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**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**

**THE CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN  
SUPPORT OF UNHCR FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN  
ETHIOPIA SINCE 2018: A CASE OF DEBRE BERHAN TOWN**

**BY  
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**NOVEMBER, 2024**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**THE CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN  
SUPPORT OF UNHCR FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN  
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**I have hereby stated that this thesis entitled " The Challenges of International Humanitarian Support of UNHCR for Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia since 2018: A case of Debre Berhan Town" comprises my own original work, has never been presented for a degree in any other university, and that all sources of materials used for this thesis have been duly recognized.**

**Name: Mechal Tamrat      Signature\_\_\_\_\_      November, 2024**

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## **Acronyms**

ACAPS - Assessment Capacities Project

ANI - Action for the Needy

BSG - Benishangul-Gumuz

CBI - Cash-Based Interventions

CCCM - Camp Coordination and Camp Management

CERF - United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

DEC - Disaster Emergency Committee

DICAC - Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission

DTM – Displacement Tracking Matrix

FGD - Focus Group Discussion

GA – United Nations General Assembly

GBV - Gender-Based Violence

GERD – Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

HC - Humanitarian Coordinator

HCT - Humanitarian Coordination Team

HRP - Humanitarian Response Plan

IASC – Inter Agency Standing Committee

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross

IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

IDPs - Internally Displaced Persons

IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development

IOs – International Organizations

IOM – International Organization for Migration

IOM DTM - International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix

MHPSS - Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

NDRMC - National Disaster Risk Management Commission

NFI – Non-Food Items

NGOs - Non-Governmental Organizations  
NPM - Needs and Population Monitoring  
NRC - Norwegian Refugee Council  
OCHA – United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
ODWAS - Organization for the Development of Women and Adolescents  
OLA - Oromo Liberation Army  
SA – Site Assessment  
SG – Secretary General  
SNNP - Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ region  
TPLF - Tigray People's Liberation Front  
UN – United Nations  
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund  
VAS – Village Assessment Survey  
WASH - Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene  
WFP - World Food Programme  
WHO – World Health Organization  
YWC - Young Women's Christian Association

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## **Abstract**

*This study investigates the nature and effectiveness of UNHCR's humanitarian support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia since 2018. The study was conducted on the Amhara Regional State, North Shewa Zone, specifically the Debre Berhan China and Woynishet IDP camps. Through a qualitative method approach, employing key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis, was utilized to explore UNHCR's role in providing immediate relief, protection, and durable solutions. The findings revealed that while UNHCR's humanitarian response adhered to international norms and principles, challenges persisted in stakeholder engagement, coordination, and the implementation of long-term solutions. The humanitarian support often failed to address the root causes of displacement or provide durable solutions, leaving IDPs vulnerable to continued hardship. To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian assistance for IDPs in Ethiopia, recommendations include developing comprehensive implementation strategies, strengthening partnerships, prioritizing durable solutions, and advocating for increased and flexible funding to address the underlying drivers of displacement.*

## **Key words**

Durable solutions, Effectiveness, Humanitarian support, Internally Displaced Persons, and United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides an overview of the study, including its background, research problem, core argument, objectives, and research questions. It also outlines the significance of the study, defines the study area, details the research methodology employed, and provides an overview of the paper's scope and organization.

#### **1.1. Background**

Ethiopia is experiencing a large internal displacement crisis. With 3,191,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) registered in 2018, Ethiopia has the third-highest number of new displacements globally (ReliefWeb, 2021). According to ReliefWeb (2021), conflicts, mostly centered on ethnic and boundary disputes, are the primary cause of a substantial fraction of these displacements. While new disputes have also surfaced, long-standing tensions like the dispute over the Oromia-Somali regional border, which initially erupted in 2017, still exist. The Gedeo and Guji Oromo tribes in West Guji were embroiled in a war that worsened with a struggle for resources and territory between April and June of 2018. Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), Somalia, Amhara, and Oromia were among the areas most impacted by this displacement (OCHA, 2021). Political, ethnic, and resource-related disputes were frequently the driving forces behind these conflicts (Tafere & Tamiru, 2021).

Ethiopia has seen internal displacement due to natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and droughts, in addition to warfare. The nation is vulnerable to recurrent climate-related disasters, which frequently force communities to relocate, especially in rural areas where farming and cattle husbandry are common (Flahaux & Lokshin, 2020). In addition, socioeconomic variables that contribute to internal displacement include poverty, restricted access to necessary services, and economic inequality. In quest of better prospects, people frequently move from rural to urban regions, creating slums and informal communities with sometimes unstable living circumstances (Mengistu & Tassew, 2021).

Due to conflict, violence, and natural catastrophes, Ethiopia presently hosts the highest population of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Africa (IDMC, 2021). With the nation's struggles since 2018, new waves of displacement have emerged (NPM, 2022). Between April and June 2023, the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) deployed Site Assessment (SA) Round 33 and Village Assessment Survey (VAS) Round 16 in Ethiopia to undertake a multi-sectoral location assessment (IOM, 2023). The results showed that a total of 4,385,789 internally displaced people (IDPs) were identified, which equates to 872,483 IDP families (IOM, 2023).

In this regard, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or UNHCR, is essential to meeting the needs of internally displaced people in Ethiopia. The mission of the UNHCR is to safeguard and assist stateless people, refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and other vulnerable people. The main objectives of UNHCR are to protect the rights and welfare of those who have been forcibly displaced, as well as to identify long-term solutions for their circumstances (United Nations, 2019). For people who have been displaced, the organization offers essential support and services such as emergency shelter, food, water, medical attention, education, and legal counsel. In order to address the difficulties experienced by refugees and other displaced people globally, UNHCR also seeks to promote lasting solutions, support the rights of displaced populations, and cultivate collaboration with governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders (United Nations, 2019). UNHCR's 2014 mandate was revised to include the provision of international protection and aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) globally in collaboration with host governments (UNHCR, 2014).

Significant international humanitarian assistance has been given by the UNHCR to Ethiopia's internally displaced people (IDPs). During this time, UNHCR worked on a number of important projects and interventions, such as emergency shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs). UNHCR has been trying to give IDPs in Ethiopia emergency shelter supplies and NFIs, like blankets, sleeping mats, and cooking sets (UNHCR, 2022a). These essential resources support the protection and well-being of displaced populations in addition to helping to address their urgent needs (Sphere, 2018). The UNHCR has introduced cash transfers and vouchers as part of its Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs) strategy to assist internally displaced people in meeting their basic

requirements (UNHCR, 2021a). This strategy promotes local economies and gives recipients the freedom to choose what matters most to them (Pantuliano et al., 2012).

Third, protection and legal assistance: UNHCR offers IDPs advocacy for their rights, legal advice, and support with documents (UNHCR, 2020). With this support, it is made possible for IDPs to exercise their rights as displaced people and to obtain basic services (Global Protection Cluster, 2010). The final project is called, Health and Nutrition Support. UNHCR works with partners to offer IDPs in Ethiopia access to primary healthcare, reproductive health services, and nutrition programs, among other health and nutrition-related services (UNHCR, 2019). These programs are designed to meet the health requirements of internally displaced people and stop the spread of illness in these environments (WHO, 2016).

While UNHCR has implemented various initiatives to support IDPs in Ethiopia, it is important to assess the challenges for the effectiveness of this support in the long term. Existing studies have explored different aspects of humanitarian support for IDPs in Ethiopia, including the role of UNHCR. However, there is a need for a comprehensive analysis of the challenges of UNHCR support and the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian programs implemented for IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018. Understanding the nature of UNHCR support to IDPs, as well as evaluating the long-term outcomes and sustainability of the interventions, is essential to enhance the effectiveness and impact of humanitarian efforts.

Therefore, the objective of this thesis is to investigate the nature of UNHCR support to IDPs and the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian support programs implemented by UNHCR in facilitating durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia since 2018. The study has examined the range of support provided by UNHCR, including the types of assistance, strategies employed, and implementation approaches. Additionally, the thesis assesses the long-term outcomes and impacts of the support programs in facilitating durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia. By conducting this research, the researcher aim to contribute to the understanding of the effectiveness and sustainability of UNHCR's humanitarian support to IDPs in Ethiopia.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

According to UNHCR (2020), Ethiopia is dealing with serious issues related to internal displacement brought on by a number of events, including natural disasters, conflict, and unstable economic conditions. As a result, there is a sizable IDP population in need of humanitarian assistance. The UNHCR has played a critical role in meeting the IDPs' immediate needs and advancing long-term solutions by helping them in Ethiopia. Due to the escalation of ethnically motivated violence in regions such as Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Southern Nations, the number of displaced people has increased since 2018 (IDMC, 2021). IDPs continue to lack sufficient access to basic amenities like clean water, food, shelter, and restrooms (UNOCHA, 2022). Over 70% of individuals who are internally displaced reside in overcrowded camps and unofficial settlements that have limited access to resources (IDMC, 2021). Governmental agencies, UN agencies, and humanitarian partners do not coordinate well in the absence of standard operating procedures (ACAPS, 2022). Prior research has emphasized the significance of humanitarian assistance initiatives in meeting the requirements of internally displaced people and promoting their assimilation into receiving communities. For example, Smith et al. (2017) stressed how important it is for IDPs to have access to essential services like housing, healthcare, and education in order to ensure their well-being and improve their long-term chances.

Furthermore, research has demonstrated that finding long-term solutions for internally displaced people depends heavily on the efficacy and viability of humanitarian assistance programs. For instance, in order to guarantee the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions, Zetter and Ruaudel (2018) focused the significance of long-term planning and cooperation among humanitarian actors. They emphasized the necessity of all-encompassing strategies that attend to IDPs' long-term integration and self-reliance in addition to their urgent demands. In the context of Ethiopia, Wakgari Kebeta (2019) published an article titled, the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia: Leave No One Behind, in the *Journal of Internal Displacement*, which focused on assessing the adequacy of domestic legal and institutional frameworks for IDP protection. The article acknowledged that Ethiopia has yet to adopt sufficient legal and institutional frameworks to adequately safeguard displaced individuals. In a qualitative case study conducted in 2020, Evan Easton-Calabria, Delina Abadi, and Gezahegn Gebremedhin

examined the responses to urban IDPs in Adama, Ethiopia. Their study highlighted the successful humanitarian and development responses to IDPs, as well as the long-term development challenges (Easton-Calabria, Abadi, & Gezahagn, 2020).

Additionally, in 2020, Richmond el-Nathan Sackey conducted a study focused on the response to conflict-induced displacement in the West Guji and Gedeo Zones of Ethiopia, which was part of his thesis on peace and conflict transformation. The study aimed to understand the humanitarian response, resilient recovery, and post-conflict rebuilding efforts for displaced individuals in those communities, involving multiple actors such as the government, humanitarian partners, and local actors (Sackey, 2020). Darasa Abdisa (2021) examined the relationship between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopian Constitution, with the goal of reducing gaps between the constitution and the needs of IDPs.

Meanwhile, Tadele Akalu (2021) conducted a study titled, internal Displacement in Ethiopia: A Scoping Review of its Causes, Trends, and Consequences, for his Master's thesis in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. The study focused on examining the causes, trends, and impacts of internal displacement in Ethiopia (Tadele, 2021). Lastly, on July 20, 2023, Bereket Tsegay and Kiya Gezahegne published an article titled, Internal Displacement in Ethiopia: Towards a New Policy and Legal Framework for Durable Solutions. Their research primarily concentrated on policies, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) constitution, as well as national, regional, and international frameworks, assessing their implementation for IDPs (Bereket & Kiya, 2023).

The existing literature on the protection and support of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia highlights several important aspects, yet significant knowledge gaps remain. Research indicates that the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance programs is crucial for finding long-term solutions for IDPs. For example, Zetter and Ruadel emphasize the need for long-term planning and cooperation among humanitarian actors, advocating for comprehensive strategies that address both immediate needs and long-term integration.

Wakgari Kebeta's work on the inadequacy of legal and institutional frameworks for IDP protection in Ethiopia recognizes these domestic shortcomings but fails to explore how they

intersect with the challenges faced by international humanitarian organizations like the UNHCR in providing consistent support to IDPs. Similarly, the qualitative case study by Easton-Calabria, Abadi, and Gezahagn highlights successful humanitarian responses to urban IDPs but overlooks the specific challenges encountered by international actors, particularly the UNHCR.

Richmond el-Nathan Sackey's study focuses on domestic and private-sector responses to conflict-induced displacement but neglects the critical role of international actors in supporting local initiatives. This omission is significant, as understanding these interactions is essential for effective humanitarian responses.

Darasa Abdisa's examination of the relationship between IDPs and the Ethiopian Constitution addresses constitutional gaps but does not assess alignment with international norms such as the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. This disconnect limits the understanding of how Ethiopia's legal framework supports or undermines international humanitarian efforts.

Tadele Akalu's scoping review of internal displacement causes and trends does not consider how these factors influence coordination between Ethiopian authorities and the UNHCR or affect resource mobilization for effective interventions, leaving a gap in understanding the dynamics of humanitarian aid delivery.

Finally, the recent work by Bereket Tsegay and Kiya Gezahegne on durable solutions for IDPs assesses various frameworks but fails to evaluate the UNHCR's role in advocating for and implementing these solutions. Their analysis does not address the challenges related to voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement that fall under the UNHCR's mandate.

Based on the identified knowledge gap in the literatures, this study aimed to fill this by conducting a comprehensive investigation into the nature of UNHCR support to IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018 and assessing the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian support programs. By examining the experiences and perspectives of key stakeholders, including IDPs, UNHCR staff, and local authorities, this study aims to enhance to the existing knowledge on international humanitarian support for IDPs and provide valuable insights for future interventions and policy development.

### **1.3. Core Argument**

Despite playing a pivotal role in leading the immediate humanitarian response to assist displaced populations in Ethiopia since 2018, this thesis argues that UNHCR's approach has been overly focused on short-term aid, lacking adequate consideration for long-term resilience and self-sufficiency. Specifically, it will be proposed that UNHCR's programs have relied too heavily on temporary relief efforts, neglecting strategic investments in empowering solutions. As a result, vulnerabilities among IDPs have persisted due to insufficient support for durable measures such as livelihood skills, education access, and social and economic inclusion. This short-term mindset has hindered the transition from relief to development by disregarding sustainability. Furthermore, weak coordination among federal, regional, and local agencies has compounded the disjointed reaction, exacerbating the challenges faced by IDPs.

### **1.4. Objectives**

#### **1.4.1. Overall Objectives**

The overall objective of the study is to investigate the nature of UNHCR support to IDPs and the long-term effectiveness as well as sustainability of humanitarian support programs implemented by UNHCR in facilitating durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia since 2018.

#### **1.4.2. Specific Objectives**

1. Evaluate the existing policies and frameworks used by UNHCR for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia since 2018.
2. Examine the nature of UNHCR humanitarian support provided to IDPs.
3. Assess the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs in facilitating durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018.
4. Analyze the factors that have facilitated or hindered the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs.

## **1.5. Research Questions**

### **1.5.1. Core Research Questions**

What are the supports, how adequate and effective as well as sustainable are the humanitarian support programs implemented by UNHCR in facilitating durable solutions for internally displaced persons in Ethiopia in the long term since 2018?

### **1.5.2. Specific Research Questions**

1. Which key policies and frameworks has UNHCR employed for assisting IDPs since 2018?
2. What is the nature of the humanitarian support provided by UNHCR to internally displaced persons (IDPs)?
3. How effective and sustainable are the humanitarian support programs in facilitating durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018?
4. What factors have enabled or posed challenges to the long-term impacts of humanitarian programs?

## **1.6. Study Area**

The study area for this thesis is the Debre Berhan IDPs site in Ethiopia. Debre Berhan is a town located in the North Shewa Zone of the Amhara National Regional State, approximately 130 kilometers northeast of the capital city, Addis Ababa. The IDPs site in Debre Berhan has been established to accommodate individuals and families who have been internally displaced due to various causes, including conflict, natural disasters, or socio-economic factors. In this area there are three camps for IDPs, among them China camp hosts more IDPs than others. The site serves as a temporary shelter for displaced populations, providing basic services such as food, water, sanitation, and healthcare. The study area is of particular interest as it represents a significant population of internally displaced persons who have received humanitarian support from UNHCR since 2018. Debre Berhan has become a significant site for IDPs, with a large number of individuals seeking shelter and assistance due to conflicts and violence in neighboring regions,

particularly Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) (ReliefWeb, 2022).

## **1.7. Methodology**

### **1.7.1. Research Design**

This study adopts a qualitative research approach with case study research design to investigate the nature of UNHCR support to IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018 and assess the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian support programs. A thorough examination of the viewpoints, experiences, and views of significant players in the humanitarian response is made possible by qualitative research. It makes possible for the researcher to gather detailed, contextual data and develop a thorough grasp of the subject of study (Smith, 2017).

### **1.7.2. Sampling Techniques**

The study employs purposeful sampling to select participants with direct experience and knowledge of UNHCR's support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. The sample includes IDPs, UNHCR staff, and representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), local government authorities, and camp coordinators. For the key informant interviews, a purposive sample of 20 IDPs was selected and held personal interview from the population of 18,468 IDPs residing in the China and Woynishet camps at the Debre Berhan site. Additionally 6 key informant interviews were conducted with UNHCR and IOM staffs, local authorities (North Shewa zone and Debre Berhan City administration municipality) and camp coordinators. The selection criteria ensured equal gender representation, variation in age and household composition, duration of displacement, and location within the camps. Furthermore, to collect focus group data, 5 focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with IDPs and camp coordinators, each comprising 6-8 IDPs with mixed gender representation across age and living conditions.

### **1.7.3. Data Sources**

For the purpose of this study, data is collected from both primary and secondary sources to address the basic questions of the research. The combination of primary data from various respondent groups and secondary information from relevant sources provides a clear and comprehensive understanding of the existing situation.

**1.7.3.1. Primary Data:** Primary data is collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). Interviews provide an opportunity to gather in-depth information from key informants, while FGDs facilitate group discussions and generate collective insights. These primary data sources allow for the exploration of various perspectives and experiences related to UNHCR's humanitarian support and durable solutions for IDPs.

**1.7.3.2. Secondary Data:** Secondary data is collected from various sources, including official reports, policy documents, academic articles, and relevant publications. These sources provide contextual information about the humanitarian situation, the mandate and strategies of UNHCR, policies and guidelines related to IDPs, and previous research studies in the field. Secondary data complements and enriches the primary data collected during interviews and FGDs.

### **1.7.4. Data Collection Instruments**

**1.7.4.1. Key Informant Interviews:** Key informant interviews provide valuable insights into the nature of UNHCR support to IDPs and the long-term effectiveness of humanitarian support programs. The thesis employs semi-structured interviews, allowing for flexibility and in-depth exploration of the research objectives. The informant interviews are conducted with IDPs, UNHCR staff, IOM, local government representatives, and camp coordinators. The interviews are conducted one-on-one with key informants, using an interview guide that covers topics such as the nature of UNHCR support, challenges faced, and perceptions of long-term effectiveness.

**1.7.4.2. Focus Group Discussions:** FGDs provide a platform for group discussions, encouraging participants to share their perspectives, experiences, and collective insights on the research topic. FGDs can help capture diverse viewpoints and foster interactive discussions among participants.

It held with IDPs and camp coordinators on specific themes, such as the role of UNHCR, community engagement, and durable solutions.

**1.7.4.3. Document Analysis:** Document analysis involves the review and analysis of official reports of UNHCR and government, policy documents, academic articles, and other relevant publications. This method provides valuable contextual information and insights into the humanitarian support and its outcomes.

#### **1.7.5. Methods of Data Analysis**

The primary and secondary data collected are analyzed using the thematic method of qualitative data analysis. According to Mathews and Ross (2010), thematic analysis is a method of dealing with data that starts with the raw data and stays in contact with it throughout. This is a crucial aspect of methods for handling qualitative data since, even though the information needs to be analyzed, condensed, and categorized, we still need to stay connected to or rooted in the original data (Mathews and Ross, 2010). This approach ensures a systematic exploration of the data, allowing for the identification of patterns, themes, and categories related to UNHCR support and the effectiveness of humanitarian programs for internally displaced persons in Ethiopia since 2018.

### **1.8. Ethical Consideration**

The researcher prioritizes informed consent, ensuring participants are fully aware of the study's purpose, their role in it, and how their data are used. Confidentiality and anonymity are maintained to protect participants' identities, with all personal information securely stored. In respect for privacy and dignity, permissions are obtained before recording interviews, which are used solely for analysis. Cultural sensitivities are carefully respected, and research methods are adapted accordingly. To minimize harm, precautions are taken to prevent any psychological, emotional, or physical distress to participants. The researcher strives for objectivity, acknowledges potential biases, and secures ethical approval to uphold research integrity. Dissemination is conducted accurately, transparently, and in a manner that ensures participants and their contributions are properly credited. Additionally, continuous ethical review and open

communication with participants and stakeholders are maintained throughout the research process to uphold ethical standards and foster trust.

### **1.9. Significance**

This research is significant as it contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the nature of UNHCR's support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the effectiveness of humanitarian programs in Ethiopia. The study's findings provide valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of UNHCR's interventions, identifying areas that require improvement. The recommendations generated from this research will aid policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and UNHCR in developing more effective and sustainable strategies to address the needs of IDPs in Ethiopia, with the potential for application in other similar contexts.

### **1.10. Scope**

The scope of this study is to investigate the nature of UNHCR's humanitarian support provided to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. Specifically, the thesis examined the types of support offered by UNHCR to facilitate durable solutions, including voluntary return, local integration, and resettlement, as well as the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of these humanitarian programs. The research also analyzed capacity-building initiatives for IDPs, partnerships with local stakeholders, and community engagement strategies. Geographically, the study focuses on IDP camps located in Debre Berhan city, Amhara National Regional State of Ethiopia, and covers programs and solutions implemented since 2018, when large new caseloads of IDPs emerged due to conflicts. This period captures Ethiopia's recent political transitions, providing a critical context for understanding the evolving nature of displacement. The primary actor studied is UNHCR, the lead UN agency responsible for coordinating humanitarian support for IDPs in the region.

### **1.11. Organization of the Study**

The organization of the thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter One provides an introduction to the study, covering the background, statement of the problem, core argument, research objectives, research questions, research methods, study area (Debre Berhan IDPs site), and the

significance and scope of the study. Chapter Two presents a conceptual and theoretical perspective, along with a comprehensive literature review, examining existing research and scholarly works related to international humanitarian support for internally displaced persons. Chapter Three explores the causes of internal displacement in Ethiopia, followed by a discussion of the legal frameworks that address the rights and protection of IDPs in the country. Additionally, this chapter examines the context of humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia for IDPs, as well as the response of international organizations to the IDP situation in the country. Chapter Four presents the data analysis and discussions. Finally, Chapter Five provides summary of the main findings, the conclusion and offers recommendations for UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders based on the study's outcomes.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES**

This chapter deals with a general overview of the concept of internally displaced persons. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable groups in any society. Understanding their plight and how to best support them requires examining conceptual frameworks around internal displacement as well as reviewing relevant literature. The chapter also explores conceptual issues concerning IDPs and reviews key discussions from the literature on supporting and assisting them. Under conceptual frameworks, the concept of IDPs is examined from different perspectives, including the definitions put forth by the UN. Causes of internal displacement, such as armed conflict, human rights violations, and natural disasters, are discussed. The protection and assistance needs of IDPs and the frameworks that aim to address these needs are outlined. The concept of durable solutions for IDPs, including local integration, resettlement, and voluntary return, was also explained. The issues explained in this chapter are the concept of humanitarian support for IDPs and the principles that underpin such assistance, including humanity, impartiality, independence, and neutrality. The next issue mentioned in this chapter is the theoretical perspective; it outlines different theories that have direct relations with the paper. Under the review of literature, key discussions from academic works and institutional reports on humanitarian support related to IDPs are analyzed. This includes literature on approaches taken towards IDPs and operational frameworks adopted by humanitarian agencies. The chapter shows a review of existing literature on important legal frameworks and tools aimed at protecting IDPs globally and within different country contexts.

#### **2.1. Conceptual Framework**

##### **2.1.1. The Concept of IDPs**

In his doctoral dissertation, Ekpa (2016) focused on internal conflicts in Jos, Plateau, Nigeria, and developed legal and policy frameworks for the protection of internally displaced people. He stated that, on the one hand, internal refers to things that are found inside a country's borders or enclaves. Conversely, the term displaced persons describes any person or people who have been

forcibly uprooted from their customary habitation and relocated to a different part of the country due to circumstances that may have been brought on by natural or man-made forces.

The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary defines internal as existing within something or originating from within it as opposed to the outside (Hornsby, 2005, pp. 780–781). On the other hand, internal is defined by the Macmillan English Dictionary as being or occurring within a nation, not across national borders. On the other hand, a displaced person is someone who has been compelled to leave their home country in order to reside somewhere else, sometimes due to a conflict within their own nation (Macmillan Publisher, 2007, p 92).

Former UN Secretary General Boutros B. Ghali was the first to formally seek to define the phrase internally displaced persons. The term is defined by the learned international diplomat as follows:

*“Persons or groups who have been forced to flee their homes suddenly or unexpectedly in large numbers as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systemic violations of human rights or natural or man-made disasters, and who are within the territory of their own country.”* (United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 1992).

However, there is an issue with this first intelligent definition because it inadvertently included the numerical requirement (e.g., in high numbers) and the temporal condition (e.g., abruptly or unexpectedly). These criteria eliminate a large number of individuals who would have otherwise been classified as internally displaced due to their spontaneous migration and the fact that they only involve one or a small group of people. The aforementioned critical remarks led to a revision of the term and the final development of a suitable meaning in the Guiding Principles.

According to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights' 1998 adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Individuals or groups who have been compelled to flee their homes or places of habitual residence due to the effects of armed conflict, situations of widespread violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters are known as internally displaced people (IDPs). It is important to note that these individuals have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (United Nations, 1998, p. 6). Nonetheless, since IDPs are still considered to be citizens and other regular citizens of their country, this is merely a

descriptive description that does not grant them any unique legal status. As a result, the main duty to safeguard internally displaced people and avoid forced relocation rests with national authorities. The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement are based on international humanitarian and human rights law; therefore, even though they are not legally enforceable, their authority has been acknowledged universally (UNHCR, 2018).

The Africa Union has codified the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement through a specific document known as the 2009 Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, or Kampala Convention. This convention was preceded by the 2006 Great Lakes Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to the Internally Displaced (UNHCR, 2018). The Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), adopted by the African Union in 2009, defines IDPs as individuals or groups of individuals who have been compelled to flee or abandon their homes or places of habitual residence, particularly due to or in order to avoid the consequences of armed conflict, situations of widespread violence, human rights violations, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (African Union, 2009, p. 4).

### **2.1.2. Causes of Displacement**

Displacement is a complex phenomenon influenced by various interconnected factors. One of the primary causes of displacement is armed conflict, which forces individuals and communities to flee their homes in search of safety and security. Ongoing conflicts and violence across different regions of the world have resulted in the displacement of millions of people (Smith, 2019, p. 25). Additionally, displacement can be triggered by widespread violence and human rights violations, including mass crimes, ethnic cleansing, and persecution. These acts of violence specifically target certain groups based on their political, religious, or ethnic backgrounds, compelling them to seek refuge elsewhere to escape imminent dangers (Jones, 2018, p. 42).

Natural disasters also contribute significantly to displacement. Events such as hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes, and floods can devastate communities, rendering their homes and infrastructure uninhabitable. In such cases, people are forced to temporarily relocate to safer

areas until they can return home or find alternative solutions (UNHCR, 2020, para. 12). Furthermore, environmental challenges like desertification, deforestation, climate change, and land degradation can exacerbate displacement. These issues often lead to resource scarcity, loss of livelihoods, and increased vulnerability to natural calamities, prompting communities to seek better living conditions and opportunities elsewhere (Adams, 2017, p. 78).

Political instability is another factor that can result in displacement. Instances of authoritarian regimes, civil unrest, and coups can compel individuals to flee their homes and seek safety in other regions or countries. Political repression, discrimination, or persecution often drives this displacement, with individuals seeking safety and protection (Smith, 2019, p. 52).

### **2.1.3. Protection and Assistance Needs for IDPs**

Protection refers to any actions taken to ensure that an individual's rights are fully respected in compliance with the word and spirit of all applicable legal frameworks, including international humanitarian law, human rights legislation, and refugee law. Protection is about ensuring that all women, men, girls and boys enjoy their rights in full equality in all circumstances, including in situations of internal displacement. (ICRC, 2001). According to the UNHCR Handbook on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (2010), Protection includes all actions taken to ensure that an individual's rights are fully respected in compliance with the letter and spirit of international humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law. Protection entails establishing a setting that upholds human dignity, stopping or lessening the impacts of a particular pattern of abuse, and restoring dignified living situations through rehabilitation, restitution, and reparation.

The protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) encompass various essential aspects. Firstly, safety and security measures are crucial to shield IDPs from physical violence, exploitation, and abuse. It is imperative to establish and maintain appropriate measures to ensure their safety within displacement camps or host communities (UNHCR, 2018, p. 15). Additionally, the provision of adequate shelter and housing is paramount, as IDPs often lose their homes. To address this, temporary shelters, such as tents or transitional housing, should be provided to protect them from the elements and uphold their privacy and dignity (IASC, 2010, p. 9).

Furthermore, access to healthcare services is vital for IDPs to address their physical and mental health needs. This includes ensuring their access to medical facilities, essential medicines, and psychosocial support to address the trauma and stress associated with displacement (WHO, 2019, p. 7). Moreover, IDP children have the right to education and protection. Therefore, it is crucial to provide them with access to quality education and child-friendly spaces to ensure their educational and psychosocial well-being (UNICEF, 2018, p. 12).

Lastly, as IDPs often lose their sources of income and livelihoods due to displacement, it is essential to provide them with livelihood opportunities, vocational training, and support for income-generating activities. These measures are crucial to help IDPs regain self-sufficiency and rebuild their lives (ILO, 2016, p. 18).

#### **2.1.4. Protection and Assistance Frameworks for IDPs**

Protection and assistance frameworks for internally displaced persons (IDPs) are essential to address their specific needs and ensure their safety, well-being, and rights. These frameworks involve various actors, including governments, international organizations, and humanitarian agencies, working together to provide comprehensive protection and assistance to IDPs. The frameworks also aim to provide a comprehensive approach to protect and assist IDPs throughout their displacement journey.

Key protection and assistance frameworks for internally displaced persons (IDPs) include the Cluster Approach, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), the Durable Solutions Framework, humanitarian principles, Sphere Standards, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Guidelines, Cash-Based Interventions, Protection monitoring, community-based approaches, and early recovery frameworks

The Cluster Approach is a framework for coordination that was developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to bring together various humanitarian actors to meet particular needs during humanitarian catastrophes. In particular, the Protection Cluster is responsible for guaranteeing the safety of internally displaced people and organizing actions to supply them with essential support services like as housing, medical care, education, and livelihood help (IASC, 2005). At both the national and international levels, each cluster has a lead organization known

as a cluster lead agency. UNHCR takes the lead in the Global Protection Cluster, co-leads the Global Shelter Cluster with IFRC, and co-leads the Global CCCM Cluster with IOM. UNHCR responds to displacement caused by conflict, while IFRC and IOM respond to displacement caused by disasters. Within their specific cluster, Global Cluster Lead Agencies function as the backup provider. The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) leads inter-agency cluster-based responses at the national level via the Cluster Lead Agencies. Cluster coordinators offer operational coordination and sector-specific strategic guidance. If UNHCR is there, the government requests it be, and there is an interagency agreement, it also serves as the leader of the protection cluster in the event that a calamity results in displacement (UNHCR, 2023).

The goal of the Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) framework is to guarantee the efficient administration and synchronization of camps or settlements used by internally displaced people (IDPs) as a place of shelter. It entails tasks including community involvement, protection monitoring, basic service delivery, and site planning. The security, respect, and welfare of IDPs in camp situations are given top priority in CCCM frameworks (IOM, 2019). The main goal of CCCM is to offer respectable aid and safety to internally displaced people (IDPs) living in locations, as well as to the local community that is impacted, rather than to build camps. The cluster makes a concerted effort to provide these IDPs with long-term solutions. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and other inter-cluster groups should receive thorough and timely analyses of the living situations of the site inhabitants from the CCCM cluster. For well-informed planning and decision-making, this information is essential. The CCCM cluster can improve the overall management and coordination of the locations, resulting in more efficient support and protection for IDPs, by involving and empowering local authorities (UNHCR, 2023).

Finding long-term solutions for IDPs, such as voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement, is the main goal of the Durable Solutions Framework. The UNHCR (2010) highlights the importance of tackling the underlying reasons behind displacement, fostering societal harmony, and ensuring the protection of IDPs' rights and welfare throughout the entire process. Humanitarian principles, such as impartiality, neutrality, independence, and humanity, serve as guidance when it comes to helping and protecting internal refugees. These guidelines guarantee that humanitarian actors give the needs of internally displaced people top priority,

offer relief without bias, and uphold their objectivity and independence when doing so (OCHA, n.d.).

The Sphere Handbook lays forth minimal requirements for humanitarian action, which include offering IDPs safety and support. These guidelines address a number of areas, such as food security, health, water and sanitation, and shelter, and they stress how crucial it is to protect IDPs' rights, safety, and dignity throughout the whole response process (Sphere Association, 2018). A guideline for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is the alternative framework. GBV is a serious issue when there is displacement. The GBV Guidelines offer a framework for stopping and dealing with GBV and protecting the security and welfare of internally displaced people (IDPs), especially women and girls. According to the guidelines (IASC, 2015), comprehensive services are essential and should include medical care, psychosocial assistance, legal aid, and safe spaces. Interventions Funded by Cash is also one of the framework. Humanitarian operations, especially those for IDPs, are increasingly using cash-based interventions (CBIs). To cover their basic necessities, CBIs give IDPs cash or vouchers, enabling them to make decisions based on their individual needs and preferences. CBIs can improve IDPs' resilience, autonomy, and sense of dignity (UNHCR, 2017).

In order to identify the problems in the protection and aid provided to internally displaced people (IDPs), protection monitoring entails the systematic collection and analysis of data in order to assess the dangers and protection needs experienced by IDPs. This allows for informed decision-making and accountability. It places a strong emphasis on advancing IDPs' rights and safety (NRC, 2017). Community-based initiatives include and empower host communities and internally displaced people in the formulation and execution of programs. These strategies successfully meet the safety and support needs of IDPs by acknowledging the importance of local knowledge, skills, and social networks (UNHCR, 2019). Early recovery frameworks, which emphasize reviving livelihoods, restoring infrastructure, and boosting community resilience, assist the shift from disaster response to long-term recovery and development. In order for IDPs to reconstruct their lives and become self-sufficient again, these interventions are essential (UNDP, 2019). Together with legislative and regulatory frameworks, these frameworks offer an all-encompassing strategy for the defense and support of internally displaced people. Their combined goal is to guarantee that internally displaced people (IDPs) get the assistance, services,

and protection they require both during their displacement and as they look for long-term solutions.

### **2.1.5. Durable Solutions**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2019), durable solutions are defined as plans and initiatives that are intended to address the predicament of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in an environmentally friendly way. These solutions go beyond providing emergency humanitarian relief and put the needs of displaced people and their communities first, with an emphasis on long-term stability, independence, and integration. The tenet of these solutions is to address the root reasons of displacement as well as the current requirements in order to discover comprehensive and long-lasting solutions. Rebuilding livelihoods, fostering self-reliance, and guaranteeing the full enjoyment of human rights are all goals of durable solutions for displaced communities. The legal, physical, social, and economic obstacles that keep people and communities from attaining sustainable reintegration must be addressed. Durable solutions lay a strong emphasis on the value of free will in decision-making and the active involvement of displaced people in creating their own futures (UNHCR, 2019). The notion of sustainable solutions is intimately associated with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which furnish a structure for tending to the necessities and entitlements of internally displaced individuals (IDPs) (Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, 2020).

In the annex to his Decision No. 2011/20, the UN Secretary-General made note of the potential consequences of continuing to allow displacement, including increased and ongoing vulnerabilities and adverse effects on hosting communities that could have major economic, political, and security ramifications for the affected populations and national authorities. IDPs and refugees who are returning home require long-term solutions; in other words, they must strive to get to the point where their demands are unrelated to their relocation. For post-conflict nations to recover and develop sustainably, long-term solutions are essential, necessitating comprehensive and successful recovery and development plans and initiatives (UNSG, 2011).

As UNHCR pointed out in the book, under the title “Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons,” there are three main types of durable solutions for IDPs: voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement.

Voluntary repatriation is considered the preferred durable solution when conditions in the country of origin have improved, allowing displaced individuals to safely and voluntarily return to their homes. It entails assisting refugees or internally displaced people (IDPs) in returning to their home countries while making sure that this return is supported and sustainable. This approach highlights how crucial it is to provide the security, respect, and reinstatement of rights for individuals who are returning (UNHCR, 2019).

The process of displaced people or families resettling and integrating into the host nation or community is referred to as local integration. It entails granting social inclusion, legal status, and access to essential services, healthcare, education, and chances for a livelihood. In order to support displaced people's self-reliance and long-term integration into their new communities, local integration acknowledges the rights and contributions of these individuals (UNHCR, 2019).

Resettlement represents a long-term solution for people or families unable to properly assimilate into the host nation or return to their own nations. It includes choosing and moving refugees or IDPs from their country of asylum or IDP camp to a third nation or another place that has consented to accept them as refugees or IDPs and give them a place to live permanently. Vulnerable refugees and IDPs have the opportunity to rebuild their lives in a secure setting through resettlement (UNHCR, 2019).

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions (2010) similarly mentioned that there are three approaches to finding a durable solution: local integration in areas where internally displaced people seek refuge, sustainable reintegration at the place of origin, and sustainable integration in another region of the country. This idea expands on the idea that displacement results in unique vulnerabilities and requirements. It suggests that finding solutions to internal displacement is a prolonged, complicated, and often lengthy process that aims to lessen these needs and increase the extent to which internally displaced people can enjoy their human rights without facing discrimination instead of a one-time event (Kalin, 2023).

According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC, 2010), Section V of the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) outlines eight substantive criteria for assessing the attainment of sustainable solutions in regions of return, local integration, or settlement in different parts of a nation. These criteria, which draw upon operational experience, encompass various aspects. Firstly, they include freedom of movement and long-term safety. Secondly, they emphasize the importance of a living standard that encompasses access to sufficient food, housing, healthcare, and education. Thirdly, the criteria highlight the significance of employment and livelihood opportunities for IDPs. Additionally, efficient channels for restitution of land, housing, and other property, or compensation in cases where restitution is impracticable, are deemed necessary. Depending on the circumstances, achieving a durable solution may also require providing access to and replacement of personal and other documentation, facilitating voluntary reunification of separated family members, ensuring equal participation in public affairs at all levels with the resident population, and establishing effective remedies for displacement-related violations. These comprehensive components form the foundation for durable solutions and the successful reestablishment of IDPs (IASC, 2010).

In many cases, a combination of all three approaches is required to resolve displacement situations in a given nation. The primary factors to take into account when searching for long-lasting solutions are the voluntary nature of the solution; the rights, needs, and legitimate interests of the displaced population themselves; and the ability to make educated decisions (IASC, 2010).

With the concern of durable solutions, the Norwegian Refugee Council (2019), states that long-term safety and security, the ability to enjoy a decent standard of living free from discrimination, access to jobs and livelihoods, and practical and easily accessible methods for regaining housing, land, and property rights are just a few of the reasons why durable solutions are crucial for internally displaced people (IDPs). IDPs who have found a long-term solution enjoy physical safety and security thanks to the efficient protection offered by local and national authorities. Equal access to local and national protection systems, including the police, courts, and national human rights organizations, should be granted to them. They also can be protected from future displacement-causing dangers and from those that may result in their initial displacement (NRC, 2019). Internally displaced people should receive just as good of protection as populations who

are not displaced. Even while complete protection and security might not always be possible, IDPs should not have to deal with harassment, threats, persecution, or any other kind of negative treatment. Additionally, they need to be shielded from threats including small weapons, unexploded ordinances, landmines, and other violent acts (NRC, 2019).

Long term solutions should provide for IDPs with safe and secure but also have access to a decent level of living devoid of prejudice. Making sure IDPs have sustainable and sufficient access to basic housing and food, clean water, basic medical care, sanitation, and education are all necessary for them to enjoy a decent standard of living (NRC, 2019). In addition, chances for employment and subsistence should be available to IDPs who have discovered long-term solutions. The IDPs primary socioeconomic demands should be able to be satisfied by the jobs and sources of income that are accessible to them. Reintegrating into society can be difficult, especially in unstable economies when there is a high unemployment rate that affects both the general public and internally displaced people. Even while some internally displaced people may not be able to find work or return to their prior means of subsistence, they shouldn't have to deal with barriers that keep them from having the same access to jobs and means of subsistence as locals. Certain situations may call for positive preferential measures in order to help internally displaced people (IDPs) overcome obstacles to employment, learn new professional skills, and adjust to new lifestyles (such as when rural IDPs integrate into urban areas or when they have been out of the labor market for a long time) (NRC, 2019).

Finally, after achieving long-term solutions, internally displaced people (IDPs) ought to have access to efficient processes for the prompt restoration of their homes, lands, and belongings, as well as payment for any losses sustained. This covers leases and tenancy agreements in addition to residential, commercial, and agricultural assets. Fair and easily accessible channels for resolving housing, land, and property disputes should be made available to internally displaced persons (IDPs), regardless of their decision to relocate back to their original homes, locally integrate into new communities, or settle elsewhere in the nation (NRC, 2019).

### **2.1.6. The Concept of Humanitarian Support**

Humanitarian support, according to ReliefWeb's Glossary of Humanitarian Terms (2008), is defined as assistance and action intended to prevent and improve preparedness for the occurrence of man-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to save lives, lessen suffering, and maintain and protect human dignity during and after such situations. Thus, the provision of necessities to people and communities who have been compelled to evacuate their homes because of war, violence, natural disasters, or other situations is known as humanitarian help for internally displaced people (IDPs). Meeting the IDPs' fundamental necessities and preserving their dignity and well-being throughout their displacement are the goals of this help. The first professional, impartial, and non-denominational relief organizations were founded in the Eastern Mediterranean in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in response to the Armenian genocide, which followed the forced deportations of Tartars, Kurds, and Assyrians (Watenpugh, 2015). This is where the humanitarian response to forced displacement originated. The establishment of the first refugee camps serving minority ethno-religious communities was another aspect of this (White, 2018). More than 12 million individuals were classified as displaced persons following World War II (McLaren, 2010), and the United Nations (UN) Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRWA) was tasked with providing for them. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was established in the wake of the 1948–1949 displacement of Palestinian refugees. A camp-based strategy was established by UNRWA and would eventually be a crucial component of the humanitarian response to other displacement situations (Peteet, 2005). The humanitarian response has been particularly noticeable in sub-Saharan Africa, where the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) oversees a number of camps. These camps have been criticized for being governed by humanitarian organizations (Agier, 2011), and the UNHCR is perceived as participating in a humanitarian containment strategy (Barnett, 2001).

### **2.1.7. The Principles of Humanitarian Assistance**

When humanitarian actors deliver help and support to individuals impacted by emergencies and crises, they do so in accordance with the principles of humanitarian assistance. Ensuring that humanitarian activities are efficient, unbiased, and grounded in the needs and rights of the

impacted communities requires adherence to these fundamental principles. The four guiding concepts of humanitarian aid are independence, impartiality, humanity, and neutrality. Humanity is one of the four fundamental tenets of humanitarian assistance (DuBois, 2018). As a result, it has established itself as a humanitarian ideal, suggesting that its description as a type of group identity is widely accepted. Its conceptual power comes from the way it conceals unequal power relations and the potential harm that humanitarian missions can cause, even as it is used politically to advocate for humanitarian assistance. The word has evolved into a cunning rhetorical tactic in the global humanitarian discourse, employed to garner support for such initiatives. Neda Atanasoski claims that humanity is a term used by the United States (USA) in the postsocialist era to signify the resolution of its horrific heritage of racism, genocide, and colonialism in her critique of the liberal humanist paradigm. The USA presents its military operations as an act of global moral stewardship by fostering a false image of an accepting multicultural society to support its imperialist agenda (Atanasoski, 2013). A different set of goals is employed by the universalizing language that serves as the foundation for the term humanity in support of humanitarian operations carried out by non-governmental organizations. These missions, which try to lessen the suffering of those in crises, are motivated by benevolence, charity, and compassion. Humanity concentrates humanitarian action on the urgency of the immediate needs of individuals, not the demands of a system, even though, in the end, that system must address those needs in the long run, according to Marc DuBois. Humanity more profoundly roots humanitarian activity in each person's dignity (DuBois, 2018). Although DuBois is focused on emphasizing the limitations of humanitarian efforts and promoting a bottom-up strategy for long-term structural change, his usage of the term humanity implies that this concept can lead to a more nuanced and genuine acknowledgment of those in need even in its invocation.

Giorgio Agamben's (1998) theory of *homo sacer* serves as a helpful lens through which to view the binary of inclusion and exclusion. It highlights the fact that humanity is typically understood as those who are granted social protection against those who are excluded from society and are subject to unchecked execution. Therefore, the idea of a cohesive, safe, and cohesive social whole is as ingrained in the concept of humanity as is the implementation of social divisions and exposure to violence.

The other well-known humanitarian principle is impartiality, which was initially stated by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 1965 (OCHA, 2012). In order to be impartial, humanitarian help provided to those who are most in need, and there is no distinction made between people based on their nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, or political views. Thus, impartiality and the humanitarian ideal of humanity, which upholds the global humanism of humanitarian aid, are strongly linked. It is also strongly tied to the neutrality concept, which states that humanitarian actors shouldn't adopt divisive or political stances or choose sides in a dispute (OCHA, 2012).

As Krahenbuhl (2013), explained, being impartial seems easy on paper. It is simple to create programs and projects that are unbiased by, for example, classifying individuals who are thought to be most in need or including needs assessments. On the other hand, impartiality is a very hard concept to put into practice. The primary reason for this is the intricate political and social milieu in which humanitarian groups operate, coupled with a deficiency of prior knowledge of this milieu. This implies that organizations could not be aware of who needs help the most immediately or might prioritize relief differently than those impacted by the tragedy. Another significant issue that can impede impartiality is access, as organizations might not be able to reach the most vulnerable. Additionally, there may be a lot of pressure on humanitarian organizations to deliver supplies fast or in accordance with project deadlines, which could jeopardize their objectivity. Therefore, it is very uncommon for humanitarian groups to face accusations of bias or unfair aid distribution, even in the face of their best efforts to behave impartially (Krahenbuhl, 2013). Since giving aid to certain political groups is illegal, the international categorization of certain groups as terrorist organizations has created additional challenges for the fair distribution of aid. Practical obstacles may arise from giving assistance to both sides of a war, such as when doing so jeopardizes an organization's security or prevents it from completing the humanitarian agreements necessary to grant access to vulnerable populations. Like other ideas in international humanitarian law, impartiality is perhaps best understood as a complicated rule that needs to be applied with judgment (Green, 2017).

Independence is another fundamental humanitarian principle. Humanitarian activity should be independent of whatever political, economic, military, or other goals that any actor may have in relation to the areas in which it is being carried out (OCHA, 2012). This is a fundamental

humanitarian principle. Since humanitarianism is driven solely by the desire to prevent suffering and preserve life, in its ideal state, it would strive for independence. However, a significant worry that humanitarian organizations and practitioners have whenever humanitarian action is advocated and carried out is the possibility of manipulation by private, religious, political, and military players. The word independence pits humanitarian endeavors against those of reliance, power, and subjugation. It is a humanitarian ideal derived from historical context, ethical creativity, and pragmatic considerations (Barnett and Weiss, 2011).

Similar to the neutrality concept, independence is essential to preserving humanitarianism's apolitical appearance. Putting politics aside and staying out of the way is a proactive approach to establishing humanitarian space. In this context, humanitarian issues are perceived as existing outside of politics, as the least common denominator across different political perspectives, or even as the starting point for diplomatic efforts (Paulmann, 2013; Egeland, 2013). It's difficult to maintain humanitarian independence. Refusing to accept resources (i.e., financing and donations) that could result in a conditionality undermining the actor's autonomy, either in scale or objectives, is how humanitarian actors affirm independence as a fundamental value and crucial operational approach (Minear, 2002). There have been multiple attempts by governmental, Para state, and armed groups to subordinate humanitarian goals to political ones in the context of complex situations and protracted conflicts (Donini, 2011).

Neutrality is the last humanitarian principle. At the core of humanitarian orthodoxy is the fundamental humanitarian concept of neutrality. Neutrality is regarded as a criterion that can be used to assess the humanitarian status of an individual, initiative, action, or organization because it is so closely linked to conventional conceptions of what makes humanitarianism unique humanitarianism (Barnett, 2011; Redfield, 2010). However, this obscures the elusive character of neutrality, as it is essentially a claim that depends on the acknowledgement of others for its accomplishment. For humanitarian actors and organizations, this represents significant and perhaps long-lasting instability. It implies that the necessity to control others' perceptions in order to meet the necessary criteria for recognition can influence and constrain humanitarianism regardless of the shape, relationship, or action it takes. Investigating neutrality entails exposing the disputed and dependent foundation of humanitarianism and its connection to politics. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a significant impact on the field of modern

humanitarian activity, as evidenced by the role neutrality plays in mainstream definitions of humanitarianism (Barnett, 2011; Redfield, 2010).

As a moral response to the suffering caused by war, the ICRC was founded in the later part of the 1800s. Declaring an apolitical or neutral attitude, refusing to take a side in hostilities, or engaging at any moment in disputes of a political, racial, religious, or ideological nature was critical to getting access to war victims (Plattner, 1996). Thus, neutrality was adopted in an effort to redefine the scene of a violent conflict or natural disaster and create a humanitarian area where people in need may receive care and assistance. Since maintaining neutrality might actually undermine the goal of humanitarianism, which is to aid and defend those in need, it is not without its detractors and disputes. In fact, taking a neutral stance tends to support the stronger party in a given conflict, negating the neutrality claim even as it is being made. During the Bosnian Muslim conflict in the 1990s, humanitarian organizations faced skepticism and even hostility from some communities. As Fiona Terry recounts, some Muslims expressed frustration, stating that they were armed and capable of protecting themselves, and that the provided aid merely prolonged their suffering (Minear, 2002). Since humanitarians work in a variety of settings where people are likely to see politics everywhere, influencing people's perceptions of neutrality can be extremely difficult. As a result, neutrality is frequently a claim that requires supporting data, and humanitarians frequently have to subject their deeds and their position as such to the judgment of others who may have different opinions about what defines neutrality or politics. As stated by Brada (2016), neutrality is a semantic shifter, meaning that its meaning can only be determined in connection to other definitions and categories, such as politics, which it is not. Therefore, in order to obtain the acceptance required to sustain a humanitarian field of operations, one must successfully claim neutrality by interfering in socially complex and culturally diverse contexts (Gilbert, 2016).

## **2.2. Theoretical Perspectives**

The post-Cold War era has seen an evolution in humanitarian response, encompassing a range of strategies aimed at tackling the intricate global humanitarian crisis. In order to lessen the suffering of the world's most vulnerable people, scholars and researchers have explored a humanitarian governance strategy that is drawn from global governance (Dijkzeul & Bergtora,

2019). This approach also replaces government with governance (Barnett, 2013; Kneebone, 2010). From a critical standpoint, the study tends to compare and contrast the academic work of international relations and political scientists on the idea that states and non-state actors are the most pertinent players who can work together to grow and handle the humanitarian crisis at the macro level. However, several approaches have been studied by anthropologists, sociologists, and cultural researchers who advocate for the greater participation of other actors, particularly the local, in the phenomenon of humanitarian governance (Barnett, 2013, p.381).

Andersen and Behmer (2018) presented the concept of a multilevel approach to humanitarian intervention, in which multiple players operate within a humanitarian ecosystem. Humanitarian actions affect all societal levels, and there is a humanitarian ecosystem in which different players work together to carry out operations (Andersen & Behmer, 2018, pp. 84–87). The humanitarian government has steadily changed to assist communities in developing coping mechanisms as well as resilience in their local environment, anticipating the evolving nature of the humanitarian crisis (Labbé, 2012:14; Anholt, 2017). In line with the critical philosophical aspect of humanitarian governance, which aims to provide a humanitarian response, Dorothea Hilhorst offers insights into the concept of resilience in humanitarianism. This approach is characterized by its ability to encompass various actors and achieve resilient recovery in the face of an acute humanitarian crisis (Hilhorst, 2018).

Classical humanitarianism, the old humanitarianism or Dunantist humanitarianism is also one of the prominent theories that explained about humanitarian support. The neutrality and independence of humanitarian organizations in providing unbiased relief support to mankind in times of need are hallmarks of classical humanitarianism. Swiss businessman Henri Dunant, who saw the Battle of Solferino in 1859, is credited with the founding and popularization of classical humanitarianism. After returning to Switzerland, Dunant wrote a book that collected his recollections and had a significant impact on the current worldwide humanitarian response movement (Dunant, 1959).

Classical humanitarianism ruled the world scene until the end of the Cold War, when many academics criticized it harshly, believing it to be too limited and in need of expansion. Despite the flood of ideas going beyond need-based approaches, organizations such as the International

Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) and, to a lesser extent, Médecins sans frontière (MSF) have closely adhered to the need-based strategy (Adami, 2019, pp. 1-2).

Classical humanitarianism offers a fundamental framework for humanitarian activity and is based on the ideas of humanism, impartiality, neutrality, and independence (Dunant, 1959). Regardless of political or ideological affinities, its focus on the human cost of conflict and calamity emphasizes the moral obligation to lessen suffering. This approach has significantly shaped the international humanitarian response, including UNHCR's efforts to assist Ethiopia's internally displaced persons (IDPs), by ensuring aid delivery is unbiased and based on need alone (Nascimento, 2015).

However, classical humanitarianism faces limitations, particularly in complex settings like Ethiopia, where blurred conflict lines and political pressures challenge strict neutrality and impartiality (Fassin, 2013). Humanitarian actors often confront pressures from governments or armed groups to prioritize certain populations, undermining their independence (Mills, 2005). Furthermore, the focus on immediate needs—such as food, shelter, and medical care—without addressing the root causes of displacement risks fostering dependency and neglecting long-term solutions (Sackey, 2020). This traditional model may also fail to involve affected communities in designing interventions, leading to a lack of ownership and sustainability (Nascimento, 2015). Additionally, insecurity and bureaucratic restrictions often impede access to vulnerable populations and delay timely aid delivery (Fassin, 2013).

New humanitarianism is another theory on this topic. The post-Cold War era is where new humanitarian scholarship originated. When internal conflicts and wars gave rise to humanitarian crises, they became a concern. The humanitarian crisis had deepened, with certain cases reaching a level that the United Nations agencies referred to as a complex emergency, which was meant to encompass and account for all conflict-related displacement scenarios (Nascimento, 2015). As a type of humanitarian governing ideology, the paradigm shift in humanitarian action was a corresponding move to address the obvious inefficiencies posed by traditional humanitarian action (Mills, 2005).

Thus, the new humanitarian paradigm was born out of the effort to awaken the global community to the need for a strong approach. Old humanitarianism, which was predicated on providing short-term need-based help, has been challenged by the new humanitarian approach. Rather, this implies that by launching long-term relief initiatives, humanitarian action could take a more comprehensive approach to crises parallel to complicated emergencies. These long-term objectives were designed to promote and defend human rights, find lasting solutions, and aid the promotion of peace and settlement of disputes. The transition from emergency to progress is another important concept. The governments and organizations of the various contributors, as well as the UN agencies, completely supported this strategy (Sackey, 2020).

The primary tools for putting this theoretical presumption into effect were UN agencies and affiliated humanitarian organizations. Didier Fassin, a French anthropologist, criticized the new humanitarianism ideology for having a humanitarian reason for motives or interests other than the fundamental understanding of the values of saving humanity, despite the ardent increase and spread of the new humanitarianism response approaches. However, according to Fassin (2013, pp. 37, 46), this behavior is questionable moral intangibility. After these and related criticisms of the right approach were made, political interest began to gradually impact the humanitarian efforts that aimed to be impartial (Mills, 2005).

New humanitarianism is crucial in addressing the complex challenges of internal displacement in Ethiopia, as it shifts from short-term emergency relief to comprehensive, long-term solutions. This paradigm prioritizes addressing the root causes of displacement, promoting human rights, and fostering sustainable peace and development (Sackey, 2020). For Ethiopia's IDPs, who face challenges rooted in ethnic conflicts, political instability, and environmental crises, this approach encourages integrated strategies that rebuild communities and ensure durable solutions such as reintegration or resettlement. Its emphasis on collaboration between humanitarian organizations, governments, and local actors also strengthens the response to Ethiopia's multifaceted displacement crisis (Nascimento, 2015).

However, new humanitarianism has limitations, particularly its susceptibility to politicization, which can compromise the impartiality of humanitarian efforts in Ethiopia's highly sensitive political context (Fassin, 2013). Critics also highlight the moral ambiguity of balancing

immediate relief with long-term objectives, a challenge in acute crises where survival is paramount. Additionally, the resource-intensive nature of this approach can strain the capacities of organizations like UNHCR, especially in underfunded and infrastructure-limited settings (Mills, 2005). While the comprehensive strategies of new humanitarianism are promising, their dependency on political will and resources underscores the need to combine them with the neutrality and focus of classical humanitarianism for effective and balanced interventions.

The resilience humanitarian approach is the next strategy. Resilience humanitarianism is currently gaining popularity; in particular, its conceptual framework aims to supersede both new humanitarianism and the traditional Dunantist paradigm (Hoffman, 2018, p. 5). Resilience thinking aims to dissect the concept of resilience in humanitarian governance. It originates from the notion that nations and humanitarian organizations alone were progressively deprived of their central importance and principal obligations. Therefore, to build a government, an approach that combines various actors is required. Multiple players work together with the government to strengthen society's resistance to both long-term conditions and sudden crises (Hilhorst et al., 2019).

Resilience Humanitarianism, which is firmly rooted in the concept of resilience, stands in contrast to both modern and classical Dunantist humanitarianism. According to Hilhorst (2018), resilience in humanitarianism refers to the ability developed by societies or communities that have lost their means of subsistence to return to their pre-loss conditions and continue to support themselves inclusively and in their own capacities. Subsequently, local players play a crucial role in humanitarian reactions. Humanitarianism and the new humanitarian ideology, which is based on liberal Western ideas, are not synonymous. Nonetheless, the notion of resilience, upon which it is based, fundamentally shifts the conceptualization of humanitarian governance. As opposed to the conventional interpretation of humanitarian action as an interventionist strategy (Hilhorst, 2018).

The idea of transitioning from catastrophe to normalcy is another important principle to emphasize in the resilience and humanitarianism associated with this study. The premise that local people have the ability to respond, adapt, and recover makes crisis response considerably more effective and economical. Humanitarian efforts aim to address the backdrop of this

situation and provide room for multiple actors. Building resilience with the local community and all the institutions that require it is the main goal (Hilhorst, 2018, p. 6).

Resilience humanitarianism offers a transformative approach to addressing the challenges of supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. Unlike classical and new humanitarian paradigms, it emphasizes empowering local communities to adapt, recover, and sustain themselves after crises, reducing dependency on external aid (Hilhorst, 2018). By engaging multiple stakeholders—local governments, civil society, and international organizations—this approach fosters inclusive governance and strengthens societal resistance to both long-term adversities and sudden crises (Hoffman, 2018). For Ethiopia, where displacement often stems from interlinked causes like ethnic tensions and environmental shocks, resilience thinking promotes a holistic response that incorporates local knowledge and resources, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of humanitarian interventions (Hilhorst et al., 2019).

However, resilience humanitarianism also faces limitations. Its reliance on local actors can be challenging in Ethiopia, where political instability and weak governance may hinder coordination and effectiveness. Additionally, the focus on community empowerment requires substantial time and resources, which may not be feasible in acute emergencies demanding immediate relief (Hilhorst, 2018). This approach also risks overlooking urgent humanitarian needs if the emphasis on long-term solutions overshadows immediate life-saving interventions. Moreover, integrating diverse stakeholders may lead to conflicts of interest or inefficiencies, particularly in Ethiopia's highly fragmented political landscape (Hoffman, 2018). Despite these challenges, resilience humanitarianism presents a valuable complement to traditional approaches, especially in fostering durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia.

### **2.2.1. The Relevance of Theoretical Perspectives in Analyzing UNHCR's Humanitarian Support for IDPs**

This thesis is significantly enhanced by a robust theoretical framework that situates it within broader humanitarian discourses. The evolution of humanitarian governance, as articulated by Dijkzeul and Bergtora (2019) and Barnett (2013), emphasizes the transition from state-centric responses to collaborative frameworks involving multiple actors, including non-state entities.

This perspective is crucial for analyzing UNHCR's role in Ethiopia, reflecting how humanitarian responses have adapted to complex crises and highlighting the interplay between local and international actors.

The concept of a multilevel approach, presented by Andersen and Behmer (2018), underscores that humanitarian responses are not uniform and require coordination across different societal levels. This is particularly relevant in Ethiopia, where local contexts and needs can significantly influence the effectiveness of UNHCR's interventions. Examining the operational ecosystem in which UNHCR functions reveals how these multilevel dynamics shape the sustainability and long-term effectiveness of humanitarian support programs.

Resilience thinking, as discussed by Hilhorst (2018), emphasizes the need for communities to develop coping mechanisms and resilience in the face of crises. This perspective is vital for assessing durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, encouraging exploration of how UNHCR's strategies foster local resilience. Analyzing the integration of resilience-building measures in UNHCR's programs provides insights into their long-term effectiveness.

The transition from classical humanitarianism to new humanitarianism highlights a shift toward more holistic and rights-based approaches (Nascimento, 2015). Engaging with this discourse allows for critical assessment of whether UNHCR's support for IDPs aligns more closely with traditional need-based models or newer, integrated frameworks that emphasize human rights and long-term solutions. This analysis illuminates potential shortcomings of relying on classical humanitarian principles in addressing contemporary crises. Additionally, the principle of moving from crisis to normalcy, embedded in resilience and new humanitarian paradigms, is essential for understanding how humanitarian interventions can evolve into sustainable solutions. Exploring how UNHCR's programs facilitate this transition for IDPs in Ethiopia assesses the effectiveness of these initiatives in promoting stability and self-sufficiency.

Lastly, the intersection of humanitarian assistance with legal frameworks is crucial, as highlighted in the literature on IDPs. While the UN Guiding Principles and the Kampala Convention provide guidelines for IDP protection, examining the effectiveness of these

frameworks in the Ethiopian context is important. This analysis reveals how UNHCR's operations align with or challenge existing legal structures and underscores the ongoing need for advocacy and reform in IDP protection.

In general, the theoretical perspectives on humanitarian governance, resilience, and the evolution of humanitarian principles offer a comprehensive lens for analyzing UNHCR's support for internally displaced persons in Ethiopia. These frameworks inform the investigation into the nature and sustainability of UNHCR's programs and situate the discussion within ongoing debates about the effectiveness and ethical implications of humanitarian interventions in complex crises.

### **2.3. Empirical Frameworks**

According to studies, IDPs frequently receive little humanitarian relief, which makes it necessary to step up efforts to empower them through income sources (Deme & Kabre, 2023). IDPs are acknowledged as the main victims of war, but their protection is notably lacking compared to established refugee systems, with neither a specific legal framework nor institutions in place (Weiss, 1999). Cazabat (2020) conducted an additional study to evaluate the financial effects of internal displacement on the security, health, education, housing, and means of subsistence of IDPs and their host communities in Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. In addition to improving their sense of perceived security, the survey discovered that most internally displaced people in Ethiopia now have poor living conditions, housing, and health. Children who have been displaced have more access to education, but there are still many obstacles to good education.

Additionally, research emphasizes the importance of coordinating interventions to address IDPs' social perceptions to eventually return them to better living situations rather than forcing them into permanent camp settlements (Nwalieli, 2018). The government should provide assistance in addressing the various adaptation obstacles that internally displaced people confront, including housing, work, and psychological anguish (Krakhmalova, 2019). Although the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the African Union's Kampala Convention is still a concern, it is acknowledged as an important step towards protecting

internally displaced people (IDPs) (2022). Anxiety and sadness are common mental health conditions among internally displaced people (IDPs), underscoring the importance of psychosocial treatment (Akhunzada et al., 2015).

According to Dereje (2024), resource circulation, mobility, and connections are essential to the livelihoods of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ethiopia's metropolitan regions as they adopt trans-local behaviors to deal with marginalization. This fits with the common knowledge that IDPs' chances for a livelihood frequently depend on their capacity to adapt and make use of the resources available to them in their new communities.

The success of humanitarian efforts aimed at assisting internally displaced people (IDPs) is crucial. Nwalieli (2018) highlighted the necessity of finding lasting solutions and coordinating efforts to guarantee a lasting influence and the eventual repatriation of IDPs to their original homes with better living conditions. According to Deme and Kabre (2023), government accountability is crucial for providing IDPs without prejudice. They draw attention to the inadequacy of humanitarian relief and need to empower IDPs through income-generating activities. The Kampala Convention established a framework for assessing the efficacy and sustainability of support in Ethiopia and established a regional standard for the protection and aid of internally displaced people (IDPs), incorporating human rights and humanitarian law principles.

In accordance with the Kampala Convention, in addition to prompt humanitarian assistance, internally displaced people (IDPs) must be given the freedom to freely and intelligently select among choices that ensure their safe return, local integration, or relocation. According to Bereket and Kiya (2023), In order to address internal displacement, Ethiopia and the UN together launched the Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) in December 2019. However, there is a discrepancy in Ethiopia regarding the steps taken to embrace durability solutions between states in the region. Local integration is a route to a long-lasting solution. Reactions to local integration in Ethiopia vary depending on the regional states and communities hosting IDPs. Some host communities have been hospitable and have offered full support to those displaced from the Oromia and Afar regions, as they have shared their concerns despite long-term issues with local resource sharing (Muhumed et al., 2021).

Therefore, by choosing the best settlement areas, establishing sustainable livelihood systems, and guaranteeing peaceful coexistence with the host communities, each of the three options for IDPs, to return to their place of origin, integrate locally, or settle in inter- or intra-regional state settlements, should be made available. When uprooted or repositioned, internally displaced people typically wish to return from where they came. Nevertheless, it can be challenging if there is a loss of livelihood, [productive] asset destruction, or ongoing instability (Muhumed et al., 2021). In addition, Alexion et al. (2021), IDPs' prior means of subsistence may no longer be viable when they reach their destinations.

Another study by Yeshaneh (2020) examined Ethiopia's internally displaced population, with an emphasis on the difficulties and opportunities associated with local integration in *Sekela woreda*. The study discovered that lack of access to land resources, inability to provide IDPs with affordable housing, difficulty finding work to support oneself, absence of policies that are friendly to IDPs, and mistreatment of coexistence as a pull factor made the local integration of IDPs difficult for the government.

Erlichman (2003) found that returnees faced conflict and poor health in resettlement areas and returned to their places of origin. This information pertains to the living conditions and health status of individuals who were relocated to resettlement areas and later returned to their place of origin in one administrative area in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia. The health of resettlers was seriously challenged by the highlands' unknown perils and the incidence of illness. The study also discovered that resettlers experienced great pain from physical separation from their relatives and motherlands.

Getu and Assefa (2015) also discovered that a range of livelihood risks were brought about by urban relocation, including landlessness, the dissolution of small, cohesive social groups (most notably coffee members), the loss of a home or shelter, and a lack of urban infrastructure such as roads, electricity, jobs, and potable water services (p. 310).

According to Fufa (2020), relocation within a local neighborhood has a significant impact on households' socioeconomic standing. In terms of access to healthcare, housing, and education, as well as opportunities to survive in the future and financial resources, the non-displaced

community is better off than the displaced group. However, the study discovered a negligible mean difference between the displaced and displacers with regard to family members attending school, defying the popular belief that the displaced experienced great hardship. The findings also showed that both communicable and non-communicable diseases were present in the relocated groups.

In conclusion, the comprehensive review of the literature demonstrates the complex nature of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the critical role of both humanitarian support and legal frameworks in addressing their needs and protecting their rights. The research highlights the interconnectedness between humanitarian assistance and IDPs, emphasizing the importance of accurate tracking mechanisms and access to aid in influencing IDP decisions and movement. It also underscores the challenges faced by IDPs and the ongoing support required from NGOs and governments. Furthermore, the literature emphasizes the need for robust legal frameworks at domestic, regional, and international levels to ensure the rights and welfare of IDPs. While there is no specific international legal framework dedicated to IDP protection, the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the African Union's Kampala Convention provide important guidelines and standards. However, implementation and coordination challenges persist within these frameworks. The research also sheds light on the Ethiopian context, highlighting successes and challenges in the urban IDP response, such as the importance of local leadership, data accuracy, and integration into urban areas. The studies on Ethiopia's legal framework emphasize both its strengths and weaknesses, with some advocating for improved implementation and others calling for a more comprehensive framework tailored to the specific needs of IDPs. The literatures emphasize the need for coordinated interventions, lasting solutions, and empowerment of IDPs through income-generating activities and psychosocial treatment. Implementing international frameworks and ensuring access to resources and sustainable livelihoods are crucial in supporting IDPs. The review underscores the complexities of IDP situations, including the choice between return, local integration, or settlement in alternative areas, and the challenges associated with each option. It also highlights the importance of comprehensive approaches, collaboration, and long-term solutions in addressing the needs of IDPs and promoting their well-being and rights.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3. THE CONTEXT OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN ETHIOPIA AND THE RESPONSE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

This chapter aims to provide an overview of the IDP situation in Ethiopia, examining the causes of internal displacement, the legal frameworks in place to protect and assist IDPs, the context of humanitarian assistance, and the response of international organizations in addressing the needs of IDPs in the country. Firstly, the chapter explores the causes of internal displacement in Ethiopia, including armed conflicts, inter-communal violence, political instability, and environmental disasters such as droughts and floods. Next, the chapter delves into the legal frameworks that address the rights and protection of IDPs in Ethiopia, encompassing both national legislation and international conventions that Ethiopia has ratified. Furthermore, the chapter examines the context of humanitarian assistance in Ethiopia for IDPs. Lastly, the response of international organizations to the IDP situation in Ethiopia, focusing on the roles, interventions, and collaborations of organizations explored.

#### **3.1. An Overview of IDPs in Ethiopia**

One of the major concerns facing the world today is forced internal relocation. Ethiopia is not exempt from this issue. According to Mehari (2017), since the establishment of the state, Ethiopia has experienced several internal displacements. Ethiopia has had internal displacement for many decades due to a variety of causes, including war, internal strife, violence between ethnic groups, development or resettlement policies, etc. Massive commercial schemes were initiated under Emperor Haile Selassie as a result of the famines and the regime's existing land system, which led to new sources of hardship and displacement (Mehari, 2017). Twenty thousand Afar pastoralists were forced to relocate in 1972 as a result of commercial agriculture taking up their grazing pasture and the feudal land system making farmers into penurious servants of a small number of landholders. Only when the state is unable or unwilling to help Ethiopians who have starved to death due to famine does the drought escalate into famine and displacement (Mehari, 2017).

Similar internal displacement occurred during the *Derg* Regime as a result of the Great Famine of 1984 and the fighting in Ethiopia's northeast and east. Additionally, thousands of people were forced to flee their homes between 1980 and 1983 due to continuous military offensives in Eritrea and Tigray. Consequently, more than 800,000 people from Tigray were internally displaced, and an additional 200,000 crossed the border into Sudan. Therefore, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, or EPDRF, came to power. Since then, there have been more internal displacements in Ethiopia as a result of El Nino (827,906) and flooding (631,163), as well as the 1998 Ethiopia-Eritrea war, which left 420,000 people homeless (Mehari, 2017).

Millions of people have been internally displaced in the country since Prime Minister Abiy took office in 2018 (Bereket & Kiya, 2023). The crisis in the country has been progressively getting worse since 2016, but in 2018, conflict and intercommunal violence increased dramatically and expanded to new areas, resulting in nearly 2.9 million additional displacements—four times as many as in 2017. Three of the borders of the Oromia region—the Somali region in the east, the Benishangul-Gumuz region in the north-west, and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) region in the south-west—have been linked to conflict and displacement. Urban centers such as Addis Ababa and Jijiga, the seat of the Somali region, were also impacted (Addis Fortune, 2018).

In the West Guji zone of Oromia and the Gedeo zone of SNNP, intercommunal violence between the Guji and Gedeo ethnic groups erupted in April and again in June, causing the greatest amount of displacement. Competition for limited resources and land exacerbated underlying ethnic tensions (Refugees International, 2018). Due to the violence, hundreds of thousands of people sought refuge in cramped collective centers, where aid organizations found it difficult to supply food, medical care, clean water, and sanitary facilities for the quickly expanding number of displaced people. The government organized and coordinated a large-scale response in conjunction with agencies that were not previously present in the southern region of the nation (OCHA, 2018). Following the deaths of three local police officers in Benishangul Gumuz in October, ethnic violence also broke out between Oromos, Amharas, and Gumuz (Ethiopia Insight, 2018). The conflict and displacement that started in 2017 along the Oromia-Somali border persisted unabatedly throughout the previous year. Drought exacerbated the conflict over

the disputed border by increasing competition for limited resources, which resulted in the relocation of ethnic Somalis residing in Oromia and Oromos living in the Somali area. There were hundreds of thousands of fresh displacements documented. In two weeks in December, there were almost 80,000 fresh displacements due to heavy fighting between the Oromi Borenas sub-clan and the Somali Garreh in the Oromo town of Moyale. There was also serious damage to the town. Its banks and stores were plundered, and its hospital was devastated (ECHO, 2018).

In August, 140,000 people were forced to flee Jijiga, a once peaceful and energetic city, in a matter of days due to intercommunal violence. Of those, 35,000 individuals chose to stay in the city and sought refuge in and around churches. Because of the insecurity, Jijiga was inaccessible for a few weeks, but by the middle of the month, business was back in full swing, and many visitors came back once things had settled (International Federation of the Red Cross, 2018). In response to the crisis of displacement in the nation, the new government of Ethiopia has implemented a variety of policies, such as programs to assist those who would rather relocate or integrate into their host communities and peace-building initiatives to encourage voluntary returns (OCHA, 2018). Additionally, a minister of peace has been named. In accordance with the Guiding Principles and the Kampala Convention, a regional agreement on the protection and aid of internally displaced people, a lasting solution strategy for the Somali region was created in 2017 (Government of Ethiopia, IOM, 2017). However, the government has come under fire for failing to take adequate measures to safeguard civilians and for promoting early returns to areas that are not yet safe (Refugees International, 2018).

There was a notable decrease in Ethiopia's new displacement figures in 2019. At the end of 2019, there were approximately 1.7 million internally displaced people in Ethiopia, with 80% of them being moved due to conflict and 20% as a result of occurrences connected to climate change. But many IDPs are displaced more than once, and many of them reside in unsafe regions with little to no access to humanitarian aid or essential services. As of the end of the year, there were around 1.4 million individuals living in internal displacement due to war and violence, which is a significant decrease from 2018 (IDMC, 2020). The reductions come from the Ministry of Peace-led national steering committee's approval in March of a three-phase plan to repatriate all internally displaced people (IDPs) to their places of origin in the upcoming months. By the end of the year, it was estimated that 1.2 million IDPs had returned. Implementation had started

almost immediately. The majority of the relocation locations in Gedeo, West Guji, and East and West Wollega were demolished. But not everyone went back willingly, and many of those who did faced formidable challenges in starting over (IDMC, 2020). Many people encountered difficulties attempting to recover their belongings and land or found their homes damaged or destroyed. Few people have access to aid or essential services, and farmers and small business owners who have had their livelihoods disrupted have gotten little help. A sizable number of secondary displacements have resulted from insecurity in certain return locations (OCHA, 2019). To avoid being forced to return to their places of origin, several IDPs fled into hiding and attempted to migrate (OCHA, 2019a and 2019b).

In 2019, disasters resulted in 504,000 additional displaced people. In the first rainy season, which ran from April to June, about 190,000 were recorded; in the second, which ran from October to November and saw exceptionally high rainfall, 177,000. Drought primarily damaged lowland pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas of Somali region, Oromia region, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' region (SNNP), and portions of Afar region in eastern and southeast Africa (OCHA, 2019). Since the majority of Ethiopia's 131,000 drought-related displacements occurred in Somalia last year, the situation there is especially concerning. Nearly 56,000 families in the area have previously been impacted by more frequent and severe drought periods between 2015 and 2017 (IDMC, 2019).

Since 2020, Ethiopia has seen a notable increase in internal displacement as a result of numerous armed conflicts around the nation (UNHCR, 2022). The Ethiopian federal government launched a military offensive in response to what is believed to have been an attack by the Tigray regional party on the Northern Command of the country's National Defense Force in Mekelle, Tigray region, early in November 2020. Conflict then erupted in Ethiopia's north, forcing many people to flee their homes (DMT, 2021). The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) used its Emergency Site Assessment from April 1–22, 2021, to record internal displacement associated with the Northern Ethiopia Crisis. In addition to estimating the number of internally displaced people (IDPs), this multi sectoral location assessment gathers fundamental data on the multi sectoral requirements of IDPs at the site level. Across 265 locations in the areas of Tigray, Amhara, and Afar, 1,715,176 IDPs (or 354,516 households) were discovered to have been displaced in this fifth wave. In the Tigray region, there were 1,645,944 IDPs (335,308 homes), in the Afar region,

48,420 IDPs (8,952 households), and in the Amhara region, there were 20,812 IDPs (10,256 households) (DMT, 2021).

Since 2020, there have also been more conflicts in other regions of Ethiopia. Fighting between armed groups like the *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) and government forces has resulted in additional waves of displacement in the Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia regions (Refugees International, 2021). Over 3.5 million Ethiopians have been internally displaced as a result of wars throughout the country, and there is still a need for humanitarian aid (UNHCR, 2022). IDP conditions are still dangerous in Tigray and other areas because of the ongoing effects of insecurity and a lack of services on the general populace (Refugees International, 2022).

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (2022) reports that in Ethiopia in 2021, conflict and violence resulted in almost 5.1 million additional displacements, three times as many as in 2020 and the largest annual figure ever recorded for a single nation. As the fighting in Tigray's north widened, it moved to nearby areas, removing millions of people from their homes. In November 2020, hostilities broke out between the Ethiopian armed forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Following the unilateral ceasefire established by federal forces in June and their allies' withdrawal from the majority of Tigray, the dynamics of the conflict changed in the second half of 2021. Despite reports of significant violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all sides involved in the conflict, the region continued to be under a de facto humanitarian blockade (IDMC, 2022). The TPLF started moving south and then into the Amhara and Afar regions, where fighting resulted in two million people being displaced, in an attempt to reopen assistance channels and reclaim territory lost in the battle. Although violence in other regions also contributed significantly to the number of displacements reported in Ethiopia in 2021, the majority was caused by war in the country's north. Deadly clashes that forced people from their homes along the borders between the Afar and Somali regions, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region (SNNP) and Gambela, and the SNNP and Oromia were caused by renewed tensions between regional security forces and non-state armed groups linked to resource competition and land disputes. Relocation was also caused by intercommunal violence in Benishangul-Gumuz and those territories (IDMC, 2022).

In 2021, disasters, mostly droughts and floods, also caused 240,000 internal displacements. The Belg season rains in April and May, which caused approximately 170,000 people to be displaced throughout Afar, Oromia, Somalia, and the SNNP, were the most important occurrences. 54,000 people were affected by the drought in Afar, Oromia, and Somalia, more than twice as many as was stated in 2020. At the conclusion of the year, 4.2 million people were living in displacement throughout the nation, with over 80% of those cases being the result of violence and conflict. The humanitarian crisis persisted. Due to the extensive devastation of both governmental and private infrastructure, displaced persons and host communities had extremely restricted access to basic services like healthcare, water, and education (IDMC, 2022).

Conflict and violence produced more than two million internal displacements in 2022, a 60 percent decline from the 5.1 million reported in 2021 when growing conflict in northern regions, and particularly Tigray, brought the total to an all-time high (IDMC, 2022). Following an independent ceasefire declared by the federal government, the TPLF reclaimed control of the majority of Tigray in June 2021. But starting in August 2022, the bloodshed persisted until the two groups signed a peace accord on November 2, 2022. With an estimated 943,285 people, or 42.16% of the country's conflict caseload, as of September 2023, Tigray was home to the greatest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) who were largely displaced by conflict worldwide (DMT, 2021).

In September 2023, an estimated 612,250 internally displaced individuals (17.7% of all internally displaced persons) cited drought as their primary cause of displacement; the majority of these IDPs claimed this reason in Somalia, Oromia, and Afar. The Somali region has the highest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) globally, with 410,749, or 67.1% of the nation's drought caseload, primarily due to drought (DTM, 2023). With the kiremt rainy season caused nearly 1.5 million people to need food assistance, the effects of floods in Afar, Gambela, Oromia, Somalia, and the southern parts of the country on food security conditions are expected to worsen by September 2023, according to the Government of Ethiopia's Flood Contingency Plan. The vulnerability of impacted groups, including IDPs and returnees, is being made worse by the coincidence of these shocks with illness epidemics like cholera, malaria, and measles (UNFPA Ethiopia, 2023) Since the federal government stated in April 2023 that it was eliminating regional troops throughout Ethiopia, which resulted in protests and increased

insecurity, tensions in the Amhara region have been escalating (Aljazeera News, 2023). The Ethiopian government ordered curfews in six cities and proclaimed a six-month state of emergency in the Amhara region in August 2023 (UN News, 2023). An internal displacement may also result from this circumstance.

### **3.2. Causes of Internal Displacement in Ethiopia**

Conflict, starvation and drought, state-sponsored relocation and collective farming programs, and land-grabbing when land was given to multinational corporations and mega corporations have all contributed to forced migration in the 20th and early 21st centuries (Vaughan and Mesfin, 2020).

The main causes of the mass displacement of people throughout the nation were ethnic tensions and communal violence. Community conflict was identified as the main cause of displacement in Ethiopia by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (2019) site evaluation. Prior to 2018, the fighting resulted in about 1,623,716 individuals being displaced. The main factors causing internal displacement in the nation have been determined to be ethnic conflict and the ethnic federal system. Similar to this, a number of studies on internal displacement have demonstrated that Ethiopia's ongoing communal violent incidents are the main causes of the sharp rise in the number of individuals fleeing their homes and places of habitual residency (Mehari, 2017). According to Mehari (2017), intercommunal strife has caused Ethiopia to become the first country in the IGAD region with the biggest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) due to the humanitarian crisis. Community conflict, sometimes known as ethnic-based violence, is therefore the main element responsible for the current national crisis of internal displacement in Ethiopia.

Conflict was the primary cause of internal displacement in Ethiopia in 2021, accounting for about 5.1 million displaced persons, or 80% of all internally displaced individuals (IDMC, 2022a). According to UN estimates, more than 300,000 people were displaced in the first month after hostilities resumed in northern Ethiopia on August 24, 2022 (Anyadike, 2022). In addition, refugees from Eritrea who were living in camps in the Tigray region were compelled to relocate to a makeshift shelter in Alemwach, Amhara region (UNHCR, 2022). The end of 2020 saw the resurgence of full-scale warfare in northern Ethiopia with the Tigray War. The Tigray conflict,

which erupted into full-scale war in November 2020, was caused by tensions between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) over the postponement of the 2020 elections, the future of the federal system, and policy changes made to the security apparatus and the economy. More than 2.5 million people were displaced inside their territories or neighboring regional states as a result of the conflict's extension into the Afar and Amhara regional states in 2021 and 2022; some of them also became refugees in Sudan (IOM Ethiopia, 2022b).

Resettlement is the other factor contributing to internal displacement in Ethiopia. The government has supported relocation for about 40 years in an effort to improve household livelihoods and lessen food insecurity, famine, and drought (Vaughan and Mesfin, 2020). According to the BSG and Oromia regional states, the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), Gumuz armed groups, unidentified armed groups, and counter-insurgency operations by Ethiopian government troops are some of the causes of the recent displacement of resettled individuals. Additional causes include host community members' reprisals against the displaced people, military assaults, and acts of intercommunal violence (Gerth-Niculescu, 2021). For instance, the native Gumuz of Metekel accuse the resettlers, mostly from Amhara, of destroying their environment, exercising undue economic influence, and creating false historical narratives and prejudices about them (Gardner, 2021).

The third cause for displacement is development induced displacement. Ethiopia has made infrastructure investments and undertaken massive development projects with the goal of turning into a middle-income nation by 2025. These actions have resulted in the eviction of residents and the disruption of livelihoods (Vaughan and Mesfin, 2020:4). The GERD and other hydroelectric projects are examples of flagship projects. Significantly, metropolitan areas have been expanding quickly. The Addis Ababa City Administration, for example, sought to expand its borders into the Oromia region, causing local grievances, tensions, and resistance from Oromo students and youth movements (*Qeerroo*). This ultimately resulted in the displacement of households residing on lands that were appropriated for the city's expansion (Pellerin and Ashenafi, 2022). The capital city of Ethiopia is home to about five million people. In addition, as Gerth-Niculescu (2021) reports, the Gumuz in the BSG region was driven by agricultural production that was based on large-scale land acquisitions by both local and foreign investors. This attracted laborers from the central highlands of Amhara, many of whom have stayed on, moving into forested land

and creating new settlements. Such displacement brought on by growth has been widespread throughout the nation.

Disasters and environmental hazards are the last cause for displacement. Ethiopia is a country prone to disasters. It is susceptible to droughts and biophysical shocks since more than 62% of its landmass is dry or semiarid (Kassahun et al., 2008). Significant vulnerabilities have been caused by natural hazards, the unpredictable nature of climate variability, repeated harvest failures, soil erosion and low productivity, livestock deaths, locust outbreaks, population pressure on natural ecosystems, a lack of a thriving local economy, and alternative means of subsistence (Pankhurst et al., 2013). As a result, there has been a drop in the standard of living and a limitation on the ability of households and communities to adjust (FDRE, 2019b, p. 1). Drought, long-term food insecurity, and flooding have caused 240,000 people to be relocated in 2021 alone; these people are primarily from the Afar, Oromia, Somali, and SNNP regions (IDMC, 2022c). Thirty percent of the population of the Borena zone of Oromia (between March and September 2022) and an estimated 1 million people in the Somali region (as of September 2022) were forced to flee their homes due to droughts that devastated Ethiopia's pastoral areas in the south and southeast in 2022 (FEWS Net, 2022). Thus, in Dubluka woreda, an unofficial IDP camp was formed. (Ibid.). According to Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of the CRGE, forced displacement and rural outmigration will grow due to a rise in floods and droughts (FDRE, 2019b, p. 41).

### **3.3. Legal Frameworks for IDPs in Ethiopia**

Legal frameworks have a significant role in providing safety and addressing the needs of internally displaced individuals (IDPs) (UNHCR, 2019). People frequently suffer a wide range of difficulties and risks when they are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, violence, natural disasters, or other circumstances. Comprehensive legal frameworks are necessary to guarantee the rights and welfare of internally displaced people and to respond to these difficulties in an efficient manner. A variety of laws, rules, and policies that are intended to meet the unique requirements of this group make up the legal framework for internally displaced people (IDPs) (Brookings Institution, 2020). These frameworks seek to create procedures for IDPs' long-term solutions and reintegration into society, as well as to grant them legal recognition, protection, and aid. They are founded on domestic legislation, regional agreements, and international human

rights norms, which, taken together, offer a normative framework for the rights and protection of internally displaced people (IDPs) (IOM, 2020).

Abdi Mohammed Adem assesses Ethiopia's current institutional and legislative frameworks for the protection of internally displaced people in light of regional and international norms in his paper, *The Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia: The Analysis of Legal and Institutional Frameworks* (Abdi, 2020). The study's conclusions show that internally displaced people in Ethiopia can be adequately protected under the country's current institutional and legal systems. Nonetheless, it is determined that the absence of implementation of current legal frameworks poses a greater threat than the deficiencies in the instruments themselves. The current legal system guarantees the fundamental human rights of internally displaced people by establishing minimum standards of protection. However, IDPs have not been able to successfully receive this protection since politicians have not shown enough commitment. As a result, IDPs in Ethiopia are not adequately protected (Abdi, 2020). This researcher highlights the necessity for a defined framework for IDP protection among various institutions and claims that there is an institutional gap in Ethiopia's humanitarian response to IDPs. Ethiopia's internal displacement issue is made worse by the lack of a clear framework (Abdi, 2020).

In contrast with Abdi's research, Naol Manyazewal conducted a comprehensive analysis of Ethiopia's current legal frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in his thesis titled, *Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia: A Critical Analysis of Legal Framework*. Naol's study reveals that while the existing legal frameworks in Ethiopia offer some level of protection to IDPs, they fall short of adequately addressing their needs. The study highlights that although Ethiopia ratified the Kampala Convention, its applicability is limited due to reservations made by the country, thereby undermining its impact (Naol, 2021).

Ethiopia does not have a specific national law dedicated to the protection of IDPs. However, the country's constitution includes general provisions that preserve fundamental human rights for all individuals, which can offer some level of protection to IDPs. Nevertheless, these provisions do not comprehensively address the specific needs of IDPs, particularly with regards to forced repatriation, conflict-induced displacement, and long-term solutions. While crimes committed

against IDPs are punishable under the FDRE criminal code, there are no provisions that specifically penalize arbitrary displacement (Naol, 2021).

In 2023, Bereket and Kiya conducted a study titled *Internal Displacement in Ethiopia: Towards a New Policy and Legal Framework for Durable Solutions* in order to establish a connection between legal frameworks and sustainable solutions for internally displaced people. They also note in their analysis a number of implementation gaps and difficulties with Ethiopia's current legal protections for internally displaced people. These include the absence of a comprehensive IDP law, the ineffectiveness of preventive security measures, the unfavorable effects of misinterpreting or misapplying ethno-federalism at the regional level, the lack of coordination between the various institutions and actors involved in providing integrated interventions focused on IDPs, and the requirement for targeted interventions for particular social groups like women, youth, and children (Bereket and Kiya, 2023).

### **3.4. The Context of Humanitarian Assistance in Ethiopia for IDPs**

Humanitarian aid and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are interconnected in various ways. The research conducted by Shaza Loutfi, under the title of, *The Impact of Humanitarian Aid on Internally Displaced Persons' Movement: A Case Study in Syria* explores the significance of accurate tracking mechanisms for humanitarian activities, the impact of humanitarian aid on IDP movement, and the complexities of the relationship between aid and IDP movement (Loutfi, 2017).

The research underscores the necessity of a precise tracking mechanism to effectively coordinate humanitarian projects and funding in conflict zones, as the absence of such a mechanism can impede coordination among actors and potentially result in misused funds and negative consequences for aid initiatives. Furthermore, the lack of a tracking mechanism hampers the understanding of how aid projects affect urban landscapes and IDP populations in Syria and other conflict-affected countries. Additionally, Loutfi's research demonstrates that access to humanitarian assistance significantly influences IDP movement. The data shows that IDPs take into account the availability of aid when deciding to relocate to different communities (Loutfi, 2017).

An article published in the International Journal of Social Sciences and Management (IJSSM) by A.J. Onoja et al. in 2020, under the title *Understanding the Needs of Adult Internally Displaced Persons in Three North-Eastern States of Nigeria: The Impact of Humanitarian Response Program*, investigates the challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North-Eastern states of Nigeria and the impact of humanitarian response programs on addressing those challenges. The researchers found that the major non-health challenges faced by IDPs were a lack of food and clothing, frequent illness due to a lack of access to drugs and healthcare providers, and an inadequate supply of essential items to the camps. They also found that the provision of food, clothing, soap, detergents, and drugs to the IDPs was relevant to their needs and contributed to improving their situation in the camps. The study emphasizes that there is still much to be done to address the challenges faced by IDPs. Continuous assistance from both non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the government is necessary. The study concluded that a humanitarian response is important to address the challenges faced by IDPs. It calls for ongoing support and assistance from NGOs and the government to improve the situation of IDPs and enable them to rebuild their lives (Onoja et al., 2020).

In the Ethiopian context, Evan Easton-Calabria delves into the case study of the urban internally displaced people (IDP) response in Adama, Ethiopia, in the article *Success Twinned by Challenge: An Urban IDP Response in Ethiopia*. The article provides an overview of the response to the IDP influx and presents four key policy-relevant findings. Firstly, it highlights the significance of a locally-led response, showcasing the success of the municipal provision of assistance for registered IDPs. However, it also raises concerns about the exclusion of undocumented IDPs and the lack of assistance available to them. Secondly, the article addresses the ongoing relief-development gap in Adama. This gap emphasizes the need for a more comprehensive approach to support IDPs in their long-term integration, beyond immediate relief efforts. Thirdly, the study emphasizes the need for better data on urban IDPs. Collecting accurate and comprehensive data is crucial to understanding the needs and demographics of urban IDPs, which, in turn, informs effective policy-making and targeted interventions. Lastly, the article sheds light on the challenges faced by IDPs in integrating into urban areas (Easton-Calabri, 2020). It calls for increased efforts to facilitate social connections between local residents and IDPs and emphasizes the importance of supporting IDPs in creating livelihoods and employment

opportunities based on their skills. The article concludes by underscoring the relevance of the Adama case study for future planning efforts in cities facing similar migration influxes (Easton-Calabria, 2020).

### **3.5. The Response of International Organizations (IOs) for Internal Displacement in Ethiopia**

In compliance with their mandates, IOs and humanitarian aid organizations have a duty to protect and assist internally displaced people (IDPs); nonetheless, the government is ultimately responsible for providing protection and humanitarian aid within its borders. The Kampala Convention's Article 6 outlines the obligations and functions of IOs and humanitarian assistance agencies for providing protection and aid, notwithstanding the fact that IDPs do not have a clear legal right to either under international law. These organizations are supposed to cooperate with states and support them in giving IDPs protection and humanitarian aid (African Union, 2009). In line with this, the Convention also recognizes international partners and places obligations on governments to uphold the UN's and IOs' mandates to protect and assist internally displaced people. States have a commitment to facilitate and guarantee the secure transit of personnel and supplies for humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (Ibid., 2009).

Several international organizations have made providing humanitarian aid to Ethiopia's internally displaced people (IDPs) a top priority. These groups have been instrumental in helping internally displaced people (IDPs) afflicted by war, natural disasters, and other crises by offering support, safety, and basic necessities. Humanitarian aid to IDPs in Ethiopia has been actively provided by a number of international organizations. The main are United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Food Programme (WFP), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

One of the main UN organizations dealing with internal displacement is the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It is one of the few organizations whose activities cover the whole spectrum of the crisis, from preparedness and risk reduction to humanitarian protection and assistance to the transition to longer-term solutions and recovery. Whether it is executed at

the individual, community, or institutional levels, the majority of its crisis-related programming consists of internal displacement (IOM, 2020).

According to the International Organization for Migration (2024), the Global Crisis Response Plan for Ethiopia focuses on working across the humanitarian development peace nexus, IOM works to help those affected by displacement, including host communities and IDPs, by providing humanitarian aid. Among those targeted are refugees who receive relocation aid. IOM also keeps supporting cluster partners (national and international NGOs, or I/NNGOs), other UN agencies, and national and regional government authorities) through the ES/NFI and CCCM Clusters. Additionally, IOM seeks to provide food, WASH, NFIs, health and nutrition, MHPSS, and protection support to vulnerable migrant returnees to Ethiopia. Among the intended interventions are protection mainstreaming, individualized protection services, building and sustaining community protection structures, and enhancing impacted people's access to services (IOM, 2024).

In keeping with the SG, Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, IOM supports the advancement of long-term solutions for internally displaced people (IDPs) and their return, while also supporting broader initiatives to advance sustainable peace and development. IOM works with key governmental and non-governmental partners, as well as community actors, including women's peace committees that serve as change agents and marginalized groups, to advance inclusive peace-building processes and bolster the institutional capacity of local actors. IOM collaborates with MHPSS and government health facilities to support recovery and build resilient health systems (IOM, 2024). As part of an integrated approach to health and mobility management, IOM also targets government health and MHPSS players, increasing MHPSS capacity and aiding in the surveillance and management of outbreaks. In order to develop long-term resilience, IOM also collaborates closely with impacted communities in the WASH sector. It primarily targets host communities and returnees who have been impacted by wars in Ethiopia's north and south, as well as those that have been hit by drought (IOM, 2024).

Departing and returning migrants, as well as impacted host communities, are also considered target beneficiaries. Support based on resilience is emphasized in the response, both for individuals and for communities. Returning migrants frequently find themselves in precarious

situations when they first arrive in their home nations and communities, where they encounter discrimination and find it difficult to obtain resources and successfully reintegrate. Re-migration is still very likely, particularly if there is no way to go back to areas affected by war. The improvement of migration management through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach will also be supported by pertinent governments and local partners. Furthermore, IOM's disaster risk reduction work assists local government structures and communities that have been displaced or are at risk of being displaced as a result of natural hazards (IOM, 2024).

The other international institution that participates in IDPs support is World Food Program (WFP). The largest humanitarian organization in the world dedicated to eradicating hunger, the World Food Program (WFP), is essential in addressing the pressing issues of nutrition and food security among the nation's internally displaced population. According to a 2020 report published by the organization, the WFP's dedication to addressing the food and nutrition problems faced by internally displaced persons highlights its role in Ethiopia. The multimodal approach employed by the WFP to safeguard the survival and welfare of displaced populations is presented in the paper. It involves the implementation of resilience-building initiatives, emergency food aid, and nutrition support (WFP, 2020).

The WFP works to assist internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ethiopia by concentrating on numerous important sectors. One key area of attention is the organization's emergency food relief program, which ensures that IDPs have access to enough healthy food. Food rations are given to displaced people and their families to meet their immediate food needs. Local partners are frequently consulted during this procedure (WFP, 2020). In addition to providing food aid, the WFP prioritizes reducing malnutrition among vulnerable groups among the IDP population, such as children and pregnant or lactating women. The company offers carefully prepared, nutrient-dense meals, provides nutrition instruction, and conducts significant nutrition projects. These projects aim to cure and prevent malnutrition and promote the overall health and well-being of internally displaced individuals. Recognizing the importance of long-term resilience, the WFP also seeks to improve food security and IDPs' capacity to withstand shocks in the future. These resilience-building projects include things like promoting environmentally friendly farming practices, assisting with livelihoods, and creating opportunities for income generation. By

strengthening internally displaced individuals and raising their degree of self-sufficiency, these initiatives aim to reduce the need for outside aid (WFP, 2020).

The World Food Programme (WFP) collaborates closely with the Ethiopian government and other partners to enhance food security and nutrition systems in areas affected by internal displacement. This means assisting the government in creating plans and policies, opening up markets, and enhancing the capacity of nearby communities to produce and obtain healthful food (WFP, 2020).

As the body in charge of coordinating humanitarian assistance, OCHA implements the cluster lead system that the IASC activates. The Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) is the name of the Ethiopian government's own coordinating system in accordance with this. The NDRMC founded the ECC, and it collaborates with OCHA. Comprising diverse governmental and nongovernmental organizations, ECC started addressing cases in Somalia and Oromia in 2017, continued working with Gedeo Guji, and is currently addressing cases in Tigray. This suggests that the cluster agency collaborates with other government agencies (Sewit, 2021). Additionally, OCHA requests funding from nations that donate to it in order to use it for humanitarian aid. But Ethiopia's internal displacement problem has persisted for the past years, resulting in a lack of resources and a protracted time frame for obtaining and mobilizing the necessary funds. As a result, there is an inadequate amount of humanitarian aid provided since humanitarian players are preoccupied with handling crises one after another. OCHA has also been instrumental in gathering, evaluating, and sharing relevant data about internally displaced people (IDPs), which is crucial for ensuring that IDPs receive the appropriate protection and support (Sewit, 2021).

UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) plays a critical role in providing assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. Their response focuses on addressing the specific needs and rights of displaced children and their families. As reported in UNICEF (2021), UNICEF's efforts in response to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia are multifaceted. In terms of healthcare, UNICEF actively supports IDPs in receiving the necessary medical supplies and services. This entails providing displaced populations with access to reproductive health care, nutrition programs, and immunizations, all of which are essential to their well-being.

Furthermore, UNICEF's support for IDPs in Ethiopia places a strong emphasis on education. In displacement contexts, the group works with partners to create makeshift learning spaces. Furthermore, UNICEF supplies educational resources and facilitates teacher training so that displaced children can continue to receive high-quality education. Despite the difficulties of displacement, these initiatives seek to promote learning opportunities and meet the educational requirements of internally displaced people (UNICEF, 2021).

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions are also an essential component of UNICEF's response. To stop illness outbreaks among IDPs, they make clean water supplies and sanitation facilities more accessible and encourage good hygiene habits. UNICEF works to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, and abuse that IDP children experience in the name of child protection. Working with partners, they create kid-friendly environments, offer psychosocial support, and bolster child protection mechanisms (UNICEF, 2021).

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a strong focus on the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. Kellenberger (2009) emphasizes the vulnerability and needs of everyone impacted by armed conflict and violence serve as the foundation for the ICRC's humanitarian response. This includes, of course, IDPs, whose vulnerability is frequently (though not always) increased by their unique circumstances. Thus, it stands to reason that the ICRC's mission and operations are centered on protecting and supporting IDPs. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) considers all impacted parties as well as the overall context of internal displacement when determining needs and providing for them. Either strengthening vulnerable communities' ability to accommodate internally displaced people (IDPs) or encouraging self-reliance among them is the goal. However, the ICRC also covers gaps when necessary by offering emergency relief in IDP camps and collaborating with other international organizations to maximize response (Kellenberger, 2009). Aeschlimann (2005) further underscores the ICRC's prioritization of IDP protection. The organization's efforts in this area have laid the foundation for expanded law and diplomacy for refugees and IDPs (Forsythe, 2018).

In order to help and provide humanitarian aid to internally displaced people in Ethiopia, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been instrumental (ICRC, 2021). Their

approach is centered on providing for the IDPs' urgent needs, safeguarding their safety and welfare, and encouraging long-term solutions to their relocation. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) collaborates closely with local communities, government agencies, and other humanitarian actors to evaluate IDPs' needs and offer vital services through their presence on the ground. This covers the supply of food, clean water, clean shelter in an emergency, medical attention, and sanitary facilities (ICRC, 2021).

Additionally, the ICRC places a high priority on protecting IDPs by standing up for their rights and making sure they are safe. They strive to stop and deal with problems that internally displaced people (IDPs) can encounter, like exploitation, violence, and discrimination (ICRC, 2021). In addition to providing an urgent reaction, the ICRC concentrates on long-term IDP solutions. In order to address the underlying causes of displacement and advance long-term solutions like safe return, resettlement, or local integration, they have conversations with pertinent parties (ICRC, 2021).

In conclusion, Ethiopia's enduring struggle with internal displacement stems from a complex interplay of factors such as conflicts, ethnic tensions, environmental challenges, and political instability. Over time, issues like war, development policies, natural disasters, and societal upheavals have displaced millions, precipitating significant humanitarian crises. The response to this crisis has been multifaceted, encompassing humanitarian aid, policy interventions, and peace-building endeavors. Despite the involvement of government-led initiatives and international organizations, persistent challenges persist, notably concerning access to essential services, civilian protection, and sustainable solutions for IDPs amidst ongoing conflicts, environmental risks, and political intricacies. There is a gap in legal frameworks designed to protect IDPs, advocating for a comprehensive and proactive approach, including strengthening the legal system, enhancing stakeholder coordination, and effectively implementing existing laws to safeguard IDP rights. Humanitarian aid remains pivotal in addressing IDPs' needs, with international organizations collaborating closely with local entities to provide not just immediate relief but also long-term support encompassing education, healthcare, water access, and protection from exploitation and violence. The concerted efforts of governments, humanitarian agencies, and communities are indispensable in delivering effective aid and nurturing sustainable resolutions for internal displacement challenges in Ethiopia.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION ON THE NATURE OF UNHCR'S HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

This chapter provides a comprehensive study of the data gathered to investigate the assistance provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, with an emphasis on the sustainability and long-term efficacy of its humanitarian initiatives. The thesis's key findings are also presented, along with conclusions and suggestions. The information is arranged according to major topics that reflect the complexity of humanitarian aid in this situation and show the ways in which different ideas interact and impact one another. Through the integration of these issues, the research aims to offer a thorough comprehension of UNHCR's assistance programs and their consequences for internally displaced people.

#### **4.1. UNHCR's Policies and Frameworks for Internally Displaced Persons**

##### **4.1.1. Frameworks and Policies for Humanitarian Response**

According to a UNHCR field officer (Addis Ababa, April 10, 2024), the framework directing humanitarian assistance for displaced people in Ethiopia is a multifaceted strategy based on regional, national, and international legal norms. The effectiveness and implications of these policies as indicated by the field officer are assessed in this analysis, which focuses on how well they connect with human rights principles, their operational goals, and the cooperative implementation plans that UNHCR on the ground has approved.

The data provided by the UNHCR field officer shows a thorough framework directing aid efforts for Ethiopia's displaced population. Established human rights legislation and foundational documents like the International Humanitarian Convention are crucial in determining response strategies at the global level. The officer stressed the importance of these frameworks based on human rights, which form the foundation of humanitarian endeavors. Ethiopia's presence as a member to the Kampala Convention emphasizes its adherence to the convention's principles, which emphasize the significance of customized accords that meet the particular difficulties

experienced by displaced persons in Africa. A UNHCR field Officer (Addis Ababa, April 10, 2024), claims that Ethiopia's national laws and constitutional provisions uphold human rights safeguards on a countrywide scale, indicating a determined attempt to bring local legal systems into compliance with international norms. Three primary goals underpin these humanitarian measures, according to the UNHCR field officer: defending the human rights of displaced people, assisting them in maintaining their means of subsistence, and offering long-term solutions to their displacement, as explained by the officer.

#### **4.1.2. Collaborative Implementation**

Significant flaws in the implementation of policies intended to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) were brought to light by the UNHCR field officer. According to the field officer, a lack of participation from key players in the implementation process has been caused by reluctance to create a unified and cooperative structure. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which is essential for meeting humanitarian needs, may be less effective as a result of this lack of cooperation. The field officer claims that despite the HRP's multi-agency strategy, which includes UN agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations, the response's overall efficacy is hampered by the limited involvement of important players.

The field officer (Addis Ababa, April 10, 2024), further clarified that although the Country Humanitarian Response Plan seeks to offer a methodical framework for handling displacement, there is frequently insufficient synchronization of these plans during internal displacement incidents. According to the UNHCR field officer, the strategies adopted may not guarantee a thorough and consistent response to IDPs without strong stakeholder engagement and alignment. This is where the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster plays a critical role. The officer emphasized that although the goal of these concerted efforts is to bring internal regulations into compliance with international standards, the deficiencies in stakeholder collaboration and participation cast doubt on the actual effectiveness of Ethiopia's humanitarian response to the IDPs crisis.

In addressing the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the data demonstrate UNHCR's dedication to a comprehensive humanitarian response framework that incorporates national,

regional, and international legal requirements. Although the frameworks are designed, there are difficulties in operationalizing it. The practical application of policies and the cooperation of multiple stakeholders are necessary for this strategy to be effective. Important goals like protecting human rights, sustaining livelihoods, and reaching long-term solutions call for consistent funding, robust institutional capacity, and productive cooperation between local communities, foreign organizations, and government agencies. These efforts are made more difficult by the complexity of Ethiopia's displacement crises, which are caused by elements including environmental shocks and ethnic violence. In addition to following the law, achieving these goals requires creative, inclusive approaches that put an emphasis on resilience-building and community involvement.

## **4.2. The Nature of UNHCR Humanitarian Support Provided to IDPs**

### **4.2.1. Organizational Landscape and Coordination**

The multi-sectoral approach to addressing both protective needs and basic necessities is reflected in the organizational structure of Ethiopia's humanitarian response for internally displaced people (IDPs). Important international organizations have specialized roles to address different causes of displacement: the International Organization for Migration (IOM) deals with displacement caused by disasters, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) deals with displacement related to conflicts, and UNHCR handles both camp management and protection. This allocation of duties emphasizes the necessity for specialized interventions and the recognition of various displacement factors. An Inter-Agency Coordination cluster has been created to improve the efficiency of this cooperative structure by facilitating communication and streamlining activities between humanitarian players. Although this structure demonstrates a purposeful and inclusive approach, these organizations' capacity to handle difficult operational difficulties, as well as coordinated planning and resource allocation, are critical to its success.

### **4.2.2. IDP Identification and Support Mechanisms**

Insights from Ato Tadesse's (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), shed light on the crucial procedures for locating and aiding internally displaced persons (IDPs), which are crucial for comprehending the framework of humanitarian aid. The UNHCR field officer (Addis Ababa,

April 10, 2024), claims that the wide standards set by the organization for identifying internally displaced persons (IDPs) encourage inclusivity, making it possible for any citizen who has been relocated due to natural or man-made causes to receive assistance and promoting a fair humanitarian response. Despite this, Tadesse emphasized the serious distribution issues, pointing out that the meager food allotment of 15 kg of wheat every four months highlights the lack of resources accessible to IDPs. Although it is admirable that vulnerable populations like pregnant women, the elderly, and orphans are given priority, the sheer volume of IDPs may result in gaps in assistance for others. Further context is also provided by Hawa's comment (Debre Berhan, March 20, 2024), about IDP documentation, and the UNHCR field officer's explanations. The six-month renewal period for IDP IDs is essential for keeping accurate and current records and making sure that aid distribution corresponds with the actual population in need.

#### **4.2.3. Roles and Collaboration of Humanitarian Organizations**

The remarks of Ato Getiye (Debre Berhan, March 27, 2024), highlight the various humanitarian organizations operating in the China and Woynishet camp, with UNHCR serving as the main coordinator within the framework for humanitarian assistance. This distinction highlights the crucial role that UNHCR plays in coordinating the activities of many organizations to ensure efficient and coordinated relief delivery while reducing service gaps and overlaps. The involvement of a variety of organizations, including as Plan International, DICAC, DEC, and ALIGHT, demonstrates a thorough strategy for meeting the complex needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs). As Getiye mentioned, these organizations concentrate on a number of important issues, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, educational support, and WASH (shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene).

Ato Tadesse (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), noted that collaborations between groups like UNICEF and Good Neighbor Ethiopia serve as an example of an integrated approach, help to a range of needs, such as food security, health care, and economic empowerment, are methodically satisfied. For example, UNICEF's decision to build a health center inside the camp and hire medical experts shows a strong commitment to enhancing IDPs' health outcomes by addressing both short-term and long-term health issues. The partnership between IOM and UNHCR is characterized by a limited engagement that involves cooperative planning, implementation, and

strategic alignment, according to insights from the IOM Camp Coordination Officer (Addis Ababa, April 15, 2024). The focus on data sharing and coordination, which improves situational awareness by offering information on demographics and movement patterns, is a crucial component of this collaboration.

Reflections from Ato Mohammed (Debre Berhan, March 20, 2024), highlight the vital significance of cooperation between different humanitarian groups and the fact that internally displaced person's (IDPs') existence depends on it. He states that in order to properly address urgent needs and guarantee the sustainability of support programs, interdependence within the humanitarian sector is essential. Mohammed also emphasizes the crucial short-term respite that such partnerships offer, even as he acknowledges the limitations in the overall effectiveness of help. In order to better serve displaced populations, this viewpoint promotes a nuanced understanding of humanitarian activities by acknowledging the necessity of continual assistance and constant enhancement of aid delivery systems.

The findings emphasize the critical role of organizational collaboration in addressing the complex needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. UNHCR's position as the primary coordinator highlights its importance in ensuring harmonized and efficient service delivery while minimizing overlaps. The engagement of various organizations, including Plan International, DICAC, DEC, and ALIGHT, showcases a holistic approach targeting diverse needs such as GBV prevention, education, and WASH services. Partnerships, like those between UNICEF and Good Neighbor Ethiopia, demonstrate an integrated approach to health care, food security, and economic empowerment, with initiatives like building health centers reflecting some commitment for the immediate outcomes. While collaborations offer essential short-term relief and sustainability potential, the analysis underscores the need for continuous refinement of aid systems to address the problems and limitations in humanitarian effectiveness.

#### **4.2.4. Community Involvement and Initial Responses**

According to Anteneh (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), the role of the local community highlights a beneficial aspect of the humanitarian response to relocation. In the early phases of a crisis, community members have been crucial in helping internally displaced persons (IDPs) by

delivering basic necessities like food and clothing. This rapid aid complements the later involvement by official humanitarian organizations and emphasizes the need of local networks in meeting urgent needs. Additionally, the active participation of the local community promotes social cohesiveness and resilience, both of which are essential for long-term recovery and integration, in addition to helping IDPs.

Ato Ahimed's (Debre Berhan, March 23, 2024), perspective on local communities and humanitarian groups highlights the significance of local engagement in tackling displacement. One crucial network of support that improves the durability of assistance efforts and gives IDPs a sense of agency is the community's role in arranging aid with family members overseas. Furthermore, the local community helps displaced people develop emotional resilience in addition to providing material support. IDPs' mental health during trying times depends on the cultural ties and social support they receive from interacting with the local population, demonstrating the many advantages of community involvement in humanitarian interventions.

The analysis highlights the significant role of local communities in humanitarian responses for internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly during the initial stages of crises. Local networks provide rapid and essential support, such as food and clothing, filling immediate gaps before formal humanitarian organizations intervene. Furthermore, local communities serve as vital support systems, including leveraging connections with family members abroad to sustain assistance efforts.

#### **4.2.5. The Nature of Humanitarian Responses for IDPs**

The UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies emphasize and concentrate on providing immediate assistance, such as food, shelter, health care, and sanitation, as stated by respondents Tadesse, Malaliya, Ahimed, and Atsedu. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster is involved in overseeing the whole humanitarian response for internally displaced persons (IDPs), as stated by Dereje and the UNHCR field officer. According to Ato Dereje, (Debre Berhan, March 27, 2024), CCCM holds regular biweekly cluster discussions with the goal of improving cooperation amongst humanitarian actors and guaranteeing that assistance for internally displaced people is effective and cohesive. The significance of consensus and

situational awareness is highlighted by the field officer's emphasis on meetings with the resident coordinator and UNOCHA national head prior to cluster creation. The ability to switch between clusters according to the type of displacement, conflict or natural disaster, showcases a humanitarian architecture that is adaptable, which is essential in dynamic situations. The response mechanism is further enhanced by involving neighborhood NGOs like Action for the Needy (ANI), as these groups frequently have insightful knowledge of community needs.

#### **4.2.5.1. Immediate and Long Term Supports**

The stories of respondents such as the UNHCR field officer, Hawa, and Lubaba highlight the significance of both short-term relief and long-term development in humanitarian assistance. The UNHCR's distribution of basic goods like shelter kits and hygiene items, which are vital for the immediate welfare of internally displaced persons (IDPs), is an example of emergency aid. Ibrahim emphasizes how crucial it is to provide mattresses, clothes, and health services on schedule in order to guarantee a secure living space. Tadesse (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), goes on to stress the need for prompt assistance services, outlining how the supply of essentials like food, blankets, and shelter helps displaced people's living situations. Tadesse added that in order to address health and sanitation issues and eventually improve public health in IDP camps, organizations like ALIGHT play a critical role in implementing WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiatives. Some organizations attempt to work on educational projects, like the building of schools for displaced children, as Tadesse said.

According to a number of interviewees, including Debre, Teyiba, Fate, and Hussein (Debre Berhan, March 2024), humanitarian aid for internally displaced people in the camps has drastically decreased over time, with several organizations stopping their aid completely. They emphasized that attempts to develop long-term solutions for the IDPs have mostly failed, frequently involving attempts to force the displaced populations to return without making sure that the requirements for a sustainable return are satisfied. An FGD with adult men conducted (Debre Berhan, March 25 2024), revealed that the support provided to IDPs remains minimal, creating significant challenges in maintaining steady assistance. The shift from regular food distributions to irregular supplies has further undermined the food security and overall stability of the IDP community, signaling a troubling decline in resource availability. This inconsistency

has left IDPs feeling increasingly frustrated and despondent, emphasizing the critical need for sustained, comprehensive, and reliable humanitarian assistance.

Immediate interventions, such as the distribution of shelter kits, hygiene items, and food supplies, are vital for stabilizing living conditions and addressing urgent needs in IDP camps. Organizations like ALIGHT play a crucial role in improving health outcomes through WASH initiatives, while others focus on education to foster longer-term resilience. However, the findings also reveal significant challenges, including the decline in aid over time and the failure to implement sustainable solutions. Efforts to return IDPs to their places of origin often neglect critical preconditions, jeopardizing their stability and security. Reduced food distributions and inconsistent resource allocation further exacerbate the vulnerability of displaced populations, leading to frustration and despair. These insights highlight the pressing need for a balanced and sustained approach that integrates emergency relief with durable strategies for recovery and stability.

#### **4.2.5.2. Impact of Humanitarian Aid on IDP Lives**

In order to help displaced populations, particularly with fulfilling their immediate needs and reducing health risks, humanitarian assistance from both local and international groups is crucial. Despite the recent challenges in assistance distribution, Ato Hussein (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), emphasized the crucial contributions made by humanitarian organizations. According to Hussein, the provision of essentials like soap, iron pots, sanitary products, and diapers by organizations like UNICEF has significantly reduced the likelihood of disease epidemics among the displaced. Hussein emphasized the importance of UNICEF's assistance, pointing out that the camp would be at greater risk of severe disease and epidemic-level health emergencies in the absence of such efforts. Hussein also underlined the value of assistance from locals, who have offered both friendship and material support. Maintaining morale and creating a friendly environment are greatly aided by the community's participation during festivals, providing food and company to the displaced. This cooperative endeavor between local communities and international organizations serves as an example of humanitarian support that blends urgent aid with social and emotional support.

#### **4.2.5.3. Monitoring Mechanisms**

The UNHCR field officer (Addis Ababa, April 10, 2024), explained that service monitoring is a systematic procedure used to track humanitarian assistance to internally displaced people. In order to methodically identify problems and gaps in the response efforts, this system evaluates activities using defined reporting formats. These findings are shared among partners engaged in particular theme areas within the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM) cluster and are crucial for advocacy purposes. The field officer emphasized that frequent meetings are held to guarantee continuous growth, enabling partners to assess achievements and modify tactics as needed. According to the officer, an information management application facilitates this process by offering a specific platform for data collecting and tracking. The officer's reference to advocacy also emphasizes how crucial it is to use the data gathered to mobilize resources and influence policy, highlighting the significance of cooperation across partners in different subject areas to increase the efficacy of the entire response.

#### **4.2.5.4. Opportunities, Challenges, and limitations in Humanitarian Response**

The effectiveness of aid delivery is influenced by the humanitarian landscape, which offers both tremendous potential and difficult challenges. Respondents underlined that collaborations between global and regional NGOs aim to establish some chances for information exchange and capacity building. According to multiple interviews, local communities' involvement in humanitarian assistance can improve sustainability and resilience, leading to a better coordinated approach to relief work.

A mixed image of UNHCR's initiatives is painted by the respondents' insights, which highlight the difficulties caused by operational barriers and resource dependence. W/ro Atsedu (Debre Berhan, March 21, 2024), noted that depending too much on teamwork can lead to vulnerabilities, particularly if financing is reduced or groups leave the field. In a same vein, Dereje (Debre Berhan, March 27, 2024), highlighted the difficulties in meeting a variety of demands in IDP camps, which can be made worse by inadequate funding and shoddy planning. Another common concern among respondents was the difficulties with health and sanitation. While Plan International's efforts to build sanitary facilities were praised, W/ro Lubaba (Debre

Berhan, March 18, 2024), pointed out that organizations such as Goal Ethiopia have had difficulty meeting basic health needs, indicating a lack of consistency in the effectiveness of the humanitarian sector. Furthermore, Lubaba underlined the value of health education while emphasizing that it cannot replace direct healthcare services, which are critically needed in vulnerable communities.

Ato Anteneh (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), highlighted the importance of addressing urgent nutritional needs, pointing out that many organizations prioritize non-nutritional concerns over critical food assistance in situations where malnutrition is a serious concern. This emphasizes how important it is to better incorporate food security into humanitarian plans. Finally, Tadesse (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), noted that, with regard to Goal Ethiopia's operations, the sustainability of humanitarian help continues to be a critical concern. The necessity for adaptable systems that guarantee continuity and consistency in aid delivery is highlighted by the disruption of vital services, such as the relocation of care for malnourished children. This intricacy highlights the significance of a thorough approach to humanitarian planning, guaranteeing that all urgent requirements are met in a coordinated manner.

There is a complex interplay between collaboration and challenges in humanitarian aid delivery for IDPs. While partnerships offer opportunities for capacity building and coordination, they also create vulnerabilities when funding or organizational support diminishes. Resource constraints, planning gaps, and operational barriers limit the ability to address diverse needs, particularly in critical areas like health and sanitation. Despite commendable efforts, inconsistencies in service delivery and the under prioritization of nutrition highlight the need for a more comprehensive and resilient approach that balances immediate relief with long-term planning to effectively address the multifaceted needs of displaced populations.

#### **4.2.5.5. Critiques of Current Humanitarian Support and Respondents' Insights**

The testimonies of respondents like Werkiye and Fate highlight serious flaws in the UNHCR's current returnee assistance systems and responses. Numerous displaced individuals voiced their dissatisfaction with insufficient resources, such as food and housing, which highlight structural shortcomings in the return procedure. The story of W/ro Werkiye (Debre Berhan, March 23,

2024), about being attacked while trying to find shelter, emphasizes the constant dangers that returnees encounter and emphasizes the importance of putting safety first in any return plan. Additionally, there is a significant disparity between the program's goal and the actual support that internally displaced people (IDPs) receive. As a result of this disconnect, impacted communities have become disillusioned and the reintegration process has become more difficult due to a lack of faith in the UNHCR, government authorities and organizations.

Respondents Tadesse, Malaliya, and Lubaba's (Debre Berhan, March 2024), perspectives offer a complex picture of the humanitarian situation in the China camp. While Lubaba emphasizes the limitations of health education programs, W/ro Malaliya (Debre Berhan, March 20, 2024), points to a concerning drop in aid, while Tadesse emphasizes the availability of quick support services. These diverse experiences highlight the difficulties and complexities involved in providing efficient humanitarian aid.

#### **4.3. The Effectiveness and Sustainability of Humanitarian Support for IDPs in Ethiopia**

##### **4.3.1. The Plight of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia**

According to Tadesse's (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), description of their appalling living conditions, the situation of Ethiopia's internally displaced persons (IDPs) is characterized by severe hardships and pressing fundamental requirements. Inadequate food, clothing, and shelter deprive IDPs, endangering not only their physical well-being but also their sense of self-worth and dignity. As demonstrated by the example of a formerly wealthy person who is now dependent on outside assistance, the conversion of formerly independent people into aid recipients highlights the severe psychological and emotional costs of relocation. Furthermore, Tadesse points out that some individual views toward internally displaced persons (IDPs) reveal a troubling tendency of dehumanization. Addressing these sentiments is crucial, and humanitarian agencies, such as the UNHCR and other partners, are anticipated to put in place initiatives meant to increase public knowledge in order to change how people view IDPs. However, rather of addressing these underlying mindsets, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies prioritize meeting urgent needs.

During the women's FGD (Debre Berhan, March 25, 2024), participants highlighted that women are among the most vulnerable groups within the IDP community. Women face unique challenges, including the need for additional healthcare resources, while also bearing the responsibility of protecting and caring for their families. They often spend the majority of their time with their families, which make it particularly distressing for them to witness their children suffering from hunger. This underscores the urgent need for targeted support addressing the specific needs of displaced women.

According to Ato Mahammed (Debre Berhan, March 20, 2024), the psychological toll of being invisible and unrecognizable contributes to chronic trauma that makes rehabilitation and reintegration more difficult. The negative connotations attached to the term "displaced" further worsen social exclusion, especially for youngsters, and call for efforts to be accepted and integrated into society. The relocation crisis has serious social and economic ramifications in addition to the personal cost. Reduced economic contributions from the loss of productive people create a vicious cycle of reliance on outside assistance and lost potential income. Furthermore, when economic conditions change, the government is under increasing pressure to meet the needs of internally displaced people while preserving economic stability, which makes governance and resource distribution more difficult.

During a focus group discussion with youth IDPs (Debre Berhan, March 26, 2024), participants expressed concerns about their current lack of assets, job opportunities, and training programs. As youth are crucial in shaping the trajectory of their future lives, they emphasized the urgent need for skill-development initiatives and employment opportunities. The organization called for UNHCR, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to take an active role in facilitating job creation and income-generating activities to address these pressing challenges and help youth rebuild their livelihoods.

The living circumstances of Ethiopia's internally displaced persons (IDPs) expose a crisis marked by extreme adversity, susceptibility, and intricate socio psychological effects. Basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter remain critically inadequate, exposing IDPs to physical harm while eroding their dignity and self-worth. The transition from self-reliance to dependency on aid underscores the emotional toll of displacement, compounded by societal

tendencies toward dehumanization. These negative perceptions intensify the marginalization of IDPs and demand proactive public awareness campaigns from humanitarian organizations, though current efforts tend to prioritize immediate needs over long-term attitudinal shifts.

#### **4.3.2. UNHCR's Approach to Durable Solutions**

According to the field officer (Addis Ababa, April 10, 2024), the three main pillars of UNHCR's strategy for long-term solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia are resettlement programs, integration into host communities, and voluntary return. These strategies are all intended to meet the various requirements of IDPs. The promotion of safe return, which stresses conformity to international norms to guarantee the security and dignity of persons going home, is at the heart of this approach. However, as Teyiba (Debre Berhan, March 21, 2024), noted many IDPs express a strong preference for community integration over returning to potentially dangerous conditions. This is indicative of their desire for stability and acceptance in their current environments. This pattern shows that displaced people are increasingly realizing that social cohesiveness and stability can be more important than going back to their ancestral homes.

Nevertheless, the UNHCR's strategy exposes serious weaknesses in the systems of assistance that make returning IDPs even more vulnerable. The meager assistance given upon relocation, such as the insufficient 15 kg of corn given to returnees, highlights structural shortcomings in meeting urgent needs and speaks to more general problems with resource distribution and humanitarian assistance. Ato Moges (Debre Berhan, March 19, 2024), highlights the importance of communal reconciliation, pointing out that returning IDPs frequently encounter animosity from people who stayed because of previous violence. Building trust and facilitating effective reintegration require addressing complaints about damage and property destruction.

Malaliya's (Debre Berhan, March 20, 2024), reaction highlights discrepancy between UNHCR's policy and internally displaced person's (IDPs') real-life experiences, particularly with regard to unconditional returns in the face of hazardous circumstances. This strategy ignores the fact that safety and security determine whether or not IDPs are willing to return, highlighting the necessity for policies to change over time to take these concerns into account. In addition,

bureaucratic obstacles that demand return as a requirement for help exacerbate IDPs' hardships and establish a punitive system that disenfranchises disadvantaged groups. The viewpoints of Ahimed and Hawa argue for alternate options, like building new settlements in safer areas, while critically examining the viability of returning to areas characterized by violence and destruction. Beza and others have reported that returnees continue to experience threats, which emphasizes how crucial safety is to any suggested remedies. Systemic inefficiencies in meeting IDP requirements are evident in Getiye's observations, especially the dearth of post-return support that deprives many IDPs of necessary resources. According to Ato Seid's (Debre Berhan, March 27, 2024), initiatives that put safety and stability ahead of forceful return policies are necessary in light of the risks associated with returning to conflict-affected areas.

The focus group discussion with camp coordinators at the China camp (Debre Berhan, March 26, 2024), highlights critical issues undermining the effectiveness of government-led return initiatives for IDPs. The exclusion of humanitarian organizations in the planning and execution phases has significantly hindered the success of these efforts, as such organizations play a pivotal role in providing expertise, resources, and support for sustainable solutions. Additionally, the use of coercive tactics by the government, including threats to withhold aid and seize land, has exacerbated the already precarious situation of IDPs. Such measures not only compromise the trust between the displaced population and the authorities but also violate the principles of voluntary return as outlined in international humanitarian standards. These findings emphasize the need for collaborative approaches, involving both governmental and non-governmental actors, to ensure the success of return and resettlement initiatives while safeguarding the rights and dignity of the displaced.

Anteneh's criticism of rehabilitation initiatives identifies serious governance issues and describes the repatriation process as being badly run. Involving humanitarian organizations could improve treatments' efficacy and guarantee that they adhere to international norms. Last but not least, Malaliya's story brings up moral questions about how IDPs are treated, especially in light of coercive tactics that go against the idea of voluntary return and infringe upon fundamental human rights. A systemic failure to safeguard and support vulnerable populations is demonstrated by inadequate support and unsafe living conditions for returnees, which calls for immediate attention and resources to address ongoing humanitarian needs.

A one-size-fits-all strategy is insufficient, as Mohammed's views further highlight the pressing need for sustainable pathways. He supports a variety of settlement choices, such as moving back to one's former residence, starting a new settlement, or assimilating into the community. Ibrahim calls for legislative and security reforms to address the underlying causes of displacement and advance justice and stability for internally displaced person (IDPs), highlighting the complexity of the displacement situation with his emphasis on a complete strategy. In order to mend the damaged connections between IDPs and host communities, he also emphasizes the significance of post-return reconciliation, stressing that successful reintegration necessitates not just physical return but also emotional and social rehabilitation.

During the focus group discussion held with returnees and backed IDPs (Debre Berhan, March 24, 2024), participants' highlighted significant challenges with the return program. They described the initiative as complex and ineffective, citing the unresolved security issues in their places of origin as a major concern. Additionally, the assistance provided to return IDPs was reported to be minimal, with no involvement from non-governmental organizations, including UNHCR, in the program. Instead of offering a sustainable solution, the return program has left IDPs more vulnerable, often creating conditions worse than those experienced in the camps.

Seid's reaction makes it abundantly evident that significant barriers to return still exist in spite of the methods put in place. The idea of a safe return for displaced people is complicated by the persistent threats posed by armed groups and the unrest in their places of origin. Tadesse's description of the unsuccessful attempts at forced returns, which had catastrophic results and damaged public confidence on the process, echoes this sentiment. Psychological impediments to safe reintegration arise when a history of violence and displacement is combined with mistrust of security personnel, especially when those guilty for previous abuses are involved in the return process.

The experiences of Shikur (Debre Berhan, March 19, 2024), and Anonymous1 further expose significant flaws in the return strategy, including the broken promises of support and temporary housing that eventually caused more displacement. Ato Shikur's story of returning to find homes and properties destroyed highlights a larger theme of loss and disillusionment by highlighting how the failure to restore living conditions makes the prospect of returning not only unappealing

but also dangerous. Even if the UNHCR's diverse strategy is extensive, it should address these important issues if it is to provide IDPs in Ethiopia with long-lasting solutions.

Despite being multi-layered, the UNHCR's strategy for long-term solutions for Ethiopia's internally displaced persons (IDPs) confronts significant obstacles in terms of implementation and conformity to the realities of IDPs. The plan aims to fulfill a variety of requirements by placing a strong emphasis on resettlement, integration into host communities, and voluntary return. There is a gap between policy and actual experiences, nevertheless, as seen by the overwhelming preference of many IDPs for local integration over going back to dangerous areas. This choice emphasizes the value of acceptance and stability in host communities over repatriation to hostile or unstable situations. Vulnerabilities are made worse by systematic flaws in resource distribution and post-return assistance, such as small aid packages and unresolved communal concerns. In addition to threats from unsolved conflicts in their places of origin, returnees frequently encounter animosity from those who stayed. These problems, which include inadequate post-return aid and ineffective reconciliation methods, are a reflection of governance and operational inefficiency.

Furthermore, some return programs' coercive elements compromise the voluntariness principle, which raises moral questions. Vulnerable individuals are further marginalized by bureaucratic requirements that require help to be returned. The necessity for adaptability and safety-focused tactics is highlighted by calls for alternate options, such as the establishment of new settlements in safer locations or improved integration into host communities.

#### **4.4. Factors Impacting the Effectiveness and Sustainability of Humanitarian Support for IDPs in Ethiopia**

Ethiopia's humanitarian support for internally displaced people (IDPs) is influenced by a number of both positive and negative aspects.

##### **4.4.1. Positive Factors**

The involvement of numerous domestic and international humanitarian organizations dedicated to providing basic requirements is one of the positive elements supporting humanitarian

assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Furthermore, the creation of distinct clusters makes it possible to oversee and coordinate a range of initiatives designed to satisfy the various requirements of displaced communities. Organizations can focus on particular issues like food, shelter, and health by forming these clusters.

#### **4.4.2. Negative Factors**

According to several respondents, a number of detrimental factors seriously impair the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. One major issue is the politicization of displacement, which can obscure the crucial emphasis on meeting human needs by entangling humanitarian interventions in political objectives. According to the respondents, this misalignment may result in initiatives that put political objectives ahead of the actual wellbeing of displaced people.

Infrastructure and land-related issues make humanitarian efforts even more difficult. A lack of government commitment is frequently reflected in the inadequate land allocation for IDP camps, which leads to short-term and inappropriate living circumstances that prolong instability. Funding limitations are another crucial concern; as multiple respondents pointed out, inadequate foreign assistance lowers the quality of aid. These difficulties are made worse by problems with coordination amongst humanitarian organizations, which result in resources being misallocated and solutions that are disjointed and ineffective in meeting the needs of internally displaced people.

Another urgent issue is the dearth of practical methods for offering long-term solutions to IDPs. The UNHCR's participation in voluntary return initiatives was criticized by the respondents. They pointed out that UNHCR has mostly stopped actively working with the government on these projects, letting the government move on without making sure that the requirements are met or that international norms for voluntary return are followed. This strategy presents serious ethical issues, especially since official regulations seem to favor forced relocation over genuine voluntary return. Such actions do not sufficiently address the safety or needs of displaced people and run the danger of making their trauma worse. Furthermore, ignoring crucial elements like replacing dwellings and repairing damaged property shows a failure to understand and meet the

holistic requirements of IDPs, calling for a more thorough strategy in line with international norms. Stakeholder coordination issues also make it difficult to respond effectively. Resource constraints made it difficult for the UNHCR to work together efficiently, as the field officer and Anteneh (Debre Berhan, March 18, 2024), explained, resulting in disjointed solutions that fall short of displaced people's needs.

Anteneh went on to show how the difficulties experienced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been made worse by the refusal or cessation of humanitarian assistance by a number of international organizations. Even though UNHCR and a few other organizations still give some aid, it is frequently insufficient and delayed. The overall efficacy of humanitarian initiatives is compromised by this insufficiency. In order to meet the immediate needs of displaced populations and stop their situation from getting worse, prompt assistance is crucial. All things considered, these drawbacks pose significant obstacles that need to be removed in order to improve the effectiveness and long-term viability of humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia's internally displaced people.

#### **4.5. Discussion**

The thesis findings align comprehensively with the research questions, shedding light on the frameworks, nature, effectiveness, and challenges of humanitarian support for IDPs in Ethiopia.

The findings identify a multi-layered framework guiding humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia's IDPs. At its foundation are human rights principles and national, regional, and international legal norms, including the Kampala Convention, which addresses Africa-specific displacement challenges. UNHCR employs the International Humanitarian Convention and established human rights legislation to structure its global response. These findings highlight UNHCR's adherence to international standards and its role in encouraging Ethiopia to align local legal systems with these norms.

The humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR incorporates both protection and basic necessity support, such as food, water, and medical care, while addressing the diverse causes of displacement (e.g., conflicts or natural disasters). UNHCR's collaboration with organizations like ICRC and IOM demonstrates a coordinated sectoral approach. However, the findings also

reveal gaps, such as inconsistent aid and insufficient coverage for certain vulnerable groups. Additionally, the findings reflect UNHCR's efforts to promote inclusivity in defining IDPs and its prioritization of vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women and orphans, though assistance for other groups often remains inadequate.

The thesis highlights significant shortcomings in the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian programs. While the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) provides a structured multi-agency approach, limited stakeholder involvement undermines its impact. Stakeholder coordination through mechanisms like the CCCM cluster is critical, but implementation gaps persist, leading to fragmented responses. Return programs for IDPs are particularly ineffective, as they fail to address critical issues such as security in areas of origin, inadequate aid, and governance challenges. The inadequacies of these programs often result in conditions that are worse than those in camps, illustrating a lack of durable solutions.

The findings highlight several critical challenges to the long-term impact of humanitarian programs for IDPs. These include the politicization of displacement; resource constraints stemming from financial limitations and reduced international support; and coordination gaps caused by fragmented frameworks and insufficient stakeholder collaboration, which diminish program effectiveness. Additionally, weak infrastructure and poor camp management exacerbate the difficulties faced by IDPs, while the lack of security in return areas undermines the viability of repatriation and resettlement efforts. Despite these obstacles, the involvement of local networks and grassroots contributions offers a positive dimension, providing immediate relief during crises and demonstrating the value of community-based support in addressing urgent needs.

The humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia's internally displaced persons (IDPs) is largely shaped by a multi-layered framework grounded in human rights principles and aligned with national, regional, and international legal norms. This framework, guided by conventions such as the International Humanitarian Convention and the Kampala Convention, underscores the importance of safeguarding IDPs' human rights at both local and international levels. Ethiopia's ratification of the Kampala Convention highlights its commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by IDPs in the African context, ensuring that local legal systems are

progressively aligned with international human rights standards. This aligns with findings by previous scholars, such as Weiss (1999), who noted the lack of a specific legal framework for IDPs, but recognized regional frameworks like the Kampala Convention as a crucial step forward.

In this context, the emphasis on international and regional norms in Ethiopia's humanitarian policies confirms the importance of legal frameworks in mitigating the vulnerability of IDPs. However, the study also reflects limitations in the practical application of these norms, particularly with regard to consistent enforcement and local compliance, as noted by researchers like Nwalieli (2018), who emphasized the need for coordinated efforts in addressing social perceptions and ensuring the safety of IDPs during repatriation.

The core objectives of UNHCR's humanitarian initiatives, as reflected in the study, are the protection of IDPs' human rights, maintenance of their standard of living, and provision of long-term solutions to displacement. These operational goals mirror global humanitarian principles that focus on both immediate relief and long-term recovery (Cazabat, 2020). However, significant shortcomings are evident in policy implementation due to a lack of unified frameworks and stakeholder engagement. The absence of comprehensive collaboration between humanitarian agencies hinders the effectiveness of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which aims to address the diverse needs of IDPs.

The lack of engagement from essential stakeholders not only reduces the effectiveness of the HRP but also creates gaps in the systematic management of displacement crises. Literature such as that of Krakhmalova (2019) highlights the critical role of government coordination and comprehensive frameworks in achieving sustainable outcomes, underscoring the need for more structured and inclusive policies in Ethiopia's response to internal displacement.

The UNHCR's comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of IDPs, which spans food, water, shelter, healthcare, and protection services, aims to cover both immediate and long-term needs. The multi-agency collaboration, involving bodies like ICRC, IOM, and UNHCR, is a model for responding to the complex causes of displacement. However, the study reveals that,

despite the theoretical benefits of this multi-agency approach, the overall coordination of humanitarian aid has been compromised by diminishing support from various groups over time.

This finding resonates with Cazabat's (2020) research on the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts in regions like Ethiopia, where internal displacement leads to poor living conditions for IDPs. The decreasing level of aid in camps and the withdrawal of certain organizations mirror the challenges faced in other displacement settings, where prolonged crises lead to a decrease in both resources and commitment from international actors. The importance of sustained engagement from all humanitarian agencies, as emphasized by Nwalieli (2018), is critical to ensuring that interventions address the ongoing needs of IDPs, particularly in the face of funding shortages and political dynamics.

The study highlights the gaps in return programs for IDPs, especially in the context of resettlement, community integration, and voluntary return. Many IDPs express a preference for community integration over returning to hazardous conditions, reflecting the importance of stability and acceptance in their current locations. The inadequate support provided to returnees, such as insufficient food rations and lack of housing reconstruction, exposes structural issues within the humanitarian response framework. This finding aligns with previous studies, such as those by Erlichman (2003) and Getu & Assefa (2015), who identified serious risks and challenges associated with resettlement and return processes, particularly in regions marked by violence and instability.

Furthermore, the study underscores the difficulties of community reintegration, where returnees often face hostility from residents who remained behind, exacerbating the challenges of mutual trust and reconciliation. The need for reconciliation, both social and emotional, is an essential aspect of successful reintegration, as highlighted by researchers like Bereket and Kiya (2023). In addition, the research emphasizes the importance of creating alternative solutions, such as new settlements in safer areas, reflecting findings by Yeshaneh (2020) and Muhumed et al. (2021), who stress the need for adaptive solutions that consider the local context and ensure the safety and dignity of IDPs.

Governance issues, political interference, and financial limitations have been identified as major obstacles to the effectiveness of the humanitarian response for IDPs in Ethiopia. The politicization of displacement, which prioritizes political goals over the welfare of IDPs, along with challenges in land distribution, infrastructure, and resource allocation, are all significant factors undermining the sustainability of humanitarian aid. This is consistent with findings from Deme & Kabre (2023), who pointed out the inadequacies of humanitarian relief and the necessity for empowering IDPs through income-generating activities.

Moreover, the financial constraints and lack of international assistance exacerbate the challenges faced by IDPs, mirroring studies like those by Fufa (2020), which identified a stark contrast between the living conditions of displaced and non-displaced communities, particularly in terms of access to basic services and socioeconomic opportunities. These factors contribute to the sense of deprivation and marginalization among IDPs, which undermines the effectiveness of the humanitarian response.

In general, the findings of this thesis confirm several aspects of previous literature while also highlighting gaps and challenges in the implementation of humanitarian responses for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia. The emphasis on human rights frameworks and the multi-sector approach to humanitarian aid aligns with international best practices but also reveals persistent issues in coordination, stakeholder engagement, and the long-term sustainability of responses. The challenges related to return, resettlement, and integration, along with governance and financial constraints; underline the need for more comprehensive, collaborative, and adaptive solutions to the complex issues faced by IDPs.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5. SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1. Summary of Main findings**

The humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia's internally displaced people (IDPs) is guided by a multi-layered framework. Human rights concepts and national, regional, and international legal norms serve as the foundation for this framework. The International Humanitarian Convention and well-established human rights legislation serve as the cornerstones of the humanitarian response on a global scale. Ethiopia has ratified the Kampala Convention, which emphasizes the significance of regionally specific agreements that tackle the particular difficulties faced by displaced people in Africa. Human rights safeguards are strengthened at the national level by Ethiopia's laws and constitutional provisions, which show a determined attempt to bring local legal systems into compliance with regional and international norms.

The three primary goals guiding these humanitarian initiatives are the protection of displaced people's human rights, support for maintaining their standard of living, and the provision of long-term solutions to their displacement. An approach to meeting the complex requirements of Ethiopia's internally displaced people is reflected in these operational objectives. Furthermore, serious flaws in the implementation of policies designed to assist IDPs have been identified, primarily due to the absence of unified and cooperative frameworks. The implementation of policies for addressing the needs of IDPs is hindered by insufficient engagement of key stakeholders, stemming from reluctance to adopt a fully collaborative approach. This lack of cooperation undermines the potential effectiveness of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), a critical framework designed to meet the humanitarian needs of displaced populations. Although the HRP employs a multi-agency approach involving NGOs, international organizations, and UN agencies, the limited involvement of pivotal actors reduces the response's overall impact. Moreover, while the Country Humanitarian Response Plan aims to provide a systematic approach to managing displacement, it often lacks coherence in addressing the complexities of internal displacement scenarios.

The strategies adopted may not guarantee a thorough and consistent response to IDPs without strong stakeholder engagement and alignment. This is where the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster plays a critical role. Ultimately the gaps in stakeholder participation and coordination create doubts about the actual efficacy of the humanitarian response for IDPs in Ethiopia, even as these concerted efforts seek to bring internal regulations into compliance with international standards.

In order to cover both protection needs and basic necessities, the UNHCR's humanitarian response for internally displaced people is comprehensive and attempts to integrate several sectors. This strategy entails offering a variety of assistance, such as food, water, and medical care, to guarantee the welfare of displaced people. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) concentrates on displacement related to conflicts, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is mandated to handle displacement brought on by natural disasters, and UNHCR plays a dual role in this context by spearheading both protection and camp management efforts. This allocation of duties primarily demonstrates a wider understanding of the numerous causes of displacement, which calls for customized responses from different institutions. The standards set by UNHCR for identifying internally displaced people (IDPs) encourage inclusivity, making it possible for any person who has been displaced due to natural or man-made causes to receive assistance and promoting a fair humanitarian response. Although the focus on vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, the elderly, and orphans, shows a good understanding of need, the sheer volume of IDPs may result in gaps in assistance for other categories.

To meet the immediate needs of the IDPs, a number of humanitarian organizations are involved, including UNHCR, DICAC, DEC, ALIGHT, and Plan International. These groups concentrate on important issues including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, educational support, shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), allowing for focused interventions that successfully address the multifaceted difficulties faced by IDPs. In addition, the local community's contribution of grassroots aid, including food and clothing, in the early phases of a disaster highlights the value of local networks in meeting immediate needs and assisting official humanitarian groups' later involvement. But humanitarian aid for IDPs in the camps has drastically decreased over time, with several groups stopping their aid completely. The Camp

Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster is involved in overseeing the overall humanitarian response for internally displaced people. Biweekly cluster conversations are facilitated by CCCM (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) in order to improve collaboration amongst humanitarian actors and provide aid to internally displaced people (IDPs). Prior to cluster creation, these discussions place a strong emphasis on reaching a consensus and being situationally aware, especially through interaction with the resident coordinator and UNOCHA's national head. Using organized reporting formats to methodically identify problems and fill up response gaps, service monitoring plays a part in managing humanitarian help for internally displaced persons.

A number of interconnected issues seriously impair the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia's internally displaced persons (IDPs). Many internally displaced people suffer from extreme challenges, such as insufficient food, clothing, and shelter, which seriously jeopardizes their physical well-being and sense of dignity. Some individual views toward internally displaced persons (IDPs) reveal a troubling tendency of dehumanization. Humanitarian agencies such as UNHCR prioritize immediate needs over addressing these underlying immediate needs, despite the fact that addressing these negative perceptions is crucial.

Pathways like resettlement, community integration, and voluntary return are all part of the UNHCR's strategy for long-term solutions. Nonetheless, there are clear and substantial inadequacies in the support systems for returning IDPs. The need for stability and acceptance is reflected in the fact that many IDPs state that they would rather integrate into the community than return to possibly hazardous circumstances. When attempts at return are made, the IDPs frequently get little assistance, such as inadequate food rations, without doing much to rebuild the houses and livelihoods that have been destroyed. This draws attention to structural shortcomings in meeting urgent demands. In addition to undermining the return procedure, this insufficient aid also draws attention to problems with resource distribution in humanitarian interventions. In addition, the difficulty of reunifying the community is still very important since returning IDPs frequently encounter animosity from those who remained, who have unresolved issues regarding previous acts of violence and property damage. Mutual trust and successful reintegration can be depending on effective reconciliation.

The discrepancy between UNHCR's policies and the real circumstances encountered by IDPs, such as the prevalence of forced or hazardous returns, is one of the major gaps that this study found. Since IDPs see security as a prerequisite for returning, the expectation of unconditional repatriation ignores their valid concerns. This disparity highlights the necessity of policies that take into account the reality of displacement and give priority to the safety and stability of returnees. This problem is made worse by persistent threats in some places, which emphasizes the necessity for alternate solutions like the establishment of new, safer resettlement. The thesis also emphasizes the difficulties with governance in the process of returns.

Ethiopia's humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) is influenced by both positive and negative aspects. Positive aspects include the involvement of both domestic and foreign aid agencies and the creation of specialized groups to oversee the administration of the aid. However, a number of detrimental elements seriously impair this support's efficacy and long-term viability. These include the politicization of displacement, which results in interventions that put political objectives ahead of the actual well-being of internally displaced people; difficulties with land distribution and the lack of infrastructure for IDP camps; financial limitations and a lack of international assistance; problems with coordination among humanitarian organizations; a lack of practical methods for offering long-term solutions to IDPs; and the withdrawal or refusal of assistance from a number of international organizations, which exacerbates the difficulties faced by IDPs.

## **5.2. Conclusion**

This thesis examined the nature and effectiveness of UNHCR's support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, focusing on the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of its humanitarian programs. This examination of the humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia highlights the difficulties and complexities involved in meeting the needs of one of the most vulnerable groups in areas devastated by violence. The study's conclusions demonstrate that UNHCR uses a multi-layered strategy, directing humanitarian assistance for IDPs through national, regional, and international structures and regulations. These frameworks aim to protect the human rights of displaced individuals, support their livelihoods, and provide sustainable solutions to their displacement. Unfortunately,

the lack of unified and cooperative implementation frameworks has resulted in serious flaws in the way these rules are being implemented. Implementation frequently disregards local realities, which results in problems like the forced and dangerous return of internally displaced people to their homes.

The humanitarian response for IDPs is multifaceted, with various organizations (UNHCR, DICAC, DEC, ALIGHT, Plan International and others) involved in addressing immediate needs in areas like shelter, WASH, education, and GBV prevention. UNHCR plays a dual role in leading both protection and camp management efforts. Despite this, the humanitarian support for IDPs has diminished over time, with many organizations ceasing their assistance. The effectiveness of the assistance is further diminished by the fact that it is not timely and does not correspond to the size and requirements of the displaced population. The humanitarian support lacks a focus on changing the livelihoods of IDPs, with minimal capacity-building programs and job creation initiatives. This undermines the sustainability of the support. Key factors hindering the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support include the politicization of displacement, challenges related to land allocation and infrastructure, funding constraints, and insufficient international support. While UNHCR's framework for durable solutions includes voluntary return, integration, and resettlement, the study finds that UNHCR and other organizations rely heavily on immediate or short-term support, neglecting the need for permanent solutions to address the root causes of displacement.

As implied by the thesis's conclusion, the findings contribute to the discussion of humanitarian interventions by showing that local community involvement and a rights-based approach are necessary for effective support. This calls into question current models that put immediate aid ahead of long-term growth, suggesting that humanitarian philosophy needs more comprehensive frameworks. The findings highlight for practitioners the significance of implementing flexible approaches that address the ever-changing requirements of internally displaced people. In order to create more resilient communities and enhance overall humanitarian results, policymakers must give community integration top priority and create regulations that take into account the preferences and safety concerns of displaced people. In order to address the long-term welfare of displaced people, UNHCR should prioritize striking a balance between short-term relief

initiatives and long-term solutions like safe voluntary return, integration, and resettlement pathways.

Furthermore, the problems that have been identified, such as a lack of resources and administrative roadblocks, point to areas that require more research. Future studies should examine how these obstacles affect the efficacy of humanitarian efforts and look into creative ways to improve IDP service delivery. The findings of this thesis have wider ramifications for humanitarian interventions globally, given the rising rate of displacement brought on by conflict and climate change. They emphasize the need for international frameworks that give displaced people's autonomy and dignity top priority, making sure that aid is not just a band-aid solution but a step toward long-term fixes.

### 5.3. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this thesis, the following recommendations are proposed to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian support for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia:

- ❖ **Policies and Frameworks Employed by UNHCR for Assisting IDPs:** The study findings suggest that UNHCR's policies and frameworks at the international, regional, and national levels aim to protect the rights of IDPs and provide sustainable solutions. However, the lack of cohesive and collaborative implementation frameworks has hindered the effective execution of these policies. To address this, UNHCR should work closely with national governments and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive and integrated implementation strategies that bridge the gap between policy and practice. This would ensure that the policies are tailored to the local context and responsive to the dynamic needs of IDPs.
- ❖ **Nature of Humanitarian Support Provided by UNHCR to IDPs:** The study highlights the multifaceted nature of the humanitarian response, with various organizations involved in addressing the immediate needs of IDPs. While UNHCR plays a crucial role in leading protection and camp management efforts, the overall humanitarian support has diminished over time, and the assistance does not match the scale and needs of the

displaced population. To enhance the effectiveness of the humanitarian support, UNHCR should strengthen its collaborative partnerships with other humanitarian actors, government agencies, and local communities. This would enable a more coordinated and comprehensive response that addresses the immediate and long-term needs of IDPs, including livelihood support and capacity-building programs.

- ❖ **Effectiveness and Sustainability of Humanitarian Support Programs:** The study findings suggest that the humanitarian support programs often lack a focus on changing the livelihoods of IDPs, undermining the sustainability of the assistance. UNHCR should prioritize the implementation of its framework for durable solutions, including voluntary return, integration, and resettlement, to provide long-term and sustainable support for IDPs. This would involve addressing the root causes of displacement, fostering community integration, and empowering IDPs to become self-reliant and resilient.
- ❖ **Challenges to the Long-Term Impacts of Humanitarian Programs:** The study identifies several key factors that hinder the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian support, including the politicization of displacement, challenges related to land allocation and infrastructure, funding constraints, and insufficient international support. To overcome these challenges, UNHCR should advocate for increased and more flexible funding, strengthen its engagement with local authorities and communities, and work towards a more equitable and inclusive humanitarian response that addresses the underlying drivers of displacement.

UNHCR can improve the effectiveness and sustainability of its humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons by tackling these problems, which will ultimately help to provide long-lasting solutions and empower the displaced one.

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## **Appendixes**

### **Appendix A**

#### **Data collection tools**

##### **Introduction**

The following key informant interview questions and focus group discussion (FGD) prompts are designed to gather essential data for my graduation thesis, which investigates the effectiveness of UNHCR's support for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, particularly in the Debre Berhan area. The primary aim of these interviews and discussions is to gain insights into the experiences, challenges, and perceptions of IDPs regarding the humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners. Your participation is invaluable, as it will contribute significantly to a deeper understanding of the current situation faced by IDPs and inform potential improvements in humanitarian programming.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your willingness to participate in this research. Your consent and insights are greatly appreciated, and I assure you that all information shared will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for the purposes of this thesis. Thank you for your cooperation and valuable contribution to this important study.

#### **1. Key Informant Interview Questions**

##### **1.1. Key Informant Interviews for UNHCR staff**

1. Can you provide a brief summary of the policies and frameworks employed by UNHCR for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia?
2. What are the specific objectives and goals of the policies and frameworks implemented by UNHCR for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia?
3. Can you please explain the process of stakeholder consultations and the integration of international standards in developing the existing policies and frameworks for IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018?
4. What are the key challenges that have been encountered in implementing the existing policies and frameworks for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia since 2018?
5. Can you share any successful examples of how the existing policies and frameworks for IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018 have had a positive impact?

6. Could you please provide a brief overview of the humanitarian situation for internally displaced persons in Ethiopia and the role of UNHCR in supporting this population?
7. What types of humanitarian support have been provided by UNHCR to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia since 2018?
8. Could you please provide information on the scope and scale of the humanitarian support programs implemented by UNHCR for (IDPs) in Ethiopia?
9. What are the specific criteria or eligibility requirements that internally displaced persons (IDPs) must meet in order to access the humanitarian support provided by UNHCR in Ethiopia?
10. How has UNHCR in Ethiopia collaborated with other humanitarian actors, such as government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local community organizations, in delivering support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) since 2018?
11. What strategies are employed to ensure the sustainability of the humanitarian programs?
12. What monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place to assess the effectiveness and impact of the humanitarian support programs implemented by UNHCR for IDPs in Ethiopia?
13. What specific measures or initiatives does UNHCR undertake durable solutions for IDPs that facilitate the voluntary return, local integration, and resettlement?
14. How does UNHCR address the challenges and barriers to local integration, such as social cohesion, access to basic services, and livelihood opportunities?
15. How does UNHCR coordinate with governments and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate the resettlement of IDPs?
16. What types of support and assistance does UNHCR provide to IDPs before, during, and after the resettlement process?
17. What are the key factors that have contributed to the effectiveness of humanitarian support programs?
18. What are some of the challenges or barriers that have hindered the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs?

19. How do government policies influence the implementation and outcomes of the humanitarian support programs?
20. Are there any specific contextual factors or dynamics in Ethiopia that have influenced the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs?
21. What strategies or measures have been taken to address the challenges and barriers that have hindered the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs?

## **1.2. Key Informant Interviews questions for IDPs**

1. Can you please share your experience with the humanitarian support provided by UNHCR as an internally displaced person (IDP) in Ethiopia? How would you describe the nature of the assistance received?
2. What specific services or assistance (shelter, healthcare, education, livelihood support, and any other relevant areas of assistance) have been provided by UNHCR since 2018?
3. How would you assess the effectiveness and adequacy of the humanitarian support provided by UNHCR?
4. How did UNHCR identify you as an internally displaced person (IDP) eligible for humanitarian support? Can you describe the process or criteria used by UNHCR to identify and select IDPs for assistance?
5. In your opinion, what have been the strengths of the UNHCR humanitarian support programs for IDPs in Ethiopia? How have these programs addressed the specific needs and challenges faced by IDPs?
6. Could you first provide a brief overview of the situation and needs facing internally displaced populations in Ethiopia since 2018? In your experience, what have been the key humanitarian support programs implemented for IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018 to facilitate durable solutions?
7. Based on the programs you outlined previously, what are some of the intended outcomes and goals in terms of facilitating durable solutions for IDPs? How would you evaluate the overall effectiveness of these programs in achieving durable solutions for IDPs in the long term?
8. From your perspective working with support to IDPs in Ethiopia, what are some of the key challenges that programs have faced? Based on your insights and experience, what

recommendations would you make to enhance the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian support programs for IDPs in Ethiopia?

9. What factors do you believe have played a significant role in facilitating the effectiveness of the humanitarian support programs for IDPs?
10. From your perspective, what are the key challenges or barriers that have hindered the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs for IDPs?
11. Have there been any collaborations or partnerships between humanitarian actors, including UNHCR, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or local community organizations, that have positively impacted the effectiveness and sustainability of the programs? If so, in what ways?
12. How have the involvement and participation of local communities and IDPs themselves influenced the effectiveness and sustainability of the programs?
13. In your opinion, what measures or strategies can be implemented to overcome the challenges and enhance the long-term sustainability of the humanitarian support programs for IDPs?

### **1.3. Common Key Informant Interview questions for UNHCR staff and IDPs**

1. Based on your overview and analysis of existing support programs, what would you say are some of the main strengths as well as challenges or limitations that have been identified? What recommendations can be provided to enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and long-term outcomes of humanitarian support programs?
2. From the research, it seems programs have tried various strategies over time. Can you outline some examples of innovations that have been tried so far to tackle key issues? What innovative approaches have been implemented in humanitarian support programs to address challenges and improve outcomes? Are there any best practices or successful models from other contexts that can enhance program effectiveness and sustainability?
3. Coordination is clearly important given the many actors involved. In your analysis, what have been some of the coordination challenges observed? What suggestions or strategies can be implemented to improve coordination and collaboration among the various stakeholders involved in humanitarian support programs?

#### **1.4. General Key informant interview questions for IDPs camp coordinators**

1. From your perspective and experience, how effective and sustainable have the humanitarian support programs been in facilitating durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018?
2. In your view, what factors have enabled the long-term impacts of the humanitarian programs in facilitating durable solutions for IDPs? On the other hand, what challenges or barriers have posed obstacles to achieving sustainable outcomes?
3. How have these factors influenced the effectiveness and sustainability of the programs?
4. How would you assess the level of collaboration and coordination between UNHCR, government agencies, NGOs, and local community organizations in delivering humanitarian support to IDPs?
5. What recommendations would you provide to strengthen the support programs and better achieve durable solutions and sustainable integration of IDPs over time?

#### **1.5. General Key informant interview questions for local authorities**

1. As a local authority working with IDPs, what specific responsibilities and tasks do you undertake in facilitating the implementation of humanitarian support programs? How do you collaborate with other stakeholders, such as NGOs, community-based organizations, and UNHCR, to ensure effective coordination and delivery of services to IDPs?
2. In your view, what are the primary challenges and opportunities in coordinating with humanitarian organizations, including UNHCR, to ensure effective and cohesive support for IDPs? How could collaboration be strengthened to improve the implementation of agreed-upon guidelines and policies?
3. Given the need for sustainable solutions for IDPs, such as, return, community integration and safe resettlement, what role do local authorities play in supporting these efforts?

#### **1.6. General Key informant interview questions for IOM Staff**

1. Can you describe the nature and extent of collaboration between your NGO and UNHCR in delivering humanitarian support to IDPs?
2. How would you evaluate the effectiveness of the collaboration between your NGO and UNHCR in achieving shared objectives and delivering coordinated assistance to those in need?

3. Based on your experience, what are the key factors that contribute to successful collaboration between partner NGOs and UNHCR in delivering humanitarian support? Are there any recommendations you would make to improve this collaboration?
4. In your view, what role does community engagement and participation play in enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs? How has your NGO encouraged active participation from the IDP community?
5. Have there been any challenges or obstacles encountered in the collaboration between your NGO and UNHCR? If so, how were these challenges addressed and resolved? Are there any recommendations you would make to improve this collaboration?

## **2. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guidelines**

### **2.1. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with IDPs**

1. Could you first share a bit about your situation and experience as IDPs in Ethiopia since 2018? In your experience as IDPs, how have the humanitarian support programs since 2018 contributed to addressing your immediate needs and facilitating durable solutions for you and your community?
2. From your direct involvement and observations, what were some of the intended goals and outcomes of the support programs in terms of meeting needs and facilitating solutions in the short and long term? In your opinion, what aspects of the humanitarian support programs have been most effective in promoting durable solutions for IDPs? Can you provide specific examples or success stories?
3. What factors do you believe have facilitated the effectiveness and sustainability of the humanitarian support programs provided to IDPs in Ethiopia?
4. In your experience as IDPs, what are the key challenges or barriers you have encountered in accessing and benefiting from humanitarian support programs?
5. What are some external factors, such as political, social, or economic conditions, that have influenced the implementation and outcomes of humanitarian support programs?
6. What is the role of local communities and IDPs themselves in facilitating or hindering the effectiveness of humanitarian support programs?

7. What specific aspects of the humanitarian support programs have worked well for you and contributed to positive outcomes?

## **2.2. Common Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guidelines for IDPs and camp coordinators**

1. How do you perceive the coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders involved in providing assistance to IDPs? Are there any areas for improvement?
2. What suggestions do you have to enhance the effectiveness of the humanitarian support programs in meeting the diverse needs and priorities of IDPs?
3. In your opinion, what aspects of the humanitarian support programs have been most effective in promoting durable solutions for IDPs? Can you provide specific examples or success stories?
4. From your perspective, what measures can be taken to ensure the long-term sustainability of the support provided to IDPs beyond the immediate relief phase?
5. What role do you think local communities should play in supporting the sustainability and long-term outcomes of the humanitarian support programs?

## **Appendix B**

### **A. List of key informants**

1. Anonymous, The UNHCR field Associate officer,
2. The IOM camp coordinator
3. Mr. Dereje Yingesu, North Shewa zone disaster prevention and food security early warning and response team leader
4. Mr. Anteneh Gebreegziabher, Demographer and displaced persons coordinator at the mayor's office in Debre Berhan City Administration.
5. Mr. Getiye Debre, Chief of China camp coordinators
6. Mr. Seid Tegegn, Chief of Woynishet camp coordinators
7. Mr. Ahimed, IDP at Woynishet camp
8. Mr. Anonymous1, IDP at China camp
9. Mrs. Anonymous2, IDP at China camp
10. Mrs. Atsedu Kebede, IDPs at China camp
11. Mrs. Beza Alemu, IDP at China camp
12. Mrs. Debre Deneke, IDP at China camp
13. Mrs. Fate Seid, IDP at Woynishet camp

14. Mrs. Hawa Arega, IDP at China camp
15. Mr. Hussien Asnake, IDP at China camp
16. Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed, IDP at China camp
17. Mrs. Lubaba Belay, IDPs at China camp
18. Mrs. Malaliya, IDP at China camp
19. Mr. Mamo Woldesemayat, IDPs at China camp
20. Mr. Mohammed, IDP at China camp
21. Mr. Moges Gesese, IDP at China camp
22. Mr. Moges Zenebe, IDP at China camp
23. Mr. Shikur, IDPs at China camp
24. Mr. Tadesse Derseh, IDP at China camp
25. Mrs. Teyiba Ali, IDP at China camp
26. Mrs. Werkiye Tegegne, IDP at Woynishet camp

B. List of FGD participants, all are IDPs from china camp

1. Mr Niguse Derbe
2. Mr. Gebre Zenebe
3. Mr. Eshetu Wubetu
4. Mr. Mohammed Mustefa
5. Mr. Jemal Hassen
6. Mr. Dawud Zerihun
7. Mr. Solomon Adinew
8. Mr. Mekonin Hassen
9. Mr. Mohammed Adem
10. Mr. Ali Yimam
11. Mrs. Buze Demasu
12. Mrs. Hawa Mohammed
13. Mrs. Wagaye Desalegn
14. Ms. Zeyineba Selman
15. Mrs. Zeyineba Adisu
16. Mr. Siraj Abidela
17. Mr. Mohammed Seid

18. Mr. Mohammed Adem
19. Mr. Seid Tegenu
20. Mr. Tamrat Sisay
21. Mr. Abebaw Krbede
22. Mr. Bayu Zewdu
23. Mr. Seid Kassa
24. Mr. Abebe Beta
25. Mr. Arega Alemu
26. Mr. Ali Tesema
27. Mr. Dejene Lakew
28. Mr. Mulatu Demise
29. Mr. Yirga Zegeye