JIMMA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICS STUDIES

THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:THE CASE OF NEKEMTE TOWN, EAST WOLLEGA ZONE, OROMIA REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA

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A RESEARCH PAPER SUBMITED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICS STUDIES, COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE OF JIMMA UNIVERSITY, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENTS OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE MASTERS OF ARTS (MA) IN CIVICS AND ETHICS STUDIES

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DECLARATION

I, Fayera Lami, hereby declare that thesis entitled the internally displaced persons: the case of Nekemte town is my original work under the guidance and support the supervision of advisor and co-advisor. It is submitted for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of master's degree in civic and ethical studies.

Approval Sheet

This is to certify that this thesis entitled by 'Assessing the effects of corruption in Urban land administration, the case of Gechi Town which done by Fayera Lami, **ID. No CLG/S/40066/09**, and submitted in partial fulfillments of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Civics and Ethic Studies is an authentic work fulfill the regulation of the university and meet the accepted standard with respect to originality and quality.

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study is assesses the situation of the IDPs in Nekemte.In doing so, this paper meticulously analyzed the causes, consequences and difficulties that encountered the efforts to return the displaced.This paper also critically sees the impact of the IDPs on the hosting communities . This paper relies purely on qualitative approach to coduct the study.It used descriptive research designed and both primary and secondary sources of data were used. Thus,the study comes up with the following findings. First, the study highlighted that both natural factors(in this case,ecological degradation and overpopulation)and man-induced causes especially politically motivated activies of certain groups have resulted in tragic displacement of huge number of people. Second, it also revealed that the displacement brought a number of tragic consequences including unexpected movement of people out of their homes that created economic problems for not only the IDPs but also the hostig communities.It also disturbed the social cohesion by dismantling members of the family.Third,the study also divulged returning them their home becomes harder and harder due to two reasons. Domestically a new conflict emerged between the OLA and Benishangul Liberation Front on one hand and the government forces on the other hand, in the areas from which they have been uprooted originally, and globally,there is no financial support due to pandemic and the increase in the influx of international refugees.

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Acknowledgements

ACRONYMS

AU-African union

IASC-Inter-Agency Standing Committee

ICRC-International Committee of the Red Cross

IDPs-Internally Displaced Persons

IDMC-Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

IGAD-Inter-Governmental Authority on Development

IOM-International Organization for Migration

NGOs-Non-Governmental organizations

OCHA-Office for Coordination Humanitarian Affairs

OLA-Oromo Liberation Army

OPDO-Oromo Democratic organization

PCWG -Protection Cluster Working Group

UNDP-United Nations Development Programme

UNHCR-United Nations higher Commission for Refugees

UNGA-United Nations General Assembly

UNIT ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Internal displacement, which is in most cases induced by force has been skyrocketed; since the last decade especially on or after the turn of the millennium to 2014. The rate of displacement between these two periods was about 1.6% and across the world, the number of internally displaced people; reached almost 60 million by the end of 2014 (Crawford, Cosgrave,Haysom&Walicki, 2015). The number of active civil strife increased, or even tripled from 2007 to 2014, and, whenever such a protracted conflict emerges, the rule of the force; instead of the rule of the law; becomes the norm of engagement that would, in turn, create a hurdle, to ensure justice, and responsibility of those who caused a tumultuous circumstance to occur (UNDP, 2016).

Back in 2013, the United Nations estimated that approximately 1% of the world population is internally displaced or domestic refugees, i.e., refugees within their country without crossing the international borders. Different factors have contributed to the displacement of people internally,among which armed conflict, communal violence, and perennial right violations are the crucial ones (Achieng, Solomon, etal,2014). Forced internal displacement remains a key challenge to development, as its root cause has been, and will always be a violent conflict that fends off, any development opportunity, the likes of investment that would invariably consider the prevalence of peace as its precondition to come to a certain country (World Bank, 2017).

As noted in many kinds of literature conflict and displacement are highly entangled together, and as such, it has long witnessed, in many conflicts; that perpetuated in many parts of the world. Violent conflicts that have occurred around the world are precursors for voluminous movements of population, groups, and, in some instances,ethnic minorities that culminate in displacement. Conflict driven internal displacement is proved to be devastating, and its outcome is unimaginable (Concern World Wide, n.d).

Despite its old age existence which traced back to time immemorial, the issue of internal displacement received much attention more recently towards the end of the 20th century The conflict driven internal displacement which has lead to unmatched scale of population movement becomes increasingly the defining feature of the Sub-Saharan Africa. For the last four decades, people on the whole continent of Africa that was counted in millions were forcibly left their abodes and fled to safety, concomitantly they lost the meager resources they have and faced unprecedented hardships when they moved to save their lives. Despite some improvements in security due to political transition in Sudan following the ouster of Al-bashir ,descalation of civl conflict in South Sudan and the cessation of border hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea,yet internal communal violence remains the majorcause of internal displacement. In the year 2020,there are7million IDPs in the horn of Africa region(Beirstekeretal, 2007,Crisp,2010 &UNHCR,2020)

Having said this, today more than 17% account of the number of globally displaced and more than half of the internal displaced people in Africa are located in the horn of Africa region. As of now three countries in the region that include Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia in the IGAD region account for more than 6.5 million of IDPs combined. Sudan,country in the same geographic region with Ethiopia,the horn of Africa, is also home to huge number of IDPs.This internal displacement was indeed induced by intermingled factors:both natural and man made which includes:flooding, climate change, poor sanitation,famine and frequent violent conflict. South Sudan after its secession in 2011 from north Sudan,after bloody and longest civil war run on the continent,also descended into another that takes toll on already dire humanitarian situation in the country. Before independence from North Sudan,people in the South were hit by various challenges that forced them out of their home which comprise of human rights violations, natural disaster,cattle raiding and armed conflict among warring factions. It was unfortunate that post-independence period witnessed the same calamity as government sponsored ethnic division and ongoing cattle rading converged the country into another civil war,this time among South Sudanese((Brooking Institutions,2013, IDMC,accessed on December, 2, 2019 & Rahamtalla,2018).

Ethiopia since its formation has ushered in various conflicts; that have both international and national dimensions. The first is about the conflict that happened due to border disputes with

neighboring states.The latter referred to internal conflict, which most often takes place between the incumbent government in power, and the antagonist armed groups as well as conflicts among the rival ethnic groups in the country because of competition for water, pasture and to some extent disputes tied to administrative boundaries.The International Organization for Migration(IOM)'s Displacement Tracking Matrix indicates that roughly three million people were displaced internally within the border of Ethiopia(IOM,2020 & Muhidin).

Given this, it is evident that the massive internal displacement has long been the hallmark in Ethiopia. As of 2017 Ethiopia tops-up the other IGAD member countries, by contributing more than 10% which is roughly 700,000 from among the entire internally displaced peoples (IDPs) in the region (Mehari,2017). Therefore this paper intends to investigates the situation of IDPs people in the study area,more importantly, it will scrutinize the causes,consequences and the plight those people have been facing since their forcible displacement from their homes.

1.2.Statement of the Problem

Today internal displacement remains one of the ever-looming calamities that disrupts social fabric and exposed those affected to untold human suffering (UN, 2004a).From its first day of occurrence, displacement robs person, both individually and as family members of their living and their jobs. Not only this, internal displacement escorts to susceptibility to the likes of searching a safer location where to adapt and commence a new life. When internally displaced people camped to the unreachable area it is hardly possible to access humanitarian support (Christensen &Harild, 2009). The internal displacement caused not only a humanitarian crisis, but also entails political insecurity provided that the government fails to address it properly by employing various conflict resolution mechanisms or peacebuilding schemes(IDMC,2009).

Speaking of Ethiopia, it is regrettable that the number of internally displaced persons in the country is three times the number of Ethiopian refugees living across international borders in other countries(Mehari, 2017). Iam interested in this topic because of two reasons. First, right now because of the persistent conflicts that occur across different parts of the country, this issue remains a potential researchable area.My assertion is rooted in the fact that I have personally observed what happened in the area where I live, even in other parts of the country.

Moreover,what makes this issue even more relevant is that the conflict ongoing in Ethiopia is not confined to the area instead there are ongoing conflict in other parts of the country includingBenisahngul Gumuz and between Wollo Oromo and Affar.Thus,such ongoing conflicts are potentially supporting my position that why I have decided to engage to research on this issue. Finally,the recurrent prevalence of conflicting Ethiopia has long been and still being reported on by human rights watch and Amnesty international.

Second, this research will fill gaps that have never been covered in previous studies, and these gaps involve the intentions of those who engage in such inhumane acts. In some cases, disgruntled political forces are involved, they lost power in protests of 2015, 2016 and 2017, and now certain groups are recruited in the displaced areas to shake the new government. In another situation, the new government itself sometimes causes the displacement to use it for a political purposes as a blame tactic especially against the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA).Therefore, previous studies have never considered the intentions and types of actors that shaped the face of displacement occurred in the current study. Though,thereare a plenty of studies conducted,for instance,(Mehari,2017& Rahamtalla,2018) concerning the internal displacement in Ethiopia and other countries, there are research gaps clearly left unfilled by those studies that the current study is going to address.

First, the previous researchers were done are comprehensive which means they were conducted at the national level without dissecting the causes of internal displacement unlike the current which, is going to study it at the sub-national level or local level asit focuses on specific location to have detail understanding factors behind this displacement. Second, the previous researches done were general in terms of causes discussed therein that lead to the displacement: for example Mehari(2017) research tried to address the causes of the internal displacement including both natural and man-made causes whereas the IDPs in the current study are exclusively limited to those who forced of their home by violence---man-made cause. Third, this study is different from previous one in that the actors involved in inciting this forced internal displacement in the current include sub-state actors and individuals with purely political motives.

Therefore, this thesis attempts to explore the internal displacement situation that is particularly relevant to the internally displaced persons camped in the town of Nekemte. In addition, it will

strictly examine the severity of the challenges they have faced since leaving their place of residence and the reasons for no return to their homes.

1.3. Objectives of the Study
1.3.1.General Objective

The overall objective of the study is to assess the situation of internal displacement in the context of the current study area.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives of the study

Specific objectives of the study include the following;

- ➢ To identify causes for IDPs in the study area
- ➢ To identify the consequencesthe IDPs face in the study area currently
- ➢ To assess the interventions made by the government to address the problems of IDPs in the study area and
- ➢ To identify the reasons why IDPs living in Nekemt Town are unable to return to their original place currently.

1.4. Research Questions
- ➢ What are the causes for IDPs in the study area?
- ➢ What are the consequences or challenges faced by the IDPs ?
- ➢ What intervention measures are taken by the government to mitigate the crisis?
- ➢ Why and what challenges await you in case you return to your homes?

1.5. Significance of the Study

Although many studies have been done on IDPs in Ethiopia and beyond , very little has been done on this issue at sub-national or local level with indepth inquiry of causes and consequences of its occurrence in the current study area. IDPs in Ethiopia become increasingly frightening development that has the potential of causing overwhelming uncertainty, which would be persistent and can threaten the existence of the Ethiopian state.

As a result, to overcome the challenge, it is better to first examine and understand the root causes of it. Therefore the current study aims to identify fundamental causes of internal displacement and its consequences in the study area. Accordingly, it will have the following contributions to

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the existing body of literature; first, It may adds a sort of knowledge on the current existing body of literature about the causes of massive IDPs crisis in Ethiopia,Second,it may provides a good understanding about the consequences of the internal displacement in Ethiopia,Third,it offers a detail knowledge about the magnitude of the challenges displaced people faced and hurdles they may encounter lest they want to return homes.

1.6. Delimitation of the Study

Internal displacement remains a humanitarian tragedy of our time, which is attracting the attention of actors across the board, as it is the most complex and daunting challenges that hold back human development potential. The study is geographically delimited to Nekemte town of East Wollega. Substantively,it strictly deals with the situation of IDPs now camped in the study area. Hence,it focuses identifying causes and consequences of the displacement that happened in 2017/8 in the study area.

1.7. Expected outcomes of the study

The first expected outcome is that this study coulbbe useful identify the causes, and consequences of the internal displacement. Second,identification of the causes would help the concerned stakeholders to address the issue once and forall and finally,this study could serve as springboard for other researchers who want to pursue further study on this issue.

1.8. Materials and Methods

1.8.1. Research Approach

The methodological framework used in this research was a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach to research is concerned with the appraisal of feelings, opinions, and conducts of people. Researches in such circumstances are all about a function of the researcher's way of looking and impressions (Cothari, 2004). Qualitative research most often placed activities that would help the researcher to observe the real world. It comprises of a set of interrelated practices and actions that allow the researcher to get a clear picture of the factual world events (Porta Della & Keating, 2008).

This approachhelps me get indepth understanding of how people feel and their experience phenomenon unfolding around them. It is a crucial slant to get clear picture of often conflicting

behaviors, beliefs, opinions, emotions, and people's reaction against occurrence of events.among individuals and groups. It is by far pertinent approach to better understand and to interpret the complex reality of a given situation. The reason I chose qualitative research approach is that it is the best approach to get rich ideas from the study population that in turn broaden my view about the world and help me to write this paper from different perspectives.

1.8.2. Research Design

Descriptive research design is doubtlessly the best design to utilize to conduct this research. This design deals with the phenomenon and its inherent qualities. Primarily its aim is, to understand situations as happened; as a result, it relies on observation, as a data gathering instrument (Walliman,2011).Depending on issues that research tries to answers, observation perhaps takes diverse type. For instance, based on the information required; it can take the form of an interview, Focus Group Discussion, distributing questionnaires, even sound recording or visual recordings. What one cannot ignore here is that such observation is always in a written form or recorded that would enable the researcher to analyze them easily later (Ibid).

1.8.3. Study Population

The study population are people who going to participate in this study. Accordingly,these population are individual from whom the researcher is going to collect data from.The researcher draw samples from this population or otherwise known as target population. In this study the study population includes IDPs population,government officials and employees of the UN agencies.

1.8.4. Sampling Technique and Sample size

This research would use deliberative sampling technique also know as purposive sampling. This sampling method involves purposive or deliberate selection of particular units of the universe for constituting a sample which represents the universe. This sampling technique is preferable because of its convenience and low costs (Cothari, 2004). As far as the sample size is concerned, this study relies on data saturation principle. Data saturation principle is a qualitative data collection type in which the researchers stop collecting data when data that would reveal new properties are no longer available (Creswell, 2014).

1.8.5. Sources of Data

1.8.5.1. Primary sources

The Primary sources of data are population under study and other concerned government officials,and agencies of the UN Working on this issu, if possible.The primary sources of data were gathered through face to face interviews, telephone interviews, and focus group interviews with a small group of sampled population like IDPs people,government officials and employees of the UN agencies.These interviews in many ways involve both unstructured and open-ended types of questions that are aimed to draw views and positions of participants (Creswell, 2014).

1.8.5.2. Secondary Sources

Besides this, secondary sources of data were utilized.These secondary sources would comprise of books, encyclopedias, oral histories of individuals or a group, journal articles, newspaper stories, and pieces on websites.

1.9. Organization of the Study

This thesis was organized into five chapters.The first chapter introduces the study. Following the introduction, chapter Two deals with the conceptual framework, and literature reviews, which extensively stress the conceptual issues of the study in line with surveying literature related to the subject of the study.Chapter three deals with the causes, consequences, and magnitudes of internal displacement that occurred in the study. The fourth chapter is about analyzing and discussion of data.The last chapter, which is chapter five, presents the findings of the study and offers recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Concepts of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

As stated in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the IDPs are 'person or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border' (OCHA, 2004).

Their involuntary exoduses of their home in search of new habitat and such movement which is in their own country without crossing international borders are the two defining features of an IDP. The forced departure of their home differentiate them from those who left their home on free will and choice who can otherwise safely continue their lives there while the second feature of an IDPs distinguishes them from those who cross international borders and become refugees in another country(Aleksieieva,2016).

The internal displacement began to attract attention of wider international community only with the end of cold war than ever despite the fact such displacement was there for quite long ago. The recurring displacements of IDPs are attributed to a range of factors including: armed conflict, communal violence, violations of people's rights that forced them to leave; abuse of humanitarian laws and natural disaster (Goldman, 2009).

Internal displacement has always existed around and is considered to be a precursor to external displacement which the only last option to take when internal one is no more an alternative. In most cases, due to various factors, people become internally displaced and stay in their home country instead of becoming external refugees, even if these factors depend on the situation and vary with the individual person affected. In some cases, people cannot cross international borders due to lack of means to enter foreign countries, which can be money or transportation. Besides, there are also landscape barriers which makes crossing across borders very difficult and these include: mountainous terrain, and big rivers. From the perspective of affected individuals, they

may not be able to cross the border to the other side, which may be affected by age, and health and disability are the basic motivations for their stay (Erin, 2010 & Goldman, 2009).

2.2. IDPs in Historical perspective: Its Beginning

After the end of the First World War, the League of Nations was formed with the purpose of codifying the legal system that gave refugees rights, because the flow of refugees was unprecedented due to the war. The compelling reasons behind the enactment of laws relating to refugees were two developments at the time. The first is fully dawn of the war and associated impact it has brought economically, socially and politically by making civilians who belong to enemy camp during the war as a justifiable target for the warring sides that resulted in an unmatched number of people movement to save their lives from indiscriminate bombings and killings (Loescher,2001).

In fact, the above content is more about external refugees, while internally displaced persons only became an urgent challenge facing mankind in the mid-1990s. In 1993, the United Nations recognized that people who fled their homeland without leaving the motherland were regarded as international problems that must face collectively. As sketched out earlier, a tremendous internal displacement has occurred during the Second World War and the situation of internal displacement further complicated as a result of Indian partition in 1947 and 1949 protracted civil wars that killed many in Greek(Orchard,2016).

Since the Second World War, there have been a large number of internally displaced persons. Despite the large-scale movement of internally displaced persons, the 1951 Refugee Convention excluded them and they did not receive protection. When the refugee convention was being adopted, different countries call on the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to help them deal with the refugee crisis that plagued their country. At the time, the US delegation led by then-President Eleanor Roosevelt believed that internal displacement was another problem with distinctive features, because as far as these displaced persons are concerned, they should not be treated as refugees who left their countries because these peoples unlike those who crossed international border, are in their home countries. So, it is unreasonable to compare them with those who cross the international border and without government protection abroad (Orchard, 2018 & Orchard, 2016).

The denial of the same treatment with people who fled across the borders, most often forced IDPs to be subjected to the rules as well as the jurisdiction of the government whose own from action from the very outset instigated the crisis that resulted in their displacement and caused unprecedented abuse and rights violation against them. The regime that causes internal displacement and brings disaster to the lives of internally displaced persons may lack the capacity or sometimes even shows no willingness to help them cope with the situation. Rhetorically, people think that the displaced will be treated in the same manner as those who are leading their normal life because they are in their home country, but in the real world, what have been happening in the daily life of the displaced persons is different(Kalin& Goldman, 1998 & Goldman, 2009).

Although, the UN Secretary General calls on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support those who are outside ambit of its statute and often called displace person internally, in territory of their own country, yet, the UNCHR considers all displaced persons and the term as a vital comprehensive for all who are excluded from its refugee convention, which in turn make protection of IDPs difficult (Goldman, 2009). Although it has proven difficult to provide the required assistance, UNHCR has made a concerted effort to provide limited assistance both in form and quantity to the IDPs. However, what is certain is that UNHCR was able to create understanding about the difficulties faced by internally displaced persons among UN agencies and NGOs around the world so that they can obtain assistance (Ibid).

In the early 1980s, nearly 1.5 million people were internally displaced in at least 11 countries around the world; this number increased sharply in 1995. During this period, 20-25 million internally displaced persons were registered in 40 countries/regions. This figure shows that the number of displaced persons has tripled compared to previous figures worldwide. The number of IDPs grew to a staggering 26 million in 2007, with Colombia, Iraq and Sudan accounting for 50% of the displacement (IDMC, 2008; Kalin and Goldman, 1998 & Goldman, 2009).

As the wider international community becomes fully aware of the predicaments of IDPs, discussion and attention increasingly turned towards how to address this humanitarian catastrophe and the UN agencies become very much assertive in persuading leaders around the world and rebels' groups when the cause of the displacement is civil war to open the corridor to allow humanitarian aid to reach the displaced peoples (Cohen, n.d).

As the number of internally displaced persons increased, the UN Security Council began to intervene. For example, in 1991, the United Nations not only requested access to a large number of internally displaced Kurds, but also wanted to protect them from further attacks. This move by the UN Security Council served as a precedent for its subsequent request of making follow-up and access to internally displaced persons in other countries especially when responsibility to protect civilians by the use of force allowed to provide humanitarian assistance and relief to those internally displaced (Goldman, 2009).

2.3.The Institutional Framework and the monitoring regime of IDPs

Though, the flight of people began long before the adoption/establishment of some institutions to deal with such problems, yet the IDPs are denied of protection of indefinitely.The United Nations formally established a special rapporteur on the human rights of IDPS in 1992. States' refusal to allow an international community to monitor the situation of IDPs, citing allowing others' to interfere in their internal affairs as violation of their national sovereignty, leads to the institutional gaps that haunt efforts to protect IDPs. In order to overcome this institutional gap, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is in favor of promoting cooperation between various United Nations agencies to solve the problem of internal displacement. Moreover, it is charged with the power to administer and direct camps where these people live. To make the monitoring situation more effective as well as to reduce the institutional gap, the UN established Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) so that it can advance further the certainty and to increase the quality of a humanitarian response of the IDPs (Aleksieieva, 2016; Ferris &Winthrop, 2010).

The IASC has advanced various policies and protection mechanisms that are pertinent to IDPS, anyhow, it is less effective and unable to bring an end to internal displacement because it falls short of confronting the voracious state or any belligerent groups to be hold responsible for gruesome rights violations that have been committing since the displacement began to occur. The IASC is responsible for advancing a unified position to regularly defend human rights and humanitarian principles. s mentioned earlier, the UNHCR besides its mandate discussed earlier, it is also responsible to step up efforts to enhance awareness among UN agencies and other NGO staff who work in the field about special steps/procedures of UN Human Rights commission, which are often unknown much and underutilized but are useful direction to engage with

governments to raise concern they have about the protection of IDPs (Laker, 2013; Bagshaw and paul, 2004).

The protection of civilian in time of war has also been a concern of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The protection of civilians in wartime is also a concern of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This institution provides a clear legal regime to protect IDPs and stipulates the task of providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs.(Orchard, 2018; Denge, 2004).

CHAPTER THREE

THE IDPs: THE LEGAL PROTECTION REGIMES, CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF DISPLACEMENT

3.1. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEGAL REGIMES TO PROTECT THE IDPs

3.1.1. International Legal Regimes

The legal regime to protect the internally displaced persons was emerged due to arising insecurity and the use of brute and deadly violence that resulted in state failure, civil strife,political revolution, ethnic cleavages, famine and related endless reign of panic (Laker,201 3). The destructive causes of the internal displacement does not limited to the above,rather the d isplacement also caused mass exodus of people from their quarters to elsewhere,i.e.either within borders of a single state or crossing the international border and get the status of the internation al refugees (Ibid). As the magnitude of internally displacement continued to rise, the United Nations was prompted to react to this new development especially post-cold War period by initiating some legal frameworks in order to address this problem (Ibid).

The first legal regime adopted with the supports of the United Nations aimed to tackle the intense problems that compounded the lives of the IDPs. This was intended to be implemented via coordinating closely with OCHA Emergency relief coordinating body which is charged with task of formulating policies and other operational mechanisms that are vital to ensure assistance and to extend protection to internally displaced persons across board.[1] The global internal displacement regime in essence encompasses of five elements. These include among other things, first, it comprise of the political and legal aspect which is run by the United Nations special representative to the Secretary general office with the purpose of protecting the rights of internally displace persons. The Secretary General of the United Nations was compelled to establish this new post based on the request from the commission on human rights back in 1992 to follow-up and examine the human rights situation of the IDPs.[2]

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[1] This was an extract taken from Secretary General's report to General Assembly: A/51/950 (July 1997), renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform.

[2] IDMC and NRC,(2010). Making it real: A short guide to the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa, IDMC.

The second development is that with the founding of new post in the UN system, the new convention was also adopted at the regional level in particular in Africa. Interestingly, this convention is legally binding on signatory states; it was signed and ratified in Uganda Kampala in 2009 and 2012 respectively ((Laker, 2013). This regional convention was inspired and based on its antecedent softy declaration, a Guiding Principles on internal Displacement, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1998 which expressly put the particulars of the rights and protection to be rendered on the IDPs (Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998).

Third elements are two: these are Norwegian Refugee Council and the internal Displacement Monitoring centre (IDMC) which is tasked with gathering data pertinent to the IDPs so that it can be used to campaign on behalf the IDPs to protect their rights that can be done by offering education and training to different countries' directors and teams where refugees are located (McNamara, 2005). The fourth one is its humanitarian aspect that has come into being with the adoption of the cluster approach in year 2005. This cluster is divided into three and it is primarily led by the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).[3]

The first is protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG) that involves over 30 partnering bodies from humanitarian, human rights and development community to deal with bodily security, ownership of property, gender based violence, the dearth of services and the complete loss of personal documentation of the IDPs. The second cluster is camp coordination and camp Management Cluster which is jointly being overseen by UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (IOM).The task of the former is to monitor conflict induced displacement while the latter is burdened with the task of overseeing dislodgment that results from natural causes.[4]

The last element is Emergency shelter cluster is together led by the UNHCR and IFRC. This cluster is mandated to enhances as well as to guarantee the certainty of services delivery through increasing number of qualified experts to be deployed to support the IDPs, to develop strategy to facilitate shelter strategy, monitoring mechanism and increasing supply of shelter and non-food articles.[5]

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[3]EXCOM Report EC/57/SC/CRP.18, 8 June (2006): UNHCR's expanded role in support of the inter-agency response to internal displacement situations, SUMMARY, p. 114.
[4] Ibid
[5] Ibid

Another comprehensive legal standard that was introduced to put the IDPs issue on the UN agenda is the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement. These principles have become a normative principles which are to be taken into consideration to protect the IDPs; sets out minimum measures that every state should take to protect the displaced people (Kalin, 2005). The adoption of the Guiding principles on Internal Displacement was initiated following the appointment of Francis M.Deng by then UN Secretary General Boutros BoutrosGhali in 1992 to carry out an autonomous investigation into the issue of internal displacement (Åhlin, 2011). The Guiding principles are the collection of legal provisions from different conventions and protocols that include: Geneva Convention and protocols, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Refugee law___ in particular the United Nations Convention Relating to the status of Refugee (Ibid).

But the incredible problem associated with the guiding principles is that it has no binding force because it is softy declaration, that means its implementation or acceptance solely depends on the willingness of each state. It is, however, sad that what is observed most often is that states are not willing to put into practice or respect it.[6] The absence of any binding treaty so far that states are compelled to observe, made the existing legal regime to protect the IDPs, extremely insufficient. As a result of this legal vacuum, whenever humanitarian crisis related the IDPs occurred, the response to such crises remains too limited and the situations of the IDPs have become even more worrisome (McGoldrick, 2007).

In fact, Guiding Principles on internal Displacement since its adoption, it serve as a legislative framework by analogically using various legal provisions from human rights treaties, humanitarian laws and laws pertaining to international refugees to the IDPs (Laker, 2013). The principles declares that offering aid to the IDPs should be given the priority and in addressing the basic necessity as well as the human rights of the displaced, needs a close heed of the humanitarian organizations(Shacknove,1985).

The principles underscores that the state are fully responsible to give assistance to its citizens including the IDPs, not to discriminate against the displaced, even it has a mandate to rehabilitates the displaced. The principles goes as far as saying citing incapacity to circumvent its

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[6]Online resource: http://tinyurl.com/66nhp7m (Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, accessed on 26/04/11 00:12).

obligation is not acceptable and it says if it lacks capacity, it can request help from the international community(Anand,2019).

The principles also call attention to the roles of every institution; these are whether UN based which are to involve under its auspices, and other NGOs. It thus emphasized that whenever addressing the challenges facing the IDPs, norms mentioned within international human rights regime should be respected taken into consideration without reservation (Guiding Principles, 1998). In general, the success of the principles can be attributed to its derivation of its contents from other binding international legal instruments that are proved instrumental in protection of human rights global communities. As repeatedly said before, these principles by itself cannot enforce the state to respect and protect the rights of IDPs, but the principles that are embodied in it, can make the state responsible. This is owing to the fact that those principles which are made part of it are taken from binding international treaties that many of the states signed and ratified (Moberg, 2009).

It is evident with all of its flaws today, the principles has been acclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at its World Summit outcome Document of 2005.The Assembly called the principles very crucial and globally functioning legal framework established to address the plight of the IDPs.[7]

3.2. African Regional Legal Framework on IDPs

Despite lag behind for so long of legislative developments s regards to ensuring respect and protection of the IDPs, recently it appears now that wheels are turning around in terms of formulating laws that concern the internally displaced persons. The recent legislative measure and progress concerning the IDPs prompted by and followed judicial verdict delivered by the international Court of justice and other regional bodies dealing with human rights in which they all stressed the need for state responsibility to protect and safeguard the IDPs (Chaloka, 2006).

At the UN level, its specialized Agencies have repeatedly aired the growing challenges they face in providing protection to the internally displaced persons on account of the absence of

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[7]24thUN General Assembly Resolution 60/1, paragraph 132, UN Doc. No. A/RES/60/1, October, (2005).

governing law.[8] Due to this, in 2004 United Nations Humanitarian Coordination Office(OCHA) was forced to lately launched an Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division under the Inter- Agency Standing Committee (IASC).This also led to the shift in the position of the UN system that induced the body to have streamlined system of protecting the IDPs and the UNHCR has been mandated to take the responsibility for this.[9]

The foundation of the current convention on the Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (aka Kampala Convention), has laid its basis in the 25th of commemoration of the Convention of the 1969 which Governs the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa that was held jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee and the African Union. The adoption of Kampala Convention was prompted by the fact that out of the global number of displaced persons out of their home, majority of them are in Africa (Chaloka, 2006).

With the daily tremendous increase in a number of displaced of persons from their place of abode because of different factors, they have become insecure as well as vulnerable that calls for their protection both mentally and physically by codifying pertinent law and human rights and humanitarian essentials should be considered while codifying such law (Ibid). As such, African Union taking an initiative to extend legal framework through enacting the law to contain this massive problem of internal displacement that plagued the continent(Ibid).

In the year 2004 the AU's Executive Council solicited the AU Commission to develop a comprehensive legal frame to passably offer them protection unconditionally and to the fullest possible level (Tigere and Amukhobu, 2006). The commission was requested to do its task of developing legal regime by coordinating with every concerned stakeholders and partners because their involvement speed-up its adoption. As an organization established to resolve the

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[8]Available at: http://ochaonline.un.org/webpage.asp?site=idp>.

[9]UNHCR, "Discussion paper on UNHCR's role in IASC humanitarian reform initiatives and in the strengthening of the inter-agency collaborative response to internally displaced persons situations", 20 September,2005,availableat:http://www.unhcr.org/cgi bin/texis/vtx/excom/?tbl5EXCOM&id543d0dbe32..opendoc.pdf

African problem, the AU by itself has established a department tasked with humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced categories of persons.[10]

The Kampala convention that was the result of the long deliberation by the AU for quite long time has become the first regional binding legal instrument that imposes obligation on member states to have in place protection measures that could help curb or to entirely eliminate the root causes of the displacement (Kampala Convention, 2009). This Convention has detailed the responsibility that each member state bears. Specifically, its article5 (4) sketched out clearly that any actor, whoever it is, should commit itself to fully extend protection to and to lend a hand of support to the IDPs irrespective of the nature of the causes of the displacement__which are perhaps be either natural or man-made causes. Moreover, this Convention made it clear that any state party to it should take note of establishing early warning system wherever and whenever there is potential danger of displacement, risk cutback and its management measures (Brookings Institution, 2013).

3.3.BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

  With the scale of internal displacement being skyrocketed and becomes global phenomenon and its impact has increasingly becomes far reaching and catastrophic, states began to act on to avert it collectively (Interview with UNHCR representative, September 10, 2020). Many scholars argued that despite their displacement within border of the states without making a crossing, yet the extent of the predicaments that they could possibly and actually encounter are the same to those of the international refuges----that is, those who are made to cross the international borders. The quandaries they face could be described in terms of the causes of displacement and the basic necessities that they need to sustain their lives (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2003).

Indeed, the core causes of the displacement are of two grand types. These are natural or man-made in nature. It is very much evident that the problem of internal displacement arises, first, out of natural factors which may related to ecological catastrophe that can entails a tremendous that would force people to be uprooted from their home base grudgingly against their will(Lea Grohe,2015). Today a number of people facing displacement that has happened because of the

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[10] See UNHCR, The State of the World's Refugees, Geneva, 2006, ch. 7 "Internally displaced persons",available at:,http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/publ/opendoc.htmid54444d3cc11..PUBL& id54444d3cc11..

natural hazards have been quadrupled in their magnitude than it was back in the 1970s. The internally displaced persons have become a glaring problem that is widely seen across the spectrum, which are the outcome of global warming because of the increasing hotness of the temperature and associated recurrent change of climate(Ibid).

Second, another cause is man-made and in this case, the causes might be owing to the armed conflict; sometimes displacement may also be caused by development projects that the government embarks on (Oyefara&Alabi, 2016).The armed conflict is the most pervasive man induced causes of displacement. Based on global analysis of Global IDP project in the year 2002 more than 25 million of the IDPs were forcibly left their homes as a result of the armed conflict and other related violence. But still this figure is far from truth in terms of describing the exact number on the ground which is because of the fact, in certain instances it was impossible get real number of the internally displaced because of inaccessibility of the area where such displacement has occurred(Norwegian Refugee Council, 2003).

3.3.1.Nekemte: Spot which received overwhelming number of IDPs: Causes of Displacement and its Consequences

The displacement has become more apparent today than ever. As such, its causes may involve natural and man-made factors. As it wa s the case in many places in other parts of the world, in 2018 Nekemte witnessed an unprecedented number of inflowing the IDPs(Interview with Ebba Chala, a UNCHR Representative on 10th of June ,2020).Even if, the internally displacement is simply a forcible expulsion from the place of their resident, the factors behind such forceful eviction can be vary. My informants are among those forcibly evicted from their homes located in different localities surrounding the town of Nekemte.

As it is very well known to anyone today there is a rapid increase in the number of global population to which Ethiopia is not an exception. The increase in the number of the population has brought various depressing impacts on the environment. These evolving negative bangs due to the rise in size of populations have led to shattering of lives by dislodging people from their homes (Interview with Hirut Temesgen, a UNHCR representative in Nekemte town on 22th of June 2020). The population growth that has been on the rise since mid-20th century has put not only the environment at the risk but also the population themselves ultimately. As repeatedly

mentioned here in above, the natural causes of dislodgment may takes the forms of climate change that lead to scarcity of resources, ecological destruction, which resulted in the absence of arable land(Ibid).

3.3.1.2.Ecological Destruction as causes of Internal Displacement

We are different ethnic groups with different culture and languages who lived together. Despite all our differences, we have managed to live peacefully in co-existence for long time. At the beginning the size of the population is very small and there is a plenty of land for farming. But today that has changed because increasing size of the population which resulted in the imbalance of the demand and the existing land. This led to competition and scramble over such scarce resource that ultimately led to conflict between the communities (Interview with Mr.Chala Kebede,an IDP, from Belo locality, on 23th of September, 2020).

The diminishing of the agricultural land caused various problems for the community. These problems include: when the agricultural productivity getting shrivel the people began to use chemical fertilizers to enhance harvest from the small land; it also gradually created its own problem, that is once the fertilizer is used, the land is no longer productive without using fertilizers. Cultivating the same land for a long time also eroded the fertility of the soil, making the land no longer productive. In the end, this formed a vicious circle chain that forced the community to find another place to be displaced to for survival (Interview Ms.GadiseGaroma,an IDP,on October, 1, 2020).

The depletion of soil and the overall transformation of natural ecosystems caused by human activities, reduced productivity, threatened the harvest, and caused severe poverty and malnutrition; it also further exacerbates the vulnerability of the population. Thus, ecological degradation and displacement that come about associated with it, is not an event that only occurs once and disappears. However, it is series chains of occurrences that are interrelated where one of the events is the cause and the other is the result of the former.[11] Recently what we have come to understand is that due to the over-population, the farming land continues get smaller and smaller, which entails over-cultivation of one place that caused loss of extremely important

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[11]The representative who was temporarily assigned immediately after the coming in of the IDPs to Nekemte from areas north-west to the town witnessed the agony of those displaced and at that time helping them swiftly was never realized as much as needed because of different factors.

nutrients in the soils. Moreover, over agriculture also increased land bareness; this land nakedness has scaled up wind erosion. It is unfortunate that this land bareness has resulted in the decline in the accessibility of productive land (Interview with Mr.Tola Gurmu, an IDP,onSeptember 23, 2020).

 Supporting this, another informant of mine says, the ecological destruction caused by the absence of an appropriate land management has fundamentally altered the landscape on which the people have been living for some quite long time that further accelerated environmental destruction by letting the occurrences of environment related conflicts motivated by competition over scarce resources.[12] From this one can conclude that today, the prevalence and destruction caused by fight over limited land and other naturally endowed resources is equivalent to other causes of displacement. Unless the government, non-government organizations take swift response to contain it, the situation is only to get worsen.

In the same token, another informant of mine says, the ecological obliteration by the increasing number of population led to the increase in the pace of soil erosion that in turn caused year to year decline in the productivity and this finally become major causes of our eviction from our homes. From the causes mentioned so far; it is clearly visible that environmental related causes are many, i.e., just it is the outgrowth of various factors including environmental, economic as well as social elements.[13]

3.3.1.3.Climate Change and IDPs: Are they intertwined?

Unquestionably there is an increasing evidence that shows the interface between climate and IDPs in which former is said to be the inducing force that causes massive movement of people in their own country without crossing to another country. Climate change which is now become an existential threat to humanity has been regarded as the dominant factor behind, the continued insecurity that arises from food insecurity (Interview with Ebba Chala, a UNCHR Representative on 10th of June ,2020). There are a number of quandaries that came about as a result of climate change that is emerged due to overwhelming damage caused by human activity to the environment. Climate change is not something that has happened all of a sudden rather it is

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[12] Interview with Mr.GemechuGabbisa,an IDP, on September, 20, 2020
[13] Ibid

blamed on climate change which has occurred gradually because of what human beings have done and is doing to the environment over long period of time (Ibid).

Today humanity is being burnt by the consequences of its own actions. The pace of internal displacement caused by human agency that led to environmental destruction is proved to be unprecedented in this 20[thc] than ever in the history of mankind. The erratic climate change that has been increasingly disrupting the human lives in every corner of the world has become the issue of concern for developed and developing countries to which Ethiopia is not an exception (Ibid).

Environmental tragedy that one of us thought would occur, have been continuously evolving today in our vicinity and beyod.The scourge of the environment associated with the degradation of land was the direct outgrowth of human activities.It is our own wrongful use of the land that lead to massive destruction of the environment including forest resoures.[14]

Today, when we see observe our surrounding there are a lot of changes that indicate   human activity has brought tremendous damage to the environment.For instance,land that was covered by the vast forests are now turned into a barren land.[15] As such we are now feeling the impact of our actions,that is the barren land caused in the decline in the production.[16]

The total destruction of forest and turning of land in to baren area has leads to erratic climatic condition like untimely rain and some times fall short of rain that caused crops failure. The reduction in the produce combined with population growth induced massive migration of population.As it has been the case in many parts of the world,displacement in Ethiopia was partly blamed on or the direct of consequences of climatic chage that comes about because of human activity.[17]

When we initially occupied the land we left now; the land was very much fertile and we harvested good produce from the land; but gradually fertility of the soil of the area has been eroded. Moreover, some natural plants which was there before has now gone because it was cut

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[14] Interview with Mr.GemechuGabbisa,an IDP, on September, 20, 2020
[15] Ibid
[16] Ibid
[17] Interview with EbbaChala, a UNCHR Representative on 10th of June ,2020

down by us for different purposes that increase our vulnerabilities to climate warming that has never seen in many years. The warming of the climate caused an erratic climate in which rainfall has been seen declining that in turn lead to the reduction in harvest and denied us guarantee to live on the land and forced us to migrate to somewhere (Interview with Chala Kebede,an IPD, on 12th of September 2020).

Climatic change which has long been blamed on human activity has already put pressure on ecological system of the natural environment and the destruction occurred also entails disastrous changes that induced sudden disruption and removal of the people from the abode grudgingly. What happened to those who left their homes and took refuge in Nekemte town also experienced the same thing (Interview with ChaltuFayisa,an IDP, on 15th of September, 2020).

Another informant of mine says, there are a complexity of factors that interact in unison and led to our displacement. These ranges of causes are strongly interlinked in which one is said to have caused the other whereas the other is the consequences of another one. Given the involvement of different causes overcoming such problem of internal displacement needs the tedious engagement by all concerned stakeholders as well as takes great deal of time.[18]

3.3.1.4.The political actors and their role in causing the Displacement

Like any displacement that has occurred on the continent of Africa, the causes of displacement that caused widespread removal of the people from their abode in 2017-18 was partly politics. To be more clear and specific, the time when these horrific displacements were occurred is tense time because it was the time when disagreement began to engulf the ruling party from within (Interview with Girma Gadisa, a UNHCR representative at Nekemte office on 31th of July 2020).

 Given the wider rampant public discontent that brought by unfair treatment and complete disregard of their long held quest for self by some ethnic groups like Oromos, the EPRDF regime was forced to change the statusquo and took reform. When the so called reform undertaken the

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[18] Interview with ChaltuFayisa,an IDP, on 15th of September, 2020

change of leadership has occurred in which the TPLF lost its dominance and an individual from the OPDO was elevated to the post of premiership.[19]

3.3.1.4.1.The Disgruntled to TPLF and its covert involvement in Gumuz-Oromo conflict

Disgruntled by its lose of political dominance turned in to playing a political drama by pitting ethnic groups against each other in order to regain its dominance at the national level. Chiefly, due to the active role of the Oromos in struggle against the TPLF led government, the TPLF engaged provoking the border conflict in two fronts against the Oromos by pushing ethnic groups bordering the region (Interview with Ebba Chala, a UNCHR Representative on 10th of June ,2020).

Resorting to such tactic of pitting groups although not a new phenomenon in the country, with the pitting of ethnic groups by the TPLF owing to its dissatisfaction with its lose of its standing resulted in unprecedented scale of displacement which has never seen in decades. People who were displaced from the western margin of Oromia region counted in hundreds of thousands while those forced to flee their home in the eastern part, in this case, from Somali regional states are just about two million people.[20]

The TPLF hoped that playing such political ploy would help it regain political power its lost as a dominant force among the coalition of ruling party.Its very underlying goal was to weaken the central government that has been overtaken by another individual who is not from among the TPLF but from the OPDOs.[21] The TPLF engaged indirectly in such displacement by supporting or galvanizing the Benishangul people.[22]

The TPLF was pretended to the Benishangul by saying your survival as a nation is under threat from the Oromos because the newly appointed prime Minister is an Oromo. They also misleaded the People of Benishangul by sayng if you refuse or fail to support us, you are going to loose

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[19]Interview with anonymous individual who was displaced from BaloBareda area on the March of 2020.
[20]Interview with GadisaGerbi,an IDP from Mojo area in Sassiga district, on the June of 2020.
[21] Ibid
[22] Ibid

your regional status. They back up their claim by trumping up the past historical problems that existed between these two groups.[23]

Infact the TPLF has had not achieved its goal of removing the government by destablising and pitting ethnic groups against each other,however, one thing is certain.That is,its action leads to unmatched scale of displacement that in turn caused untold sufferings of family by tearing apart one memebers of family and dismantling cohension of close relatives. Its effect is not limited the displaced themselves but also on the hosting and surrounding communities and the wider image of the country.[24]

Besides, natural causes, the invisible hand of such political force, created a greatest catastrophe which unquestionably caused tragic human rights abuses to the displaced. Moreover, the host community also suffered extraordinary economic problems because they had no choice but to support the displaced persons, which put them in difficult economic situation (Interview withHirut Temesgen, a UNHCR representative in Nekemte town on 22th of June 2020). Later on, after the TPLF was utterly lost in its attempt to further destabilize Oromia region and went to their home back in Tigray region, a new political tensions began to emerge between the OPDO, the new front runner in the then EPRDF and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLF).[25]

3.3.1.4.2.The Disagreement Between the OLF and the former EPRDF

 The most urgent problem that created the fertile ground for the continuation of the displacement of the people is the disagreement between the EPRDF and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) on how to disarm, demobilize and re-integrate the OLA. The way the EPRDF wanted to disarm the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and the discontent on the part of the OLA with the move of the government leads to tension between the two.[26]

The OLA accused the government of attempting to disarm them in a way that demystify internationally established legal norms which are mentioned herein above instead the government tried to impose its will on the rebel as if they are captured and militarily unable to

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[23] Ibid
[24] Interview with anonymous individual who was displaced from BaloBareda area on the March of 2020.
[25] Ibid
[26]Interview with Tadelle Chala,an IDP on 16th of September, 2020

stand firm to counter the regime and surrendered (Interview with Government official, who spoke to me on the condition of anonymity on 21st June of 2020). The OLA strongly and out rightly rejected such move and urged the need for third party to intervene in order internationally recognized procedures to be fully applied(Interview with(Ibid).

The government for its part denied considering them as war captives and argued that it was fully complying with the internationally established procedures of disarmaments. Against these backgrounds, which are characterized by controversies and disparities between the two groups' positions, further cause of displacement with new form appeared on the horizon.[27]

The blame game that began between the two trekked long way and in its way it caused many destruction including tragic deaths. For instance,when the government claimed officials from the Benishangul were targeted and ambushed by an strange attacker on their way from kamash to Assosa sparked widespread condemnation from both the government and the OLA. The government did not stop by condemning the klling but also swiftly pointed finger of blames to the OLA.[28]

Following the government impose of culpability on the OLA,another tragic death has occurred in Nedjo. This time again innocent individual's lives has been lost. The killing of Mr.Getahew Addisu was in no ways explicable because after he was killd,the killer burnt his corpse,that is what makes this death extremely sad and it was difficult to explain.[29]

With the continaution of pointing finger of blame between the two, has succeded in creating sense of sense of fear among the communities living together for so long. Many of the displaced claim that people living together for years began to see each other with the eyes of suspicion.[30] Prompted by the propaganda spread by the government some indvididuals especially some militia and regional police forces committed vicious attacks against the innocent Oromo civilians who were living along the border areas or living inside Benishngul region.[31]

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[27] Interview with EbbaChala, a UNCHR Representative on 10th of June ,2020).
[28] Ibid
[29] bid
[30] *Supra note 26*,Interview with Tadelle Chala.
[31]Ibid

The cause of our displacement from our abode post the TPLF era was, by and large, emanated from the disagreements that arose between the government and the OLA. After both sides failed to resolve their differences peacefully, they resorted to a defamation tactics to gain a political advantage over the other. For this goal to be realized, the officials from BenishangulGumuz were killed in West Wollega.[32]

It has to be recalled that killing has been carried out by unidentified gunmen. Following this tragic killing, the displacement has been increased dramatically in both East and West Wollega Zones on the ground that the people of Gumuz might think such killing was carried out by the Oromos and may take similar revenge. After the killing, the government waste no time in blaming the OLA for the killing while the OLA for its part denies it. The OLA says in area where many armed groups operate on daily basis, accusation leveled against us without any evidence is unacceptable and cover up for the government.[33]

3.3.1.5.Displacement of the IDPs and its Consequences in the study Area.

Displacement of those people from their homes brought horrific human rights abuses to them. For instance, the Displacement forced to people to live together in one crowded place as there are homes build for them which inturn lead to increase in the number of homeless people. Moreover, after they settled in a new environment which is urban area,many of the IDPs unable to adapt this new environment. The head of the household unable to get a job to support and feed his family.[34]

Since we come and settled in Nekemte town, we have been facing daunting problems. Even though we saved our lives from being killed, by fleeing our homes, yet our life is compounded, by several problems. Where we settled now is in the middle of the town, and where we uprooted, from were rural areas.[35]

While we were there, we relied on agriculture to lead our livelihood, however, it is unfortunate there is no agriculture in the town. What complicated our life most is that it is difficult to find

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[32] Ibid

[33] Ibid

[34]Interview with GirmaGadisa, a UNHCR representative at Nekemte office on 31th of July 2020

[35] Ibid

any job here in the town. Sometimes, even though it is available, it is not sustainable.This in turn, creates difficulty for us to feed our family. Concomitant with this,many children are not getting enough food, which has increasingly impacted their mental health and psychology.[36]

   The challenges that laid ahead of us does to confined to the matter of econoy or food alone instead our social cohension;members of a single family have been forcefully separated. Moreover,close relatives are also separated. As mentioned before, disruption in social life would undoubtedly pave the way for mental and psychological trauma and ills.[37]

3.3.1.6.The Impacts of Internal Displacement Influx on Host Communities

The internal displacement's impacts could not only be described interms of its negative impact on the displaced but also, it may be explained additionally with regards to its effect on the hositng communities.[38] The undeniable impacts of the displacement on the hosting communities could range from psychological,mental,emotional to economical. The consequence of the internal displacement on the hosting should also be described from the perspective of its socila burdens.[39]

After we settled here in Nekemte,we faced a nuber of daunting challeges. First and formost, there is no financial support from the government in some cases or not enough support another time. Therefore,our huge support comes from our hosting communities--- in this case,people of Nekemte.[40] Our dependency on the local communities has created some problems. These can be explained interms of creating social tension between the hosting and the IDPs,financial burden on the hositng,and it could have also a potential mental distress and anguish on the hosting ommunities.[41] Beyond, the traumatic disorder that may happen to both the displaced and the hosting communities, it can also burdens the local host by incapacitating financially due to the fact that the IDPs do not receive or get the needed financial support with specifically designed

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[36]Interview with Gemedajirata,an IDP from LalistuHangar,on 24th of Septmeber 2020
[37]Interview with TolaDeressa,an IDP from Arqumbe on July29 of 2020
[38] Interview with Encontre,Ann,a UNHCR Country Director in Addis Ababa on October 24,2020
[39] Ibid
[40] *Supra note 37*,Interview with Tola
[41] Ibid

programs from the government and or other aid organizations.So, the IDPs have other choice but to rely on the host communities.[42]

3.3.1.7.Do Interventions Measures Taken To Resolve the Crisis of IDPs In the Study Area?

In Ethiopia, for over the last two years, responses to the crisis of internal displacement have been hindered by events that occurred at local, regional, and international levels. These intertwined factors made it so difficult to tackle the problems of the IDPs in a way that has durability. Locally, the government's readiness to curb the crisis was highly limited, both financially and materially.[43]

 The event that has occurred at the regional level and created difficulty in helping the IDPs related to the flux of refugees crossing the international borders, as the horn of Africa, remains to be one of the volatile regions on earth. The continued flux of cross-border refugees, even more, made the situation worse for the IDPs, as many NGOs and the United Nations Agencies offering financial aids are preoccupied with the crisis of international refugees. These institutions do not have enough funding for this new challenge that emerged from within a border of a country, Ethiopia.[44]

Globally, the challenge that hampers the efforts to respond to this crisis of IDPs is related to the emergence of Coronavirus. This pandemic completely ruined the financial capacity of many donor countries, and their attention was shifted to controlling this pandemic. As a result of this pandemic, financial sources for many NGOs and UN Humanitarian organizations are underfunded that has fundamentally challenged response efforts. However, this does not mean there are no efforts made to them stabilize.[45]

For instance, as regards our institution, we have made a concerted effort in terms of distributing food and clothes to many of those IDPs even though this cannot solve their problems forever. As mentioned our institution has been weakened financially due to the coronavirus that complicated

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[42] Ibid

[43] Ibid

[44]Interview with HirutTemesgen, a UNHCR representative in Nekemte town on 22th of June 2020

[45] Ibid

the efforts. On top of this, as mentioned, to solve the crisis, once and for all, they have to return homes, but that is now an impossibility because of the raging conflicts everywhere right now.[46]

3.3.1.8.Why Returning is so proved Difficult for the IPDs?

Since their departure, the situation in the areas from, which they are forced to flee ushered in a new development that created hurdles for them, to return homes. Most importantly, the problem that makes the situation worse for them to return is the recurrence of the deadliest conflict between the government forces and the OLA.[47]

The active war situations in many of the localities from where they have been displaced have changed the dynamic of the conflict from infrequent communal violence, which was prevalent before, now turns into an arena where there is a direct confrontation between the two warring sides.[48] This war haunted the effort to help them return because, with the new conflict dynamic on the horizon, many people feared that returning there is simply costly for their lives. Any time if they return, there will be a possibility of being caught up between the two. Therefore, the IDPs should stay than going back there. [49]

Even though we hoped for the return home, situations have changed and things have become difficult than before. The reasons are, first, we have nothing to return as our belongings were, immediately, after we fled our homes and thus, we do not have anything to sustain and feed ourselves if we could able to return there. On top of this, a new challenge emerged, this is a new conflict that involved the two warring sides, in this case, between the government forces and other armed groups. Now things are out of control and even more worrisome. So, leave alone our returning to the localities, life is extremely getting difficult by days for those who remained in the localities nearby to the localities from where we have displaced as conflict turns deadly by days.[50]

 What is coming out of the localities from where we are forced to leave, and other surrounding areas is tragic. Especially, some members of the community who surrounded our localities and

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[46] Ibid

[47] Interview with GirmaGadisa, a UNHCR representative at Nekemte office on 31th of July 2020.

[48] Ibid

[49] Ibid

[50] Interview with TuliKebede,IDP from Soge Area on the 20th of May,2020.

back then refused to leave,by claiming the situation will be improved, are now facing horrific abuse even deaths daily. Tragic killings and a new phase of displacement has start in. Both killings and displacement has become a common place as we speak. Such, abuses are heartbreaking and if not abated within short period,itsconsequences could be far reaching. Thus, we preferred to stay here and die of hunger than returning there to die in the hands of person.[51]

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[51] Interview with TemesgenBoru,an IDP from Arqumbe area on June 10,2020

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As it is vividly mentioned repeatedly this study was aimed to examine the recurring internal displacement that has become a common parlance in today's Ethiopia.Thus, this study thoroughly investigated the causes or factors that forced people to flee their homes within border of the country from different perspectives. Concomitant with this, it also scrutinized the subsequent effects or consequences that emerge as a result of such unpleasant dispalcement and that compounded the lives' of the IDPs.

This article intends to provide evidence of the roles of intermingled factors that are together resulted in displacement that has shocked many innocent civilians and sent them somewhere out of their homes that they are forced to do without intending or choosing. What makes this study different from those conducted in the past is that it attributed some of the causes of the displacement in the current by taking into the perspective engagement of certain political actors that were blamed partly for the large scale exodus of people from their homes.

That is, the dynamism of the displacement was changed fundamentally on the ground with the active participation of the political actors, and these actors did that to gain political advantages over the certain group. The previous studies conducted on the IDPs in Ethiopia   rely on the conventional classification of the causes of such displacement as natural and man-induced without detailing the engagement of the political actors.

Thus, the findings of this study go beyond the results of the previously carried out researches on this issue. This is due to the fact apart from adding to the body of knowledge on displacement, it brightly underlines how those political actors further heat-up the displacement pace by adding a political ingredient to the already fragile situation of the IDPs in Ethiopia. Furthermore,   it may also help in addressing the failure of the concerned institution may be due to lack of funding or

perverted attitude of not considering the IDPs as a problem in Ethiopia with specific focus on the study area.

There are a few studies that are to some extent tried to address the situation of IDPs in Ethiopia, even if, they have some deficiencies that the current study intended to fill or cover. For instance the study by Wakgari Kabeta(2019) devoted its emphasis to conferring legal protection to the IDPs, who have lost every one of their belonging due to several factors. The study hinted that the challenges with which the IDPs are faced, in most instances, originates from the absence of legal regimes that creates difficulties to realize their protection in Ethiopia.

Moreover, the study analyzed the available legal regimes- regionally and internationally that are adopted to guarantee their rights, in case there is no domestic law enacted to address their problem. Thus, the study mentioned many international human rights and humanitarian instruments that are made to address the problems the IDPs could face. These include international human rights conventions and other soft declarations like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and regional protocol and Convention, including the Kampala ones.

Besides, this study also touches on some challenges that threatened their survival after they forcibly left their abodes. Their lives are impacted in most instances by lack of attention that can be described in terms of offering them necessary materials including foods, water, unsafe place to live due to high risk of insecurity and overall absence of life-sustaining opportunities or conditions.

But this paper has failed to touches on some of the hot issues that are needed to be addressed. First, it fails to delve deep into the causes and the devastating and far-reaching impact of such displacement on the livelihood of the displaced as well as the host communities rather, it pays lip service to the traditional classification of causes as natural and man-induced ones without making detail study. Moreover, this study did not make any suggestions on how to resolve the crisis. Even though internal displacement has been on the horizon for some time, and as such, needed a thorough discussion on how to overcome it, yet this paper did mention nothing.

Another study by Mehari Tadelle(2017) also tried highlights the causes,dynamics and consequences of internal displacement in Ethiopia.In his analysis expounds the causes as by and

large emanating from three basic factors.Among other things,these factors include ethnic federalism---although it was put as a secondary factor or aggravating the situation of the already unfolding crisis of the internal displacement,ethnic strife and tenacious famine that in combination resulted un precedented level of displacement internally. This essay analyzed thoroughly how these three factors entagled together and resulted in ever recurring displacement the scale of which has never seen and the number of displaced climbed much morethan countries in full scale war like Syria.

However,like the research conducted byWakgari this paper barely raised or fail to raise how the political actors spawned the conflict that causes mass exodus of people from their abodes. As such his paper shrugs off how the political motives of each one of them has scaled up the level of violence among communities who fight frequently over resources control by injecting ethnic sentiments and hatred that pitted ethnic groups more in harshfashion. Not only this paper flis to underscore the role of such actors but also it ignores the impact such mass movement of the IDPs may have had on the hosting communities. Thus, this study aimed to fill the gap by analyzing the role of politician or political groups in making the situation by adding ethnic discontent on the already rife situation. These actors in some cases,pretended as if the were supporting the cause of the group the calim marginalized by the other while infact their real goal was to achieve some gain by destabilizing the area.

On the other hand,study Behigu and Yun Jin Keown in which they have tried assesses the internal displacement of Ethiopia underlie that ethnic or communal based tension,drought,flood and resource based conflicts as main driving forces of the internal displacement in Ethiopia. Like the previous the two researches this one also just attributed the causes of the displacement by and large to natural ones.Eventhough,he touches on communal violence,the emphasis given to man made causes was very minimal.

Thus, in the current both natural ad man-induced causes of displacement,in this case,both communally instigated violence and the involvement of political actors as aa triggering factor of the displacement has been given proper place and included sufficiently.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND REOMMENDATION

5.1. CONCLUSION

This study aimed to offer an account of the situation of the IDPs. Accordingly, this paper assesses causes, consequences, intervention measures taken to mitigate the crisis, and also it examines if there is a possibility for the IDPs to return.This paperemployed a qualitative research approach. Both primary and secondary sources of data were utilized. Primary sources of data were gathered via interviews and FGD while the secondary were gathered from books,Articles,journals,Reports and websites.

Thus, the study has come up with the following findings.First, the study shedlight on causes of the displacement.These are ecological destruction,climate changes and politics.Second, the study expounds that the consequences of the displacement that ranges from the disruption of social fabric or forced to separation of the family, negative economic impact it has brought and psychological trauma that they faced. Third, the study also highlights the fact that efforts to mitigate the displacement crisis have been stalled by a number of factors that include:lack of capacity by the government both financially and materially,the continuous influx of the cross borders that hugely impacted the aid organizations because they are preoccupied by those refugees crossing the border.Finally,the study illuminated that an attempt to return them home has been made impossible by the new dynamic of conflict that intensified recently between the government and various armed groups in their localities.

5.2.RECOMMENDATION

Given the fact that internal displacement has become appalling human tragedy that has comes about as a result of ensuing consequences following its occurrence. By taking into account its gravity,the study has recommended the following to overcome it.

First,Government and other stakeholders should give the community a training on how to preserved effectively use their scarce resources. Second,Politically speaking, whether the violence is sparked by the communities themselves or displacement occurs due to various political groups who contribute to massive exodus of the people should refrain from such acts. Especially the government should avoid using such displacement as a political deception to gain upper hand in its fight with any groups. Third,financially from various international and donor organizations should be equally shared for the IDPs and international refugees as much as possible.

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1.Interview with UNHCR Representatives

1. Interview with EbbaChala, a UNCHR Representative on 10th of June ,2020
2. Interview with Encontre,Ann,a UNHCR Country Director in Addis Ababa on October 24,2020
3. Interview with GirmaGadisa, a UNHCR representative at Nekemte office on 31th of July 2020
4. Interview with HirutTemesgen, a UNHCR representative in Nekemte town on 22th of June 2020

2.Interview with Displaced Persons

1. Interview with Mr.ChalaKebede,an IDP, from Belo locality, on 23th of September, 2020.
2. Interview with ChaltuFayisa,an IDP, on 15th of September, 2020).
3. Interview with GadisaGerbi,an IDP from Mojo area, in Sassiga district, on the June of 2020
4. Interview GadiseGaroma,an IDP,on October, 1, 2020
5. Interview with Mr.GemechuGabbisa,an IDP, on September, 20, 2020.
6. Interview with Gemeda Jirata,an IDP from LalistuHangar,on 24th of Septmeber 2020.
7. Interview with TadelleChala ,an IDP on 16th of September, 2020.
8. Interview with TemesgenBoru,an IDP from Arqumbe area on June 10,2020.
9. Interview with Mr.TolaGurmu, an IDP,on September 23, 2020
10. Interview with TuliKebede,IDP from Soge Area on the 20th of May,2020.
11. Interview with anonymous individual who was displaced from BaloBareda area on the March of 2020.

3.Interview with Governemnt Official

1. Interview with Government official, who spoke to me on the condition of anonymity on 21st June of 2020

Appendix I

Interview Guide Questions

1. For IDPs persons

1. Do you remember how you left your home and what happened at the moment?

2. When you look back what causes you remember for your displacement?

3. Do you think the cause for your displacement is political reason or others?

4. Do you think the violence that leads to your displacement is instigated by groups or individuals who do not have an attachment with the government but did that by their own for political gain or you suspect there is invisible hands of the government in such act?

5. What are the consequences you faced in this new environment after you left your homes?

6. Why do not you returned to your homes? Is there any challenge that may encounter if you return homes?

2.For government officials and employees of UN agency

1. What are the causes of their displacement? In case you have obtained any information from the IDPS, is it Politics, economy or others?
2. Do you think there was involvement by non-state actors who instigated such displacement for political gains?
3. How do you describe consequences they faced because of their displacement?
4. What you are doing to ensure their return their homes?
5. What are challenges for you move them back to their homes?
6. Do you think they will encounter further if they return homes?