



# Fragility Analysis of Ethiopia

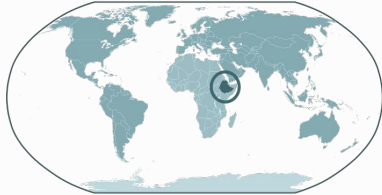
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# Background





## Baseline

### **COVID-19 Election Disruption**

Risk to state legitimacy; potential to trigger violent opposition from ethno-regional rebel groups

### **Weak State Security Force**

Inability to manage ethnic violence; risk of increased outbreaks as election approaches

### **IDP Crisis**

Population displacement as a result of conflict; premature returns

### **Food Insecurity**

Aid dependence; vulnerability to climate-shocks

### **Projected Recession**

Previous economic growth presently slowed by COVID-19; widespread unemployment

### **COVID-19**

Strain on an already fragile healthcare system



# Tigray Conflict

1991

## **Derg overthrown by EPRDF**

Tigrayan Prime Minister assumes power; TPLF as the de-facto leaders of the EPRDF.

2012

## **TPLF Prime Minister dies in office**

Ethnic Federalism still strong; after 20 years of Tigrayan dominance, PM Desalegn appointed.

2018

## **Abiy Ahmed appointed Prime Minister**

Desalegn resigns over anti-government protests; Abiy appointed; strong reform agenda.

Nov.  
2020

## **Ongoing clashes between GoE and Tigray**

Tigrayans feel marginalized & unfairly targeted, resulting in violent conflict with State forces



## Structural Causes



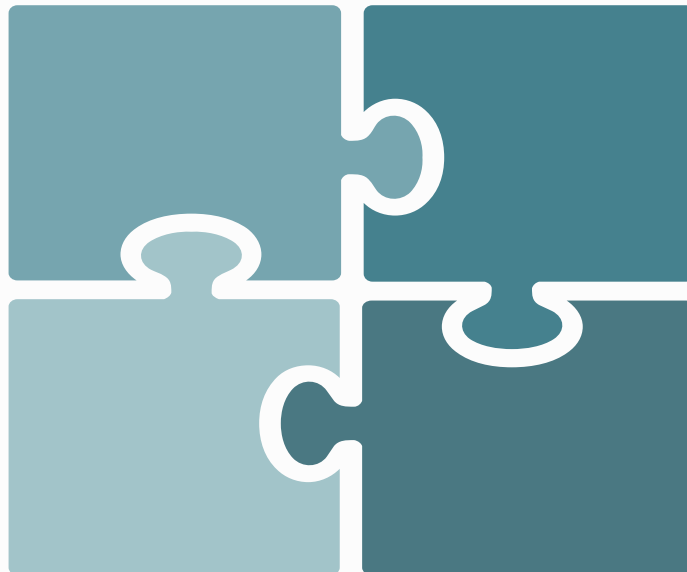
### Capability Trap

(Pritchett et al., 2013)



### Social Contract

(Ismail, 2016)



### Hybrid Regime

(Menocal et al., 2008)



### Legitimacy Trap

(Takeuchi et al., 2013)



## Primary Driver: Governance

- Lack of commitment to reform
- Top-down administration
- State dominance over ICTs and domestic media landscape





## Primary Driver: Security & Crime

- Failure to prevent intercommunal violence
- Unlawful use of force by State security forces
- Lack of independence of judiciary system



## Primary Driver: Demography

- Demographic profile at a glance
- Internal displacement crisis: Whistleblowing Ethiopia's peacebuilding reputation
- Youth bulge: Demographic dividends or threats to legitimacy?





## Secondary Drivers

### Human Development

- Long term trends through rose-coloured glasses
- Illusion of State ambitions and capacity
- Absent functional outputs
  - Sustainable human development
  - Ethnic, gendered- and rural-urban horizontal inequalities

### Economic Growth

- Poor public financial management
- Ethno-regional income inequality; youth unemployment
- Illicit economy
- Over-reliance on agriculture

### Environment

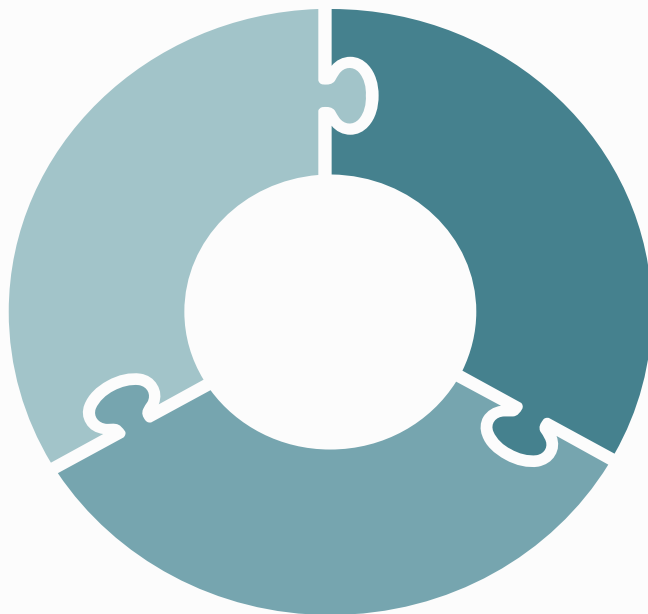
- Vulnerable to environmental stressors & shocks
- Poor natural resource management; widespread food insecurity
- Limited institutional capacity
- COVID-19



## ALC Framework

### Legitimacy

Capability traps and isomorphic mimicry → unsatisfactory policy implementation; Reinforced by strong external development actor presence



### Capacity

Legitimacy trap, crackdowns on political opposition, unaccountable security apparatus; Youth movements and informal ethnic networks

### Authority

Tokenism democracy, political violence, rampant ethnic militias and interethnic conflict



## Canada and Ethiopia

- Long-standing bilateral relationship
- Common goals for development; GTP II & FIAP alignment
- Top recipient of CAN international assistance
- 2021 Canada/Addis Ababa Clean Growth Summit



## Option 1

*Provide institutional support to UNDP earmarked for the UN Peace Building Fund to ensure continued implementation of national peacebuilding strategy post-2020.*

**(1) Facilitating community-level peace dialogues and engaging traditional authorities in conflict management**

*→ Strengthened social cohesion, reduced interethnic conflict and conflict-induced IDPs*

**(2) Promoting gender-sensitive peacebuilding**

*→ Improved state legitimacy, narrowing horizontal cleavages*

**(3) Future prioritization of youth and IDP engagement**

*→ Improved state legitimacy, reduced interethnic conflict and conflict-induced IDPs*



## Option 2

*Provide democracy assistance by developing the capacity of GoE's democratic structures including the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, the media landscape, and judiciary system.*

**(1) Provide electoral observation and support to the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia**

*→ Increased political pluralism and participation*

**(2) Provide technical assistance to The Legal and Justice Affairs Advisory Council for incipient media reforms**

*→ A media free from political control and digital authoritarianism*

**(3) Promote the meaningful democratic participation of women**

*→ Engagement of women in local decision making process*

**(4) Strengthen the independence of the judiciary system and oversight bodies.**

*→ Uphold the rule of law in an independent judiciary system*





## Option 3

*Work with the Planning and Development Commission, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation, and local stakeholders to increase the use of sustainable, resilient and efficient climate-smart agricultural practices and promote climate resilience.*

**(1) Increase funding allocation for food aid to address immediate needs**

*→ Reduction in moderate or severe food insecurity*

**(2) Invest in agricultural sector to promote sustainable and resilient livelihoods**

*→ Increased economic empowerment*

**(3) Provide technical assistance for the consultation of 10-Year Plan**

*→ Increased trust in public institutions; Increased resilience to shocks*



# Thank you

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