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**Impacts of multiple displacement on access to
education and livelihood of vulnerable groups among
internally displaced persons in Southern Ethiopia:
Preliminary Findings**

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice
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Abstract

There is a gap in research on the impacts of multiple displacement on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) access to education and livelihoods, and how education and livelihoods interact with displacement experiences. Our research asks “How does multiple displacement impact on IDPs access to and experience of entitlements and assistance for education and livelihoods in Southern Ethiopia?” The voices and experiences of the IDPs from our research show their ongoing struggles in Southern Ethiopia and reflect the urgent need for more comprehensive support in livelihoods, education, shelter and healthcare to break their cycle of displacement and help rebuild these communities with a better quality of life and a hope for a sustainable future for them and their children.

Foreword

The School of Law at Arba Minch University (AMU), Ethiopia and the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) at Oxford Brookes University (OBU), UK have developed a strong collaboration over the last years on developing deeper understanding on the issues confronting displaced persons in Ethiopia . Supported by funding from the Gerda Henkel Foundation, a joint AMU-CENDEP field trip was undertaken in May 2024, the purpose of which was: a) to develop a deeper understanding of the impacts of multiple displacement on access to education and livelihoods and the available support systems to the internally displaced persons b) to cultivate field-based research methods and explore how conceptual understandings developed in the textbooks/classroom can be applied in real-world contexts. c) To serve as a platform for joint learning and the exchange of expertise between staff and postgraduate students from the School of Law at AMU and CENDEP at OBU, and wider stakeholders in Ethiopia involved in working with displaced persons, such as UNHCR, GIZ, British Council, IOM among others.

Introduction

Ethiopia is often known as the ‘land of origins’ due to its multitude of ethnic groups, each with their own unique traditions and languages. However, in recent years, there has been growing tensions between the different ethnic groups caused by their respective quests for identity, self-determination, and administration, which frequently opposes the interests of other tribes. Ethiopia has a complex migration context as it both produces and hosts a large

number of refugees. However, the largest displaced group in Ethiopia is the 2.1 million people who are currently living as internally displaced persons as a result of conflict and disaster (IDMC, 2022). Being a multi-faceted issue caused by many complex socio-political factors, there are many reasons behind internal displacement. These are often compounded by climate impacts such as flooding and drought (Habte & Kweon, 2018; OCHA, 2022). Extreme climate events include drought and flooding in Southern Ethiopia (Belay et al 2021). Some parts of Southern Ethiopia such as Konso zone has seen renewed violence in April 2022, leading to an estimated 37,000 people being displaced, including 19,000 women and girls (OCHA, 2022). Sporadic violence has affected civilians in Konso over the last two years, with some people having been displaced more than five times according the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, 2020).

There is a gap in research on the impacts of multiple displacement on IDPs access to education and livelihoods, and how education and livelihoods interact with displacement experiences. Therefore, in our research project, we seek to hear the voices of the IDPs and hear their experiences on issues such as access to assistance on education and livelihoods. Nearly all areas of Ethiopia are affected by on- going internal displacement, however, in this project we are focused on the Southern Ethiopia Region. This research therefore asks “How does multiple displacement impact on IDPs access to and experience of entitlements and assistance for education and livelihoods in Southern Ethiopia?”

Methodology

A team of 14 researchers from Oxford Brookes University and Arba Minch University visited the sites in Southern Ethiopia where internally displaced persons were located in May 2024. Over the course of three days between 6th-16th May 2024, eighteen individual interviews (male: ten, female: eight), three interviews of couples (male: three, female: three) and two group interviews (male: eleven, female: one) were conducted by this team. These interviews were conducted in 4 villages affected by the conflict, namely villages in the Dirashe region affected by conflict in 2019, and the villages in the Konso region, affected by the conflict in 2022. The composition of the persons interviewed at these sites were broadly as follows:

Village A: Interviewed persons were displaced and staying in a new village A, (Konso Zone)

Village B: Interviewed persons were displaced and staying in place B not too far from their older village site, (Konso Zone)

Village C: Interviewed persons had returned to their original village C after undergoing

multiple displacements (Dirashe Zone)

Village D: Some interviewed persons had returned to their original village D after undergoing multiple displacements. Also some interviewed persons had resettled here in village D from another village affected by conflict. (Dirashe Zone)

Each interviewer team were typically composed of three-four persons: two from Oxford Brookes, and one-two from AMU, who undertook tasks of asking questions, translations, and note taking of the interview. Upon entering the villages, each interviewer team approached residents to inform them about the research project and inquired if they would be willing to participate. Those who agreed were subsequently interviewed. A gender-balanced approach was attempted by engaging both male and female residents with questions directed to both genders during group and couple interviews.

Before the interview began, each participant was informed of the research title and the purpose of the study. A Participant Information Sheet, which was also read aloud and translated, ensured that each participant was aware of what was being asked of them and what they were consenting to. Internal displacement is a distressing experience, and the participants interviewed may have found the discussion of their experiences sensitive or traumatic. Everyone was informed prior to the interview and reminded that all responses were voluntary, and that they could take a break or end the interview at any time. The interview was conducted using a pre-prepared guide consisting of 29 questions under four subheadings: Displacement History, Challenges and Assistance in Current Location, Employment, Education. During the research, Healthcare was added as a fifth topic due to it being frequently mentioned. Participants' answers often prompted further discussions, offering additional insights. At the conclusion of each interview, participants were asked if they had any additional information they wished to share.

Initial Findings

Nature of conflicts and their overall impact

The predominant reason behind internal displacement is the ongoing conflicts in recent years. The findings from our field visit indicated the conflicts can be vertical (people vs. government, local government vs. national government) or horizontal (citizens of a certain ethnic group vs. citizens of another ethnic group). The continuous waves of overlapping conflict have created a pattern of forced migration as people escape from their homes to save

their lives, only to come back and having to repeat the traumatic process all over again. Consequently, the majority of IDPs in Ethiopia have been displaced multiple times.

Overall, we found that IDPs face many challenges during their displacement period such as hunger and starvation, disease and lack of healthcare, interrupted education and loss of shelter and income source. These challenges are also often heightened by climate change and natural hazards impacts in those places. In the highlands, there can be food scarcity due to heavy rainfall and floods ruining the farming produce as well as natural hazards like landslides, which leads people to migrate. In the lowlands, droughts can also lead to food scarcity and subsequent migration. The ongoing conflicts prevent effective management and conservation of Ethiopia's numerous natural resources.

Thematic Findings

Livelihoods

Agriculture is a fundamental part of Ethiopia's economy, with farmers making up approximately 75 percent of the country's workforce (USAID, 2024). In our interviews, most of the individuals we spoke with were farmers. During these conversations, significant patterns emerged, highlighting the challenges they face. Exploitation, issues related to climate change, and problems with land ownership and access after displacement were recurrent themes.

One recurring issue arising from the displacement of many land-owning farmers due to the conflict is physical separation from their land, which they rightfully owned. Even for those who could return, the lingering threat of violence and attacks made it unsafe to go back and continue farming. One family we spoke to in village B said that they will sometimes risk their lives to go back to farm their old land, which has been neglected in the past 2 years. They do this about twice a year during the farming season, which is in April and July. This situation places them in extreme danger, as they face the constant threat of gun violence, having witnessed people being shot and, tragically, often killed. The fear and trauma from these experiences only worsen their food insecurity. With limited resources to grow their own food, they are forced to depend on other farms for work, further complicating their ability to sustain themselves. The conflict also severely impacted their livestock. Many animals were either injured or stolen, stripping families of their livelihoods. Some were sold by the persons from all villages for a small amount of cash, just enough to help them survive a little longer while in displacement. This situation deepened the challenges faced by already vulnerable farming

communities, adding yet another layer of hardship to their lives.

Many farmers were not only cut off from their land but also deprived of access to their farming equipment. Even those who managed to retain their land after their return to their villages such as in village C and D, often found themselves unable to cultivate it due to a lack of necessary tools, with purchasing new equipment being financially unfeasible. Much of the existing equipment was either destroyed during the conflict or remained inaccessible at their former farms. In one group interview from village C, previously displaced individuals who had now returned back to their village expressed that their equipment had been ruined due to the conflict. Although they now have access to their farmland, they urgently need assistance to restore their farms, highlighting a critical need for ploughing machines and seeds.

Since being displaced from their farms and losing access to their usual livelihoods, many individuals are now forced to work on other farms, often earning very little or receiving no pay at all, as in village A and B. Numerous workers find themselves receiving inadequate compensation, and many farmers are unable to pay them due to their own financial constraints. One interviewed person from village A told how they were receiving 50 Ethiopian birr a day (£0.69) which places them far below the poverty line of \$2.15 set by the World Bank Group (2022). This precarious situation highlights the difficulties faced by these communities, underscoring the effects of displacement on livelihoods. Furthermore, the lack of stable employment leads to further issues, such as food insecurity and scarcity, leaving many displaced individuals hungry and adversely affecting their ability to work. This cycle of hardship can trap families in a state of vulnerability, making recovery increasingly challenging. One woman interviewed in village C, mentioned that there is not enough food from their farming produce for the whole family and consequently, they have to ration into smaller portions to make sure everyone is fed. Another participant said that his children protest and don't go to school if they are not fed, negatively affecting their education. This highlights the critical link between food security and education, as hunger has been shown to lead to decreased school attendance and engagement.

Another pressing challenge faced by the interviewed persons is the impact of climate change. Many of the areas visited are highly prone to extreme weather conditions such as droughts, but also heavy rainfall. However these extreme weather events, including floods following heavy rainfalls, have also devastated their farmlands. One resident from Village C shared that, as they approach retirement – older age, they hope to pass their land on to their children. Yet, due to the floods and soil erosion, they are losing the land fertility, reducing the

likelihood of being able to pass good quality lands down to the next generations. Given their precarious economic conditions, they are also unable to nurture their lands through required agricultural investments.

Conflict, coupled with the lack of employment opportunities, has driven people to desperate measures. Some have noted an increase in illegal migration, particularly to Kenya, in search of better job prospects. Others have been forced to pull their children out of school to help with farming, further limiting their access to education and future opportunities.

Case Study 1

One participant, M (27), was a university student paying for his studies when the conflict began. He and his wife (21) were displaced several times in the last few years, leaving C and returning to his village C where we interviewed him. He found some buying and selling work while displaced, but had to pay high rent, leaving them with very little. They are now resettled in his original C, with a very young daughter, in a basic rebuilt home, where he is farming on a small piece of land and his wife is selling pastries in the community. They have received some material assistance while displaced (from family, government, NGO's) but have very little and are struggling to survive. They are living in poverty, hunger, and stress. He wishes to continue his education - and his wife (who finished primary schooling) would also like to - but he cannot, due to the current economy. He pointed out his poor conditions and stated that they are not strong enough to stand on their own and they need support.

Case Study 2

Another participant, M (41), now living in village D, but displaced from another village is employed by the local government in the finance department, but feels that the job isn't permanent and secure. He was a previous government employee, but is earning much less in a less-skilled role.

Case Study 3

M (20) is from D and was displaced due to conflict when he was in the 10th grade. He then went to Arba Minch, where he found part time work as a bajaj Auto driver. He lives with his mother, who owns a small grocery store in village D. He is looking to improve his

economic circumstances and is currently studying nursing at a college in town and aims to become a doctor.

Case Study 4

M, 47, currently lives in D, but is originally from another village. Over the last five years, he has been imprisoned for one year, prosecuted by the federal government, and detained 3 separate times. During this time, his family has been displaced multiple times, sometimes without him. He has since been discharged by a court of law and lives with his family in D. He is still in danger and he and his family are in hiding and cannot live where they could get better work and schooling. He is currently working for the local government at a much lower paying job than he is qualified for (he has a master's degree) and his wife also works for the local government. He wants to see a sustained peace and security in the area so he can go back to work in the type of job he had before and hopes that his children will finish their schooling.

These experiences underscore the compounded challenges faced by farming communities in Southern Ethiopia as they attempt to recover from the devastating impacts of both conflict and extreme events due to climate change. The lack of access to work and sustainable livelihoods exacerbates these struggles, triggering a ripple effect that deepens food insecurity, poverty, and migration. Ensuring access to employment is critical, not only for individual survival but for the broader well-being of these communities.

Education

Access to education was highlighted by the participants as a major problem that requires attention and support. Most participants have not completed their primary education due to constraints like constant conflicts and extreme economic hardships.

In Village A, it was observed that none of the participants (all men aged 45 to 55 - group interview) displaced from another village had completed their primary education. Most of the kids of the participants now have no access to education but before displacement, all the kids had access to education. Only 3 male children out of all the participant's children now have access to education. Only one female child out of all the participants is studying in

high school in Konso. Two of the children of the participants mentioned that they go to government school.

In Village D, most of the interviewed participants have not received formal education. Most of the participants' children attend primary school. A male aged 20 is the only one currently pursuing a diploma in nursing from all the participants interviewed. A female aged 24 years stated that her husband completed a Bachelor's in accounting but still is unemployed. A male aged 35 years stated that the locals in the community-built after pitching in 200 Birr rebuilt a school which was earlier made of tents and stones and teachers are from UNICEF. There were only two participants who had completed their higher education before the conflict. A Male aged 41 years completed his Masters in business administration in 2015. Prior to displacement, both of his children (17 & 10) were at private school and were receiving a good education. They now attend a state school, which he feels has impacted their quality of education. Another male aged 45 years has had higher education with a degree in biology and masters in curriculum quality assurance and his children had missed school for 5 years due to conflict.

In terms of assistance , UNICEF is the only NGO mentioned to have supported school infrastructure required for education. Participants believe that the cause of their poor living standard is their lack of education and work opportunities. Very few instances of support to the children of the participants attending school were found. 3 children of a female participant aged 40 are attending school with assistance from the local government in terms of books and stationery. Support from friends was another form of support that was found to have been received as in the case of one participant aged 41 years. Most of the participants wish for assistance from NGOs for their children's education mainly in terms of stationery and books.

The common barriers in accessing education have been found to be constant conflicts , economic constraints, embarrassment of going to school due to unclean clothes , lack of food , lack of stationery and books, and cultural factors where girls when older were not sent to schools. Few examples that highlight such barriers include: one woman who advocated for the self-determination of her Kebele, stated that due to her advocacy the government is hindering their access to education and believes they are doing this to stop people from being educated and requesting assistance. One woman mentioned climate change led events such as droughts and flooding affecting her livelihoods which in turn is affecting her

capacity to support her children's education. A female participant aged 40 stated that she fears her children may experience embarrassment due to unclean clothes and lack of proper food which is a barrier to attending school. Constant Conflicts are seen as recurring barriers in accessing education as stated by a male of 45 years and a male of 20 years. Hunger is a barrier identified as stated in a group interview of men aged between 50 to 70. Females not being allowed to go to school when older was also stated as a reason for not attending school by a female aged 60. A young couple aged 21 and 27 stated that lack of economic resources is another challenge in accessing education where the husband was studying management at university.

In terms of future aspirations, all of the participants wished for their children to be educated. One man mentioned that his future aspirations for his children are to become physicians, teachers and farming experts. All participants also wish for their children to receive higher education. One male participant aged 50-60 specifically mentioned that children being educated would improve the well-being of the community. One female participant aged 40 hopes that her children are educated and will be able to support her in the future. Most of the participants who didn't attend school due to socio-economic barriers wished to have attended school and now hopes to have their children attending school.

Despite the numerous barriers to education, the participants shared a common hope for their children's future, with many expressing a strong desire for improved educational opportunities to break the cycle of hardship.

Assistance

Assistance and support received by IDPs was inconsistent and many believed the disparity in assistance correlate with their differing ethnic identities. Most of the participants stated that they did not receive any assistance from the government during their displacements, but said that there were other IDPs who received support due to their ethnicity and background. For instance, an all-male group interview with participants ranging from 35 to 55 years olds from Village A stated that they did not receive any support from the government and all of them agreed that some of the government's assistance were selective due to identity. Additionally, another participant from Village A mentioned that due to the absence of local government's support, he had to reach out to the district administrator as they are not being discriminative with their support. Besides that, some of the participants stated that they had different and inconsistent responses from the government during the

different stages of their multiple displacements. For example, two male participants, aged 60 and 75 years old, from Village B stated that they had received some cash assistance and some clothes during their first displacement, but did not receive any support during their second displacements. Both participants added that due to the frequency and number of conflicts, the government stopped giving assistance. Two women, aged 24 and 45, from Village C shared in the interviews that, in addition to the absence of government support, they felt ignored and excluded from overall government aid throughout their displacements.

This meant that in the absence of government support, people had relied entirely on assistance from NGOs or from host community, friends and relatives to meet their needs. The assistance provided by NGOs included essential non-food items like blankets and tents, as well as food supplies. For example, a husband and wife [42, M] and [40, F] from Village C shared in their interview that NGOs had supported them with items such as cooking and roofing materials, some of which they are still using today. Similarly, a female participant [60, F] from the same village expressed gratitude for the support but noted its limitations such as insufficiency of assistance. A female participant [40, F] from the same village shared in her interview that over the past five years, they had received very little assistance from NGOs, which she also described as insufficient. Similarly, in another interview, two males [60, M] and [75, M] mentioned that they were in desperate need of blankets to help them endure the cold weather. Since assistance from governments and NGOs was scarce, most of the participants relied on help from the host community, families, or relatives. For instance, a husband and wife [38, M] and [30, F] from Village A explained in their interview that the host family offered them shelter free of charge, due to a strong and supportive relationship between them.

Another interview with a female [40, F] from Village A revealed that they had received support from the host village during the early stages of displacement. However, some community-led assistance could not be sustained for a longer time due to the shared struggles of the host and displaced communities for basic needs. In another example, two interviews with a male [41, M] from Village D and a male [47, M] from Village B shared that they had initially received support from families and neighbours, such as shelter for three months. However, this assistance could not be sustained, and the support eventually came to an end.

The reliance on external aid, whether from NGOs, host communities, or families, highlights the profound gaps in government support and the vulnerability of IDPs throughout their displacement.

Healthcare

This was one of the recurring themes coming from our interviewees as we sought an understanding of the impact of displacements on their lives. This led to us expanding our interviews from only a focus on education and livelihoods as planned earlier, to other aspects of their lives that they found important and which in turn also had effects on their education and livelihoods.

Access to adequate healthcare also remains a critical and ongoing struggle for the majority of IDPs. Through each displacement they are at risk of conflict inflicted wounds, hunger related health issues, malaria, psychological trauma and losing standard healthcare facilities. Most vulnerable to these issues are the elderly, women and children. One man [42, M] from Village C shared that many of the elderly in their community have passed away, leaving behind only one generation of adults.

The first barrier to accessing healthcare is the physical destruction of healthcare facilities and materials, often being burned down during conflict. The second barrier occurs during displacement, when people are fleeing their homes. There is no healthcare in transit. Many have died on the journey, particularly the elderly and pregnant women. One male, aged 49, went into the jungle with some of his family members to avoid conflict. He did not eat for a week which affected him mentally and physically. There is no way to access professional healthcare when in hiding.

Once people who are displaced eventually find somewhere safe to settle, they still face barriers to accessing the appropriate healthcare. To use the government funded hospitals, a health insurance certificate is required. According to one participant, “there is no one to provide these certificates.” If they could access a way to acquire them, they would have to pay for the insurance. Even when a person has received one, there have been many accounts of the healthcare centres claiming not to have the required medicines in stock, forcing people to travel to independent pharmacies, paying for travel and potential further costs for the medicine. IDPs are not protected from further health and allied costs that most simply cannot afford.

A common issue raised throughout many interviews is the vulnerability of pregnant women during displacement. While fleeing conflict, women are forced to give birth on the side of the road, pick up their babies and keep moving. Once settled, many have difficulty accessing maternal health care. According to a 21 year old female from village C, they used to have a local service for maternity care and childbirth. “People are going back to traditional methods of giving birth but these ways sometimes lead to death and suffering”. This was the case in multiple villages we interviewed. Some are forced to travel to other towns with better facilities to give birth but many cannot afford it. Those with local hospitals that do provide maternity care have to pay to use a bed in the delivery room. Most IDPs cannot afford to pay for this.

Through each displacement, IDPs go through experiences that can often lead to psychological as well as physical trauma. For many, this is through witnessing the loss of many friends and relatives during and long after the conflict. One 24 year old woman from village C recounted her story of how she lost her child.

Case Study 5

”We were newly married and I had just given birth when the conflict started. My newborn baby passed away in 2019 due to an illness that we could not access adequate healthcare for. We first took her to a local hospital where she received some treatment but was then referred to a bigger hospital, which in turn referred us to Arba Minch Hospital. We could not travel to Arba Minch since the roads were closed due to the conflict. My baby did not make it.”

On top of this, she has lost other close relatives. Her husband's grandfather passed away in 2020 after he was arrested for political reasons and fell sick in prison. Her father-in-law also passed away recently. All of these losses continue to cause the participant a lot of pain and trauma. This is not a unique story. Conflict and displacement cause a person to experience and witness many traumatic events and mental health care is rarely available.

These compounded physical and emotional challenges highlight the urgent need for comprehensive healthcare support, as the ongoing displacement and trauma continue to take a devastating toll on the well-being of IDPs.

Shelter

Within this report, emergency shelter is understood as being facilities which provide immediate and temporary accommodation for people for a period of weeks or months. However, within the context of multiple displacement within the southern Ethiopia region, many people are living long term in short term housing, such as emergency shelters. For example, when a family was forced to flee to Village B, they were provided with nothing more than a small tent by an NGO, offering little more than the barest form of emergency shelter in their time of desperate need. They have been living in this emergency shelter for two years. They say that, in order to improve their quality of life, they need more support in accessing more durable materials such as iron sheets, as these are very expensive for them to purchase on the market, leaving them little hope of upgrading their tents to adequate shelter.

During periods of displacement, shelter is fundamental so that displaced people can enjoy a secure living environment that protects them from weather conditions, offers them privacy, dignity and comfort. It was found that individuals experiencing repeated displacement often encountered challenges upon returning to their villages, with many finding their homes destroyed during conflicts. In one instance, a 27 year old man and his 21 year old wife, as they returned to their Village C, discovered that their residence had been burnt down and occupied by monkeys. Despite assurances from some international organisations regarding financial assistance for rebuilding, they have not received any support. Additionally, the ongoing conflict prevented them from seeking assistance from the government, leaving families with no option but to erect makeshift shelters.

In the Southern Ethiopia Region, emergency shelters predominantly consist of tarpaulin and iron sheets, as they can be quickly assembled and are sometimes provided by NGOs. However, a 45-year-old woman, displaced in Village B, found the plastic sheeting too hot and prone to flooding. A Male, 42, from Village D, said that most of the shelters in their village were made with plastic sheets after the conflict, but these are destroyed easily by the weather. He said ‘‘If another family’s shelter was destroyed this way, their whole family may need to move in with our family, which causes its own issues such as friction between families’’. He also said, ‘‘Please inform the government that we need better, permanent shelter.’’

Levels of government/non-government support have generally dwindled after the multiple displacements, that is during their initial and subsequent displacements. For instance, in Village A, located within the Konso region, a family received assistance from a non-governmental organisation in the form of two blankets and shelter materials during their first displacement. When they thought things were better in their village, they returned only to find that the conflict had resumed leading them to seek shelter again as displaced persons back in Village A. Upon their second displacement, they received no external assistance and are now living in a modest shelter made of timber and mud, provided by a host family. While the shelter lacks the security of a permanent home, they are among the few fortunate enough to have been offered refuge without charge, thanks to the generosity of the host family.

It is important to take into account the geographical placement of these informal settlements of IDPs. Within Village B, situated within the Konso region, the informal settlement for internally displaced persons – made mainly of tents - is at a distance from the local host community settlement, leading to differing levels of isolation. While the host community initially provided support, the interviewed displaced persons said that they (hosts) now express a desire for the displaced individuals to return to their original homes.

Overall, it is clear that many IDPs lack access to adequate shelter, which severely impacts their physical and emotional well-being, hindering their ability to thrive in other aspects of life, such as work, access to education and leaving them with very few opportunities to escape their everyday life struggles. Lack of housing was identified as one of the fundamental deterrents to being able to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities or education.

Conclusion

The ongoing struggles of IDPs in Southern Ethiopia reflect the urgent need for more comprehensive support in livelihoods, education, shelter and healthcare to break their cycle of displacement and help rebuild these communities with a better quality of life and a hope for a sustainable future for them and their children.

When asked about what aspirations the IDPs have for the future, a very commonly used word was “peace”. One participant summed this up well, “We can improve our lives if there is peace. If we had peace, every part of our lives would be better”. Many said that the

government should take a lead in making this change. Participants were clear that this peace needs to be lasting peace. Peace that can be sustained.

Afterword

After conducting our field research, we had the chance to present our preliminary reflections and early findings at a workshop organised by Arba Minch University, GIZ and CENDEP on the 15th May 2024. This event provided a valuable opportunity to deepen our understanding of the context of Ethiopian migrants and returnees, and was attended by representatives from GIZ Better Migration Management, the British Council, and the UNHCR. The initial findings presented in this report was shared with these organisations in this workshop.

The joint field trip learning experience not only allowed us to appreciate the stunning landscapes and warm culture of Ethiopia, but it also deepened our understanding of the challenges faced by displaced communities. We sincerely hope that this report contributes to efforts supporting IDPs in Ethiopia and beyond, and that through continued response and learning, we can offer meaningful solutions to those affected by displacement worldwide.

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Abbreviations

IDP- Internally Displaced Person

NGO- Non-governmental Organisation

NFI - Non-Food Item