

Call for Contributions

Empirically grounded articles for a book project on
'Humanitarian Governance in Changing Circumstances:
Regulation, Accountability, Advocacy, and Power Politics
in Humanitarian Settings in Ethiopia'

Deadline: 12 October 2025

01 Overview

The Ethiopia Humanitarian Observatory is pleased to issue this call for contribution of empirically grounded articles (chapters) for our book project on 'Humanitarian Governance in Changing Circumstances: Regulation, Accountability, Advocacy, and Power Politics in humanitarian settings in Ethiopia'.

The Book shall be edited by Dr. Tadesse Kassa Woldetsadik and Alemayehu B. Hordofa¹.

A fully developed concept note - comprising potential themes of the research focus - is attached.

02 How to apply

- Interested scholars and practitioners who wish to author article/chapter contribution shall first send a brief concept note (composed in not more than 300 words) **on or before 12 October 2025**.
- Selected contributors shall be communicated by 20 October 2025;
- All article writings shall be completed by 20 January 2026, and the articles shall be sent to external reviewers;
- All article contributions MUST be empirically-grounded; a modest budget is set aside as honorarium for each contributor and to offset expenses related to empirical research/fieldwork;
- The book is scheduled to be published in March 2026 with a reputable publisher;

All communications of interest or inquiry shall be addressed to:

Alemayehu B. Hordofa at: hordofa@iss.nl, and copied to tadkas1@gmail.com

¹ Dr. Tadesse Kassa Woldetsadik is Associate Professor at the Center for Human Rights, Addis Ababa University.

Alemayehu B. Hordofa (LLB, LLM) is a PhD candidate at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR).

Concept note

The humanitarian studies subject, identity, and organization are uncertain due to the current changes at the global and local level. Climate change, policy changes in donor countries and stagnant humanitarian reform project challenged the humanitarian sector from within and outside. Domestically, ever-growing humanitarian need in Ethiopia, incomplete regulatory practice and minimum guidelines, increasing bent of humanitarian actions to serve the political interest of powerful actors, lack of accountability of humanitarian actors and insufficient role of local communities and civil society in processes, are all impacting humanitarian response and the effectiveness of the sector.

This book critically explores the normative organization, policy underpinning and functional essence of humanitarian governance and how it is evolving in response to or because of rapid global and local changes, trends and dynamics, with a special focus on the viewpoints of at-risk populations (especially refugees, internally displaced persons, and minority groups) and local actors in Ethiopia. It aims to understand how local actors influence humanitarian protection and service delivery by using and creating spaces for accountability and advocacy. In specifics, the book's thematic focus aims:

- to fill the gap in the existing literature on the humanitarian and human rights nexus;**
- to reflect on local organizations' experience in the humanitarian governance.**
- to evaluate policies, laws and practices that shape or influence humanitarian governance in Ethiopia.**

The book will focus on the following sub-themes under the overarching topic of 'Regulation, Accountability, Advocacy, Power Politics and Alternatives in relation to humanitarian governance in Ethiopia'.

- The state of humanitarian governance in Ethiopia: sovereignty, control, competing interests and decentralization.
- Donor behaviour and political signalling in Ethiopian humanitarian governance.
- Post-2018 humanitarian situation and response by affected communities.
- Protection gaps and the lived experiences in the context of refugees and internal forced displacement.
- Advocacy in humanitarian settings (particularly the advocacy of local actors and the affected communities).
- Diversion, corruption and accountability in humanitarian aid sector in Ethiopia.
- Humanitarian agencies accountability (social and/or human rights) in displacement settings.
- Affected communities' advocacy practices and impacts;
- Humanitarian coordination: prospect for reform from below;

- Trends of shift from classical humanitarianism to resilience building: policy underpinnings and impediments
 - The use of legal rules and human rights procedure to advance accountability in humanitarian action;
 - Localization of aid: initiatives, practice and challenges
 - Local actors in advancing humanitarian accountability.
 - The nexus between human rights and humanitarianism;
 - Comparative best-practices for advancing accountability to affected communities in humanitarian projects.
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