

**INFLUENCE OF REFUGEES' SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECURITY ON THE
LIVELIHOODS OF HOST COMMUNITY IN KAKUMA, TURKANA WEST SUB-
COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA**

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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

Declaration by the student

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university or for any other consideration.

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Approval by the Supervisor

I have endorsed the submission of this research project for examination as the University Supervisor. **"INFLUENCE OF REFUGEES' SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECURITY ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF HOST COMMUNITY IN KAKUMA, TURKANA WEST SUB-COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA"**

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my beloved wife Sumaya and my parents whose support, encouragement and prayers have been a pillar throughout my academic journey.

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I am thankful to Allah for the gift of life, health, and the strength to complete this project. I express my appreciation to Mount Kenya University, especially the faculty and staff of the School of Social Sciences, Institute of Security Studies, Justice, and Ethics, for their support and guidance. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Muhindi Solomon, Dr. Judy Mwangi, for their feedback and insightful suggestions, which helped shape the direction of this study. Special thanks to my classmates for their motivation throughout the course. I am immensely grateful to my employer for giving me time to study. My appreciation also goes to Turkana west security team for ensuring a secure and smooth field data collection. Lastly, I convey my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Elijah Odhiambo, Ph.D. for his dedicated mentorship; academic guidance, expertise and his encouragement which were instrumental in the successful completion of this project.

ABSTRACT

The sustained presence of refugees has significant implications for host communities, particularly in regions where access to socio-economic services is limited. This study examines the influence of refugees' access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma, Turkana County, Kenya. It explores how refugee employment activities impact job opportunities and market dynamics, assesses the effects of shared education facilities and enrollment trends on service access, analyzes the strain on healthcare services due to congestion and resource allocation, and evaluates the pressure on land use, water, sanitation, and environmental sustainability linked to refugee shelter and settlement. The study is grounded in the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework, which emphasizes the interplay between access to assets, external shocks, and livelihood outcomes. A descriptive cross-sectional survey design was adopted, targeting host community members residing in Kakuma and Kalobeyi. Stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used to select a representative sample of 418 households. Data was collected through structured questionnaires and key informant interviews, validated by expert reviews, and tested for reliability using Cronbach's alpha. Ethical standards were observed through informed consent, voluntary participation, and confidentiality assurances. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics via SPSS, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis. Findings reveal that refugee employment enhances market vibrancy (86%) and labor demand (77%) but also intensifies job competition (73%) and wage concerns (56%). Shared educational spaces promote access but contribute to overcrowding (85%) and disparities in support (61%). Refugee presence increases pressure on healthcare, with respondents citing overstretched health workers (80%) and longer wait times (72%). Housing settlements affect land availability (73%), water access (74%), and contribute to environmental degradation (72%). The study recommends inclusive planning, balanced resource allocation, community participation in service delivery, and long-term investment in infrastructure. Further research is suggested on the economic multiplier effects of refugee integration and comparative studies across different refugee-hosting counties in Kenya.

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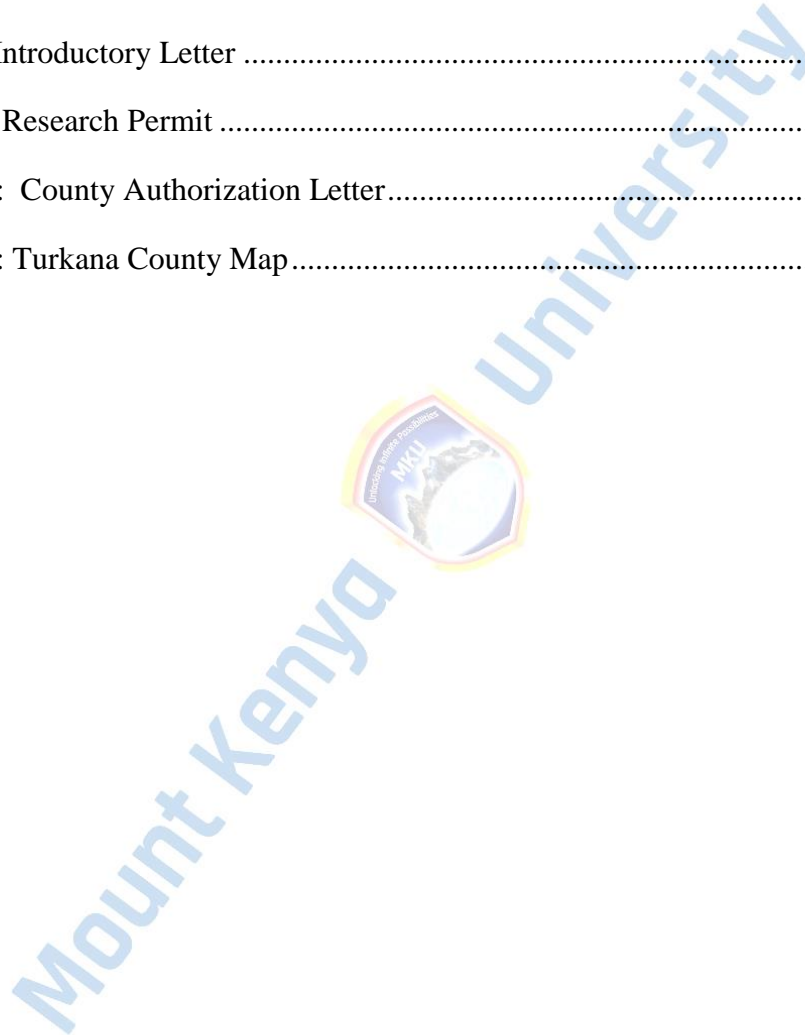
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DRS	Department of Refugee Services
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IFC	International Finance Corporation
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
KISED	Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
MKU	Mount Kenya University
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RADT	Refugee Aid and Development Theory
SET	Social Exchange Theory
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The global refugee situation continues to challenge national systems and community resilience in both developed and developing countries. In the United States, empirical analysis confirms that long-term refugee populations contribute positively to fiscal systems, with tax contributions exceeding social service expenditures when socio-economic inclusion is facilitated (Evans & Fitzgerald, 2017). Germany's structured integration programs have reported increased labor force participation among refugees, where access to employment and vocational training aligns with reduced dependency and improved local economic outcomes (Brücker, Rother, & Schupp, 2019). Sweden has implemented early employment interventions for newly recognized refugees, with studies showing statistically significant improvements in labor market integration following immediate socio-economic support (Dahlberg, Egebark, Özcan, & Vikman, 2022). These findings suggest that where host countries invest in the socio-economic security of refugees, there are observable benefits for host community development and cohesion.

Across the African continent, refugee-host dynamics reflect broader socio-economic disparities and governance challenges. In Rwanda, policy frameworks enabling refugee work rights and service access have had implications for informal economies in surrounding host communities, with localized improvements in employment and market activity (Loschmann, Bilgili, & Siegel, 2020). Uganda's self-reliance model, which allocates land and service access to refugees, has fostered a degree of economic interdependence between refugee and host populations, although

sustainability remains constrained by external donor dependency and pressure on local infrastructure (Betts, Omata, & Sterck, 2020). In Nigeria, the presence of refugee and internally displaced populations has been associated with social strain, reduced access to livelihoods, and disruptions in local service delivery, particularly in host zones with limited institutional capacity (George & Adelaja, 2021). The variability in outcomes underscores the extent to which refugee socio-economic conditions interact with host community livelihoods in context-specific ways.

In East Africa, different host country models illustrate the complex interactions between refugee welfare and host community outcomes. Rwanda's integrated settlement approach demonstrates that refugee economic participation can positively influence host communities through labor complementarities and demand-driven market stimulation (Loschmann, Bilgili, & Siegel, 2020). Uganda's long-standing inclusion model has enabled relative refugee autonomy, but studies point to emerging stress on education, health, and environmental systems within host districts (Betts, Omata, & Sterck, 2020). In contrast, Tanzania's more restrictive approach has limited the integration of refugees into host economies, which has contributed to social divisions and underutilized economic potential (Whitaker, 2021). These variations highlight how national policies toward refugee socio-economic security influence both direct and indirect outcomes for host populations.

Kenya has remained a pivotal refugee-hosting nation in the Horn of Africa, managing both protracted and emerging displacement scenarios. The Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement represent contrasting approaches to refugee assistance. Kakuma operates under encampment policies that limit refugee movement and economic engagement, while Kalobeyi promotes self-reliance through integrated development and host-

refugee collaboration (Sanghi, Onder, & Vemuru, 2016). Although market linkages and informal trade have emerged between refugees and hosts, significant disparities in infrastructure and service delivery persist. Reports by humanitarian agencies and development institutions have noted host community grievances regarding uneven access to opportunities and environmental degradation linked to population density (UNHCR, 2023). These tensions reflect the need for evidence-based evaluations of how refugee well-being intersects with host livelihoods in the Kenyan context.

In the specific setting of Kakuma, Turkana West Sub-County, refugee-host interactions have intensified due to overlapping vulnerabilities. Refugees engage in business, casual labor, and service consumption, while the host community remains largely pastoral and economically marginalized. Despite the presence of development-oriented programs, including joint service provision, research remains limited in explaining how improvements in refugee socio-economic security—such as access to jobs, income, and education—affect the host community's own access to employment, income stability, and basic services (Schmidt, 2019). Most existing literature emphasizes macroeconomic overviews or humanitarian programming, without empirically disaggregating localized effects on host populations. Therefore, this study investigates the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma, Kenya, aiming to fill a critical knowledge gap and inform inclusive policy frameworks.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Turkana County, home to Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement, continues to experience significant socio-economic challenges despite hosting one of the largest refugee populations in Kenya. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the county

records an overall poverty incidence of 82.7% and a food poverty rate of 64.3%, positioning it among the most economically marginalized regions nationally (KNBS, 2022). Furthermore, over 54% of adult men in the region are underweight, reflecting widespread livelihood insecurity and limited access to nutrition and healthcare (KNBS, 2022). At the same time, Kakuma and Kalobeyei host approximately 288,206 refugees and asylum seekers, with ongoing efforts to promote self-reliance through shared infrastructure, economic initiatives, and inclusive development strategies (UNHCR, 2024).

Although these integration efforts are designed to benefit both refugees and host communities, host populations continue to report limited improvements in employment, income generation, and access to essential services. While refugees engage in trade, informal labor, and social services funded through humanitarian channels, the host community remains largely excluded from sustainable livelihood opportunities. Most empirical assessments have focused on refugee welfare or general economic activity in the region, without directly analyzing the impact of refugee socio-economic security—such as employment, stable income, or access to services—on host community livelihoods. This omission creates a disconnect between policy objectives and actual outcomes, hindering targeted development planning. The persistent hardship experienced by the host community, despite decades of refugee presence and donor investment, signals a need to re-examine the assumed economic symbiosis between the two groups. This sought seeks to explore how the socio-economic security of refugees influences the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

- i. To assess the influence of refugees' access to employment opportunities on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma.
- ii. To examine the influence of refugees' access to education on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma.
- iii. To investigate the influence of refugees' access to healthcare services on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma.
- iv. To evaluate the influence of refugees' housing and shelter conditions on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. How does refugees' access to employment opportunities influence the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma?
- ii. How does refugees' access to education influence the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma?
- iii. How does refugees' access to healthcare services influence the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma?
- iv. How do refugees' housing and shelter conditions influence the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it addresses a critical gap in understanding the relationship between refugee socio-economic security and host community livelihoods in protracted displacement settings. Through focusing on Kakuma, the findings will offer valuable insights into the real impacts of refugee integration policies on host populations, informing both national and

international stakeholders engaged in refugee management and development planning. First, policymakers and government agencies such as the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) and county-level authorities in Turkana will benefit from the study by gaining evidence-based insights to guide the design of more inclusive and equitable refugee-host interventions. The findings will help align refugee support programs with host community development needs, ensuring more balanced resource allocation and social cohesion.

Second, humanitarian and development organizations working in displacement contexts, including UNHCR and implementing NGOs, will be better equipped to evaluate the effectiveness of their current integration strategies. The study will provide empirical data on whether efforts to improve refugee welfare also yield positive outcomes for host communities, aiding in program adjustment and donor reporting. Third, academic researchers and scholars focusing on refugee studies, migration, and sustainable development will benefit from the study's contribution to literature. The research will fill a contextual and thematic gap by exploring the socio-economic interdependence between refugees and host communities, particularly in a localized Kenyan context where data is often limited.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study focused on assessing the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma, located in Turkana West Sub-County, Kenya. It specifically examined four components of socio-economic security among refugees: access to employment opportunities, education, healthcare services, and housing conditions. The research targeted both refugees residing in Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement, as well as members of the surrounding host community. The selected

timeframe for the study spanned from 2015 to 2024, capturing the period following the introduction of the Kalobeyi settlement model aimed at promoting self-reliance and improved refugee-host integration.

Methodologically, the study adopted a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data to provide a comprehensive understanding of the interactions between refugee socio-economic conditions and host community livelihoods. Data collection involved structured questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions with key stakeholders from both populations. The study did not extend to other refugee-hosting areas in Kenya, such as Dadaab, and excluded factors unrelated to socio-economic security, such as political or legal dimensions of refugee status.

1.8 Study Limitations

Although this study was intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma, several limitations affected the scope and interpretation of its findings. First, the study was geographically confined to Turkana West Sub-County, which limited the generalizability of the results to other refugee-hosting areas in Kenya or beyond, such as Dadaab or urban refugee contexts. Differences in policy implementation, resource availability, and cultural dynamics across regions may have resulted in varied refugee-host community interactions.

Second, the study relied on both self-reported data and institutional records, which may have been subject to biases or inconsistencies. Respondents might have overstated or understated their experiences due to social desirability, fear of reprisal, or limited understanding of the research questions. Furthermore, access to certain government or NGO data may have been

restricted due to confidentiality requirements or operational challenges, which could have affected the depth of secondary data analysis. Despite these limitations, efforts were made to triangulate data sources and apply rigorous ethical and methodological standards to enhance the credibility and reliability of the findings.

1.9 Delimitations of the Study

This study was deliberately focused on assessing the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of the host community within Kakuma and the Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement in Turkana West Sub-County, Kenya. It was confined to four core aspects of refugee socio-economic security: access to employment, education, healthcare services, and housing. These areas were selected due to their relevance to both refugee well-being and their potential impact on the socio-economic conditions of the host population. Political, legal, and security-related issues were considered beyond the scope of this study and were therefore excluded.

Furthermore, the research targeted only adult members of both the refugee and host communities, who were assumed to be more directly involved in economic and social decision-making. The study period was delimited to developments between 2015 and 2024, aligning with the implementation and operationalization of the Kalobeyi model. These boundaries were established to ensure depth, manageability, and context-specific relevance, allowing for a focused analysis while recognizing that broader dynamics might exist beyond the selected variables, timeframe, and geographic scope.

1.10 Assumptions of the Study

This study was based on several key assumptions that were necessary for the research to proceed effectively. It was assumed that both refugees and host community members in Kakuma would be willing to participate in the study and provide honest and accurate responses during data collection. The study also assumed that the socio-economic environment in the area would remain relatively stable throughout the research period, without major disruptions such as policy shifts or displacement that could affect the conditions under investigation. Another assumption was that regular interaction existed between refugees and host community members in areas such as employment, education, healthcare, and housing, which would make it possible to evaluate the influence of refugee socio-economic security on host livelihoods. Lastly, it was assumed that relevant institutions and humanitarian organizations would be accessible and able to provide reliable secondary data and contextual support for the study.

1.11 Operational Definition of Key Terms

Refugees Individuals who have fled their home countries due to persecution, conflict, or disaster and are officially registered and residing in Kakuma Refugee Camp or the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement under the protection of the Kenyan government and UNHCR.

Socio-economic Security A condition in which refugees have reliable access to critical resources such as employment, education, healthcare, and housing, enabling them to meet their basic needs and live with dignity and minimal dependency on humanitarian aid.

Employment Opportunities Refers to the availability and ability of refugees to engage in income-generating activities, including formal jobs, informal work, entrepreneurship, and participation in local labor markets within Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

Access to Education The extent to which refugees are enrolled in and can benefit from educational programs, including primary, secondary, adult education, and vocational training offered in the settlement areas.

Access to Healthcare The availability and accessibility of medical services for refugees, encompassing outpatient and inpatient care, maternal health, immunization, and emergency services provided by humanitarian or public health actors.

Housing and Shelter Conditions The physical quality, safety, space, and durability of living structures provided to or built by refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, including access to basic utilities such as water and sanitation.

Host Community The local population residing in Turkana West Sub-County, particularly those living in the vicinity of Kakuma and Kalobeyei, whose livelihoods may be affected by the refugee presence and associated programs.

Host Community Livelihoods The strategies and means by which host community members secure their daily needs, including employment, access to markets and services, natural resource use, and participation in formal or informal economic activities.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of existing literature relevant to the study on the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of host communities. It explores key theoretical perspectives, conceptual frameworks, and past research findings to provide a foundation for understanding the dynamics between refugee access to services and host community well-being. The chapter is organized into theoretical review, conceptual framework, empirical literature, and a summary that identifies gaps addressed by the current study.

2.2. Empirical Literature

The empirical review examines previous research studies that have investigated the relationship between refugee presence and host community livelihoods. It focuses on how refugee access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing has influenced socio-economic outcomes in various host contexts. By analyzing both global and regional evidence, this section identifies patterns, contradictions, and gaps that inform the rationale and relevance of the present study in Kakuma.

2.2.1 Influence of Refugees' Access to Employment Opportunities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community

Employment is a central dimension of socio-economic security, as it directly affects individuals' ability to generate income, support their households, and participate meaningfully in the economy. For refugees, access to employment is not only a matter of livelihood but also a key factor influencing their integration into host societies. However, the extent to which refugee employment affects the livelihoods of host community members remains a subject of ongoing

research and debate. This section reviews empirical studies that have explored the relationship between refugee employment and host community livelihoods, with a focus on employment participation rates, job competition, and shifts in labor market dynamics.

A study by Evans and Fitzgerald (2017) analyzed the economic and social outcomes of refugees in the United States using data from the American Community Survey. The findings indicated that, over a 20-year period, refugees contributed \$21,000 more in taxes than they received in benefits, suggesting a positive fiscal impact. Additionally, there was no significant evidence that refugees adversely affected the employment rates or wages of native-born workers. Research by the Kiel Institute (2020) reviewed existing studies on the impact of forcibly displaced persons on residents' livelihoods in host communities. The study highlighted that, in Germany, the influx of refugees had a neutral to slightly positive effect on the labor market, with minimal displacement of native workers. The presence of refugees also contributed to local economies through increased demand for goods and services.

Sant'Anna and Shrestha (2023) investigated the labor market effects of the Venezuelan refugee crisis in Brazil, focusing on the border state of Roraima. Using administrative panel data, the study found that the monthly wages of Brazilian workers in Roraima increased by approximately 2%, primarily driven by sectors and occupations without refugee involvement. The study also observed negligible job displacement for Brazilian workers, suggesting that refugees complemented rather than competed with the native labor force.

A study by Gebrewold (2020) assessed the impact of refugee inflows on the livelihood strategies of host communities in Ethiopia. The research indicated that a 1% increase in refugee inflow led to a 2.7% rise in diversification of livelihood activities among host community

members, particularly in secondary occupations. This diversification was attributed to increased demand for livestock products and other goods, suggesting that refugees stimulated economic activities benefiting the host community.

Bilgili and Loschmann (2019) investigated how the long-term presence of Congolese refugees affected social dimensions of life in Rwandan host communities. The study found no significant differences in feelings of safety, social networks, and trust between host communities near refugee camps and those further away, except for informal social networks, which were higher in communities closer to refugee camps. This suggests that increased interaction with refugees did not reduce social cohesion and may have enhanced certain aspects of community life.

Betts et al. (2024) examined the economic lives of refugees in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia. The study highlighted that refugees actively participate in local economies, often filling labor gaps in various sectors. In Kenya, particularly, refugees engaged in diverse economic activities, contributing to the vibrancy of local markets and creating employment opportunities for both refugees and host community members.

A study by the World Bank (2020) analyzed the socio-economic impacts of refugees on host communities in Uganda. The findings revealed that refugees' access to employment and business opportunities led to increased economic activities in host communities. Specifically, there was a 17% increase in household income among host community members engaged in businesses with refugees, indicating positive spillover effects.

Research by Maystadt and Verwimp (2019) examined the welfare effects of hosting refugees in Tanzania. The study found that, while there was initial competition for natural resources and low-skilled jobs, over time, host communities experienced a 10% increase in average

consumption levels. This improvement was attributed to infrastructure development and increased market access resulting from the presence of refugees. A study by Kreibaum (2021) investigated the impact of refugee camps on host communities in Rwanda. The research indicated that proximity to refugee camps was associated with a 15% increase in employment opportunities for host community members, primarily due to the expansion of markets and services catering to both refugees and locals.

A study by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in 2018 titled "Kakuma as a Marketplace" explored the economic impact of the refugee camp on the host community. The findings revealed that the presence of refugees contributed approximately \$56 million annually to the local economy. Refugees engaged in various business activities, creating employment opportunities for both refugees and host community members. However, the study also noted challenges such as limited access to capital and restrictive policies hindering further economic integration.

Research by Enghoff et al. (2019) assessed the economic impact of refugees on the host community in Dadaab, Kenya. The study found that refugees contributed to the local economy through trade and employment, with an estimated annual economic benefit of \$14 million to the host community. Despite these benefits, tensions occasionally arose due to competition for resources and employment opportunities. A study by Campbell et al. (2020) examined the livelihoods of urban refugees in Nairobi. The research highlighted that refugees actively participated in the informal sector, with 65% engaged in small-scale businesses. This entrepreneurial activity contributed to the local economy but also led to challenges such as competition with local traders and issues related to legal recognition and protection.

2.2.2 Influence of Refugees' Access to Education on the Livelihoods of the Host Community

Access to education is a fundamental component of socio-economic development and social integration in refugee-hosting contexts. Refugees' integration into national education systems can significantly impact the quality and availability of education for host community members, particularly where resources are limited. This section reviews empirical studies from 2019 to 2024 that examine how shared access to educational facilities, enrollment trends, and availability of teachers and learning materials influence host community livelihoods in refugee-hosting areas.

A study by Tumen (2018) investigated the impact of low-skilled refugees on the education of native youth in Turkey. The research revealed that regions with higher concentrations of refugees experienced a 1.5% decrease in native youth's educational attainment, primarily due to increased competition for educational resources and overcrowded classrooms. In Germany, a study by the ifo Institute (2021) analyzed the effects of refugee integration on local schools. The research indicated that schools accommodating refugee children faced a 7% increase in student-to-teacher ratios. Despite these challenges, there was no significant decline in the academic performance of native students, suggesting effective management of increased enrollment.

A study by Evans and Fitzgerald (2017) examined the impact of refugee students on the academic achievement of their peers in U.S. public schools. The findings demonstrated that the integration of refugees did not pose a significant hindrance to the achievement of native students, indicating that concerns about negative academic impacts may be unfounded. A study by Dryden-Peterson et al. (2020) explored the educational experiences of refugee children in

Uganda. The research highlighted that refugee students often faced language barriers and overcrowded classrooms, which also impacted host community students sharing these facilities. The study emphasized the need for targeted interventions to address these challenges and improve educational outcomes for both groups.

Bilgili and Loschmann (2019) examined the effects of Congolese refugees on educational services in Rwandan host communities. The study found that communities near refugee camps experienced a 10% increase in school enrollment rates. However, this led to a 15% increase in student-to-teacher ratios and a 20% shortage of learning materials, indicating significant strain on educational resources. A study by Mulugeta (2021) assessed the impact of refugee integration on local schools in Ethiopia. The research indicated that the inclusion of refugee children resulted in a 12% increase in student enrollment. While this promoted social cohesion, it also led to a 20% increase in student-to-teacher ratios and a 15% shortage of learning materials, highlighting the challenges of resource allocation in shared educational facilities.

A study by the UNHCR (2024) reported that in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei camps, primary school gross enrollment for refugee children exceeds 80% in urban areas. However, these outcomes remain below national averages, indicating room for improvement in educational access and quality. Research by Mchome (2020) investigated the integration of Burundian refugees into local schools in Tanzania. The study found that this integration led to a 12% increase in student enrollment. However, it also resulted in a 20% increase in student-to-teacher ratios and a 15% shortage of learning materials, underscoring the need for additional resources to support both refugee and host community students.

A study by Kreibaum (2019) examined the impact of refugee camps on host communities in Rwanda. The research indicated that proximity to refugee camps was associated with a 15% increase in employment opportunities for host community members, primarily due to the expansion of markets and services catering to both refugees and locals. A study by the UNHCR (2024) reported that in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei camps, primary school gross enrollment for refugee children exceeds 80% in urban areas. However, these outcomes remain below national averages, indicating room for improvement in educational access and quality.

In Garissa County, home to the Dadaab refugee complex, the net enrollment rate for host community children is 27%, compared to 17% for refugee children in the settlements. This disparity highlights challenges in educational access for both communities and underscores the need for targeted interventions to bridge the gap. Urban refugees in Nairobi face unique educational challenges, including overcrowded classrooms and limited resources. Efforts to integrate refugee children into public schools have led to increased enrollment, but issues such as language barriers and cultural differences persist, affecting the quality of education received.

2.2.3 Influence of Refugees' Access to Healthcare Services on the Livelihoods of the Host Community

Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right and a critical determinant of socio-economic well-being for both refugee and host populations. In refugee-hosting regions, the shared use of healthcare infrastructure often results in increased demand, which can strain service delivery, especially where resources are already limited. This challenge is particularly acute in low- and middle-income countries, where host communities frequently rely on the same facilities as

refugees. This section critically examines empirical studies to assess how refugees' access to healthcare services affects the livelihoods of host communities.

In the United States, Taylor et al. (2016) studied refugee integration in Minnesota and found that community clinics in refugee-dense areas experienced a 35% increase in patient load within two years. This surge led to extended waiting times—on average from 22 to 47 minutes—and higher demand for interpreters and specialty services. Local residents reported decreased satisfaction with access to healthcare, particularly among elderly and low-income patients who rely on subsidized care.

In China, Li and Zhang (2019) examined health services in Yunnan province, where undocumented Burmese and North Korean refugees sought treatment. Public health centers saw patient numbers increase by up to 41%, while drug stockouts in antimalarials and antibiotics occurred 27% more frequently in border town facilities. Clinics with shared services faced rising community tensions, as 32% of host respondents believed refugees were prioritized due to international aid influence. Germany's 2015–2017 refugee influx strained healthcare systems, especially in federal states like Berlin and North Rhine-Westphalia. Bozorgmehr et al. (2017) observed a 25% rise in emergency room visits attributable to refugee patients, many lacking preventive care. General practitioners' average appointment availability decreased by 17%, while pharmaceutical stocks of chronic care medications ran low in 22% of surveyed clinics. Although the national system coped broadly well, localized congestion fueled public debates on resource allocation.

In Nigeria, Oduenyi et al. (2021) found that in Cross River State, Cameroonian refugee presence increased daily outpatient numbers by up to 53% in public clinics. Host communities

experienced extended queues, and 46% of surveyed residents reported skipping care due to congestion. Drug availability dropped by 38%, especially antiretroviral and antimalarial, and the doctor-to-patient ratio increased from 1:10,000 to 1:15,000 in affected areas. In South Africa, Chigwedere et al. (2020) studied urban health clinics in Gauteng serving Zimbabwean refugees and found a 19% rise in clinic attendance within refugee-dense zones. Waiting times rose by 70 minutes on average, and 35% of health workers reported increased workload stress. Stock outs of pediatric and maternal medications were 22% more frequent in clinics with high refugee density compared to surrounding areas.

In Libya, a conflict-affected transit state, El Gadi et al. (2019) noted that refugee access to overstretched health services contributed to a 60% increase in daily clinic visits in Sabha and Tripoli. Drug shortages were reported in 44% of clinics, and public perceptions of refugee burden led to service refusals in one-third of surveyed facilities. Host community members, particularly IDPs, felt marginalized by humanitarian prioritization of refugee needs. In Rwanda, Nyinawankusi et al. (2020) examined shared facilities near Mahama Camp. Host communities using district hospitals saw outpatient load increase by 39%, while health worker-to-patient ratios dropped to 1:13,000 from the national average of 1:8,000. Reports of drug shortages rose by 31%, especially for hypertension and prenatal medications. However, coordinated NGO-government programs helped mitigate some impacts through mobile clinic rollouts.

In Tanzania, Msuya et al. (2018) found that Kigoma region's refugee hosting resulted in a 50% surge in maternal service demand, overloading rural facilities. The stock of oxytocin and malaria test kits dropped by 45% in shared clinics. Hosts faced increased delays in childbirth services, leading to a 22% rise in reported home deliveries among Tanzanian women. Health staff reported burnout rates of over 60% in these zones. In Uganda, Omata and Kaplan (2019)

revealed that health centers near Bidibidi Settlement experienced a 75% increase in patient numbers, with waiting times doubling in high-volume facilities. Lack of antiretrovirals and vaccines was noted in 49% of facilities, primarily those shared between refugees and hosts. Host community complaints about being “sidelined” in service delivery were echoed in 58% of interviews conducted in Arua and Yumbe.

In Garissa County, Otieno and Gichaba (2020) found that facilities shared between Dadaab refugees and host communities faced a 70% increase in patient loads, overwhelming maternity wards and leading to drug stockouts in 43% of facilities. Waiting times for outpatient care rose by 85%, with local residents expressing concerns about access inequity despite refugee-targeted funding from international donors. In Eastleigh, Nairobi, Muthoni et al. (2021) showed that Somali refugee influx drove public clinic congestion by 33%, particularly in vaccination and family planning services. Waterborne disease outbreaks increased by 21% due to limited sanitation in shared waiting areas. Drug stockouts for chronic illness medications like insulin and antihypertensives occurred in 31% of clinics surveyed.

Mwangi and Abdi (2019) assessed Turkana County, revealing a 58% patient increase in Kakuma’s public clinics. Host community members reported waiting for over 2 hours on average. Drug availability dropped by 29%, particularly during dry seasons when access to external supply chains became difficult. Local clinicians cited a 50% increase in stress-related absenteeism, further reducing service capacity for both groups. Abuya et al. (2018) reported that health centers in and around Kakuma operated at 130–150% of designed capacity, with patient wait times exceeding 3 hours during peak seasons. Maternal health services were most impacted, with 52% of local women reporting delays in antenatal checkups. Clinics shared by refugees and Turkana hosts reported regular shortages in malaria and typhoid medications.

IRC & UNHCR (2020) monitoring indicated that the average health facility in Kalobeyei served over 300 patients daily, compared to the national rural average of 120. Only 62% of facilities had functional cold chains, causing vaccine spoilage risks. Host community members expressed in focus groups that they felt "last in line" during drug distributions, especially in integrated health posts. Opiyo and Njoka (2022) found that doctor-to-population ratios in Turkana West were as high as 1:18,000, far exceeding WHO's recommendation of 1:1,000. Shared use of maternity and child health services led to frequent overcrowding, and in 45% of host respondent interviews, complaints arose about long queues and perceived preferential treatment of refugees.

2.2.4 Influence of Refugees' Housing and Shelter Conditions on the Livelihoods of the Host Community

The global refugee crisis has significantly reshaped host community dynamics, particularly in resource-constrained regions. As refugee populations expand and settle in both urban and rural settings, their access to housing and shelter services exerts growing pressure on shared natural and infrastructural resources. This interaction often manifests through land use disputes, strained access to water, sanitation, and waste management services, and widespread environmental degradation linked to unplanned settlement growth. While humanitarian agencies strive to meet immediate shelter needs, the ripple effects on host community livelihoods—especially in terms of land competition, ecological stress, and infrastructure overuse—remain an urgent area of empirical inquiry.

In the United States, Clark et al. (2015) reported that in Boise, Idaho, neighborhoods with a high refugee influx saw a 28% increase in low-income housing demand, intensifying housing

scarcity and causing rental prices to rise by 12% within two years. Municipal water usage increased by 18%, with sanitation services frequently overburdened. Although land disputes were minimal, 31% of surveyed locals cited dissatisfaction with the strain placed on urban infrastructure.

In China, Wu & Xu (2018) studied unregistered refugees in Yunnan and Guangxi and found that over 60% of informal shelters were built on community land without official authorization. Water use by refugee communities increased by 35%, often relying on unregulated shallow wells. Poor sanitation led to a 22% increase in reported waterborne diseases, particularly during the monsoon season, further stressing local healthcare services. In Germany, Hohmann and Hanhörster (2017) found that emergency refugee shelters occupied approximately 7.5% of public green space in urban areas like Hamburg and Dortmund during the 2015 refugee influx. Waste production in refugee reception centers exceeded that of surrounding areas by 43%, leading to pressure on municipal waste management. In rural Bavaria, over 40% of locals surveyed expressed concern over environmental impacts tied to shelter expansions.

In Nigeria, Adepoju and Olayiwola (2020) reported that in Cross River State, 72% of communal farmland used by locals had been encroached on by Cameroonian refugees for shelter construction. Access to clean water declined, with 48% of boreholes shared by both groups facing depletion or contamination. Waste accumulation in temporary settlements increased by 33%, contributing to localized environmental degradation and intergroup tension. In South Africa, Moyo & Zanker (2019) found that 62% of urban refugees in Johannesburg lived in informal or overcrowded housing. In low-income suburbs, water use per household rose by

25%, while garbage collection delays grew by 40%. Xenophobic violence was observed to be 28% more frequent in neighborhoods with visible shelter-related overcrowding and poor sanitation.

In Libya, Eljarh and Abdalla (2021) noted that between 2014–2019, land disputes related to informal refugee housing increased by 53%, especially in Tripoli and Benghazi. In districts near refugee settlements, over 70% of residents reported blocked drainage and solid waste accumulation as key concerns. Tree cover declined by 26% within a 10 km radius of large refugee housing clusters, indicating environmental stress linked to unplanned shelter development. In Rwanda, Uwase et al. (2019) found that Mahama and Gihembe refugee camps led to the clearance of over 300 hectares of arable host land for shelter and services. Shared water points between hosts and refugees experienced a 45% increase in daily demand, while latrine-to-user ratios exceeded 1:35, contributing to cholera outbreaks in 2018. Host community complaints over forest clearing rose by 60% from 2016–2019.

In Tanzania, Mvungi and Mbonile (2018) estimated that firewood collection by refugees in Kigoma led to a 58% reduction in forest cover in areas near Nyarugusu camp over 10 years. Water sources serving both host and refugee communities were overdrawn, with water availability per person dropping to below 15 liters/day, compared to the WHO standard of 20 liters. Refugee shelters encroached on 24% of village land in one study site. In Uganda, Dryden-Peterson et al. (2020) found that in Adjumani and Yumbe, land conflicts rose by 38% after the 2015 refugee influx. Shared boreholes in Bidibidi settlement served up to 500 users per point, nearly five times the recommended standard. Forest degradation around settlements increased

by 64% between 2016 and 2020 due to uncontrolled expansion of homesteads and demand for construction materials.

Wanjiru and Otieno (2019) reported that over 45% of grazing land in Turkana West was reallocated to Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements, displacing local pastoralist livelihoods. In host communities, 85% of respondents cited reduced access to traditional land, with disputes increasing by 41% between 2016–2020. Water consumption in shared facilities rose by 37%, leading to frequent shortages and tensions. Oduor and Muhula (2021) found that solid waste accumulation increased by 55% in Eastleigh, Nairobi, where Somali refugee concentrations are high. Waste services, already limited, failed to adapt to the population growth, resulting in clogged drainage and public health hazards. Additionally, 39% of host residents expressed concern over water availability and fairness in service delivery.

The JICA (2020) report noted that Kalobeyei's expansion led to the clearing of roughly 1,000 hectares of native vegetation for housing. Shared boreholes showed a 25% decline in yield over five years due to overuse. Soil erosion and reduced grassland availability were linked to settlement construction, with 53% of host families reporting reduced livestock productivity due to environmental stress. Abuya et al. (2017) observed that land disputes in Turkana West Sub-county increased by 46% following the establishment of Kalobeyei. Many of these involved overlapping land claims between host communities and refugee infrastructure developers. Host community access to water points decreased by 33%, with reports of queuing delays exceeding 2 hours in peak seasons. Environmental assessments found a 29% loss in tree cover due to wood harvesting for refugee shelters.

The IRC & UNHCR (2019) WASH review showed that only 58% of households in Kakuma and Kalobeyi had access to improved sanitation facilities, well below Sphere standards. Host communities living near refugee zones reported a 62% increase in waste-related complaints, including latrine overflows and vector infestations. Shared water infrastructure experienced outages every 1.7 days on average during the dry season. Opiyo and Njoka (2022) found that shelter expansion contributed to severe gully erosion in 7 out of 10 surveyed zones around Kakuma. Refugee populations consumed an estimated 4,000 metric tons of firewood annually, contributing to biodiversity loss and reduced grazing capacity. Host farmers interviewed reported a 41% drop in harvest yields, partly due to changes in water availability and land degradation tied to settlement activities.

2.3. Theoretical Framework

This study employed two theories to guide the analysis of how refugees' socio-economic security influenced the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma, Turkana West Sub-County. These were the Refugee Aid and Development Theory (RADT) and Social Exchange Theory (SET). Each theory provided a different but complementary perspective, allowing the researcher to examine both institutional and social dimensions of the refugee-host relationship.

2.3.1 Refugee Aid and Development Theory (RADT)

The Refugee Aid and Development Theory offered a relevant framework for understanding the broader economic and social implications of refugee assistance on host communities. It emphasized that aid targeted at refugees had the potential to benefit not only the displaced populations but also the communities that hosted them, particularly when such aid was integrated into local development plans.

In the case of Kakuma, the theory was used to examine how the presence of refugees—and the international aid accompanying them—affected public services, infrastructure development, and local economic activity. For instance, the theory helped to explore whether donor-funded services such as schools, health facilities, or water systems also served host residents and contributed to improved livelihoods. It also guided the assessment of risks, such as unequal service access or the exclusion of host populations from development benefits, which could lead to dissatisfaction or competition.

Through RADT, the study was able to trace the link between refugee-focused interventions and their spillover effects on local employment, business opportunities, and access to essential services. This perspective was essential for evaluating whether refugee-related aid contributed to shared development or widened socio-economic disparities between refugees and hosts.

2.3.2 Social Exchange Theory (SET)

Social Exchange Theory was applied to understand the perceptions and attitudes of the host community toward the refugee population in Kakuma. The theory proposed that people evaluated social relationships based on the benefits they gained compared to the costs they incurred. In this context, it was used to assess how hosts perceived the socio-economic impact of refugees on their daily lives.

The study used SET to analyze whether the host community believed that the presence of refugees brought them more advantages or disadvantages. For example, the theory helped interpret responses regarding competition for jobs, healthcare, water, and other shared resources. It also provided insight into how perceptions of fairness or inequality influenced social cohesion or conflict between the two groups.

Through employing SET, the study explored the psychological and social responses of the host community—such as cooperation, resentment, or support—based on their perceived gains or losses. It highlighted that even when services were objectively improved, the way these changes were experienced or interpreted by hosts significantly shaped their livelihoods and relationships with refugees.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

This study was guided by a conceptual framework that illustrated the relationship between refugees' socio-economic security and the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma, Turkana West Sub-County. The framework was structured to reflect how key aspects of refugee integration—specifically access to employment, education, healthcare services, and housing conditions—influenced the socio-economic well-being of host community members. These dimensions represented the independent variables in the study.

Access to Employment encompassed indicators such as refugee employment, job competition between refugees and hosts, and shifts in wage levels or job availability. These factors were considered essential in determining their effect on local labor market dynamics and household income among host community members. Access to Education referred to shared educational infrastructure, enrollment ratios, and the availability of teaching staff and learning materials. These indicators were used to assess how the presence of refugee learners impacted the capacity and quality of educational services for host children. Access to Healthcare Services included levels of congestion in shared health facilities, waiting times for essential services, and the availability of drugs and medical personnel. These variables were examined to understand the extent to which the health systems in Kakuma accommodated both populations and how this affected service delivery for the host community. Housing and Shelter Conditions focused on

land use pressure, access to water and sanitation, and environmental degradation resulting from the expansion of refugee settlements. These factors were considered critical in evaluating the sustainability of shared resources and infrastructure.

The dependent variable, host community livelihoods, was measured using indicators such as household income levels, access to basic services, and employment status. These variables collectively reflected the socio-economic outcomes and quality of life experienced by host populations in the study area. Moreover, the framework included Government and Humanitarian Policy Response as a moderating variable. It was hypothesized that policy interventions from government agencies and humanitarian organizations either strengthened or weakened the impact of refugee socio-economic security on host community livelihoods as shown in Figure 2.1.



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Independent Variable

Dependent Variable

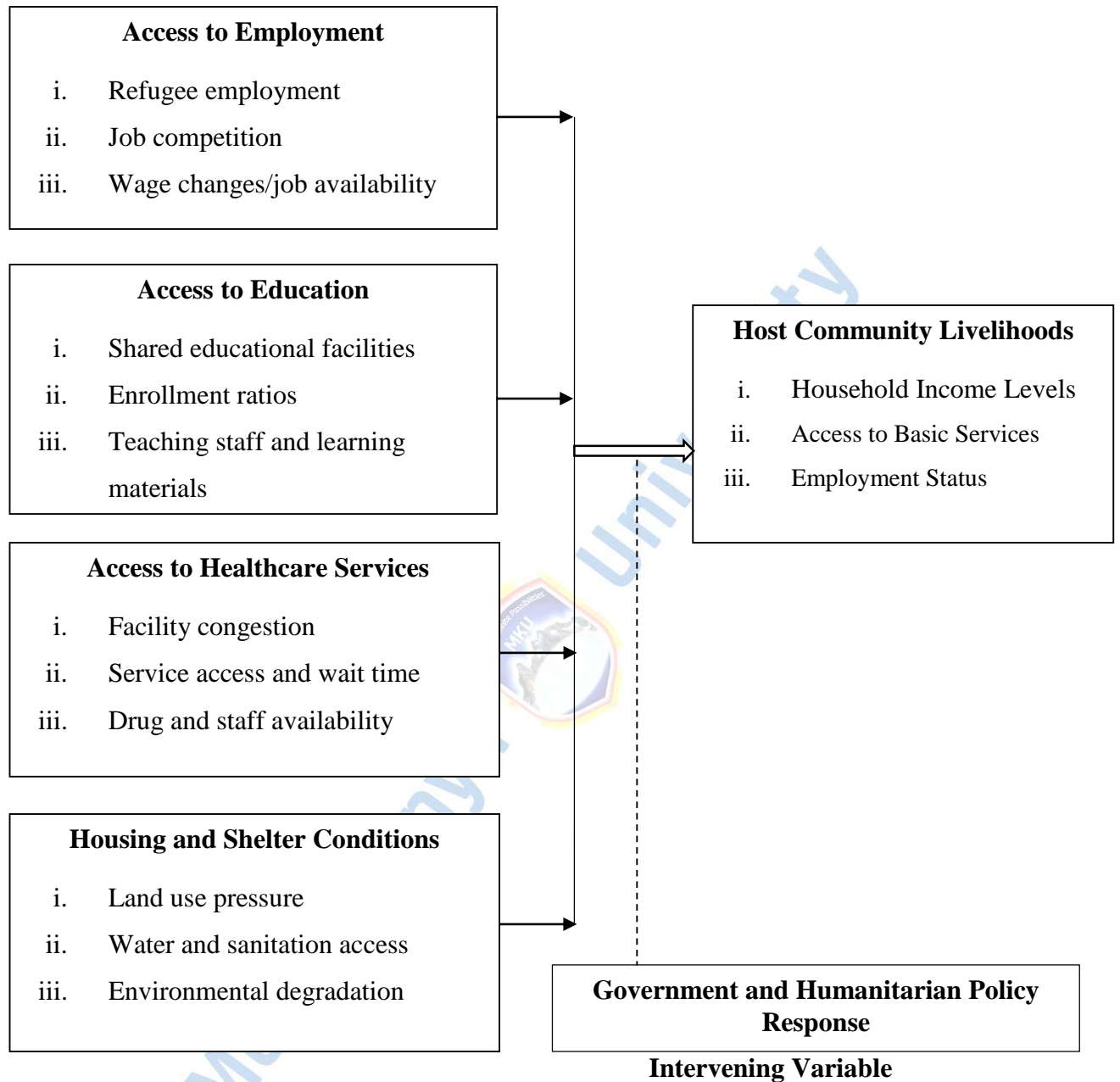


Figure 2. 1: Conceptual framework of the study

Source: Author 2024

2.5. Recap of Literature Review

The literature demonstrated that refugee access to employment opportunities can have both positive and neutral effects on host communities. Studies from the U.S. (Evans & Fitzgerald, 2017) and Brazil (Sant'Anna & Shrestha, 2023) revealed minimal job displacement and even increased wage outcomes in sectors where refugees did not compete directly with locals. In East Africa, particularly in Kenya and Uganda, research indicated that refugee economic participation often complemented local markets and stimulated demand for goods and services (Betts et al., 2024; World Bank, 2020). In Kakuma, the IFC (2018) estimated a \$56 million annual contribution from refugee economic activity, generating employment and income opportunities for both populations. However, challenges such as limited capital access and regulatory constraints still affected the depth of refugee economic integration, highlighting the complexity of employment-related dynamics in refugee-host contexts.

Empirical evidence revealed that while refugee inclusion in educational systems promotes social cohesion and equity, it often places significant pressure on infrastructure and human resources. Studies in Turkey and Ethiopia indicated increased student-to-teacher ratios and competition for learning materials (Tumen, 2018; Mulugeta, 2021). In Rwanda and Uganda, host communities near refugee camps experienced higher enrollment rates but also shortages of teachers and educational materials (Bilgili & Loschmann, 2019; Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020). In Kenya's Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements, the UNHCR (2024) reported high refugee enrollment rates but below-average learning outcomes, indicating that the quality of education was impacted by overcrowded classrooms and resource limitations. These findings emphasized the need for targeted educational investments that benefit both host and refugee learners in shared settings.

The literature consistently indicated that shared healthcare infrastructure often becomes overstretched in refugee-hosting areas. Studies from China and Germany highlighted increased patient volumes and drug shortages following large refugee inflows (Li & Zhang, 2019; Bozorgmehr et al., 2017). In East Africa, similar patterns emerged, with Uganda's Bidibidi Settlement and Tanzania's Kigoma Region showing evidence of service congestion and staff burnout (Omata & Kaplan, 2019; Msuya & Mbonile, 2018). In Kakuma, Kenya, research by Abuya et al. (2018) and IRC & UNHCR (2020) showed that health facilities were operating at 130–150% of their intended capacity, leading to long wait times and reduced drug availability for both host and refugee populations. These findings underscored the urgent need to scale up healthcare infrastructure and workforce capacity in high-demand regions like Turkana West.

Studies across multiple continents confirmed that refugee shelter expansion can significantly impact environmental quality and resource availability in host areas. In Nigeria and Rwanda, researchers documented land disputes and forest loss due to unregulated shelter construction (Adepoju & Olayiwola, 2020; Uwase et al., 2019). In Uganda and Tanzania, shared water points became overstressed, and environmental degradation—including deforestation and soil erosion—rose sharply (Dryden-Peterson et al., 2020; Mvungi & Mbonile, 2018). In Kakuma, research by Opiyo & Njoka (2022) and Abuya et al. (2017) reported significant declines in tree cover, increased land use conflicts, and water shortages attributed to settlement growth. These findings pointed to a clear need for sustainable shelter planning and joint resource governance mechanisms to protect host community livelihoods while accommodating displaced populations.

2.6 Research Gaps

While numerous studies have assessed the economic contribution of refugees at national and regional levels, there is a notable gap in localized, micro-level analysis specific to Kakuma and Turkana West Sub-County. Most existing research, such as IFC (2018), presents aggregate figures without disaggregating the economic impacts across different host community demographics (e.g., youth, women, informal sector workers). Additionally, little is known about long-term labor market integration and how policies regulating refugee work rights influence job competition or collaboration between host and refugee populations. There is also a lack of data capturing perceptions among host communities regarding fairness in employment access, which is crucial for understanding social dynamics and potential tensions.

Although studies from Rwanda, Uganda, and Ethiopia highlight increases in enrollment and pressure on educational infrastructure, few studies focus on the unique education dynamics within Kakuma and Kalobeyi. There is insufficient research on the comparative learning outcomes of host and refugee students within shared classrooms and the effectiveness of policies aimed at equitable resource distribution. Furthermore, there is limited empirical data assessing teacher workload, retention, and satisfaction, particularly in refugee-hosting schools. The impact of language barriers, curriculum misalignment, and cultural integration in education also remains underexplored in the context of Kenya's refugee-hosting counties.

The literature widely documents health system strain due to refugee influxes, but there is a lack of longitudinal data capturing how these pressures evolve over time in Kakuma. Most studies offer snapshot assessments, with limited exploration of seasonal variations, disease burden changes, or trends in maternal and child health indicators among host populations. Moreover, there is inadequate analysis of health system governance, including how decisions about

resource allocation, staffing, and service prioritization affect host access. Studies also seldom capture community perceptions of health equity or the emotional and psychological impacts on health workers serving both populations under resource-limited conditions.

While studies acknowledge the environmental effects of settlement expansion, spatial and environmental monitoring specific to Kakuma remains minimal. Most existing research relies on qualitative accounts or secondary data, with limited use of geospatial tools to track land use change, deforestation rates, or settlement encroachment. There is also a gap in evaluating shared infrastructure planning, such as water points, waste systems, and housing layouts, in terms of their inclusivity and sustainability for both hosts and refugees. Furthermore, host community coping mechanisms in response to environmental degradation—such as shifts in livelihoods, migration, or conflict—are rarely examined in depth.



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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodological framework adopted to investigate the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma. It outlines the research approach, design, study location, target population, sampling procedures, and data collection tools used in the study. The chapter also explains how the validity and reliability of instruments were ensured, the data analysis techniques applied for both qualitative and quantitative data, and the ethical considerations observed throughout the research process. These elements collectively provide a systematic guide for how the study was conducted to ensure credibility, accuracy, and relevance of the findings.

3.2 Research Methodology

This study employed a mixed-methods research approach, which combined both quantitative and qualitative methods to comprehensively examine the influence of refugees' socio-economic security on the livelihoods of host community members. The rationale for adopting this approach was to capture not only statistical patterns but also the lived experiences and perceptions of the host community. The quantitative component involved the use of structured questionnaires to collect measurable data from a representative sample, enabling statistical analysis of variables such as income levels, employment status, and access to basic services. In contrast, the qualitative component included interviews and focus group discussions, which provided in-depth insights into the social and economic dynamics that could not be fully understood through numerical data alone.

The mixed-methods approach was particularly suitable for this study as it allowed for data triangulation, enhancing both the credibility and depth of the findings. This method bridged the gap between generalizability and contextual understanding, offering a holistic view of how refugee-related developments influence host communities (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017). Moreover, it enabled the integration of empirical evidence with community narratives, thereby enriching the analysis of complex interactions between refugee access to services and host community outcomes (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2010).

3.3 Research Design

This study adopted a descriptive cross-sectional survey design, which facilitated the collection of data from respondents at a single point in time. The design was appropriate for examining the current perceptions, experiences, and livelihood impacts associated with refugees' access to socio-economic services in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. It enabled the researcher to capture the status of multiple variables—such as employment, education, healthcare, and housing—without manipulating the study environment.

A descriptive design was particularly effective in identifying patterns, relationships, and emerging issues within the host community resulting from prolonged interaction with refugee populations. This approach provided a structured means of analyzing associations between refugee integration and host community outcomes in a real-world setting (Bryman, 2016). Additionally, the cross-sectional nature of the design allowed for the efficient gathering of both qualitative and quantitative data within a limited timeframe, making it suitable for policy-oriented and time-sensitive socio-economic research (Kumar, 2019).

3.4 Location of the Study

The study was carried out in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, situated in Turkana West Sub-County, Turkana County, Kenya. These locations were purposefully selected due to their importance as some of the largest and longest-standing refugee-hosting areas in the country. As of 2024, the combined settlements hosted over 288,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (UNHCR, 2023).

Kakuma and Kalobeyei offered a unique environment characterized by protracted displacement, making them ideal for examining long-term refugee-host interactions. The host community in Turkana is predominantly pastoralist and faces socio-economic marginalization, making the dynamics of shared resources—such as schools, hospitals, water points, and land—particularly complex. These areas also reflect Kenya’s evolving refugee management policies, including efforts toward refugee self-reliance and integrated service delivery through the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISED). Therefore, studying this location provided critical insights into both the livelihood impacts on the host community and the effectiveness of humanitarian and government responses in managing shared socio-economic systems under prolonged refugee settlement conditions.

3.5 Target Population

The target population for this study comprised host community members living around Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements in Turkana West Sub-County. The focus was specifically on adult residents—both men and women—who had lived in the area for a minimum of five years. This duration ensured that participants had sufficient exposure to the presence of refugees and could offer informed perspectives on the socio-economic changes experienced over time.

The host community was selected as the primary population of interest because they shared key resources and public services—such as land, healthcare, education, water, and markets—with the refugee population. As the direct recipients of both the benefits and burdens of refugee presence, host residents were best positioned to provide insights into how refugee access to socio-economic services influenced livelihood outcomes such as income stability, employment opportunities, and access to essential services. The population included diverse livelihood groups such as pastoralists, farmers, traders, and service providers, as well as local leaders. According to local administrative estimates, the host community population surrounding the settlements exceeded 60,000 individuals.

Targeting this group allowed the study to assess how protracted refugee settlement interacted with existing development challenges and resource limitations faced by the host population, thus addressing a critical gap in localized policy and academic discourse.

3.6 Sampling Procedures and Techniques

The study employed a stratified random sampling technique to ensure fair and representative inclusion of host community members across the seven administrative wards of Turkana West Sub-County. These wards—Kalobeyei, Kakuma, Lopur, Letea, Nanam, Lokichoggio, and Kapenguria—served as the strata, each representing distinct geographical and socio-economic segments within the host community.

Stratified sampling was selected due to its effectiveness in improving precision and reducing sampling bias, particularly in heterogeneous populations (Kumar, 2019). By dividing the larger population into smaller, more homogeneous subgroups (strata), the researcher was able to ensure that each ward was proportionally represented in the sample, reflecting the unique characteristics and livelihood experiences of the host community across different zones. This

approach was also important for capturing variations in resource access, refugee interaction levels, and service strain, which were likely to differ from one ward to another. Within each stratum, simple random sampling was applied to select individual respondents, giving every household in the ward an equal chance of being included. This method enhanced the generalizability of the findings and provided a more balanced analysis of the socio-economic impacts of refugee presence on host communities across the sub-county (Bryman, 2016).

3.7 Sample Size Calculation

The sample size for this study was determined using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample size determination table, which offers a statistically sound approach for selecting representative samples from a defined population. For a total of 30,600 host community households in Turkana West Sub-County, the recommended sample size was 380 households. This number was deemed sufficient to ensure reliable generalization of results within acceptable confidence and error margins.

To account for potential non-responses or incomplete questionnaires, an additional 10% (38 households) was added to the initial sample. This brought the final sample size to 418 households. The adjustment ensured that the study maintained statistical robustness even in the event of data loss or participant withdrawal. The total sample was then distributed proportionally across the seven wards—Kalobeyei, Kakuma, Lopur, Letea, Nanam, Lokichoggio, and Kapenguria—based on the household population in each. This proportional allocation ensured balanced representation and enhanced the validity of the findings across different geographic and socio-economic contexts within the host community.

3.8 Research Instruments

The study employed a combination of structured questionnaires and interview guides as the primary instruments for data collection. These tools were designed to gather both quantitative and qualitative data aligned with the study objectives, focusing on refugees' access to socio-economic services and their impact on host community livelihoods. The questionnaires included both close-ended and open-ended questions to capture a broad range of responses. The close-ended items were primarily measured using a five-point Likert scale, with response options ranging from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5). This format facilitated statistical analysis of respondent attitudes and perceptions on variables such as access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing. The open-ended questions, on the other hand, allowed participants to elaborate on their experiences, provide explanations, and offer suggestions, thereby enriching the quantitative findings with contextual detail.

The interview guides were used for key informant interviews (KIIs) with community leaders, local administrators, and officials from NGOs or government agencies working in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. These guides consisted of open-ended questions structured around the main thematic areas of the study. They were designed to draw out in-depth insights, expert opinions, and nuanced explanations regarding refugee-host interactions, resource sharing, and community-level impacts. Both instruments were developed in line with the conceptual framework and were reviewed by academic and field experts to ensure content validity and relevance to the study context.

3.9 Testing for Validity and Reliability

To ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of the data collected, the study conducted rigorous testing for both validity and reliability of the research instruments. Validity refers to the extent to which the instruments accurately measured what they were intended to measure. To establish content validity, the research instruments—including questionnaires and interview guides—were subjected to expert review by professionals in refugee studies, social science research, and humanitarian development. Their feedback helped refine question structure, eliminate ambiguity, and ensure alignment with the study objectives. Additionally, a pilot test was carried out in a neighboring community with similar socio-economic characteristics. The results of the pilot informed adjustments in language clarity, sequencing, and relevance of the items to improve construct and face validity (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Reliability, which ensures consistency and stability of the instruments over time, was assessed using Cronbach's Alpha for the Likert-scale questionnaire items. A threshold value of 0.70 or higher was considered acceptable, indicating good internal consistency among related items (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2019). Furthermore, standardized procedures were followed during data collection to enhance reliability, including training of enumerators and use of consistent guiding questions during interviews. For qualitative tools, reliability was supported through detailed note-taking, audio recordings, and thematic consistency across responses. These measures ensured that the instruments used were both accurate and dependable, thus contributing to the overall rigor of the study.

3.10 Data Collection Methods and Procedures

Before commencing data collection, the researcher obtained formal approval from Mount Kenya University's Ethics Review Committee and a research permit from the National

Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). An introductory letter issued by the university was used to gain access to the study area and to engage relevant stakeholders. Data collection involved two primary tools: structured questionnaires and key informant interviews. The structured questionnaires were administered in person to selected host community members across the seven wards of Turkana West Sub-County. To facilitate participation and improve response rates, the drop-and-pick method was employed. This approach allowed respondents to complete the questionnaires at their convenience. A one-week period was provided for completion, taking into consideration the participants' busy schedules. Follow-up reminder messages were sent every two days through phone calls or text messages to encourage timely submission.

In addition to household surveys, key informant interviews were conducted with individuals such as local administrators, community elders, government officials, and staff from humanitarian organizations operating in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. These interviews were arranged in advance and conducted in locations preferred by the interviewees. Each session lasted between 30 and 45 minutes, providing ample time for participants to share insights and experiences related to refugee-host interactions and their effects on local livelihoods. The data collection process was carried out in an organized and ethical manner, ensuring that all participants were informed of the study's purpose and voluntarily participated in the research.

3.11 Data Analysis Techniques and Procedures

The study adopted both quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research findings. The analysis approach was guided by the mixed-methods design, which integrated statistical analysis with thematic interpretation.

Quantitative data, collected through structured questionnaires, were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 25. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were used to summarize and present general trends in the responses. To examine relationships between the independent variables (refugees' access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing) and the dependent variable (host community livelihoods), inferential statistics such as correlation and multiple regression analysis were applied. These techniques helped determine the strength and direction of associations among variables (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

For the qualitative data obtained from key informant interviews, a thematic analysis approach was employed. The recorded responses were transcribed, coded, and categorized into emerging themes based on the study objectives. This method allowed the researcher to identify patterns, contradictions, and insights that added depth to the quantitative findings (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2019). Key quotes were also extracted to support the interpretation of themes and provide real-life context to the statistical data.

3.12. Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to strict ethical guidelines to ensure the protection of participants' rights and the integrity of the research process. Approval was obtained from Mount Kenya University and the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) prior to fieldwork. Informed consent was sought from all participants after they were fully briefed on the study's purpose, procedures, and their right to voluntary participation, including the freedom to withdraw at any point without penalty. To maintain confidentiality and anonymity, personal identifiers were replaced with unique codes, and all data—both digital and physical—were securely stored using password protection and locked filing systems accessible only to the

researcher. Ethical safeguards also included strict handling of sensitive information and compliance with data protection protocols. These measures ensured that the study met ethical standards and upheld participant dignity, trust, and data security throughout the research process.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the study based on data collected from host community members in Kakuma. The analysis is structured around the study's main objectives, focusing on how refugees' access to employment, education, healthcare services, and housing affects the livelihoods of the host community. The findings are illustrated using tables, figures, and descriptive statistics, followed by interpretation and discussion to highlight key trends, relationships, and insights. The chapter provides evidence to support the study's conclusions and inform relevant policy recommendations.

4.2 Response Rate

Out of the total questionnaires distributed to respondents, 280 (73.7%) were returned. However, 100 (26.3%) questionnaires were not returned. Results are as shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4. 1: Response Rate

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Unreturned questionnaires	100	26.3%
Returned questionnaires	280	73.7%

Source: Field Data, 2025

According to Creswell (2014), a minimum response rate of 50% is considered adequate, while a rate of 60% or higher is recommended for high-quality data. In this study, the response rate was 73.7%, which exceeds Creswell's benchmark and reflects a strong level of engagement from the host community participants. This high return rate enhances the credibility, reliability,

and validity of the findings, providing a robust basis for analyzing how refugees' socio-economic security influences the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma.

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This study explored the demographic characteristics of the respondents to establish a foundational understanding of the diverse backgrounds influencing the study objectives. The demographic details are summarized in Table 4.2.

From the results in Table 4.2, Out of 280 respondents, 134 (47.9%) were male, while 146 (52.1%) were female. The slight majority of female respondents reflects a balanced gender representation in the host community. In the context of this study, gender dynamics are important because women and men may experience the impact of refugee presence differently—particularly in access to services such as healthcare, education, and employment. For example, female respondents might be more affected by maternal healthcare congestion or school resource competition for their children, while men may feel more pressure in the labor market due to perceived job competition. The majority of respondents fell within the 35–44 years age group (27.1%), followed by 25–34 years (24.3%), and 45–54 years (19.3%). The youngest group, 18–24 years, made up 15%, while those 55 and above accounted for 14.3%. This distribution shows that most participants are in their prime working and child-rearing years, making them highly sensitive to socio-economic changes such as employment shifts, access to education, and healthcare availability.

Table 4. 2: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	134	47.90%
Female	146	52.10%
Age		
18-24 years	42	15.00%
25-34 years	68	24.30%
35-44 years	76	27.10%
45-54 years	54	19.30%
55 years and above	40	14.30%
Marital Status		
Single	51	18.20%
Married	163	58.20%
Divorced/Separated	33	11.80%
Widowed	33	11.80%
Education Level		
No formal education	23	8.20%
Primary school	67	23.90%
Secondary school	92	32.90%
Tertiary/College	54	19.30%
University graduate	30	10.70%
Other	14	5.00%
Occupation		
Pastoralist	36	12.90%
Small-scale farmer	39	13.90%
Business person/trader	92	32.90%
Employed	45	16.10%
Unemployed	50	17.90%
Other	18	6.40%
Ward Area		
Kalobeyei	34	12.10%
Kakuma	41	14.60%
Lopur	39	13.90%
Letea	33	11.80%
Nanam	38	13.60%
Lokichoggio	47	16.80%
Kapenguria	48	17.10%
Length of Stay		
<5 years	51	18.20%
5-10 years	78	27.90%
>10 years	151	53.90%

Source: Field Data, 2025

A majority of respondents—163 (58.2%)—were married, followed by 51(18.2% single,) and 33(11.8% each for divorced/separated and widowed categories.) Married individuals often manage household responsibilities and are likely to be primary decision-makers for family welfare. Their responses reflect the lived realities of families navigating limited resources amid shared services with refugees. This group’s feedback is especially valuable in understanding how access to education, healthcare, and land use impacts household-level livelihoods.

Most respondents had attained secondary school education (32.9%), while 23.9% had completed primary school. Only 10.7% had university education, and 8.2% had no formal education. The relatively high levels of basic and secondary education suggest that the host community is moderately literate, which is critical when evaluating access to employment and participation in economic activities. Those with lower education levels may be more vulnerable to job competition and less likely to benefit from opportunities linked to refugee-led enterprises or programs.

The largest occupational group was business persons/traders 92(32.9%), followed by unemployed 50(17.9%), employed 45(16.1%), and small-scale farmers 39(13.9%). Pastoralists 36(12.9%) and others 18(6.4%) made up the remainder. The prominence of business and informal sector employment reflects Kakuma’s emerging market economy, influenced by both refugee and host populations. The high unemployment rate further explains concerns around job competition and wage suppression caused by the refugee influx. These findings help contextualize economic tensions and opportunities within the local labor and trade environment.

Respondents were fairly evenly distributed across the seven wards, with the highest representation from Kapenguria 48(17.1%) and Lokichoggio 47(16.8%), followed by Kakuma

(14.6%), Lopur 39(13.9%), and Nanam 38(13.6%). Kalobeyi and Letea followed at 33(12.1%) and 33(11.8%,) respectively. This broad representation ensures that the findings capture variations in refugee-host interactions across different locations in Turkana West. Some wards may experience more direct strain on infrastructure and services than others, depending on proximity to refugee settlements.

A significant majority—151 respondents (53.9%)—had lived in the area for more than 10 years, indicating deep-rooted experience and long-term exposure to refugee-host dynamics. Another 78(27.9%) had stayed for 5–10 years, while 51(18.2%) had resided for less than 5 years. Long-term residents are likely to provide reliable insights on trends and changes caused by refugee settlement over time, particularly in land use, service access, and socio-economic interactions.

4.4 Influence of Refugees' Access to Employment Opportunities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

This section examines whether refugees' participation in the labor market creates job competition or economic opportunities for host community members. It assesses key factors such as job availability, wage dynamics, business interactions, and employment trends in both formal and informal sectors. The analysis provides insights into how refugee employment contributes to or challenges the livelihoods of the host community, shaping the broader socio-economic landscape in Kakuma.

4.4.1 Influence of Refugee Employment Activities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The economic impact of refugees on host communities has been a subject of growing interest, particularly in regions with long-term refugee settlements like Kakuma. Refugees engage in various economic activities, including employment and entrepreneurship, which influence the

livelihoods of local residents. This study examines how refugee employment initiatives contribute to job creation, labor market dynamics, and business vibrancy within the host community. The results are presented in Figure 4. 1.

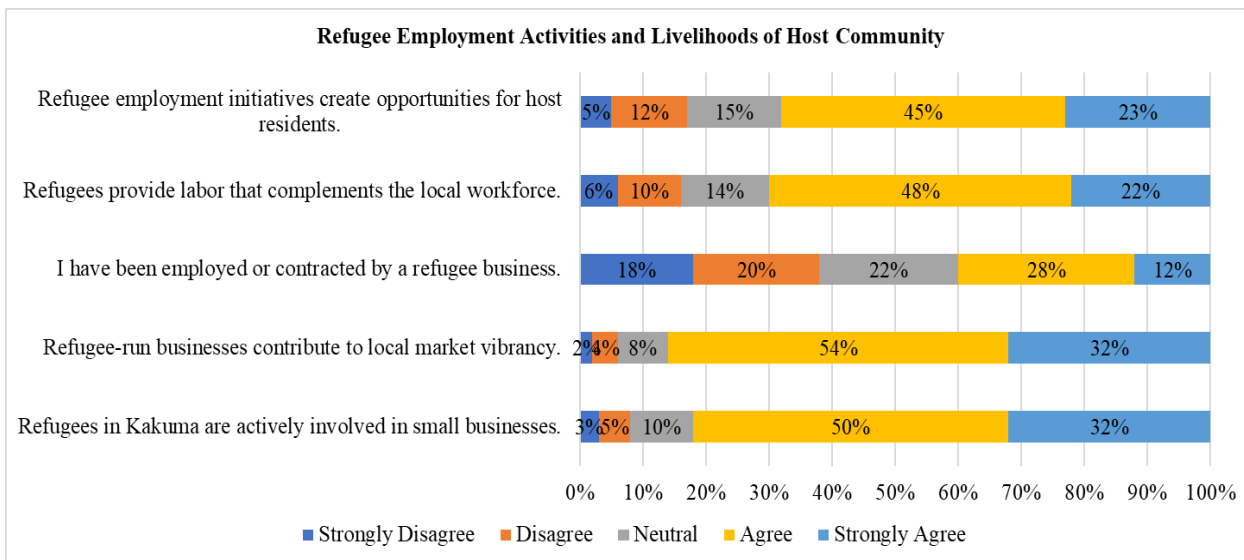


Figure 4. 1: Influence of Refugees’ Access to Employment Opportunities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

The results indicate that a majority of respondents, (68%) 258 respondents, reported that refugee employment initiatives generate job opportunities for local residents. This includes (45%)171 respondents who agreed and (23%) 87 respondents who strongly agreed. Conversely, (17%) 65 respondents expressed disagreement—comprising (12%) 46 respondents who disagreed and (5%) 19 respondent who strongly disagreed—while (15%) 57 respondents remained neutral. This suggests that refugee employment programs positively impact the host community by providing job opportunities, fostering economic integration, and reducing dependency on humanitarian aid. The presence of refugee-run businesses contributes to job creation, particularly in the informal sector. Existing studies highlight that refugee economic activities often stimulate local economies (Betts et al., 2019). Research in Uganda and Kenya

has demonstrated that refugees contribute significantly to employment opportunities in their host communities by creating businesses and hiring locals (Zetter & Ruaudel, 2018). The findings align with these studies, reinforcing the argument that refugee entrepreneurship can serve as a driver of local economic growth. The results suggest that policymakers should focus on enhancing refugee employment initiatives to further integrate host communities into economic opportunities.

Furthermore, 266 respondents (70%) agreed that refugee labor complements the host workforce, with 182 (48%) expressing agreement and 84 (22%) indicating strong agreement. A minority of 61 respondents (16%) disagreed—38 (10%) disagreed and 23 (6%) strongly disagreed—while 53 (14%) remained neutral. Refugees often fill labor gaps in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and trade, which require a large workforce. By offering skills and labor, refugees help address shortages that local workers may not meet due to preference for other jobs or limited skill sets. Studies on refugee labor integration, such as those by Clemens et al. (2018), highlight that refugees can serve as economic contributors by supplementing host labor markets rather than displacing local workers. In Kakuma, research by the International Finance Corporation (IFC, 2018) shows that refugee workers contribute to key economic sectors, a finding that aligns with these results. The findings emphasize the need to formalize refugee labor contributions and establish policies that enhance their integration into the workforce for mutual economic benefit.

When asked about direct employment within refugee-run businesses, 152 respondents (40%) reported having worked for or been contracted by refugee entrepreneurs—106 (28%) agreed and 46 (12%) strongly agreed. Meanwhile, 144 (38%) disagreed—76 (20%) disagreed and 68 (18%) strongly disagreed—and 84 (22%) remained neutral. The results show mixed

perceptions, with a significant portion of respondents stating they have not been directly employed by refugee businesses. This may be due to barriers such as language differences, cultural disparities, or host community preferences for government or NGO jobs. Previous studies, such as those by Omata (2020), suggest that while refugee businesses contribute to local economies, employment opportunities for hosts may be limited due to informal hiring practices or skill mismatches. The findings partially align with this, as they indicate that some locals benefit while others remain excluded. To enhance host-community employment in refugee enterprises, policies should encourage cross-cultural employment opportunities and vocational training programs.

On the matter of market dynamics, 325 respondents (86%) agreed that refugee-run businesses stimulate local economic vibrancy—205 (54%) agreed and 121 (32%) strongly agreed. In contrast, 38 (10%) disagreed—30 (8%) disagreed and 8 (2%) strongly disagreed—while 45 (12%) remained neutral. Refugees contribute to market expansion by increasing competition, diversifying goods and services, and fostering cross-border trade. Their entrepreneurial activities lead to lower commodity prices and greater consumer choices, benefiting the host community. Research by Betts et al. (2019) in East Africa shows that refugee enterprises significantly boost market dynamism by introducing new business models, including wholesale and retail trade. These findings confirm that refugee-run businesses positively influence local economies. Authorities should support refugee entrepreneurs through policies that promote formal business registration and access to financial services to further enhance market integration.

Finally, 312 respondents (82%) acknowledged that refugees are actively involved in small businesses—190 (50%) agreed and 122 (32%) strongly agreed. This sentiment was contrasted

by 49 (13%) who disagreed—38 (10%) disagreed and 11 (3%) strongly disagreed—while 49 (13%) remained neutral. The high level of agreement highlights the importance of refugee entrepreneurship in sustaining livelihoods. Refugees in Kakuma engage in diverse small businesses, including retail shops, tailoring, and agribusiness, significantly impacting local commerce. According to the World Bank (2016), refugee entrepreneurs in Kenya generate substantial income, often reinvesting in their host communities. The findings align with this, demonstrating that small refugee businesses are a crucial component of the local economy.

4.4.2 Influence of Job Competition on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The presence of refugees in Kakuma has sparked discussions on their impact on the local labor market. Many host community members perceive increased job competition, leading to concerns about wage reductions and employment opportunities. This study examined how refugees influence livelihoods by analyzing perceptions of job availability, employer preferences, and economic tensions. The results are as depicted in figure 4.2.

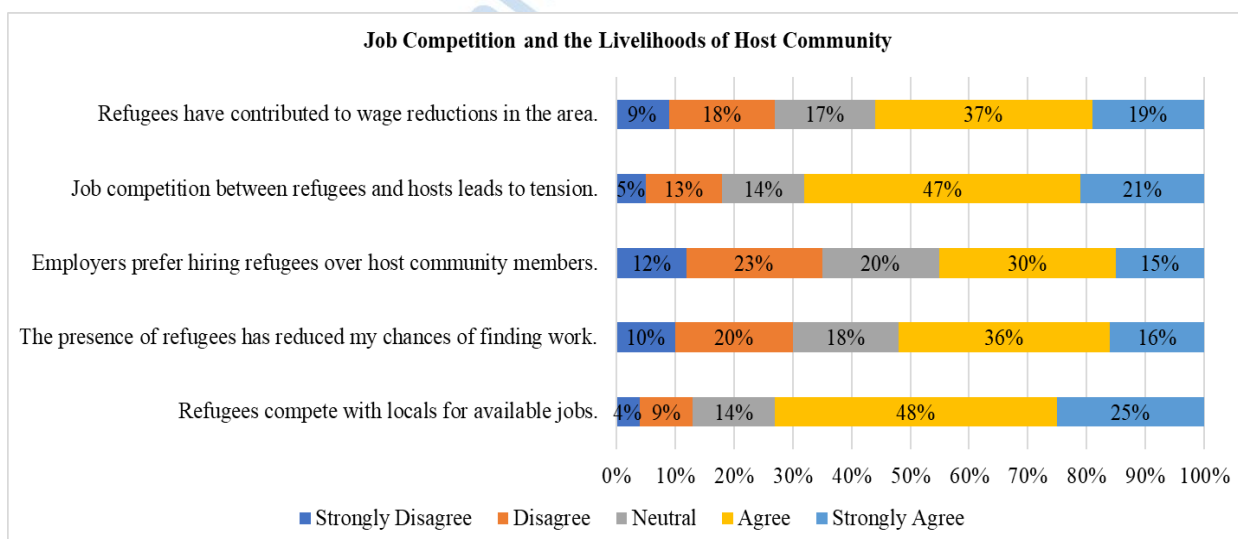


Figure 4. 2: Influence of Job Competition on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

When asked whether competition has led to wage reduction in the area, 213 respondents (56%) agreed—129 (34%) agreed and 84 (22%) strongly agreed. In contrast, 103 (27%) disagreed—68 (18%) disagreed and 35 (9%) strongly disagreed—while 64 (17%) remained neutral. The perception that refugees contribute to wage reductions suggests that their presence increases labor supply, leading to lower wages, particularly in informal sectors where job competition is high. Employers may offer lower wages due to the availability of refugee workers willing to work for less. However, this could also be influenced by broader economic factors such as job availability, market demand, and labor policies. Studies on refugee economic impact have shown mixed results regarding wage suppression. A study by Alloush et al. (2017) found that while refugees may drive wages down in the short term, their economic participation can lead to long-term benefits by expanding local markets. Betts et al. (2019) noted that in protracted refugee settings, wage reductions are more likely in low-skilled labor markets but not in specialized sectors where demand remains steady. The findings suggest that host communities may experience short-term wage stagnation due to an increased labor force. This calls for measures such as skills development programs for host residents to enhance their competitiveness and prevent excessive wage suppression.

According to the survey findings, 277 respondents (73%) indicated that refugees increase job competition for the host community—175 (46%) agreed and 102 (27%) strongly agreed. Meanwhile, 53 (14%) disagreed—34 (9%) disagreed and 19 (5%) strongly disagreed—while 50 (13%) remained neutral. Competition for limited job opportunities can cause resentment among host community members, especially when employment rates are low. Tensions may arise when refugees are perceived to have better access to jobs, either due to external aid, employer preferences, or lower wage expectations. This can strain social relations between

refugees and the host community. Research on labor market integration of refugees highlights that job competition can create social tensions. Whitaker (2002) found that host communities often feel economically threatened by refugees, leading to negative perceptions even when refugees contribute positively to local economies. However, studies by Verme et al. (2016) show that job competition is typically more intense in urban settings than in rural settlements like Kakuma, where informal employment dominates. The findings highlight the need for interventions that foster social cohesion, such as joint economic initiatives and policies promoting inclusive employment to ensure that both refugees and host communities benefit from economic opportunities.

Approximately 171 respondents (45%) believe that employers prefer hiring refugees over locals—114 (30%) agreed and 57 (15%) strongly agreed. Meanwhile, 133 (35%) disagreed—87 (23%) disagreed and 46 (12%) strongly disagreed—while 76 (20%) were neutral. The perception that employers prefer refugees suggests that businesses may view them as more affordable, hardworking, or better skilled for certain roles. Some refugees may accept lower wages or possess skills that make them more attractive to employers. However, this does not necessarily indicate actual hiring preferences but rather the perception of the host community. Several studies suggest that employers' hiring preferences depend on various factors, including skills, labor costs, and legal work status. According to Ruiz and Vargas-Silva (2016), employers in refugee-hosting areas may prefer refugees due to access to foreign aid, work ethic, or specialized skills. However, in some cases, legal employment restrictions on refugees prevent them from being the first choice for employers. The perception of employer bias toward refugees could fuel economic grievances among the host community. Policymakers could

address this through balanced employment policies that encourage fair hiring practices and support job training programs for local workers.

A total of 198 respondents (52%) felt that refugee presence has reduced their own chances of securing work—137 (36%) agreed and 61 (16%) strongly agreed. In contrast, 114 (30%) disagreed—76 (20%) disagreed and 38 (10%) strongly disagreed—while 68 (18%) held a neutral view. The belief that refugee presence reduces job opportunities may stem from increased labor market competition. This perception is especially strong in sectors where both refugees and host community members compete for low-wage or informal jobs. However, the extent to which refugees directly displace host workers remains debatable, as they may also create new economic opportunities. According to Betts et al. (2019), the impact of refugee presence on employment opportunities depends on economic integration policies and labor market structures. Studies by Clemens et al. (2018) suggest that refugees often take jobs that complement rather than replace those of the host community, particularly in trade and entrepreneurship. The findings underscore the need for policies that facilitate job creation for both refugees and host residents. Encouraging entrepreneurship and vocational training can help mitigate perceived employment losses.

A strong 277 respondents (73%) agreed that refugees compete with locals for available jobs—182 (48%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed. Only 49 (13%) disagreed and 53 (14%) were neutral. The overwhelming agreement suggests that job competition is a widely shared concern among the host community. In labor-intensive sectors such as construction, retail, and manual labor, both refugees and locals may seek similar employment opportunities, leading to increased competition. Studies by Peri (2016) indicate that job competition is most intense when refugees and hosts have similar skill levels. However, some research argues that refugees can create

additional demand in local economies, leading to new employment opportunities in the long run (Ruiz & Vargas-Silva, 2016). This finding suggests the need for structured job market policies that balance employment opportunities for both refugees and host community members.

4.4.3 Influence of Changes in Local Labor Market on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The presence of refugees in Kakuma has significantly shaped the local labor market, influencing employment dynamics, service availability, and job diversity. As refugees establish businesses, engage in trade, and participate in economic activities, their interactions with the host community create both opportunities and challenges. This section examines key labor market changes, presenting findings on employment trends, job diversification, and service provision. Results are presented in Figure 4.3.

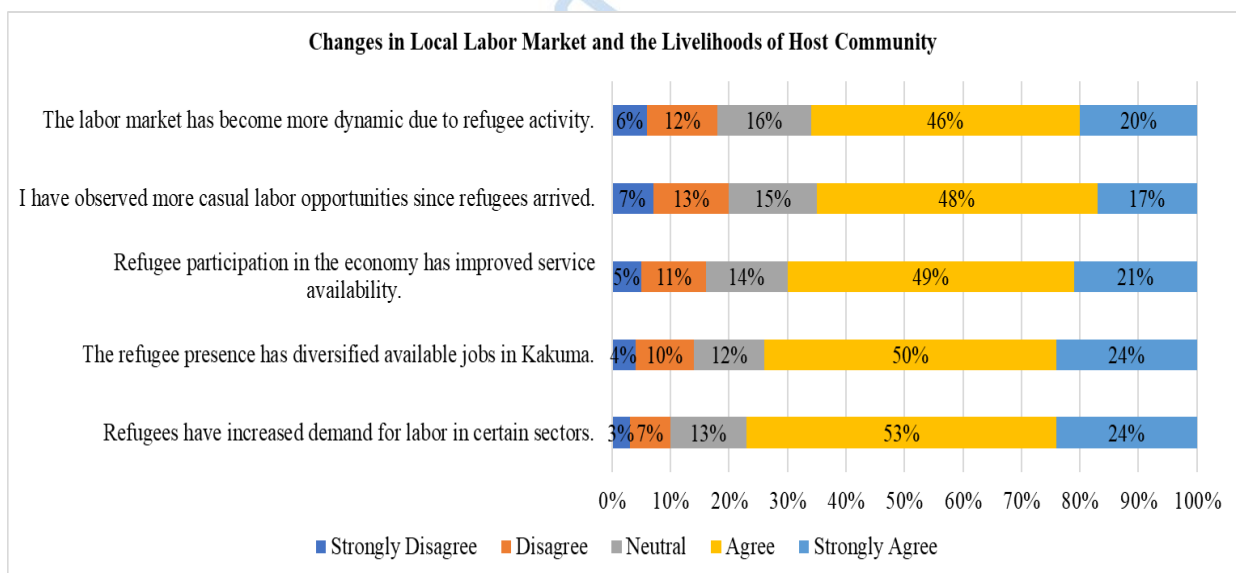


Figure 4. 3: Influence of Changes in Local Labor Market on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

A majority of respondents 251 (66%) agreed that refugee activity has made the local labor market more dynamic— 175 (46%) agreed and 76 (20%) strongly agreed. In contrast, 68 (18%) disagreed and 61 (16%) remained neutral. The results suggest that refugee activity has introduced new economic dynamics, leading to more fluid employment patterns in Kakuma. Increased business activities, informal sector engagement, and labor market interactions between refugees and host communities may have contributed to this perception. However, the 18% disagreement highlights concern about possible labor market disruptions, such as job competition or wage suppression. Existing research indicates that refugee settlements often stimulate local economies by increasing trade and service demand, thereby creating new labor opportunities. Studies in Uganda and Kenya have found that refugee presence can transform stagnant labor markets by injecting entrepreneurship and diversifying income sources. The findings in Kakuma align with this perspective, showing that refugee activity contributes to a more vibrant labor economy. Policymakers should focus on integrating refugees into the local labor market in a way that maximizes benefits for both communities. Skills training programs and policies that promote fair labor competition can enhance labor market dynamism while addressing concerns about displacement of local workers.

The majority 247 respondents (65%) observed an increase in casual labor opportunities, with 182 (48%) agreed and 65 (17%) strongly agreed. About 76 (20%) disagreed, while 57 (15%) were neutral. This finding indicates that refugee settlement has expanded job opportunities in Kakuma, particularly in the informal sector. Many host community members have likely found work in refugee-driven businesses, construction, and services. However, the 20% disagreement suggests that some respondents may not have directly benefited from these opportunities or perceive them as low-paying and unstable. Studies have documented how refugee populations

contribute to local economies by creating labor-intensive sectors such as retail, transport, and domestic work. Similar patterns have been observed in East African refugee-hosting regions, where refugees increase employment demand in both formal and informal labor markets. The findings in Kakuma reinforce this argument. Policies should ensure that casual labor opportunities translate into sustainable employment. Investment in vocational training and business development programs can help both refugees and hosts access better-paying jobs and reduce dependency on unstable informal work.

On market and service expansion, 266 respondents (70%) noted improved availability of goods and services—186 (49%) agreed and 80 (21%) strongly agreed. Meanwhile, 61 (16%) disagreed and 53 (14%) were neutral. Refugee involvement in business and trade has likely led to better availability of goods and services in Kakuma. The presence of refugee entrepreneurs in retail, hospitality, and essential services has expanded options for both communities. The 16% disagreement could stem from concerns over competition or perceived declines in service quality. Research on refugee economies highlights how refugee-driven businesses often provide essential services in host regions. In Uganda, for example, refugee markets have diversified local economies by increasing access to goods that were previously unavailable. The findings in Kakuma suggest a similar trend. Local authorities and development partners should support refugee-led businesses by improving market infrastructure and ensuring fair competition. Encouraging collaboration between refugee and host entrepreneurs can foster economic coexistence and shared prosperity.

Concerning job diversification, 281 respondents (74%) recognized that refugee presence has broadened employment options—190 (50%) agreed and 91 (24%) strongly agreed. A smaller group of 53 (14%) disagreed, while 46 (12%) remained neutral. The results suggest that the

refugee presence has expanded employment beyond traditional sectors, introducing new opportunities in trade, transport, and services. Refugee-led businesses and humanitarian organizations operating in Kakuma have likely contributed to this diversification. However, the 14% disagreement might indicate that some host community members feel excluded from these emerging job sectors. Studies have shown that refugee settlements often act as economic hubs, creating demand for diverse skill sets and job roles. Research from Tanzania and Uganda indicates that host communities' benefit when refugees generate employment in non-traditional sectors. The findings in Kakuma align with these observations, highlighting the economic transformation driven by refugees. Economic policies should focus on fostering inclusive job creation by encouraging skill-sharing and joint economic ventures between refugees and host communities. Facilitating access to credit and markets can further enhance job diversification.

The highest level of agreement (77%)—that is, 293 respondents—was recorded for this statement, with 201 (53%) agreeing and 92 (24%) strongly agreeing. A small group, 49 (13%), remained neutral, while only 38 (10%) disagreed. This strong agreement suggests that refugees have significantly contributed to labor demand in Kakuma, particularly in construction, agriculture, and services. Many refugees hire local workers in businesses and domestic roles, leading to increased employment opportunities for the host community. The low level of disagreement indicates that this trend is widely acknowledged. Refugee-driven demand for labor has been well-documented in economic studies, which show that refugees not only take jobs but also create them. Research in Kenya and Ethiopia has demonstrated that refugees contribute to higher employment levels by generating consumer demand and stimulating trade. The findings in Kakuma provide further evidence of this phenomenon. To maximize the benefits of increased labor demand, policies should support skills training and business

development programs that help host communities and refugees participate more effectively in growing sectors. Enhancing access to education and vocational training will ensure that more people benefit from labor market expansion.

4.5 Influence of Refugees' Access to Education on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Refugees' access to education in Kakuma has had far-reaching implications for the livelihoods of the host community. As educational institutions serve both refugee and host populations, a complex interplay of integration, competition, and resource sharing emerges. This section examines the perceptions of host community members regarding how refugees' participation in the local education system affects their own children's access to quality education and, by extension, their future socio-economic prospects. The analysis is structured around three key areas: the influence of shared educational facilities, enrollment and attendance trends, and the quality of educational resources. These dimensions are critical in understanding how the education sector is adapting to population pressures and what that means for community cohesion, equity in service delivery, and the long-term wellbeing of the host population.

4.5.1 Influence Shared Educational Facilities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The influx of refugees into host communities often brings both opportunities and challenges, particularly in access to education. In Kakuma, shared educational facilities between refugees and the host community have raised concerns about resource competition, overcrowding, and disparities in support. While integration fosters social cohesion, it also affects the quality of education for host learners. This study examined how the shared use of educational facilities

influences the livelihoods of the host community, focusing on perceptions of competition, learning environments, and infrastructure challenges. Results are presented in Figure 4.4.

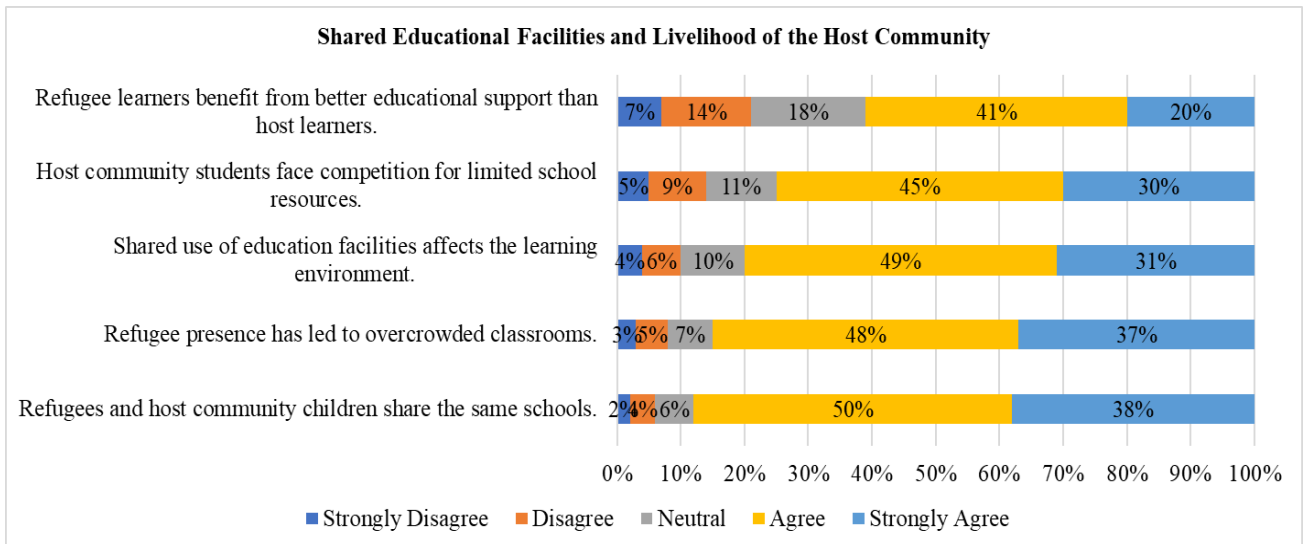


Figure 4. 4: Influence Shared Educational Facilities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

The results indicate that 156 respondents (41%) agreed, while 76 (20%) strongly agreed that refugee learners receive better educational support than host learners. In contrast, 27 (7%) strongly disagreed, 53 (14%) disagreed, and 68 (18%) remained neutral. These findings suggest that a significant portion of the host community perceives disparities in educational support, with refugees appearing to receive better assistance. This could be due to targeted donor funding and humanitarian aid aimed at supporting refugee education, often through scholarships, learning materials, and specialized programs. According to studies on refugee education (Dryden-Peterson, 2016), international agencies prioritize refugees’ schooling as part of integration and resilience-building efforts. However, this may inadvertently create resentment among host community members who feel overlooked in resource allocation. Similar findings

have been reported in other refugee-hosting regions, such as Uganda, where educational aid disproportionately benefits refugee students (Ahimbisibwe, 2019).

A total of 171 respondents (45%) agreed and 114 (30%) strongly agreed that host community students face competition for limited school resources. Meanwhile, 19 (5%) strongly disagreed, 34 (9%) disagreed, and 42 (11%) were neutral. The data reflects a prevalent challenge in host communities—overburdened educational facilities. As refugee populations grow, existing school resources, including classrooms, teachers, and materials, are stretched thin, leading to overcrowding and reduced quality of education for both groups. Research by UNESCO (2021) highlights that resource competition in refugee-hosting areas often results in tensions, particularly when local infrastructure is insufficient. In Kenya, reports on Kakuma have shown that increased student enrollment due to refugee integration has led to larger class sizes and a decline in teacher-student engagement (UNHCR, 2020).

The results show that 186 respondents (49%) agreed and 118 (31%) strongly agreed that the shared use of educational facilities affects the learning environment. Meanwhile, 15 (4%) strongly disagreed, 23 (6%) disagreed, and 38 (10%) were neutral. The findings indicate that the presence of both refugee and host students in the same institutions has significant effects on the learning atmosphere. This could be due to issues like overcrowding, cultural differences, and language barriers, which can create communication challenges and limit effective learning. Previous studies suggest that shared educational spaces can either foster social cohesion or exacerbate divisions, depending on how integration is managed (Dahl et al., 2019). In Kakuma, language diversity and different education backgrounds can make classroom management difficult, impacting learning outcomes (Loescher, 2021).

A majority of respondents, 182 respondents (48%) agreed and 141 (37%) strongly agreed that the presence of refugees has led to overcrowding in schools. Only 11 (3%) strongly disagreed, 19 (5%) disagreed, and 27 (7%) remained neutral. This data confirms that overcrowding is a significant issue, which is expected in refugee-hosting regions where infrastructure development lags behind population growth. High student-to-teacher ratios, inadequate classroom space, and limited learning materials are some of the direct consequences of increased enrollment. UNICEF (2022) reports that class sizes in Kakuma often exceed 100 students per teacher, far surpassing Kenya's recommended standard of 40:1. Similar trends are observed in Uganda and Ethiopia, where refugee settlements contribute to school congestion (World Bank, 2021). Without adequate expansion of infrastructure, overcrowding may lead to declining education quality for both refugee and host community students.

According to the results, 190 respondents (50%) agreed and 144 (38%) strongly agreed that both refugee and host children share the same schools. In contrast, 8 (2%) strongly disagreed, 15 (4%) disagreed, and 23 (6%) remained neutral. The overwhelming agreement highlights that education is one of the key areas where integration between refugees and host communities is most evident. Shared schooling environments provide opportunities for interaction, cultural exchange, and mutual learning, but they can also pose challenges if resources are insufficient. The integration of refugees into national education systems has been a widely recommended strategy by international organizations (UNHCR, 2019). While this approach promotes inclusivity, studies in Kenya (Obura, 2020) caution that without equal investment in infrastructure and teacher training, the strain on local schools may breed resentment among host populations.

4.5.2 Influence of Enrollment and Attendance Trends on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Education plays a critical role in shaping the livelihoods of both refugees and host communities in Kakuma. The enrollment and attendance trends of refugees in local schools' impact access to education, resource allocation, and overall classroom experiences. While some positive effects, such as increased attendance among host children, are observed, challenges like congestion and disparities in educational support also emerge. This section examines the influence of refugee enrollment and attendance on the host community's education system, analyzing the perceptions and implications of shared learning spaces. The results are presented in Figure 4.5.

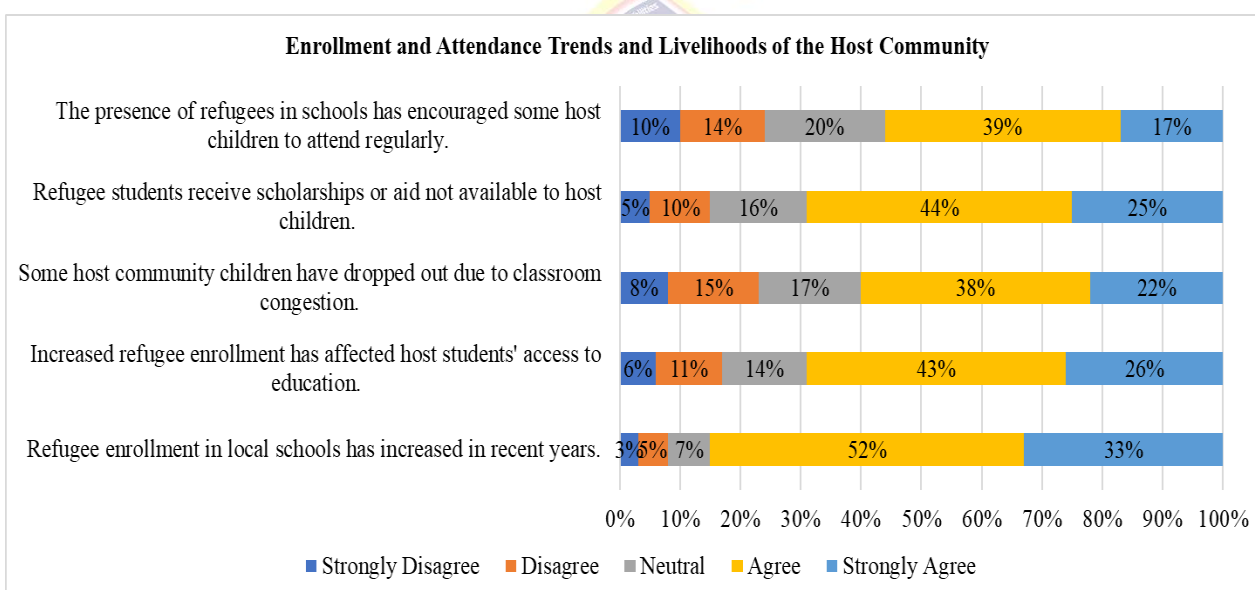


Figure 4. 5: Influence of Enrollment and Attendance Trends on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

From the results of this study, 148 respondents (39%) agreed, while 65 (17%) strongly agreed that the presence of refugees in schools has encouraged host community children to attend regularly. However, 76 (20%) remained neutral, 53 (14%) disagreed, and 38 (10%) strongly

disagreed. The results suggest that refugee enrollment in schools has had a positive influence on school attendance for host community children. The interaction between refugee and host students may create a culture that values education, encouraging local children to be more consistent in their schooling. This aligns with studies indicating that peer influence and increased school participation can enhance education access in marginalized areas (Dryden-Peterson, 2016). Increased attendance rates may contribute to improved literacy and economic opportunities for the host community. However, the effectiveness of this influence depends on the quality of education and the availability of learning resources.

A significant proportion of respondents—167 (44%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that refugee students received scholarships or aid not accessible to host community children. Meanwhile, 61 (16%) were neutral, 38 (10%) disagreed, and 19 (5%) strongly disagreed. The perception that refugees receive more financial support than host children may create tensions within the community. Humanitarian organizations often prioritize refugee education through scholarships and aid programs, while local students may not receive similar benefits. This finding is consistent with research by UNHCR (2021), which highlights disparities in funding allocation between refugees and host populations. Addressing this gap through inclusive scholarship programs for both refugee and host students may foster social cohesion and reduce grievances, ultimately improving educational outcomes for all.

From the results, 144 respondents (38%) agreed and 84 (22%) strongly agreed that congestion from increased refugee enrollment has led to dropouts among host children. Additionally, 65 (17%) were neutral, 57 (15%) disagreed, and 30 (8%) strongly disagreed. Classroom congestion is a well-documented challenge in refugee-hosting areas, as an influx of students strains available resources, leading to overcrowded learning environments (Warren, 2019). This can

negatively affect learning outcomes, discourage attendance, and even contribute to dropout rates among host community children. Education stakeholders must consider expanding school infrastructure and teacher capacity to accommodate both refugee and host students adequately. Investments in classroom facilities can reduce congestion and improve learning conditions for all children.

From the results, 163 respondents (43%) agreed and 99 (26%) strongly agreed that refugee enrollment has impacted access to education for host children. In contrast, 53 (14%) were neutral, 42 (11%) disagreed, and 23 (6%) strongly disagreed. The majority of respondents believe that refugee enrollment has influenced host community students' access to education. This could be due to increased competition for school resources, teachers, and learning materials. Research by Betts et al. (2020) emphasizes that refugee education policies should include host community needs to prevent inequality in access. Schools should adopt inclusive policies that ensure equitable access to education for both refugee and host children. Government and humanitarian organizations should collaborate to provide additional resources to mitigate the impact of increased enrollment.

From the results, 198 respondents (52%) agreed and 125 (33%) strongly agreed that refugee enrollment in local schools has increased in recent years. Only 19 (5%) disagreed, 11 (3%) strongly disagreed, and 27 (7%) were neutral. The findings confirm that refugee enrollment has been on the rise. This trend aligns with UNHCR (2022) data, which shows that refugee populations in Kenya have continued to grow, increasing the demand for education services. The government and NGOs have made efforts to integrate refugee children into the national education system, further driving up enrollment. The continuous rise in refugee enrollment

requires long-term planning, including infrastructure expansion, teacher recruitment, and policy development to ensure quality education for both refugee and host students.

4.5.3 Influence of Quality of Educational Resources on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The quality of educational resources plays a significant role in shaping the educational experiences and future opportunities of both refugee and host community children in Kakuma. The following sections analyze the impact of shared resources, infrastructure challenges, teacher burden, shortages of learning materials, and the student-to-teacher ratio. Results are presented in Figure 4.6.

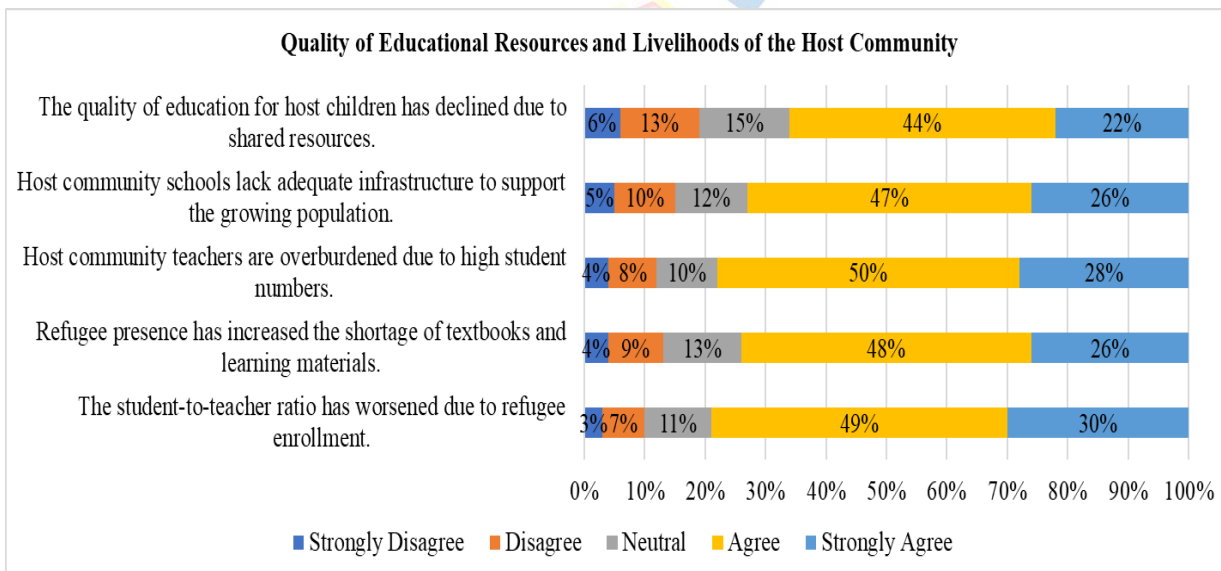


Figure 4. 6: Influence of Quality of Educational Resources on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

From the results of the study, a majority of respondents—167 (44%) agreed and 84 (22%) strongly agreed—that the quality of education for host children has declined as a result of sharing resources with refugees. Meanwhile, 57 (15%) were neutral, 49 (13%) disagreed, and

23 (6%) strongly disagreed. These findings indicate that many host community members feel their children's learning experience has deteriorated. The likely causes include stretched resources such as classroom space, textbooks, and teacher attention. When educational inputs are not scaled alongside student population growth, quality tends to suffer. Similar concerns have been documented in studies such as Dryden-Peterson (2020), which shows that shared school environments in refugee-hosting regions often face quality deficits. In Uganda and Ethiopia, host parents expressed dissatisfaction with falling education standards due to resource overload caused by refugee integration.

A significant 179 respondents (47%) agreed and 99 (26%) strongly agreed that school infrastructure is inadequate to accommodate the increasing student population. In contrast, 38 (10%) disagreed, 19 (5%) strongly disagreed, and 46 (12%) were neutral. This response points to widespread infrastructural strain in host community schools. Overcrowded classrooms, limited toilet facilities, and makeshift structures hinder both teaching and learning. Without expansion and investment, the pressure of a rising student body will only exacerbate the situation. UNESCO (2021) identifies poor school infrastructure as a core challenge in regions hosting large refugee populations. In Kenya, reports from Kakuma show schools operating beyond their intended capacity, impacting both safety and education quality for students and teachers alike.

An overwhelming 190 respondents (50%) agreed and 106 (28%) strongly agreed that teachers are overwhelmed by large class sizes. Only 30 (8%) disagreed, 15 (4%) strongly disagreed, and 38 (10%) were neutral. The burden on teachers is a significant issue. With fewer educators relative to the growing number of students, especially in joint schools, the ability to deliver effective instruction diminishes. Overwork also leads to fatigue and burnout, which may affect

teacher morale and performance. Betts et al. (2020) emphasize the critical role of teacher-to-student ratios in sustaining quality education. In Kakuma, teachers reportedly handle more than 80 students per class—far beyond Kenya's national average—leading to reduced individual attention and poor learning outcomes.

A majority of respondents—182 respondents (48%) agreed and 99 (26%) strongly agreed—that refugee presence has worsened the shortage of textbooks and learning materials. Meanwhile, 34 (9%) disagreed, 15 (4%) strongly disagreed, and 49 (13%) were neutral. Shared educational environments create high demand for learning materials. When supply does not keep up, both host and refugee students suffer. Host families may feel disadvantaged, especially when aid agencies focus material distribution on refugee learners. According to UNHCR (2022), most refugee-hosting schools in Kenya report textbook shortages, with some students forced to share books in groups of five or more. This resource gap undermines lesson comprehension and widens disparities between students.

The highest agreement level is seen here: (49%) agreed and 114 (30%) strongly agreed that student-to-teacher ratios have worsened due to refugee enrollment. In contrast, 27 (7%) disagreed, 11 (3%) strongly disagreed, and 42 (11%) were neutral. The teacher shortage is one of the most visible impacts of increased refugee enrollment. High ratios mean less one-on-one engagement, reduced classroom control, and difficulty in tracking student progress—ultimately affecting learning outcomes. Reports by the Global Partnership for Education (2020) note that ideal student-teacher ratios are often exceeded in displacement-affected areas. In Kakuma, the average is reportedly more than 70:1, making it difficult for teachers to maintain quality instruction, especially for students with learning difficulties.

4.6 Influence of Refugees' Access to Healthcare Services on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Refugees' access to healthcare services has significant implications for host communities, particularly regarding healthcare quality, service accessibility, and resource allocation. In Kakuma, host community members experience direct impacts on their health system due to refugee integration, leading to varying perceptions of service fairness, congestion, availability of medical resources, and overall healthcare capacity. This section provides an analysis of three core dimensions influencing healthcare access: Healthcare Facility Congestion, Service Access and Wait Time and Drug and Staff Availability.

4.6.1 Influence of Healthcare Facility Congestion on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Healthcare facility congestion significantly affects community livelihoods, especially in refugee-hosting areas such as Kakuma. This section analyzes community perceptions regarding how refugee influx impacts maternal and child healthcare services, waiting times for treatment, healthcare worker workloads, overcrowding in health facilities, and shared use of healthcare facilities. Results are presented in Figure 4.7.

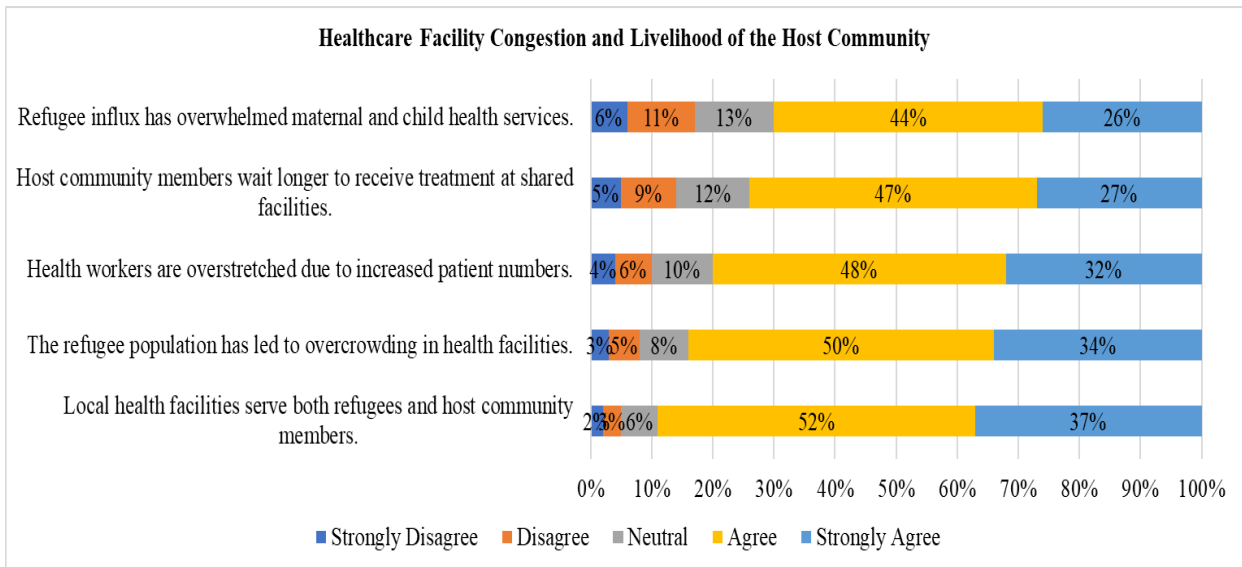


Figure 4. 7: Influence of Healthcare Facility Congestion on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

According to the results, 167 respondents (44%) agreed and 99 (26%) strongly agreed that maternal and child health services have been overwhelmed by the refugee influx. Additionally, 49 (13%) were neutral, 42 (11%) disagreed, and 23 (6%) strongly disagreed. This result highlights that a significant proportion of the host community perceives refugee influx as placing substantial pressure on vital maternal and child health services. These services are critical for community well-being, particularly for vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and young children. Increased demands from the refugee population strain existing resources and capacity, potentially reducing service quality. Research by UNHCR (2021) confirms that refugee influx often leads to increased utilization of maternal and child health services, causing resource constraints in host communities. Similar findings were observed in Uganda's refugee settlements, where maternal healthcare services experienced heightened demand, resulting in diminished service quality for host populations (Orach & De Brouwere, 2020).

A total of 179 respondents (47%) agreed and 103 (27%) strongly agreed that waiting times for treatment at shared health facilities are longer due to refugee presence. In contrast, 46 (12%) were neutral, 34 (9%) disagreed, and 18 (5%) strongly disagreed. Longer waiting times can negatively impact health outcomes, reducing timely access to healthcare and potentially exacerbating medical conditions. The host community's perception clearly indicates that refugee integration in local health facilities increases patient volumes, creating service delays. According to Oxfam (2022), longer waiting times at shared health facilities are a common issue in refugee-hosting contexts, including Jordan and Lebanon. Increased patient numbers without corresponding expansions in healthcare infrastructure and personnel often cause delays, reducing overall healthcare access and satisfaction.

The findings indicate that 182 respondents (48%) agreed and 122 (32%) strongly agreed that healthcare workers are overstretched by the increased number of patients. Meanwhile, 38 (10%) were neutral, 23 (6%) disagreed, and 15 (4%) strongly disagreed. The overwhelming agreement on this issue underscores the significant burden on healthcare workers, as refugee integration intensifies demand for health services. Overstretched healthcare providers face burnout and decreased productivity, negatively affecting patient care quality. Research by the World Health Organization (2021) highlights the chronic shortage of healthcare providers in refugee-hosting regions, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where increased refugee populations strain already fragile healthcare systems. Reports from refugee camps in Ethiopia similarly illustrate how elevated patient volumes lead to healthcare worker fatigue and reduced service delivery quality (UNHCR, 2022).

According to respondents, 190 respondents (50%) agreed and 129 (34%) strongly agreed that refugee populations have significantly contributed to overcrowding in health facilities.

Conversely, 30 (8%) were neutral, 19 (5%) disagreed, and 12 (3%) strongly disagreed. Overcrowding in health facilities poses health risks, reduces privacy, and compromises service quality. Increased refugee populations, without proportional expansions in healthcare infrastructure, exacerbate existing challenges in delivering effective health services. Studies by UNICEF (2020) in Kakuma specifically point to overcrowded health facilities, reporting instances where wards exceed their intended capacity. Similarly, research in Uganda's refugee settlements demonstrates that overcrowding significantly undermines patient care and infection control practices (Orach & De Brouwere, 2020).

The results revealed high agreement, with 198 respondents (52%) agreed and 141 (37%) strongly agreed that local health facilities serve both refugees and host community members. Only 23 (6%) were neutral, 11 (3%) disagreed, and 7 (2%) strongly disagreed. This result clearly shows the integration of refugee and host populations within local health systems. While shared use promotes inclusivity, it simultaneously strains available resources if not adequately managed. It also highlights the necessity of equitable resource allocation to avoid resentment and ensure sustainable service delivery. Shared healthcare services are widely recommended by international humanitarian actors to promote integration and social cohesion. According to the World Bank (2021), shared health systems can lead to positive interactions between refugees and host communities. However, without sufficient resource allocation, shared facilities may exacerbate tensions, as observed in refugee-hosting contexts across East Africa.

4.6.2 Influence of Service Access and Wait Time on the Livelihoods of the Host

Community in Kakuma

Timely and equitable access to health services is essential for community well-being, particularly in refugee-hosting settings. This section analyzes perceptions from host community

members in Kakuma regarding fairness in health service delivery, availability of community outreach programs, avoidance of congested health facilities, prioritization of refugee patients, and increased waiting times attributed to refugee presence. The results are presented in Figure 4.8.

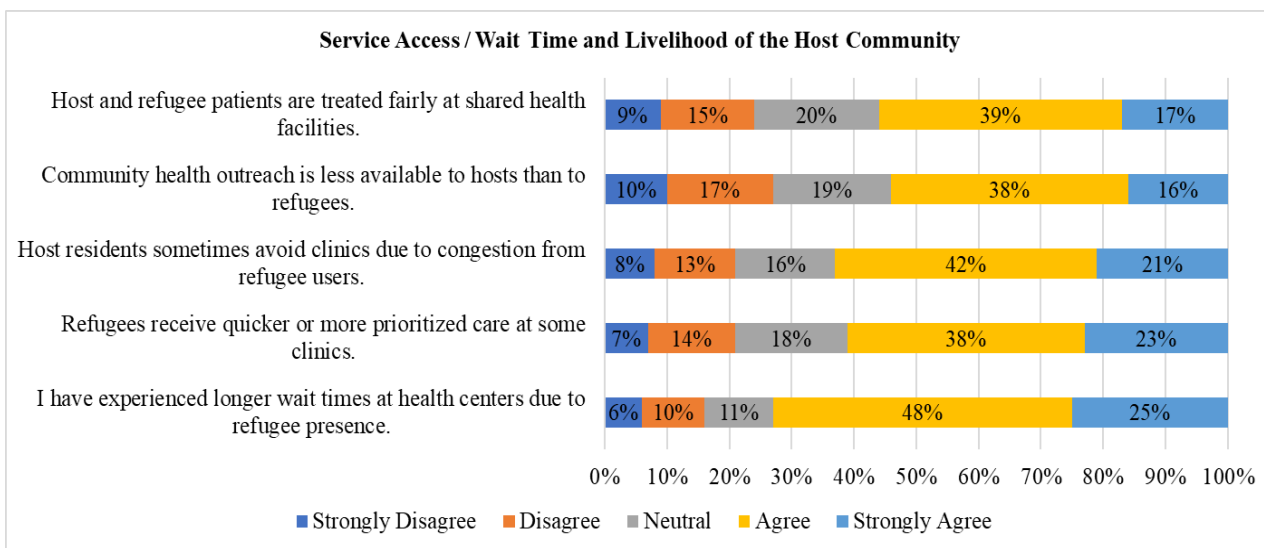


Figure 4. 8: Influence of Service Access and Wait Time on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

The results revealed that 148 respondents (39%) agreed and 65 (17%) strongly agreed that both refugee and host patients receive fair treatment at shared facilities. However, 57 (15%) disagreed, 34 (9%) strongly disagreed, and 76 (20%) were neutral. This perception indicates moderate satisfaction among the host community regarding the fairness of service delivery at health facilities. A combined majority positively views shared facilities as equitable. However, the significant neutral and disagree responses suggest room for improvement in ensuring transparent and equitable practices that reassure host community members. Equitable treatment at healthcare facilities is critical for social cohesion, as noted by Orach & De Brouwere (2020), who found that fairness in refugee-hosting health centers in Uganda improved community

relations. However, instances of perceived unequal treatment can lead to tensions, necessitating careful management of shared healthcare resources (UNHCR, 2021).

The study indicated that 144 respondents (38%) agreed and 61 (16%) strongly agreed that community health outreach is more accessible to refugees than to host members. Meanwhile, 65 (17%) disagreed, 38 (10%) strongly disagreed, and 72 (19%) were neutral. These findings suggest a noticeable perception of disparity in access to community health outreach services, with respondents feeling disadvantaged relative to refugees. Host community members may perceive outreach activities, such as health education and mobile clinics, to disproportionately target refugees due to targeted humanitarian interventions. Studies by UNICEF (2021) in other refugee-hosting areas highlight similar disparities, indicating outreach programs often emphasize refugee populations due to funding directives. Host communities can feel overlooked unless intentional inclusive measures are adopted, potentially causing grievances and reducing overall community resilience.

From the data, 160 respondents (42%) agreed and 80 (21%) strongly agreed that host residents occasionally avoid clinics due to refugee-related congestion. Conversely, 49 (13%) disagreed, 30 (8%) strongly disagreed, and 61 (16%) were neutral. A notable majority acknowledges that congestion discourages the host community from seeking timely healthcare services. Congestion can lead to delays, increased waiting times, and decreased service quality, prompting residents to seek alternative solutions or delay necessary care, negatively impacting their health. This issue aligns with studies in Jordan and Lebanon, where congested health facilities due to refugee influx discourage host community attendance, increasing risks of delayed treatment (Oxfam, 2022). Healthcare congestion consequently compromises both immediate health outcomes and long-term community well-being.

According to the respondents, 144 respondents (38%) agreed and 87 (23%) strongly agreed that refugees sometimes receive prioritized medical care. In comparison, 53 (14%) disagreed, 27 (7%) strongly disagreed, and 68 (18%) were neutral. The findings indicate perceptions of preferential treatment for refugees at healthcare facilities, potentially stemming from targeted humanitarian interventions or international obligations toward refugee health. Such perceived prioritization may heighten resentment among host community members, undermining social harmony. Previous research in Uganda's refugee settlements similarly reported host communities feeling sidelined due to prioritized healthcare access for refugees, which created community tensions (Orach & De Brouwere, 2020). Balancing refugee healthcare needs with equitable host community service provision remains a persistent challenge for policymakers.

The survey showed that a large proportion: 182 respondents (48%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that longer wait times are experienced due to refugee presence. Meanwhile, 38 (10%) disagreed, 23 (6%) strongly disagreed, and 42 (11%) remained neutral. Most respondents clearly attributed increased waiting times at health centers directly to refugee influx. Lengthy wait times negatively impact patient satisfaction, healthcare access, and timely medical interventions, potentially exacerbating medical issues within the host community. The Global Partnership for Education (2021) indicates similar trends globally in refugee-hosting regions, underscoring that increased patient load without adequate facility expansion invariably leads to prolonged wait times and diminished healthcare service delivery quality. Effective planning and resource mobilization remain crucial in addressing these persistent challenges.

4.6.3 Influence of Drug and Staff Availability on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Availability of essential drugs and qualified health personnel significantly influences the quality and effectiveness of healthcare services in refugee-hosting communities like Kakuma. This section explores community perceptions on the impacts of staff shortages, resource pressures, funding disparities, personnel adequacy, and availability of essential medications. The results are presented in Figure 4.9.

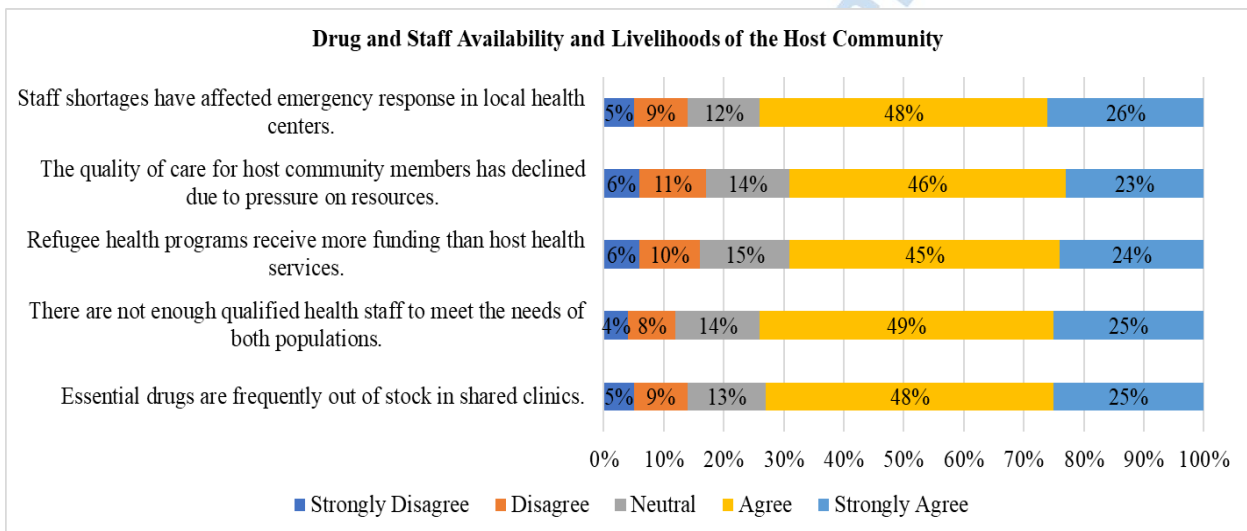


Figure 4. 9: Influence of Drug and Staff Availability on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

The results show that 182 respondents (48%) agreed and 99 (26%) strongly agreed that staff shortages have compromised emergency responses in local health centers. On the other hand, 46 (12%) were neutral, 34 (9%) disagreed, and 19 (5%) strongly disagreed. This finding highlights the critical issue of understaffing in healthcare facilities, particularly affecting emergency medical care. Insufficient staff numbers can lead to delays in critical interventions, ultimately worsening health outcomes for both refugees and host community members. These

perceptions are consistent with findings from the World Health Organization (2021), which notes that refugee-hosting regions commonly face staff shortages that negatively impact emergency services, resulting in delayed medical care and increased morbidity.

The results indicate that 175 respondents (46%) agreed and 87 (23%) strongly agreed that resource pressure has reduced healthcare quality for host community members. Meanwhile, 53 (14%) were neutral, 42 (11%) disagreed, and 23 (6%) strongly disagreed. Resource pressures resulting from increased patient loads can directly affect the quality of healthcare services. Limited staffing and overused medical facilities compromise the ability to deliver consistent and high-quality medical care, negatively affecting community health outcomes. Studies from other refugee-hosting contexts, such as Uganda (Orach & De Brouwere, 2020), similarly document reduced healthcare quality due to resource constraints. Such declines can lead to dissatisfaction and tensions between refugees and host populations if not adequately managed.

According to the results, 171 respondents (45%) agreed and 91 (24%) strongly agreed that refugee-focused health programs receive greater funding than those for host communities. Meanwhile, 38 (10%) disagreed, 23 (6%) strongly disagreed, and 57 (15%) were neutral. These perceptions suggest an imbalance in resource allocation between refugees and the host community, potentially leading to resentment among host community members. Targeted humanitarian support, while beneficial for refugees, may unintentionally sideline host populations, causing friction and perceptions of unfairness. The UNHCR (2022) notes similar funding disparities in many refugee-hosting countries, recommending inclusive health policies to balance resource allocation and reduce community tensions.

The results reveal a significant perception, with 186 respondents (49%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that there are insufficient qualified healthcare personnel to meet both

communities' needs. In comparison, 30 (8%) disagreed, 15 (4%) strongly disagreed, and 53 (14%) were neutral. A shortage of qualified healthcare personnel significantly limits the capacity to deliver quality healthcare services. This inadequacy affects diagnosis accuracy, patient treatment effectiveness, and overall healthcare satisfaction, exacerbating health disparities. The shortage of healthcare professionals in refugee-hosting settings is widely documented. According to UNICEF (2021), insufficient numbers of skilled healthcare workers lead to compromised healthcare quality, especially in East African refugee-hosting contexts, necessitating significant investment in healthcare human resources.

According to the results, 182 respondents (48%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that essential medications are frequently unavailable at shared clinics. In contrast, 34 (9%) disagreed, 19 (5%) strongly disagreed, and 49 (13%) were neutral. Frequent stock-outs of essential drugs severely impact healthcare delivery, potentially leading to prolonged illnesses, increased patient costs, and dissatisfaction with healthcare services. This situation also encourages patients to seek care elsewhere, further burdening alternative healthcare facilities. Research by Oxfam (2022) confirms that drug shortages are prevalent in refugee-hosting health facilities globally, impacting both refugee and host communities. Effective inventory management, increased healthcare funding, and coordinated procurement practices are critical to addressing this persistent challenge.

4.7 Influence of Refugees' Housing and Shelter Conditions on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Refugees' housing and shelter conditions play a pivotal role in shaping the socio-economic landscape of host communities, particularly in resource-constrained environments such as Kakuma. The establishment and expansion of refugee settlements exert spatial, environmental,

and infrastructural pressures on adjacent host communities, influencing their access to land, water, sanitation, and ecological resources. In many instances, the competition over these shared resources has led to strained intergroup relations, environmental degradation, and disrupted livelihood patterns. This section presents an in-depth examination of three interrelated dimensions of impact: Land Use and Access, Water and Sanitation Pressure, and Environmental Impact.

4.7.1 Influence of Land Use and Access on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Land is an essential resource for sustaining livelihoods, particularly for communities relying on agriculture, pastoralism, and other land-based activities. In refugee-hosting contexts like Kakuma, changes in land use and access brought about by refugee settlements can significantly impact host communities. This section examines host community perceptions regarding how refugee presence affects land rights, land availability, occurrence of land disputes, access to grazing and farming lands, and the overall occupation of land traditionally utilized by the host community. The results are presented in Figure 4.10.

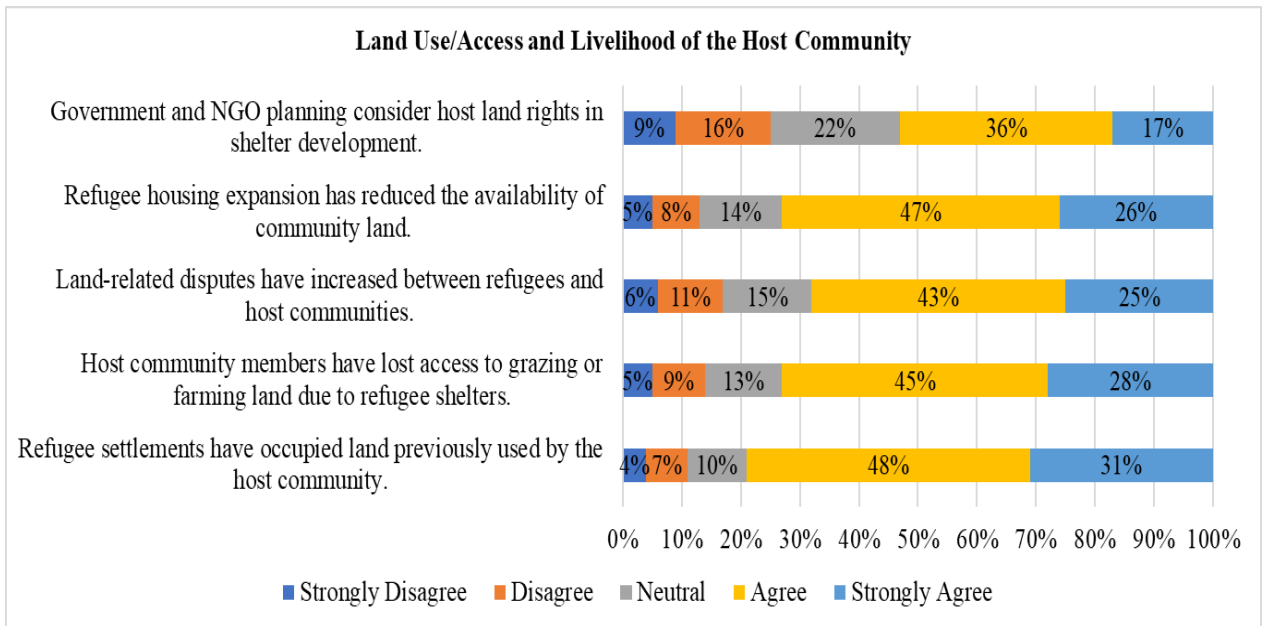


Figure 4. 10: Influence of Land Use and Access on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

The results indicate that 137 respondents (36%) agreed and 65 (17%) strongly agreed that government and NGO planning adequately consider host community land rights during shelter development. However, 84 (22%) were neutral, 61 (16%) disagreed, and 33 (9%) strongly disagreed. The majority of respondents perceive that land rights are being recognized to some extent in planning processes. Nonetheless, significant neutral and negative responses suggest a perception gap or uneven consultation and communication between the host community and stakeholders. These perceptions underscore the importance of transparent and inclusive planning processes that explicitly consider and communicate with host communities. Research by Betts et al. (2020) highlights that successful integration and development in refugee-hosting areas depend on respecting and securing land rights. They argue that neglecting these rights can cause long-term conflicts and resentment, highlighting the need for explicit consideration of host land rights in development planning.

According to respondents, 179 respondents (47%) agreed and 99 (26%) strongly agreed that refugee housing expansions have significantly reduced land available to the host community. In contrast, 53 (14%) were neutral, 30 (8%) disagreed, and 18 (5%) strongly disagreed. These findings indicate widespread concern about land scarcity resulting from refugee settlement expansions. Reduced availability of community land impacts livelihood activities like farming, grazing, and resource harvesting. Land scarcity can threaten food security, income generation, and environmental sustainability for host communities. This finding aligns with similar observations from refugee-hosting regions in East Africa, such as in Uganda, where refugee settlement expansion is often linked to the decline of available agricultural and grazing lands for host communities (World Bank, 2021). Effective planning and land-use management are essential in mitigating these pressures.

A considerable proportion of respondents: 163 respondents (43%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that land-related disputes between refugees and host communities have increased. Meanwhile, 57 (15%) were neutral, 42 (11%) disagreed, and 23 (6%) strongly disagreed. This result highlights a critical issue arising from competition over limited land resources, often fueling tensions and conflicts. As refugee populations grow, pressures on land availability can exacerbate existing community disputes or create new ones, leading to instability and undermining social cohesion. The UNHCR (2021) emphasizes that land-related conflicts frequently accompany refugee settlement developments in sub-Saharan Africa. Similar tensions have been documented in Kenya's Dadaab region and Uganda's refugee settlements, where disputes have sometimes escalated into broader community conflicts.

Responses reveal significant agreement, with 171 respondents (45%) agreed and 106 (28%) strongly agreed that host community members have lost grazing or farming land due to refugee

shelters. Conversely, 49 (13%) were neutral, 34 (9%) disagreed, and 19 (5%) strongly disagreed. The loss of agricultural and pastoral land has direct implications for food security, livelihoods, and economic sustainability within the host community. Reduced land access restricts traditional agricultural and livestock rearing practices, forcing some community members to seek alternative livelihoods, often less sustainable or profitable. According to studies by the World Bank (2021), displacement and occupation of traditional host community land by refugee settlements in East Africa have led to reduced land accessibility and increased economic vulnerability among affected host populations.

The survey findings show strong consensus, with 182 respondents (48%) agreed and 118 (31%) strongly agreed that refugee settlements have occupied land traditionally used by host communities. Meanwhile, 27 (7%) disagreed, 15 (4%) strongly disagreed, and 38 (10%) were neutral. This indicates a substantial perception that refugee settlements occupy land historically used by host communities, thereby disrupting traditional land use and livelihood practices. Such disruptions often lead to economic hardship, social resentment, and community tensions, especially if not adequately managed or compensated. Betts et al. (2020) underline similar issues in other refugee-hosting contexts, such as Ethiopia and Uganda, noting that host community grievances frequently emerge from perceived displacement and loss of traditional land-use practices due to refugee settlement expansion.

4.7.2 Influence of Water and Sanitation Pressure on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation is fundamental to public health and sustainable livelihoods. In refugee-hosting contexts such as Kakuma, the influx of displaced populations

places increased pressure on already limited water and sanitation infrastructure. This section presents the host community’s perceptions on how shared resources, waste management, and water availability are being affected by the refugee presence, and how these changes impact their quality of life. The results are presented in Figure 4.11.

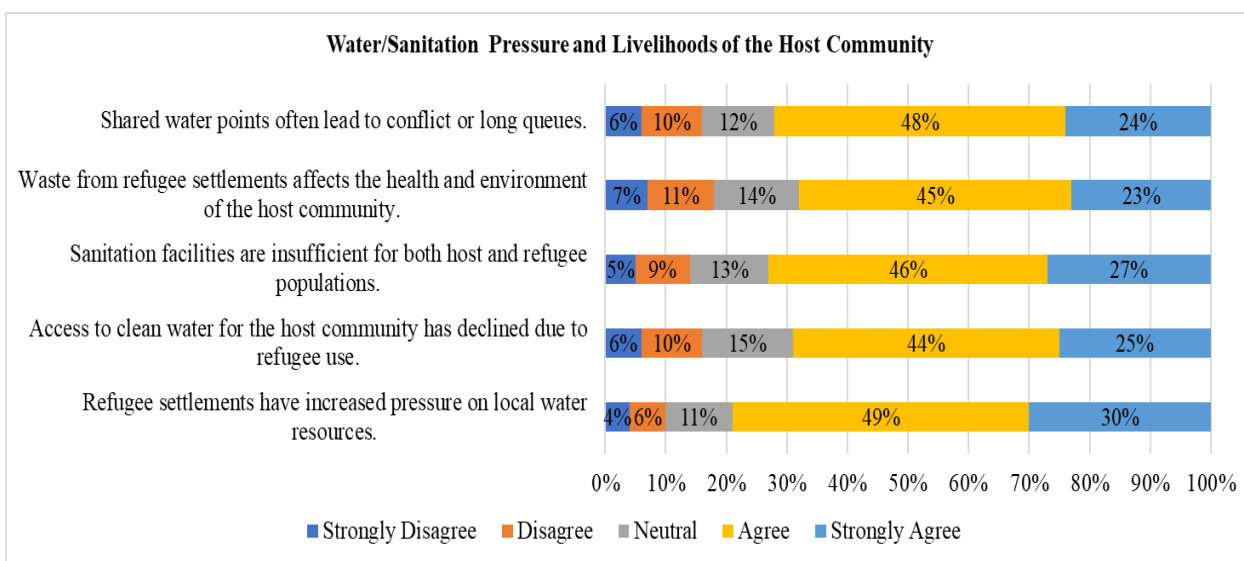


Figure 4. 11: Influence of Water and Sanitation Pressure on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

The findings show that 182 respondents (48%) agreed and 91 (24%) strongly agreed that shared water points result in long queues or conflict. In comparison, 46 (12%) were neutral, 38 (10%) disagreed, and 23 (6%) strongly disagreed. This indicates that water collection points have become areas of tension due to high demand from both host and refugee populations. Long waiting times and resource competition can lead to disputes, especially when water availability is inconsistent or poorly regulated. According to UNHCR (2020), water stress is a common challenge in refugee-hosting settlements across East Africa. Similar findings in Uganda and Ethiopia show that overcrowded water points can increase friction between refugee and host communities, particularly in arid or semi-arid regions like Turkana.

The results indicate that 171 respondents (45%) agreed and 87 (23%) strongly agreed that waste from refugee settlements negatively affects the health and environment of host communities. Meanwhile, 53 (14%) were neutral, 42 (11%) disagreed, and 27 (7%) strongly disagreed. Inadequate waste disposal poses environmental hazards such as soil contamination, water pollution, and disease outbreaks. Improperly managed waste around refugee camps can extend into host communities, reducing hygiene levels and increasing the risk of waterborne illnesses. A study by Oxfam (2022) noted that solid waste management remains under-resourced in many refugee settlements. This often results in unregulated dumping, which affects surrounding host populations. Addressing these concerns requires inclusive sanitation infrastructure planning and effective waste management strategies.

The results show that 175 respondents (46%) agreed and 103 (27%) strongly agreed that existing sanitation facilities do not meet the needs of both communities. Only 13% were neutral, 9% disagreed, and 5% strongly disagreed. A significant majority feels that current sanitation infrastructure is inadequate. This could include a lack of latrines, overused pit toilets, or poor drainage systems, which increases health risks and reduces community dignity and safety—especially for women and children. UNICEF (2021) highlights that most refugee-hosting settlements face sanitation infrastructure gaps, leading to open defecation and related health risks. In Kakuma, population growth has outpaced sanitation development, leaving both refugees and host residents vulnerable.

Responses show that 167 respondents (44%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that the host community's access to clean water has decreased due to refugee demand. In contrast, 38 (10%) disagreed, 23 (6%) strongly disagreed, and 57 (15%) remained neutral. As more people depend on a fixed water supply, the host community may find it more difficult to access sufficient clean

water. This can force families to walk longer distances, rely on unsafe sources, or reduce their water consumption—affecting hygiene and health. The World Bank (2020) reports that competition for water in refugee-hosting regions is a leading source of tension. In Kenya's arid northern regions, water scarcity has worsened with rising refugee populations, making sustainable water resource management a critical issue.

The data reveals that 186 respondents (49%) agreed and 114 (30%) strongly agreed that refugee settlements have significantly increased pressure on local water resources. Meanwhile, 42 (11%) were neutral, 23 (6%) disagreed, and 15 (4%) strongly disagreed. The overwhelming agreement on this issue shows that water demand has risen steeply due to refugee presence. Without sufficient investment in boreholes, pipelines, or storage systems, natural water sources may become depleted or overdrawn—leading to environmental degradation and worsening water shortages. UNHCR and partners have reported that increased demand from refugee settlements can affect aquifer levels and lead to the overuse of local water sources, especially in dry zones like Turkana (UNHCR, 2022). Long-term solutions such as sustainable water harvesting and infrastructure investment are necessary to ensure balanced access.

4.7.3 Influence of Environmental Impact on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The establishment and expansion of refugee settlements often significantly influence the environmental conditions in host regions. In Kakuma, environmental pressures arising from refugee shelters, including agricultural productivity, soil erosion, deforestation, and general environmental degradation, pose substantial challenges to host community livelihoods. This section evaluates the perceptions of the host community on how environmental changes linked

to refugee settlements affect their daily lives and long-term sustainability. The results are presented in Figure 4.12.

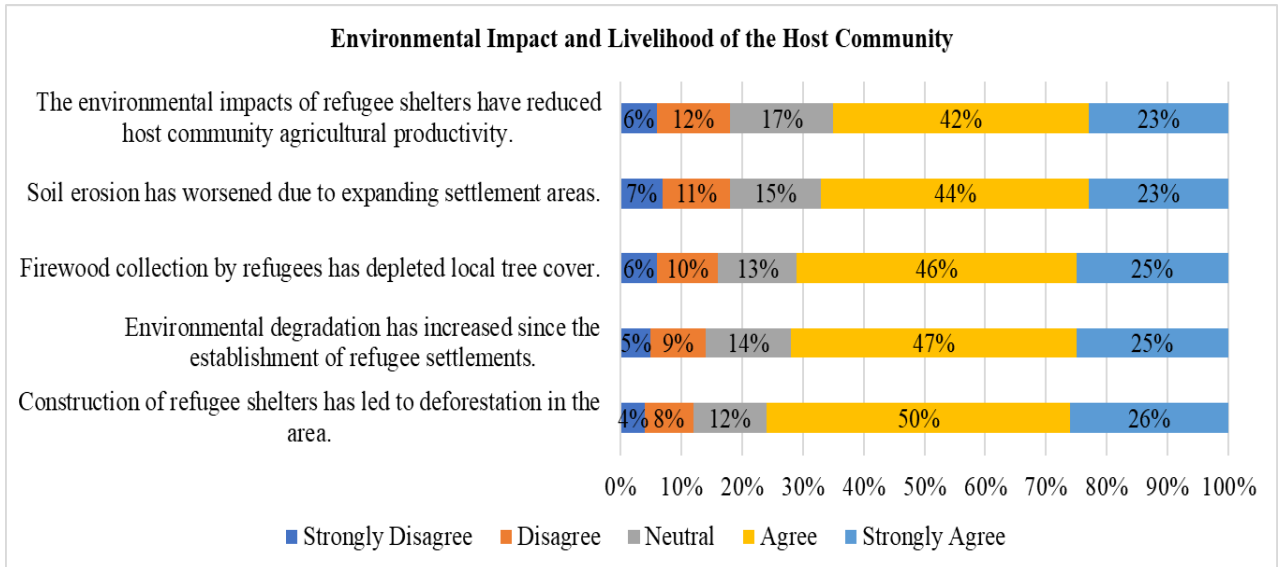


Figure 4. 12: Influence of Environmental Impact on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Source: Field Data, 2025

The results reveal that 160 respondents (42%) agreed and 87 (23%) strongly agreed that refugee shelters’ environmental impacts have reduced agricultural productivity within the host community. Conversely, 65 (17%) were neutral, 46 (12%) disagreed, and 23 (6%) strongly disagreed. A significant majority perceive refugee settlement impacts as negatively affecting agricultural productivity. This decline may stem from increased pressure on land resources, reduced soil fertility, and diminished water availability, all critical for farming activities. Research by the World Bank (2020) highlights similar outcomes in refugee-hosting regions, where intensified land use and environmental degradation often lead to declining agricultural yields and reduced food security for host communities.

The findings show that 167 respondents (44%) agreed and 87 (23%) strongly agreed that refugee settlement expansion has worsened soil erosion. Meanwhile, 42 (11%) disagreed, 27

(7%) strongly disagreed, and 57 (15%) were neutral. This response indicates substantial concern about increased soil erosion, likely exacerbated by deforestation, settlement construction activities, and intensified land use practices. Soil erosion negatively impacts agricultural potential, water quality, and ecological sustainability. UNHCR (2021) and environmental assessments from refugee settlements in Ethiopia and Uganda document comparable increases in soil erosion, linking them to land clearance, intensified land use, and inadequate environmental protection measures in refugee-hosting areas.

Responses indicate that 175 respondents (46%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that firewood collection by refugees has significantly reduced local tree cover. In comparison, 38 (10%) disagreed, 23 (6%) strongly disagreed, and 49 (13%) remained neutral. A considerable majority recognize firewood harvesting as a key driver of deforestation and environmental degradation. Depleted tree cover can lead to increased soil erosion, reduced water retention, loss of biodiversity, and limited resources for host community livelihoods. Similar findings have been reported in other refugee-hosting regions by FAO (2020), highlighting firewood harvesting by refugees as a primary factor contributing to deforestation and reduced availability of natural resources crucial for host communities' economic and ecological stability.

The results indicate that 179 respondents (47%) agreed and 95 (25%) strongly agreed that environmental degradation has intensified since refugee settlements were established. Only 34 (9%) disagreed, 19 (5%) strongly disagreed, and 53 (14%) were neutral. The perceived escalation in environmental degradation suggests widespread concern regarding resource depletion, pollution, and habitat destruction. Such degradation threatens ecological resilience, health outcomes, and community well-being. Previous assessments from refugee-hosting areas

across East Africa by UNHCR (2022) consistently document increased environmental degradation as populations expand without commensurate environmental protection strategies.

According to respondents, 190 respondents (50%) agreed and 99 (26%) strongly agreed that refugee shelter construction has contributed directly to deforestation. Meanwhile, 30 (8%) disagreed, 15 (4%) strongly disagreed, and 46 (12%) were neutral. Most respondents strongly associate deforestation with shelter construction, highlighting land clearing and timber harvesting activities as significant environmental threats. The resultant habitat loss, biodiversity reduction, and ecological instability profoundly affect community livelihoods reliant on natural resources. Environmental assessments in refugee-hosting settings, including Kakuma, identify shelter construction as a major cause of deforestation, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainable construction practices, reforestation efforts, and the use of alternative building materials (UNHCR, 2021)

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The chapters present summary, conclusions and the recommendations of the study guided by the objectives of the study:

5.2 Summary of the Findings

5.2.1 Influence of Refugees' Access to Employment Opportunities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Refugees' engagement in employment and business activities has had a largely positive impact on host community livelihoods. A majority (68%) believe that refugee employment initiatives create job opportunities for locals, while 70% agree that refugee labor complements the local workforce. However, only 40% report having been employed by refugee businesses, reflecting limited direct job access despite broader economic benefits. Refugee entrepreneurship was widely acknowledged, with 86% affirming that such businesses enhance market vibrancy and 82% confirming active refugee involvement in small-scale enterprises. These findings suggest that while competition exists, refugees contribute significantly to the economic ecosystem, particularly through job creation and service provision.

5.2.2 Influence of Refugees' Access to Education on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The integration of refugees into local schools has produced mixed outcomes for the host community. While 41% agree and 20% strongly agree that refugees receive more educational support than locals, 75% feel their children face competition for school resources. Additionally, 80% believe the shared learning environment has impacted classroom quality, with 85% acknowledging school overcrowding. On attendance trends, 56% say refugees positively influence host children's school attendance, but 67% feel aid for refugee students is not equally accessible. Furthermore, 60% believe congestion has led to dropouts, and 69% report negative effects on educational access. Concerning resource quality, 66% indicate declining education standards, 73% highlight poor infrastructure, and 78% point to teacher overload. A total of 74%

note textbook shortages, while 79% report worsened student-teacher ratios. Overall, while integration fosters social learning, host community members remain concerned about strained infrastructure and unequal support.

5.2.3 Influence of Refugees' Access to Healthcare Services on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Healthcare access has become increasingly strained due to the refugee presence. About 70% believe maternal and child health services are overwhelmed, while 74% cite longer wait times and 80% report health worker overload. Overcrowding is a key issue, noted by 84% of respondents, and 89% confirm that local health facilities are shared between the two populations. On fairness and access, only 56% believe both groups are treated equally, while 54% feel community outreach favors refugees. Furthermore, 63% say congestion deters clinic visits, 61% believe refugees are prioritized, and 73% report longer wait times. Regarding medical resources, 74% highlight staff shortages affecting emergency care, and 69% say service quality has declined. Another 69% report funding imbalances favoring refugees, 74% note a lack of qualified health workers, and 73% state that essential drugs are frequently out of stock. These findings underscore significant concerns about healthcare equity, quality, and capacity.

5.2.4 Influence of Staff Competencies in Monitoring and Evaluation on Project Performance

Land use, water access, and environmental sustainability have been notably affected by the expansion of refugee settlements. While 53% believe host land rights are considered in planning, 73% report reduced access to community land due to shelter development. A total of 68% observe increased land-related disputes, and 73% say they have lost grazing or farming areas, with 79% stating that refugee settlements now occupy land once used by hosts. Water

access remains a pressure point, with 72% reporting long queues and 68% concerned about waste affecting health and the environment. Sanitation is deemed insufficient by 73%, while 69% note reduced access to clean water, and 79% believe refugee settlements have increased pressure on water resources. Environmentally, 65% say agricultural productivity has declined, 67% observe worsened soil erosion, and 71% cite firewood collection as a cause of deforestation. Lastly, 72% report environmental degradation and 76% link deforestation to refugee shelter construction. These insights reveal the ecological and resource-based strains placed on host livelihoods.

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 Influence of Refugees' Access to Employment Opportunities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Refugee access to employment has generally brought economic benefits to the host community in Kakuma, evident through enhanced market vibrancy, job creation, and labor complementarity. Refugees actively engage in entrepreneurial ventures, significantly boosting local business environments. However, this economic interaction also leads to increased job competition, occasionally resulting in wage suppression and tensions within the local workforce. While refugees contribute positively by filling critical labor gaps, some host community members perceive that their own employment prospects are negatively impacted. Consequently, balancing the positive contributions with strategies to mitigate competition and enhance inclusive economic growth remains essential.

5.3.2 Influence of Refugees' Access to Education on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Refugee integration into the education system in Kakuma presents both opportunities and substantial challenges for host community members. Positive outcomes include improved attendance rates among local children influenced by refugee participation. Nevertheless, significant concerns persist regarding disparities in educational support, strained educational resources, overcrowding, and infrastructure inadequacies. These challenges have compromised educational quality and accessibility for host students, potentially limiting future socio-economic opportunities. The findings underline the necessity for educational policies and infrastructure investments that equitably address the needs of both refugee and host populations to enhance social cohesion and education outcomes.

5.3.3 Influence of Refugees' Access to Healthcare Services on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

The host community's healthcare system in Kakuma has experienced substantial strain due to increased demand from refugees, particularly affecting maternal and child services, healthcare worker capacity, and facility congestion. Despite shared facilities promoting social integration, resource limitations have resulted in prolonged waiting times, perceived inequalities in healthcare provision, and frequent shortages of essential medicines. These factors negatively impact the healthcare quality and access experienced by host communities. Thus, targeted interventions, including infrastructure expansion, adequate staffing, equitable funding, and improved resource management, are vital for alleviating healthcare pressures and ensuring fair, efficient healthcare delivery for all community members.

5.3.4 Influence of Refugees' Housing and Shelter Conditions on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

Housing and shelter conditions associated with refugee settlements have significantly affected host community land use, water access, and environmental sustainability. Although some recognition of host land rights exists, refugee settlement expansions have substantially reduced available community land, intensified land-related conflicts, and disrupted traditional livelihood practices such as farming and grazing. Furthermore, the increased demand for water resources and inadequate sanitation infrastructure have diminished water availability and environmental health standards. The environmental impact, particularly from deforestation, soil erosion, and diminished agricultural productivity due to refugee shelter construction and resource extraction, poses additional threats to community livelihoods. Addressing these challenges requires inclusive land-use planning, investment in sustainable water and sanitation systems, and proactive environmental conservation strategies.

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 Influence of Refugees' Access to Employment Opportunities on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

To harness the positive economic contributions of refugees while addressing labor-related tensions, local and national authorities should implement inclusive employment policies that promote joint economic initiatives between refugees and host community members. This includes supporting refugee and host entrepreneurs with access to microcredit, vocational training, and business development services. Labor market programs should be designed to bridge skill gaps and enhance the employability of host community members, particularly in sectors where competition is perceived to be high. In addition, formalizing refugee employment

through legal work frameworks can help regulate wages, improve working conditions, and ensure fair competition.

5.4.2 Influence of Refugees' Access to Education on the Livelihoods of the Host

Community in Kakuma

To address the challenges arising from shared educational facilities, education stakeholders—including the government, NGOs, and development partners—should prioritize the expansion of school infrastructure, recruitment of qualified teachers, and provision of adequate learning materials for both refugee and host learners. Policies should ensure equitable allocation of educational support, including scholarships and teaching resources, to minimize perceived disparities. Strengthening school management systems and introducing culturally responsive teaching approaches can also improve the learning environment and promote mutual understanding. Integration efforts must be accompanied by investments that match the increased demand for educational services.

5.4.3 Influence of Refugees' Access to Healthcare Services on the Livelihoods of the Host

Community in Kakuma

Improving healthcare access for both refugees and host communities requires comprehensive health system strengthening. This includes increasing the number of healthcare workers, expanding medical infrastructure, and ensuring reliable supply chains for essential drugs and equipment. Joint health programs that serve both populations equitably should be prioritized to reduce service disparities and build trust. Regular community engagement and feedback mechanisms can help address perceived inequalities and improve service delivery. Additionally, investment in mobile health clinics and targeted outreach in host areas can reduce congestion and enhance access to timely care.

5.4.4 Influence of Refugees' Housing and Shelter Conditions on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma

To mitigate land and environmental pressure caused by refugee settlements, authorities should adopt participatory land-use planning that involves host communities in decision-making processes. Clear guidelines on land rights and compensation mechanisms should be established to prevent disputes and ensure fair resource sharing. Sustainable shelter construction practices, such as the use of alternative building materials and reforestation programs, should be promoted to minimize environmental degradation. Investment in water and sanitation infrastructure, coupled with solid waste management initiatives, is essential to improve living conditions and reduce conflict over shared resources.

5.4.5 Recommendation for Further Research

To build on the findings of this study, future research should delve deeper into the long-term economic implications of refugees' access to employment on host community livelihoods. While this study revealed both positive outcomes—such as increased labor demand and job diversification—and concerns around wage competition and job displacement, further research could explore how these dynamics evolve over time. Sector-specific studies, particularly in informal economies, could reveal more nuanced insights into the roles refugees play as both competitors and collaborators in local markets. It would also be valuable to examine the effectiveness of existing vocational training and employment policies in integrating both refugees and host populations, using participatory approaches to capture lived experiences and identify potential gaps in implementation.

Similarly, future investigations should consider the broader systemic impacts of shared access to education, healthcare, and housing infrastructure. While this study established that resource

competition, overcrowding, and perceived inequities are pressing concerns, more in-depth qualitative and longitudinal research is needed to assess how these perceptions influence social cohesion, service delivery, and well-being. In the education sector, research could examine classroom experiences, learning outcomes, and teacher workload in mixed-population schools. In healthcare, further analysis of service equity, drug availability, and clinical outcomes in shared facilities would provide critical insights. Finally, regarding housing and shelter, future studies should explore land use policy, environmental sustainability, and the socio-cultural implications of displacement on traditional land practices. Understanding these intersections will offer more comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to enhance host-refugee coexistence and guide inclusive policy formulation.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Title: *Influence of Refugees' Socio-Economic Security on the Livelihoods of Host Community in Kakuma, Turkana West Sub-County, Turkana County, Kenya*

Researcher: Hussein Ibrahim Rage

Registration Number: MIRD/2019/42703

Institution: Mount Kenya University

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in a research study that seeks to examine how refugees' access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing influences the livelihoods of the host community in Kakuma, Turkana West Sub-County.

Your participation is completely voluntary. You may choose to stop at any time or decline to answer any question without any consequences. The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and used solely for academic purposes.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to respond to a questionnaire or take part in an interview. There are no known risks involved in participating, and no payment will be provided. Your responses will help inform policy and improve community development planning in refugee-hosting areas.

If you have any questions or need clarification, feel free to ask before giving your consent.

Consent Statement

By signing below, you indicate that you have read and understood the above information, and you voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Participant's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOST COMMUNITY MEMBERS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is part of a research study titled *"Influence of Refugees' Socio-Economic Security on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma, Turkana West Sub-County."* The purpose of this study is to understand how refugee access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing affects the well-being and livelihoods of the host community.

Your responses are voluntary and will be treated with strict confidentiality. The information collected will be used solely for academic purposes and to help improve policy and development programs in the region.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important study.

Sincerely,

Hussein Ibrahim Rage
Mount Kenya University

Section A: Demographic Information

Please tick [✓] where appropriate.

1. **Gender**
 Male Female
2. **Age Bracket**
 18–24 years 25–34 years 35–44 years 45–54 years 55 years and above
3. **Marital Status**
 Single Married Divorced/Separated Widowed
4. **Level of Education**
 No formal education Primary school Secondary school Tertiary/College
 University graduate Other (please specify): _____
5. **Main Occupation**
 Pastoralist Small-scale farmer Business person/trader Employed
(public/private sector) Unemployed Other (please specify): _____
6. **Ward of Residence**
 Kalobeyei Kakuma Lopur Letea Nanam Lokichoggio Kapenguria
7. **Length of Stay in the Area**
 Less than 5 years 5–10 years More than 10 years

SECTION B: REFUGEES' ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Instructions: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking [✓] one option below each statement.

Indicator 1: Refugee Employment Activities

1. Refugees in Kakuma are actively involved in small businesses.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
2. Refugee-run businesses contribute to local market vibrancy.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
3. I have been employed or contracted by a refugee business.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
4. Refugees provide labor that complements the local workforce.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
5. Refugee employment initiatives create opportunities for host residents.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 2: Job Competition

6. Refugees compete with locals for available jobs.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
7. The presence of refugees has reduced my chances of finding work.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

8. Employers prefer hiring refugees over host community members.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
9. Job competition between refugees and hosts leads to tension.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
10. Refugees have contributed to wage reductions in the area.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 3: Changes in Local Labor Market

11. Refugees have increased demand for labor in certain sectors.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
12. The refugee presence has diversified available jobs in Kakuma.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
13. Refugee participation in the economy has improved service availability.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
14. I have observed more casual labor opportunities since refugees arrived.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
15. The labor market has become more dynamic due to refugee activity.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

SECTION C: REFUGEES' ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Instructions: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking [✓] one option below each statement.

Indicator 1: Shared Educational Facilities

1. Refugees and host community children share the same schools.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
2. Refugee presence has led to overcrowded classrooms.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
3. Shared use of education facilities affects the learning environment.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
4. Host community students face competition for limited school resources.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
5. Refugee learners benefit from better educational support than host learners.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 2: Enrollment and Attendance Trends

6. Refugee enrollment in local schools has increased in recent years.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
7. Increased refugee enrollment has affected host students' access to education.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

8. Some host community children have dropped out due to classroom congestion.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
9. Refugee students receive scholarships or aid that is not available to host children.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
10. The presence of refugees in schools has encouraged some host children to attend regularly.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 3: Quality of Educational Resources

11. The student-to-teacher ratio has worsened due to refugee enrollment.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
12. Refugee presence has increased the shortage of textbooks and learning materials.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
13. Host community teachers are overburdened due to high student numbers.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
14. Host community schools lack adequate infrastructure to support the growing population.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
15. The quality of education for host children has declined due to shared resources.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

SECTION D: REFUGEES' ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Instructions: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking [✓] one option below each statement.

Indicator 1: Facility Congestion

1. Local health facilities serve both refugees and host community members.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
2. The refugee population has led to overcrowding in health facilities.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
3. Health workers are overstretched due to increased patient numbers.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
4. Host community members wait longer to receive treatment at shared facilities.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
5. Refugee influx has overwhelmed maternal and child health services.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 2: Service Access and Wait Time

6. I have experienced longer wait times at health centers due to refugee presence.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
7. Refugees receive quicker or more prioritized care at some clinics.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
8. Host residents sometimes avoid clinics due to congestion from refugee users.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
9. Community health outreach is less available to hosts than to refugees.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

10. Host and refugee patients are treated fairly at shared health facilities.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 3: Drug and Staff Availability

11. Essential drugs are frequently out of stock in shared clinics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

12. There are not enough qualified health staff to meet the needs of both populations.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

13. Refugee health programs receive more funding than host health services.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

14. The quality of care for host community members has declined due to pressure on resources.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

15. Staff shortages have affected emergency response in local health centers.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

SECTION E: REFUGEES' HOUSING AND SHELTER CONDITIONS

Instructions: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements by ticking [✓] one option below each statement.

Indicator 1: Land Use and Access

1. Refugee settlements have occupied land previously used by the host community.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

2. Host community members have lost access to grazing or farming land due to refugee shelters.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

3. Land-related disputes have increased between refugees and host communities.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
4. Refugee housing expansion has reduced the availability of community land.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
5. Government and NGO planning consider host land rights in shelter development.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 2: Water and Sanitation Pressure

6. Refugee settlements have increased pressure on local water resources.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
7. Access to clean water for the host community has declined due to refugee use.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
8. Sanitation facilities are insufficient for both host and refugee populations.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
9. Waste from refugee settlements affects the health and environment of the host community.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
10. Shared water points often lead to conflict or long queues.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Indicator 3: Environmental Impact

11. Construction of refugee shelters has led to deforestation in the area.
 Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

12. Environmental degradation has increased since the establishment of refugee settlements.
- Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
13. Firewood collection by refugees has depleted local tree cover.
- Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
14. Soil erosion has worsened due to expanding settlement areas.
- Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree
15. The environmental impacts of refugee shelters have reduced host community agricultural productivity.
- Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree



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APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Title: *Influence of Refugees' Socio-Economic Security on the Livelihoods of the Host Community in Kakuma, Turkana West Sub-County*

Instructions: This guide is intended for use with local leaders, administrators, NGO staff, and relevant stakeholders. Each question seeks to explore the respondent's insights and experiences related to the study objectives.

1. In your view, how have refugee-run businesses or employment initiatives influenced the economic activities of host community members?
2. Are there any observed tensions or concerns about competition for jobs between refugees and host community members? Please explain.
3. How has the presence of refugees changed the structure or availability of employment opportunities in the local labor market?
4. How has the sharing of schools and educational resources between refugees and host community children affected learning conditions?
5. Have refugee enrollments influenced host community children's access to or retention in school? Please elaborate.
6. What challenges have emerged in terms of education quality and resources due to the inclusion of refugee learners?
7. How has the use of health facilities by both refugees and host community members affected service delivery?
8. Are there any concerns from the host community regarding fairness, waiting times, or prioritization in healthcare access?
9. Have you observed any resource shortages (e.g., drugs or staff) linked to increased patient loads from refugee populations?
10. How has the development of refugee settlements affected access to land for grazing, farming, or community use?
11. What has been the impact of refugee settlements on shared water sources and sanitation infrastructure?
12. Can you describe any environmental changes—such as deforestation or soil degradation—associated with the expansion of refugee shelters?

APPENDIX IV: ETHICAL CLEARANCE.

Mount Kenya University
DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MIRD/2019/42703

9th August, 2024

National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)
Off Waiyaki, Upper Kabete
P.O Box 30623- 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA

Dear Sir/Madam,


RE: HUSSEIN IBRAHIM RAGE-REGISTRATION NO. MIRD/2019/42703

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing **Master of Arts in Internal Relations and Diplomacy** in the department of **Psychology, Languages and Humanities** in the **School of Social Sciences**.

The title of the research is **"The Influence of Refugees on Socio -Economic and Political Security of Host Community in Kakuma, Kenya."** It has been cleared by the University's Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data between **August, 2024 and October, 2024.**

Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.


Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, Ph.D.
Director, Graduate Studies
Enc.

Mount Kenya University
P.O. Box 342 - 01000, THIKA
Office of the Director,
Graduate Studies

Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika.

APPENDIX V: INTRODUCTORY LETTER



REF: MKU/ISERC/4111
TO: HUSSEIN IBRAHIM RAGE

Date: 07 August 2024

REG: MIRD/2019/42703

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: THE INFLUENCE OF REFUGEES ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SECURITY OF HOST COMMUNITY IN KAKUMA, KENYA

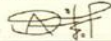
This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **2975**. The approval period is **07/08/2024 - 06/08/2025**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke> and also obtain other clearances needed.


Yours sincerely,




Dr. Alfred Owino, PhD
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC




APPENDIX VI: RESEARCH PERMIT


REPUBLIC OF KENYA


**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION.**

Ref No: 501787 Date of Issue: 15/September/2024

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Mr.. HUSSEIN IBRAHIM RAGE of Mount Kenya University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Turkana on the topic: THE INFLUENCE OF REFUGEES ON SOCIO-ECONO AND POLITICAL SECURITY ON HOST COMMUNITY IN KAKUMA, KENYA for the period ending : 15/September/2025.

License No: NACOSTI/P/24/39995

Mount Kenya

APPENDIX VII: COUNTY AUTHORIZATION LETTER



TURKANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Turkana County Government,
P.O Box 11-30500,
Lodwar, Kenya.
Email: Infor@turkana.go.ke
DATE: 10th October 2024.

*If calling or telephone ask for
Department of strategy
When replying please quote
Our Ref No TCG/RME/VOL.I (285)*

RE: HUSSEIN IBRAHIM RAGE REG. NO MIRD/2019/42703

It is my pleasure to introduce **Hussein Ibrahim Rage Reg. No MIRD/2019/42703** a student of Mt. Kenya University, Pursuing Masters in International Relations and Diplomacy. Therefore, as part of fulfillment of master's Degree he is conducting a study on **Social -Economic and Political Security of Refugees Influence on The Host Community in Kakuma, Kenya.**

The study will not cause any disadvantages to your institution. If you agree to participate in the study, you will be doing it so professionally and voluntarily and they will be no any monetary returns. Any benefits of the research will largely be to contribute knowledge and evidence in order to improve policy and practice in Turkana, Kenya. Kindly note that if you have any queries as far as ethical issues are concerned, do not hesitate to contact the office of Turkana governor.

Timothy Too
Deputy Director Strategy
Turkana County Government.

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a circular official stamp. The stamp contains some text, but it is mostly obscured by the signature and is difficult to read.

APPENDIX V111:TURNITIN REPORT

INFLUENCE OF REFUGEES' SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECURITY ON
THE LIVELIHOODS OF HOST COMMUNITY IN KAKUMA,
TURKANA WEST SUB-COUNTY, TURKANA COUNTY, KENYA

ORIGINALITY REPORT

12%	9%	5%	6%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

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18	Blaser, Caitlin. "Balancing Opportunity and Conflict: The Impact of a Refugee Influx on the Decentralisation Process", University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (South Africa), 2025 Publication	<1 %

APPENDIX IX: TURKANA COUNTY MAP

