

**DETERMINANTS OF REFUGEES' VULNERABILITY TO INSECURITY AT
BIDIBIDI SETTLEMENT CAMP IN NORTH WESTERN UGANDA**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTER'S DEGREE IN
SECURITY STUDIES AND CRIMINOLOGY OF
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

JULY 2025

DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

Declaration by Student

This research work is entirely original and has never before been presented for a degree award at any college or university.

Sign 


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Approval by Supervisor

I confirm that Martin Labeja worked under my direction to compile this dissertation and it is now ready for submission.

Sign 

Date: 8th - July 2025

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my late father ENLabeja Alara for the seed of education he planted in me.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I give God glory for making me to advance this far in my academic aspirations. To begin with, I acknowledge my supervisor Dr Gordon Ocholla for the commitment with which he is supervising this study. His dedication in supervising me has enabled to successfully reach this far. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone at the Mount Kenya University, Kampala Centre for their assistance and contributions to the completion of this research work. Their help made it possible for me to get the resources required for the preparation of this study. Further, I acknowledge my classmates whose support and encouragement has enabled to me to complete this research proposal.



ABSTRACT

This assessed the political and socio-economic factors affecting security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda. The objectives of this study are to explore political factors affecting security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda, to establish social factors affecting security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda, to find out economic factors affecting security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda, and to propose strategies for improving security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda. The study adopted the cross-sectional and phenomenological research designs on a sample of 382. The data was collected using a self-administered questionnaire and an interview guide. The data was analysed quantitatively using descriptive statistics and inferential analyses that are correlation and regression, and qualitatively through content analysis. The study found out that political, social and economic factors had a positive and significant influence on security of refugees. It was concluded that political factors are linked to refugees' security, social factors are connected to refugees' security, and the economic situation in the refugee camp has significant implications for security. It is recommended that governments of host countries, humanitarian agencies and leaders of refugees should make effort to minimize political issues that threaten refugee security, host governments, humanitarian leaders, and refugee leaders must work together to address the social factors connected to refugees' security, and host governments, humanitarian leaders, and refugee leaders must prioritize economic development in refugee camps to mitigate conflicts over resources and protect vulnerable groups like women.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| EU: | European Union |
| LC: | Local Governance |
| OAU: | Organisation of African Unity |
| OC: | Police Officer in Charge |
| OPM: | Office of the Prime Minister |
| RWCs: | Refugee Welfare Councils |
| UN: | United Nations |
| UNHCR: | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| RA: | Resettlement Administration |
| CBA: | Community Based Approach |
| AOR: | Area of Responsibility |
| CAP: | Consolidated Appeal Process |
| CPJ: | Committee of the Protection of Journalists |
| CO: | Commanding Officer |
| CNN: | Cable News Network |
| CPR: | Conflict prevention and post conflict reconstruction |
| DPK: | Department of Peacekeeping Operation (United Nation) |
| DDR: | Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration |
| DHRM: | Division of Human Resource Management |
| DRRM: | Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Services (UNHCR) |
| ERF: | European Refugee Fund |
| EW: | Early Warning |
| FAO: | Food and Agricultural Organisation |
| FDP: | Formerly Deported Person |
| EVAC: | Evacuation |

| | |
|-------|--|
| HE: | Humanitarian Evacuation |
| RSD: | Refugee Status Determination |
| IOM: | International Organization of Migrant ration |
| SPO: | Peace Support Operation |
| OIC: | Organization of Islamic Organization |
| RBM: | Result Based Management |
| SPCP: | Strengthening Protection Capacity Project |
| PIP: | Protection Induction Programme |
| ROE: | Rule of Engagement |
| ICC: | International Criminal Court |
| ICRC: | International Committee of Red Cross |



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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The major factor that drives refugees to flee is fear of attack leading to harm (Collinson, Darcy, Waddell & Schmidt, 2009). As refugees escape from their countries, they encounter many threats such as gun shots and using of dangerous boats. Even in the camps where they settle, much of the time fears continue to dog them threatening their lives and dignity (Otieno, 2010). Refugees are frequently the first casualties of terrorism and absence of security (Murillo, 2009). Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that physical safety of refugees is guaranteed. Therefore, it is imperative to examine the factors that affect their safety. This study analysed the factors that affect their security looking at socio-economic factors.

Security is a legitimate interest of states because they are charged with the duty to protect all people under their jurisdiction that is whether they are locals or not. States have shown the will to comply with their commitments under international human rights law, particularly the international protection of refugees (Murillo, 2009). The international conventions emerged as a result of quagmire of the 1930s that led to high flow of refugees (Guild & Moreno-Lax, 2013). Since everyone has the right to ask for and receive protection from persecution, the organisation established to defend human rights published a decree on the liberties of refugees in 1948 (Kapferer, 2008). Janmyr (2018) claims that when States ratified the Concord respecting the Status of Refugees in 1951, they recognised the need for the merit of international protection for refugees by taking into account their security needs.

The significance of protecting the rights and making sure that refugees are safe is something that nations all around the world acknowledge. As an instance, according to international accords and national laws, such as the American Declaration of the Rights

and Duties of Man (1948) and the American Convention on Human Rights (1969), every person has the right to seek and obtain refuge in the event that they are subjected to persecution (Worster, 2014). Through the adoption of regional mechanisms for refugee protection that have been accepted by international bodies, Murillo (2009) underscores the fact that Latin American nations have defended the legitimate security interests of refugees. The San José Declaration on Refugees and Displaced Persons (1994), the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees (1984), and the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mexico to Strengthen International Protection of Refugees in Latin America (2004) are some of the important texts that fall under this category.

Across Europe, every single member state of the European Union has accepted the Refugee Convention. According to Kaunert and Léonard (2012), Article 78 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) stipulates that the common asylum policy of the European Union must adhere to specific treaties, including the Refugee Convention and any other applicable treaties. It is the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to report to the United Nations on the implementation of Article 35(2)(b) of the Refugee Convention. Additionally, the UNHCR is responsible for providing assistance to EU institutions and Member States in order to guarantee that they meet their international legal commitments (Deschamp, 2008). Guild and Moreno-Lax (2013) state that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides specific suggestions, legal opinions, and other contributions to the development of legislation and policy in the European Union (EU) in order to guarantee conformity with international refugee law. Within the framework of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Bureau for Europe, which is headquartered in Brussels, plays a crucial role in providing advice on how the Refugee Convention should be applied.

More than 6.2 million people are considered to be refugees, with the majority of them residing in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is 29% of the total number of refugees worldwide. The nations of Ethiopia (736,100), Kenya (551,532), Chad (452,897), Uganda (1.4 million), and Cameroon (264,126) were the top five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of the number of refugees they were hosting in 2016. This information is cited by Addaney (2017) and Ahimbisibwe (2018). According to Lori and Boyle (2015), the Convention of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from 1969 is the most important instrument in this area that addresses the protection of refugee rights. The Convention of the Organization of American States (OAS) ensures that refugees are granted the right to freedom of movement, housing, work, education, and legal assistance. Additionally, it ensures that refugees are provided with identification papers and travel permits so that they may lead dignified lives.

Coming to Uganda, since the early 1960s, the nation has had a "open door policy" for refugees since, following the founding of the OAU, African nations made a commitment to aiding their neighbours who were fleeing colonial dominance, oppression, and exploitation. The OAU Refugee Convention of 1969 also influenced Uganda's approach to accepting refugees (Ahimbisibwe, 2015). However, the first experience with refugees involved 7000 Polish refugees escaping the Second World War in 1942 that were 4000 refugees settled at Kojja in the Mukono district and 3,000 at Nyabyeya in the current district of Masindi (Office of the Prime Minister [OPM], 2016). As a result of turbulence caused by several independence struggles, including those in bordering Kenya, Zaire, Sudan, and Rwanda, there were soon a large number of refugees (Ahimbisibwe, 2015). According to Ahimbisibwe (2019), by the end of 2016, Uganda hosted 940,800 and was the largest host nation for refugees in Africa and the fifth largest in the world. The number

of refugees reached over 1.4 million by January 2018. Most of them came from South Sudan's neighbours, including Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Nonetheless, all those involved in refugee protection including states, host populations and humanitarian organisations share security concerns. Maintaining the physical safety of refugees is an uphill task. Political, social, and economic issues are the main sources of threats to the physical security of refugees (Minuto Snr, 2018). Regarding political aspects, refugees may be readily influenced due to their precarious situation. In some cases, local politicians mobilise nationals against refugees over land in attempt to evict them and deny them free movement which causes insecurity (Ahimbisibwe, 2017). Additionally, militarization and other forms of deception used by armed organisations to recruit new members raise the possibility of conflict if the local populace holds refugees responsible for the armed groups' infiltration (Fisk, 2019). Conflicts also break out in the camps between various ethnic groups and clans. There is also the challenge of discrimination of minority groups and cultural intolerance among the refugees which cause insecurity. Influx of illicit arms from neighbouring countries and conflicts between citizens of the host community and refugees are fuelled by political power that cuts across areas. In the camps, disputes also arise between numerous refugee ethnic groups and clans (Kumssa et al., 2014).

Social factors also cause conflicts in refugee camps. Such issues social factors include tribalism, gender, and religious conflicts. Tribalism within the settlements between different ethnic leaving in them poses a challenge. In addition, due to the diversity of the refugee community, disputes with different refugee nationalities are a source of instability (Ahimbisibwe, 2017). There is also the issue of gender-based violence, which makes refugee camps unsecure. Because there aren't enough accommodations for

refugees, women aren't safe. Women are exposed to assault because they are forced to sleep outside in fields and parks as refugees, lack proper housing, and have no access to sanitary facilities. Further, migration to camps affects the power dynamics and gender roles inside families and couples, and in certain cases, it also increases domestic violence events or makes domestic and intra-family violence that already exists worse (Freedman, 2016). Religious issues also crop up and cause of insecurity in the camps between different groups or adherence to certain practices such as Muslim girls being charged with violating Islamic religion by dressing poorly and acting in certain ways (Kumssa et al., 2014).

Further, economic factors especially conflict of resources relate to insecurity in refugee settlements. For instance, Uncertainty about land boundaries and competition between refugees and host groups for land contribute to instability. Refugees struggle for the little resources, such as land, water, and other services, that are available. Competition results in hostilities, brawls, and murders that impact on the safety of refugees (Ahimbisibwe, 2017). Furthermore, domestic and international refugee policies that allow refugees who have self-established themselves to compete with locals for jobs are harmful. These self-settled refugees that integrate into their host society and local economy raise the possibility of inter-communal violence as a result of their presence (Fisk, 2019).

The study was carried out on Bidibidi Settlement Camp in Yumbe District in North Western Uganda. The Bidibidi settlement which covers 250 square kilometres with a quarter million people is the second largest refugee settlement in the world after the Rohingya camp in Bangladesh (Strochlic, 2019). The settlement is divided into five zones, each of which is further divided into clusters and individual settlements. The settlement's leadership follows the local governance (LC) model used in Uganda, which has local councils from higher levels of government to the lowest. The settlement

councils are known as Refugee Welfare Council (RWC). The councils run from the village council (RWC1) followed by RWC2 and at each zone there is a RWC3 (Boswell, 2018). At each of the levels, the RWC is headed by a chairperson. One of the biggest challenges is resolving disputes over resources like firewood between the host community and the refugee population. The everyday negotiations incite tensions, hostility, and feelings of insecurity. Refugees must negotiate daily access to the nearby area in order to collect biomass and firewood. A continual threat of attack, violence, and extortion exists. In the settlement, there are cases of insecurity caused by some refugees and interpersonal conflict which also threaten security. In June 2018 there was an armed confrontation between different refugee groups (Dawa, 2019). The above contextual evidence shows that there are insecurity challenges in Bidibidi settlement. However, there is lack of empirical evidence as to what factors relate to security in the refugee camp. Therefore, this study examined factors that affect the security of refugees looking at socio-economic factors.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Security is crucial for the welfare of refugees since it enables them to become independent rather than assuming an on-going need for care and upkeep, they are likely to get involved in development opportunities such as education, skills development trade, and agriculture (Ahimbisibwe, 2019). Still, safe camps make it simpler for refugees to return to their motherlands once peace has been established (Addaney, 2017). Recognising the importance of security for refugees, in conjunction with UNHCR, Uganda and its partners made efforts to promote security for refugees. For instance, councils (Refuge Welfare Council [RWC]) for refugees were created, refugees had greater freedom of movement and access to work (Hovil, 2018) and they enjoyed police protection in the camps (UNHCR, 2020). Despite this effort, insecurity in the refugee camp remained a challenge. There were frequent incidents of violence, assault, and

extortion between refugees and members of the host communities. There were also cases of insecurity caused by some refugees and interpersonal conflicts and armed confrontation between different refugee groups (Dawa, 2019).

The most likely sources of conflict were political and socio-economic factors. For instance, local politicians mobilise nationals against refugees over resources (Ahimbisibwe, 2017), there was militarisation of refugee settlements for recruits leading to armed groups' infiltration (Fisk, 2019) and ethnic, tribal and clan conflicts might result in insecurity (Kumssa et al., 2014). Power, gender relations (Freedman, 2016) and religious issues might also exacerbate insecurity (Kumssa et al., 2014). Also, conflict, violence, and murder are caused by competition for scarce resources like land, water, and other services, which compromises the safety of refugees (Ahimbisibwe, 2017). If this situation of refugee insecurity remained, the reputation of Uganda as a model country in the treatment of refugees would be undermined. Therefore, to address the problem of refugee security, this study seeks to empirically explore factors which underpin the problem by looking at socio-economic factors to suggest solutions.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study investigated the determinants of refugees' vulnerability to insecurity at Bidibidi Settlement Camp in north western Uganda.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study's objectives were to;

- i. To establish whether political factors have a significant influence on security of refugees in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda.
- ii. To find out whether social factors have a significant influence on security of refugees in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda.
- iii. To determine whether economic factors have a significant influence on security of refugees in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What political factors affect security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda?
- ii. What social factors affect security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda?
- iii. What economic factors affect security in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda?

1.6 Research Hypotheses

The study tested the hypotheses to the effect that;

- i. Political factors have a significant influence on security of refugees.
- ii. Social factors have a significant influence on security of refugees.
- iii. Economic factors have a significant influence on security of refugees.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This section covers three aspects that are the geographical, content and period scope as follows

1.7.1 Geographical Scope.

Bidibidi Settlement Camp Yumbe District in North Western Uganda. Yumbe is located approximately 75 kilometres north of Arua, the only City in the sub-region. Bidibidi which spans from the South Sudanese border to Moyo District along the western bank of the Kochi River has a total area of 250 square kilometres. It is the second-largest refugee camp in the world, housing more over 280,000 refugees. Therefore, it will provide a good geographical scope on the study problem.

1.7.2 Content Scope.

The content covered included political and socio-economic factors in relation to security in refugee camps. Political factors were considered in terms of local politics, communal conflicts, rebel movements, xenophobia and limited government presence. Social factors

were studied in terms of cultural, ethnic, language, crime and moral deviance. The analysis for economic factors will consider income, employment, natural resources and investment capital access. Security was studied in terms of personal security that is freedom of speech and expression, and from fear. The study looked at strategies for improving security in terms of mainstreaming, community-based approach, protection partnerships, and rights-based approach.

1.7.3 Time Scope.

May to June 2023 was the time this study covered. This is so due to the fact that the study was cross-sectional collecting data about what was taking place at the time in relation to the study problem.

1.8 Significance of the Study

Security is important as far as human existence is concerned. Therefore, the study's findings will be crucial for decision-makers, donor organisations, and the communities that host refugees and refugees as follows:

To policy makers such as executive, parliament and boards of companies, the findings of the study are hoped to reveal important issues with respect to promoting security of refugees is concerned. Therefore, policy makers might use the findings of the study as benchmarks for making policies that enhancing of security of refugees.

To donor agencies involved in supporting refugees, the study reveals the factors that affect security of refugees. Therefore, these agencies will focus in addressing those factors in order to promote security of refugees.

To refugees the study reveals factors affecting their security. This will provide with information on how to promote their own security by adopting the security promotion practices suggested by the study.

To the host communities, the study highlights factors relating to security of refugees. This will create awareness in the host communities on how to deal with refugees in order to ensure their security.

The study adds new knowledge about socioeconomic determinants and refugee security to the body of knowledge. A framework as model of the study on how to promote security of refugees has been developed. This might provoke further researcher on socio-economic factors and security of refugees.



1.9 Operational Definition of Key Terms

Economic factors: Economic factors refer to income, employment, natural resources and investment capital access.

Political factors: These refer to local politics, communal conflicts, rebel movements, xenophobia and limited government presence

Security: Security refers to personal security in terms of speech and expression, freedom from fear.

Social factors: These denote cultural, ethnic, language, lawfulness and moral matters in community.

Socio-economic factors: Socio-economic factors refer to social and economic factors of an individual.



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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The literature review examines both the theory and related literature. The literature review is organised according to the order of the study objectives. The presentation of literature is at three levels that are conceptual, theoretical and empirical. The presentation of empirical literature leads to identifying of the gaps that justify the need for this study.

2.1 Theoretical Review

The Human Security Theory, which was initially presented in the UNDP Human Development Report in 1994, will serve as the study's guiding principle (Tanaka, 2019). According to the idea of "human security," the safety of human lives should be the main goal of both domestic and foreign security strategies. The primary goal of security policy or the referent object is human life, which is the main idea (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012). The Human Security Theory states that human security is defence against long-term threats like poverty, disease, and tyranny. The theory states that human security also includes protection against sudden and damaging changes in daily routines (Baysoy, 2018). The core idea behind the Human Security Theory is that people are the primary referent object of security and that governments are unable to provide their requirements. According to the Human Security Theory, national security should not come before the security of the people. People must be free from both desire and fear, according to the Human Security Theory (Trobbiani, 2013).

The theory holds that in order to achieve people's freedom from desire and freedom from fear, empowerment and protection are required. By using protection, people are shielded from risks. Making organisations, policies, and norms that carefully handle anxieties therefore requires a dedicated effort. When given the right tools, people can fulfil their

potential and actively engage in the decision-making process. Since they complement one another, empowerment and protection are typically both required (Baysoy, 2018). According to Fukuda-Parr and Messineo (2012), Seven crucial aspects of human security are identified by the Human Security Theory: First, financial stability, which can be attained by employment, access to public resources and the environment, or dependable social safety nets. The second is food security that is the physical and financial availability to basic foods. The third concern is health security, which includes having access to private healthcare and preventative public health measures. Fourth, there is environmental security that is protection from natural disasters and resource shortages caused on by environmental deterioration. The fifth category is personal security, which covers physical defence against armed conflict, human rights abuses, domestic violence, criminal activity, child abuse, and self-inflicted harm such drug abuse. The sixth is community security, which includes defence against prejudiced regional practices and interethnic violence. Political security also refers to the lack of official oppression and human rights breaches (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012). According to the Human Security Theory, there are seven aspects that have an impact on human security: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, local, and political security. These factors can generally be categorised as political (community and political security), social (personal security), economic factors (economic, food security, health, and environmental). Therefore, this study done in a refugee settlement in Uganda investigated how these factors related to security.

2.2 Review of Related Literature

Related literature review covers for sections with section one on political factors and refugee security, section two on social factors and refuge security, section three on economic factors and refuge security, and section four on improving security. This is as follows:

2.2.1 Political Factors Affecting Security in Refugee Camps

There are different scholars that investigated political factors affecting security in refugee camps. For instance, Ahimbisibwe (2017) investigated the challenges of the physical insecurity of Rwandan refugees in the South Western Ugandan camps of Nakivale and Oruchinga. Analysis revealed that local politics caused insecurity for refugees. This is because local politicians mobilise nationals against refugees over land. Local politicians mobilise local to evict refugees and deny them free movement which causes insecurity. Local politicians also engaged army personnel who threatened to kill and arrest migrants. Fisk (2019) highlighted implications for national and global refugee policies in a study that used data from Sub-Saharan Africa. The results indicated that communal strife was more common in areas where camps had been established to house refugees. The rates of communal conflict at the subnational level were much higher in the regions hosting camps generally as well as those hosting more refugees residing in camps. Communal conflicts are local disputes involving identity-based communities, such as ethnic, regional, religious, or livelihood groupings. In many cases, these conflicts "emerge over territorial disputes, local power disparities, resource access, and historical disagreements." Armed groups' militarization and other forms of manipulation in search of potential recruits and other refugee resources increase the risk of inter-communal conflict if the local population holds refugees accountable for the infiltration.

Using the Dadaab refugee camp in Garissa County in the North-Eastern part of Kenya, Kumssa, Williams, Jones, and Des Marais (2014) attempted to identify the human security concerns facing the refugees and explored the causes driving conflict between the members of the host community and the refugees. According to the survey, there was an influx of illegal weapons from nearby countries and refugees reported feeling uneasy around the national authorities. Conflict between refugees and locals in host communities is fuelled by political power that cuts across borders. In the camps, disputes also break

out between various tribes and ethnic groupings. Minority groups face discrimination, and the refugees faced the issue of cultural intolerance. Loescher and Milner conducted a study on the consequences of prolonged refugee situations on security in 2005. According to the investigation, insurgent movements and transnational terrorism occasionally flourish in refugee camps. As a result, extremist organizations frequently use the presence of refugees as a pretext to carry out operations that destabilize not just the host countries but also entire regions.

One major political factor influencing security in refugee camps is local politics, particularly in cases where local authorities view refugees as a threat to the distribution of resources, such as land. Ahimbisibwe (2017) examined the physical insecurity faced by Rwandan refugees in Nakivale and Oruchinga camps in Uganda. The study revealed that local political actors often played a role in exacerbating insecurity by mobilizing locals against refugees. This mobilization, driven by competition for land and resources, has led to cases where local politicians encourage the eviction of refugees and restrict their freedom of movement. As a result, refugees have experienced heightened insecurity due to threats from local politicians and their associates, including military personnel who have been involved in the persecution of refugees (Ahimbisibwe, 2017).

Moreover, national politics also plays a crucial role in determining the security conditions within refugee camps. In some cases, refugee populations are used as political pawns in broader national conflicts. Governments may view refugees as a destabilizing force, particularly if their presence is perceived as politically sensitive or if the refugees are affiliated with opposition movements in the refugees' countries of origin. This politicization of refugee populations can lead to restrictions on their movement, limited access to basic services, and increased military surveillance within the camps (Fisk, 2019). For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa, various governments have used national

refugee policies to limit refugee rights, leading to security issues within camps. Fisk's study also highlighted the need for both national and global policies that adequately address the security concerns of refugees, as poor policy frameworks can leave camps vulnerable to violence, both internally and from external actors (Fisk, 2019).

In addition to local and national political factors, international relations also have an impact on refugee camp security. Refugee camps often exist as a result of international political agreements and are managed by international organizations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). However, the security and resources allocated to these camps can be influenced by the political relations between host countries and donor countries. For instance, a lack of international support or strained relations between host countries and donor nations may result in inadequate funding and resources for refugee camps, leading to deteriorating security conditions (Milner & Loescher, 2020).

Finally, the political instability in the refugees' countries of origin also indirectly affects the security of camps. If the country of origin experiences ongoing conflict, the chances of militarized groups infiltrating refugee camps increase, posing a threat to both refugees and the host country (Jacobsen, 2019). In some cases, rebel groups use refugee camps as recruiting grounds, further destabilizing the camp's security environment.

O'Driscoll (2017) claims that rather than seeing migrants as victims of insecurity, there is an increase in xenophobia toward them. Refugees are mistreated and intimidated by government officials in the camps. Raleigh (2010) conducted research on violence, climate change, and political marginalization in the Sahel states of Africa. The study revealed that one of the security challenges of refugees is communal conflict. Accordingly, those who lived in regions with little government engagement used community conflict as a tool to control access to vital resources for their livelihood, such land and water, and

to amass money. Additionally, the documented distance in kilometres between the capital region and other regions causes inter-communal conflict since locations farther from the government's headquarters in the capital lack territorial control or state capacity.

2.2.2 Social Affecting Security in Refugee Camps

The ways in which social dynamics influence the safety of refugee camps have been researched by a large number of scholars. In the course of his investigation on the issue of physical insecurity that Rwandan refugees are confronted with in the South Western Ugandan settlements of Nakivale and Oruchinga, for example, Ahimbisibwe (2017) came to a number of findings. The study states that there were disagreements between Hutu and Tutsi refugees from Rwanda in the Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements in Uganda due to tribalism. The Hutu refugees suspected the Tutsi refugees of being spies for the Rwandan government. The Tutsi refugees were also suspected of being ethnically discriminated against. It was brought to the attention of the refugees that Rwanda was actively monitoring all of their travels and activities via the representation of the Tutsi refugees. Disputes with other refugee countries were another cause of instability. A diverse population of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Eritrea contributed to the variety of the refugee community. Since the Congolese Tutsi refugees (Banyamulenge) from the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo were of the Tutsi ethnicity, the Rwandan government believed that they were working as spies for Rwanda. This was owing to the fact that the Tutsi, who controlled the government of Rwanda, had the same racial background as the Congolese refugees who had fled the country. It is also important to note that the presence of former soldiers, rebels, criminals, and refugees who have experienced trauma among the refugee populations added to the atmosphere of violence and strife.

One of the primary social factors influencing security in refugee camps is ethnic tension and tribalism. In his study of Rwandan refugees in the Nakivale and Oruchinga

settlements in Uganda, Ahimbisibwe (2017) uncovered significant tribal tensions between Hutu and Tutsi refugees. The long-standing conflict between these two ethnic groups in Rwanda was reflected in the refugee camps, where Hutu refugees suspected Tutsi refugees of spying for the Rwandan government. The Hutu refugees feared that the Tutsi refugees were providing intelligence about their activities to the Rwandan government, leading to heightened mistrust and tension. Furthermore, Tutsi refugees in the camps reported facing ethnic discrimination from their fellow refugees. This environment of suspicion and ethnic division contributed to insecurity within the camps, as tribal allegiances deepened mistrust and, at times, led to violence (Ahimbisibwe, 2017).

Ethnic tensions were not limited to Rwandan refugees alone. The presence of refugees from multiple countries with varying ethnic backgrounds also contributed to social instability. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Eritrea coexisted in the same camps. This diversity often led to friction between different groups. For instance, Congolese Tutsi refugees, also known as Banyamulenge, were viewed with suspicion by both Rwandan refugees and other refugee groups in the camp. Because the Tutsi government controlled Rwanda, many believed that Congolese Tutsi refugees were acting as agents or spies for the Rwandan government, exacerbating tensions between these groups. These suspicions led to conflicts that undermined the safety and security of the camps (Ahimbisibwe, 2017).

The presence of former soldiers, rebels, and criminals among the refugee populations further complicated the security situation in the camps. Many refugees had experienced severe trauma, either from the wars and conflicts in their home countries or during their journey to the camps. These individuals, having experienced violence or been involved

in armed conflict, sometimes brought these violent tendencies into the refugee camps. Former soldiers and rebels, in particular, were often well-versed in the use of weapons and could resort to violence as a means of resolving disputes. Criminal elements within the refugee population also engaged in activities such as theft, smuggling, and illegal trade, further destabilizing the camps (Loescher & Milner, 2019). The combination of traumatized individuals and the presence of former combatants led to an atmosphere of insecurity, where violent incidents were not uncommon.

Another social factor affecting security in refugee camps is the role of gender and gender-based violence (GBV). Refugee camps are often places where women and girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation. According to a study by Horn (2019), refugee women are at high risk of rape, forced marriage, and other forms of sexual violence. These acts of violence can be perpetrated by fellow refugees, members of the host community, or even camp staff. In many cases, social norms within the camps prevent women from reporting such incidents, leading to underreporting and a lack of accountability for perpetrators. This culture of silence further erodes security in the camps, as women and girls live in constant fear of being victimized (Horn, 2019).

The breakdown of traditional social structures in refugee camps also contributes to insecurity. When individuals and families flee their home countries, they often leave behind the social networks and support systems that once provided them with stability and protection. In the camps, these traditional social structures may be replaced by informal power dynamics that are often based on ethnicity, age, or gender. These informal structures can contribute to insecurity, as they may involve the dominance of one group over another, leading to exploitation, violence, and discrimination. For instance, older men or former soldiers may exert power over younger refugees, leading to the marginalization of certain groups (Schmidt, 2020). This dynamic is exacerbated by the

fact that many refugees feel powerless and are unable to assert their rights or protect themselves from exploitation.

Furthermore, social isolation and the lack of integration with the host community can increase insecurity within refugee camps. Refugees who are socially isolated from the host community often feel excluded and marginalized. This can lead to feelings of hopelessness, frustration, and resentment, which can manifest in violent behavior. Social isolation also prevents refugees from accessing important resources and opportunities that could improve their situation, such as education, employment, and healthcare. Without these opportunities, refugees may turn to criminal activities or be more easily recruited by armed groups or criminal networks (Jacobsen, 2019).

Additionally, social hierarchies and power struggles among refugees can lead to further insecurity. Within refugee camps, certain groups may attempt to establish dominance over others, leading to conflicts and violence. These power struggles may be based on factors such as ethnicity, nationality, religion, or even pre-existing social statuses from the refugees' home countries. In some cases, former elites or leaders from refugee communities attempt to reassert their authority in the camps, leading to tensions with other refugees who may resist such efforts (Milner & Loescher, 2020). These internal conflicts can undermine the overall security of the camps, making it difficult for camp authorities to maintain order and protect vulnerable populations.

In conclusion, social factors play a critical role in affecting security within refugee camps. Ethnic tensions, gender-based violence, the presence of former soldiers and criminals, the breakdown of traditional social structures, and social isolation all contribute to an environment of insecurity. Refugee camps are not homogenous spaces; they are filled with individuals from diverse backgrounds who have experienced varying degrees of trauma and violence. These social dynamics, combined with the pressures of

life in a refugee camp, often lead to conflicts and instability. Effective measures to address these social factors, such as improving social cohesion, providing psychosocial support, and addressing gender-based violence, are essential to ensuring the safety and security of refugees.

In order to investigate the various forms of tribalism that are present among the refugee population, as well as the sexual and gender-based violence that is experienced by women refugees, Freedman (2016) utilized data that was collected on refugees in Greece (Kos), Serbia (Belgrade), and France (the Paris and Calais area) between June 2015 and January 2016. As a consequence of gender-based violence, the data demonstrated that refugee camps are experiencing a state of perceived insecurity. There is a shortage of available housing for refugees, which increases the risk of violence against women. Women are more susceptible to being assaulted since they are forced to sleep outside in fields and parks on a regular basis as refugees, they do not have access to proper shelter, and they do not have access to hygienic facilities. In addition, relocating to a camp may cause a shift in the power dynamics and gender dynamics within families and relationships. This shift can sometimes result in an increase in instances of domestic violence or an intensification of domestic and intra-family violence that was already there.

Kumssa et al. (2014) conducted a study on the Dadaab refugee camp, which is located in the county of Garissa in the north-eastern region of Kenya. They found that criminal gangs inside the camps were responsible for the increase in insecurity and violence against women. Religious tensions are a contributing factor in the security situation in the camps. For instance, the ladies and girls were regularly stoned when they went to the marketplaces because they were suspected of behaving in an unacceptable manner and dressing in a manner that was not in line with Islamic culture. Moser and Rodgers (2005) conducted an essential review in which they evaluated change, violence, and insecurity

in areas that were not affected by war. According to the findings of the review, the levels of violence increased as the forms of households changed. The social structures of homes were transformed as a consequence of migration, which also contributed to and resulted in violence. Additionally, the share of households headed by women grew under a variation of situations. Alterations to the patterns of residency have an effect on the relationships between partners, with the stress of separation typically increasing the level of conflict in marriages. Moving homes is associated with an increase in the incidence of violence among children, and research has shown that girls, in particular, are more likely to be victims of both mental and physical abuse.

2.2.3 Economic Factors affecting security in Refugee Camps

Economic factors play a significant role in influencing security in refugee camps. Refugees often settle in areas where resources such as land, water, and services are limited, and competition for these scarce resources can lead to conflict, instability, and violence. Various scholars have explored how economic dynamics, including competition over resources, employment opportunities, and access to aid, affect the security and well-being of refugees in camps. The scarcity of resources, coupled with strained relationships between host communities and refugees, further exacerbates tensions in these already fragile environments.

One of the primary economic factors affecting security in refugee camps is competition over land. Land disputes are common in refugee-hosting areas, where refugees may settle on land already claimed by host communities or where land ownership is poorly defined. Ahimbisibwe (2013) conducted a study in Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Settlement, highlighting the impact of land disputes between refugees and host communities. According to the study, competition over land, combined with ambiguous land boundaries, was a primary cause of conflict. Refugees, who often lack legal land ownership or rights, may be perceived as encroaching on the host community's

resources, leading to tensions and insecurity. In Nakivale, the unresolved land disputes contributed to a climate of hostility between refugees and locals, creating an environment in which violence could easily escalate (Ahimbisibwe, 2013).

These land disputes are not only limited to conflicts between refugees and host communities but also occur among different refugee groups. In a subsequent study, Ahimbisibwe (2017) found that land-related conflicts between Rwandan Hutu and Tutsi refugees in the Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements were prevalent. The competition over land, combined with historical ethnic tensions between these groups, led to clashes. Hutu refugees accused Tutsi herdsmen of deliberately allowing their livestock to graze on Hutu farms, destroying crops and exacerbating tensions. These disputes over land use and access to resources fueled violence and conflict within the refugee camps, compromising the overall security of refugees (Ahimbisibwe, 2017).

In addition to land disputes, the scarcity of other vital resources, such as water, food, and services, further exacerbates insecurity in refugee camps. Refugee populations, particularly in regions with limited natural resources, often find themselves in competition with each other and with host communities for access to these basic necessities. In many cases, host communities may view refugees as a burden on local resources, leading to resentment and hostility. The competition for resources can lead to violent altercations, as refugees, already living in precarious conditions, struggle to secure what little is available. This competition can manifest in conflicts over water sources, access to food distribution, and the use of local infrastructure, all of which undermine the security and stability of refugee camps (Martin & Tashjian, 2020).

Another critical economic factor affecting security in refugee camps is access to employment and income-generating opportunities. Refugees, often restricted from formal employment in host countries, are forced to rely on informal or precarious work

to survive. This lack of economic opportunity can lead to frustration, desperation, and, ultimately, crime and violence. The limited availability of jobs within refugee camps and host communities creates intense competition for any available work, which can lead to exploitation and conflict. Refugees who are unable to find work may turn to illegal or dangerous activities, such as smuggling or engaging in illicit trade, further destabilizing the camp environment (Jacobsen, 2019). The lack of economic opportunities not only affects the financial well-being of refugees but also has direct implications for the security of the camps, as individuals resort to violence or criminal activity to survive.

Moreover, the economic relationship between refugees and host communities can also influence security. Host communities may perceive refugees as competitors for jobs, driving wages down and increasing unemployment among local populations. This economic competition can lead to resentment and, in some cases, xenophobic violence. Refugees may be seen as an economic burden, particularly in situations where humanitarian aid and resources are limited or inequitably distributed. In some instances, aid directed toward refugees may lead to tensions with host communities, who feel that their own needs are being neglected in favor of the refugees (Loescher & Milner, 2019). These economic tensions between refugees and host communities contribute to the overall insecurity in refugee-hosting areas.

The distribution of aid and services within refugee camps also plays a significant role in shaping the economic environment and influencing security. Inequitable distribution of aid, whether due to corruption, favoritism, or logistical challenges, can create divisions and tensions within the refugee population. Refugees who feel that they are being unfairly denied access to food, shelter, or healthcare may resort to violence to secure their share of resources. Additionally, aid distribution can create power imbalances within the camps, as certain groups or individuals may control access to resources and use this

power to exploit others. This dynamic can lead to the formation of informal hierarchies within the camp, further contributing to insecurity and violence (Martin & Tashjian, 2020).

Another aspect of economic insecurity in refugee camps is the vulnerability of refugees to exploitation. Refugees, particularly those without legal documentation or the right to work, are often exploited by local employers or camp authorities. They may be forced to work for very low wages or under dangerous conditions, with little recourse to legal protection. This exploitation can lead to a cycle of poverty and desperation, which, in turn, fuels violence and crime within the camp. Refugees who feel trapped in a cycle of exploitation may engage in criminal activities or join armed groups as a way of escaping their economic plight (Jacobsen, 2019). This dynamic not only undermines the security of the camp but also creates long-term challenges for the integration and rehabilitation of refugees.

Economic inequality within refugee camps is another factor that influences security. Even within the refugee population, there are often disparities in access to resources, employment, and aid. Some refugees, particularly those with connections to camp authorities or local elites, may be able to secure better living conditions, jobs, or services. These disparities can create resentment and jealousy among other refugees, leading to tensions and conflict. Economic inequality within the camp can also lead to the formation of informal power structures, where those with access to resources exert control over others. This can result in exploitation, violence, and insecurity, as marginalized refugees struggle to assert their rights and access the resources they need to survive (Schmidt, 2020).

In a study in Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Ahimbisibwe (2013) evaluated the impact of land disputes between refugees and host communities. According to the report,

among other issues, competition for land between refugees and host groups, as well as ambiguous land boundaries were to blame for the land conflicts that had led to insecurity in the Nakivale community. While investigating the issue of physical insecurity faced by Rwandan refugees in Uganda, Ahimbisibwe (2017) found that there were clashes between Rwandan Tutsi and Hutu in Nakivale and Oruchinga areas. This was due to land disputes, as Hutu Rwandan refugees claimed that Tutsi herdsmen purposely allowed livestock to destroy their crops. Inevitably, there was competition among the refugees for the scarce resources like land, water, and other services. Conflict, violence, and murder were caused by the rivalry, which compromised the safety of refugees. Between refugees from Rwanda and the Congo, there were major land disputes.

In a study on the effects on national and international refugee policy in Sub-Saharan Africa, Fisk (2019) established that settlements can be harmful to hosts since it puts refugees in direct competition with locals for jobs. In addition, self-settled refugees that integrate with local communities may further increase conflicts because of conflicts over opportunities. Kumssa et al. (2014) in study on the Dadaab refugee camp in Garissa County in the North-eastern region of Kenya found out that the study revealed that the tents refugees lived were tattered hence they exposed them to theft and other vices. Due to a lack of adequate shelter, the girls and women were at risk for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Additionally, the refugees frequently encountered intimidation from sources other than the host community. Conflicts emerging from competition over limited resources posed a security threat.

Further, Kumssa et al. (2014) reported that women and young girls were frequently at risk for SGBV when they walked great distances to obtain firewood. Locals asserted that refugees destroyed vegetation and cut down trees, harming their ecology. As a result, residents confronted refugees as they left the camp in search of firewood and other

supplies. The unequal allocation of humanitarian help to each group contributed to conflicts between locals and refugees in the host community. The issue was that the refugees got superior health care, free education, and a relatively good nutritional status. Mwaruvie and Kirui (2012) carried out a study on the insecurity in North-Eastern Kenya resulting from hosting of Somali refugees. The study revealed that refugees and the host community often conflicted over resources.

2.3 Research Gaps

The review above indicates that scholars had made effort to examine political and socio-economic factors affecting security in refugee camps. The literature shows that the political factors include local politics, communal conflicts, ethnicity, rebel movements, xenophobia and limited government presence. Social factors include tribalism, diversity of the refugee population, sexual and gender-based violence, criminal gangs in the camps and change in household structure, and economic factors competition for resources, jobs and lack of accommodation affected security in refugee camps. However, methodological and contextual gaps emerged. Methodological gaps that emerged were that some scholars carried out reviews (Loescher & Milner, 2005; O'Driscoll, 2017) not empirical. In addition, all the studies were qualitative limiting carrying out inference. Further, as the studies suggest, they were largely done outside Africa with only one study by Ahimbisibwe (2017) done in the local context. These methodological and contextual gaps made it imperative for this empirical study using a mixed research design to be carried out in the context of a refugee camp in Uganda.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

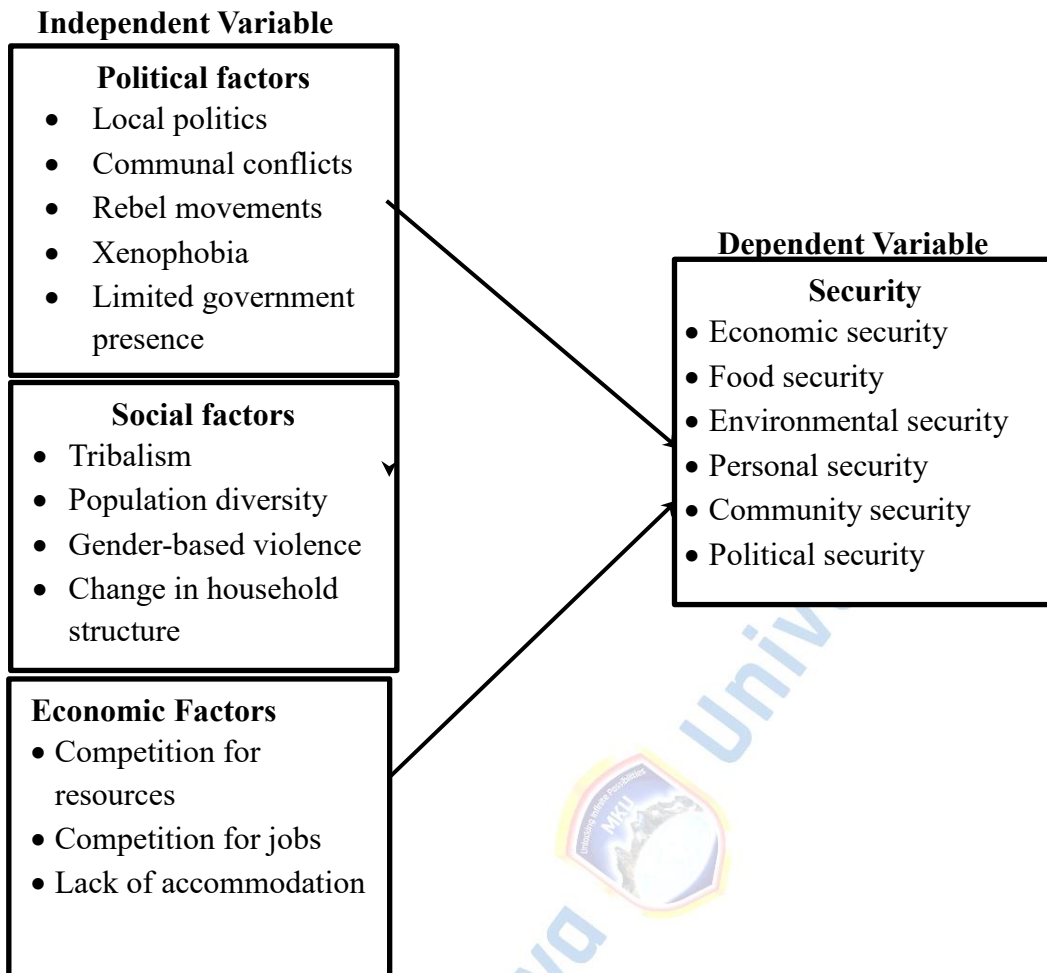


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework relating Political and Socio-Economic Factors to Security

Source: Developed on ideas adopted from Fukuda-Parr and Messineo (2012).

The conceptual framework, which can be seen in figure 2.1, demonstrates that political and socio-economic aspects are related to security in terms of economic security, food security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security. For example, the framework demonstrates that local politics, community disputes, rebel movements, xenophobia, and limited government presence are all examples of political elements. The presence of criminal gangs in the camps, changes in home structure, and tribalism are all examples of social issues. Other social elements include the variety of the refugee community and gender-based violence. Competition

for resources and employment, as well as a shortage of available housing, are examples of economic variables that have an impact on the safety of refugee camps.



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher outlines the procedures that were followed when gathering and interpreting the data. The study design, population, study region, sample size and selection, sampling techniques, data collection tools, data collection procedures, reliability and validity, data analysis, measurement of variables, and ethical considerations are all covered in this part.

3.2 Research Design

The study will use phenomenological and cross-sectional research designs. A study using a cross-sectional research design looks at how the entire population is doing in relation to the research problem (Mason, Sabariego, Thng & Weber, 2019). The cross sectional approach was employed since it makes it possible to collect pertinent data quickly and easily utilising a variety of techniques, including questionnaires, surveys, and interviews (Kesmodel, 2018). Using the phenomenological design, in particular descriptive or hermeneutical phenomenology, personal experiences of the respondents was described and interpreted to understand their experiences. The respondents were made to articulate their lived experiences (Jedličková, Müller, Halová & Cserge, 2022). This helped in providing findings for generalisation and comprehensive analysis.

3.3 Study Population

Refugees numbering 88,761 people that are 53,523 males and 35,238 females above the age of 18 years in Bidibidi Refugee Camp was form the population of the study (UNHCR, 2022). These have been selected because they are mature adults that can give informed consent to the researcher which is a necessary ethical requirement for data collection. Besides, the Police Officer in Charge (OC), Refugee Camp Commander, and four UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp. Therefore, the total population of the

study was 88,767. This population will provide data necessary quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

3.4 Sample Size

The people that made up the sample size that provided quantitative data were 382 refugees. This sample size has been reached at on the basis of the Table in Appendix A by Krejcie and Morgan (1970). From each category of the population, the sample size was determined using proportionate sampling. Table 1 reveals the sample size for quantitative data.

Table 1: Survey Population, Sample Size and Selection Technique

| Category | Population | Sample Size | Sampling Technique |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Male Refugees | 53,523 | 230 | Simple random |
| Female Refugees | 35,238 | 152 | Simple random |
| Total | 88,767 | 382 | |

3.5 Sampling Procedures

The sampling procedures that are namely, simple random and purposive was the basis for selecting the respondents. The first procedure involves reaching each individual providing data by chance (Oribhabor & Anyanwu, 2019). The random sample was obtained from sampling frame with names of refugees from different wards of the settlement. The use simple random sampling will enable reaching at findings that can be generalised. With respect to purposive sampling, it helped to choose specific people necessary for data required for explanations to quantitative data (Campbell et al., 2020). Purposive sampling will enable obtaining of data from a small number people who have can comprehensively provide data on the study problem and its determinants. Those selected using purposive sampling was the Police Officer in Charge (OC), Refugee Camp Commander, and four UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp.

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

3.6.1 Self-Administered questionnaire

The dominant method for collecting data was the questionnaire survey. The questionnaire survey involves directly questioning study participants about the issues under study. By this method, the study participants respond to key alternative study items identified by the researcher. This prevents the study participants from expressing their biases in the study beyond the limits of the study as conceptualised (Bell & Waters, 2018). The questionnaire survey based method was very suitable for it will enable collection of data quickly and cheaply.

3.6.2 Interview Guide

Interviewing is an inductive data collection tool aimed at collecting interpretive data necessary for providing explanations to the data collected on the study variables. Data collected using interviews is detailed and provides in-depth explanations (Vasileiou, Barnett, Thorpe & Young, 2018). In order to give interviewees the opportunity to be pressed for specific information about the research problem, unstructured interview questions was included in the interview guide. Three questions on the independent variables and one question about the dependent variable was included for each construct in the interview guide. Interview data was collected from selected from the Police Officer in Charge (OC), Refugee Camp Commander, and four UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp.

3.6.3 Focus Group Discussion Guide

This is a semi-structured tool for collecting data using a set of participants discussing issues introduced to them by the researcher (Gill & Baillie, 2018). Each discussion group will contain 10 people that the chairperson and nine executive committee members of the Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs). Since the refugee camp is divided in four zones, from

each zone one Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs). Therefore, there were four focus discussion groups.

3.7 Data Quality Control

3.7.1 Validity of the Instruments

In quality control, the concept of validity according to Halek, Holle, and Bartholomeyczik (2017), indicates the degree to which measurement scales or tools measure what is expected of them. The validity test's focus was on the questionnaire's content validity. This will ensure that the items for the independent and dependent variables are accurate representations of those in the conceptual framework (Figure 1.1). Supervisors will provide guidance on the suitability of the question items in the questionnaire and interview guide. Content validity index (CVI) was calculated using inter-judge. The index for determining valid items was calculated basing on the scale of relevant and irrelevant items identified by the judges. The evaluation outcomes of the judges were summed up to get the average. CVI was achieved at above 0.70 which is the minimum recommended level (Barati, Taheri-Kharamah, Farghadani & Rásky, 2019) using the formula:

$$CVI = n/N$$

Where: n = number of items rated as relevant

N= Total number of items in the instrument

The CVI for the questionnaire was valid at above 0.70 which is the minimum level in a survey (Shirali, Shekari & Angali, 2018). This ensured accuracy of the instrument leading to collection of valid data. The CVI results were as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Content Validity Indices

| Items | Number of Items | Content Validity Index |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Refuge Security | 12 | 0.782 |
| Political Factors | 9 | 0.841 |
| Social Factors | 12 | 0.881 |
| Economic Factors | 10 | 0.751 |

3.7.2 Reliability

The reliability for both the interview-guided questionnaire and the self-administered questionnaire was sought. The researcher will apply the credibility, dependability, and confirmability methods to the interview guide. In other words, credibility will guarantee that the research results accurately reflect the opinions of the interview subjects. According to Korstjens and Moser (2018), confirmability aims to show that data and interpretations of the findings are clearly taken from the data collected, whereas dependability ensures that the findings, interpretation, and recommendations are backed by the data obtained. For quantitative data, Cronbach's Alpha (α) calculated using SPSS will determine the consistency in and dependability of the questionnaire. The reliability coefficient, or Cronbach's Alpha, is used to demonstrate how strongly the instrument's items are positively associated with one another. The measures have a high degree of dependability if Cronbach's Alpha is close to 1. The optimum Cronbach's alpha value is 0.70 or higher (Souza, Alexandre, & Guirardello, 2017). This enabled the data to become reliable. The Cronbach's alpha results were as presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Cronbach's Alpha Results

| Items | Number of Items | Cronbach's Alpha |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Refuge Security | 12 | 0.832 |
| Political Factors | 9 | 0.821 |
| Social Factors | 12 | 0.805 |
| Economic Factors | 10 | 0.744 |

3.8 Procedure of Data Collection

Immediately after the successful defense and approval of the proposal, the researcher began the process of data gathering. For the purpose of data collection, authorization was sought from the Coordinator office of Mount Kenya University Uganda in the form of a letter that granted the researcher permission to visit the field in order to collect data. Following the presentation of the letter to the Refugee Camp Commandant, the researcher was allowed authorization to gather data after receiving the letter. Data collection will be carried out by the researcher with the assistance of Secretaries of Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs), who will serve in the capacity of research assistants. A broad aim of the research was described in depth in the preamble that was included with each questionnaire. On the other hand, the researcher personally gathered the data via interviews. The researcher made sure to videotape the interviewees while they were being interviewed herself.

3.9 Data Analysis

After the data that was obtained was loaded into the computer, it was cleaned up using SPSS (24.0), frequency tables were constructed to edit the data, the data was converted to generate indices, and any abnormalities in the data were checked for significance. The data were then subjected to analysis. In the process of analyzing quantitative data, the response rate was reported, descriptive analysis was performed, and inferential analysis

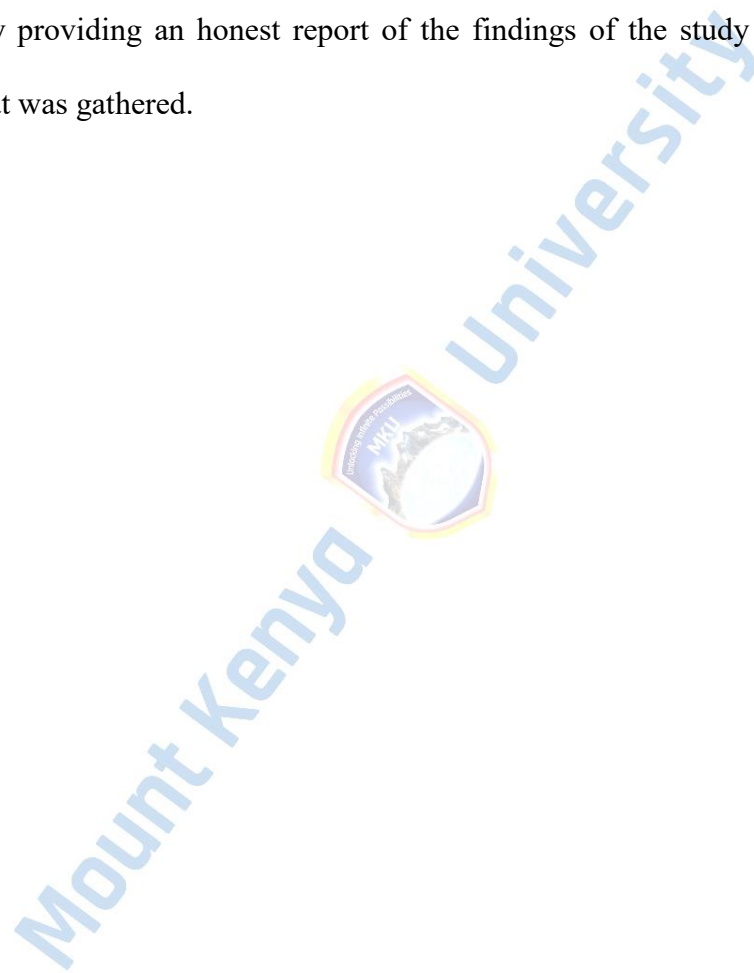
was performed in order to test hypotheses. Descriptive analysis was performed with the use of tables, which included the use of frequencies, percentages, and means. A first level of analysis was carried out in the form of a correlation analysis in order to determine the nature of the link that exists between the independent variable (seed quality assurance) and the dependent variable (food security). With the purpose of determining whether or not the independent variable has an effect on the dependent variable, a regression analysis was carried out. For the purpose of inferential analysis, correlation and regression analyses gave the necessary data.

Before the qualitative data that was obtained was analyzed, it was first organized and prepared, then read through, then coded, then described, then sorted into themes, and finally interpreted (Castleberry & Nolen, 2018 respectively). After then, the data that had been coded was organized according to the themes that had emerged. Presented in the form of tales, the material was centered on a theme and conveyed the thoughts of the respondents. In the subsequent step, the data was analyzed by means of content analysis, which included the interpretation of the results. There was an incorporation of interpretive or qualitative data with quantitative data in order to give explanations.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

By carrying out the research, ethical considerations will be taken into account. In the first place, informed consent was respected by making it a point to ensure that the people who participated in the research did so voluntarily and with full knowledge. This was accomplished by making certain that the respondents had a complete comprehension of the reasons for their participation in the research. Two, the researcher will take measures to ensure that the participants in the study do not reveal their identities. Under no circumstances will the characteristics of the study make it simple to recognize the individuals who will be providing the data at any point in time. Third, the confidentiality of the information has been maintained throughout the whole of the research process.

The fulfillment of this requirement was accomplished by ensuring that no information provided by the respondents was disclosed. The participants in the study will, in fact, provide data of their own free choice, selecting how much information to provide to the researcher and how much information to withhold from them within the parameters of their anonymity. In conclusion, the researcher will commit to maintaining honesty throughout the process of compiling the study. This objective will be accomplished by the research by providing an honest report of the findings of the study based on the information that was gathered.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter summarizes and explains the results of the research on the factors that determine the susceptibility of refugees to insecurity at the Bidibidi Settlement Camp, which is located in the northwestern region of Uganda. The aims of the research, which sought to evaluate the influence of political, social, and economic elements on the security of refugees, serve as a guiding principle for the investigation. In particular, this chapter offers a summary of the response rate, background information, and empirical data, which together give insights into the links between the aforementioned criteria and the susceptibility of refugees to insecurity. Through the examination of these characteristics, the research offers a comprehension of the difficulties that refugees are confronted with and contributes to the development of solutions that make refugees less susceptible to insecurity.

4.1 Response Rate

The researcher aimed to collect data from 388 participants, comprising 382 refugees for the questionnaire survey and six key informants for in-depth interviews, including the Police Officer in Charge (OC), Refugee Camp Commander, and four UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp. Although 348 questionnaire responses and all six interviews were successfully collected, data from 34 participants was excluded due to missing information. Consequently, the final response rate for the questionnaire survey was 91.1%, exceeding the threshold of 50% considered sufficient for humanity studies (Pielsticker & Hiebl, 2020). This high response rate lends credibility to the findings, ensuring a representative sample of the refugee population.

4.2 Background Characteristics

This section provides an overview of the background characteristics of the respondents who participated in the questionnaire survey. The detailed information on these background characteristics is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Respondents Background Characteristics

| Item | Categories | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Sex of the Respondents | Male | 192 | 55.2 |
| | Female | 156 | 44.8 |
| | Total | 348 | 100.0 |
| Age Groups | Up to 30 years | 146 | 42.0 |
| | 30-40 years | 103 | 29.6 |
| | 40-50 years | 78 | 22.4 |
| | 50 years and above | 21 | 6.0 |
| | Total | 348 | 100.0 |
| Highest levels of education attained | Informal | 73 | 21.0 |
| | Primary | 188 | 54.0 |
| | Secondary | 66 | 19.0 |
| | Post-Secondary Education | 21 | 6.0 |
| | Total | 348 | 100.0 |
| Number of years as a refugee | Less than 5 years | 138 | 39.7 |
| | 5 - 10 years | 111 | 31.9 |
| | 11 years and above | 99 | 28.4 |
| | Total | 348 | 100.0 |

The demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 4.1, which reveals a gender distribution of 55.2% males and 44.8% females, indicating a slightly higher representation of male refugees. However, the significant presence of females

ensures that the collected views are representative of both gender groups. In terms of age distribution, the majority (40.2%) of respondents fell within the 18-30 years age range, followed by 29.6% in the 31-39 years range, 22.4% in the 40-49 years range, and a smaller proportion (6.0%) of respondents aged 50 years and above. This age distribution suggests that most the refugees were of lower ages.

The educational background of the respondents, as shown in Table 4.1, reveals that the majority (54.0%) possess primary education, followed by 21.0% with informal education, 19.0% with secondary school education, and 6.0% with post-secondary education qualifications. This suggests that all respondents are qualified refugees, capable of providing reliable insights into the state of affairs in the refugee camps. The diverse educational backgrounds of the respondents ensure that the collected data represents a broad range of perspectives. Regarding their duration of stay in the refugee camps, the results indicate that 39.7% of respondents have lived in the camps for less than five years, 31.9% for five to 10 years, and 28.4% for 11 years or more. This implies that most respondents have been refugees for more than five years, making them competent sources of information on the study's research problem. Their prolonged stay in the camps enabled them to provide valuable and informed responses about their experiences and challenges.

4.3 Descriptive Analysis

This section presents descriptive results on the variables that are refugees' security, political, social and economic factors. The results are in terms of frequencies, percentages and means. The results follow for each variable.

4.3.1 Security of refugees

Security of refugees in this study is the dependent variable. Refugee security was studied using 12 questions. The results were as presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Descriptive Results for Security of Refugees

| Security of Refugees | SD | D | NS | A | SA | Mean |
|--|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| The security situation in the camp is good | 3 0.9% | 21 6.0% | 6 1.7 | 258 74.1% | 60 17.2% | 4.01 |
| The camp is free from violence incidents | 63 18.1% | 210 60.3% | 00 00 | 66 19.0% | 66 2.6% | 2.28 |
| There is rule of law in the camp | 35 10.1 | 120 34.5 | 00 | 121 34.8 | 72 20.7 | 3.22 |
| In the camp there is freedom of movement from one place to another | 24 6.9% | 45 12.9% | 00 00 | 228 65.5% | 51 14.7% | 3.68 |
| I feel safe entering and leaving the camp | 36 10.3% | 66 19.0% | 15 4.3% | 180 51.7% | 51 14.7% | 3.41 |
| In this refugee camp I feel safe all the time | 21 6.0% | 144 41.4% | 00 00 | 156 44.8% | 27 7.8% | 3.07 |
| I am free to carry out business activities | 12 3.4 | 54 15.5 | 39 11.2 | 147 42.2 | 96 27.6 | 3.75 |
| I easily access food without threats to my life | 36 10.3% | 48 13.8% | 00 00 | 213 61.2% | 51 14.7% | 3.56 |
| The environment in the camp enables health standards of living | 18 5.2% | 33 9.5% | 00 00 | 282 81.0% | 15 4.3% | 3.79 |
| Community members are safe from threats to life in the camp | 27 7.8% | 57 16.4% | 00 00 | 207 59.5% | 57 16.4% | 3.60 |
| I can freely participate in the political governance of the camp | 81 23.3% | 108 31.0% | 00 00 | 147 42.2% | 12 3.4% | 2.72 |
| In the camp there are no conflicts extending from our motherland | 48 13.8 | 93 26.7 | 00 00 | 177 50.9 | 30 8.6 | 3.14 |

The results in Table 5 indicate that the majority of respondents (91.3%) perceived the security situation in the camp as good, with only 6.9% disagreeing and 1.7% unsure. The high mean score of 4.01, closely aligned with the "agreed" category (code 4), further reinforces this positive assessment. However, when asked if the camp was free from violence incidents, the majority (78.4%) disagreed, while 21.6% agreed. The low mean score of 2.28 indicates that refugees generally believed the camp was not free from

violence incidents. Regarding the presence of rule of law in the camp, a slight majority (55.5%) of respondents agreed, while 44.6% disagreed. The average mean score of 3.22 suggests that, on balance, respondents believe there is a fair degree of rule of law in the camp.

In contrast to the above, a significant majority (80.2%) agreed that there is freedom of movement within the camp, with only 19.8% disagreeing. The high mean score of 3.68 reinforces this perception, indicating that respondents generally enjoy unrestricted movement within the camp. Regarding their sense of safety when entering and leaving the camp, a majority (66.4%) of refugees agreed they felt safe, while 29.3% disagreed and 4.3% were neutral. The average mean score of 3.41 indicates that, overall, refugees feel fairly safe when moving in and out of the camp. However, when asked if they felt safe in the camp at all times, opinions were more divided, with 52.6% agreeing and 47.4% disagreeing. The average mean score of 3.07, corresponding to "fairly agreed", suggests that refugees generally felt safe in the camp, but with some reservations.

Refugees reported a high level of freedom to engage in business activities, with 69.8% agreeing and 18.9% disagreeing, while 11.2% were undecided. The high mean score of 3.75 reinforces this perception, indicating that refugees generally enjoy the freedom to conduct business activities. Furthermore, an overwhelming majority (75.9%) reported easy access to food without threats to their lives, with only 24.1% disagreeing. The mean score of 3.56 suggested a strong consensus that refugees could access food safely. The majority of respondents (85.3%) agreed that the environment in the camp supports healthy standards of living, with only 14.7% disagreeing. The high mean score of 3.79 reinforces this positive assessment, indicating that the camp's environment is conducive to healthy living. In addition, a significant majority (75.9%) felt safe from threats to life

in the camp, with 24.2% disagreeing. The high mean score of 3.60 suggests a strong sense of safety among community members, indicating that they feel protected from harm.

Refugees' participation in political governance within the camp was a point of contention, with a slight majority (54.3%) disagreeing that they could freely participate, while 45.6% agreed. The average mean score of 2.72 suggests that, on balance, refugees feel somewhat restricted in their ability to engage in political governance. In contrast, a majority (59.5%) of respondents agreed that the camp was relatively free from conflicts originating from their home countries, with 40.5% disagreeing. The average mean score of 3.14 indicates that respondents generally perceive a limited presence of such conflicts in the camp. To assess the overall rating of refugees about security, an average index was calculated for the 12 indicators measuring the construct. The results were as visualized in the histogram (Figure 2), which offers a clear and concise representation of the refugees' collective perceptions of their security.

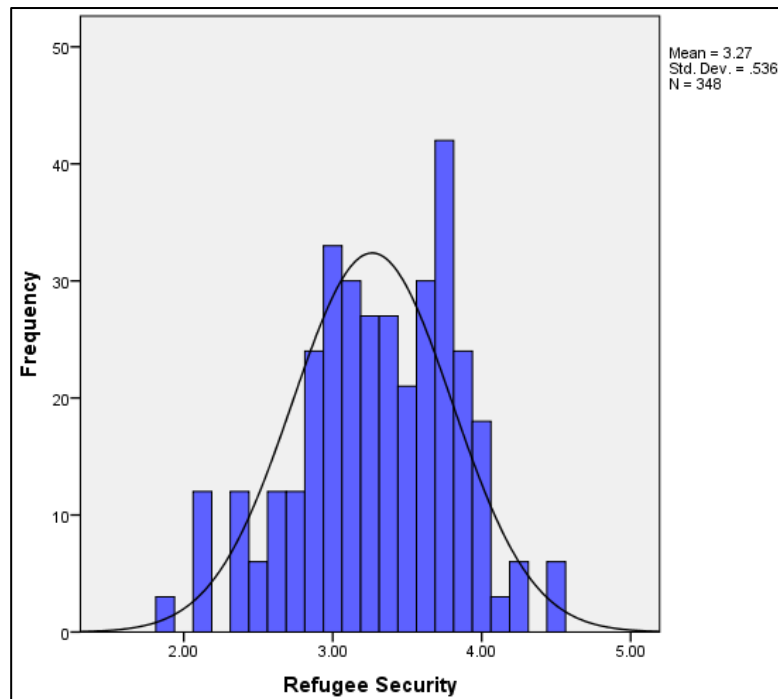


Figure 2: Refuge Security

The results in Figure 2 show an average mean = 3.27 which indicate that refugees indicated that their security was fair. With the low standard deviation (0.536) and the curve in the figure showing normality, it was deduced that the results on security of refugees were normally distributed. Thus, the data on security of refugees could be subjected to linear correlation and regression and suitable results obtained.

To ascertain the security situation in the refugee camp, the respondents including the Police Officer in Charge (OC), Refugee Camp Commander, and four UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp were asked to tell how insecurity in the refugee camp was. In their responses, several related responses were given. For example the OC police said; The insecurity challenges in the refugee camp result from high unemployment and poverty rates among refugees which lead to desperation, causing some individuals to engage in criminal activities like theft and burglary. This challenge remains because of limited policing and security presence in the camp due to limited police personnel.

Hence, refugees' personal belongings, food, and livelihoods are often stolen, further exacerbating vulnerability. Other incidents include domestic violence, tribal conflicts, fights because of alcoholism and sex abuse including cases of rape and adultery.

In relation to the above, the refugee camp commander revealed that;

Common insecurity challenges are theft, house breaking, domestic violence, intertribal conflicts, fights and rape among others. Some of these challenges result from idleness and poverty which have resulted in substance abuse. Alcohol and drug abuse are prevalent among refugees, particularly youth. Substance abuse contributes to security issues like violence and theft. The problem is exacerbated by issues like limited access to counseling and rehabilitation.

Further, one UNHCR Senior Staff like all the others stated;

Common cases reported attacks on women by men including rape, defilement, and domestic violence. There are also cases of theft including housebreaks, waylaying and in some few cases robbery. Culture and lack fear of reprisal increase the security challenge because the victims sometimes fear to report the cases. The challenge is also exacerbated limited transparency by some of the people responsible for their security and inadequate feedback mechanisms and response to reported cases.

The responses above suggest that the insecurity challenges in the refugee camp are the common ones that affect most rural communities including in none refugee situations. This suggests that as reported in the descriptive statistics, the security of the refugees was fair.

To find out how the security of the refugees was maintained, the interviewees were asked to tell how security is maintained in the refugee camp in the camp. Several related responses were given but the unique ones follow below. For example, the OC said;

The Ugandan Police and Military play a critical role in maintaining law and order in Bidibidi refugee camp. Personnel have been deployed to patrol the camp and regular patrols and monitoring help to deter criminal activity and ensure a safe environment for refugees. The Police and Military also collaborate with camp authorities and humanitarian organizations, and share intelligence to enhance security. Whenever incidents are reported, there is effort to respond quickly to security incidents arrest the situation although sometimes because of limited personal there are delays. Remember, this camp is extremely big.

In the interview with Camp Commander revealed;

Refugee-led security groups are a vital component of security in Bidibidi refugee camp. These community-based initiatives patrol the camp, reporting security concerns and mediating conflicts. They promote community policing, working closely with camp authorities and humanitarian organizations to address security concerns. In addition, local councils of the refugees play a vital role in the refugee camps. Local councils also play a key role in conflict resolution, mediating disputes and promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities. They foster community engagement, encouraging refugees and hosts to work together to build stronger, more resilient communities. By working with humanitarian organizations and government agencies, the local councils help ensure a coordinated response to issues, settle minor cases and create harmony.

In the interview with the a UNHCR Senior Staff he said;

We work with security forces that are the police and the army and refugee committees to address security challenges. In all these effort, UNHCR is a key player. We provide funding and resources for camp security, support the deployment of security personnel and infrastructure development. UNHCR also supports refugee registration and

documentation, helping to identify and track refugees, and reducing the risk of insecurity. We also deploy UNHCR security personnel to the camp, who work closely with other agencies and camp authorities to address security concerns. UNHCR also collaborates with other agencies to address security concerns, ensuring a coordinated approach to security.

The responses above reveal that the security of refugees in Bidibidi refugee camp is maintained through a collaborative effort between various stakeholders, including the Ugandan Police and Military, refugee-led security groups, local councils, and humanitarian organizations like UNHCR. These entities work together to ensure patrol of the camp, respond to security incidents, mediate conflicts, and promote community policing. In addition, they share intelligence, resources, and expertise to address security challenges and ensure a safe environment for refugees. While there may be delays in responding to incidents due to limited personnel, the collective effort helps to deter criminal activity, resolve conflicts, and foster a sense of community among refugees and host communities. Ultimately, the multi-faceted approach to security in Bidibidi refugee camp helps to protect the well-being and dignity of refugees. This is why consistent with the descriptive statistics results, the security of the refugees in the camp can be described as being fair.

4.3.2 Political Factors

Political factors in this study were the first independent variable. Political factors were studied using nine questions. The results were as presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Descriptive Results for Political factors in Refugee Camps

| Political Factors | SD | D | NS | A | SA | Mean |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|------|
| Local politics from our mother play in camp | 3 0.9% | 12 3.4% | 00 00 | 222 63.8% | 111 31.9% | 4.22 |
| The local politicians have united with their people against refugees | 18 5.2% | 33 9.5% | 00 00 | 252 72.4% | 45 12.9% | 3.78 |
| The army officers influenced by local politicians threaten refugees in the camp | 116 33.3% | 175 50.3% | 00 00 | 51 14.7% | 6 1.7% | 1.04 |
| There are conflicts with the locals | 27 7.8% | 21 6.0% | 00 00 | 264 75.9% | 36 10.3% | 3.75 |
| There are political conflicts between refugees | 33 9.5 | 48 13.8 | 00 00 | 237 68.1 | 30 8.6 | 3.53 |
| Ethnic politics play in the refugee camp | 9 2.6 | 48 13.8 | 00 00 | 285 81.9 | 6 1.7 | 3.66 |
| There armed elements in the refugee camp | 17 4.9 | 28 8.0 | 00 00 | 260 74.7 | 43 12.4 | 3.82 |
| There are rebel elements in the camp | 4 1.1 | 9 2.6 | 00 00 | 309 88.8 | 26 7.5 | 3.99 |
| The locals dislike refugees because of being foreigners | 15 4.3 | 63 18.1 | 24 6.9 | 237 68.1 | 9 2.6 | 3.47 |

The results in Table 6 showed that an overwhelming majority (95.7%) of respondents agreed that local politics from their home countries influenced the camp, with only 4.3% disagreeing. The high mean score of 4.22, closely aligned with the "agreed" category, reinforces this finding. Furthermore, a significant majority (85.3%) believed that local politicians formed alliances with their constituents against refugees, while 14.7% disagreed. The high mean score of 3.78 supports this perception, indicating a strong

consensus that local politicians united against refugees. A majority of refugees (83.6%) disagreed that army officers, influenced by local politicians, threatened them in the camp while 16.4% agreed, resulting in a low mean score of 1.04, indicating that such threats were rare.

Contrary to the above, a significant majority (86.2%) of refugees reported experiencing conflicts with locals, with 13.8% disagreeing, yielding a high mean score of 3.75, which suggests a strong consensus about the presence of these conflicts. A significant majority of refugees (76.7%) reported experiencing political conflicts among themselves, with 23.3% disagreeing, resulting in a high mean score of 3.53, which confirms the presence of political tensions within the refugee community. Furthermore, an even larger majority (83.6%) agreed that ethnic politics played a role in the camp, while 16.4% disagreed, yielding a high mean score of 3.66, which strongly suggests that ethnic politics were a significant factor in the camp's dynamics.

A majority of refugees (79.1%) confirmed the presence of armed elements in the camp, with 12.9% disagreeing, resulting in a high mean score of 3.82. Moreover, an overwhelming majority (96.3%) agreed that rebel elements were present in the camp, with only 3.7% disagreeing, yielding a high mean score of 3.99. Additionally, most refugees (70.7%) believed that locals disliked them because they were foreigners, while 22.5% disagreed and 6.9% were unsure, resulting in an average mean of 3.47, indicating a moderate level of hostility towards refugees based on their foreign status. To provide the general understanding of the refugees' experiences with political factors, an average index was calculated based for the nine items measuring the construct. The resulting histogram, presented in Figure 4.2, offers a clear and concise visualization of the refugees' collective perceptions of political factors in the camp.

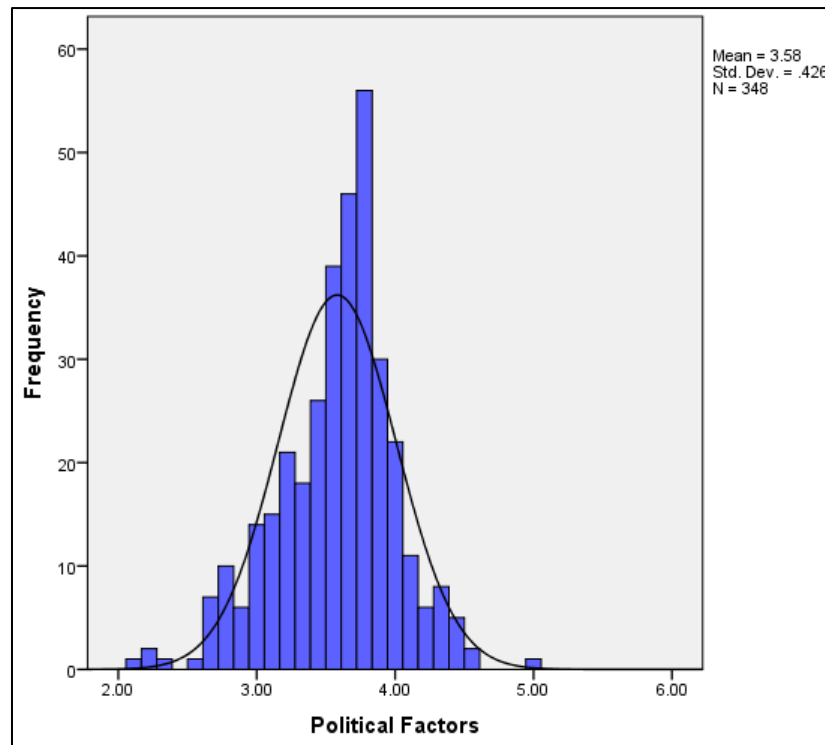


Figure 3: Histogram for Political Factors

According to the findings shown in Figure 3, the mean score was a high 3.58, which indicates that refugees gave political considerations a high rating. In light of the fact that the standard deviation was relatively low (0.426), and the curve in the figure demonstrated that it was normal, it was concluded that the data regarding political variables were normally distributed. Therefore, the data for political aspects could be submitted to linear correlation and regression, and appropriate findings could be produced by doing these analyses.

The interviewees were questioned about the local politics, community disputes, and rebel activities that were taking place inside the refugee camp in order to determine the extent to which political considerations influenced refugee security. Several replies were provided in response to the issue of how the lives of refugees were influenced by the politics of the local community. Take, for example, what the Orange County Police Department said:

Local politics create tensions between refugees and host communities, leading to conflicts and social unrest. This is especially because of the instigation of local politicians including Member of Parliaments who seek to gaining political capital by portraying themselves to be championing the interests of the locals. This results in competition for resources negatively impacting social cohesion and community relationships.

In relation to the above, the Refugee Camp Commander indicated;

An issue that has been a pain in managing of refugee issues has been land disputes in involving the locals supported by the politicians against the refugees. There have been overlapping land claims, disagreements over land allocation, and boundary disputes leading to conflicts. The locals backed by the politicians have been conflicting with the refugees claiming that the refugees encroach on their land.

Relatedly, one of the UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp said;

There are power struggles between local leaders and refugee leaders in Bidibidi refugee settlement because of disagreements over representation on committees, access to resources, competing priorities, and conflicting opinions on management and distribution of resources. The issue is exacerbated by power imbalances, cultural and language barriers, and differing desires for control and autonomy. The locals with the support of the local politicians oppose integration because they feel marginalised because they claim that refugees are better facilitated hence should not encroach on the little of the communities.

The responses above suggest that local politics have significantly impacted the security of refugees in Bidibidi refugee settlement, leading to tensions, conflicts, and social unrest. The manipulation of local politicians seeking political gain has created competition for resources, exacerbated land disputes, and fuelled power struggles between local and refugee leaders. These challenges have resulted in overlapping land

claims, boundary disputes, and conflicting opinions on resource management, ultimately affecting social cohesion, community relationships, and the overall well-being of refugees. The opposition to integration from local leaders and politicians, who feel marginalized and claim that refugees receive better support, has further complicated the situation.

With respect to the state of communal conflicts in the refugee camp, the interviewees gave some related responses. For instance, the OC police said;

There are some ethnic and tribal conflicts which occur because of different backgrounds that bring pre-existing animosities, cultural differences, and historical grievances amongst them. To this adds competition for limited resources, and stereotyping among refugee communities. These are visible among refugees from different ethnic groups.

Consistent with the above, the Refugee Camp Commander stated; “Some of these refugees come with unresolved historical conflicts from their home countries. Ethnic divisions resurface reviving old rivalries and tensions quickly escalating into clashes and violence between groups.” Relatedly, one the UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp said; There is a challenge of ethnic groups feeling underrepresented and marginalized in camp decision-making processes. This leads to conflicts because they perceive that their needs and concerns are being ignored. This leads to feelings of frustration, resentment, and powerlessness, causing groups to become more entrenched in their positions, and leading to increased tensions and conflicts.

The responses above shows that communal conflicts in the refugee camp are a significant concern, driven by a combination of factors including pre-existing ethnic and tribal animosities, cultural differences, historical grievances, competition for limited resources, and stereotyping. These conflicts are further propagated by unresolved historical conflicts brought from refugees' home countries, leading to the resurgence of old rivalries

and tensions, and escalating into clashes and violence. Moreover, the feeling of underrepresentation and marginalization in camp decision-making processes among certain ethnic groups contributes to the conflicts, as they perceive their needs and concerns are being ignored, leading to frustration, resentment, and powerlessness.

Concerning the challenge of rebel movements in the refugee camp, the OC police remarked; “There some armed elements that have infiltrated the refugee camp from Sudan on both the government and rebel side, these cause tension amongst the refugees because there are have some cases of forced recruitment, abduction, and violence against refugees.’ Relatedly, the Refugee Camp Commander stated;

There is the challenge of presence of spies and agents from the refugees country of origin both on the side of government and its opponents which has a destabilizing impact because refugees feel intimidated. This has disrupted community dynamics, and created an atmosphere of fear and mistrust. This compromises refugee protection, confidentiality, and camp security. This has led to a toxic situation because of erosion of trust in the camp.

Further, the UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp said; “The existence of rebels in the camp is a reality and creates fear and mistrust among refugees. The rebels’ presence of rebels leads to a pervasive sense of insecurity, making it difficult for refugees to feel safe and protected.”

The responses above reveal that there were rebel groups in the refuge groups and the presence of rebel movements in refugee camps poses a significant threat to the safety, security, and well-being of refugees. The infiltration of armed elements is connected with abduction, and violence. The presence of spies and agents causes instability in the camp, disrupt community dynamics and erodes trust. This toxic situation compromises refugee

protection, confidentiality, and camp security, making it challenging for refugees to feel safe and protected.

Overall, the views above show that political factors including local politics, communal conflicts in the refugee camp and rebel movements in the refugee camp affect the security of the refugees. This finding is consistent with the descriptive statistics results which revealed that political factors related to refugee security were at a high level.

4.3.3 Social Factors

Social factors in this study were the second independent variable. Social factors were studied using 12 questions. The results were as presented in Table 7.

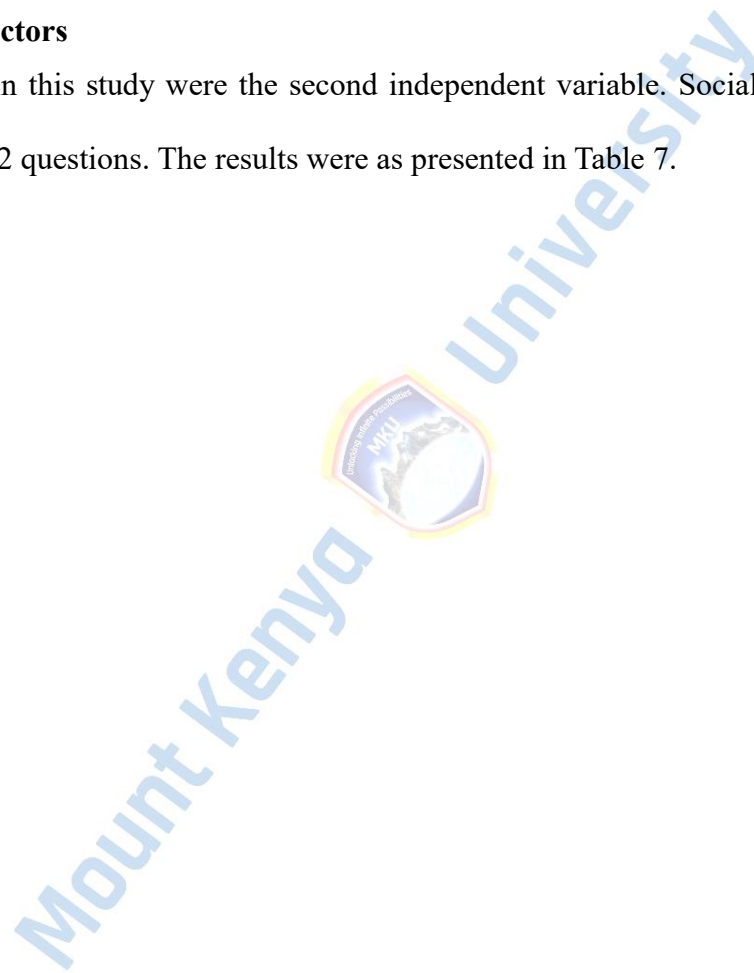


Table 7: Descriptive Results for Social factors in Refugee Camps

| Social Factors | SD | D | NS | A | SA | Mean |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| There are accusations among refugees of spying one another | 12 3.4% | 165 47.4% | 12 3.4% | 102 29.3% | 57 16.4% | 3.08 |
| Cultural differences in the camp are visible | 12 3.4% | 135 38.8% | 6 1.7% | 108 31.0% | 87 25.0% | 3.35 |
| Ethic diversities in the camp play | 126 36.2% | 180 51.7% | 00 00 | 21 6.0% | 21 6.0% | 1.94 |
| Some refugees experience psycho-social problems | 18 5.2% | 30 8.6% | 00 00 | 183 52.6% | 117 33.6% | 4.01 |
| There is domestic violence in the camp | 18 5.2% | 183 52.6% | 9 2.6% | 96 27.6% | 42 12.1% | 2.89 |
| There is gender violence in the camp | 12 3.4% | 129 37.1% | 00 00 | 132 37.9% | 69 19.8% | 3.34 |
| Male dominance is high in the camp | 9 2.6% | 114 32.8% | 12 3.4% | 129 37.1% | 84 24.1% | 3.47 |
| Women suffer sexual violence | 3 0.9% | 102 29.3% | 3 0.9% | 174 50.0 | 66 19.0% | 3.57 |
| There are criminal gangs in the camp | 9 2.6% | 126 36.2% | 9 2.6% | 150 43.1% | 54 15.5% | 3.33 |
| Religious differences are felt in the camp | 9 2.6% | 135 38.8% | 9 2.6% | 144 41.4% | 51 14.7% | 3.27 |
| There are a number of single mother families | 6 1.7% | 21 6.0% | 9 2.6% | 249 71.6% | 63 18.1% | 3.98 |

The results in Table 7 regarding accusations of spying among refugees, the larger percentage (50.8%) disagreed while 45.7% agreed, and 3.4% strongly agreed. The average mean = 3.08 meant that moderately, accusations of spying existed. With respect

to cultural differences in the camp, the larger percentage (56.0%) agreed while 42.1% disagreed, and 1.7% was not sure. The average mean = 3.35 meant that fairly, cultural differences were visible. Concerning ethnic diversities in the camp, the majority percentage (87.9%) disagreed while 12.0% agreed. The low mean = 1.94 meant that ethnic diversities did not played a role.

As to whether refugees experienced psycho-social problems, the larger percentage (86.2%) agreed while 13.8% disagreed. The high mean = 4.01 meant that strongly, refugees experienced psycho-social problems. Regarding domestic violence in the camp, the larger percentage (57.8%) disagreed while 39.7% disagreed and 2.6% were no sure. The average mean = 2.89 meant that fairly, domestic violence existed. With respect to gender violence in the camp, the larger percentage (60.5%) agreed, while 39.5% disagreed. The average mean = 3.34 meant that fairly, gender violence occurred.

With respect to gender violence in the camp, the larger percentage (60.5%) agreed, while 39.5% disagreed. The average mean = 3.34 meant that fairly, gender violence occurred. Concerning male dominance in the camp, the larger percentage (57.4%) agreed, while 42.6% disagreed. The average mean = 3.47 meant that fairly, male dominance was prevalent. As to whether women suffered sexual violence, the larger percentage (69.0%) agreed, while 30.1% disagreed and 09% were not sure. The high mean = 3.57 meant that women suffered sexual violence.

Regarding criminal gangs in the camp, the larger percentage (58.6%) agreed criminal gangs existed, while 38.4% did not and 2.6% were not sure. The average mean = 3.33 meant that fairly, criminal gangs were present. Concerning religious differences in the camp, the larger percentage (56.1%) recognized religious differences, while 41.4% did not. The average mean = 3.27 meant that fairly, religious differences were noticeable. With respect to single mother families, the majority percentage (89.7%) agreed, while

8.7% disagreed and 2.6% were not sure. The high mean = 3.98 meant that strongly, single mother families were common. To evaluate how the refugees' rated social factors in the camp, an average index was calculated for the 12 items measuring the same. The resulting histogram, presented in Figure 4, offers a clear and concise visualization of the refugees' collective perceptions of social factors in the camps.

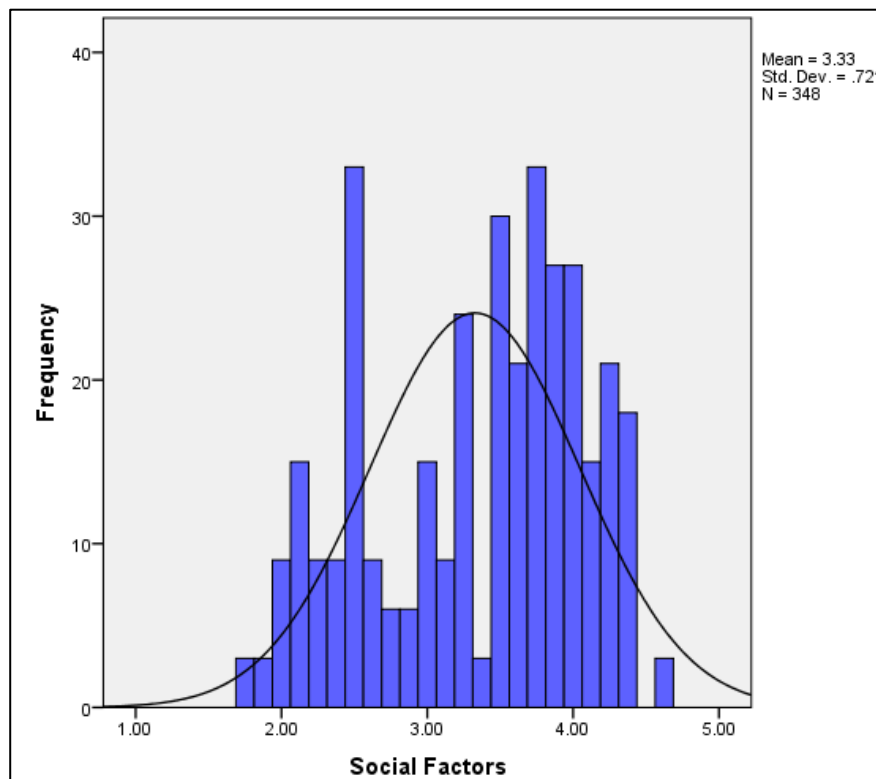


Figure 4: Histogram for Social Factors

Based on the findings shown in Figure 4, which reveal an average mean value of 3.33, it can be deduced that refugees regarded the economic variables in the camp as equal. In light of the fact that the standard deviation was very low (0.721), and the curve in the figure demonstrated that it was normal, it was concluded that the data regarding social variables were normally distributed. Therefore, the data for social components could be

submitted to linear correlation and regression, and appropriate findings could be produced by doing these analyses.

To examine how social factors affected refugee security, the interview were asked about cultural challenges exist in the refugee camp and how ethnicity was an issue of contention in the refugee camp. Various related responses were given and key among ones include those presented below. For instance, the OC police said; “There are various forms cultural conflicts especially the religious ones. For instance there was a conflict of Muslims conflicting with Christians over converting Muslims to Christianity. Differences in religious practices and beliefs lead to conflicts and misunderstanding.” Relatedly, the Refugee Camp Commander stated; “One major challenge causing challenge is loss of cultural identity. Losing cultural heritage, traditions, and sense of community causes feelings of disconnection. This has led to a situation of lawlessness especially among the young refugees.” Consistently, the one UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp said; “A devastating cultural challenge has been loss of identity by some refugees leading to disorientation and disconnection. This leads to identity loss with some them becoming destitute which causes insecurity.”

The responses above suggest that cultural challenges and ethnic differences pose a significant threat to refugee security in the camp, with the loss of cultural identity and heritage being a major concern that leads to feelings of disconnection, lawlessness, and insecurity. Religious conflicts and differences in practices and beliefs are also primary source of contention in the camp, highlighting the need for addressing these cultural challenges to ensure refugee security and well-being.

With respect to the issue of ethnicity, various responses were give which pointed to ethnicity being a challenge in refugee camps. For example, the OC Police pointed;

Ethnic tensions between different tribes in the camp lead to clashes and violence due to a complex array of factors including historical rivalries. The decades of conflict in South Sudan have created deep-seated animosities, while cultural and linguistic differences contribute to misunderstandings and mistrust. The close living quarters in the settlement ignite small disputes into full-blown conflicts, and the lack of social cohesion among ethnic groups makes it challenging to build trust and resolve conflicts peacefully.

Related, the Refugee Camp Commander stated;

The camp is home to refugees from South Sudan, a country plagued by political instability and conflict because of ethnicity. Many refugees in the camp maintain strong affiliations with various political factions and leaders of their ethnicities. For instance, the Dinka predominantly support the SPLM and the Nuer support the SPLM-IO. As a result, political tensions and rivalries between are easily ignited, leading to clashes. Furthermore, the proximity of the camp to the South Sudanese border means that political developments in the home country quickly trickle down to the camp, exacerbating existing tensions and fuelling new conflicts. The politicization of ethnic identities in the camp has created a volatile atmosphere.

Relatedly, one UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp remarked;

In Bidibidi refugee camp, the diverse cultural practices, languages, and beliefs of the South Sudanese refugee population create a complex web of misunderstandings and mistrust, fuelling ethnic tensions. The Dinka, Nuer, and Equatorians have distinct cultural norms and practices, which sometimes have resulted in conflict. These cultural differences create divisions and fuel tensions.

Generally, the responses above suggest that ethnicity poses a significant challenge in refugee camps. Cultural rivalries and political affiliations along ethnic lines have created deep-seated animosities and mistrust among refugees. The close living quarters in the

camp and lack of social cohesion among ethnic groups increase these tensions, leading to clashes and violence. The politicization of ethnic identities and proximity to the South Sudanese border further fuels these conflicts. The findings above support the descriptive statistics which indicated that fairly, there social factors including ethnicity and cultural differences.

4.3.4 Economic Factors

Economy factors in this study were the third independent variable. Economic factors were studied using 10 questions. The results were as presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Descriptive Results for Economic Factors in Refugee Camps

| Economic Factors | SD | D | NS | A | SA | Mean |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| There refugees who keep animals such as cows and goats in the camp | 39 11.2 | 54 15.5 | 66 19.0 | 129 37.1 | 60 17.2 | 3.35 |
| The goats and cows destroy crops of other refuges | 9 2.6 | 51 14.7 | | 60 17.2 | 192 55.2 | 3.34 |
| The camp suffers the challenge of water scarcity | 33 9.5 | 48 13.8 | 75 21.6 | 156 44.8 | 36 10.3 | 3.56 |
| It is easy to access firewood in the camp | 36 10.3 | 60 17.2 | 63 18.1 | 138 39.7 | 51 14.7 | 3.33 |
| Refugees have access to health services | 24 6.9 | 105 30.2 | 48 13.8 | 135 38.8 | 36 10.3 | 3.32 |
| Refugees are involved in same petty jobs with the locals | 24 6.9 | 48 13.8 | 66 19.0 | 156 44.9 | 54 15.5 | 3.16 |
| Poverty is high amongst refugees | 24 6.9 | 30 8.6 | 66 19.0 | 174 50.0 | 54 15.5 | 3.48 |
| Refugees have led to the destruction of the environment through cutting of trees and grass | 27 7.8 | 42 12.1 | 48 13.8 | 186 53.4 | 45 12.9 | 3.59 |
| Refugee children have access to schools | 42 12.1 | 54 15.5 | 54 15.5 | 141 40.5 | 57 16.4 | 3.52 |

The results in Table 8 on with respect to refugees keeping animals in the camp, the larger percentage (54.3%) agreed, while 26.7% disagreed and 19.0% were not sure. The average mean = 3.35 meant that fairly, refugees kept animals in the camp. Concerning the destruction of crops by goats and cows, the larger percentage (55.2%) agreed, while 17.3% disagreed. The average mean = 3.34 meant that fairly, goats and cows destroyed crops. With respect to water scarcity in the camp, the larger percentage (55.1%) agreed, while 23.3% disagreed and 21.6% were not sure. The average mean = 3.56 meant that strongly, the camp suffered from water scarcity.

Regarding access to firewood in the camp, the larger percentage (54.4%) agreed, while 27.5% disagreed and 18.1% were not sure. The average mean = 3.33 meant that fairly, firewood was accessible. Concerning access to health services for refugees, the larger percentage (49.1%) agreed, while 37.1% disagreed and 13.8% were not sure. The average mean = 3.32 meant that fairly, refugees had access to health services. 6. With respect to refugees' involvement in petty jobs with locals, the larger percentage (60.4%) agreed, while 20.7% disagreed and 19.0% were not sure. The average mean = 3.16 meant that fairly, refugees were involved in petty jobs.

Regarding poverty amongst refugees, the larger percentage (65.5%) agreed, while 15.5% disagreed and 19.0% were not sure. The average mean = 3.48 meant that strongly, poverty was high amongst refugees. Concerning the destruction of the environment by refugees, the larger percentage (66.3%) agreed, while 19.9% disagreed. The average mean = 3.59 meant that largely, refugees destroyed the environment. With respect to refugee children's access to schools, the larger percentage (56.9%) agreed, while 27.6% disagreed and 15.5% were not sure. The average mean = 3.52 meant that fairly, refugee children had access to schools.

To determine how the refugees' rated economic factors in the camp, an average index was calculated for the 10 items measuring the same. The resulting histogram, presented in Figure 4.4, offers a clear and concise visualization of the refugees' collective perceptions of economic factors in the camps.

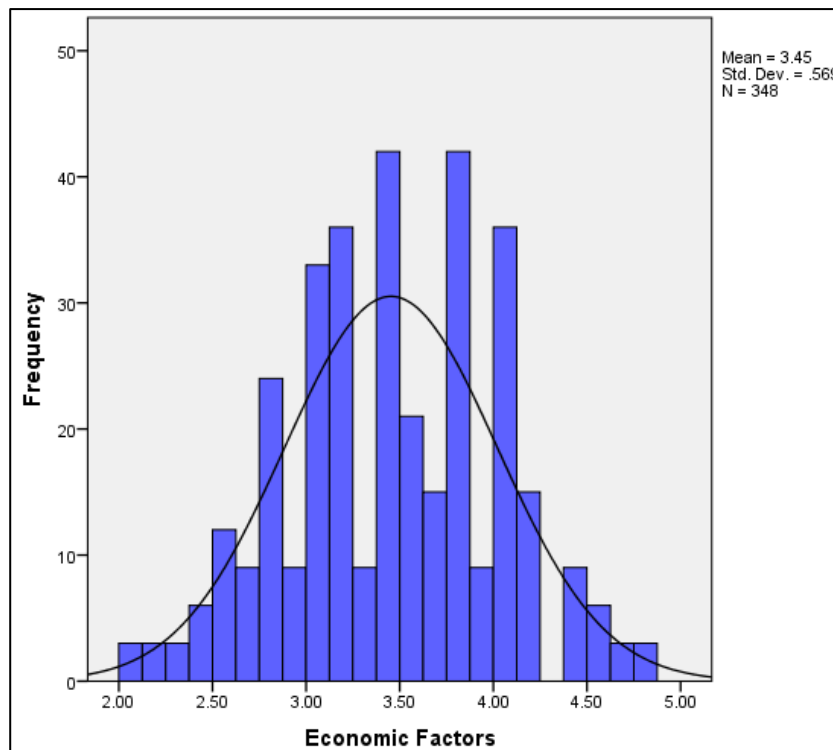


Figure 5: Histogram for Economic Factors

The results in Figure 5 show an average mean = 3.45 which indicate that refugees rated economic factors in the camp to be fair. With the low standard deviation (0.569) and the curve in the figure showing normality, it was deduced that the results on economic factors were normally distributed. Thus, the data for economic factors could be subjected to linear correlation and regression and suitable results obtained.

To explore how economic factors affected refuge security, the interview were asked about economic challenges encountered by refugees and the conflicts over economic resources.

Various related responses were given and key among ones include those presented below.

For instance, the OC police said;

Limited access to livelihood opportunities is a significant economic challenge facing refugees in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Refugees struggle to find employment, start businesses, or engage in income-generating activities due to various constraints. Restrictions on movement and employment, lack of skills and training, and limited access to resources such as capital, equipment, and technology hinder their ability to access available job opportunities or start successful businesses. Refugees face competition for limited job opportunities from the local population, language barriers, and limited social networks, making it harder to secure employment or find business partners. Stigma and discrimination from the local population further exacerbate the challenge.

In relation to the above, the Refugee Camp Commander stated;

Limited access to resources is a significant challenge for refugees in Bidibidi refugee settlement when it comes to accessing livelihood opportunities. Resources such as capital, equipment, and technology are essential for starting or sustaining businesses, but refugees often lack access to these resources due to various constraints.

Relatedly, one UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp said:

Competition with the local population is a significant challenge for refugees in Bidibidi refugee settlement when it comes to accessing livelihood opportunities. The settlement is located in a host community that also faces economic challenges, and the local population is competing for the same limited job opportunities and resources. This competition can lead to tensions between refugees and the local population, making it even harder for refugees to access livelihood opportunities.

The responses above reveal that economic factors significantly impact refugee security in Bidibidi refugee settlement. The main economic challenges faced by refugees include

limited access to livelihood opportunities, limited access to resources, and competition with the local population for job opportunities and resources. These challenges are worsened by restrictions on movement and employment, lack of skills and training, language barriers, limited social networks, stigma, and discrimination. The constraints on accessing resources such as capital, equipment, and technology further hinder refugees' ability to start or sustain businesses. The competition with the local population for limited resources leads to tensions and makes it even harder for refugees to access livelihood opportunities.

With respect to conflicts resulting from economic factors, the OC police stated;

Disputes and fights are a common occurrence in Bidibidi refugee settlement, resulting from conflicts over economic resources. As refugees compete for limited resources, tensions rise, and disagreements sometimes quickly escalate into verbal and physical altercations. These disputes arise between refugees or between refugees and the local population disputing over land or water usage.

In relation to the above, the Refugee Camp Commander said;

There are disputes and fights in Bidibidi refugee settlement over resources. These escalate into physical altercations, resulting in the destruction of homes and shelters, damage to community facilities like schools and healthcare centres, vandalism of infrastructure such as roads and utilities, and loss of personal belongings.

Relatedly, one UNHCR Senior Staff in Charge of the Camp said:

In Bidibidi refugee settlement, competition for limited resources such as food, water, shelter, and livelihood opportunities lead to theft and looting. As refugees struggle to access basic necessities, some resort to stealing from others, including their neighbours, friends, and even family members. This creates an insecure environment, where refugees fear for their safety and property. Generally, disputes and fights in Bidibidi refugee

settlement occur over economic resources. Competition for resources leads to theft and looting, creating an insecure environment.

4.4 Inferential Results

The inferential results include correlation results. This helped to show the relationship between refugees' vulnerability to insecurity and its determinants and how the determinants influence refuge security.

4.4.1 Correlation of Security of Refuges and its Determinants.

To establish whether determinants namely; political, social and economic factors related to security of refuges, correlation analysis. The results were as given in Table 9.

Table 9: Correlation Matrix for Security of refuges and its Determinants

| | Refugee Security | Political Factors | Social Factors | Economic Factors |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Refugee Security | 1 | | | |
| Political Factors | 0.508** 0.000 | 1 | | |
| Social Factors | 0.429** 0.000 | 0.123* 0.022 | 1 | |
| Economic Factors | 0.511** 0.000 | 0.410** 0.000 | 0.246** 0.000 | 1 |

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The results in Table 9 suggest that all the determinants namely; political ($r = 0.206$, $p = 0.003 < 0.05$), social ($r = 0.326$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$) and economic factors ($r = -0.046$, $p = 0.500 > 0.05$) had positive and significant relationship with security of refuges. This means that all the hypotheses (H_1 - H_2) were accepted.

4.4.2 Regression Model for Refugees Security and Its Determinants.

At the confirmatory level, to establish whether political, social and economic factors predicted security of refugees, a regression analysis was carried out. The results were as in Table 10.

Table 10: Regression of Security of refugees and its Determinants

| Determinants | Standardised Coefficients | Significance |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Beta (β) | (p) |
| Political | 0.350 | 0.000 |
| Social | 0.315 | 0.000 |
| Economic | 0.290 | 0.000 |

Adjusted $R^2 = 0.457$

F = 98.160, p = 0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Security of refugees

According to the findings shown in Table 10, political, social, and economic variables were responsible for explaining 45.7% of the variance in the level of security around refugees (adjusted R = 0.457). In other words, this indicates that additional variables that were not taken into consideration by this model were responsible for 54.3% of the variance. A favorable and substantial impact on the security of refugees was exerted by all the variables, namely political ($\beta = 0.350$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$), social ($\beta = 0.315$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$), and economic aspects ($\beta = 0.290$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$). This indicates that each of the hypotheses (H1-H3) was validated at the same time. Based on the magnitudes of the various betas, it was determined that political variables were the most important predictors of refugee security, followed by social factors and then economic considerations by correspondingly.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings of the study while cross-referencing with literature. Consequently, the study draws the conclusions and recommendations leading to the identification of the study's implications. The chapter also points out the limitations of the study and suggests areas for future research.

5.1 Discussion

This section is a discussion of the study's findings, contextualized through cross-referencing with existing literature. The discussion is structured according to the objectives of the study and provides an in-depth examination of the results and their implications. By engaging with a range of perspectives and evidence, this section enriches understanding and provokes the need for further exploration of the issues surrounding refugees' vulnerability to insecurity.

Political Factors and Security of Refuges

The primary purpose of the research was to determine whether or not political issues had a substantial impact on the safety of refugees living in the Bidibidi Settlement Camp, which is located in the northwestern region of Uganda. Therefore, the hypothesis was founded on the idea that political forces have a considerable impact on the safety of refuges. Based on the results of the hypothesis test, it was determined that political variables had a substantial and beneficial impact on the safety of refuges. This conclusion was in line with the results of other researchers, such as Ahimbisibwe (2017), who indicated that refugees experienced insecurity as a result of local politics. As a result, local leaders rallied citizens against immigrants in order to secure land. The local officials organized the locals to expel the migrants and prevent them from moving freely, which resulted in an atmosphere of insecurity. Local officials also engaged army officers who

threatened to murder and arrest migrants. This was done in addition to the previous point. According to Fisk (2019), political confrontations were more prevalent in regions where camps had been constructed to shelter refugees. This is related to the previous point. Consequently, the rates of political disputes at the subnational level were much higher in areas that hosted camps in general, as well as in regions that hosted a greater number of refugees who were temporarily dwelling in camps. As a result, the militarization of armed groups and other types of manipulation in pursuit of prospective recruits and other refugee resources raise the possibility of intercommunal violence. This is because the local community would be held liable for the infiltration of refugees.

Kumssa et al. (2014) found that political power that transcends national boundaries was the driving force behind disputes that arose between refugees and locals in host communities. This conclusion is in line with the findings of the research. Consequently, disagreements arise between different ethnic groups and tribes inside the camps where they are established. In a similar vein, Loescher and Milner (2005) found that refugee camps sometimes served as fertile ground for the growth of insurgency groups and international terrorist organizations respectively. It would seem that extremist organizations regularly utilize the presence of refugees as a pretext to carry out activities that destabilize not just the nations that are hosting them but also whole regions. As a continuation of this line of reasoning, O'Driscoll (2017) observed that government personnel in the camps abused migrants and bullied them.

Furthermore, in accordance with the findings of the study, Raleigh (2010) disclosed that the security challenges faced by refugees included communal conflict. In regions where the government is not actively involved, there are politicians who use community conflict as a tool to control access to essential resources for their livelihood, such as land and water, and to amass money. In general, it is possible to assert that political issues have

an impact on the safety of refugees, which is in line with the results of previous researchers. The fact that these results are consistent across a variety of research highlights the extent to which political issues have a substantial influence on the safety of refugees. This underscores the need of addressing the political aspects of refugee security, with the goal of ensuring that refugee camps are not used for the purpose of gaining political advantage or serving as breeding grounds for internal strife.

5.1.1 Social Factors and Security of Refugees

The second objective of the study sought to find out whether social factors have a significant influence on security of refugees in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda. Thus, the hypothesis was to the effect that social factors have a significant influence on security of refugees. Hypothesis test agreed that social factors had a positive significant influence on security of refugees. This finding concurred with scholars such as Ahimbisibwe (2017) who reported that there were disputes between Hutu and Tutsi refugees from Rwanda at the Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements in Uganda due to tribalism, with the Hutu refugees suspecting the Tutsi refugees of being spies for the Rwandan government. The refugees protested that Rwanda was closely observing all of their movements and activities via the Tutsi refugees. Accordingly, due to the diversity of the refugee population from the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Eritrea, disputes with other refugee nations were another source of insecurity. Rwandese considered the Congolese Tutsi refugees (Banyamulenge) from the Eastern DRC to be spies of the Rwandan government because they were Tutsis like the leaders of the Rwandan government.

Concurring with the finding of the study, Freedman (2016) revealed that refugee camps experience insecurity as a result of gender-based violence because of lack of enough accommodation space for refugees. Hence, due to their forced outdoor sleeping in fields and parks as refugees, lack of adequate shelter, and lack of access to sanitary facilities,

women are particularly vulnerable to assault. Besides, the distribution of power and gender within families and relationships are altered by moving to a camp, which occasionally lead to an increase in domestic violence episodes or an exacerbation of pre-existing domestic and intra-family violence. Relatedly, Kumssa et al. (2014) indicated that criminal gangs within the camps increased insecurity and violence. For example, women and girls were frequently stoned when going to the markets because they were accused of acting inappropriately and clothing badly in accordance with Islamic culture. Further, concurring with the finding of the study, Moser and Rodgers (2005) established that levels of violence rose as household structures changed because of the refugee situation. This is because migration altered households' social structures contributing to and resulting in violence, and increased the proportion of households led by women in various circumstances. In addition, changes in residence patterns impact on partner relationships, with the stress of separation frequently escalating marital conflict. On the whole, with the findings of the study concurring with findings of the previous scholars, it can be surmised that social factors are related to refugees' security. This highlights the need to address the social dimensions of refugee security. This includes mitigating tribalism, gender-based violence, and criminal activity within camps, as well as providing adequate shelter and support services to vulnerable populations. By acknowledging the intricate relationship between social factors and refugee security, we can work towards creating safer and more stable environments for refugees.

5.1.2 Economic Factors and Security of Refuges

The second objective of the study sought to determine whether economic factors have a significant influence on security of refuges in Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda. Thus, the hypothesis was to the effect that economic factors have a significant influence on security of refuges. Hypothesis test indicate that social factors had a positive significant influence on security of refuges. This finding agreed with previous scholars

such as Ahimbisibwe (2013) who reported that among other issues, competition for land between refugees and host groups, led to insecurity. In the same vein, Ahimbisibwe (2017) found out that competition among the refugees for the scarce resources like land, water, and other services led to conflicts. Accordingly, land disputes are a major threat to refugees security.

Also in agreement with the finding of the study, Fisk (2019) established that settlements put refugees in direct competition with locals for jobs. In addition, self-settled refugees that integrate with local communities may further increase conflicts because of conflicts over opportunities. In the same vein, Kumssa et al. (2014) revealed that due to lack of appropriate shelter, the tents refugees lived were tattered hence they exposed them to theft and other vices and due to a lack of adequate shelter, the girls and women were at risk for sexual and gender-based violence. Conflicts emerging from competition over limited resources pose a security threat. Relatedly, Kumssa et al. (2014) reported that women and young girls were frequently at risk for SGBV when they walked great distances to obtain firewood. Besides, locals complained that refugees destroyed vegetation and cut down trees, harming their ecology. As a result, residents confronted refugees as they left the camp in search of firewood and other supplies. An economic issue of contention was that refugees got superior health care, free education, and a relatively good nutritional status.

Further, in agreement with the finding of the study, Mwaruvie and Kirui (2012) revealed that refugees and the host community often conflicted over resources. Therefore, there was insecurity resulting from conflicts over resources. With the finding of the study agreeing with previous scholars, it can be inferred that social factors are related to refugee security. Therefore, addressing economic factors is crucial to improving refugee security and mitigating conflicts in the camp. Implementing measures to reduce competition for

resources and promoting resource sharing, providing adequate shelter and essential services to refugees, addressing economic disparities through initiatives like job creation, education, and healthcare, foster dialogue and cooperation between refugees and host communities to reduce tensions and conflicts, and developing strategies to mitigate the risks faced by women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence will promote security of refugees.

5.2 Conclusions

The findings of the study and subsequent discussion yielded the following conclusions regarding the determinants of refugees' vulnerability to insecurity;

1. Political factors are linked to refugees' security. Local politics from refugees' home countries often persist in the camp leading to conflicts and tensions. In addition, local politicians may mobilize their constituents against refugees, exacerbating inter-group conflicts. Ethnic politics also play a role, with armed elements and rebel groups present in the camp, further destabilizing the environment. Moreover, the fact that refugees are perceived as foreigners by the local population contributes to animosity and hostility. These political factors intersect and compound, creating a complex and challenging security environment for refugees.
2. Social factors are connected to refugees' security. The refugee camp faces numerous social challenges. Accusations of espionage among refugees foster mistrust and tension, while visible cultural differences highlight the need for inclusive community building. Psycho-social problems affect some refugees, and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, is perpetuated by male dominance. In addition, criminal gangs exploit vulnerabilities in the camp, and religious differences lead to social divisions. Further, there is a significant presence of single mother families, requiring targeted support. These social

factors intersect and compound, creating a challenging environment for refugees, underscoring the need for a comprehensive approach to address these social determinants.

3. The economic situation in the refugee camp has significant implications for security. The camp struggles with water scarcity and a shortage of firewood, exacerbating economic hardship leading to conflicts over resources and making some groups such as women who move distances to look for necessities vulnerable to insecurity. Environmental degradation through deforestation and grassland destruction lead into conflicts with the locals interested in maintaining their environment. Addressing the economic challenges and environmental concerns is crucial to ensuring the security and well-being of refugees in the camp.

5.3 Recommendation

1. Governments of host countries, humanitarian agencies and leaders of refugees should make effort to minimize political issues that threaten refugee security. This should involve mitigate the impact of local politics from their home countries on camp dynamics through unity promoting programmes. Local politicians must be engaged to discourage mobilization against refugees and promote inter-group understanding. In addition, measures should be taken to address the presence of armed elements and rebel groups, and to promote social cohesion and acceptance among the local population.
2. Host governments, humanitarian leaders, and refugee leaders must work together to address the social factors connected to refugees' security. They should implement measures to foster inclusive community building, prevent exploitation by criminal gangs, and promote social cohesion to address religious differences. In addition, they should provide targeted support to refugees affected by psycho-

social problems, gender-based violence, and single mother families to create a safer and more supportive environment.

3. Host governments, humanitarian leaders, and refugee leaders must prioritize economic development in refugee camps to mitigate conflicts over resources and protect vulnerable groups like women. Efforts to prevent environmental degradation, such as deforestation and grassland destruction, are crucial to maintaining peaceful relations with local communities. By tackling these economic and environmental challenges, they can help ensure the security and well-being of refugees in the camp.

5.4 Limitations of the Study

While this study revealed the contribution of political, social and economic factors to refugees' vulnerability to insecurity. Limitations merged that may affect the generalizability of the findings to all refugee camps due to unique contextual factors. Additionally, data collection methods may have been limited by language barriers, cultural differences, or respondent fatigue. Furthermore, the study's focus on a single camp may not capture the diversity of experiences across different camps.

5.5 Suggestions for Future Research

To address the study limitations, further research should be conducted with comparative studies across multiple refugee camps to identify common challenges and best practices. Investigating specific economic and environmental interventions would provide insight into effective solutions. Exploring the impact of social factors like gender and age would add depth to the understanding of refugee experiences. Examining host community perspectives would also provide valuable insight. Finally, developing innovative solutions to address refugee challenges would help improve their security and well-being.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Consent Form for Participation in Research

TITLE OF STUDY: Determinants of refugees' vulnerability to insecurity at Bidibidi Settlement Camp in North Western Uganda

Dear Participant,

I would like to extend an invitation to you to take part in a research study on the factors that determine the susceptibility of refugees to insecurity in the Bidibidi settlement camp located in the northwestern region of Uganda. The master's degree program in security studies and criminology that I am presently enrolled in at Mount Kenya University is currently in the process of being completed, and I am currently working on writing my master's project. The objective of this study is to evaluate the factors that determine the susceptibility of refugees to experiencing insecurity at the Bidibidi Settlement Camp, which is located in the northwestern region of Uganda. The purpose of the enclosed questionnaire is to gather information from refugees on their perspectives on the variables that influence their sense of safety.

The involvement of individuals like you in this study endeavor is entirely optional. You have the option of declining the offer entirely or leaving blank any questions that you do not want to respond to. In addition to the dangers that are experienced in regular life, there are no known risks associated with involvement. It is guaranteed that your replies will be kept anonymous and private. The information obtained from this study was kept confidential and was only distributed in the form of a cumulative total for the whole group. The researcher is the only person who will be aware of your specific response to this questionnaire via any other means. Due to the fact that you are participating in this study, you will not get any direct advantages. On the other hand, you could find it fascinating to discuss the concerns that were addressed in this study, and talking about them might be valuable to the field as well as to future refugees or others who are facing circumstances that are comparable.

Should you be willing to take part in this study, we kindly ask that you respond to the questions included in the questionnaire to the best of your ability.

It should take approximately *thirty (30)* minutes to complete it. Please, return the questionnaire as soon as possible to enable me complete the project report. If you have any question about this project, feel free to contact the *INVESTIGATOR* (MARTIN LABEJA, telephone number (+256 772 981 795 email address: labejamartin12@gmail.com). If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please get in touch with the Chairman, Mount Kenya University, Ethical Review Committee, P. O. Box 342-01000, Thika.

Thank for your assistance in this important endeavor.

CONSENT

The material that was presented to me has been read, and I have not only comprehended it but also had the chance to ask questions. I am aware that my participation is entirely optional and that I am free to withdraw from the study at any moment, without an explanation and without incurring any financial penalty. According to what I have been told, a copy of this permission form was sent to me. I am willing to take part in this research with my own free will.

Participant's signature _____

Date _____

Investigator's signature _____

Date _____

Appendix II: Questionnaire For Refugees

Mount Kenya University

P.O. Box 13495-00100,

Nairobi – Kenya

March 2024

Dear Respondent

As a student working toward a master's degree, I am doing research with the working title "investigate determinants of refugees' vulnerability to insecurity at Bidibidi Settlement Camp in northwestern Uganda." The information that was necessary was used for the purposes of academic research. Your involvement in this research is requested on a voluntary basis; yet, it is essential to the accomplishment of this work. I would want to respectfully request that you agree to take part in this study so that the research can be successful. It was assured that the information that was supplied would remain confidential by assuring anonymity.

Sincerely

.....

Martin Labeja

Section A: Background Characteristics

Tick in the appropriate place provided

1. Gender

| | |
|------|--------|
| Male | Female |
| 1 | 2 |

2. Age category

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Up to 30 years | 30-40 years | 40-50 years | 50 years and above |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

3. Highest level of education attained

| | | |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Primary | Secondary | Post-Secondary Education |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

4. Number of years ;

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Less than 5 years | 5 - 10 years | 11 years and above |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

Section B: Refugee Security (DV)

| B | Refugee Security | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
|------|--|----|---|----|---|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B1.1 | The security situation in the camp is good | | | | | |
| B1.2 | The camp is free from violence incidents | | | | | |
| B1.3 | There is rule of law in the camp | | | | | |
| B1.4 | In the camp there is freedom of movement from one place to another | | | | | |
| B1.5 | I feel safe entering and leaving the camp | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| B1.6 | In this refugee camp I feel safe all the time | | | | | |
| B1.7 | I am free to carry out business activities | | | | | |
| B1.8 | I easily access food without threats to my life | | | | | |
| B1.9 | The environment in the camp enables health standards of living | | | | | |
| B1.10 | Community members are safe from threats to life in the camp | | | | | |
| B1.11 | I can freely in the political governance of the camp | | | | | |
| B1.12 | In the camp there are no conflicts extending from our motherland | | | | | |

Section C: Political and Socio-Economic Factors

This section presents items on the independent variables that are political and socio-economic factors. You are kindly requested to rate how you assess yourself on those constructs using the scale where, 1 = strongly disagree (SD), 2 = disagree (D), 3 = Not Sure (NS) 4 = agree (A) and 5 = strongly agree (SA).

| C1 | Political Factors | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
|------|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C1.1 | Local politics from our mother play in camp | | | | | |
| C1.2 | The local politicians have united with their people against refugees | | | | | |
| C1.3 | The army officers influenced by local politicians threaten refugees in the camp | | | | | |
| C1.4 | There are conflicts with the locals | | | | | |
| C1.5 | There are political conflicts between refugees | | | | | |
| C1.6 | Ethnic politics play in the refugee camp | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| C1.7 | There armed elements in the refugee camp | | | | | |
| C1.8 | There are rebel elements in the camp | | | | | |
| C1.9 | The locals dislike refugees because of being foreigners | | | | | |
| C2 | Social Factors | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C2.1 | There are accusations among refugees of spying one another | | | | | |
| C2.2 | Cultural differences in the camp are visible | | | | | |
| C2.3 | Ethic diversities in the camp play | | | | | |
| C2.4 | Some refugees experience psycho-social problems | | | | | |
| C2.5 | There is domestic violence in the camp | | | | | |
| C2.6 | There is gender violence in the camp | | | | | |
| C2.7 | Male dominance is high in the camp | | | | | |
| C2.8 | Women suffer sexual violence | | | | | |
| C2.9 | There criminal gangs in the camp | | | | | |
| C2.10 | Religious differences are felt in the camp | | | | | |
| C2.11 | There are a number of single mother families | | | | | |
| C2.12 | There are a number of single father families | | | | | |
| C3 | Economic Factors | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C3.1 | There is competition over land between refugees and host communities | | | | | |
| C3.2 | There refugees who keep animals such as cows and goats in the camp | | | | | |
| C3.3 | The goats and cows destroy crops of other refuges | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| C3.4 | The camp suffers the challenge of water scarcity | | | | | |
| C3.5 | It is easy to access firewood in the camp | | | | | |
| C3.6 | Refugees have access to health services | | | | | |
| C3.7 | Refugees are involved in same petty jobs with the locals | | | | | |
| C3.8 | Poverty is high amongst refugees | | | | | |
| C3.9 | Refugees have led to the destruction of the environment through cutting of trees and grass | | | | | |
| C3.10 | Refugee children have access to schools | | | | | |

End

Thanks for participating in the study.



Appendix III: Interview Guide

Insecurity in Refugee camps

1. How is insecurity in the refugee camp?
2. How is security maintained in the refugee camp?

Political Factors

3. How do local politics affect the lives of refugees?
4. What is the state of communal conflicts in the refugee camp?
5. What is the situation of rebel movements in the refugee camp?

Social Factors

6. What cultural challenges exist in the refugee camp?
7. How is ethnicity an issue of contention in the refugee camp?

Economic Factors

8. What are the economic challenges encountered by refugees?
9. What are the conflicts over economic resources?



Mount Kenya University

Appendix IV: Focus Discussion Guide

Insecurity in Refugee camps

1. How is insecurity in the refugee camp?
2. How is security maintained in the refugee camp?

Political Factors

3. How do local politics affect the lives of refugees?
4. What is the state of communal conflicts in the refugee camp?
5. What is the situation of rebel movements in the refugee camp?

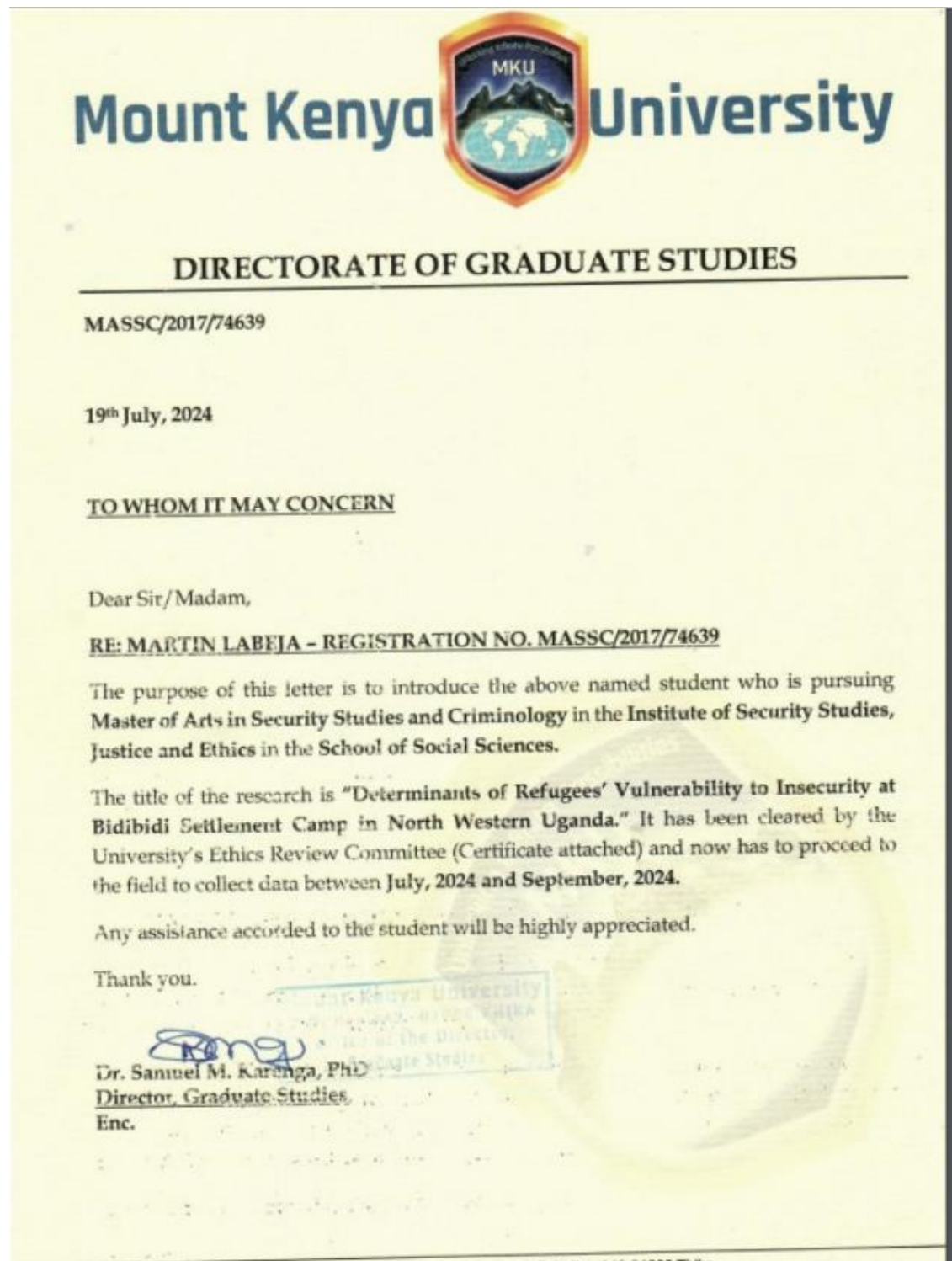
Social Factors

6. What cultural challenges exist in the refugee camp?
7. How is ethnicity an issue of contention in the refugee camp?


Economic Factors

8. What are the economic challenges encountered by refugees?
9. What are the conflicts over economic resources?

Appendix V: Introduction Letter



Appendix VI: ERC Certificate from MKU



Mount Kenya University

REF: MKU/ISERC/3958
TO: MARTIN LBEJA

Date: 18 July 2024

REG: MASSC/2017/74639

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: DETERMINANTS OF REFUGEES' VULNERABILITY TO INSECURITY AT BIDIBIDI SETTLEMENT CAMP IN NORTH WESTERN UGANDA


This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **2924**. The approval period is **18/07/2024 - 17/07/2025**.

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 comply with any additional requirements from the relevant authorities in the country where this study will be conducted.

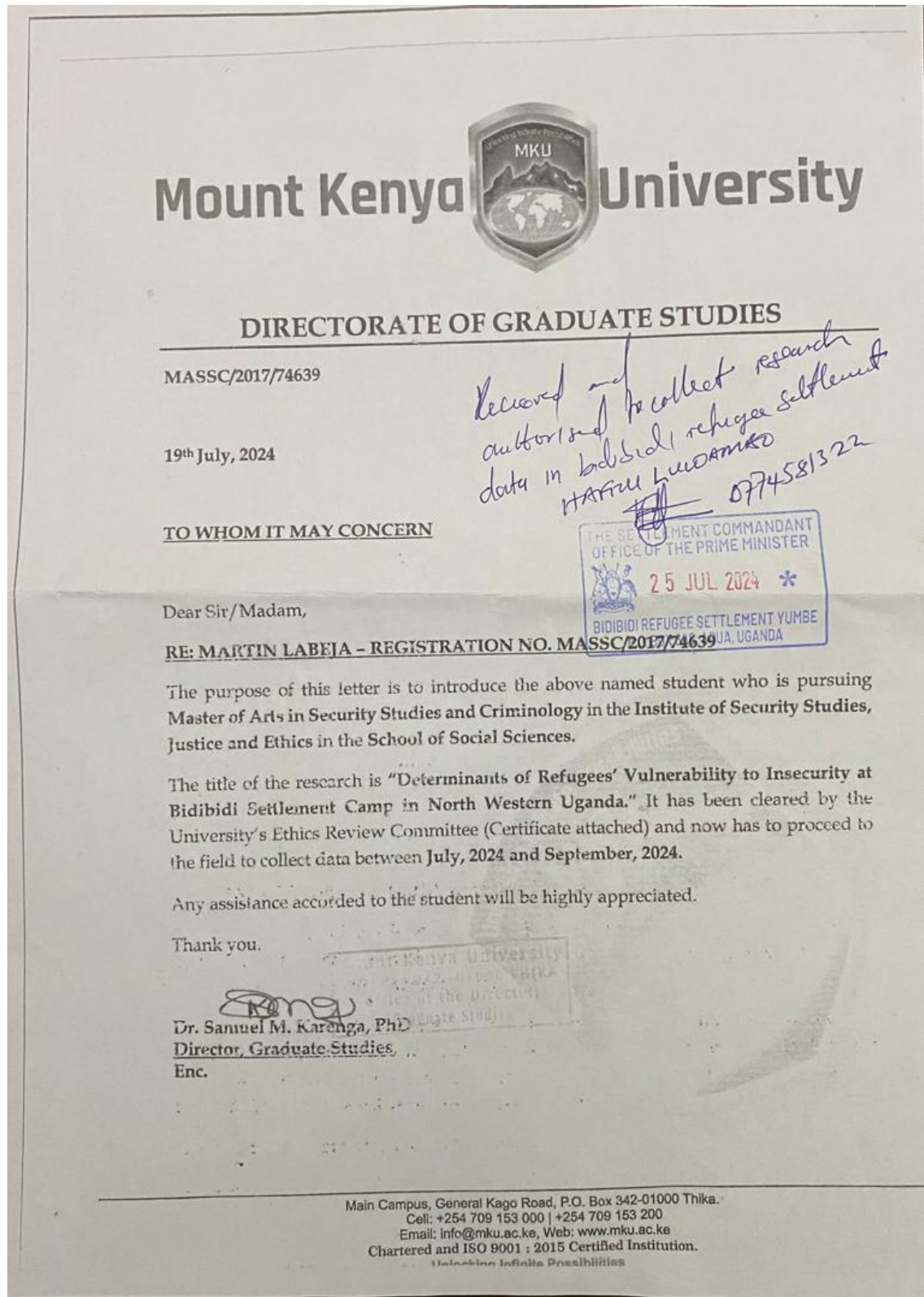
Yours sincerely,


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

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY
ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 342-01000,
THIKA

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Email: info@mku.ac.ke, Web: www.mku.ac.ke
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Unlocking Infinite Possibilities


Appendix VII: Approval letter from Bidibidi Settlement Camp



Appendix VIII: Similarity Index

MARTIN LABEJA

**DETERMINANTS OF REFUGEES' VULNERABILITY TO
INSECURITY AT BIDIBIDI SETTLEMENT CAMP IN NORTH WE...**

 MBA 2025

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