

**Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing to the  
52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**The right to adequate housing and climate change**

**Questionnaire**

Name of submitting entity, organization or individual: Dereje Adugna Tieke

***Impact of climate change on the right to adequate housing***

*In real life*

1. In your country, what have been the main effects of the climate crisis, on the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing? Please specify whether there have been any climate-induced impacts on the security of tenure, availability, affordability, accessibility, habitability, location and cultural adequacy of housing, including climate crisis related displacement.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Climate induced disasters are having significant impact on the enjoyment of adequate housing right. For instance, the flooding in most cities of Ethiopia causing internal displacement which brings a lot of children, women and elders becoming victims of such disaster.
  - b. Insecure tenure in the urban areas of Ethiopia heighten the vulnerability of community to meet the growing demand for affordable housing. Land administration in many urban areas is not well handled because a number of urban lands occupied by industries that emits high CO<sub>2</sub>. Those industries 20 to 30 years ago they have been at the outskirts of the city, but with the growing urbanization and rural to urban the industries are no more outskirts rather became middle of the city.
2. Are there differences how the climate crisis affects the right to adequate housing in urban and rural areas? If yes, is there an interrelationship between the two?
  - a. There is difference in urban and rural areas. In the urban area climate crisis in the rural areas has aggravated the migration to the urban area which in turn contributed to inadequate housing. The urban informal settlement has been increasing in the Past 10 years in Ethiopia due to security issues that resulted from various reason as well as the rural community abandoning their non-productive farming activity looking for employment in the urban.
  - b. This has been clear during the Covid-19 outbreak homeless people could not be able to find a space for staying home.
3. Are there groups distinctly affected in the enjoyment of their right to adequate housing as a result of the climate crisis? Please describe in what way.
  - a. Mainly women and people living with disability. The policies that have been in place does not give much attention to those groups.

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<sup>1</sup> Under international law, the right to adequate housing is more than having four walls and a roof. It is essentially the right to live in a place in peace, security and dignity. Housing adequacy covers the following seven essential elements: legal security of tenure; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; affordability; habitability; accessibility; location; and cultural adequacy. For organizations and stakeholders that may not be as familiar with the right to adequate housing in international human rights law, please consult General Comment No. 4 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, available [here](#).

4. How is the right to adequate housing ensured for persons that have been internally or internationally displaced by the climate crisis? How and under what conditions is their right to voluntarily return ensured?
  - a. IDP persons rights for adequate housing has not been given much consideration as the country (Ethiopia) has been overwhelmed with huge IDP influx as well as refugees from neighbouring countries. At least we see some good support for shelter of refugees through UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies. Whereas IDPs are normally sheltered in temporary shelter that is not environmentally friendly and normally in abandoned place which have poor basic service infrastructures.
  - b. IDPs right usually very challenging to ensure, however, the Refugee at least agencies like UNHCR playing significant role.
5. When housing has been damaged or lost due to climate-induced events, what has been the related impact on the lives, health and livelihoods of the affected populations?
  - a. For example, a flash flood damaged housing has significant impact on the health of the household specially on children, mother, and elders. In addition, it causes significant damage to the little assets the family acquired. Disruption of their livelihood as most of the people affected are living on daily subsistence means of living which depends on the poor infrastructure.
6. How have people been able to access redress and compensation for damages to or loss of their housing as a result of the climate crisis and extreme weather events? What are the main obstacles to accessing timely redress and compensation, and what could be effective solutions?
  - a. In the first place there is no redress or compensation from anyone unless government providing support during disaster response. In the case of flooding people will be relocated to a higher ground where possible to minimize the damage caused on them. However, humanitarian organization quiet often provide support to the affected people in long term to rehabilitate and resume their normal life.
7. Please indicate any key rulings of national courts and tribunals protecting tenants and home owners from the impact of the climate crisis or on their right to adequate housing or related to climate induced displacement? Please also describe their outcome and impact?
  - a. From my experience I have not come across protection of tenants from the impact of climate crisis.

### *In measures*

8. Please explain how energy efficiency, green urban planning, climate mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes take into account the right to adequate housing. What measures have been taken to ensure that they do not have any (unintended) discriminatory impact on particular population groups?
  - a. Urban planning normally done in isolation of considering the adequate housing and the same for energy. Most of the time urban areas are challenged with a number of issues including eviction of the slum dwellers which further exposes the people for impact of climate.
9. Please explain how natural disaster preparedness, response and recovery/reconstruction strategies and plans ensure non-discrimination?
  - a. Emergency Preparedness and response strategies it always provides added value in terms of preparing and timely responding to any crisis. In addition, it gives for an organization to understand the internal and external environment that will provide in ensuring capacity built and strategic partnership relationship established.
10. What are the main barriers to addressing and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change on the realization of the right to adequate housing?
  - a. Policies are not well developed and disseminated and implemented
  - b. Capacity gaps among the different countries
  - c. Lack of cross-border collaboration including the global level
  - d. Lack of capacity of people to mitigate climate change impact
  - e. Lack of resources for addressing the adverse impacts
  - f. The non-involvement of the larger public participation in decision and consultation in relation to the adverse impacts of climate change solutions

### ***Impact of housing on climate change***

11. How does the housing sector in rural and urban areas contribute to climate change? It may be helpful to think in terms of:
  - energy consumption for heating, cooling, cooking, lighting of housing;
    - In the rural areas of Ethiopia where livelihoods are predominantly based on agriculture with almost all the rural people earning their income from agriculture, awareness toward clean energy, and efficient appliances is at a very infant stage. The type of energy sources and energy technologies utilized for cooking and lighting have their own effect on health, environmental degradation, and overall economic development. A study conducted in Amhara region indicated that 57.7% of the energy share is biomass-based firewood from which 99.5% of this source was used only for food preparation. The two main determinant factors of the community in selecting the energy types are found to be accessibility and health impact.
  - urban sprawl and related climate impacts (soil sealing, commuter traffic etc.);
    - Informal settlements (Slum) are growing every year in big cities like Addis Ababa. The basic service infrastructures are not enough to support the influx from the rural area to urban cities. Sanitation is one of the big factors which cannot easily addressed due to limited space within the slum for constructing

a small toilet for communal use, solid waste are not properly disposed which cause a lot of health issue to the dwellers.

- increase of average per capita living space;
- water use;
  - Water access in many parts of the rural and urban are significant issues which has not yet been addressed very well. The government of Ethiopia has set targets of rural water supply: 15 liters/person/day, within 1.5 km radius; urban water supply: 20 liters/person/day, within 0.5 km radius (FDRE, 2013).  
Currently,
- emission of pollutants.
- climate impact of construction and used construction materials;
- deforestation, desertification, and loss of biodiversity caused by housing development projects.

Please provide any statistical information as well on the climate impact of the housing sector compared to other sectors in your country.

12. What measures are being implemented in rural and urban areas to reduce and eliminate the adverse impacts of the housing sector on the climate? How successful have been these programmes?
  - a. In the urban areas there is a government housing development program which contributed to the availability of housing to vulnerable and low-income group of people, though has a number of challenges.
  - b. In the rural area some of the region like Oromia recently started to launch “Rural Housing program” which is at infant stage.
13. What are the main barriers to reducing and eliminating the adverse impacts of the housing sector on the climate?
  - a. Depleting natural resources especially in rural areas where building technologies are well introduced
  - b. Industries producing housing construction materials are contributing to the emission of co2 to the environment
  - c. Furthermore, climate risks such as temperature shifts, making the housing industry to use materials that impacts the climate, degrade the soil and promoting desertification

### ***Towards a just transition to a rights-compliant, climate-resilient and carbon-neutral housing***

14. What specific legislation, policies, or programmes have been adopted to put in place and finance a just transition to a rights-compliant, climate-resilient and carbon-neutral housing for all, without discrimination?
  - a. To my knowledge as of these days I only know the requirement from environmental protection agency the assessment to be carried out for industries and huge buildings in the urban areas. Apart from that basic service structures connected with agriculture in the rural area subject for the assessment.
15. What measures have been taken to ensure that the costs of green transition in the housing sector are fairly shared between public authorities, taxpayers, homeowners, and tenants/renters or other affected interest groups, and to ensure the continued affordability of housing?
  - a. Nothing done as per my informations

16. What adaptation strategies are needed to ensure the continued habitability of housing in the face of the climate crisis? (protection from e.g. heat, flooding, extreme weather, etc.)
- a. As Habitat we are conducting a research in the urban areas to understand the impact of flooding as well as thermal heat effect on housing which we will be able to understand some basic facts which will inform us what should look like our future housing support in the slum areas.
17. How are different interest groups, including marginalized communities, homeowners and tenants, being consulted, and able to participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of:
- legislation, policies, or programmes been adopted that provide for specific measures to ensure the realization of the right to adequate housing in the face of the climate crisis;
    - I have not come across such consultation in much organised manner
  - natural disaster preparedness, response and reconstruction, as well as in mitigation and adaptation efforts;
    - Ethiopia has a long year experience in disaster preparedness and response. Such experience has supported the government to handle most of disasters with an informed decision.
  - measures to reduce and eliminate the adverse impacts of the housing sector on climate.
    - Develop housing technology which are environmentally friendly and affordable to vulnerable group of people
    - House must manufacture at factory level and delivered to the site that will make the cost less, quality will be good, quick to finish and reduce the amount of wastes on the site. Such approach also will help in reducing the impact of housing on climate
18. What is the role of international cooperation, technology transfer and development assistance of States and multilateral agencies to ensure a just transition?
- a. Finance as much as possible
  - b. Ratify policies
  - c. Act coordinated matter globally if not continent
19. What are the main barriers to achieving such a just transition?
- a. Coordination

***Other issues***

20. Please use this space to indicate any issue that should be considered for this report.

**Submission instructions**

**Deadline:** 8 July 2022

**Email:** Please return this questionnaire to: [ohchr-srhousing@un.org](mailto:ohchr-srhousing@un.org); [ohchr-registry@un.org](mailto:ohchr-registry@un.org)

**Email subject line:** Input for SR housing - report on climate change

**Accepted File formats:** Word only (supporting documents may as well be submitted in PDF)

**Accepted languages:** English, French and Spanish

Please include references to reports, academic articles, policy documents, text of legislation and, judgements, statistical information with hyperlinks to their full text or source or attach them to your submission (please respect total file size limit of 20 MB to ensure that it can be received)

**Potential confidentiality:** Please indicate on top of this questionnaire and in your e-mail if you want to have this submission or any particular attachment not to be published on the website of the Special Rapporteur and treated as confidential.

**Expected presentation** of the report of the Special Rapporteur: February/March 2023