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Rights Protection of Conflict-Induced Displaced Children in the Street Situation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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June 2024

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Rights Protection of Conflict-Induced Displaced Children in the Street
Situation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Addis Ababa University, College of Law and Governance Studies,
Center for Human Rights

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Approval Sheet by the Board of Examiners

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CAR	Central African Republic
CSOs	Civil society organizations
CSS	Children in Street Situations
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commissions
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's
HPR	House of People Representatives
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IDPs	Internally displaced Persons
INGO	International Non- governmental Organizations
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Program

Abstract

This research has examined the rights protection of conflict-induced displaced children in the street situation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The research employed a descriptive research design and critical discourse analysis in examining and interpreting the lived experiences of children in the current social and political contexts considering the peculiar characteristics of the children. Participants for primary data collection were 45 children aged 10-to-18 (Mean age was 15.2) and 18 adults (Mean age 36.4) drawn from children's parents, government agencies, CSOs, and human rights organizations selected using purposive and convenient sampling. Secondary data were obtained by reviewing existing human rights frameworks, legislations, policies, and programs. The findings of the study revealed that displacement remains an alarming risk factor of vulnerability for children. Conflict-induced displaced children on the street are facing more complicated circumstances. States commit to defend the protection of the rights of internally displaced children to the same extent as all citizens. Notwithstanding, the rights of conflict-induced displaced children on the streets are deprioritized, as they are denied access to school, protection, health, and participation rights. These children have unique characteristics that set them apart from the other vulnerable children on the street. Conflict-induced displaced children have been traumatized by the conflict and instability situation. Their lived experiences demonstrate that they suffered greatly on their journey to safer places for their lives. These children are becoming an emerging group of vulnerable children in an urban context. State and non-state actors need to recognize their unique features and circumstances, which necessitates a new operational approach to protecting their rights. This has ramifications for existing social policies and systems, which need to consider such an emergent societal challenge to guarantee that conflict-displaced children are not left behind. There is a need to advocate for more effective policies and systems of governance, including a specific locus of responsibility for internally displaced children in the United Nations, international organizations, and government agencies.

Keywords: *Child rights, conflict-induced displacement, children in street situations, child protection*

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

The movement of children in the street has various features with interwoven implications, making it difficult to define the causes and detrimental factors to attempt to find a single factor that may provide a comprehensive explanation for the situation. The different emerging combinations of social, political, and economic aspects function to influence local dynamics. Conflict is one factor that also forces children to be in street situations in cities.

Conflicts cause people to abandon their homes. Displacement is a way of coping with the aftermath of war. When people don't feel secure in their neighborhoods and other coping strategies (such as hiding or negotiating with armed groups), they flee. Conflicts displace individuals in various ways: 1) Civilians may be caught up in conflict areas of disputes between insurgent groups and government troops (or, in certain circumstances, fights among insurgent groups); 2) they may escape to safer places after bombs fall or armed groups attack their towns and villages; and 3) they may also escape in anticipation of these brutalities.¹ Similarly, people evacuate conflict zones owing to disruptions in their economic and social lives. Conflicts cause chaos in markets, distribution chains, and facilities. People lose their jobs because they are afraid to work in agriculture and are unable to get their children to school as a result of the unrest. As a result, they go to locations where they believe they can survive.²

In addition to damages and length of the war, one of the indications of a conflict's severity is the number of individuals displaced from their homes. Recent conflicts have pushed individuals to flee their homes. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross survey of eight conflict-hit countries found that 56% of those impacted had been displaced. In some conflicts, numbers are far higher, such as around 80% in Afghanistan and nearly 90% in Liberia. When people living in violent countries were asked about their greatest worries, displacement was one

¹ Elizabeth Ferris and Rebecca Winthrop (2010), "The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education", paper was commissioned by the Education for All Global Monitoring Report.

² Ibid

of their top three—after losing family members and financial troubles, but above deaths, bodily harm, and sexual and gender-based violence.³

Poor conflict-affected countries have a large number of internally displaced people. Conflict affects all children, especially those who are displaced. Schools are regularly damaged, teachers and educational professionals are frequently unavailable, instructional materials are in short supply, and student attendance is restricted owing to security concerns. Children who have not been displaced may be more vulnerable to ongoing violence.⁴

Conflict and violence in cities can cause widespread migration. Many of the world's most recent conflicts have taken place in densely populated cities, including Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen. Other forms of violence that do not involve military conflict may lead to massive displacement, as seen in Latin American cities troubled by criminal and gang violence. In a variety of ways, urban conflict fosters displacement.⁵ The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Central African Republic, and Afghanistan had the highest number of new displacements caused by violence. New waves of war and violence have displaced people in Nigeria and Cameroon, two of the world's ten worst-hit countries.⁶

To investigate the Ethiopian context, the country experienced displacement in recent times, a major increase that influenced worldwide patterns. Ethiopia has seen the biggest number of people internally displaced within and across regions, particularly since 2018. Ethiopia's internal displacement was aggravated mostly by political turbulence and unrest (war, ethnic-based violence, and localized grievances).⁷ Thus, urban areas are heavily impacted by internal displacement, which frequently results in huge migrations from conflict-affected rural areas of a country to the relative safety of towns and cities. Many conflict-induced displaced children end up on the streets of urban areas. Different terms are employed to refer to such group of children. The literature employs terms such as "street children," "on the street," "without shelter," and "in particularly difficult circumstances." These diverse yet interconnected groups cannot be equated or combined. International non-governmental organizations such as Terre des hommes (TdH)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ [2019-IDMC-GRID-part3.pdf \(internal-displacement.org\)](#)

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Yigzaw, G. and Abitew E. (2019), Causes And Impacts Of Internal Displacement In Ethiopia, African Journal Of Social Work Afri. J. Soc. Work, Volume 9 retrieved from [192193-Article Text-487310-1-10-20200113 \(1\).pdf](#)

prefer to use the term 'Children in Street Situations' because the issue of question is not 'the street child', but the situation that leads the child to be on the street.⁸ Children's street conditions vary, and their perception of the situation is diverse; their subjective world is influenced by interpersonal ties developed on the street or with other locations and people. External factors, such as the hazardous environment in which children grow, place them at risk. Poverty, lack of education, war, and violence are all significant considerations in defining the condition of children at risk.⁹

In a nutshell, internal displacement has a huge influence on urban areas since it often involves large migrations from conflict-affected rural areas to the relative safety of towns and cities. The provision of social services (such as schooling and protection from abuse) to IDP children in urban contexts necessitates a substantial rethinking of how displaced children are seen. Empirical and anecdotal evidence on conflict-induced displacement reveal that IDPs frequently suffer from heightened vulnerability relative to other groups and may also endure discrimination in their access to development opportunities and even in circumstances of prolonged displacement.¹⁰

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Few research has been carried out to shed light and offer statistics on the rights of people displaced by conflict in various nations. Nonetheless, several previous research included methodology, findings, and recommendations that only addressed the intervention aspect and protection of the rights of children in the IDP camps. Existing studies fail to investigate the rights of conflict-induced displaced children living in streets in cities. This study will delve into and examine the rights of conflict-induced displaced children in Addis Ababa in the current setting. Children and women are some of society's most vulnerable individuals. Conflict-related violence and unrest make them extremely susceptible. Children recruited as child soldiers may be taken away from their families and subjected to physical or sexual violence. There is concerning data on the effects of conflict on children worldwide.¹¹

⁸ Terre des hommes, sectoral policy (2010), children on the street situations

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ [World Bank - A Development Approach to Conflict-Induced Internal Displacement - 2021 - World | ReliefWeb](#)

¹¹ Natasha Holcroft-Emmess (2016), How Does Armed Conflict Affect Children's Rights, data retrieved on August 1, 2023 from [How Does Armed Conflict Affect Children's Rights? | EachOther](#)

Approximately one in every five children globally lives in conflict zones, and the total number of children living there has climbed by 30% since 2015.¹² According to evidence, more than 450 million children around the world are growing up in conflict zones. 43 million people have been displaced from their homes, with at least 153,000 of them unaccompanied or separated from their families.¹³ Conflicts have displaced millions of people from their homes. This far exceeds any previous period in the record.¹⁴ According to UNICEF, children account for approximately half of those forced to escape their homes due to conflict. Internally displaced people have fled to cities all around the world in search of short-, medium-, and long-term shelter. Although the actual number is unknown, proof of the specific opportunities that cities can provide for short- and long-term solutions is increasing. There is also evidence of the special vulnerabilities that cities pose, such as urban violence, tenure instability, and the potential for onward displacement.¹⁵

W Armed Conflicts have resulted in the exile of thousands of children from their families, widespread abuse and exploitation of children, and the destruction of social services like as schools and health institutions in Ethiopia. Armed Conflict in northern Ethiopia (in Tigray, Afar, and Amhara regions), as well as hostilities in Oromia and other areas, have left 31.4 million Ethiopians in need, including 16.5 million children and 7.8 million women. Approximately 4.5 million people are internally displaced across the country. With violence, insecurity, and other societal challenges, the number of street children has eventually increased. In Ethiopia, over 600,000 children and adolescents live in the streets. Among sexually active street children/adolescents in certain major towns, 8.3% engage in sexual intercourse in exchange for money, 2.3% are under the influence of ‘*khat*’ or alcohol, and 2% have been molested.¹⁶ The conflict in various parts of the country has increased the extent of incidents that have driven displaced children and women to live in the streets of the main metropolis (Addis Abeba) and provincial cities. Conflicts not only physically expel people from their communities, but they also have a significant impact on family

¹² 2024 Global Trends Outlook, Context Analysis and Foresight Analysis, Save the Children International

¹³ SOS Children’s Villages International Annual Report, published on 17 July 2023, retrieved on Aug 10,2022 from [Intl-Annual-Report-2022-EN.pdf \(sos-childrensvillages.org\)](https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/intl-annual-report-2022-en.pdf)

¹⁴ Save the Children (2023) report on displaced people by conflict

¹⁵ IDMC (Internal Displacement Monitoring Center), data retrieved on April 27,2023 [Urban displacement | IDMC \(internal-displacement.org\)](https://www.internal-displacement.org/urban-displacement/)

¹⁶ Demelash H. &Addisie A., 2013. Assessment of Sexual and Reproductive Health Status of Street Children in Addis Ababa. Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

and community life, including children. Disputes can alter family relations, and children lose faith in the capacity of their parents, relatives, or community to safeguard them in the future. Displaced children frequently see violence against relatives or acquaintances, and even after relocating to another region, they continue to feel terrified.¹⁷

It can be challenging to conclude the experiences of conflict-induced displaced children; however, these children are exposed to vulnerabilities because of their displacement, and conflicts and displacement increase pre-existing vulnerabilities. These include trauma, grief, and anxiety, separation from relatives, interpersonal relationships, and societies, lack of protection or problems related to camps, loss of property and ownership, lack of access to job opportunities, prejudice, discrimination, and sometimes.¹⁸ Evidence shows that violent conflict causes thousands of people to flee their homes in Ethiopia each year. The resulting displacement challenges not only create logistical and humanitarian nightmares but also undermine security and endanger the lives of displaced people. Children who have been displaced as a result of conflict in Ethiopia, as elsewhere in the world, are entitled to basic human rights as well as extra protections afforded because they are minor. The need to act in the best interests of the child, as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, is a fundamental state responsibility.

Internal displacement to towns and cities has caught more attention over time, yet data on the majority of these populations has been limited. It has been especially difficult to profile the populations of internally displaced people (IDPs) in cities because enormous, complex urbanization processes have coincided with conflict-induced displacement, making it difficult to differentiate between IDPs, other migrants, and regular urban inhabitants. Internally displaced people encounter several problems that may jeopardize their immediate safety or impede their capacity to exercise their rights properly. Even though IDPs frequently face several protection concerns with other groups, internal displacement frequently exposes IDPs to further discrimination and human rights infringements as a direct result of their uprooting. Protection and support programs should not focus on the IDPs themselves, but rather on the specific needs of each situation as assessed by the IDPs.

¹⁷ World Vision. Trapped! The Disappearing Hopes of Iraqi Refugee Children, April 2007

¹⁸ Joseph Sassoon, *Iraqi Refugees: The New Crisis in the Middle-East*, London: I. B. Tauris & Company, Limited, January 2009.

It is critical to demonstrate a complete awareness of how displacement has affected children's rights and protections in street settings. Children who have been displaced as a result of conflict may be unable to return to their original location due to the likelihood of ongoing violence and instability. According to accounts, returnees continue to face security concerns and a lack of access to essential amenities, with others forced back into displacement. When children spend extended periods on the streets, they skip school and have no safety, putting them in danger and compromising their rights. knowing the given problem description, the researcher poses the following critical study questions.

Research Questions

1. What are the distinctive characteristics of conflict-induced displaced children on the street situation in Addis Ababa?
2. How do global, regional and national human rights frameworks protect the rights of children who are forced to flee their hometowns due to conflict?
3. How are the rights of conflict-affected displaced children protected from abuse and degrading treatment?
4. How do children who have been displaced due to conflict view their lived experience?

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

To investigate the peculiar characteristics, rights protection, and lived experience of conflict-induced displaced children in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.

1.3.2 Specific Objective

- To assess the special characteristics of conflict-induced displaced children in street situations.
- To review the rights protection of children pushed by conflict in the national and global human rights frameworks.
- To describe the rights protection of conflict-induced displaced children specifically with abuse and degrading treatment.
- To explore the lived experiences specific to abuse and degrading treatment of conflict-induced displaced children in the street situation.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings from this research will make an essential contribution to knowledge and practice on the rights protection of conflict-induced displaced children in urban settings. It is an initial study since the available research did not cover the rights protection of conflict-induced displaced children who were out of camps. The findings and recommendations in these areas may be useful to the following actors:

- **Practitioners:** It bridges the existing research and practice gaps through advancing the practitioners understanding on the issues. The key findings and recommendations can be used to inform program and projects.
- **Policy Makers:** It gives an insight to policy makers to make the issue to be a policy discussion agenda and key findings and recommendations can be used to inform decision.
- **Researchers:** It will spark additional research on the subject. The findings provide critical insights and information on issues which could contribute to academic and policy debates on the subject.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The research's thematic scope revolves around the rights and protection of conflict-induced displaced children in the streets of Addis Ababa. The study will not include displaced children in IDP camps. This study's spatial scope is limited to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. The research subjects are conflict-induced displaced children who have been forced to flee due to northern hostilities, as well as recurring crises elsewhere in the country. As a result, the study's temporal scope was confined to the years 2020–2024.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

One of the challenges in doing this research is the limited availability of national studies on the rights of conflict-displaced children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The study's scope is also limited to randomly selected participants from conflict-induced displaced children in Addis Ababa. The researcher took mitigation actions such as thoroughly assessing accessible studies from multiple countries and reviewing unpublished readings and reports produced by state and non-state entities such as INGOs and UN organizations.

1.7 Operational Definition

- Children: A child under the age of 18 who has been affected by conflict and lives and/or works on streets in Addis Ababa.¹⁹
- Children at risk: Conflict-induced displaced children live in the street situation and their rights and protection are jeopardized.
- Children in street situations: Children hustling and/or staying on the streets. It recognizes that children engage in a range of activities on the street and that if there is "an issue," it is not the child, but rather the situation in which s/he finds herself or himself.
- Conflict-induced displaced children: Those who are compelled to leave their habitual residence, primarily because of conflict or to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, political instability, conditions of generalized hostility, and violations of human rights.
- Lived experience: The path an individual and/or family chooses in life in times of conflict and instability in his/her hometown. It is the progression of activities that an individual engages in over time. People's lives are made up of a variety of interconnected paths, however, this study addresses key themes, such as the family situation, the process of going to the street, day-to-day life on the street, and their hopes for the future in terms of their perceptions and representations.
- Abuse: It encompasses any form of abusive behavior and action, whether psychological or physical, sexual, neglectful, or exploitative, that causes actual or potential harm to a child's development, health, and dignity.

¹⁹ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children Article 1

Chapter Two:

Literature Review

Introduction

The main intent of this chapter is to critically investigate secondary sources of data and information to articulate the theoretical and empirical analysis and formulate the conceptual framework. This chapter includes three sections. The first section is to convey conceptualization to identify key concepts employed in the study and provide a thorough explanation of those ideas. Given this, conflict and displacement, internally displaced people, including children, rights protection in the context of internal displaced children's human rights, the state of conflict-induced displaced children on the street, rights protection of children pushed by conflict on the street, and lived experience of conflict-induced displaced children are presented to clarify and frame the study's key research concepts and issues. Section two includes a review of several empirical research in conceptualizing rights protection and the lived experience of conflict-induced displaced children in the setting of street scenarios, followed by section three, which elucidates and presents the study's conceptual framework.

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

2.1.1 Conflict and Displacement

Theories of conflict-induced displacement concentrate emphasis on both fundamental and proximate reasons. Analyzing the root causes of displacement, such as continued persecution and injustice, gives context and predicts prospects. However, such conditions are frequently linked to a direct cause, such as ethnic cleansing, rioting, or war, before compulsory evacuation. Indeed, many states are constituted by conditions and processes that are regarded as fundamental drivers of displacement, such as political oppression, inequality, or historical animosity; additionally, such characteristics might continue for years without resulting in substantial violent displacement.²⁰ Armed conflicts and political instability are among the leading causes of conflict-induced displacement. Children are especially vulnerable to migration because of their age and reliance on

²⁰ Sarah Lischer (2007), *Causes and Consequences of Conflict-Induced Displacement*, Wake Forest University.

caretakers.²¹ With this in mind, political violence is the leading cause of forced displacement. Research on conflict-induced displacement thus focuses on the features of the conflict in the country of origin and the circumstances under which they lead to forced displacement, with speculation later seeking to explain a wide range of incidents, from broad factors influencing refugee flows in general to individuals' choices within disputes.²²

Across the globe, the number of armed conflicts has tripled since 2010, and this, combined with an increase in other forms of aggression, political instability, and extremism of all kinds, has increased internal displacement. Conflicts force people to leave their homes. Indeed, one indication of the gravity of a conflict is massive displacement of children and women. In addition to casualties and duration, it refers to the extent to which individuals have been displaced from their homes. According to a 2023 study undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross of eight conflict-hit nations, 56% of individuals impacted had been displaced; in some conflicts, the figures were substantially higher, with almost 80% in Afghanistan and nearly 90% in Liberia. When people living in conflict-affected countries were questioned about their biggest concerns, fear of displacement was among the top three, trailing only losing a loved one and economic hardship, but preceded by catastrophic injury, and sexual and gender-based abuse.²³ Gender, ethnicity, and economic status all have the potential to increase displacement.²⁴

All stages of conflict and relocation disproportionately affect women and children, who account for 70% of the displaced population. Violence against women and children is frequently applied as a military technique to erode a community's essential beliefs, as well as to punish or terrorize communities and individuals.²⁵ In times of armed conflict, people are seen moving to cities because they are regarded to be safer and provide greater livelihood prospects.²⁶ There's no quantitative study has investigated the effects of conflict-induced internal displacement on the

²¹ UNICEF. (2021). Syria Crisis: Fast Facts. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syrian-crisis/fast-facts>.

²² Ibid.

²³ Elizabeth Ferris and Rebecca Winthrop (2010), "The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education", paper was commissioned by the Education for All Global Monitoring Report.

²⁴ Miller, K. E., & Rasmussen, A. (2017). War exposure, daily stressors, and mental health in conflict and post-conflict settings: Bridging the divide between trauma-focused and psychosocial frameworks.

²⁵ Aditya, A., Upreti, B. R. and Adhikari, P.K. 2006. Countries in Conflict and Processing of Peace: Lessons for Nepal. Kathmandu: Friends for Peace.

²⁶ Upreti, B. R. 2006. Armed Conflict and Peace Process in Nepal: The Maoists Insurgency, Past Negotiation and Opportunities for Conflict Transformation. New Delhi: Adroit Publishers.

spread of domestic conflict. This lack of focus could be attributed to a scarcity of data on IDPs, as well as theoretical concerns regarding the feasibility of separating IDPs from the rest of the civilian population. Conflict-induced IDPs are substantially more vulnerable to attacks since they remain within the borders of their state, and they are just as likely to feel abandoned and politicized as refugees.²⁷ As a result, conflict-induced IDPs have a higher risk of militarization.²⁸ Therefore, the question arises as to how and whether internal displacement in general raises the probability of conflict spreading within a country. However, other research suggests that the presence of Internally Displaced raises the risk of ethnic conflict.²⁹

Given that IDPs suffer several obstacles in their daily lives, the government has been unable to resolve these concerns to the point where they meet the bare basic needs established by international humanitarian organizations. Internal displacement is one of the world's most critical human rights and humanitarian concerns, with millions of people, including women and children, displaced each year due to violence, conflict, and breaches of human rights. IDP settlements are usually less secure than refugee settlements since they are not explicitly recognized as special needs areas.

2.1.2 Meaning of Internal Displacement

Internally displaced persons have the same human rights as everyone else, as recognized by international human rights treaties and customary law. Plus, they are entitled to the same protections under internationally recognized humanitarian law as everyone else during times of armed conflict. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which reiterate and combine existing international human rights and humanitarian law relevant to internally displaced people, was adopted issued on 17 April 1998 by the Commission on Human Rights. It aspires to address gaps and clarify any misunderstandings in the various instruments on situations that are particularly crucial for internally displaced people.³⁰

²⁷ Achvarina, Vera and Simon F. Reich. 2006. "No place to Hide: Refugees, Displaced Persons and Recruitment of Child Soldiers." *International Security*.

²⁸ Aspa, Jose Maria Royo. 2011. "The economic relationship of armed groups with displaced population." *Forced migration review*.

²⁹ Heidrun Bohnet, Fabien Cottier, Simon Hug (2013), *Conflict-induced IDPs and the spread of conflict*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

The foundational concepts of internal displacement were presented to the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. They are founded on the principles of international human rights law, humanitarian law, and refugee law through the concept of analogies. They resolve "ambiguity issues" in the legislation by explicitly stating any previously implicit provisions. They emphasize that forcibly displaced persons cannot be returned in unsafe conditions, and they include protections for women and children, provisions for compensation or replacement of lost property and possessions, the right not to be displaced, and the conditions under which displacement is illegal. According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, internally displaced persons (also referred to as "IDPs") 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, 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 border."*

People who are forced to evacuate or abandon their homes, particularly during times of violent conflict, are vulnerable in a variety of ways. The death rate among displaced persons is significantly higher than other hazards. They are frequently denied adequate housing, nourishment, and medical services, and they remain at high risk of sexual and physical assault, as well as kidnapping. Women and children comprise the great majority of internally displaced people, and they are especially vulnerable to violations of their fundamental human rights. Internally displaced persons are more prone than refugees to remain in or become stuck in conflict zones, where they may be used as targets and/or victims.³¹ The governing bodies of the countries in which internally displaced people dwell bear the primary responsibility for providing them with assistance and protection, as this is a vital component of sovereignty, which is called the principle of national responsibility. It is fundamental to uphold the sovereign state's accountability and commitment to both internal and external constituencies as interconnected norms of both the national and international order. The basis of such a normative rule is the notion that accountability is a

³¹ [About internally displaced persons | OHCHR](#)

necessary condition for sovereignty to be legitimate. That means, at the very least, providing for the fundamental needs of its people.³²

The international community's functions are complementary. There is no single organization or institution recognized as the worldwide authority in providing protection and aid to internally displaced persons including children. The "collaborative method" encourages everyone to work together to meet these requirements rather than addressing them alone.

2.1.3 Characteristics of Internal Displacement

IDPs may be relocated into camps, especially if huge populations are displaced at the same time, or into cities. Despite their commonalities, urban and camp-displaced individuals may have different experiences of displacement, support networks, and needs.³³ Refugees and asylum seekers who are staying in camps are frequently subject to the jurisdiction of UN agencies (such as the UNHCR), INGOs, or a state-based agency (not infrequently the military), and they rely on them for provisions, housing, protection, and other necessities. Their freedom of movement may be limited, as will their chances of self-reliance and collective self-determination. People who have moved to towns and cities have limited access to these agencies' services and are more likely to rely on family and other social support networks. Urban displaced people may blend in with the surrounding population, overshadowing government and non-governmental organization policy and programming responses. This may result in increased flexibility, but it can also result in higher complexity.³⁴

Other vulnerable groups that are commonly disregarded in instances of relocation include conflict-induced displaced children on the streets. As a result, there is a divide between conflict-induced displaced children living in camps and those living in the streets. There are also disparities in the causes of displacement by conflict versus other economic or other causes on the street. Displacement results in major losses of assets, income, and access to services. The facts and empirical research consistently show that IDPs have poorer labor market outcomes than other groups. With limited access to essentials, IDP youth and children have lower attendance at school

³² Amitai Etzioni (2016), *Sovereignty as Responsibility, Defining Down Sovereignty: The Rights and Responsibilities of Nations*, Published online by Cambridge University Press.

³³ Dr Lucy Fiske (2016), *Effects of Conflict-Induced Displacement on Women in DRC, Kenya and Uganda*, University of Sydney

³⁴ Ibid

and low literacy rates than other populations. Poor health is a primary cause of insecurity for IDP groups, exacerbated by the difficulty in accessing medical assistance due to financial restrictions and a lack of appropriate medical care and protection services.³⁵

2.1.4 The Term 'Children in Street Situations'

The notion of 'children in street situations' was approved by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in March 2011 with Assembly Resolution 16/12. The term refers to children who work and/or live on the streets. It acknowledges that children engage in a range of activities on the street and that if there is "an issue" it is not the child, but rather the setting in which s/he finds herself/himself, and places value on the choices children make to have a sense of connection to the street, as well as interactions with their families and other organizations, and that they can construct and have capacities to offer the society in which they live.³⁶

However, the notion of "street children" originated in the 1980s and was accepted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1994. At the operational level, it is a frequent word used by the public, researchers, and humanitarian groups. According to UNICEF, children on the street are those who spend their days on the street and return home to their families at night, while children who live on the street and are without family support but still maintain family ties are categorized as children on the street, and those who have been abandoned and have lived entirely on their own are classified as street children. The term "street children" combines the words "street" with "children". It refers to a group of children who are, among other things, not under family care, lack socialization, and do not live in a situation that mainstream society considers suitable for them. Such inadequate conditions may result from their daily habits and behaviors that are harmful to their well-being.³⁷

2.1.5 Protection in the Context of the Human Rights of Internal Displaced People

Understanding and enforcement of human rights and humanitarian laws are the most effective approaches to prevent initial displacement and further violations of rights of IDPs. Human rights and humanitarian organizations define protection just as "any action intended for

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child Assembly resolution 16/12 in March 2011, retrieved on April 23,2023 from [United Nations \(ohchr.org\)](https://www.ohchr.org/)

³⁷ Glauser Benno (1998), Street Children: Deconstructing the Construct [Book Section] Constructing and Deconstructing Childhood/book auth. Prout James and / ed. Prout James and. - London

ensuring full respect for every person's right under the letter and spirit of the corresponding bodies of law, such as human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law". This word has been tremendously important within the global community and was recognized by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in its 1999 policy statement on the protection of internally displaced people.³⁸

Human rights law compels states to "respect", "protect", and 'fulfill' the human rights. General Comment No. 12 and Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) also require the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child Article 4 states to 'respect' and 'guarantee' the stated rights, as well as to 'take relevant actions', such as legislation or other measures, to put the rights into effect. "Respecting" a right entail not acting to impede its exercise; 'protecting' involves ensuring that third parties refrain from interfering with the exercise of the right; and 'fulfilling' involves carrying out the necessary steps to achieve the realization of the right.³⁹

Internally displaced people are often disregarded in international governance and planning beyond emergency response measures, although their experiences during and after displacement have substantial repercussions.⁴⁰ A useful starting point for describing not only global protection but also national authorities' fundamental obligation and accountability to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced people under their jurisdiction, as stated in Principle 3 of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. By referring to all relevant bodies of law enforcement, it recognizes that civil, political, social, and cultural rights as well as economic rights are inextricably linked to human rights and are also incorporated into humanitarian and refugee law. It also provides a critical conceptual link between the operations of humanitarian and human rights actors.

Women and children account for a sizable proportion of IDPs in most mass displacement incidents. As a result, women and children generally have related protective concerns. In addition, certain groups of people are vulnerable. Children are more exposed to hunger, illness, psychological distress, and other negative consequences of displacement, which impede their

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Sylvie Caverzasio, *Strengthening Protection in War - A Search for Professional Standards*, Geneva: ICRC (2001)

growth and development. In many countries, displaced children, particularly adolescents, are deliberately targeted as easy victims of sexual abuse.⁴¹ Governments should take action to prevent displacement in the first instance, as well as anticipate and meet fundamental protection concerns for people who have already been displaced. When actions to prevent human rights violations fail, governments must take the necessary steps to stop, and prevent them from recurring again, and provide adequate remedies.

2.1.6 The Protection of the Rights of Children on the Street Situation

IDPs including children were excluded from the global legal and institutional framework established to protect refugees because they were considered to come under the domestic jurisdiction or sovereignty of the states in consideration. They were purposefully eliminated due to state concerns regarding the breaches of sovereignty stated in Article 2(7) of the United Nations Charter.⁴² In legal terms, the core concepts of equality and non-discrimination form the cornerstone of the normative framework for preserving the rights of internally displaced persons. Similarly, regional human rights treaties i.e. the UNCRC, ACRWC, and Kampala Convention promote equality and nondiscrimination as human and child rights principles. International and regional conventions on human rights are implemented into domestic law.

Article 9 sub-article (4) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's constitution states that international agreements signed by Ethiopia are regarded as part of the law of the land. The FDRE 1995 Constitution is the primary piece of legislation that guarantees children's legal protection. Article 36 of the constitution states that every child has the right to life, an identity, and citizenship, to know and be cared for by his or her parents or legal guardians, to be protected from labor abuse, and not to be forced to engage in labor that could be averse to their health, development, or well-being.

Nonetheless, there is no international, legally binding arrangement for internally displaced people. The 1998 United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement established a normative framework that incorporates standards and suggestions but is not legally enforceable.

⁴¹ Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin, submitted according to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/55.

⁴² Lavoyer, J. 1995 "Refugees and internally displaced persons: international humanitarian law and the role of the ICRC", International Review of the Red Cross,

The sole regionally applicable legal framework is the 2009 African Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention). In 2010, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorsed the Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, which attempts to set out a long-term solution. The 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles marked the unveiling of a multi-stakeholder Plan of Action.

The issue of displaced people is important in the international human rights framework. Human rights treaties protect people from different forms of exclusion, discrimination, and increased vulnerability, which are especially relevant to IDPs. Human rights treaties also recognize a wide range of social, cultural, and economic rights to which all citizens, including internally displaced people, are guaranteed. These rights provide a valuable foundation for applying equitable and nondiscriminatory access to protection. During times of conflict, IDPs, like all civilians, are entitled to the protections provided by international humanitarian law.

National states have a legal duty to respect, defend, and fulfill human rights. National authorities are responsible for protecting and assisting IDPs, which is complicated in cases where they contributed to the displacement. Recall that IDPs have a descriptive rather than legal designation, no enforceable international agreement, and no specific UN organization responsible for their protection and support. Conflict-induced displaced children on the streets represent one of the most underserved and rapidly rising minorities, as well as one of the most demanding concerns.⁴³ These children are among the most endangered and disadvantaged members of society. They have limited access to food, shelter, health services, security, and education.⁴⁴

2.1.7 Consideration of the Best Interests of the Child in the Protection of the Rights of Children on the Street Situation

Children are entitled to the same human rights as adults, as well as additional rights that recognize their unique circumstances as children. These rights are outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international and domestic laws and treaties, and they include the right to health care, education, food, participation, development, and protection.

⁴³ Manapsal, P. (2015). Physical-Psychosocial condition of Street Children in Dasmariñas City: International Journal of Social science and Humanities Research

⁴⁴ Purna, S. (2009). Reaching the marginalized- How to approach Inclusive Education. Dares Salaam: Tanzania

They remind the world not only that children have rights, but also that their communities, surrounding institutions, and governments are obligated to make those rights a reality.

Duty bearers frequently fail to act in the best interests of children, whether by choice or circumstance challenges. As a result, children must be accepted as rights holders and given a voice to advocate for their right to survive, develop, and participate in a society free of prejudice and inequality. A child rights approach assures that no child is left behind, that children have agency in exercising their rights, and that duty bearers and service providers are accountable. The fulfillment of human rights and equality laid the groundwork for a peaceful society, of which children make up 30% worldwide. By putting child rights at the heart of programming and policy, it is steered by internationally recognized standards for the lives of children. Charitable or needs-based models do not challenge the architecture of systems and institutions that create and sustain inequities or violate children's rights. As such, their attention to addressing children flows from crisis to crisis, and never address how the systems themselves fail to uphold children's rights and exacerbate negative situations for children.

Conflict-induced displaced children are those who do not cross internationally recognized country boundaries and hence are not designated as "refugees' children" with the associated legal assistance and protection rights.⁴⁵ As a result, their life journey begins when they leave their hometown and go to various places around the country. Internal displacement regularly threatens a child's mental, social, and physical well-being. The Convention on the Rights of the Child explicitly states that in all decisions involving children, whether made by public or private organizations, courts of law, or lawmakers, the child's best interests must be prioritized. This concept is especially important when considering the care and security of the most vulnerable internally displaced children.⁴⁶

The decision of best interests must involve respect for children's rights to freely express their opinions, with their views and perspectives considered in all matters affecting them based on their age and level of maturity. The term "participation" refers to ongoing procedures such as information sharing and respectful communication between children and adults. The perspectives of conflict-displaced children throughout their lives are critical and must be recognized. In

⁴⁵ Baratuscki, M. 1998 "Tensions between the refugee concept and the IDP debate", Forced Migration

⁴⁶ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, 2010.

humanitarian crises, the involvement of displaced children is rarely prioritized for a variety of practical reasons, which are aggravated by established traditions and sociocultural attitudes that may not be conducive to children's participation.⁴⁷

It is crucial to remember that while deciding whether to include internally displaced children in decision-making, the principles of doing no harm and considering the child's best interests must be applied regularly. Internally displaced children may be hesitant to speak up for fear of being labeled, experiencing trauma, or facing serious repercussions for themselves or their families. Some displaced children may experience threats or abuse in host communities, including their own families. When encouraging children to speak, it is important to consider safety, security, and risk considerations.⁴⁸

Participatory approaches to working with children, whether consultative, collaborative, or child-led, must comply with some fundamental requirements. Children's participation should be safe, open, informative, voluntary, respectful, child-friendly, and inclusive. Children's participation should always strive to reach and include the most disadvantaged groups of children.⁴⁹ As a result, considering individual difficulties, hazards, and limitations to children's participation, every effort should be taken to give boys and girls meaningful opportunities to express themselves and reveal their needs or protection concerns. While at least 50 countries have internally displaced people, just 18 have considered IDP children's participation, either directly or indirectly, in national laws and programs.⁵⁰ Displaced families including children encountered issues such as unsanitary and cramped housing circumstances, inadequacy and a lack of basic services, unmet basic requirements, unemployment, denial of education for their children, psychological distress, and economic concerns. The displaced population is becoming prone to vulnerability because of disruptions in education, livelihoods, and social networks, as well as a lack of coping mechanisms. This poses both obstacles and opportunities for the IDPs in the host community.⁵¹

⁴⁷ Save the Children, "Guidelines for children's participation in humanitarian programming" (London, 2013)

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Elizabeth G. Ferris, "Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Children," in *Children and Migration: At the Crossroads of Resiliency and Vulnerability*, Elzbieta Gozdzia and Marisa Ensor, eds. Palgrave, 2010

⁵¹ Purna, S. (2009). *Reaching the marginalized- How to approach Inclusive Education*. Dares Salaam: Tanzania

Life's adventures on the street are marked by a variety of psychosocial challenges, including abuse, prostitution, addiction to substances, gangster violence, illicit activity, and violations of human rights. The inability to control these injustices against them hurts street children's development and frequently has serious social and psychological consequences, such as mistrust in people, a lack of a sense of self, and negative interpersonal relationships.⁵² Likewise, children living on the streets are constantly intimidated, taken advantage of, and subjected to emotional, physical, and sexual assault by the community, law enforcement, and other street dwellers. This results in feelings of melancholy, anxiety, worry, sadness, despair, helplessness, hopelessness, and suicidal ideation, which leads to everyday abuse and unlawful conduct.⁵³

States have to safeguard the rights of internally displaced persons including children, to the same extent as all citizens. Humanitarian agencies are frequently called upon to assist states in meeting this obligation. However, internally displaced people on the streets are frequently not "seen [by their governments] as citizens who deserve protection and humanitarian assistance," but rather as "part of the opponent, if not a threat itself." As a result, they are ignored, and perhaps even mistreated." The international community's response is constrained by the state's sovereign right to control access to IDPs. Internal displacement has greatly increased in recent decades.⁵⁴ It emphasizes that IDPs should be separated from the broader local population due to their specific requirements and vulnerability.⁵⁵ Considering the great volume and duration of internal displacement that occurs nowadays, much more effort remains to be done to ensure the child's best interests.

In a nutshell, displacement is a major source of vulnerability for people, especially children. With so many categories, it appears that there is ongoing confusion, let alone clarity, about who qualifies as an IDP, when their displacement ends, and what types of international or national assistance they are entitled to. However, it is widely accepted that the 'displacement incident' in both cases violates fundamental human rights. Conflict-induced internal displacement

⁵² Hai A. (2017). Problems Faced by the Street Children: A Study on Some Selected Places in Dhaka City: Bangladesh: International journal of scientific & technology research.

⁵³ Myburgh, C., Moolla, A., Poggenpoel, M., (2015). The lived experiences of children living of the streets of Hill brow: South Africa.

⁵⁴ Deng, F.M (2005), 'The Global Challenge of Internal Displacement' Washington University Journal of Law and Policy

⁵⁵ Mooney, Erin. 2005. "The concept of internal displacement and the case for internally displaced persons as a category of concern."

is a clear violation of the rules of international humanitarian law and human rights. Crossing an international border is required for status as a "refugee". Forced displaced people who are unable or unwilling to cross a border are not considered refugees, while facing many of the same sufferings. These internally displaced persons, contrary to refugees, do not have an exclusive status under international law that grants them situation-specific rights, such as the best interests of the child. Internally displaced people have recently attracted global attention as a result of political upheavals in several countries and increasing awareness of potential refugee flows caused by domestic conflict. However, while most of the literature on conflict-induced internal displacement has been published in the last ten years, it is filled with definitional confusion and skepticism.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

This section contains a thematic focus on current internal displacement, figures, and causes over the past decade. The theme intended to provide an opportunity to analyze the empirical evidence on conflict-induced displacement from various conflict-affected countries globally. Furthermore, this section included the post-2018 context analysis in Ethiopia, where this study is being undertaken to galvanize the conceptual framework of the study.

2.2.1 Current Internal Displacement: Figures and Causes

In 2022, more than 600 million women and girls, including children, resided in conflict-affected countries, representing a 50% increase from 2017. Displacement is a critical humanitarian issue. Currently, brutality and human rights violations have displaced around one out of every 150 people on the planet, for a total of 40 million. The UN Refugee Agency predicts that 117.2 million people will be forcefully displaced or stateless by the end of 2023.⁵⁶ Internally displaced persons who remain within their borders account for two-thirds of the total. About half of all displaced people are children.⁵⁷ Children are especially sensitive to the severe effects of displacement because of their developmental stage and conceivable socioeconomic difficulties.

A dominant narrative about reasons that drive children to the streets revolves around economic hardship (income/consumption), however extensive research shows that economic

⁵⁶ [Women are increasingly at-risk in conflict, underrepresented in peace processes, according to UN Secretary-General report | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

⁵⁷ Graça Machel, the Impact of War on Children: A Review of Progress since the 1996 United Nations Report on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children

poverty is only one element of the problem.⁵⁸ When 500,000 Bangladeshi children ended out on the streets in 2001, the source of their plight was discovered to be a violation of their rights in the form of physical and emotional abuse in conflict zones, which ultimately drove them to the streets.⁵⁹ The majority of displacement in Pakistan is caused by low-level violence and occasional large-scale combat between the Pakistani government and insurgent groups, mainly the Taliban, over control of areas near the Afghan border. It is estimated that over three million individuals have been displaced owing to violence between the government and the militant group.⁶⁰ As reported by UNICEF, 80 percent of IDPs were children. The situation for children was difficult, with substantial safety and social concerns.

Over the last twenty years, Colombia's violence has displaced over three million people, making it the world's second largest IDP population after Sudan. The conflict began with a battle between government forces and revolutionary rebels. As with many prior conflicts, the vast majority of individuals displaced, approximately 60%, have relocated from rural regions to cities and towns, with very few IDPs residing in camps. Displacement has impacted rural and minority populations.⁶¹ Notwithstanding the government's efforts to assist conflict-induced displaced children, solutions remain difficult as long as the conflict and displacement persist.

Sudan has been at war almost constantly since its independence in 1956, resulting in multiple waves of exodus. The country boasts the world's largest IDP population, with about 5 million people internally displaced because of several wars around the country. The duration of the war in Sudan has had disastrous consequences for the rights and protection of children and youth, including serious infrastructure devastation, notably in the south, displacement of people and repatriation, and widespread destitution.⁶² As reported by UNHCR many children were

⁵⁸ Conticini & Humle, (2007), *Escaping Violence, Seeking Freedom: Why Children in Bangladesh Migrate to the Street*

⁵⁹ Hyde Justeen (2005), *From Home to Street: Understanding young people's transition from home into homelessness.*

⁶⁰ IDMC, *Pakistan: Millions of IDPs and returnees face continuing crisis: A Profile of the internal displacement situation.*

⁶¹ IDMC, *Colombia: New displacement continues, response still ineffective. A profile of the internal displacement situation, 2009.*

⁶² Cynthia B. Lloyd et al, "Schooling and Conflict in Darfur: A Snapshot of Basic Education Services for Displaced Children," *The Population Council*, 2010.

suffering from psychological illnesses because of the fighting and displacement, and many were excluded from social activities such as schooling.

Many scholars have emphasized that displacement is a long-standing issue in Iraq. Nearly 5 million Iraqis are expected to have been displaced, including about 2.8 million internally displaced persons. Displaced people make up around 15% of Iraq's population. The speed of displacement is consistent with the trend of the Iraq war. When violence worsened, more people departed their villages, either because they were specifically targeted, scared of the widespread violence, or couldn't make a livelihood in their hometowns. At the peak of the crisis, 60,000 Iraqis were internally displaced on an ongoing basis.⁶³ There have been frequent instances of parents leaving their children at home out of worry for their safety. The widespread violence, targeted murderous acts, and suicide attacks made it hazardous for youngsters to attend school. A study of street children in Egypt found that domestic abuse and sexual harassment by adults during times of turmoil were the primary causes of their demise on the streets.

Empirical data and evidence on internally displaced children are available, however, they are not consistently gathered or pooled. According to the Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023, 4.6 million people in Ethiopia are internally displaced, up from 2.72 million in 2022, with children under the age of 18 accounting for about 57% of the total. The federal government's military response to significant public protests, as well as other political actions, have resulted in human rights breaches. For example, major demonstrations and turmoil erupted in the Amhara area after the federal government decided to incorporate the regional special forces into federal and regional military structures.⁶⁴ Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, Tigray, and other regions continue to face high security concerns as a result of ethnic, religious, and/or politically motivated hostilities. The Ethiopia Human Rights Commission warned that an increase in armed group violence, severe government security measures, and instability are increasing human rights abuses and violations throughout Ethiopia. All of this will increase the number of vulnerable children in the country, especially those who have been displaced by conflict.

Violence and conflict in cities produce enormous displacement both within and outside of the country and the accompanying damage and destruction can create long-term hurdles to return,

⁶³ IOM, five years on, more people displaced than ever before, 2008,

⁶⁴ [Amharas turning on Abiy are short of Ethiopian allies - Ethiopia Insight \(ethiopia-insight.com\)](https://ethiopia-insight.com/Amharas-turning-on-Abiy-are-short-of-Ethiopian-allies)

as well as alternative long-term solutions. Many of the world's most recent conflicts, such as those in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen, have taken place in cities with substantial populations. Other forms of violence that do not involve military conflict can generate massive displacement, as seen in Latin American cities plagued by criminal and violent gangs. Conflict results in displacement in several ways.⁶⁵ Violence not only physically separates people from their communities, but it also has a tremendous influence on community and family life, particularly children. Conflicts can disrupt family relationships, and children lose trust in their parents, extended family, or community to protect them in the future. Displaced children frequently witness violence against family members or friends, and even after physically migrating to another region, they remain scared.⁶⁶

Whenever people are displaced, they frequently have to separate their families. Families may send their children away from their hometowns to protect them. Thus, in Sri Lanka, many parents of young Tamil boys worked together to arrange for their children's escape to remote regions, preferring to send them away alone rather than risk being recruited by either government forces or militants. Sometimes a family's father flees first, either owing to personal oppression or a desire to choose a suitable exile destination. Sometimes amid a conflict, parents become separated from their children, and families choose alternative ways, ending up in neighboring camps or towns, unclear of where their family members are or how to contact them.⁶⁷ The empirical evidence shows that, as developing nations urbanize, conflict has progressively moved from rural to urban regions; unlike most other kinds of conflict, the rate of urban social disorder events, including protests and chaos, has consistently climbed over the last years.⁶⁸

In the end, relocation threatens the full spectrum of rights granted to children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the continuation of life, security, and education. Under international human rights legislation, internally displaced people have the same basic liberties and rights as non-displaced people. However, displacement frequently increases vulnerability to human rights violations and decreases authorities' ability or willingness to monitor and enforce adherence to legal standards. Internally displaced girls and boys are especially exposed to violence, exploitation, abuse, and molestation. Children have the right to be safeguarded from

⁶⁵ [2019-IDMC-GRID-part3.pdf \(internal-displacement.org\)](#)

⁶⁶ World Vision. Trapped! The Disappearing Hopes of Iraqi Refugee Children, April 2007

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ K. Bahgat, H. Buhaug, H. Urdal (2018), Urban Social Disorder: An update.

harm, exploitation, and violence always, even during armed conflict, and there is no rationale for targeting or including children in conflicts. The fact that they are internally displaced children does not limit their ability to exercise all their human rights. Internally displaced children may require more particular legal and social security for their human rights than non-displaced individuals since they are more vulnerable to rights violations as a result of being displaced from their homes.

2.3 Conceptual Framework of the Study

This section illustrates the study's conceptual framework by summarizing its main concepts. It articulates the rights of conflict-affected displaced children on the streets. The conceptual framework is shown schematically.

2.3.1 Articulating Children's Rights Specific to the Rights Protection of Conflict-Induced Displaced Children on Street Situation.

Conflict has complex, diversified, and interconnected roots that are deeply ingrained in the social, cultural, political, geographical, and economic systems of the community. Modern civil wars are intended to achieve political dominance over the public rather than geographical control. Mass population displacement is frequently a strategic intention. Both government authorities and insurgents utilize extreme brutality, such as brutality and sexual assault, to preserve power.⁶⁹

One of the primary consequences of the nature of modern conflict is displacement. Civilians have become prominent targets in battle, increasing the number of persons displaced from their homes, the majority of whom do not cross international borders and remain under the sovereignty of their state.⁷⁰ Conflict causes three types of displacement for children and their families. First, citizens may unwittingly become caught up in armed conflict and leave either before the violence reaches their village or in anticipation of it. Second, armed forces intentionally pursue war techniques that result in mass displacement and/or the displacement of certain persons and groups. Third, fighting causes disturbance in economic and social life, leading to displacement.⁷¹ Escape or exile is a well-established coping technique to get away from the impacts of war. When people do not feel safe in their neighborhoods and other coping techniques

⁶⁹ Castles, Stephen (2003) 'Towards a Sociology of Forced Migration and Social Transformation'

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Elizabeth Ferris and Rebecca Winthrop (2010), Education and Displacement: Assessing Conditions for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons affected by Conflict.

(such as hiding or bargaining with armed groups) fail, they flee. People flee conflict zones due to the deterioration of their social and economic lives. Conflicts wreak devastation on marketplaces, supply chains, and facilities. People lose jobs, are afraid to work in their fields, and are unable to send their children to school as a result of the battle. Thus, they travel to locations where they believe they can survive.⁷²

The globally recognized framework, which is founded on established standards of international human rights and humanitarian law, outlines displaced children's rights and protection. Most international instruments make equality and nondiscrimination central to the normative framework for preserving the rights of people who have been displaced.⁷³ As this study focuses on children, Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes a child as anyone under the age of 18 also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children defines a child as someone who receives care and attention from adults. This is particularly obvious in how children's rights are depicted as obligations given to them by the government and adults in general. As a result, children are especially vulnerable to violence and abuses of human and children's rights on the streets, as conflict-related displacement causes children without protection to wind up on the streets. The term 'children in street settings' refers to children who work and/or live on the sidewalks. It recognizes that children engage in a variety of activities on the street and that if there is an "issue," it is not the child, but rather the conditions and context.

Those who reside outside the camps have multiple choices for living arrangements. Some people labor on the streets and live with relatives and friends, while others rent houses in communities with other migrants or build dwellings in shantytowns on the outskirts of big cities. Some people live in public view or disused buildings including roads and railroads. IDPs are generally more vulnerable, less visible, and less secure than refugees. IDPs are given less global attention than refugees, maybe because those who cross international borders are a source of concern around the world.⁷⁴ The most basic right that every human, even internally displaced

⁷² Casey A. Barrs, "Preparedness Support: Helping Brace Beneficiaries, Local Staff and Partners for Violence," paper presented at the 2009 Refugee Studies Centre Conference on Protection, 2009

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Karen Jacobsen, "Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Urban Areas: A Livelihoods Perspective," *Journal of Refugee Studies* 2006.

children, has is the right to life. This is strongly related to and equally important as the right to keep one's physical, psychological, and moral integrity. Displacement nearly always poses a serious threat to one's right to life. The ICRC has stressed that being forced from one's home due to armed hostilities or other types of violence have a very detrimental impact on one's dignity because displaced individuals are completely dependent on others. The unique features of conflict-induced displaced children in street conditions will have serious psychological, physiological, and social ramifications for their long-term survival and growth. Children may suffer from hunger, be exposed to communicable infections, or have restricted access to medical services.⁷⁵ Furthermore, displacement can cause emotional suffering, including depression, anxiety, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Children who are moved may also have difficulty accessing schooling, social support networks, and necessities. According to research, these negative repercussions can have long-term implications for children's development and well-being.⁷⁶ Internally displaced children confront substantial abuses of their rights, as well as safety and protection hazards, particularly in situations of continuous insecurity. They are vulnerable to neglect, mistreatment, aggression, and exploitation in a situation that can harm their entire life, development, and overall well-being. Given this, the conceptual framework for the examination is outlined below

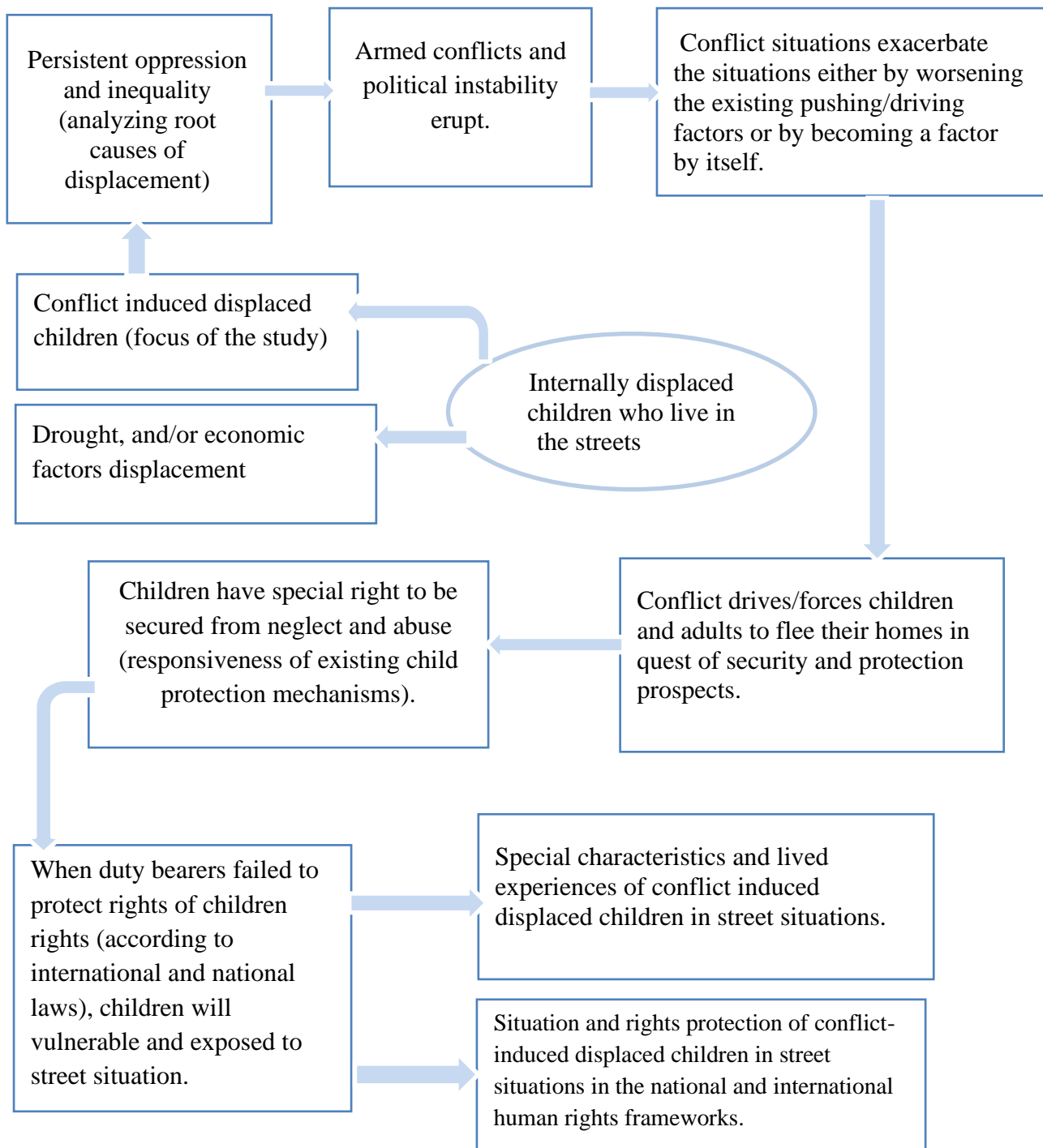
As depicted in the schematic diagram below, theories of conflict-induced displacement emphasize both core causes (such as continued injustice and inequalities) and secondary impacts (such as displacement and human rights breaches). Conflict circumstances intensify the issue by either aggravating the underlying pushing/driving factors or becoming a problem in their way. When attempts to avoid rights abuses fail, governments should take the necessary steps to cease infringements, prevent their recurrence, and offer adequate remedies. Children have the same human rights as adults, as well as extra privileges that reflect their special situation as children under 18 years. Whenever both governments and non-governmental organizations fail to protect children's rights (as required by international and national laws), they become unsafe and end up on the streets. Given this, the study's conceptual framework intends to examine the characteristics

⁷⁵ UNHCR. (2020). Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/5ee200e37.pdf>.

⁷⁶ Betancourt, T. S., Newnham, et.al. (2013). Trajectories of internalizing problems in war-affected Sierra Leonean youth: Examining conflict and post conflict factors

of conflict-induced displaced children, as well as rights protection and children's views of their prospects for the future. The basic premise is that the rights of conflict-displaced children on the streets are still not reiterated, systematically recognized, or exercised in the country.

Picture 1: Conceptual framework _Rights Protection of Conflict-Induced Displaced Children on the street situation



Chapter Three

Research Methodology

3.1 Study Design

This study applies a descriptive design. It is descriptive as the study efforts to investigate the characteristics of phenomena that the specific detail of social setting to which the *Rights Protection of Conflict-Induced Displaced Children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*. Likewise, critical discourse analysis is applied, which takes in examining, framing, and interpreting language use in social and political contexts on the peculiar characteristics of conflict-induced displaced children. Inductive logic reasoning is employed to move from specific observations to broader generalizations. The researcher employed cross-sectional study procedures to acquire primary data from respondents (children and adults). It is cross-sectional because the researcher gathered information and data from numerous people at a particular period. Qualitative in-depth interviews were carried out with children and government agencies, CSO, and human rights institutions to collect the primary data and information; and document reviews were done to gather the secondary data. The researcher further employed observational methods involving recording detailed notes of the observed behavior, events, and interactions. These notes have been taken in writing in real-time during the observation process on the streets.

3.2 Study Area

Convenient sampling often involves people that the investigator knows or who reside near the research location.⁷⁷ Based on this notion, the researcher used the convenient sampling technique to choose Addis Ababa City as the target area of this research. Also, the researcher works for a child organization particularly helped to identify the target respondents. According to official reports on estimated population of Addis Ababa is around 5,005,524 inhabitants. It is the country's largest city by the number of people. Addis Abeba is a federally chartered city under the Addis Abeba City Government Charter Proclamation No. 87/1997 of the FDRE Constitution. It is known as "the political center of Africa" because of its historical, diplomatic, and strategic significance to the continent. Addis Abeba is the headquarters of several prominent international

⁷⁷ Vanderstope, S.W., & Johnston. (2009). *Research Methods for Real Life: Blending Qualitative and Quantitative Approach's*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass

organizations. Children are fleeing their rural homes due to social problems and conflict, and they end up living on the streets of Addis Ababa. They are alone and vulnerable, with no state assistance. However, drivers such as the lack of opportunity and conflict are not the same. One is economic, the other is searching for safety and a safe place. Therefore, the protection needs are also distinct.

3.3 Sampling Methods

Many scholars have given sample size guidelines for qualitative research, based on methodological concerns and previous experience with similar studies. The samples were chosen using a purposive/convenience sampling approach based on methods that utilize non-probability sampling. In qualitative research, sample size is context-dependent and somewhat determined by the scientific paradigm under which the investigation is conducted. Interview studies should involve between 12 and 20 individuals.⁷⁸ When designing qualitative research, a practical study demonstrates that samples of 12 can result in data saturation in a generally homogeneous community. Hennink, Kaiser, and Marconi (2017) also evaluate sample size to saturation, distinguishing between what they call 'code saturation' (where no new issues are detected) and 'meaning saturation' (in which no further insights are obtained).⁷⁹

In line with international ethical principles, the literature recommends that minors have the right to be heard and voice their thoughts, which should be considered gradually, following their age, maturity, and judgment. Minors are increasingly being recognized as having rights and the ability to self-determine, as stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁸⁰ Researchers stated that the age of children ranged from 10 to 17 years, with a mean age of 13.83 years. Children understand informed consent and the information given to them.⁸¹ The researcher selected 30 boys' and girls' children displaced due to conflict and their age brackets are 10-18

⁷⁸ Lincoln, Y. S., & Guba, E. G. (1985). *Naturalistic inquiry*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage

⁷⁹ Hennink, M. M., Kaiser, B. N., & Marconi, V. C. (2017). *Code saturation versus meaning saturation: How many interviews are enough?* *Qualitative Health Research*

⁸⁰ Ciliberti R., Alfano L., Baldelli I., De Stefano F., Bonsignore(2018), A. Self-determination, healthcare treatment and minors in Italian clinical practice: Ethical, psychological, juridical, and medical-legal profiles.

⁸¹ Hortense Cotrim, Cristina Granja, Ana Sofia Carvalho, Carlos Cotrim, and Rui Martins (2021), children's Understanding of Informed Assents in Research Studies data retrieved from [Healthcare | Free Full-Text | Children's Understanding of Informed Assents in Research Studies \(mdpi.com\)](#) On March 10,2024

years old for KII. This research also included 18 participants from government agencies, CSO, and human rights organizations for in-depth interviews, and 15 children with their families for focus group discussion (having 3-5 children and families in one FGD) and five FGDs were conducted. In total, 63 sample respondents participated in the study.

3.4 Data Collection Instruments

Qualitative survey data and information are necessary to collect and analyze as they provide insight into the trends of thoughts, attitudes, and perceptions of a particular population. For this research, data was gathered from secondary and primary sources of data. Key informant interviews were carried out with conflict-induced displaced children found in street situations to assess the special characteristics and situation of conflict-induced displaced children. KIIs were held with certain knowledgeable personalities from mandated government agencies to promote and defend the rights of children at the national level. In-depth interviews were conducted with several governmental, and non-governmental stakeholders including experts from the Federal Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), the Federal Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the National Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, UNICEF, Save the Children Ethiopia Country office, to obtain qualitative descriptions on rights protection of conflict-induced displaced children on street situations. Focus Group discussions with children and their families were carried out to assess the rights protection and security of children and families on street situations in the capital city of Addis Ababa. Besides, secondary data were used to capture the existing legislation, policies, and programs. Data generated from in-depth interviews and document reviews were employed to determine rights protection and life trajectories of conflict-induced displaced children on the street situation. Findings were analyzed considering the human/child rights perspectives.

3.5 The Data Collection Procedures

The data collection procedures followed several steps. First, all the data collection tools were developed. The researcher translated the data collection tools into local language (Amharic) and piloted before full-fledged administration. The next phase was the preparation of the field of work and started communicating the research respondents and scheduled a program. And then, the researchers undertook the data collections as per the plan. One of important consideration before, during and after data collection were ensuring enough information/ explanation have been given to all participants about the purpose, objective and privacy criteria and other related issues. All

participants have been informed that they have the right not to partake in or withdraw from at any stage of data collection. Besides, consent and ascent forms have been signed for participating in the study. The privacy of research participants and the confidentiality of the information provided by respondents were respected also caution have been taken to avoid raising any unrealistic expectation of the research participants. To this end, prior experience and network working with children and children focused institutions helped a lot to manage things smoothly

3.6 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

In this study, all conflict-induced displaced children in street situations in Addis Ababa are considered in the study. The exclusion conditions were individuals who were not able to communicate during the data collection time and place. For child safeguarding concerns children who are under 10 years old were excluded. Also, children and adolescents who lived in the street situation before (who are not conflict-induced displaced children) were excluded from the research.

3.7 Data Analysis Methods

The researcher used both Thematic and Narrative data analyses methods. All Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews were meticulously recorded, transcribed, translated, and entered Microsoft Word. The responses were assessed by categorizing them according to the discussion guide which were in line with the research questions. The numerous points of view were evaluated and summarized, allowing the research respondents to be conveyed and synthesized through the themes or patterns that developed.

The study is largely qualitative, however, some data, such as demographic information, were evaluated with Microsoft Excel and given as percentages. The data was cleaned to ensure that it was accurate, consistent, and free of missing values and variables. Any technical and consistency errors discovered during data entry are addressed upon revision of the original completed questionnaire. After cleaning and editing, the data will be available for statistical analysis. Frequencies and percentages were calculated and examined. The results of the analysis are presented in tables, when appropriate.

3.8 Data Quality Assurances

The study was primarily qualitative. Coding the information and data each day after data collection ensured the quality of the data. With the respondents' consent, the discussions were recorded for quality control purposes. After the KIIs were finished, the information was cross-referenced with the researcher's notes to verify that it was correct and complete. The primary themes and discussion that participants brought up were noted by the researcher, and the data were cross-checked with the audio recordings to ensure the highest level of confidence that the information was not lost. On the day of data collection, the information was organized and recorded to prevent omission.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

Upon a letter of endorsement from Addis Ababa University's Center for Human Rights, the researcher started connecting with the sample respondents and scheduled data collection dates. All study participants received adequate information regarding the purpose, privacy, and confidentiality. The confidentiality of the material was safeguarded by omitting their names, personal identity, and privacy. Furthermore, the researcher reminded the participants that their participation in the study is entirely voluntary and based on their full willingness and that they have the opportunity to withdraw at any time during the data-collecting process. Participants have been requested to provide their oral consent. If the participants display distress due to the questions, the researcher has professionally handled the matter. Participants have been allowed to withdraw from the study or skip some questions. The researcher respected the cultures, religions, traditions, and interview time and day of the participants and assessed with full awareness of the socio-cultural contexts of the study regions. Caution has been taken to avoid raising any unrealistic expectations of participants.

Chapter Four

Findings

This section contains the study's findings, which were based on data obtained using the qualitative research approach. The finding is divided into three parts. The first section focuses on the demographics of the participants (sex, age, education, and duration of stay on the street as a displaced person). The findings are presented in detail in the second section, which begins with an explanation of the distinctive characteristics of children on the street situation as a result of the conflict, the rights protection of children in the national and global human rights framework, the situation of children's rights protection of conflict-induced displaced children in terms of their vulnerability to abuse and degrading treatment, and finally their lived-experiences in specific with abuse and degrading treatment of conflict-induced displaced children on the street situation in Addis Ababa.

4.1 Demographic characteristics of respondents

Twenty children, both boys and girls displaced due to conflict and older than ten years old, have been chosen and participated in this study.

Table 4.1 Characteristics of respondents of conflict-induced displaced children.

Characteristics of Respondents	Sex of respondents				Total	
	Boys		Girls		#	%
	#	%	#	%		
Age of respondents						
10-15 Years	5	17%	7	23%	12	40%
16-18 Years	8	27%	10	33%	18	60%
Total	13	44%	17	56%	30	100%
Education level						
1-4 grade level	4	13%	5	17%	9	30%
5-8 grade level	7	23%	11	37%	18	60%
9-12 grade level	2	7%	1	3%	3	10%
Total	13	43%	17	57%	30	100%
Length of displacement						
Less than a year	5	17%	8	27%	13	44%
1-2 year	7	23%	9	30%	16	53%
2-5 year	1	3%	0	0%	1	3%
Total	13	43%	17	57%	30	100%

As depicted in Table 4.1, among the total of 30 conflict-induced displaced children on the street situations, 56% were girls whereas 44% were boys. It appeared that the number of girls was high compared to boys. Secondary sources confirmed that war and armed conflict can have a wide range of consequences for victims, but women and girls including children are routinely subjected to unthinkable risks, hazards, and issues. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, these hazards and difficulties include miserable living conditions, sexual and physical assault, a lack of income, and more responsibility for close family members to survive. Hence, girls and women are highly vulnerable to be pushed by conflict, and they can be found in most places in the city. A significant proportion of respondents (60%) were in middle and late adolescence (age 16-18 years) and had attended grades 5-8. Looking at their length of stay in the street situation, more than half of children and adolescents (53%) reported having stayed in the street situation for about 1-2 years, while about 44% of the interviewed children and adolescents reported being on street for less than a year. Only 3% of the interviewed adolescents have stayed in street life for 2-5 years. Most of the respondents joined street life after the war embarked in their homeland and community. This indicates that the ongoing war has brought severe social crises by creating many separated and unaccompanied children from conflict-affected regions. The study sought to trace conflict-induced displaced children's places of origin to identify where these children and their families used to live. The result of the study exhibited that most of them came from the northern conflict-affected regions_ i.e. Tigray and Amhara. Addis Ababa as a capital city has attracted more children and their families who came to look for external support from the community and government.

Likewise, concerning adult research participants: Eighteen respondents (12 male and 6 female) from experts from the Federal Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), the Federal Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the National Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, UNICEF, Save the Children Ethiopia Country Office had participated in the in-depth key informant interviews. Fifteen children with their families (each FGD having 4-6 children and families) participated in focus group discussions. In total, sixty-three people (30 children and 33 adults) shared their experiences and perspectives, both personal and professional, to inform the analysis of the research.

4.2 Major Descriptive Findings

The primary qualitative data from KIIs and FGD were transcribed from audio recordings, cleaned, coded, triangulated, and thematically analyzed to address the study's guiding themes. In the context of line with the research questions, the unique characteristics of street children who are pushed by conflict, the protection of the rights of children in the framework of national and global human rights framework, the state of children's rights defense of conflict-induced displaced children in specific with abuse and degrading treatment, and finally the lived-experiences in related with abuse and degrading treatment of conflict-induced displaced children.

4.2.1 Special characteristics of street children who are pushed by conflict

States have to protect the rights of internally displaced people (IDPs) to the same extent as all citizens. Respecting the equality and non-discrimination principles outlined in human rights treaties and national laws. Humanitarian organizations are regularly relied upon to assist states in meeting this commitment. It is important to note that the term "internally displaced people" refers to a specific situation in which citizens are compelled to flee or be driven from their homes. It thus relates to the negative effects of the forced displacement.

IDPs are not provided with proper protection, making them more vulnerable to physical harm, sexual and gender-based abuse, a lack of basic requirements for survival (such as water, shelter, food, clothing, and sanitation), disease and impoverishment, and other issues. Thus, a unique focus on IDPs is justified by the recognition and concern for a specific set of vulnerabilities or protective needs. Experience in many parts of Ethiopia demonstrates that such special needs exist, but they are frequently ignored or insufficiently addressed in terms of protection and access to social services.

The UN Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child provides the most appropriate framework for identifying vulnerable children's protection needs. These are (a) rights related to physical safety and security (e.g., securing the right to life and freedom from abuse, inhumane treatment, harm, assault, unlawful detention, and risks)⁸²; (b) basic rights related to necessities of life (e.g., the right to nourishment, drinking water, a place to live, clothing, healthcare, and sanitation)⁸³; (c) rights

⁸² UNCRC article 6,19, 24,

⁸³ UNCRC article 6,18, para.3, 23, 24, 26, 27,

related to other social, cultural, and economic protection needs (e.g., the right to work, receive compensation or restitution for lost property, and have access to schooling);⁸⁴; and (d) rights related to other civil and political protection needs (e.g., the right to free expression, personal documentation, access to courts, and freedom from discrimination).⁸⁵ All are equally necessary, because simply existing without dignity is intolerable, and dignity cannot be enjoyed without staying alive.

Humanitarian organizations and agencies do not aid in protecting children's rights or fulfill their basic needs because they are not in IDP camps. IDPs receive a great deal of assistance from many entities if they are found in a specific area and their status is known. In cities, for IDPs on the streets, this may not be the case for a variety of reasons, including registration, and practicality, and the government does not encourage IDPS in need of help to leave camps. Children who have been displaced by conflict do not have access to humanitarian aid or human rights protection in this area. Human rights protection goes beyond simply providing aid to the extent that it attempts to stop abuses, ensure that they do not occur again, and give victims of violations appropriate remedies such as reparation. It is also essential to determine the special protection needs of some individuals on the street, such as girls and disabled children.

The average age of newly displaced children who had fled their homes due to conflict was between 16 -18 years old, with the majority of them being female. The children in street conditions in this study are classed based on their relationship to the street. Children who live in the streets have run away from their families. According to a 16-year-old child respondent, war-induced displaced children are those who have fled from Tigray and Amhara which is due to fear of abuse, and exploitation. There are street-working children who have been pushed by the northern war in Tigray and Amhara yet remain in contact with their families or caregivers while spending time on the streets, primarily for economic reasons because they lack anything to eat or survive. They are a vulnerable group of children who live with their families in slum areas of cities. The youngsters that responded understood the intricacy of street children, as well as the multifaceted nature of their circumstances and concerns. The most commonly cited causes of street living were bad family dynamics and economic destitution. However, the primary reasons for street life for street

⁸⁴ UNCRC article 28-31

⁸⁵ UNCRC article 7, 8 and 13-17

living and street working youngsters are violence and instability in their home countries, primarily Tigray and Amhara rural areas. A set of trends and testimony from study informants and KIIs reveal two facts about the reasons for street life in Addis Ababa. The first fact is that the children migrated to cities and worked as beggars and in minor trades; the second is that the children came with their parents and ended up begging for a living on the streets.

Gebere Tekle Berhane⁸⁶, a 15-year-old male respondent from Megenaga's 'Shola Market' who has been displaced by the conflict in Tigray described: *"Children work on the streets to provide for their families. I sell 'soft' and buy another soft to increase my profits. If I make more money, I'll be able to cover my daily expenses for meals, drinks, and other necessities. This is my survival mechanism. In some cases, I used to merely beg for enough money to buy food. However, I will spend all my money in one day. Begging every day is boring. I have never thought I would live on a street situation."*

Meseret Daniel, a 17-year-old girl who has been displaced by the conflict in North Showa, Amhara region added, *"Once I gain money from begging, I immediately give it to my mother so she may buy food for my younger brother and sister; yet I occasionally cry because there is no struggle in getting food in our home. The conflict burned down our house and a small shop in the city where we grew up. I'm confused about how this happened to us; it was a sudden attack on our area."*

Solomon Hailu, a 13-year-old male respondent who has been affected by the northern conflict stated, that *"street children sometimes collect recyclable items such as cans and bottles to sell and they may also beg for money. Some children get daily paid jobs selling their labor at the market. Some children from street-living families go around picking garbage to sell with their children. However, conflict-induced displaced children from street-working families sit and beg for money with their parents and sell 'Soft' on the main road waiting for traffic lights to stop vehicles. Conflict trauma is complex, and it causes anxiety in our thoughts. It was challenging to engage in pity trade with local small businesses since it required someone who could demonstrate and accept us. The community is not open to employing conflict-induced displaced children."*

⁸⁶ Note: all children's names have been changed for child safeguarding purposes.

The life hood of conflict induced displaced children is risky as the child rights expert at the Federal Ministry of Women and Social Affairs noted *“Once in the street, there is no safety. These children are all short of basic living essentials and opportunities in life and deprived of their basic rights especially When they are conflict-induced displaced children, the situation is complicated because they flee their homes without prior notice and lose hope even when they consider returning to their origins.”*

As stated by a child rights protection expert respondent who works for Save the Children, an international organization, *“Children who live on the street are more likely to commit crimes. Additionally, because of their substance addiction, they run the chance of dying in an accident and/or leading unhealthy lives. Children left their homes due to economic factors that made them more susceptible to criminal behavior. Conflict-induced displaced children's lives and vulnerabilities may differ and have unique traits such as being traumatized by the violence, not committing crimes, appreciating their existence, and having hope to return to their origins and continue their education and meet friends in their home. In contrast, children who are displaced due to economic or other reasons are not as interested in returning to their original home. Children's social ties were broken and have low interest in going back home. They want to live in the capital city/urban setting.”*

A child rights protection expert respondent working for a local CSO organization explained that *“Children from conflict-displaced families are at risk of having no future. If there is no intervention to improve their lives, they will perpetuate a street life cycle. Many of them lack identity cards (kebele ID) as they leave everything in their home. Hence, facing severe problems in sending their children to school and accessing social services. Girls are highly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. Also, displaced children and adults were seen as a security threat. Despite, the Tigray conflict being over, another war erupted in the Amhara region. The war in Amhara will escalate the situation of conflict-displaced children and may proliferate the number of displaced children in urban cities.”*

Unsympathetically analyzing key points of research participants, the conflict-induced displaced children will have peculiar characteristics. Conflict-induced displaced children found in the street situation include 1) small children who come for money and are supervised by older children, some of whom are relatives and have families; 2) older children who used to beg

but have changed their ways and engage in selling ‘softs’ at the traffic lights. All respondents felt that conflict-induced displaced children in street situations are enduring more difficult circumstances than their peers who are in street situations for economic and other reasons. To begin, conflict-induced displaced children are traumatized and become victims of violence, instilling anxiety in their lives. Second, some people perceive these youngsters as a threat because they may be concerned about the dispute, which affects the children's situations.

According to KII research, teenage girls who are at risk of being tempted into commercial sex work will not participate in sex for money. They will even be annoyed if adults inquire about any sexual-related issues. According to informants, these youngsters join the vulnerable category, which is concerning and suggests that a reaction is required to save these children from being exposed to street life and other risks. All respondents felt that conflict-induced displaced children in street situations are enduring more difficult circumstances than their peers who are in street situations for economic and other reasons. To begin, conflict-induced displaced children are traumatized and become victims of violence, instilling anxiety in their lives. Second, some people perceive these youngsters as a threat because they may be concerned about the dispute, which affects the children's situations. *Conflict-induced displaced children are new to the city and encounter various challenges till they become familiar with city life.* Another issue of concern is that the conflict-induced displaced children were not get anything to eat properly because “*the money earned from begging is to be saved for use when they get back home*” stated a 16-year-old child respondent who has been affected by conflict in Ataye town, Amhara region

A 15-year-old male respondent from ‘*the Summit area*’ added “*Some children got arrested with their guardians, they are separated and sometimes mother and children do not find one another again. It also happens that an adolescent-age child was arrested but the mother was not*” Finally, like all other street-involved children, conflict-induced displaced children do not get the opportunity to go to school and any protection assistance from government and non-government actors. According to the testimonies of the respondents, conflict-induced street children face additional burdens to survive in the city.

In a nutshell, the finding shows that conflict-induced displaced children are an overlooked group of marginalized children in the capital city. Even, they become a new group of vulnerable children in the urban setting. Conflict-induced displaced children have distinct characteristics such

as being traumatized by the conflict or are victims of abuse and exploitation, seen as a security threat when the war escalates, having hope to go back home, not being involved in any criminal activity, and not socializing themselves with another group of street children to engage in pity trades. Children will be at a crucial point in their development as street children due to the prolonged displacement in larger cities. Children who have been growing up on the streets are exposed to abuse and have a higher probability of getting involved in criminal activities. Inevitably, conflict-induced displaced children are in the more complex situations. Children from street living families, and street working children are more likely to be exploited by adults.

4.2.2 New group of vulnerable children in the urban context

Human rights abuses both during and after displacement are pervasive and have severely harmed displaced people, especially children. Family breakup, loss of livelihood and social service access, and rights abuses have all resulted from displacement. If protective help is not provided in a timely, sufficient, consistent, and inclusive manner, their circumstances may worsen. Children suffer disproportionately from conflicts that lead to widespread abuse, violence, and displacement. Children who have been relocated due to conflict are trying to reach safer areas to survive. Urban areas are sought after by women and children as safer places.⁸⁷

Children along with their families in Ethiopia suffered some complicated situations of emergency, including the violence in northern Ethiopia, which impacted the Afar, Amhara, and Tigray areas. The complicated humanitarian catastrophe is exacerbated by ongoing conflict in Amhara, Oromia, and other parts of the country. This left 28 million people in need of humanitarian aid, including eleven million children. Violence, including drought, has displaced 4.5 million people internally and forced 7.6 million students absent from school.⁸⁸

The protracted and unpredictable nature of relocation, particularly for those living in middle- and low-income nations, makes camp arrangements unsuitable. Both governments and non-governmental organizations restrict access to medical care, educational opportunities, safety, and psychological and emotional assistance. Internally displaced people (IDPs) decide that

⁸⁷ Human Right commission report 2023.

⁸⁸ Ethiopia National Displacement Report 16 - Site Assessment Round 33 and Village Assessment Survey Round 16: November 2022 - June 2023 - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb

returning to their original location is not a feasible choice. IDPs, particularly women and girls, flee cities in search of safety and protection.⁸⁹

One key informant interview from Save the Children stated that *“as you can easily observe in Addis Ababa, the number of conflicts induced displaced children are increasing and no one gives attention about their protection. This is a saddening phenomenon”* An Increased number of conflict –induced displaced children is becoming an emerging vulnerable group of children in urban cities. If the intensity and trend of the conflict are increased the number of children who will be pushed by the conflict will increase. Unless the issues are resolved, they will have a spillover effect on the protection of the rights of the child and children could be seen as a security threat.

Evidence also reveals that children along with their families suffer barriers to receiving resources and protection related to their displacement, and they may be vulnerable to exploitation and extortion.⁹⁰ Children on the streets are not a homogeneous population, but they face widely various circumstances and lives. Thus, conflict-induced displaced children on the streets must be recognized. Child-focused international agencies, including UNICEF and Save the Children, have been trying to define street children as people who have special rights protection and identify them as "at risk" children.⁹¹ However, the continued turmoil and war in Ethiopia will only increase the number of displaced children, particularly women, girls, and boys. The rising number of displaced children on the streets of capital cities will result in the emergence of a new category of street children in metropolitan settings. The specific qualities of these youngsters (i.e., traumatized by the conflict or victims of abuse and exploitation, regarded as a security threat as the war gets worse) may become one of the country's socioeconomic concerns, with repercussions for migration and smuggling in general.

4.2.3 Rights Protection of conflict-induced Displaced Children in street situation through the lens of international, regional, and national normative frameworks

The rights of children to specific protection measures are acknowledged in the fundamental global and regional human rights treaties and frameworks. Although human rights instruments

⁸⁹ Landau, Loren B. Urban Refugees, and IDPs. *The Oxford Handbook of Refugees and Forced Migration Studies*

⁹⁰ Crisp, Jeff., Morris, Tim., and Refstie, Hilde(2012), Displacement in urban areas: new challenges, new partnerships. In: *Disasters*, Vol. 36,

⁹¹ Panter-Brick C. (2001). Street children and their peers: perspectives on homelessness, poverty, and health. In *Children and Anthropology: Perspectivesforthe21st Century*, ed.H Schwartzman, Westport, Con-necticut: Bergin & Garvey

(conventions, charters, and protocols) do not explicitly address IDPs, they nonetheless protect people, including children, from various forms of discrimination, exclusion, and increased vulnerability. However, there is no global, legally enforceable structure for internally displaced people.

Internal displacement was identified as a global issue in the early 1990s, and progress has been made in improving protection and organizing an integrated response to the circumstances facing IDPs. To map and track this founding effort, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (Guiding Principles) of 1998 produced a set of standards that incorporates rules and recommendations but is not legally obligatory. It encourages and strengthens multistakeholder collaboration to decrease and address internal displacement through prevention, protection, and remedies.

The regionally applicable governing law is the 2009 African Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention). The Kampala Convention, like the UN Fundamental Principles on Internal Displacement, reiterates the rights and responsibilities established by global human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law that are vital to displaced people's protection and assistance. States must foster and establish appropriate long-term circumstances for each of these options while maintaining safety and dignity, as well as consulting with internally displaced people and allowing them to participate in deciding on a durable solution that benefits them, as well as other assistance and protection decisions.

Following specific provisions about internally displaced children, the Kampala Convention calls for member states to refrain from and prevent all forms of sexual and gender-based violence against children, including sexual assault, forced prostitution, sexual abuse, abusive behaviors, slave labor, child recruitment and employment in hostilities, forced labor, human trafficking, and smuggling. Furthermore, states must provide specific protection for IDPs with demands, such as separated and unaccompanied children. Translating normative frameworks into action has been a significant challenge. Although Ethiopia has ratified the Kampala Convention and it is a promising step toward IDP protection and assistance, the proclamation is insufficient to achieve this goal because it requires the enactment of policies, strategies, laws, regulations and directives, and procedures that are compatible with the Kampala Convention's rules and principles.

The issue of taking responsibility for internally displaced people is still being contested, particularly about when international measures should be implemented. Because internally displaced people remain within their own countries' borders, it was commonly considered, under traditional concepts of sovereignty, that the government was entirely responsible for their safety. However, it is frequently discovered that countries mandated by international law and the concept of sovereignty to protect and provide vital aid are also the perpetrators of displacement and human rights crimes against displaced people, including children. This difficulty emerges because international treaties do not specifically set out nations' obligations and roles as global actors.

At the national level, Ethiopia's FDRE Constitution recognizes treaties along with other agreements adopted by the country in two ways. Article 9 (4) of the FDRE Constitution specifies that international treaties adopted by the HPR are part of the national laws of the land. The other option is offered under Article 13/2/ of the Constitution, which states that human rights provisions of the Constitution should be construed per treaties adopted by Ethiopia. Thus, treaties such as the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and other treaties adopted by Ethiopia are integral parts of the country's law and serve as criteria for interpreting the Constitution's human rights provisions.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution provides essential rights and freedoms in Chapter III, which covers the entire range of human rights, including child rights, per the essence of the International Bill of Rights. Articles 41 sub-articles 3 and 4, as well as Article 90 sub-article 1, guarantee the right to equal access to publicly funded social services and the State's commitment to allocate the appropriate resources. According to Article 25 of the Constitution, these broad provisions apply to all persons, including minors, without regard for race or gender. Article 36 of the Constitution expressly protects children's rights and well-being.

Most crucially, Article 36 sub-article 2 of the Constitution extends beyond recognizing specific child rights and integrates the notion of the child's best interests. This article states that the best interests of the child must be the priority in all acts involving children executed by public institutions, courts of law, administrative agencies, or legislative entities. Another pertinent constitutional article, Article 41 sub-article 4, dealing with social and economic liberties, specifies that "the State shall, within attainable means, allocate resources to provide rehabilitation and support to children who have lost their parents or caregivers.

The Ethiopian government approved a nationwide child policy framework that provides comprehensive protection for children's well-being across all sectors. The strategy prioritizes three key pillars: a) rehabilitation, care, and assistance for vulnerable children and children in difficult situations; b) preventing harm and protection of children from economic, social, and political challenges; and c) children's growth and development. The Policy includes precise action items for health, education, other services, children's recreational and leisure activities, and the protection of the most vulnerable children. However, the policy framework does not explicitly address the issue of conflict-induced displacement of children. Ethiopia is still striving to create and ratify an IDP policy framework that includes conflict-displaced children.

In summary, Ethiopia's government is starting from scratch when it comes to dealing with conflict-displaced children. There is no clear policy or strategy in place to address the issues, and the number of displaced children due to violence is steadily increasing. Even though conflict-displaced children confront multiple obstacles in terms of livelihood and rights protection, the government has failed to address these concerns to the point where they can meet their basic needs. Resolving displaced children's needs and the consequences of conflict-induced displacement is crucial to attaining long-term peace, government (or societal) security, and sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

4.2.4 Protection of conflict-induced displaced children from abuse and degrading treatment

The situation of children on the streets is complicated. Recently, a new generation of children driven by conflict joined the street children community in the city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. A KII respondent from Save the Children International described as follows. *“Recurrent conflicts persisting in different parts of the country resulted increased number of displaced people in IDP camps and on the street situation of urban cities. Particularly, the situation of conflict induced displaced children on the street situation is complex since conflict-induced displaced children are usually more vulnerable, less visible, and not being protected and supported.”*

Displaced children on the streets gain less global attention than child refugees and unaccompanied child migrants, maybe because people crossing international borders are a source of international concern. The government bears the primary obligation for protection. National

authorities are responsible for assisting IDPs, including children, who have been displaced by conflict both inside and outside of camps, particularly in urban areas. Despite receiving little attention from policymakers and decision-makers, the issue of children's survival and protection persists and worsens, and it will have severe ramifications on the country's overall human development.

A KII respondent from the local CSOs stated that there is a lack of protection for conflict-induced children on the street situation. He described: *"Despite the existence of legal mechanisms i.e. laws and policies for the protection of children's rights on paper, there is a significant gap in implementation. This may be because conflict and displacement are ongoing phenomena, the lack of political will of the government, or to limited capacity of government officials to put the law into practice. Because of this the state of conflict induced displaced children is worsening day by day."*

A KII respondent from a government agency also compliments that low attention has been given to conflict-induced-displaced children on the street situation by state and non-state actors. He described: *"Even, children who returned from Saudi Arabia have got better attention and receiving assistance than conflict-induced internally displaced children in street situations in Addis Ababa. These children are highly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation and at risk of survival and development."*

Conflict-induced displacement is characterized as a transition from a stable living environment to a significantly less stable one in which they seek to make ends meet in a community lacking strong social networks or resources. This reduction in the standard of living may be especially noticeable for children when customary foods are no longer available, daily routines are significantly altered, or they must work in or outside the home to compensate for the new living conditions.

A 15-year-old girl child FGD participant described the situation: *"Living in the cities, such as in Addis Ababa is very difficult, no one often notices our situation, were just live by begging. There are some kind people, however, the government will not support us with anything. Sometimes police warden (those who come from the woreda) abuse and mistreat us while we sit on the pedestrian road to beg some money and food. Life is full of risk on the street situation in*

Addis Ababa and nowadays I have developed fear and loneliness because I had separated from family members and social networks.”

A 14-year-old girl child KII respondent who lives around Shola Market described: that there is no rights protection from abuse and discrimination on the street situation. She stated that *“Displaced children who are ethnic from Tigray can only speak Tigrigna and may be unable to communicate with the communicates in Addis Ababa. Hence, sometimes society demonstrates some discrimination while providing support. I am not sure why; it may be because they did not hear what we were asking and begging. On the other hand, she stated that “there are good people, who simply give you a gift, especially if there is an Orthodox holiday in the city.”*”

It is impractical to generalize about the living situations of conflict-displaced children on the streets. A 17-year-old girl KII respondent complimented that children chose to live around Addis Ababa because it provides resources that assist their livelihoods and people are more charitable than those in rural areas. She mentioned: *“I arrived from Tigray by bus; it wasn't very simple to arrive at Addis Ababa. My mother, younger brother, and I hid ourselves from the people till we arrived here. Once, we arrived in Addis Ababa, we found the people being kind, they gave us birr (most of the time 5 birr, 10) or food when the children were begging. This is a major reason why we choose to concentrate in the city.*” It also explained that the children choose to inhabit Addis Ababa because it has resources that support their livelihood.

Notwithstanding, a KII respondent from the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs explained that *it is essential to get conflict induced displaced children out of the street as soon as possible. It would be difficult to help if the child gets accustomed to the street culture. The government must try to get them off the street as fast as possible by no matter means to protect the child from abuse and exploitation.”* Though the problems are critical, the government has limited resources to support conflict induced displaced children and their families.

Given this, children who have been displaced due to conflict have a variety of vulnerabilities, and their needs emanate from their vulnerability. These include trauma, loss, and anxiety; separation from close family members, acquaintances, and communities, lack of safety, prejudice, discrimination, and, in some cases, criminalization as a result of displacement; and a

lack of personal documents, which frequently prevents them from accessing services such as health care, schooling, and protection from harm.

It is possible to conclude that the government is taking little initiative to address conflict-related displaced children on the streets of Addis Ababa. Children who have been uprooted by conflict are particularly exposed to human rights violations such as discrimination and stigmatization. The existing child protection processes did not address the protection of conflict-displaced youngsters living on the streets. Ethiopia is a signatory to the global and regional child rights treaties; thus it shall establish policies, a child protection system, and mechanisms to uphold the rights of children. The prohibition against discrimination in Article 2 requires that whatever benefits a state provides to its child citizens be extended to all children within its territory, including conflict-induced displaced children, to protect them from abuse and exploitation.

4.2.5 Children's views of their lived experience

The adverse effects of displacement extend far beyond individuals forced to flee their homes due to conflict. In contrast, there is no information on how conflict-affected children are affected by or adapt to the additional challenges connected with displacement. This section tells the stories of conflict-displaced children on the streets and investigates human rights issues. Conflict-induced displaced children in the street have repeatedly faced crucial challenges in their lives. As a result, the study highlighted various stories that examined the journey of conflict-induced displaced children and linked stories from the perspective of human/child rights.

Story 1: Sebele Tariku (name changed), a 14-year-old girl, a grade 7 student in her village who came from conflict-affected area in the Amhara region. She told her lived experience as follows:

I lived with my mother and my father, but my dad was arrested, and my mum and I fled to Addis Ababa when our house was burned and then feared torture by the people living in our village in 'Ataye town'. My life was very messed up because I never settled in living in the same place. I was always swapping family, swapping home. I was with my mum and dad, then suddenly I was in my stepfather's house. I was always raised this way. The conflict that erupted in the village destroyed many houses and people were killed by insurgents' groups.

The difficulties that I experienced are as my mother and I are new to Addis Ababa city. It was difficult to get shelter and food to survive the moment we arrived in the city. It is a very crowded city. However, once on the streets, I create other ways of relating to people. I developed important competencies for surviving on the street such as quickly becoming part of a group of children on the street situation who come from other regions and socializing myself to familiarize myself with the context and people that inhabit street life.

Because some of the children here don't have mothers, I survive like a family on the street. A family that we didn't have, and we want to have amongst them, with someone to talk to, to dialogue with, girls everything that happens they come and relax, communicate, and assert, "If only their mothers were alive." I know that when you lose your mum you don't have anyone else in the world, my mother always takes care of me and protects me from any abuse and exploitation. I feel happy being here.

I am selling Softs at the traffic lights. People will not abuse me, sometimes they give me money. I think they know that we are displaced children, and we are not street children. However, we are not going to school and, when I see children going to school in the morning, I feel sad and cry, just thinking about my time in my village and friends. Now, I am ok, I have accepted and normalized things. My mother advised me to be okay until we got back to our home village and met our relatives.

Sebele's story depicts the extent to of the situation is difficult to survive, develop, and protect. Children have no access to education, getting necessities like food and shelter. Children and their families have only hoped to return home and pursue their lives. These Children are left behind and affected by inequality and discrimination, which undermines fundamental human rights principles such as universal protection of human rights and governmental accountability to ensure all children's rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

Story 2: A 16-year-old child, Atakilt Gebere (name changed), who came from a conflict-affected area in the Tigray region. He stated his lived experience as follows.

I began my life on the street a few years ago when the conflict hostilities in the Tigray region and surrounding areas decreased. It was my first time in Addis Ababa. Everything

takes place in a hurry, and the context is difficult for a newcomer. My home village was not like Addis; there are many people here, and many of them don't care about you. I was begging for food in a small restaurant and sleeping on the pedestrian road that was close to Shola marketplaces. However, guards did not let you approach the businesses. I believed they saw me as rubbery.

After a while, I had a few friends. The good thing is that you will have someone to talk and that will increase your confidence. When I sleep, someone is always active, keeping an eye on me to see if someone is going to attack me. On the street, it's fine while you're young, but when you're 15, 16, and older, things grow more serious because the cops attack you more simply because they suspect you of engaging in illicit activities. However, I have never and ever been engaged in the theft. I am here just to get food and survive. Conflict-induced displaced children will not engage in such kind of activities. I'm not sure how I can tell you. I used to go to school in my village, but when I lost my father, I just ran away and fled to Addis Ababa since my mother encouraged me to leave that place. My family is in the 70 Kare IDP camp in Mekelle. I want to travel there and meet my mother and siblings there. Even if I had the money, I would not stay in Addis Ababa overnight. Here, life is terrible. The nighttime appears to be the most perilous time for children; it is during this moment of danger and anxiety that they are most vulnerable to various sorts of assault and physical abuse.

Atakilt's story tells us the rights protection of conflict-displaced children from abuse and degrading treatment are violated by police. His rights to education and access to necessities are jeopardized. These are basic rights for children's survival and development. The protracted displacement will expose children to more vulnerability. Early intervention of the state and non-state actors would be an antidote to the problem, not only because children's rights are jeopardized, but also, more crucially since the problem appeared to be growing at a rapid pace, which many conflict induced displaced children to join the street children community.

Story 3: A 13-year girl child Semret Solomon (name changed) came from, Selekeleaka town, Tigray region. She explained the complexity and vulnerability of conflict induced displaced children on street situations in Addis Ababa. She stated that 'on the street, lying

down in the early hours of the morning without knowing what the day will hold is dangerous because both good and evil people exist.’ Further, she described: “As I was walking down the street, a police officer saw me as someone else and began to tease me. I did not do anything, but he was annoying me. I don’t know why; perhaps, it is because I live on street children. I don't like talking to people. I much prefer to be alone and myself. I enjoy friendship, but it depends on the friendship, as having many friends has many negative effects. I have one friend who came from Tigray because of the conflict. We stay together and sell "softs" at the traffic lights. We share meals and spend every waking hour together. Women and children from Tigray are arriving in large numbers nowadays. And they were together most of the time. I want to return to my village, but I get anxious when I think about the conflict situation. I've been told that there is no conflict at this time, however, I have no confidence to go back to my home village. I don’t like hearing about war. I will stay here for some time. Being a girl and living in a street situation is challenging. I often feel sad when I think of my future and destiny.

4.2.6 Lived experience of the children through the lens of human/children’s rights

Human and child rights treaties, both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) recognize that children have rights. Both human rights instruments developed basic principles to be followed and imposed a legal obligation to put these principles and rights into action. Concern for children in difficult circumstances is no longer a humanitarian or charity issue; it is rather a legal responsibility imposed by a state signatory to the Convention and Charter to protect the rights of conflict induced displaced children. In connection with this, the state and non-state actors' actions concerning children, "the best interest of the child shall be a prime consideration.”⁹²

Conflict-induced displaced children, like other vulnerable groups of children, have the right to get special protection measures. However, the duty bearer and humanitarian service providers overlooked these children. The existing child protection mechanisms are not protecting children pushed by the conflict and live-on-street situation.

⁹² UNCRC-article 3.1

One of the critical challenges is labeling conflict induced displaced children as criminal and security threats to the community. Conflict-induced displaced children who participated in the interviews frequently stated that there was nothing positive to be found on the street. Conflict-induced displaced children are sometimes linked to an image of the street as being violent and a threat to others. This slang expression, exposed children to being punched or verbally abused. Conflict-induced displaced children are aware of socially constructed images of “street children,” and this will pose critical challenges to their development and aggravate children’s rights violations. Hence this affects the perception and action to not consider the best interest of the children.

Chapter Five

Discussion of Findings

In this section, the researcher elucidates key findings in three themes: distinctive insights on the characteristics of conflict-induced displaced children in street situations, inadequate legal protection and institutional setups, and increased vulnerability but limited action for the rights protection of conflict-induced displaced children in street situations.

5.1 Distinctive insights on the characteristics of conflict induced displaced children in street situation

The expression 'children in street situations,' recognizes that children engage in numerous activities on the street and that if there is 'an issues' it is not the child, but rather the circumstances.⁹³ Recent literature has suggested that the term "street children" is problematic for a variety of reasons. First, it is a broad word that obscures the diversity of children's actual circumstances. Second, it does not reflect how many children relate to their personal experiences or the realities of their movements on and off the street. Third, it carries derogatory or pitying undertones. Fourth, it diverts attention away from the larger group of children affected by poverty and social marginalization.⁹⁴

The conflict-induced displaced children on the street situation are within the broader street children in the street situation community. However, the study revealed that these children unlike other children in street situations have distinct characteristics such as being traumatized by the conflict or are victims of abuse and exploitation, seen as a security threat when the war escalates, having hope to go back home, not being involved in any criminal activity, and not socializing themselves with another group of street children to engage in pity trades.

⁹³ UN CRC General Comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations

⁹⁴ Catherine Panter-Brick (2002), *Street Children, Human Rights, and Public Health: A Critique and Future Directions*, Yale University

These children require protection, which is based on their unique characteristics. However, they are neglected children and have limited or no access to the existing social protection mechanisms in the country.

Children's special characteristics and situations necessitate new operational definitions to identify the concept and implementation of interventions. However, conflict-induced displacement was mostly due to ethnic or territorial conflict, and the issue became politicized. Thus, when children are displaced, the policy and decision-makers may politicize the agenda and use the evidence to justify political action. This has impacted the response process and sometimes the intervention required a political decision.⁹⁵ Likewise, there is no clear national strategy and policies put in place to address the rights protection of conflict induced displaced children street situation in Ethiopia. Indeed, conflict induced displaced children in street children is a construct that reflects various social and political agendas. These will be strong criticisms, which go some way toward explaining why “rights protection” is a difficult working concept.

5.2. Inadequate legal protection and institutional setups for rights protection of conflict induced displaced children in street situation

Globally, there is no entity dedicated only to the protection and response of IDPs. The duty had been given to various UN entities to take on responsibilities and participate in the response process. The international community was unable to form an autonomous institution because of the nature of the issue and the concept of state sovereignty. The international community favored a multi-agency approach and implemented a coordination strategy. This technique was ineffective because of a lack of accountability systems, and the multi-agencies were preoccupied with their tasks. These hampered the IDP's protection and response measures.⁹⁶

National legislation is a crucial instrument for providing better protection and aid to IDPs. In this context, national parliaments play an important role in protecting internally displaced citizens through legislative acts. The lawmaker is also responsible for pushing the government (or administration) to sign the required treaties and implement the standards into a particular IDP

⁹⁵ Behaylu Girma (2023), a Critical Look at the National Institutional Mechanisms towards the Protection and Assistance of Conflict-Induced Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia, volume 7, Hawassa University.

⁹⁶ Behaylu Girma (2023), a Critical Look at the National Institutional Mechanisms towards the Protection and Assistance of Conflict-Induced Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia, volume 7, Hawassa University.

law.⁹⁷ It can guarantee that IDPs are better protected and aided, while also ensuring that the government meets its international duties to offer such assistance. The House of People's Representatives is the national legislative body in charge of establishing various national legislation. Nonetheless, there are currently no IDP-specific laws adopted by Ethiopia's parliament. After a decade, the house ratified the ratification of the Kampala Convention, which has yet to be domesticated.⁹⁸

The Ethiopian government is reluctant to address the conflict-related concerns that have resulted in child displacement. There is no clear policy or strategy in place to handle the problems, as the number of displaced children due to violence grows fast. Even while conflict-displaced children face numerous challenges in terms of livelihood and rights protection, the government has been unable to resolve these issues to the point of meeting the most necessities. Addressing the repercussions of conflict-induced displacement, as well as the needs of displaced children, is critical to securing long-term peace, political stability, and sustainable development.

The state has the primary obligation to preserve human rights; however, international human rights instruments would allow individuals to form Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Charitable Societies and Organizations (CSOs) to promote and protect human rights. Civil society has an important role in protecting and promoting the rights of internally displaced people. Civil society, particularly in emerging countries like Ethiopia, is expected to wield significant power. As a result, the new Organizations of Civil Societies Proclamation No.1113/2019 established a wide variety of mandates for national and international CSOs working to promote and preserve human rights. However, the CSOs' efforts to address the growing number and plight of conflict induced displaced children on the street situation are limited.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission carried out different human rights monitoring efforts and examined complaints of human rights violations against IDPs. The Commission also raised awareness about IDPs' rights and recommended the government ratify the Kampala Convention and advocate for the domestication process. It is also working on a long-term solution for IDPs and hosting several consultative workshops with stakeholders, government agencies, and

⁹⁷ Handbook for Parliamentarians No 20 – 2013, Internal Displacement: Responsibility and Action

⁹⁸ Ibid.

humanitarian partners.⁹⁹ However, the issue of conflict-induced displaced children in street situations is disregarded and not addressed by the right organizations.

The mandated organ to handle the IDP issues in the country is the Disaster Risk Management Council, which is composed of various ministries and is led by the Deputy Prime Minister who would intervene and provide guidance when mass displacement occurs. This council has regular meetings and assesses the progress. For instance, following the 2018 huge conflict-induced internal displacement because of the recurrent ethnic and territorial conflicts and the 2020 northern Ethiopia conflict, the conflict induced displaced children's issues have been overlooked and there have been no interventions even the return process that tradeoffs the human rights of the IDPs.¹⁰⁰ In connection with this, the rights protection of conflict induced displaced children on the street situation was disregarded in planning and intervention.

To this end, the lack of policy and a strong and comprehensive institutional framework affects the response and protection process of conflict induced displaced children. The responsibilities of the legislative and judiciary branches of the government were minimal and invisible. There were no comprehensive laws or judicial decisions that served as a precedent in the protection and responses to conflict induced IDPs on street situations.¹⁰¹

5.3 Increased vulnerability, however limited action to protect rights of conflict induced displaced children in street situation

Conflict-induced displacement is a phenomenon with long-term consequences, including psychological trauma and catastrophic loss of human and physical capital.¹⁰² Conflict-induced displacement is becoming an emerging phenomenon in internal migration because of its specific characteristics, such as politicization, and biases in dealing with the issues and translation of policies and international provisions relating to them into action. The most afflicted groups in conflict-induced children are poor, socially excluded, marginalized individuals who were the victims during the conflict. Their livelihood is insecure. They are not accessible to the facilities

⁹⁹ Behaylu Girma (2023), a Critical Look at the National Institutional Mechanisms towards the Protection and Assistance of Conflict-Induced Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia, volume 7, Hawassa University.

¹⁰⁰ The Guardian, (2019), Go and we die, stay and we starve; the Ethiopians facing a deadly dilemma.

¹⁰¹ Ibid

¹⁰² Eliana Rubiano-Matulevich (2021), essays on conflict-induced displacement and gender in Colombia, published at Boekenplan

provided by the state to the IDPs. They are completely powerless, and away from residential areas and, consequently, helpless. Protecting the displaced children is one of its main concerns, and its success shall be measured by indicators like the number of displaced children on the street situation that have returned and been reintegrated within their community and who have access to essential services i.e. protection and education.

Active armed conflict between the state and the militants in Amhara and Oromia has rendered many people including children and women homeless, being uprooted from their homes. The ongoing conflict in the various parts of the country if unresolved will be adding further to this number. The conflict induced displacement is increasing time to time. As the five-year data of the Global Internal Displacement Database indicates, the total number of IDPs in Ethiopia, 2018-2022¹⁰³ is proliferating at an alarming rate.

Year	Conflict-induced IDPs at year-end	Disaster-Induced IDPs at year-end	Total IDPs at the end of the year	Percentage of conflict induced IDPs
2018	2,137,000	296,000	2,433,000	88%
2019	1,324,000	390,000	1,714,000	77%
2020	2,060,000	633,000	2,693,000	76%
2021	3,589,000	579,000	4,168,000	86%
2022	3,852,000	717,000	4,569,000	84%
2023	2,560,311	899,570	3,459,881 ¹⁰⁴	73.3%
Total	15,522,311	3514,570	19,036,881	81%

The plight of the IDPs is a crisis of the untold dimension at present and may pose many challenges in the future. In addition, the trends, and methods of displacement in Ethiopia are clear and the responsibility for addressing the plight has not been taken up either by the state or the international community. The problem persists because these two crucial actors are passive.¹⁰⁵ The lived experience of children on the street situation and their families showed that the livelihood

¹⁰³ Yirga Abebe Dantie (2023), reconsidering the management of conflict-induced, researching internal displacement. Data retrieved on Feb. 5,2024, from [Abebe ID-Ethiopia 131223.pdf \(researchinginternaldisplacement.org\)](#)

¹⁰⁴ Ethiopia Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12 including Northern Ethiopia and Drought responses,Unicef., data retrieved on March 24,2024 from [Ethiopia Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12 \(Northern Ethiopia and Drought Responses\) 01 January -31 December 2023.pdf \(unicef.org\)](#). *highlighted that due to conflict in Amhara, the region was largely uncovered by the recent DTM.

¹⁰⁵ Anita Bhattarai-Ghimire Bishnu Raj Upreti (undated), Conflict Induced Displacement: An Emerging Phenomenon of Internal Migration in Nepal

insecurity of the IDPs is one of the major challenges facing them at present since they have limited economic assets, social support, and alternate safety nets.

Children in street situations are facing genuine problems of broken families and communities, arbitrary violence, and discrimination. Their future remains unpredictable.¹⁰⁶

The findings revealed that children and adolescents are often separated from their families or caregivers during conflict and displacement. These are the most vulnerable displaced children: they are more likely to be neglected and exposed to abuse, trafficking, and sexual abuse. Many displaced children had sole responsibility for caring for their family, either because they were the heads of their siblings to take care of, or because family members were separated. As the lived experience of conflict induced displaced children shows, IDPs have had little hope of rebuilding their lives in their home areas. The lived experiences of children involved in the research, and displacement dramatically disrupt the lives of individuals and lead to a severe reduction in access to the necessities of life, including nourishment, safe water, secure housing, appropriate clothing, health care, and hygiene. The right of IDPs to these necessities is jeopardized. And the situation darkened their future hope and visions of children. Children's fear is, that children may grow up in such an unpredictable and terrifying situation if the displacement is prolonged.

Internal displacement to towns and cities has received little attention over the years, and the data collected on most of these populations have remained limited and even anecdotal. Profiling urban IDP populations has indeed been particularly challenging, as conflict-induced displacement has coincided with massive and complex urbanization processes which make it difficult to distinguish between internally displaced children and children in street situations.¹⁰⁷ Children in street situations in Addis Ababa have a very hazy and insecure future. For example, the routine practice of mass detention/rounding up of street children ahead of religious or other major events in the city is among the issues requiring attention and legal solutions.¹⁰⁸

IDPs typically disperse within urban areas, in some instances relying on 'invisibility' for security reasons, and in others being forced to relocate to the city limits by local conflicts and

¹⁰⁶ Ibid

¹⁰⁷ Anita Bhattarai-Ghimire Bishnu Raj Upreti (undated), Conflict Induced Displacement: An Emerging Phenomenon of Internal Migration in Nepal

¹⁰⁸ Ethiopia Annual Human Rights Situation Report (June 2022 – June 2023)

actions of city authorities. Displaced women and children are at particular risk. Displaced women have faced an increase in abuses such as domestic violence, and exploitation by people in positions of power, including police. As local communities are frequently called to provide protection and assistance to children, they also require adequate assistance to accommodate displaced children in situations of safety and dignity. Therefore, efforts should be strengthened to assess the impact of displacement on all children in street situations affected by a displacement situation and to identify the specific needs of the children in street situations.

Chapter Six

Conclusion and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusion

Displacement remains a critical factor of vulnerability for children in Ethiopia. Children who are displaced due to conflict and live in the street situation are often neglected. Conflict-induced internal displacement was mostly due to ethnic or territorial conflict, and the issue became politicized. When people including children are displaced, the policy and decision makers may politicized the agenda and use the evidence to justify political action.

The findings point out that conflict-induced displaced children are a marginalized category of vulnerable children in the capital city of Ethiopia. Even, they become a new group of vulnerable children in the urban setting. Conflict-induced displaced children demonstrate distinct characteristics such as being traumatized by the conflict or victims of abuse and exploitation, being viewed as a security threat as the war escalates, having a desire to return home, not engaging in any criminal activity, and not socializing with another group of street children to engage in pity trades.

Although the rights of children are proclaimed in the UNCRC and other human rights treaties, there is a gap in the international normative frameworks, and globally no institution is solely established for the rights protection and response of IDPs. Although ratifying the Kampala Convention is a promising step toward protecting and assisting IDPs, the proclamation is insufficient to achieve this goal because it requires the enactment of policies, strategies, laws, regulations, and directives that adhere to the Kampala Convention's rules and principles.

The government of Ethiopia is confused in dealing with the issues of conflict induced displaced children on the street situation. Conflict-induced children are in more complex situations. In essence, they are not street children; rather, they are living in the streets to get a safe zone to survive and protect themselves from abuse and exploitation. Displacement dramatically disrupts the lives of individuals and leads to a severe reduction in access to the necessities of life, including food, clean water, shelter, adequate clothing, health services, and sanitation. The right of displaced children to these necessities is jeopardized. They are not accessible to the facilities

provided by the state to the IDPs. They are completely powerless. The dire situation on the streets darkened the hope and visions of conflict induced displaced children on the street situation in Addis Ababa. The reality on the ground demands a new operational definition and policy strategy to alleviate problems and ensure that the rights of conflict-induced displaced children in street situations are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

6.2 Recommendations

The recommendations below have been given to various state and non-state actors who are responsible in respecting, protecting, and fulfilling rights of children at all levels.

A) To Policy and Decision Makers

- Conflict as the sole cause of displacement should be addressed first and foremost. That is where broad political commitment, as well as the role of international and regional institutions, come into play in resolving recurring conflicts in various regions of the country and preventing conflict-induced displacement.
- The government is drafting the IDP proclamation for prevention, protection, and accountability at all levels. This will help to the implementation of the Kampala Convention and uphold the rights of conflict induced displaced children. The government should recognize and ensure the legal protection of IDP children in the street situations (displaced children in urban context/out of camp).
- The government shall establish temporary IDP centers/shelters in urban areas to safeguard the protection of conflict induced displaced children in street situations.
- To alleviate the negative impact of conflict-induced displacements on displaced children including their families, it is crucial to develop a multi-sectoral strategy that addresses psychological, economic, and human rights concerns.

B) To Civil Society Organizations

- Advocate for the rights protection of conflict induced displaced children in street situations to buy-in a political will and commitment to make the responses to internal displacement a political priority for the global actors (bilateral and multi-lateral agencies i.e UN, EU, AU and national state (duty bearer).

- The human rights organizations and CSOs should research and generate data to advocate for the rights protection of conflict induced displaced children in street situations.
- The conflict caused by displaced children on the street situation has a peculiar characteristic (i.e. traumatized by the conflict or victims of abuse and exploitation, being viewed as a security threat) unlike children on the street situation who stayed for a prolonged time. Thus, the interventions being provided by state and non-state actors shall consider these characteristics.
- Advocate for developing more effective institutional arrangements, particularly a dedicated locus of responsibility in the field for internally displaced children out of camps in the country.
- The right of children to engage in matters affecting their rights is a right of children explicitly stated in the global and regional child rights instruments. Therefore, the state and non-state actors shall jointly work to ensure meaningful participation and the best interest of children of conflict caused by displaced children's rights to civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.
- CSOs and human rights advocates should campaign for deconstructing the labeling of conflict-related displaced children in street circumstances as a security concern. Consultations can strengthen interactions between IDPs and host communities in urban contexts.

C) To Key Mandated Government Agencies

- As a mandated government organ, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs should take the leading role in addressing the immediate challenges (high risks of survival and protection) in short-term plans. These include
 - Strengthen coordination mechanisms to work with the Addis Ababa City Administration (Mayor Office) to advocate for budget allocation to protect the rights of conflict induced displaced children in the street situation of Addis Ababa City.
 - Collaborate with the Ethiopia Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to assess and promote the protection of the rights of children in street situations.
 - Work with the Ministry of Justice to ensure the legal protection of conflict induced displaced children on street situations in normal circumstances and during the state of emergency.

- Collaborate with other sector ministries and agencies to ensure access to social services i.e. vital registration, education, health, shelter, and psychosocial support to ensure access to social services to all conflict-induced displaced children in Addis Ababa.
- Support efforts were undertaken by civil society organizations and coordinated to develop and implement succinct plans and programs.
- Engage the private sector to find an alternative financing mechanism for mobilizing additional resources.

D) To Academic Institutions

- Scholars should research and generate reliable data to make visible the rights protection of conflict induced displaced children in street situations.
- Encourage fellow students to further research on this research topic to be an issue for academic and policy discussions
- Prepare research synthesis and policy brief paper to inform decision and policy makers and use for evidence-based advocacy.

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Appendix I: Data Collection Tools

Introduction

'Hello', this is Tadios Tesfaye. I am currently pursuing a Master of Human Rights degree at Addis Abeba University's Center for Human Rights. At present, 'I am working on my thesis on the Rights Protection of Conflict-Induced Displaced Children on the Street Situation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia'. The final goal of this research is to partially meet the requirements for a Master of Human Rights degree at Addis Abeba University. The researcher intends to assure you that this study is only for academic objectives. I'm interested in your ideas and experiences, and any information you offer will be used purely for research and kept confidential.

Instruction

These questionnaires are divided into three different parts and sections. Part of the questionnaire is a Key Informant Interview for conflict-induced displaced children; the second part is in-depth key informant guiding questions for government agencies, Human Rights Institutions, and CSOs; and the third part is FGD questions for children and their families, and the last part four is qualitative observation questions. Tick the box after the respondents' similar responses and take note of any reflection on the questions below.

Part 1: Key Informant Interview guiding questions for conflict-induced displaced children in street situations.

Section 1. Demographic information

1	Questionnaire identification number	(*Use numeric number code i.e 01 02, 03...) _____
2	Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Boys <input type="checkbox"/> Girls
3	Age	<input type="checkbox"/> 10- 15 ages <input type="checkbox"/> 16-18 ages
4	Educational level	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-4 grade <input type="checkbox"/> 5-8 grade, <input type="checkbox"/> 9-12 grade
5	Region (where did you come from?)	
6	How long have you been living on the streets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than a year, <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 years, <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 years, <input type="checkbox"/> more than 5 years

Section II: Questions to assess the special characteristics of street children who are pushed by conflict.

1. Do you remember when you were forced to flee from your home due to conflict? Probe: Length of displacement? Is the displacement ongoing? Was displacement sudden, or massive?
2. How do you see yourself while you are living in a street situation? Probe: Do you see yourself as a street child? Do you see any different characteristics between conflict induced displaced children and children in street situations?
3. Do you believe conflict-affected displaced children in this area engage in dangerous behaviors to earn money or get necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter?
4. Do you suppose conflict-induced displaced children around here take with diverse mixes of substances, such as chewing 'chat' and sniffing chemicals like petrol or glue?
5. If the child responds 'yes' to Question 3, ask if they engage in unsafe behavior after consuming drugs, such as committing a crime or crossing a busy street.
6. Have you ever been forced to have sex? Do you provide sex to survive or to get money?
7. Do you get any assistance (food, shelter, health, education, protection from abuse) from any government agencies so far? Probe: if yes? Which government agencies provided the support and what kind of support did you get?
8. What do you suggest for framing or conceptualizing the special characteristics of conflict induced displaced children on the street situation in the city?

Section III: Questions to examine the protection of children's rights protection and the lived experiences specifically with abuse and degrading treatment of conflict-induced displaced children in street situations. (Circle one primary response only)

1. Is your biological mother still alive?
 - a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
 - c. Don't Know _____
2. Is your biological father still alive?
 - a. Yes _____
 - b. No _____
 - c. Don't Know _____
3. Who takes care of you?
 - a. Mother and/or father _____
 - b. Sister and/or brother _____
 - c. Aunt and/or uncle _____
 - d. Friend _____
 - e. No one/self, ___
 - f. Other (specify) _____

4. Have you experienced any difficult life events? (Major life events? Probing questions: Have you ever been so sick or injured that you needed to visit the hospital? Has somebody close to you died as a result of the conflict? Have you ever been in a scenario where you feared for your life or were seriously injured? Have you ever been in a natural disaster, such as flooding on the streets? Have you been too unwell to work, do domestic tasks, or engage in regular activities?)
5. How do you feel about living in the street? (Daily pressures.) Probing questions: how do you feel about living on the street? What are your feelings about living with your family? What are you trying to avoid every day? (Problems, street children, or activities)? Where do you normally sleep? Where do you sleep at other times? Where do you generally obtain your meals? What do you normally eat? Do you ever experience hunger? What should you do if you can't get food? Where do you purchase your clothing? Are they warm and comfortable enough? What happens when it rains heavily? Do you ever become cold? Where and how do you wash your clothes? Where do you wash and clean yourself? Do you often get hassled? Who hassles you? Why do they hassle you? What do they do?
6. Besides basic needs like food, housing, and clothing, what are your current major concerns? (Withstanding life's challenges)
Probing questions: Do you feel happy about yourself? Do you have the same physical strength as everyone else? What are the most essential items that you require right now to get by? What plans do you have for the future? Are you planning to continue your education? What kind of education? Where would you choose to live? Do you frequently experience sadness, loneliness, or unhappiness? Does living on the streets require frequent relocation? Why? Does your family travel around frequently? Why? Probing questions: what brought you here? If you have moved, have you lost touch with close pals on the street? Would you like to return to your original place and resume your life?
7. Is there anything you would like to add or ask me?

Part 2: Key informants' guiding questions to assess special characteristics, rights protection, and state of conflict-induced displaced children on the street situation for government agencies, Human Rights Institutions, and CSOs

1. What percentage of the entire population is internally displaced? Prob: What procedures are used to get basic IDP data (numbers and locations)? How has information about specific needs been gathered? What further information is required to protect IDPs, and will gathering it put them at risk?
2. Do national or regional development agendas address the protection concerns of IDPs?
3. Should targeted legislative or administrative actions be taken to protect and respect the rights of IDPs on an equal footing as other citizens? Prob: If so, whose rights? What steps have already been taken? What actions haven't been taken?
4. Do international humanitarian groups assist national authorities in dealing with conflict-induced displaced children? If yes, is this assistance delivered under a collaborative approach? Is their capacity adequate? How successful are the existing coordination processes?
5. How does your organization handle and support conflict-induced displaced children?
6. Is humanitarian aid supplied without discrimination? Probs: Do IDPs receive the same level of attention as other communities with similar rights gaps? What problems do you face while dealing with conflict-affected children? Probs: What steps are being made by the authorities and other stakeholders to mitigate the challenge? What are the attitudes of other communities towards IDPs? Probe: how does the community see conflict-induced displaced children?
7. How do you assess the impact and durability of your programs on children's lives? What are the key success metrics for each program?
8. What recommendations do you have for protecting the rights of conflict-induced displaced children living on the streets in Ethiopia?

Part 3: FGDs discussion with children and their families to assess the state of conflict induced displaced children and their families.

1. What are the daily hazards and obstacles faced by displaced children and families due to conflict?
2. What are the primary security dangers encountered by conflict-induced displaced children's route to safety?
3. What belongings should you bring? Do you bring your ID? Are there any other documents?
4. What security dangers do IDPs, especially women and girls, face while traveling to safe areas?

5. Have you received support from the government or civil society organizations to address the protection requirements of unaccompanied and separated children on the streets?

Part 4: Qualitative observation questions: to assess the state of conflict induced displaced children in street situations.

1. How is the physical and sociopsychological wellness (self-image) of children and their families?
2. How are the living environments for children and families on the streets look like?
3. How do conflict-affected displaced children engage with their neighborhood and peers on the streets?

Many thanks for your time and useful information!

Appendix II: Informed Consent Form

You are being asked to participate in this research. The research title is "Rights Protection of Conflict-Induced Displaced Children on the Street Situation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia." Mr. Tadios Tesfaye, a graduate student in the Department of Human Rights at Addis Abeba University in Ethiopia, is doing his thesis. The research is part of the master's program in human rights. Dr. Fasil Mulatu of Addis Abeba University supervises the study.

The objective of this research is to analyze and evaluate the distinct characteristics of street children who are driven by conflict, as well as the perspectives of children living on Addis Abeba's streets. The questionnaire will concentrate on this set of objectives. In section one, you will be asked questions about your personal information; in section two, questions regarding the distinctive characteristics of conflict-affected children; and in section three, questions concerning the child's lived experiences. Several staff members from organizations working directly with street children will be interviewed.

Your participation in the interview is entirely voluntary. All information will be handled privately. Your identity will be kept confidential, and your privacy will be respected. Your replies will be used solely for research purposes. Some of these questions may be difficult to answer. Please attempt to answer what you recall as honestly as possible. If you do not want to continue participating or if the questions make you uncomfortable, you may withdraw from the study at any time. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at +251 912867901.

Thank you for your participation.

Participant signature and date

Principal investigator signature and date