

The Impact of Poverty on the Livelihoods of Internally Displaced Persons Galkio Puntland Somalia

Abdiladif Mursal Abdi

Master of Social Work and Social Administration from Kampala International University,
Bachelor's Degree in Community Development from East Africa University Puntland, Somalia
Lecturer at Green Hope University and East Africa University Puntland Somalia
Protection Case Worker at Action Minority Rights and Development
Mental Health Case Worker at UNDP.

Abstract:

Poverty remains a critical global issue, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs). This study focuses on the impact of poverty on the livelihoods of IDPs in Galkio, Puntland, Somalia, where displacement due to conflict, climate change, and economic instability has created severe socio-economic challenges. These include high unemployment, lack of access to education and healthcare, food insecurity, and inadequate shelter.

The study employs a mixed-methods approach to examine the socio-economic conditions of IDPs, their coping mechanisms, and the effectiveness of humanitarian and governmental interventions. The findings show that IDPs struggle to secure sustainable livelihoods, often depending on short-term aid instead of long-term economic opportunities. Vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and persons with disabilities, face additional challenges, including gender-based violence, marginalization, and limited access to essential services.

Despite efforts by humanitarian organizations, current interventions often fail to address the root causes of poverty and displacement effectively. The study stresses the urgent need for policies that foster long-term economic empowerment, skills development, and income-generating opportunities for IDPs. By addressing poverty in displacement contexts, these policies could promote self-sufficiency, social integration, and long-term resilience for IDPs. Ultimately, the research aims to contribute to ongoing efforts to improve the living conditions and livelihoods of IDPs in Somalia and offer recommendations for more sustainable interventions.

Keywords: Impact, Poverty, Livelihoods, Internally Displaced Persons.

1.0 Introduction.

Poverty remains a major global challenge, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Somalia, particularly in Galkayo, Puntland, displacement caused by conflict, climate change, and economic instability has left thousands of individuals struggling to meet their basic needs. The impact of poverty on IDPs is profound, as it affects their ability to secure stable livelihoods, access essential services, and achieve long-term socio-economic stability (Internal et al., 2006).

Internally displaced persons in Galkayo face numerous hardships, including high unemployment rates, limited access to education and healthcare, food insecurity, and inadequate shelter. Many IDPs are forced to live in overcrowded camps or informal settlements with little to no access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare services. The lack of economic opportunities further exacerbates their vulnerability, trapping them in a cycle of poverty with little hope for improvement. Women, children, and people with disabilities are particularly affected, as they face additional risks such as gender-based violence, exploitation, and marginalization. (Bryld et al., 2014).

Despite the efforts of humanitarian organizations and government interventions, the socio-economic conditions of IDPs in Galkayo remain dire.

Assistance programs often provide short-term relief rather than long-term solutions, leaving many displaced families dependent on aid. Sustainable livelihood programs, skills training, and income-generating opportunities are necessary to break the cycle of poverty and enable IDPs to regain their independence and dignity. (Substantive & Report, 2008). This study aims to explore the complex relationship between poverty and displacement in Galkayo, Puntland, by analyzing the socio-economic challenges faced by IDPs, their coping mechanisms, and the role of various stakeholders in addressing these issues. Understanding the root causes and consequences of poverty among IDPs is essential for developing effective policies and interventions that promote self-sufficiency and long-term resilience. Through this research, we seek to contribute to the ongoing efforts to improve the living conditions and livelihoods of internally displaced persons in Somalia. (Substantive & Report, 2008).

1.1 Objectives of the Study.

- I. To assess the socio-economic challenges faced by internally displaced persons in Galkayo.
- II. To examine the coping mechanisms employed by IDPs to sustain their livelihoods.
- III. To evaluate the role of humanitarian organizations and government interventions in addressing poverty among IDPs .

1.2 Literature review.

Conceptual review. The title "The Impact of Poverty on the Livelihoods of Internally Displaced Persons in Galkayo, Puntland, Somalia" highlights a critical issue affecting a vulnerable population within a specific region in Somalia. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are individuals who have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to various factors such as armed conflict, environmental disasters, and political instability. However, unlike refugees who cross international borders, IDPs remain within their own country, often facing significant hardships as they attempt to rebuild their lives. (Report, 2024).

Galkayo, a town in Puntland, serves as a focal point for this study due to its geographical location and its history as a region affected by both clan conflicts and the broader instability within Somalia. The town has seen a considerable influx of displaced individuals, making it an ideal case study for understanding the impact of poverty on the livelihoods of IDPs. The social, economic, and political challenges in Galkayo often compound the difficulties faced by displaced persons, as they struggle with limited resources, lack of access to basic services, and fragile economic opportunities. (Substantive & Report, 2008).

The study's primary focus is on how poverty affects the everyday survival and well-being of IDPs in Galkayo. Poverty is a multifaceted issue that influences many aspects of a displaced person's life. With limited financial resources, IDPs are often unable to secure adequate housing, quality healthcare, or education for their children. They may be excluded from formal employment opportunities due to a lack of skills, legal documentation, or discrimination. Furthermore, the absence of sustainable livelihoods leads many IDPs to engage in informal or precarious work, often in sectors with low wages and poor working conditions. (IPC Global Partners, 2024).

In addition to economic challenges, poverty can deepen social vulnerabilities, leaving IDPs more susceptible to exploitation and marginalization. The inability to meet basic needs also places additional strain on local communities and the limited humanitarian assistance available, as resources may not be sufficient to support the growing number of displaced persons. (Puntland Government, 2011).

The broader context of Somalia's ongoing political instability and the challenges in governance and infrastructure further complicate the situation. While some humanitarian organizations and local governments attempt to address the needs of IDPs, these interventions are often hindered by logistical challenges, lack of coordination, and political instability. This underscores the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of IDPs, taking into account the role of poverty in shaping their livelihoods and prospects for reintegration. (Bryld et al., 2014).

The findings of this study would not only provide a clearer understanding of the conditions faced by IDPs in Galkayo but also offer valuable insights for policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and international aid agencies. By understanding the intricate relationship between poverty and displacement, interventions can be better designed to improve the livelihoods of IDPs and help them achieve self-reliance. Ultimately, addressing poverty in the context of internal displacement is key to fostering sustainable recovery, rebuilding communities, and promoting peace in regions affected by conflict and displacement. (NRC, 2015).

Empirical review

An empirical review of the title "Impact of poverty on the livelihoods of internally displaced persons" examines existing research and studies that explore how poverty influences the daily lives and well-being of people displaced within their own countries. Several empirical studies highlight that poverty exacerbates the vulnerability of internally displaced persons (IDPs) by limiting their access to essential resources such as food, healthcare, education, and shelter. These studies reveal that IDPs often face heightened economic insecurity, lack of sustainable livelihoods, and social exclusion in both displacement camps and host communities (Bryld et al., 2014).

Research suggests that poverty, coupled with displacement, increases dependency on humanitarian aid, reduces opportunities for income generation, and may lead to adverse coping strategies. These negative outcomes further contribute to a cycle of vulnerability that is difficult to break without targeted interventions. Some studies emphasize that access to formal employment, education, and government support systems play crucial roles in alleviating poverty among IDPs, while others argue that improving social integration and promoting long-term development solutions are key to restoring self-sufficiency (Substantive & Report, 2008).

Overall, the empirical literature consistently underscores the intertwined nature of poverty and displacement, highlighting the need for comprehensive policies that address both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term economic empowerment for IDPs. (Bryld et al., 2014).

Empirical research on this issue consistently highlights that poverty is a key determinant of the challenges IDPs face in accessing basic necessities such as food, clean water, shelter, healthcare, and education. The displacement process frequently disrupts established livelihoods, leading to the loss of income sources and forcing IDPs into dependency on humanitarian aid, which is often insufficient and temporary. Studies have shown that IDPs in poverty-stricken conditions tend to have limited opportunities for self-reliance or social integration into host communities, resulting in heightened marginalization and exclusion. (IPC Global Partners, 2024).

Moreover, poverty exacerbates the psychological strain on IDPs, leading to a sense of hopelessness and frustration, which can hinder their ability to rebuild a stable future. Economic deprivation also affects social relationships, often leading to conflicts over scarce resources within displacement camps or between IDPs and host communities. (Urban et al., 2010).

Several empirical studies emphasize the importance of targeted interventions to alleviate these issues, such as providing access to vocational training, improving infrastructure, and creating job opportunities in both refugee camps and urban areas. Other studies point out that sustainable solutions for IDPs require not only short-term aid but long-term strategies that focus on improving education, healthcare, and overall economic development. Effective policies should prioritize enhancing the livelihoods of IDPs by focusing on the provision of economic opportunities, legal protection, and social inclusion, ultimately facilitating their transition from dependence to self-sufficiency. (Internal et al., 2006).

In conclusion, the empirical literature strongly affirms that poverty and displacement are deeply interconnected, and addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that combines immediate humanitarian aid with long-term strategies aimed at economic empowerment and social integration for IDPs. (Penuel & Statler, 2014).

1.3 Research Design and Methodology.

Research Design.

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative research designs to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of poverty on the livelihoods of internally displaced persons (IDPs). A descriptive research design is used to capture the socio-economic conditions, challenges, and coping mechanisms of IDPs.

3.2. Study Population

Galkio covers 10 IDPs camps of which the researcher focusses on one IDP camp This data is the record of the local government of Galkio the study population is 160 suitable individuals in which 114 was select as a sample size of the study.

3.4. Sample Size

The study was used Slovene's formula to determine the sample size of the actual respondents. Slovene's

$$\text{formula states: } n = \frac{N}{1+N(\alpha)^2}$$

Where; **n** = sample size; **N** = target population; and **α** = 0.05 level of significance

$$n = \frac{160}{1 + 160(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{160}{1 + 160(0.0025)}$$

n = 114 Respondents

Table 3.1: Showing Research Population

Type of population	Target Population	Sample Size	Sample Procedure
Selected doctors in IDPS centers	11	11	Purposive sampling
Local communities of selected IDPS	44	33	Purposive sampling
Selected students in IDPS	105	70	Random sampling
Total	160	114	

Sources: Galkio local government, 2015

3.5 Sample Procedure

The researcher was using a number of sampling techniques which include; simple random sampling and purposive sampling.

3.5.1 Simple Random sampling

Simple random sampling is a widely utilized sampling method in quantitative studies with survey instruments. It is asserted that simple random sampling is favorable in homogeneous and uniformly selected populations Adolph Jenson (2013).

The researcher was also using random sampling method. The selected students in the IDPS schools will be randomly selected to give each an equal chance of representation. All respondents will be assumed to have vital information on the subject matter of the research. Respondents who will be willing to participate will be approached.

3.5.2 Purposive sampling

purposive sampling is described as the technique of selecting the number of sets of components in such a way that the object depending make approximately the same estimation or percent as the population for those personal characteristics that are currently the subject of data gathering (S.R.Myneni, 2015).

The local communities of selected IDP were using purposively selected because the respondents are considered very knowledgeable about poverty and IDP livelihood in selected Tawakal IDPS Galkio punt land Somalia.

Results:

How does Poverty affect the livelihoods on internal displaced persons?

Table1:

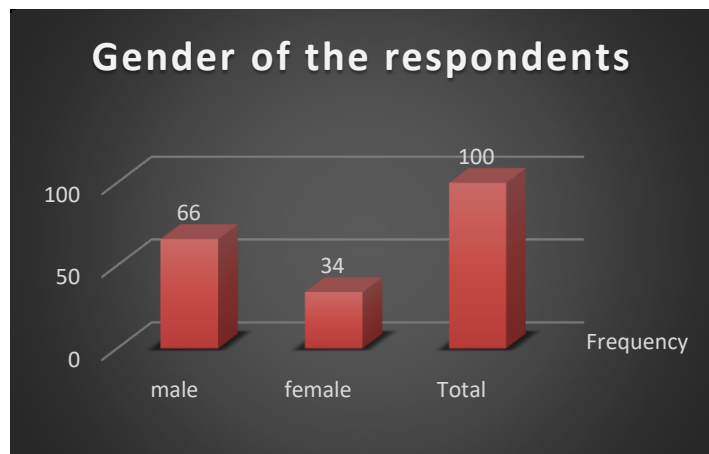
Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.875	19

The data's reliability coefficient is measured at 0.850

Table2:

Gender of the respondents			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	male	66	64.7
	female	34	33.3
	Total	100	98.0
Missing	System	2	2.0
Total		102	100.0

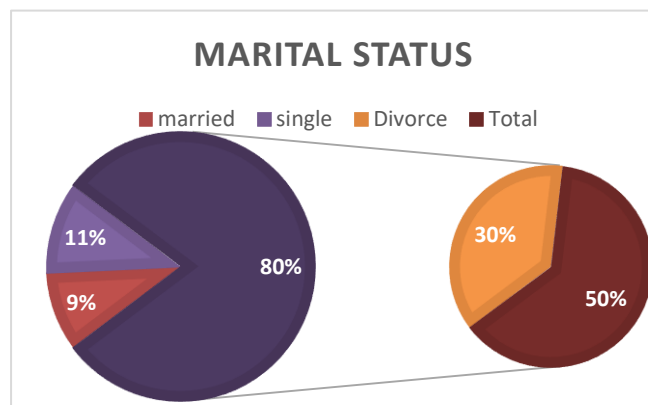


Interpretation

The gender distribution of a sample population is represented by the data in the table. Of the respondents who provided valid answers, 66 persons (64.7%) identified as male, while 34 persons (33.3%) identified as female. A total of 100 valid replies, or 98% of the dataset, were recorded. Two replies were also missing, making up 2% of the sample as a whole. This represents 100% of the dataset and raises the total sample size to 102.

Table3:

Marital status of the respondents			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	married	19	18.6
	single	22	21.6
	Divorce	59	57.8
	Total	100	98.0

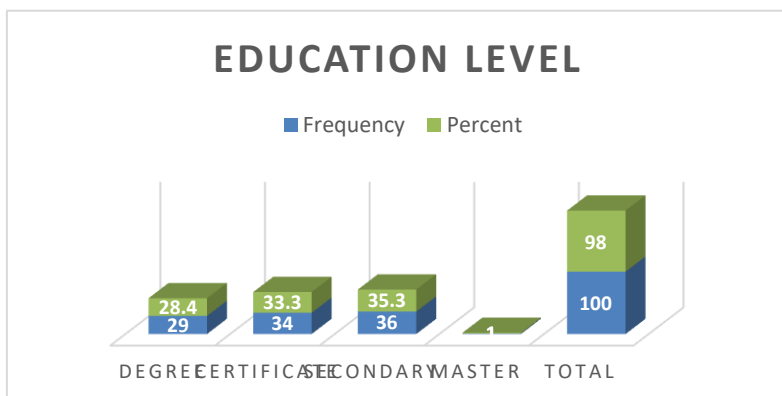


Interpretation

According to the data, the majority of the legitimate responses—59, or 57.8%—are divorced, while 19 people (18.6%) are married and 22 people (21.6%) are single. This represents 98% of the dataset, or 100 valid responses in total. There are also two (2%) missing replies, making the total sample size 102.

Table4:

Educational of the respondents			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Degree	29	28.4
	certificate	34	33.3
	secondary	36	35.3
	Master	1	1.0
	Total	100	98.0

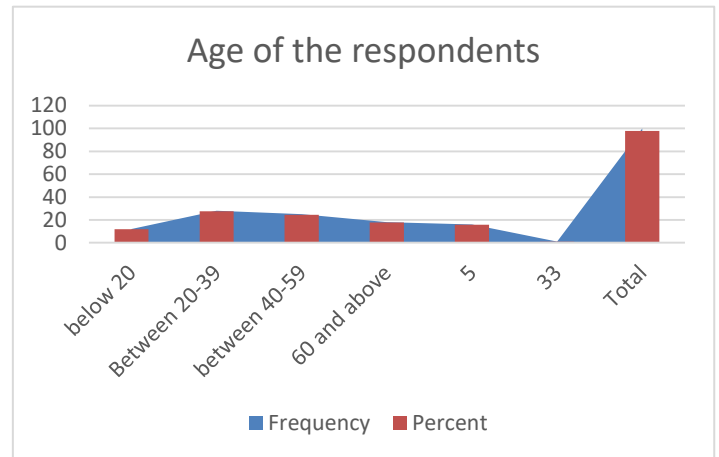


Interpretation

According to the data, of the legitimate responses, 29 people (28.4%) have a degree, 34 people (33.3%) have a certificate, and 36 people (35.3%) have finished secondary school. Just one person (1.0%) holds a master's degree. There are two responses (2%) that are missing, making the total sample size 102. Of these, 100 responses are valid, making up 98% of the dataset.

Table 5:

Age of the respondents			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	below 20	12	11.8
	Between 20-39	28	27.5
	between 40-59	25	24.5
	60 and above	18	17.6
	5	16	15.7
	33	1	1.0
	Total	100	98.0



Interpretation

There are 12 people (11.8%) under 20, 28 (27.5%) between the ages of 20 and 39, 25 (24.5%) between the ages of 40 and 59, and 18 (17.6%) over the age of 60 in the sample. Furthermore, 1 (1.0%) and 16 (15.7%) belong to undefined groups. The sample size is 102, consisting of 100 valid responses (98%) and 2 missing responses (2%).

Table 6:

Correlations			
		conflict	IDPs
Conflict	Pearson Correlation	1	-.147
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.147
	N	99	99
IDPs	Pearson Correlation	-.147	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.147	
	N	99	99

Interpretation

The table shows a **weak positive correlation (0.147)** between conflict and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a sample of 99. This suggests that as conflict increases, the number of IDPs tends to rise slightly. However, the **p-value (0.147)** indicates that this relationship is **not statistically significant**, meaning it could be due to chance. While the data hints at a connection, further research is needed to confirm the impact of conflict on displacement.

Results

The significance level is set at 5% (0.05), corresponding to a confidence level of 95% (0.95). Hypothesis H1 is accepted since the p-value is less than the significance level ($0.00 < 0.05$), while Hypothesis H2 is rejected because the p-value exceeds the significance level ($0.675 > 0.05$).

Table 7:

Regression Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.887	.093		41.926	.000
	Gender of the respondents	.143	.052	.312	2.746	.008
a. Dependent Variable: Conflict						

Interpretation

The table presents the results of a regression analysis examining the relationship between the gender of respondents and conflict.

The constant (3.887, $p = 0.000$) represents the predicted value of conflict when the gender variable is zero. The unstandardized coefficient ($B = 0.143$) indicates that a one-unit increase in the gender variable leads to a 0.143 increase in conflict. The standardized coefficient ($Beta = 0.312$) shows the relative strength of this relationship.

The t-value (2.746) and p-value (0.008) suggest that the gender variable has a statistically significant effect on conflict at the 0.05 level. This means that gender plays a meaningful role in influencing conflict in this model.

Discussion

The results of this study demonstrate how poverty significantly affects internally displaced people's (IDPs') quality of life in Galkio, Puntland, Somalia. According to the findings, IDPs deal with serious socioeconomic issues like high unemployment, food insecurity, limited access to healthcare and education, and subpar housing. Despite not being statistically significant, the weak positive connection (0.147) between conflict and displacement implies that conflict fuels internal displacement, which in turn causes more economic hardship. The demographic research also highlights the disproportionate impact on disadvantaged populations, including women and children, who are more likely to be marginalized and exploited.

With a statistically significant association ($p = 0.008$), the regression analysis highlights the significance of gender in conflict dynamics and shows that gender-related factors affect displacement and conflict experiences. The study also shows that even if humanitarian aid only offers temporary respite, it is nevertheless a vital coping strategy. Initiatives for economic empowerment and sustainable livelihood programs are crucial to ending the cycle of poverty among internally displaced people.

Conclusion

The study comes to the conclusion that IDPs' livelihoods in Galkio, Puntland, are greatly impacted by poverty. A cycle of vulnerability and reliance on humanitarian assistance is sustained by limited access to healthcare, education, and economic possibilities. Despite this weakness, the association study indicates that war contributes to displacement, which exacerbates poverty. Another important aspect affecting how people experience relocation and violence is gender. A comprehensive strategy that gives equal weight to short-term relief initiatives and long-term solutions for sustainable development is needed to address these socioeconomic issues.

Recommendations

1. Economic Empowerment: Implement sustainable livelihood programs, vocational training, and income-generating opportunities to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid.

2. **Education and Skills Development:** Improve access to quality education and skills training tailored to the needs of IDPs, enabling them to secure stable employment.
3. **Gender-Sensitive Interventions:** Develop targeted programs that address the specific challenges faced by women and children in IDP camps, including protection against gender-based violence and access to reproductive healthcare.
4. **Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance:** Enhance coordination between government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations to provide effective and sustained support for IDPs.
5. **Conflict Resolution Strategies:** Address underlying causes of displacement through peacebuilding initiatives and community reconciliation programs to reduce conflict-induced displacement.
6. **Policy Development:** Advocate for policies that promote the socio-economic integration of IDPs into host communities and ensure their rights to land, work, and social services.
7. **Infrastructure Development:** Improve housing, sanitation, and healthcare services within IDP settlements to enhance living conditions and reduce vulnerabilities.

References.

1. . 2012. Human Development Report 2012.
2. 67 UNICEF. 2016. Situation Analysis of Children in Somalia
3. 8 Salo, C (2008): "What is Poverty? Providing Clarification for Canada" Fraser Institute Digital Publication, May 2008, 4. Accessed 19 Nov 2008.
4. Dietz, R. D. (2012). The Estimation of Neighborhood Effects in the Social Sciences: An Interdisciplinary Approach." *Social Science Research* 31: 539—575.
5. Emergency Shelter NFI Cluster (April 2012) Bariga Bossaso Shelter Project: Land Tenure Issues
6. Enda Savage and Neill Wright, IDP Advisory Team, and Esther Kiragu, PDES PDES/2007/02 - RTE 4 September 2007 Real time evaluation of UNHCR's IDP operation in Somalia
7. Engindeniz, E. (2014) Land Dispute Tribunal in Somaliland, PowerPoint presentation, JPLG / UN-Habitat
8. Farah, M.H. and Ali, N.M. (2014) Land Ownership, Law and Practice in Urban Areas: A Case Study in Somaliland
9. FSNAU October 7, 2010 Technical Series Report No VI
10. ka, O., & Olusegun, T. O. (2016). Management of internally displaced persons in Africa: comparing Nigeria and Cameroun. *African Research Review*, 10(1), pp. 193-210.
11. kwarchuk, S. L., Sowinski, C., & LeFevre, J. A. (2014). Formal and informal home learning activities in relation to children's early numeracy and literacy skills: The development of a home numeracy model. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*
12. Lack more R, Boyle JA, Fazel M, Ranasinha S, Gray KM, Fitzgerald G et al. The prevalence of mental illness in refugees and asylum seekers: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLOS Med.* 2020;17(9):e1003337. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1003337
13. Loescher G. (2001) UNHCR and World Politics: A Perilous Path, Oxford, p. 144
14. McConnell CR, Brue SL, Macpherson DA. *Contemporary labor economics*. New York: McGraw-Hill. ; 2009.
15. Statement by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to UNHCR headquarters staff, 30 January 1975
16. Tellis, W. (1997, July). Introduction to case study The Qualitative Report [Electronic] Retrieved on [December 21, 2009] From the World Wide Web: http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR3_2/tellisi.htm
17. UN partner portal Oct 23, 2022, 7:29:47 AM Provision of livelihood support and Vocational skill training to refugees, IDPs and Returnees living in Puntland and Galmudug
18. UN Poverty Research In Somalia In (2012). United Nations (2013). Unemployment and Poverty in Somalia; Working Paper
19. UNHCR Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (March, 2010).
20. UNHCR, "Forced Displacement in the Context of Climate Change: Challenges for States under International Law", Submission to the 6th Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention, 20 May 2009, pp. 9-10.

21. United Nations 21 January 2010 Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin General Assembly
22. World Health Organization 2022 World report on the health of refugees and migrants