

Five Factors Driving Neglected Crises

4 The climate connection

Reflections from Integra's work in Ethiopia - Integra is supporting communities displaced by climate change



This lady and her family live in a fragile shelter made from sticks and branches. She was displaced from her home after climate change took her land, her livelihood, and her partner © Lucia Pagacova / Integra (Slovakia)

In southern Ethiopia, the effects of climate change are no longer a distant concern, they are a lived reality. Pastoralist communities that once thrived by raising livestock are now being displaced by prolonged, climate-driven droughts. With pastures dried and water sources vanished, their animals and their livelihoods have been lost.

In Yabelo, thousands of people now reside in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, having fled their lands in search of ways to survive. Families face hunger, insecurity and the trauma of losing both home and identity. Women are particularly vulnerable, often left alone to care for children with no source of income or access to healthcare.

Integra is working with Partners to respond to this hidden crisis. Activities include helping 200 children from drought-affected families access formal education through school enrolment, meals, uniforms, and health services. Mothers of these children receive training in income-generating activities and access to small business grants, enabling them to support their families.

Alongside these ongoing efforts, Integra is initiating a cashew tree planting and climate-smart agriculture programme that includes training for farmers and facilitation of access to global markets — a step towards long-term food security and economic recovery.

Through integrated educational, nutritional, health, and livelihood support, the project promotes dignity, stability, and resilience for some of the region's most vulnerable families.

Climate change is not just about rising temperatures, it is about lost homes, broken families, and stolen futures. Yet these stories often go unheard. Despite the scale of displacement, Ethiopia's climate-linked crisis remains severely underfunded and underreported.

To respond effectively, climate action must include those already experiencing the consequences of climate change. These communities cannot be left behind.