

## INNOVATIONS

### **Internally Displaced Persons and Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopian Constitution**

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#### **Abstract**

Since 1995, Ethiopia has started to practice multi-cultural /ethnic form of federalism to empower nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia to exercise rights to self-determination. However, a number of persons were being internally displaced from different regions of Ethiopia federations as a result of conflict basing on ethnic minority, language and religious minority. Therefore, this writing assesses the relationship and gaps of internally displaced persons and Ethiopian Constitution. Internally displaced persons are persons or groups 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 without crossing internationally recognized state borders. This situation has an impact on both internally displaced persons and the hosting communities or regions. To this end, the writer has employed qualitative research methodology to provide in-depth understanding of the relationship between the FDRE Constitution and internally displaced persons in the country to forward new legal and institutional alternatives to solve the realities of internally displaced persons in lights of Ethiopian federalism.

**Key words:** 1.Displacement 2.Ethnic federalism 3.Internally displaced persons 4.The FDRE Constitution 5. Ethiopia

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### **1. Introduction**

#### **1.1. Back ground of the Research**

*Though man, by nature, is migratory animal, but, nevertheless, 'there is no greater sorrow on earth than the loss of one's native land'<sup>1</sup>*

The loss of one's native land may happen due to multifarious unforeseen dimensions, but its cumulative effect is designating the affected persons as refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (here in after abbreviated as IDPs). The status of refugees and asylum seekers is different from internally displaced persons. The refugees and asylum seekers are more near to the arena of international law as to save such persons from the status of statelessness and as such international law regulates and establishes institutional mechanisms for the settlement of such interstate (involving two or more sovereign states) disputes, which have proved quite adequate in such like institutions because of political goodwill.<sup>2</sup>The prevention of misuse of the human rights of asylum as well as refugees is a grave problem of the area of international law than constitutional law. There is an increasing / growing feeling that the internal problems a country cannot be conceived as burdens for other country, and looking for philanthropy. This work focuses on internally displaced persons and Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (here in after FDRE) Constitution.

Internally displaced persons are persons or groups 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.<sup>3</sup>IDPs must therefore be distinguished from "refugees", for whom protection is provided by existing international mechanisms. As defined in such mechanisms, refugees are persons who, unlike IDPs, have crossed international borders and have thus lost the protection of their home countries.<sup>4</sup>IDPs, having remained in their home countries, are entitled to the protection of their home-country governments. It is therefore incumbent upon national governments to provide such protection. The problems of IDPs are increasing at alarming rate within countries that follow federal form of government. For instance, in India federations, population of states of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam (because of armed conflict, militancy and terrorism), and Maharashtra -Madhya Pradesh- Gujarat- Rajasthan (because of Narmada Development Dam project) presents as well as highlights the internal displaced problem of internally displaced persons.<sup>5</sup>

Ethiopia was not an exception to these facts even though it takes different causes. Since 1995, Ethiopia started to practice multi-cultural /ethnic form of federalism. The rationale behind to follow such kind of government form possibly to solve ethnic conflict, intra- state conflicts and to empower nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia to exercise rights to self-determination. However, a number of persons are internally displaced from different regions of Ethiopia federations. For instance, there has been a trend of increased conflict-related displacement since December 2016, due new waves of violence in many regions including the SNNPR-Oromia border, in Oromia and Somali regions, Tigray -Amhara, Tigray- Afar and the war between Federal government and Tigray region. The crisis also happened within Benishangul Gumuz regional state and Oromia regional state, West Guji Zone and Gedoe of SNNPR.

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

Intra-state conflicts that involve internally displaced persons as a result of ethnic conflict have become common since the establishment of the modern state in Ethiopia. However, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Front (EPRDF) regime has implemented federalism as a means of intra-state conflict management since 1994. The problem of internally displaced person is different from refugees and asylum. For this reason, it requires to be treated differently. That means since it is a problem of intra-state conflict (centre-state or state/s-state, it is a national law/constitution which is expected to provide mechanism for their resolves.<sup>6</sup>The FDRE constitution does not provide lasting solution for internally displaced persons. There are some rights and entitlements for such internally displaced persons, but it is not clear within constitution who has obligation to ensure such rights whether federal government or regional states or both federal and regional state governments. Internally displaced persons affect the wider community; they cluster in camps in large number, and therefore, the

vulnerability of the internally displaced persons is not a matter of theoretical debate, but a glaring reality on the ground.<sup>7</sup>This research project provides in-depth understanding of the relationship between the FDRE Constitution and internally displaced persons in the country. The motivations for this study and research focus include the following. Firstly, the federal government of Ethiopia had formed different ministry to solve ethnic conflict which in turn raises issues of internally displaced persons such Ministry of federal Affairs, Ministry of federal affairs and pastoralists. Recently the federal government has established ministry of peace. Though federal governments of Ethiopia established of those ministries, the crises of internally displaced persons in Ethiopia are not solved at grassroots level. For this reason, writer developed an intellectual interest in researching the complexities of federalism as an approach to solve internally displaced persons or internally displaced persons are a challenge to Ethiopian federalism.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Research**

The overall objective of this research is to examine the relationship between FDRE Constitution and internally displaced persons in Ethiopia to reduce the gaps between them. Specifically the study tries to examine the institutions and practices to manage internally displaced persons in lights of FDRE Constitution and to identify whether it is a federal government or regional states who have a power to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical return of internally displaced persons to their original native place.

In order to achieve above stated objective, the researcher have framed the following research questions:

- Does the FDRE Constitution effectively responds to the issues of IDPs?
- Does the Ethiopian federation have an effective institutional means/mechanism to manage internally displaced persons in different parts of Ethiopia? What are the institutional and practical reforms are needed to mitigate the internally displaced persons within Ethiopia?

Although many researchers have done recently about the structure of federal systems<sup>8</sup>there is a distinct lack of case studies that relate the federal process to specific issues of internally displaced persons in the context of the constituent units of Ethiopian federal system. Therefore, this study has a significance to fill this research gap. Moreover, the research also has relevance for federalization and the policy formulation processes in the country. The outcome of this research could greatly contribute to the federal process, and lead to constitutional amendment, both at federal and regional levels. Moreover, the outcome of the study could create a greater awareness among the policy makers, mainly in relation to the formulation of economic, social and political policies which could affect not only the internally displaced persons, but also other hosting regional states.

### **1.4. Methodology**

The methodological approach of this research is Qualitative research methodology. This methodology was aimed to achieve in-depth understanding of relationship between federation and internally displaced persons in Ethiopia. The qualitative approach enables the researchers to be flexible enough to conduct data collection.

## **1. Conceptual Framework of Internal Displacement Persons and FDRE Constitution**

### **2.1 Meaning and History of Internally Displaced Persons**

Recognition of internal displacement emerged gradually through the late 1980s and became prominent on the international agenda in the 1990s. Dynamics of displacement worldwide has shifted; assistance and protection is no longer restricted to refugees (those who have crossed international borders) but has also been extended to those who have been displaced within their own borders - otherwise known as IDPs.<sup>9</sup>A 1992 UNworking definition of the internally displaced is now widely deemed too narrow, Persons who have been forced to flee their homes

suddenly or unexpectedly in large numbers, as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights or manmade disasters, and who are within the territory of their own country.<sup>10</sup> For example, in Myanmar, Iraq and Ethiopia IDPs were not 'forced to flee' but were expelled from their homes because of ethnic and religious ties.

## 2.2. Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia

Ethiopia was faced displacement in different forms starting from 1960's. Resettlement project during 1960-1991, were became part of government policy with the aim of spreading out the population and advancing less inhabited regions.<sup>11</sup> Those projects were mainly set up with the aims of preventing famine and increasing food security, alleviating vulnerable land of population pressure and boosting agricultural production<sup>12</sup>; many considered resettlement programs to be a panacea. In due time, however, they found that land was not suitable for ox plough farming and that the local environmental circumstances created health risks for both the farmers and their livestock. On top of that, the resettlement was implemented without the consent of the people involved and often constituted of a violation of rights of both the settlers and the host communities. All of these factors contributed to the failure of the resettlement system as a whole and led to large numbers of people leaving their new settlement sites to return to their original homes.<sup>13</sup> Resettlement in Ethiopia took place in two main phases during/under EPRDF: some 600,000 people were relocated in 1985- 1986 under the Derg regime and around 627,000 people during 2003-2007 under the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the current ruling party.<sup>14</sup> The EPRDF seized power in 1991 after a long and hard-fought armed struggle against the Derg. The party was highly critical of resettlement programmes at the time of their rebellion, and reaffirmed their position towards the matter after they successfully ousted Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime. The coercion, enormous loss of lives, abuses and violation of settlers' rights together with all the other negative consequences made resettlement a very unfavourable strategy.<sup>15</sup>

The EPRDF was strongly aiming for their resettlement program to be voluntary but there is much debate amongst scholars on the voluntary nature of the 2003-2007 resettlements. On the one hand, settlers were given the opportunity to return to their original homes if they felt discontented, assistance was available where necessary and settlers were promised land-use rights for three years for their property in their homeland.<sup>16</sup> On the other hand, decision-making and the ability to make choices out of complete freedom are often influenced by different factors. During the 2003-2007 resettlements, Ethiopians were facing land shortages, recurring droughts and endemic poverty. Government officials would often describe the resettlement sites as a picture-perfect place and would make promises in terms of support that could, in reality, not be met. In addition to this, the people living in the drought-prone highlands were informed that food aid would cease to exist; leaving them no choice but to resettle.<sup>17</sup> Hence, in reality, resettlement under the VRP (voluntary resettlement program) was not entirely voluntary but contained elements of pressure, threats or downright coercion. Due to its controversial character, the fear of yet another humanitarian crisis emerging if the program would fail<sup>18</sup> and concerns that their support would fund forced resettlement, the international donor community was unwilling to contribute anything more than the life-saving nutrition and medical necessities. Villagization was another way of reflection of displacement in Ethiopia. The villagization program of the EPRDF government was launched in 2010 and aimed to resettle about 1.5 million people by 2013 in four regions: Gambella, Afar, Somali and Benishangul-Gumuz.<sup>19</sup> By implementing Villagization, the Ethiopian government sought to improve socioeconomic infrastructure, enhance livelihoods and increase access of communities to basic services.<sup>20</sup> However, Human Rights Watch reported in contrary to the intention of government of Ethiopia that villagization is carried out in an involuntary manner and goes hand in hand with widespread and systematic human rights abuses. In their 2012 report "Waiting Here for Death", they state: "*Villagization is carried out with no meaningful consultation and no compensation. Despite government promises to provide basic resources and infrastructure, the new villages have inadequate food, agricultural support,*

and health and education facilities. Relocations have been marked by threats and assaults, and arbitrary arrests for those who resist the move. The state security forces enforcing the population transfers have been implicated in at least 20 rapes in the past year (2011). Fear and intimidation are widespread among affected populations”<sup>21</sup> So, they concluded that the hidden agenda behind it is clearing land for agricultural investment or development project. There is an instance in which the government gave land for foreign investors around 2.6 million hectares even without compensation.<sup>22</sup> In areas where rebel group/resistance movements were active, Villagization was used as a means to manipulate and control local communities and keep them from assisting and siding with the rebel groups/forces. Currently, despite many positive effects like economic growth, the confluence of rapid economic development, ethnic conflicts, recurrent droughts and lack of drought-resilience, seasonal floods and other natural disasters causes a large number of people to be internally displaced every year in Ethiopia.<sup>23</sup> The government of Ethiopia has started to acknowledge the gravity of the situation and has in recent years adopted strategies to address some of the root causes of displacement. For instance, the government has established different institutions like Ministry of Federal of affairs, Ministry of Peace. But, the number of internally displaced in Ethiopia has been continued from time to time at different regions with alarming rate. Those are mostly prevalent in Somali, Tigray , Oromia and BenishangulGumuz regional state particularly Kamashi Zone, West Guji Zone, Gedo zones and so on.

### **2.3. Causes of Internally Displaced Persons in Ethiopia**

There are a number of causes for internally displaced persons. Climate induced displacement which was drought, exacerbated by El Niño, affected more than 10 million people<sup>24</sup> and displaced hundreds of thousands. The El Niño-induced drought continued to affect Ethiopia throughout the first half of 2016. Not everyone that is affected by drought and/or dependent on humanitarian assistance is internally displaced. In fact, the majority of the affected population stays in their own location, despite the scarcity of resources. Climate-induced IDPs are people who are displaced due to “environmental factors such as drought, seasonal floods, flash floods and landslides”.<sup>25</sup> However, why under the same circumstances, some become displaced and others don't, remains to be unclear.

Conflict can also be taken as the most cause for the prevalence of internally displaced persons in Ethiopia. One of the conflicts that caused a large amount of people to be displaced over a short period of time is the Oromo-Somali conflict, Tigray regional state and Federal government of Ethiopia. Some of the causes of this conflict can be traced back to the tension created by the Ethio-Somali war in the 1970s<sup>26</sup>, political interest between Tigray Peoples Liberation Front and prosperity party, and to system of ethnic federalism.<sup>27</sup> Disagreements about the exact location of the Oromia-Somali border emerged when the regional states were created in 1991.<sup>28</sup> Conflict-induced displacement is not only a problem in the Oromia-Somali border dispute but also occurs in other parts of the country Tigray with Amhara, Tigray with Afar regional states. Conflict has become the main driver of displacement in Ethiopia in the last few years”<sup>29</sup>. By the end of 2015, at least 450,000 people had been displaced by conflict and violence. Ongoing conflicts in different parts of the country, the problem of conflict-induced displacement is far from being solved. Mostly causes for conflicts are for the recognition of self-government/ self-rule. Those conflicts mostly base on the rights granted for nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia particularly sovereign power and rights included under article 8 and 39 of FDRE constitution. Conflict has become the main driver of displacement in Ethiopia in the last few years”<sup>30</sup>. The writer is focused on the existence of internally displaced persons currently in Ethiopia instead of indicating the exact numbers of internally displaced persons. For this reason, the research does not indicate the exact number of internally displaced from BenishangulGumuz regional state, Somali regional state, Southern Nations Nationalities state for example Gedo Zone and West Guji Zones of Oromia regional state.

#### **2.4 Existing legal frame work to protect internally displaced persons within Ethiopian federations**

Ethiopian IDPs are, just like others who are internally displaced, prone to discrimination and unequal treatment. Members of ethnic groups can experience discrimination and unequal treatment prior to their displacement but the likelihood of them becoming victims of discrimination and inequality increases during their displacement. Not only are they at risk of being discriminated because of their ethnic origin, their status of 'being displaced' may create all kinds of issues upon arrival at their displacement site. They face problems of access to service and goods, basic necessities, security and risks. Those risk include: Stigmas, discrimination, marginalization, Arbitrary detention or arrest, Family separation, Threats to life and security, Torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, Sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and harmful traditional practices, Enslavement, forced recruitment and human trafficking, Forced displacement, forced return or relocation, Destruction of livelihoods and property, confiscation and disappearance of property, Obstructing and impeding of humanitarian assistance.<sup>31</sup> The consequences of internal displacement can have disastrous and long-lasting effects on both IDPs and host communities. Not only are human rights often violated in the context of (forced) displacement, the loss of property, homes, access to livelihoods and the separation of families following the displacement cause IDPs to be unable to enjoy their fundamental rights. Subsequent the displacement, IDPs often become dependent on the local authorities, humanitarian organizations or host communities for access to the most basic needs and services such as food, water, shelter, health care, education, sanitation and income generating activities. The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the supreme law of the country and is most relevant regarding the safeguarding of the principles of equality and non-discrimination. In Article 9(4) of FDRE constitution stated that all international agreements ratified by Ethiopia are a fundamental part of Ethiopian legislation.<sup>32</sup> Hence, all principles regarding equality and non-discrimination in the ICCPR, ICERSC and other international legal instruments including Kampala Convention have force and validities under Ethiopian legislation. On top of that, article 13 (2) states that all fundamental rights and freedoms included in the Constitution shall comply with and reflect the principles that are laid down in the UDHR and the core international human rights instruments that they are ratified by Ethiopia.<sup>33</sup>

For rights to equality and the prohibition of discrimination, the FDRE constitution under article 25 states that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection without discrimination on grounds of race, nation, nationality, or other social origin, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, property, birth or other status.<sup>34</sup> This provision should in theory offer protection to Ethiopian IDPs from discrimination and unequal treatment based on their status of 'being displaced', as part of the 'other status. At outset, this provision should also offer protection from discrimination and unequal treatment based on ethnicity, which is an important factor in the displacement crisis in Ethiopia. However, without an explicit reference to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of 'being displaced' and ethnicity, protection offered to IDPs on this matter remains insufficient. This has an indication for in need to have specific law that regulates the issues of internally displaced persons in Ethiopian. IDPs in Ethiopia are in need of access to basic goods and services and remain to be largely dependent on relief operations. With again and again from time to time a new wave of inter-communal and ethnic violence hundreds of thousands of persons are displaced, food, safe drinking water, shelters are amongst the most vital subsistence needs of Ethiopian IDPs are required to be provided. Within Ethiopian FDRE constitution, some provisions are included though they are not sufficient. For instance, article 41(3) of the FDRE Constitution sets out the right of Ethiopian nationals to access publicly funded social services. However, these services are not specified in the Constitution. Besides article 41(4) of FDRE constitution, describes the duty of the government of Ethiopia to improve public health, education and other social services through funding.<sup>35</sup> Furthermore, Article 43(1) of FDRE constitution sets out the right of all Ethiopians to improved living standards and sustainable development.<sup>36</sup> Improved living standards also not specified. Most importantly, Article 90(1) of FDRE constitution states: To the extent the country's resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians

access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food and social security.<sup>37</sup> However, the above-mentioned articles are subject to the government's ability and the country's resources since they are progressive rights. Access to basic subsistence needs is therefore not guaranteed. Even though Ethiopia had signed Kampala Convention which is the most common to regulate IDPs in Africa October 22, 2009, Ethiopia ratified and made part of the law on February 13, 2020.<sup>38</sup> The ratified law empowers Ethiopian Ministry of Peace to regulate and manage issues of IDPs. It states that The Ministry of Peace of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is given the responsibility to cooperate with other relevant organs to implement and follow-up the Convention.<sup>39</sup> However, since the ministry is located in Addis, it is not accessible and capable to manage all issues of IDPs throughout the country. Besides, the proclamation lacks clarity with whom the ministry of peace implement the convention which is open for arbitrary. If the institution empowered for the implementation of the convention is not clearly identified, it will affect the proper implementation and protection of IDPs. This in turn requires decentralization of power to be accessible and solve local problem by local institutions. It can be concluded that the existing framework of Ethiopian law does not provide clear institutions empowered to provide sufficient protection to the needs of IDPs. Similar to the framework of international law, some basic rights and freedoms are protected by Ethiopian laws, policies and proclamations. However, insufficient protection is offered to most of the identified needs amongst Ethiopian IDPs by Ethiopian law. Education, subsistence needs, family reunification, identification and documentation are only a few examples.

## **2. Assessment of Internal Displaced Persons and FDRE Constitution**

In the preceding sections elsewhere, the writer has identified, the issues pertaining to internally displaced persons are more of national issues than international one. Because in light of the definition or explanations of the phrase of internally displaced persons, it is limited or restricted to national boundary/ no crossing the state boundaries to another independent states. That means the problems of internally displaced persons are different from refugees and requires be addressing and treating differently. It is a problem of intra state and constitutional law was expected to provide mechanisms for the resolve. Constitution is expected to impose responsibilities on national state/government to protect the rights, entitlements of displaced persons. If any things related to internally displaced persons are remain unsolved that may be due to the lack of political will or political good will, but, nevertheless, on account of the conceptual and institutional inadequacy of the constitutional law.<sup>40</sup> So, it has a negative consequence up on the displaced persons and hosting states or communities which the promised values and aspirations of FDRE Constitution. For instance, on the issues of assignment of expenditure and revenue sharing, particularly revenues sharing formula is made by House of federations which lasts for at least five years without any revision. When the matter of internally displaced raised/occurred, it benefits for the original state within the range of the five years formula of house of federation and affects the hosting state/ region. This increases the expenditures responsibilities for the hosting regions and also fails to go with the revenue sharing on one side and decreases the expenditure responsibilities of original states of displaced persons. This problem affects the weighing of revenue sharing and electing their leaders. Even it goes to the extent of those internally displaced are becoming to be ruled by leader that they would not been elected. This internally displaced person also has an effect on the fluctuating the unemployment rate. It increases unemployment rate mostly at the hosting regional states but reduces the unemployment rate in the original places of displaced persons. Besides, it reduces the investment flow within/among regional states for the fear of internally displacement from their properties or from their families. This in turn has adverse effect up on the national economy and victims of the displacements in particular. The Ethiopian government response to the fact is instead of having specific legal framework to give durable solution for internally displaced persons, it prefers to relate the IDPs problem as a sign of bad governance, rent seeking. The writer also believed that the above cause can be taken as the symptom for

internally displaced persons, but not agreed that bad governance, less accountability and rent seeking are conclusive causes of IDPs in Ethiopia. The FDRE constitution has some provisions under chapter three which talks about the protections of human rights in general way. However, the FDRE constitution and subsequent laws are not included specific organ which treats the issues of internally displaced persons in different parts of Ethiopia sufficiently. As a result of this, on the side of government, they are not recognizing existence and fact of IDPs due to political reason and absence of specific law which empower certain government organs to treat the issues of them. On the side of people of concerns/IDPs, they are suffering different problems for instance as result of government refusing to recognized their status, they do not have Identity Card unless they stay for more than six months. In order to have Identity card, the time frame is more than three months as included within Ethiopian Civil Code which talks about residence. Basic service like issuance of birth certificate, Sugar and oil cannot be exercised without having kebele Identity card/Residential Identity card. This fact excludes IDPs from basic service for livelihood. Had the FDRE constitution and subsequent laws of Ethiopia been clearly articulated organs of government empowered to regulate IDPs, they would have utilize those basic services which requires Identity Cards.

Internally Displaced persons must be treated specifically under FDRE constitution and Subsequent laws for durable solution to the problem. The constitution should answer the following questions pertaining to Internally Displaced persons: who has to ensure, federal government or regional states or both under the Ethiopian federal set up, the effective guarantees of their constitutional rights and freedoms? Who has to compensate for the loss of health and property? Who has to ensure that internally displaced persons camp is not compromised by presences or activities of some groups? Who shall have to ensure respect for the principles of internally displaced persons protection, safety and personal security? Who shall have to mobilize adequate sources in areas of relief, education, and health, physical as well as psychological rehabilitations? Who shall have to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical return of internally displaced persons to their original native place? Who shall have to ensure the non-exploitation of internally displaced women, girls, children, old aged persons because the vulnerability of those internally displaced persons shall have damaging effects? And etc...

#### **4. Conclusions**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) go through severe stress due to their plight, which implies that if measure is not taken to address the situation it could lead to serious social and health problems. This implies that the consequences of internal displacement can have disastrous and long-lasting effects on both IDPs and host communities. With national authorities and humanitarian organizations struggling to get the situation under control, IDPs are at risk of ending up in protracted displacement. Violations of these rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons are therefore the result of the unwillingness of the federal government, regional government or other government institutions to abide by the law.

It can also be concluded that the existing framework of Ethiopian law does not provide sufficient protection to the needs of IDPs. It can also be concluded that the existing laws of Ethiopian government is not sufficient to control the instigators or causes of conflict like boundary, self-administration, political will which goes to the extent of saying that Ethiopian ethnic federalism is a cause to internally displacement persons and to have some economic advantages from contributions for internally displaced persons through rent seeking or another mechanism. Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the writer has recommended the following recommendations which are expected to be used either alternatively or cumulatively.

- The FDRE Constitution must be amended in way of clearly empowering either the Federal or regional governments to regulate and manage IDPs in Ethiopia.

- Both the federal and regional government need to take proactive steps in providing the needed incentives and provide security for the IDPs. This is through having legal framework that can regulate the issues of IDPs and the hosting communities and issues of compensation for the damage made as a result of displacement from their original places.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>K.L.Bhatia, *Supra* note 1 at 235.

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> "DMC: Ethiopia: Country Information" (*Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)*)

<sup>24</sup> The Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) 2016 estimated that 10.2 million people would be in need of humanitarian food assistance in 2016. However, beneficiaries of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) that were in need of humanitarian aid are not included in the document and the number of people in need of food assistance was in reality a lot higher. The drought was and remains to be politically sensitive and Ethiopia does not want to be perceived as a famine-prone country. Hence, the government of Ethiopia tried to keep the number of aid-dependent people low by not including PSNP beneficiaries in documents such as the HRD.

<sup>25</sup> "Ethiopia - National Displacement Dashboard (May - June 2018)" (DTM Ethiopia 2018) report.

<sup>26</sup> James Jeffrey, "Ethnic Violence in Ethiopia Amid Shadowy Politics" (*Inter Press Service News Agency* November 21, 2017)

<sup>27</sup>MulgetaAyele, *Supra* note 16, p. 16

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup>Ethiopia National Displacement Dashboard (May - June 2018)" (DTM Ethiopia 2018) Report

<sup>30</sup>Ethiopia National Displacement Dashboard (May - June 2018)" (DTM Ethiopia 2018) Report

<sup>31</sup>Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons" (Global Protection Cluster Working Group 2009) report

<sup>32</sup>*Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*, Proclamation No. 1/1995, Art. 9(4)

<sup>33</sup>Ibid, article 13/2

<sup>34</sup>Ibid. article 25

<sup>35</sup>Ibid. Article 41

<sup>36</sup>Ibid. Article 43/1

<sup>37</sup>Ibid. Article 90/1

<sup>38</sup>African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa Ratification Proclamation No. 1187/2020

<sup>39</sup>Ibid. Article 4

<sup>40</sup>K.L.Bhatia, *supra* note 1 at p.234