

Dynamics in vulnerability | Researching the environment-migration nexus of a rural deprived area of Ethiopia, Africa

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Background

While there is general agreement in the scientific community that environmental change has the potential to significantly impact migration patterns, **the evidence of migration occurring directly as a consequence of environmental change is limited** (IPCC 2019: 611-612).

In LMICs, especially in Africa, only a few **large-sample studies** have examined the evolution and transformation of migration systems under changing environmental conditions, due to the difficulties involved in capturing the dynamic component of both dimensions – the human mobility and the environmental conditions (Borderon et al., 2019).

Overarching goal

Employ **meso-scale, longitudinal demographic surveillance (HDSS) data** in the study of the **migration–environment nexus**, in order to bridge macro- and micro-level studies, to consider the **temporal dimension** and to **integrate environmental data**.

Data & Methods

It **combines comprehensive long-term migration information** from the Demographic Surveillance System with **environmental data**, and specifically addresses the spatial and temporal dynamics of the nexus.

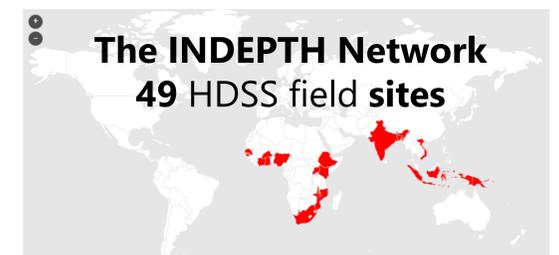
We have been using longitudinal data collected by the Kersa Demographic Surveillance and Health Research Center (KDS-HRC), Oromia region, Eastern Ethiopia, **since 2007**. The studied site currently represents about **148,000 individuals** in **24,000 households** in **24 kebeles**.

Preliminary results

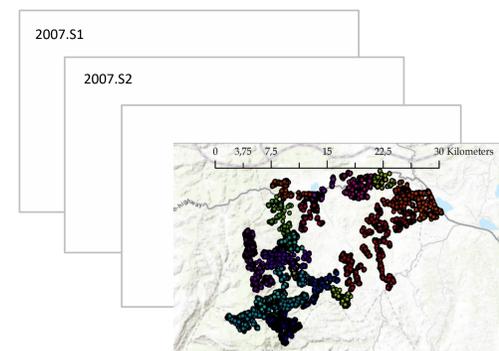
There are underutilized existing **data sources** with high potential for enhancing the understanding of the migration–environment nexus. HDSS data are **comparable quantitative data**.

“Comparable quantitative, longitudinal, disaggregated and georeferenced data are needed”

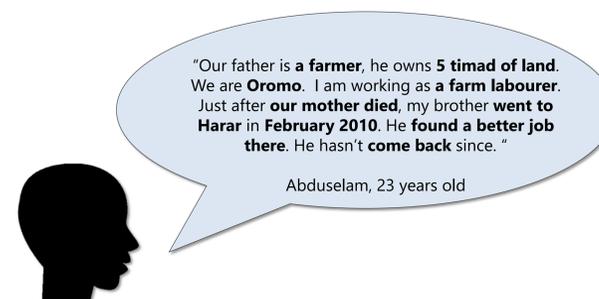
Migration data portal, IOM



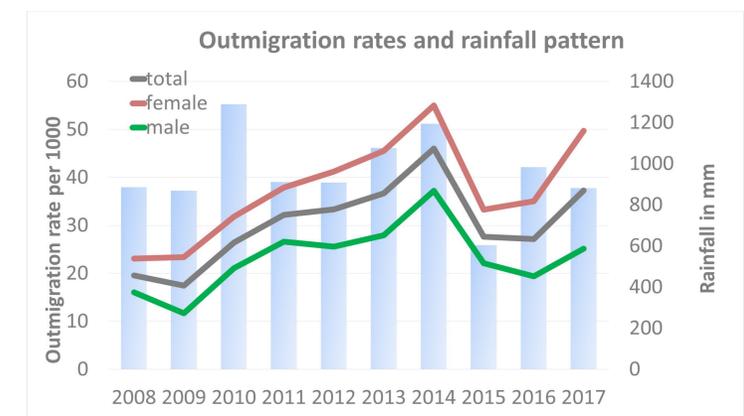
Detailed data



Georeferenced data



Exhaustive and disaggregated data



Longitudinal data

To investigate human dimensions of global environmental change, **we need to explore emerging and already existing alternative data sources.**

References

IPCC (2019): Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. https://report.ipcc.ch/srocc/pdf/SROCC_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf
Borderon, M., Sakdapolrak, P., Muttarak, R., Kebede, E., Pagogna, R., and Sporer, E. (2019). Migration influenced by environmental change in Africa: A systematic review of empirical evidence. In: Demographic Research, 41 (18), 491–544. <https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2019.41.18>

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