



## **Analysis of the impacts of forced internal displacements on the Capabilities of the Congolese displaced persons**

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### **Abstract**

This chapter seeks to analyze the impacts of repeated internal forced displacements on the capabilities of Congolese displaced persons. To achieve this goal we used the Capabilities Approach developed by Amartya Sen, considering Martha Nussbaum's list of functionings and central capabilities as a reference point. According to this approach, human capability is the substantive freedom of people to lead the lives they have reason to value, and to enhance the real choices they have. Hence, from a capabilities perspective, "forced" internal displacements constitute a form of capability deprivation and can adversely affect the other abilities of internally displaced persons because displacement, in this case, is a product of force (or an inevitable risk) and it is not the result of a free choice. In this context, the chapter analyzes the main causes of forced internal displacements in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and their consequences on the capabilities of Congolese displaced persons. In this chapter we argue that in order to reduce the capability deprivation of Congolese internally displaced persons, the State, primarily responsible for their protection, should create an environment in which they feel safe, which allows the return to their territory of origin, where freedoms, human rights and justice are guaranteed, and in which the perpetrators of violence are condemned. Forced movements are prohibited by international humanitarian law (Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions). It will also be appropriate to strengthen the capacity of populations living in areas at risk to cope with adverse weather conditions.

**Keywords:** Forced internal displacements, Internally displaced persons, Capability Approach, Human development, Democratic Republic of Congo

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