

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON DISPLACED PERSONS IN SOMALIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper critically assesses how climate change has considerably contributed to the displacement of communities in Somalia, an already socioeconomic instability and armed conflict vulnerable country. It further discusses how environmental degradation plays a multiplier factor in prevailing vulnerabilities through a case specific analysis of climate-induced events such as droughts, desertification, and floods directly linked to internal and cross-border migration. The findings show that climate change is altering classic migration patterns turning what once was a voluntary adaptation strategy into forced displacement. The research also signalled important gaps within the national and international legal frameworks to address climate-induced displacement and called for integrated approaches, as well as strengthened international cooperation. These findings highlight the need for targeted policies that address the impacts of climate change but also ensure that the rights and livelihoods of the displaced people in fragile states, such as Somalia, are protected. The paper concludes by calling for concrete steps toward community resilience building and providing a legal protection for all displaced persons due to climate change events.

Keywords: *Somalia, Migration, Climate Change, Displacement, Vulnerability.*

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ÖZ **İKLİM DEĞİŞİKLİĞİ VE SOMALİ'DEKİ YERİNDEN EDİLEN KİŞİLER** **ÜZERİNDEKİ ETKİSİ**

Bu makale, iklim değişikliğinin halihazırda sosyoekonomik istikrarsızlık ve silahlı çatışma gibi kırılabilirliklerle karşı karşıya olan Somali'deki toplulukların yerinden edilmesine önemli ölçüde nasıl katkıda bulunduğunu eleştirel bir şekilde değerlendirmektedir. Ayrıca, çevresel bozulmanın, kuraklıklar, çölleşme ve iç ve sınır ötesi göçle doğrudan bağlantılı olan sel gibi iklim kaynaklı olayların vaka analizine dayalı olarak mevcut kırılabilirlikleri artıran bir faktör olduğunu tartışmaktadır. Bulgular, iklim değişikliğinin klasik göç modellerini değiştirdiğini ve bir zamanlar gönüllü bir uyum stratejisi olan göçü zorunlu yerinden edilme haline getirdiğini göstermektedir. Araştırma ayrıca, iklim kaynaklı yerinden edilmeleri ele almak için ulusal ve uluslararası yasal çerçevelerde önemli boşluklar olduğuna işaret etmekte ve entegre yaklaşımlar ile uluslararası iş birliğinin güçlendirilmesine olan ihtiyacın altını çizmektedir. Bu bulgular, iklim değişikliğinin etkilerini ele alan ancak aynı zamanda kırılabilir devletlerdeki yerinden edilmiş kişilerin haklarını ve geçim kaynaklarını koruyan hedeflenmiş politikalara ihtiyaç olduğunu vurgulamaktadır. Makale, toplulukların direnç geliştirilmesi ve iklim değişikliği olayları nedeniyle yerinden edilen tüm kişilere yasal koruma sağlanması yönünde somut adımlar atılması çağrısında bulunarak sonuçlanmaktadır.

Keywords: *Somali, Göç, İklim Değişikliği, Yerinden Edilme, Kırılabilirlik.*

1. Introduction

Climate change is a relevant global issue that has taken several forms and dimensions across regions and populations. A warming world translates to very frequent and intense weather events as well as natural disasters that create enormous disruptions to natural and human systems. No part of the world is immune to these changes, but some areas, especially those already fighting socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability, are bearing the brunt. This includes Somalia in the Horn of Africa.

It is situated in the eastern part of the continent, in the Horn of Africa. Its littoral extends over 2720 kilometres along the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. The southern portion of Somalia has a semi-arid climate, while the northern portion has a warm desert climate, with the country being fairly mountainous as well. Majority of the population of Somalia are farmers, and nomadic pastoralist peoples, who raise cattle, camels, goats, and sheep. The remaining percentage, 15 percent, is found in urban centres. This makes the country very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change since the livelihood of

most Somalis depends on livestock and agriculture. In addition, Somalia is a low-lying coastal country whose economic and social systems have been heavily hit by conflict in the last three decades (Oberg, et al., 2021).

With its environmental fragility, socio-economic instability, and founding conflicts, Somalia is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. The heavy dependence on agriculture and pastoralism in the country makes it particularly vulnerable to any disruption brought by climate-induced changes like droughts, flooding, and desertification. Such changes threaten livelihoods and contribute to internal and cross-border displacement, further exacerbating prevailing socio-political vulnerabilities. Climatic change and migration in Somalia have a complicated relationship. It is mostly brought about by environmental reasons, economic, among others, and political ones too. In most cases, displacement in Somalia is because of the interaction of disasters brought about by nature, together with long-time conflict, making it difficult to identify the impacts of climatic change on migration being manifested (Warsame, et al., 2023; Williams & Funk, 2011).

Recent studies have recorded that shifting climate patterns have already led to dramatic crop yield losses, high incidences of food insecurity, and increased vulnerability of rural settlers to displacement (Warsame, et al., 2023). The reason for the displacement of many Somali families, either internally or externally, as they seek improved living standards. The implications of climate change on migration in Somalia are multiple and intercutting. When the environment gets to a state of degradation, it is deprived of sources of livelihood for the people, who will be pushed away to look for food, water, and employment. Indeed, the presence of refugees and other displaced persons has a ripple effect on urban centres, resulting in a sudden burden on the resources available in the refugee camps hosting them. The connection between climate change and Somalia's ongoing insecurity complicates efforts to address the migration issue, as inadequate contextual security undermines the provision of humanitarian aid and development services.

The political turmoil in Somalia has stretched the already inadequate judicial and governance structures of the country, now exacerbated by the fact that climate change has become a national security concern. Due to environmental change, land degradation, and conflict, less and less land is available for cultivation. The displacement and marginalization that emerge contribute to the

grievances and violence between farmers, herders, and factions over access to land. It means that such a situation can heighten the possibility of insurgent organizations successfully recruiting members (Oberge et al., 2021).

Therefore, this study looks into how climate change contributes to the displacement of people in Somalia, exploring the nexus between climate change relating to conflict and migration. The review will contain an in-depth legal framework on climate-induced displacement under international law. This paper illustrates how environmental degradation acts as a catalyst for the migration of communities through complex linkages between climate change and migration, which often are not accorded relevant legal protections at levels that can be nationally or internationally enforced. The challenge posed by climate-induced displacement soundly underlines the importance of healthy international cooperation. Emboldened by the most recent empirical evidence, case studies, and scholarly research, this study aims to add its voice to the growing discourse on climate-induced migration and argue for essential legal and policy interventions that are required to be taken to lessen its impacts.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows: Section 2 gives an overview of climate change and its impacts in Africa and Somalia. Section 3 discusses the impact of climate change on migration in Somalia from both an internal and a cross-border perspective. Section 4 deals with legally binding aspects in terms of climate-induced displacement at both the international and the national levels. The last section, Section 5 concludes the article and provides policy recommendations.

2. Climate Change and Its Impacts

Climate change can be defined as any alteration in weather patterns or temperature over an extensive period. Some such alterations may be related to changes in solar activity or large volcanic eruptions. However, from the 1800s onward, human functions have become the leading causes of climate change, especially from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas (United Nations Climate Action, 2024).

Climate change is a global issue whose effects trickle down to the atmosphere, economies, societies, and environment. These impacts are related to the environment, economies, and societies, which are usually associated with a global process. The Sixth Assessment Report by the IPCC in 2021 reiterates that

human-induced activities of burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes are causing factors for climate change. These activities have resulted in increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, heating it up, with subsequent changes in climate systems. The impact of changing climate can take forms such as increased sea levels, shifting patterns of precipitation, and an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events such as heatwaves, floods, and storms. The manifestations of climate change are very unequally distributed around the world. Whereas some regions are already severely hit, others register less dramatic changes. Geographical position, socio-economic conditions, and low adaptive capacity place the most vulnerable regions at a disadvantage in the Global South. According to the IPCC, these impacts of climate change are most visible in areas that already suffer from environmental degradation, food insecurity, and poverty (IPCC, 2021).

Some of the many climate change implications include human effects, forced migration, environmental degradation relating to desertification, flooding, drought, forest fires, economic effects, health effects, as well as water and air pollution. The real effects that climate change has on plants, animals, and humans are actually one of the detriments from increasing temperatures. These include various fatal types of respiratory diseases, starvation, flooding, diseases caused by drinking impure water, thermal stress, allergic disorders, infectious diseases, and occasional heat waves, which are brought about by air pollution, advancement of the desert, and burning of bushes due to wildfire (Haines & Patz, 2004).

Man-made climate change is accelerating everywhere, leading to hazardous disruptions both in the inanimate environment and in human life. And the refugees, internally displaced, and stateless are bearing the brunt. The UNHCR report manifests that over 80 percent of refugees and internally displaced people lived in countries which were highly vulnerable to the climate crisis and hazardous conflicts, further instigated by droughts, monsoon rainfall, and flood (UNCHR, 2022).

2.1 Climate Change, Historical Background, and the International Law Development regarding the Climate Change

Global warming has been causing an increasing number of difficulties for the world, particularly in the years after the Industrial Revolution. Even though the effects of climate change have existed since the Industrial Revolution, they

only became significant in world politics in the 20th century (Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe, 2019). During this period, there was a widespread adoption of burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas, which resulted in the substantial emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. To tackle global environmental issues such as climate change, it is imperative for independent nations to willingly collaborate and confront the adverse consequences that affect everyone rather than take advantage of others' efforts. For successful solutions, it is crucial to establish a worldwide agreement on environmental matters (de Zeeuw, 2015). International law, which historically regulated interactions between states, has expanded to encompass international organisations and individuals, thereby enabling the efficient resolution of legal matters beyond borders (Henriksen, 2019). International law harmonises national legal systems within a global framework, promoting the common good for a united global society. Obstacles continue to exist that hinder its complete effectiveness (Allott, 1999). International law aims to protect the environment globally and hold states accountable for their actions against climate change. Ensuring the protection of human rights and the well-being of future generations is of utmost importance, considering the pressing nature of the matter (Mayer, 2018).

Through global and regional legislation, international environmental law protects Earth's ecosystems, resources, and biodiversity. It addresses contemporary issues such as genetic alterations and pharmaceutical pollution (Shelton, 2021). International Environmental Law (IEL) governs global environmental challenges to encourage sustainability and regulate activities on a worldwide scale. The subject matter encompasses marine conservation, ozone protection, biodiversity, and other related areas that connect with human rights, commerce, and finance regulations (Okogbule, et al., 2022). IEL addresses global issues by requiring states to enact legislation through customary practices, treaties, and shared principles. Although it lacks conventional means of enforcement, adherence to it is essential for safeguarding the environment worldwide, underscoring its significance even in cases where enforceability may differ (Nanda & Pring, 2012). IEL also tackles global concerns such as species extinction and climate change by encouraging joint efforts, fostering sustainable development, and finding a balance between long-term environmental preservation and addressing current dangers (Hunter, 2018). With the increased

awareness, global initiatives to tackle the challenges of climate change started to form. An important early achievement was the adoption of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which aimed to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent hazardous human-induced climate changes. It underscores the need for global cooperation, recognizing principles like historical responsibility and common but differentiated responsibilities based on each country's circumstance (Lal Pandey, 2014).

The convention also highlights the importance of financial support, technology transfer from developed to developing countries, and inter-generational equity. While initially promoted voluntary emission reductions deemed insufficient, the *Kyoto Protocol*, adopted in 1997 and effective from 2005, introduced the clean development mechanism and emissions trading to set and achieve emission reduction targets for industrialized countries, referencing to 1990 levels (Lal Pandey, 2014). The Paris Agreement, ratified in 2015 and implemented in 2016, represented a noteworthy achievement in global climate diplomacy. The primary objective is to restrict the increase in global average temperature to less than 2°C, with a preference for limiting it to 1.5°C compared to the levels before the Industrial Revolution. Countries must quickly reach the maximum level of greenhouse gas emissions and achieve a balance between emissions and removals by the end of the century. The Paris Agreement encourages the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, indicating a move towards sustainability (American Bar Association, 2021). The Paris Agreement and UNFCCC establish worldwide objectives for climate adaptation, provide financial assistance for climate initiatives, and strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Choudary, 2023). As a signatory to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, Somalia is legally obliged to implement measures for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Although Somalia has limited institutional capacity and resources, the country must create and implement national plans, policies, and actions to comply with these treaties, effectively increase resilience, and minimise susceptibility to the impacts of climate change.

2.2 The Situation in Africa and Somalia

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to the implications of climate change. Its high dependence on agriculture and its extreme weather events

logically make it very susceptible to climate-related shocks. Furthermore, most African countries do not have the resources or infrastructure to cope with such changes in temperature and climate; hence, food insecurity, poverty, and displacement of people are at a high margin (Choudary, 2023; IPCC, 2021).

The Horn of Africa, with countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti, is one of the most vulnerable areas to the effects of climate change. It contains vast expanses of arid and semi-arid areas where rainfall is substantially scanty and its occurrence highly variable. These conditions make the region more prone to most of the adverse effects of climate change due to added socioeconomic and political instability.

A catastrophic drought is hitting the Horn of Africa, leading to acute hunger in at least 18.4 million people. This drought may threaten the livelihoods of millions of farmers through crop and livestock destruction and drying out water resources. The Horn of Africa is now facing the worst drought in 40 years due to four successive failed rainy seasons since 2019. Man-made climate change is augmenting these naturally caused climatic events, and in turn, is worsening this current drought in the Horn of Africa. La Niña is naturally occurring and involves high temperatures and arid weather in East Africa. La Niña involves a large decline in the ocean surface temperature within the equatorial central and eastern Pacific Ocean (UNCHR, 2022).

Droughts, floods, land degradation, and locust epidemics are among the severe environmental conditions that Somalia is currently experiencing. Consequently, the primary livelihood sector for the majority of the Somali population—agriculture production (including crop and livestock) has been impeded (Warsame, et al., 2021). These calamities have also affected other sectors of the economy and the environment. Every year, floods are reported as recurring events.

Agriculture is very significant to the contribution of Somalia in terms of GDP, revenues accrued from exports, and employment. Shortage of adaptation policies and a high dependence on the agricultural sector heighten the vulnerability of developing countries to the impacts of climate change. On one hand, the increase of temperature is greatly affecting agricultural production in Somalia. These are arid conditions that it causes reduction of soil moisture, increased evaporation, and rain failures. This would ultimately result in the reduction of water available for irrigation, which culminates in a high decline in

crop yield. Due to this effect, Somalia has witnessed frequent droughts for the last years, which compromised the agricultural sector (Warsame, et al., 2021). Climate change is affecting the livestock sector in various ways. On one hand, it reduces the amount of water available for consumption by animals (Mihiretu, et al., which in turn reduces animal productivity (Rojas-Downing, et al., 2017). Moreover, it is predicted that higher temperatures will increase water ingestion by animals 2 or 3 fold (Nardone, et al., 2010). Nonetheless, Somalia still requires strategies and adaptation policies as part of mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

Throughout several centuries, the livelihoods of both farmers and pastoralists in Somalia have depended on two rainy seasons: the Gu' and the Deyr. The Gu' season starts at the end of March and extends into August, except for the north-eastern coast, which receives the least amount of rainfall during this part of the year. Its intensity increases throughout May. The country is still continuing the after-effects of the pro-longed 2016-2017 drought, and the 2019 Gu' was the driest in 30 years and the second consecutive below-average rainy season. Deyr, the second rainy season, characterised by a shortened duration and reduced amount of precipitation, happens between October and November. The only perennial rivers are the Juba and Shabelle, which originate from Somalia's northernmost neighbour, Ethiopia. The downstream sections of both the Juba and Shabelle rivers have lower levels of water, although their water is crucial in agricultural production. This results from a variety of factors contributing to this issue, including the lack of viable tributaries in Somalia, overflow into flood basins, diversion for irrigation purposes, and loss through evaporation and seepage into the groundwater (Oberg & Hodges, 2021).

Recent droughts, such as in 2011 and 2017, devastated agricultural outputs and caused acute food shortages, culminating in widespread famine. These are even made worse by poor ways of managing land and sole dependence on rain-fed agriculture (Eklöw & Krampe, 2019; Warsame, et al., 2022).

Drought significantly affects food security and livelihood for the agro-pastoralist and pastoralists. Besides, the drought resulted in acute morbidity, increased mortality of the living animals, and a high prevalence rate of common diseases; a shortage of pasture with low water availability developed (Warsame et al., 2022).

Other significant grounds of concern relate to public health. Indeed, the more frequent extreme weather events enhance the spread of waterborne diseases

such as cholera, or respiratory infections after dust storms and poor air quality. Children, elderly people, and those with previous diseases are more susceptible to these health consequences (McMichael, 2014; Oberg et al., 2021). Food insecurity, coupled with a lack of access to healthcare and environmental exposures worsened by this public health emergency further deteriorated the conditions of displaced populations in Somalia.

3. Migration Issues in Somalia as one of the Consequences of Climate Change

Seasonal migration is part of the Somali culture, and communities have been doing this through time in order to cope with the harsh environment. However, climate change is transforming migration patterns in Somalia turning what had long been a voluntary, adaptive strategy into a forced and desperate response to environmental degradation.

Human-induced climate change is causing considerable disruption to ecosystems, and in countries like Somalia, desertification is among the most pronounced effects. Desertification is the process in which land becomes a desert from a normally fertile state of land, usually brought about by drought, deforestation, or inappropriate farming practices. It highly reduces land productivity; hence, it fosters food insecurity, leading to the displacement of communities in search of other very hospitable environments (Vit, 2018; Warsame, et al., 2023).

The migratory context in Somalia is complex and multi-dimensional, whose determinants are environmental degradation, economic hardship, and conflict. Desertification and climate-induced environmental changes are among the most important drivers of migration. When agricultural lands become desolate and water sources dry up, pastoralist communities depending on such resources are out of options but to migrate. As a result of frequent drought coupled with rising temperatures, there has been a rapid decline in the number of viable grazing areas for livestock, a primary livelihood for nomadic and pastoralist communities in Somalia. The displacement caused by these environmental changes has dislocated thousands of families to seek alternative livelihoods either in urban or across border areas (Momeni, et al, 2024).

While internal migration is the most common amongst people displaced by climate change from the countryside to cities, there is also an extensive number of

cross-border migrants who have left Somalia and often head for bordering countries in search of greener pastures. Because of this, a new kind of refugee has been developing: the "environmental refugee," one who is forced to migrate for reasons other than the classic ones of political persecution or conflict (McAdam, 2012). This has been more serious in recent years because of the combination of environmental stressors and a very limited intervention of state agencies with a view to addressing the vulnerabilities of these communities. In fact, it is documented that the proximity of Somalia to Kenya and Ethiopia simply makes these two countries the primary destinations for climate-induced migrants, especially from rural areas (Abebe, 2014) .

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Somalia has remained one of the countries in the world with the highest internal displacement rates due to a significant causality from climatic factors. In 2022, a total of more than 1.7 million people were displaced within Somalia, out of which only 621,000 were recorded for conflict and violence alone (IDMC, 2023). According to the Somalia National Climate Change Policy, taken together, the projected outcome of combined droughts, erratic rainfall, and increasing land degradation, if no effective climate adaptation strategies are instituted, might further displace other millions (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, 2022).

Flash floods from El Nino in 2023 affected at least 247,000 people in 384 informal settlements. Families are forced by exorbitant prices imposed by unregulated private water suppliers to fetch water from open wells, unsafe and far away because only 52% was described as having access to a basic water supply in Somalia. Furthermore, there is an alarming rate of deforestation in Somalia, estimated at about 35,000 hectares annually, which has been projected to lead to the annual felling of 4.375 million forest trees. Development in Somalia is significantly hindered by unyielding challenges related to implementing recommendations from agreements such as the Rio Convention. Besides, there are environmental issues affecting Somalia that include overfishing and land degradation. Overgrazing and soil erosion contribute to land degradation, which loses topsoil and cuts trees, so the socio-political climate is different. Government capacities are still weak at all levels, as evidenced by limited coordination and policy coherence (UNDP, 2024).

On the other hand, migration also has specific gendered effects. In Somalia, for instance, women and children are rather exposed to violence, exploitation, and health risks due to high congestion in the cities where the majority of the displaced seek refuge. According to a report by (Abebe, 2014), at the centre of climate change and gender inequality, women in displaced communities are likely to suffer more from food insecurity and lack of basic services. Furthermore, this deficiency in appropriate shelter and sanitation in the displacement camp increases disease and nutritional incidences, especially in children. In this respect, the Somali National Policy on Climate Change calls for a gender sensitive approach to adaptation to climate change in light of the fact that women and children lie at the centre of the displacement crisis (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, 2022).

This has subsequently led to a heightened burden on urban centres, especially Mogadishu and Baidoa, characterized by informal settlements hosting thousands of IDPs. Most of these settlements are under-resourced to provide meaningful shelter, sanitation, or health amenities for the displaced populations, thereby exacerbating dire conditions among the displaced communities (IOM & UNEP, 2021). Increasing numbers of displaced people elevate competition for infrastructural resources and foster heightened tensions between displaced communities and host populations.

The results of displacement are having a great impact on Somali society, with women and children at the heart of the displacement being victims of violence, exploitation, and health hazards in overcrowded urban settings where most of them seek refuge. The long-term impacts of such migration trends are further division of Somali society, increasing poverty, and erosion of traditional modes of livelihood. These can lead to increased instability and conflict if left unaddressed, therefore raising obstacles to the attainment of sustainable development in Somalia (Eklöw & Krampe, 2019).

4. Legal Frameworks and International Collaboration

Existing legal frameworks for addressing climate-induced displacement, both nationally and internationally, are inadequate, leaving gaps in the protection of most of the displaced people. In fact, climate-induced displacement has yet to be fully recognized and integrated into both the national and international systems

of laws with full consideration for the unique challenges it presents, particularly for highly climate change-vulnerable countries like Somalia.

The 1951 Refugee Convention remains the cornerstone for the protection of refugees at the international level. This Convention does not include environmental reasons as one of the grounds on which a declaration of refugee status may be granted; climate-displaced persons thus vaguely lie in a legal gray area. International human rights law guarantees some degree of protection to all individuals regardless of their circumstances of displacement; nevertheless, it is often inadequate within the context of large-scale displacement (McAdam, 2012).

Decades of conflict and instability have really left the Somali legal system still reeling, and most of its laws are outdated, poorly enforced, or both. Probably among the worst situations in all these aspects are the environmental laws, which are mostly weak and lack the required provisions to address the magnitude of challenges occasioned by climate change. In recent years, there have been some efforts to strengthen the legal framework of Somalia in response to climate change. These efforts have, however, been hampered by a myriad of challenges, including limited resources, ongoing conflict, and weak governance structures.

Furthermore, Somalia has signed a number of international accords such as the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement; yet, its implementation still remains challenging due to weak governance structure and institutional capacity, characterized by very limited coordination or policy coherence. Amidst all the conflict and surmounting climate change, in-depth analyses and responses are quite necessary for Somalia to deal with climate-related security risks (UNDP, 2024). Addressing the issue of climate-induced displacement in Somalia will require wide-ranging collaboration and support at the international level. Indeed, these will be important ways in which the international community comes together to develop and implement legal frameworks that protect climate-displaced persons or provide support to vulnerable countries like Somalia.

A new international convention on climate-displaced persons is one avenue through which international collaboration might be pursued. A convention could call for the clear legal settlement of rights and protection for people displaced by environmental factors and secure whatever assistance and support they require. Aside from creating new international agreements, there has also been a call to strengthen existing international agreements, like the Paris

Agreement, with specific provisions relating to climate-induced displacement (Choudary, 2023).

5. Conclusion

This study underlines the critical linkage of climate change and displacement in Somalia, showing how these climatic changes are directly impacting migration patterns-whether through droughts, desertification, or flooding. The study has demonstrated that the climate change acts as a multiplier of stress, which further increases the vulnerability of communities struggling with socioeconomic and political instability. This has increased internal displacement and cross-border migration, further exacerbating strain on resources in already fragile urban areas.

One basic finding concerns the inability of legal regimes, both nationally and internationally, to deal with particular challenges thrown up by climate-induced dislocation. To date, Somalia has signed a number of major international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, but has limited institutional capacity to implement effective climate adaptation policies. This study calls for urgent need for gender sensitive approaches, as mostly women and children are the victims of such displacement.

The research also points to the need for closer international collaboration, which advocates either for the development of new legal instruments or building from the existing agreements that have something to do with climate-induced displacement. In sum, climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a humanitarian crisis in Somalia, and immediate and coordinated actions are vital to protect displaced communities and build resilience.

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