

## A REMARKABLE CHALLENGE FOR DIASPORA: LEVERAGING ETHIOPIA'S TVET PROGRAMS FOR INTEGRATING THE INTERNAL DISPLACED PERSONS INTO THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMES

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### ABSTRACT

*The 1995 Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was promulgated with the assumption that the formation of a federal union in Ethiopia would not only enhance the celebration of self-rule and shared-rule, but also rekindle ethnic autonomy, diversity, and inclusion, and serve as a framework for resolving ethnic conflict. Nonetheless, due to the lack of the implementation of effective diversity and inclusion awareness programs that could have encouraged open communication and interpersonal dialogue to build mutual respect, it is heart-breaking to see that currently Ethiopia is embroiled in deep inter-ethnic skirmishes. Put simply, ethnic animosity in Ethiopia has not drastically altered social structures and disrupted livelihoods, but it has destroyed employment opportunities throughout the country. The regions that were predominantly dominated by endogenous (native) ethnic groups are resorting to forcefully chasing away and uprooting the non-native migrants who have lived and intermarried with them for several years. It is sad to see that the non-natives who were involuntarily settled during the Dergue's development-induced displacement (DID) program or were encouraged by the current regime to undertake productive investment have become victims and are ruthlessly uprooted from their homelands and livelihoods. Given that displacement can be a terrible and wrenching life experience, the triple aims of the study were to review the literature and investigate the impact of displacement on: 1) the life, health, and social well-being of the internally displaced persons (IDP); and 2) the socio-economic, infrastructure, and natural environment of the host communities. Finally, the study briefly explored how the existing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in the Regional State of Tigray could be appropriately redesigned and funded by the diaspora and other philanthropic agencies to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance the employment or self-employment capacity of the internally displaced persons and successfully integrate and create sustainable economic development to their ancestral homes.*

**Keywords:** Displacement, Internal personal displacement (IPD), Integrated, Host communities, TVET institutions, Spillovers effects.