

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

**REFUGEES' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND ITS
POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE HOST COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF DADAAB
CAMP IN KENYA**

BY

NURA GODANA KULU

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DECLARATION

This research project is my real work and has not been presented in any other universities or institutions

Signature..... Date.....

NURA GODANA KULU

C50/84294/2015

This research Project Paper has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University supervisor.

Signed..... Date

PROFESSOR PRESTON CHITERE

Department of Sociology and Social Work

University of Nairobi

DEDICATION

I dedicate my project work to my parents, my father Hajj Godana Kulu Guyo and my late mother Rufo Miyo Dido whose love, care and guidance are immeasurable.

I also dedicate this work to my brothers and sisters who have supported me throughout the process. I will always appreciate and thank all they have done.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DPA	Dayton Peace Agreement
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JAM	Joint Army Mission
OAU	Organization of Africa Unity
UNHCR	United Nation Commissioner for Refugee
UN	United Nation

ABSTRACT

Voluntary repatriation is the absence of any pressure on refugee's decision about how and when to get back to their country of origin without any psychological, physical and material pressures. The objective of the study was to examine refugee's perception of voluntary repatriation from Kenya to the neighboring countries and its potential impact on the local community of Dadaab.

The specific objectives of this study were to: identify the profile of the refugees involved in voluntary repatriation; find out factors constraining voluntary repatriation; examine the causes of voluntary repatriation; assess the effect of voluntary repatriation on the local community; and examine voluntariness of the repatriation process. The will be important to several entities and agencies including refugee community, Government of Kenya, the UN and UNHCR in particular. The study was a descriptive survey study which utilized primary data which focused on refugee's perception of voluntary repatriation from Kenya to the neighboring countries. Dadaab refugees were the target population. We sampled two sub-camps from 4 sub-camps which comprises of Dadaab complex camp using cluster sampling and in consultation with the camp management, where the level of voluntary repatriation was high. In selection of refugees the study used purposive sampling in selecting 20 from each block giving a sample of 40 refugees. Qualitative data was obtained through administering of questionnaires and interviews to individual refugees and Key Informants working in the camp.

The findings on the profiles of the refugees were that: the number of female was 60% more than male in terms gender; younger persons were likely to be affected by war and strife and hence to flee and becomes refugees; most of the refugees had lower level of literacy and formal education; there were more women (55%) household heads and most of the refugees were married and had children and ran business. The factors that prevented refugees from repatriation were lack of reform and instability in the country of origin, and opportunities in the asylum country. The causes of repatriation included failure of the long awaited process of resettlement to materialize, the send-off package presented by the United Nation for those who repatriated, and plans of the government of Kenya to shut up the camp. Effects of

voluntary repatriation on local community included business activity decline, increase in unemployment and reduction in services like health, education and transportation while problems of insecurity and environmental degradation were likely to reduce with repatriation. The study was planned and conducted in Dadaab refugee complex where most of the refugees lived. Recommendations on the study includes: educating refugees how their home country is their better option; the study need UN to focus more repatriation as the solution, collaborations of hosting country; country of origin and UN to deal with the refugees; UN and government of Kenya should provide enough time for the refugees to repatriate.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

According to the Refugee Convention of 1951, “Refugee is a person owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted due to the race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residences as a result of such event, is unable or (owing to such fear), unwilling to return to it” (UNHCR, 1951).

In a circumstance where the person have more than one citizenship and that country is no longer protecting the individual from the fear of persecution, and seek refuge to other country where he/she does not nationally belong, then the refugee can be considered to have equal rights like other refugees (UNHCR, 1951). UNHCR has pointed out three durable solutions to the refugees across the globe each of which can be a solution to their crisis (UNHCR, 2003). These are:

- (a) Local integration to the country of asylum;
- (b) Resettlement in the third country; and
- (c) Repatriation to the country of origin.

Local integration can be defined in terms of three aspects: Firstly, it is a legal process where the refugees are granted the necessary right in a country as an asylum seeker or refugee. From economic perspective the refugee can make business and carrying out other activities for livelihood just like the citizen of host population. Socially, the refugees have the rights to freely participate and interact with the host community without any restrictions (Crisp, 2004).

In years 1960s and 1990s, some of the developed countries received refugees from different parts of the world and provided them with services like the local community. During that

time there was high influx of refugees from most of the developing countries. The refugees that integrated to local population enjoyed their rights comparable with the host community and had full opportunity to stay there for indefinite time (Crisp, 2004). It is both protection and one of the durable solutions recommended by the UNHCR for individuals who are not feeling secure in the country of asylum due to the fear of persecution, to be resettled to the third country and this applies to only those with special cases and unable to stay there for long period of time.

After the Second World War and up until 1985 resettlement was the most preferable solution to the refugees and was seen as the most successful approach in relation to the other two solutions. Starting from 1985 this began to decline as the number of refugees resettling dramatically reduced to very small percentage, consequently making resettlement as the solution become rare (Gray & Elliot, 2007).

In 1991, the UNHCR Executive committee (Excom) endorsed the duty of resettlement in the context of the protection mandate of the organization by reaffirming the link between international protection and resettlement as an instrument of protection, and its importance as reachable and durable solution in particular time (UNHCR, 1991).

Despite the fact that international community protection for the repatriation of the refugees had not been stated in the refugee convention of 1951, any individual who had fear of assassination or threat was a refugee and he/she could not be expelled or involuntarily forced to leave the country (UNHCR, 1951). Voluntariness could not be viewed only from the absence of involuntary repatriations but also as deterring refugees from voluntary repatriation, just for the benefit of the asylum countries or government by spreading wrong rumors. In repatriation process, the three stakeholders i.e. country of asylum, country of origin and international refugees' actors should actively discharge their respective responsibility and role to realize this durable solution.

The country of asylum as addressed in the 1951 Convention of Refugees, the Principle of *non-refoulement* clearly stated that a refugee is not involuntarily repatriated to the area where the person originated due to the fear of persecution or other threats. The country of origin should welcome their citizen in colorful manner regardless of their claims of leaving the

country, the government should not harm the returnees, the repatriation should be done without any discrimination, harassment, detention and etc. (Gray & Elliot, 2007).

UNHCR also discharges its duty in sustaining the repatriation by solving the root causes of the problem in collaboration with the country of origin, asylum and other actors. This can be done only when the refugees expresses the desire to voluntarily return back to their country, and this must be subject for verification whether the initiation of voluntary repatriation is really from the refugees or other entities.

The number of refugees and asylum seekers living in Kenya are 630,926. Approximately almost over 90 percent reside in Dadaab camp located in Garissa County and the remaining are in Kakuma located in Turkana County (Elliot, 2012). Apart from those in camps there are those living in the main cities of the state, notably Nairobi where most refugees resides in Kibra informal settlement and Eastleigh suburb (ibid). The study only focuses on the Dadaab refugees.

The Republic of Kenya has signed and ratified both conventions 1957 United Nation Convention and 1969 Organization of Africa Unity Refugee Convention. Despite the convention, Government of Kenya did not have legislation on refugees up until 2006. Due to the lack of legislation the government had adopted strict policies on refugees aimed at controlling the refugees' problems, and refugees' movement which can pave the way for the offenders and severely restrict refugees to live the country without going between camp and the cities. In 2007 Kenya adopted Refugee Act based on the 1951 UN and 1969 OAU Refugee Conventions (Elliot, 2012).

The three stakeholders, in dealing with the refugees signed tripartite treaty (Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR). The current proposal to repatriate Somali refugee living in Kenya is controversial and will be demonstrated by first showing how the motives of the Tripartite Agreement Signatories are self-interested and politically motivated (Stanley, 2015).

The Government of Kenya has been the driving force behind pressurizing for the repatriation of Somali refugees. The Kenyan government has propagated the idea of Somali refugees as a burden and security threat in order to justify their action in the name of national security (Stanley, 2015). Initiation of voluntary repatriation by the refugees

nowadays is in dilemma whether it is violent, compelled and forceful removal of refugees from the host country or the willingness of the refugees. In many countries this issues of involuntary repatriation is applying despite the *Non-Refoulement* principle of refugees (UNHCR, 1951).

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Three durable solutions for the refugee's crisis are recommended by UNHCR, and these are: Voluntary repatriation to the country of origin, Integration to Second Country, and resettlement to the third country (UNHCR, 2003). As the developed countries made and revealed the policies and strategies of welcoming more refugees for integration and strictly minimizing the number of refugees coming to their respective country (Elliot, 2012), the chance of resettling to the third country remained so rare. Eventually voluntary repatriation and local integration became the most preferable solutions for their safety and security (UNHCR, 2003).

Integration to host country is not easy as the UNHCR recommends, as the most of the countries that host refugees from different countries were reluctant to integrate large number of those who sought refuge (Turtainmen, 2012). Especially in developing countries, integration was impossible and unreachable as influx of refugees arose and the host country could not be able to provide for needs and services for them. Due to several factors and in comparison with the number of those who seek refuge, integrating to the local community is not durable solution for the refugees in the developing countries especially Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Local integration appears not to be an envisaged or desirable solution for the government of Kenya (Elliot, 2012) as the country has been facing lots of challenges from hosting refugees particularly from Somalia where the state is experiencing insecurity, so the beacon of hope declined as the durable solution was to result to voluntary repatriation.

After the 2005 comprehensive peace Agreement, the vast majority of the South Sudanese refugees that comprised more than 2 million were returned to their country without any arrangement for them by any actors. Unfortunately the civil war erupted between two major ethnic communities on power distribution and influx of refugees rose up and the notion did

not last long (Elliot, 2012). Very few refugees in Kenya were actually able to return to their country and refugees from Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia increased over time.

The recommendation of UHNCR (Voluntary repatriation) is not reachable or very rare to reach in Kenya as the inflows climb up, despite the facilitative voluntary repatriation of refugees from Dadaab camp. Voluntary repatriation could be a solution to the crisis of the refugees from Kenya. Despite the recommendation, voluntary repatriation is not long lasting as refugees come back again for example on 2 April 2015, Al-shabaab militants launched an attack on the University College of Garissa in Kenya, killing 148 Kenyan students. In the aftermath of the attack, the political leaders of Kenya's North Eastern Region called for the closure of the Dadaab camps, and a number of senior government officials called for UNHCR to repatriate all Somali refugees in Dadaab to Somalia and later Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR jointly reaffirmed their commitment to a coordinated and humane return process in accordance with the tripartite Agreement (UNHCR Report, 2015).

This study seeks to examine refugee's perceptions of voluntary repatriation from Kenya to the neighboring countries and its potential impact on the local community.

1.3 Research Questions

The study raises the following questions to address the identified gap by the researcher.

- a. What are the factors responsible for constraining voluntary repatriation?
- b. What are the impacts of voluntary repatriation of refugees on local community?
- c. What are the causes of voluntary repatriation?
- d. What are the levels of voluntary repatriation of refugees from the camp?
- e. What kinds of refugees are voluntarily repatriated?

1.4 Objective of the study

1.4.1 General objective

The general objective of the study sought to examine refugee's perceptions of voluntary repatriation from Kenya to the neighboring countries and its potential impact on the local community of Dadaab.

1.4.2 Specific objective

The following are the specific objective

- a. To identify the profile of the refugee involved in voluntary repatriation;
- b. To identify factors constraining voluntary repatriation;
- c. To examine the causes of voluntary repatriation;
- d. To assess the effect of voluntary repatriation on the local community.
- e. To examine voluntariness of the repatriation process; and

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study will be important to several entities and agencies including the refugee community, Government of Kenya., the UN and UNHCR in particular.

Refugee community: As everyone knows becoming a refugee is not a rational choice made by an individual but circumstances force them to do so. Whereas nobody hates the county of origin, some are welcome and tolerate different sorts of challenges and difficulties in exile for more than a decade. The closing of the gap identified by the researcher will be more important for refugees that lack the opportunities to live in their country with safety and security.

Government of Kenya: Since 1960s Kenya has been hosting refugees from neighboring countries in a successful way but recently for a decade the security of the country is not as conducive as in the past, due to the large number of refugee influx in the country. This study will be significant for the policies of Kenya towards refugees, as recently Kenya playing

facilitative role in repatriating some refugees and intends to close Dadaab the World's largest refugee camp against the wishes of the international community.

United Nation: As a global institution of the world, the successful and sustainable repatriation of refugees from Kenya is also significant to this agency, as it has to look for another country across the globe for the temporary settlement of the refugees from Kenya.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Though the focus is on the refugees, and it is too broad to study refugees from all aspects, the study only deals with the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Kenya and its impacts on the local community of Dadaab. It addressed the following objectives: To identify the profile of the refugees involved in voluntary repatriation; to identify factors constraining voluntary repatriation; to examine the causes of voluntary repatriation; to assess the effect of voluntary repatriation on local community; and to examine voluntariness of repatriation process. The site was chosen due to the distinct background of the refugees, for instance most of the refugees hail from different countries.

Limitations include the fact that the findings would not be generalized to all refugees in Kenya, scanty literature on the topic, language barrier, and lack of enough finances for fieldwork.

1.7 Definition of the Terms

The definitions of key terms used in this study are as follows:

Voluntary Repatriation: Is one of the durable solutions to refugees that UNHCR recommends, which refers to volunteering to go back to their country of origin when the situation becomes normal.

Integration: Refers to the mixing of the refugees or asylum seekers to the citizens of the country that hosts them legally, economically and socially by equally enjoying the right with local community without discrimination based on their refugee status.

Resettlement: Refers to refugees who are in exile in a second country due to fear of persecution in the third country.

Asylum seeker: Is a person fleeing from his/her country and has not been enlisted as refugee yet.

Refoulment on Voluntary Repatriation: Refer to the forcefully or involuntary expulsion of refugees from where they are living in safety and with dignity to the area where their life will be in danger.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

The chapter deals with the explanation of voluntary repatriation and how it becomes viable solution to the protracted refugees problem ; causes of voluntary repatriation namely: realization of stability and security in the country of origin and the pressure from the asylum country that imposed restrictive measures on refugees; factors that hindered repatriation of refugees .The two theories that will guide the study are refugee theory and community development theory as well as the conceptual framework are also presented.

2.2 Voluntary Repatriation

Voluntariness is the absence of any pressures on refugee's decision about how and when to get back to their country of origin without any psychological, physical and material harm (UNHCR, 1996). The refugees are the only persons that can make decision on returning or staying in the country of asylum. The roles of UNHCR, country of origin, country of asylum and other international actors could be discharged depending on the desire and initiative of the decision made by the refugees. The role of all actors in facilitating and assisting the voluntary repatriation is logically connected to the status of those communities and it should come after the refugees show the willingness to be repatriated (Hansen,2008). In voluntariness not violent, compelled and forceful removal of refugees from the country of asylum but deterring the refugees from repatriating to their country of origin for the sake and benefits of country of asylum notably for receiving assistance from international community and economic interest by spreading wrong information and mere pledges of continue assistance (UNHCR, 1996). In most of the developing countries this measure is applicable where some countries are interested in cheap labor and since a large number of the refugees have elementary education; their mission can be easily achieved.

Ghanem (2008) observes that in the aftermath of the Second World War, the return of millions of refugees to their homes in Europe brought, for the first time, the question of voluntary repatriation to the attention of western governments and international organizations. From that time onwards, three solutions to the crisis of refugees (integration,

resettlement and voluntary repatriation) can be distinguished in the international communities' attitude towards voluntary repatriation.

Ghanem (2008) further notes that return movements were taking place in third world countries following the end of independence movement and decolonization. After the state relieve from oppression and subjugation, a large number of refugees returned back to their respective countries a good was Afghanistan. Likewise the protracted refugees reasonably have alleviated from the crisis when the state restores its previous glory, safety and dignity. Repatriation can only be a durable solution if only the event is voluntarily done otherwise it is another expulsion of the refugees to their respective country of origin (Hansen, *F et al*, 2008). This solution is considered as the only mechanism that can be optional for protracted refugees and reduction of the number refugees across the globe and can be achieved through cooperative and collaboration of all stakeholders including the refugee communities. Voluntary repatriation is seen as the optimum cure to refugees' problem (Ghaneim, 2003). Due to the time and circumstances the other recommended solution is not easily and rarely achieved. The decision made by outsiders to shut camps and encourage the refugees to return home cannot be solution but likely to worsen the matter (Ghanem, 2003).

Repatriation is not something easy that can be attained only by facilitating the refugees to cross the border in safety and with dignity (Ghanem, 2003). International community should actively engaged with the repatriated refugees in their country of origin in providing their needs. Repatriation has been transformed in the 1990s both in challenging and prospective ways (Stein, 1997). Where the refugees who voluntarily repatriated in large numbers have been in trouble in their country, this was perpetrated by the situation in the respective countries. In some case where the refugees returned during the stable and peaceful situation, conflict erupted, which caused high outflow of the people from their country in seeking of refuge.

Mostly, the group of refugees that usually returned to their home was the poor, those who have low educational background, skill and talent. This was due to their lack of skills and economic instability to run business in the asylum country (Dauda, 2012). The western countries prefer the educated to settle in their country which for the lowly educated chance of resettlement to Europe, America and Australia remains rare. So long as the asylum

countries are reluctant to allow integration to the local community, their viable solution becomes only returning back to their country.

Involuntary repatriation not only attempts to reduce the crisis of refugees but also violation of the principle of Non Refoulment under article 33. Cause some were in danger particularly those who participated in violence (Hansen, 2008), this forceful expulsion can cause negative impacts as some flee their countries for several reasons including natural disaster and human oppression. Thus unless real changes take place mere returns is of no use.

United nation agencies, NGOs (non-governmental organization) and governments have recommended voluntary repatriation as viable solution to the protracted refugees in respect with the other two solutions (Ghanem, 2008). Despite their suggestion voluntary repatriation faces several challenges by violating the principle of non *refoulment* in forcing the refugees to leave the asylum country. A refugee's right to be protected against forcible return, or *refoulment*, is set out in the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees:

“No contracting state shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontier of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion” Article 33(1)

The UN agency that deals with the refugees', UNHCR has the specified role in repatriation which clearly and squarely states that: promotion of solution of repatriation and facilitation (UNHCR, 1996).

In promoting the solution, the UNHCR activities could help bring about safe and dignified condition for repatriation (UNHCR, 1996). In order to reduce and contribute to solution the crises of the refugees globally, the UNHCR has signed an agreement with all stakeholders in realizing the recommended notion, some causes are artificial and others are natural. In collaboration with government and NGOs could inevitably pave the way and promote solution.

The UNHCR actively undertakes broad and wide ranging measures to advocate refugees return (UNHCR,1996).In promoting repatriation, the UNHCR plays the convincing role in

presenting the viable and achievable measures to the refugees problem, owing to the fact the agency does not have any coercive power as it is against non-refoulement principle.

Lastly but not least UNHCR has a facilitative role in repatriation process of respecting the refugees right to return to their country at any time (UNHCR, 1996). After being desired and initiated voluntary repatriation by the refugees, despite the situation in their respective countries, UNHCR will technically discharge its responsibility in assisting and facilitating the process. This could apply also when the UNHCR doubt their safety and dignity.

2.3 Causes of Repatriation

Hansen (2008) say that unlike its opposite voluntary repatriation is perpetrated by two major factors namely; a) Realization of stability and security in the country of origin and b) restrictive measure imposed by the asylum countries on refugees.

Peoples seek refuge for several reasons like conflict, disaster and political issues that contribute for their displacement from their respective country of origin due to the fear of danger and threat from the reasonable factors. After being settled in the country of asylum they eagerly await the situation calm down to return back to the country. Increasingly, repatriation is used as a tool for the stabilization of a post conflict country (Hansen, 2008). Despite the contribution to the safety of the state, repatriation plays a pivotal role in uniting the separated families, friends, relatives and restoring identity of the country. Unlike some of the refugees residing in the asylum country, some prefer their homeland than resettling in others countries; consequently, having that desire and willingness of voluntary repatriation is inevitable.

For example, since Afghanistan fell under the control of the Soviet Union between 1979-1989, the influx of refugees from Afghanistan to Iran was extremely high. Fortunately, the liberation from the subjugation and oppression from the colonizer contributed much for repatriation of Afghans to their country in 1989 (World Bank, 2015). Voluntary repatriation is sole durable Solution to overcome prolonged refugee problem in such a way that UNHCR should discharge its responsibility accordingly in facilitation and promoting solution. The death of the former Yugoslavia ruler in 1980 triggered civil war which marked 1992-1995 the year of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This resulted in displacement of millions who

sought refugee status in neighboring and far abroad countries. Later, after the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA) in November 1995 ended in large scale return to Bosnia-Herzegovina (World Bank, 2015).

Albeit re-seeking refuge later, voluntary repatriated refugees have been realized in the African context where by, return to south Sudan following comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) in 2005 the refugees in Kenya were repatriated without any arrangement made by UNHCR for south Sudanese refugee (World Bank, 2015). Angola's years of brutal civil war ended in 2002. Eventually just in five years, some 450,000 of the estimated 600,000 Angola repatriated to their country of origin (World Bank, 2015).

Hansen (2008) concluded that lacking integration to asylum country and resettlement to the third country, triggered and encourage the repatriation, to end the difficulties and crisis in the camp. Some refugees who felt isolated and sense their home country inevitably engaged in repatriation without much consideration of the real situation in their country of origin, some of them were seeking refuge in the asylum country for over two decades and the condition is not such conducive for them to stay further.

The pressure from the asylum country considered as a causal factor of repatriation, in most of the refugees camps the freedom and liberty of the refugees community is in doubt, as the asylum authorities pressurize the displaced and force them to go back to their countries. The Iraq refugees in Syria resided and settled in the Asylum country for a short period of time. Eventually, the civil war erupted in 2011 between the rebels and government which inevitably *refouled* the refugees (World Bank, 2015). They repatriated not because it was the right time but the situation in the asylum country could not allow them to stay further. In some refugee camps they were not allow full right in running their business, as the authorities denied them rights and privileges. In such circumstances some gave up and repatriated spontaneously without arrangement from the UNHCR (Hansen, 2008).

The tripartite agreement among UNHCR, asylum country and country of origin promoted repatriation for their political self-interest and economic motive, without involvement of refugees in the decision making process (Stanley, 2015). In most of the refugees host countries, since the repatriation is more advantageous for their country, the country

automatically does whatever it can in removing the refuge seekers from their country. Despite the international community principles on refugees, all refugee host countries are reluctant. Due to the treatment from the host countries some refugees do not have choice whether to stay or return (World Bank Report, 2015) that automatically result in repatriation, for instance, Liberian refugees from Ghana and Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

2.4 Constraints to the Repatriation

The most challenging factors in realizing repatriation as viable and reachable solution for the protracted refugees can be overcome only in such a way that the four conditions should be fulfilled for refugees to return home. Unless these four conditions are fulfilled, it could be very difficult to think of voluntary repatriation. These four conditions are: Security, access to adequate services, housing and livelihood opportunities (Haril,2015). In lacking all these opportunities in their country of origin, definitely discourages them from returning home.

In a circumstance where the country of origin is devastated by instability and prosecution, the repatriation of refugees from the asylum country is in doubt, unless it is forcefully done by violating the principle of non-refoulment stated in the refugee convention (Haril, *et al*, 2015). This could be civil war between the ethnic on power distribution or land issues, and the political from the ruling regimes for participating or associating in such event.

Engagement of other institution or actors in repatriation process could tilt the voluntariness of the repatriation (Haril,2015). Politically driven returning, organized by the host and country of origin in removing the refugees urgently by providing temporary assistance for short period of time, this involvement of the other parties without initiation of repatriation by the refugees could be one factor that can be a constraint to the repatriation.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

There are several theories related to study area. Among those theories is the refugee theory by Kunz and community development theory which guided this study of voluntary repatriation and its potential impacts on local community.

2.5.1 Refugee Theory by Kunz

Refugee theory by Ego.F. Kunz (1981) deals with the analysis of factors affecting refugees outcomes to those areas preceding and succeeding flight. The Kunz theory mostly emphasizes when the individual and group seek refuge in other countries and cause factors (1981). There are two types of refugee's movement- anticipatory and acute refugee's movements. Anticipatory refugees mostly occur and climb up during an inevitable future unrest, here they sense and predict the instability. The refugees prepare all the necessary resources and begin their departure to avoid further mess; logically they avoid losses in human life than immovable properties. The other one is acute refugee, unlike the previous the people flee their homeland only when they realize the situation in their country is not safe and enjoyable; they are not prepared for the journey and concentrate simply on escaping the disaster zone.

The refugees have left their homeland for several reasons. Kunz came up with the three major factors that perpetrate their displacement and types of refugees these are. Majority identified refugees composed of those who had different ideas and policy from that of their country and opposing the adverse social and political issues. The others were individuals who were discriminated just because they belonged to certain groups; they felt alienated and differed from their fellow citizens. Kunz identified them as event related refugees. The last is one when an individual decided to leave the country for his private and individual reason without any discrimination from his/her fellow citizen and social policy. Kunz concluded that majority identified refugees would be the most likely to participate in a repatriation.

2.5.2 Community Developments Theory

Amartya Sen (1999) "Development as Freedom" argues that the expansion of freedom is central to development-"both as the primary and the principal means". What use are political freedoms on paper, he challenged, when in practice people are prevented in enjoying them.

Community development is defined as the identification of the community needs, setting goals and objectives, and people working together in realizing their objectives and by promoting, empowering and believing in themselves to solve their problem (Mendes, 2008). Community development is a process where the members of a certain community come

together to promote and sustain their livelihood by upgrading the community life and skills and fundamentally realizing how they can manage and contribute to the changes (Cavaye, 2015)

Community development theory highly emphasizes on the problems and difficulties brought by the social phenomena and provide alternatives measures to tackle the problems identified (Tan, 2009). Community development theory is also an efficient framework in minimizing the macro-micro discrepancy level in communities (Tan, 2009).

2.6 Conceptual Framework

The study seeks to examine factors that influence repatriation of refugee from the asylum country to country of origin. There are five (4) independent variables listed to influence the dependent variable that is repatriation of refugees.

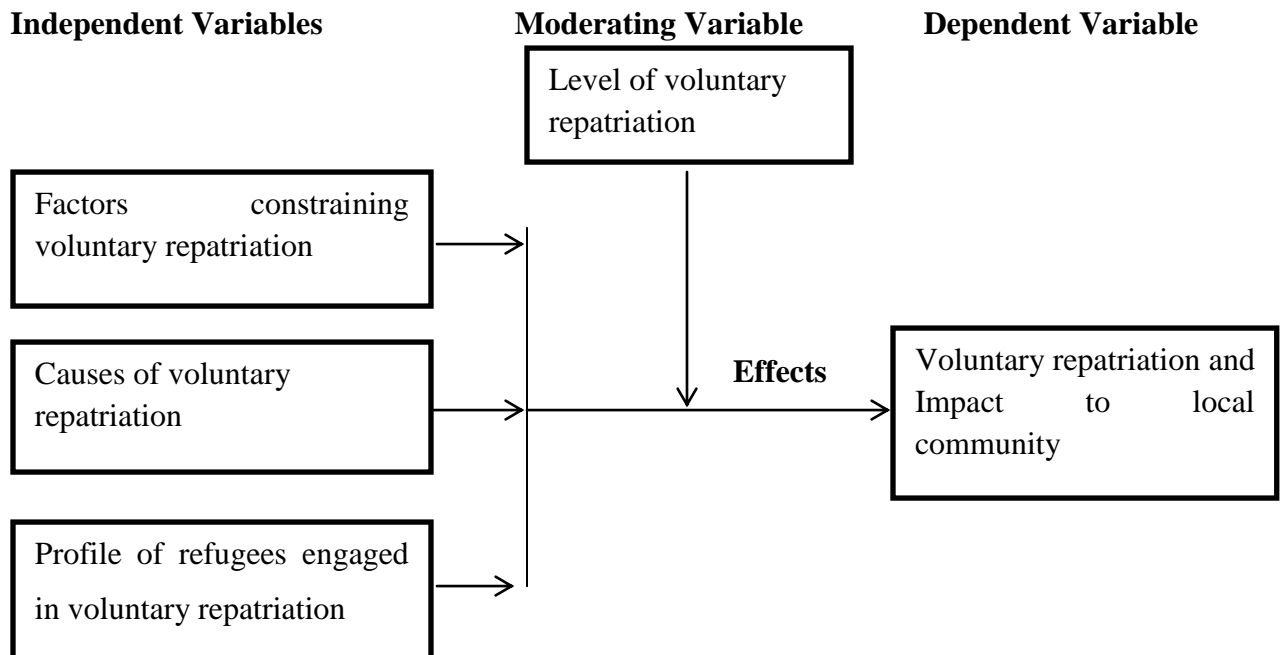


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

2.7 Operationalization

Level of voluntary Repatriation: This is the extent at which refugees participate and involved in the returning back to their country of origin.

Constraining Factor: It is the elements that can hinder affects negatively voluntary repatriation of refugees from asylum countries.

Causes of repatriation: It is determinant factor that trigger or pave the way for repatriation to occur.

Profile of the refugee: This is the identification of those refugees who engaged in repatriation for instance their age, gender, economic background, literacy level and their time in the camp.

Effect of the repatriation: It is the result caused by the repatriation of refugees from the camp.

Voluntariness of repatriation: refers to the where do ideas and decision of repatriation originated from, is it directly from refugees or other agency?

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we discuss and describe the site where the study was conducted. The study is qualitative research design, the unit of analysis which is voluntary repatriation and the target populations are explained. The study depended on both secondary and primary data from the refugees in the camp and methods of their collection and analysis are presented.

3.2 Site Description

The study was planned and conducted in Dadaab Refugee camp where most of the refugee and asylum seekers live. The Dadaab Camp is located in Garissa County, and it's also the largest camp in Eastern and Central Africa. The camp was established in 1990-1992 in response to the large numbers of Somalis fleeing the civil war in Somalia (UNHCR, 2009). The number of the refugees inhabiting the camp was 289,315 as of August 2009 (UNHCR, 2009).

The refugees in the camp have different backgrounds in terms of their country of origin and the linguistic families. The population is dominated by the Somalis followed by the Ethiopians. The rest are Rwandese, Burundians, Congolese, Ugandans, Eritreans and Sudanese (UNHCR, 2009). The camp is located nearly 90 kms away from the Somali border. The climate in Garissa and specifically that of Dadaab is semi-arid with the temperature of over 37 degrees Celsius. The Dadaab camp comprises of three minor camps i.e. Dagahley; Hagadera and Ifo.

3.3 Research Design

As Creswell (2014) clearly depicted that “a research approach is a plan and the procedure for research that range from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation. The overall decision involves which approach should be used to study a topic. Informing this decision should be the philosophical assumption the researcher brings to the study; procedure of inquiry (called research design); and specific research methods of data collection, analysis and interpretation. The selection of a research approach

is also based on the nature of the research problem or issue being addressed, the researcher's personal experiences, and audiences for the study".

Qualitative research focuses on "what", "why" and "how" questions rather than "how many" and emphasizes on the process, and the flexible nature of data collection design (George & Robert, 2011).

The qualitative research applies different methods to collect data from the population, which are semi structured interviews, observations, focus group discussions and in depth interviews. The method focuses on understanding of the people's beliefs, experience and knowledge (Brink, 1993). The approach uses open ended and less structured techniques to reap more information on the matter than do quantitative (George & Robert, 2011). The main goal of qualitative approach is to provide in depth understanding and interpretation of the social circumstances.

A descriptive study is the collection of the information on the specific matter for the reason to describe and interpret the condition (Aggarwal, 2008). This method of research which concerns itself with the present phenomena in terms of conditions, practices, beliefs, processes, relationships or trends invariably is termed as "descriptive survey study".

This study uses descriptive research design which is better in explaining and describing the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Kenya to the neighboring countries and potential impact on the local community of Dadaab. The descriptive design enables the researcher to collect data through in-depth interviews.

3.4 Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis is the object about which generalizations are made. The study is on the perceptions of refugees living in Dadaab camp and the unit of analysis is their voluntary repatriation from Kenya to the neighboring countries and its potential impact on the local community.

3.5 Target Population

This is the exact population of the study for sampling. The researcher identifies and selects a sample from the universe (Smith, 2015). The sample population should be representative

and reflect the entire population. The population may be clearly defined or not. The total population of Dadaab refugees (as of August 2009) was 289,315 and is the target of this study.

3.6 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

3.6.1 Blocks and Refugees

Sampling is a process which involves selecting a representative unit from the universe. A sample is a part of the selected unit (Lantham, 2007). The sampling comes after the targeted population is identified (Smith, 2015). We sampled two sub-camps from Dadaab complex camp which composes of four sub-camp using cluster sampling and in consultation with camp management, where the level of voluntary repatriation was high. In selection of refugees the study used purposive sampling in selecting 20 from each block giving a sample of 40 refugees.

3.6.2 Case Studies

Here the study focused on a few refugees by questioning them in detail. They were among the selected refugees for the study.

3.6.3 Key informants

The study also used key informant interviews and these were those who work for local or international NGOs, government officials and any other volunteers in the camp.

3.7 Source of Data

There were two major sources of data, i.e. primary and secondary sources. Primary data was raw data collected by the researcher from the field via interview, questionnaire, observation and focus group. Secondary data was the collected data recorded by someone in a document, book, and journal and in other literature.

3.8 Data Collection and Analysis

The study used the survey method and this was appropriate since it gave the respondent enough time to read and understand the questions, and answer accordingly. The researcher applied interview and questionnaire as the appropriate techniques to collect information

about the refugees' perceptions of voluntary repatriation from Kenya to neighboring countries and its potential impacts on the local community. The data obtained through interviews and questionnaires were analyzed in a systematic way and the analysis was guided by the specific objectives of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

Qualitative data in this study were collected through use of questionnaires and interview guides. We sampled two sub-camps from 4 sub-camps in Dadaab complex camp using cluster sampling in consultation with the camp management, where the level of voluntary repatriation was high. In selection of refugees the study used purposive sampling in selecting 20 from each block giving a sample of 40 refugees. In this chapter the data are presented using tables and an attempt is made to interpret and analyzed them. The data from both refugees and key informants were tabulated and analyzed by using simple percentage.

4.2 The Situation of the Refugees

Key informants views about the situation of the refugees were presented below.

Key informant 1

Housing: The refugee are not living in a decent mode of housing but to be fair enough the larger population of refugees are not living in poor condition but rather they are living in a house that can be able to protect them from the sunshine as well rains.

Food: Refugees are getting little amount of food per individual as ratio of which to my opinion is not sufficient to sustain them properly. However; to the introduction of “Bamba Chakula” at least some can budget well for themselves and utilize the little they have.

When we talk about food I think water is also part of the food, here in the camp there is plenty of water, there is nearly 2 to 3 water tap after every blocks.

Income: I don't think this is applicable to most but the few refugees who work with the different agencies get little salary and the others who manage to run small scale business also get some income.

Security: From this aspect, I have no doubt to say that refugees are well and properly secured by the Kenyan government.

Key informant 2

Housing: Since this camp is not their destination at least they have a place to rest. No one interested to build a house because they have a plan of getting out of it either to their country or third country.

Food: Refugees get very little food which in my view is insufficient especially for those who have large families.

Income: Refugees have little income and this is only applicable to those who work as incentive staff and those who engage in small business.

Security: the security of the refugee is good enough.

Key Informant 3

Housing: A refugee lives in poor house... only 20% of refugees have descent/proper shelter to live in, the rest it's difficult to call house.

Food: Though it is not sufficient the refugees are getting food and later the world food programed (WFP) initiated (Bamba Chakula).

Income: Most of the refugee have not attained primary education and therefore are not able to be employed in professional work.

Security: Generally speaking in the camp the security is good, apart from the few targeted protection cases.

When asked their views about the services they received from the camp three refugees answers were scored as shown in table 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3

Table 4.1 Views about the services

Respondent No 17

Items	Very favorable	Favorable	Normal	Unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Housing				√	
Foods			√		
Support for Income			√		
Security		√			
UNHCR		√			

Respondent No 23

Items	Very favorable	Favorable	Normal	Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Housing			√		
Foods		√			
Support for income			√		
Security		√			
UNHCR	√				

Table 4.3 Views about the services

Respondents No 6

Items	Very favorable	Favorable	Normal	Unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Housing			√		
Food		√			
Support for income			√		
Security		√			
UNHCR	√				

4.2.1 Refugee Experience

When asked about their previous condition whether they had sought refuge before in other country, as shown in table 4.4 all of the respondent had never sought refuge in any other country.

Table 4.4 Respondent's on refugee experience

Sought refuge before	Number	Percent
Yes	None	None
No	40	100
Total	40	100

4.3 Profiles of the Refugees

The first objective of this study was; “To identify the profiles of the refugee involved in voluntary repatriation.” In the Dadaab refugee complex there were difference in the profiles of the refugees sampled which were; Age, gender, level of education, marital status and occupation.

4.3.1 Gender of the respondents

The researcher sought to find out whether there were more women refugees than men since the situation of war and strife are known to affect women and children more than men. From table 4.5, the total number of respondents that the researcher included in the survey sample which was 40, of which 24 were female which accounted for 60% and the remaining 40% were male. The number of the female was more than male; this indicates that in the Dadaab refugee complex camp the number of females exceeded that of males.

Table 4.5 Gender of the refugees sampled

Sex	Number	Per cent
Male	16	40
Female	24	60
Total	40	100

4.3.2 Age of the respondents

The researcher held that younger persons were likely to be affected by war and civil strife and hence to flee and become refugees. Table 4.6 presents the respondents who participated in the study according to their age. Out of the 40, 20% were below 29, 40% were 30-39 years, those belonging to the 40-49 category were represented by 25% and, lastly those above 50 were accounted 15%.

Table 4.6 Age of the respondents

Age in years	Number	Per cent
Below 29	8	20
30-39	16	40
40-49	10	25
Over 50	6	15
Total	40	100

4.3.3 Formal Education

The literature on refugees shows that most of them have lower level of literacy and formal schooling. The distribution of the respondents according to their formal education presented in table 4.7 shows that 15% of the respondents never went to school. Those who went to primary school were 45%, those with secondary schooling were 25%, 15% had diploma and none had attended university. From this table it is clear that more of the refugees had none or some primary education.

Table 4.7 Level of Education of the respondents

Level of education	Number	Per cent
None	6	15
Primary school	18	45
Secondary school	10	25
Certificate/Diploma	6	15
University	None	None
Total	40	100

4.3.4 Position of the respondent in the Household

The researcher held that the position of the respondents in the household was related to their responsibilities with heads of such household having more responsibilities than the other members. When we asked the respondents about the position they held in their households, they responded as shown in Table 4.8 below indicating that 16 of them were fathers which represented 40%, half of them were mothers and 10% of them were children in the households.

Table 4.8 Position in the household

Household position of the respondents	Number	Per cent
Father	16	40
Mother	20	50
Child	4	10
Total	40	100

4.3.5 Marital Status of the respondents

When we asked the respondents about their marital status, they responded as shown in Table 4.9. The number of married respondents was high and consisted of 60%. The number of single respondents was 10%, the divorced/separated were 20% and there were 10% widowed respondents.

Table 4.9 Marital Status

Marital Status	Number	Percent
Single	4	10
Married	24	60
Divorced/Separated	8	20
Widowed	4	10
Total	40	100

4.3.6 Number of Respondent's Children/ Dependents

Depending on the question concerning the respondent's children or dependents to them they responded as shown in Table 4.10 below showing that 20% of them did not have any children/dependents, 20% had 1-2 children, 35% had 3-5 children and this was the largest number while 25% consisted of those who had above 6 children.

Table 4.10 Respondents Children/Dependents

Children/Dependent	Number	Per cent
None	8	20
1-2	8	20
3-5	14	35
Above 6	10	25
Total	40	100

4.3.7 Occupation of the Respondents

Having asked the respondents about their occupation, they responded as presented in Table 4.11 below. The number of the respondents who were employed in the camp were 30%, those who ran business were 45% and the remaining 25% neither run business nor were employed. Most of the respondents were business persons where almost 85% of those run business operated informally like selling milk, khat, firewood, etc. The remaining 15% operated formal business like small grocery, snack and hotel.

Table 4.11 Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	Number	Per cent
Employment	12	30
Businessperson	18	45
None	10	25
Total	40	100

4.4 Factor constraining voluntary repatriation

The second objective of this study was “To identify factors that constrained voluntary repatriation”. In regard to this objective, respondents raised factors that hinder repatriation.

When asked about their intention of going back to their respective country, 45% had an intention while the remaining 55% had no intention as shown in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Intention of respondents

Intention of repatriation	Number	Per cent
Yes	18	45
No	22	55
Total	40	100

Some of those who had an intention to return to their respective country of origin expressed the following hindrances to their intentions.

“The problem that forced me to leave my home country is not yet solved because whenever I manage to contact the people back at home or even hear from the people around, the information I get is that the tribal clashes in our area are still going on month after month and that situation is not safe thus prevent me from repatriation. So I am just staying here in refugee camp and waiting for good luck or fortune of may be getting resettlement in the third country so that I can live in safe and secure environment ... but if only the situation in my home country became safe and secure I could have gone and am praying that to happen so that I can move with my children and my husband to join other family members whom we left long ago.” (Respondent No 1)

“Since 1991 up until now my country is facing severe problems from drought, differences among leaders, lack of stable government and civil war, which have made life difficult and insecure in Somalia. In such situation I will not return unless safety and security are achieved. This becomes an obstacle to me and forces me to be in this camp.” (Respondent No 5)

“I have been in this camp for so long since I was forced from my country about over a decade. I started schooling here while in the camp, and am pursuing my studies; I don’t want anything that can interrupt my studies, and this is a rare opportunity. I may not have got this chance of education if it would have been in my country due to several factors that

caused me to seek refuge here. So at the moment I don't have any intention to repatriate and I don't know the future after my studies. In addition to instability of my country, schooling has also played a role in preventing me from repatriation." (Respondent No 18)

"Most of my neighbor's whom we fled with from our country and those whom I met here in the camp got resettlement to the third country mainly in Europe and America, since resettlement is advantageous for the refugee and his/her family, I wanted to benefit from resettlement and am waiting for my resettlement date since I asked for it earlier upon arrival, so that I can help myself and my family from this long hardship. My objective is to resettle in third country (Europe, America or Australia) where one can do his/her business in a safe and secure situation".(Respondent No 27)

"I was a student when I left my country, and the reason was participation or engaged into political activity, where students from high school and university jointly opposed the move of the regime in my home country, against some ethnic group. Most of us were identified to be killed, and luckily I arrived here in the camp safely after attempts at killing me... still I fear persecution so it is extremely difficult for me to repatriate. My options are integration to this asylum country or resettling to a third country... so fearing persecution has constrained me from repatriation." (Respondent No 4)

In conclusion the factors that prevent refugees from repatriation fall under two major areas, which are: a) Reforms less and instability in the country of origin; and b) opportunity in the asylum countries. Most of the refugees express that what forced them to seek refuge in the asylum country had not yet been solved or reduced and because of this they fear persecution for some reasons. Due to this rationale, voluntary repatriation becomes difficult in some countries where refugees originated; stability is doubtful where the civil war among the tribes in the country i.e. South Sudan, Somalia and Congo still continues. Similarly opportunities in the camp can discourage some of the refugees from repatriation where they got educational chances in the camp; they begun schooling here, so they don't want to interrupt their studies by deserting this golden opportunity. Where some of children cannot access formal education in their country due to remoteness of their villages, their parents

prefer to stay just for their children’s wellbeing. Importantly some of the refugees hope for the resettlement in a third country mostly in Europe, America and Australia. Having sought refuge in this camp for over decades and having applied for the resettlement discourages their repatriation as an option.

About 75% of the respondents expressed the view that these problems originated in their respective country of origin where the democracy and good governance was not practiced in accordance with the constitution.

4.5 Causes of Voluntary Repatriation

The third objective of this study was to examine the causes of voluntary repatriation, that is, the factors that normally caused repatriation based on opinions from the refugees sampled.

When asked them about their plan of moving out of the asylum country, the respondents answered as shown in table 4.13, where the entire refugee had planned to move out of this country to elsewhere.

Table 4.13 Respondents Plans

Planning to move out	Number	Per cent
Yes	40	100
No	None	None
Total	40	100

The reasons that led refugee to seek refuge in this camp were the following as some of the respondents expressed.

“Civil war in Somalia led me to flee from my country and seek refuge in Kenya back 1993...people were being persecuted by the adversary groups based on the ethnic/ tribes... drought and famine were also other factors that led to displacement” (Respondent No 23)

“My community is a minority ethnic in the country particularly in south-west of the country that experiences discrimination, intimidation and inhuman treatment including violation of inalienable rights before being massacred in a broad day 13th December 2003 by uniformed Ethiopian defense forces, and by other groups from different parts of the country gradually brought by the government to occupy the land that was forcefully taken from the ancestral community.” (Respondent No7)

“I was participated in the political activities trying to exercise constitutionally given rights with my colleagues in the country, expressing the unjust issues and pending reforms, opposing superiority of one group. I was volunteering and advocating for marginalized individuals and groups in my country. Due to that government targeted us ... so I fled fearing persecution” (Respondents No 40)

“I was forced to leave my country just because of insecurity and civil war among tribes in the country due to the little democracy and lack of good governance, if those problems were solved nothing can prevent me from repatriation and living in dignity and freedom in my country of origin... refugees claim several reasons depending on the situation in their country. My point on this matter is that repatriation is possible when the problem that forced the person is solved or reduced so that people no longer afraid to live and he/she will not stay in this hardship.” (Respondent No 13)

The factors that led refugees to fled their home country was instability and civil war specially in Somalia and south Sudan, human right violation and marginalization of some group by the governments.

The causes of repatriation of the refugees from Dadaab camp was as follows depending on the responses from the respondent that researcher interviewed them.

“UN usually presents off package for those who want to repatriate to their respective country of origin... some of the refugees receive the package, repatriate but after some weeks they come again to seek refuge.” (Respondent No 32)

“I have stayed in this camp for so long while waiting for my resettlement date. Unfortunately I didn’t get opportunity to live in the developed country... I don’t want to give up waiting resettlement, and one day the long awaited date will come... hopefully everything is going to be alright... so I have applied for resettlement and waiting for the best in the third country.” (Respondent No 38)

“the long awaited process of resettlement cause refugees to repatriate to their country of origin... a refugee who came to this camp in early 1990s has stayed in the camp for more than twenty years and even fail to get into a resettlement process or sometimes gets into the resettlement process but fails to move from one phase to another. This to some extent convinces him/her to shut the resettlement process and go for repatriation option to his/her country after staying so long in the camp.” (Key informant No 4)

“There are some refugees who feel that Kenya is not friendly as before due to the Al-Shabaab attack therefore they prefer the return option when the situation in their respective country gets reforms. Refugees repatriate when the problems that forced them are solved or reduced.” (Key informant No 2)

These opinions from the refugees on the causes of repatriation can be generalized into three, these are: First, the send – off package presented by the United Nations for those who repatriate will benefit, due to the fact that many of the refugees especially from Somalia participate in the process. Secondly, when long awaited process of resettlement date failed to arrive, most of the refugee who stayed in the camp for over decades gave up and decided to repatriate to their country due to the resettlement failure. Finally the intention of the government of Kenya to shut up the camp and the feeling of homesickness encourage the refugees to repatriate.

The respondents having been refugees for some time they had planned to move out of this country and settled elsewhere. From the respondents 45% had planned to get back to their country of origin while the remaining 55% needed resettlement to third country especially USA, Australia and Europe. As shown in table 4.14.

Table 4.14 Respondents countries they planned to repatriate to

Country	Number	Percent
Home country	18	45
Other country	22	55
Total	40	100

The respondent's reasons for their plans to move out of the country where they are refugee were clear from some of their responses:

“In the third country i.e. Europe or U.S, I will access many opportunities which will help me to a have better life than the one am having now... hopefully there I can get better education, safety, good health services and better nutrition.” (Respondent No 11)

“I have been doubting of security in this camp, ever since I became refugee here in asylum country, I had been facing security threat from the government in my country... so living in such conditions really hurts. Getting out to a third country will reduce these threat and psychological tensions.” (Respondents No 36)

For those who were planning to move out of the asylum country to their respective country of origin, had the problem been solved or reduced, the respondents answers are presented in table 4.15 by saying “yes/ no”, where by 44% said yes while the remaining 56 responded no

Table 4.15 Problem solved

Problem solved	Number	Per cent
Yes	8	44
No	10	56
Total	18	100

When asked about their recommendation to the UNHCR for handling refugee crisis which are resettlement, integration and repatriation are shown in table 4.16 according to their preference. Of which 70% prefer resettlement to third country, 20% prefer repatriation and lastly 10% prefer integration to the asylum country.

Table 4.16 Recommendation of the respondents to the UNHCR

Recommendations	Number	Percent
Resettlement	28	70
Repatriation	8	20
Integration	4	10
Total	40	100

Randomly selected reasons of the choices are as follows;

“ When I came to seek refuge here in asylum country , I didn’t have an intention of going to the third country be it Europe or America but rather came to seek refuge and live in peace in asylum country until my country stability restored, so that I could go back to my country.” (Respondent No18)

“For life sustainability and access to the beyond basics need of human being, better education for my children, better health care services and importantly enjoying the fruit of freedom and peace, so repatriation is my rational choice” (Respondent No 11)

4.6 Effect of Voluntary Repatriation on the Host Community

The fourth objective of this study was to assess the effect of voluntary repatriation on the local community.

When asked the refugees how they related with the local community and as shown in table 4. 17. 45% had friends; another 45% did so through business and lastly 10% related through other mean.

Table 4.17 Relationships between refugees and local community.

Relationship	Number	Percent
Friend	18	45
Business	18	45
Others	4	10
Total	40	100

The views of some of the refugees on this matter are presented below.

Respondent (No 6) stated that *“All the benefits that the local community gets from refugees and due to the existence of the refugee in the camp will cease as refugees go back to Somalia and other countries. A good example is Ifo2 where people became few day by day and even the small shops and kiosks, are being closed and some national staff working in Ifo2 are now taken to other camps because of less work.*

“The local community is benefiting from the refugees in the camp especially from business aspect. The local community sells their goods and services to the refugees and these have expanded the business and interaction between the locals and the refugees, since refugees

are dominant and even larger in number than the local community. Despite the reliefs and services provided by the UNHCR, refugees also depend highly on the host community. Repatriation of the refugee from the camp will lead to decline to the economy of the local community due to lack of enough customers for their goods and services.” (Respondent No 21)

“The presence of refugees in Kenya particularly in Dadaab has created job opportunities for the local community, e.g. livelihood project where the locals get a certain percentage of the project. There are also several organizations including Non-governmental and government organizations which hire more than 75% of their staff from the local community. From these aspects the level of unemployment is less when comparing with other community in the county... so repatriation of the refugees from the camp has direct impacts since the unemployment rate will automatically rise.” (Respondents No 19)

“Refugees have both direct and indirect relationships with the local community which is benefiting from the services like health, education, and transportation. For example DRC (Danish Refugee Council) sponsors pupils every year and gives priority to the local community thus uplifting the local people’s educational level.” (Respondents No 9)

Key informants also commented on the possible impacts of the repatriation of the refugees from the camp to the local community as presented below

“Voluntary repatriation will bring negative impacts like unemployment to the local community because if all refugees in the camp go back to their country, the local workers who are working in different agencies will go home on basis of no or few people to be served. Repatriation of the refugees will lead to the closure of the camp which directly affects the economy of the local community and possibility of failing into poverty is inevitable.”(Key informant No 2)

“Local community runs their business in and around the camp where the targeted customers are the refugees; they sell their goods and services to the refugees by which they are making money from these business activities operating in and around the camp... repatriation of refugees will slow down their business and possible closure because of the highly reduced customers... so repatriation of refugees has direct impacts on local community.” (Key informant No 3)

“There are several governmental and non-governmental organizations operating in the camp just for the refugee purposes... the local community also receives some services like health, education and others.” (Key informant No 1)

“Repatriation of the refugees from the camp will reduce environmental deterioration caused by the refugees... in Dadaab there is over population due to the refugees who cause deforestation in the area. Presence of the refugees in the camp also affects the local community where the securities is not safe due to the Al-Shabaab access to the area simply through these refugees and attack the people and security personnel. From this aspect repatriation of the refugees from the camp will be advantageous not only for the local community but for the nation too.”(Key informant No 4)

In conclusion the refugees and the local community have relationships which entail interaction between the two groups and there are some refugees married from local community. The establishment of the refugee camp in Dadaab is of high benefit for the local community, in that the host community benefits from it via different ways including, firstly business activities where refugees are the targeted customers of the local community. The local community sells their goods and services to the refugees in the camp, Secondly, creation of job opportunities for the local community. Finally, the local community receives services from the government and non-government organizations such health, education and

transportation. Despite these advantages there are problems of insecurity and environmental degradation which will reduce with repatriation.

4.7 Voluntariness of Repatriation

The fifth objective of this study was “To examine voluntariness of the repatriation process.” The respondents were asked whether they support UNHCR recommendation on selection of repatriation as the best option than the other two recommendations. As shown in table 4.18 those who support constituted 45% while the remaining 55% did not.

Table 4.18 Support UNHCR recommendation

UNHCR recommendations	Number	Percent
Yes	18	45
No	22	55
Total	40	100

All the respondents preferred voluntary repatriation as their choice without intimidation and threat to lead/ trigger refugee to leave the asylum country, as shown in table 4.19 all the respondents preferred voluntarily repatriation.

Table 4.19 Preferred types of repatriation

Preference	Number	Percent
Voluntarily	40	100
Involuntarily	None	None
Total	40	100

When asked about this process respondents stated as follows:

“Refugees are human beings like any other humans who deserve respect and protection of their rights. The host countries are expected to respect the UN-Convention being signatory and relevant rights to be adhered to, by the role of laws both national and international laws. So far refugees are being repatriated in a voluntarily and those who prefer to return get facilitation from united nation.”(Respondents No 5)

“It shows that international laws are being practiced well especially human right laws that state no one should not be forced to leave the asylum country without his/her intention...someone can go back to their country voluntarily when he/she makes decision.
(Respondent No 34)

“Refugees are supposed to be treated well and given freedom to decide for themselves whether to go back or not, using force is not good not only for refugees but also for any other human being. This enables people to leave in dignified manner rather than forced way which can cause several problems... involuntary repatriations are not only bad but also violate human rights. Here the refugee are repatriating voluntarily without any force.”
(Respondent No 32)

4.8 Case Studies

Here the researcher selected two refugees depending on their long experience in the camp to interview in detail. The following are the case studies of the two refugees from the camp.

4.8.1 Case Study 1

“I am a mother whose age is 39 years, with no educational background, married with six children, and living with the children in the camp, of whom three of them are in primary school while the rest are not yet in school and without any occupation currently, I used to run a small business before becoming a refugee. I became a refugee 9 years ago when civil

war broke out among tribes in my country and that led me to seek refuge in this country. I have an intention that one day I will go back to my home country and live there in peace, cause refugee's life is very difficult because we are given less freedom, we cannot go to cities and carry out other activities as local community due to the restrict rules. I wish I would have gone home earlier but unfortunately what forced me to leave my home country still persists, whenever I gather information from others, tribal clashes are still going on and the situation is not pleasing and safe. In fact, this is what hinders me to repatriate, hopefully when situation calms down, I will go back to my home country otherwise I will stay in this camp to wait for good luck or fortune of may be getting resettled in a third country. Most importantly I pray for the good situation, so that I can move out with my children and husband to join other family members whom we left long ago.”

What led me to be to this refugee camp are the internal and tribal clashes in Somalia. I would be very glad if I get back to my home country in safe and secure manner because nothing is more important than living in one's home country in safe and secure manner. For those of us (refugees) who are facing lots of challenges in the camp. I personally will fully support the repatriation recommendation suggested by the UNHCR that can be solution to the protracted refugee's worldwide. The reason why I prefer home is that it is best cause place where you belong and familiar than other area “you can be a visitor to other countries but not the whole of your life.” Somalia needs us just like we need her for development, and building the nation. Currently we don't have citizenship so getting back to our country will fully restore our citizenship and dignity too.

Voluntary repatriation is good because someone fled from his/her country fearing persecution, so let him/her decide when he/she prefers to return or stay in the camp, forcing and intimidating one to leave is against human right. The help we are getting like security and support for income are good, but housing and food is not satisfactory for families like us.

Refugees and locals have direct and indirect relationship, the local community benefits from refugees and vice versa.”

4.8.2 Case Study 2

“I am a father of four children living here with all my children and wife. I have stayed here for 11 years. When I fled from my country I was in high school due to the political issues having continued my studies after becoming a refugee, I hold a diploma certificate and I married here in the camp my spouse is also a refugee and we are from the same country. We were forced away from our country, with many students, some got chances and flew to Europe, America and Australia, while others still languish in the refugee camps here in Dadaab and Kakuma. I wish to live in my country but I don't think it will be possible because the regime is not good. We may be killed or imprisoned throughout our life. Personally my option is just waiting for resettlement because I have already started processing it as it was a matter of luck some our friends just leave while we living together in the camp, I would have gone out years ago but sometimes chances failed due to some reasons.”

“As a refugee my thanks go to both the UN and the hosting government i.e. Kenya. We know life in the camp is not normal like that of non-refugees; at least we are safe from threat, intimidation and persecution due to several reasons. My request is just that the UN should process and resettle those who have been in camp for so long.”

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The objectives of the study were to examine refugee's perceptions of voluntary repatriation from Kenya to the neighboring countries and its potential impacts on the local community. The findings on characteristics of the respondents included, the number of the females was more than males; this indicated that in the Dadaab refugees complex camp the number of female exceeded that of males. The researcher held that younger persons were likely to be affected by war and strife, and hence to flee and become refugees, the literature on refugees shows that most of them have lower level of literacy and formal schooling, the researcher held that the position of the respondents in the household was related to their responsibilities with heads of such household having more responsibilities than the other members where women exceeded men, the number of married was high in the camp, most of the refugees had children and most of them ran business.

The study revealed that the factors that prevented refugees from repatriation were the lack of reforms and instability in their country of origin, and opportunity in the country of asylum countries. Most of the refugees expressed the view that what forced them to seek refuge in the asylum country had not yet been solved or reduced and because of this they feared persecution for the same reasons. Similarly opportunities in the camp could discourage some of the refugees from repatriation where they got educational chances in the camp; they begun schooling here, so they didn't want to interrupt their studies by deserting this golden opportunity.

The finding indicates that the causes of voluntary repatriation of refugees were: the send-off package presented by the United Nations for those who repatriated benefited, due to the fact that many refugees, especially from Somalia participated in the process. When the long awaited process of resettlement date failed to arrive, most of the refugees who stayed in the camp for over a decade gave up and decided to repatriate to their country due to the

resettlement failure. Finally the intention of the government of Kenya to shut up the camp and the feeling of home sickness encouraged the refugees to repatriate.

The study revealed that the effects of voluntary repatriation on the host community were both positive and negative. The negatives included. Decline of business activities, unemployment rate increase and services like health, education and transportation would decline. The positive ones were the problems of insecurity and environmental degradation would reduce with repatriation.

The study also revealed that the repatriation process was voluntary and depended on decision from the refugees.

5.2 Conclusions

The study was planned and conducted in Dadaab refugee complex where most of the refugee and asylum seekers lived. The refugees in the camp had different backgrounds in terms of their country of origin and the linguistic families. This study used descriptive research design which is better in explaining and describing the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Kenya to the neighboring countries. The unit of analysis was their voluntary repatriation from Kenya to the neighboring countries and its potential impacts on the local community. The total population of Dadaab refugees (as August 2009) was 289,315 and was the target of the study. We sampled two blocks using cluster sampling and in selection of refugees the study used purposive sampling and selected 20 from each block gives a sample of 40 refugees. The study used primary data from refugees.

Some of the findings were that more refugees were women and younger. While most preferred voluntary repatriation, some preferred repatriation to a third country or to continue benefiting from opportunities such as schooling provided in the camp in the Asylum Country.

5.3 Recommendations

Most of the refugees in the camp are from Somalia caused by the instability in their country.

My recommendations are as follows

- a.) There is need for UN in collaboration with the Somalia government and other institutions to work hard to restore peace and good governance in the country and reduced the civil war. Some of the refugee's preferred repatriation but instability in their country hindered them from returning. The UN should study and solve the problem that causes displacement than finding solutions for the refugee without addressing the rear sources of their problems.
- b.) There is need for educating the refugees how their home country is as the better option than otherwise for such updates can convince the refugee to decide to return to their home country.
- c.) The UN and the government of Kenya should provide enough time for the refugees to repatriate. The intention of closing Dadaab camp by the Kenyan government would cause involuntariness if done in a shorter period of time
- d.) There is a further need for the UN to focus on the repatriation because nowadays the number of refugee is becoming too large even more challenging for the UN to handle world widely. Resettlement and integration should be minimized so that through repatriation which is not only a solution to the crisis of the refugees but also restores peace and order and brings development to the country.

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QUESTIONNAIRES

REFUGEES PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION FROM THE KENYA TO SOMALIA AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE HOST COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF DADAAB CAMP

Dear Participants

My names are Nura Godana Kulu, a student from the University of Nairobi carrying out a study on repatriation of refugees from Kenya to Somalia and other countries. I would like to ask you questions about your personal background, reasons that led you to come to this camp, your plan and perceptions about repatriation and your views about impact of your repatriation on the local community. Kindly spare a few of your minutes to answer my questions on these concerns. The results of the study will be used by UNHCR and the Kenyan government on understanding how best to assist refugees seeking repatriation.

Name of the respondent.....

Date of interview.....

Name of Camp.....

Section A: Profiles of the Refugees

1. Please indicate your gender

Male

Female

2. How old are you? Please tick on the number that best describes the range in which your age falls

Below 29 years

30-39 years

40-49 years []

Over 50 years []

3. What is your highest formal education qualification?

None []

Primary school []

Secondary school []

Certificate/diploma []

University []

4. Kindly confirm your position in the household?

Father []

Mother []

Child []

5. Marital Status

Single []

Married []

Divorced/Separated []

Widowed []

If you are married, are you living with your spouse?

Yes []

No []

If not, why?

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6. Number of children and other dependents

None

1-2 []

3 -5 []

Above 6 []

7. How many of your children are attending School?
8. a). What is your occupation?
 Employment (e.g. Teachers, Police, Doctors, etc.)
 Self-employment (e.g. businessperson)
 None
- b). If you operate business, what type?
 . Informal (e.g. vendor)
 . Formal (e.g. grocery, hotel, hardware, etc.)
 . Artisan (e.g. Mason, carpenter, electrician, mechanic, plumber etc.)
 . Others (Specify).....
9. If you have an occupation, approximately how much do you earn per month?
 Kshs.....
10. What is your previous occupation before becoming refugee?

Section B. problems Preventing Voluntary Repatriation

11. Have you intended to go back to your country of origin ever since you became refugee in this camp?

Yes []

No []

If yes, what prevents you from repatriation?

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b). Where do you think these problems originated from?

c). Do you have any recommendation to overcome the problems, so that those who are interested can voluntarily repatriate?

Yes []

No []

If yes what are the recommendations?

a.).....

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b.).....

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c.).....

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Section C. Causes of Voluntary Repatriation

12.a). What reasons led you to leave your home country and settle in this camp?.....

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b) How long have you lived in this refugee camp?

c). having been a refugee for sometimes, are you planning to move out of this country and settle elsewhere?

Yes []

No []

If yes, which country?

Home country []

Other country (specify).....

d). Why are you planning to move out of this country where you are a refugee?

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e.) In case you are planning to go back to your home country, have the problems that forced you to leave been solved/ reduced?

Yes []

No []

If the problems have not been solved why did you decide to repatriate?

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f.) UNHCR has recommended three optional ways for handling refugee crises which are resettlement, re-integration and repatriation.

Which would you prefer?

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Why do you prefer this option?

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Section D. Perceptions of Voluntary Repatriation

11. Do you support UNHCR recommendation that repatriation is the best among the rest solutions to the crisis of refugees? Yes..... No

If yes, why?

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14. According to the UNHCR, refugees may move out of the host country voluntarily or involuntarily. Which do you prefer?

a) Voluntarily.....

b) Involuntarily.....

Why in either case?

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15. What are your views about the following?

Items	Very favorable	Favorable	Normal	unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Housing					
Foods					
Support for income					
Security					
UNHCR					

16. Have you ever sought refuge in another country besides Kenya? Yes.....No.....

a.) If yes, which one?

b.) why did you change it to Kenya?

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c.) Once you repatriated from Kenya, do you have intention of re-seeking refuge back in Kenya? YesNo....

a.) If yes, why do you prefer Kenya?

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Section E. Impacts of Repatriation on local community

17.a). In which way have you as a refugee been relating to the local community?

- . Have friends
- . Sells goods/services to the community
- . Others (Specify)

b). in which three ways has the local community been benefiting from refugees like yourself?

a.)
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b.).....
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c.).....
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c). Have there been any negative impacts of this refugee camp on the local community?

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18. What effect will your repatriation from this camp have on the local community?

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Your Comments (if any)

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THANK YOU

REFUGEES PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION FROM THE KENYA TO THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE HOST COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF DADAAB CAMP

Key informant Interview

Dear participants

My names are Nura Godana Kulu, a student from the University of Nairobi carrying out a study on repatriation of refugees from Kenya to Somalia and other neighboring countries. I would to ask you about repatriation of refugees, impacts of refugees on the host community and the related question to the refugees and the repatriation. Kindly spare a few of your minutes to answer my questions on these concerns. The results of the study will be used by UNHCR and the Kenyan government on how best to assist refugees seeking repatriation.

1. Profile of key informants

Name..... Gender.....

Formal Qualification..... Position

Organization

How long have worked in this organization or company?

How long (in years) have you worked in this refugee camp?

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2. Refugees Profile

a.) What are the characteristics of refugees in this camp? In terms of

Age Gender

Educational qualification

Household Composition

Children and their schooling

Country of origin

3. Voluntary repatriation

a.) What in your views are the causes of voluntary repatriation?

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b.)What are your views on UNHCR's recommendation on voluntary repatriation as the best solution among the suggested solutions?

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c.)How far do you support the UNHCR recommendation on refugee crisis?

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d.)Comments briefly on the well-being of refugees in this camp (Housing, food, income, security)

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e.)Comment on support of the camp by UNHCR and Kenya government

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f.)What are your views about Kenya government’s plans to shut up this camp?

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b.) Host Community

a.)What would you say are the benefits of this camp to the local community?

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b.)What negative effects will voluntary repatriation of refugees have on the local community?

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Your Comments (if any)

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THANK YOU