

# **The linkage of Internal Displacement, Climate Change and Environment**

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May 10, 2023

# 1. Overview of EFD and JC

## 4. Power and Duties

21/ Conduct research on agroforestry and forest development; on forest conservation, management, and use; on forests and ecosystem services; on climate change and forests; on forest policy and governance; on forests and their socioeconomic contributions; on value addition and marketing of forest products and services; and on forest industries and to generate evidence, knowledge, and technologies for forest sector development and to facilitate wider use of same.

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FEDERAL NEGARIT GAZETTE  
OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

### Content

Regulation No. 505 /2022

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# 2. Internal Displaced People (IDP)

## Definition:

“Persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence” (UNHCR 1998),

**Based the definition, classified as;**  
(Mulugeta and Woldesemait, 2011)

- Conflict,
- Environmental and
- Development induced displacements

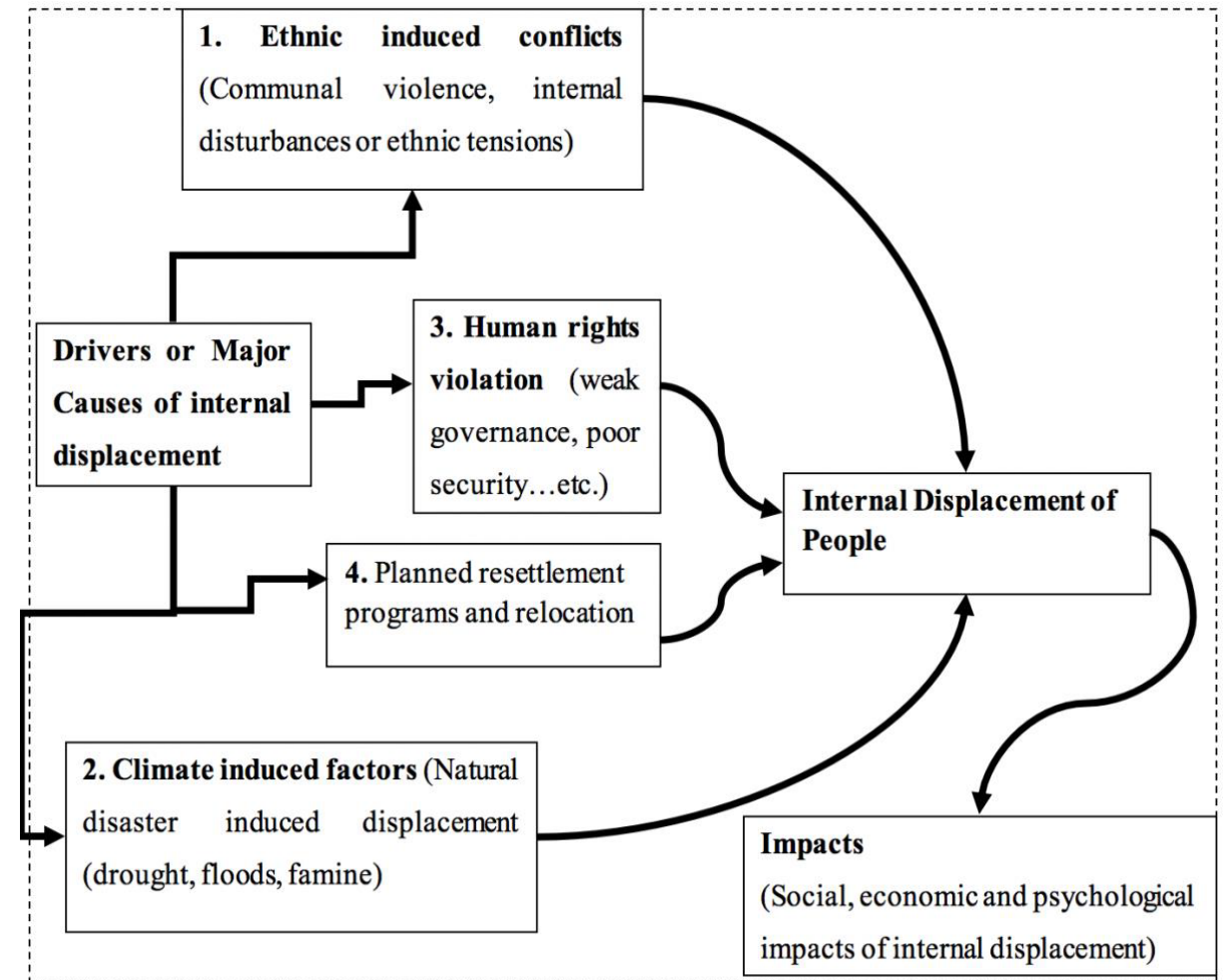


Figure 1. Conceptual framework BY Yigzaw and Abitew

## **2. Internal Displaced People (IDP)**

### **Conflict-induced displacement**

Happens when people abandon their habitual areas in fear of either small-scale clashes or wide-ranging battles and it has been occurring throughout human history in Ethiopia

## 2. Internal Displaced People (IDP)

### Environmental-induced displacement

Usually attributed to natural disasters like:

- Erratic rainfall,
- Drought incident,
- Forest fire,
- Flooding, (Mulugeta and Woldesemait, 2011).

## 2. Internal Displaced People (IDP)

### Development-induced displacements and current changes in economic progress

- Construction of large built-up areas:
- Hydroelectric power stations,
- Roads,
- Manufacturing industries, and
- Urban slums upgrading

## 2.1 Phase process of internal displacement

**The existence of comprehensive normative framework, to addresses the actual and potential threat of IDPs and providing the necessary assistance and protection for IDPs.**

- Pre-displacement,
- during displacement and
- post-displacement stages

## 2.2. Recap Internal Displaced People (IDP) in Ethiopia

- Ethiopia is among the countries most affected by internal displacement with 3.6 million internally displaced people (IDPs) at the end of 2021.
- Most of them were displaced because of conflict and violence (3,6 million), but many also fled because of disasters, including drought.
- There were 331,000 people living in internal displacement as a result of drought in Ethiopia at the end of 2020.
- Out of 844,642 IDPs living in 408 sites in the Somali region, nearly a third, or 278,025, had been displaced by drought.
- The government of the Somali region has recognized climate change as of the drivers of internal displacement

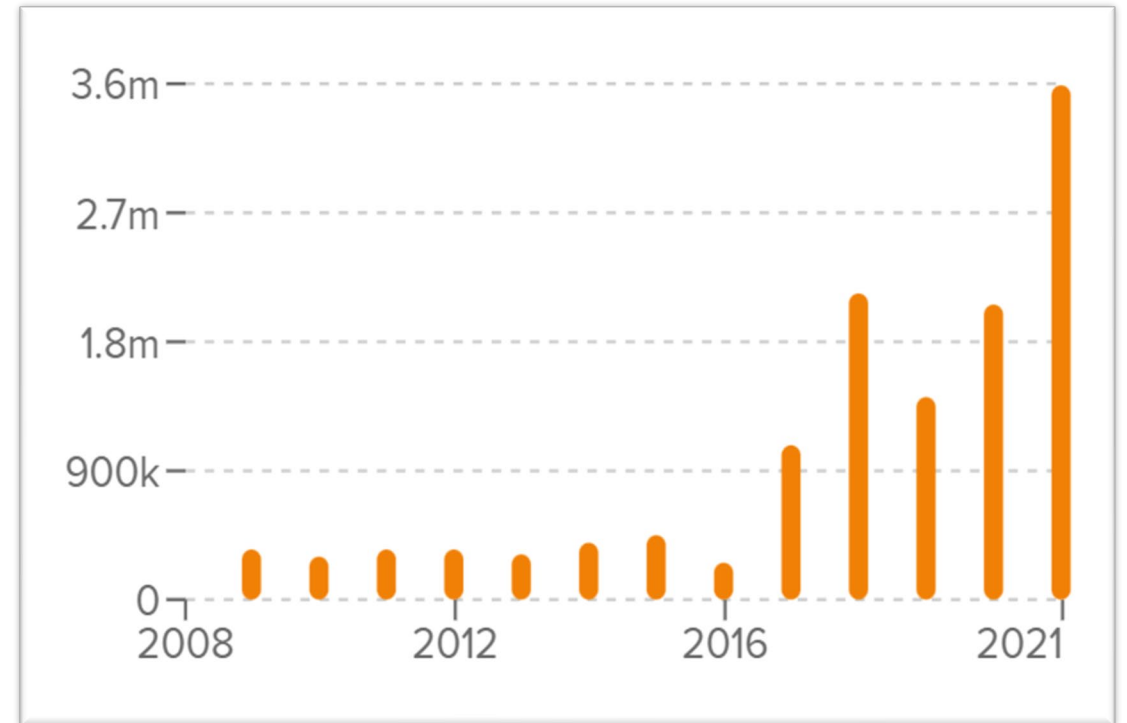


Figure 1 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2022)



## 2.2. Recap Internal Displaced People (IDP) in Ethiopia

- Environment-induced displacement is the most common incident in Ethiopia.
- People used to drift particularly from moisture stressed and overpopulated northern, northeastern, northwestern, and southeastern parts of the country to more fertile, wetter, and scarcely populated lowland parts
- Ethiopia is considered as one of the global hotspots of internal migration: during the last decades, millions of people have been migrating within the country, mostly from the famine-affected and semiarid northern part of the country to the more tropical southwestern part (Ezra 2001; Pankhurst 2009)

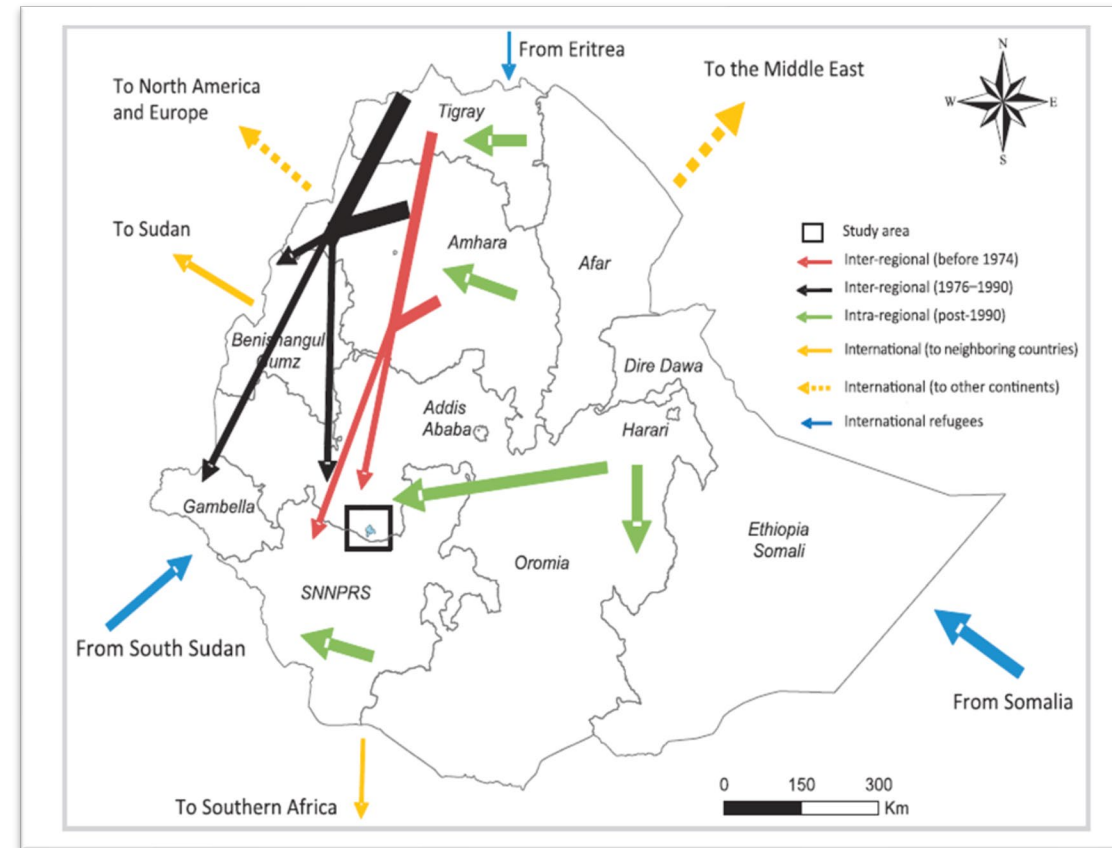
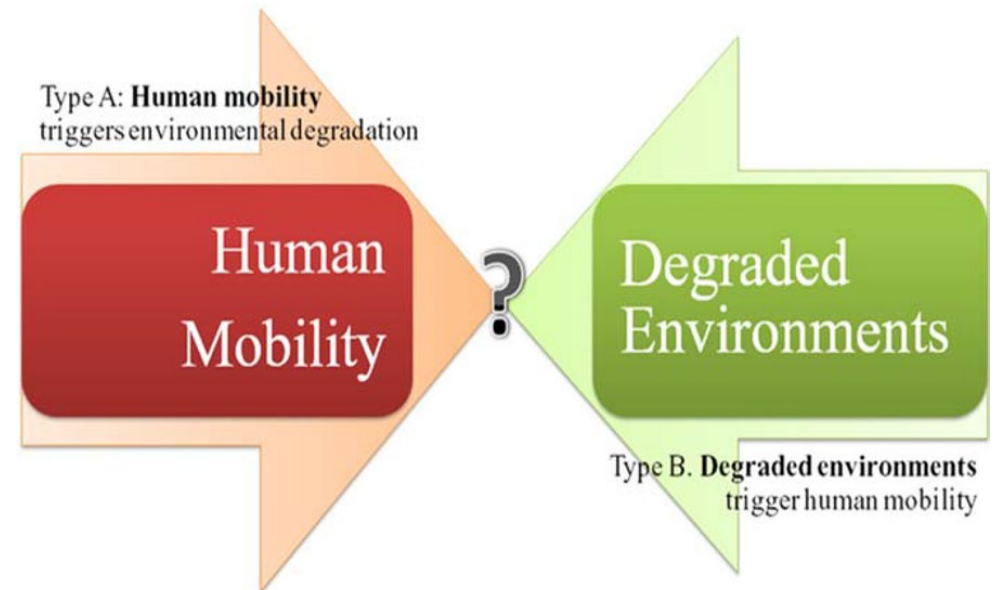


Figure 1 Historical migration routes in Ethiopia based on information from various research works. The thickness of the arrows depicts the magnitude of migration flow. (Map by Kefelegn Getahun)

# 3. Climate change and mobility

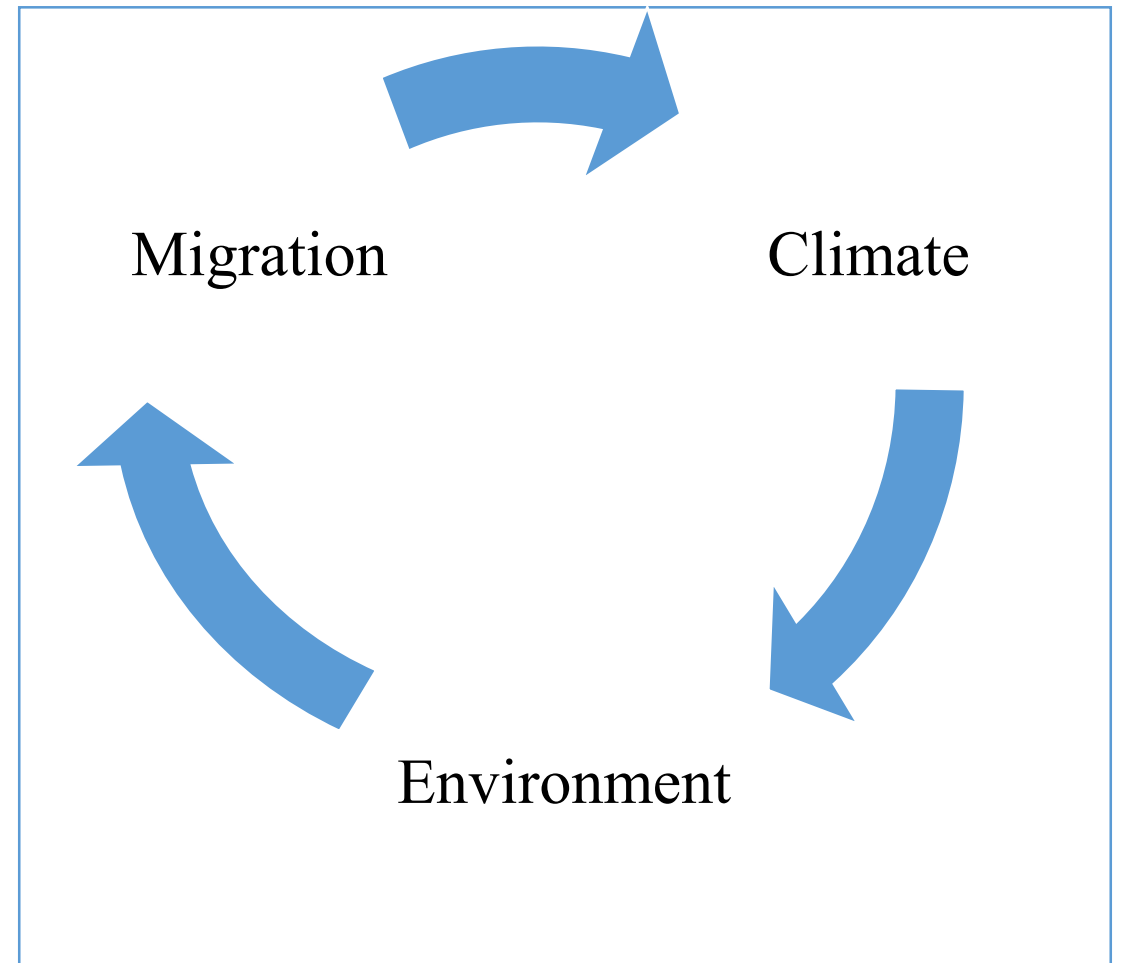
- Regarding to the environment-human mobility link, there is unanswered question, and yet a debatable issue as to whether human mobility is causing environmental degradation or degraded environments are triggering human mobility.



Source: Morinière (2012)

# 3. Climate change and mobility

- There are three plausible scenarios in the inter-linkages of the trio: climate change affects the environment which consequently sparks out-migration or displacement; environment causes climate change, initiating migration; and migration influences environment, resulting in climate change (Oucho, 2007).



## 4. Institutions responsible for IDP in Ethiopia

The primary responsibility to prevent, protect and assist IDPs lies on the government, IOs, humanitarian agencies, international and local NGOs

- Ministry of Peace
- National Disaster Risk Management Commission-NDRMC
- National and International Human Rights Advocacy Institutions
- Ethiopian Red Cross Society and International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Organizations and Humanitarian Assistant Organs
  - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
  - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees- UNHCR
  - International Organization for Migration - IOM

## 5. Major impacts of internal displacement

- IDPs are accommodated by host communities, these communities also experience immense pressure.
- The existence of overcrowding of IDPs could create informal settlements on communal and private lands.
- This also overstretches social basic facilities, such as water and social services such as schools, clinics, and other social infrastructures including housing.

## 5. Major impacts of internal displacement (Oucho, 2007)

- Clearing of large tracts of land for settlement
- Disturbing natural water resources and pollution
- Health hazards
- Dumping waste, mineral extraction and sand mining
- Pit sawing and hunting
- Decline in agricultural land and production
- Decrease in the quantity of wood for building and energy
- Loss of biodiversity

## 6. Conclusion and recommendation

- Moving from environmentally fragile or degraded regions to more secure areas is a long history in Ethiopia,
- It result in severe deforestation and environmental degradation in the resettlement areas (Getahun, et al., 2017),
- Mainstreaming the issues of displacement in key policy/strategy towards harmonizing with forest is required.

*Thank you*