



**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES**

**MINING DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY IN ETHIOPIA: CASE STUDY  
ON MIDROC LEGE DEMBI GOLD MINE, IN ODO SHAKISO WOREDA OF OROMIA  
REGIONAL STATE**

**BY**  
**GETANEH WUDENEH**

**NOVEMBER, 2019**  
**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES INSTITUTE  
FOR PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES OF ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY IN  
PARTIAL FILFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS IN PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES**

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**NOVEMBER, 2019**

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**APPROVED BY BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

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## **Acknowledgments**

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Almighty God. Then, I would like to take this golden opportunity to express my heart full gratitude to everybody who has been put there support directly or indirectly for the successful accomplishment of this thesis from its inception till its completion. My special appreciation and great full thanks goes to my supervisor Fana Gebresenebet (Ph. D.) for his intellectual and scholarly reviews of the thesis, usual encouragement and unreserved effort in assisting me throughout writing this thesis.

I would like to express my Special appreciation and thanks to my informants from MoMPNG, Oromia Mine Water and Energy Bureau, Guji zone administration, MIDROC gold mine, the Odo Shakiso Woreda Administration and more importantly the Odo Shakiso community as a whole for their patience and excellent collaboration during the field work and data collection. I also indebted to thank the CFEE for their field grant that support field work of the study.

My special thanks also goes to my mother and the whole family members of Teshale Gelana to whom this thesis is dedicated for their continuous and unreserved love and care. I would like also to appreciate the academic staff of IPSS. Finally, am indebted to thank all class mates and close friends, particularly Belay Regasa, Wasyehun Asmare, Hussien Kedeiro, Alazar Melkamu, Tedla Nigatu and Adisu Zeleke for their unreserved encouragement and support.

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## **List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| AMV     | African Mining Vision  |
| ASSM    | Artisanal and Small Scale Mining                                       |
| ATSDR   | Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry                       |
| CDP     | Community Development Plan   |
| CHS     | Commission on Human Security   |
| CSA     | Central Statistics Agency  |
| CSR     | Corporate Social Responsibility  |
| ECDD    | Environmental and Community Development Directorate                    |
| EEITI   | Ethiopian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative                |
| EIA     | Environmental Impact Assessment  |
| EMP     | Environmental Management Plan  |
| ESIA    | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment                             |
| FGD     | Focus Group Discussion   |
| GDP     | Gross Domestic Product   |
| ICMM    | International Council of Mines and Metals                              |
| IGFMMSD | Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Metals and Sustainable Development  |
| MIDROC  | Mohammed International Development Research and Organization Companies |
| MLAD    | Minerals Licensing and Administration Directorate                      |
| MoMPNG  | Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas                           |
| SMA     | Strategic Mining Assessment  |
| UNDP    | United Nations Development Program                                     |
| UNEP    | United Nations Environment Program                                     |

## **Abstract**

*Mining industry has the potential to significantly contribute to Ethiopia's economic development. However, such projects are also recognized as one of the most pressing areas of human security threats. The study examines the human security implications of mining development projects in Ethiopia, by taking the case of MIDROC gold mine in Odo Shakiso Woreda of Oromia Regional State. It also investigates the regulatory frameworks and the dynamics of MIDROC gold mine - Odo Shakiso community conflict. To this end, the study employed a qualitative research approach. The data was collected through interviews, document review, personal observation, and FGDs and analyzed thematically. Purposive sampling technique was employed to select informants from the community, officials from the company and the government and subject area experts based on their experience, expertise, and resourcefulness. Snowball sampling technique was also employed to select informants from the victims. The researcher faced with fear and suspicion of informants to provide the relevant information during the data collection, but managed by ensuring confidentiality and anonymity of information and identity of informants. The findings of the study confirm the human security threats of MIDROC gold mine on the health, environment and economic status of the Odo Shakiso community. The mineral extraction /mining method, chemicals and wastes and the expansion projects of the mine cited as the potential source of threats. The findings also confirmed the inadequate threat mitigation strategies of MIDROC and the regulatory organs inability to oversee inspect and regulate the daily operations of the mine. It is, therefore, the sum total of the mine's human security threat, little regulatory oversight by regional and federal governments, and lack of local development contribution that aggravated local's grievance over the mine. This grievance escalated to widespread anti-mine opposition which resulted in project suspension and several human and material lost. The finding also disclosed the country's failure to mutually reinforce human security and development on its mining development projects and affirmed the inextricable nature of peace, development and human security. Finally, the finding suggested victim's compensation, environmental reclamation, the establishment of viable institution and sound policy framework, the reengineering of CDPs, the implementation of participatory, transparent and accountable system for stakeholders engagement and responsible mining.*

*Keywords: Human Security, Mining Development, MIDROC Gold Mine, Odo Shakiso Woreda*

# Chapter One

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In his 2005 report, Koffi Annan, the ex-Secretary General of the UN underscored the inextricable link and mutual reinforcement of Human Rights and Development. He stressed that “We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights”. We can deduce from this statement that development is not only the means to fulfill human needs but also the end result of development must be projected towards improving the wellbeing of the society or as Amartya Sen (1999) stated ensure freedoms. Thus, development is both a means and an end.

The traditional conceptions of differentiating development and human security was changed to mutually interdependent concepts when the UN General Assembly in its Development Decade Report warned that human security must be the objective of development by stating that ensuring human security must be the fundamental ingredient of development process (UNHRs, 2013). Literatures argue that lack of respect for human security in the development process has negative impacts on achieving sustainable development, in which a guiding relationship between development and human security is formulated (Howe and Sims, 2011; Perry, 201; Sam, 2002, 2008; Sen, 1999).

Most countries of the world invite internal and external investments to attain the development needs of their people and government. Most of these investments particularly in developing countries carried out on natural resources, especially in mining which includes gold, diamond, oil, and other minerals. According to the UN Environmental Program (2006), mining has played a key role in driving the economic development of many countries in the world. Especially, for a region rich in minerals, mining sector investment is assumed to have the potential to support sustainable development and fulfill economic and social rights. In this regard, the mining industry is the major source of income and economic growth supporting sustainable socioeconomic development.

Irrespective of its economic gains, mining is the main sources of environmental insecurity, which are perceived as the twenty-first-century problem of the world. Study shows that the mining projects can have an adverse social, economic and environmental impact which includes food insecurity, land use conflicts, displacement, natural resources depletion, dispossession, health, loss of livelihoods and disruption of cultural practices that could have crucial implications on human security of the host community (Breton and Forbes, 2004).

Africa endowed with 30% of the world's mineral resources and with only 5 % global mineral exploitation the continent extracts more than 60 world's most important mineral and metal products (Miller, 1992). Mining helped the continent a lot in poverty reduction, creating job opportunities and foreign currency earnings. Studies show that due to its abundant natural resource/mineral wealth Africa became a major destination of foreign direct investment; For example, the Chinese investment in African mining quadrupled from 2000 to 2009, from US\$25.7 billion to US\$103.4 billion per year (Zhang, 2011).

On the other hand, rather than improving the wellbeing of the society or being to be a blessing, natural resources due to governance failure worsened the misery of African people or deemed to be more of a 'curse' (Iimi, 2006; Omeje, 2016; Pollman, 2015). A study made by World Bank (2017) states that many African extractive mining industries boost their economic gains at the expense of environmental degradation and displacement of people that are accompanied by socio-cultural instabilities. Thus, in order to reconcile the paradox of Africa's mineral (and indeed, natural resource) wealth, on the one hand, and the pervasive poverty of its people, on the other, and as a response to recommendations of policy options on human security threats of extractive industries, African Union adopted a continental vision called Africa Mining Vision (AMV) in 2009 with abroad goal which states:-

“A sustainable and well-governed mining sector that effectively garners and deploys resource rents and that is safe, healthy, gender inclusive, environmentally friendly, socially responsible and appreciated by surrounding communities” (AMV, 2009).

The 1990's Ethiopian government strategic plan of diversifying agriculture dominated economic base of the country in which large-scale agricultural and mining industries come at the front has abroad aim of generating foreign currency, employment opportunity, poverty reduction and improve the well-being of the people (Azeb, 2017). However, as these development projects are operated on an extensive area of land, and they inevitably affect the local peoples living around the projects/industries. In these areas even though the projects have larger development potential, there have been extensive human security threats which is reflected as dispossession and displacement of local people, loss of livelihoods, lack of consideration for social implications, natural resources depletion, corruption, lack of good governance and transparency (Azeb, 2017; Riddell, 2013; Scoones, 2009). In a similar vein, industrial developments on mining are blamed for similar and even higher human security threats.

Mining is not a new tradition in Ethiopia. Study shows that Placer gold has been mined for more than 2000 years by Artisan Miners (World Bank, 2014). According to the study more than one million people are engaged in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) activities and of these miners who engaged in gold took the lion share. In Ethiopia, with underdeveloped large-scale mining investment, the sector contributes 1.1% of GDP and up to 10% of foreign exchange earnings. Recently the sector has an inner potential of creating a probable U.S.D 322 million in revenues and 4300 jobs and it has a probability of extending up to U.S.D 480 million, and around 8000 jobs respectively by the year 2024 (Ibid.). Similarly, the Ethiopian government planned for the sector to contribute 10% of the GDP by 2025. Hence, attainment of such vision/goal has heavily relied on development and expansion of large-scale extractive mining industries of which MIDROC gold mine and recently, KEFI minerals and Ezana mining come at the front. In these areas, the government facilitated a number of incentives to attract investments.

The MIDROC gold mine is one of the subsidiaries of MIDROC Ethiopia Technologies Group, which engaged in extracting gold in Lege Dembi, Oromia Regional State. The Company bought a state enterprise in 1997 which lasts for 20 years with US\$172 with 2 % government share and commenced production in 1998 (Yager, 2014). It's the only large-scale gold producer in the country that extracts 4.5 tons of gold annually. The mine contributed a lot in generating employment opportunity, foreign currency and government revenue as well as supporting several development activities in the country for the last 20 years (MIDROC, 2014).

As mentioned above, investment on the mining sector has considerable potential in improving the well-being of the people and at the same time, it can be a source of a human security threat if it is mismanaged. The Business and Human Rights in East Africa in its 2014 report state that mining companies displace communities and discharge chemicals that pollute the environment and the realities of MIDROC gold mine is not escaped from this fact. The Odo Shakiso communities, living surrounding the mine are complaining about adverse human security threats of the mine which includes environmental pollution, health problems (skin irritation, women's delivery complication, deformities (both on human and animals), child illness and death), lack of participation, displacement, loyalty sharing and compensation which associates with the issues of resource distribution and justice, and more importantly, entitlements (Assebe, 2016).

As a result, conflict of interest erupted between the company and the Odo Shakiso communities, as well as with the government. Then, problems gave birth to political chaos in the district and political instability that extended to the region-wide following the renewal of the project license for an additional ten years. Thus, the continuing opposition and absence of adherence to human security and environmental legislation by the company led to the suspension of the company's work (Otukana, 2018), even though the company does not accept the allegations. From the above message one can understand the interdependence and indivisible nature of peace, development and human security which literary referred to as the security development nexus.

Generally, as pioneer in the history of mineral industry in general and the development of mining in particular the Adola gold field/ Shakiso area had an experience of large concentration of mining companies. Therefore, local communities are assumed to experience the greatest effects of mining or human security threats which is the main theme of this study.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The heart of the human security paradigm is the security of people. Establishing human security, according to the UN commission of human security, requires overcoming economic, health, environmental, personal, community and political insecurities. The 2005 UNDP report clearly shows how human insecurity is a serious problem in Africa, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Moges (2014) in his assessment of human (in) security in Ethiopia presented that human insecurity is a serious threat of the state's development and security programs for decades.

Similarly, Belachew (2018) argues that human security is at the bottom of economic security as it was a guarantee to state security. According to Belachew's explanation even though the policies and strategies of the state including the constitution are human security oriented whereas their implementation is in favor of state security (Ibid.).

Development projects/investments are areas where human security and development issues converge. Anecdotal evidence in the press and elsewhere suggests that in Ethiopia the mining sector is an area where human security of the host community is seriously threatened.

The Strategic Mining Sector Assessment ('SMA') study conducted by the World Bank and other development partners revealed that Ethiopia doesn't have any mineral policy as of yet and the mining sector was governed and regulated by an aged and inconsistent proclamations and regulations with weak, fragmented and inefficient institutional systems (World Bank, 2014). Similarly, a study made by World Bank (2012) suggested the vulnerability of the mining sector for both grand and petty corruption.

In the same vein, even if Ethiopia enacted various legislation that obliged mining companies to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA), study shows that many of mining investments in the country don't conduct EIA. According to the study even though some companies conduct EIA, the social component of the EIA is not given the same emphasis as that of the environmental component (World Bank, 2016).

Study shows that The MIDROC gold mine utilizes chemicals including Sodium Cyanide and Mercury (one of the top ten chemicals of major public health concern by the WHO) for its operations which has strong potential of toxicity and the company removed more than 40 million tons of waste rocks and soils that could have both direct and indirect impacts on the mining surrounding community and the natural environment (Seyoume, 2006). According to the study, all the ground and surface water, the natural environment and sediments of the Lege Dembi area are polluted by the companies released heavy metals and toxic substances which become a cause for human being and animals' deformation, drinking water and air pollution and loss of biodiversity (Ibid.). Thus, contrary to the principle of sustainable development and African mining vision MIDROC gold mine is advanced at the expense of people's rights as Assebe (2016) stated it artisanal miners and local Guji Oromos.

Mines especially Gold has strong tie with the socio-economic and political life of the Odo Shakiso community in which MIDROC gold mine, the premium and the only large-scale mining investment in Ethiopia is found. Even though, adequate studies have not been undertaken, the existing literatures (Assebe, 2016; Otukana, 2018, and Seyoume, 2006) show the human right problems of Odo Shakiso community associated with MIDROC gold mine but there are no studies interlinked with the concept of human security. For the last 20 years as the only large-scale mineral industry, the implications MIDROC gold mine to the national development endeavor is widely explored, however, the human security threats of Odo Shakiso community by MIDROC gold mine remains untouched. Development activities which are against people right of a secured environment and human development are not legally sound.

Thus, by taking into consideration the above-mentioned problems, the study intend to show the cumulative impacts of MIDROC gold mine on the Odo Shakiso community from a human security perspective and the mitigation strategies consolidated by the government and the company to address the human security threats of the Odo Shakiso community. Additionally, the study also try to investigate the legal and institutional frameworks and implementation gaps, if any and bring concrete evidence regarding resource-based conflicts in Ethiopia by taking the Lege Dembi gold mine/Adola gold belt as appoint of reference.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective of the Study**

The study examines the human security aspects of mining development projects in Ethiopia by taking the case of MIDROC gold mine, in Odo Shakiso Woreda of Oromia Regional State.

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

1. To examine the MIDROC gold mine's implication on the human security of the Odo Shakiso community of Oromia regional state.
2. To assess the MIDROC gold mines and the government's response to alleviate the human security threats of the Odo Shakiso community.
3. To investigate the institutional and legal frameworks that governs human security in the mining sector in Ethiopia.

4. To investigate the dynamics of MIDROC gold mine - Odo Shakiso community conflict over the Lege Dembi gold mine.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

1. How does the operation of MIDROC gold mine pose threats on the human security of the Odo Shakiso woreda community of Oromia regional state?
2. What are the response strategies taken by MIDROC gold mine and the government to mitigate the human security threats of the Odo Shakiso woreda community by MIDROC?
3. What are the institutional and legal frameworks that govern human security in the mining sector in Ethiopia?
4. What are the dynamics of MIDROC gold mine - Odo Shakiso community conflict over the Lege Dembi gold mine?

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This research titled “Mining development and Human Security in Ethiopia: Case Study on MIDROC gold mine, in Odo Shakiso Woreda of Oromia Regional State” is significant as it analyzed the increasing concern about human security challenges of extractive industries. Thus, human security as a crosscutting issue, almost all sectors of government (Ministry of Mine, Oil, and Natural Gas, environmental protection authority, Ministry of health...), extractive industries including MIDROC gold mine, and more importantly the Odo Shakiso community are the immediate beneficiary of the research.

The study filled the existing knowledge gap on the issue at hand as it served as an additional contribution to the few works that have already been done on the Lege Dembi gold mine in particular and Ethiopia's mining sector in general. It also served as a useful input for those individuals interested to carry out an in-depth investigation on similar topic. Further, the study forwarded an important data to the government, mining industries and other concerned stakeholders in their policy-making about sustainable mining development.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study mainly focuses on the human security implications of mining development projects in Ethiopian context. Spatially, the study merely confined to the Odo Shakiso Woreda and specifically on the activities of the MIDROC gold mine, which engaged in the operation of gold extraction and exploration on the area for the last 20 years. The analysis' frame of reference is economic, environmental, health and political dimensions of human security, which included in the UNDP (1994). In terms of regulatory frameworks, the researcher examined the major domestic norms and regulatory institutions that have relevance to the topic.

## **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

The researcher faced some challenges in the course of conducting this research. First and foremost, the targeted individuals (officials from government and company) may not be voluntary for an interview and to supply necessary materials due to the sensitiveness and the politicization of the issue. Again, it was very difficult to freely opine experts from the company about the impacts of the mine on the human security of the host community and environment in general. Because, it might have a significant negative impact on their security and livelihood if they even try to give or reveal some important information. Hence, the researcher convinced them by guarantying that there is the ethical consideration of anonymity and confidentiality when presenting and analyzing the data in the paper. Further, the researcher conducted personal observations and interviewed some other resourceful informants that have knowhow and necessary information on the concerned issue to counter the prevailed challenges.

## **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This study organized into six chapters. The first chapter is all about the background and introduction of thematic areas of the study. The second chapter is about reviewing literature and concepts related to human security, development and mining. It also tries to relate mining development and human security and its link to conflict. The third Chapter presents the methodological aspect of the study and profile of the study area. The fourth chapter assesses the legal and institutional frameworks of the study. The fifth chapters present the major findings of the study by analyzing the data acquired through various set of instruments. The last chapter is all about conclusion which presents the summery of the finding and the researcher's suggestion.

## **Chapter Two**

### **2. Literature Review and Conceptual Framework**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter conceptualizes human security in detail and discusses issues related to the subject matter, such as development, (human) security-development nexus, the link between human security and mining development, corporate social responsibility in the mining sector and the link between mining and conflict.

#### **2.1 Understanding Development**

There is no universally agreed definition for the concept of development. The conceptualizations and understandings of development have been controversial and unstable over time. However, as stated by Sumner and Tribe (2008) there is an agreement on development should encompass change or transformation in a variety of aspects of human condition.

Traditionally development was conceptualized in terms like economic growth, industrialization and measured by different economic indexes such as growth domestic product (GDP), growth national product (GNP) and per capita income (PCI) (Sen, 1998). However, the 1940s or traditional conceptions of measuring development via economic growth and industrialization advanced by modernization theory shifted into focusing on economic, social and political modernization or structural transformation in the 1980s (Sumner and Tribe, 2008).

Currently, the concepts of human development and sustainable development joined the controversial development debate by new notations. The proponents argue that, development is not measured and defined by economic growth, industrialization and growth index rather by human development which refers expanding the choices available to people to live valuable lives and sustainable development which refers “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland, 1987:1). Though economic growth is quite important it is not only meant to expand the choices of the people, human potential should be increased in the development, quality of life and people’s well-being should be ensured if there is development (Sen, 1998).

Human development puts people at the center or/and heart of development analysis and argues people are the main drivers and beneficiaries of development. In these people centric development the aim of development is expanding or enlarging human freedom or choices that they value (UNDP, 2016). In a broader sense, the notion of human development integrates all aspects of individuals' well-being, from their health status to their economic (including access to scarce resources) and political freedom. In a similar vein, as Sen (1988) noted, human development is an indicator of people-centered development where all people including local people and marginalized groups are stakeholders and participant of development and at the same time the beneficiaries of development. And, participation, consultation, transparency, and accountability are the guiding principles of people-centered development (Ibid.).

Among the many and broad conceptualizations of development, this study takes development as a concept of expanding the choices and alternatives available for the people and measured by human development. And, I argue that people-centered development is development where people have got the chance to participate, get consulted, contribute and enjoy from the benefits of the 'development intervention' and where the principles of transparency and accountability had observed in the process of development projects.

### **2.1.1 Mining Development**

Mining Development projects and/or investments are among the many sources of development in which most countries throughout the world used to attain development and realize their peoples' social needs. According to report by Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, investment in mining is in an increasing trend and become the main source of FDI and mining is considered to be one basis of economic reconstruction and development (2010:19).

Mining has been understood as a set of activities aimed at the exploration, discovery and the extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth's crust in the service of man (Down and Stock, 1977). And Mining encompasses metals and minerals (bauxite, coal, diamonds, iron, precious metals, lead, limestone, nickel, phosphate, rock salt, tin, uranium...) extracted through open-pit and underground mining or/and large-scale operations as well as activities of artisans. As Yeboah (2008) noted, any material that cannot be grown from

agricultural processes are considered mining which includes extraction of petroleum and natural gas. History tells us mining has been the driving force/cornerstone on the foundation and development of human civilizations (from iron and bronze ages to the industrial revolution and to the today's information age) and British geologist Hallowell pioneer in modern mineral exploration in 1867 (Stephens and Ahern, 2001).

According to the UN Environmental Programme (2006), mining has played a key role in driving the economic development of many countries in the world. Especially, for a region rich in minerals, mining sector investment is assumed to have the potential to support sustainable development and fulfill economic and social rights by creating wealth and physical and social infrastructures. Studies show that Mining played a vital role in the development history many of the industrialized nations (USA, China, Canada, Australia, South Africa,...) and remains to be one of the dominant contributors towards the growth of many national economies till today (International Council on Mining and Metals, 2012). A report shows that in many developing and middle-income countries mining is considered as a backbone of income and economic growth in supporting socio-economic development and in significantly improving the lives of citizens (Ericsson and Lof, 2017).

Irrespective of its economic gains, mining is also recognized as the potential source of environmental contaminants, which are perceived as among the leading causes of concern in the twenty-first-century. Studies show that mining particularly large-scale extractive industries can have adverse social, economic and environmental impacts which include food security, land use conflicts, displacement, natural resources depletion, dispossession, health, loss of livelihoods; disruption of cultural linkages and practices, environmental amenities on mining surrounding communities (Breton and Forbes, 2004). Hence, this study concentrates the human security implications of large-scale extractive industries on host communities from economic, health and environmental angles by taking MIDROC Lege Dembi gold mine as a point of reference.

## **2.2 Understanding Human Security**

Security is first and foremost a contested term with several meanings and understandings. Most notably the definition of security is closely linked to the definition of insecurity and threats and also based on personal values, experiences, and anxieties. A security issue is thereby composed

of a threat, a threatened object and an observer which can but does not have to be identical with the threatened object (Schulze, 2012). However, one thing to be noted is that security is always relative and it is impossible to attain absolute security by controlling and eliminating all threat possibilities (Sam, 2008).

The concept of security has undergone a radical change after the end of the Cold War. Human security separates itself from the traditional, state-centric conceptualization of security to a matter of individual security. As a broad conception of security, human security expanded the focus of security from the state towards individual human beings and from solely be a matter of military concerns towards a broader interpretation of security which includes environmental issues, natural disasters, poverty, chronic diseases and resource scarcity that individual states cannot tackle in their own (Kerr, 2007; Liotta, 2002).

According to Anderson (2012), the birthplace of this new paradigm of security was the UNDP report on human development (1994). The report acknowledged the call for the conceptual shift towards the protection of people rather than states and promoted policies that not only empower individuals to benefit from economic growth and development but also protects them in times of insecurity and crisis. In similar vein, as Kofi Annan the ex-Secretary General of UN asserted, Human security should encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament, and respect for human rights instead of merely confined to military (OECD, 2007).

Human security is nested within the distinct strands of new thinking on security, which directed academic attention to a dual agenda of freedom from fear (protection of persons) and freedom from want (provision of human needs) (Anderson, 2012). However, there is a controversy among the proponents of the concept on the prioritization and focusing on issues. Countries like Canada and Norway are proponents of narrow approach of human security which prioritize freedom from fear and argue the protection of individuals from the complex of interrelated threats should be the appropriate focus of human security. On the other hand, the expansive approach sought to incorporate both fear and want, as it was evident in the 1994 UNDP report, human security had two main aspects . . . safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease, and repression (and) protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life (UNDP, 1994: 25).

The focus of expansive (the Japan's government, CHS and UNDP) on freedom from want in addition to freedom from fear is that 'freedom from want' is crucial for expanding the focus of the human security concept to counter "all the menaces that threaten the survival, daily life and dignity of human beings" (Tadjbakhsh, 2005: vii).

As indicated by Liotta and Taylor (2006) the components of human security are not equally emphasized in different approaches. For example, the UNDP give equal emphasis for all components (environmental, economic, personal, health, political, community and food) of human security, whereas, the Japans government model of human security prioritized environmental, economic, personal, health and food security and little concerned about the rest. When we come to the Canada government approach, personal security at the fore of all the components and had a little concern for political security and lastly, unlike the rest approach the focus of the commission for human security are merely confined to personal security.

However, as Sam (2008) noted, the genuine question for human security is not the prioritizations of insecurity sources as it was witnessed in the debate between narrow and expansive approaches, rather which core set of values should be protected. The argument is that the core values of human security are decisively rooted in the human-centered values of human development. Hence, for the sake of this study we will take the Commission on Human Security (CHS) conceptualization of human security as it focuses on the protection of personal (individual) and community security values from imminent danger.

According to the CHS, human security is protecting the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment as well as empowering people to provide and care for them. This means human security focuses on protecting fundamental freedoms or freedoms that had the essence of life like protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. Furthermore, it strives to create favorable environments that provide people the foundation for survival, dignity, and livelihood (2003). In similar vein, human security has its own core principles. As it was asserted in UNDP, human security should be people centric, multi-sectorial, comprehensive, context based and prevention oriented (1994).

In nutshell, human security is an integrated, sustainable, comprehensive security from fear, conflict, ignorance, poverty, social and cultural deprivation, and hunger. As it was noted in CHS (2003), it requires sustained attention to processes of development and brings together the 'human elements' of security, rights, and development.

### **2.3 The Human Security and Development Nexus**

Until the 1990s, the literature conceptualized human security and development as two separate sectors with different ideas and aims. Security concerns have always informed in conventional development thinking, policies and practices. For example, in the early post-World War II period guarantee to preserve states national security is building a strong economic power. According to Sam's (2008) explanation the attainment of national security strongly relied on development (economic growth) and it is assumed that conflict, instability, and insecurity are the immediate results of economic failure. However, this state-dominated development approach to security changed in the early 1990s when the UNDP's Mahbub ul Haq and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen lay foundations to a holistic human development approach to conceptualizing the security-development nexus by placing the well-being, welfare and safety of individuals and communities at the center of both development and security via 'human development' and 'human security' (ibid).

Human development is a process or a broad long-term perspective that seeks positive outcomes in human-centered values (health & well-being, livelihoods, dignity, survival, safety, knowledge, and so on) to improve the overall quality of life of individuals and groups. Human security by contrast, 'fruitfully supplements the broadest perspective of human development by directly paying attention to insecurities that threaten human survival or subject vulnerable people to dangers of sudden deprivation. By and large, as Sam (2008) in his effort to clarify the nexus suggested human development strives to achieve positive outcomes; whereas human security seeks to avoid negative outcomes.

Many (for example Howe and Sims, 2011; Sam, 2002, 2008; Sen, 1999; Thomas, 2001) argue the mutual reinforcement and natural interdependence of human security and development by stating that human security will not be achieved without development and the inverse too and noticed positive contributions of advancement of human security to development and vice-versa.

Similarly, UN considers development as a building block of human security (Ajdari and Asgharpour, 2011).

Development enhances the capacity of duty-bearer to realize rights and give opportunity or freedom for the right-holder. As Sen (1998) noted development practices enable to overcome multifaceted human problems. According to him, a range of obstacles that prevent people from freedom and bound them within limited choices and opportunities could only get rid of with ensuring development. It is because of this fact that Sen concluded: “both the primary end and the principal means of development is the expansion of freedom” (1998: 23). In addition to that, Howe and Sims (2011: 336) in their human security- development nexus explanation noticed the inextricable link as “...a secured environment frees individuals and governments to move from a focus on mere survival to a position where they can consider how to improve lives.” Where there is a high degree of human insecurity people concentrate their energies on basic survival, safety and protecting livelihoods, and have little or no opportunity to enhance their choices and capabilities and to engage in the kinds of activities that will improve their overall quality of life (Sen, 1999).

As Sam (2008) argued, human security and human development are distinct but complementary. According to his explanation human security affects and is affected by development processes and obstacles to development create human insecurities and therefore improvements in human development will enhance human security. Hence, this study advocates an integrated or human development approaches to human security in dealing with human security and development nexuses in the Ethiopian mining sector.

### **2.3.1 Deprivations –Vulnerability Approach to Human Security in Mining Development**

Sam (2008) and Terminski (2012) strongly assert on the potential of human security to address some of the world’s pressing security and development problems in a comprehensive manner due to the general and cross-sectional character of human security and its people (as an individual and group) centric analysis. In a similar vein, mining like any other economic activity, has a dominant impact on all categories of human security. Thus, it is interesting to apply the

deprivations –vulnerability approach to conceptualize the link between mining and human security.

According to Sam (2008), contextualizing deprivation-vulnerability approach to human security encompasses threats (harm causing contingency/sources of insecurity), vulnerabilities (exposure or sensitivity to threats) and deprivations (current state of adversity and dispossession or exclusions). According to Deprivation–vulnerability approach, achieving human security involves protecting peoples (as an individual and community) core set of values (dignity, safety/survival, health & well-being, and livelihood) from threats and reducing their vulnerabilities to physical and psychosocial harms. The birth of this (human) development-oriented approach to human security ‘deprivation–vulnerability’ approach stems from the assumption that communities throughout the world differ in their level of exposure to threats and their vulnerability to harms caused by contingencies (ibid). In addition to that, even though, communities are exposed to similar threats the effect will be greater for those who are more vulnerable to harm due to the various deprivations/exclusions.

As literatures argued, such as Terminski (2012) and Gamu, et al. (2015), the extractive sector especially the mining industry are an area where the human security of the host community is seriously threatened and the expansion and the advancement of such projects are mostly at the cost the dispossession of others. Studies show that mining doesn’t bring equal benefits to all, in most cases the beneficiaries to a larger extent are corporations and to a lesser degree the public authorities. But, the contribution of mining to the improvement of the local community’s livelihood and wellbeing is insignificant. Rather, mining exposes host communities to loss of land and economic bases, air and water pollution and contamination, deforestation and dispossessions and make them vulnerable to mining-induced human security threats like threats on core set of values (dignity, safety/survival, health & well-being and livelihood) which expressed in environmental, health, economic and community dimensions of UNDP 1994 (Terminski, 2012; Downing, 2002). And. mining communities are always deprived of the formal right to own the land and other valuable rights and intensely affected by such menaces.

Therefore, this study strives to examine and analyze the human security- mining development nexus regarding MIDROC gold mine in Odo Shakiso Woreda of Oromiya regional state by using

the deprivation–vulnerability approach which puts human security at the very heart of development and such development are not exclusively measured via economic growth rather by human development.

## **2.4 Corporate Social Responsibility in the Mining Sector**

For the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to a group of actions undertaken by an organization in order to accept the responsibilities resulting from the impact of its activities on society and the environment (Vintro et al., n.d.). As Vintro and Comajuncosa (2009) argued CSR initiatives sometimes go further than just an obligation that comply with the law with regard to the environment, human capital and relations with the community and integrate social and environmental elements which, respond to the expectations of society with respect to the company.

As noted by Warhurst (2001), the main human security threats that have increased public concern about CSR for the last several decades have mainly from the mining and petroleum industries. For the mining industry, CSR is about balancing the diverse demands of communities and the imperative to protect the environment with the ever-present need to make a profit (Jenkins, 2004).

Research relating to the subject of CSR in the mining industry is relatively sparse due to the recent popularization of this management system. As it was depicted in Jenkin and Obara (2008) that, the International Council on Mining and Metals has developed and promoted the principle of good practice in the mining sector which ethical management, sustainable development, and contribution to the social and economic development of mining communities as basis of competitive advantage. In short, the application of CSR in mining activities is considered as a means of conciliation between interested parties in the mining industry, the government, and society, while at the same time being a social investment allowing for the development of the company and improving its reputation (Vintro et al., n.d.).

Under international law, not only states but also individuals and institutions have responsibilities and are liable if they failed to discharge such responsibilities. Even though delineating the space between business and human security is more controversial Nolan and Taylor clearly stipulated

that "it is no longer a revelation that companies have some responsibility to uphold human security" and even if there is no a common standard at international level, national laws based on their policy orientation recognize business corporations as subjects of international law and bearers of responsibilities (2009: 27).

Studies show that, most mining communities in developing countries are double as residential areas for most people (Jenkins, 2004). This, in principle, presents several threats to inhabitants of mining communities. And, mining companies have continually been criticized and accused of acting socially and environmentally irresponsible. Thus, as a strategy to offset these criticisms, the global mining industry has developed CSR initiatives as part of their business strategies, with the aim of building a more friendly relationship with the societies in which they operate (ibid). As a result, CSR is a major tool that gives the mining industry the social license to operate as it has been identified to calm down community activism against mining companies extensively.

Over the years, several mining companies have adopted various CSR policies and projects, as a tool for community development, which focused on interventions in the areas of education and health amongst other things. Several studies (see for example, Dorian & Humphreys, 1994; Kitula, 2006) have examined the efficacy of CSR as a development tool. However, as Humphreys (2000) stated, it is difficult to evaluate the success of CSR or it is unclear whether CSR initiatives have contributed effectively and adequately to social transformation. Thus, most firms rely on a few indicators in order to note their success. For instance, the absence of tension between the firm and the community and the absence of dispute and litigations are considered indicators of CSR success. While for the community, the presence of some visible infrastructure usually suffices. Frynas (2005) strongly criticize community development initiatives developed by multinational mining companies who 'remodeled' themselves as good corporate citizens. According to Frynas' argument CSR community development initiatives are expected to be effective in contributing to more sustainable communities instead of developing CSR dependent community. Thus, given the diverse environmental and social impacts associated with the extraction and use of minerals, it is expected that the mining industry and communities work together to ensure sustainable mining development. Where this is not done, there are invariably many conflicts and confrontations between mining companies and communities.

Even though adequate studies have not been undertaken in the mining sector, a study conducted by Homa (2017) shows the existing improvements in both public and private investments in Ethiopia in developing and implementing CSR initiatives in their catchment area as a mechanism of giving back to community for the adverse impacts of project or attain competitive advantage.

Ethiopia doesn't have any comprehensive national corporate social responsibility policy that administers corporations. However, CSR initiatives and practices are incorporated in a variety of policies, laws and other legal frameworks and government support and promote CSR friendly projects. In the absence of such regulatory mechanisms, in the country's rapidly growing economy and widely spreading private and public enterprises competing for profits, the issue of business ethics and social responsibility come in to question. Thus, this study tries to assess the community development initiatives taken by MIDROC gold mine investment operating in Odo Shakiso Woreda of Oromia regional state, and its effectiveness in contributing to the community's development and sustaining mining.

## **2.5 Mining and Conflicts**

The view of natural resource conflicts from a human security perspective is a recent development. Human security allows for the various intersecting factors of conflict to be seen from the perspective of human beings and it aligns with the conceptualization of development as rights-based, rather than as pure economic growth (Pollman, 2015).

From the dawn of human history, communities have been competing for control of resources and dominance which inevitably leads to conflict. Conflict is a natural phenomenon of mankind except for the approaches to its perspective, nature, and management (Galtung, 2004). Conflicts in relation to natural resources occur throughout the world in a range of contexts and across a spectrum ranging from non-violent conflicts of interest to outright violence. However, the security risks prevailed in resources become political agenda or needs a policy framework following many academic and other publications like blood or conflict diamonds attracted the public eye and the media discourses.

Conventionally, it is assumed that both resource scarcity and abundance correlates with violent conflicts. However, a study suggests that neither the presence (greed argument) (Aunty, 1993) nor the absence (grievance argument) (Arthur, 2012) of raw materials are not adequate enough to cause conflicts, rather, the dynamics of resource and/or resource-based conflicts are considered and analyzed with the respective political, social and economic factors along with historical influences, the governance and many other interlinked causes (Rosser, 2006). Hence, for the sake of this study, I try to discuss the dynamics of resource-based conflicts by taking natural resource extraction or mining as a source of conflict between mining communities and corporations.

Literature show that, the mining industry had been taken the “devil may care” attitude to the impacts of its operations often acting without social legitimacy, causing major devastation, and also leaving an area after all economically valuable resources have exhausted (Hilson, 2002; Jenkins, 2004). Such kinds of irresponsible mining causes irremediable damages to the natural environment, health, dignity and some other societal values of the communities which becomes a source of conflict between mine corporations and the mining communities (ibid). In addition to the potential destructiveness of mining, poor communication, mining broken promises and lack of working agreements between mines and communities are the main factors that intensify conflicts (Hilson, 2002).

In most parts of the world mining companies are operated in extensive areas over land (rural areas) with unacceptable technology and management where people use land primarily for agriculture, shelter and other subsistence purposes. Hence, the primary importance and different socio-economic value of land for both the community and the mine companies create a fertile ground for the outbreak conflict because both companies and communities place land as the bases of their sustainability (Terminski, 2012). To add upon it, mining communities (mostly unexposed to global society) are among the poorest segments of the population who rely on small-scale local economic activities are more exposed to development induced human security threats. And, in order to address such shortcomings mining companies most of the time use financial compensation (whether it is adequate or inadequate) for the lost access to land, natural resource other related assets and human security threats of communities. However, the social support strategy (CSR) of corporations in monetary value had an insignificant contribution for mining communities’ loss of natural environment and inherited land due to their strong tie

(Hilson, 2002). In effect, the conflictual nature of mining arises from the big gap between the way companies conceptualize the value of environmental and natural and community resources and its connection to the livelihood and cultural significance of community members (ibid).

In addition to the above-mentioned factors, the relationship between mining and conflict is more intensified by perceptions. The way mining especially large-scale extractive mining industries perceived by different stakeholders (by artisan miners, mining communities, government, and corporations) and their acceptance and expectations of social and economic impacts had its own part in intensifying mining induced conflicts. For example, mining-induced degradation, human security threats, forceful evictions, and demolitions affect the way mining is perceived and contributes to intensifying conflict (Lawson & Bentil, 2013).

To sum up, lack of sufficient consultation and community engagement and accurate information on mining impacts, entitlement, ownership, environmental effects, and social and livelihood security are among the major ingredients of conflict between mining companies and local communities rather than resource as the sole object and cause of conflict. Hence, sustainable mining development calls for “peace resources” a resource mined under humane and environmentally friendly conditions with aim of mutual benefit. As Galtung (2004) argued it, the fundamental issue is not avoiding conflict, rather, the art of managing it. And, by and large, human development approached to mining development had strong potential of sustain mining by mitigating such mining induced conflicts.

## 2.6 Conceptual Framework of the Study

The conceptual framework (Fig. 2.1) used for the study shows the human security implications of mining and its link with conflict.

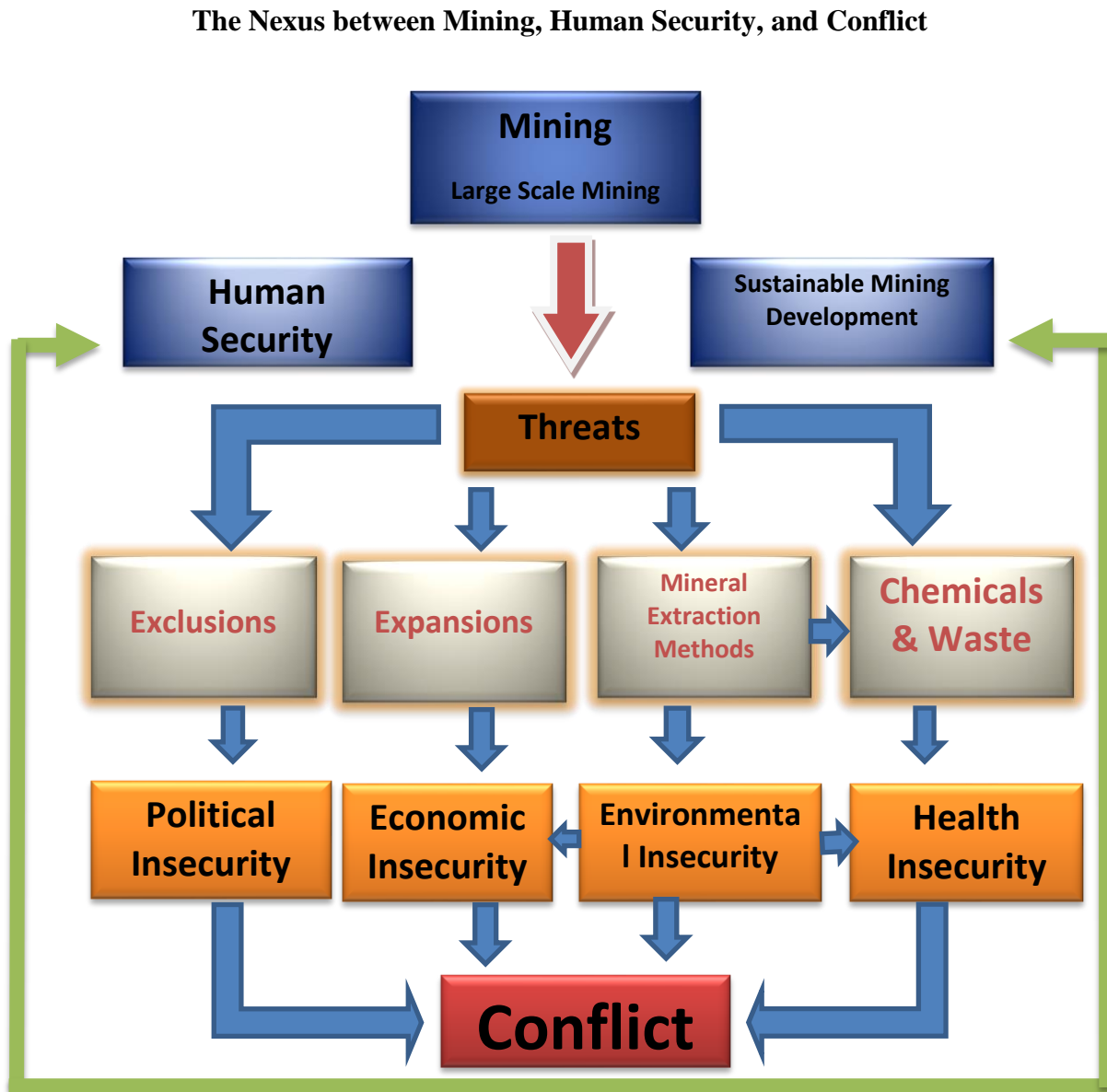


Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework of the Study  
Source: Author's own Construct, 2019.

The conceptual framework shows the impact of mining on the human security of mining communities and its link to conflict. Based on a review of the available literature (see above), mining (large scale extractive industry) either it is underground or surface mining pose serious threats that make mining communities vulnerable to health, economy, political and

environmental insecurities. As it was discussed above, mining communities exposure to contingencies depicted in Fig. 2.1 had a series impact on affecting the core values of dignity, livelihoods, safety, survival, and wellbeing in the contexts of economy, health, political and ecology within which processes of human development take place.

First of all, mining activities particularly large-scale extractive mining industries require the acquisition of large tracts of land and degrade the land and destroy a forest and other land-related assets like wildlife, pasture land and streams. Furthermore, mining companies release toxic substances like heavy metals, waste rocks and soil as well as chemicals like cyanide and mercury into the nearby streams and surface land. Hence, chemical contamination of air, water, and land, loss of biodiversity, erosion and mountain topping are few of the most crucial environmental threats of mining companies (Breton and Forbes, 2004; Seyoume, 2006). Again, such environmental threats apart from their direct menace they also had implications on the economic, food, and health security of mining surrounding communities. Linked to this, as a desirable commodity it is difficult to get a healthy and uncontaminated environment in mineral extraction areas. More and more mining communities living in harmony with nature become victims of such development projects (Terminski, 2012; Stephens, C. and Ahern, M., 2001).

Mining significantly affects in a negative way the state of health of mining communities. Large-scale extractive mining industries particularly gold mining pose serious health threats like skin irritation, complications in women's delivery, deformities (both on human and animals), child illness, cancer, cough or cold, asthma and deaths, mainly due to the chemicals used to extract and purify the minerals like sodium cyanide and mercury. Women's and children are the most vulnerable group of society by such threats (Gamu, et al., 2015; Terminski, 2012 Yeboah, 2008).

Lack of or decrease in economic security is one of the problems of mining surrounding communities mainly due to the loss of land. Sadly, the relinquishment of inhabited areas and land is not accompanied by adequate compensation. A lack of future prospects for the new place of residence leads to joblessness and homelessness and even resettlement to nearby or adjacent territory implicates substantial changes in the economic base of individuals and groups. Local communities predominantly do not have any opportunities to participate in profits resulting from resource extraction. Even being the owner of these resources does not automatically make them

an economic asset. Lastly, due to the technological advancements only, few highly qualified professionals (only a fraction of the inhabitants) can expect to be employed in such a highly-automated and technical mineral extraction (Downing, 2002; Gamu, et al., 2015). Lastly, mining also affected the political security of mining communities by depriving them from the decision making frameworks. Most of the time mining communities are meaningless political actors and losers in their competition with extractives those who had political and business power. Their political interests like entitlement are usually by violated by extractives.

According to the literatures reviewed (Jenkins, 2004; Hilson, 2012; Yeboah, 2008), the compounding human security threats of mining industries far outweigh economic and social benefits to mining surrounding communities. In response to these, mining companies develop and implement CSR initiatives usually in the form of physical and social infrastructure development and expansion such as roads, schools, hospitals, electricity and water supplies. This became to be just a ‘business strategy’ that aims to compensate or to a lesser extent address the human security threats of mining communities which had critical impact in creating favorable environment for harmonious relationship between communities and mining companies which guaranties human security and sustainability of mining development projects (Jenkins, 2004).

As mentioned above, resources are never a factor in isolation for raising conflict. Rather irresponsible mining, mining-induced human security threats, and dispositions contribute a lot for the risk of opposition and conflict (Rosser, 2006; Hilson, 2012). The human security threats of mining operations sometimes outweigh the benefits gained. In addition to that lack of mitigation mechanism of threats to vulnerable like absence or/and inadequate compensation mechanism and corporate social responsibility fueled the risks of violent conflict between mining communities and extractives. Hence, the outcomes of such conflicts are the termination of mining projects which had a great impact for (human) development and human security of the mining community if it is properly managed. In a nutshell, I argue that it is more acceptable if extractives are approached in ways that minimize the security risks of host communities by adopting the “Protect, Respect and Remedy”<sup>1</sup> framework.

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<sup>1</sup> It is an authoritative global standard developed by UNHRC (2008) and UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (2011) for preventing and addressing human security threats of business activities which rests on the

## Chapter Three

### Research Methodology

#### Introduction

This chapter presents the methodological approaches employed by the researcher to attain the intended objectives of the study. It includes research design, methods of data collection and instruments, sampling technique and sampling size, data analysis and presentation, ethical consideration and profiles of the study area.

#### 3.1 Approaches to the Study

This study employed a qualitative research approach. The rationale behind choosing a qualitative approach is that it helps to explore, investigate and understand events, theories and human behaviors by creating a strong linkage between the researcher and participants (Creswell, 2003). It looks at phenomena and experiences from the perspectives of individuals, and groups into various social, political and economic dimensions. Thus, the subject matter of most qualitative research is how people construct their understandings of the social world and how they view them (Ibid, 2003).

In addition to that this research is evaluated based on the philosophical assumption of social constructivism. The philosophical assumption behind the social constructivist approach is that it allows the researcher to explain the subjective meanings, feelings, and emotions of individuals experience about the social world or issues under study (Creswell, 2009). And, the approach helped the researcher to investigate the subjective meanings and behaviors of informants in a natural setting.

#### 3.2 Research Design

As Kothari (2004) noted research design is the blueprint that facilitates the smooth functioning of all research operations. It constitutes decisions regarding what, where, when, how much, by what means concerning an inquiry or research study. Case study research design was employed in this study because it is a qualitative research design where researcher focus on one or a small number of bounded cases, each of which is studied within its distinct context and study made in depth

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States duty to *protect* against human security threats by business, corporate responsibility to *respect* human security; and access by victims to effective *remedy*.

rather in breadth and more emphasis is given on full analysis of limited number of events or conditions (Gentles, et al., 2015). By employing a case study, this study deeply analyzed and examined the human security impacts of large-scale extractive mining industries in Ethiopia, by taking the cases of MIDROC gold mine in the study area.

According to Yin (2009), a case study also fits in explanatory research as it offers the prospect of investigating causal mechanisms and the particular context in which they are actuated. Therefore, the study instigated the human security threats of MIDROC gold mine on the mine surrounding Odo Shakiso community and the response strategies applied to mitigate the threats which become the main source of conflict between the mine and the community.

### **3.3 Data Collection Methods**

This research employed multiple sources of data to obtain the necessary information. The primary data was collected from interviews, field observation and focus group discussions. Secondary data was collected from books, journal article, newspaper, proceedings, government reports, proclamations and regulations, FDRE constitution, unpublished materials, and web sources. Accordingly, reviews and analysis of all relevant secondary sources were made to supplement and substantiate the data collected from primary sources.

#### **3.3.1 Interviews**

Interview is a form of data collection method in which the researcher asks the respondents about a certain issues. It is a useful tool to collect detailed information from respondents and to explore issue under study in depth (Boyce and Palena, 2006). Accordingly, interview helped the researcher to obtain more detailed and in-depth understandings about the human security threats of MIDROC gold mine and the dynamics of MIDROC mine and Odo Shakiso community conflict over the Lege Dembi gold mine. Thus, the researcher undertake interviews (including key informant interviews) with purposively selected officials from the government and the company, artisan miners, experts (legal, environment and medical), Geologists, Victims, local community elders, researchers and individuals familiar with the issue at hand. In doing so, the researcher employed in-depth and semi-structured interview guideline techniques.

### **3.3.2 Focus Group Discussions**

In this technique the researcher served as a facilitator when the respondents were discussing. FGD is not a simple questioning and answering method; it aims to get an in-depth knowledge and information about an issue from participants of the discussion. In this particular study, the researcher conducted three FGDs in Odo Shakiso woreda with most of victims of the company's threat, artisan miners and elders to obtain the necessary information.

### **3.3.3 Field Observation**

Observation is the qualitative technique of data collection which enables the researcher to observe and describe existing situations by physically appearing to the area under study (Kawulich, 2005). According to the author, observation is useful analytical instrument to supplement and substantiate the data collected by other techniques of data collection. The data obtained by observation in this study was mainly used to supplement and strengthen the data collected by interviews and FGDs with informants. Accordingly, researcher conducted field visits on the study area and observed victims and their families, the mine surrounding community villages, the communities' livelihood and natural environs, some parts of the mining, and exploration sites of MIDROC, artisanal mining sites, the development contributions of MIDROC, the infrastructures/basic social services found in the Woreda and their accessibility and some other related environments in the study area.

### **3.3.4 Document Analysis**

Document review or analysis also used in this study to supplement the data collected from primary sources because document analysis is qualitative research methods which enable the researcher to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop empirical knowledge and go back and strengthen the data collected from primary sources (Bowen, 2009). So the researcher analyzed various reports, and other written documents which are done by various bodies on the Lege Dembi gold mine. The study also assessed different legal documents like the 1995 FDRE constitution, Mining Operations Proclamation No.678/2010, Environment Policy 1997, EIA Framework Proclamation 2002 as well as some other valuable declarations, regulations and policies of the mining sector. Beside this, reviews of empirical studies on the impacts of large-scale extractive industries in Ethiopia are analyzed to find the existing gaps and to back and strengthen the finding of this study.

### **3.4 Sampling Technique and Sample Size**

This research employed purposive or convenience non-probability sampling technique. In Non-probability sampling, the sample size might be smaller but in terms of content-wise, the data that is collected are more detail and rich (Sharma, 2017). Therefore, the researcher selected samples from the community based on the respondents' experience, knowledge, expertise, and resourcefulness of information. In this particular study, the researcher conducted a total of forty six (46) interviews including key informant interviews with purposively selected informants from the concerned stakeholders and three focus group discussions each consisted of eight to ten (8-10) discussants from the community. In doing so, the researcher also employed Snowballing sampling to select respondents from the victims and individuals that are familiar with the subject matter mainly due to the researchers' new experience of the study area and the targeted population. Hence, to ensure credibility and avoid biases, the researcher tried to balance the opinions from the government side, and company as well as the community who have suffered from the project and considered individual's knowledge and experience for triangulation.

### **3.5 Method of Data Analysis**

The research used a qualitative way of data analysis. The researcher transcribed the data collected through various methods and organized the data by classifying in different contexts. The researcher assured validity and trustworthiness of the by triangulation (cross-checking, comparing and contrasting) of data's obtained from multiple sources. Inductive generalization is used. The researcher tried to come up with generalizations about the specific area from the data inferred from the samples which are selected based on the necessary knowledge and experiences they have got.

### **3.6 Ethical Consideration**

As Creswell (2003) noted that research ethics is one of the very important parts in establishing trustworthiness and credibility of the study. In this particular study, the researcher respected all the research rules and regulations of Addis Ababa University (AAU). The researcher respected society's culture and informants are selected up on the principle of informed consent. Hence, the researcher protected and kept confidential of personal information's; like names. Finally, the researcher came up with pure academic work and new findings that are free from plagiarism.

### 3.7 Description of the Study Area

#### Introduction

Odo Shakiso Woreda is one among the many *woreda* found in Guji Zone of Oromia regional state. The researcher conducted study on the human security concerns of large scale extractive industries in the *woreda* mainly due to the increasing publicized concern of human security threats by MIDROC Gold Mine in the study area. It is aimed to show policy directions to the concerned stakeholders on the way mine is sustained by addressing the human security concerns of mining communities in the study area. The historical development of Shakiso is linked with discovery of placer gold in Adola region.<sup>2</sup> According to sources, the history of mineral industry in general and mining development, in particular, in Ethiopia is associated with the Lege Dembi Gold Mine in Adola Gold Belt/Shakiso area and it is a pioneer mine site in the country and considered as the biggest gold mine in the Horn of Africa (Alazar, 1998; World Bank, 2014).

As a premier mining region of the country, the study area is endowed with an abundant deposit of economically valuable and strategically important minerals like gold (93.6 % of the countries gold deposit and production), Tantalite, Feldspar, Nickel, Gemstones (like Emerald), Silver and others (Seyoum, 2006). The occurrence of large reserves of gold in simple mining methods in a world class quality (World Bank, 2014) and the very recent discovery of various types of industrial rocks and gemstones attracted several public and private mining companies like MIDROC Gold Mine, Adola Gold Mine and Kanticha Tantalum Mining and thousands of artisanal miners and a number of investors from all over the country to the study area.<sup>3</sup>

Odo Shakiso is also a blessed region by natural forest. The area endowed 309,886 ha of dense forest with most of woodland species and trees, and wild life like Cane Cat, Jackal, Hyena, Baboons, Reptiles and numerous bird species. However, such abandoned natural resource frequently suffered from the devastating forest fire that caused irreversible damages on over 75,000 ha of forest and its associated environs like human settlement and wildlife. And since the last two decades the Woreda recorded as one of the country's major fire site (Desalign, 2013; UNDP, 2000).

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<sup>2</sup> Interview: Mining expert 04, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

### 3.7.1 Location of the Study Area

The present study was undertaken in Odo Shakiso Woreda which is located in the Guji Zone of the Oromia Region in southern Ethiopia. It has a latitude and longitude extent of 5° 2' 50" N to 5° 57'44" N and 38° 34' 16" E to 39° 15' 38" E. The exact location of MIDROC lies on 5°45'0" N and 38°45'0" E (Fig. 3. 1). Relatively, Odo Shakiso is found 500 km far away from Addis Ababa, by bordering on the south by the Dawa River which separates it from Arero, on the west and North west by Dugda Dawa, Qarcha and Hambela Wamena, on the north and northeast by Bore, Adola and Wadera, on the East and south east by Liben districts. The total area of the *woreda* covers 4,080 km<sup>2</sup> with an attitude that ranges from 1300m-2300m.

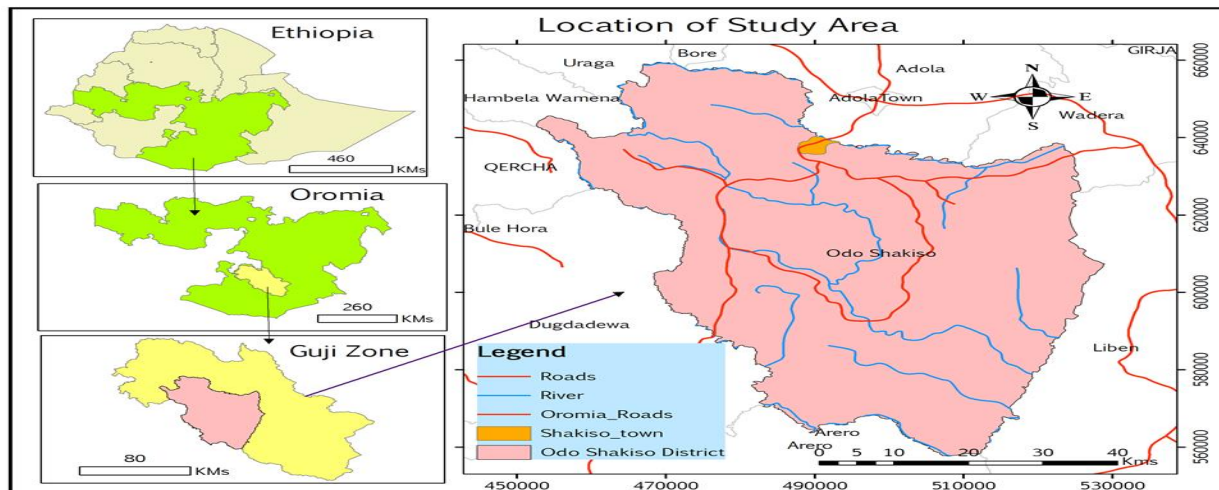


Figure 3.1 Map of Odo Shakiso Woreda

Source: Odo Shakiso Woreda Administration, 2019

### 3.7.2 Demography

According to national census report, the Odo Shakiso Woreda has a total of 206,372 population consisting 107,224 men and 99,148 women (CSA, 2007). According to the report, the majority of the *woreda*'s inhabitants are rurally populated and only about 16.3% or 33,643 are urban dwellers. Odo Shakiso had an average population density of 59.3 people per km<sup>2</sup> (ibid). Shakiso and Megado are the most densely populated towns of the *woreda* whereas the majority of rural areas are sparsely populated. The majority or about 56.64% of *woreda*'s population are protestant followers and 14.07%, 11.4% and 10.69% of the inhabitants practice Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, Muslims and traditional beliefs respectively. The census report also

shows that, the indigenous Guji tribe of the Oromo nation represents the majority or about 79.8% of the *woreda*'s human population and other ethnic groups like Amhara, Gedeo, and Gurage people live in the study area. Affan Oromo is spoken by the majority of the population. The study area is also well known in its tradition of practicing the indigenous Oromo socio-political institution and conflict resolution mechanism called the *Gadaa* system (Asmarom, 1973).

### **3.7.3 Economic Activity and Infrastructure**

According to chief of Odo Shakiso Woreda Administration, the economic base of the Odo Shakiso community lies on gold mining and agriculture.<sup>4</sup> Cattle rearing and maize and enset growing is the principal farm product of the study area and recently coffee became an important cash crop and significantly dominated the *woreda*'s farm land and economy next to mining. According to discussants, gold mining provide a traditional way of living for the Guji community (indigenous Shakiso inhabitants).<sup>5</sup> And, mining experts confirmed the informal contributions of these local miners on the mineral discovery and mining development history of Ethiopia. As discussants further explained, outside the realm of official mining, gold mining served as an economic base next to agriculture and cattle rearing in Odo Shakiso Woreda.

Shakiso is a business, relaxation and residential hub of the *woreda* community.<sup>6</sup> Shakiso is also the major town in which sole transport terminal of the *woreda* to go to different mining sites within the *woreda* and other parts of the country are located. According to the official's explanation on the early years of 2000 the town has got secondary school, drinking water, and health care centers. In addition to that, the town administration had developed master plan for the town and they are on the progress of building a number of infrastructures like a 9 km asphalt road at the town.<sup>7</sup> To cope up, recently, the role of agriculture (excluding coffee) is reducing in importance and mining continued as an important industry in generating income and employment as well as motivating the development and expansion of infrastructure, services, trade and investments of the region.

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<sup>4</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 2, discussion held at Shakiso, 27 February 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

## **Chapter Four**

### **The Regulatory Frameworks of Human Security in the Mining Sector**

#### **Introduction**

The regulatory framework of the mining sector in Ethiopia is regulated by different legislations and institutions. The 1995 Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) exclusively vests ownership of all natural resources to the State, as well as the peoples of Ethiopia. The Government holds land and other natural resources on behalf of the people and deploys them for their common benefit and development. The Ethiopian FDRE Ministry of Mines Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoMPNG) and the respective regional bodies control and administer mineral resources by granting, refusing and managing licenses. Hence, in the subsequent sections of this chapter, by taking the human security concerns of Odo Shakio community, the researcher discusses details of the existing legal and institutional frameworks and their lacuna's.

#### **4.1 The Legislative and Policy Frameworks**

Even if there exist a number of policies and strategies dealing with mining in Ethiopia, as far as the main theme of the study human security in extractive industries is concerned the most apart legislations are the following:

- ✓ The 1995 FDRE Constitution
- ✓ Mining Operations (Amendment) Proclamation No. 678/2010
- ✓ Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation No. 299/2002
- ✓ Environmental Policy 1997

##### **4.1.1 FDRE Constitution**

Even though the country lacks an effective and compressive legal and institutional framework that specifically deals with human security, some provisions of FDRE constitution stipulated and enshrined the human security concerns of communities living in and around (mining) development projects. According to the constitution, development activities which are against people right to clean and a healthy environment are not legally sound. The Constitution

recognized people's innate right to have clean and healthy environment<sup>8</sup> and prohibited the implementation of (mining) development programs/projects that adversely damage the environment of the current and future generations.<sup>9</sup> Further, the constitution recognized people's right to commensurate monetary or alternative means of compensation for the properties and assets destroyed as a result of development projects as well as the lands expropriated for development purposes.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, FDRE constitution also protected the property rights of every national including the displaced people by development projects which include the right to alienate, to bequeath and where the right of use expires, to remove his property, transfer his title, and claim compensation.<sup>11</sup>

As far as the right to development is concerned, Art. 43 of FDRE Constitution states that: "The People of Ethiopia as a whole, and each Nation, Nationality, and People in Ethiopia, in particular, have the right to improved living standards and to sustainable development".<sup>12</sup> This right embodies an entitlement to participate in and contribute to as well as to enjoy from the benefits. Furthermore, the constitution secured the principle of inclusive governance and people's innate right to participate in the development and in particular to be consulted with respect to development policies and projects affecting their community.<sup>13</sup> Besides, stipulating the human rights of citizens, the constitution obliges government authorities and other concerned stakeholders for the realization of such rights.<sup>14</sup> According to an informant, the realization of such rights especially people's participation and consultation has paramount importance in sustaining (mining) development projects by curtailing the possibility of mining related conflict.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Negarit Gazeta 1st Year, No.1, 1995. Art. 44 (1).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. Art. 90 (2).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Art. 44 (2).

<sup>11</sup> As it was stated in Art. 40 (1) of the same constitution "every Ethiopian citizen has the right to the ownership of private property" which include any tangible or intangible product which has value and is produced by the labour, creativity, or capital of an individual citizen and every Ethiopian shall have the full right to the immovable property he/she had and to the permanent improvements he/she brings about on the land by his/her labour or capital. See also Art. 40 (2) and 40 (7) of the same provision.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. Art. 43 (1).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. Art. 41 (3), 43 (1) and 43 (3).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. Article 41 (4), 92(1).

<sup>15</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019.

Hence, the 1995 FDRE constitution recognized the major human security concerns (ecology, health and development) of the Odo Shakiso community.<sup>16</sup> Therefore, MIDROC gold mine and the government (regulatory organs) are responsible and liable for the menaces and for inadequate mitigation that posed serious threats on the core values of the community.<sup>17</sup> As it was affirmed by the collected data, even if human security is part and parcel of the 1995 FDRE constitution; it failed to be practical when it comes to mining development projects especially MIDROC gold mine.

#### **4.1.2 Mining Operation Proclamation No. 678/2010**

Ethiopia does not have a comprehensive mining policy as of yet, even if the country had a long history of mining legislation that dates back several decades (World Bank, 2014; 2016). The growing demand for minerals and the need to create a highly competitive legal framework resulted several re-enactments and amendments in the country's mining legislation.<sup>18</sup> And, the current mining proclamation, Mining Operation Proclamation No. 678/2010 is also part of such developments.<sup>19</sup> The human security concerns that enshrined in the mining proclamation and the existing lacunas are investigated below.

The current governing law of the mining sector, Mining Operations Proclamation No. 678/2010 was designed with the broad goal of promoting sustainable development approach in the country's mining development program, as stated in the preamble of the Proclamation: "...the obligation of the government to protect the environment for the benefit of present and future generations and to ensure ecologically sustainable development of minerals".<sup>20</sup> The proclamation recognized the entitlements of a natural resource to the state and the peoples of Ethiopia and the custodian role of the government that enshrined in the 1995 FDRE constitution. Environmental

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<sup>16</sup> See the human insecurity of the Odo-Shakiso community on Chapter 5 of the same study.

<sup>17</sup> Interview: Legal expert 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 03 April 2019; Legal expert 05, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 February 2019; Legal expert 01 and 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 09 April 2019; Legal expert 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 April 2019.

<sup>18</sup> These recurrently amended mining regulations and rules are the mining proclamation (No. 52/1993) as amended by proclamation (No. 22/1996 and 118/1998), the mining income tax proclamation (No. 53/1993), with its amendment proclamation (No. 23/1996), the proclamation to promote and regulate transaction of precious minerals (No. 651/2009), the mining operation proclamation (No. 678/2010).

<sup>19</sup> Interview: Legal expert 05, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 February 2019.

<sup>20</sup> Mining Operations Proclamation, Proc. No. 678/2010.Para.3

security is one of the thematic areas of the proclamation and obliged extractive industries to integrate environmental requirements in their mining development programs.<sup>21</sup>

Further, the provision under Art. 60 stressed the extractive companies' requirement to participate and allocate funds for the community development plan/program of the residents within their catchment area.<sup>22</sup> Pursuant to this, the Council of Ministers Regulation for mining operation (Reg. 423/2018) obliged mining companies to allocate 2% of the annual revenue or the net profit of the company for the community development plan. In addition to that, companies who engage in exploration activities of precious and semi-precious minerals are expected to pay 0.2% of the operation cost for community development programs.<sup>23</sup> According to official's explanation, the extractive's active engagement in community development programs paves a fertile ground for a social license which sustains mine by curtaining potential conflicts.<sup>24</sup>

As far as the issue of consultation is concerned, the proclamation under article 57 and 58 obliged the negotiation requirements between mine's and communities on compensation that might be paid for the damages resulted from mining activities by stating "any licensee shall negotiate and reach an agreement with respect to the amount of compensation payable to the owner of the property...".<sup>25</sup> Most modern mining regimes now require community consultation as early as the exploration stage in order to curtail the possibility of future conflicts (World Bank, 2014). However, the proclamation lacks clear consultation requirements around community development planning and implementation which paves the way for mines to decide the community's development programs in their own program priority in which most of the time becomes source of conflicts with mine communities (World Bank, 2016). Even though, the proclamation obliged mine companies to allocate funds for reclamation, whereas, further details of EIA implementation as well as managing the impacts of mining are not well discussed (Ibid.). In a similar vein, the proclamation also failed to discuss details about 'entitlement' which is the

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<sup>21</sup> As it was enshrined in Art. 60; 61 and 62 of the proclamation, extractive industries (owned by the state and private company) are required to conduct ESIA for their mining and exploration activities as well as to allocate funds that cover the costs of reclamation and rehabilitation. See also Art. 40 and 41 of Mining Operations Regulation, Reg. No 423/2018.

<sup>22</sup> Mining Operations Proclamation, Proc. No. 678/2010. Art. 60 (3).

<sup>23</sup> Mining Operations Council of Ministers Regulation, Reg. No 423/2018. Art. 42.

<sup>24</sup> Interview: Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>25</sup> Mining Operations Proclamation, Proc. No. 678/2010. Art. 58 (1).

major of concern of mining communities particularly the Odo Shakiso community claim over the Lege Dembi gold mine.<sup>26</sup>

Ethiopia as a member of the international community had a responsibility to adopt and integrate the MINIMATA convention<sup>27</sup> on the country's mining legislation, which bans the use of mercury and other toxic elements in the country's extractive industries. In a similar vein, Ethiopia as a signatory nation of the African Mining Vision (AMV) is committed to integrate the continental vision on the 'mining proclamation'. However, the country failed to do so in any of the stated provisions of the proclamation. Despite such commitments, the proclamation also failed to integrate the extractives requirement to adopt and implement international norms like the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), International Cyanide Management Code (ICMC), Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Initiative, Conflict-Free Gold Standard (CFGS) and others in which most reputable gold mining companies throughout the world have done so.<sup>28</sup>

As the majority of legal experts confirmed it, the proclamation is an aged document which focused more on promoting investment opportunities and oriented on extractive led economic growth than human security and human development of communities which is the core of all development objectives. Hence, the existing lacuna suggests the need to revamp the proclamation in a way that reconciles human security and development (economic) concerns by taking into consideration international best practices and domestic realities.<sup>29</sup>

#### **4.1.3 Environmental Policy (1997) and EIA Framework Proclamation (2002)**

In order to ensure peoples constitutional right to live in a secured, healthy and clean environment, Ethiopia enacted different environmental legislations of which the 1997 Environmental Policy and the 2002 EIA Framework Proclamation are worth mentioning.

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<sup>26</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>27</sup> It is multilateral environmental agreement which calls for a global response so as to address specific human activities or contributor's to widespread anthropogenic emissions and the releases of mercury and related toxic elements that seriously affect health and the natural environment of human beings.

<sup>28</sup> Interview: Legal expert 02 and 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 09 April 2019; Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>29</sup> Interview: Legal expert 05, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 February 2019; Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019; Legal expert 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 April 2019.

Pursuant to these, the country signed and ratified a number of international conventions, protocols and initiatives concerning the issue at hand.<sup>30</sup>

Ethiopia developed national Environmental Policy before two decades in 1997. The policy recognized people's right to have a clean and healthy environment that is enshrined in the supreme law of the land. It has a broad goal as stated; "... to improve and enhance the health and quality of life of all Ethiopians and to promote sustainable development through the sound management and use of natural resources and the environment."<sup>31</sup> It discussed details about EIA and the necessary requirements take into consideration during the implementation and the assessment process of EIA. Apart from general environmental management guidelines, the policy also articulated specific environmental management guidelines applied on sectors of which the mining sector comes at front. For example, section 3.6 of the policy discusses details about reclamation and mitigation mechanisms for the environmental security threats of mining development projects on the mine surrounding communities. Furthermore, section 3.8 of the same policy stressed the control of hazardous materials and pollutions from wastes of mine projects.

As part of the countries environmental legislation, 'EIA Framework Proclamation 2002' was designed to provide a legal basis for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Planning (EMP) for development projects of having adverse impact. The proclamation prioritized the requirement of baseline studies (social and environmental) for (mining) projects that could have adverse impacts on the project (mining) surrounding communities and environment in general. According to the provision, the EIA covers the full assessment of the project impact on the environment, and the local community throughout its lifecycle and must involve the participation and the consultation of all the concerned stakeholders'.<sup>32</sup>As informants particularly environmental experts confirmed it, despite some limitations on clearing ambiguities on 'consultation' and 'participation' process of EIA, the environmental legislation of the country adequately assessed the core environmental security

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<sup>30</sup> The Kyoto Protocol; the Stockholm Convention; Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context; World Charter for Nature; Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and UN framework on Climatic Change (1992) etc. and the constitution recognized the domestication of such international norms at the countries legal system.

<sup>31</sup> The Environmental Policy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (EPE), Council of Ministers, April 1997, Para. 2.1-2.3.

<sup>32</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Environmental expert 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 15 April 2019.

concerns of mining communities. But, what they repeatedly stressed is, the need to address the implementation lacunae existed by regulatory institutions.

Finally, the discussed legal frameworks show that human security is part and parcel of the country's mining legislation, even if plenty elements of human security are discussed in inadequate manner. Therefore, as it was confirmed by the collected information, the mere presence of a human security oriented legal framework doesn't guarantee people's security from actual/ imminent dangers unless the concerned regulatory organs strived for its realization. Therefore, the paradox comes from the difference in the policy content and the actual practice.

## **4.2 The Institutional Framework**

Conventionally, protecting people from any kind of actual/ imminent threat is the prime responsibility of the government. Therefore, strong institutions are needed for the government to implement its policy and legislative frameworks that recognized the (human) security of citizens. As far as the institutional frameworks of the mining sector is concerned, FDRE Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Regional States Mines, Water and Energy Bureaus and the Environmental Protection Authority are the major stakeholders mandated to administer the natural resources of the country in their respective boundary.<sup>33</sup> Therefore, the researcher's main focus of the regulatory institutional framework of large scale extractive industries is concerned, the proclamation exclusively vested the mandate to administer and regulate large scale extractive industries owned by aliens to the MoMPNG.<sup>34</sup> Further, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) delegated its formal authority of governing environmental related activities of the mining sector to the MoMPNG.<sup>35</sup> Hence, as the collected data affirmed it, the mandate to govern and oversee the (human) security concerns of the Odo Shakiso community associated with MIDROC gold mine lies on MoMPNG.

### **4.2.1 Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoMPNG)**

Ministry of Mines Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoMPNG) is the federal ministry responsible for all aspects of mining sector development and governance (MoME, 2001). Proclamation No

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<sup>33</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Legal expert 05, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 February 2019.

<sup>34</sup> Mining Operation Proclamation No. 678/2010. Art.52 (2).

<sup>35</sup> Interview: Legal expert 05, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 February 2019; Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019; Legal expert 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 April 2019.

691/2010<sup>36</sup> and Proclamation No. 678/2010 are the legal foundations for the regulatory role of the ministry. Accordingly, the Ministry is the principal government organ which is responsible for issuing large scale reconnaissance, exploration, and mining licenses. In 2010 the Ministry assumed the responsibility of environmental impact assessment (EIA) process (supervision, evaluation, and compliance monitoring) from the environmental protection authority (EPA).<sup>37</sup> Even though there are broad organizational structures in the MoMPNG, the researcher focused more on Environmental and Community Development Directorate (ECDD) in which the main supervision and regulatory works of the Ministry are carried out. ECDD is a directorate established in 2007 with broader objective of supervising and regulating environmental (EIA and EMP) and community development programs. As the collected confirmed it, ECDD is the most inefficient organ of the Ministry which failed to address major environmental and development concerns of mining communities (of which the Odo Shakiso community comes at the front) via effective regulation and supervision of mine's companies.

Mining is one of the sectors that require the highest (the most frequent) degree of interface of regulatory bodies. A study made by the World Bank and other development partners reveals the inability of the government to do so; and adequate inspection and regular audits on the mineral extraction activities rarely carried out on the majority of large scale extractive industries found in the country (World Bank, 2014; 2016). According to the sources, the institutional inadequacy of MoMPNG is associated with an overarching mandate and inadequate human, technical and financial capitals. According to a report from World Bank (2014), most of the large scale mining companies like MIDROC gold mine are self-regulated and, therefore, while environmental audits are part of the regulatory system, they are rarely carried out. As informants explained,<sup>38</sup> even if the ministry had a responsibility to carry out a frequent and in-depth assessment of EMP and CDP of mine companies, as far as the Odo Shakiso community claims over MIDROC gold mine is concerned, the ECDD failed to do so adequately. This is mainly due to as an official from ECDD, MoMPNG stressed it;

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<sup>36</sup> It is a proclamation that provides the definition of powers and duties of the executive organ of the FDRE.

<sup>37</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>38</sup> Interview: Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Environmental expert 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 15 April 2019.

While the administration of all the environmental concerns of the mining sector is delegated to MoMPNG, the resources (human, material, and finance) necessary for the implementation of the mandate have not been provided to the extent necessary to the directorate. The directorate oversees the mine's stated environmental impacts on soil, air, water, etc., on the absence of laboratory analysis, with only physical observation by unqualified and untrained staffs. Therefore, it is impossible for the directorate to conduct an in-depth assessment and inspection on the activities of such complex mine projects on the current status of the directorate rather than just receive and feedback the annual EMP and CDP of mine projects.<sup>39</sup>

According to an official from MLAD (MoMPNG) explanation, mining administration in its nature needs professionals having strong negotiation skill and technical capability to handle and evaluate the license and to perform compliance monitoring.<sup>40</sup> Even though the ministry operated by hundreds of professional staffs, except few experts, the majority of the technical staffs are young graduates of insignificant qualification in mining sciences. For example, there is no mining engineering, mining economics and mining law trained/graduated professionals in the Ministry particularly ECDD, MLAD, and legal directorates.

As the collected data confirmed, the regulatory inefficiency of the MoMPNG is not solely associated with such human, material and technical constraints, but also the intense demands of the government to generate extractive led economic growth. A source suggests that, starting from the country's mining legislation to the strategic plans of the government are oriented on development perspectives than that of human security (Amdetsion, 2015). Further, the government always strives to address the (economic) development needs of the state and almost all institutions of the state strive for the attainment of the government objectives. They promote the sector for foreign direct investment by providing attracting incentives that lure investors. In doing so, even if the government had commitments to the human security of its citizen, attaining economic security becomes the primary agenda of the government which guarantees state and regime security (Belachew, 2018). Therefore, hard currency, revenue from tax and royalty and associated benefits are the prime concern of the government and environmental and other human

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<sup>39</sup> Interview: Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>40</sup> Interview: Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

security concerns of the community are most of the time at the bottom of the negotiation table and subordinate to the economic concern of the state.

According to legal expert's explanation, the EPA's delegation of regulating the environmental concerns of the extractive sector to the minister raise claim on its neutrality.<sup>41</sup> Means that, the institutional mandate of MoMPNG is to ensure the mine is up and run as soon as possible and generate mine revenue, whereas, the EPA is authorized to carry out the constitutional requirement that citizens are entitled to clean environment that will be also available for future generations. Therefore, the ministry responsible for both ensuring a secured environment and generating mine revenue at once in the process of mining development. However, as the collected data affirmed, MoMPNG failed to attain its environmental mandate contrary to its successful history of mine development. For example; lack of public consultation and participation, excluding the social component of EIA and lack of transparency or unwillingness to disclose EIA findings to the general public and inadequate/lack of inspection are some of the existing lacunas in the current environmental impact assessment and management process as far as the activities of MIDROC gold mine in Odo Shakio woreda is concerned.<sup>42</sup> On the other hand, revenue generated from MIDROC accounts almost 99 % of the countries extractives engaged on gold mining for the last two decades (EEITI, 2016). Hence, it is difficult for MoMPNG to reconcile these irreconcilable realities mainly due to the overlapping mandates. Therefore, in a state where there is no independent institution (strong regulatory organ), the development endeavor (economy) of the state becomes more valuable than that of human security (environment) of citizens in the extractive sector.

The legal frameworks of the state particularly the Constitution and the National Environment Policy of the state forwarded a sustainable development approach to mining via inclusive governance. However, there is no cooperation and coordination mechanism between different organs of the government of varying hierarchies and civil society organizations in administering and managing the sector.<sup>43</sup> According to respondents, managing the overall environmental and social impacts of the complex extractive industries like MIDROC gold mine is more challenging

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<sup>41</sup> Interview: Legal expert 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 09 April 2019.

<sup>42</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019.

<sup>43</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019.

for a single institution like MoMPNG, particularly the ECDD. Hence, the participation and the coordinative efforts of the concerned stakeholders starting from Ministries responsible for Environment, Health, Land, etc. to local government authorities are crucial to sustain mining and to address conflict of interests raised especially between the federal and local government authorities.<sup>44</sup> However, as far as the cases of the Odo Shakiso community- MIDROC gold mine conflict over the Lege Dembi gold mine is concerned, the local government authorities claimed that we are excluded from the authority to oversight and deal the community claims.<sup>45</sup> Furthermore, there is no civil society organization in the country that specifically engaged to deal with environmental and other human security concerns of locals on the extractive sector<sup>46</sup> and fertile grounds are not created by the government to integrate CSO's on the countries mining legislation (EITI, 2016; 2018; World Bank, 2014).

To wrap-up, strong institutions are responsive to a variety of needs and try to balance the government's objectives, the community aspirations, and the industry's requirements. Hence, the collected data from sources indicates that, the environmental mandate of MoMPNG is carried out without any kind institutional readiness (given capacity constraints and lack of modern monitoring equipment). In addition to that, the institutional failure to conduct both horizontal and vertical coordination and cooperation with stakeholders and CSOs in collaboration with the intense demands of the government to generate extractive-led (economic) development made the regulatory organ of extractives inefficient and ineffective as far the issue of human security is concerned. Hence, in order to establish strong and independent regulatory frameworks, it is imperative for the government to fill the existing lacunas either by retrieving the delegations of MoMPNG to the EPA or by advancing the institutional capacity of MoMPNG via equipping the necessary facilities (human, capital and material). Of all political commitments and initiatives from the government to building strong and independent institution is desirable to realize the human security of mining communities.

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<sup>44</sup> For example, even though there is a delineated boundary between the authorities of government (Federal and Regional), mostly mining operates in remote areas and the licensing of certain mines (large scale owned by foreigners) might be a federal responsibility, hence, local government authorities inevitably engaged to address disputes over mining.

<sup>45</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019; Official 08, interview held at Shakiso town, 06 March 2019.

<sup>46</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019.

## Chapter Five

### Data Analysis and Discussions

#### Introduction

This chapter discusses and analyses the data collected from different sources. Accordingly, the security threats of MIDROC gold mine, the threatened core values of the community, the most vulnerable segments of the community, the response strategies, and the development contributions of MIDROC Gold Mine will be discussed and analyzed. Lastly, analysis is made on the dynamics of MIDROC-Community conflict over the Lege Dembi gold mine.

#### 5.1 MIDROC Lege Dembi Gold Mine

Odo Shakiso has a long history of gold mining<sup>47</sup>; particularly, placer gold has been mined long before 1900 by traditional means. According to official sources from the company, the birth of the Odo Shakiso community and MIDROC relation dates back to the 1990s economic and political reforms of the Ethiopian government that aimed to diversify and modernize the economic base of the country (MIDROC, 2017; 2018). The government by the then Privatization Agency transferred the state-owned Lege Dembi Gold Mine Enterprise that engaged in gold mining in Adola Gold Belt to National Mining Corporation (delegates of MIDROC Gold Mine plc.) in June of 1997, then valued US \$172 million (Ibid.). A year later, the government disclosed the acquisition of the Lege Dembi gold mine via Ethiopian Herald published on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1998 (EEITI, 2018; MIDROC, 2018).

The Lege Dembi gold mine is the only well-developed and the prime gold extraction industry in Ethiopia and the Horn of the African region (Yager, 2014). In 1971, the Imperial regime started the exploitation of placer gold from the Lege Dembi area. Following the occurrences of placer gold, Adola Gold Exploration Project, a state enterprise led by Soviet experts, discovered the Lege Dembi primary gold deposit in 1979.<sup>48</sup> After the development of the mining plant and associated infrastructures, the mine began pilot-scale operations in 1987 and upgraded to

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<sup>47</sup> It was documented that, in the early 1880s the chiefs of the Adola region paid their tribute to King Menelik II in gold nuggets (Alazar, 1998).

<sup>48</sup> Interview: Mining expert 01, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019; Mining expert 04, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

industrial scale in 1989. Following the regime change in 1991, the mine was privatized only after the extraction of 12 tons of gold (Ibid.).

MIDROC Gold Mine Plc. is founded by an Ethiopian born Saudi billionaire Sheik Mohammed Hussein Ali Al-Amoudi as one of the subsidiaries of MIDROC technology group that engaged in multifaceted business activities (MIDROC, 2017; 2018). And this US\$172 million worth mine project named MIDROC Lege Dembi gold mine had a concession area of 80.4 km<sup>2</sup> for mining and 80.1 km<sup>2</sup> of exploration activities for 20 years (EEITI, 2018). According to sources, 98 % of the company's share is owned by Sheik Ali Al-Amudi (80 %) and his wife Sofia Ali Al-Amoudi (18 %). The remaining 2 % of the Mine's share is taken by the then MoFED on the behalf of Ethiopian government's free participation interest (EEITI, 2018; World Bank, 2014).

Following the acquisition, MIDROC advanced the mine by installing standard production technologies and commenced Dore Gold production in August of 1998 (MIDROC, 2017). According to sources from the company, the mine was installed to extract 4.5 tons of gold annually, and export all of its products (Gold (78%) and Silver (21%)) to Europe and sells to its sole client Commerzbank in Switzerland Zurich after refinery (MIDROC, 2014; 2018). Parallel to mining, the company intensified the exploration activities and discovered several gold-bearing sites in several parts of the country of which Sakaro (Oromia); Metekel (Benshangul Gumuz) and the Shire (Tigray) gold mine sites are worth mentioning.

## **5.2 The Human Security Implications of MIDROC Gold Mine on Odo Shakiso Community**

According to informants, the operation of MIDROC gold mine negatively affected the environmental, health, political and economic security of the Odo Shakiso community. With this understanding, efforts have been made to critically analyze the human security implication of the mine on livelihood of the Odo Shakiso community.

### **5.2.1 Environmental Insecurity**

As discussed, mining is an inherently invasive process that can cause harms to environs in an area much larger than the mining site itself and the impact would continue for years even after mine closure (Terminski, 2012). According to the collected data, the operations of MIDROC

gold mine posed severe devastations on the natural environment of the Odo Shakiso community. Air, Water and soil pollution and chemical contamination, noise, landscape disfiguring, and deforestations are some of the pointed threats of the mine on environs of the study area.

According to informants, land degradation is at the front of the major environmental effects of the mine. The terrain of the study area was totally changed due to extensive mineral extraction prospection and exploration activities of the mine. For example, the Lege Debmi open-pit mining disfigured the landscape of the mine surrounding regions. The top soils of the study area were removed with its natural vegetation due to large excavation, the use of explosives and drillings, followed by erosions.<sup>49</sup> Areas surrounding the Lege Dembi and the Sakaro underground mining sites were fully covered by waste rocks and other debris.<sup>50</sup> This has not only impeded plant growth but also rendered the surface rugged. According to the informants', there are many abandoned trapped pits and heavy holes/trenches that the mine digs for prospection, exploitation, and extraction activities throughout the operation of the mine that posed danger on inhabitants and their livestock's. There were also scenes of tailings and toxic dumping's close to community villages that had further implications to their lives. Landslides have recurrently erupted especially when the mine dynamite explosives and an environmental science expert expressed the whole operations conducted by the mine on the site as '*Terracide*'<sup>51</sup>.



Figure 5.1 Terracide on Lege Dembi Gold Mine

Source: Geological Survey of Ethiopia, n.d.

<sup>49</sup> Interview: Official 12, interview held at Negele Borena, 25 February 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019.

<sup>50</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 04, interview held at Negele Borena, 25 February 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019.

<sup>51</sup> It's a term coined by a journalist Nick Turse to express crimes committed by extractives on earth through excavation and drilling with bulldozers, roaring dump trucks and Dynamites to reach out minerals. Such activities nullify the earth by extinguishing the earth from the environs and resource that support's people to sustain life on it.

According to environmental experts' explanation, the existing water reserves of the study area are polluted and contaminated by chemicals and liquid wastes released from the mine.<sup>52</sup> A large volume of liquid waste from the gold processing plant is freely discharged to the environment only after cyanide treatment<sup>53</sup> through the Lege Dembi stream. And the discharged water easily pollutes and contaminates the pertaining water bodies to the stream and its adjacent environments until it reached the Mormora River, some 15 km from the mine.<sup>54</sup> The groundwater reserves of the area also polluted and contaminated by chemicals resulted from leakages from the tailings. And, this gave rise to the disturbance of the soil profiles of the area (Seyoum, 2006).

According to informants, since the late 1990s death incidence of seasonal birds on the nearby areas of the mine; deaths of and miscarriages by domestic animals are recurrently observed especially on cows that drink the stream water. Furthermore, an investigation made by Seyoum (2006) revealed the pollution of all the water reserves of the study area by hard metals particularly nickel and iron.<sup>55</sup> According to informants, communities inhabiting close vicinity of the mine have no access to pure water, especially those inhabiting downstream around the confluence of the Lege Dembi and Mormora River solely depend on stream water discharged from the mine for domestic (drinking, cooking, bathing), economic (farming and mining), pasture and ritual activities.<sup>56</sup> Despite such direct exposures even eating plants and animals grown such in contaminated regions had implications on the health status of the community.<sup>57</sup>

Air pollution is also a persisting problem in the study area associated the operation of the mine. According to informants, the mine surrounding communities are directly exposed to periodic emission of airborne particulate matter such as chemicals with an unpleasant smell and black

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<sup>52</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 05, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Environmental expert 03, interview held at Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, 01 January 2019.

<sup>53</sup> See details on 5.3.1 Mitigation approaches by MIDROC gold mine on the same chapter.

<sup>54</sup> Interview: Mining expert 02, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019.

<sup>55</sup> According to the standards set by the World Health Organization of maximum allowable concentration (MAC) and the 2001 Ethiopian Standards for drinking water quality, the water quality of the study area was in a poor state. From the 29 (21 surface and 8 ground) water samples tested, the researcher finds slight alkalinity (7.1-9.1 PH value on the surface and 7.2-8.5 PH value in the ground); a higher concentration of electrical conductivity value and total dissolved solids (TDS) on the water qualities of the area. The finding also revealed the occurrence of Lead and cadmium (on the surface water) and copper and cobalt (on the groundwater) below the detection level. The assessment affirmed the groupings of the water quality of the area under the hard water category.

<sup>56</sup> Interview: Mining expert 02, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019; Mining expert 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

<sup>57</sup> See details on 5.2.2 health insecurity on the same chapter.

smoke and clouds of dust. Communities inhabiting villages adjacent to the mine mainly the Didola, Sawana, Sakaro, and Regi and more importantly the Dhiba Bate Kebele located near the Cyanide Treatment Plant (CTP) where wastes and chemicals discharged from the gold processing plant are impounded are highly exposed to such toxic pollutions.<sup>58</sup>

Noise pollution is also predominant in the study area. The relentless mineral extraction activities of the company which involve heavy drilling, crushing and blasting have resulted in high vibrations and noise on the area. Respondents who inhabited surrounding the Lege Dembi and Sakaro underground mine sites lamented that the noise and vibrations of MIDROC dynamite do not only result in panic and shock but also cracks on their buildings.<sup>59</sup> It disturbs babies from bed/sleep and as I confirmed from field observation,<sup>60</sup> many children of the mine region can't hear normal sounds unless someone talked in a high pitch. Medical experts of Adola hospital linked the children's exposure to hearing problem with noises of explosives and crushing.<sup>61</sup> According to discussants, the ground vibration and the noise of explosives especially during the night are very high and reached to Shakiso town apart from the mine region and residents fear the risks of constructing big buildings in the town.<sup>62</sup>

The Odo Shakiso community had a unique place for forests, and integrated forest conservation and management practices on their deeply rooted cultural values and life experiences.<sup>63</sup> However, the MIDROC degraded/removed ecologically valuable topsoil containing seed banks and deforested and large tracts of dense forest including culturally valued indigenous trees, shrubs and herbs like *Ejersa*, *Birbirsa*, and *Uraagaa* associated with extensive mineral

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<sup>58</sup> Interview: Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019; Environmental expert 05, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>59</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019; FGD 2, discussion held at Shakiso town, 27 February 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>60</sup> The field work on the study area in which this study draws on was carried out from 2 February 2019 to 10 March 2019 and from 12 May 2019 to 17 May 2019. Interviews and observations were carried out in this period of time.

<sup>61</sup> Interview: Medical expert 01 and 02, interview held at Adola Hospital, Adola, 21 February 2018.

<sup>62</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 2, discussion held at Shakiso town, 27 February 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>63</sup> The community believes in the utilitarian values of the forest for living things; forests served as shades for the cattle, human beings, and wild animals and other under growths. They used forests as a source of medicine, food, honey, fuel, construction, furniture, and pastures. Furtherer more, they utilize forest as a blessed place for ritual practices; for example; naming and other rituals by Abba Gadaa takes place under Odaa. They believe that forests are lives and the existing dense forest reserve of the study area is an illustration of the strong link that the community had with nature and their indigenous knowledge of forest conservation.

development activities.<sup>64</sup> As it was furthered by an expert from Environmental Protection Authority;

During the initial mining period of the company, more than 80% of the 8.4 sq.km concession area of the mine was covered by dense forests, whereas, by the end of 2017 the forest cover of the area diminished by 95 % mainly due to extensive mineral extraction activities of the company.<sup>65</sup>

According to respondents, such deforestations and degradations significantly contributed to the existing environmental hazards like soil erosions, aesthetic degradation, soil infertility, stream sedimentation and water shortage and decrease in quality (Physico-chemical, biological) in the study area.<sup>66</sup> Furthermore, the habitat and the environment of various types of indigenous and seasonal birds and wild life's of the study area are disturbed and devastated by deforestation and mining associated activities like blasting which resulted in fright and forced wildlife migration.<sup>67</sup>

To summarize on, the collected data from sources affirmed the environmental insecurity of the Odo Shakiso community associated with MIDROC gold mine even though it needs further in-depth investigation by environmentalists. Furthermore, such environmental problems apart from their direct menace, they also become a threat to the economic, food, and health security of the Odo Shakiso community.

### **5.2.2 Health Insecurity**

According to informants, MIDROCs operation in study area affected health statues of the Odo Shakiso community negatively. Extreme headache, dizziness, blindness, skeletal fluorosis, disability, skin irritation, miscarriages, birth defects, and respiratory illness are some of the most frequently reported and recorded cases of the study area in Adola hospital.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Interview: Official 12, interview held at Negele Borena, 25 February 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019.

<sup>65</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019. The expert conducted an in-depth investigation of the impacts of mining (both artisanal and industrial-scale mining) on the forest reserves of the study area.

<sup>66</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 03, interview held at Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, 01 January 2019.

<sup>67</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019.

<sup>68</sup> Interview: Medical expert 01 and 02, interview held at Adola hospital, Adola, 21 February 2019.

According to informants, large numbers of health victims especially deformities and disabilities live in Dhiba Bate kebele where the Lege Dembi open pit mining site is located. I observed more than 19 deformities, 7 disabilities and 4 skin disease infected individuals in a small village called *Gidhe* during the field visit in Dhiba Bate Kebele located close to the tailing dam where the toxic waste of the mine are impounded. According to discussants' explanation, the number of disabilities and deformities lived in the village may exceed 40.<sup>69</sup> Discussants' explained that birth of premature, mentally retarded, deformed babies and calves; babies without genital organ, baby' s and calves without back bone have been occurring recurrently in the area. Some children like *Ayanttu*, *Sebele*, and *Nige* (see Fig. 5.2) are not able to eat, walk and stand on their own as they were born with very soft, thin and week bones and the majority deformities of the area faced with either one or the whole mentioned defects. According to discussants, none of deformities parents had got medical solutions as yet form the existing health centers of the study area.

According to respondents, a number of the company's workers also affected by such neural disorder and bone-related health defects and the company nursed the patient's and sometimes referred some complex cases who need high surgeries to specialized hospitals found outside the study area.<sup>70</sup>



Figure 5.2 Deformed and Disabled Children in Dhiba Batte Kebele

Source: Photograph by the Author, 2019.

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<sup>69</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at *Gidhe* village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019.

<sup>70</sup> According to trusted informants from the company, a number of the company's employees especially those of chemical operators recurrently conducted high surgeries and nowadays attending medical treatment from the company. Hence, to reduce the incidence and as a response to the safety concern of workers, the company implemented a rule that restricts the workers' duration on the department for several weeks (which were permanent previously) and other safety measures.

According to health experts, miscarriages are the most common and recurrent health defect in the study area. According to reports from the government-owned Adola Hospital, over 160 deaths in a mother's womb (stillbirths) were recorded from Odo Shakiso woreda of Dhiba Bate kebele in the 2016/2017 fiscal year. According to discussants, almost all women of their village experienced miscarriage at least once or twice in their life and affirmed the presence of some women who didn't become mothers as yet as a result of miscarriages. As an informant aggressively stressed the situation: "We are losing our generations: it is killing people in the name of development".<sup>71</sup> As experts explained, earlier the community linked such miscarriages and deformed babies with bad sins and ire's from a supernatural force.<sup>72</sup> Afraid of stigmas from the community, women used to hide their pregnancy until they find their child born in full health. The problem also observed in domestic animals too, large number of animals have died while they are drinking and feeding in and surroundings of the Lege Dembi stream, especially cows are experience miscarriage recurrently and were giving birth to abnormal creatures having unique shape or blind and crippled beings as the community locally termed '*Awaldigesa*'.<sup>73</sup>

According to medical experts explanation from Adola Hospital, such amount of deformities and miscarriages are not observed in other places even within the study area out of the villages adjacent to the mine especially *Dhiba Bate*.<sup>74</sup> Discussants argued that deformities and miscarriages were unknown to them during the pre-mining era or some two decades before.<sup>75</sup> According to medical experts explanation, such kind of incidence are common in mining regions throughout the world, and it might be perhaps due to people's exposure to the toxic emissions from the mine.<sup>76</sup> Further, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) (2006) provides detail scientific and medical analysis on the correlation exists between toxic emissions (for example, Cyanide, mercury, other radioactive elements) from extractives and

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<sup>71</sup> Focus Group Discussion: D 01, discussant at FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019.

<sup>72</sup> Medical expert 03 and 04, interview held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019

<sup>73</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>74</sup> Interview: Medical expert 01 and 02, interview held at Adola Hospital, Adola, 21 February 2018.

<sup>75</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019.

<sup>76</sup> Interview: Official 10, interview held at Negele Borena, 22 February 2019; Official 07, interview held at Shakiso town, 27 February 2019.

human and animal health. As it was discussed earlier, the community used the polluted and chemically contaminated water released from the mine for drinking, bathing, cooking, farming, mining, and similar activities.

According to victims, they affected by skin disease (skin irritation/itchy), since they are stolen/fell in to (*Gidhe*) a drainage ditch containing wastewater when they are shepherding.<sup>77</sup> According to environmental experts from the company, any kind of direct contact to the tailing dam potentially harmful to the health of living things.<sup>78</sup> Many peoples who live in the dust bowl regions like Lege Dembi, Sawana, Reji and Didola kebeles are affected by sight problems, asthma, hearing, and silicosis-lung related disease.<sup>79</sup> As stated earlier, children's who live close to the Lege Dembi open pit mining site are victims of hearing problem and they can't hear unless someone talk in high pitch associated with explosives employed by the mine. Even if it is not as such significant, the community claimed for violence related health intimidations like, torture, killings, and rape.<sup>80</sup> Furthermore, cultural distortions or/and social crises like alcoholism, divorce, prostitution, robbery, homicide and immorality become a normal tend on the area which was unfamiliar during the pre-mining era.<sup>81</sup>

However, MIDROC strongly resists the community's claims by arguing "the company operates in a site 500 km from the community villages by obeying international norms".<sup>82</sup> As it was furthered by Arega Yirda (Ph.D.) Chief Executive Officer of MIDROC, the health-related

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<sup>77</sup> Interview: Informant 02 and 06, interview held at *Gidhe* village, *Dhiba Bate* kebele in *Odo Shakiso* Woreda, 01 March 2019.

<sup>78</sup> Interview: Mining expert 02, interview held at *Shakiso* town, by March 10/2019; Mining expert 05, interview held at *Shakiso* town, 07 March 2019.

<sup>79</sup> According to the experts' explanation, blasting, dust, and noises sourced from the company's operation especially drilling, crushing, smelting, waste rock dumps, and tailings impoundments pointed as the main reason behind such community health defects.

<sup>80</sup> According to discussants' of FGD, 1 and FGD, 3 explanation, a number of individuals like *Iyasu*, *Chuluke*, and *Malasa* are some of the community members that are killed by the company's private security forces named *Trusts*.

<sup>81</sup> For example, as my informant explained it, Since MIDROC workers, artisanal miners and gold dealers earn better money as that of locals (mostly farmer), they have got motor bicycle and lure girls and house wives by their money and give rides from town to the village and finally entered into different forms of sexual relationships which finally leads to divorce which should be considered as immoral social vice. The worse is that, young girls and children are engaged prostitution and in such sex relationship by lifting out their school family. One can understand the severity of the problem by looking my informant's claim which states: "If any of them should come near my wife or child, I will shoot him immediately".

<sup>82</sup> The Reporter (2017), The CEO Speaks, retrieved on 17 February 2019 from, <https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/content/ceo-speaks>.

concerns of the community had no any kind of correlation with the operation of the mine, because, “all the discharges of the mine are passed through the detoxification plant after the company confirmed its compliance with internationally accepted standards”.

According to informants, of the whole community women’s and children’s are the most vulnerable segments of the population.<sup>83</sup> According to the assessment conducted by Otukana (2018), 66 % of the health victims are children’s under the age of 15 and spatially, villages located downstream around the Lege Dembi within 50 km are the most vulnerable region for such health defects mainly due to their direct exposure to the threats either through air or/and water. That means communities inhabited surrounding the mine namely Dhiba Bate, Reji, Didola, Sakaro and Sawana Kebeles are the most vulnerable areas where a large number of victims are found. To cop up, even though, adequate and well-organized recordings/reports and scientific investigations that show the impacts of the mine are not found, the collected data from sources suggest the health insecurity of the Odo Shakiso community associated with the operation of MIDROC gold mine.

### **5.2.3 Economic Insecurity**

According to respondents, the economic impacts of MIDROC gold mine in the sustainable livelihood of the Odo Shakiso community are very remarkable. The community’s decline in economic security emanates from deprivations from land resources, unemployment and labor insecurity, production decline, lack of alternative source of income, and some other factors associated with MIDROC gold mine operation in the study area.

The Odo Shakiso community perceived the earth (*lafa*) as their mother, and they believe that the mother provides everything that her children need.<sup>84</sup> Therefore, the land is a source of all resources that the community had and needs; forests, farms, minerals, pastures and the like in

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<sup>83</sup> Interview: Official 07 and Medical expert 05 interview held at Shakiso town, 27 February 2019; Official 10, interview held at Negele Borena, 22 February 2019.

<sup>84</sup> Their expression of land in association with supernatural force when they condemn somebody to stop his/her wrongdoing by saying; "adaraa Waaqaa fi lafaa waan akkasii gochuu dhaabi!" meaning “Please stop doing this by the name of the God and the earth!” is an illustration of the place that land had on the deeply rooted cultural values of the community as it was well experienced among the Oromo’s and other African cultures.

which the economic foundations of the community are relied on.<sup>85</sup> Hence, the land is the heart of the economic security of the community and once they lost it, they lost what they had all minerals, pastures, farms, and forests that safeguard their socio-economic survival.

Therefore, MIDROC following the acquisition of the Lege Dembi gold mine and latter through its intense expansion projects possessed and enclosed such community lands (farmlands, pastures, and artisanal mining sites) without providing adequate compensation mechanisms.<sup>86</sup> Furthermore, the operations not only exclude the community from physical access to resources but also limited their ability to use the resources in which a large number of the community served as their source of income. As it was explained by discussants;

...We are alienated from our inherited land and resource without compensation either by the state or the company. All our pasture and forest lands and artisanal mining sites are fenced by MIDROC. We are not able to mine gold on our land, we do not pasture our herds, and we do not use our forests. MIDROC took what we had all...<sup>87</sup>

MIDROC argued that the company had possessed large tracts of lands for mining development purpose in the study area by providing monetary compensation mechanisms.<sup>88</sup> But, the community and local government authorities argued that the compensation provided by the company only considers those peasants that had a green card of land ownership in a situation where the majority of the communities are customary landowners. Apart from it, in a way that contradicts the compensation laws of the state, the company excluded the compensation rights of assets found on the land like trees and farms.<sup>89</sup> Hence, the problem which becomes the major source of conflict between the mine and the community is the issue of communal lands.

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<sup>85</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, by 01 March 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>86</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>87</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>88</sup> As per the agreements and contractual issues leading to the commencement of operations of MIDROC, large tracts of communal lands of the study area are under their concession and they hold the legal right to demarcate it for any mining-related activity as and when it is expedient to do so.

<sup>89</sup> According to the council of ministers regulation No 135/2007, compensation is not only for paying compensation for the land and lost assets but also to assist displaced persons to restore their livelihood. In a similar vein, the expropriation and compensation law (Proc. No 455/2005) stipulates the compensation and rehabilitation assistance rights of people displaced by development projects.

According to discussants, MIDROC possessed almost all communal lands of the community (artisanal mining sites, pasture lands, farming lands) without the community getting any kind of compensation either by local government organs or the conglomerate company.<sup>90</sup> In any way, the community's loss of communal land which is their main source of income and livelihood is fact. Of all, artisanal miners are the most affected (become both homeless and landless) segments of the community due to the ever-expanding enclosures of the company. According to respondents, the large number of landless peasants and artisanal miners are displaced to nearby towns of Shakiso, like Megado, Hayadima, Saba Boru and Adola in search of employment and other sources of income.<sup>91</sup> Today, such communities predominantly do not have any opportunities to participate in profits resulting from resource extraction. As it was confirmed by World Bank (2014), land use and compensation-related conflicts are one of the persisting problems of the Ethiopian extractive sector which were found on its infancy.

As informants stipulated, domestic food production of the study area shows a decline as compared to the needs of the entire area/previous times both in terms of quality and quantity. Environmental experts linked the incidence both directly and indirectly with MIDROC operation in the study area. For example, considerable tracts of lands previously possessed by farmers particularly the Sakaro area now fall within the concessions of the company.<sup>92</sup> Experts argued that most parts of the mine surrounding regions of the study area are unproductive; resulting from soil fertility decline associated with chemical contamination and pollution of the environment and land degradation and soil erosions.<sup>93</sup> This eventually has affected the total output of agricultural products especially crops (maize). As it was well asserted by a farmer inhabiting in one of the mine surrounding village; "we are not producing food that suffices to our family consumption".<sup>94</sup> Hence, the production decline does not only bring question on fore of economic livelihoods of the community both in terms of financial sustainability and household

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<sup>90</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>91</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>92</sup> Both farmers and officials of the Odo Shakiso Woreda land administration bureau interviewed attributed this to the communities' loss of farmland and degradation and chemical contamination of portions of farmlands due to mining activities of MIDROC.

<sup>93</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 04, interview held at Negele Borena, by 25 February 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019; Mining expert 02, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019.

<sup>94</sup> Interview: Informant 01, interview held at Sawana kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 02 March 2019.

income generation needed to drive households but also intense food insecurity. Hence, the operation of the mine both directly and indirectly affected the purchasing power of the locals.

Furthermore, the commercial value of the community's product (animals) is declining considerably. As it was stated by my discussants, "buyers didn't want to purchase our herds including MIDROC<sup>95</sup> itself, particularly herds of the Gidhe village".<sup>96</sup> According to respondents, further explanation, afraid of the illness resulted from eating cattle that pastured in chemically contaminated regions are the rationales' used by the customers behind their refusal to buy the local herds. According to my informants, in a year before decades, the study area is familiar in its excellence of herd among main cattle producing areas of the Guji zone.<sup>97</sup> Furthermore, miscarriage and animals death is one of the serious challenges of the community. According to a source, miscarriages are recurrently observed in over 500 cows of the community.<sup>98</sup> The source also documented the deaths of over 600 cattle, 12 goats and 3 donkeys of 200 households that drink the water released from the mine. A respondent from the company affirmed the recurrence of animal's deaths near the tailings of the company. Therefore, the loss resulted from such amount of deaths had significant implications on the economic efficiency and sustainable livelihood of the community especially pastoralists.



Figure 5.3 Picture of Animals Died in Gidhe Village

Source: The Odo Shakiso Woreda Administration Environmental Protection Office, 2018.

<sup>95</sup> According to informants from the company, the MIDROC the largest customer of herd and pottery products which is used for its staff consumption, however the company purchases animal products (herd and poultry products) from Negele Borena and Bule Hora towns by traveling more than 100 km from there.

<sup>96</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019; FGD 2, discussion held at Shakiso town, 27 February 2019.

<sup>97</sup> Interview: Official 10 and Environmental expert 04, interview held at Negele Borena, 25 February 2019.

<sup>98</sup> A letter of a petition submitted to government authorities in search of an administrative solution to the menaces created by the company on March 15/2018 documented details of the community losses associated with the adverse effects of noxious chemicals released from the gold mine.

One of the many pros of mining development projects is creating an enabling environment for local employment. According to informants, in a situation where the majority of the community especially youths are jobless; MIDROC didn't want to hire locals' both at an expert level and supportive units of the mine. As my discussant's stated it, "even though the mine is right at our doorstep, we are not employed".<sup>99</sup> As it was furthered by local government authorities;

The entire staffs of the company are hired from the center of the country. They are unwilling to hire locals even in a situation where some graduates of geology, chemical engineering, environmental science, and management fields are applying for positions consistent with their fields.<sup>100</sup>

The claim was further supported by my informant from Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU);

...Even after the company employed few professionals for its staff in addition to Trusts (security guards) following the continued pressure from the concerned stakeholders, unequal treatment(administrative fractions) are continued by excluding locals from accommodation and related incentives provided by the company.<sup>101</sup>

According to an official from EEITI, earlier times the company admitted the local claims and used educational requirements as a pretext.<sup>102</sup> Trusted respondents from the company argued that MIDROC pointed security as a rationale for its preference of non-local labors. In any case, however, the exclusion of locals from different levels of employment is evident and significantly affected the economic wellbeing of the community by curtailing them from an alternative source of income.

As discussed earlier, MIDROC deforested wide range forest reserves of the study area throughout its operation. Despite securing the environment, forests served as income generators for the community by being a source of fuel, honey, food and other commercial products. However, MIDROC even without having a license and consent from the concerned authorities

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<sup>99</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>100</sup> Interview: Official 08, interview held at Shakiso town, 06 March 2019.

<sup>101</sup> Interview: CSO 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 10 June 2019.

<sup>102</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at MoMPNG, Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019.

aggressively engaged in illegal timber production.<sup>103</sup> According to the Odo Shakiso woreda natural resource bureau forest deforestation assessment report (2000), MIDROC removed around 52 hectares of dense forest in its intense exploration activities (excluding mining) which had a financial estimate of 12 million Birr. Hence, as the collected data affirmed, the Odo Shakiso community is alienated from its forest induced income and resource which is the backbone of their livelihood associated with the intense expansion projects of the mine. Hence, as confirmed from the discussion, the operation of MIDROC gold mine significantly affected the economic security of the Odo Shakiso community.

#### **5.2.4. Political Insecurity**

According to the collected data, the political security implications of MIDROC gold mine on the Odo Shakiso community are very remarkable. The political insecurity of the Odo Shakiso community associated with MIDROC gold mine emanates from the deprivation of the community from the decision making framework of the mine.

Until 1991, the political economy of gold mining in Adola region was under the state autonomy and both the imperial and the military regimes governed the whole regions of the mine in an authoritarian way (Assebe, 2016). But, the coming to power of EPRDF vested relative political freedom for locals to exploit and use resources freely mainly associated with the ideological shift of the incumbent government on the prevailed doctrines of the state over the mine.<sup>104</sup> However, it was short-lived and the community started claiming entitlement, consultation and participation related concerns on the mine since they excluded from the political and administrative decision-making process after the privatization of the mine by Ethiopian Mineral Resource Development Corporation (delegates of MIDROC gold mine) in 1997.<sup>105</sup>

MIDROC gold mine carried out several mining development activities in the study area for the past 20 years. However, since its inception to up to date, the Odo Shakiso woreda is not part and parcel in the decision machining process of the mine. As one informant stressed:

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<sup>103</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>104</sup> See details on page 78: The MIDROC Gold Mine – Odo Shakiso Community Conflict on a similar chapter.

<sup>105</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

Decisions since the acquisition of the Lege Dembi gold mine to the intense expansion projects as well as the very recent renewal of the expired mine license were carried out in a way that excludes the participation and the consultation of the Odo Shakiso community and local government authorities. We are deprived of exercising our political right of being a core actor in the decision-making process of our land and resource.<sup>106</sup>

Even, the community heard the acquisition of the Lege Dembi gold mine and the very recent renewal of the expired mine license as that of the general public from the mass media. Local government authorities are also uninformed and unaware of what the company agreed with the federal government on mine, how and by what means they participate and benefit from the mine.

According to informants, the community, as well as the local government authorities, were not outright opposed to exploration or/and mining activities of MIDROC. What they repeatedly stressed is their entitlement, consultation and being an indispensable actor in the decision making the process of the mine.<sup>107</sup> But, almost all dealings of the mine were carried out in a way that excludes locals which were the owner of the land and the resource and more importantly the immediate recipients of the good and bad effect of the project.<sup>108</sup>

According to informants, even in a situation where local government authorities claim locals concern of land and human security threats of the mine in different government forums held of varying hierarchies they labeled as anti-development and being members of the then outlawed OLF.<sup>109</sup> Hence, no one openly criticized MIDROC for various community concerns even to officials found at the zonal and regional level since it may have some security problems on their work and livelihood.<sup>110</sup> As one of the local government authorities stressed,

MIDROC is government. If we claim the mine for various human security concerns of communities, our fate is to be detained and demoted from our position in the name of

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<sup>106</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>107</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019; Official 11, interview held at Negele Borena, 23 February 2019.

<sup>108</sup> Interview: CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019

<sup>109</sup> Until the coming to power of Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) as the prime minister of FDRE in 2018 and his call for peaceful political struggle of armed political groups found outside of the country, OLF (Oromo Liberation Front) is one among the armed opposition political organizations who labeled as a terrorist organization by Ethiopian government.

<sup>110</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

being anti-development. Since, opposing and resisting MIDROC had a security cost, even some government officials didn't want to make the locals claim of MIDROC as an agenda of discussion in different government and community forums held on the woreda.<sup>111</sup>

Furthermore, the government's licensing of MIDROC for various expansion projects and renewing the expired mining license in a situation where MIDROC is not securing the free consent of locals and cleaning its footprints reveals how much corporate interest is dominating the political and other human security concerns of locals.<sup>112</sup> This was well manifested on the repressive arms of the state on demonstrators during the anti-mine protests over MIDROC (Human Rights Watch, 2016) and the government's attempt of justifying development (economic contributions of the mine) for prioritizing the company's interest over the human security concern of locals.<sup>113</sup> As an informant expressed it, MIDROC blackmailed government authorities by providing financial contributions for their institutions to force their decision in a way that favors the mine which is political corruption.<sup>114</sup> Further elaborating this, he asked, why the major contributions of the mine in the woreda focused on financing and equipping key government institutions like Shakiso town municipality and Justice Office, Guji Zone & Odo Shakiso Woreda administration and providing financial and in-kind contributions for MoMPNG and other institutions of the federal and regional government. He concluded that this is a strategy of lobbying government authorities and institutions to secure the interests of the mine on their decisions. The World Bank in its 2012 massive report "Diagnosing Corruption in Ethiopia" identified the mining sector as one of the most corrupt sectors of Ethiopia's economy.

As a matter of good business practice, responsible mining had the potential to provide inclusive (holistic) development for all stakeholders and there are different experiences of income distribution generated from extractives. For example, in most federally governed countries the federal government normally receives 15 to 20 % of the profit generated by mining companies, whereas the regional government gets 10 to 15% of the profit. The Ethiopian government had claimed about 42 % (1.3 Billion Birr) of the MIDROC gold mine's generated income in the fiscal year 2013/14; which was around 99 % extractive revenue generated from gold (EITI,

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<sup>111</sup> Interview: Official 11, interview held at Negele Borena, 23 February 2019.

<sup>112</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019.

<sup>113</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>114</sup> Interview: CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019.

2016). The message is clear, MIDROC had made vivid development (economic) contributions, but what matters most is for whose development. As one of the local government authorities stressed, how much of the profit the Odo Shakiso woreda is to receive is what matters most. Could it be proportional and significant that they could not resist opposing the deal. Have they even been consulted and participated in the decision of 2 % of the mine's generated income promised to give to Shakiso on the renewed license of the mine?<sup>115</sup>

Hence, the political security threats of the Odo Shakiso community associated with MIDROC gold mine are potentially linked with the politico-economic ideology of the state and the exclusionist strategies of the mine. Firstly, the developmental state ideology of the state has played a significant role in the political security threats of the Odo Shakiso community associated with MIDROC gold mine. In this political ideology, the intense demands of the government are not liberalizing and ensuring the political freedom people rather generate extractive led economic growth (Amdetsion, 2015). In doing so, even if the government had commitments to the human security (political security) of mining communities, attaining economic security becomes the primary agenda of the government as it guarantees to state and regime security (Belachew, 2018). Therefore, the capital possessed from the conglomerate company (hard currency, mine revenue, and royalty) which was the prime concern of the state becomes the main factor for excluding locals from the decisions making framework of the mine and for putting the political and social security concerns of locals at the bottom of the negotiation table. Since the capital possessed by the mine lures the government for attaining its various socio-economic and political interests, relatively almost all institutions of the state become servants of the mine and strive for the realization of the corporate's interest. Hence, the competition becomes between unequal parties: MIDROC who had both business and political power and the Shakiso community who were meaningless political actors.<sup>116</sup> According to legal expert's explanation, in countries like Ethiopia, where there are no neutral, strong and viable regulatory institutions and CSO's who resist unsound decisions of the state, mining communities locals like the Odo Shakiso community are always losers in the face of competition with big corporations like MIDROC.<sup>117</sup> This is mainly due to, as to that of today dealings held and

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<sup>115</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>116</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>117</sup> Interview: Legal expert 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 09 April 2019.

decisions associated with mine are decided at a very political and centralized level with the involvement of highest governmental authorities and MIDROC gold mine only.<sup>118</sup>

Secondly, MIDROC is not willing to deal with local government authorities. Even in a situation where local government authorities are appealing to the mine to deal with the communal land to and to oversee how the mine is responsibly operating for other human security threat concerns of locals. The company's response is you do not have authority to oversee and regulate the mine's activity since MIDROC was licensed from the federal government. Hence, the close door and exclusionist strategies of MIDROC threatened the political security of the Odo Shakiso community since the system deprives locals of the regulatory framework and the authority to oversee and deal with the community claims.<sup>119</sup>

To wrap-up, the arena within which the MIDROC- Odo Shakiso community interrelates is not a level playing field. There exists an enormous power inequality as MIDROC wields economic, legal and political powers as compared to the Odo Shakiso community who normally considered as peripheral and weaker in the process of administrative and political decision making framework over the mine. Hence, the operations of MIDROC gold mine both directly and indirectly threaten the political security of the Odo Shakiso community very remarkably.

### **5.3 Source of Human Security Threats by MIDROC Gold Mine**

To attain human security, it is imperative to critically understand source of threats, as this would help stakeholders' to consolidate adequate mitigation strategies that tackle the threats. With this understanding, efforts have been made to identify sources of human security threats of Odo Shakiso community associated with MIDROC gold mine. According to the collected data, the mineral extraction process/mining methods, chemicals and wastes, expansion, and exclusions indicated as the potential source of threats by the company. Therefore, source of threats that make the Odo Shakiso community insecure in health, environment and economic dimensions are analyzed below.

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<sup>118</sup> Interview: Legal expert 02 and 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 09 April 2019; CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019; CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019.

<sup>119</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019; Official 08, interview held at Shakiso town, 06 March 2019.

### 5.3.1 The Mineral Extraction /Mining Methods

At the time of fieldwork, mining was not in progress due to the project license suspension<sup>120</sup> by Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoMPNG). As a result, direct observation of the mining methods and mineral extraction activities of the company is not carried out. However, researcher critically analyzed data obtained from various sources.

The MIDROC gold mine investment in Odo Shakiso Woreda comprises gold mining at the Lege Dembi and Sakaro mine and various exploration activities. According to official sources from the company, MIDROC employed both open pit and underground mining methods to extract minerals in the study area (MIDROC, 2017; 2018). According to studies, the mineral extraction activities of the company starting from early exploration activities of prospecting to the final production of Dore gold, it passes certain production stages like drilling, blasting, crushing, and other processes are the potential source of various types of ecological and health problems of the Odo Shakiso community (EEITI, 2016; Otukana, 2018; Seyoum, 2006; World Bank, 2014).

Mining methods employed by MIDROC in Lege Dembi gold mine (open pit and underground mining) and the Sakaro (underground) mines is a large scale hard rock mining which involves the drilling, crushing of hard gold-bearing rocks and the separation of the gold ore from the waste rock.<sup>121</sup> Such mining methods, by its very nature, produce large amounts of wastes due to the high waste-to-product ratios associated with producing most ores and it is the main phase where the mineral extraction activities of the company seriously threaten the environment of the mine surrounding communities.<sup>122</sup> This is mainly due to hard rock mining especially the breaking of rocks and separation of ores from wastes releases large amounts of toxic compounds, radioactive elements, metallic and liquid dust to the environs of the mine region (Seyoum, 2006). Hence, as environmental experts affirmed, the concentrations of such elements on environment easily pollute and contaminate the air, the water reserves and the soils of the mine frontier regions like Didola, Sawana, Sakaro, Regi and more importantly the Dhiba Bate kebele located

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<sup>120</sup> The MoMPNG suspended the renewed project license of MIDROC on 9 May 2018 following the widespread popular opposition resulted from environmental and community development allegations of the community over the mine.

<sup>121</sup> Interview: Mining expert 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

<sup>122</sup> Interview: Mining expert 02, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019; Mining expert 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

close to the Cyanide Treatment Plant (CTP) of the company. And, it becomes the main source of environmental and health security threats of the Odo Shakiso community.

Deforestation and degradation is also another potential source of environmental security threat associated with the mineral extraction processes of the mine. MIDROC had deforested large tracts dense forest reserves of the study area throughout its operation. Such deforestation and degradation exposed the land of the area for severe soil erosions and related environmental problems. Further, MIDROC operation cleared ecologically valuable topsoil containing seed banks and biodiversities that caused production decline of agricultural products that significantly contributed for the economic insecurity of the Odo Shakiso community.<sup>123</sup>

Another potential source of human security threat associated with the mineral extraction activities of the mine is blasting. On both mining sites, MIDROC blasts rock twice a day. In a place where MIDROC blast explosive dynamites large number communities, especially in Sakaro area, live on the surface of the underground mining site. Such heavy blasting has the potential for sound noise and land subsidence.<sup>124</sup> In addition to the cracks resulted from explosives, the restless (24/7) operation of the company by using more sophisticated/complex mine technologies worsened the life of the mine surrounding community. Lastly, the mineral extraction operation of MIDROC is merely confined to gold and silver and the extraction activities of the mine discarded or excludes the possibility of producing many other economically valuable metals found in the deposit like copper and lead (Yihdego et al., 2018).

Finally, the collected data from sources affirmed the mining methods and mineral extraction process of MIDROC gold mine potentially threatened the environmental, health, and economic security of the Odo Shakiso community.

### **5.3.2 Chemicals and Wastes**

MIDROC uses number chemicals for washing, leaching, calcination, smelting, laboratory analysis, detoxification, elution, explosives and various purposes at different stages of gold extraction and chemical transformation process (MIDROC, 2004). Sodium Cyanide, Sodium

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<sup>123</sup> Interview: Official 12, interview held at Negele Borena, 25 February 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019.

<sup>124</sup> Interview: Mining expert 03, interview held at Shakiso town, by March 08/2019.

Hydroxide, gelatin-based explosive, Calcium Hydrochloride, Acids, Caustic, and Soda are some of the toxic and harm-causing chemicals used by MIDROC gold mine (Seyoum, 2006). According to the source, in addition to using such chemicals, improper handling, transportation, storage, retention and the disposal of such chemicals served as a potential threat the environmental and health security of the mine surrounding community (ATSDR, 2006). For example, cyanide is a chemical registered as a hazardous substance in the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and banned in several jurisdictions around the world, because life is more valuable than gold.<sup>125</sup> An environmental expert from MIDROC argued that;

Therefore, it is not only the cyanide (people are talking about now) used to produce gold that is so dangerous, but host of other toxic elements<sup>126</sup> people do not know that they exist. It is much more difficult to contain the release of these metals than cyanide, the source of which is known and the amount of which is controllable.<sup>127</sup>

According to experts, the potential source of chemical pollution (soil, water, and air) in the study area are tailings from the gold ore processing plant (impoundment of liquid and solid wastes) and waste rock dumps of the open-pit. Seyoum (2006) by referring to the company's 2004 annual report stated that the MIDROC operation has left more than 40 million tons of wastes (rock and soils) since the beginning of production until the end of 2004.<sup>128</sup> Such wastes are mixtures of various types of toxic substances like heavy metals and radioactive elements that could have both direct and indirect impact on the environment and health security of communities living in the mining region by contaminating and poisoning water reserves, soils and related environments of the community.

The tailing dam also contains sulphide minerals that increase the acidity of the existing water reserves in the study area. These acids leach out toxic metals and release them to the water that

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<sup>125</sup> In Ethiopia, both cyanide and mercury were still in use in commercial mining, especially cyanide formally and legally used in gold extraction process with government approval by MIDROC, EZANA and others, while there is no proper waste disposal, treatment and management strategies were put in place or enforced by the government.

<sup>126</sup> The main sources of heavy metal pollution in the study area are supposed to be the mineralogical compositions of the gold ores in the Lege Dembi mines mainly metal sulphides i.e. pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>) and pyrrhotite (Fe<sub>1-x</sub>S) for iron, chalcopyrite (CuFeS<sub>2</sub>) for copper and iron, galena (PbS) for lead and sphalerite (ZnS) for zinc. During the excavation of ores and wastes and ore processing, these metals are supposed to be released into the environment and eventually find their way into the water reserves and atmospheres of the study area (Seyoum, 2006).

<sup>127</sup> Interview: Mining expert 02, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019.

<sup>128</sup> Hence, it is assumed that MIDROC has released around 114 million tons of wastes throughout its operation.

flows out of the pond only after cyanide treatment to the environment through the Lege Dembi stream. The concentration of heavy metals like lead, arsenic, chromium, mercury, etc. are dangerous and toxic to humans and wildlife, and continually contaminate the natural environment of the area.<sup>129</sup> The leaching process from tailings literally named Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) served as points of land, water and air pollution and contamination and will continue in threatening the human security of the mine surrounding community until it reaches the Mormora River found some 15 km far from telling dam. As Ismawati (2016) clearly stipulated, humans can be affected by direct exposure to the water containing these metals. Since the local community depends on water from River into which most polluted streams drain into, as well as the heavy metals and sediments found in the stream are likely posed long-term health defects on both humans and animals of the study area. Generally, as the collected data from sources affirmed toxic chemicals and wastes disposed of from the operation of the mine potentially threatened the environmental and health security status of Odo Shakso community.

### **5.3.3 Expansion**

To expand the economic life of the mine, MIDROC conducted intense mining development activities in the *Woreda*. The exhaustion of the huge gold reserves of the Central Lege Dembi and the inefficient reserves of Upper and Lower Lege Dembi gold mine to the installed production capacity of the mine pointed as the driving factor for the expansion projects of the company.<sup>130</sup> Hence, to sustain the mine life of the company in the study area, MIDROC engaged on aggressive exploration activities parallel to extraction by pitting, trenching and drilling (MIDROC, 2005).

According to an official from Guji Zone Water, Energy and Mining bureau, the company's extensive exploration activities covered almost all gold-bearing sites in the area.<sup>131</sup> The lands in which MIDROC undertook exploration activities are areas where a large number of local communities engaged in different kinds of economic activities like artisanal mining, agriculture, and cattle rearing. Firstly, the company possessed the lands where a large number of artisans

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<sup>129</sup> Interview: Mining expert 03, interview held at Shakiso town, 08 March 2019; Environmental expert 05, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>130</sup> Interview: Mining expert 04, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019 ; Mining expert 01, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019; Mining expert 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

<sup>131</sup> Interview: Official 11, interview held at Negele Borena, 23 February 2019.

mined placer gold for along years. This is done because “the sites where placer gold is mined by artisanal miners are the first and the simplistic indicator for the occurrence of reserved primary gold in the nearby areas which paves the way for further geological activities”.<sup>132</sup> Hence, artisanal miners followed by peasants become the prime victims by the company's intense expansion projects which deprived them of their prized land and economic base. This is mainly due to, in an area where prospectors marked for minerals, the company fenced the area and conduct heavy drillings and excavations by clearing all the existing natural resources of the area.

As it was claimed by locals, MIDROC aggressively enclosed large tracts of communal land without any kind of community consultation and compensation. And, the company's enclosure not only restricted the community from their physical access to the resource (pasture and farmlands and artisanal mining sites) and their ability to use the resources.<sup>133</sup> However, MIDROC argued that, as per the agreements and contractual issues leading to the commencement of operations of the mine, large tracts of communal lands is under their concession and they hold legal right to demarcate it for any mining-related activity as and when it is expedient to do so. Based on the concession, the company holds the right to acquire any previously productive or occupied land and to compensate the affected group under already documented rules and guidelines. In doing so, the company only deals with peasants that have certificate of land ownership over the compensation of their lost lands, however, those customary land owners who engaged in different economic activities (artisanal mining and agriculture) on those communal lands are not the beneficiaries of compensation as they are not certified by the concerned government authorities to hold the land.

However, the communities inhabited in and around the mine and exploration sites are customary landowners who perceive land as a communal property that inherited from ancestors. Therefore, the majority of the communities are not familiar with the recently introduced land registration system which pointed as a factor behind the community's loss of land. The incidence caused the displacement of people and aggravated community grievance. A number of people claimed for

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<sup>132</sup> Interview: Mining expert 04, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

<sup>133</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Dhiba Bate kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

justice by taking their cases to the court. And, informants affirmed the presence of few people who live in huts/plastic shades in the exploration sites of the mine as yet.<sup>134</sup>

The other potential source of human security threat associated with the expansion projects of the mine are lack of a delineated boundary for the operations of the mine. Even if, the company had 80.1 km<sup>2</sup> concession area of exploration (EEITI, 2018), as I confirmed from the field visit, none of local informants including local government authorities had information about the actual size and the boundary limits of the mine on the ground. A study made by Seyoum revealed, how the community lands are grabbed by the company by stating: "... extensive and integrated exploration activities for gold are being conducted in the immediate surroundings of the mine on 500 km<sup>2</sup> by MIDROC Gold Mine plc...." (2006:1). this shows, how MIDROC is expanded at the expense of locals through its ever-expanding enclosures.<sup>135</sup>

Hence, it is argued, the intense expansion activities of MIDROC significantly contributed for the impoverishment and displacement of the Odo Shakiso community by disconnecting locals from the land and the resource they previously have been using. Further, such expansion projects apart from their direct menace on the economic wellbeing of the community, they also significantly contributed for the destruction of large tracts forest reserve of the study area. Generally, the expansion projects of MIDROC played a paramount role in disconnecting the community from their socio-cultural and spiritual ties to the land and the resource.

#### **5.4 Mitigation Strategies used to Address Human Security Threats**

To critically address human security threats it is imperative for stakeholders to consolidate adequate mitigation strategies. Therefore, various mitigation strategies are initiated to address the threats that make the Odo Shakiso community vulnerable to ecological, health and economic insecurities. With this understanding, efforts have been made to assess the response strategies developed by MIDROC and the government to mitigate the problem at hand.

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<sup>134</sup> Interview: CSO 03, interview held at Addis Abeba, 18 April 2019; Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>135</sup> The Sakaro underground Gold mine that inaugurated in 2009 found some 3 km from the existing Lege Dembi Mine is one of the fruitful efforts of the company's intense expansion projects that expand the mine life of the company to 2020 in the study area and Until the project Suspension, the mine operated in its full production capacity to advance the existing reserves and productions of the mine.

### 5.4.1 MIDROC Gold Mine

According to collected data, MIDROC has developed several mitigation strategies to curtail the human security threats of the Odo Shakiso community. MIDROC recognizes the paramount importance of environmental security for sustainable mining development. Hence to address the environmental security threats the company has embarked different environmental protection activities. According to official reports, rehabilitation of degraded areas and quarry sites, reclamation and afforestation are some of the pointed efforts made by the mine to conserve the environment and to maintain healthy ecosystem in the *Woreda*.

According to informants, as a primary requirement, the company conducted an EIA which investigates the impacts of the project on the mine surrounding community and environment in general.<sup>136</sup> And, the company established a well-equipped department named Environmental Management and Control Services; which is responsible for environmental monitoring and evaluation of the level of pollution of effluent from the mine.<sup>137</sup> The department audits the environmental management plan of the company and reports audit findings to the concerned stakeholders and develop and implement mitigation strategies if any kinds of menaces are found. According to an official from EEITI, MIDROC is the only extractive in the country that had its environmental management policy and a well-organized department of having environmental protection mandate only.<sup>138</sup> However, as the majority of environmental and social science experts argued, social concerns are subordinate to the environmental concerns and the company till now failed to audit its social management plans (SMP). Despite an SMP audit, the EIA of the company failed to integrate the social components of EIA and the majority of environmental experts have doubt on the comprehensiveness of the EIA conducted by the company because in a situation where the impacts of the mine are chronic and wide; the assessment conducted by the mine specifically carried out on the compounds of the company only.<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> Interview: Official 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 09 March 2019; Official 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 19 April 2019.

<sup>137</sup> The service is organized by 26 staffs in 4 departments (monitoring, control and rehabilitation, and restoration) to tests the water, soil and air quality of the environments of the mine in regular bases.

<sup>138</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019.

<sup>139</sup> No segment of the population including the most affected areas of the threat like Dhiba Bate was integrated, consulted and participated in the assessment process.

According to officials from the company, to address deforestation and land degradation related environmental concerns; MIDROC has upheld its commitment to environmental rehabilitation by planting seedlings in different parts of its concession areas. Therefore, MIDROC has planted over 60,000 seedlings of 58 types of indigenous trees like *Hagenia Abyssinica* (*Kosso*), *Podocarpus Falcatus* (*Zigba*), *Celtis Africana* (*Metakuma*) and out of these over 40,000 or 85 % have thriving now (MIDROC, 2017). Furthermore, the company had developed a mine closure plan for the project and allocated \$2 per 1 ounce of gold extracted for environmental rehabilitation during the decommissioning phase (EEITI, 2018). And, MIDROC carried out an investment of more than 7.5 million Birr for environmental protection activities of the study area throughout its operation (MIDROC, 2018).

However, environmental experts argue on the thousands of trees planted by the company on its annual environmental day celebration mainly due to insignificance of the afforested as compared with that of the deforested ones. And, the intensity of the activity, in particular, cannot be overemphasized since the above attestation to the fact was observed only at the company's compound.<sup>140</sup> Further, the company doesn't take any kind reclamation and refill of excavated areas to maintain the site (land) and environment for post mine use as yet.<sup>141</sup>

MIDROC argued that, even if the mine is not part of the International Cyanide Management Code (ICMC) and some other international norms of extractives,<sup>142</sup> the company has made step-wise/sequential management of toxic substances (cyanide and wastes) to address the allegations raised in the mine from various corners (MIDROC, 2018). A key part of this step-wise approach for ensuring accepted international standard of Cyanide before its release into the environment starts with the availability of a robust storage facility and handling of the chemical itself. According to a source, wastewater containing 200-300 Parts per million (ppm) of cyanide are released from the gold processing plant and discharged to liquid waste impoundment dam

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<sup>140</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019; Environmental expert 05, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>141</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 03, , interview held at Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, 01 January 2019.

<sup>142</sup> As details were discussed in chapter 4 of this study, the company doesn't adopt and implement international binding legal instruments in which most reputable international mining companies especially those who engaged the gold mineral extraction are member like Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), International Cyanide Management Code, Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Initiative, Conflict-Free Gold Standard (CFGs), and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), so as to compliance with international norms.

(tailing dam). The company regularly monitors the air quality in terms of the level of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) once nitrogen cyanide (NaCN) is added into the mineral extraction process and employed a natural degradation process of cyanide treatment (Ibid.). As it was stated by an expert,

... Wastewater containing a high level of cyanide (100 – 150 ppm) stood in Tailing Dam 1(starter) for weeks in the sun until the cyanide is naturally degraded into Carbon and Nitrogen and reduced to less than 1 ppm. Then, the supernatant water from starter decanted into tailing dam 2 (reclaim) through culvert structure for further natural degradation of the cyanide. The low-level cyanide containing wastewater in reclaim plant discharged into tailing dam 3 (detoxification plant) after it stood for weeks. Finally, pure water (cyanide-free water) is discharged from the detoxification plant to the environment through the Lege Dembi stream after laboratory analysis confirmed its compliance with internationally accepted water quality.<sup>143</sup>

MIDROC only treats cyanide from the wastewater, while enormous reserves of other toxic and radioactive elements are freely discharged to the environment. According to experts' explanation, wastewater treatment requires a significant amount of investment and technologies. Even if MIDROC had planted water recycling plant that was aimed to reuse the discharges of the mine, while the company as yet employed a detoxification system in its operation which was the less effective in wastewater treatment as compared with the former one.<sup>144</sup>



Figure 5.4 Picture of Cyanide Contaminated Water on Artificial Lake

Source: The Odo Shakiso Woreda Environmental Protection Office, 2019.

<sup>143</sup> Interview: Mining expert, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019.

<sup>144</sup> Interview: Mining expert 02, interview held at Shakiso town, 10 March 2019; Mining expert 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 07 March 2019; Environmental expert 05, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

As it was argued, tailing management is one of the highest risk areas of the mining operation. Any kinds of leaks of tailings and direct exposures to tailings are a potential threat to humans, other lives and biodiversities. As in observed in Fig. 5.4 the tailings of the company are open and are not strictly fenced and protected from any kind of human and animal contacts. According to informants, both humans' and animals' miscarriage and death on the mine surrounding regions are directly linked with exposures to tailings and its disposals resulted from the tailings nearness to community villages, lack of awareness (community illiteracy) and the absence of communication like warning signs.<sup>145</sup> According to officials from the company, even if the mine's seriously interconnected tailings (Starter, Reclaim and Detoxification) are constructed in compliance with tailing management standards; recently, the company has been working for further advancement of the tailings quality/standard and capacity by spending 8.6 million Birr.<sup>146</sup> According to informants, in the mid-2016, the company warned the use of water disposed from the tailings of the mine in which locals have been using the discharged water for drinking, bathing, cooking and related human activities previously without restrictions.



Figure 5.5 People Using the Discharged Water and Later Warned by the Mine

Source: MIDROC Gold Mine, 2017.

As a remedy, since mine warned the discharge, MIDROC has been delivering pure drinking water even after the suspension of the project for communities inhabiting adjacent to the mine by using trucks. However, informants argued that, the remedy taken is too late and it could be better

<sup>145</sup> Interview: Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019.

<sup>146</sup> Interview: Official 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 09 March 2019; Official 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 19 April 2019.

if it is before people, animal and the natural environment have been threatened and suffering a lot by it.<sup>147</sup>

MIDROC recognized the development concerns of the community and made its contribution. Among this, the 2009 15 million Birr financial grant that aimed to be spent on various community development initiatives found on 15 Wereda's of the Guji Zone is the nominal one (MIDROC, 2018). In addition to that, the company initiated and implemented certain development projects in the study area like constructing schools, rural roads, and some other infrastructures. However, locals were unimpressed by the donation, and characterized it as "too little, too late."<sup>148</sup>

Lastly, to address the employment-related concerns raised from locals and concerned stakeholders, MIDROC hired most of the youths as security guards named *Trusts* and some experts as professional staff from locals even also by providing some professional and skill training. Further, the company provided both financial and technical support for the establishment of the company's employees 'workers association' (MIDROC, 2018). The association as a member of the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) tries to administer conflicts a raised between the mine and workers and strives to realize the rights of workers' including safety on the mine. However, as it was claimed by informants, the association failed to ensure the rights of local employees and they were unable to address the administrative fraction related claims of local employees and their conflict with the mine which follows the leave off locals from the company.<sup>149</sup>

To cop up, even if MIDROC had implemented certain response strategies; they failed to mitigate the threats that make the Odo Shakiso community vulnerable to environmental, health and economic insecurities as they are not adequate enough.

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<sup>147</sup> Official 07 and Medical expert 05 interview held at Shakiso town, 27 February 2019; Official 10, interview held at Negele Borena, 22 February 2019; Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>148</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>149</sup> Interview: Official 08, interview held at Shakiso town, 06 March 2019; CSO 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 10 June 2019.

## 5.4.2 The Government

As an administrative organ of the state, the government at different hierarchies' had a responsibility to protect its citizens from any kind of imminent and perpetrated threats. Thus, as a regulatory institution, MoMPNG is expected to play a pivotal role in developing various mitigation strategies to ensure the human security of the Odo Shakiso community from the perpetrated threats of MIDROC. Respondents cite legislative re-enactments, regulatory and inspection activities and discussion and negotiations with the concerned stakeholders as mitigation strategies taken by the government to address the problem at hand.

To start from the legislative measures, in which all local concerns related to mining are governed, the government has made several adjustments in the mining proclamation. According to respondents, the 1997 mining and exploration contract reached between MIDROC and government doesn't take into consideration detailed environmental and local community development concerns resulted from lack of binding legal grounds.<sup>150</sup> Therefore, following the increasing concern of environmental and community development requirements, the government incorporated those local claims on the revamped mining proclamation.<sup>151</sup> Hence, since its effect in 2010, all the mine and exploration contracts reached between MIDROC and the government are conducted under the subject of the revised 'mining proclamation'. For example, as per the proclamation, MIDROC for the Sakaro underground gold mine project contributed 120, 000 Birr annually for CDP and the renewed MIDROC Lege Dembi gold mine license (recently suspended) required to allow 2 % of the generated revenue to CDP.<sup>152</sup> Moreover, apart from reenacting the mining proclamation, MoMPNG developed a draft for mining regulations that specifically dealt with mineral extraction procedures and community development programs.<sup>153</sup>

According to officials from MoMPNG, several efforts have been taken to address the various concerns aroused from the Odo Shakiso community and local government authorities over the

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<sup>150</sup> Interview: Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>151</sup> Details of the proclamation and mandatory and voluntary requirements of the mine are presented under the topic 4.1.2 the Mining Operation Proclamation No 678/2010 of the same study.

<sup>152</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>153</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Legal expert 05, interview held at Addis Ababa, 06 February 2019.

operation of MIDROC in the study area.<sup>154</sup> Especially, to address the development and labor related claims of the locals, MoMPNG has made serious negotiations with the company and local government authorities. According informants, by acknowledging locals concern higher government officials (Alemayehu Tegenu, the then Minister of Mines and Energy, and Aba Dula Gemeda, the then President of Oromiya Regional state) including Sheikh Mohammed Al Amoudi, the owner of MIDROC, visited the Shakiso town on 20 January 2009 and discussed with the residents and local government authorities over their discontent on the mine.<sup>155</sup> Hence, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders, MoMPNG has facilitated a 15 million Birr financial grant of MIDROC that spent on the community development programs of the 15 *Woredas* found in Guji zone and a fund granted for the establishment of Shakiso technical and vocational school.

To address employment-related local demands, the government in collaboration with other stakeholders especially CETU created an enabling environment for locals to be integrated on the employment chains of the company as security guards and professional staffs.<sup>156</sup> Further, efforts also made by the government to integrate locals in the value chain of the company by outsourcing the company by-products (waste ores) for further extraction of tinny reserves of gold found in the ore for a group unemployed youth organized under micro-enterprises.<sup>157</sup>

To address the compensation claim of locals, efforts are made by the government by using the available compensation legislations which was currently in effect. A long and puzzling discussions/negotiations are made with the community and the company.<sup>158</sup> According to the officials explanation, such negotiation related efforts' made by the MoMPNG are recurrently failed to address locals discontent over the compensation approaches of the mine mainly resulted from the existing legislations lacuna of considering local contexts and issues related with communal lands on which the conglomerate company strongly relied on. Further, as the officials

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<sup>154</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>155</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019

<sup>156</sup> Interview: Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>157</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>158</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

stressed it, MoMPNG is striving to address the compensation-related discontents of the community over MIDROC by making local government authorities, the mine, country elders and other concerned stakeholders as part of the solution.

As it was enshrined in the country's constitution and related mining and environmental legislations the government is duty-bound to protect the environment for the benefit of present and future generations and to ensure ecologically sustainable development of minerals. The process of extracting mineral resources from the earth inevitably resulted in a devastating impact on the environs of the regions surrounding it in which the operation of MIDROC is alleged on. Therefore, MoMPNG carried out regulatory activities on the operation of the mine as per its mandate of ensuring sustainable development of minerals. According to an official from ECDD of MoMPNG, since the period in which the Ministry seconded the mandate of environmental monitoring from EPA<sup>159</sup>, they carried out supervision and inspection activities on the operation of the mine to affirm its compliance with internationally and/or nationally accepted standards, even though it had limitations.<sup>160</sup> As environmental experts furthered, MoMPNG failed to conduct regular and frequent regulation and overseeing on the operations of the mine by using the appropriate environmental management guidelines and the necessary technologies.<sup>161</sup> Respondents exposed the existing lacunas, like the absence of public consultation, excluding the social component of the EIA, transparency, and auditing the Environmental and social management plan (ESMP) of mines associated the current environmental impact assessment (EIA) conducted by MIDROC gold mine. Apart from it, the human security threats of the Odo Shakiso community reveals the incapability of MoMPNG to conduct effective regulation, inspection and overseeing activities over the operation of MIDROC.

In a similar vein, MoMPNG also failed to audit and inspect the implementation of the mine's promised CDPs like schools, hospitals, boreholes, jobs, scholarships, and money in exchange for their compliance that was supposed to mitigate current and future loss of land use, livelihood,

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<sup>159</sup> The MoMPNGs mandates of environmental regulation of the mining sector from the EPA are discussed in detail under chapter 4 of the same study.

<sup>160</sup> Interview: Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>161</sup> Interview: Environmental expert 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 15 April 2019; Environmental expert 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 13 April 2019; CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019; Official 09, interview held at Shakiso town, 28 February 2019. See also 4.2.2 of the previous chapter under the same study.

and other impacts of the mine.<sup>162</sup> Apart from the existing lacunas on legal frameworks, local government authorities also shared the blames of MoMPNG and MIDROC as they are not effectively managed the communal land concerns of locals as per their mandate of governing land expropriation rights.<sup>163</sup> To cop up, as an official from MoMPNG stressed; “if the government effectively attained its regulatory authority then the recent conflict situation over the mine would not have to happen which becomes the main source of all the menaces”.<sup>164</sup> Finally, MoMPING suspended the renewed project license of the mine following the widespread popular opposition and community discontent over the mine. Moreover, MoMPNG opened the mine for a comprehensive scientific investigation to affirm the mine’s operation compliance with both nationally and internationally accepted norms and to assess the impacts of the mine on the sustainable livelihood of the mine surrounding community in collaboration with other concerned stakeholders and development partners that support MoMPNG’s final decision over the mine.

## **5.5 The Development Contributions of MIDROC Gold Mine**

As discussed, development is an inherent feature of human society; and the economies generated from mining used as catalyst to the development of a nation. In an Ethiopian context, all development efforts are mainly natural resource-based and mining is one of these development options. According to studies, since Ethiopia's independence from the Italians invasion, Gold particularly mined from the Adola region, laid strong foundations for the imperial regime and served as the main source of government revenue for the regimes succeeding it (Alazar, 1998; Assebe, 2016). And, the development contribution of the mine is not retrieved back following its acquisition by MIDROC. According to subsequent reports released from stakeholders like EEITI (2016; 2018); MIDROC (2017;2018); World Bank (2014, 2016), MIDROC is the country’s leading extractive in terms of generating mine revenue and hard currency, employment opportunity and supporting several development activities throughout the country. Therefore, the development contributions of MIDROC gold mine to the national economy and local community development are analyzed below.

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<sup>162</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>163</sup> Local government authorities doesn’t accept the allegations and argued that, we repeatedly tried to deal with the mine on the land and compensation related concerns of locals but the company didn’t want to deal with us by arguing “as we licensed from the federal government we only deal with MoMPNG”. We are powerless even if we have a mandate. (Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019)

<sup>164</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019.

According to official source, since its inception to 2015, MIDROC contributed more than 4.8 Billion Birr to Ethiopia's economy from tax, royalty and other sources of income (MIDROC, 2017). According to reports, MIDROC is the largest and the leading extractive in Ethiopia in terms of generating government revenue, employment and foreign currency to the national economy for the last two decades (EEITI, 2018; 2016). For example, as it is well articulated in EEITI 2018 report, out of a total 16 companies<sup>165</sup> which contributed around 89 % (about 2.5 Billion Birr) of government revenue on the fiscal year 2013/2014, MIDROC in its own took 40.4% (about 1.3 Billion Birr) of the share. In addition to that, out of the 1.3 Billion Birr extractive revenue generated from gold, the lions share, almost 99 % (about 1.3 billion Birr) are solely generated by MIDROC<sup>166</sup> and the government earned about 153 million USD from MIDROC's export of gold and silver in a year under review (Ibid.). According to sources, out of the company's generated income (about 3.1 Billion Birr) the government received a total of 42% (about 1.3 Billion Birr) of the mines generated economy in the same fiscal year in various forms (tax, royalty, free equity etc.) (EEITI, 2018; MIDROC, 2017; 2018). Apart from it, the company generated an employment opportunity for over 1300 peoples, who were only 625 before the acquisition. According to officials from the company, MIDROC provided a significant amount of financial and in-kind contributions for the MoMping and other government institutions and several national development projects like Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.<sup>167</sup> Therefore, as the collected data affirmed; MIDROC had made a vivid contribution to the national economic development of the state in generating a significant amount of mine revenue for the last two decades.

However, the development contribution of the MIDROC is not merely confined to the national economic endeavors, but also to the social development of the Odo Shakiso community. The operation area of MIDROC is surrounded by communities where basic public services and

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<sup>165</sup> As the report stated, the remaining's of MIDROC, which is 48.6 % of government revenue generated by a total of 15 companies are as follows; 9 extractives engaged in cement production contributed 39.6 % and 6 companies engaged in oil and gas industries take the remaining 9 % of the revenue. Surprisingly, the remaining 11 % the extractive revenue of the year under review is generated from other 152 companies that engaged in various subsectors.

<sup>166</sup> The remaining 0.9 of the extractive revenue generated from gold is taken by a state-owned Adola Gold Mine Enterprise.

<sup>167</sup> Interview: Official 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 09 March 2019; Official 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 19 April 2019.

infrastructures are vividly limited. Hence, by recognizing the tantamount importance of public access to basic infrastructures; as part of its CSR, MIDROC has made a handful contribution to foster local community development. Therefore, the voluntary contributions of MIDROC for the basic infrastructure development and other social issues are analyzed below.

According to reports, MIDROC has made a meaningful contribution to the education sector in the *Woreda*. Of the major contributions, the Lege Dembi Shakiso TVET Institute comes at the front in which MIDROC spent a total of 14 million Birr for the construction and equipping the Institute with the necessary facilities (EEITI, 2018; MIDROC, 2018). In addition to that, the company has made several expansion programs on the secondary and preparatory schools found in the *Woreda*, which includes the construction of additional blocks and equipping school's laboratory, library, and ICT services with the necessary infrastructures. Furthermore, MIDROC granted a total of 15 million Birr for infrastructural advancement of the primary schools of the area. The company also facilitated Unity University scholarship for two students from the community by covering the full coast. Further, MIDROC provided mining engineering related training for 25 students selected from the *Woreda* following the company's launch of a graduate program of mining engineering at Unity University which was pioneering institute in the country's history (Ibid.).



Figure 5.6 The Lege Dembi Shakiso TVET Institute

Source: MIDROC Gold Mine, 2017.

Drought is a usual phenomenon of the study area, which results in a devastating impact on the livestock population and the sustainable livelihood of the community. Hence, MIDROC has swiftly reacted to reduce the severity of the drought by providing fodder and water for the livestock and the affected communities (EEITI, 2018; MIDROC, 2017; 2018). As informants

affirmed, the contribution of MIDROC has saved the lives of many people and livestock. Moreover, the company donated more than 1 million Birr for various water development works, particularly, for those mine surrounding villages (Didola, Korba, Sawana, Reji, etc.) affected by severe water shortages(Ibid.).

Shakiso which was founded in 1944 and home of the country's largest gold mine 'Lege Dembi' doesn't have any kind of all-weather roads that connects the town with its frontiers (see Fig.5.7). MIDROC argued that, despite constructing a series of rural road networks that connect communities, the company also made efforts to maintain the already damaged roads throughout its operation period in the study area. However, respondents claimed that the region's main road, the Adola-Shakiso asphalt road built by Italians was damaged following its relentless service of all mining development activities in the study area for decades. As one informant stressed, since the mine plant development period, MIDROC had transported huge mining equipment's and machines like Bulldozers, Scrapers, Excavators, etc. weighing tons and tons on this road without providing any kind of maintenance.<sup>168</sup> The claim was furthered by another respondent:

In the course of its operation, as MIDROC had constructed several new rural road networks, it had also damaged the existing roads of area including the Adola-Shakiso asphalt roads which were fine before the mine. Hence, even if the company has no duty-bound to construct new roads, we expect from the company to maintain our damaged roads throughout its operation.<sup>169</sup>



Figure 5.7 Shakiso Town

<sup>168</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 2, discussion held at Shakiso, 27 February 2019.

<sup>169</sup> Interview: Informant 03, interview held at Shakiso town, 6 March 2019.

Source: The Shakiso Town Administration Communication Affairs Office, 2019

However, the company argued that apart from constructing rural road networks; MIDROC had made a significant contribution that reached a total of 2.5 million Birr for maintaining the damaged roads (MIDROC, 2017). In any case, as observed during the field visit, the roads are already damaged and not safe for services. And, very recently, efforts are on progress by the government (Ethiopian Road Authority) to maintain the roads.

Despite such infrastructural developments, the company throughout its operation provided a significant amount of financial and in-kind contributions for various government and religious institutions found in the study area. Officials from the company explained that the mine is operated in a place where an indigenous institution of the *Gadaa* system is widely practiced. Hence, by recognizing the vital role of the tradition, apart from providing different facilities, MIDROC provided more than one million Birr for this ritual event in which a handing over of power from one *Abba Gadaa* to the other in every eight years is carried out.<sup>170</sup>

The informants argued, even if the company has made its effort to address the development needs of the community, the contributions of the mine are insignificant as that of the community expectations and its adverse impact on the sustainable livelihood of the community.<sup>171</sup> One can observe the development contributions of the mine by only seeing the Shakiso towns' infrastructure that provides very poor/no services of water, education, health, transport, electricity, and telecommunications. As an informant stressed, "it is difficult to see it, from home of the countries primer or/and largest gold mine and a place where multimillion dollars mining investment are carried out".<sup>172</sup> As it was furthered by the community elder:

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<sup>170</sup> Interview: Official 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 09 March 2019; Official 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 19 April 2019.

<sup>171</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Official 08, interview held at Shakiso town, 06 March 2019; CSO 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 10 June 2019; CSO 01, interview held at MoMPNG, Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019.

<sup>172</sup> Interview: CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019.

MIDROC promised a lot to do for us and we expect more and waited for the mine for years; but, there is nothing on the ground as yet; where are the promised hospital, the school, the roads, and the water tankers and our employed children?<sup>173</sup>

In a similar vein, officials from the Guji zone argued that, local government authorities are not against the mine, but we want the mine to bring positive changes on the sustainable livelihood of our community as to that of it contributed to the development of the nation.<sup>174</sup> As it was furthered by one informant: “as to that of the company and the nation the mine doesn’t bring blessings for locals: rather, the communities are suffering a lot from the mine instead of being benefiting exceptionally.”<sup>175</sup> According to the informant’s further explanation, in most federally governed countries the federal government normally receives 15 to 20% of the profit generated from mines, whereas the regional government gets 10 to 15% of the profit. However, the government’s promise of 2% of profit to give to Shakiso who is the immediate recipient of the footprints of mine is laughable.

According to informants, the reason for local communities’ inability to be benefited from the mine is associated with inadequate inspection and transparency issues.<sup>176</sup> Firstly, the concerned regulatory body MoMPNG is ineffective in audit and inspection of the implementations of the CDPs of the company. Secondly, the government hides the income generated from the mine (from royalty and other payments) and also failed to disclose the dividends of the generated economy allocated to the social development programs of the mining community. And, MIDROC strongly resists locals’ allegations by arguing:

The government failure to address the development demands of the community increased the burden on the mine. Even, in a situation where the mine is vividly contributing to the social development of the area by advancing the existing infrastructures and building new ones, MIDROC is alleged on for backward basic services and the back lay economy of the *Woreda*. And, there are expectations from the mine to address all the development

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<sup>173</sup> Focus Group Discussion: D 01 discussant at FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019.

<sup>174</sup> Interview: Official 11, interview held at Negele Borena, 23 February 2019; Official 12, interview held at Negele Borena, 25 February 2019.

<sup>175</sup> Interview: Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>176</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

needs of the community and tendency to seek from the mine to pay today even for yesterday's (aged) social cost in which MIDROC is not alleged on.<sup>177</sup>

However, an official from the Odo Shakiso Woreda argued, even if the company has made several development contributions on the *Woreda*, except few contributions in the education sector, the majority of the company's contributions are materialistic and finance-oriented.<sup>178</sup> For example, the majority of the company's contribution is more focused on financing and equipping government institutions found in the study area. Hence, such kind of contributions doesn't bring any kind of significant change (future hope) on the sustainable livelihood of the community. In a similar vein, all most all grants of the mine are not intended necessarily to address the development needs of the community, rather as a strategy of appeasement for the rampant popular opposition a raised on the mine (Assebe, 2016). For example, the 2009's 15 million Birr financial grant aimed to social development programs of 15 districts of the Guji zone and the funding of the Lege Dembi Shakiso TVET Institute that established in 2004 are projects of pacifications for the period's/time's popular opposition.

To summarize, the collected data from sources revealed the existing gap between the community expectation and the contributions of the mine. As an official from EEITI stated, locals expect a lot from MIDROC to fill their development needs. However, the company funds community development programs by considering its business strategy and program priorities, as far as the fund is grounded on philanthropic bases. Hence, the contributions of the mine mostly become too little, too late or unnecessary in the eyes of the community needs and expectations.<sup>179</sup> But, what one can easily conclude from the discussion is that the development contributions of the mine to the Odo Shakiso community are insignificant as compared to its menace on the sustainable livelihood of the community. Therefore, corporate social responsibilities (CSR) are not expected to be necessarily expensive, rather necessarily meet with the community needs and it is argued that, if the contributions of MIDROC have been necessarily met the community needs then the recent conflict trend over the mine would not have to happen.

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<sup>177</sup> Interview: Mining expert 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 08 March 2019.

<sup>178</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>179</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019

## 5.6 The Odo Shakiso Community - MIDROC Gold Mine Conflict

Despite their vivid contribution to the economic progress of Ethiopia, resources also served as a cause or a catalyst for latent conflicts to manifest. The literature on extractive resource-community conflict in Ethiopia is scanty, even though the problems are visible and recently in an increasing trend.<sup>180</sup> Therefore, as part of mining induced conflicts in Ethiopia, the dynamics of MIDROC gold mine and Odo Shakiso community conflict over the Lege Dembi gold mine are critically analyzed below.

The Odo Shakiso Woreda is home to the country's abundant goldfield and other economically and strategically valuable minerals. Large tons of gold are extracted from the area for almost half a century both by the state and private companies as well as artisanal miners (Assebe, 2016). The study area is considered as an ideal mining region/site of the nation and great emphasis is given for its economic value rather than the sustainable livelihood and the human security of the communities inhabited surrounding it. Hence, the communities in which such resources are mined from their land are suffering a lot from the investments carried out on the mine and the communities are deprived of the land and resource they are previously using and the natural resources they used to access.<sup>181</sup> Therefore, it is the center of all the discontents and community grievances which becomes the main cause for the recurrently erupted conflicts throughout the history of the mine.

The Odo Shakiso community discontent/opposition over the Lege Dembi gold mine is not a very recent phenomenon that merely confined to MIDROC. Historically, the imperial regime entitled the mine by naming the region as '*Kibre Mengest*'<sup>182</sup> and governed the region in an authoritarian and harsh way (Assebe, 2016). Moreover, the regime used the region as a place of exile/prison for vagabonds /vagrants who are convicted of serious crimes in the political center of the country

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<sup>180</sup> As part of natural resource-based conflicts, in different parts of the country with varying trends; communities entered into conflict with mines. For example; the Dangote cement - Adaberga community conflict; the Adola gold mine-Adola community conflict, the Ethiopian Biofuel Corporation - Saba Boru community conflict, and land grab related conflicts in Gambella region are some of the very recent resource based conflicts in Ethiopia.

<sup>181</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>182</sup> The imperial regime re-named the Adola region as '*Kibre Mengest*' for its source of gold by claiming it as the source of prosperity for the nation.

and resistances against the imperial regime.<sup>183</sup> Large numbers of vagabonds mine gold and lived in enclaves in *Hayadima, Bore, Adola, Reji*, and some other villages by expropriating locals which they perceived them as horrors /barbarians. The Guji Oromos frustrated by the activities the vagabond aggravated grievance started resisting which they called ‘*Warare*’ meaning invaders.<sup>184</sup>

In a similar vein, the succeeding military regime endowed the entitlement of the mine via nationalization and continued its authoritarian rule by restraining the private use, trade and accumulation of gold. Moreover, the regime established very strict regulatory stations to control the free movement of gold and people in and outside of the mining region and the community memorizes the horrible control unit centered at Awata River locally named ‘*አዋጣ ኪላ*’.<sup>185</sup> As one discussant stressed: “No one is allowed to enter into Shakiso unless someone had a family and had permit from the governors; even their stay in and around the mining region deepened upon the goodwill of the governor and restricted for a number of days”.<sup>186</sup> As it was furthered by an elder: “Awata is a place of harassment: there is a forceful drink of *Koso* in the station when someone is going out from the mining region”.<sup>187</sup> Hence, the continued harassment and the expropriation of locals’ from the mine worsened the bad life of the community in the area. Therefore, informants argue the Guji’s alliance with the Somalis’ army during Ethio-Somali war as an illustration of local’s discontent and grievance on the military regime.<sup>188</sup>

The coming to power of EPRDF liberalized all the prevailing doctrines of the state over the mine. The incumbent government closed regulatory stations including the most devastating Awata station and freed the movement of people on the mine region. And, surprisingly the Odo Shakiso community enjoyed relative freedom of exploiting the resource which is gold and unlike

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<sup>183</sup> The regime forced the vagabonds as laborers in the mine (as a form of punishment). The mine operated through a harsh approach of labor conscription, as it was expressed “*ግፉ ቢል አድላ አገሳ ቢል አካፋ ሌላ ምን ይመጣል*” Which means “if the worst comes, we will be taken to Adola, if the lesser evil happened we will be given spade?”

<sup>184</sup> Interview: Official 11, interview held at Negele Borena, 23 February 2019; CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019.

<sup>185</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 2, discussion held at Shakiso, 27 February 2019.

<sup>186</sup> Focus Group Discussion: D 01, discussant at FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019.

<sup>187</sup> A traditional drink named ‘Koso’ is very sour drink prepared from *Hagenia Abyssinica* (Kosso) leaf in which the government used as a drug to evacuate the gold from the bowel that individuals may cache in their internal belly.

<sup>188</sup> Interview: Official 11, interview held at Negele Borena, 23 February 2019.

the previous regimes, the community started to live in harmony with the government and artisanal miners until the acquisition of the Lege Dembi gold mine.<sup>189</sup>

Informants argued that the Odo Shakiso community's concern over MIDROC gold mine began to manifest since its inception in 1997/98.<sup>190</sup> Firstly, the Lege Dembi deal which transferred the entitlement of the mine from public to private investment was carried out in a way that excludes the participation and the consultation of the host community. Secondly, the deal held between the government and MIDROC doesn't take into consideration local interest. Lastly, the agreements reached between the government and MIDROC which includes key responsibilities and obligations and other details of the contract are not publicized for locals. Hence, few educated people and elders of the community as well as local government authorities expressed their discontent over the mine. However, such elite based opposition was futile in bringing change mainly due to lack of popular support resulting from the unconscious of locals on the potential impacts of the mine and government coercion resulted from the company's influence.

However, popular oppositions on MIDROC began to manifest loudly following an aggressive mine expansion project.<sup>191</sup> The mines enclosure of large tracts of communal lands in which the community used for farming, artisanal mining, rituals, grazing, and related activities aggravated a strong resistance in the late 2000s.<sup>192</sup> However, the popular opposition ceased following the subsequent community forum held on January 2009 at Shakiso town by the combined efforts of the government and the company.<sup>193</sup> According to the informants' further explanation, in the forums, the conglomerate company grant funds to be spent on various development activities of the study area and promised to fund several development projects like hospital, schools, roads, water and the likes to attain a social license from the community.

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<sup>189</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>190</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>191</sup> Interview: Official 11, interview held at Negele Borena, 23 February 2019; Abdulkader (geologist), residents of Shakiso town, interview held at Shakiso town, by March 07/2019.

<sup>192</sup> Such communal lands in which previously claimed by the state and later by the MIDROC is a land in which locals inhabited thereby sustaining their livelihood in history and later expropriated and displaced in their resistance with the vagabonds and the claims of the previous consecutive regimes. And, later start using by retrieving back following the downfall of the authoritarian regime for years even as yet in some areas until the company fenced it.

<sup>193</sup> Interview: Official 05, interview held at Shakiso town, 09 March 2019; Official 04, interview held at Addis Ababa, 19 April 2019.

However, both the immediate grants and promised funds of the company never compensated the underlying grievances of the community as it was ‘too little, too late’ and meshed into the Oromo protest<sup>194</sup> that broke out in 2015.<sup>195</sup> The Oromo protest, the massive anti-government protest that first broke out in Ginchi by 2015 reached Guji area on the late 2016 on few secondary schools of Adola and Shakiso towns by claiming justice for the toxic emissions and exclusionist strategies of MIDROC which caused grave health crises on human and animals, and the displacement of locals (Assebe, 2016). Since then, the deadly protest spread in to many schools and other parts of the Guji area by claiming entitlement, local development and environmental concerns over MIDROC and other state owned Adola gold mine and Kenticha tantalum mine projects of the area.<sup>196</sup>

A diplomatic cable report from Wikileaks leaked to AU and USA revealed the detentions of hundreds of university students<sup>197</sup> and members and leaders of the opposition political party particularly OFC in Odo Shakiso district as well as fatalities linked with the anti-mine protest (Wikileaks, 2018). Furthermore, the protest followed the detentions and demotion from power of several local government authorities in Guji zone of Odo Shakiso district.<sup>198</sup> And, the Human Rights Watch affirmed “the killings and mass arrest of protesters” by security forces of the government and the company on the violent anti-mine protest (Human Rights Watch, 2016).

When we come to the very recent case, the widespread popular anti-mine opposition which stayed between 28 March and 9 May 2018 was erupted following the MoMPNGs renewal of the project license for an additional ten years on 27 March 2018. Unlike the previous ones, the anti -

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<sup>194</sup> Ethiopia had experienced a wave of protests in large parts of Oromia and Amhara regions from 2015-2018. The birth of the Oromo protest is associated with the Addis Ababa master plan; the plan that intends to expand the capital into the neighboring Addis Ababa towns of Oromia region. And, this stiff and deadly resistance had abroad goal of claiming justice for various social problems and crimes committed in the community perpetrated by political elites, government organizations or others and ceased following the coming to power newly elected Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.).

<sup>195</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>196</sup> The government immediately suspended the operations of Adola gold mine and Kenticha tantalum mine projects after causing several material destruction and loss of life. And, as yet the projects stayed without production and conducting project impact investigations.

<sup>197</sup> As Official 06 chief of the Odo Shakiso woreda administration stated, he was detained more than 5 times with his mates when he was attending education in one of the countries public university, following his participation in various anti-mine marches and raising locals’ concern and the impacts of the mine on forums held in the university.

<sup>198</sup> According trusted informant's explanation, in a situation where local government authorities are raising the community concerns over MIDROC in different forums held with higher government authorities of different hierarchies, they immediately labeled as anti-development and OLF advocators.

mine popular uprising against this renewal was more intense and widespread. The consciousness of local's on the impacts of the mine, the local's enjoyment of relative political freedom to claim for entitlement and justice for their loss as that of the previous regimes, the region-wide Oromo protest, and the involvement of media and pressure groups in mobilization as the driving factors behind the intensity of the movement to reached to its climax.<sup>199</sup>

As discussed, the Odo Shakiso community has lost their farm, pasture as well as artisanal mining sites through the ever-expanding enclosures of the mine in the study area. Further, the mine throughout its operation severely threatened the natural environment, health, economic and political security of the community. Hence, the community expects adequate compensations for their lost assets and threats that exposed them for ecological, economic, political and health insecurity.<sup>200</sup> Apart from it, MIDROC has also duty bound to conduct corporate social responsibility as a response to the legacies of the project on the livelihood and environs of the Odo Shakiso community. Moreover, the woeful, poor and inadequate statues of social services of the area make the local development demands more sensitive. However, benefits attained from the multi-million dollar mining investment were far below community expectations.<sup>201</sup>

MIDROC argued that, local's expectations are imaginary and lie outside the mine's legal obligation. In a situation where the mine is contributing to the local development by developing different initiatives in the form of CSR, there are locals' expectations that the mine could address all the development needs of the community and the tendency of today's social demand for yesterday's social cost.<sup>202</sup> However, local government authorities resist the company's claim by stressing: "we couldn't claim the mine to replace the government role and address all the development demands of the community, rather be a development partner".<sup>203</sup> As the official further stated "we are not against the mine, but, we need the mine to contribute to the

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<sup>199</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

<sup>200</sup> Focus Group Discussion: FGD 1, discussion held at Gidhe village, Dhiba Bate kebele in Odo Shakiso Woreda, 01 March 2019; FGD 2, discussion held at Shakiso, 27 February 2019; FGD 3, discussion held at Sakaro kebele, Odo Shakiso Woreda, 03 March 2019.

<sup>201</sup> Interview: CSO 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 26 March 2019; CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019; Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>202</sup> They argued that, before MIDROC got involved in gold production, another notorious chemical, mercury, was used to refine gold for decades both by the state and artisans in the region. The health and environmental impacts of mercury used for several decades have been more devastating as compared to that of cyanide in which MIDROC is alleged on. This fact seems to have been forgotten and tried to attach all the shadows of yesterday with MIDROC.

<sup>203</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

advancement of our community instead of being a curse”. When the informant explaining it, MIDROC loot and squander the blessings of the area and left out toxic substances on the environment in which the community is now suffering a lot by the name of development.

Generally, both the acquisition and the intense expansion projects of the mine were carried out in a way that excludes the participation and the consultation of the Odo Shakiso community and local government authorities.<sup>204</sup> The community is neglected and maltreated on their land and resource as an informant expressed the situation “we are an owner without property”.<sup>205</sup> Therefore, the community demanded compensations and the company to clean the devastated environment before extending the project life for additional periods.

Several subsequent media reports and investigative documentaries published by Oromia Broadcasting Network<sup>206</sup> and BBC Amharic service<sup>207</sup> voiced grave health crises of the community associated with the mine and the death and miscarriages of cows associated with the mine to the general public and the international community. Following it, large number pressure groups and civil society organizations concerned the community claims and mobilized groups for lobbying government to reject the request of MIDROC gold mines license renewal. According to informants, the mobilizing groups outshined the anti-mine movement by using both electronic and social media outlets.<sup>208</sup>

In response, MIDROC strictly opposed and resisted the anti-mine movement on the company’s special magazine published on 2017 by stating:

...groups are propagating and mobilizing against the mine and striving to lash out the company in a way that erodes the social license and good image of the mine in the study area in a situation where the mine is waiting for the approval of applications of the project license renewal by providing EIA and project feasibility study.

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<sup>204</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019.

<sup>205</sup> Interview: CSO 03, interview held at Addis Abeba, 18 April 2019.

<sup>206</sup> Oromia Broadcasting Network (2017), LAGA DAMBII, retrieved on 09 February 2018, from <https://www.facebook.com/OBNafaanoromo/videos/1833399360005556/>

<sup>207</sup> BBC Amharic (2017), ኣዶ ሻኪሶ - ወርቅ ‘መርዝ’ የሆነባት ምድር, Retrieved on 09 May 2018, from <https://www.bbc.com/amharic/news-42266025>

<sup>208</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; Social science expert 02, interview held at Bule Hora University, Bule Hora, 16 March 2019.

On this situation, MoMPNG approved the applications of MIDROC and renewed the project license for additional ten years on 27 March of 2018 without considering local contexts. The decision prompted locals to stage out public riots on 28 March 2018. In the incidence, the angered demonstrators crowded the compound of the mine and the security forces used tear gas to ease and contain the protesters which become a cause for several fatalities.<sup>209</sup> The incidence fueled the wave of the opposition to extended into the whole parts of Guji area and the restive Oromia region.<sup>210</sup>

However, various concerned stakeholders including local government authorities opposed the ministry's renewal of the project license without considering the human security and development concerns local in a situation where the mine is not conducting comprehensive EIA and cleaning the environment. As an official from the opposition Oromo Federalist Congress political party who claim to have the largest constituency in the area stressed:

The government is not feeling the pains of the community: it is an act of selling people for the sake of dollars. There has been no compensation for the lost community livelihood and no one is charged for the crimes committed on the environment as yet. In a situation where there is no change, no responsible government could allow this....<sup>211</sup>

Officials from MoMPNG pointed out several reasons for the project renewal of MIDROC in a situation where locals are claiming the mine for human security threats, community development, entitlement, and related concerns.<sup>212</sup> Firstly, as per the agreements and contractual issues lead to the commencement of the operation, a 20-year mining and exploration license of MIDROC is subject to the unlimited renewals for additional ten years and by using its legal right the mine applied for the license renewal by providing the requirements needed. And, the approval/disapproval period has reached deadline when the ministry is reviewing the project application and conducting negotiations with the mine on technical matters of the project. Secondly, MIDROC claimed the project license renewal in a period where the country faced by shocking economic crisis resulted from the shadows of the continually declared state of

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<sup>209</sup> Even if different organs release varying reports, Subsequent media reports of Deutsche Welle and Voice of America Amharic service affirmed 9 fatalities and the detention of many people in the anti-mine protest.

<sup>210</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019.

<sup>211</sup> Interview: CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019.

<sup>212</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019; Official 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019; Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

emergency to cease the political unrest erupted throughout the country. Hence, the intense economic demands/foreign currency of the state in collaboration with the legal rights of MIDROC to acquire project license renewal are the rationales used by MoMPNG for extending the project license of MIDROC for additional ten years in condition<sup>213</sup> as per article 27 (2 & 3) of the mining proclamation No. 678/2010.

In this widespread popular opposition a number of social and pressure groups including landless peasants and arsenal miners, victims and their families, pastoralists, local government authorities, concerned authorities of the regional government, opposition political parties mainly the Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC), students, teachers, youths, environmental advocates, human right activists and media bloggers actively engaged in the mass mobilization. According to informants, demonstrators particularly the youth groups locally called *Qeero's* blocked the main road, closed schools, cut off the power water supply, and conducted street protests and marches in the study area. Pressure groups by using both electronic and social media conducted public campaigns, strikes, and sabotage against the mine and mobilized a large number of people against the mine.<sup>214</sup> Generally, the intensity of anti-mine demonstration may range from the peaceful marches of the of Girja district to the deadly protests of the Ambo, Fiche, Ginchi and Nekemete towns that specifically called the government to take a firm hand on the company and to cancel the license.

Following the continued demonstration, authorities of MoMPNG led by the former minister Motuma Meqasa arrived at Shakiso to deal or/and if possible to cease the cases of disputes, grievances or complain of the community over MIDROC gold mine on 30 April 2018.<sup>215</sup> However, unlike the previous ones, the official's arrival was futile in ceasing the community grievance even temporarily. Finally, the continuing of the widespread popular anti-mine protests prompted the Ministry to suspend renewed MIDROC gold mine's license on 9 May 2018.<sup>216</sup> Hence, the anti-mine protests which stayed for two weeks ceased following the temporal suspension of the renewed contract and the ministry's opening of the mine for a comprehensive

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<sup>213</sup> According to the officials' explanation, the conditions are the mine should correct and address a number of limitations observed on the EIA and CDPs on the project operation.

<sup>214</sup> Interview: Social science expert 01, interview held at Dilla University, Dilla, 24 March 2019; CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019.

<sup>215</sup> Interview: Official 02, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 February 2019.

<sup>216</sup> Interview: Official 01, interview held at Addis Ababa, 31 April 2019.

scientific investigation.<sup>217</sup> According to Officials from MoMPNG, the mine would resume if and when “the findings of the investigation affirmed and all concerned stakeholders agreed upon the continuation of the project”.



Figure: 5.8 Anti-mine movement and protests in different parts of Oromia region

Source: The author’s collection from different media sources, 2019.

To sum up, currently the mine is not in progress and MoMPNG is conducting wide and deep investigations that show the overall impacts of the mine on communities and environments surrounding it. Accordingly, the assessments are specifically conducted by the Canadian Aerosmith Company (for the environmental), the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (for the health) and the coalition of experts and consultants from Bulle Hora and Dilla universities (for the socio-economic). Over 3,000 households were surveyed. The communities are waiting hopefully the findings of the assessment and to be compensated for their lost livelihood, the threatened health, and unsecured environment. A year has passed since the mine's operation was terminated, and MIDROC claimed that the company is losing a lot as a result of the suspension of the project. Firstly, the company is paying for employees without production. Secondly, the planted machines would be damaged once they stopped production and they would need significant investment to reinstall them. On behalf of the government, the country lost millions of

<sup>217</sup> Interview: Official 06, interview held at Shakiso town, 12 March 2019; CSO 03, interview held at Addis Ababa, 18 April 2019.

dollars from mining revenue and hard currency generated from the exports of MIDROC gold mine.<sup>218</sup> Hence, to sustain mining and curtail the recurrence of potential conflicts it is vital to consider human security and local development concerns of the host community on mining development projects. To wrap-up, the cases of the Lege Dembi gold mine illustrates the inextricable link held between of peace, development and human security and the essentiality of their mutual reinforcement.

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<sup>218</sup> According to the National Bank of Ethiopia 2017/18 annual report, the revenue from export of gold showed 52 % reduction and amounted USD 100.2 million, driven wholly by 52.8 % contraction in volume of export despite a 1.6 % rise in international price. Thus, the share of gold in total export shrunk to 3.5 % from 7.2 % in 2016/17 and 10.1 % in 2015/16 (National Bank of Ethiopia, 2018: P. 67). And, officials from MoMPNG linked the prevailed sharp decline of gold mine revenue with the Suspensions of MIDROC gold mine operation as it covers the lion share of the country's total gold export.

## Chapter Six

### Conclusion

Ethiopia has recently embarked on a program of economic diversification to transform itself into a middle-income economy. The country's vast geological formation of bearing huge reserves of gold and other strategically and economically valuable minerals are little explored and extracted as yet. In this regard, the development of large scale extractive industries and exploration projects of oil and gas have received growing attention from the government. The privatization of the state-owned Lege Dembi gold mine enterprise to MIDROC gold mine could be viewed as a component of the economic liberalization and modernization since 1990s.

Odo Shakiso is home the country's largest and dominant mining projects of the Adola and MIDROC gold mine and the Ketencha Tantalum mines. However, the operations of those huge mining projects are suspended mainly due to rampant and widespread anti-mine oppositions associated with environmental and community development allegations. To this end, the study analyzed the case of MIDROC and finds the human security threats of MIDROC gold mine on the sustainable livelihood of the Odo Shakiso community regardless of the presence of domestic norms which safeguards the human security of mining communities.

Firstly, MIDROC devastated the natural environs of the study area severely throughout its operation. Air, water and soil pollution and chemical contamination, noise, landscape disfiguring and deforestation are some of the environmental security threats of the mine. Secondly, the operation of the mine caused severe crises on the health status of the Odo Shakiso community. A large portion of the community becomes victims of extreme headaches, sight problems, skin irritation, respiratory (lung) illness, asthma, hearing problem, and some other diseases. The recurrences of pregnancy complications and born deformities and disabilities, as well as miscarriages and deaths of animals, are noticeably evident in the study area. Lastly, MIDROC instead of advancing the economic security of locals significantly contributed to the impoverishment of the community by curtailing their economic expansion via possessing the land and resources they had or/and previously using in which their daily life is circulating on. Further, food insecurity, the price, and production decline of livestock and farm products, high cost of living, as well as lack employment and alternative source of income severely affected the economic wellbeing of the community.

The finding also affirmed, the inability of MIDROC to adequately address the human security threats of the community since the company followed cost effective, outdated, time and site-specific mitigation strategies in a situation where the impacts of the mine are chronic which needs significant investment. In a similar vein, the regulatory institutional mechanisms of the state also failed to attain effective overseeing, regulation and inspections on the daily operations of the mine before the menaces caused harm. Moreover, the mine failed to conduct significant contributions to local community development as it contributed to the development of the nation.

It is, therefore, the sum total of mining induced human security threats and the development demand of locals which perceived as the underlined factor behind the Odo Shakiso community-MIDROC gold mine conflict. However, the MoMPNGs renewal of the expired mine license for additional ten years in a situation where communities are complaining and the mine is not cleaning the environment and compensating victims escalated the community grievance and discontent over the mine to violent crackdown which resulted in several fatalities and material destruction.

Therefore, in Ethiopia, human security and development were not mutually reinforced on mining development projects as far as the case of MIDROC gold mine operation in Odo Shakiso Woreda is concerned. This is mainly due to development programs are not projected and implemented in a people-centered approach or human security was not put at the center of mining development projects. Analyzing mining conflicts in isolation from the broader human security context will miss the linkages between them and the case of Odo Shakiso community-MIDROC conflict illustrates the relevance of a human security perspective, and provides an insight to holistically view the cases of Adola gold mine and the Ketenteca Tantalum mine community conflicts in the study area. Finally, based on the major findings: victim's compensation, environmental reclamation, the establishment of viable institution and sound policy framework, the institutionalization and reengineering of CDPs, the implementation of participatory, transparent and accountable system, CSO engagement and responsible mining are suggested by the researcher to ensure sustainability and human security on mining development projects.

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## **Appendixes**

### **Appendix 1: Guiding Questions for Interview Participants**

1. How MIDROC gold mine investments start mineral extraction in Lege Dembi gold mine?
2. Did the Odo Shakiso community consulted, participated and give their consent to the operation of the company from its inception and up-to-date?
3. What kind threats does the mineral extraction process of MIDROC gold mine cause on the economy, health and environmental security of the Odo Shakiso community?
4. What kinds of response strategies have been taken by the MIDROC gold mine and the government to curtail the human security threats of the Odo Shakiso community?
5. Does MIDROC gold mine contribute to the development of the Odo Shakiso community?
6. Does the consolidated response strategy necessarily addressed the human insecurity and the development needs of the Odo Shakiso community?
7. Why conflict/ disagreement erupted between the company and the community?
8. What kind of possible solutions do you suggest for sustainable mining development?

### **Appendix 2: Guiding Questions for FGD Participants**

1. How MIDROC gold mine investments start mineral extraction in Lege Dembi gold mine?
2. Did the Odo Shakiso community consulted, participated and give their consent to the operation of the company from its inception and up-to-date?
3. What kind threats does the mineral extraction process of MIDROC gold mine cause on the economy, health and environmental security of the Odo Shakiso community?
4. What kinds of response strategies have been taken by the MIDROC gold mine and the government to curtail the human security threats of the Odo Shakiso community?
5. Does MIDROC gold mine contribute to the development of the Odo Shakiso community?
6. Does the consolidated response strategy necessarily addressed the human insecurity and the development needs of the Odo Shakiso community?
7. Why conflict/ disagreement erupted between the company and the community?
8. What kind of possible solutions do you suggest for sustainable mining development?

### Appendix 3: Interviewee Participants

| No. | Name of participant     | Sex | Occupation  | Date of interview | Place of interview |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1.  | CSO 01                  | M   | Head of Ethiopian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) secretariat. | 26/3/2019         | Addis Ababa        |
| 2.  | CSO 02                  | M   | President of Confederation Ethiopian of Trade Unions (CETU)                         | 10/5/2019         | Addis Ababa        |
| 3.  | CSO 03                  | M   | OFC Public relation and youth league head   | 18/4/2019         | Addis Ababa        |
| 4.  | Environmental expert 01 | M   | Environmental expert at MoMPNG  | 15/4/2019         | Addis Ababa        |
| 5.  | Environmental expert 02 | M   | Senior expert at EPA  | 13/4/2019         | Addis Ababa        |
| 6.  | Environmental expert 03 | M   | Environmental engineering instructor, researcher and consultant at AAU              | 01/1/1019         | Addis Ababa        |
| 7.  | Environmental expert 04 | M   | Expert at G/Z/E/P bureau  | 25/2/2019         | Negele Borena      |
| 8.  | Environmental expert 05 | M   | Environmental science instructor, researcher and consultant at Dilla University     | 24/3/2019         | Dilla              |
| 9.  | Informant 01            | M   | Peasant   | 2/3/2019          | Sawana             |
| 10. | Informant 02            | M   | Herdsman and victims of health defect   | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 11. | Informant 03            | M   | Resident and community elder  | 6/3/2019          | Shakiso            |
| 12. | Informant 04            | M   | Artisan miner (landless)  | 6/3/2019          | Shakiso            |
| 13. | Informant 05            | M   | Artisan miner (landless)  | 2/3/2019          | Sawana             |
| 14. | Informant 06            | M   | Peasant and victims of health defect  | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 15. | Legal expert 01         | M   | Legal expert at FDRE General Attorney   | 3/4/2019          | Addis Ababa        |
| 16. | Legal expert 02         | M   | Attorney at FDRE General Attorney   | 9/4/2019          | Addis Ababa        |
| 17. | Legal expert 03         | M   | Attorney at FDRE General Attorney   | 9/4/2019          | Addis Ababa        |
| 18. | Legal expert 04         | M   | Legal expert at EPA   | 6/4/2019          | Addis Ababa        |
| 19. | Legal expert 05         | M   | Legal expert at   | 6/2/2019          | Addis Ababa        |

|     |                   |   | MOMPNG  |           |               |
|-----|-------------------|---|---|-----------|---------------|
| 20. | Medical expert 01 | M | Health specialist at Adola Hospital   | 21/2/2019 | Adola         |
| 21. | Medical expert 02 | M | Health specialist at Adola Hospital   | 21/2/2019 | Adola         |
| 22. | Medical expert 03 | F | Health post at Dhiba Bate   | 1/3/2019  | Dhiba Bate    |
| 23. | Medical expert 04 | F | Health post at Dhiba Bate   | 1/3/2019  | Dhiba Bate    |
| 24. | Medical expert 05 | M | Deputy head of O/S/W health bureau  | 27/2/2019 | Shakiso       |
| 25. | Mining expert 01  | M | Geologist at MIDROC   | 10/3/2019 | Shakiso       |
| 26. | Mining expert 02  | M | Environmental expert at MIDROC  | 10/3/2019 | Shakiso       |
| 27. | Mining expert 03  | M | Geologist at MIDROC   | 8/3/2019  | Shakiso       |
| 28. | Mining expert 04  | M | Geologist at MIDROC   | 7/3/2019  | Shakiso       |
| 29. | Mining expert 05  | M | Geologist at MIDROC   | 7/3/2019  | Shakiso       |
| 30. | Mining expert 06  | M | Communication expert at MIDROC  | 8/3/2019  | Shakiso       |
| 31. | Mining expert 07  | M | Expert at Oromia W/M/E bureau   | 10/4/2019 | Addis Ababa   |
| 32. | Mining expert 08  | M | Expert at G/Z W/M/E bureau  | 22/2/2019 | Negele Borena |
| 33. | Official 01       | M | chief of the Minster office of MoMPNG and an advisor to the minster of MoMPNG | 7/2/2019  | Addis Ababa   |
| 34. | Official 02       | M | Director MALD (MoMPNG)  | 8/4/2019  | Addis Ababa   |
| 35. | Official 03       | F | Director of ECDD at MoMPNG  | 11/1/2019 | Addis Ababa   |
| 36. | Official 04       | M | MIDROC Gold Mine representative at A.A.                                       | 19/4/2019 | Addis Ababa   |
| 37. | Official 05       | M | Company, Community, Government relationship officer of MIDROC                 | 9/3/2019  | Shakiso       |
| 38. | Official 06       | M | Head of O/S/W Administration  | 28/2/2019 | Shakiso       |
| 39. | Official 07       | M | Head of O/S/W health bureau   | 27/2/2019 | Shakiso       |
| 40. | Official 08       | M | Head of O/S/W W/S/A bureau  | 6/3/2019  | Shakiso       |
| 41. | Official 09       | M | Head of O/S/W/E/P office  | 28/2/2019 | Shakiso       |
| 42. | Official 10       | M | Deputy head of G/Z health bureau  | 22/2/2019 | Negele Borena |

|     |                          |   |  |           |               |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--|-----------|---------------|
| 43. | Official 11              | M | Head of G/Z W/M/E bureau   | 23/2/2019 | Negele Borena |
| 44. | Official 12              | M | Head of G/Z/E/P bureau   | 25/2/2019 | Negele Borena |
| 45. | Social science expert 01 | M | Social science instructor, researcher and consultant at Dilla University | 24/3/2019 | Dilla         |
| 46. | Social science expert 02 | M | Social science instructor, researcher and consultant at Dilla University | 16/3/2019 | Bule Hora     |

#### Appendix 4: FGD Participants

| No.   | Name of participant | Sex | Occupation      | Date of Interview | Place of interview |
|-------|---------------------|-----|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| FGD 1 |                     |     |                 |                   |                    |
| 1.    | D 01                | F   | Elder           | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 2.    | D 02                | F   | Victim          | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 3.    | D 03                | M   | Victim Family   | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 4.    | D 04                | M   | Victim          | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 5.    | D 05                | F   | Victim          | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 6.    | D 06                | M   | Victim Family   | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 7.    | D 07                | M   | Victim Family   | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 8.    | D 08                | M   | Victim Family   | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| 9.    | D 09                | F   | Victim          | 1/3/2019          | Dhiba Bate         |
| FGD 2 |                     |     |                 |                   |                    |
| 1.    | D 10                | F   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| 2.    | D 11                | M   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| 3.    | D 12                | M   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| 4.    | D 13                | M   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| 5.    | D 15                | M   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| 6.    | D 16                | M   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| 7.    | D 17                | M   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| 8.    | D 18                | M   | Residents       | 27/2/2019         | Shakiso            |
| FGD 3 |                     |     |                 |                   |                    |
| 1.    | D 19                | M   | Peasants        | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |
| 2.    | D 20                | M   | Artisanal Miner | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |
| 3.    | D 21                | M   | Artisanal Miner | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |
| 4.    | D 22                | M   | Artisanal Miner | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |
| 5.    | D 23                | M   | Peasant         | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |
| 6.    | D 24                | M   | Artisanal Miner | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |
| 7.    | D 25                | M   | Artisanal Miner | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |
| 8.    | D 26                | M   | Peasant         | 3/3/2019          | Sakaro             |

## **Declaration**

I, Getaneh Wudeneh declared that this thesis is my original work and all sources of materials used in thesis have been acknowledged. I declared that this thesis has not been partially or entirely submitted to any other Universities and institution anywhere for the award of any academic degrees or diploma.

### **Declared by:**

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### **Approved by:**

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as Advisor.

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