



Effect of unrest and internal displacement on primary health care in Ethiopia: A qualitative study

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Abstract

Background: The Primary health care system is continually challenged by recurrent and unexpected natural and human made disasters reaching the top of the global list for highest internal displacement in 2018 because of unrest.

Objective: To assess the effect of unrest and internal displacement in Ethiopian Primary Health Care delivery system

Methods: A qualitative study was conducted. Health care providers working in primary health care units of areas where unrest and internal displacement occurred were selected purposively. Health care leadership and community members were also included in the study. A total of 18 in-depth interviews were done. The transcripts were imported into NVIVO version 12 software packages. A qualitative thematic analysis approach was used to analyze the data.

and as result many of the health facilities in these communities were no longer functional, they were unable to serve the community. This leaves the returnees at risk of health problems and limits the ability of health professionals to prevent public health emergencies, such as disease outbreaks and unable to provide routine basic health services such as immunization, maternal/antenatal healthcare, treatment for common illnesses, like diarrheal disease and malaria.

Conclusion: Primary health care system was seriously affected by unrest and internal displacement in Ethiopia despite efforts to revitalize it. Building resilient primary health care system is important to resist the shock during unrest.

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