

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**INSTITUTUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**THE ROLE OF REFUGEES ON THE DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS OF THE HOST  
STATES: CASE STUDY OF KENYA**

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REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN DIPLOMACY,  
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**DECEMBER, 2019**

**DECLARATION**

This Research Project is my original work and has not been presented for examination in any other University

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This research project has been submitted with my approval as University Supervisor

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this study to my family for their continued love, support and encouragement  
throughout my course period

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## ABSTRACT

The large scale arrivals of refugees in Kenya from neighbouring countries have presented a developmental debate which ceases to end. Majority of refugees seeking asylum in Kenya have either escaped an armed conflict, a civil war, an ethnic or religious persecutions or political oppression among other life threatening situations. Kenya has been hosting refugees for a protracted period of time. Hosting of Refugees present a myriad of varied socio-economic and political impacts. Though sometimes perceived as economic and security burden to the host country, they can as well play a significant role in the development and national security of the host country. This study, therefore, seeks to explore the role of refugees on the development interest of the host states focusing on how refugees in various African states have affected the interests of host states, the role, and impact of refugees on Kenya's national development and the challenges facing refugees in their efforts to contribute to Kenya's economic interest. In this study, the refugee contribution to development interests and national security of the host countries was critically analysed from the perspective of how refugees in various African states have affected the host countries. Neo-liberal theoretical paradigm conceptualized this study. The research adopted a descriptive survey design, which is informed the type of data collection method adopted. Consequently, the study adopted both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods which typically involved; document reviews and publications, informant interviews, as well as key questionnaires for purposes of data collection. The collected data were checked for completeness then analysed using computer software SPSS version 22 and computer excel for ease of interpretation and understanding. The Data is presented on tables, graphs and figures. Fundamentally, this study establishes a mutual co-relationship between refugee hosting states and refugees. While they (refugees) are perceived as a burden, they constitute a valuable economic population of their host state. This research study critiques the current humanitarian response-oriented policies initiated and recommends promotion of economic development-oriented actions. Further, this study arouses an academic debate anchored on *non-refoulement* principle in efforts to protect refugees.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
CPRs	Competition for common property resources
CRRF	Comprehensive Response Refugee Framework
DRA	Danish Refugee Council
GOK	Government of Kenya
GoK	Government of Kenya
HDI	Human Development Index
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Agency for Development
IHL	International Human Law
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRC	International Rescue committee
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MoICNG	Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
OAU	Organization of Africa Unity
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
RAS	Refugee Affairs Secretariat
RCK	Refugee Consortium Kenya
RCOA	Refugee Council of Australia
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SALW	Small arms and Light weapons
SPSS	Statistical Package Social Scientist
UN	United Nation
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organizations

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Refugees:** refer to an immigrant who has been forced to flee from the country of origin due to fear occasioned by persecution due to social, economic, or political reasons. (UN Convention 1957). In the context of this research, the refugees are those people who fled their home country due to the civil wars and now reside in Kenya.

**Host:** refer to any person/group of people who provide hospitality. In this research study, the word refers to Kenyan communities interacting directly with refugees mostly in the camps of Dadaab and Kakuma. Also looks at the perspective of Kenya as a host state of refugees.

**Development Interest:** refer to a country's goals and ambitions, on economic, social, and cultural advancement.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1 Background to the study

The World War II produced the second largest displacement of population globally. By its end in 1945 characterized by the unconditional surrender of Japan, more than a third of Europe's population was displaced. It is estimated that it claimed more than 80 million fatalities and displaced more than 100 million others.<sup>1</sup> The world was then confronted with a new challenge-refugee. Although, the formation of the (UN) in 1945 brought about an end to the war, it did not solve the problem of the displaced people in foreign territories.

The number of refugees globally has continued to increase due to generalised violence, persecution, and conflict. Whereas, the intensity of conflicts has intensified the number of people displaced as a result has also increased exponentially. Majority of refugees are hosted in developing countries where they pose both securities, political and economic challenge to the host country. Previous studies have demonstrated how refugees put pressure on public budgets of host countries and facilitate environmental degradation while at the same time challenge regional and international security and development. While hosting refugee challenges sovereignty, it arouses nationalism and patriotism consciousness among the host community. This has been witnessed through isolationist as well as nationalist movements, such as those arising both in Europe and the U.S. in the past few years.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Amadeo, K. (2019). *The Economic Impact of World War II*. Washington DC. The Balance

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, Global trends: forced Displacement in 2017 (2017) p 2

Developed countries, unlike developing countries such in Africa, have experienced positive contributions from the protracted stay of refugees. The United States is one of the countries that have benefited from refugee contribution, as evident in Bracero Program, created 1950s to provide a cheap and adequate workforce for the agricultural and industrial sectors. The program allowed over five million agrarian workers, who benefited the recipient country with cheap labour and state of origin, Mexico, with funds that were obtained from the overseas. Through the Bracero Program, it is easy to comprehend the long term effects of hosting refugees.<sup>3</sup>

During the Europe's refugee crisis, Germany benefited from hosting refugees as it was one of the countries in Europe which opened its borders for refugees.<sup>4</sup> According to the World Bank Economic Progress Report, the influx of refugees in Germany has increased the population by more than one per cent. While other European countries such as the UK, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary have the economic capacity to host more refugees, their governments were discouraged from hosting them due to political reasons. The general financial concerns in countries from Europe are that the economies will be weakened by an influx of refugees, which in turn will raise unemployment levels, strain the capacity of existing infrastructure and overwhelm the public budget.

In Africa, the integration of refugees into the host economy is not a common phenomenon. In West Africa, for instance, Guinea, has around 480,000 refugees still living in the camps up to date. This case points to similar case studies across Africa where host countries prefer resettling the refugees back to their countries of origin once conditions become favourable. This paints the

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<sup>3</sup> Ernesto Galarza's *Merchants of Labor: The Mexican Bracero Story* (Charlotte: McNally & Loftin, 1964).

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Hidden in Plain View: Refugees Living Without Protection in Nairobi and Kampala*, New York: Human Rights Watch, 2017

picture of the African refugee crisis different from the western countries or developed countries  
Vis a Vis from developing countries.

The case of Germany, therefore, portrays the way of increasing positive impacts of response programs on forced displacement. Persons responsible for formulating policies continuously acknowledged the significance of linking humanitarian aid with long-term development planning.<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, empirical knowledge on the development and socio-economic impact is required for efforts on such policy.

Conversely, refugees have experienced a lot of challenges in the process of contributing to the host countries' development interest. According to Renner and Senft, The host country and the international community should devise policies or programmes that include displaced populations in their development agenda so as to make a remarkable contribution instead of negative due to the host.<sup>6</sup> The refugees, as witnessed in most of the African countries, enable host nations to become more diverse and equally enrich the humanitarian and social fabric by blending multiculturalism in their society. Refugees most often transfer knowledge, strengths, and histories of their past to their newly settled areas. Additionally, the refugees can bring capital and capabilities that contribute to the host communities that welcome them.<sup>7</sup> In their home countries, some of the refugees were professionals, while others were struggling individuals.

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<sup>5</sup> OECD, "How will the refugee surge affect the European economy?" *Migration Policy Debates*(2015) No.8.  
<https://www.oecd.org/migration/How-will-the-refugee-surge-affect-the-European-economy.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Renner, W., & Senft, B. Predictors of unemployment in refugees. *Social Behavior & Personality: An International Journal* (2013)

<sup>7</sup> Willott, J., & Stevenson, J. Attitudes to employment of professionally qualified refugees in the United Kingdom. *International Migration* (2013)

Nonetheless, refugees skilled, semi-skilled, or unskilled often accept new trade opportunities and challenges that the host countries face and permanently settle in their new hosting countries.

Williams asserts that refugees can be a source of market for goods and services produced locally hence, stimulate the growth of the economy within the nation that hosts the refugees as well as providing human capital to vacant positions that have been neglected by the locals. The refugees have also boosted the host nation's economy by increasing economies of scale and nurturing flexibility and innovation that is required by the local industries to facilitate sectoral development and industrial productivity.<sup>8</sup>

Kibreab, however, is of the school of thought that refugees can bring a serious challenge to national security.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, Gomes demonstrated that besides straining the local resources, refugees overwhelm schools and health facilities as well as infrastructures like roads, land, and warehousing facilities, hence increasing both administrative and social costs. Nonetheless, Gomez argues that they do not always harm the economy of the host country; instead, they also create positive impacts.<sup>10</sup>

Kenya has been hosting refugees for the past twenty-five years. In 1998 Kenya received approximately 12,000 refugees from its neighbouring country, Uganda. During this period, refugees from Uganda were being granted full refugee status, including the right of movement,

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<sup>8</sup> Williams, L. *Understanding the Economics of Immigration*, Bureau of Immigration and Population Research, Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Canberra (1995)

<sup>9</sup> KIBREAB G. *African refugees: Reflections on the African refugee problem*. Trenton, NJ, USA: Africa World Press (1985).

<sup>10</sup> Gomez M. P., Christensen A., Araya Y. Y., Harild N. *The impacts of refugees on neighbouring countries: a development challenge*. World Development Report background papers, 2010. Washington, DC: World Bank

as well as to settle in urban areas without restriction. They also enjoyed the right to obtain a work permit and the right to apply for local legal integration.<sup>11</sup> The political crisis in Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia in the years 1991 and 1992 led to a large scale refugee influx in Kenya. Refugees coming from other nations, including Rwanda, Burundi, and the DRC, later moved to Kenya to seek protection from persecution and civil wars.<sup>12</sup>

To date, the Government of Kenya (GOK) hosts refugees mostly from Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan Eritrea, DRC, and Burundi, with about half a million still living in camps of Kakuma and Dadaab. Refugees, either in urban areas or in camps, are perceived as economic threats, taking over markets and jobs that belong to the host community. The opposite is also exact that refugees can also benefit the host state by stimulating development as well as economic growth. It is also recognised widely that the influx of refugees may be detrimental to the development interests of the host states upon successful integration, as witnessed in Europe, America, and some African countries such as Uganda.<sup>13</sup> Consequently, this research seeks to investigate how the presence of refugees affects host states. This study, therefore, examined the roles and impacts of refugees on the development interests of Kenya as a host state.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

As a result of increasing intra-state conflicts, the world has been experiencing a rising influx of refugees, 85% of whom are hosted in the developing countries, specifically Africa. Most of these refugees have sought asylum from armed conflicts, political persecutions and situations of

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<sup>11</sup> UNHCR Nairobi, *Annual Protection Report*. Internal document (2003)

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR Nairobi, UNHCR in Kenya, internal document (2004)

<sup>13</sup> Verdirame, G. and Harrell Bond, *rights in exile: Janus-faced Humanitarianism* oxford and new york: Berghahn Books (2005)

violence in host countries, and though they present a challenge to their host they also contribute immensely on their host country's development and territorial security. According to the United Nations High Commissionaire for Refugees, Kenya is currently a host of 469,769 refugees. For more than two and a half decades, Kenya, as a host country, has faced a lot of challenges from hosting refugees. In spite of the large and growing number refugees, the Kenyan government is calling for voluntary return of refugees and shut down of camps due to frequent terrorist attacks experienced in the country and diminishing support from international community. The international community is mandated with the protection of refugees as required by international refugee laws and conventions. Therefore, Short term humanitarian responses to refugee crisis can be mainstreamed in long term development-oriented strategies to reduce the adverse effects and strengthen the positive contribution of refugees in the host nations. Such policy initiatives may call for scientific analysis which captures national interest and national security of the host states. This study investigated the impacts of refugees on the development interests and national security of Africa with a special focus of Kenya as a host state.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

- i. How have refugees in various African states affected the interests of host states?
- ii. What has been the role and impact of refugees on the development and national security interest in Kenya?
- iii. What are the challenges facing refugees in the process of their effort to contribute to Kenya's interest?

## **1.4 Objectives of the study**

### **1.4.1 Overall Objective**

The overall objective of this study is to determine the role and impacts of refugees on the development and national security of Africa using a case study of Kenya.

### **1.4.2 Other Objectives**

The following specific objectives guided the study

- i. To investigate how refugees in various African states have affected the interests of host states.
- ii. To analyse the role and impact of refugees on the development and national security interest in Kenya.
- iii. To examine the challenges facing refugees in the process of their efforts to contribute to Kenya's interest

## **1.5 Literature Review**

### **1.5.1 Theoretical literature**

Theories are used to inform a study by explaining common facts about a phenomenon. They provide the framework upon which a researcher can operate when doing research. In the realm of the refugee phenomenon, various theories can be applied by researchers. Some of the related approaches that have been applied in research on refugees include theories, such as liberalism, which has its roots in idealism, with its core ideology being individual liberty, democracy, and popular participation. These theorists believe in progress, not the notion that war is natural as propagated by realists. This theory per se supports the idea that refugees as individuals have

rights that cannot be merely ignored, such as taking part in development agendas as well as the provision of necessities by the host nations. Constructivism, on the other hand, explains migration as a matter which has been securitised by several actors to serve their elitist interests and objectives.<sup>14</sup> In situations where refugees are viewed from the realm of the role played by the state, traditional realist theory becomes the best theory to apply. Relative Deprivation theory is also another plausible theory whose tenets inform studies in cases where the main focus is to determine situations of asylum-seeking and persons moving in search of residence due to armed conflict and lack of resources for their survival.

## **1.5.2 Empirical literature**

### **1.5.2.1 Economic impacts**

Refugees can have an effect on the host country's economy, which relates to the stimulation of long-term investment through capital inflows. According to Elizabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, refugees are mostly hosted in developing countries with unfavourable conditions, and most cases quickly devise ways of coping with situations in countries they reside. Elizabeth and Ellen also claim that refugees, whether in the camps or urban areas, can design income-generating activities in their new settlements. Elizabeth Rehn argues that refugee settlements are associated with increased economic activities, and this will, in turn, benefit the host community either directly or indirectly, such as increased market sizes as well as production by ventures set up by the refugees.<sup>15</sup> It is this impact that this study hopes to reveal for the case of refugees in Kenya.

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<sup>14</sup> Oliver Waever. *Securitization and De-securitization*. (In *On Security*, ed. Ronnie Lipschutz, New York, Columbia University Press, 1998)pp.1-3, 51

<sup>15</sup> Rehn, E. and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, *Women War Peace*, Washington: UNIFEM, 2002, p.7

The economic development caused by the presence of refugees in the host nation varies greatly, As Alix-Garcia and Saah point out through an economic review conducted. The long stay of refugees creates new market opportunities for locally produced goods which stimulate economic growth. However, competition for resources that are already scarce is likely to result in conflict for such resources. from the cases studied in Tanzania between 1993-94 it is evident that a positive economic effect is created for farmers by rising demand for food products apart from food-aid from refugees.<sup>16</sup>

A well-documented fact of research by Maystadt and Verwimp demonstrates that the emergence of new common marketplaces within refugee camps. Based on their study, high food rations that refugees consumed were exchanged between local hosts and refugees, as witnessed in various refugee camps across Africa.

Refugees contribute to filling the consumption and production gap; therefore, impacting the host country's national economy. It has been proven that refugees cause both negative and positive effects in the host country. An empirical study was conducted by Kreibaum examining the local society in Uganda is affected by the refugee population. He argues that refugee camps have a significant contribution to Ugandan host communities nearby. On the other hand, Kibreab has confirmed that economic development and growth in the host nation can be stimulated by refugees in case they were given opportunities to access to the market. He further argues that demand in goods and services in the host states tend to increase on arrival of refugees. Financial resources coming from international donors such as WFP, UNHCR, UNDP, and other UN agencies will come up to improve the refugees living standards. He further clarified that, For

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<sup>16</sup> Jenifer Alix-Garcia and David Saah, *The world Bank Economic Review* vol 24 no 1 (2010) pp 148-170

example, humanitarian aid granted to refugees comes with some restrictions like being prevented from working and moving. Because of the specificity of the refugees' issue, the study on how refugees affect the host states become increasingly significant to remove the vagueness on the actual impact of refugees on host states covering both negative and positive effects.

Refugees' have impacted on the development interest of the host states as in the case of Australia. This can be looked at from negative and positive perspectives. Based on Australia's Refugee council (RCOA), asylum seekers and refugees have contributed positively to various sectors of development, including business, research, sports, science, and civic and community life. However, it becomes a negative impact when they compete for scarce resources in the host country market, which in turn shifts the prices of commodities due to increased demand. A study by RCOA realised that refugees constitute various groups of persons that are skilled and have a variety of potentials, professional competencies, and skills, which, when allowed exercising within the business markets and regional labour can lead to significant economic benefits to the host community. Further, it was realised that economic immigrants and refugees affect the development interest of the host nation because they provide cheap labour that is highly required for industrial production.

#### **1.5.2.2 Political and Security Impacts**

Refugees have been associated with political upheavals and security threats to states hosting them despite host's ratification of international and regional law such as the UN Charter 1945 and African Union Constitutive act 2000 for protecting refugees. According to Salehyan and Galeditsh, refugees can destabilise their host country and its neighbouring countries as well as

their citizens. Refugee camps can be a fertile ground for harbouring terrorist organisations and carrying out operations.<sup>17</sup> For example, the Tutsi refugees in Uganda created a military faction- Rwanda Patriotic Army in 1990 which invaded Rwanda afterwards and captured state power.<sup>18</sup> Refugees can also form opposition groups against the host government, as was the case with Somali refugees in Ethiopia. For instance, Somali refugees in Ethiopia supported the Ogaden National Liberation Front movement in Ethiopia. Moreover, undocumented asylum seekers sneak to urban areas from the designated camps. This poses serious security challenges like the proliferation of light weapons and small arms, terrorism, and also but not limited organised crime and criminals.

Sudden refugee influx in any country poses a serious food security threat looking at food accessibility and availability. For example, refugees in Ethiopia, which are estimated to be 883,546 as of 2017, make food to become increasingly scarce for the deprived host communities in terms of rising prices and putting pressure on resources. However, the refugee population in camps receives relief food from UNHCR and WFP, which the hosts can obtain through trade. Although the distribution of food aid to refugees is evidently for consumption purposes, portions of it are sold at local markets in camps in exchange for non-food items. For instance, Whitaker established that that almost 75% of food rations that were intended for refugees in Tanzanian camps during 2002-2012 were sold at local markets.<sup>19</sup> Contrary to Whitaker, the UNHCR show

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<sup>17</sup> Salehyan, Idean and Kristian Gleditsch. “*Refugees and the Spread of Civil War*”, International Organization (2006) 60: 335-366.

<sup>18</sup> Lomo Zachary, Angela Naggaga and Lucy Hovil. *The Phenomenon of Forced Migration in Uganda. An overview of Policy and Practice in a Historical Context*. Working Paper No. 1. Refugee Law Project. (2001) Uganda

<sup>19</sup> Whitaker, B. E. *Journal of Humanitarian Assistance: Changing opportunities: refugees and host communities in western Tanzania* (2015).

that most of the food aids that are supposed to be consumed by refugees find their way to markets that can be accessed by the host communities.

### **1.5.2.3 Social and Cultural Impacts**

The protracted hosting of refugees for long period of time causes both social and cultural acrimony between ethnic groups of refugees and host communities. A study by UNHCR found that when the host community and refugees belong to the same linguistic and cultural group, there is more significant interaction and co-existence among them. For example, refugees from the Congolese and Central African Republic local community had interacted and lived together peacefully since they both belonged to the Yakoma ethnic group. In Kenya, The massive influx of refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia into Dadaab camps mostly inhibited by Kenyan Somalis sharing the same language and culture, which are often linked by tribe or clan have peacefully co-existed for more than three decades; however, there are limited cases of violence where the study investigated.<sup>20</sup>

According to Betts, refugees present a social inequality between them and their host which potentially creates social tensions. In some cases, refugee status offers an opportunity to access food and health services which are not available to host community. In many cases, social services also target host communities. In 2003, programs aimed at Refugees benefited the host nations by enhancing the farming sector, transport, and income-generating activities in regions settled by refugees.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Economic and Social Impacts of Massive Refugee Populations on Host Developing Countries, as well as other Countries*. Standing Committee. UNHCR, EC/47/SC/CRP.4 (1998)

<sup>21</sup> Betts, Alexander. *Development Assistance and Refugees, Towards a North-South Grand Bargain?* Forced Migration Policy Briefing 2. Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. United Kingdom (2009).

A development report from the World Bank states that in the refugee host community, social services have improved through establishments of schools and health centres. This has been experienced in Mexico in the early 1990s.<sup>22</sup> Similarly, the United Nations High Commission for Refugee has witnessed cases where refugee host communities have benefited health and sanitation services, as in the case of Tanzania, where health and sanitation services have improved tremendously. In Tanzanian refugee camps between 1991 and 2011 suggest approximately 30% of health service beneficiaries were local communities.<sup>23</sup>

#### **1.5.2.4 Environmental Impacts**

Many scholars link the presence of large refugee populations with environmental effects on natural resources, water, land, and sound and air pollution. Several studies highlight the environmental problems associated with refugee influx and a prolonged period of their settlement. Some of the immediate ecological issues contributed by refugees are like deforestation (construction and cooking) and displacement of the host communities' land for settlement. According to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) highlights the severe environmental impacts of refugees in Sudan which include depletion of forest resources, degradation of land, pollution both water, land, and air, and also an outbreak of diseases such as cholera.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> World Bank. 2011. *World Development Report: The Impacts of Refugees on neighbouring Countries: A Development Challenge (2011)*.

<sup>23</sup> *UNHCR's global Strategic and objectives*. UNHCR Global Appeal 2006.

<sup>24</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme. *Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment Population Displacement and Environment. Sudan*, (2006) Available at [http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/sudan/05\\_displacement.pdf](http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/sudan/05_displacement.pdf)

Refugees have impacted the host countries' land and natural resources. For most of the African states that host refugees, it has a negative impact if land and natural resources are scarce. However, Jacobsen asserts that in areas with rare natural resources competition arises between the hosts and the refugees particularly in the Horn of Africa region.<sup>25</sup> Countries like Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia have shown cases where refugee access land and natural resources contribute significantly to the host community's wellbeing.

#### **1.5.2.5 Influx of Humanitarian and Development Aid agencies**

Refugee host states from the developing world are likely to benefit the influx of humanitarian and development aid agencies before the refugee presence, which had initially been in existence. The increasing demand aid assistance as well as for relief in areas that host refugees can create awareness of the challenges that the host communities face like in the 1990s when refugee from various African countries such Somalia moved to settle Kenya for protection, UN agencies with refugee mandate have secured Dadaab area and supplied different forms of assistances inform of relief food, medicine, and shelter. Humanitarian and development aid agencies have established schools, hospitals, water points, and other offices to deal with refugee issues in the host country, which benefited the host community in Uganda, Ethiopia, and even Kenya. The effects of refugee endorsement and the assistance of economic functions will probably affect the host community's livelihoods. On the contrary, the reliance on aid, which comes with the settlement of refugees, is likely to dismantle the resilience of the host communities who may turn to over-reliance on support during shocks. It is, however, noted in this study that there is a gap in data from the Kenyan context, and thus, the current research looks into accruing knowledge on these

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<sup>25</sup> Jacobsen, K. Livelihoods in Conflict: *The Pursuit of Livelihoods by Refugee and the Impact on the Human Security of Host Communities*. (Online) International Migration, (2012) Volume 40.

issues to understand the dynamics surrounding refugee camps and their effects on host communities in Kenya.

According to Wilson Kenneth, the influx of relief resources as a result of refugees has significant effects on the host community's economic opportunities. Refugees increase the price of commodities and since they have purchasing power than their host they distort market prices. The writer argues that in Uganda, local community entrepreneurs moved to the areas where the refugees were settled. Commercial centres established in the camps of refugees with numerous restaurants and shops and daily markets. In the case of Uganda, refugees were considered to prevail in businesses compared to their Ugandan hosts.<sup>26</sup> In Uganda the presence of refugees economically benefited the host communities with better entrepreneurial skills; it may be of need to investigate the same for the refugees in Kenya.

#### **1.5.2.6 Competition and employment**

According to George Kritikos argues, refugees skilled or semi-skilled can fill the employment gap in refugee host countries. He stresses that the dilemma that refugees and host countries face of unemployment. The unemployed refugees are viewed as a burden to the host state while the employment of refugees is seen as disadvantaging the locals by limiting their employment opportunities thereby opening a Pandora box which breeds tension and inequality.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Wilson, K. "Some Aspects of Aid and Livelihood among Ugandan Refugees in South Sudan," Unpublished manuscript in the Documentation Centre Refugee Studies Programme, University of Oxford 1985.

<sup>27</sup> Kritikos, G. "State policy and urban employment of refugees: the Greek case 1923-30." *European Review of History* 7(2), 2000.

Developed countries that host refugees often experience economic growth and development since some of the refugees are skilled professionals, some of whom are nurses, teachers, and lawyers.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, refugees skilled or unskilled undertake entrepreneurial activities that benefit the host development interest. Nathan posits that there exists a close link between refugees's economic progress and that of their host.<sup>29</sup> Due to the limited economic opportunities available in the labour market in the host countries, refugees construct their means of identifying new business opportunities to have a living.<sup>30</sup>

Stevenson affirms that refugees transfer knowledge and skills from country origin to host countries, and allowing them to access employment opportunities in the host country will utilise their unique knowledge and skills that they bring with them.<sup>31</sup> In Australia, refugees and asylum seekers have been integrated into the economy and their skills and know-how utilised to benefit the host community.<sup>32</sup> According to Renner and Senft, refugee host countries receive funding from the international community.<sup>33</sup>

Despite the positive impacts, there are also cases in African countries where refugees' job opportunities meant for the host community are occupied by refugees, thus displacing them from their work. Notably, refugees and asylum seekers raise unemployment levels in the host country,

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<sup>28</sup> Luecke, M., & Schneiderheinze, C. More financial burden-sharing for developing countries that host refugees. *European Economics Journal* (2017)

<sup>29</sup> Nathan & Lee, Explaining the Refugee Gap: *Economic Outcomes of Refugees versus Other Immigrants*?, *Journal of Refugee Studies* (2013)

<sup>30</sup> Moffat, T., Mohammed, C. & Newbold, K. B. *Cultural Dimensions of Food Insecurity among Immigrants and Refugees*. Human Organization, Oklahoma City (2017)

<sup>31</sup> Stevenson, R. Hopes Fulfilled or Dreams Shattered? From resettlement to settlement Conference November 23rd-28<sup>th</sup> (2005). Retrieved from

[https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Refugees\\_and\\_Economic\\_Contributions.pdf](https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Refugees_and_Economic_Contributions.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> *ibid*

<sup>33</sup> Renner, W., & Senft, B.. *Predictors of unemployment in refugees. Social Behavior & Personality: An International Journal*, 41, (2013) 263–270. doi:10.2224/sbp.2013.41.2.263

although they have a minimal impact on the host state's wages and prices.<sup>34</sup> Nonetheless, Stevenson notes that in the long-term, asylum seekers and refugees have a minimum effect payment balance, though they are net contributors to the revenue of the local government.<sup>35</sup> Moreover, Stevenson contends that refugees succeed in terms of resettling abroad become critical assets because they boost the incomes and tax of the host nation.

Apart from creating trade and business opportunities, employment opportunities were increased by a rise in the refugee relief distribution to host communities. Non-governmental Organizations hired personnel from the local community in all levels of employment. The Kenya nationals working with NGOs received a favourable salary that was used to construct new houses and increased purchase power.<sup>36</sup> The influx of refugees and aid agencies into host countries raised both available resources and demand. Was it the same case for Kenya?

Kuhlman observes that refugee presence in host communities led to the emergence of trading systems. It was driven by factors that refugees received food rations and locals' demand for items. Kuhlman used the example of Ugandan refugees in southern Sudan who contributed positively to the local economy through the injection of capital as well as supplying labour.<sup>37</sup> Did the presence of refugees living in Kenya also have positive effects on several economic sectors?

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<sup>34</sup> Williams, L, *Understanding the Economics of Immigration*, Bureau of Immigration and Population Research, Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Canberra (1995).

<sup>35</sup> Stevenson, R. *Hopes Fulfilled or Dreams Shattered?* From resettlement to settlement Conference (2005).

<sup>36</sup> Harrell-Bond, B. *Imposing Aid: Emergency Assistance to Refugees*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1986

<sup>37</sup> Kuhlman, T. *Burden or Boon? A Study of Eritrean Refugees in the Sudan*, Amsterdam: Free University Press, 1990.

### 1.5.2.7 Remittances and Investment

Due to the global nature of the world, refugees have relations to the country of origin and their family members living abroad, a study by Njuki hints at the impact of refugees receiving remittances in the host country and thus enhancing the investment and business growth in the host countries. This has a positive effect on the GDP as the businesses pay taxes and create employment in the host country.<sup>38</sup> Emplacing this, a study by Provost Points out that the flow of remittance in some developing nations is higher in comparison to aid. Notably, in some of these countries, remittance contributes to a significant portion of GDP.<sup>39</sup> Nonetheless, the net impact of remittance being sent abroad by refugees is still vague. For instance, Stilwell points out that around \$2.4 million were contributed by settlers from Afghan living in Young, New South Wales, from mid-2001 to 2003.<sup>40</sup>

Carrington argues that refugees transfer capital from the country of origin to create new business opportunities in their areas of settlement on arrival, thus affecting the host community's ability to diversify income in regional towns.<sup>41</sup> Brima, on the other hand, argues that refugees will move from one camp to another or move to urban centres to look for job opportunities and accept jobs that many citizens in the host community would reject, thus increasing unemployment rates in the host country.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Njuki, Patricia. *Longitudinal study of newly arrived migrants*. A joint study of the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia and Adelaide University (2009) .

<sup>39</sup> Provost, Claire, "Bringing it all back home", *The Guardian Weekly*, (2012).p. 14.

<sup>40</sup> Stilwell, Frank, "Refugees in a region: Afghans in Young, NSW," *Urban Policy and Research*, 21(3), (2003) pp. 235-248. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0811114032000113635>.

<sup>41</sup> Carrington, Kerry, Alison McIntosh, and Jim Walmsley. *The social costs and benefits of migration into Australia*. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, Eds (2007). <https://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/social-costs-benefits/>.

<sup>42</sup> Brima, Edward. "How refugees stimulate the economy"(2013) <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2013/opinion/how-refugees-stimulate-the-economy>.

Numerous country-specific studies have further confirmed the positive and negative impacts of hosting refugees. In the UK, Gott and Johnston established that refugees that were integrated made a contribution of around £2.5bn more in terms of taxes in comparison to what they received in services and benefits in 1999-2000, but this was with immeasurable costs of protection for these refugees as well as the burden on social services.<sup>43</sup>

Giulietti in a study of European states found no significant correlation between refugees and host community.<sup>44</sup>

### **1.5.3 Literature Gap and Summary**

Several scholars have suggested that there might be some differences in the benefits that host states can gain from hosting refugees. It is, however, noted in this study that there is a gap in data from the Kenyan context, and thus, the current research looks into accruing knowledge on these issues to understand the dynamics of consequences of how refugee camps affect host communities in Kenya.

Hosting of refugees presents both negative and positive impacts on the development interest of the host countries, as witnessed in most of the developing and developed countries. In Europe, Canada, the United States, and Germany, refugees have been integrated into the economy, and depending on the opportunities given, they contributed positively to the host countries. Positive in terms of stimulation of economic growth and development within the host communities,

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<sup>43</sup> Gott, Ceri and Karl Johnston. *The Migrant Population in the UK: Fiscal Effects*. Occasional Paper No. 77. London: Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (2002). [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/occ77migrant.pdf](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/occ77migrant.pdf).

<sup>44</sup> Giulietti, Corrado, Martin Guzi, Martin Kahanec, and Klaus F. Zimmermann, (October). "Unemployment benefits and immigration: Evidence from the EU," *IZA Discussion Paper No. 6075* (2011). <https://ftp.iza.org/dp6075.pdf>.

creation of market places, filling in consumption and production gap and also providing cheap labour in sectors of development such as agriculture and industrial production.

In developing countries, primarily Africa refugees have impacted the host countries either positively or negatively. In Africa most of the host countries such as Uganda, Tanzania Rwanda and among other that host refugees have experienced some positive and negative impacts of refugees to mention a few, refugees have stimulated economic growth, created employment opportunities through influx of international donors, created market places such as selling of food rations received, investing remittances and capital received from abroad and home country and creating business opportunities within the host country.

On the other hand, refugees have a negative impact, such as to drain natural resources and impose social and economic burdens, contribute to environmental degradation, and a security challenge to the host country. Also, create competition for scarce resources and create job scarcity. It is with these impacts that the study hopes to reveal for the case of refugees in Kenya. Most of the scholars and academicians have focused on the humanitarian, socio-economic, and security impacts of refugees, but little study has been done in the case of Kenya and how refugees can positively or negatively impact the development interest of the host countries in Africa. The study, therefore, tends to fill the gap in the literature whether the presence of refugees living in Africa, Kenya, in particular, have positive or negative effects on the development interest of the host countries.

## **1.6 Justification of the Study**

### **1.6.1 Academic Justification**

To researchers and academicians, this study is significant for various reasons. Firstly, the study would enrich the existing literature on refugee welfare in host countries as well as the impact they have while in those countries, which is essential for foreign relations and development. Through the research, readers and scholars have an opportunity to explore this contentious, unique yet promising instrument for a better approach to refugee issues by host countries. Therefore, it is assumed that the findings of the research will stimulate intellectual debates and thus create an interest in other studies in the future on this vital instrument.

To the academic field, the study should add to the knowledge of the role of refugees in the host countries. This study aims to contribute to the scholarly research on refugee protection policymaking and diplomatic relations in Kenya, which will strengthen negotiation skills and understanding of refugee host and intervention areas by key stakeholders.

### **1.6.2 Policy Justification**

**Contribution to Diplomacy:** The study is aimed to provide insight into the challenges and prospects of hosting a large number of refugees. The study has enhanced the understanding of the role of refugees in advancing national interests.

This research is critical in removing the common perception about the economic burden associated with refugees to the country; instead, the host countries giving refugees opportunities that enable them to contribute to social and economic developments significantly. Through the

information provided in this research, host countries that have stringent laws against refugees need to review such regulations to give the refugees with enabling environment that will enable them to achieve sustainable development.

## **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

The leading theory used in this study is the neo-liberalism approach as advanced by David Harvey. The core of the neo-liberalist argument states that less government control and more reliance on free markets are necessary ingredients of development. Harvey describes neo-liberalism theory as a political-economic model that focuses on the advancement of ideals of human beings through the promotion of individual freedoms and market liberality.<sup>45</sup> This theory applied in this context will mean that refugee assistance can be mainstreamed in development-oriented strategies while taking into account the interests of the host state.<sup>46</sup> This study's argument is aligned to the view against the stratifying nature of the theory by focusing on suggestions by James Ferguson that the tenets of neo-liberalism can be used to advance equality and promote sustainable outcomes. From this view, Ferguson asserts besides serving individuals with purchasing power, market-based solutions can also be designed to include and help the poor as well as the excluded, such as the refugees.<sup>47</sup>

In this study, neo-liberalism was used to argue the case of refugees 'impacts in the development in a scenario for the host states. This would require that the refugees are treated in ways that require the revision of some of the prejudices which are linked with the mechanisms of the

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<sup>45</sup> Harvey, David. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005. Print.

<sup>46</sup> Gorman, R. *Refugee Aid and Development: Theory and Practice*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, (1993), pp. 20-34.

<sup>47</sup> Ferguson, James. "The Uses of Neoliberalism." *Antipode* 41 (2010): 166-84. Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, 2009.

market with the well-ups interests or those who have automatic rights to economic activity. This study, therefore, was informed by the redirected neoliberal efforts. According to Ferguson, this could be the inclusion as well as the purchasing power of the disadvantaged, including the refugees.

In this study, arguments connected to the local cases in Kenya to help understand how neoliberalism has worked or could be a means to empower rather than to exploit, as well as deal with other challenges emanating from other forms of capitalism. The theory raises critical issues that this study seeks to address. They include conceptualisations about the impact of the host country on refugee populations. Regardless of whether the host nation as whole benefits, one should disaggregate the question: Is the refugee presence in a host country a burden or an opportunity?

The study assessed the case for the refugees residing in Kenya to establish whether the refugee presence in Kenya created a new context in which hosts devised strategies to tap into the refugee potential for development, or they have treated it as a liability. The approach was useful for the current study as it outlined the contributions that the refugees in Kenya have towards the development interests in the country. It has also described the situation under which Kenya, as a nation, has laid strategies for the employees to contribute to the growth of the economy.

The application of this approach in this study seeks to diffuse the notion that many have seen refugees as victims and not as individuals seeking their survival under challenging situations in a host state. The study developed a new understanding of approaching refugee welfare in Kenya

by moving away from the standard humanitarian support systems premised on refugees as victims and not actors in their own lives.

## **1.8 Hypotheses**

The study tested three hypotheses namely;

H<sup>1</sup> Refugees affect the interest of the host country

H<sup>0</sup> Refugees have no role and impact on the development interest and national security of Kenya

H<sup>1</sup> refugee have faced challenges in the process of their effort to contribute to Kenya's interest

## **1.9 Methodology**

### **1.9.1 Introduction**

The section gives the research design to be used for the study; it provides the study location, the target population, and the sampling technique, which is appropriate for the study. The section provides the data collection instruments to be adopted for the study, the data analysis techniques, the scope of the research, and the chapter outline that shall guide the whole research.

### **1.9.2 Study Location**

The Study Area was Nairobi Kenya, Kakuma, and Daabab refugee camps. The study also concentrated on the interior and coordination ministry headquarters Nairobi, where relevant directorates were given a chance to participate in the study. These areas were selected the host large refugee populations that have been incorporated into society and make a livelihood through various business activities in the area. According to the UNHCR review report 2017, the refugee

population hosted in Kenya refugee camps of Kakuma, Dadaab, and urban refugees in Nairobi have a projection of 486,460 people.

### 1.9.3 Target Population

The study targeted staff from UNHCR and MoICNG, (RAS), IOM, Refugee Consortium, Danish Refugee Council and Norwegian Refugee Council among other refugee agencies in Kenya. The study also gave a chance to community leaders from members of the host country in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Eastleigh. The study also allowed the refugee population in the areas, as mentioned above.

**Table 1.1: Target Population**

<b>NO</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Population</b>
1	Community Leaders Garissa County	329,868
2	Community Leaders Turkana County	855,399
3	UNHCR Officials	416
4	Refugee Affairs Secretariat	298
5	Norwegian Refugee Council	68
6	IOM	221
7	DRC	172
8	Kituo Cha Sheria	35
9	Refugee Consortium	88
10	Refugee Affairs Secretariat	28
11	Refugee in Kakuma	186,205
12	Refugees in Dadaab	208,891
13	Urban Refugees Nairobi	72,355
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,654,044</b>

### 1.9.4 Sampling Procedure

The study adopted purposive sampling and simple random sampling methods. The purposive sampling method involves population being selected based on the purpose of the study and the demographics of the population while simple random sampling is the way of selecting sample population without regard to any system giving every item in the population equal chances of

being selected.<sup>48</sup> The study, therefore, used simple random sampling in selecting members of the Refugee Affairs Secretariat, UNHCR Officials, and Refugees from Dadaab, Kakuma, and Urban refugee in Nairobi. The study also gave a chance to host community leaders that are within 100km of radius from the camp and have interactions with the refugees at least weekly. The sampling formula used to arrive at the population is as indicated below: Yamane formula of 1967.<sup>49</sup>

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

- Where n = the desired sample size
- N= the total population (target population)
- e = the degree of accuracy given at 0.05 testing at 5% Confidence Level
- Therefore the desired sample size n =”

### **Community Leaders**

According to KNBS (2009),

- Community members in Garissa County 329,868
- Community members in Turkana County 855,399
- Totals is therefore 1185267

$$x = 1185267 + 1185267(0.05)(0.05)$$

$$n = 399$$

### **Refugee Agencies**

$$x = 12981 + 1298(0.05)(0.05)$$

$$n = 306$$

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<sup>48</sup> Kothari & Gaurav Garg, *Research Methodology*, Third Edition, New (2014). Age International Publishers, New Delhi.

<sup>49</sup> Yamane, Taro, *Statistics: An Introductory Analysis*, 2nd Edition (1967), New York: Harper and Row.

## Refugees in Kenya

The total Refugee population in Kenya according to UNHCR (2018) sample size

$$x=4674511+467451(0.05)(0.05)$$

$$n = 399$$

**Table 1.2: Sample Population**

<b>Community Leaders</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Sample size</b>
Host Community Leaders Garissa County	329,868	329,868/1,185, 267*399 = 111
Host community Leaders Turkana County	855,399	<b>288</b>
<b>Totals</b>	1,185, 267	<b>399</b>
<b>Refugee Agencies</b>		
UNHCR	416	416/1298*306=98
Refugee Affairs Secretariat	298	70
Norwegian Refugee Council	68	16
IOM	221	52
DRC	172	41
Kituo Cha Sheria	35	8
Refugee Consortium	88	21
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>306</b>
<b>Refugees in Kenya</b>		
Kakuma refugee camp	186,205	186,205/467,451*399=159
Dadaab refugee camp	208,891	178
Urban refugee(Nairobi)	72,355	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>467,451</b>	<b>399</b>

A total of 260 respondents from refugee-related agencies of government and international organisations and 399 refugee respondents from Nairobi urban refugees, Kakuma camp and Dadaab Camps, were sampled to participate in the study while 399 respondents from host community leaders were given a chance to participate in the study. The methodology adopted in entailed both the use of quantitative and qualitative methods.

### **1.9.5 Sources of Data**

The study used the following sources of data

#### **1.9.5.1 Primary source of data**

Primary data collection is a method whereby the data is collected for the first time from a population that can either be done using questionnaires, interview schedules or focus group discussions.<sup>50</sup> During the research period, key informants from the refugee agencies, i.e., UNHCR, RAS, IOM, DRC, among other and local leaders were interviewed to provide vital information concerning refugee role and impact on the host countries of Africa and Kenya in particular. Questionnaires were used to gather data from refugee households in Nairobi, Dadaab, and Kakuma. Questionnaires were administered through drop and pick a method to some relevant offices of the humanitarian organisations, while in some situations, depending on the literacy levels, the researcher had some questionnaires self-administered. The collected data was then checked for completeness and errors before they are approved for data analysis.

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<sup>50</sup> Kothari & Gaurav Garg, *Research Methodology*, Third Edition, New (2014). Age International Publishers, New Delhi.

### **1.9.5.2 Secondary Sources of Data**

The secondary data collection method is the method whereby data is collected by someone else for other work other than the researcher's work. It is usually both qualitative and quantitative.<sup>51</sup> Document reviews of the various project reports and publications being developed by humanitarian organisations, especially UNHCR, the government of Kenya's department of the refugee affairs, and other documents were thoroughly reviewed before and after research fieldwork to fill the knowledge gap appropriately.

### **1.9.6 Data Analysis**

The data analysed was based on descriptive statistics such as “median, mean, frequency, mode, and median distributions as well as percentages”. Descriptive statistics is referred to as the summary of statistics that are known to describe the given characteristics of a population quantitatively.<sup>52</sup> After the analysis, the data were tabulated and presented in Pie charts and tables. The analytical tools offered by Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package Social Scientists (SPSS) were used.

### **1.9.7 Scope and Delimitations**

The study was limited in a few ways.

First of all, the research was conducted in limited time due to a strict schedule for academic engagement. Only refugees from Dadaab, Kakuma, and Urban refugees in Nairobi were given a chance to represent the general refugee population in Kenya. Second, the target population is small, only staff of refugee agencies involved in different refugee welfare programs as well as

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<sup>51</sup> Cooper, D., & Schindler, P. *Business research methods* (10th ed.) (2008) New York, McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid

host community leaders in Dadaab refugees in the two camps. It was observed that some were not available during the time of the research. Third, the selection of refugee cases was purposive and hence limited the number of refugees who participated in this study.

### **1.9.8 Ethical Consideration**

A permit was obtained from the University of Nairobi as well as the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation. The licenses were presented to refugee camps and local administration, such as local chiefs for permission on data collection. The respondents were ascertained of their right to consent including in assuring that the research is my original work. The respondents were assured anonymity and the usage of their data to be only for research purposes where the results would be availed to any interested person upon request or via online publication journal.

### **1.9.9 Chapter Outline**

This chapter has outlined the study introduction and laid the background for the study. The section has also defined the study problem and its purpose. The study objectives were also outlined, as was the justification of the study in academic and policy perspectives. The methodology of the study has also been explained in detail under this chapter.

### **Chapter two: Effect of refugees on the interest of host states.**

This chapter identified the historical and current state of refugee impact on host states in the African region and the main contributing factors to the refugee influx. The problem of the

Refugee from a security angle was also discussed. Other issues to do with the refugee positive and negative impact on the host states were also investigated.

### **Chapter three: Role and impact of refugees on Kenya's National development**

This chapter looked at the role and impact of refugees in Kenya. The chapter also investigated the role that refugees have played towards the development interest of Kenya as a host state. The chapter assessed the contribution of refugees on the host country on both negative and positive perspective

### **Chapter Four: challenges facing refugees in the process of their effort to contribute to Kenya's interest**

This chapter has examined the challenges facing refugees in the process of their efforts to contribute to Kenya's economic, political, socio-cultural, environmental, and diplomatic interests.

### **Chapter five: Findings and Data Analysis**

The findings were presented based on data obtained from secondary as well as from primary sources.

### **Chapter six: Summary, conclusions, and recommendations**

This chapter discussed the summary of the study findings based on each chapter. It presented the overview from the introduction and methodology part of the study; it also presented summary from the findings on the effect of refugees in the interest of host states, role and impact of refugees on Kenya's national development Kenya and challenges facing refugees in the process

of their effort to contribute to Kenya's interests. It also gave the conclusions based on the researcher's observation of the findings; thereafter, the chapter gave the recommendations following the study findings.

## CHAPTER TWO

### EFFECT OF REFUGEES ON INTERESTS OF HOST STATES

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the historical and current trends of refugee influx and common causes of refugee influx in Africa. It further investigates how refugees in the various African States have affected the host countries' social, political, environmental, cultural, security, and economic development interest.

#### 2.1 History of refugee influx in Africa

According to the 1951 United Convention on refugee status, a refugee is a person who because of fear that is well-founded as a result of being persecuted because of nationality, religion, race and being a member of a particular political opinion or group and is outside the state of nationality and is unable or because such fears, unwilling to unveil themselves for protection by the country.<sup>53</sup> The OAU (1969), which is currently referred to as the AU adopted the definition of the UN on refugees and expanded it to include persons that flee from internal civil strife, external aggression as well as events that interfere with public order nations in Africa.

Africa produces an uneven number of refugees in relation to the global number of refugees as well as the overall population of the continent. In 1994 Africa hosted around 47 per cent of the world refugees recorded by the UNHCR despite the continent being poor with complex conflict systems. This has, however, dropped to 28 per cent from 6.75 million in 1994 3.2 million in

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<sup>53</sup> UN Refugee convention (1951): Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951), Article 1.

1998.<sup>54</sup> Therefore, the host countries in Africa are struggling to create a proper balance between the necessity of maintaining territorial integrity and the need to fulfil the obligations of regional and international legal instruments of protecting refugees who seek asylum within their borders.<sup>55</sup>

The number of refugees in African has grown tremendously over the past two decades, from a mere 3.2 million to approximately 20 million currently. Almost all these refugees have resided in countries that are poorly developed and are considered underdeveloped, facing a lot of challenges in meeting the needs of their citizens. Equally, it is appropriate to note 28%, which is almost a third of the refugees across the globe live from emerging nations like Chad, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda.<sup>56</sup>

According to Bell, the population of refugees in Africa has been rising exponentially during the last ten years, mostly as a violent civil wars which deterred states from hosting them.<sup>57</sup> By mid-2008, the refugee population stood at approximately 2.3 million, most of them residing within camps under challenging living conditions.<sup>58</sup> In 2009 it remained constant, 2010 reached, and less than five years in 2014, Africa hosted close to 4.2 million and by 2016, and it reached 5.5 million refugees mostly from neighbouring countries within Africa.

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<sup>54</sup> Crisp, Jeff, New issues in refugee research: *Africa's Refugee: Patterns, problems and policy challenge*: working paper No.28 (2000) UNHCR, Geneva

<sup>55</sup> Albert, I.O. Mapping the discourse; History social conflict and conflict management (ed) in Nigeria, Ibadan, peace and conflict studies programme (2012).

<sup>56</sup> UNHCR UNHCR Mid-Year Trends. (2014) p.22. <http://unhcr.org/54aa91d89.html>

<sup>57</sup> Simon Bell. *Why Refugees Are a Threat to National Security*. [https://www.academia.edu/7188234/Why Refugees Are a Threat to National Security](https://www.academia.edu/7188234/Why_Refugees_Are_a_Threat_to_National_Security)

<sup>58</sup> UNHCR UNHCR Mid-Year Trends. (2014) p.22. <http://unhcr.org/54aa91d89.html>

Currently, the UNHCR office contends the current levels of displacement are the highest that have ever been witnessed across the globe, with over 68.5 million persons being forced to leave their home countries because of wars, persecution, (intrastate and interstate), internal conflicts, drought, and economic pressure.<sup>59</sup>

## Refugee trends in Africa

**Table 2.1 Refugee population in Africa region**

Region	Start Of 2017	End Of 2017	% Increase
Central Africa and great lakes	1,381,900	1,475,700	6.8
East and Horn of Africa	3,290,400	4,307,800	30.9
Southern Africa	162,100	197,700	22
West Africa	300,600	286,900	-4.6
<b>Total Africa (excluding North of Africa)</b>	<b>5,135,100</b>	<b>6,268,200</b>	<b>22.1</b>

(UNHCR 2017 Review)

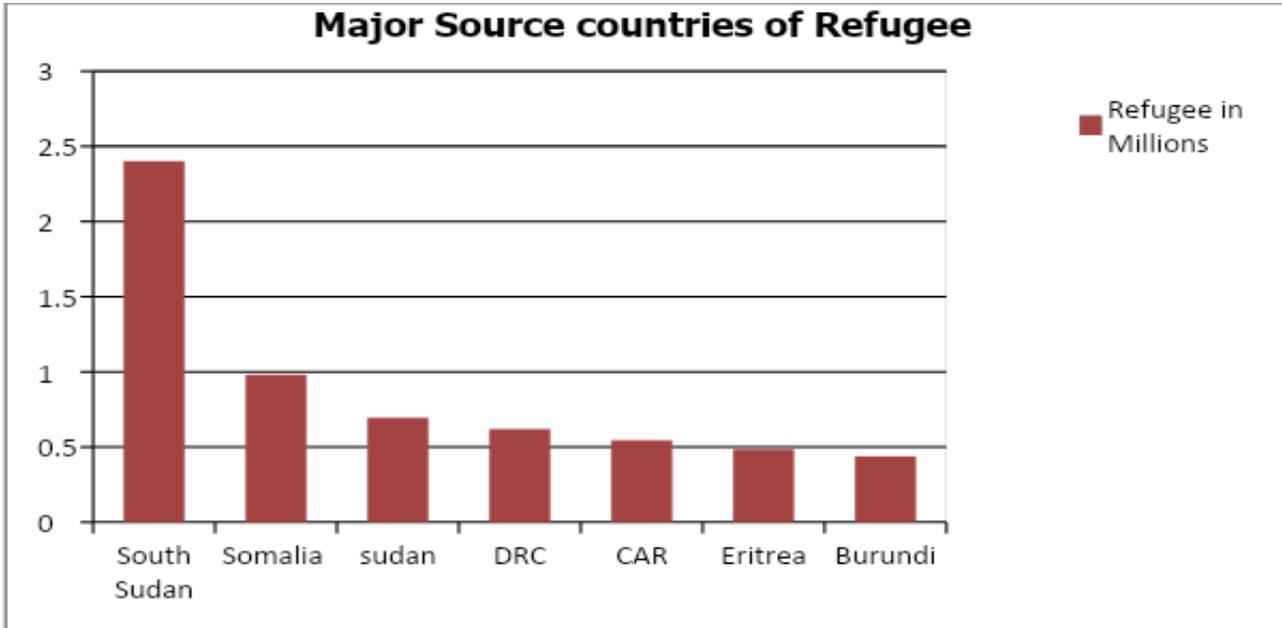
Based on the UN, the least developed countries, especially those in Africa, host an uneven refugee number, presently 85% of the refugee population across the globe under the mandate of UNHCR around 19.9 million refugees, while under the mandate of UNRWA approximately 5.4 million refugees from Palestine. The population of refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa increased by 22%, which is equivalent to 1.1 million refugees during 2017, mainly because of the Southern Sudan crisis, where over 1 million refugees fled to Uganda and Sudan. New conflicts arising in

<sup>59</sup> UNHCR, Global trends: forced displacement in 2017 pdf

Burundi have also raised the figure. More than 30% of the refugee population in the world was hosted in this region.

In Africa, most of the refugee influx is as a result of war and internal conflicts compounded by political and socio-economic as well as environmental factors.<sup>60</sup> Refugees in Africa originated from Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, and the Central African Republic. These refugees population are hosted in different countries of Africa, some integrated while others kept in the camps. Some of the countries in Africa that host refugees may include but not limited to Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Chad, Guinea, Angola, Rwanda, The united republic of Tanzania, Zambia, among others stable countries.<sup>61</sup>

**Figure 2.1 Major source of Refugee**

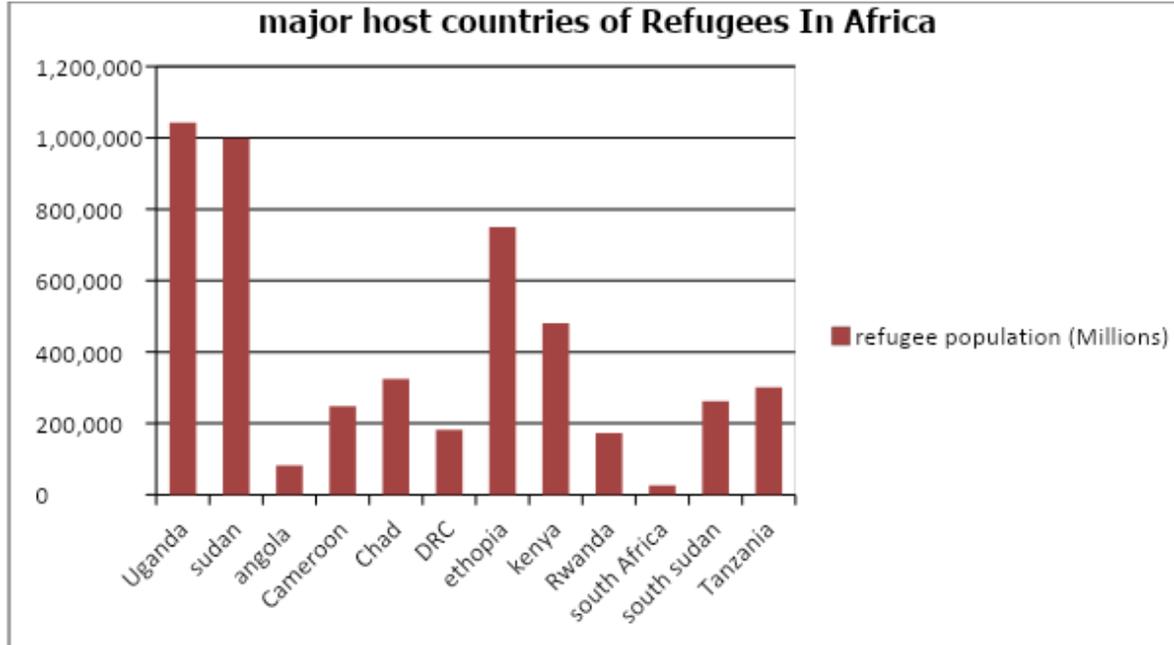


Source: (UNHCR 2017)

<sup>60</sup> Andreas, Peter (2003); *Redrawing the line: Borders and security in the twenty first century*, *International security* 28(2) :78-1.11

<sup>61</sup> UNHCR, *Global trends: forced displacement in 2017 pdf*

**Figure 2.2: Refugee host Countries in Africa**



Source: (UNHCR 2017)

At the end of 2017, Uganda hosted the refugees from South Sudan (1,037,400), while 772,700 were hosted in Sudan, and about 421,400 and 111,500 moved to Ethiopia and Kenya, respectively, and the remaining 89,000 fled to DRC.<sup>62</sup> South Sudan remained the third major country of origin of refugees in 2017 after Syrian and Afghanistan refugees. Despite Somalia being the fifth largest refugee source after Myanmar, the number of refugees from Somalia reduced slightly to 986,400 in 2017. The most significant share of the refugees, 281,700, was hosted in Kenya, while Ethiopia and Yemen held 253,800 and 255,900, respectively. South Africa and Uganda, as well as other parts of the globe, hosted the remaining 74,000.

<sup>62</sup> UNHCR, Global trends: forced displacement in 2017 pdf

The population of the refugee from Sudan rose faintly to 694,600 from 650,400 in the early months of 2017. The majority of Sudan refugees are hosted in Chad, representing over half of Sudan's displaced population and the rest hosted in Ethiopia (43,900) and South Sudan (262,000).

The number of DRC refugees registered a 16% rise, from 537,500 to 620,800 in 2017, with most of them moving to Angola and Uganda. In particular, DRC refugees received protection from neighbouring nations like Uganda, which hosted over 70% of Congolese, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Angola, and Zambia also hosting over tens of thousands of them. Other countries that also provide asylum for refugees are Kenya hosting over 13,000 and South Africa.<sup>63</sup>

Similarly, Africa hosts refugees from the Central African Republic estimated over half a million, with most of the new arrivals currently hosted in Cameroon holding close to 250,000 and DRC protecting at around 181,900 while Chad was hosting about 76,000. Lastly, Eritrea and Burundi with 486,200 and 439,300 people forcibly displaced, respectively. Eritrea's central host countries in Africa are Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya. Burundian are also hosted by Tanzania, Rwanda, The DRC and Uganda

## **2.2 Causes of refugee influx in Africa**

Conditions responsible for the current state of refugees in Africa include political and socio-economic factors. Several scholars argue that war and armed conflicts being the significant factors that exacerbated the massive influx of refugees in various African countries. Additional factors such as restriction on or violations of human rights, fear of losing cultural or religious

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<sup>63</sup> ibid

identification, oppressive and segregation regimes with particular reference to South Africa, underdevelopment from colonialism, economic recession, foreign debt, insecure food supply, and drought can be common attributing factors to the refugee influx.<sup>64</sup>

Additionally, thousands have been forced to flee from Central African Republic clashes among rival groups. Over two million persons have also been forcibly displaced from Nigeria, with around 1.87 persons escaping from the violence initiated by the Boko Haram's militant group. In turn, over 195,350 individuals have moved as refugees to neighbouring states like Niger, Cameroon, and Chad.

### **2.3 Effects of refugees on the Host interest**

Apart from economic impacts, refugees can also lead to political, environmental, and social as well as security effects in the country that hosts them. These impacts are complimentary and they present a governance challenge to the host country which is hand-tied to accept their stay in their territories. Refugees have been associated with cutting down of trees for firewood in their camps which directly leads to deforestation and soil erosion two most profound negative effects associated with mass displacement of people.

#### **2.3.1 Economic effects of refugees in Africa**

Strong or weak economies that host refugees experienced adverse effects of refugees, such as the exploitation of scarce local resources and job opportunities. Nonetheless, a wide range of literature exists explaining the economic benefits of refugees. Refugees, for instance, can create

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<sup>64</sup> Albert O, *Mapping the discourse hi 'story of social conflict and conflict management* (ed) in Nigeria, Ibadan peace and conflict studies programme (2012).

notable job opportunities, make positive contribution in the development of services and infrastructure as well as on local economy and agriculture production once they gain access to useful resources including the labour market, land as well as have the freedom to move around as demonstrated in some developing nations in Africa.<sup>65</sup> For instance, some of the nations' hosting refugees from the East as well as the Horn of Africa report higher income, employment rates as well as contribution to national revenue through taxation. For instance, the policy in Uganda that allows refugees to settle enables refugees to be self-reliant and thus to depend on humanitarian assistance to contribute to their local economy.<sup>66</sup>

Alexander Betts, contends that refugees constitute an economic asset because of their connections within settlements, and in many cases, they can create or use new technologies at higher rates in comparison to the host population through high usage of mobile phones and the internet.<sup>67</sup>

Positive economic impacts can also be generated by the refugee population in Africa through the attraction of development players to collaborate work with the host community together aids workers, as well as refugees that are allowed to work, can make contributions to the local economy as well as agricultural production.<sup>68</sup> For example, in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya indicate potential refugee economic impacts of hosting refugees by attracting

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<sup>65</sup> UNHCR, “*The role of the host countries: the cost and impact of hosting refugees*”. EC/62/SC/CRP.

(2011). [www.unhcr.org/en-us/excom/standcom/4de4f7959role-host-countries-cost-impact-hosting-refugee.html](http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/excom/standcom/4de4f7959role-host-countries-cost-impact-hosting-refugee.html)

<sup>66</sup> Hovil, L. “*Self-settled Refugees in Uganda: An Alternative Approach to Displacement?*” in *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 20, No. 4. (2007)

<sup>67</sup> Betts, Alexander, Louise Bloom, Josiah Kaplan and Naohiko Omata, “*refugee economies: rethinking popular assumptions*”. (2014). Oxford UK Humanitarian innovation project, refugee studies center, Oxford University. [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files/files-1/refugee-economies-2014.pdf](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files/files-1/refugee-economies-2014.pdf)

<sup>68</sup> Milner, Global Leadership and Cooperation for Refugees: *When Norms Are Not Enough: Understanding the Principle and Practice of Burden and Responsibility Sharing for Refugees*. Series Paper No. 2, (2016). Waterloo, ON: CIGI. [www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/documents/Refugee%20Paper%20no2web\\_3.pdf](http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/documents/Refugee%20Paper%20no2web_3.pdf)

development actors such as UN humanitarian and development agencies and other international non-governmental organisations.

Furthermore, In Rwanda, recent research focusing on camps occupied by refugees from Congo shows both kind and cash support boost the local economies through an increase in the refugees spending capacities in their host communities.<sup>69</sup> Another research in Malawi and Tanzania shows the positive effects of either as refugee stimulates local economies by attracting international donors or through higher demand for products that facilitate the flow of resources and technology as well as the creation of jobs in an otherwise remote area.<sup>70</sup>

Upon arrival, refugees in Africa can cause economic strain; however, when allowed to integrate with the local population, they are also economic players and consumers who can boost local markets as showcased in almost all African countries that host them. Refugees in Africa, skilled or low skilled have contributed differently to the host economies. Small skilled refugees tend to take jobs in the construction, agricultural, and retail sectors. The economy of Kenya has been boosted by refugee entrepreneurs through creation of new firms, jobs, services and products by building a range of businesses such hotels, retail and wholesale shops, vegetable stalls, electronic shops and transport and communication industries.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Taylor, J. Edward, Mateusz J. Filipski. et al, “*Economic Impact of Refugees.*” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 113 (27): (2016) 7449–53.  
[www.pnas.org/content/113/27/7449.full](http://www.pnas.org/content/113/27/7449.full).

<sup>70</sup> Gomez M. P., Christensen A., Araya Y. Y., Harild N. *The impacts of refugees on neighbouring countries: a development challenge.* World Development Report background papers,(2011). Washington, DC: World Bank

<sup>71</sup> Gavlack, Dale, “*Zaatari syrian Refugee camp fertile ground for small business*”BBC News July 30 (2014)  
[www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28541909](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28541909)

A study in the U.S and Europe shows that the contribution of the refugees to the economy by bringing capital with them to enhance the host country's economic interest. However, in Africa, yet, a positive effect on the economy can be realised as refugees facilitate creativity and innovation, addressing demographic trends as well as entrepreneurship and gross domestic product growth as witnessed in Kenya refugee camp in Dadaab and Kakuma.<sup>72</sup> Refugees in Africa countries not only contributed positively to the host economy but in some parts of Africa refugee has been seen as a burden to the economy. They led to inflation products in Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania. However, increased pressure on prices is one of the negative impacts that were reported.

### **2.3.2 Social-political effects of Hosting Refugees in Africa**

The host government, including agencies responsible for enforcing the law and judiciary, can face political pressure from hosting a large population of refugees. Host communities also intensify pressure as they seek the maintenance of stability and security. Refugees from Mozambique residing in Malawi, for instance, put pressure on social infrastructures such as hospitals, schools, and public service. However, a study in Cameroon shows that the health systems were not affected negatively by refugees, and instead, they contributed towards their improvement.<sup>73</sup> The host countries benefit from increased socio-economic impetus associated with hosting refugees since they can access quality health-care and literature materials provided by donors.

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<sup>72</sup> Karakas,Camel, "*Economic challenges and prospects of refugee influx*"European parliamentary Research service Briefing (PE572.809), December (2015). [www.europarl.europa.eu/regData/etudes/BRIE/2015/572809/\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/regData/etudes/BRIE/2015/572809/_EN.pdf).

<sup>73</sup> Tatah, J.Edward, Mateusz J.Filipinki, Mohamed Alloush,Anubhab Gupta, Ruben Irvin Rojas valdes and Earnesto Gonzalez-Estrada, "*Economic Impact of refugees*" proceeding of the national academy of sciences of the United States of America 113(27) (2016):7449-53. [Www.pnas.org/content/113/27/7449.full](http://www.pnas.org/content/113/27/7449.full)

### **2.3.3 Environmental effects of Hosting Refugees in Africa**

Mass arrival and refugees' prolonged presence, results in both positive and negative impacts on the environment, including depletion of resources, deforestation, overcrowding, overgrazing, soil erosion, pollution, and degradation as well as illegal poaching. In some arable land is surrendered by the host communities for the settlement of refugees, forest cover depleted as refugees require poles and grass reeds for construction of housing and fuelwood for cooking. Refugees also attract international programs and projects to protect and conserve the environment.

Large camps like Dadaab in Kenya, hosting refugees for more than two and half decades, have affected the environment negatively, including depletion of forest cover, loss of wildlife and habitat, soil pollution and erosion, and air pollution. Overcrowding in concentration camps of Dadaab has also caused health-related problems such as an outbreak of cholera, which is a result of poor sanitation in camps of Ifo, Dagahley, and Hagardera. According to Rutinwa and Kamanga, refugees have brought positive environmental effects in Tanzania and Kenya by the attraction of international environmental regimes such as UNEP, (WFP), and FAO.<sup>74</sup> In Ethiopia, however, refugee camps Aysaita and Al Addeh have shown an insignificant effect on the existing natural resources.

### **2.3.4 Security effects of hosting refugees in Africa**

Apart from the economic, socio-political, environmental impacts, refugees, too, have had security ramifications in the African continent. The long history of conflicts has had a net result

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<sup>74</sup> Rutinwa, Bonaventure and Khoti Kamanga. “*Impact of Refugees in Northwestern Tanzania.*” Executive Summary, Study by Center for Study of Forced Migration, University of Dar es Salaam, August (2003). <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/4679/3765.pdf?sequence=1>

of refugee movements to Ethiopia, Uganda, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, and other countries in western and southern Africa, particularly South Africa adversely affecting the state of security within the sub-region. The majority of Refugees resident in Kenya originate from neighboring countries.<sup>75</sup> The southern Africa sub-region sometimes gives an impression of an area that is peaceful. However, millions of people have been displaced, lost their lives, or forced to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, due to constant wars, conflicts, destabilisation, poverty, and natural disasters among others.<sup>76</sup>

Conflicts systems in the Great Lakes region has resulted in vast populations of people being uprooted from their home countries and finding refuge in neighbouring countries either within the sub-region or in other sub-regions. The current political crisis in Burundi has generated thousands of Refugees into Tanzania.<sup>77</sup> Most of the Refugee camps within the region have been a source of insecurity where militias are recruited to carry out insurgency in their mother countries and also contribute to the instability of the host country as it has been happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo from Rwandese Refugees.

Loescher points out that the connection between the international and national concerns on security to humanitarian asylum and assistance has existed in Africa over the years, with states in the continent often attaching significant importance to the movement of refugees and its

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<sup>75</sup> Bahta, S. *Equitable Resource Management and Regional Security in the Horn of Africa* (2008)

<sup>76</sup> Zacarias, A. *The Security Concept in Southern Africa: Prospects for the Post-Apartheid Era*, op. cit (2011)

<sup>77</sup> International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGRL). *Regional Programme of Action on Humanitarian and Social Issues* (Framework For Durable Solutions To The Humanitarian, Social And Environmental Issues In The Great Lakes Region, 2006)

implication on security.<sup>78</sup> The Commission on Human Security underscores the interdependent nature of the security threats in refugee situations.<sup>79</sup> The UN Security Council, as pointed out by Arthur Helton, has been able to establish that international security and peace are threatened by population displacement on several occasions.<sup>80</sup> These threats are caused by various factors, including recruitment of insurgents, conflict over resources, and also through petty crime.

Some scholars also contend that camps provide a conducive environment for recruitment and radicalisation into extreme violence. One of the primary sources of insecurity is where refugee camps ought to be situated. For instance, the Dadaab camp, which is located near the border of countries that are the source of the conflict such as Somalia is a threat to the security of the host country. In situations where refugees are not settled in inappropriate locations, their protection is compromised resulting in adverse effects on the regional, national and local security.<sup>81</sup> Moreover, because of corruption, lax in regulations, or the ability to obtain resident status, most of the current refugees live in urban centres or cities rather than in camps. This has numerous consequences on security since it is difficult to monitor their movement and activities. Besides the tension and conflict between the refugees and the state discussed above, there has also been noted the occurrence of disputes between the Refugees and the host community in many African countries.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> Gil Loescher. *The UNHCR and World Politics: A Perilous Path*. (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2001) p. 125, in J. Crisp (ed) *Africa's Refugees: Patterns, Problems and Policy Challenges*. New Issues in Refugee Research. Working Paper No. 28, Geneva

<sup>79</sup> Commission on Human Security. *Human Security Now*. (New York, 2003)pp.49-50

<sup>80</sup> Arthur Helton. *The Price of Indifference: Refugees and Humanitarian Action in the New Century*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002)

<sup>81</sup> Crisp, Jeff. *A State of Insecurity: the Political Economy of Violence in Refugee populated areas of Kenya*. (UNHCR, Geneva, working paper no 16 1999)

<sup>82</sup> Peter Kirui and John Mwaruvie. *The Dilemma of Hosting Refugees: A Focus on the Insecurity in NorthEastern Kenya*. (International Journal of Business and Social Science Vol. 3 No. 8 (Special Issue-April 2012) p.164

## **2.4 Chapter Summary**

Refugees have negative and positive effects on the development interest of the host countries, as witnessed in most of the developing and developed countries. In Africa most of the host countries such as Uganda, Tanzania Rwanda and Kenya and among other that host refugees have experienced some positive and negative effects of refugees to mention a few, refugees have stimulated economic growth, created employment opportunities through influx of international donors, created market places such as selling of food ratios received, investing remittances and capital received from abroad and home country and creating business opportunities within the host country. Contrastingly, drain to natural resources and impose a social and economic burden, contribute to environmental degradation and a security challenge to the host country. Refugees also created competition for scarce resources and create job scarcity. The study has, therefore, confirmed the study hypothesis and assumption that refugees affect the interest of the host country. Neo-liberal theorists argue that refugees can have both positive and negative effects on the host state, but that depends on how the host state views and organises the reception of refugees. The theory contends that refugees can be a burden; with a proper strategy, the refugees can be an opportunity for economic growth and development in the host countries. The next chapters have discussed more the role and impact of refugees on the host country's development interest by focusing on Kenya as a case study.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **ROLE AND IMPACT OF REFUGEES ON KENYA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter investigates the roles and impacts of refugees on the development interest of the host countries. It also assesses the contribution of refugees to the host community on both negative and positive perspective. Knowing some of the effects of hosting refugee in Kenya is very important as it will enable the host community knows how to deal with some of the problems associated as well as utilise some of the resources brought by the refugee, i.e., skills. This will enable the host to manage the risks and costs adequately and efficiently utilise the benefits. However, even though refugees have a positive effect on the host community, it is argued that they burden the host for a very extended period before contributing to the host economy. Therefore, the host community is forced to bear the burden of living with the refugees before their resettlement or voluntary repatriation, which takes a longer period to be felt.

On cultural impacts, it shall concentrate on the way of life that is brought about by the refugees against the way of life that is led by the local community such as the dress code for women, the marriage ties, and how women and men relate in the society. The economic impact shall address both monetary gain and the in-kind gain brought about by refugees. It shall concentrate on the buying and selling of the business that takes place between the refugees and some of the gifts that refugees give to the locals as a result of the relief food and other donations provided to refugees by the agencies. It shall also concentrate on the indirect benefit, such as the improvement of roads and the distribution of piped clean drinking water in the area. The religious aspect shall address the change of religion, such as Islam to Christianity or Buddhism,

as the members of communities that are surrounded by the refugees are predominantly Muslims. The environment impacts shall involve pressures to the grazing land, pressure on the watering points, and spread of animal disease, cutting down trees, and interfering with the water catchment areas. The other environment factors shall include the use of polyphone bags that are outlawed in Kenya and are hazardous to the environment. Refugees come with polyphone from their country of origin and continue to use them in the host country.

### **3.1 Economic effects of Refugees**

Refugee settlements are mostly found in marginal agricultural environments, for instance, Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya. The refugee camps are, however, largely for logistical and political reasons on the surrounding environment. Some of the positive effects of refugees to the host country are; provide cheap goods and cheap labour force. The presence of the refugees in the host community leads to foreign aid attraction to benefit both refugees and society at large. They also sell goods they receive as an aid at lower prices. Following the refugee inflow, there has been cheap labour, which has attracted small investors and expansion of trade, thus increasing incentives of becoming entrepreneurs.<sup>83</sup>

Refugees may be considered as a source of employment opportunity for both refugee camps and the surrounding society. This is because the refugee agency would hire some individuals to operate the camps and run so many other activities taking place in the refugee camps. On the other hand, therefore, an inflow of refugees can lead to an increase in costs for the host country, thus affecting service delivery and negatively affecting labour participation in the host country.

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<sup>83</sup> Murunga, Godwin Rapando.. "Conflict in Somalia and Crime in Kenya: Understanding the Trans Territoriality of Crime." *African and Asian Studies* 4:138-160 ( 2005).

Furthermore, this inflow may lead to a rise in prices where supply response is affected, such as rental houses. Another challenge associated with refugees is involuntary displacement. The social and economic experiences for the refugees themselves will impact the contribution to the host country's development. The involuntary movement would negatively affect labour market outcomes.<sup>84</sup>

Refugees pose a positive impact on the host community, which is associated with the refugee inflow in the host country. Some of these impacts are the market availability for the agricultural and livestock products where the host communities can sell their products directly to the refugees. Since refugee settlements are mostly found in semi-arid areas that favour agriculture, there is a need for a market where they can trade their agricultural produce since it has been a reliable source of income for both refugee and the host community, especially in Dadaab thereby improving food security in the camp and its surrounding.<sup>85</sup> The farming activities by the refugees make them less dependent on humanitarian assistance and add the food supply to the host community environment.

Some refugees do come with their capital and given a chance to run businesses, and they are likely to add to the host economy through entrepreneurial activities and direct or indirect taxes.<sup>86</sup> This is because most refugees are likely to run small businesses as there are limited job opportunities for them in the host country, unlike the host community who are stable at their place of work. The market created by the refugees, for instance, in Dadaab brings a significant

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<sup>84</sup> Jennifer Hyndman and Viktor Bo Nylund, UNHCR and the Status of Prima Facie Refugees in Kenya, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Vol.10, No.1/2 (1998), 23

<sup>85</sup> UNHCR Kenya, *A survey on Refugee Affairs in Kakuma and Daadab*: Regional Working Papers (2013)

<sup>86</sup> New American Economy and Knight Foundation (2016)

effect on the local people. It creates purchasing power and enables the exchange of goods between the locals and the refugees. This is where the host community buys and sells its agricultural products, such as animal products and farm produce. This has, however, led to a reduction in prices of goods and services making them affordable to both communities.<sup>87</sup>

Urban refugees in Kenya play a critical role in economic boost by providing cheap labour like in the case of Eastleigh Nairobi, where urban refugees are employed to work in the shops. Urban refugees work as waiters in the hotel room and restaurants; they work as shop attendants and as casual labourers in people's houses. The economic boom of the Eastleigh area is due to the cheap labour that makes the finished products of goods and services more affordable, thus attracting the majority of buyers into the shopping centre.<sup>88</sup>

### **3.2 Cultural Effects of refugees**

Many researchers have studied how refugee camps are known as a place to increase social problems such as prostitution and alcoholism. Poverty and idleness in refugee camps have forced most refugees into prostitution in search of money and even alcoholism, especially on young women who are not engaged in meaningful activities such as farming and businesses. The orphaned children of the refugees are vulnerable to sexual abuses, especially in cases where the security within and around the camp is weak. Most of these children are abducted for sale and their rights being violated, hence developing depression disorder. Male refugees, for example,

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<sup>87</sup> Campbell, Elizabeth H.. "Urban Refugees in Nairobi: Problems of Protection, Mechanisms of Survival, and Possibilities for Integration." *Journal of Refugee Studies* 19:396-413 (2006).

<sup>88</sup> Ibid

experience work-related injuries as opposed to male residents of the host country. “These social problems do not only affect refugees but also the host community”.<sup>89</sup>

Intermarriages, on the other hand, may have a positive impact on both refugee and the host community as it strengthens collaboration and peace between the two. The peaceful coexistence, therefore, leads to improved standards of living since the host communities would be much willing to share their resources, e.g., agricultural land with the refugee hence enhanced agricultural activities. There is a free exchange of goods and services between the refugees and the host communities; thus, market availability for the farm produce by the local communities gains a readily available market. The existence of skilled refugees has enabled a smooth exchange of farming and trading skills, thereby increasing the local community yields and employment opportunities in the region, thus reducing poverty and social problems caused by idleness for both communities. An increasing number of women engaging in various activities to earn a living is against the traditional norm that men are the ones to take care of the families, thus making the refugee women contribute positively to the culture change of the host community.<sup>90</sup> This is evident by a large number of females engaging in businesses as their men depend on their income and the entire families.

The coming together of refugees into the host community land do act as a culture shock as some of the host community are used to living in a particular way which is different from the way refugees live. The culture shock, such as marriage issues, does bring conflict between refugees and the host community, where the host community is married to people with whom they have a

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<sup>89</sup> Women’s Refugee Commission, *The report on the status of urban refugees in Kenya* (2009)

<sup>90</sup> *ibid*

completely different type of culture. The pastoralist community often conflict with refugees who are agriculturalist as they lead cattle into their land, thus causing a serious conflict that often leads to fights.<sup>91</sup> Refugees acquire land from the host community to practice agricultural production, where they have frequently clashed with the local community who are pastoralists. In some instances, refugees come with their animals alongside their country of origin, where they clash with the local community on grazing land and watering points in the country especially during drought seasons when resources get scarcer.

### **3.3 Religious Impact of Refugees to the Host Country**

In situations where refugees are from similar cultural and religious as the host community, the local community is likely to sympathise with the refugee, thus adding constraints on the existing community resource. Differences in religion may also cause a conflict in the two communities, whereby some areas have refugees of Muslims origin that are not accepted by the host community to build their mosque as they may consider a threat to be coming from the mosque. Given an opportunity, the religious entity may play a vital role such as innovative-based ideas, to address various issues facing the host community. Most host community does not consider religion as a factor contributing to the development of the areas occupied by refugees despite the fact that it mostly attracts foreign aid. Most of the refugees may also see the host community as disrespectful, especially ladies when it comes to attires, where the host community is not dressed to their expectations. Muslims, for instance, cover every part of their bodies and therefore develop a negative attitude towards the local people for exposing some parts of their bodies. This attitude may then have a significant impact on the two communities and may even lead to

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<sup>91</sup> ibid

conflict. Some of the local communities have also been assimilated into refugees' cultures, of which some of them may not be acceptable in their host communities.<sup>92</sup>

### **3.4 Social Impact of Refugees**

There has been an improvement in educational facilities, health facilities, social amenities, and general infrastructures such as roads and even water for their livestock. The host community, however, is benefiting from these resources as well as refugees. Refugees have contributed a lot of benefits to the host community where the host community children are allowed to attend the schools without paying school fees as well as hospitals and even use roads and water points for their consumption and their livestock.<sup>93</sup> However, refugees have led to overpopulation in the northern part of Kenya, causing conflict for some resources such as roads and therefore making them wear out faster than if the user would have been just for the host communities alone. The schools are also overpopulated, thus poor performance due to a shortage of training staff and classrooms to accommodate all the pupils at the same time. The same case applies to the hospitals, and poor services are offered due to shortages of treatment facilities as the number of host communities and refugees seeking are very high to be handled by the existing social amenities. The effect of overpopulation has largely been felt in the Northern part of Kenya, where Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps are located. In those regions, refugees have led to the escalated tear of infrastructure and more use of energy resources such as fuel. Trees have also been cut down for the construction of more camps, and more individuals have come with animals that are then reared around the campsites. The use of fuel has also been a problem causing conflict on the deforestation of the arable land. Cutting down trees has also been a significant

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<sup>92</sup> Lindley, Anna. *Protracted Displacement and Remittances: The View from Eastleigh*, Nairobi. University of Oxford, Oxford, UK (2007).

<sup>93</sup> *ibid*

problem caused by the long existence of refugees in Kenya, thus clearing bushes for settlements. This has led to numerous spillover effects on the environment, such as pollution of water catchment areas, erosion, and taking part in the local communities' land.<sup>94</sup>

Spread of communicable diseases is a burden associated with hosting of the refugees who flee their native country with health problems and hence capable of spreading diseases to the host people, especially communicable diseases, of which some are much costly to treat and contain, thus burdening the host community. Ebola, for instance, has been a threat to many nations, and it kills instantly, and because everyone has a right to health, the host nation is therefore expected to provide health services to the refugees as a way of protecting the health of the residents as well. A refugee also requires close monitoring because they can easily contact the diseases due to poor sanitation, food shortages, and food contamination and even stress. WHO has therefore called upon all nations to implement health facilities to all refugees irrespective of various reasons such as language barriers and poverty. A report from WHO shows that most refugees prone to stress disorder due to isolations such as unemployment.<sup>95</sup> WHO also proposes that there should be frequent data collection on refugees to enable them to improve and addresses common illnesses in the refugee camp. This move will, however, improve health for both the host and the refugee.<sup>96</sup>

Insecurity is another social problem mostly associated with hosting refugees. It has been found that refugees are capable of causing instability in the host country through the proliferation of

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<sup>94</sup> Grindheim, K.. *Exploring the impacts of Refugee Camps on Host Communities: A Case Study of Kakuma Host Community in Kenya*, University of Agder Press, Norway, (2013).

<sup>95</sup> *ibid*

<sup>96</sup> Grindheim, K. *Exploring the impacts of Refugee Camps on Host Communities: A Case Study of Kakuma Host Community in Kenya*, University of Agder Press, Norway, (2013).

SALW. This is because most of the refugees enter the host country carrying their weapons with them. Some will even come as refugees, but in the real sense, they are after causing conflict in the host country. It has been argued that refugees can easily create tension or imbalance between the host communities since their experience from a warring nation has taught them that problems can only be solved through fights. The existence of frequent burglary and theft has caused refugees to have a serious conflict with the host community as it is believed that most refugees engage in criminal activities for survival purposes as the humanitarian agencies are unable to satisfy refugee's economic demand in the camps.<sup>97</sup>

### **3.5 Environmental Impact of Refugees**

Environmental degradation is a major negative impact caused by the influx and prolonged stay of refugees in the host community. This includes soil erosion, clearing of bushes for settlements and construction materials, destruction of water catchment areas, environmental pollution through such activities as burning of waste material as polythene bags, killing of wild animals for food and animal products such as leather, destruction on wild habitats, overgrazing and over-fishing. All these activities lead to a shortage and hence, competition for the natural resource, which erupts conflict between the host people and the refugees.<sup>98</sup> The refugee camps are mostly located near national parks and reserves, thus posing risks for the maintenance of these areas.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Helton, Arthur C, *The price of indifference - refugees and humanitarian action in the new century*. (2002) Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<sup>98</sup> *ibid*

<sup>99</sup> *ibid*

Refugees do have not only adverse environmental effects but also have positive effects. One of the positive results is that the refugees attract humanitarian aid from the international agencies and development partners who would undertake projects to protect and conserve the host environment. This, however, is likely to benefit the host country as well.<sup>100</sup> However, some of the agencies have come up with solutions to environmental degradation as a result of refugees, such as; reducing the prices of the fuel so that the refugees may opt for buying fuel for cooking instead of using firewood or also the distribution of firewood instead of depleting forest cover. Another solution is providing them with easy to prepare foods such maize flour instead of maize grains, provide them with fuel-efficient stoves and saucepans lids to reduce the boiling point of whichever they so wish to cook. Finally, the refugee agencies have been able to provide a solution of polythene sheeting shelter with no wood support to minimise the felling of trees for shelter construction.<sup>101</sup>

Agencies also came up with the long-lasting solutions to this problem; they prioritise the tree planting programs with refugees and the host community. The main aim of this is to attract funds for development to rehabilitate the affected areas. It is concluded that environmental conservation is better than environmental degradation; hence, the environment ought to be given the very fast priority in solving refugee host community conflicts. Land degradation is a serious problem causing conflict between refugees and the host community where a large number of refugees in a small portion of land is often taken up by the refugees and thus leading to overgrazing and overpopulation in a particular area. Refugees cut down trees for settlement

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<sup>100</sup> Bonaventure Rutinwa and Khoti Kamanga, *for example, note that these efforts have had positive impacts in Tanzania* (2003)

<sup>101</sup> UNHRC notes that the implementing agencies cut tens of thousands of poles within easy trucking distance for pit latrines, medical clinics (1994).

purposes, thus causing interference with the water catchment areas and land degradation through soil erosion that washes away the existing top land. The conflict between refugees and the host community escalates due to scramble for the existing limited natural resources where refugees focus on depleting the existing natural resources.<sup>102</sup>

### **3.6 Political Impacts of refugees**

More often, the presence of refugees in the host country has no much impact on political issues. However, there some cases where refugees decide to rebel on the government of the host country, and since most of the camps are situated at the border, they can easily sneak the weapons and thus causing instability in the host country. They can also be used by the opposing party to fight the other party and thus erupting conflicts in the host country and causing tension, thus affecting economic activities in the area. Refugees do not only bring problems to the host country; they also have so many positive effects on the host community. It has been argued that the effect of refugees on the host community depends on how they are treated. For instance, if the refugees are allowed to secure employment as soon as they arrive in the host country, then they would have a positive effect on the host as they are not going to burden the host economy, and the money earned is going to better the host economy. However, some researchers are against the idea arguing that if the latter is allowed, then the host people are likely to miss out on job opportunities due to high competition from refugees.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> *ibid*

<sup>103</sup> Human Rights Watch interview Adan Godade, 27 years old refugee in Dadaab, UNHCR, (October 19, 2008)

The host countries face several challenges in hosting refugees. In Kenya, there is a conflict between the host community and the refugees. The host countries lack the financial capacity to sustain refugee camps to secure and provide social protection required. Another challenge seen in the northern part of Kenya is the destruction of roads by the World Food Program (WFP) when transporting bulk foodstuffs to the refugees in the camps. It, therefore, the responsibility of the agencies and international communities to come up with a solution to the problems associated with refugees. The best and the recommended long-lasting solution are preventing refugees' situations from occurring.

The UN has, however, done their level best to prevent refugee crisis from arising by supporting peace-building and reconstruction of Somalia and South Sudan to mitigate the occurrence of the refugee crisis. The international community should also offer the necessary support to the host country for it to be able to adequately and efficiently attend to the needs of the refugees. Another solution is that the necessary action should be taken on any refugee found committing illegal acts such as attempting terrorism, murder, or theft.<sup>104</sup>

Despite the UNHCR funding the refugees, the host community is not contented with its act for not considering them as the primary beneficiaries during the immunisation of a disease outbreak; they could only go around the camp and not the neighbouring communities who are at risk of contracting the disease. UNHCR and other international agencies are tasked with the role of coming up with projects to engage the refugees and earn them a living. By so doing, there will be a reduction in poverty level, alcoholism, prostitution, and human trafficking, among other problems caused by idleness, thus causing conflict between the host community and refugees in

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<sup>104</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Protection of the Rights of Refugee Women*, p.1 (2002)

Kenya. Another way of solving refugee host community conflict is through utilising their skills and knowledge on agricultural activities and even offering them the necessary support, such as supplying farm inputs and training on how to carry out farming activities. Countries that have hosted refugees for a longer period of time are experiencing long-term implications on economic, social, environmental, religious, cultural, and political factors.<sup>105</sup>

### **3.7 Security Impact of Refugees**

In response to the high refugee inflow into the nation, fundamentally, Kenya has continued to pursue an open-door policy for refugees that involve providing refugees with full socio-economic rights, and they are only repatriated back to their countries voluntarily when conditions become favourable in their country of origin. This implies that most of the immigrants receive refugee status without undergoing vigorous scrutiny that would be available under the UN Convention and Protocol as well as other international instruments that govern refugees.<sup>106</sup>

This policy continues despite the emergence of the Al-Shabaab, especially with the rise of Al-Shabaab militants in the region, which threatens Kenya's security. Therefore, with the present security threats, it was necessary to shift the policy of Kenya in relation to the freedom of movement of refugees as well as involvement in activities on self-reliance. The harmful effect of refugees can be mentioned as challenging the shift in policy, thus creating a need for the Kenyan government to state its aims to request for a review in the present international refugee regime. In turn, refugees will be protected in 'safe zones' in their countries of origin.<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>105</sup> Human Rights Watch interview Adan Godade, 27 years old refugee in Dadaab, UNHCR, October 19, 2008

<sup>106</sup> Human Rights Watch (Organization), & Simpson, G. *From horror to hopelessness: Kenya's forgotten Somali refugee crisis*. New York, NY: Human Rights Watch (2009)

<sup>107</sup> *ibid*

It is true Kenya can do very little to avert the situation. Non-defilement under international law provides that no asylum seeker should be taken back or expelled from territories where their freedom or lives are under threat. This could either be based on nationality, religion, race, and membership of a particular political opinion or social group. A close examination of the principle exposes the recipient country to insecurity, and as noted earlier, the asylum seekers, conventionally presented or conceived as humanitarian issues, are currently viewed as threats to security. In turn, it is necessary to implement measures that protect national security.<sup>108</sup>

The influx of refugees has the potential to be both negative and positive for the recipient countries. In this regard, the store of human capital or refugee resources, as highlighted by Jacobsen, could be provided by the refugees as well as increased labour and entrepreneurship, all of which could be beneficial to the host country.<sup>109</sup> Jacobsen notes that the host nations, the rising levels of foreign aid as well as upsurge in the provided jobs could probably benefit from these studies; too often, however, the attention is on the widespread crime and lawless in camps, potential raiding, and military recruitment that is targeted at youths and other vulnerable groups. Besides the challenge of handling the refugees, it can also be demanding to police and sometimes porous border, not forgetting that the state is the primary actor in coming up with policies for these situations.<sup>110</sup>

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<sup>108</sup> *ibid*

<sup>109</sup> Ayoob, M, *The Third World Security Predicament: State Making, Regional Conflict, and the International System*, Lynne Reiner, London (1995)

<sup>110</sup> Deegan, H, *Africa Today: Culture, Economics, Religion and Security* (2009)

Kenya has been accepting refugees since the 1970s, with mass migration witnessed since the 1990s. And given the prolonged nature of the refugee predicament, it has become more and more challenging to keep in place a stringent encampment policy. This instead calls for a strategy of integration designed to benefit the locals and refugees as well. The government of Kenya, however, did close its borders in 2007, which has, over the years, led to asylum seekers to seek entry through smugglers, thereby increasing their susceptibility to police harassment, detention, and deportation.<sup>111</sup>

Linking refugees to terror-related activities have become a tradition in many parts of the world in particular refugee host countries. According to the Yemeni officials, the Al-Shabaab militants were apprehended in refugee camps after they entered the country through refugee routes. Irrespective of extensive fears that some displaced persons and refugees are the rising source of terrorism, with few exceptions, refugees and their alleged link to transnational terrorism have narrowly been evaluated empirically. Instead, most of the existing studies focus on the connection between the influx of refugees and higher types of violence, including interstate and civil wars.<sup>112</sup> The influx of refugees, to a great extent, raises the possibility of transnational terrorist attacks in the host nation, other factors considered constant. Because of the prominence of refugee population and flows, the studies indicate that countries that have numerous refugees, as well as the international community in general, must take the required initiatives to deal with the conditions in refugee camps and the treatment of refugees by host nations in a bid to deter terror activities.<sup>113</sup>

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<sup>111</sup> *ibid*

<sup>112</sup> *ibid*

<sup>113</sup> Human Rights Watch (Organization) & Simpson, G. *From horror to hopelessness: Kenya's forgotten Somali refugee crisis*. New York, NY: Human Rights Watch (2009).

### **3.8 Chapter Summary**

Refugees play a role in the economic development and national security of the host country. However, even though refugees have a positive effect on the host community, it is argued that they burden the host for a longer period before contributing to the host economy. Neoliberals, for instance, supports the notion that the refugee situation is dynamic over time and that though at the start, refugees can be a burden, with the proper strategy, the refugees can be an opportunity for economic growth, development, and national security in the host country. The study disconfirmed that the study hypothesis that refugees have no role and impact on the development interest of Kenya. The subsequent chapters have discussed the challenges facing refugees in the process of their effort to contribute to Kenya's economic, social, political, cultural, diplomatic as well as environmental interest.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**CHALLENGES FACING REFUGEES IN THE PROCESS OF THEIR EFFORTS TO  
CONTRIBUTE KENYA’S INTEREST**

**4.0 Introduction**

This chapter will delve into the challenges facing refugees in the process of their efforts to contribute Kenya’s economic, political, socio-cultural, environmental and diplomatic interests. Refugees in Kenya are often associated with problems affecting the country such as a threat to national security, trade-in (SALWs) and place burden on social, economic and administrative services. However, refugees play a vital role by stimulating economic growth and development if their efforts are appropriately utilised. Given this, they face a wide range of challenges in the process of its efforts to contribute to Kenya's interests.

**4.1 Contributions of Refugees towards Kenya’s Interest**

From an African country point of view Kenya, an East African community member, currently hosts over half a million refugees and asylum seekers and still has refugees residing for more than two and half decades in the encampment to date. The break out of civil wars and the plunge into political crisis by countries of the Horn of Africa especially Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia in the years of 1991 and 1992 paved the way for the mass exodus of refugees into Kenya. Also, other countries such as Rwanda, DRC and Burundi exacerbated the refugee issue leading to many moving into Kenya to seek protection from persecution and civil wars. In 1988 Kenya received approximately 12,000 refugees from its neighbouring country, Uganda. During this period, refugees from Uganda were granted full refugee status such as the liberty to reside in urban areas as well as the freedom of movement without restriction. Also, the Ugandan refugees

during this period enjoyed the right to obtain a work permit and to seek local integration legally.<sup>114</sup>

Despite the existing encampment policy that the Kenyan government has formulated, over 75,000 (14%) refugees and asylum seekers with registration letters from refugee Affairs Secretariat live permanently in the urban centres of Nairobi and Moyale in Marsabit County. Refugees who dwell in cities and major towns of Kenya largely increase the productivity of the host country's wealth to the host country through engaging in commercial and trading activities.<sup>115</sup> They also earn a living by working in the informal sectors such as retail and wholesale shops, hotels, vegetable stalls, and electronic shops as casual labourers. Refugees in Nairobi are also employed informally in nongovernmental organisations as nurses, translators, and projects officers urban refugees in Kenya are restricted in terms of working in the formal sectors and cannot work legally in the city.

In Kenya, under the mandate of the UNHCR, refugees have been denied opportunities to integrate because they are associated with a wide range of problems that the host country cannot mitigate alone.<sup>116</sup> Following the UNHCR 2018 report, Kenya's urban refugees fled majorly from DR Congo represent 27,280, followed by Somalis of 21,344 and then refugees from Ethiopia and South Sudan representing 10,512 and 5,730 respectively.<sup>117</sup> While refugees in urban areas enjoy right livelihood, they often sacrifice direct humanitarian assistance such as food and shelter. In

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<sup>114</sup> UNHCR Nairobi, *Annual Protection Report*. Internal document (2003)

<sup>115</sup> Al-Sharmani, M. 'refugee livelihood: livelihood and diasporic Identity Construction of Somali refugees in Cairo' UNHCR evaluation and policy analysis unity, New issues in Refugee Research working paper N0.104, (2004) www.unhcr.ch.

<sup>116</sup> UNHCR Nairobi, *Annual protection Report*. Internal Audit (2003)

<sup>117</sup> UNHCR 2018 review report, Nairobi

Kenya, however, refugees in the camps of Dadaab and Kakuma receive food rations and other assistance both in cash and in-kind from UN agencies and other non-governmental organisations.

Urban refugees, as opposed to refugees in camps, experience many challenges such as limited access to state and host community resources, limited employment opportunities even in informal sectors and insecure housing, lack of access to health care and education. In addition, urban refugees in Kenya have been denied some of the fundamental human rights that are manifested in UN convention of 1951 such as the denial of the right to work which will, in turn, determine whether refugees in urban areas impact the host country negatively or positively.<sup>118</sup> Accordingly, the 2010 constitution of Kenya recognises that any international agreements (refugee's treaties and conventions included) affirmed are domesticated to the laws of the country.<sup>119</sup>

Kenya has an open policy towards refugees, with no known no provision guiding treatment of refugees. The existing policies limit the movement and rights of refugees in Kenya, more so by maintaining encampment policy for refugees at settlement camps in Kenya. The mass exodus and arrivals of new refugees into Kenya has strengthened a refugee policy towards encampment rather than integration and towards the encampment. The Government of Kenya established a refugee affairs department mandate with all refugee issues and their protection.

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<sup>118</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Hidden in plain view: refugees living without protection in Nairobi and Kampala*. New York Human Rights Watch, (2002)

<sup>119</sup> The constitution of Kenya, 2010 article 5 and 6

## **4.2 Challenges Facing Refugee's Contribution to Kenya's Interest**

### **4.2.1 Lack of financial capital**

Refugees in Kenya have faced numerous problems regarding the process of their effort to contribute to the economy, including lack of access to financial capital, i.e. soft loans for business start-ups. Although remittances have been instrumental to refugee development, a decrease has been witnessed over the years due to the US-led war on terror which obligated to the USA and her ally's monitoring money transfers across the globe. Another factor that has contributed to the decrease is the economic meltdown witnessed in the Western countries particularly Europe and the US. Such foreign transfers have diminished in certain scenarios up to the extent of stopping collectively. The stopping of remittances has had several economic effects on both refugees and the host communities. For example, refugee students dropping out of learning institutions, i.e. schools and Universities as a result of reduction on remittances or stoppage which initially took care of their fees.<sup>120</sup>

### **4.2.2 Limited employment opportunities**

Limited employment opportunities exist for refugees in Kenya. According to KNBS data, 21% of refugees in urban areas are employed, while 43% are self-employed and 36% depend on remittances from their relatives in the diaspora. However, most of them are not employed in the formal sector due to their lack of legitimacy and refugee status, where only citizens enjoy this right. Some of the refugees work in Dadaab and Kakuma camps with refugee agencies such as UNHCR, MSF, and others as translators and community mobilizers. However, their pay is lower as compared to the Kenyan nationals who get hefty pay and allowances. In most cases, refugees in Kenya are concentrated in the informal sectors like working in restaurants, shops or even in

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<sup>120</sup> UNHCR, Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Kenya, Statistical Summary 28 February 2010

the transport sector.<sup>121</sup> The vast majority of refugees who have access to work are engaged in the informal economy. Semiskilled and unskilled refugees are involved in the same type of work, mostly casual labour and small scale trading. This includes jobs such as working in cloth making and tailoring and shoe shops as shop attendants and waiters. According to Wagach and Guiney majority of Somali refugees who live in Nairobi for many years are have become self-employed through small scale trade.<sup>122</sup>

The massive influx of refugees in Kenya has put immense pressure on already limited resources such as land, water, food, and non-food items; hence, competition with locals is rampant.<sup>123</sup> For example, in Nairobi hosts a highly diverse refugee population including Somalis, Sudanese, Ethiopians, Eritreans, and Congolese with a challenging environment with limited resources.

Kenya, as a developing country faces many challenges such as corruption, substantial foreign debt and high borrowing rates coupled with the national high unemployment rate and refugee complexity. This has resulted in stringent employment regulations on refugee's access to labour markets due to the existence of a large population of unemployed youths. Therefore, most refugees are forced into unregulated work sectors and occupations with limited protection, i.e. medical accessibility and social security.<sup>124</sup>The Kenya legislative organ has established the refugee act, which subjects refugee wages restriction on employment as other foreigners.

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<sup>4</sup> Wagacha, J. and J. Guiney, *The Plight of Urban Refugees in Nairobi, Kenya*, in *Refugee Rights: Ethics, Advocacy, and Africa* edited by David Hollenbach, SJ, Georgetown University Press, 2008

<sup>122</sup>Ibid.

<sup>123</sup>Taylor, J. *Refugees and Regional Settlement: Win-Win? Brotherhood of St Laurence*, Paper presented at Australian Social Policy Conference, 20-22 July, 2005.

[http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/taylor\\_refugees\\_Aust\\_Social\\_Policy\\_Conf\\_paper.pdf](http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/taylor_refugees_Aust_Social_Policy_Conf_paper.pdf)

<sup>124</sup>Torezani, S, Tilbury, F and Colic-Peisker, V. "Looking for a Missing Link: Formal Employment Services and Social Networks in Refugees' Job Searches", *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 29(2), 2008, pp. 135-152, <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a792100067~db=all>

Refugee business communities are also required to obtain work permits to legitimise their activities on any engagement.<sup>125</sup> Refugees have been accused of forgery claims to further their interest and have led to the cancellation or revoking of work permits. According to the RCK, class M work permits were issued to refugees recognised before the 1990s through The Kenya Immigration Act. However, this was stopped by the Ministry of Immigration in 2004 but resumed re-issuing them in December 2008 to do away documents forgery.<sup>126</sup> In summary, the lack of international assistance coupled with inadequate national welfare system has led to growth of refugee led community initiatives which have substantial effect on the host country-Kenya. Notwithstanding the very many avenues refugees present for extortion and harassment by state security agencies, refugees have transformed urban economic prospects. They have been actively engaged in business and their entrepreneurial culture is a value to Kenya's economic growth.

#### **4.2.3 Restricted freedom of movement**

The 2010 Kenyan constitution guarantees the freedom of refugees to enter, move freely and reside anywhere in the country. As a result of the massive influx of refugees in Kenya, there was a policy shift towards encampment policy. Other impeding factors contributing to the policy change is also believed to be associated to insecurity challenges, weak economic capacity, increase in SALWS in the country, environmental degradation, conflicts and tensions occasioned by the presence of refugees in host community among other internal and external factors which threaten country's national interest. However, the encampment policy adopted by Kenya strictly

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Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), A Training Handbook on Refugee Protection for Law Enforcement Officers in Kenya, Nairobi: RCK, 2009

<sup>126</sup>Ibid.

prohibits refugees from leaving the camps. Hence lack of freedom by refugees significantly limits accessibility to trade, employment, medical assistance, and higher education which limits their contribution towards Kenya's national interest.<sup>127</sup> In January 2015 a high court ruling upheld constitution provisions on encampment arguing that the encampment policy as envisaged under the constitutions did not violate refugee freedom of movement.<sup>128</sup> Following several security-related incidents, the government in April 2014, launched 'Operation Usalama Watch'. The operation generally targeted urban refugees in Nairobi largely Somalis and Ethiopians. The consequent deportation to their country of origin further undermined refugees contributions efforts towards they economy since in prevents refugees from leaving the camps.<sup>129</sup>

#### **4.2.4 Negative perceptions towards refugees**

The majority of Refugee crises are the result of conflict and most of these conflicts are either internal or inter-communal. The mass influx of refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries of Africa as a result mostly sought from armed conflicts, political persecutions and situations of violence in Kenya, and though sometimes perceived as economic and insecurity burden to the host country, they can also play a significant role in socio-economic and development initiatives of Kenya.<sup>130</sup> As witnessed recently, refugees from Ethiopia, Somalia, among other refugees leave their countries of origin generally for lack of economic and employment opportunities as well as lack of adequate education and training possibilities.

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<sup>127</sup> Refugee consortium of Kenya (2015), *Asylum under threat: Assessing the protection of Somali refugees in Dadaab refugee camps and along migration corridor*

([https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/asylum\\_under\\_threat.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/asylum_under_threat.pdf))

<sup>128</sup> UNHCR (2015) :*Kenya comprehensive refugee Programme 2015*.UNHCR

<sup>129</sup> IRC and ReDSS (2016), *Early solutions planning Kenya and Uganda Focus*

(<https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/ircreddss-report-december-2016-early-solutions-planning-kenya-and-uganda-focus>)

<sup>130</sup> Crawford, N et el.(2015), *protracted displacement: uncertain paths to self-reliance in exile*. Humanitarian Policy Group Commissioned Report.ODI, London.<http://bit.ly/2E7Gup4>

Refugees in Kenya are perceived to be associated with crime, illegality, and insecurity in the general public and political discourse

Kenya as a host country diverts considerable resources from the pressing citizen's needs and demands to support refugees who have resulted in the host community to hold a negative attitude towards the refugees thus limiting their contribution towards Kenya's development interest.<sup>131</sup> In 2004 the then Kenyan vice president Moody Awori blamed the increased proliferation SALWs on refugees. Similar perceptions have continued and accelerated by the media.<sup>132</sup> Since the Kenyan government has expressed willingness to bear the cost of hosting a large population of refugees, it is understandably reluctant to pay any further cost that may be necessary to house large numbers of refugees. The disparities occasioned by the variance of international and regional support for refugees and support for host communities, thus causing tension between local community and refugees in settlement camps and urban settlements in Nairobi. The Kenya government has therefore called for repatriation and relocation of refugees and closure refugee camps such as Dadaab refugee camp which threatens refugees' business activities that would have contributed to Kenya's interest.

#### **4.2.5 Refugee and local integration nexus**

The integration of refugees on the host economy, however, is not necessarily harmful but an economic stimulus to the host regions.<sup>133</sup> This may be as a result of capital transfers by refugees themselves, promotion of local business community, generation of employment opportunities

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<sup>131</sup> Refugee Consortium of Kenya, *supra* note 13, at 80–81

<sup>132</sup> Campbell, E., Crisp, J. and Kiragu, E. (2011) *Navigating Nairobi: a review of the implementation of UNHCR's urban refugee policy in Kenya's capital city*. UNHCR

<sup>133</sup> Zetter, R and Ruudal, H, *Development and protection challenges of the Syrian refugee crisis*. forced migration Review 47 (2014) pp 6-10

through the work of humanitarian assistance directly or indirectly. As most of the refugees now live in the camps, some have found their way from the camps in Nairobi either to seek due to medical reasons or to acquire UNHCR mandates as urban refugees. Urban refugees engage in a variety of work, mostly in the informal sector due to formal work-related restrictions. The solution to the refugee crisis in Kenya requires integration into the host country or resettlement in another country. In cases where voluntary repatriation is not feasible in Kenya, suitable conditions that allow refugees to resettle normally can be promoted for them to contribute to the development of the country. This will also free them from depending on humanitarian assistance and become self-reliant on their own.<sup>134</sup>

#### **4.2.6 Conflict between Host community and refugees**

The Host community feels that refugees are more economically advantaged following the support they receive from aid agencies and their ownership of various businesses at the camps. This has led the host community to be at loggerheads with the refugees. Such hostilities towards refugees have made it difficult for proper contribution to social security and the realisation of their capabilities for overall economic impetus. The deteriorating conditions of hosting refugees at the camps of Dadaab and Kakuma in the semi-arid parts of Kenya since 1991 have created complex problems where refugees and host community clash over access and control of already scarce resources such as land, water, and firewood.<sup>135</sup> In Dadaab, the competition for resources caused conflict rather than cooperation between the two communities. In Kakuma, for many refugees, lack of a steady income makes it difficult to buy for refugees to seek energy sources

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<sup>134</sup> Betts, et al., *Refugee economies: rethinking popular assumptions*. Refugee Studies Center, (2014) Oxford. [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugee\\_economies](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugee_economies)

<sup>135</sup> Kirui P. and Dr J. Mwaruvie *The Dilemma of Hosting Refugees: A Focus on the Insecurity in North-Eastern Kenya* *International Journal of Business and Social Science* Vol. 3 No. 8 (2012) 161 p 164.

from firewood or charcoal outside the camp. The result of this is frequent conflicts with communities in fighting for limited firewood resources.

#### **4.2.7 Limited support from the international community**

Refugees in Kenya since their arrival have been mainly subjected to encampment policy and little chance of local integration. The massive influx and prolonged presence of refugees have put pressure on scarce resources in the camps such as lack of employment opportunities, accessibility to water, lands for settlement coupled with harsh weather and unbearable living conditions with minimal support from the international community and the host state. As a result, the international community supports the refugees with humanitarian assistance, but there are no many opportunities for refugees to make use or further their potential, capabilities and growth to contribute to the economy of the host state. This is also exacerbated by the notion surrounding refugee complexity in Kenya Vis a Vis threat to the national security and burden to the national economy and other vices.

The support of the refugee agencies are mainly humanitarian and do not go beyond the confines of the camps. Therefore refugees in the camps lack development-oriented assistance from the international community such as technical and financial assistance to support innovative Programmes to respond to refugees' unique challenges and situations. The New York Declaration on refugees and Migrants founded in 2016 call for the development of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) by UNHCR in situations involving the vast movement of refugees. This is to help in facilitating the national-local government in implementing the CRRF, with Kenya as some of the countries assisting in this since 2016.

Allowing refugees to benefit in line with CRRF requires that refugees are integrated into national development plans which are essential for both refugees and the host community the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>136</sup>

The comprehensive Refugee Response framework calls for a wide range of partners such UN refugee agencies such as UNHCR, national government institutions, civil society organizations, religious groups, academia to support refugees and refugee host communities with technical and financial assistance, build self-reliance of refugees by enhancing development-oriented initiatives rather than humanitarian assistance, expand resettlement process in developing countries and create environment suitable for refugee voluntary repatriation. The National and county institutions in Kenya have strengthened capacity and systems to assist refugees. The Garissa and Turkana county Integrated Development Plans for 2018-2023 which is the blueprints for county developments now in includes activities for refugees inclusion in the development agendas and new development plans benefiting refugees and local communities.

### **4.3 Chapter Summary**

Refugees, according to neoliberalism theory, can be said to be a positive force for economic and human development if certain inhibitors to employment are minimised. The theory supports the notion that refugees as Non-state actors have rights that cannot be merely ignored, such as taking part in development agendas and national security of the host states. Employment paves the way for an opportunity to achieve financial freedom, to achieve personal aspirations, build community networks, and contribute to economic growth and the society in far-reaching ways.

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<sup>136</sup> NHCR, *comprehensive Response Refugee Framework*: <https://www.unhcr.org/comprehensive-refugee-response-framework-crrf.html>

In a broader approach host country can benefit from refugees in many ways if they are allowed to access employment legally. For example, making use of the knowledge, skill sets and pieces of training, they come with from their countries of origin can contribute to bridging gaps in the labour market. Hence if they are employed the contribution to social security and a large extent revenue of the host state formally can be realised. Refugees bring about new insights into the workplace and pave the way for socio-cultural heterogeneity in a positive way. The study has therefore confirmed that refugees in Kenya have faced challenges in the process of their effort to contribute to Kenya's national development interests.

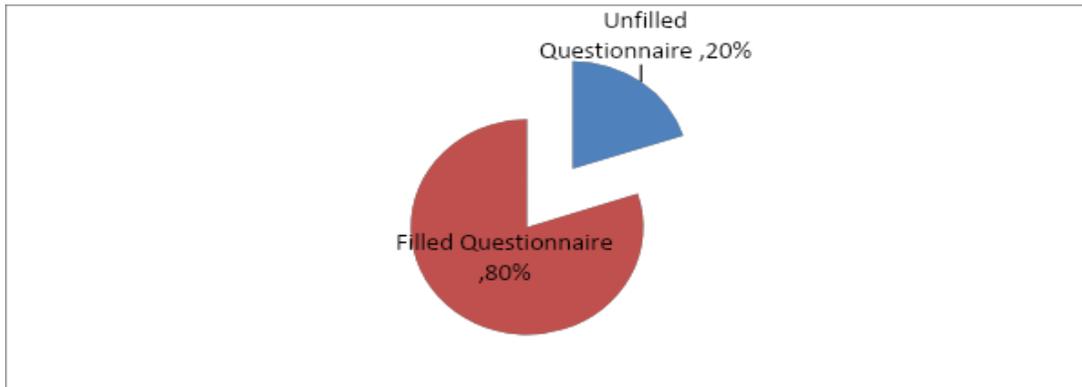
**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS**

**5.0 Introduction**

**5.1 Response from Community Leaders**

**5.1.1 Response Rate**

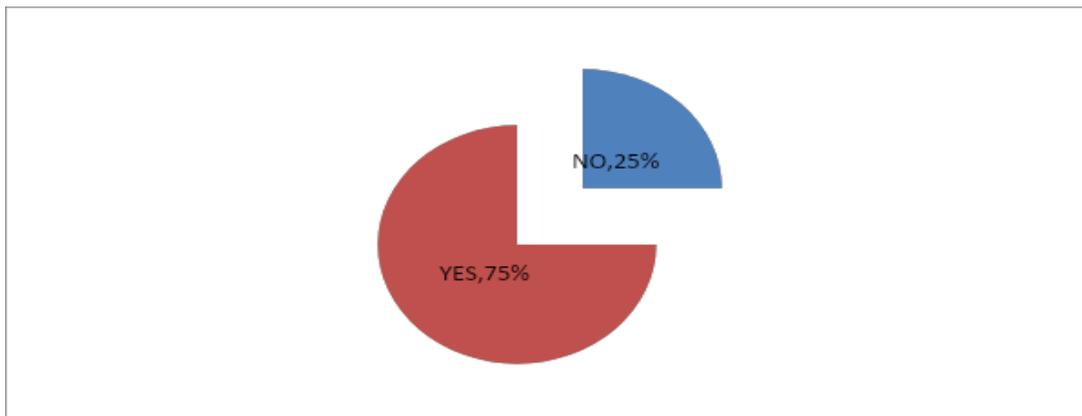
**Figure 5.1: Response Rate**



Out of the 399 questionnaires that were sent to the field to the community leaders from locals leaving around Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, 80% of the response was obtained, indicating that 320 questionnaires were correctly filled and returned.

**5.1.2 Refugees Contribution to Economic Gain**

**Figure 5.2: Refugees Contribution to Economic Gain**



According to the response from community leaders, refugees contribute much to their economic gain, as indicated by 75% (n=240) of the respondents. The respondents gave their contribution to the economic gain include the supply of foodstuff to the refugee camps, supply of foodstuff to the camps and increased demand for livestock products.

**Table 5.1: Extent of Agreement of Refugee Contribution to Economic Gain**

The respondents were asked to give the extent of their agreements on a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent, and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements. The response was as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased demand for consumable and non-consumable items to the from the community	18%	15%	8%	38%	21%
There is an increased success of the small business such as restaurant, groceries, shops and tea rooms	20%	22%	6%	25%	27%
Refugees selling their relief items have promoted available of cheap maize flour, oil, and blankets to the community	16%	22%	5%	31%	26%
The local transporters have secured services in the delivery of food and non-food items	18%	17%	8%	26%	31%
There is an increased cash flow and expenditure to the community	15%	20%	9%	27%	29%
The refugees' organisations have acted as a major source of employment to the community	16%	20%	7%	32%	25%
Refugees have provided cheap labor to the local community	13%	19%	6%	33%	29%
There is increased money circulations in the area	19%	21%	8%	28%	24%

The study results in table 5.1 indicate that there is an increased demand for consumable and non-consumable items from the community as given by 38% to a great extent, and 21% to a very great extent. The study also indicates that there is an increased success of small businesses such as restaurants, groceries, shops, and tea rooms as given by 25% of a great extent and 27% to a very great extent. Further, the study reveals that refugees selling their relief items have promoted available of cheap maize flour, oil, and blankets to the community as given by 31% of the respondents to a great extent and 26% to a very great extent. Finally, the study results have indicated that there are increased money circulations in the area as supported by 28% to a great extent and 24% to a very great extent.

The response given above indicates that there is an immense benefit of the local communities from the existence of refugees in the area, as indicated by the response from the community leaders. The responses reveal that the perception of refugees is positive as the locals accept their contribution to the economy. The study has also shown that refugees contribute to economic gain through increased demand in food and non-food items, opening up new small and large scale businesses such as retail and wholesale shops, providing cheap food and non-food items received as foreign aid to host community in exchange for other items, provide job opportunities to local residents through their own businesses and through attraction of international organizations.

**Table 5.2: Extent of Agreement of Refugee Contribution to Environmental Degradation**

The respondents were asked to give the extent of their agreements on a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent, and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which they agree with the following statements. The response was as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5
Refugees have contributed the most in deforestation and destruction of the local forest in the area for settlements	15%	16%	8%	27%	35%
The huge demand for water and natural resources has led to the misuse of rivers	20%	18%	10%	30%	22%
Multiple constructions taking place in the area has led to land degradation	14%	22%	7%	34%	23%
The sinking of boreholes in the area has lowered the water level thus making boreholes to be expensive	16%	19%	7%	27%	31%
The influx of refugees in the area has brought pressure in watering points thus leading to their exhaustions	20%	22%	6%	25%	27%
The existence of refugees have brought about air pollution in the area following their cooking methods using firewood	18%	15%	8%	38%	21%

The study findings in table 5.2 indicate that refugees contribute to environmental degradation in the area as indicated by majority of the respondents who indicated that refugees had contributed the most in deforestation and destruction of local forest in the area for settlements as given by 27% of the respondents for great extent and 35% for very great extent. The study also indicates that the huge demand for water and natural resources has led to the misuse of water points around the areas where refugees stay as given by 30% of the respondents to a great extent, followed by 22% to a very great extent.

This is an indication that the refugees are regarded by the locals to be putting too much pressure on natural resources leading to their depletion and, thus, conflicts over resources. This has also indicated that the huge demand for water and natural resources has led to the misuse of water points as reported by 30% to a great extent of the response and 22% to a very great extent. Refugees use water sources for their livestock and human consumption, such as cooking,

drinking, and washing clothes and utensils. The local community hosting refugees also believe that various constructions taking place in the area have led to land degradation as supported by 34% to a great extent and 23% to a very great extent. Most of the refugees live houses that are predominantly made off the mud. The local community leadership in the area felt that the existence of refugees in their area had influenced the sinking of boreholes in the locality, thus lowering the water level and making boreholes to be expensive as supported by 27% for the great extent and 31% for a very great extent. Finally, the study has revealed that the existence of refugees has brought about air pollution in the area following their cooking methods using firewood as supported by 38% to a great extent and 21% to a very great extent.

**Table 5.3 Extent of Agreement of Refugee Contribution to Social Problems**

The respondents were asked to state the extent to which they agree with the influence of refugees on social problems in the area. The response was on a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent, and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is increased strain on the available social amenities such as schools, hospitals	14%	20%	19%	32%	15%
There is an introduction of foreign culture to the community	7%	13%	19%	40%	21%
There is an erosion of social norms due to some corrupt practices of the refugees such as prostitutions	6%	12%	18%	42%	21%
There is a loss of religious values as a new religion is introduced into society	6%	9%	10%	45%	30%
There are time and resources wasted by the host community in solving refugee locals conflicts	4%	16%	30%	35%	15%

The study findings in table 5.3 give the response of the community leaders on the extent of refugee contribution to social problems in the area. The results have revealed that there is increased strain on the available social amenities such as schools and hospitals where schools and hospitals are congested as supported by 32% to a great extent, followed by 15% to a very great extent. The study also indicates that the respondents agreed that there is an erosion of social norms due to some bad practices of the refugees, such as prostitution. This is due to the influence of foreign culture caused by strangers in their land. This is supported by 42% of the respondents who indicated a great extent, followed by 21% to a very great extent. The local population was of the opinion that the presence of refugees has strongly influenced the social life of their communities. The locals also recorded the infiltration of religion in the community as refugees have different religious backgrounds that tend to influence the local population in the area. This is supported by 45% to a great extent and 30% for a very great extent of the population who indicated that there is a loss of religious values as a new religion is introduced into the society both in Kakuma and Dadaab camps. Finally, the study has indicated that there are time and resources wasted by the host community and state in solving refugee local's conflicts as indicated by 35% to a great extent and 15% to a very great extent. This is an indication that the community leaders in the area are not happy by the frequent meetings they are often engaged in by the refugee agencies and the government on the issues of refugee conflicts that should be addressed.

**Table 5.4: Extent of Agreement of Refugee Contribution to Security Problems**

The respondents were asked to respond to the security concerns caused by refugees to the localhost on a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent, and 5-

very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements. The response was as follows:

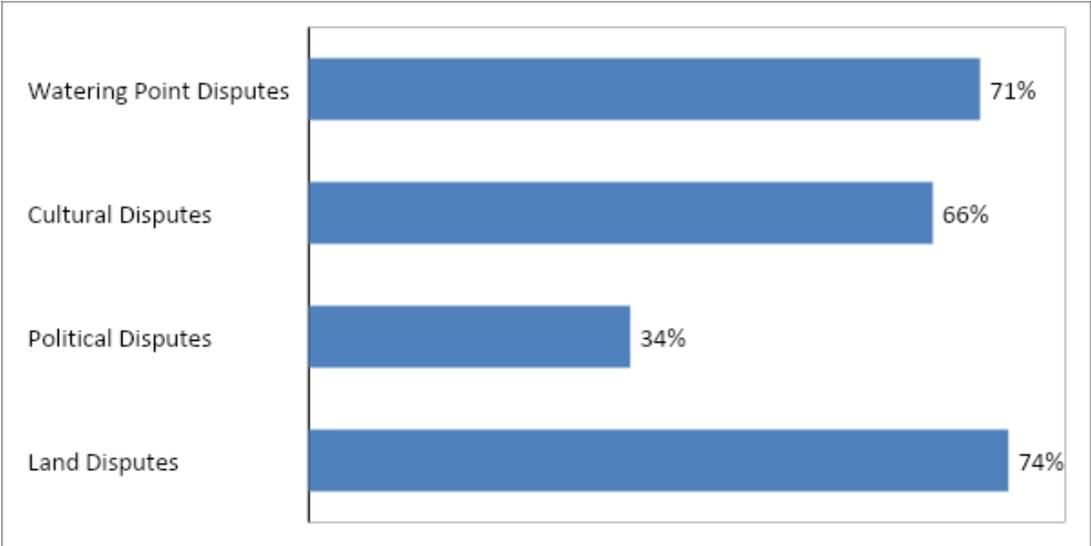
	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the community	10%	12%	13%	34%	31%
There is increased illegal trade of drugs in the community	14%	24%	8%	33%	21%
There is increased conversion of community girls into prostitution	17%	18%	9%	30%	26%
The community members are often engaged in regular fights with refugees over resources	16%	17%	13%	31%	23%
There are incidences of human trafficking on the refugee camps	6%	14%	4%	45%	31%
There is a recruitment of terrorist from the refugee camps	6%	16%	14%	38%	26%
There are increased incidences of rape cases in the community	16%	17%	7%	40%	20%

The study findings have revealed that there is an increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the community, as indicated by 34% to a great extent and 31% to a very great extent. This is an indication that the local community has regarded refugees as a security threat to the public, and they are blamed for the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the area. The concerns raised by the locals are that refugees are responsible for the poor insecurity in the area as reported by the escalating theft cases, abduction and recruitment of young men into outlawed

terrorist groups in the region. The study also indicated that there is increased illegal trade of drugs in the community, as reported by 33% of the response to a great extent and 21% to a very great extent. The study further revealed that the existence of refugees in the area had increased the conversion of community girls into prostitution as given by 30% of the response to a great extent and 26% to a very great extent.

The study findings indicated that there is constant conflict between the community members and the refugees due to resources as indicated by the respondents that the community members are often engaged in regular fights with refugees over resources given by 31% of the response for the great extent and 23% for a very great extent.

**Figure 5.3: Community Disputes**



The study findings in figure 5.3 indicate that the major source of community disputes as a result of the refugee presence in the area over land disputes, as given by 74% of the respondents who gave a yes response for that. This is due to settlement programs where refugees in the camps have opted for settlement in the neighbouring communities and doing business with them for survival. The other significant sources of conflict between refugees and the locals are the watering points since the communities hosting refugees are largely pastoralist; their value for watering points overrides the interest of refugees in the area thus facilitating conflicts as supported by 71% of the respondents that gave a yes response for watering point disputes. However, the respondents were of the opinion that the existence of refugees in the area does not influence much on the political directions of the region as refugees are not allowed to participate in any political stability despite their vast numbers in the region as given by 34% of the respondents compared to 66% of the respondents that did not support political disputes caused by refugees.

## **5.2 Extent of Agreement of Challenges facing Refugee Contribution on Kenya's Interest**

The respondents were asked to give the extent of their agreements on a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent, and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements. The responses were as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5
There is Restricted freedom of movement of refugees in Kenya to do business across Kenya	17%	18%	8%	33%	24%
There is limited support from the international Organizations such as United Nations agencies, i.e., UNHCR, UNDP, UNEP, and among others to support refugees entrepreneurial and innovative skills	26%	16%	13%	20%	25%
Refugees in Kenya lack of financial capital and resources to start up their own business	16%	22%	5%	36%	21%
The host community have a negative perception towards refugees which hamper their contribution efforts to the economy	31%	17%	8%	18%	26%
There is a conflict between the host community and the refugees at the camps which affect refugees business activities	20%	15%	11%	28%	26%
There is a lack of refugees integration process in Kenya to contribute to the economy	16%	25%	10%	30%	19%
There is limited employment opportunities for refugees	29%	15%	12%	24%	20%

The study findings in table 5.5 indicate that refugees have restricted movement in Kenya, as noted in the majority of the respondents, as given by 33% of the respondents to a great extent and 24% to a very great extent. Refugees in both Kakuma and Dadaab have limited rights to move anywhere in Kenya to do business activities due to the encampment policy, which limits their rights of movements to camps only. However, for urban refugees, especially those in Nairobi under the mandate of Refugee Affairs Secretariat, they have alien cards that allow them to move and reside within Nairobi to do business activities.

There is also limited support from the international organizations such as UN agencies in particular UNHCR, UNDP and UNEP to support refugee entrepreneurial and innovative skills with technical and financial assistance required other than humanitarian in order for them to contribute to Kenya's development interests as indicated by 20% for great extent of the response and 25% for very great extent. The local community hosting refugees also are of the opinion that Refugees lack financial capital and resources to start up their own business as supported by 36% to a great extent and 21% to a very great extent. The local community leadership in Kakuma, Dadaab and Nairobi urban area felt that the refugee communities are business entrepreneurs in nature and if supported with financial capital, they are likely that they contribute heavily to Kenya's development interest abroad.

The host community has also associated refugees and refugees camps with numerous challenges facing Kenya as a host country including security threats, environmental problems, economic pressure and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons which to some extent hampered refugees contribution efforts to the economy as supported by 18% for great extent and 26% for very great extent. This has affected the refugee business community relationship with the host community. Finally, the study has revealed that there is a lack of refugee integration process in Kenya to contribute to economic growth and national development. More than three-quarters of refugees in Kenya reside at the camps of Kakuma and Dadaab with no possibility of social and economic integration. The lack of refugee integration process in Kenya as a challenge facing refugees in the process of their effort to contribute to the economy is supported by 30% to a great extent and 19% for a very great extent response from the host community leadership. Lastly but not least, the majority of community leaders have indicated that refugees there are limited

employment opportunities for the refugees as supported by 24% of the respondents to a great extent and 20% to a very great extent. However, majority of the respondents have also indicated that refugees have access to employment

### **5.3 Response from Refugee Agencies**

The study targeted refugee agencies where UNHCR had 98 members of their staffs (International and National) targeted for the interview, Refugee Affairs Secretariat had 70 members of their staff targeted for interview, Norwegian Refugee Council had 16 members of their staff targeted for interview, IOM had 52 members of its staff targeted for interview, DRC had 41 members of their staff targeted for interview and finally Kituo Cha Sheria had 8 members of their staff targeted for interview. The response was then transcribed and given in a sub thematic form for ease of understanding and interpretation.

The refugee agencies indicated that the existence of many refugees in the area had impacted positively to the locals with respect to the economic gain. The agencies noted that some of the locals could access cheap products from the refugees, such as blankets and food staff. The refugees can sell the items they obtain from the camps to the locals at cheap prices. The other gain that was indicated by the refugee agencies is that of the locals being able to find a market for their livestock products to the refugees. The locals are delighted with refugees since they are the major source of their income that arises from the bilateral trade between the refugees and the locals.

The study also established that refugees are a great impediment to environmental conservation based on the settlement patterns and the overpopulation nature of the refugees. It has also confirmed that refugees participate in deforestation by cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood used for household cooking. This has a major impact on the interference of the water catchment areas, thus causing a serious conflict between the host community and the refugees living as their neighbours. The other environmental challenge that was identified by the refugee agencies to be causing conflicts is the existence of poor sanitation in the area where there are no proper latrines in the area and the littering of the area by the domestic wastes and other consumables often cause conflicts between refugees and the local community. The agencies have admitted to being overwhelmed by the high number of refugees that inflow the camps daily, thus causing a threat to the existing sanitation as the process of establishing new sanitation facilities is not as fast as the speed at which refugees inflow into the camps. The refugee agencies in an interview with the researcher observed that refugees often pose a great threat to the national security of the host country. One of the respondents said that:

*“Some refugees do come to camps with their guns and ammunition that they later use to terrorise fellow refugees and the local community.”*

This is an indication that refugees do pose a security threat to the host nation. The intelligence gathered by the refugee agencies, as indicated by one of the refugee agencies, suggest that refugees often engage in criminal activities target at the host community, foreign humanitarian workers, and the social entrepreneurs that are based in the refugee camps. The agencies also indicated that the national security system of the host country had conducted several arrests from

the refugee camps that relate to the criminal activities of refugees to the host community. However, the arrest has not done much in preventing the escalation of criminal activities in the camps; thus, there is a need to have a proper security system in the refugee camps that will ensure that all criminal elements are done away. Some agencies recommended for the establishment of correctional facilities in the refugee camps for the rogue refugees to serve as an example to the rest of the refugee population in the area.

The response from the refugee agencies indicates that refugees are a source of livelihood to the locals as they give their relief food and items to the local population. The agencies also established that refugees might be considered as a source of employment opportunity to both refugee camps and the surrounding society. This is because the refugee agency would hire some individuals to man the camps and run so many other activities taking place in the refugee camps. On the other hand, therefore, an inflow of refugees can lead to an increase in costs for the host country, thus affecting service delivery and negatively affecting labour participation in the host country. Furthermore, this inflow may lead to an increase in prices where supply response is affected, such as rental houses as experienced in Nairobi, especially Eastleigh and Mathare, where urban Somali, Ethiopians, and Congolese refugees reside. The agencies described refugees as causing involuntary displacement of the local population through their settlement patterns.

The social and economic experiences for the refugees themselves will impact the contribution to the host country's development. The agencies observed that although some of the host community has a negative attitude towards refugees that could be true that they cause a negative impact, refugees themselves could be resourceful to the host community if their potential is

identified and realised. This is as given by one of the respondents who gave an account of how the host community has lots of wasted opportunities with the refugees that could be utilised as given below:

*“Refugees have a greater potential of benefiting the host community that when their potential identified and tapped, it can improve on the host community economy and relieve them of the economic burden.”*

The response forms the refugee agencies indicate that refugees have some impacts on market availability for the agricultural and livestock products where the host communities can sell their products directly to the refugees. Since refugee settlements are mostly found in semi-arid areas that favour agriculture, there is a need for a market where they can trade their agricultural produce since it has been a reliable source of income for both refugee and the host community, especially in Dadaab thereby improving food security in the camp and its surrounding. The farming activities by the refugees make them less dependent on humanitarian assistance and add the food supply to the host community environment. This is an indication that the impact of refugees on the host community cannot be addressed to be a security threat alone but also to other areas such as the economic development of the host community. One of the refugee agency staff had this to say:

*“We usually advise refugees against selling relief food to the locals, but they still find a way of dealing with them and having relief food supplied to the host community as a gift or sold to them at a very low fee.”*

Most of the refugee agencies seemed to agree that refugees can add to the host economy through entrepreneurial activities and direct or indirect taxes. This is because most refugees are likely to run small businesses as there are limited job opportunities for them in the host country, unlike the host community who are stable at their place of work. The market created by the refugees, for instance, in Dadaab, Kakuma and urban refugees in Nairobi and Moyale bring a significant effect on the local people. It creates purchasing power and enables the exchange of goods between the locals and the refugee. This is where the host community buys and sells its agricultural products, such as animal products and farm produce. This has, however, led to a reduction in prices of goods and services, making them affordable to both communities. Some of the refugee agencies were of the opinion that refugees have been able to add to the host community more positive impacts than the negative ones.

The agency's response to the urban refugees in Kenya is that they play a significant role in economic boost by providing cheap labour like in the case of Nairobi, where urban refugees are employed to work in the shops and restaurants. Urban refugees work as waiters in the hotel room and restaurants; they work as shop attendants and as casual labourers in people's houses. The economic boom of the Eastleigh area is due to the cheap labour that makes the finished products of goods and services cheaper, thus attracting the majority of buyers into the shopping malls. Most of the agencies interviewed were of the opinion that urban refugees should just be left to continue doing business and integrated into the economy as their relationship is positive with the local community as they can interact effectively for the positive gain of both the refugees and the host community.

The refugee agencies response revealed that the refugee in Kenya other than stimulating economy faces challenges that hinder their efforts to contribute to the host country's development interest. The majority of the interviewees have mentioned that the main challenge that the refugees face like lack of enough support from the international community to support the host government and the refugees to overcome stagnant economic growth and insecurity. As a result, the international organisation, especially UNHCR and WFP, supports the refugees with humanitarian assistance, but there are no many opportunities for refugees to make use or further their potential, capabilities, and growth to contribute to the economy of the host state.

*“Currently, as I speak, a small number of urban refugees are seeking assistance to return to camps because of lack of humanitarian support from the government and UNHCR and other socio-economic related issues in the city.”*

The respondents have also indicated limited employment opportunities and a lack of financial capital as the challenges facing refugees in Kenya. This has contributed to increased competition for scarce resources, job opportunities, and high demand for goods and services such as food and public services between the refugees and the host community in Kakuma and Dadaab. Over 50% of the refugees in Kenya work as self-employed, while over 36% depend on remittances received from their relatives from abroad while the rest work in informal sectors. This is an indication that refugees are not employed in the formal sectors. The study has also revealed that some refugees work with refugee agencies in Kakuma and Dadaab as community mobilizers, translators, project officers, and other junior positions and get less pay as compared to international staff and Kenyan National. The refugees in Kenya upon lack of employment opportunities and lack of

financial capital to realise their potential have opened small scale businesses as reported by one of the interviewees

*“Urban refugees, especially women refugees, have opened roadside businesses such as selling fruits and vegetables, clothes, shoe business, and general cosmetics while some are involved in selling Miraa to make a livelihood for their family.”*

Finally, the agency's responses have also indicated that the host community and refugees relationship tend to be unreceptive and conflict in nature at times. The agencies response also indicated challenges such as conflicts between refugees and the residents as witnessed recently in Kakuma between Sudanese refugees and the local population that claimed lives of 11 people and that have also disrupted business activities and services such as food distribution by UNHCR and provide health services in the entire camp.

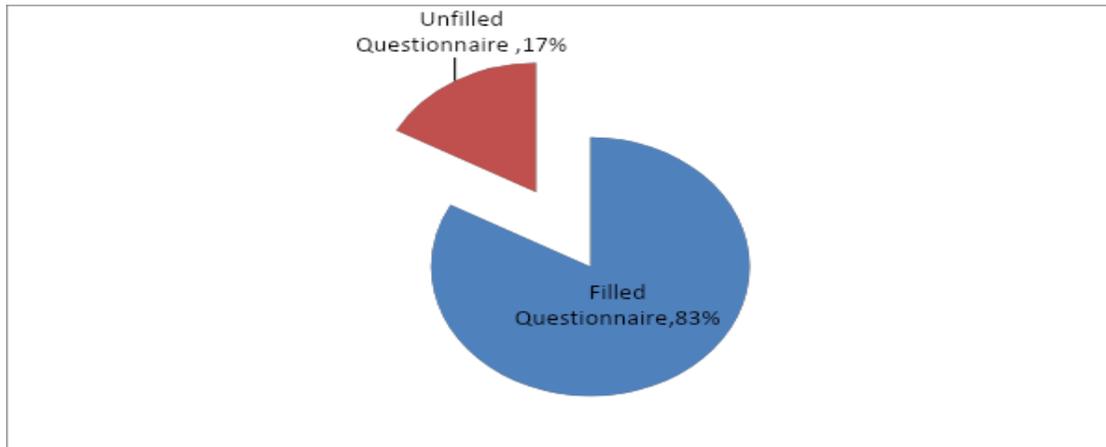
*“For a month now, we are not able to provide basic services such as food rations, water, and health services for refugees because of the insecurity issue in the region.”*

It is for this reason the study revealed that refugees face many challenges in the process of their efforts to contribute to national security and development interest of the host country, Kenya

## 5.4 Response from the Refugees

### 5.4.1 Response Rate

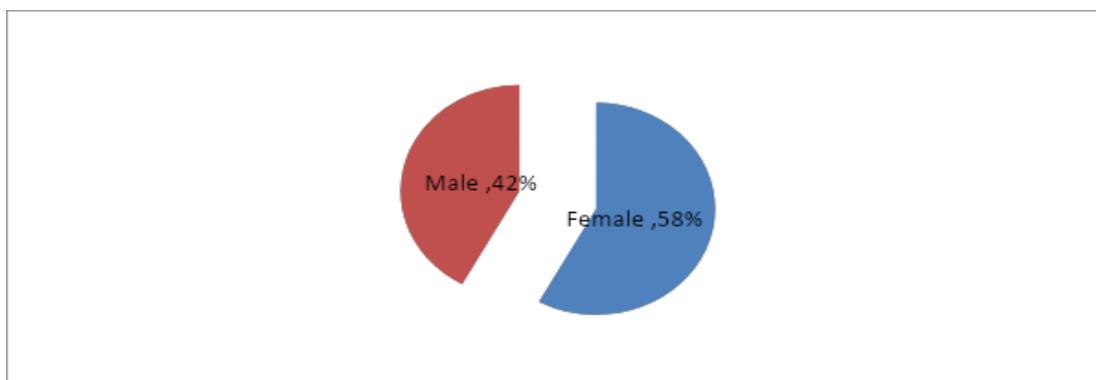
**Figure 5.4: Response Rate for Refugees**



The study response from figure 5.4 indicates that the majority (83%) of the questionnaires given to the refugees were filled and returned. 17% of the questionnaires that were not returned were either rejected on account of incompleteness or empty, while some questionnaires could not be traced from the respondents.

### 5.4.2 Gender of the Respondents

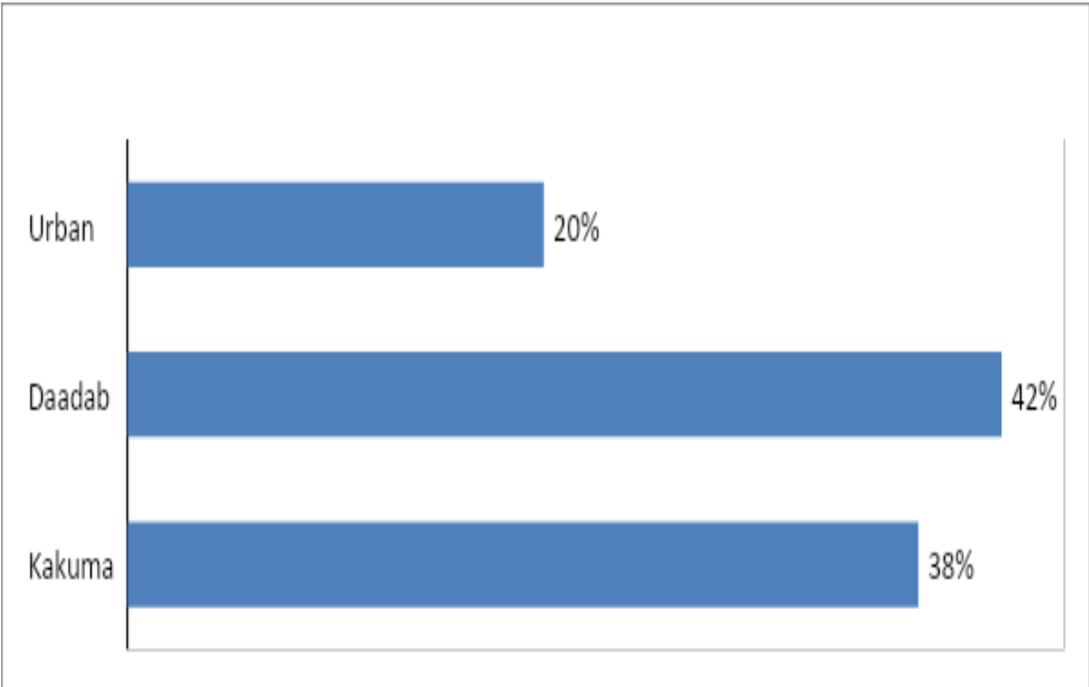
**Figure 5.5 Gender of the Respondents**



The study findings in figure 5.5 indicate that the majority of respondents from the refugees were female, 58% followed by males 42%. This is informed by the fact that refugee camps usually host more female than male counterparts.

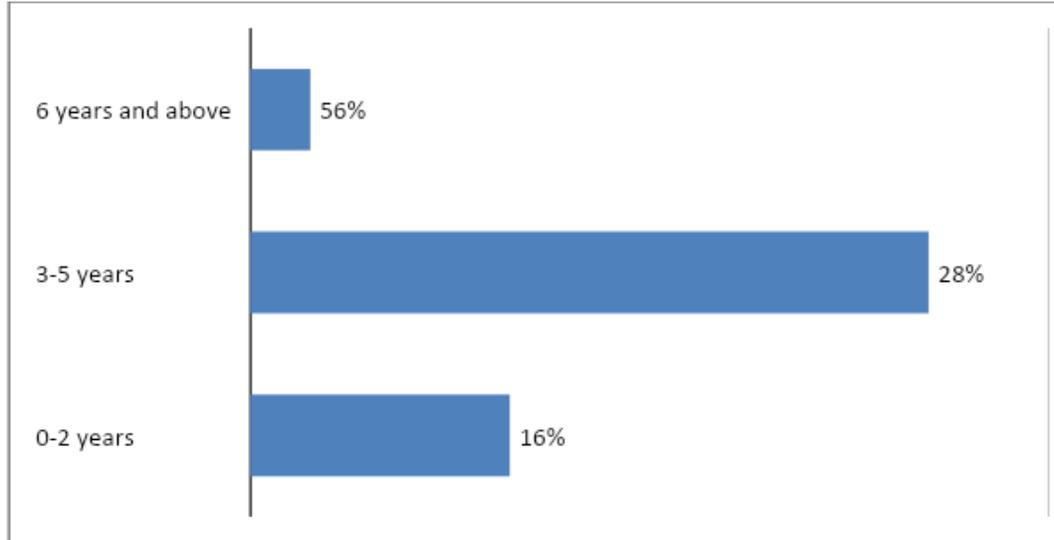
### 5.4.3 Refugee Location

**Figure 5.6: Refugee Location**



The study finding from figure 5.6 indicates that the majority of the respondents (42%) were refugees from Dadaab followed by refugees from Kakuma (38%), then finally urban refugees as the least respondents.

#### 5.4.4 Duration of Stay in Kenya



**Figure 5.7 Duration of Stay in Kenya**

The study findings in figure 5.7 indicate that majority of refugees have stayed in Kenya for 6 years and above (56%), followed by those that have stayed for 3-5 years (28%) and those who have stayed of (0-2) years (16%) which is an indication that the respondents are people who have lived in Kenya for reasonable amount of time for interaction with the local population.

#### 5.4.5 Economic Impact of Refugees in Kenya

The respondents were asked to state the extent to which they have benefited the host community on a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent, and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

**Table 5.5 Economic Impact of Refugees in Kenya**

	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased demand for consumable and non-consumable items to the from the community	13	14	16	33	24
There is an increased success of the small business such as restaurant, groceries, shops and tea rooms	8	9	9	39	35
Refugees selling their relief items have promoted available of cheap maize flour, oil, and blankets to the community	15	16	18	30	21
The local transporters have secured services in the delivery of food and non-food items	15	20	10	30	25
There is an increased cash flow and expenditure to the community	18	12	13	36	21
The refugee's organizations have acted as a major source of employment to the community	10	11	20	30	29
Refugees have provided cheap labor to the local community	18	19	5	35	23

The study findings in table 5.5 indicate that there is an increased demand for consumable and non-consumable items to the community as given by a 33% great extent and 24% to a very great extent. The study findings also indicate that there is an increased success of small businesses such as restaurants, groceries, shops, and tea rooms as given by 39% great extent and 35% to a very great extent. The increased small business managed by the locals is as a result of the high refugee population that brings about enormous demands for fast-moving consumer goods in the area. The study findings also indicate that the local transporters have secured services in the delivery of food and non-food items as given by a 30% great extent and 25% to a very great extent.

#### 5.4.6 Environmental Impact of Refugees

The respondents were asked to state the extent to which they have caused an environmental impact in the area of stay in a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

**Table 5.6 Environmental Impact of Refugees**

	1	2	3	4	5
We always cut down trees for charcoal and settlement purposes	6%	14%	4%	45%	31%
There are often problems with the rivers and watering points due to the huge demand for water	6%	16%	14%	38%	26%
There are multiple construction taking place in the area of refugee settlements	16%	17%	7%	40%	20%
There are very many boreholes dug to help service refugees in the camps	1%	2%	13%	45%	39%
The influx of refugees in the area has brought pressure in watering points thus leading to their exhaustions	7%	13%	19%	40%	21%
The existence of refugees have brought about air pollution in the area following their cooking methods using firewood	9%	12%	29%	34%	16%

The study findings in table 5.6 indicate that the refugees always cut down trees for charcoal and settlement purposes, as indicated by 45% to a great extent and 31% to a very great extent. The study findings also indicate that refugees do cause problems with the rivers and watering points due to the huge demand for water, as indicated by 38% to a great extent and 26% to a very great extent. The study findings also indicate that refugees do have multiple constructions for settlement purposes, thus bringing pressure to the existing environment as given by 40% to a great extent and 20% to a very great extent.

### 5.4.7 Social Impact of Refugees

The respondents were asked to state the extent to which they have caused a social impact in the area of stay in a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5-very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

**Table 5.7: Social Impact of Refugees**

	1	2	3	4	5
There is increased strain on the available social amenities such as schools and hospitals	6%	12%	18%	42%	23%
Some of our members do intermarry with the local community	5%	11%	7%	43%	34%
Some refugees do engage in a bad activity such as prostitution for survival purposes	6%	9%	10%	45%	30%
We convert some locals to our religion, and some of our members are also converted to local community religion	5%	8%	24%	34%	29%
Our refugee leaders do spend most of their time-solving refugee host community problems	1%	1%	9%	55%	34%

The study findings in table 5.7 indicate that there is increased strain on the available social amenities such as schools and hospitals as given by 42% of the respondents to a great extent and 23% of the respondents to a very great extent. The study respondents also indicate that some of their members do intermarry with the local community as given 43% of the respondents to a great extent, and 34% of respondents to a very great extent. The study further indicates that some refugees engage in bad activities such as prostitution that is not acceptable to the host community, thus causing conflicts as given by 45% of the respondents to a great extent and 30% of the respondents to a very great extent.

### 5.4.8 Security Impact of Refugees

The respondents were asked to state the extent to which they have caused a social impact in the area of stay in a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5-very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

**Table 5.8 Security Impact of Refugees**

	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the community	4%	16%	30%	15%	30%
There is increased illegal trade of drugs in the community	6%	11%	18%	37%	28%
The community members are often engaged in regular fights with refugees over resources	2%	8%	16%	50%	24%
There are incidences of human trafficking on the refugee camps	4%	23%	26%	29%	18%
There is a recruitment of terrorist from the refugee camps	1%	2%	5%	48%	44%
There are increased incidences of rape cases in the community	5%	10%	36%	33%	16%

The study findings in table 5.8 indicate that there is an increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the community as given by 15% of the respondents, to a great extent, followed by 30% to a very great extent. The findings also indicate that there is increased illegal trade of drugs in the community as given by 37% to a great extent, followed by 28% to a very great extent. The study further indicates that the community members are often engaged in regular fights with refugees over resources, as indicated by 50% of the respondents to a great extent, followed by 24% of the respondents to a very great extent. The finding also indicates there are incidences of human trafficking on the refugee camps, as indicated by 29% of the respondents to

a great extent, followed by 18% of the respondents to a very great extent. The study also found out there is a recruitment of terrorists from the refugee camps as given by 48% and 44% of the respondents to a great extent and a very great extent. A good number of respondents have also highlighted that there are increased incidences of rape cases in the community, as indicated by 33% to a great extent and 16% to a very great extent. This is an indication that refugees in Kenya contribute to insecurity issues such as terrorism, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and incidences such as human trafficking and social problem

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **6.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary, conclusions, and recommendations of the results of the study that sought to determine the role and impacts of refugees on the development interest in the host state in Africa with a specific focus of Kenya.

#### **6.1 Summary**

The purpose of the study was to determine the role and impacts of refugees on the development interest in Kenya based on the following specific objectives: to investigate how refugees in various African states have affected the interests of host states, to analyze the role and impact of refugees on the development interest in Kenya, and examine the challenges facing refugee integration process in Kenya. The research design adopted for the study was a descriptive survey design that was deemed fit for the study owing to the nature of data to be collected. The target population for the study was respondents from Kenyan Nationals, local community leaders for Garissa and Turkana County, staffs from UNHCR, Refugee Affairs Secretariat, Norwegian Refugee Council, IOM, DRC, Kituo Cha Sheria and Refugee Consortium Kenya.

The study used both primary and secondary data, whereby in primary data collection, questionnaires were administered to the sampled population while secondary data collection was conducted through a review of reports from UNHCR, online journals, and government working papers. The study used descriptive statistics such as median, mean, mode percentages, and

frequency distributions as the main units of analysis. The results were then presented using graphs, pie charts, and tables for ease of understanding and interpretation.

## **6.2 The effect of refugees in the interest of the host states**

Refugees in the various African States have often put a lot of pressure on the host community resources. This is as reported in the study findings that refugees in Dadaab refugee camp do come with animals alongside that bring competition on the existing overgrazed land and watering points. The limited natural resources around the Dadaab refugee camp, being an area of the arid and semi-arid region, are unable to support the high population of the settlement of refugees in the area. Refugees have led to deforestation and destruction of a local forest in their areas settlements and high demand for water hence putting pressure in watering points, thus leading to their exhaustion. Multiple constructions in the camps have also led to land degradation and sinking of boreholes, which has lowered the water level, thus making boreholes very expensive. The use of the firewood method in cooking by the refugees has led to air pollution in the area. Poor disposal of human consumables and other domestic wastes has led to water contamination causing waterborne diseases such as cholera and therefore straining the economy on vaccination. Soil pollution is another problem associated with the presence of refugees in Kenya.

Refugees are reported in the study to be of great benefit to the host nation by selling blankets and food to the local community at a low cost since the items are given to them by the relief agencies as a charity. Refugees also add human resources to the local community through cheap labor, skills, and knowledge they may have with them. They also create a market for locally produced

goods through the increased demand for consumable and non-consumable items from the local community. The local transporters also secured services in the delivery of food and non-food items leading to increased cash flow and expenditure to the local community. The refugee organizations have acted as a major source of employment to the community, thus increased money circulation in the area. Kenyan refugee entrepreneurs have boosted the economy with new jobs, services, and products by building a new range of businesses such as retail and wholesale shops, hotels, vegetable stalls, electronic shops, and the transport and communication industry as witnessed in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Refugees also attract foreign aid, which benefits both the refugee and the host community through developments such as the construction of roads, hospitals, schools, and water points. These developments, therefore, add to the local economy.

### **6.3 Role and impact of refugees on Kenya's national development**

When a large number of refugees arrive in a country that does not share a common history or cultural linkages, there is always a risk of social tension, conflicts, and violence erupting, which is detrimental to host state development. Refugees have led to increased strain on the available social amenities such as schools and hospitals hence congestions. Refugees in Kenya are perceived to increasing social problems such as crimes, gambling, gender-based violence, prostitution, and drug abuse. The refugee camps are seen as places where criminal activities are organized. Such activities are illegal poaching, human trafficking, gun trafficking, drug smuggling, and hiding place by armed rebel groups. By hosting a large population of refugees, the host government may face political pressure especially from the international community and its general public, to maintain peace and stability within and outside the state. Most of the

refugee camps have been used as militia's recruitment points where youths are recruited and trained to carry out revenge or escalate conflicts in their home countries; therefore, contributing to insecurity in the host country as it has been happening in the northern parts of Kenya where Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps are located. The location of refugee camps, as in the case of Dadaab in Kenya, poses an insecurity threat since it is located near borders of the conflicting countries like Somalia, which affects the security in the host country. Most of the refugees no longer stay in camps but have moved to urban areas in search of jobs and thus becoming difficult to monitor their movements and activities, thereby causing insecurity in their areas of settlement. The presence of refugees has increased the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the community which is used by refugees as defense hence erupting wars. There is also increased illegal trade of drugs in the community, increased conversion of community girls into prostitution, and thus engaging the community members in regular fights and community leaders in solving disputes between refugees and the community members.

Refugees came with different cultures from their home countries and thus introducing them to the local community hence new cultural development. The presence of refugees in Kenya has led to the erosion of social norms due to some bad practices of the refugees, such as prostitution. Refugees also introduced their religion to the local community, thus loss of religious values. Due to conflicts between the local community and the refugees, so much time is lost in resolving those conflicts. The refugees have their culture from their home countries, and upon arrival, they may influence the host community into these cultures. Some of these cultures may not be acceptable in the host countries and causing conflict between the host community and the refugees.

Refugees also do cause inflation in their areas of settlements since the increase in population, hike the prices of goods and services in the surrounding environment due to increased demand for goods and services. This increase in prices is then straining the host community and thereby increasing poverty because most of them will not be able to afford their basic needs such as food and clothing. Competition for jobs is also another problem majorly affecting the host community where both refugees and the host community are likely to compete for the few available jobs, thus negatively impacting the host community on their means of survival. This competition is due to oversupply of labor, which is accompanied by poor wage payments and hence human exploitation. The struggle for survival in those areas, therefore, is likely to cause other problems such as theft and murder, causing insecurity problems in the area.

The presence of refugees in the host country has economic, social, environmental, and security effects on the host country, as discussed above. Mostly refugees' settlements are found in arid and semi-arid areas, as is the case in Kenya, where livestock rearing is the main economic activity carried out. Refugees, therefore, tend to engage themselves in agricultural activities and become less dependent on foreign agencies. Refugees also carry out trade hence adding to the host economy through taxation and improved money circulation in the area. The local community can then borrow some agricultural or trade skills from the refugees as an exchange of cultural values between the two or more communities living together.

Refugee attracts foreign agencies which lead to development in the area such as construction of roads, schools, hospitals, and water point areas. These infrastructures benefit not only refugees but also the host community. Refugee attracts international and regional bodies for

environmental conservation, thus advantageous to refugees and the host community at large. The neighboring community also benefits from refugees through services such as vaccination of an outbreak disease and also water supply from their water point. However, roads connecting the refugee camps are usually worn out faster due to the heavy transportation of huge amounts of food by agencies like WFP. A large population also causes congestion in health facilities and schools, thereby leading to poor services in the hospital and poor education in schools.

#### **6.4 challenges facing refugees in the process of their efforts to contribute to Kenya's interest**

Refugees in Kenya face a lot of challenges in the process of their effort to contribute to Kenya's national interest including lack of access to financial capital, limited access to employment opportunities and lower pay as compared to the Kenyan nationals in the field of Non-governmental Organizations whereby most of them work in the informal sectors due to lack of legal status and refugee status hindering them from formal employment, restricted movement due to the encampment policy, lack of economic and social integration with the host community, conflict with the host community over scarce resources such as land, water building and firewood in the camps. Besides these, refugees in Kenya lack enough support from the host country and the international community. Refugees receive humanitarian assistance from the international community. They also enjoy social protection just like the local community but lack development assistance from UN and related development agencies such as UNDP and (UNDAF), among other development agencies.

Refugees in Kenya also lack technical and financial assistance to support their innovative programs and projects to respond to their unique challenges and situations. Urban refugees in Kenya, as opposed to refugees in camps, experience many challenges such as limited access to state and host community resources, limited employment opportunities even in informal sectors and insecure housing, lack of access to health care and education. In addition, urban refugees in Kenya have been denied some of the fundamental human rights that are enshrined in the 1951 UN convention, which includes denial of the right to work, which will, in turn, determine whether refugees in urban areas contribute the host country's interest negatively or positively.

The massive influx and prolonged presence of refugees is also believed by the host state and general public to have contributed to insecurity issues, economic pressure, increase in small arms and light weapons trade and possession in the country, environmental problems such as environmental degradation, depletion of resources and overcrowding lands for settlement as well as conflict with the host community among others which threaten the host country's national interest. However, the encampment policy adopted by Kenya strictly prohibits refugees from leaving the camps. Hence lack of freedom by refugees significantly limits accessibility to trade, employment, medical assistance, and higher education, which limits their contribution towards Kenya's national interest.

## **6.5 Conclusion**

The study concludes that refugee's presence in Kenya has contributed greatly to the transformation of the areas of settlements, especially in the urban settings, as witnessed in Eastleigh Kenya. Despite strict rules and regulations in the host country denying the refugees the

engagement into economic activities informal settlements, they have been able to engage in informal activities and have reduced the burden on the host government and contribute to the national economy. Refugees have participated in various ways to the economy by providing cheap labor to the host community, they have acted as a market for the livestock products for the communities around the camps, and they have given the communities around the camps items such as blankets, tents, utensils and food items that are given to them as relief food. Refugees have also acted as a source of employment opportunities to the locals as the refugee agencies usually employ the locals to work for them in the camps. Refugees have been found in the study to cause environmental destruction through land degradation, where a considerable number of people settle in a very small piece of land. Refugees also cut trees for settlement purposes and for use as fuel, where they mostly use firewood for cooking. The cutting down of trees has caused pressure on the water catchment areas, thus causing conflict with the local population on the usage of natural resources.

Refugees have often clashed with the host community on religious affiliations where certain religion demands a particular way of dressing girls while the other is silent and liberal. The other conflict is on the marriage ties where the free interaction between boys and girls often brings about intermarriages hence a standoff on who should not marry the other, thus causing conflict between the communities. Proliferation of SALW has been established as a security challenge associated with the influx of refugees. Security agencies believe refugees facilitate transnational trafficking of arms which threatens national security. Refugees are often recruited by the outlawed terror cells like the Alshabab group for terrorism purposes. The local community members also believe that refugees are often a source of security threat by being responsible for

the constant burglary and theft in the area. The belief is instigated by the failure of refugee agencies to provide refugees with essential commodities such as shelter and food, owing to a large number of refugees in the camps. The study, therefore, concludes that refugees in Africa and Kenya in particular play both positive and negative roles in the development interest of the host country subject to the availability of opportunities provided by the host government and the international community.

The refugees in Kenya face challenges like restricted movement, lack of legal status thus hindering them from formal employment and lower pay as compared to the Kenyan nationals in the field of Non-governmental Organizations where most of them work in the informal sectors due to lack of legal status and refugee status hindering them from formal. Lack of economic and social integration with the host community is also another challenge; conflict with the host community over scarce resources such as land, water building, and firewood in the camps. The Refugees in Kenya also lack technical and financial assistance to support their innovative programs to respond to their unique challenges and situations. Lastly, the encampment policy adopted by the Kenyan government strictly prohibits refugees from leaving the camps; hence, lack of freedom by refugees significantly limits accessibility to trade, employment, medical assistance, and higher education, which limits their contribution towards Kenya's national interest.

## **6.6 Recommendation**

### **6.6.1 Academic recommendation**

Firstly, the study was limited in a number of ways in terms of the target population and approaches used to correlate variables. Therefore, the study recommends scholars and academicians to have an opportunity to explore this contentious, unique, yet promising instrument for a better approach to refugee protection issues by host countries. Therefore, the study recommends that the findings of the research should stimulate intellectual debates and thus create an interest in other studies in the future on this vital instrument.

The study should fill the gap in the contemporary literature which has not focused on the roles and impact of refugees to development interests of host states and aims in order contribute to scholarly research on refugee protection policymaking and diplomatic relations in Kenya, which should strengthen academicians and young scholars negotiation skills and understanding of refugee host and intervention areas by key stakeholders in order to publicize refugee protection act and policies.

The study finally recommends for further study on the options available for refugees who have stayed in the host country for longer periods, such as 25 years, whether there should be an integration process or resettlement or relocation into other neighboring countries or camps that have refugees as well.

### **6.6.2 Policy Recommendation**

The host governments and the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees should collaborate and enhance refugee inclusion in national, regional and international development plans through allocation of financial capital and technical assistance towards the development of infrastructure and social amenities for refugees and refugee host communities in order to reduce refugee economic burden to the host economy and pressure on public goods which to some extent have created conflicts between refugees and local residents as the study findings revealed.

Refugee problems in Kenya require durable solutions other than voluntary repatriation, which the international organizations, the Kenyan government, and the Somalia government have recently sorted. The study recommends that the international community and refugee host states come up with development-oriented strategies that generate work opportunities rather than temporary humanitarian assistance for refugees, which led to the over-dependency of foreign aid. The host countries should create employment opportunities for refugees so that they can contribute to sustainable development goals, Kenya vision 2030, and Annual development plans.

The refugee agencies and international donors dealing with refugee issues in the world should provide sufficient support to refugee-hosting governments so that they encourage the idea of socially and economically integrating refugees to the local communities rather than providing humanitarian response to refugees from the camps which to some extent has also lead to redundancy of skilled professionals in the camps. The United Nations should also expand the

(UNDAF) to support the institutional, social, and economic integration of refugees beyond the designated camps.

Refugees come to host countries to seek safety because of various reasons that made them leave their country of origin. Therefore, while in the host country, they should obey the policies and regulations that have been set up by the host country to get the needed assistance and also avoid criminal activities that can lead to them sent back to their country of origin. There is a need to change the mindset of many Kenyans that refugees are a constant threat to a state's security and move it towards one focused on refugees as an economic asset.

The Refugee Affairs Secretariat, need to effectively publicize the Kenya refugee act and the actual protracted refugee situation in Kenya to the host population. Knowledge building will set the stage for advocacy for refugee opportunities. The refugee-host country relationship will need capacity building in the counties. The capacity building should focus on the protection of refugees.

In relation to promoting national security, which is an essential component of development, the study recommends that there should be proper screening at the borders of the host country by Kenyan security apparatus to enhance security by reducing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons that is brought in by undocumented refugees.

The study also recommends that refugees should not be allowed to cross the borders with their cattle to reduce conflict for grazing land between the two. Refugees upon the arrival in the host community should be denied the practice of some of their cultures such as female circumcision which is seen by the host community as a violation of the human rights by human rights activists.

Finally, the study recommends the third-country resettlement process for refugees who have over-stayed the camps by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees instead of repatriating them to their country of origin with an unstable situation.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: REFUGEE QUESTIONNAIRE

The study seeks to investigate the role and impact of refugees on the development interest of Kenya as a host country. Your resourcefulness in the area will be very important please tick in the appropriate answer from the listing or respond as the instructions require. The information you gave will be treated with absolute confidentiality and will ONLY be used for this study

SECTION A	
Personal Information Gender: Age : Country of origin	
Socio-economic Background	
2. What is your highest level of education?	No formal schooling Primary incomplete Primary complete Secondary incomplete Secondary complete Higher Madrassa
3. Which of the following best describes what you mainly do here at the camp?	Working (self-employed, own Business) Incentive staff (with organisations) Casual employee in local businesses Casual employee in households Casual employee in agriculture Unemployed In school / Study Doing housework or taking care of family members Other, specify _____
4. What type of fuel does your household mainly use for cooking?	Firewood LPG Natural gas Electricity Charcoal Paraffin/Kerosene Other, specify _____
5. How long have you been to Kenya?	Six years and above 3-5 years 0-2 years
6. What were your main reasons for leaving your country	Lack of employment opportunities Lack of adequate education and training

	<p>possibilities  Persecution/insecurity/conflict  Environmental/Climate issues (e.g. drought, exhausted soil)  Dissatisfaction with the government (policy-related)  Other, specify_____</p> <p>No further reason</p>
7. What were your main reasons for coming to Kenya?	<p>Employment opportunity  Economic opportunity  Education and training  Safety from insecurity/conflict or persecution  Safety from environmental/climate issues (e.g. drought, exhausted soil)  Supportive government policy  Other, specify_____</p>
8. What are some of the challenges you faced during your stay t in Kenya?	<p>Did not obtain refugee status  Socio-economic challenges  Poor living conditions  No/restricted access to the labor market  Level of assistance insufficient in Kenya  Lack of legal status  Other, specify_____</p>
9. When you were living ii your country, were you ever engaged in some work, either for yourself or someone else?	<p>Yes  No</p>
10. What was your main occupation in the country of birth?	

**SECTION B**

I will now ask you several questions regarding your roles and impact on the Host country  
On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

**1Economic impacts of refugees**

	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased demand for consumable and non-consumable items in the community					
There is an increased success of the small business such as restaurant, groceries, shops and tea rooms owned by refugees					
Refugees selling their relief items have promoted available of cheap maize flour, oil, and blankets to the community					
The local transporters have secured services in the delivery of food and non-food items in the camps					

	There is an increased cash flow and expenditure to the community					
	The refugees' organisations have acted as a major source of employment to the community					
	Refugees have provided cheap labor to the local community					

### 2. Social Impacts of refugees

On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is increased strain on the available social amenities such as schools and hospitals					
Some of our members do intermarry with the local community					
Some refugees do engage in bad activities such as prostitution for survival purposes					
We convert some locals to our religion and some of our members are also converted to local community religion					
Our refugee leaders do spend most of their time-solving refugee host community problems					

### 3. Environmental impacts

On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
We always cut down trees for charcoal and settlement purposes					
There are often problems with the rivers and watering points due to a huge demand for water					
There are multiple construction taking place in the area of refugee settlements					
There are very many boreholes dug to help service refugees in the camps					
The influx of refugees in the area has brought pressure in watering points thus leading to their exhaustions					
The existence of refugees have brought about air pollution in the area following their cooking methods using firewood					

**4. Security Impacts of refugees**

On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the camps					
There is increased illegal trade of drugs in the refugee community					
The community members are often engaged in regular fights with refugees over resources					
There are incidences of human trafficking on the refugee camps					
There is the recruitment of terrorist from the refugee camps					
There are increased incidences of rape cases in the community					

**5. Development interest**

On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
Refugees pose a security threat to the host country					
Refugees are a burden to host country economy					
Refugees create competition in the economy and job opportunities					
Refugees help the host country socially and economically					
Hosting refugees attract international organisations that come with funds and create job opportunities					

**6.Challenges facing refugees on their efforts to contribute Kenya’s Interests**

On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is Restricted freedom of movement of refugees in Kenya to do business across Kenya					
There is limited support from the international Organizations such as United Nations agencies, i.e., UNHCR, UNDP, UNEP, and among others to support refugees entrepreneurial and innovative skills					
Refugees in Kenya lack of financial capital and resources to start up their own business					

The host community have a negative perception towards refugees which hamper their contribution efforts to the economy					
There is a conflict between the host community and the refugees at the camps which affect refugees business activities					
There is a lack of refugees integration process in Kenya to contribute to the economy					
There is limited employment opportunities for refugees					

Thanks for your response.

## APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

### Interview Guide for Staffs of Refugee Agencies in Kenya

My name is Abdiaziz Mohamed Noor as part of my research work at the University of Nairobi; I am conducting a study on *“the role and impact of refugees on the development interests of the host states in Kenya”*. As a representative who has regular contact with the refugee population under investigation, your resourcefulness will be very important. Please respond to the following questions as requested.

1. How have refugees in the various African Countries affected the interest of the host countries?
2. Based on your knowledge, what are the common problems/Challenges that refugees face in the process of their effort to contribute to the host country interests?
3. Do refugees play a role in the development interest of Kenya? If yes, what are some of the roles?
4. What socio-economic activities do refugees engage in camps and urban areas?
5. What are some of the security challenges attributed to refugees?
6. Do refugees contribute to the national economy in Kenya? If yes, Explain
7. What are some of the negative impacts of refugees in Kenya? Explain
8. What are some positive impacts of refugees in Kenya? Explain
9. Are there challenges in refugees in the process of their effort to contribute to Kenya's Interest? If yes discuss some of the challenges
10. What are some of the efforts played by international organisations and Kenya's government towards the refugee integration process in Kenya?

11. What is the role and impact of the cultural and religious interactions between refugees and the locals?
12. Is there a conflict between refugees and the locals? If yes what is the source of this conflict and what can be done to reduce the conflicts between refugees and residents?
13. What measures can the host country and international organisations other than humanitarian assistance undertake to tackle the existing refugee crisis?

Thanks for your response.

**APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRES FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS**

My name is Abdiaziz Mohamed Noor as part of my research work at the University of Nairobi; I am conducting research on *the role and impact of refugees on the development interests of the host states in Kenya*. Please respond to the following questions as requested

**Section A: Demographic Information**

Gender    Male                          Female   

Location    Sub-Location    Education Level

Age brackets

- 18-23 Years
- 24-29 Years
- 30-35 Years
- 36- 41 Years
- 42 Years and Above

Number of Years as community leaders

- 1-5 Years
- 6-11 Years
- 12 Years and above

**Section B: Role and Impact of Refugees in Kenya**

**Economic Gain**

1. How have refugees influenced the economy of your area?

.....

.....

2. With the presence of refugees in the area, what should be done to improve on the economic status of your area?.....

.....

3. On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased demand for consumable and non-consumable items to the from the community					
There is an increased success of the small business such as restaurant, groceries, shops and tea rooms					

Refugees selling their relief items have promoted available of cheap maize flour, oil, and blankets to the community					
The local transporters have secured services in the delivery of food and non-food items					
There is an increased cash flow and expenditure to the community					
The refugees' organisations have acted as a major source of employment to the community					
Refugees have provided cheap labor to the local community					
There is increased money circulations in the area					

**Environmental Issues**

4. Do you think that refugees are responsible for the poor state of the environment in the area?

Yes                      No

Explain

-----  
-----

5. On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
Refugees have contributed the most in deforestation and destruction of a local forest in the area for settlements					
The huge demand for water and natural resources has led to the misuse of our rivers					
Multiple constructions taking place in the area has led to land degradation					
The sinking of boreholes in the area has lowered the water level thus making boreholes to be expensive					
The influx of refugees in the area has brought pressure in watering points thus leading to their exhaustions					
The existence of refugees have brought about air pollution in the area following their cooking methods using firewood					

6. With the presence of refugees, what should be done to restore the environment with the presence of refugees in the area?

-----  
-----

**Social Issues**

7. On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is increased strain on the available social amenities such as schools and hospitals					
There is the introduction of foreign culture to the community					
There is the erosion of social norms due to some bad practices of the refugees such as prostitutions					
There is a loss of religious values as a new religion is introduced into society					
There are time and resources wasted by the host community in solving refugee locals conflicts					

8. How has foreign culture infiltrated the local community?.....

9. With the presence of refugees, what can be done to control emergent social problems due to refugees in the area? .....

**Security Issues**

10. On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is an increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the community					
There is increased illegal trade of drugs in the community					
There is increased conversion of community girls into prostitution					
The community members are often engaged in regular fights with refugees over resources					
There are incidences of human trafficking on the refugee camps					
There is the recruitment of terrorist from the refugee camps					
There are increased incidences of rape cases in the community					

11. What other security problems are experienced by your community due to refugees and are not mentioned in the table above?.....

.....

**Community Conflicts**

12. On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
The existence of refugees in the area have promoted land disputes in the area					
The existence of refugees in the area have promoted political disputes in the area					
The existence of refugees in the area have promoted cultural disputes in the area					
The existence of refugees in the area have promoted watering point disputes in the area					

What are the conflict resolution measures are adopted by your community in addressing refugee host community conflicts?.....

.....

**Challenges facing refugees**

On a scale of 1-5 where 1-not at all, 2- little extent, 3-neutral, 4-great extent and 5- very great extent, state the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
There is Restricted freedom of movement of refugees in Kenya to do business across Kenya					
There is limited support from the international Organizations such as United Nations agencies, i.e., UNHCR, UNDP, UNEP, and among others to support refugees entrepreneurial and innovative skills					
Refugees in Kenya lack of financial capital and resources to start up their own business					
The host community have a negative perception towards refugees which hamper their contribution efforts to the economy					
There is a conflict between the host community and the refugees at the camps which affect refugees business activities					
There is a lack of refugees integration process in Kenya to contribute to the economy					
There is limited employment opportunities for refugees					

Thanks for your response.

**APPENDIX IV: NACOST RESEARCH PERMIT**



**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,  
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Date: **14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**

Abdiaziz Mohamed Noor  
University of Nairobi  
P.O Box 30197-00100  
**NAIROBI.**

**RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION**

Following your application for authority to carry out research on "*The role and impact of refugees on the development interests of the host states: case study of Kenya.*" I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Nairobi County** for the period ending **14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.**

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioner, and the County Director of Education, Nairobi County** before embarking on the research project.

Kindly note that, as an applicant who has been licensed under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 to conduct research in Kenya, you shall deposit **a copy** of the final research report to the Commission within **one year** of completion. The soft copy of the same should be submitted through the Online Research Information System.

**GODFREY P. KALERWA., MSc, MBA, MKIM  
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO**

Copy to:

The County Commissioner  
Nairobi County.

The County Director of Education  
Nairobi County.

## APPENDIX V: RAS RESEARCH PERMIT TO REFUGEE CAMPS



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND CO-ORDINATION OF NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENT

**REFUGEE AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT (RAS)**

Website: [www.refugees.go.ke](http://www.refugees.go.ke)  
E-mail: [refugeeaffairs@interior.go.ke](mailto:refugeeaffairs@interior.go.ke)  
Tel: +254 020-434-348-4435

Castle House, James Gichuru Rd  
P.O. Box 42227 -00100  
Nairobi, Kenya

**When replying please quote:**

**RAS/OPER/2/22/Vol. VIII (128)**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2019**

**Abdiaziz Mohamed Noor**  
P.O Box 1766-70100  
Garissa, Kenya.

**RE: AUTHORITY TO VISIT KAKUMA, DADAAB AND NAIROBI OFFICES**

We refer to your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 regarding the above subject.

Authority has been granted to: **Abdiaziz Mohamed Noor**, Nationality – **Kenyan**, ID No. **30305873**, to visit:

- Kakuma refugee camp from 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.
- Dadaab refugee camp from 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- Urban area, Nairobi from 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The purpose of the visit is to conduct an interview and a research study on *"The role and impact of refugees on the development interests of the host states: A case study of Kenya."*

This clearance however, is subjected to the following conditions:

- Adhere to all security requirement in the camp.
- Your research shall be objective, balanced and in compliance with **Section 33(2) a, b, c and d** of the Constitution of Kenya (2010)

J. K. AWUOR

**FOR: COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS**

Copy to: Camp Manager  
Kakuma refugee camp  
Dadaab refugee camp  
Shauri Moyo Office