



## **A double burden: The Impact of Hosting Internally Displaced on Household Food Insecurity in Ethiopia: A Propensity score matching approach**

**Mezgeb Like Melak<sup>1,2</sup>, Jeroen Buysse<sup>1</sup>, Adugna Eneyew Bekele<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Ghent University, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Department of Agricultural Economics, Gent, Belgium*

<sup>2</sup> *Jimma University, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Extension, Jimma, Ethiopia*

### **Abstract**

This study examines the impact of hosting IDPs on household food security outcomes in conflict-affected regions. To achieve this objective, Propensity Score Matching (PSM) was employed to estimate the causal effect of hosting IDPs on household food security. The results showed that after controlling for potential confounders, households hosting IDPs were significantly more likely to experience food insecurity compared to non-host households. On average, host households experienced severe food insecurity, which was 32.2% higher than non-host. Their reliance on negative coping strategies (CSI) was also 24% higher than compared to non-host households. To assess the robustness, Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and binary logit models were estimated by using continuous and binary outcome measures, which conformed to a statistically significant treatment effect on household food security. Higher household income and livestock ownership were found to be protective against severe food insecurity, whereas demographic characteristics such as higher dependency ratios, older household heads, and female-headed households increased vulnerability. Overall, these findings suggest that there is a high prevalence of severe food insecurity observed among host households. Future research should explore the long run effect of hosting internal displacement on food security outcomes.

**Keywords:** Propensity Score Matching, internal displacement, logit and OLS