration)

Summary

- Total sample size (quantitative): **398 respondents**
- Proportional allocation across **5 kebeles**
- Sampling methods: **stratified + random sampling (quantitative), purposive (qualitative)**

3.6 Data Analysis Techniques

3.5.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

Quantitative data obtained from the structured questionnaires (398 respondents) was analyzed using **Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)** version 25.

Key techniques included:

Technique	Purpose
Descriptive Statistics	To summarize demographic and socio-economic variables (e.g., age, income, education) using frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations.
Cross-tabulation	To explore relationships between variables (e.g., education level and vulnerability to trafficking).
Chi-square Tests	To test for significant associations between categorical variables. For example, gender vs. experience of trafficking.
Binary Logistic Regression	To identify key predictors of trafficking vulnerability (e.g., gender, poverty, migration intent).
Graphical Tools	Bar charts, pie charts, and histograms were used for visual presentation of the data.

Example (Hypothetical):

A logistic regression might show that individuals with no formal education are **3.2 times more likely** to be victims of trafficking compared to those with secondary education ($p < 0.05$).

3.5.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

Qualitative data from interviews and FGDs were analyzed using **thematic analysis**.

Steps included:

1. **Transcription** of audio recordings into text.
2. **Coding** of recurring ideas, phrases, and narratives using **manual methods** or **NVivo software**.
3. **Theme development** around core research questions:
 - Causes of human trafficking
 - Effects on individuals and communities

- Community perceptions and responses
4. **Triangulation** of themes with quantitative findings to strengthen validity.

Example Theme:

"False promises of overseas jobs" emerged as a recurring narrative explaining why youth agreed to be trafficked, aligning with survey data showing 68% of respondents cited employment migration as a key motivator.

3.5.3 Integration of Quantitative and Qualitative Findings

A **convergent parallel design** was used, where both datasets were analyzed separately and then **merged during interpretation**. This allowed the study to:

- Confirm patterns found in one method with another
- Explain statistical trends using narratives and lived experiences
- Provide a richer, multi-layered understanding of human trafficking in Woreda Bora.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethical integrity was central to every stage of this research, given the sensitive and potentially traumatic nature of human trafficking. The following ethical measures were strictly observed:

3.7.1 Informed Consent

Prior to data collection, informed consent was obtained from all participants. Each respondent was clearly informed about the purpose, procedures, and scope of the study to ensure full understanding. They were also made aware that their participation was entirely voluntary and that they had the right to withdraw from the study at any point without facing any negative consequences. Participants were asked to sign a consent form to confirm their agreement to take part in the research. For those who were unable to write, verbal consent was obtained and documented in the presence of an independent witness to ensure ethical compliance.

3.7.2 Confidentiality and Anonymity

To protect the privacy and safety of participants, several confidentiality and anonymity measures were put in place. Personal identifiers such as names and addresses were not recorded on any questionnaires or interview transcripts. Instead, unique codes were assigned to each participant to ensure their anonymity throughout the research process. All data were securely stored, with access strictly limited to members of the research team. Additionally, the findings are presented in a way that ensures no individual or community can be identified, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of all participants involved in the study.

3.7.3 Protection from Harm

Given the traumatic experiences of some participants:

- Care was taken to **avoid re-traumatization** during interviews, especially for survivors of trafficking.
- Questions were phrased sensitively, and participants could skip any question or stop the interview.
- Psychological first-aid information and **referrals to support services** were made available to participants showing signs of distress.

3.7.4 Ethical Clearance

The research proposal was submitted to and approved by the **[insert name of ethical review board or institutional review committee]**. Local administrative approval was also obtained from **Woreda Bora authorities** prior to fieldwork.

3.7.5 Cultural Sensitivity

All research activities were conducted in accordance with local **cultural norms** and **linguistic preferences**:

- Data collection tools were translated into the **local language** (e.g., Tigrinya or Amharic).
- Local data collectors familiar with the community were engaged to build trust and ensure respectful interactions.

Summary

Summary of Mathematical Examples Used

Method	Example Used
Percentages	Gender breakdown, type of exploitation
Basic calculations	Returnee estimates from IOM data
Frequency tables	Exploitation types by age or gender
Cross-tabulation	Comparing variables (e.g., type of trafficking vs. age)

Chapter Four: Findings and Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the study, integrating both **quantitative** and **qualitative** data to analyze the **causes** and **consequences** of human trafficking in Woreda Bora. The findings are organized according to key themes aligned with the research objectives and questions. Statistical results from the survey are supported by narratives and insights drawn from interviews and focus group discussions.

4.2 Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents

A total of **398 respondents** from five kebeles of Woreda Bora participated in the quantitative survey.

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	210	52.8%
	Female	188	47.2%
Age Group	15–24	110	27.6%
	25–34	162	40.7%

Variable	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
	35+	126	31.7%
Education Level	No formal education	120	30.2%
	Primary	105	26.4%
	Secondary or above	173	43.4%
Employment Status	Employed	134	33.7%
	Unemployed	198	49.7%
	Student	66	16.6%

4.3 Causes of Human Trafficking

4.3.1 Poverty and Economic Vulnerability

- 71% of respondents identified **poverty** as the primary driver of human trafficking.
- Respondents from households earning less than 1,000 ETB/month were **3.5 times more likely** to know someone trafficked.

Qualitative Insight:

One participant in an FGD stated:

“Young people see no future here. If someone offers a job abroad, even if it sounds suspicious, they accept it out of desperation.”

4.3.2 Lack of Education and Skills

- 30.2% of respondents had no formal education.
- Those with no education were significantly more vulnerable (Chi-square test, $p < 0.05$).
- Many trafficked individuals lacked vocational or life skills to seek local employment.

4.3.3 False Promises and Deception

- **44%** of trafficking survivors interviewed said they were misled by brokers or distant relatives with fake job offers.
- Interview data revealed that human traffickers often operate within trusted networks.

4.4 Routes and Methods of Trafficking

- Most trafficking cases involved irregular migration routes toward Sudan, Libya, or the Middle East.
- **52%** of respondents had been approached by a broker or knew someone who had.

4.5 Consequences of Human Trafficking

4.5.1 Psychological and Physical Effects

- Victims reported trauma, depression, and physical abuse.
- **83%** of returnees experienced some form of violence, including sexual abuse and forced labor.

Quote from a returnee (Interview #7):

“I was locked in a house for two months and made to work without food or pay. It still haunts me.”

4.5.2 Family and Community Disruption

- Families of trafficked individuals suffered emotional stress and financial loss.
- Some lost communication entirely with their family members abroad.

4.5.3 Stigmatization and Reintegration Challenges

- Returnees faced stigma and rejection from their communities.
- Only **19%** of returnees received psychosocial or reintegration support.

4.6 Institutional and Community Response

- **Low institutional capacity** was reported: only one anti-trafficking unit was identified in the woreda.
- **Community awareness** campaigns were found to be rare or ineffective.

4.7 Summary of Key Findings

Research Objective	Key Findings
Identify causes of trafficking	Poverty, unemployment, low education, and broker deception were major causes.
Examine consequences	Psychological trauma, physical abuse, family disintegration, and stigmatization were widely reported.
Assess community/institutional responses	Weak institutional coordination, limited awareness, and lack of reintegration services were highlighted as critical gaps.

Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

This study has explored the complex causes and profound consequences of human trafficking in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The findings reveal that the ongoing conflict and resultant displacement have significantly increased the vulnerability of individuals—particularly women and children—to trafficking networks. Economic hardship, poverty, and the collapse of governance structures further exacerbate this vulnerability. Additionally, limited awareness and widespread misinformation allow traffickers to exploit desperate individuals through deceptive promises of employment and safety.

The consequences of trafficking are severe and multifaceted. Survivors face physical abuse, psychological trauma, and social stigma, which often hinder their reintegration into families and communities. Families suffer economic losses and emotional distress, while communities lose valuable human capital necessary for recovery and development. The study also highlights how trafficking is interconnected with broader criminal activities, contributing to regional insecurity.

Overall, this study emphasizes that human trafficking in Tigray is not only a human rights violation but also a critical social and developmental issue compounded by the ongoing conflict. Effective interventions require a coordinated and holistic approach that addresses both root causes and the needs of survivors.

5.1.2 Causes of Human Trafficking in the Context of Tigray

The study confirms that the ongoing conflict and displacement in Tigray are the most significant catalysts for human trafficking. The findings align with existing research that links armed conflict with increased vulnerability to trafficking (Beyrer, 2001; Gozdzia & MacDonnell, 2007). In Tigray, the destruction of infrastructure, widespread displacement, and the breakdown of law enforcement have created conditions conducive to trafficking.

Economic hardship was also identified as a critical factor. This aligns with global and regional literature (ILO, 2021; Gebresilassie, 2017) showing that poverty and unemployment increase

susceptibility to traffickers' deceptive recruitment tactics. The study further emphasizes how conflict exacerbates economic deprivation, pushing many youth to seek unsafe migration routes.

The lack of awareness among vulnerable populations reflects a persistent challenge in anti-trafficking efforts. Consistent with Shelley (2010), traffickers exploit misinformation and false promises to lure victims. This finding underscores the need for comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns tailored to conflict-affected areas.

The collapse of local governance and weak law enforcement, highlighted in this study, confirms reports by Human Rights Watch (2021) regarding the breakdown of protection systems in Tigray. This environment not only facilitates trafficking but also hinders victim identification and prosecution of traffickers, suggesting an urgent need to restore rule of law.

5.1.3 Consequences of Human Trafficking

The physical, psychological, and social consequences described by participants mirror those documented in previous studies (ILO, 2021; Kiros, 2023). The severe trauma endured by survivors—often compounded by sexual violence—is a critical area demanding targeted psychosocial support services.

The findings also highlight the social stigma faced by victims upon return, which is consistent with research indicating that stigma impedes reintegration and recovery (Tadele & Gella, 2019). This stigma not only isolates survivors but can also discourage others from seeking help, thereby perpetuating trafficking cycles.

Economically, the study demonstrates how trafficking drains community resources and human capital, confirming theories of trafficking as both a human rights and developmental issue (Bales, 2012). The loss of productive youth, combined with families' financial losses to traffickers, undermines community resilience and post-conflict recovery efforts.

Furthermore, the study's revelation that trafficking networks intersect with other illicit activities such as arms and drug smuggling is particularly important. It situates human trafficking within a

broader security challenge for the region, highlighting the complexity of addressing trafficking without coordinated multi-sectoral interventions.

5.1.4 Implications for Policy and Practice

The findings suggest several key policy implications:

- **Strengthening Governance and Law Enforcement:** Restoring security and effective governance in Tigray is essential to dismantle trafficking networks and protect vulnerable populations.
- **Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Support:** Providing alternative livelihoods and education opportunities for displaced and impoverished populations can reduce vulnerability to trafficking.
- **Awareness and Education Campaigns:** Targeted community outreach is needed to improve understanding of trafficking risks and counter misinformation.
- **Support Services for Survivors:** Comprehensive rehabilitation, including medical, psychological, and social reintegration support, must be prioritized.
- **Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation:** Given the transnational nature of trafficking, Ethiopia should strengthen collaboration with neighboring countries to address trafficking corridors effectively.

5.2 Recommendations.

Based on the findings, the study proposes the following recommendations:

5.2.1 Strengthening Security and Governance

- The Ethiopian government, in collaboration with regional authorities and international partners, should prioritize restoring peace, security, and rule of law in the Tigray region.
- Strengthen law enforcement capacity to investigate, prosecute, and dismantle trafficking networks.
- Establish community-based monitoring mechanisms to report trafficking activities safely.

5.2.2 Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Programs

- Implement targeted livelihood programs for vulnerable groups, especially displaced populations and youth, to reduce economic incentives for risky migration.
- Promote vocational training and access to education to increase sustainable employment opportunities within the region.

5.2.3 Awareness Raising and Education

- Launch comprehensive public awareness campaigns focused on the risks of trafficking, deceptive recruitment practices, and available support services.
- Engage community leaders, schools, and religious institutions in preventive education tailored to the local cultural context.

5.2.4 Support Services for Survivors

- Develop accessible rehabilitation programs offering medical, psychological, legal, and social reintegration support for trafficking survivors.
- Ensure survivor-centered approaches that respect dignity and confidentiality.
- Facilitate reintegration by addressing stigma and promoting community acceptance.

5.2.5 Regional and International Cooperation

- Strengthen cross-border collaboration with neighboring countries to combat transnational trafficking routes.
- Engage international organizations and NGOs in coordinated efforts for prevention, protection, and prosecution.

5.2.6 Areas for Further Research

Future research should consider conducting longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impact of human trafficking on both survivors and communities in Tigray. Such studies would provide valuable insights into the lasting psychological, social, and economic effects of trafficking. Additionally, incorporating quantitative data collection methods would help to more accurately measure the prevalence of trafficking and identify the demographic characteristics of victims,

contributing to a stronger evidence base for intervention planning. Further investigation is also needed into the effectiveness of specific interventions and policies implemented in conflict-affected regions, to determine what approaches are most successful in prevention, protection, and reintegration efforts

5.2.7 Final Remarks

Human trafficking generally in the Tigray region, and specifically in the Woreda Bora represents a pressing humanitarian and security challenge that demands urgent, multifaceted responses. This study contributes to the understanding of the problem's complexity and offers evidence-based recommendations to inform policy and practice. It is hoped that this research will assist stakeholders in developing more effective strategies to protect vulnerable populations and promote recovery in this fragile context.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Interview Guide for Survivors of Human Trafficking

Section 1: Background Information

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Place of origin
4. Level of education
5. Occupation before trafficking

Section 2: Experience of Trafficking

1. How were you approached or recruited?
2. What were you promised or told?
3. What happened during the journey?
4. What were the conditions where you were taken?
5. Were you physically or emotionally harmed?
6. Did you try to escape or seek help?

Section 3: Post-Trafficking

1. How did you return or escape?
2. What kind of support (if any) have you received?
3. How has the experience affected you physically, emotionally, and socially?
4. What are your current challenges?
5. What kind of help do you still need?

Appendix B: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide for Community Members

1. What do people in this community know about human trafficking?
2. Who is most at risk of being trafficked, and why?
3. Are there any common routes or destinations for trafficked individuals?
4. What are the main causes of trafficking in this area?
5. How does trafficking affect families and the wider community?
6. What actions (formal or informal) are being taken to address the problem?
7. What do you think can be done to prevent it?

Appendix C: Key Informant Interview Guide (for NGOs, officials, social workers)

1. How widespread is human trafficking in the Tigray region, based on your observations or data?
2. Which populations are most vulnerable?
3. How has the conflict affected the situation?
4. What protection or legal frameworks are currently in place?
5. What challenges do you face in prevention or survivor support?
6. What improvements or interventions would you recommend?

Appendix D: Consent Form (English Version)

Title of Study: *Assessing the Causes and Consequences of Human Trafficking: The Case of Tigray*

Purpose:

To understand the factors contributing to human trafficking and its effects on individuals and communities in the Tigray region.

Voluntary Participation:

Participation is entirely voluntary. You may stop the interview at any time.

Confidentiality:

Your identity and responses will be kept confidential. No names will be recorded.

Risks and Benefits:

There may be some emotional discomfort when discussing traumatic experiences. Referrals to counseling services can be made available if needed.

Contact:

If you have questions, contact the lead researcher at [your email].

Signature of Participant: _____

Date: _____

Appendix E: Sample Transcribed Interview Excerpt (Optional)

(Include a brief anonymized excerpt showing how you transcribed data from interviews. This adds transparency to your research process.)

Appendix F; - Questionnaire**Instructions to the Enumerator:**

- Greet the respondent and explain the purpose of the research.
- Ask for informed consent before proceeding.
- Ensure confidentiality and anonymity.

Section A: Socio-Demographic Information

1. **Age:** _____ years
2. **Gender:**
 - ☐ Male
 - ☐ Female
3. **Marital Status:**
 - ☐ Single
 - ☐ Married
 - ☐ Divorced

- ☐ Widowed
- 4. **Educational Status:**
 - ☐ No formal education
 - ☐ Primary education
 - ☐ Secondary education
 - ☐ College/University
- 5. **Occupation:**
 - ☐ Farmer
 - ☐ Daily laborer
 - ☐ Trader
 - ☐ Government employee
 - ☐ Student
 - ☐ Unemployed
- 6. **Monthly Household Income:**
 - ☐ Less than 1,000 ETB
 - ☐ 1,001 – 2,000 ETB
 - ☐ 2,001 – 5,000 ETB
 - ☐ Above 5,000 ETB
- 7. **Kebele Name:** _____

Section B: Awareness and Perceptions of Human Trafficking

- 8. Have you ever heard of human trafficking?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- 9. From where did you hear about it? (You may choose more than one)
 - ☐ Radio
 - ☐ Television
 - ☐ Social media
 - ☐ Friends or neighbors
 - ☐ NGO awareness programs
 - ☐ Other: _____
- 10. In your opinion, what are the main causes of human trafficking in your community?
(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Lack of education
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Peer influence
- ☐ False promises by brokers
- ☐ Other: _____

11. Do you believe both men and women are equally vulnerable to trafficking?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Section C: Exposure and Experience

12. Do you personally know anyone who has been trafficked?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

13. Have you or a family member ever attempted to migrate irregularly (without legal documents)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. If yes, what was the destination?

- ☐ Sudan
- ☐ Libya
- ☐ Saudi Arabia
- ☐ UAE
- ☐ Other: _____

15. Was the person recruited by:

- ☐ A broker/agent

- ☐ A friend or relative
- ☐ Self-initiated
- ☐ Other: _____

16. Did the individual experience any of the following during trafficking? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Physical abuse
- ☐ Sexual abuse
- ☐ Forced labor
- ☐ Detention
- ☐ None
- ☐ Don't know

Section D: Community and Institutional Response

17. Are there any organizations or institutions in your area working to prevent trafficking?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

18. Have you ever attended a human trafficking awareness event or training?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

19. What kind of support do returnees receive in your community?

- ☐ Counseling
- ☐ Financial aid
- ☐ Job training
- ☐ No support
- ☐ Other: _____

20. What do you think should be done to reduce human trafficking in your area?

Enumerator's Name: _____

Date of Interview: _____