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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF REFUGEES IN KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT COMMUNITY OF MID-WESTERN UGANDA

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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF REFUGEES IN KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT COMMUNITY OF MID-WESTERN UGANDA

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ABSTRACT
This study addressed the effectiveness of social inclusion of refugees in Uganda. Kiryandongo refugee settlement area was considered to investigate the nature of social inclusion of refugees in the settlement community, the factors influencing social inclusion of refugees in the settlement community and the possible strategies for achieving effective social inclusion of refugees. A case study design was adopted and data were collected using qualitative approach. The outcomes suggest that refugee social inclusion has gained momentum in the settlement communities. Refugee influx into the country is growing and refugees have gained a sense of belonging with their lives being rebuilt away from their mother countries. However, issues of land for settlement, access to clean water, inadequate housing, food scarcity, and family reunion remain critical to realizing greater inclusion of the refugee population in the settlement areas of Uganda. This study recommends that particular attention be given to the institutional capacity and the future of refugee social inclusion in Uganda.

1. INTRODUCTION

The current humanitarian crisis is unprecedented with an appalling and unacceptable human cost. The number of refugees is unparalleled in recent times. The diversity of nationalities, motives for migration and individual profiles also creates a huge integration challenge for asylum systems and welcoming communities in main European destination countries, African countries and beyond. Moreover, given the complexity of its main driving forces, there is unfortunately little hope that the situation will improve significantly in the near future (OECD, 2015). Accordingly, OECD (2015) reports that Europe recorded an unprecedented number of asylum seekers and refugees with up to one million asylum applications; an estimated 350,000 to 450,000 people could be granted refugee or similar status, more than in any previous European refugee crisis since World War II (Hawes, 2020:269). In recent months the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes have gained importance with relatively large numbers of people starting to leave or transit via Turkey. The Central Mediterranean route, which leads to Italy, also continued to be heavily used. According to available estimates, more than 330,000 persons arrived by sea in Europe since 2017, including about 210 000 landings in Greece and 120,000 in Italy (OECD, 2015). During previous refugee crises in the 1990s, the impact concentrated in a few countries.

In the OECD countries, Turkey is the most affected, currently hosting as many as 1.9 million Syrians (OECD, 2015) as well as a large number of people from Iraq. Within the European Union (EU), Italy, Greece and Hungary are on the front line but the main destination being Germany, in absolute terms, and Sweden and Austria, relative to their population.

Asylum seekers are very diverse in terms of country of origin, profile and motivation. This increases the pressure on asylum systems in destination countries (Orr & Ajzenstadt, 2020:158). Recent refugees from Syria are more skilled than other groups and those who came, for example, during the Yugoslav wars in the 1990s. There are more unaccompanied minors arriving now than previously. Refugee flows tend to concentrate in countries with the most favourable economic conditions (Missbach & Palmer, 2020). A strong job market is the most important determinant of flows for main refugee groups. Europe has better legal and institutional systems in place for asylum-seekers and migrants than it did in the 1990s. However, these have not ensured a fair burden-sharing between countries, and have not prevented people from choosing smuggling routes.

In the current emergency situation, a number of countries are struggling to welcome, assist and process very large number of incoming people. Some regions and localities are under intense pressure. Coordination between different levels of governance will be important to prevent local communities from being overwhelmed. Since the 1990s, many EU countries have developed better settlement services for refugees which should help to cope in the medium term. For several EU countries, large-scale asylum inflows are a new experience (Schultz, 2020). This is the case, for example, for Hungary and to a lesser extent for Poland and Bulgaria. Financial and technical support from other EU countries and from EU institutions is critical to enable them to respond to the emergency. In the short run, processing and supporting such large numbers of asylum seekers will be costly. In the long-run, much will depend on how well successful asylum seekers are integrated. This will require early and intensive efforts to provide language training, assess individual skills, provide school access, address health and social problems, and work with employers to help boost refugees' chances of employment (Newcomer et al 2020). Past experience of refugee crises suggests that migrants can, eventually, become valued and valuable contributors to the economic and social health of countries (OECD, 2015).

When one reflects on the global refugee situation, one cannot but help be struck by the enormity of the problem in Africa. Infinite numbers of Africans continue to join the rising statistics of global refugees every year. Refugee crisis in Africa is not a recent development; it dates back in the early 19th century with worse cases since 1960's (Abdullahi, 1994; and Constance, 1991). A resort to war as a substitute for politics has or continues to push massive numbers of Africans beyond state borders. Historically, statistics painted a frightening picture where it was estimated that, one in every 200 Africans is a refugee (Abdullahi, 1994; Nindi, 1986). Indeed, the African continent has one of the world's largest refugee populations. This is not just because the number of African refugees has grown alarmingly over the past decades; it is just that almost all these refugees have settled in African countries that are among the poorest in the world and are facing grave difficulties in meeting the needs of their own peoples.

This is reinforced by Abdullahi's (1994) opinions as he points out that, Africa and the plight of human beings as refugees has since become in the process twin pillars of suffering that tower and eclipse many other equally tragic events from the continent. Images from Africa show hunger and an endless migratory exodus. Thus, following through from the past three decades up-to-date,

this crisis has assumed unmanageable proportions, engulfing whole regions and overwhelming many States in Africa, not to mention the financial burden it causes the international community, or the contribution which it makes to global totals. However, even when it may seem that Africa's refugees are predominantly in Africa, Gersony (1990) reveals that during the last two decades hundreds of thousands of African refugees also went to Europe and North America to seek refuge. They include Ethiopians, West Africans, Somalis and Sudanese among others. Somalis alone in these two regions was estimated with number over 300,000 (Gersony, 1990) refugees mainly in Canada and the Scandinavian countries; the flow of Somali refugees into Western Europe and North America started back in the 1980s.

It is painful that Africa, the poorest of the continents, is affected by a worse refugee problem than just about any other region. Refernce is made to Baloro (1992) as he noted that, with over 6.1 million refugees in the past, we can rightly conclude that scarcely any State in Africa is currently spared from the after effects of a refugee crisis, for the African State is either the source of the refugees or the host. A spiral of civil wars has spared very few countries, and has led also to the internal displacement of over 24 million Africans (Baloro, 1992). Africa has entered a new phase of State organization with a new problem people who become refugees within their countries. It should be obvious that State instabilities and disintegration anywhere will always bring about a refugee problem, no matter what part of the world. Indeed the root causes of refugee flows are almost always and invariably linked with political conflicts and human rights abuses. Cases in African history, countries that have suffered with alarming or growing refugee crisis include, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Angola, Rwanda, Eritrea, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo. In all the hot spots of Africa, the double problem of refugees and internally displaced persons has become acute.

History has not faded off up-to-date. Refugee crisis in Africa in general and East African region continues to worsen each day that passes. One of the latest report from the United Nation's refugee agency (UNHCR), titled “Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015,” paints a grim picture of the global refugee crisis. More than 65 million people around the world have had to flee their homes due to war, persecution, violence, and Human Rights violations. These figures have never been so high since the UNHCR was established in 1950 (UNHCR, 2015). Most affected, however, was the African continent. Report by UNHCR reveal that, in late 2015, about 16 million people in Africa were either displaced or forced to flee to other countries; this figure increased by 1.5 million from 2014. Most of these people, about 10.7 million of them, were internally displaced persons (IDPs). The remaining 5.2 million were people that fled their home countries. The vast majority of these refugees, roughly 4.4 million, sought refuge in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 2015).

East Africa and West Africa continue remain heavily frustrated with refugee exodus and influx. The ongoing civil war in Somalia remained a huge factor in the high number of refugees. The simmering conflicts in South Sudan and Sudan were also responsible for putting many people on the run up-to-date. Burundi descended into chaos after President Pierre Nkurunziza announced he was running for a third term, an election he went on to win. In Nigeria, the Boko Haram crisis drove a higher number of refugees to neighbouring countries. The main host countries for refugees in 2015 remained Ethiopia and Kenya. The majority of refugees from Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan have sought refuge in these two East African nations. A country that saw a major increase in refugees was Uganda, where many people fleeing fighting in Burundi sought

refuge. In Cameroon, the UNHCR counted more refugees in 2015 than in the previous year; as the Boko Haram crisis on Cameroon's north-western border with Nigeria was responsible for the high numbers. Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia also belong to the countries hardest hit by the massive number of IDPs. In Nigeria, the number of displaced people within the country compared to 2014 nearly doubled. But within the Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than 700,000 internally displaced persons returned to their hometowns in 2015 (UNHCR, 2015).

The UNHCR (2016) notes that countries hosting refugees, and countries with the most IDPs. Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Burundi, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Western Sahara are the top African Countries with refugee exodus. The top African countries hosting refugees include Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Chad, Cameroon, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Niger respectively. And the African countries with the most IDPs include Mali, Sudan, Nigeria, South Sudan, DRC, Somalia, Ivory Coast, CAR, Niger, and Chad respectively.

Uganda, where refugees have consistently found asylum since the Second World War, offers an important exception. Uganda is currently the third-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa after Ethiopia and Kenya. Uganda's 2006 Refugee Act considered one of the most progressive and generous in the world provides free healthcare and education in refugee settlements and permits refugees to move freely in the country. According to Kelly et al. (2016:49) Uganda hosts more than 500,000 refugees; of which more than 100,000 arrived in 2015, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and South Sudan, where conflict and instability foreclose the possibility of repatriation any time soon (Kelly, Shoffner & Zamore, 2016:49). Similarly, more than 500,000 refugees from 13 countries are settled in Uganda in various refugee settlements in nine districts, according to a World Bank study on Forced Displacement and Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa. Nakivale is the 8th largest refugee settlement in the world, hosting more than 60,000 refugees, the majority of them from the Democratic Republic of Congo (World Bank, 2016).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Uganda is one is one of the world's largest refugee – hosting country however, this comes with challenges of refugee social exclusion. Many refugees are marginalized in the resettlement communities with factors of cultural differences accounting for social exclusion. Rather than force refugees into camps, Uganda upholds their right to work, attend school and move freely (World Bank, 2016). However, no study has been conducted on this area despite its significance in the management of refugee communities. Therefore, this study focused on investigating the effectiveness of social inclusion of refugees in Uganda with particular attention given to Kiryandongo refugee settlement community.

Purpose and objectives of the study

This study aimed to examine the effectiveness of social inclusion of refugees in resettlement community of Kiryandongo. To achieve this purpose, three research questions were answered, namely: (a) what is the nature of social inclusion of refugee in resettlement community of Kiryandongo? (b) What are the factors that influence social inclusion of refugees in resettlement community of Kiryandongo? And (c) What are the possible strategies for achieving effective social inclusion of refugees in resettlement community of Kiryandongo?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The acculturation theory provides an interesting explanation of refugee integration at all levels of

states of refugee origin and the hosts. Acculturation can be conceptualized as interacting with two simultaneous, but separate spheres of culture: the culture of the origin, for example the non-dominate culture, and the culture of a powerful state like the United States with the dominant culture (Eleanor, 2011:10). Acculturation provides the ability to navigate and take part in the dominant culture, expanding the sphere of culture of the US, while not necessarily affecting the sphere of the culture of origin (Hadley, 2007). Psychological immigration literature describes acculturation as a 'complex pattern of continuity and change in how people go about their lives in the new society' (Berry, 1997). In the psychosocial strand, integration has historically been viewed as assimilation, losing the culture of origin to conform to the dominate culture, but is now often defined as acculturation, the process of being able to participate in the dominate culture. There are four forms of integration, structural identification; cultural integration; interactive integration; and identification integration. 'Structural identification' is defined as representing the acquisition of rights, and thus access to core institutions within the host society (Berry, 1997).

This theoretical framework provides insight in understanding refugee integration and the resultant refugee social inclusion or exclusion demise in resettlement areas. Contextually, acculturation would mean that, for the resettled refugees to significantly fit in the host communities, they have to trade between preserving their culture and adopting the new culture of the host communities. One could even say that, it is a 'survival strategy' to strategically connect with the population in the host communities.

Social inclusion is the process whereby immigrants or refugees become participants in particular sub-sectors of society, for example, education, labour market, welfare system, among others. Emphasis is on active and conscious processes; that is, policies of public agencies or employers, as well as on the role of the newcomers themselves. This is seen as the antithesis of social exclusion. The problem with the concept is that, like refugee integration, the term is so broad and vague that it can be over-used and invoked without any attempt to establish relevant indicators. Social exclusion is referred to denial of access to certain rights, resources or entitlements normally seen as part of membership of a specific society (Hyndman, 2011; UNRISD, 1994). Refugees are often included in some areas of society like education and labour market but excluded from others like political participation. This leads to the notion of differential exclusion as a mode of refugee incorporation while cumulative exclusion means that people are largely outside mainstream economic, social and political relationships, and lack the ability to participate.

Social exclusion affects nationals as well as refugees. However, specific types of exclusion experienced by refugees such as lack of political rights, insecure residence status and racism, increases their vulnerability to social exclusion. The socially excluded tend to become concentrated in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, which are often characterized by poor services and amenities, social stress, crime and racial conflict. The problems that may be identified with the concept is that, social inclusion has normative interpretation suggesting that newcomers (refugees) should change their values and behaviour to 'fit in' with the existing society, rather than society adjusting its structures to accommodate the newcomers. Secondly, it may also imply that there is just one way of becoming part of a given society.

LITERATURE SURVEY

The nature of social inclusion of refugees in resettlement communities

The entry point to the discussions on refugee social inclusion would start with looking at the state laws and policies. Refugee receiving countries around the world that have been identified to be successful in integration of refugees were identified to have developed and enforce very strategic laws that are robustly enforced. Government of Uganda's Refugee Act (2006) and Refugee Regulations (2010) entitle refugees to work, to freedom of movement, and to access Ugandan social services, including access to documents such as Government identity cards, births, deaths, marriages, and education certificates. As a matter of policy, all refugees in gazetted settlements are provided with a subsistence agriculture plot but only a few refugees who are in settlements on communally-owned land have no more than a small kitchen garden. Refugees in Uganda can also own property and enter into contracts including land leases. However, refugees and refugee-hosting communities are poorer and more vulnerable in Uganda with the settlement areas suffering from lower agricultural productivity and greater environmental degradation due to poor climatic and soil conditions and/or overuse. In addition, the basic social services delivery is weak and economic opportunities are limited due to the remoteness of the settlements and the poor infrastructure. These areas are also prone to a higher prevalence of malaria, respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea and preventable diseases among children. Given that the refugee hosting areas are also among the poorer and less developed regions in Uganda, refugee presence further undermines the coping abilities of host communities in the settlement areas, further exacerbated by limited social capital, less diverse livelihoods and low levels of assets.

Some debate centres on whether employment should be emphasized more or less than other aspects such as education and cultural orientation. The America's experience shows that, the 1980 Refugee Act stressed the current design of swift employment by stating that 'employable refugees should be placed on jobs as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States (Eleanor, 2011).' The result is an oft-unexamined prioritization of economic integration into the community of initial arrival over national-level economic integration. However, the experience in a country like Uganda is relatively different. Prioritizing placing new arrival of refugees on job in a situation where the host populations are faced with immense level of unemployment may raise unavoidable sentiments.

In a number of countries, refugees' diversity has significantly increased when compared with the 1990s. This is particularly striking for example in France the number of countries of origin accounting for 60% of the flows increased by 40% (OECD, September 2015:7) and even more in Germany and Switzerland where the number of countries doubled. By contrast, in Austria and Sweden, diversity in terms of countries of origin is lower and stable. Such diversity across the EU is obviously very challenging because it requires dealing with different issues in terms of both tackling the flows and subsequent integration of diverse groups of people. This is relative or similar experience in Uganda as well as Kenya. Uganda for example, receives the flow of refugee population from South Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Burundi and Rwanda. Therefore, the management of refugee diversity question may seem more complicated for Uganda than any other country around the world.

Economic inclusion of refugees is also the right thing to do because any debate on social inclusion cannot happen in isolation of issues of economic inclusion. Pope Francis recently

lauded how Uganda enables refugees "to rebuild their lives in security and to sense the dignity which comes from earning one's livelihood through honest labour". Many of the leaders were once refugees. They are well-placed to appreciate the dignity and hope that self-reliance can bring. Through their inclusive vision, Uganda and its international partners have discovered what much of the world has refused to accept: the benefits of refugee self-reliance outweigh any associated costs (Kelly et al., 2016). It can be said that, accepting such migrants into our communities as Uganda and integrating then into the diverse societal construction would bring social capital from which natives of the country may stand to benefit. Uganda continues to register significant success in integration of refugee livelihood; and it has striven to do so sustainably, by cultivating an environment that supports the self-reliance and resilience of entire communities, including the refugees among them. The three pillars of its refugee policy are (Kelly et. al, 2016): equality, dialogue and mutual support, leading to community resilience sustainable livelihoods support that takes account of the demographic, cultural and economic contexts of each community inclusion of refugees in local government managed systems, such as for public health and nutrition, the environment, education, gender-based violence prevention and response, and child protection services. The understanding of this approach is based on two premises – firstly, that displacement is an area of shared responsibility for governmental, humanitarian and development actors; secondly, that it is an area of shared opportunity for refugees and Ugandans alike.

Factors influencing social inclusion of refugees in resettlement communities

Refugee social inclusion in both developing and developed countries is influenced by a number of factors. Social inclusion is a complex idea. To some, it is a positive goal, implying equal opportunities and rights for all refugees just like all other human beings. In this case, becoming more socially integrated implies improving life chances. To others, however, increasing social integration of refugees may conjure up the image of an unwanted imposition of conformity. To this regard, UNRISD adds that, the term in itself does not necessarily imply a desirable or undesirable state at all. It is simply a way of describing the established patterns of human relations in any given society (UNRISD, 1994:4). Therefore, we can conclude that, social inclusion may imply equal opportunities and rights for all human beings in general and not necessarily in the context of refugee migration; it reflects the way integration or inclusion is used when discussing refugee and immigrants' relation to receiving societies like the cases in Uganda.

Refugees continue to be faced with the difficulty to easily access the labour market and get employed in the host communities. For example, in Korea refugees are prohibited from getting working permit consequently forcing many of them to the illegal labour market. Refugees cannot have access to the labour market and most of social security system. It is believed that, information lapses and limited opportunities of the vocational training, language and cultural orientation are some of the main obstacles to the social inclusion (Won-geun, n.d). In addition, the challenge of housing and refugee social inclusion in Korea, presents a learning experience for many countries around the world like Uganda. In Uganda for example, a number of refugees are scattered in the urban areas like the Somalia refugees heavily engaged in business activities in Kisenyi, one of the Kampala city suburbs. They do not form any kind of social classes, but included in the migrant workers' society, separated from the Korean people. The lack of social assistance from Korean government forced most of migrants to be one of the illegal migrant workers, and these situation strengths the negative perception of the refugees' illegal migrant

worker among Korean people (Won-geun, n.d).

Contrary to public perception, refugees are generally not the poorest of the poor in their country of origin and tend to have higher skill levels than the general population in origin countries. There are however variations across countries of origin and destination as well as across migration waves. Among the recently arrived Syrian nationals, the share of people with a post-secondary diploma appears to be much higher. According to Statistics Sweden, more than 40% of Syrians in the country in 2014 have at least upper secondary education, compared to 20% of those from Afghanistan and 10% for those coming from Eritrea (OECD, September 2015). On average for those who came in 2014, 15% of the asylum seekers had a tertiary degree, 16% had upper secondary education, 35% lower secondary education, 24% attended only primary school and 11% had not attended school at all. Syrian refugees, however, were on average better educated: 21% of the Syrian asylum seekers who came to Germany between the beginning of 2013 and September 2014 said that they had attended university, 22% had received upper secondary education and 47% had obtained either lower secondary or primary education (OECD, September 2015). In the case of France, based on survey data, in 2010, 14% of all refugees had attained tertiary educational level and 43% at least secondary education. The percentage of tertiary educated was slightly higher for those coming from Europe (20%) and lower for those originating from sub-Saharan Africa (10%) (OECD, 2015).

There is mounting evidence that the resettlement context can have as great and negative impact on wellbeing refugees; this is supported by Porter & Haslam (2005) who noted that, refugee youth are at risk of developing chronic psychopathology or maladaptive behaviours in response to both pre-migration traumatic exposure and the demands of resettlement. They also discovered that, the rates of post-traumatic stress disorder among resettled refugee children and adolescents are high and gradually keeps increasing, that is, between 7% and 17% (Porter, 2005). Correa-Velez and colleagues (2010) added that, elevated rates of substance abuse and aggressive behaviours have been reported in adolescents victims of war; and the female gender and older age have been negatively associated with mental health outcomes among adolescent refugees. Many of the migrants or refugees come from a highly frustrating background, many have broken families, and many have lost their dear ones. For such people, moving to a new place to seek for a new beginning comes with a lot of expectations. Unfortunately, the processes of social inclusion to allow for perfect fit the new homes may not on a soft spot. Refugees meet xenophobia and resentments from the hosts, cultural tensions or clash, and the difficulty to access reliable sources of living.

Greater social inclusion is immensely challenged by arrivals of unaccompanied minors ever increasing into the host countries. According to OECD (2015:9) a particularly striking and worrying characteristic of the current refugee crisis is the large number of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) among asylum seekers. Regardless of whether unaccompanied minors are considered asylum seekers or not, responsibility for them falls on the state – and often the municipality – where they are identified. Even when minors come from countries from which asylum applications are rarely successful, they often go into the asylum process. In 2014, the 24,000 unaccompanied minors applying for asylum comprised 4% of all asylum seekers in the EU (OECD, September 2015). Not all unaccompanied minors go into the asylum system. In Italy, for example, of 10,500 UAMs under state care in 2014, only 24% had applied for asylum. The situation is similar in Greece, where prior to the reform of the asylum process almost none of the

minors applied for asylum. In France, the number of UAMs applying for asylum actually fell in 2014 – to fewer than 300 – while the number under state guardianship was close to 4,000 (OECD, September 2015). Since UAMs live in open centres, many move out, including to other European countries to meet up with family. About one-third of the UAMs in Italy vanish from the reception centres, often shortly after arrival. Other countries see minors staying. Sweden was already struggling with the rising numbers of UAMs in 2012 before it received about 4, 000 UAMs in 2013 and 7,500 in 2014, almost all of whom went into the asylum system (OECD, September 2015).

The strategies for effective refugee social inclusion in resettlement communities

As part of solutions to refugee integration crisis, Eleanor (2011:3) states that, acknowledging refugees protection obligation, the international community has created a basic framework for forced migrants falling under the legal definition of refugees through durable solutions as well as the institutionalization of the pursuit for these solutions through international organizations such as the UNHCR and national structures. The UNHCR generally acknowledges three traditional durable solutions for refugees' social inclusion, these include, local integration, voluntary repatriation and resettlement' (UNHCR, 2011). Resettlement is sometimes framed in a last resort framework as 'resettlement to a third country in situations where it is impossible for a person to go back home or remain in the host country'. This framework is widely accepted by other organizations and liberal states, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United States government.

According to UNHCR (2009), if refugee "resettlement is protection plus", then social inclusion is resettlement plus. The idea behind is that, social inclusion of refugees is not all about resettlement. Refugees who are resettled in safe third countries like Uganda are provided with a durable solution to their protection needs, including legal status in their new host country. Feeling at 'home' in these places of settlement and becoming full-fledged participants in economic, social, and political activities are quite another matter; such relations of interaction and connectivity in a new country point to 'integration' and a path to full citizenship, which is partly an aim of refugee resettlement.

The Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program provide protection for refugees based outside of Canada who are deemed in need of protection. These resettled refugees are divided into two main categories, as noted above: a) government-assisted refugees (GARs); and b) privately-sponsored refugees (PSRs). GARs receive income assistance provided by the federal state for one year (unless a federal-provincial supersedes this arrangement), after which they are eligible for social assistance should they not be able to find employment. PSRs, on the other hand, are either wholly supported by citizen groups, churches, mosques or other organizations, or jointly sponsored in concert with government where responsibilities are shared (Hyndman, 2011:1). Under Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS), government-funded support can extend for 24 months while private sponsors provide emotional and social support for up to 36 months (Hyndman, 2011:1). Private sponsorship started in 1978-79 when assistance was extended to Indochinese refugees. Sponsors must submit an application and plan to government in order to bring a refugee to Canada, and the refugee applicant must meet Canadian eligibility criteria. Several dozen organizations across the country hold 'sponsorship agreements' that make private sponsorship possible. For example, the United Church of Canada holds one such agreement but any subsidiary church may submit an application through this agreement. In 2007-08, some

3,300 (Hyndman, 2011:1) PSRs came to Canada. GARs receive federal support from the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), delivered by 23 designated centres across Canada. Funding for RAP has remained unchanged since 1998, though increases were announced as part of the refugee reform package in 2010 as well as major changes in resettlement selection criteria and refugee protection legislation. Similar experiences can be found in Uganda as well. The government of Uganda through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Department of Refugee Affairs has strategic system for providing refugee resettlement in camps across the country. The OPM works in partnership with such entities like UNHCR, Action Aid, and World Health Organization (WHO) among others in the resettlement processes. However, it is internationally recognized that UNHCR operate as an independent International body handling refugee resettlement in many war affected states like in Uganda, South Sudan, DRC, CAF, among others.

The Government of Uganda, UNHCR and other partners have been taking a number of steps to strengthen the self-reliance and resilience of refugees and host communities. Two notable efforts thus far include the 1999 Self Reliance Strategy (SRS) for Refugee Hosting Areas in Moyo, Arua and Adjumani Districts and the 2006 Development Assistance for Refugee (DAR) Hosting Area Programme. This clearly shows that, the Government of Uganda and UNHCR are working on a range of initiatives. In addition, refugee issues are also prominent in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020 (UNDAF). UNHCR is currently developing the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Program which is essentially a self-reliance and resilience strategic framework for refugee and host communities in Uganda (World Bank, 2015). This is basically aimed at building capacity for successful social inclusion of refugees and ensure good livelihood.

The Government of Uganda is currently developing the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA) as part of the National Development Plan II 2015/16-2019/20 (World Bank, 2015). The STA aims to achieve self-reliance and local settlement for refugees and to promote social development in the refugee hosting areas. The STA has six objectives, including the following, which are relevant to the proposed project: (i) Sustainable Livelihoods – contributing to socio-economic growth in refugee hosting areas by fostering sustainable livelihoods for refugees and host communities; (ii) Environmental protection, that is, protecting and conserving the natural environment in and around refugee settlements; and (iii) Community Infrastructure, that is, progressively enhancing economic and social infrastructure in refugee hosting areas, in accordance with local government plans and systems (World Bank, 2015).

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a case study research design using qualitative approach in data collection and analysis. This study selected a target population size of 500 people in Kiryandongo refugee resettlement community in Uganda. The researcher, from which data was collected. These included the settled refugees, local people in the host communities, officers in the Department of Refugees affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) officers. Using Yamane's (1967:886) table, a sample of 83 respondents was used; 40 were settled refugees and 33 were respondents from the host community were selected using simple random sampling, while five staff from the Office of Prime Minister and five from UNHCR were selected using purposive sampling. Data were collected using survey questionnaires that were administered by the researchers. Key informant interviews were administered to OPM staff and UNHCR staff.

Qualitative data were analysed using the thematic analysis to avoid unnecessary repetition in recording of data while quantitative data were analysed using SPSS 21.0 in which cross tabulation helped in analysing the different variables. Pre-test interviews were conducted on the first day of arrival in Kiryandongo with five respondents who were randomly selected from the study population. Permission for data collection was sought from Uganda Christian University School of social sciences and presented to the authorities in the study area. Participation in this study was exclusively on voluntary basis. The researchers ensured informed consent after briefing every respondent on the study aim. Confidentiality of respondents was observed throughout the process of data collection.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Majority of the refugee informants were in the age group of 21-30 years old (50%), followed by those in the age group of 31-40years old (25%). This clearly indicated that majority of the refugee population are energetic young men and women in their youthful age. While majority of the residents informants in the settlement community were in the age group of 21-30years old (45.5%) and 31-40years old (39.3%). The general indicator is that, majority of informants from the residents and refugees are in their youthful age. The refugee population in Kiryandongo settlement community has different classifications of number of years they have lived in the settlement area. As new arrivals get settled, there are those who have stayed for a relatively longer periods of time.

Majority of the refugee informants had lived in the settlement community of Kiryandongo for relatively good number of years, that is, 3-4 years (estimated at 47%) and 5-6 years (estimated at 23%) respectively. The presentation shows a gradual increase in the number years the refugees spend in the host community. A cricitical assessment of this finding indicates that majority of the refugee population gain a great sense of belonging in the host community.

> *"The host community people has and continue to show great hospitality to the new comers by accepting them into their community, as a result many of the refugees have left camps to leave in the community with households that have accepted them. Some community people who have land offer some refugees space to build on and cultivate for survival". A number of self-settled refugee families are involved in a number of village livelihood groups or teams. Others also are active members of Savings and Credit Cooperatives Societies (Key Informant).*

Results from field interviews indicated that majority of the new arrivals are received and settled in the Westnile region of Adjumani, Koboko, Yumbe and others now at the new Lamwo refugee settlement area in Northern Uganda. Kiryandongo is once of the historical refugee settlement community in Uganda – in fact, it has a large number of resettled refugees outside the camps. Out of the forty (40) selected refugee informants, 12.5% are attending school and 87.5% were not attending school as inficated in the table above. The resident informants and the refugee informants living in the settlement community were found to have varied status of education levels ranging from primary, secondary, tertiary and university education as presented below.

Majority of the study informants attained secondary level of education. Out of the 40 refugee respondents 65% have secondary education as their highest level of education. While out of the 33 resident respondents in host community 58% have secondary education as their highest level of education. 85% of the refugee informants are farmers while 7.5% are employed by NGOs and another 7.5% are self-employed working in their own business. On the hand, 30.3% of the

resident informants are farmers, 39.4% work with the NGOs, 15.2% are government workers, and 12.1% own businesses and only 3% are employed by private companies.

The nature of social inclusion of refugees in settlement community

The study found out a number of indicators that provided a clear image of the nature of refugee social inclusion in the settlement areas. However, responses from field informants indicate a mixed react to the nature of refugee social inclusion. On one hand indicates a promising positive outcome as far as refugee social inclusion in settlement areas is concerned. Responses confirmed that, there is significant enforcement of laws and policies supporting social inclusion of refugees in the host communities estimated at an average of 82%. According to a key informant, the refugee population continues to enjoy a great level of acceptance and respect of their cultural identity in the host community estimated at 82% - this probably confirms the reason why many of the refugees have stayed for more than two (2) years in the settlement communities. In addition, there has been great achievement made towards family reunification of refugees (with average estimate of 76%) with many formerly scattered families now leaving together. As far as upholding of human rights is concerned a relative progress has been made where by refugees can now enjoy the freedom of free movement and association (with average estimate of 59%) in the host community; and government and its partner agencies like UNHCR have tried as much as possible to balance between refugees rights and social justice of host communities (with average response estimate of 41%). Significant effort is being made to protect refugees from falling victims of any form of discrimination, violence, and trafficking while in the settlement places (with average estimate of 41%). However, critical issues still remain demanding a lot of attention. Refugee accessed to job market and entitlement to being employed still remains a problem, with an estimate of 93% of respondent expressing discontent.

Factors influencing social inclusion of refugees

The factors influencing the efforts towards social inclusion of refugees in settlement communities are multifaceted coming from different context, for examples, other contextual to institutional authorizes supporting the refugee communities, societal tensions, financial as well as issues relating to the refugees' behavioural life style. The lead factor frustrating greater inclusion of refugees in settlement communities is cultural disparities like ethnicity and language differences (with average response estimate of 100%). There have also been difficulties attributed to a number of refugee arrivals disappearing and getting scattered in across the different constituencies of the host communities with their way about not known by settlement commandants (73%). This has made it quite difficult for OPM and UNHCR settlement officers to keep track of the new comers. Findings confirmed that, majority move on in search for job opportunities to sustain their families. Some refugees have criminal records and consequently resort to criminal activities in the host communities (55%). In fact, there are still prevailing cases of rape, defilement, theft and killings in the refugee camps as result of existing criminal refugees.

> *"It is hard sometimes very hard for the settlement commandants to figure out details of criminal records of some refugees from wherever they came from. Many of the refugees most especially the male ones are often catch in cases of sexual harassments of women refugees in the camps."(Key informant)*

The study also discovered that, the refugee population is identified with very low levels of education (55%). The young boys and girls studying in schools around the settlement communities cannot afford to go to high quality schools because they do not have the money to

pay for schools fees. For example, a group of two South Sudan refugee girls were quoted in an interview saying:

> *"We are senior 4 students schooling at Bweyale secondary school. It is 1:00pm now time for lunch but we cannot have lunch at school because we have not paid for food. So, we are waiting for the lunch time to pass and go back to school. Our father used to pay our schools fees when he was working but now he does not work, he does 'leja-leja' (cultivating for people) to get some money to feed us at home and also pay for our fees. When we are out of school we also do some cultivation work for people to get money and support our family."*

Another factor affecting social inclusion of refugees in settlement areas is the worsening problem of limited land for settlement of refugees (51%). The increasing number of refugee influx continues to exert excessive pressure on land in the resettlement community. One TPO officer on-site was quoted saying: "the local community people in the host community are so welcoming but they cannot compete for land with new comers. Majority of the refugees come along with their entire family. However, OPM tried to provide relative solution in a number of ways. OPM has opened up a new settlement camp in Lamwo District in Northern Uganda this year. OPM also revised it measure of land provision that it usually allocate to refugees – initially, OPM allocates plots of land of 100*75 and revised now to 100*50 to each refugee." *(Key informant)*

The study also discovered that, the high refugee population in the host community has not only posed pressure on land; there is the problem poor housing and high the demand for scarce water sources. However, OPM has continuously worked with a number of humanitarian agencies to have borehole water sources drilled and made accessible to the settlement communities.

Strategies for achieving effective social inclusion of refugees

The more the problems associated with increased inflow of refugees in Uganda as a renowned host of large refugee population, the more it calls for lasting solutions. This study has found out a number of strategies that may be used to find lasting solutions to refugee social inclusion in Uganda's settlement areas. Below are just some few possible strategies. The core strategies identified for the success of social inclusion of refugees, these include, ensuring that the host community people adheres to the laws that protect the fundament human rights of all refugees (100%); support community-led initiatives for refugee social inclusion (100%); establish and ensure that institutional establishments protect refugees from any form of discrimination, violence, trafficking and radicalization (100%). It was established that to effectively handle the cases of backlog of new arrivals, government authorities (OPM in particular) and its partner humanitarian agencies should recruit and train more number of settlement commandants (100%). There is increased refugee influx into the country; and new refugee settlement centres are also being opened like the Lawo settlement centre, but there is limited recruitment of new officers to match the crisis. Family reunification of refugees and their parents and children was identified as a very important (96%). Lastly, quick processes of providing refugees with legal status in their new host communities was identified to also be vital (68%); this process could be enforced together with ensuring that regular updating of the census information on refugee arrivals and resettled refugees in the host communities (59%).

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Nature of social inclusion of refugee in resettlement communities

The study found out that, majority of the refugees in Kiryandongo refugee settlement centres had lived in the settlement community for over two years. This is a clear picture of their acceptance by the host community, giving them a sense of belonging. Kelly et al (2016) supports this finding, as they noted in their writing that Uganda has chosen inclusion over marginalization. Rather than coerce refugees into camps, Uganda upholds their rights to work, to attend school and to move freely. And it has striven to do so sustainably, by cultivating an environment that supports the self-reliance and resilience of entire communities, including the refugees among them. Kashambuzi (2013) notes that the large number of refugees put pressure on land, business, jobs and social services and the environment and this has provoked disputes with indigenous people who complain that in some cases refugees are better taken care of than them. UNHCR (2016) provides a strategic recommendation for host countries to prioritize in implementing community-led initiative or programs for refugee livelihood.

Factors that influence social inclusion of refugees in resettlement

The study found out that, as much as Ugandan government tries as much as possible to ensure inclusiveness of refugees, settlements have geographically limited spaces in remote rural regions which are relatively isolated from flourishing urban areas. Krause, (2016: 52) adds to this by saying, refugees still face various restrictions and limitations in the settlements, and are unable to manage without external aid. Refugees have few opportunities to find formal employment; are restricted in how far they can travel due to decisions made by the Office of the Prime Minister‘s local office and the high travelling costs; the allocated plots are too small and the soil quality is often too poor to yield a sufficient harvest; and the area is also too small to leave parts fallow for a season, which is necessary for long-term production. As a result, refugees in some settlements were not able to sustain themselves.

The study findings indicate on average the challenges set before the refugee hosts associated with incorporating refugees from other cultures. Kymlicka (2003:3) shared similar experience pointing to some specific challenges summarized as: (i) How to reconcile the recognition of diversity with building common feelings of membership and solidarity? (ii) How to understand the links between economic disadvantage and cultural exclusion, since many minority groups suffer from both? (iii) How to promote genuine mutual understanding rather than simplistic appreciation of diversity? And (iv) How to enable greater public participation, yet also ensure that participation is conducted responsibly, with a spirit of openness and fairness, and is not simply a way of asserting unsorted claims?

Strategies for achieving social inclusion of refugees in settlement community

The Ugandan Government through the office of the Prime Minister has established good partnerships for humanitarian assistance. Partnerships between governments, development actors and the private sector are important for developing sustainable refugee livelihoods (UNHCR, 2016:7). The private sector in Uganda has provided some livelihood opportunities for refugees, such as mobile money unit agents for Orange Uganda Limited. Another example is the Koboko Partnership, a public-private partnership supports an estimate of 7,500 refugee and host community households in modern, commercial-scale agriculture, launched in support of ReHOPE in 2015. Easton-Calabria (2016:21) also noted that the private sector offers significant opportunities for job placements for refugees and partnerships. Omata and Kaplan (2013:20) also

suggest that the success of refugees' self-reliance could relate to linkages between refugee livelihoods and engagement with the private sector.

CONCLUSION

As a host state, for decades now Uganda has received refugees from most of the neighbouring countries of South Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi among others which had been rocked by political instability forcing many of their citizens to flee in large influxes. Uganda's refugee integration system has received a great recognition world over for being a safe-haven for refugees. The state authorities and other stakeholders have achieved a lot in social inclusion of the new arrivals, with many having access to education, health care services, job opportunities, and land for settlement, and having the freedom to move freely.

In principle all factors that in one way or the other affecting social inclusion of refugees are intensely political and their causes and consequences are intimately linked to political issues. Governments therefore have to walk a tight rope trying to balance these considerations. In the host states like Uganda now, constant and heavy refugee flows present real and potential challenges to policy makers as they can create tension and contribute to increased levels of violence in national, regional, and global politics.

Settlement policies that will contribute to a cohesive society for refugees may require a focus on both the refugees and the hosts. Although there are significant and ongoing debates about social cohesion and inclusion and the relationships between refugees and host communities, the focus here is on identifying an initial framework as a contribution to these debates. On the one hand, government has an interest in policies that enable new settlers to develop a sense of belonging to the wider community, participate in all aspects of social, cultural and economic life, and be confident that they are coming into a country that is able to accept their difference and value their contribution. On the other hand, there could be policy interest in the responsiveness of refugee groups to the institutions, organizations and people who have already made their lives in the host states, and who need to have confidence that their ways of life will not be compromised or jeopardized by the arrival of new settlers.

Recommendations

The study recommends that:

1. Host countries and the International community should strengthen national and international laws protecting refugees and while aggressively supporting social inclusion programs
2. State institutions directly or indirectly linked to issues of refugees should regularly include the refugee factor on their national security calculations.
3. Host states, governments and humanitarian agencies should support community-led initiatives for refugee social inclusion.

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