

**THE IMPACT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT WITHIN REFUGEE PROTECTION IN
DADAAB REFUGEE CAMP**

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Abstract

The Objectives for this research were to find out; the relationship between psychosocial support and other services provided to refugees, demonstrate the gaps caused due to lack of proper integration of psychosocial support and to enlighten the government and other actors on ways to integrate psychosocial support with other services provided in order to have better impact. The literature review has demonstrated that traumatic events faced by refugees elicit intense and immediate fear, helplessness, and horror. Some of the services offered to refugees on arrival including the initial interview called the refugee status determination (RSD), do not accommodate psychosocial care for refugees. This has been confirmed in the research findings where the refugees mentioned that when they arrive in the country they are not in the best frame of mind to adequately respond to questions during the in depth interview and this compromises the feedback and services that they can benefit from. This project has also brought to light that, other interventions may not achieve the intended impact, as refugees need holistic support. For example medical treatment of critical cases may not be complete if the individual is not provided with psychosocial support. This information is crucial especially to the department of refugee affairs and the Kenyan government at large as they have recently taken over management of all refugee affairs from the UNHCR. The research findings reflect the opinion and feelings of the refugees which have greatly informed the recommendations in this project. The recommendations given in the research will help the government and other actors concerned with refugee matters, to structure future programs for refugees in such a way that they take care of the psychosocial aspect of refugee protection in the country.