



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

RESEARCH CHAIR ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT



*February
2025*

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IDRC · CRDI

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Prof. Opportuna Kweka

**Chair
Research Chair on Forced
Displacement**

The year began with fieldwork in refugee camps in Tanzania, focusing on education and access to legal rights, as well as in Shinyanga and Dar es Salaam, examining rural-to-urban displacement due to climate change, particularly drought. Research on the relocation of nomadic pastoralists this year focused on cultural issues and their connection to other forms of development-induced displacement, including those affected by the crude oil pipeline project. A total of six papers were presented at the Voice of Social Sciences conference in November 2024.

The Chair has also issued a new call for the third cohort of interns, as well as Master's, PhD, and postdoctoral candidates who will receive support to conduct research or work with NGOs dealing with displacement. Seminars under the Chair are progressing, with plans for a webinar in the second semester to engage Global South scholars on forced displacement and their contributions to the field.

As the Trump administration takes office, the Chair remains vigilant regarding changes not only in the aid system but also within the UN and their implications for displaced communities and the Global South in general.

At the global level, the Chair's network has been actively involved in webinars and policy dialogues. Our Chair participated in a Climate Change webinar through both a presentation and the preparation of a policy brief.

This year, we move to other East Africa countries and looking forward to publishing more research and making an impact on policy at both national and regional levels. Additionally, the new project administered by the Chair on climate change and displacement has commenced with inception workshops in Tanzania and Kenya. A data collection protocol for the climate change and displacement nexus has been prepared, and a pilot study has been conducted in both countries.

COORDINATORS' CORNER

Message from the Internship and outreach Coordinator



Saumy Ibrahim
Internship and outreach Coordinator

I am honored to continue coordinating the internship and outreach programs of the Research Chair on Forced Displacement (RCFD). Last year's outreach and internship program in Uganda was a great success, and we are excited to expand our efforts to Kenya this year. Our interns will have the opportunity to engage with new contexts, learn from diverse experiences, and contribute to meaningful work. It is truly inspiring to see how we cultivate awareness and interest among young scholars while also making a tangible impact on the lives of displaced individuals through outreach and internship activities. None of this would be possible without the invaluable support of our partner organizations, and we are deeply grateful for their collaboration. We look forward to strengthening these partnerships, not only in our internship program but also in other key initiatives, such as research.

I also have the privilege of coordinating the research project on the nexus between climate change and forced displacement, a comparative study of Kenya and Tanzania under the RCFD. We have successfully launched the project, bringing together key stakeholders from local and international NGOs to ministry representatives in both countries to co-create research protocols that will generate insights relevant to both organizations and displaced communities. As we prepare for extensive data collection in drought- and flood-prone areas, I am eager to see the knowledge and evidence this research will produce, leading to journal articles, conference presentations, and actionable recommendations.

I look forward to the journey ahead and the impact we will create together!

Message from the Seminar Coordinator



Glory Lymo
Seminar Coordinator

The University of Dar es Salaam Research Chair on Forced Displacement successfully hosted a series of insightful seminars in 2024, bringing together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to explore pressing issues surrounding forced displacement, migration, and humanitarian responses. These discussions deepened our understanding of challenges such as human trafficking, climate-induced displacement, and mega-projects impact on resettlement while advancing conversations on decolonizing migration studies and the role of AI in research.

Building on this momentum, 2025 has already featured engaging seminars, including discussions on Refugee Mobility in Africa and Planning for Relocated Communities: Ensuring the Continuity of Traditional Practices at the Msomera Relocation Site. These sessions highlight the Chair's commitment to research-driven solutions for inclusive, safe, and humane migration policies. We encourage you to stay engaged and participate in upcoming seminars as we work together to shape knowledge, policy, and practice in this critical field.



RESEARCH

Fieldwork in Kigoma refugees camps



Fieldwork in Kigoma with the nomadic pastoralist of Sukuma origin



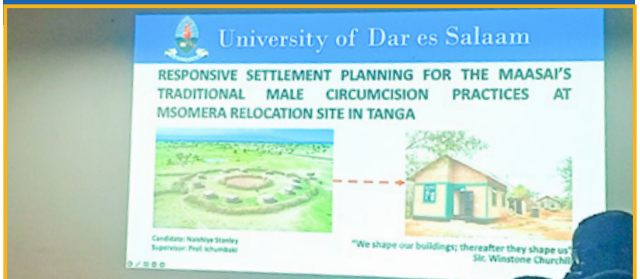
Outreaches with pupils in primary school



Fieldwork in Shinyanga, Kishapu area affected by drought



Fieldwork in Msomera



Fieldwork in Dar es Salaam with displaced Maasai men due to drought and cattle loss



Fieldwork with Maasai women in Dar es Salaam



Fieldwork in Tanga - crude oil pipe



WRITING WORKSHOP AT SILVERSAND HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM



Presentation in the Voice of Social Sciences Conference

DAY TWO

Panel C4-A: Voices of the Displaced Persons	
Chair: Ronald Ndesanjo	
Date: 8 th November 2024, Venue: Economics PhD Room	
9:00-9:10	Review of Laws, Policies (& Practice) on the Refugees and Internally Displacement Policies and Laws in East Africa Christopher Okidi, Leonard Chimanda, Khoti Kamanga & Opportuna Kweka
9:10-9:20	Rethinking the provision of the right to education, associated challenges & their implications on youths in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp in Tanzania Veronica Gabriel Buchumi
9:20-30	Integrating Traditional Male Circumcision Practices into Settlement Planning: A Case Study of Maasai Relocation to Msomera Naishiye Stanley, Eligidius Ichumbaki
9:30-9:40	The Safety of Refugees in Tanzania: A reflection on the practice of the 2024 World Refugee Day theme Uwezo Ramadhan
9:40-9:50	Performing humanitarianism in provision of legal and education rights for refugees in camps Opportuna Kweka, Veronica Buchumi Chris Maina Peter
9:50-10:40	Panel discussion All

Panel C4-B Voices of the Displaced Persons	
Chair: Floriana F. Antonio	
Date: 8 th November 2024, Venue: Economics PhD Room	
11:30-11:40	Unsettled Lives: Refugee Identities, Freedom of Movement, and Access to Livelihoods in Uganda Robert Senath Esuruku

11:40-11:50	Naturalization and Resettlement of Refugees in Post-Colonial Western Tanzania, 1960s-2023 Mussa Kasimu, Iddy R. Magoti & Gasiano N. Sumbai
11:50-12:00	The Ripple Effects of Development-Induced Displacement: Assessing Community Well-Being Post-Relocation Ignasia Mbatta & Richard Mbunda
12:00-12:10	How long should African lives in Displacement? Melha Rout Biel
12:10-12:20	Resilience of Livelihood of Climate displaced and gendered adaptation strategies Saumu Ibrahim, Robert Katikiro, Lekumok Kironyi, Faraja Namkesa, Michael Rikanga
12:20-13:00	Panel discussion All



UDSM-Research Chair on Forced...
@UDSMRCFD

Prof. Khoti Kamanga presenting on the review of the refugee laws and policies, highlighted the mismatch between the 1998 Law and the 2007 refugee policy and recommended for harmonization of these policies. [@IDRC_CRDI](#)
[@IDRC_ESARO](#)



Stories from the field

Right to Educations for Refugees in Nduta and Nyarugusu Camp – Reflections from the Field Visit, October 2024

By Veronica Buchumi



My field research in Nyarugusu Camp in November 2023 motivated me to extend my research from the right to marry and family life for refugees to the right to education for refugee children in the Camps in Kigoma. Recurring concerns relating to final examinations delays during focused group discussions with refugees, especially those from Burundi made me curious to inquire into the realisation of the right to education for refugee children in the camps.

In October 2024, I had the opportunity to visit Nduta and Nyarugusu Camps aiming at obtaining data regarding the realisation of the right to education for refugees. The visit availed me the opportunity to converse with various education stakeholders including state actors, non state actors, and the refugees in Nduta and Nyarugusu Camps. While there are many issues raised during the interactions with the various stakeholders, the power relations among these stakeholders were the most intriguing.

Education governance in the refugee camps takes a multi-level approach involving the Ministry of Home Affairs represented by the Camp Commandant and his supporting team, UNHCR, Implementing Partners including the International Rescues Committee (IRC), Save the Children and Plan International, and the refugees themselves in their different capacities as teachers, students and parents. The power relations between these players shifts and changes overtime depending on the matter at hand. For instance, the Ministry of Home affairs charged with ensuring safety, security and order in the Camps is the overall standard setter to be adhered by the other players. On another dimension, the UNHCR, as a core player in the realisation of the right to education for refugees sets and regulates various standards relating to the establishment and operation of schools in the camps through various implementing partners or the education working group.

At the time of the visit, two major implementing partners oversaw education services i.e. IRC and Save the Children. The two partners owned, operated, and managed primary and secondary schools in both Camps. Subject to the general regulations issued by the state authorities and the UNHCR, the two-implementing organisations set, manage, and operate schools based on their internal rules and plans which are not necessarily similar. The apparent outcome of this arrangement are disparities in the management of the schools and services provided in the camp schools. For instance, field data reveals that teachers and students in the different schools are subjected to different school conditions and incentives depending on who is operating the school. As result, teachers if given the freedom would opt to seek employment in the schools that they consider having better working conditions and incentives. Likewise, parents would prefer enrolling or moving their children to schools where there are better learning and teaching environment.

On its face this practice is normal, existing in our daily lives in the education sector with different schools having different standards, benefits, programmes and incentives for their employees and students. Consequently, in a normal life setting parents and children are also free to choose where to enrol and place their children for education. Nevertheless, the camp setting is designed differently from life outside the camps. Unlike others, refugees in camps have limited space to exercise their agency. The teachers' freedom to choose where to teach or seek a teaching opportunity, and the parents' choice where to even enrol their children for schooling is indeed limited. The lingering question after this field visit relates to the possibility of having negotiations among the different actors in the education sector to ensure minimum differential treatment for refugees given their limited choice and agency within the camps.

With the law that remains unchanged since 1998, the Tanzania landscape of legal protection of refugees in camps remains with protracted challenges. These include strategic legal ambiguities and contradictions, potentially unenforceable rights, lack of parent Act's guiding Regulations, and limited space for legal rights awareness among refugees. While these challenges may primarily be attributed to the host state, the global decline of international cooperation and more particularly decline of funding, has made the state unable to

simultaneously deal with the wellbeing of both nationals and non-nationals.

The above narrations emanate from fieldwork conducted in November 2024 collecting data pertaining to two and the only remaining camps in Tanzania Nyarugusu and Nduta. While Nyarugusu is composed of both Congolese and Burundians, Nduta is composed of Burundians alone. It is recommended that the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, 2018 especially on operationalizing the principle of international cooperation and responsibility sharing should be incorporated in the global refugee policy and practices especially in prioritizing support in terms of equitable funding and capacity to countries that have hosted large number of refugees for a long time. This may lead to improvement of the livelihoods and wellbeing of refugees that are hosted in developing countries including Tanzania. [MOU1]

The legal protection narratives of Tanzania represents majority of states in the Global South something that signifies the continued North-South power dimensions that trace their origins from colonialism.



Who wants to move and who does not want to move from the Ngorongoro conservation area and the reasons

By
RICHARD MBUNDA
a Postdoc candidate of
the Chair



This research endeavour took me to both places, Msomera in Tanga, where Maasai pastoralists are relocating to from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). The most striking revelation that I encountered in the so-called voluntary relocation exercise, is that the Maasai community is divided, and the society in general is entangled by mistrust and a deep suspicion of being manipulated by authorities or betrayed by their very own.

On the one hand, there is a group of youth, converts of modern religion in Christianity and those who literally do not have cattle and they consider relocating to Msomera as a revelation to their livelihood security in as much as they have eventually gotten access to and ownership of land and a decent house. However, on the other hand, there is a group, composed of those who still hold to traditional religious beliefs and rituals; those who have cattle; and rely on traditional medicines

for survival, find it extremely difficult to leave the NCA. Unfortunately, these ones are the majority and most of the traditional leaders, who wild more power and influence in society also belong to this category.

Henceforth, those who have moved to Msomera are regarded as traitors and more or less like enemies of the future of the pastoralist community in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCAA). They are automatically not required to go back to Ngorongoro by the conservation authority, but they are also unwelcome to members of the community who have refused to relocate. The data analysis process is underway, and the narratives from the participants who have relocated; those who have refused to relocate; the NCA authority, and the Government Departments in Dodoma promises an interesting outcome with regard to the conservation and livelihood security nexus in Ngorongoro.

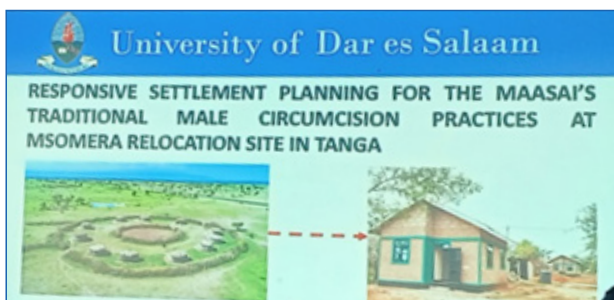
Cultural Identity and Settlement Planning for Relocating Communities: A Maasai Architect's Mission

By Naishiye Stanley

Growing up as a Maasai girl, I experienced a rich cultural heritage where traditions, community, and a deep connection to the land shaped every aspect of life. This upbringing inspired my journey into architecture and heritage management. Seeing the intricate design of Maasai bomas, the communal way of living, and the spiritual significance of landscapes fueled my curiosity about how physical environments influence cultural identity. I pursued a five-year bachelor's degree in architecture before transitioning into a Master's in Heritage Management, which I am currently undertaking. The University of Dar es Salaam Research Chair on Forced Displacement funds my research, allowing me to explore how settlement planning preserves cultural traditions during relocation.

My research on the Maasai relocation from Ngorongoro to Msomera stems from both professional and personal motivations. As an architect, I seek to understand how settlement planning can accommodate traditional practices, particularly rites of passage like Maasai traditional male circumcision. As a Maasai, I feel a responsibility to ensure that relocation efforts preserve the customs that define my people. The field visit to Msomera provided firsthand insights into the challenges of adapting to a new environment while maintaining cultural practices.

I engaged with the relocated Maasai community and listened to stories of resilience and adaptation. Elders shared concerns about losing traditional spaces for ceremonies, while younger generations expressed a mix of hope and uncertainty about their new surroundings. These realities reinforced my belief that settlement planning for relocating communities must remain inclusive, considering physical environment not only for basic needs but also the cultural and social fabric of a community. I focus on using settlement planning as a tool to preserve culture and traditions during planned relocations. My experience in Msomera strengthens my commitment to advocating for culturally responsive planning, one that respects heritage while embracing progress. My research serves as a mission to ensure that my people's identity remains intact, no matter where they settle.



Insights from the Field: Understanding Resilience of Immobile Agro-pastoralists

Resilient Women of Kishapu: Navigating Household Resource Use

Women in Kishapu rural areas silently undertake vital responsibility of handling household resources while facing unexpected obstacles. Women have quiet yet powerful approaches to protect family survival despite men being traditionally responsible for big harvest and financial decisions. Wives can access some economic planning information through the household meeting practice called "shikome." While some situations grant women a say in household finances men usually manage the family money and some spend it more on personal matters than household needs. Women must bear responsibility to find solutions when resources become scarce because they depend on farming activities as well as saving small amounts of harvests and seeking support from social networks to maintain their households.

Women in Kishapu managed to develop survival techniques because their finances became unpredictable after some men stopped supporting families and the economy showed decline. The operation of harvested produce storage rests with some women who also quietly bargain for financial shares before their husbands conduct transactions. Women in Kishapu make agriculture their main source of protection against uncertainty. The crucial position that female farmers maintain within their households has become more important than ever because of climate change and population movement make it imperative to provide rural women with better decision-making power and financial control.



A group of men, women and youth engaged in focus group discussion, Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Harvesting hope: Migration, conflict and resilience in Mkuyuni

Robert Katikiro

In the heart of Kasulu District, Mkuyuni hamlet is undergoing a profound transformation. Over the past decade, waves of Sukuma agro-pastoralists have migrated to the area, drawn by its relatively fertile land and access to water—resources that have become increasingly scarce in their home regions. For many, the move is not one of choice but necessity, as erratic rainfall, shrinking grazing lands, and resource competition push them away from their ancestral homes. “Back home, we waited for rains that never came. Here, we can farm and keep our cattle,” explains a female youth, who relocated from Geita in 2017.

One of the most unexpected findings during the fieldwork was how deeply social dynamics have shifted due to this migration. While conflicts over land and resources were anticipated, what stood out was the way roles of women have been transformed. Traditionally, Waha women were primarily engaged in farming, but with increasing pressure on land, they have been forced to find alternative livelihoods. Some have ventured into livestock trade, a field previously dominated by men, while others have become more involved in market activities. “Before, we had space to farm without worry. Now, we compete for land with newcomers, and it is getting harder,” shared one female farmer from Mkuyuni. However, adaptation has been key, and for some, migration has opened new economic doors.

Beyond economic shifts, the complexity of integration was another striking discovery. While tensions exist, particularly between herders and farmers over land encroachment, a sense of coexistence is gradually emerging. Intermarriages between Waha and Sukuma, market collaborations, and the sharing of farming knowledge are fostering a new cultural mix. Kasulu district community development officer noted, “There is simply not enough land for both farming and grazing, and without proper planning, tensions will continue to rise.” Yet, even amid conflicts, the communities are finding ways to live together, though not without struggles.

Perhaps the biggest lesson learned from this research is that climate-induced migration is not just about movement—it is about adaptation. The newcomers are not just passive migrants; they reshape the economic and social structures of the places they settle in. In Mkuyuni, they have introduced ox-plowing techniques, expanded rice farming—previously uncommon in Kasulu—and stimulated local cattle markets. While this has boosted economic activity, it has also deepened land scarcity and heightened the need for clear land-use policies.

The story of Mkuyuni is just one example of how migration is reshaping rural Tanzania. The challenge is no longer whether migration will continue—it will—but how communities and policies can adapt to it. Without structured interventions, both host communities and migrants risk long-term instability. The question remains: how can rural landscapes sustain both their people and the growing pressures of migration?



A group of men, women and youth engaged in focus group discussion at Mkuyuni hamlet

MONTHLY SEMINAR SERIES

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC
AI Applications in Education

PRESENTER

Prof. Ketsi Singh
CEO of SRII, Palo Alto, California
Visiting Professor,
Joseph University,
Beijing, China

Date: 22 October 2024 | Time: 10:00 – 12:00 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code below for registration

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www.udsm.ac.tz

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC
Geopolitics, the refugee regime, and the betrayal of the rules-based international order

PRESENTER

James Milner
Professor of Political Science
Carleton University
Project Director of LERRN

Date: 20th November, 2024 | Time: 16:30-17:30 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code to join the meeting

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UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC
Using Social Network Analysis to map transnational networks of cooperation in regional migration governance: the EAC case study

PRESENTER

Masika Daniela Vaninetti
A PhD candidate
Transnational Governance,
The Scuola Normale Superiore
and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
in Florence (Italy)

Date: 26th November, 2024 | Time: 16:00-17:00 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code to join the meeting

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UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC
Decolonizing Forced Migration Studies

PRESENTER

Prof. Patricia Daley
Professor of the Human
Geography of Africa,
School of Geography and the
Environment, University of Oxford

Date: 5 November, 2024 | Time: 16:00-17:00 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code below for registration

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CHUO KIKUU CHA DAR ES SALAAM
Ndaki ya Sayansi za Jamii
Idara ya Jiografia

KIGODA CHA TAFITI ZA MASUALA YA WATU WANAOLAZIMIKA KUHAMIA

Mada Kuu

Uhamaji Usio wa Hiari: Nafasi na Ushiriki wa Wanawake katika Kutunza Mazingira na Matumizi ya Nishati Jadidifu

Mwenyekiti

Prof. Opportuna Kweka

Watoa Mada

Dkt. Saumu Ibrahim

Dkt. Casiana Lwiwa

Bw. Michael David Rikanga

Tarehe: 7 Machi, 2025
Muda: 16:00 – 18:00 hrs (EAT)

Skani kodi hii Kujitunga

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UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC
Understanding Integration: Perspectives from Refugees and Hosts in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp

PRESENTER

Gordon Ogutu
PhD candidate
School of Applied Language and
Intercultural Studies (SALIS)
Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences
Dublin City University (DCU)

Date: 25th March, 2025 | Time: 16:00-17:00 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code to join the meeting

Hekima ni Uhuru
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Networking and collaboration with stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

linkages at the national level- TCRC 60 years in the picture below Marium our new research and administrative assistant handing a newsletter to a representative of the office of the Refugee Department, looking is the Director of the TCRC at the TCRS' s 60th anniversary Regional meeting in Nairobi organized by REDSS.



Presentation on Global South's Perspectives on Climate Change and Displacement at the Global level.


GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISPLACEMENT

LERRN IDRC-CRDI Canada

30 January, 2025
9:00 - 10:30am EST | Zoom

REGISTER NOW

Moderated by Dr. Myriam Cherti, IDRC Research Chair, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P) in Rabat

			
Andrew Harper Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Amal El Ouassif Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco	Desiree del Rosario Sosa Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Opportuna Kweka University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISPLACEMENT

LERRN IDRC-CRDI Canada

30 January, 9:00 - 10:30am EST | Zoom

Register now



OPPORTUNA KWEKA
University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



IDRC-LERRN Webinar: Global South Perspectives on Climate Change and Displacement

Monday, February 24, 2025

On January 30, 2025, a panel discussion titled “Global South Perspectives on Climate Change and Displacement” took place online. This event is the second webinar hosted by the IDRC Research Chairs on Forced Migration and supported by LERRN: The Local Engagement Refugee Research Network. It featured Andrew Harper from UNHCR, Amal El Ouassif (Morocco), Desiree del Rosario (Dominican Republic), Opporutuna Kweka (Tanzania) and was moderated by Luisa Felina Freier (Peru). The discussion served as a reflection on the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), convened in Baku in November 2024, in addressing the impact of climate change on dynamics of forced displacement. In addition to focusing on supporting Global South to protect their people and economies against climate disasters and sharing the benefits of the clean energy boom, an objective of COP29 was to affirm the benefits of inclusive approaches that ensure the meaningful participation of highly vulnerable people from the climate frontlines. Given the limited progressed witnessed at COP29, the webinar asked if and how new forms of localized knowledge on the relationship between climate change and displacement can support innovative thinking on better responses.

Andrew Harper, as Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), opened the conversation with a presentation on climate change as a vulnerability multiplier, driving displacement and protection needs around the world. The relationship between climate change and displacement is not simple, but rather it requires us to consider the interlapping drivers of vulnerability which include, climate change, conflict and violence, water resources, demographics, food insecurity, migration and displacement and other moderating factors. Populations being affected must be included not only in the participation of research, but more importantly, in the decision making of policies.

The IDRC Research Chairs panelists reflected on COP29 and showcased the results of research from different regional contexts, highlighting the importance of localized knowledge and its inclusion in policy discussions. Prof. Opporutuna Kweka as the IDRC Research Chair for Tanzania, outlined some of the local work that she and her research team have produced in Tanzania with nomadic pastoralists. Dr. Desiree del Rosario, as the IDRC Research Chair for the Dominican Republic, provided her reflections on COP29 from a Caribbean island context. There are inconsistencies between practice and discourse on how the commitment and perspective of small island states is assumed on the Island of Santo Domingo and in the Dominican Republic. Some of the work conducted by the Research Chair has looked at how women and girls continue to experience disadvantages. The elements that draw attention have to do with the absence of timely and effective responses from public policies and institutions. Dr. Amal El Ouassif, as the IDRC Research Chair for Morocco, reflected on the Migration and Climate Loss Fund COP29 highlighted how the lack of adequate financial commitments would have serious impacts for countries at the frontline of climate migration who will struggle to implement sustainable adaptation and resilience measures. Within the context of Morocco, current policies remain insufficient to address the complexity of migration as both an adaptive strategy and a forced displacement dynamic. In policy spaces, it is key to take a constructivist perspective as migration should not only be seen as a crisis but as a part of a broader climate resilience strategy.

New seed money for establishment of School of thought on displacement

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR REGIONAL WEBINAR SERIES

TOWARDS A GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ON DISPLACEMENT:

Localizing Knowledge Production or Producing Local Knowledge?



Background

This call is part of a collaborative work between four IDRC research chairs on forced displacement located at the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Asian Institute of Technology, Center on Gender and Forced Displacement (India), and the University of Guadalajara (Mexico). It stems from a larger multiyear collaboration between a 12-chair global research network funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Since Chimni's 1998 article in the Journal of Refugee Studies on the geopolitics of refugee studies, there has been a call for greater attention to research produced in the Global South by the actors most affected by forced migration. Implicit in these calls is a sense that scholarship from the North is subject to the policy paradigms of the Global North, especially concerning containment and exclusion. Subsequent scholars, such as Landau (2012) and Shivakoti and Milner (2022), have called for new approaches to overcome power asymmetries in research partnerships to allow for research to be foregrounded in the research priorities of Global South researchers. Less attention has been paid to the differentiated knowledge global South researchers produce on displaced persons.

This call for papers seeks to go beyond geopolitical/postcolonial/epistemological arguments that only highlight the historical domination of the Global South by the Global North and the contemporary asymmetries and diverse inequalities between them. Instead, it seeks to draw upon the diverse perspectives of scholars based in contexts across the Global South working on forced migration and displacement issues.

The call seeks to organize a three day online regional webinar to foster discussion about progress and barriers in the generation of knowledge on forced displacement in the Global South. The ultimate goal is to develop a "Global South School of Thought" on human displacement, which can air the voices of scholars in the Global South on displacement at the global level. Using the concept of "situated knowledge", as defined by Donna Haraway, the regional workshops will examine how such knowledge can reshape global discourses, particularly in terms of understanding displacement from the Global South perspectives.

The webinar is informed by the fact that the policies and laws on displacement, and in particular refugees, originate from the Global North and are adopted by the Global South. We therefore ask: What are different ways in which the global South conceptualizes displacement and what are new and emerging ways of knowing and studying displaced people which are not part of mainstream Global North knowledge? The webinars will culminate in the publication of selected academic works that synthesize insights from the workshop and provide a framework for future comparative research projects between Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. The event will also serve as a learning and experience-sharing opportunity for researchers and practitioners working on forced displacement, thereby ensuring that stakeholders are aligned in their understanding and approaches to finding sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced people.

Objectives of the workshop

- Explore theories relevant to displacement in the Global South;
- Explore methodologies used in studying displacement in the Global South;
- Provide regional contributions to displacement studies in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America;
- Contribute to displacement policies in these regions by highlighting unique perspectives and contributions to policies from these regions.



Interested candidates should send their submissions to Paula Banerjee at paulabanerjee44@gmail.com (for those from Asia); to Hiram Abel Angel Lara at hiram.angel@cucea.udgx.mx (for those from Latin America); or to Oportuna Kweka at oportuna.kweka@gmail.com and Abebaw Minaye - abebaw.minaye@aau.edu.et (for those from Africa).

Call for papers

We invite conceptual and empirical papers, both of which may include policy discussions, to be presented during the three-day webinars on the Global South School of Thought on Displacement. The papers should answer one or more of the following questions which will further be grouped into conceptual, empirical, and policy papers:

1. What is Global South? Why does the Global South matter when it comes to issues of displacement?
2. What is decolonization? Does decolonial theory offer different ways of understanding displaced people in the Global South and contribute to the production of sustainable durable solutions?
3. What is localization? Is localization possible given the current world order? If so, how?
4. What is a "sustainable durable solution"? What are examples and ways in which sustainable durable solutions have been practiced in different places?
5. What policy directions for the displaced in the Global South will ensure emancipation and sustainability?
6. How are the agencies of displaced people exercised in any of the above contexts?
7. What stories of the displaced inform our research and methodology?
8. What are the challenges and prospects for the studies on forced displacement in the global South in the face of the current policies of the Global North in particular the United States?

Workshop Dates

The workshop will be held online from May 7th to 9th, 2025. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

May 7th (Asia): 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM IST
(India Standard Time)

May 8th (Latin America): 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM CDT
(Central Daylight Time)

May 9th (Africa): 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM EAT
(East Africa Time)

Important deadlines

March 31, 2025: Send title, 500-word abstract, name, email, and affiliation to the email below

April 30, 2025: Send full paper

May 1-6, 2025: Notification of acceptance

May 7-9, 2025: Online webinars and presentations

Eligibility

Open to: Academia, Graduate Students, Practitioners, Policy Makers/ Government, CSOs.

Awards: Participants will be awarded a certificate of attendance with logos of the four institutions organizing the webinar. Authors of the best papers will be paid a token honorarium and their papers will be published in an edited volume.

Language: Submissions may be made in English, French, or Spanish.

New project on climate change and displacement



Dr. Willis Okumu

Is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) based in Nairobi, in the Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crimes (ENACT) research program. Willis has conducted extensive research on peace, conflict, pastoralists' livelihoods, and transnational organised crimes in Eastern Africa. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the University of Cologne, a Master of Arts degree in Culture and Environment in Africa from the University of Cologne, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Nairobi.



Dr. Njoki Wamai

Is an Assistant Professor in the International Relations Department at the United States International University-Africa (USIU-A). Her research interests encompass transitional justice, critical peace and security studies, African feminisms, gendered climate change, decoloniality and the politics of knowledge production. Dr. Wamai has researched on gender dimensions in peace and security, climate change, co-authoring several papers and chapters examining women's roles in post-conflict processes and international intervention in Kenya. Beyond academia, she has worked with civil society organizations in Kenya as a human rights defender and researcher focusing on women's rights and peacebuilding initiatives.



Dr. Nicodemus Nyandiko

Is a Senior Researcher fellow in the Department of Disaster Management and Sustainable Development of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kenya where he is a Chair of the Department of Disaster Management and Sustainable Development. He holds a PhD in Disaster Management and Sustainable Development. His research interest that spans over 20 years' focuses on food security, climate change, disaster risk reduction and climate mobility. He is a founding member of the Africa Science and Technology Advisory Group for DRR. Dr Nicodemus is the immediate Co-Chair of Climate Mobility Africa Research Network (CMARN). In 2022, Dr Nicodemus was appointed to join the Platform on Disaster Displacement's Advisory Committee. He recently published an article on "Integrating human mobility in Disaster Risk reduction policies of African States".



Prof. Opportuna Kweka

Prof. Kweka is an associate professor in geography, She also teaches in Population Studies and Research Centre. She is currently the Chair of the Research Chair on Forced Displacement, at the University of Dar es Salaam, which is hosting this Project. She has a Bachelor in Land use, Planning and Environmental Studies and a Master of Demography from the University of Dar es Salaam. She did her PhD at the University of Minnesota. She has been doing her research on Maasai pastoralists, refugees, water, energy and natural resource management. She has published more than 40 papers and supervised more than 30 masters and PhD students.



Dr. Richard Faustine Sambaiga

Richard Faustine Sambaiga is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Basel in Switzerland. His research interests include climate change and health, anti-corruption, security, systems of knowledge production and dissemination, social transformation, youth, and gender.



Dr. William John Walwa

William John Walwa is a political scientist working in the Department of Political Science at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). Dr. Walwa has extensive knowledge and experience in implementing researches and related assignments – regarding peace, conflict and security studies, democracy, human rights, governance, environmental security, forced displacement, migration, violent extremism (VE), terrorism and prevention/countering VE in the Eastern African and Southern African regions. He holds two Masters Degrees in Peace and Conflict Studies and Political Science from the United Nations Mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica and the UDSM in Tanzania, respectively.



Assistants in the research on climate change and displacement



Otwori Dennis Otwor

Is a distinguished academic and practitioner in Disaster Management and Sustainable Development with over a decade of experience in teaching, research, and consultancy. Based at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Kenya, Otwor holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Disaster Management and Sustainable Development, from MMUST. Otwor's expertise spans disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, food security, and sustainable development, with a special focus on climate-smart agriculture, community resilience, and migration in the context of climate change. His academic contributions include peer-reviewed publications on climate-smart agriculture, food security, and disaster risk reduction strategies.

Beyond academia, Otwor has served as a lead researcher and consultant on high-impact projects, including renewable energy utilization, water security, and climate variability. As an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment expert accredited by Kenya's NEMA, he has developed and implemented environmental management strategies for various stakeholders.

Otwori is a seasoned trainer, having conducted workshops and training programs on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and resilience building. His participation in international conferences and fellowships, such as the Africa Climate Mobility Academy, underscores his commitment to bridging the gap between research and practice for sustainable development.

His teaching portfolio includes courses in disaster risk science, community development, and emergency management, where he equips students with practical and theoretical knowledge to address global and local challenges.

Otwori's professional affiliations include membership in the Association of Disaster Management and Conflict Resolution of Kenya (ADMCRK) and active contributions to international research platforms like ORCID and ResearchGate. Driven by a vision for resilient and sustainable communities, Otwor remains a thought leader and advocate for innovative solutions to contemporary challenges in disaster management and sustainable development.



Issa N. Omary

Is a researcher at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), the United Republic of Tanzania. He holds a Master's degree in Peace and Development Studies (with Distinction) from the Linnaeus University, Sweden. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Administration (First Class) from the University of Dar es Salaam. Currently, he is designated as Assistant Lecturer in Political Science, International at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, College of Social Sciences, UDSM. At UDSM, he teaches such courses as Government and Politics in Tanzania (PS 113), International Relations 1 (PS 222), Civil Society and the State (PS 337), Regional Integration (PS345), Peace-making and Conflict Resolution (PS 347), Pan-African Thought and Practice 1 (AS220)



Hawa Adinani Hasani

Is a Tutorial Assistant at the University of Dar es Salaam. In 2024, she was appointed as a Board Member for the Board of Directors at the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team. Prior to this, she worked with OpenMap Development Tanzania in various capacities, including as a Programs Lead (2022–2023) and Partnership & Communications Lead (2018–2021). Her experience includes project management strategies and implementation. Hawa obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from the University of Dar es Salaam. In addition to her formal education, she has undertaken specialized training in social media management and engagement, Participatory Learning and Action (PLA), Java OpenStreetMap Editor (JOSM) and IDeditor, as well as Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL).



Mr. Nassoro R. Kitunda

Is an Assistant Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam. Education Background: Experienced sociologist in areas of Gender, health and population studies, rural and urban, as well as policy sociology. Also, experience & skills in public speaking, lecturing, organizing, research lead, and political economy analysis. Education history, bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Dar Es Salaam (2016). Also, my Masters of Arts in Sociology focuses on healthcare inequality, the commodification of healthcare, health insurance, and neoliberalism (Dar Es salaam-Tanzania) from the University of Dar Es Salaam (2020). Studied primary education at Wailes Primary School (Temeke-Dar Es Salaam) & Secondary education at Marumbo secondary school & Benjamin Mkapa High School at Coastal and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania respectively (2006, 2010, and 2016).

Message from Talia Coordinators, Climate Change and Displacement Project – Kenya



I am pleased to share an update on our ongoing efforts to address the nexus between climate change and displacement in Kenya. Through collaborative research, stakeholder engagement, and community-driven insights, we are deepening our understanding of how climate risks—such as droughts, floods, and changing migration patterns—are reshaping livelihoods across the country.

Recently, our team successfully conducted a pilot study in Makueni County, engaging local communities to assess the real impact of climate change on displacement. This was followed by an Inception Workshop in Nairobi, where key stakeholders—including government officials, civil society, and academic researchers—came together to refine strategies for evidence-based policy solutions. These conversations reinforced the urgency of integrating local knowledge and adaptive measures into broader climate resilience frameworks.

As we move forward, our focus remains on amplifying community voices, strengthening partnerships, and advocating for policies that safeguard vulnerable populations. Climate change is not just an environmental challenge—it is a human challenge. Together, we can build sustainable, inclusive solutions that protect both people and ecosystems.

INCEPTION WORKSHOP



A presentation from Erika - Office of the Vice president's office in Tanzania



Group photo of stakeholders for the workshop from NGOs, government and UN



Group photo of members of the community in Dodoma during the pilot fieldwork at Chemba

Inception Workshop in Kenya held on the 13th Dec 2024 at the United States International University - Africa



Discussions from invited stakeholders - government, NGOs, INGOs and UN



Community at Makueni County during the Pilot in Kenya

UDSM-Research Chair on Forc... · 2h
Our Chair Prof. [@KwekaOpportuna](#) is in Nairobi at USIUA kick-starting our second [@IDRC_CRDI](#) [@IDRC_ESARO](#) funded research on climate change and displacement nexus. The Inception is attended by government, NGOs, UN and local organization for co-creating.



Group Photo with the Stakeholders during the inception

A Visit to Wangari Maathai Park: Land, Flooding, and Sanitation Challenges

By Prof. Opportuna Kweka

Visiting Wangari Maathai Park was an eye-opening experience, offering a glimpse into how communities frame their narratives around land, environmental conservation, and urban resilience. One of the most striking observations was how strongly the local communities resisted the loss of their land. Many residents expressed deep concerns about industries polluting the river, which they depend on for water and agriculture. Their struggle to protect their environment reflects a broader fight for land rights, clean water, and sustainable livelihoods.

Despite these challenges, the community has taken proactive measures to improve their surroundings. They have established vegetable gardens to sustain themselves and created green spaces where children can play. This effort not only enhances food security but also fosters a sense of community and environmental stewardship. However, one of the most pressing issues remains poor sanitation. Due to inadequate

waste management and lack of proper drainage systems, the accumulation of waste near the river worsens water contamination. The pollution from both industrial and domestic waste increases the risk of diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and other waterborne illnesses.

The situation at Wangari Maathai Park bears a strong resemblance to the experiences of residents living along the Msimbazi River in Dar es Salaam. Like the communities in Wangari Maathai Park, Msimbazi residents face recurrent flooding, yet they continue to cultivate vegetables and depend on the city for their livelihoods. However, with poor drainage and insufficient waste disposal, stagnant floodwaters often become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, leading to a rise in malaria cases. The combination of flooding, informal settlements, and a lack of sanitation infrastructure makes these urban communities highly vulnerable to health crises.





This visit reinforced the idea that urban flooding cannot be studied in isolation. Understanding its impact requires looking at the intersection of environmental degradation, economic survival, and public health. Without proper waste disposal and drainage systems, flooding exacerbates sanitation challenges, leading to serious health risks for already vulnerable populations. It is a

story of people adapting to their circumstances, striving to protect their land, and finding ways to live sustainably despite the challenges posed by urbanization, pollution, and climate change. Addressing these issues requires integrated solutions that combine environmental conservation, improved sanitation, and policies that prioritize the health and well-being of urban communities.



Thank you Careen!



We also bid farewell to Careen who went to take new permanent job at Manyara district as a nutritionist and welcome Marium our former intern to the position of research and administrative assistant of the Chair. Above the Chair giving a gift to Careen. Clapping is the Head of the Department of Geography.

Welcome Marium!





University of Dar Es Salaam
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