

**INSTITUTE OF PEACE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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A Constituent College of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa

**FORCED MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY IN UGANDA: A
STUDY OF REFUGEE INFLUX AND IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD
SECURITY IN ARUA DISTRICT, WEST NILE REGION**

**A Thesis
By
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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Peace Studies and International Relations**

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented to any university for academic credit.

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DEDICATION

To my Supervisor Rev Dr Elias Omondi Opongo, SJ and reader Rev Dr Gaspar Sunhwa, SJ. I would like you to find in this work the joy that fills my heart when you vehemently encouraged me that the journey once started must be brought to successful completion, and then, you offered me a perfect guidance to reach the end. May this piece of work therefore also give you an equal measure of happiness.

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ABBREVIATION

FSNA: Food Security and Nutrition Assessment

GAM: Global Acute Malnutrition

WHO: World Health Organization

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

RLP: Refugee Law Project

GLR: Great Lakes Region

UNGR: United Nations General Report

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

R2P: Responsibility to Protect

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

UPDF: Uganda Peoples Defense Force

UPF: Uganda Police Force

LC I: Local Council One

LC III: Local Council Three

RDC: Residential District Commissioner

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

CRRF: Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

CSPD: Community Solidarity for Peace and Development

STA: Settlement Transformative Agenda

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WFP: World Food Program

UNCFS: United Nations Committee on Food Security

UNTFHS: United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

UBoS: Uganda Bureau of Statistics

UNFSA: Uganda National Food Security Assessment

IFPRI: International Food Policy Research Institute

GFP: Global Food Policy

IPC: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analysis

GoU: Government of Uganda

FSIN: Food Security Information Network

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organization

UNHS: Uganda National Household Survey

OPM: Office of the Prime Minister

WBG: World Bank Group

WNR: West Nile Region

EAC: East African Community

IGAD: Inter Governmental Authority on Development

AU: African Union

HIPSIR: Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations

CHS: Commission on Human Security

EWEA: Early Warning Early Action

HFQCA: Health Facility Quality Care Assessment

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

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ABSTRACT

Different literature sources have illustrated civil and political wars as the main driver of forced migration and refugees. As if the consequences of these wars only propel innocent and noncombatant civilians to suffer human indignity, the innocent refugees find themselves ‘unintendedly’ causing harm to another innocent group of noncombatants of host communities. This has been demonstrated by several sources of literatures that saw refugees’ influx impacting negatively on host communities’ food security. This research carried out in Arua district, West Nile Region, Uganda, investigated the effectiveness of human security approach to manage the root causes of forced migration and refugees which in turn impact on host communities’ food insecurity. By use of cross-sectional research design and non-probability sampling technique, a total population of 150 participants out of which 15 scheduled for interviews and 135 for questionnaire forms were reached to achieve three broad themes derived from the four objectives: First, general understanding of food security and how it was before and after the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region (WNR); Secondly, South Sudanese refugees as threats to food security in the host communities of WNR; Thirdly, government and stakeholders responses towards threats to food security posed by South Sudanese refugees’ influx in WNR. The study used human security theory to extrapolate the links between wars and conflicts, refugees’ influx, human security, and food security. Just as wars and conflicts are inevitable part of human society, this study embraces the use of human security approach to protect and safeguard people from traumas that besiege human development such as hunger, diseases, poverty, political repression, environmental pollution and depletion, personal security such as criminal attacks, and community insecurity such as survival of traditional cultures since deprivation of these elements to humans have an impact on peace and stability within and between states.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

The world is engulfed with refugee crisis, a situation that has become a pandemic because of several wars and conflicts in the globe. These calamities have resulted into “millions of uprooted people who have lost their homes and livelihood, the increasing numbers of direct civilian casualties and increased levels of violence, abuse and mutilation suffered by noncombatants” (British Government, 2001, p. 10). Such tragedies have caused “immense suffering to millions of people and threatening the security of human family into the future” (Singh, 2014, p. 1). As an illustration of the consequences, the global refugee population from Syria has continued to be the largest, reaching 6.7 million according to UNHCR (2019) report. By the middle of 2019, UNHCR report showed Turkey hosting 3.7 million refugees while the rest of Europe hosting about 2.7 million. In African continent, more than 6.4 million refugees are hosted by sub-Saharan countries, the majority in the East and Horn of Africa with 4.1 million. The Asia and Pacific region hosted 4.2 million refugees followed by the Middle East and North Africa 2.8 million and the Americas 664,800 (UNHCR, 2018, p. 6). These figures which show the movement of refugees escaping from wars and hostility have progressively been perceived as an eminent catastrophe to global peace and security.

A number of literature sources on security matters have demonstrated the mass influx and movement of refugees with devastating consequences both in the short and long run periods for the hosting countries. For example, the four greatest refugee hosting countries in the world such as Turkey with over 3.5 million, Pakistan 1.4 million, Uganda 1.4 million, and Lebanon 998,900 have “common severe impacts of refugees’ influx on host communities’ food security and resilience” (WFP, 2016). This comes as a result of protracted and recurring civil and political

conflicts that offer fears to refugees most likely to remain for a number of years in countries where they have taken asylum. As a result of longer stays in the host countries, the situation for the refugees turns protracted since several of them resort to hold their refugee status while having little or no view to return to their country of origin. (UNHCR, 2012b). For example, “the most protracted refugee situation currently occurs in Pakistan among the Afghan refugees whose population is estimated to be about 2.6 million” according to UNHCR, 2012 report.

It is hard to ignore that such a large refugee influx and their settlement in the host countries of asylum may entail negative consequences particularly to food security. For example, according to WFP reports for 2011 and 2013, Liberia experienced high levels of food insecurity as a result of hosting more than 8,000 Ivorian refugees. While similar report about food insecurity was depicted in Chad which hosts more than 4,500 Nigerian refugees, Niger and Bukina Faso which host more than 9,000 Malian refugees (UNHCR, 2019). As per Turkey, “almost one-third of the households are food insecure, with the majority of sixty-six percent at risk of food insecurity” (WFP, 2016, p. 11). More examples can still be elaborated from the influx of Syrian refugees that was negatively impacting on “the livelihoods of average Jordanians in the north” (Schaffer, 2013, p. 23). These research findings clearly link refugee influx with food insecurity to the host communities. A number of intertwined factors may possibly be attributed to this food insecurity ranging from disruptions in labor markets, constrain on available physical food, poor health services in host regions among others.

It is in line with these literature sources on food security tragedy that this thesis attempted to find out the implications of the influx of refugees on food security from the refugee hosting communities in Arua district, West Nile Region-Uganda. The study sought to explore whether the arrival of refugees put strains on food availability, cost of food, stability of food, and

accessibility of food in the region. In this way, the study intended to find out if the responses by the government and different stakeholders to this situation are proportionate to the food security threats caused by these refugees influx in the region. Given that any effective humanitarian aid depends on majorly two factors, that is, its nature and the country context, a cautious deliberation should be given to both of them especially as far as Uganda is concerned.

Chapter one introduced this research work, providing the background of the study, the statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, justifications and significance of the study, scope of the study, limitation of the study, ethical considerations, theoretical framework, and definition of terms. While chapter two reviewed literature on forced migration and refugees, human security, and possible links between refugees' influx and food security in the host countries or communities. Chapter three focused on research methodology for the study, followed by references and research instruments. Chapter four presents collected data and its analysis. While chapter five summarizes, concludes and offers recommendations.

1.1. Background of the Study

Arua District is located within the West Nile Region situated in the North Western part of Uganda, bordering South Sudan in the North and DRC in the Western part respectively. The district local population alone is estimated to be more than 846,000 by 2018 while the refugees' population in the district reached more than 151,000 according to Uganda government and UNHCR Report of 2018. According to the 2016/2017 Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS), most of the communities in Arua and the entire West Nile Region are most affected by the living conditions which are worsened during the past three years compared with non-refugee hosting districts (UBoS, 2017). This is primarily due to “additional constrain on accessibility to basic services such as health care, education, water, sanitation, and shelter” (UNICEF, 2018)

given the fact that the main refugee hosting districts such as Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani, and Moyo are among the least developed in the country according. The presence of refugee influx in such areas where “host communities have limited social capital, less diverse livelihood and low levels of assets” (OPM, 2016) further exacerbates coping capabilities to both local and refugee populations.

While West Nile Region of Uganda remains the “ground to the largest refugee crisis in Africa” (Tjossem, 2017, para. 2), with more than 700,000 refugees mostly South Sudanese nationals (UNHCR and GoU, 2019) report, it remained unknown to what extent the food security of the refugee host communities in the region have been affected by these refugees influx. In other words, it was not yet clear to what level the refugee host communities’ welfare measured by food security is affected. According to reports by Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analysis, (IPC), “an estimated 10.9 million people in Uganda are experiencing an Acute Food Insecurity situation, of which 1.6 million are in a crisis situation” (IPC Report, 2017, p. VIII). The report also noted that “the overwhelming influx of refugees from South Sudan has increased demand for food and services in West Nile Region” (ibid, p. VIII). Given this fact, it was argued that additional food stress induced by refugees’ influx could have most likely exacerbated the situation to both the host communities and even the refugees.

Despite the increasing attention and efforts by stakeholders to addressing refugees’ crisis in West Nile Region, the host population still appeared to be facing “crisis which entails a tremendous amount of suffering” (World Bank Group, 2017, p. 2). Yet, this may be within the range of what the international community can manage with adequate efforts and effective actions. Where there are challenges specifically of food security faced by the refugee host communities such as high

costs of food, limited accessibility, stability and availability of food, the situation might lockup local communities in experiencing acute suffering, constrain and frustration of human needs that touches the identity and security of the people (Maslow, trans. 1943).

According to Maslow, (1943), if the above challenges such as high costs, limited accessibility, stability and availability to food are not addressed, communities would use them as motivators to inspire negative actions to satisfy them. Such actions may also inevitably increase insecurities characterized with conflicts between the local people who are deprived of basic human needs and the refugees. Besides, “as food stocks become depleted, the risk of more people falling from stress-level to crisis-level acute food insecurity is expected to increase” (IPC Report, 2017, p. 16). Hence, it was needful to establish and find out if the South Sudanese refugees’ influx posed food security challenges to the host communities in West Nile Region from 2013 to March 2019.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Several literature sources have demonstrated multifaceted factors behind national food crisis in Uganda such as drought and prolonged dry spells, poor quality agricultural inputs, crop and livestock pests and diseases, human diseases such as malaria, and poor agricultural methods. Although these factors are also spelt out to explain the causes of food insecurity in West Nile Region, National Food Security Assessment (2017) report also noted the overwhelming influx of refugees from South Sudan and their protracted nature to be exacerbating food insecurity of the host communities by placing a further constrain which creates difficulties for the host communities to bear up refugee influx and crisis in order to realize food security for them over time. It is from such perspective that this study intended to find out if the influx of South Sudanese refugees’ is the cause of the existing threats to food security in West Nile Region

between 2013 and 2019, a duration within which Uganda experienced South Sudanese refugees' influx in the region. Grasping the dynamics and impacts of these insecurities on the host communities could enable a "shift towards more open, solution-oriented policies" (Milner, 2009, p. 19) that can be used to effectively manage the refugee crisis in the host states and communities.

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research was to find out the extent to which South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region is threatening food security situation amongst the host communities. The researcher intended to understand these perceptions on food security threat among the refugee host communities in Arua district from 2013 to March 2019 when Uganda experienced South Sudanese refugees' influx in the region.

1.4. Objectives of the Study

1.4.1. Main Objective

The main objective of this study was to understand whether the South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region affects the food security of the refugee host communities.

1.4.2. Specific Objectives

In order to achieve the main objective of this study, the researcher wanted:

- i. To interrogate whether the influx of refugees affected levels of food stability.
- ii. To find out if the influx of refugees impacted on local population food accessibility.
- iii. To study the trends in food prices since the influx of South Sudanese refugees started.

- iv. To find out if the responses by the government and different stakeholders had positive impacts on threats to food security posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region.

1.5. Research Questions

This study used the following questions derived from the specific objectives of the study as seen below:

- i. To what extent does the influx of South Sudanese refugees affect levels of food stability?
- ii. How does the influx of refugees impact on local population food accessibility?
- iii. What is the trend in food prices since the influx of South Sudanese refugees started?
- iv. Have government and different stakeholders' responses had positive impacts on food security threats posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region?

1.6. Justification and Significance of the Study

This research intended to fill the gap of information on food security threats posed by refugee influx in Uganda. The findings of the study will help to establish an understanding of the concept of security by all stakeholders who are involved in assisting refugees in the host communities. By employing the concept of 'human security' to be understood by all stakeholders, "attention will be drawn to a wide scope of threats faced by individuals and communities by focusing on root causes of insecurities and advance people-centered solutions that are locally driven, comprehensive and sustainable" (Newman, 2010, p. 12). In this way, the research provides a more realistic picture of security which is not confined to the theoretical constraints of

conventional approaches. More so, several scholars and practitioners who embrace human security concept emphasize the policy orientation of this approach by believing that “the concept of human security can and should result in policy changes that improve the welfare of people since it is both morally imperative and also practically sensible” (Tsai and We-En, 2007, p. 2).

The significance of this study is to scrutinize the different policies at work which have scantily addressed the food security menaces faced by the refugee host communities in West Nile Region. At the end of this research, the findings will provide recommendations to different stakeholders ranging from the Uganda government, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), African Union (AU), regional organizations such as East African Community (EAC), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) whose aspect of function is also on development initiatives such as peace, prosperity and regional integration. Such recommendation will not exclude the local NGOs in Uganda. The findings will also enable these organizations to explore more suitable modality(s) in offering humanitarian support to both the refugees and the host communities since both victims are situated in poor developing regions with political, economic and social stress.

1.7. Scope of the Study

This research focused on analyzing the challenges of food security within the framework of human security for the refugee host communities in West Nile Region who experienced the influx of South Sudanese refugees between 2013 and March 2019. The research considered Arua district as the sampled location for the study. This is because it hosts more than 150,000 refugees (GoU and UNHCR, 2018) which provide ground for sufficient and reliable data collection to the inquiry of the study.

1.8. Limitation of the Study

The researcher was aware of the political ground where the research was to be done. Such awareness made it possible to anticipate a limitation most likely to emerge from the government representatives who might not be willing to give facts about the negative prevailing realities of refugee host communities. Such limitation was addressed by assuring and promising confidentiality to all respondents which saw most government officials and all other participants responded positively to the inquiry of this study.

The second limitation was anticipated to emerge from the language barrier between the researcher and South Sudanese refugees themselves. Since most of the South Sudanese refugees speak Arabic, and the researcher speaks English, the two languages become incompatible to understanding. Such language barrier was taken care by employing the use of non-probability sampling technique which enabled the researcher to select refugees capable of speaking and understanding English. This saved time and resources meant for paying translators.

The current political and security situation in West Nile Region can lead to lack of cooperation from the targeted respondents. By presenting the research permit from Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), the respondents were assured that the research was strictly academic, with no political affiliation, and that the information provided will be treated with confidentiality.

1.9. Ethical Considerations

According to (Kumar, 2011) “certain behaviors that cause harm to participants or individuals, breaching confidentiality, using information improperly, and introducing bias are considered

unethical in any profession” (p. 242). Hence, the researcher was conscious on such matters and considered the following key aspects in the field of ethics:

The researcher obtained verbal consent of the participants. This was done through prior information to them about researcher’s identity, what their participation in the research would entail and what risks, if any, are involved so that they were free to consent or decline the request to participate in the study. Prior information was also offered to them about the purpose, methods and intended possible use of the research.

The researcher ensured protection of participants by guaranteeing confidentiality of information given and their anonymity. To achieve this anonymity of participants, pseudonyms were used in information provided by participants.

The principle of “do no harm” in research study was upheld by the researcher. This was done by not jeopardizing the interests, feelings and well-being of both the host communities and South Sudanese refugees involved in the study.

Another important ethical consideration is biasness. This is “a deliberate attempt either to hide what you have found in your study or to highlight something disproportionately to its true existence” (Kumar, 2011, p. 246). The researcher’s study is purely for academic purposes and does not have vested interests in the findings. Therefore, the findings of this research study remains highly independent and impartial.

The skill of listening is an important component of ethical consideration in research study. This been the case, during interviews, the researcher switched off his mobile phones so as to concentrate and avoid calls that would distract the interview process. While timing and place for

conducting the interviews matter, the researcher observed and made convenient arrangements to meet the participants in the right places and at the right times.

1.10. Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework is defined as “a reasoned set of prepositions which are derived from and supported by data or evidence that explains phenomena” (Kombo and Tromp, 2006, p. 56). For this discourse, the researcher will use human security theory.

Human Security Theory (UNDP, 1994 Report)

This theory explains security concept beyond conventional paradigm of security. While the concept of security in conventional sense is more of territorial protection or safeguarding, human security theory is human centered. With such a notion, the theory describes an environment where people are given relief from the traumas that besiege human development. These traumas that besiege human development include; hunger, diseases, poverty, political repression, environmental pollution and depletion, personal insecurity such as criminal attacks, and community insecurity such as survival of traditional cultures. Such “human security deprivations are acknowledged to have an impact on peace and stability within and between states” (Newman, 2010, p. 2). This is because they not only deprive development but also generate conditions within which grievances can lead to growing tensions.

According to human security theory, then, “these people are supposed to be provided with safety and protection from such sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life-whether in homes, in jobs, or in communities” (UNDP, 1994, p. 23). This was upheld by the Commission on Human Security that people must be protected “from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread)

threats and situations” (Commission on Human Security, CHS, 2003, p. 4) which are illustrated above.

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), (2009) came up with a comprehensive framework in which they adopted two concepts “protection” and “empowerment” (p. 21) as most suitable mechanisms so as to achieve the objective of human security. These two mechanisms were propounded by the Commission on Human Security (CHS), (2003) as policy framework. According to CHS, “protection” means strategies setup by states, international agencies, NGOs, and the Private Sector to shield people from menaces (CHS: 2003: 10). In other words, norms, processes and institutions are required to protect people from critical and pervasive threats by use of a “top-down” approach which recognizes that people face threats that are beyond their control e.g. financial crises, conflicts, and even refugees’ influxes.

On the other hand, “empowerment” for CHS means strategies that enable people to develop their resilience to difficult situations (CHS; 2003: 10). This strategy uses “bottom-up” approach which aims at developing the capabilities of individuals and communities as will be shown below, to make informed choices and to act on their own behalf. Such not only enables them to develop their full potential but also allows them to find ways and to participate in solutions to ensure human security for themselves and others.

Nevertheless, as far as food security is concerned, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 2017 Report (IPC) has already shown that West Nile Region is experiencing a severe and pervasive food security threats emanating from different factors such as climatic factors like drought, pests and crop diseases, poor crop yielding seeds, poor agricultural methods which only

involve subsistence rather than commercial, and also refugees influx in the region. Recognizing this as security concern, several stakeholders ranging from the states, international agencies, NGOs, and private sectors should adopt the use of ‘protection’ and ‘empowerment’ frameworks so as to shield the refugee host communities from experiencing crisis-level acute food insecurity in the region.

By use of top-down approach, the refugee host communities are recognized as facing food security threats beyond their control and hence:

food assistance in kind or cash transfers are offered to population in crisis, stakeholders facilitate access to planting materials and seed for next planting season, construct water infrastructure and rehabilitate water sources, promote water conservation and irrigation, promote drought and disease tolerant high yielding crop varieties and establish food security, nutrition and disease surveillance (UNFSA, 2017, p. XIII).

The same applies to bottom-up approach where stakeholders should empower the host communities with quality agricultural inputs, establishment of irrigation schemes that are solar powered to improve food production, supporting afforestation of degraded areas in the host communities among others. These strategies, if embraced, will enable the host communities to develop their potential and resilience to participate in solutions which ensures food security for themselves and others such as refugees in the region.

The above human security theory is chosen by the researcher because it offers an explicit policy tool which can be used in the fields of security, development and humanitarian works. Besides, it also “offers a conceptual basis for understanding, analyzing and designing ways to investigate a problem” (UNTFHS, 2009, p. 5) which for this thesis has found out that South Sudanese refugees influx indeed poses threats to food security to the host communities in West Nile Region of Uganda.

By use of this human security theory, the researcher intended to find out the extent to which the theory was applicable in indicating factors that have contributed to food security menaces experienced by host communities as a result of South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region. Based on this theory which provides a holistic and contextual account of peoples' concrete needs and the factors endangering their security, it is hoped that the information obtained through such analysis can be used in assessing existing institutional arrangements and policies. This can later help different stakeholders to "review and redesign policies to those institutions locally, nationally and internationally for tackling the urgent challenges of human security within the framework of the paradigm of longer term sustainable human development" (UNDP, 1994, p. 39).

1.11. Definition of Terms

1.11.1. Human Security

In this study, the researcher considers the concept of 'human security' to mean non-military dimensions which include health, food, economic, environmental, community, personal, and political securities, every single one of them considered as the obligation of the state to its citizens.

Operationally therefore, the human security concept in this thesis would mean the safeguarding and protection of the refugee host communities from food insecurity in West Nile Region with respect to providing accessibility, opportunity and choices to the host communities so as to satisfy their basic needs of life without internal and external infringement upon food accessibility, food availability, food stability and food utilization.

1.11.2. Food Security

This refers to the conditions in which households in West Nile Region have food availability, stability and accessibility at all times to enough, safe and nutritious food that regularly meets the dietary requirements and food preferences for a healthy and revitalized life.

1.11.3. Refugees

This study employs the definition of the United Nations 1951 Convention, relating to the Status of refugees combined with article 1 of the 1967 protocol. According to this convention,

a refugee is a person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear is, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it (UNHCR, 1999, p. 10).

Operationally, this study considers a “refugee” to be a person of South Sudanese nationality whose usual residence was in South Sudan, and who has taken safety in Uganda in line with the relevant national, regional and international instruments.

1.11.4. Refugees crisis

In this thesis, the refugees’ crisis refers to the overwhelming number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda which has overstretched and constrained the already limited food resources of the host communities in West Nile Region.

1.11.5. Refugees influx

This refers to the ways in which steady inflows of South Sudanese refugees into northern Uganda has led to significant threats to food security in West Nile Region where most of them have sought safety and protection from political domestic violence and wars in South Sudan.

1.11.6. Forced Migration

In this thesis, the term would be used to describe the South Sudanese refugees hosted within West Nile Region and the consequences of their presence upon the food security of host communities.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter unpacks some of the existing literature sources on humanitarian crisis from the past decades to date. It also covers the recent global refugees' phenomenon, reviewing the associated existing efforts by international and regional agencies in addressing refugee problems in the wake of a war or some other catastrophic events and the political role of states to ensuring human security for its inhabitants. Although lots of academic discourses are found relevant to these issues, there still exists a gape of insignificant information about the harsher reality that most of the host communities of refugees grapple with and the scanty attention by various stakeholders to refugee host communities that this study will focus upon, and the emphasis on tackling the root causes that transpires to refugees plight and forced migration. With food security been the centrality of the discussion, the researcher deems it necessary to stretch the scope of the study by reviewing it from the global, regional to national (contextual) perspectives on refugee crisis, settlements and its associated impacts for the host countries. The discussion for this chapter will present an equal attention and consideration for both the refugees' plight and the host communities who become the second victim of civil wars and conflicts.

2.1. Global Impact of Refugees Crisis and Forced Migration on Food Security

Humanity happens to be experiencing a catastrophic phenomenon observed with the world reaching "the highest number of refugees in recent history, with 60 million refugees or persons in refugee-like situations, compared to 30.7 million persons a decade ago" (Graham, 2015, para. 3). This has made the twenty-first century refugee crisis to quickly reach "an unprecedented global scope, overwhelming the limited regime formed by the international community in response to the waves of refugees from the European upheavals of earlier decades" (Zolberg *et al.*, 1989, p. 227). Although the developed countries have seen significantly low political and civil strives in

the present century compared to the past, refugee problem has persisted in Africa right from the pre-colonial, colonial and the post-colonial period mainly because of “confrontations over the social order in both old and new states” (Zolberg et al., 1989, p. 230) which result into civil wars and conflicts. This also explains the reason why “Africa is the main refugee generating continent and also the most hospitable to refugees” (Mark, 2000, p. 122). The East African sub region, mostly Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda have borne the burden of hosting millions of refugees both in the past and today who flee their countries of origin for various reasons ranging from internal political conflicts, wars, famine and drought among a host of other reasons that induce large numbers of affected people to flee from their ancestral homelands.

As the present global phenomenon of refugee crises reaches its highest peak, several scholarly research works have established the root causes and implications of their mass movements. They have also shown how host communities are been negatively influenced by the changing dynamics of social, environmental, and economic levels resulting from their influx which leads to threats associated with food insecurity to the host country. Although other factors such as famine, drought, diseases and poor governance contribute significantly to refugees plight which later impacts on food security, “conflicts and wars often worsen food and nutrition insecurity” (Clemens *et al.*, 2015, p. 52). This is because as millions of lives of people are lost and others displaced through conflicts and wars, people in the affecting regions are impeded from actively participating in agricultural activities which directly provides food availability through production.

In addition to the above, the accessibility to markets is affected due to destruction of infrastructures such as roads, schools and hospitals. This is observable with the countries such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Nigeria, Gaza, South Sudan and other conflict-affected places which

experienced severe conflicts and political wars in the recent past years. Worse still, humanitarian tragedies as a result of wars and conflicts, coupled with the destruction and disruption of trade routes, frequently renders accessibility to goods and services thinly possible, hence making them expensive and at times unavailable altogether.

According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United States (2018), “civil war and insecurity account for the direct reasons for high hunger rates in developing countries” (p. 2). The report notes that “conflict displaces millions of people, hampering agricultural activities and, in many cases, also driving basic food prices up sharply” (p. 2). For example, inflation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was noted to have reached “more than doubled in 2017 to a 42 percent annual rate due to the conflict, while the disruption of traditional trade routes around the Sahel drove up food prices” (FSIN, 2018, p. 60). The report also established food shortages around southern and eastern Libya.

The above literature ignites a particular interest in this thesis which seeks to provide a conceptual framework so as to explore the potential impacts of how a sudden influx of majority poor refugees may directly and indirectly affect food security and resilience of a host community, by bringing forth the situation of South Sudanese refugees’ influx in Uganda, West Nile Region. By exploring these implications through the lens of food security, the following sections focus on three major pathways by discussing on health, security and conflict, and the environment. This will be followed by focusing on indirect implications of refugee influx on food security in the host communities of West Nile Region by investigating the effects of South Sudanese refugees’ influx on local food production, food prices, food transportation and trade, and discuss them on households’ food security within the region. Lastly, the significance of some coping strategies to

both short and long term impacts of refugee influx on the hosting population of West Nile Region is reflected in the discussion.

2.2. South Sudanese Refugees Influx and Food Security in Uganda

In the year 2011, South Sudan obtained its independence from Sudan, making it to become “the World’s newest country, with the backing of Western nations” (Specia, 2018, para. 13). Two years later, the young country was erupted into civil war in 2013 which led to loss of “tens of thousands of lives and displaced millions internally and into neighboring countries” (Bailie, 2018, para. 6). The conflict is believed to have emanated as a result of disagreement between the loyal military forces to President Salva Kiir and loyal military forces to then-Vice President Riek Machar which engulfed into armed battle amongst several factions, raising South Sudan in viral ethnic bloodshed that ultimately resulted to upsetting humanitarian crisis. Almost “2.5 million people have been forced to seek refuge in Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic” (Bhalla, 2018, para. 5). According to UN (2018) reports, a further two million South Sudanese are displaced inside the country, making it to become “the largest refugee crisis in Africa and the third largest in the world after Syria and Afghanistan” (Bhalla, 2018, para. 8).

Currently, Uganda is a home to “over 1.4 million South Sudanese refugees with West Nile Region (WNR) hosting over 800,000 refugees and Arua district alone hosting over 150,000 refugees” (GoU and UNHCR, 2018). Taking West Nile Region as the case study, it is located in the North Western part of Uganda, bordering South Sudan in the North and DRC in the Western part respectively. The major settlement areas include Rhino Camp Refugee settlement centre in Arua, Bidibidi Refugee settlement centre in Yumbe, Adjumani Refugee settlement centre in

Adjumani, Palorinya Refugee settlement centre in Moyo, Koboko Refugee Settlement centre in Koboko, Pagirinya Refugee settlement centre in Adjumani district and many more others.

In 2017, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) team considered Uganda to be “a country ‘on watch’, indicating a deterioration of the ongoing situation with a moderate to high likelihood of having a moderate or significant impacts on food security” (FAO, 2017, p. 17). Northern Uganda in general was considered to have faced two such risks to food security, namely “the influx of refugees from South Sudan and below-average crop production resulting from drought” (FAO, 2017, p. 17). The report also noted that refugee host communities living in northern districts of Uganda have experienced worsening food security throughout 2017 because of unfavorable weather conditions.

As earlier demonstrated in the introductory phase, a number of evidenced based literatures on “food security at the global level reveal the link between food security and refugees suggested by cross-country correlation, showing countries that receive a high number of refugees largely coincide with areas already facing deteriorating food security” (Mabiso *et al.*, 2014, p. 4). This is presented by affirmative geographic relationship that exists between food insecurity status, child malnutrition, and the populations of refugees that is hosted by the destined asylum countries. Nonetheless, this blunt connection that exists between refugee host communities in West Nile Region and constraining socio-economic effects are not astonishing given the fact that majority of South Sudanese refugees’ influx are hosted in districts with “persistent under-development of the north lagging behind the rest of the country in key development indicators” (Herbert and Idris, 2018, p. 4).

While Uganda has succeeded to make commendable achievements in its development of progressive and inclusive policies for managing influx of refugees in the past years, “food security situation continues to be exacerbated by the impact of the unfolding refugee crisis, placing pressure on local resources, such as food and basic services available to host communities” (FAO, 2018, p. 19). Given the urgent need to address and fulfill food shortages in West Nile Region, there is a probable threat that is likely to emerge if effective measures fail to be taken to avert the negative constraining changes in local food prices, availability, stability and accessibility. Besides, the regions that are currently not in a crisis-level acute food insecurity situation may become “adversely affected by a spike in intra-region food prices, due to the lure of better profits in areas currently experiencing food shortages, which in turn could trigger a reduction in the purchasing power of vulnerable groups across all regions” (IPC, 2018, p. 16). Hence, emphasis on the importance of grasping the socio-economic, political and environmental contexts of the region stands paramount in order to derive more comprehensive policies that can be formulated to mitigate the negative implications of the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region.

2.3. Health and Food Security

Agriculture is the backbone of Uganda’s gross domestic product and export earnings. It also provides the main source of income for the most majority adult population. But, it is important to note that food security depends mostly on the health status of adult household population. Since income generating activities in larger parts of Uganda depend heavily on intensive farming and labor work, many households with fragile health status in West Nile Region might become more susceptible to refugees’ influx through a number of health-related ways.

First, the region is faced with lots of pressure on health system of most refugee hosting communities. Although some other literature sources such as from (Kalipeni and Oppong 1998) showed refugee movements at times with the spread of infectious diseases, evidence has confirmed that West Nile Region faces both pressure on health system and the spread of infectious diseases. For example, the South Sudanese refugees influx were considered to have negatively impacted on the host communities which saw “West Nile Region earmarked with high prevalence of malaria at 94.7 percent for children under 5 while the adults at 35 percent prevalence respectively” (UNICEF, 2017, p. 2). It is conspicuous that such ill health situations of the local adults or their children put them in a situation of spending the little income they have on medications. The spending of income on medication has the capacity to deprive the local poor people of adequate savings that can enable them afford quality and nutritious food for a healthy living. In relation to sick adults themselves, sickness deprives them of participating actively in agricultural production which further erodes the availability of local food produced in the community.

Secondly, for the case of West Nile Region, the Health Facility Quality of Care Assessment (HFQCA) conducted by UNICEF in 2017 reflects “a health system with weaknesses exacerbated by the shock of South Sudanese refugees’ influx” (para. 6). This was evidenced by the poor quality of basic services due to inequitable access by the general population. In addition, preliminary findings from the October 2017 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) indicated “high levels of malnutrition among children in the refugee host communities, with those in the West Nile Region worse off” (UNICEF, 2017). For example, the assessment showed “five out of seven settlements having Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels above the WHO recommended threshold of 10 per cent with Arua having 10.3 per cent; Adjumani 11.8 per cent;

Palorinya 11.1 per cent; Palabek 12.3 per cent and Bidibidi in Yumbe district at 11.3 per cent” (UNICEF, 2017). Anemia was also shown to be higher in the West Nile Region settlements with “nearly five out of every ten children in Bidibidi (56.6 per cent) and Lobule (53.0 per cent) being anemic, exceeding the WHO threshold of 40 per cent” (UNICEF, 2017, p. 18).

The above case studies on health pattern and the implications of South Sudanese refugees’ influx on healthcare provision in West Nile Region indirectly have negative implication on food security. This is possible due to fluctuation of health in both adult population and children which have consequences upon households’ capacity to savings and earnings. This happens when the protracted refugee influx situation levies a profound burden on households’ healthcare spending. For example, UNICEF (2017) report already noted:

the mass arrival of South Sudanese refugees typically imposing a heavy burden on healthcare spending in Uganda and on the capacity of the existing healthcare facilities in West Nile Region which are often already struggling to provide adequate services to the local communities (p. 6).

In addition to the imposition of heavy burdens on healthcare spending, the inadequate health facilities and their services are on high demand by the overwhelming population, making costs of affordability higher than before the arrival of refugee influx. This creates challenges for the locals to save their little income that would otherwise be utilized for purchasing quality nutritious food and for even investing in commercial agricultural production which directly contributes to food security and availability.

Complex as they are, it is vital to get the perceptive on how deteriorating health of adults in the refugee host communities can negatively affect food security in the region. Such an understanding and a desire to escape similar condition that Uganda is faced with should give rise to the notion of ‘human security’ which “takes the individual as the focus and emphasizes two characteristics of security: safety from chronic threats such as disease and repression, and

protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life” (UNDP, 1994, p. 22). The theory recognizes that “an individual’s personal protection and preservation comes not just from the safeguarding of the state as a political unit, but also from access to individual welfare and quality of life” (Maclean, 2004, p. 7). Therefore, considering West Nile Region which hosts the largest number of refugees, inclusive policies and interventions that build resilience to shocks as well as effective responses towards deteriorating health conditions of host communities have the potential to rescue the host communities from experiencing food shortage menaces due to implications of refugee influxes.

2.4. Security and Conflict Implication on Food Security

As noted before, civil war and insecurity are direct reasons which account for threats to food security in most developing countries especially in Africa. First and foremost, agricultural activities whether by subsistence or commercial farmers may be brought to stagnation due to security related concerns. This stagnation may be temporarily or unceasing depending on the nature and magnitude of conflict which disrupts farming activities. The disruption affects farmers as they take refuge to secure destinations, hence, affecting their concentration on farming activities. This directly contributes to diminishing “food production and availability locally, but in protracted refugee contexts it may imply long-term disruption of food production” (Mabiso, *et al.*, 2014, p. 12). Conflicts for example in DRC and South Sudan have displaced millions of people, bringing agricultural activities to a standstill in those affected regions. With West Nile Region bordering South Sudan from the North and DRC from the West, “there is increased demand of food from external markets from the two countries South Sudan and DRC which is leading not only to reduced supply but also unusual food price increases” (IPC, 2017, p.18). Hence, this can gradually affect the purchasing power of the host communities in West

Nile Region who have relatively low incomes. This coupled with the influx of refugees increases demand on the local food stocks and eventually affecting accessibility to food.

The various “interventions by the UNHCR and other international partners in providing food aid and cash for food has increased demand for local food produced in the entire region hence depleting the local food reserves” (IPC, 2017, p. 72). This has put more pressure and strain on the little available food in West Nile Region which are negatively affecting the livelihood of the host communities observed in their struggle and adoption to coping strategies such as “reduction in the numbers and quality of meals, eating non-conventional food/nonpoisonous plants, hunting for wild game, harvesting wild honey and farming vegetables, early maturing cereals and pulses in wetlands during dry season” (IPC, 2017, p. 73). The report also noted other strategies that the host communities have adopted such as “selling of crops and small ruminants and chicken to buy food, selling labor to raise income for food and other household needs” (IPC, 2017, p. 73).

Conversely, conflict related issues over land and border demarcations have been established between “the districts of Adjumani and Amuru, Yumbe and Arua, Moyo and South Sudan borders” (IPC, 2017, p. 71). Refugee Law Project, Uganda noted that while the refugee situation in Uganda becomes protracted with the continuous influx of refugees from South Sudan, Burundi and the DRC, “the quantity of land, a major source of livelihood for refugees and nationals alike, has remained the same, causing scarcity of resources and increased tension among host communities” (RLP, 2003). This directly explains the fall of food production in the region since much of the land is constructed with houses and settlement of refugees leaving little ground for cultivation.

Elsewhere, “the internal boarder conflicts still remain a challenge and therefore, it is projected that production and productivity will still be low affecting livelihoods of the communities in

these conflict areas thus rendering them more vulnerable” (FAO, 2018, p. 18). Such conflicts are said to be as a result of displacement of local communities for settling the overwhelming refugees’ influx in the region. This further hampers food production, hence making the host communities more vulnerable to food insecurity.

Given the range of concerns relating to the presence and implications of these refugees upon food security of the poor communities of West Nile Region, it is crucial to understand that such difficulties which place great strain on the community’s inadequate food resources may “naturally erode the hospitality of the local host communities” (Kibreab, 1985, p. 69). The erosion of such hospitality by the host communities may lead to the breeding of grievances against the refugees which can further result into insecurities characterized by conflicts between the host and refugees. In addition, the presence of the refugees may, for obvious reasons, be perceived as “an intolerable burden by the local population and can lead to serious conflict and hostility hence obstructing local integration” (Milner, 2009, p. 92). Besides, “failing to implement comprehensive and well-tailored policies to strengthen receptive and processing capabilities and supporting integration efforts will make refugee flows more costly for host societies in the long run” (Bohmelt et al., 2018, p. 85).

Consequently, effective approaches should be derived “on how issues are to be addressed, which settlement prospects are preferred and how diverse interests are to be attended to” (Winslade and Monk, 2001, p. 47) so as to alleviate the plight of the refugees in West Nile Region as well as food security of the host communities. Such an effective approach should then take into consideration the interplay of factors which exist between refugee influx, security, conflict, environment, and food security which can necessitate stakeholders to “envision and respond to the ebb and flow of social conflict as life giving opportunities for creating constructive change

processes that reduce violence, increase justice in direct interaction and social structures, and respond to real life problems in human relation” (Lederach, 2003, p. 14). Therefore, the aim of human security application advanced by UNDP 1994 Report shifts more focus from political concerns to the significance of social and economic issues which suits “appropriate dispute resolution” (Burgess and Burgess, 1997, p. 5).

Due to its broader framework, the theory enables different stakeholders to address human problems according to the policy and action plan priorities mapped out by the demands of prevailing necessities. In other words, when the above approach is embraced to coordinate government, various intergovernmental agencies and international aid organizations working with refugees in Uganda, the corresponding needs of refugees and the host communities’ food security challenges may be mutually addressed without leaving “several lacunae in security coverage” (Moller, 2009, p. 35).

2.5. Environmental Channels and Food Security

It is often plausible to assert that large refugee influxes such as in Uganda, Turkey, Lebanon and Pakistan are likely to amplify environmental fragility due to population pressure (Jacobsen 1997; Berry 2008). This population pressure on the already limited natural resources can lead to its further depletion especially in the protracted refugee host areas. Nevertheless, this depletion of natural available resources depend mostly on “the main livelihood or occupation of the refugees relative to that of the locals which determine the extent of resource competition and natural resource depletion that occurs in refugee situations” (Mabiso *et al.*, 2014, p. 14). On the other hand, the implications of refugee influx on environment may obliquely have a negative effect upon the host communities’ food security. This is possible via human activities such as deforestation, soil erosion, water pollution, land degradation among others. These human

activities can hardly be denied of posing negative effects both in the short and long terms (Martin 2005; Whitaker 2002). An example to illustrate the above effects of human activities can be depicted by the presence of refugees in Tanzania which “accelerated deforestation rates and depletion of soil nutrient availability for agricultural crops, causing additional soil erosion and thereby affecting the host’s agricultural production and food security” (Berry 2008).

The negative environmental impacts on food security due to refugees’ influx are certainly plausible since they are found to be involved in cutting down trees which are used as poles for house construction and charcoal for cooking food as well as for income generation. As more trees are cut down for refugee housing constructions without afforestation, this will lead to desertification in the long run which further affects food production, stability and availability in the region. Hence, advocating for alternative income generation that the locals as well as refugees rely on for their livelihood becomes a necessity especially in the context of West Nile Region. More importantly, the livelihood opportunity which involves alternatives to charcoal trading and deforestation that is common in many refugee host communities in West Nile Region is meritorious for adoption. In that respect, the environmental support programs exemplified by Kenyan government in which they put restrictions on cutting down of trees used for firewood around Dadaab camp is worth of adoption. This is because it provides evidence of successfully advocating alternative fuel sources which minimizes the negative effects of environmental degradation upon the food security of the host communities (Loescher 2004).

2.6. Indirect Implications of Refugee Influx on Food Security

Refugee movements and influx may “result in indirect security concerns which are more difficult to identify but potentially just as significant as direct concerns” (Milner, 2009, p. 77). This is a key concept that has been largely overlooked in both academia and policy considerations of the

food security implications of South Sudanese refugee influx in Uganda. Yet, it is noted that “the influx of a large number of refugees in the world’s poorest nations brings with it a variety of difficulties and places great strains on the country’s inadequate national resources” (Kibreab, 1985, p. 69). In these cases, it can be asserted that refugees alone are a necessary but not sufficient cause of host community food insecurity. This means that it is not the refugees that are the sources of food insecurity, but “the context within which they exist that contributes to their securitization” (Milner, 2009, p. 77). These indirect concerns may arise as a result of refugee influx which leads to the exacerbation of previously existing frustrations of human needs among local populations in which they compete with local populations for scarce resources, jobs, and social services, including health care, education, and housing.

First of all, the incidence of local food availability in West Nile Region should not only be determined by local subsistence production alone. But, it should also be determined by the local household capacity to benefit from importations of physical food from neighboring DRC and South Sudan among others since the region borders DRC from the North West and South Sudan from the North. Since food supply mostly depends on road and market conditions, some existing literature sources show that the “host communities may actually benefit from the large-scale arrival of refugees which provides increased trade opportunities to the local communities” (Mabiso, et al., 2014, p. 15). The available market for host communities’ surplus enables them to liquidate their surplus hence minimizing wastages. For example, before the arrival of Burundian and Rwandese refugees to Western Tanzania, the local Tanzanian farmers often times embarked on trading activities across the border with their neighboring Burundi and Rwanda. This provided a ready foreign market for their agricultural produce and other commodities that did not find domestic demand and markets (Ndege *et al.* 1995; Whitaker 2002). The refugees’ influx

from Burundi and Rwanda can therefore be said to have provided a ready market for their products which benefited the local farmers.

Although the above explanation holds some degree of advantage to the refugees' presence in terms of food availability and accessibility, the South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region is impacting negatively on the host communities' food security. Since most of the local population earn relatively low incomes, the current "high prices are tempting households in West Nile Region to sell off the little food they have, affecting their near-future food security situation" (IPC, 2017, p. 19). This further hampers food stability in the region. Stability of food security is worsened by the increasing cross-border demand of food crops which has in turn affected price stability in West Nile Region. This makes it stressful factor for the poor local hosts to attain food security which can be understood in two distinct yet interrelated scopes of food availability and accessibility.

According to Riley (1999), food accessibility is "ensured when households and all individuals within them have adequate resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet" (p. 8). But, this surely depends mostly on three factors on the side of households which include accessibility to income, the prices of food in local markets and the level of costs sharing. On the other hand, food availability is ensured when "sufficient quantities of food are consistently available to all individuals within a country" (Riley, 1999, p. 8). These quantities of food may come from various sources ranging from household production, food aid, commercial imports, among other possible sources. But, the "inability to meet these needs, coupled with inaccessibility to sufficient supply of food that can satisfy a healthy diet is defined as food insecurity" (Riley, 1999, p. 8).

With West Nile Region bordering South Sudan and DRC respectively, together with high demands of food both locally within the West Nile Region and across the borders, the available food is most likely to become repetitively costly for the low income earners, making affordability impossible, hence obstructing the poor host communities from utilizing quality and nutritious food for a healthy life. This food insecurity is the evidence of the assessment which showed “five out of seven settlements having Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels above the WHO recommended threshold of 10 per cent with Arua having 10.3 per cent; Adjumani 11.8 per cent; Palorinya 11.1 per cent; Palabek 12.3 per cent and Bidibidi in Yumbe district at 11.3 per cent” (UNICEF, 2017, p. 2). Anemia which is caused by lack of Vitamin B12 was also shown to be higher in the West Nile Region settlements with nearly “five out of every ten children in Bidibidi (56.6 per cent) and Lobule (53.0 per cent) being anemic, exceeding the WHO threshold of 40 per cent” (UNICEF, 2017, p. 2). Therefore, a meaningful and practicable consideration to these poor health indicators should be considered by incorporating more explicitly the concept of human security which has plausible policy avenues that can shift refugee assistance to development since this has the propensity to enhance individual welfare and quality of life. In addition, adaptation of “a broad spectrum of policies and investments that have the potential to strengthen the ability of host households and refugees through goods and labor market mechanisms” (Mabiso, et al., 2014, p. 20) is imperative especially in the social-economic situation of refugee host communities in West Nile Region.

2.7. Broad Mechanisms for Addressing Food Security

The effects of large scale influxes of refugees on social, political and economic status of host communities are both imperative and intricate in their dynamism. Aware of this, then, the social, political and economic context of Uganda as well as West Nile Region needs to be taken into

consideration for positive framing of resilience-enhancing policies in refugee host communities. Such consideration can be accorded by contrasting the implications of refugees' influx upon social, economic and political situation of the host communities. Several researches have pointed out that increase and improvement of public goods such as schools, roads, hospitals, electricity and other services offered by various stakeholders in refugee host communities are likely to be of greater beneficial to poorer households within refugee settlement areas. But, the same poorer households may be less favored in terms of market-based economic opportunities that arise from the influx of refugees within their vicinities.

The above can be demonstrated in the example where households which have access to some physical capitals such as land, education, housing, livestock, business enterprises, leadership positions among others have higher chances of reaping economic benefits without a feeling of been laden by the effects of refugees influx. This is simply because well-off and wealthier households may start more rewarding economic activities such as new businesses, improving and expanding existing agricultural production, job opportunities to work in any of the various humanitarian sectors among others. Unfortunately, the worse-off or poorer households may possibly be trapped in their poverty situation resulting to their competition with cheap refugee agricultural labor in the host communities.

By adopting “protection” and “empowerment” as authentic mechanisms for achieving the goal of food security, several stakeholders and humanitarian agencies working with refugees in West Nile Region should embrace the use of a “top-down” approach which recognizes the vulnerability of the refugee host populations that face food security threats beyond their control. Whereas “empowerment” on the other hand would “enable the vulnerable host communities to develop their resilience to such difficult situations” (CHS; 2003: 10). By use of “bottom-up”

approach, the capabilities of the host communities would be developed in the area of modernizing agriculture so as to increase food productivity on their own behalf as they participate in food security solutions for themselves and others.

Since this literature review embraces a conceptual framework which points to multi-dimensional factors to food security, the role of both labor and market goods as adaptation mechanism should be critically considered in refugee influx situation of West Nile Region. This is because markets provide means for both food security and food insecurity to various categories of refugee host communities. For example, household subsistence farmers and business community may enjoy the ready markets for their surplus goods especially perishable physical food which in turn enables them to afford and have accessibility to other safe and nutritious available food in the local markets. More so, when the local host traders and refugees also involve trading in food and nonfood items that have not been domestically produced, it is hard to deny that this can also have implications on food availability, accessibility, stability and prices. The prior conditions which determine the above factors to prevail include improved infrastructure, possibility of farming which all depend on availability of quality ploughable land.

Secondly, Uganda government has embraced an open policy to refugees which sees their integration with the local communities. As noble as it appears, several research has shown that influx of refugees has negative implications on and to the environment where they are hosted. This been the case, the quality of environment that may most likely to be destroyed by human activities of both host and refugees in settlement areas should also be considered as the utmost pathway that can potentially affect food security of the host communities in both short and long run. Mitigation measures inform of soil conservation and reforestation programs may serve as most suitable means to such environmental resilience.

Although Uganda government uses the open policy to manage refugee influxes, it should also have the political will to derive a wider spectrum of measures that can be used to establish and address the root causes of food insecurities in the refugee host regions. This is noteworthy with what Maslow (1943) noted that “humans not only act but also respond to various situations based on a series of needs”. Some of the examples that Maslow (1943) gave in order of their hierarchy ranges from physiological, safety, social, esteem and self-actualization. As these components were already reflected in the UNDP Report of 1994, the host communities of refugees in West Nile Region who experience the breach of human security in food security related threats may consider these needs as motivators to inspire negative actions so as to satisfy them if any intervening humanitarian and state agencies neglect the equally important needs of the refugee host communities.

Thirdly, it is inhumane for all stakeholders to actively participate in addressing the symptoms and implications of refugees’ influx in West Nile Region while ignoring the root causes of the plight of refugees. Therefore, it is imperative to understand that the human security challenges that Uganda grapples with as a result of refugees influx is due to civil and political unrests in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) which is “characterized by endemic and violent conflicts” (Kamanga, 2008, p. 163). Such violent conflicts produce voluminous number of refugees that seek safety in Uganda and ‘unintendedly’ breach human security to the host communities. This adds unto the already fragile and failed state characterized by poor governance, widespread poverty and famine, declining economic conditions, mismanagement of land and natural resources, which all form an overwhelming barricade against stability in a country that not only lacks democratic traditions and culture but also “the political atmosphere remains charged with fear, suspicion and uncertainty” (Mugaju, 1987, p. 86). These factors as noted by (Miall *et al.*, 1999) reflect “a

weakening of state structures, the collapse of sovereignty and a local breakdown in the state system” (p. 34).

Evidenced by inadequate global donor fund support to address the challenges posed by refugees’ influx in Uganda and elsewhere, the regional as well as global refugees crisis should now be spurred by “a growing sensitivity to human rights and a reaction to atrocities perpetrated upon citizens by their own leaders” (Weiss, 2007, p. 209) especially in Sub-Saharan Africa countries which emit the greatest number of refugees in the region and across the globe.

It should be noted that initiatives to address food security and human security challenges as a result of refugees influx to Uganda have had limited positive impacts because of frequent and untimely conflicts especially in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) which keep mounting refugee movements into the country and beyond. Finding most durable solutions to such challenges would not only therefore require addressing the refugee crisis within Uganda but also the volatile regions that surround the country such as South Sudan, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Sudan among others where there is frequent occurrence of violent civil and political wars. Since “no other geographical region on the African continent has a forced displacement problem of comparable duration or magnitude like the Great Lakes Region” (Kamanga, 2008, p. 163), regional bodies should establish a genuine and strong wide-ranging mechanisms that aim to build on the authority of UNHCR as the main legal authority on refugee matters. They should also get committed to have bilateral actions in a concerted way to halt the spread of conflicts in the region which worsens food security in the entire region.

Puzzled by pervasive human vulnerability, “threatened by ‘new wars’ where actors are no longer states that do not follow the rules of conduct of ‘old wars’, and that cannot be won by the means

of old wars” (Kaldor, 2007, p. 10), the UN member states need to arrive at a new consensus that recognizes the globalized nature of contemporary threats posed by forced migration and accepts vigorous cooperative solutions. This idea is in line with the UN General Report (2004) which emphasize that “today’s threats recognize no national boundaries, are connected, and must be addressed at the global and regional as well as the national levels” (UNGR, 2004, 1). Additionally, these new wars have created a global threat in form of refugees and intertwined with threats such as diseases, poverty, food insecurity, political repression and homelessness. Yet “our security conceptions, drawn from the dominant experience of the Second World War, do not reduce that insecurity rather they make it worse” (Kaldor, 2007 p. 10). This explains the reason why the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) application is significant to alleviate some of these human created problems which yield humans to continue bearing the burden of security failures while states bearing the responsibility of preventing and responding to security threats.

A perfect example of the application of R2P within African continent was when there was imminent military intervention from West African Countries ECOWAS that helped to bring to an end the political crisis in the impoverished nation of Gambia in January 2017. The regional ECOWAS troops were poised to push into Gambia as Yahya Jammeh, the nation's leader for more than 22 years refused to cede power after losing elections. President-elect Adama Barrow had flown to safety in neighboring Senegal, where he was sworn in at the Gambian embassy with international support.

The above example of the application of R2P in Gambia’s political case can be referred to as a ‘perfect vigilance’ which Opongo (2011) defines as “the capacity to anticipate the signs of times and advocate immediate actions that have a future positive impact on social transformation” (p. 74). Such timely intervention did not yield refugee crisis in the region.

Sadako and Amartya's Commission on Human Security (CHS), (2003) defined the term as "protection of the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment" (p. 5). By using these broad words, the Commission states that "human security means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity" (CHS, 2003). In other words, human security includes what we have understood as humanitarian aid, peace operations and sustainable development.

Since the broad conception is concerned with human vulnerability overall and therefore encompasses all forms of threats from all sources, there must be involvement of multiple actors beyond the state, NGOs, regional organizations and civil society in managing food security, and empowerment of most especially refugee host communities in West Nile Region who are the opponents of deep change. Bearing in mind that food security, state security and human security are mutually reinforcing and dependent on each other, such application would equally address the root causes of refugees' plight in fallen states and also in hosting communities especially in Ugandan rural areas which experience abysmal poverty and food security deprivations.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discussed the methodology that the researcher used to achieve the objectives of the study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for this thesis. Qualitative research approach is the use of scientific method to make nonnumeric observations from which conclusions are drawn without the use of statistical analysis. It is based on the holistic view that reality changes and behavior is dynamic. The premise behind using qualitative research approach is that “feelings and insights are considered important” (Orodho & Kombo, 2002, p. 27) since it describes the experiences of individuals in words or narratives and not as values that can be subjected to statistical analysis.

On the other hand, quantitative research method emphasizes objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys, (Babbie, 2010). Its advantage is that it focuses on gathering numerical data and generalizing it across groups of people or to explain a particular phenomenon.

This chapter explains: Research Design, Methods and Instrument; Population Sampling; Data Collection Procedures; Research Time and Time Frame; Reliability and Validity of the Research Instruments and Data Analysis as seen below:

3.1. Research Design, Methods and Instrument

This study used cross-sectional research design for the reason that it is suited to finding out the degree of relationship between refugee influx and food insecurity, by taking a cross-section of the population at a specified period of time with regard to both the study population and the time of investigation. Secondly and very fundamentally is that cross-sectional study design is simple

in design in that “you decide what you want to find out about, identify the study population, select a sample (if you need to) and contact your respondents to find out the required information” (Kumar, 2011, p. 106). In this way, the study yields insights into the prevalence of specific factors and outcomes that can be calculated for a given population or community. More so, insights into the levels of exposure to factors and outcome status can be compared which has to do with understanding security in broader sense.

Research method consisted of primary and secondary methods for gathering information. The researcher used both interview and questionnaires for obtaining information. Interviews involved structured questions with open and closed ended questions. The premise for choosing this method is that the researcher had the ability to approach identified respondents in person or by telephone and persuaded them to participate in the study. This included structured and semi-structured interviews with open and closed ended questions as their research instruments.

With questionnaire method, the researcher used both structured and semi-structured questionnaires. Structured questionnaires are those questionnaires in which there are definite and concrete questions and answers are specific and comments in the respondent’s own words are held to the minimum. The questions were presented with exactly the same wording and in the same order to all respondents in the form of either closed or open ended questions. As per semi-structured questionnaires, the researcher provided a general guide on the type of information to be obtained and the exact question formulation was largely researcher’s own responsibility. The responses were taken down in the participant’s own words as much as possible through the use of a tape recorder for effective recording.

3.2. Population and Sampling

Study population refers to “that aggregate of elements from which the sample is actually selected” (Babbie, 2006, p. 196). This study targeted a specific population drawn from the members of the refugee host communities, refugees, government representatives ranging from Local Council One (L.C.I) chairpersons of the host communities whose responsibility is executing government duties at the grass root levels, Local Council Three (L.C.III) chairpersons of the host communities whose government responsibility is at the Sub-County levels, Residential District Commissioner (RDC) of the host community whose role is to execute government duties at the district level, UNHCR representatives based in Arua district, some secondary school head teachers in the host communities, the Uganda Police Force (UPF) in the host regions, and some NGOs working closely with the refugees in the West Nile Region. The above samples are selected by use of purposive sampling method since “this will target a group of people believed to be reliable for the study” (Kombo & Tromp, 2006, p. 82).

Sampling methods are divided into probability and non-probability samplings. As per this study, the researcher used only non-probability sampling method by employing convenient sampling technique. The reason for its selection is that it involves any technique in which samples are selected in some way not suggested by probability theory. The researcher also considered using this technique because it does not entail complications in its approach (Robson, 1993, p. 140) for obtaining the population sample for study.

By use of non-probability sampling technique, the researcher used a population sample of 150 participants, 15 scheduled for interviews which included the categories below:

Members of the host communities of refugees (2), Refugees in the host communities (2), L.C.I Chairpersons of the host communities (2), L.C.III Chairpersons of the host communities (1),

Residential District Commissioner (RDC) of the host community (1), UNHCR representative based in Arua district (1), some secondary school head teachers in the host communities (3), the Uganda Police Force in the host regions (2), and some NGOs working closely with the refugees in the West Nile Region (2). Conversely, 135 participants were reached through distribution questionnaire forms. The reason for choosing this approach is typically to “enable the researcher to satisfy his specific needs” (Robson, 1993, p. 141) in this project.

3.3. Field Data Collection Process

The researcher employed two methods of data collection which included the use of primary data from primary sources such as (interviews, and questionnaires) and secondary data from secondary sources such as (government and NGO earlier publications). With interview process, the researcher made personal meetings, phone calls and appointments with respondents in Arua town location, Imvepi, Omugo and Rhinocamp settlements, requesting them to participate willfully in the research. During the actual interview hours, the researcher took notes and tape recorded those participants who accepted to be recorded. While the questionnaire forms were administered by researcher and research assistants to the participants who self-filled them and thereafter were collected. However, the challenging encounter in the interview method of data collection was experienced when some participants would not accept to be interviewed singly. The reason for this hesitation was noted to be simply a feeling of knowledge incapacitation, hence, fear of presumed questions that would defeat them to answer. The researcher handled such challenge by organizing a mini focus groups consisting of 3-4 participants who then confidently participated in providing data. For those who did not want to be recorded, the researcher simply embarked on taking notes as accurate as possible in the words of participants though this couldn't yield perfect result. On the other hand, the challenge with questionnaire

administering was that some forms couldn't be filled and returned on time by the participants. Although this was a challenge, this method yielded the most outstanding results which saw 112 out of 135 questionnaire forms returned.

3.4. Research Site and Time Frame

The actual research took place in urban and rural parts of Arua district within an estimated specified period of one month from May to June 2019. The reason for the choice of research site is that a quarter of the over 1 million South Sudanese refugees in Uganda reside in Arua District according to the UNHCR report for 2018, May. This provided a fertile ground for the researcher to collect data from the respondents within this vicinity which can sensibly be generalized as per regards other host areas.

3.5. Reliability and Validity of the Research Instruments

The reliability and validity of the research instruments were tested by the researcher under actual field conditions on a group of people similar to researcher's study population. This pre-testing of the research instrument entailed preliminary interviews with a UNHCR officer based in Arua district, a local government official from the district, and one host community member. Through this pre-test, the researcher intended to establish a clear and concise questionnaires and interview guides which were to bring consistent results so as to guarantee reliability. The purpose of the pre-test was not to collect data but to identify problems that the potential respondents might have in either understanding or interpreting a question. The aim of the pretest was to establish if the questionnaires had problems in wordings, ambiguity in meanings, interpretations, and to find out if the three respondents for the pretest would have similar or different interpretations from what the researcher intended to convey.

3.6. Data Analysis

Data Analysis “refers to examining what has been collected in a survey or experiment and making deductions and inferences” (Kombo and Tromp, 2006, p. 117). The data from the questionnaires and interviews were organized, edited, classified and coded to allow for efficient data analysis. Secondly, the information were then classified accordingly based on the attributes and characteristics. Thirdly, the data collected were thematically arranged which involved going through the responses given by the respondents to understand the meanings each respondent tried to communicate so as to develop broad themes out of the responses. Lastly, the themes were then integrated into the text of the report.

Quantitative data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel. The data were then summarized and presented in tables, bar charts, pie charts and organized into frequencies and percentages as seen below in chapter four.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS

4.1. Introduction

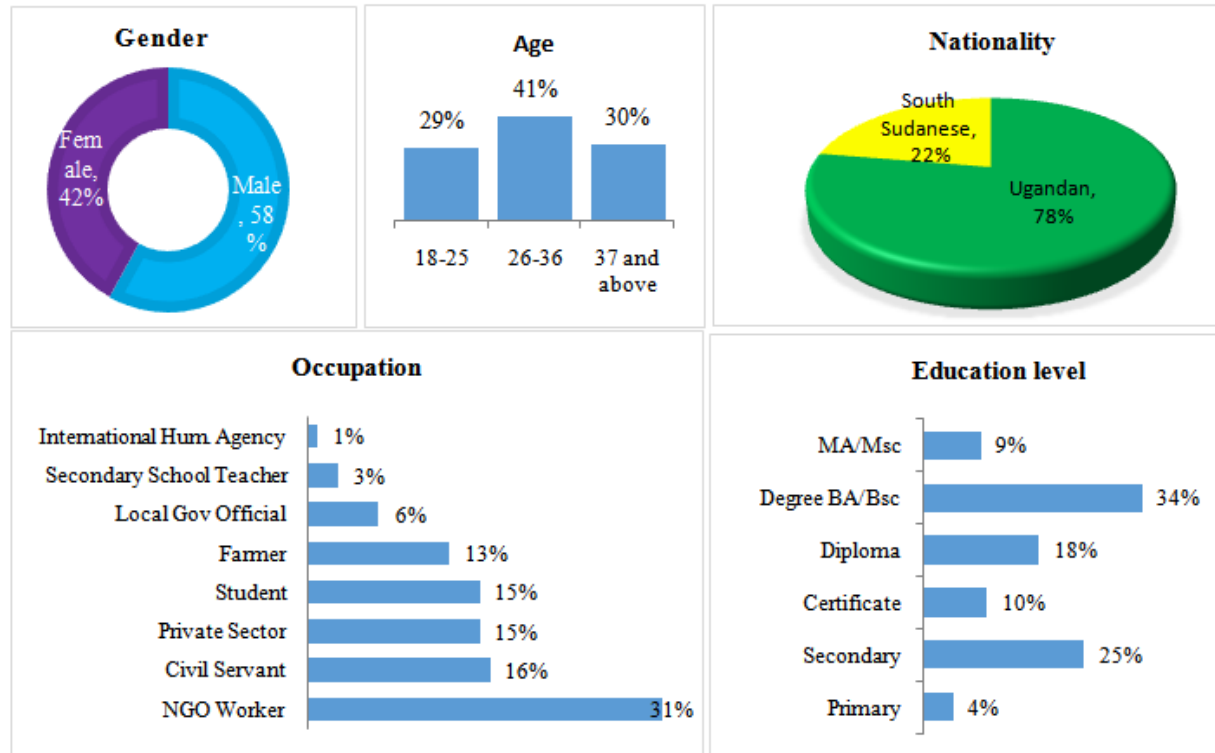
This chapter consists of the presentation and analysis of data collected from the field research conducted in Arua district, West Nile Region, Uganda between 05th May and 10th June of 2019. The data analysis and presentations were categorized under three of the four purported broad themes found in line with the research questions. Although there were initially four research questions, two of them, that is, second; how does the influx of refugees impact on local population food accessibility? and third; what is the trend in food prices since the influx of South Sudanese refugees started?, were amalgamated under second broad theme of: South Sudanese refugees as threats to food security in the host communities of West Nile Region. The reason for merging of research questions second and third was simply because the purpose of the study i.e. to find out the extent to which South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region is threatening food security situation amongst the host communities already hypothesized discrepancy between host communities' food security and South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region. Since 'food accessibility' and 'food prices' are among the measurable indicators of food security and yet are reflected in research questions ii and iii, it felt logically possible to merge the two questions under one broad theme of: South Sudanese refugees as threats to food security in the host communities of West Nile Region.

However, the first section of the theme: impacts of South Sudanese refugees influx on food security in West Nile Region presents findings on the food security situations in West Nile Region before and after the influx of South Sudanese refugees. The second section of the theme presents findings on how the refugees' influx threatens food security in the host communities of West Nile Region. The third last section of the theme presents findings on whether the

government and stakeholders interventions have had positive impacts on the food security threats posed by refugees' influx in West Nile Region. The researcher also developed few sub-questions for each of the research questions with the hope that they could serve as means through which the respondents give diverse views on the main research question.

The analysis of data in this chapter includes qualitative and quantitative elements. The researcher's targeted population sample was 150 in total, of which 135 was scheduled for questionnaires and 15 for interviews. Although this was not perfectly achieved, the outcome of the response was tremendously achieved evidenced in 112 out of 135 questionnaire forms returned to the researcher. In contrast, mixed method, that is, focus group and one on one interview was used to interview the 15 targeted populations. The focus group was used with Local Council I members and South Sudanese refugees. The reason for this approach was that the researcher noted hesitance and fear from these particular group members to have one on one interviews. Considering ethical issues in data collection, they couldn't be forced singly to face the researcher for interviews but to be scheduled in groups so as to build confidence for easy interaction about the topic to be researched. While by use of purposive sampling, different specific populations drawn within Arua district were successfully conducted for interviews by the researcher. Cross tabulations and simple frequencies or percentages are employed in the analysis of quantitative data presented in charts, while the narrative method is used in the analysis of qualitative data as seen below.

Figure 1: Bio Data of the Respondents



As stated before, the study targeted a sample size of 150 in Arua District of which out of 135 respondents scheduled for filling questionnaire forms; the achieved response rate was 112, which is 83.0%. The above charts present the bio data of both Ugandan and South Sudanese refugee population sample who were the respondents for this study. The first chart presents gender participation which show 65 male respondents with 58% indicated by the blue column while 47 female respondents with 42% indicated by purple column. The bar chart indicates the age bracket of the respondents while the pie chart shows the percentage of the two nationalities, that is, 87 Ugandan respondents (78%) indicated by the green column and 25 South Sudanese respondents (22%) indicated by yellow column respectively. It is important to understand that this study intended to grasp food security mainly from the perspective of the refugee host communities who are the direct victims of the implications of refugee influx in the region. Aware of this, the researcher made deliberation to obtain the above minimal percentage of South

Sudanese respondents in order to avoid bias in the research and also to find out from their own perspective of what the food security situation is in West Nile Region.

The occupation chart presents 35 respondents who work with NGOs indicated by 31%, followed by 18 civil servants indicated by 16%, 17 respondents working with private sector indicated by 15%, 17 students indicated by 15%, 15 farmers indicated by 13%, 8 local government officials indicated by 6%, 3 secondary teachers indicated by 3% and 1 international humanitarian agency worker indicated by 1%. The researcher made this classification with the hope that their experience with food security situation in the refugee host communities of West Nile Region would have different impacts on their lives and that such experience would yield significant insights into the topic of research study.

The educational level chart presents the percentage of respondents with different educational attainments. The longest bar line in the chart presents 38 degree holders indicated by 34%, followed by 28 secondary teachers indicated by 25%, 20 diploma holders indicated by 18%, 11 certificate holders indicated by 10%, 10 master of arts/science holders indicated by 9% and lastly 4 respondents with the primary level indicated by 4%. These different levels of exposure to education play a big role in shaping the understanding and perception of people about events such as refugees' influx which make them to respond differently. At this level therefore, the researcher shall proceed to give the analysis of data collected with regards to the specific objectives of this study.

4.2. Analysis of Research Questions under Themes

4.2.1. General perception of respondents on food security

This section presents different views about food security given by the host communities and the refugees in Arua district, West Nile Region. The data collected on this theme considered the food security situation before and after the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region. The respondents were allowed to give multiple responses to this variable. In order to get various perspectives on food security situations in West Nile Region, the following five research sub-questions and participants' response analysis are given below.

(a) Participants perception of food security

The researcher employed this research sub-question to determine if the host communities and refugees in the region understand the concept of food security. For better and precise understanding of food security concept, the researcher highlighted the key measurable indicators of food security ranging from; availability of physical food, stability of physical food, accessibility of physical food, and lastly food price stability. In determining what food security meant to participants therefore, several responses were given as illustrated by the chart below.

Figure 2: General perception of food security

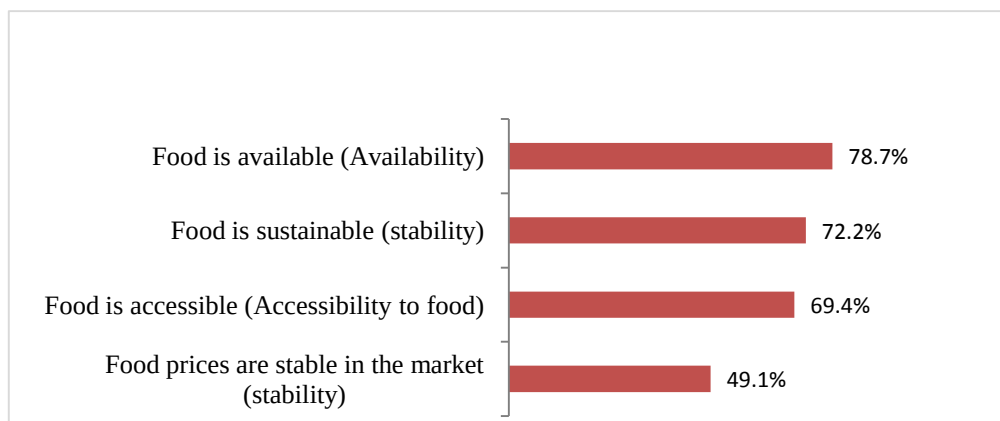


Table 1: Cross tabulation of general understanding of food security

	Gender			Age			Nationality			Education Level					
Measurable indicators of food security	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-36	37 and above	Ugandan	South Sudanese		Primary	Secondary	Certificate	Diploma	Degree	MA/MSc
Total	108	62	46	30	45	33	85	23		5	24	11	20	38	10
Physical food is available (Availability)	78.7%	83.9%	71.7%	80.0%	75.6%	81.8%	81.2%	69.6%		60.0%	79.2%	72.7%	80.0%	78.9%	90.0%
Physical food is sustainable (stability)	72.2%	67.7%	78.3%	56.7%	77.8%	78.8%	72.9%	69.6%		60.0%	58.3%	72.7%	65.0%	81.6%	90.0%
Physical food is accessible (Accessibility to food)	69.4%	74.2%	63.0%	73.3%	73.3%	60.6%	70.6%	65.2%		80.0%	62.5%	72.7%	65.0%	73.7%	70.0%
Food prices are stable in the market (stability)	49.1%	51.6%	45.7%	36.7%	55.6%	51.5%	49.4%	47.8%		20.0%	50.0%	45.5%	35.0%	55.3%	70.0%

From the findings illustrated above, 108 respondents' general perception of food security is that physical food is available which scored 78.7%. This availability of physical food is the benchmark of all other food security indicators. This explains the reason for the flow of understanding of food security from physical food availability with 78.7% to physical food sustainability in which 78 respondents (72.2%) noted, 75 respondents (69.4%) indicated physical food accessibility and 53 respondents (49.1%) indicated stable food prices in the market. This understanding of food security correlates with the negative attitude of refugees in Imvepi refugee settlement who stated that:

food security is the availability and abundance of food to eat at any time when one feels hungry. That is why for us here in Imvepi refugee settlement, we do not want cash ratio provision. This is because where do we get to buy food? In the nearby trading centres, there are no or scarce physical food to buy from. The town centres where physical food can be bought at any time are far, we can't walk the distance. Besides, it costs us 40,000 Ugshs to and fro to board a taxi. This makes life difficult. We simply need food, not cash given by UNHCR (14/05/2019. No: 4).

As per the above general understanding of food security in West Nile Region, it becomes clear that having enough available food to eat regularly for active and healthy life is the most essential human need.

(b) Understanding of Food Security situation before the influx of refugees

With this research sub-question, the researcher wanted to understand how food security situation was in the host communities before the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region. The findings from this research sub-question was intended to determine whether the host communities were in better food security situation before the influx of South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region. The chart below presents the analysis of the data collected in this regard.

Figure 3: Perception of Respondents on Food Security situation before the influx of refugees

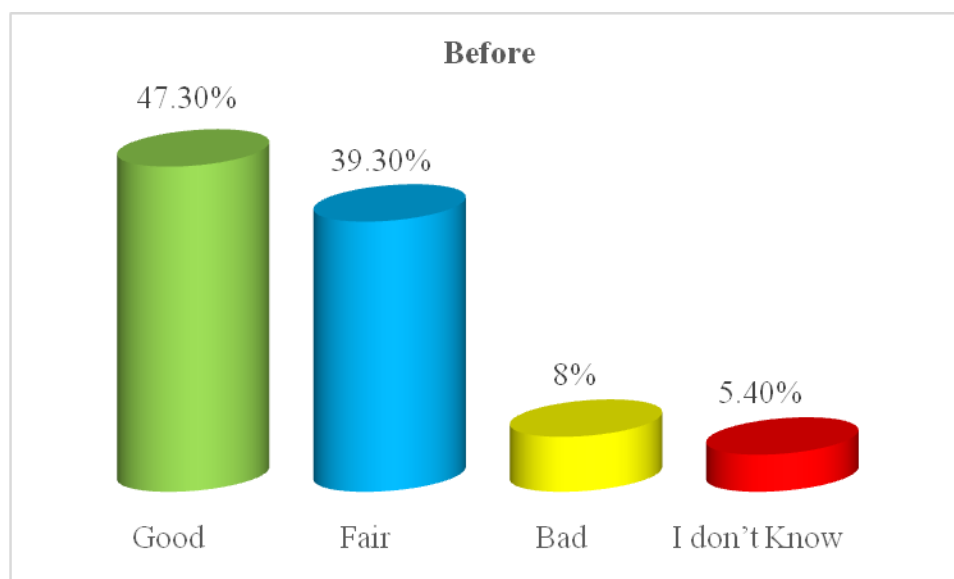


Table 2: Cross tabulation of food security situation before the influx of refugees

Ratings	Gender		Age			Nationality		
	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-36	37 and above	Ugandan	South Sudanese
Total	112	65	47	32	46	34	87	25
Good	47%	49%	45%	47%	48%	47%	51%	36%
Fair	39%	35%	45%	41%	41%	35%	41%	32%
Bad	8%	11%	4%	9%	9%	6%	5%	20%
I don't know	5%	5%	6%	3%	2%	12%	3%	12%

From the above findings, 53 respondents (47.3%) indicated by green column bar acknowledged that food security situation was good before the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region. While 44 respondents (39.3%) indicated by blue column said that it was fair, 9 respondents (8%) indicated by yellow column said it was bad, and 6 respondents (5.4%) indicated by red column said that they don't know.

In order to understand more the affirmative response of the respondents to this particular sub-question, the explanation by respondents on food security before the influx of South Sudanese refugees in the region indicated that 57 Ugandans (51%) of the host communities and 9 South Sudanese (36%) acknowledged food security situation to be good before the refugees' influx in West Nile Region due to the following reasons as shown below.

Table 3: Reasons for positive food security situation before the influx of refugees

Reasons	Good	Fair	Bad
Total	53	44	9
Food was enough/available	73.6%	29.5%	0.0%
Food prices were relatively cheap/stable	24.5%	27.3%	0.0%
The available food was sustainable	17.0%	11.4%	0.0%
There was relatively bigger land for cultivation	11.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Many people were involved in agriculture	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Food was still scarce	0.0%	20.5%	33.3%
Environmental factors hindered food production. e.g. drought, poor terrain	0.0%	4.5%	22.2%
Food prices were still high	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%
No explanation	15.1%	29.5%	55.6%

From the figure shown above, three measurable indicators such as enough or adequate available physical food indicated by 73%, cheap or stable food prices in the local markets indicated by 24%, and lastly the stability of physical food or sustainability indicated by 17%, generally demonstrate good food security to the host communities in Arua district. Several South Sudanese refugees indicated by 36% who responded to this sub-question also noted that

before the influx of their fellow South Sudanese refugees in the region, they were fewer, and this didn't affect much food security situation in the region. But later when the war continued and worsened in 2014 to 2017 in South Sudan, they increased in number in West Nile Region and this caused destabilization in food security for them (14/05/2019. NO: 4).

The finding also presented 44 respondents (29.5%) who noted that the food security situation was somehow fair before the influx of South Sudanese refugees. The reason for their fair claim

was shown in the relatively adequate available food indicated by 29.5%, relatively cheap or stable food prices in the local markets indicated by 27.3%, and relatively stable physical food or sustainability indicated by 11.4%. Although 13 respondents (29.5%) did not give any explanation as to why they responded 'fair food security situation in West Nile Region', 9 respondents (20.5%) asserted that food was still scarce in West Nile Region before the influx of South Sudanese refugees. This scarcity of food was due to environmental factors which hinder food production such as drought, poor terrain, crop pests and diseases, laziness among the potential subsistence farmers in the host communities.

(c) Understanding of Food Security after or with the influx of refugees

This research sub-question was constructed by the researcher to find out from the respondents how the situation of food security was after or with the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region. With this research question, the researcher opted to find out the comparison of food security situation before and aftermath of refugees influx in West Nile Region. The findings from such question will help to confirm whether the refugees' influx affects food security of the host communities in West Nile Region or their influx has little or nothing to do with food insecurity in the region. The chart below presents the analysis of the data collected in this regard.

Figure 4: Perception of Respondents on Food Security after the influx of refugees

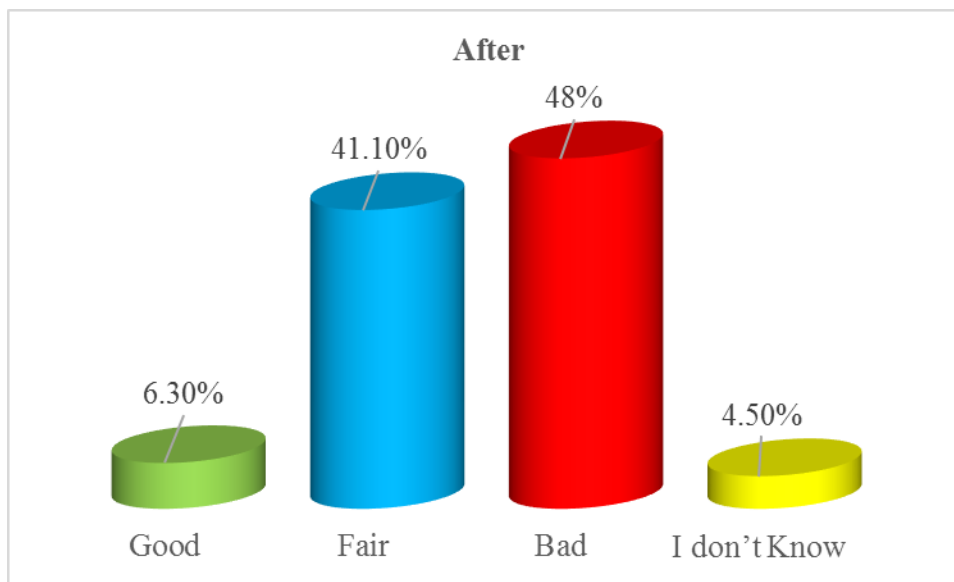


Table 4: Cross tabulation of food security after the influx of refugees

Ratings	Gender			Age			Nationality	
	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-36	37 and above	Ugandan	South Sudanese
Total	112	65	47	32	46	34	87	25
Good	6.3%	7.7%	4.3%	15.6%	0.0%	5.9%	5.7%	8.0%
Fair	41.1%	41.5%	40.4%	31.3%	41.3%	50.0%	40.2%	44.0%
Bad	48.2%	46.2%	51.1%	53.1%	52.2%	38.2%	49.4%	44.0%
I don't know	4.5%	4.6%	4.3%	0.0%	6.5%	5.9%	4.6%	4.0%

The findings for this sub-question showed that 54 respondents (48.2%) indicated by red column complained of bad food security situation after the influx of South Sudanese refugees, 46 respondents (41.1%) indicated by blue column said that the food security situation was fair with the influx of refugees in the region, 7 respondents (6.3%) indicated by green column said that food security was good, and 5 respondents (4.5%) indicated by yellow column said that they don't know if food security was threatened by South Sudanese refugees influx in the region. In order to understand further the above responses, the researcher asked participants to briefly

explain the choice of their answers to the above question. The chart below presents the analysis of their various reasons for the choice of responses.

Table 5: Reasons for negative food security situations after the influx of refugees

Reasons	Good	Fair	Bad
Total	7	44	54
Food shortage due to increase in population	0.0%	47.7%	85.2%
Increase in food prices	0.0%	29.5%	33.3%
Environmental destruction, e.g. tree cutting	0.0%	4.5%	13.0%
Relatively less land available for farming	0.0%	2.3%	7.4%
Food is supplied to refugees by humanitarian agencies - benefits some hosts too	42.9%	20.5%	1.9%
Enlarged market for farmers' produce	57.1%	11.4%	0.0%
No explanation	14.3%	11.4%	1.9%

The chart above shows a total of 105 participants responded to the research sub-question. Out of 105 participants who responded, 54 (85.2%) believed that food security situation in West Nile Region was bad because of food shortage due to increase in population that increased demand for food, which consequently spurred increase in food prices. While the respondents who gave fair rating to the food security situation equally acknowledged the implication of refugee influx in West Nile Region by highlighting food shortage due to increase in population and secondly increase in food prices as the main issues of concern that threatens food security of the host communities. In an interview, the above finding is confirmed from a respondent who noted that:

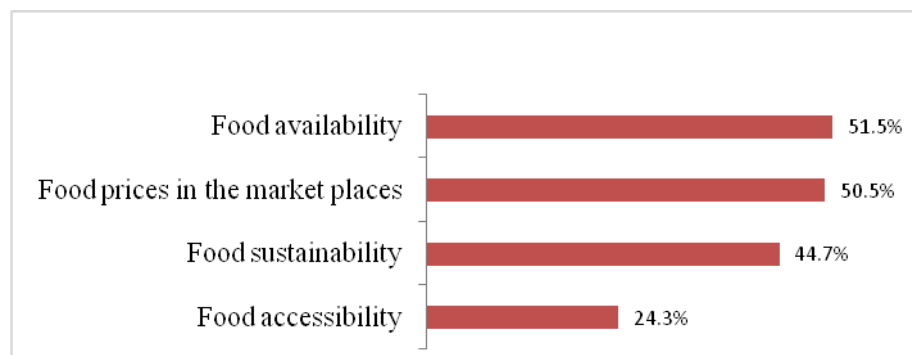
before the influx of refugees, food used to be plenty, available and therefore stable in affordable prices from the local markets. But with refugees' influx now, people are complaining of shortage of food and high prices in local markets. The cause of this shortage comes from the local farmers and business people who sell their food to refugees in settlement areas which create scarcity and shortage of physical food in the local markets (17/05/2019. NO: 5).

Despite these ratings, 7 out of 105 respondents said that the refugees' influx has enlarged market for farmers produce and that the food that is supplied to refugees by WFP also benefits several host communities which is a source of rescue to their household food insecurities.

(d) The worst food security indicator/s affected by the refugees influx

This research sub-question was raised to find out which food security indicator or indicators was/were most affected by the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region. It was intended to establish the variation of food security indicators before and with or aftermath of refugees' influx in the region. The chart below presents the analysis as shown.

Figure 5: Worst affected food security indicators due to refugees' influx



According to the findings as illustrated by the chart above, the worst food security indicators that have been affected by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region were food availability (51.5%) and high food prices in the market places (50.5%). When respondents were asked to give brief elaboration of their responses, the chat below presents the analysis of their various reasons as illustrated.

Table 6: Cross tabulation of reasons for the most affected food security indicators

Reasons	Food availability	Food sustainability	Food accessibility	Stable food prices in the market places
Total	46	39	23	46
Due to increased population	41.3%	48.7%	39.1%	54.3%
There is food scarcity	41.3%	53.8%	47.8%	45.7%
Food prices keep increasing	19.6%	10.3%	17.4%	39.1%
Food prematurely harvested	6.5%	0.0%	4.3%	6.5%
No explanation	19.6%	17.9%	21.7%	4.3%

The presentation of analysis shown in the above chart indicate that food availability and high food prices were as a result of increased population which constrains the available physical food leading to high demand and scarcity of food in the local markets. When physical food availability becomes scarce in the local markets, it leads to inflated prices for the scarce available physical food. In an interview with the host community participant, she noted that;

with the influx of South Sudanese refugees, there are lots of shortages of food staffs in the local markets especially in Arua town market. This is because farmers and local business people prefer to take their food staffs for sale in designated settlement areas of Omugo, Imvepi, and Rhinocamp where price hikes are lucrative. This leaves artificial shortage in the town markets and the local neighboring markets within Arua town (07/05/2019. NO: 2).

(e) Understanding of refugees influx vis-a-vis food security interference

In this sub-question, the researcher intended to confirm from the perspective of the participants if at all, the influx of South Sudanese refugees interfered with food security situation in the host communities of West Nile Region. This is to establish a point of divergence or convergence with the previous researches done about food security in the region. However, the analysis of data collected is presented in the chart below.

Figure 6: Understanding of refugee influx vis-a-vis food security interference



Table 7: Cross tabulation of refugee influx vis-à-vis food security interference

	Gender			Age			Nationality			Education Level				
	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-36	37 and above	Ugandan	South Sudanese	Primary	Secondary	Certificate	Diploma	Degree BA/Bsc	MA/Msc
Total	112	65	47	32	46	34	87	25	5	28	11	20	38	10
Yes	79.5%	81.5%	76.6%	62.5%	87.0%	85.3%	82.8%	68.0%	100.0%	57.1%	81.8%	85.0%	92.1%	70.0%
No	7.1%	4.6%	10.6%	18.8%	2.2%	2.9%	2.3%	24.0%	0.0%	21.4%	9.1%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not much	10.7%	10.8%	10.6%	18.8%	8.7%	5.9%	11.5%	8.0%	0.0%	14.3%	9.1%	5.0%	7.9%	30.0%
I don't know	1.8%	1.5%	2.1%	0.0%	2.2%	2.9%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
No answer	0.9%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

According to the findings as illustrated by the charts above, 89 respondents (79.5%) agreed by saying ‘Yes’ that South Sudanese refugees influx have interfered with the food security situation in the host communities of West Nile Region. While 8 respondents (7.1%) said ‘No’, and 12 respondents (10.7%) said that South Sudanese refugees influx has not interfered so much with the food security of host communities in the region. A further explanation from an interview also depicted a participant describing how South Sudanese refugees’ influx has interfered with food security in the region;

there has been too much interference with food security in our communities. For example, before the refugees’ influx, we used to have plenty of food staffs in the market. But because the refugees are many and are better off than most of the local people, that is, they have money, they can buy any food

item at any price. This made the business community to sell their goods expensively. For example, it was worst during Easter season this year when you go to the market and buy only four tomatoes at 10,000 Ugandan shillings. Irish potatoes in a small basin for washing hands used to be 3000 Ugandan shillings and now the same small sized basin goes for 10,000 Ugandan shillings. The big basin of Irish potatoes used to be sold at 30,000 Ugandan shillings and now it goes for 75,000-80,000 Ugandan shillings. Spaghetti used to be sold at 1,500 Ugandan shillings and now it is sold at 3,500 Ugandan shillings. A piece of meat in local hotel that used to be 2000 shillings now goes for 5000 shillings. These price hikes have forced people to eat not to get satisfied but to close their eyes, just to sleep at night. Besides, such little food is eaten at around 5pm or onwards. This explains the reason why many people forego lunch these days and prefer staying hungry till late evenings. Another funny thing that I have observed as an associate worker in the church is that I have seen drastic lowering in offertory in the church where I pray on Sundays. This is because people don't have the capacity to save their little money for offertory since it is spent all on buying food for the family, and yet it is not even enough (07/05/2019. NO: 2).

The above findings can therefore be acknowledged that there is a remarkable evidence of interference of refugee host communities' food security by the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region. This is due to increase in prices of food in local markets as a result of high demand of available physical food by the population.

4.2.2. Understanding of refugees influx vis-à-vis threats to food security

This broad theme focused on establishing whether the presence of refugees' influx in West Nile Region still constitutes threat to food security in the region and if so, how. The findings of such puzzle can help to inform policy makers on how to address exacerbating threats to food security in West Nile Region.

(f) Refugee influx and the level of threat to food security

This sub-question sought to know if the presence of South Sudanese refugees is threatening food security in West Nile Region. The fact that many more influxes of refugees are still taking place in the region, it is paramount to establish the implications of the already settled refugees' weight upon the host communities' food security. Below are therefore analyses and presentation of the data collected from the host communities in Arua district.

Figure 7: Refugees' presence vis-à-vis threats to food security

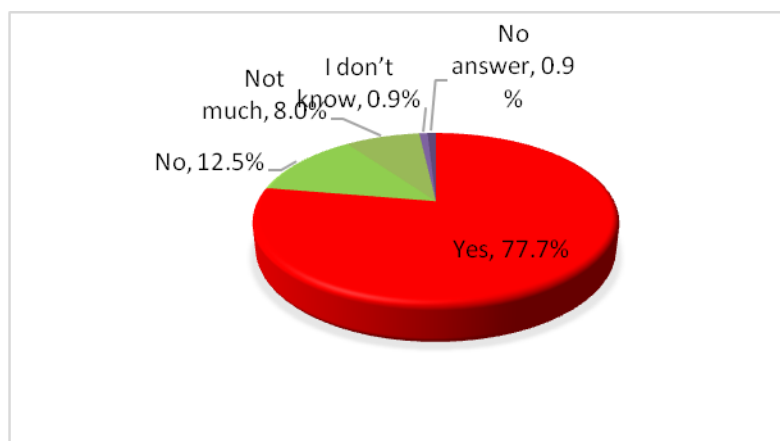


Table 8: Cross tabulation of refugee influx vis-à-vis threat to food security

Rating	Gender			Age			Nationality			Education Level				
	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-36	37 and above	Uganda	South Sudanese	Primary	Secondary	Certificate	Diploma	Degree BA/Bsc	MA/Msc
Total	112	65	47	32	46	34	87	25	5	28	11	20	38	10
Yes	77.7%	80%	74%	66%	87%	76%	84%	56%	80%	61%	82%	80%	87%	80%
No	12.5%	8%	19%	22%	9%	9%	6%	36%	0%	25%	18%	10%	5%	10%
Not much	8.0%	11%	4%	13%	4%	9%	8%	8%	20%	7%	0%	10%	8%	10%
I don't know	0.9%	0%	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
No answer	0.9%	2%	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%

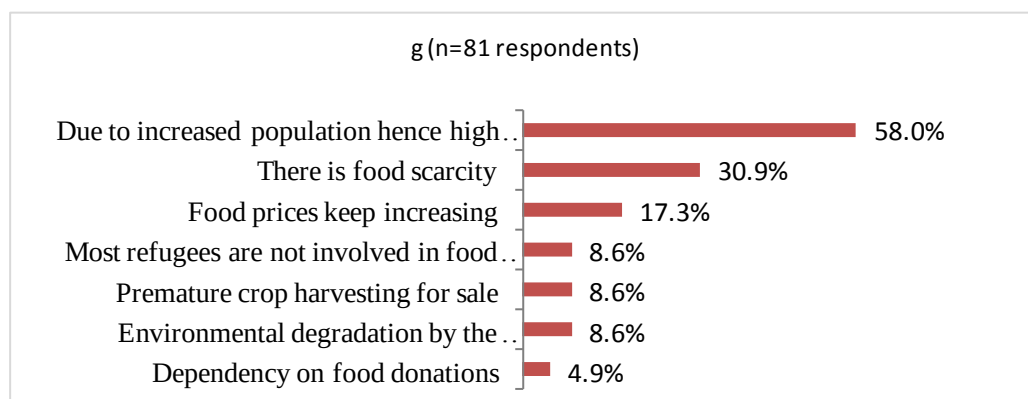
From the observation of above charts, it is found that 87 Ugandan respondents (84%) and 14 South Sudanese (56%) agreed that the presence of South Sudanese refugees indeed pose threats to food security in West Nile Region, while 14 respondents (12.5%) said no, and 9 respondents

(8.0%) said not much. The emergence of variations in the Yes-No responses can be explained on two different perspectives from host and refugees. First, the business community which is the minority considers huge population presence as a blessing since this provides ready demand and market for their supplies. In this way, the refugees' influx does not pose threats to food security in West Nile Region. Secondly, refugees' presence is a source of providence to several host communities in settlement areas of Imvepi, Omugo and Rhinocamp. This was explained by refugees who said that "if the locals here in Imvepi, Omugo and Rhinocamp settlements depend on us for food, then, we have a reason not to say that we (refugees) have interfered with the food security of the host communities" (14/05/2019. NO: 4).

In order to ascertain reasons for the affirmative responses, participants were asked to explain further the phenomenon which led to the analysis of the data as seen below from (g) in the chart.

(g) Reasons for claiming refugees influx as threats to food security in West Nile Region

Figure 8: Findings of reasons as to why refugees pose threats to food security



From the above chart data analysis, a total of 81 out of 112 participants answered this part of the question which showed 47 respondents (58%) noted that the increased population of refugees in the region has caused high demand for available physical food. The graph has logically

illustrated that the high demand of available physical food is what has led to food scarcity (30.9%) and hence affecting food price (17.3%) in the local markets. Despite these three main factors which affect food security in West Nile Region as a result of South Sudanese refugees' influx, other fundamental reasons highlighted by the participants deserve to be mentioned such as refugees not getting involved in food production due to inadequate agricultural land provision for farming, premature harvesting of crops by subsistence farmers in the region, environmental degradation by the refugees, and the problem of dependency on food donations such as from WFP. Since the presentation percentage for 'No' response was 12.5% towards the question of if the presence of South Sudanese refugees poses threat to food security in West Nile Region, the answer offers insignificant ground compared to the 'Yes' response which can be considered for policy derivation. A different view emerged from the interviewed respondent who noted that:

the South Sudanese refugees' influx has caused more harm to the locals than good. This is because they (refugees) encroach too much on the food of local people most especially mangoes, oranges, and avocados that are within the home and nearby fields. Our mangoes on the compound used to yield, ripe, fall down, and be collected for eating or sometimes for sell. But the last two years, the mangoes are collected, eaten raw, and get finished by the refugees before they are ripened. Raising concerns of such disappointing matters to the local council I of the area leads to violent attacks by the refugees due to their aggressiveness. Secondly, refugees in Bidibidi settlement in Yumbe district have caused frequent violent attacks to host communities whose plantation fields have been grazed in by the cattle of those refugees who came with their cattle and goats. Taking such issues to the police leads to further humiliation and harassment of the local reporters by Uganda Police (07/05/2019. NO: 2).

(h) Host communities experience of food insecurity

By this sub-question, the researcher intended to find out how the refugee host communities were getting to experience food insecurity in West Nile Region as a result of refugees' influx. It was

important to establish if refugees' presence is the sole cause of food insecurity or there are other factors unrelated to refugees' presence which also contribute to the food security threats in West Nile Region. The data collected with its analysis is portrayed by the chart below.

Figure 9: Host communities experience with food insecurity



From the presentation of the analyzed data in the chart above, it is noted that the refugee host communities are experiencing food insecurity in West Nile Region through increase in the prices of food presented by 82.9%, diminishing food availability (54.1%), pre-mature harvesting of food (53.2), and limited accessibility to food (44.1%). These are mostly the ways through which the refugee host communities experience food insecurities as a direct result of refugees' influx in the region. Other factors unrelated to refugees' presence such as drought, crop pests and diseases, poor methods of farming among others only constitute 0.9%. In an interview with international humanitarian aid worker, he was noted as saying;

the spontaneous increase in population created an inevitable demand for every edible food in the region while supply remains low. This has led to high food prices in the local markets. The consequence of inability to afford high costs of food staffs forces the local community to reduce the number of meals in a day as coping strategy to the food crisis situation. More so, when people are incapable of affording quality and nutritious food, they end up consuming low quality food which they can manage to afford. This has caused several cases of malnutrition

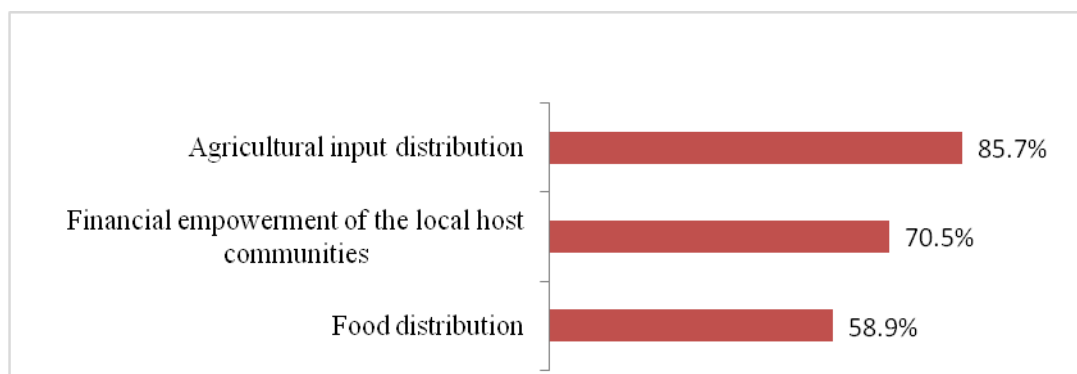
in several households in refugee settlement areas of Omugo, Imvepi and Rhinocamp where we work (10/05/2019. NO: 3)

With such findings therefore, it is certain that influx of refugees could cause disaster to food security if not managed in a suitable way.

(i) Ways for addressing food security challenges

This sub-section of the research question is introduced to identify possible ways that can help to remedy the threats to food security caused by refugees' influx in West Nile Region. This was important to take into consideration so that different stakeholders could be guided by its findings and be encouraged to undertake steps towards addressing the deterioration of food insecurity in West Nile Region and the resultant effects it entails. Below is the chart and analysis of the data given by the respondents in this regard.

Figure 10: Ways for addressing food security threats



The presentation and analysis of responses to this question shows that the refugee host communities are in need of agricultural input distribution indicated by 85.7%, financial empowerment of the local host communities (70.5), and food distribution (58.9%). However, what seems contrary to this finding is the host communities need for agricultural input distribution. This contradiction is depicted from respondents who asserted that:

food availability is the worst affected food insecurity indicator in the three settlements of Imvepi, Omugo and Rhinocamp. This is because we, the refugees, and even the local communities, are situated in rocky geographical areas which can't support all of us to produce our own food. The ploughable portion of land is stony, everywhere, you can't dig with your hoe. This is worsened by the dryness of the area, with no rain, and water shortages. All these factors can't support agriculture and farming (14/05/2019. NO: 4).

With such finding, it is conventional to assume that the host communities would rather demand for food distribution and financial empowerment which would necessitate them to acquire quality food from nearby towns or trading centres. But with the above response, more pessimism can be expressed for food security if agricultural input distribution is done to the host communities who are situated in such uncultivable stony lands.

Apart from the above suggestions, an interview carried out with international humanitarian aid organization suggested that:

partners and stakeholders should intensify and balance the support to both the locals who only receive 30% from them and 70% to refugees. For example, currently, refugees are getting 100% cash ratio. This enriches and makes them able to afford quality and nutritious food (10/05/2019. NO: 3).

It is important to remember that failure to rescue the deteriorating food insecurity situation in West Nile Region will result into acute food crisis stress level for host communities. The reason why emphasis is put on host communities is because refugees are able to get both financial and food donations from the UNHCR which are not meant for host communities.

4.2.3. Responses to the food security threats

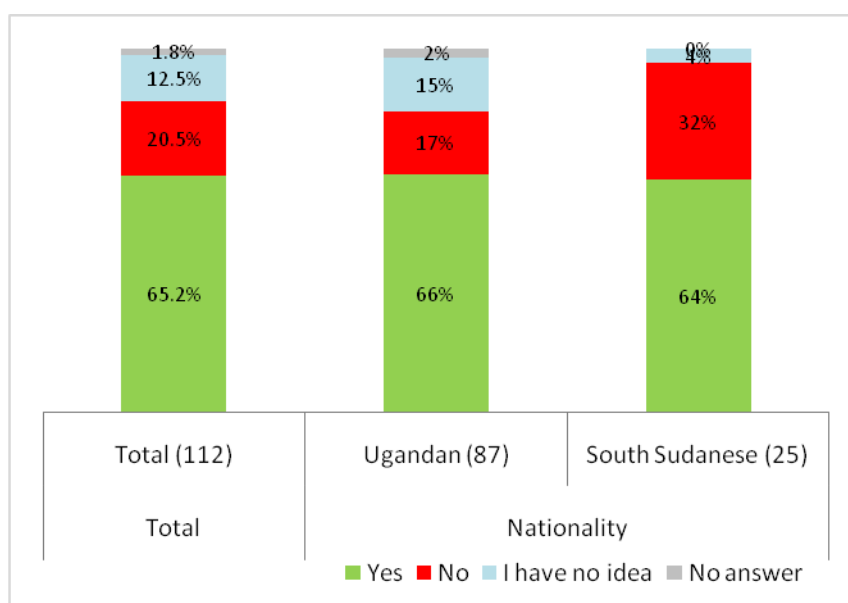
The section of this theme was derived from the fourth research question which sought to find out if the responses by the government and different stakeholders have had positive impacts on threats posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in the region. The researcher realized the

importance of investigating the degree to which food security threats have been addressed by stakeholders who work closely with the refugees in the region. Hence the following are the presentations and analysis of the findings.

(j) Measures taken to address food security threats

This question sought to understand if there are some possible steps that stakeholder agencies have taken in particularly to address food security threats experienced in West Nile Region as a result of South Sudanese refugees' influx. The chart below presents the findings.

Figure 11: Frequency showing whether or not there have been measures to address food security threats



The findings as per indicated in chart above showed that 73 respondents (65.2%) said 'Yes' of which 57 Ugandans (66%) and 16 South Sudanese (64%) agreed that there have been measures that have been taken by stakeholder agencies to address food security threats posed by refugees influx in West Nile Region. In contrast, 'No' response was in generally scored at 20.5% of which 15 Ugandans (17%) and 8 South Sudanese (32%) didn't agree that there have been measures that

stakeholder agencies have taken to address food security threats posed by South Sudanese refugees influx in West Nile Region. A total of 14 respondents (12.5%) of which 13 Ugandans (15%) and 1 South Sudanese (4%) said that they ‘have no idea’ of whether or not there are measures that stakeholder agencies have taken to address food security threats in West Nile Region.

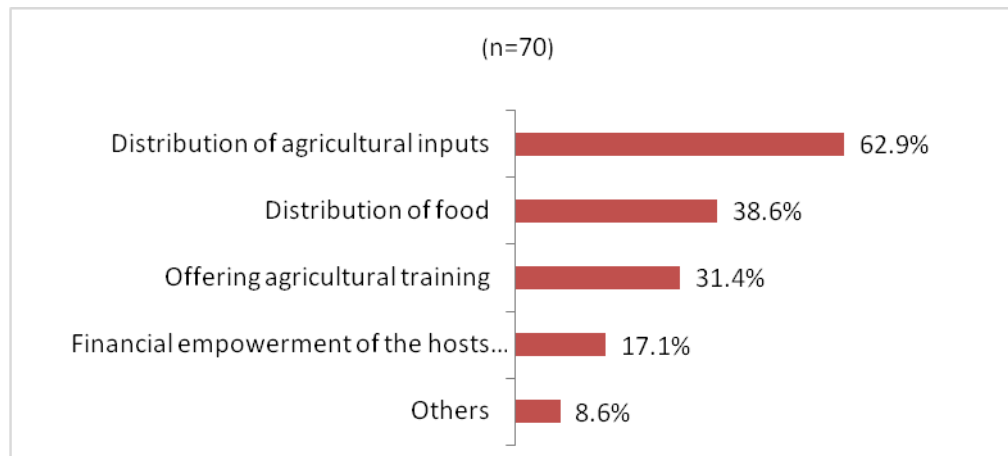
The variations in perception of whether or not there have been measures taken to address food security threats can be explained on two grounds. First, “this is simply because every local and international humanitarian organization is funded by a donor, whose interest of intervention may not necessarily be to address food crisis situation. Such a condition provides a thin possibility for organizations to intervene” (17/05/2019. NO: 5). Secondly, few organizations such as Caritas, Danish Refugee Council, Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment (RICE), among others have extended their direct interventions for food security in the refugee host communities through offering livelihood projects, better agricultural trainings, financial empowerment, and distribution of agricultural inputs. But this is found to be inadequate and not felt by the population in need since very few people directly benefit from them. This is further confirmed by respondents interviewed who stated that:

the organizations that directly intervene in food security projects are overwhelmed by the size of population in need. Just as refugees are in dire need of all the necessary provisions for food security, and so do the host communities. But in all these interventions, there can only be 2 for example out of 1000 people selected from each refugee settlement zones and communities. With such selection, how does one expect the two people selected to attend workshops on financial empowerment, better agricultural trainings, or they receive a goat or hen each, to transform food crisis situation both in the short and long run? That is why those who are selected to receive a goat or hen either end up losing them through theft within the settlement zones and communities or they simply change diet with the provisions (22/05/2019. NO: 8).

(k) Ways through which stakeholders have addressed food crisis situation

This research sub-question was posed to grasp the ways that the affirmative responses would consider to justify that different stakeholders have indeed taken measures to address food crisis experienced by host communities in West Nile Region as a result of South Sudanese refugees' influx. The data collection in relation to this research sub-question is analyzed as shown in the chart below.

Figure 12: Ways through which stakeholders addressed food crisis situation



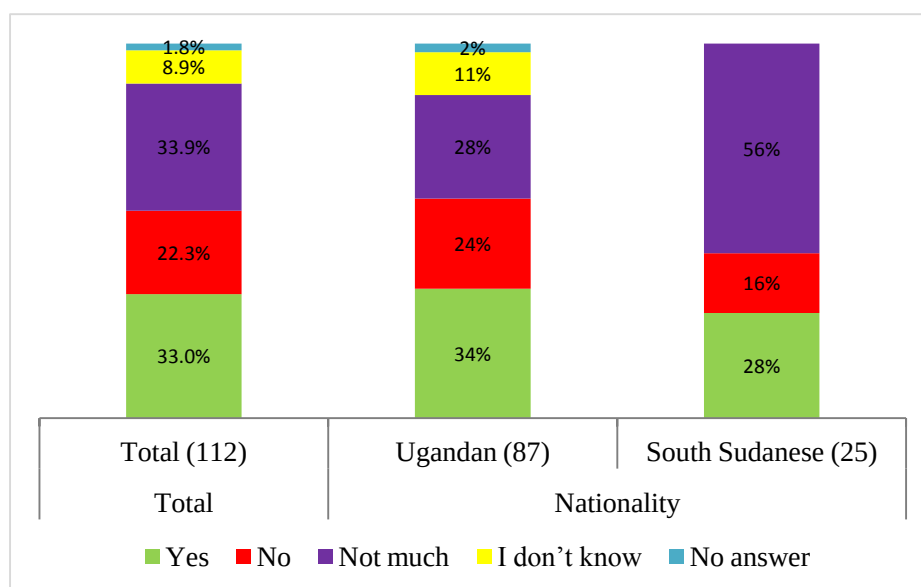
According to the presentation, 70 out of 112 respondents answered to this part of question on the questionnaire form. It was then found that 44 respondents (62.9%) acknowledged the distribution of agricultural inputs to refugees and host communities by various NGOs working in the refugee settlements. A total of 27 respondents (38.6%) consented on the distribution of food to refugees, while 22 respondents (31.4%) said that NGOs have offered some workshop trainings on agricultural practices and better methods of farming, lastly 12 respondents (17.1%) noted that humanitarian agencies and NGOs are engaged in financial empowerment of the host communities and refugees through the formation of SACCOS. As far as the research sub-

question of (m) is concerned, there was absolutely no response offered and hence no analysis for its sub-question.

(l) Impacts of intervention on food security challenges

This research sub-question was basically formulated to establish whether the above affirmative responses have had positive impacts on food security challenges posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region. It was thought worthy by the researcher that findings to such question would provide insights to what should be done more to remedy food crisis in West Nile Region despite the presence of refugees' influx in the region. The data collected in relation to this research sub-question is analyzed as shown in the chart below.

Figure 13: Impacts of intervention on food security challenges



According to the presentation and analysis from chart above, a total of 112 participants responded. From the analysis, it emerged that 37 respondents (33.0%) indicated by green column stated positive impact of the measures that government and NGOs have taken to address food security challenges posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region. While, 25

respondents (22.3%) of which 21 Ugandans (24%) and 4 South Sudanese (16%) indicated by red column stated that various stakeholders measures have not had positive impacts to food security challenges. Whereas the overall 38 respondents (33.9%) of which 24 Ugandans (28%) and 14 South Sudanese (56%) indicated by purple column showed that various stakeholders measures have not had much positive impacts to food security. Another 10 respondents (8.9%) said that they don't know and 2 respondents (1.8%) didn't give any answer.

However, when the participants were asked to explain briefly the choice of their response to the above sub-question, the researcher intended to obtain existing facts from the ground which illustrated those measures put in place by stakeholders in order to directly address food security situation in West Nile Region. The data collected and analyzed in relation to this question is shown below.

Table 9: Cross tabulation of impacts of intervention on food security

Reasons	Yes	No	Not much
Total	28	7	19
Distribution of agricultural inputs	35.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Food production has increased	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Distribution of food	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Agricultural trainings offered	21.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Refugees can now produce food	17.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Sensitization on food security	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Very little food is distributed	0.0%	57.1%	57.9%
Food is still scarce	0.0%	57.1%	42.1%
Corruption in support to refugee areas	0.0%	0.0%	15.8%

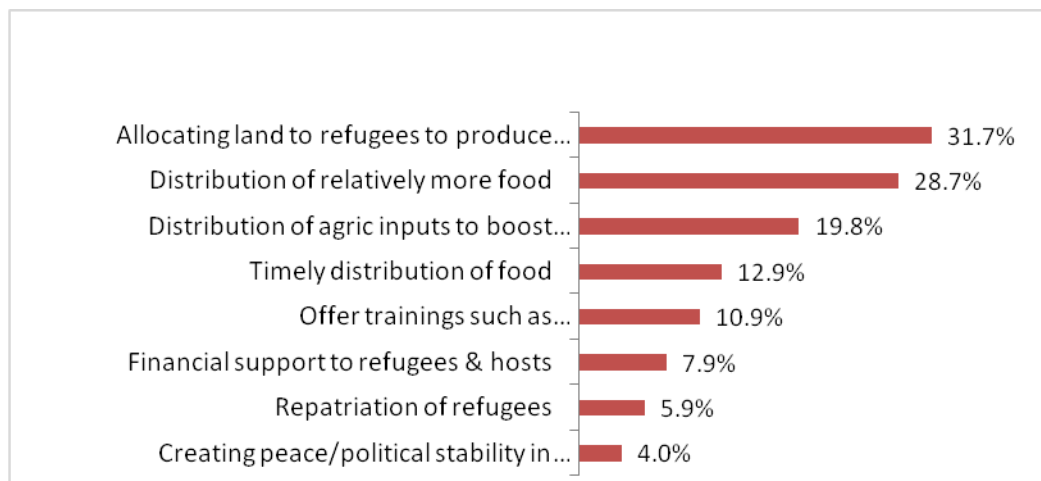
The analysis shown above indicated 54 out of 112 participants responding to the question. It was found that 28 respondents (35.7%) mentioned distribution of agricultural inputs, increase in food production due to high demands, distribution of food by agencies such as WFP, agricultural skills training, refugees participation in food production, and sensitization on food security, all

are aimed at combating food security in the region. On the other hand, 7 out of 54 respondents focused on little distribution of food and food scarcity to justify their position that the available measures government and NGOs have taken to address food security challenges posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region has not had positive impact. While 19 out of 54 respondents listed little food distribution, food scarcity and corruption as reasons to justify that government and NGOs interventions towards food insecurity situation in West Nile Region was not having much positive impact. Although these evidences have shown some effort of interventions from various stakeholders towards food security, it remains widely visible that the host communities are still locked up in excruciating circumstances of food insecurity in West Nile Region.

(m) General ways to address refugee problems and their associated challenges

Aware that the region of West Nile Region still hosts the greatest number of refugees' influx in the entire continent of Africa, the above research sub-question was established by the researcher so as to understand the feelings and attitude of mostly host communities towards the refugees. The researcher felt that it was important to find out this element since refugee influx is associated with several undeniable negative implications to the host communities among which food security, a fundamental human need, deserves mention. Hence, the data collected in relation to this research sub-question is analyzed as shown in the chart below.

Figure 14: Ways for managing refugee problems and challenges



According to the presentation and analysis from the chart above, 31.7% of the respondents suggested more allocation of land to refugees so that they may produce and farm their own food crops, 28.7% of the respondents suggested that food be distributed to both refugees and host communities since food crisis is a biting feature to both the refugees and host communities, 19.8% respondents requested for the equal distribution of agricultural inputs between refugees and host communities so as to boost crop production capacity in the region. Other concerns include timely distribution of food (12.9%), financial support to both refugees and host communities (7.9%), repatriation of refugees (5.9%), creating peace and political stability in the warring countries (4.0%). Whereas another respondent with different view was noted as saying:

Government of Uganda should embark on encampment of refugees and restrict their free movements. This is because challenges particularly created by South Sudanese refugees are abhorrent in most host communities. This is in relation to their behavioral lives characterized by aggressiveness, arrogance and violent fighting. For example, conflicts in Ocea zone refugee settlement in Rhinocamp is almost the order of the day among the refugees themselves and also between refugees and host communities. On several occasions, local communities have been reporting them to LCs' and government officials but the problems are not addressed. While Congolese refugees identify more easily with Ugandans due to life style similarities, the local people in Rhinocamp settlement areas confessed

that if they be given powers, they would remove and send away the South Sudanese refugees and keep Congolese (17/05/2019. NO: 5).

However, the above findings pave way to suggest that government of Uganda should rethink the open policy legislation that allows refugees free movement, the right to work, the right to establish business, the right to own property, the right to access national services such as primary and secondary educations, and also healthcare services.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main objective of this thesis work was to understand whether the South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region affects food security of the refugee host communities. This was done by giving specific attention to four measurable indicators of food security and understanding it from the perspective of mostly refugee host communities in Arua district, West Nile Region though refugees were part of respondents to the research questions. Food security was the centrality of this study as it took into account the human security conditions of both the host communities and refugees in the region. The study employed a cross-sectional research design where questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data and interview guide and schedules were used to collect qualitative data. Quantitative data were captured using a statistical data package for the social science (SPSS). Where questions required further explanations, the multiple response data was applied to produce frequencies, percentages and cross tabulation data which was presented in tables. The qualitative data was analyzed and presented in narrative accounts. Therefore, the first chapter provides a summary of the findings, followed by the conclusion and recommendation. The research summary focuses on the analysis of three broad themes found in line with the research questions while conclusion brings together the key findings of the study as seen below.

5.1 The Summary

The first theme of this study was to understand the concept of food security and how it was before and after the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region (WNR). The analysis from the collected data shows that food security is having enough available and steady physical food that can be accessed at relatively manageable price to eat regularly as the most essential human need. According to the findings, this definition is reflected in the food security of the host

communities before the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region. While with or after refugees' influx in the region, it was found that food security situation in West Nile Region became bad because of food shortage due to increase in population that increased demand for food, which consequently spurred increase in food prices. This finding confirms the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analysis, (IPC) report of 2017 which showed the overwhelming influx of refugees from South Sudan increasing demand for food in West Nile Region (IPC Report, 2017, p. VIII). In the same note, it also confirms several case studies that illustrate "the influx of refugees to be associated with high levels of food insecurity in Liberia" (WFP, 2011, 2013a, 2013b); in Burkina Faso, Chad, Liberia, and Niger (FAO 2013); Turkey (WFP, 2016), and Jordan (Schaffer, 2013).

The second theme of the study was to establish if South Sudanese refugees are threats to food security in the host communities of West Nile Region and if so, how. The reason behind this question was to identify possible ways that can help to remedy the threats to food security caused by refugees' influx in West Nile Region. According to the findings to this theme therefore, South Sudanese refugees' influx has indeed interfered and posed threats to food security situation in the host communities of West Nile Region. The interference and threats to food security was noted to have emanated as a result of increased population of refugees in the region that has directly caused high demand for available physical food and that the high demand of available physical food is what has led to food scarcity hence affecting food prices in the local markets. Despite these factors which affect food security in West Nile Region as a result of South Sudanese refugees' influx, other factors unrelated to refugees' presence such as drought, crop pests and diseases, poverty, poor methods of farming among others also contribute to food insecurity situation in West Nile Region.

In seeking for solutions to such negative challenges to food security in West Nile Region, the findings illustrated agricultural input distribution, financial empowerment and food distribution to both refugees and the host communities which should be done in a concerted way with all the stakeholders.

The third theme of the research study was to establish if the responses by the government and different stakeholders have had positive impacts on threats posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in the region. But before the answer to this concern, it was important to find out if there were some possible steps that stakeholders had taken in particularly to address food security threats experienced in West Nile Region as a result of South Sudanese refugees' influx, and if yes, how. This then paved way to understand if the responses by the government and different stakeholders have had positive impacts on threats posed by refugees' influx in the region. This was followed by soliciting ways that can be embraced to address challenges created by refugees' influxes. According to the findings therefore, there have been measures that have been taken by stakeholders to address food security threats posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region. These measures are through distribution of agricultural inputs to refugees and host communities by few NGOs working in the refugee settlements, distribution of food to refugees by WFP, agricultural skills training by some NGOs, financial empowerment of the host communities and refugees through the formation of SACCOS. Unfortunately, the available measures government and NGOs have taken to address food security challenges posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region has not had positive impacts. Due to this lack of positive impacts, it was then suggested by the findings that more land be allocated to refugees so that they may produce and farm their own food crops, food be distributed to both refugees and host communities since food crisis is a biting feature to both the refugees and host communities,

equal distribution of agricultural inputs between refugees and host communities so as to boost crop production capacity in the region, financial support to both refugees and host communities and lastly, creating peace and political stability in the warring countries.

5.2 Conclusion

As per the main objective of this thesis, that is, to understand whether the South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region affects food security of the refugee host communities, the conclusion will necessarily follow the three broad themes derived from the research questions.

5.2.1 Food Security before and after Refugee Influx in West Nile Region (WNR)

No matter how we define food security, having enough to eat regularly for active and healthy life is the most essential human need. Despite food insecurity situation experienced by West Nile Region as a result of factors unrelated to the influx of South Sudanese refugees, it was noted by this study that the food security was good in terms of food availability, accessibility, stability and food prices in the local markets. Unfortunately, this study confirms that West Nile Region is faced with food crisis induced by refugees' influx, making the host communities grapple with such challenges. Yet, food alone ranks first in the hierarchy of human needs. Without sufficient food availability, a society collapses because food means it all. The rest of human security components depend on food security. This explains the reason why the research found food insecurity situation associated with "rampant cases of theft and robbery in towns, and villages" of Arua district since the cost of hosting huge refugee influx has fallen disproportionately on host communities whose majority population is impoverished.

Given the need to fulfill food shortages in the affected districts of West Nile Region, there is a potential risk that, if effective measures are not put in place to prevent adverse changes in local

availability and access, those communities currently not in a crisis-level acute food insecurity situation may become adversely affected by alteration in intra-district food prices due to the enticement of profits in areas currently experiencing food shortages. This in turn could trigger a reduction in the purchasing power of vulnerable communities across all districts in the region. It is therefore inhumane that at this time in history, millions of Ugandans cannot find enough nutritious food to eat as a result of multifaceted factors facing the local population.

5.2.2 Refugee Influx as threats to Food Security in the Host Communities

Although food shortage has been known since the 19th century, it was not brought to the world's attention until the end of World War II. In explaining this, Grigg (1985) cited four reasons. First, was the establishment of a number of mandated and voluntary organizations, such as specialized agencies of the United Nations that focus on the improvement of agriculture, secondly, the number of records and publications about the problem, thirdly, the academia all over the world giving far more attention to the problem of hunger, and finally, discussion about causes and solutions to the problem has become controversial because of different ideological points of view and as a result attracted attention to them. This last part is of interest to elaborate human security, the refugees' influx and their associated negative implications to the host communities in Uganda.

According to the findings of this research, refugee host communities in West Nile Region described the food shortage as the greatest and most challenging macro social problem and a source of communities' concern and that the plight of the refugees' negative implications on food security continue unabated in West Nile Region. While it is commonly understood that forced migration and refugees flee their homes and seek safety in another country because they

are victims of insecurity, this study confirms that refugee movements and their prolonged presence has the potential to cause human security concerns for the host states ranging from food insecurity, environmental degradation, rising poverty, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the proliferation of small arms, the spread of crime, and the conflict between locals and the refugees themselves. Since all these concerns are offered by human security theory used in this thesis, it becomes imperative to develop a more critical and rigorous understanding of the open asylum policy for refugees influx in Uganda, the socio-economic and political contexts of host communities, and food security situation of the host communities. This is to enable assistance to refugees to be conceptualized as part of a more comprehensive development process benefiting both the locals and the refugees. Therefore, stakeholders should envision and respond to this real life problem by providing safety and protection to the host communities from such “sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life” (UNDP, 1994, p. 23) through empowerment and protection strategies which embrace the use of “top-down” and “bottom-up” approaches in dealing with human securities.

5.2.3 Uganda Government’s Response to Refugees’ Influx

As part of its international obligations, the Government of Uganda (GoU) ensures refugee protection, assistance and management through the Department of Refugees at Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in cooperation with various Government ministries (including the Ministry of Disaster, Emergency Preparedness and Refugees), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with its implementing and operational partners, and other relevant actors, namely in connection with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Despite this massive partnership, it was found through this study that the measures which government and stakeholders have taken to address refugees’ crisis in West Nile Region

are inadequate especially towards ensuring food security of the host communities. This is simply because the influx of large numbers of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda brought with it a variety of difficulties which place great strains on the country's inadequate national resources. This is further exacerbated by inadequate donor fundings to facilitate services and protection to refugees in Uganda.

5.3 Recommendations

The findings from this study confirms previous reports of food insecurity situations investigated by FAO (2017) Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) and IPC (2018) that indicated Uganda to be a country 'on watch', due to deterioration of the ongoing situation of food insecurity as a result of refugees influx especially in the northern districts of the country. While the key pressure points for the state of food insecurity in West Nile region is linked to the presence of refugee populations due to increased demand for food and services as a result of the overwhelming influx of refugees from South Sudan, this research study also bears witness of some of the measures that have been taken by government and stakeholders to address the food crisis situation in the region. Unfortunately, the findings from this thesis also established inadequacy of interventions that would directly address the host communities' food insecurity induced by the presence of refugee populations due to increased demand for food. Hence, the following recommendations are suggested by the researcher to improve on food security of the refugee host communities in West Nile Region.

5.3.1 Recommendation for the Host Communities

The issue of food security challenges should be addressed by massive sensitization of the local host communities to store food and utilize it sparingly rather than selling every food staffs in the

market due to its lucrative prices. This will reduce over selling of the available food by the locals who are enticed by the high prices for food staffs. This is also to encourage them increase food production capacity to meet the high demands of the markets in the region.

5.3.2 Recommendation for the Local and International Organizations

The economic bias which involves giving cash ratio to refugees alone and isolating the host communities should be avoided by the UNHCR. Since the predicament of the local population is comparable to that of the impoverished refugees, it is improper to exclude the former not only in the provision of cash and food ratios, but in all areas. Assistance to refugees therefore must be conceptualized as part of a more comprehensive development process benefiting both the locals and the refugees.

Secondly, the protracted refugee population and the existing local population are incompatible with the supply of food and food production within the region. This is what causes the turbulence in high prices of food staffs in the local markets. Therefore, humanitarian agencies especially UNHCR should get food supply from other districts not affected by the refugees' influx. This will reduce the challenge of insufficiency due to unavailability and instability of food in the local markets in West Nile Region.

Thirdly, development agencies should be drawn into a concerted action to alleviate the plight of refugees as well as the poor local hosts in West Nile Region. This is possible through "formative interagency collaboration" (Watters, 2008, p. 167) in which a program is initiated by a group of stakeholders who act as a management or steering group for the development of a project through collaboration. In this formation, a stakeholder in isolation admits its incapacity to offer goods and services which through collaboration, it is possible. The collaboration operates at a

‘street level’ where agencies combine to meet the needs of the host communities as well as the refugees.

Fourthly, international agencies responsible for controlling guns should crackdown rampant gun/arm business especially in African continent. This is because the magnitude of fightings and wars in most failed African countries is as a result of availability of light weapons in the hands of war perpetrators who cause massive killings, displacement and flight of innocent civilians.

Fifthly, international agencies should support CBOs started by refugees in the settlement areas e.g. Community Solidarity for Peace and Development (CSPD) in Imvepi refugee settlement. Such organization has greater advantages to bring together different communities involved in a cross border conflicts such as Dinka Vs Nuer fighting rampantly experienced in several settlement areas and zones.

5.3.3 Recommendation for the Uganda government

The Uganda government’s non-encampment policy to refugees’ protection and assistance has proven ineffective since such policies are negatively affecting the human security of host communities. This been the case, it is high time that the legislations should be scrutinized in order that host communities of refugees not be put into jeopardy due to refugee influx associated negative implications.

Secondly, the findings of this research noted several instances of reports of frequent violence among refugees themselves especially South Sudanese who come from different ethnic setups and also between refugees and host communities. Their free movement in the settlement areas sparks frequent tribal conflicts especially with Dinkas against Nuer whenever they meet at any place. Another concern is that lots of cases of insecurities such as robbery, rampant thefts, and

murder in Arua town and rural parts are due to influx of guns brought by refugees. Due to these horrifying factors, this research therefore suggests encampment policy as a necessary tool for refugee management and protection in Uganda and they be provided with complete services within the camps.

Food security should not be left in the hands of NGOs and WFP. This is the most fundamental need and service to be provided by the government, with no politics attached to downplay it. It is the sole responsibility of the state towards its citizens.

Government should discourage personal or individual initiatives for cultivation since this will propel subsistence farming, with less productivity. This can be done by forming cooperative farming groups that should be funded by the government to implement commercial and mechanized farming system which involves irrigation. After all, river Nile passes through West Nile Region and yet this river has never been utilized for irrigation purposes so as to enable constant farming activities throughout the year.

The Uganda government should decongest the refugees by sharing the figure with other districts with no or less refugees' population so that the burden and their presence can't cause devastating effects upon one region and district.

The government should mobilize and coordinate other districts to supply and sell food staffs to West Nile Region so as to minimize artificial shortages in the local markets.

In case of continuous frustration and crisis of food in host communities, the government should ensure WFP and other agencies to register the worst affected host communities to get food and cash ratios so as to mitigate malnutrition in those communities.

5.3.4 Recommendation for the AU, EAC, IGAD and GLR

It should be acknowledged that refugees' crisis is a global mess. The primordial cause of this mess is due to civil and political wars observed in African continent. Therefore, the aforementioned bodies should intensify their political will to maintain peace not only in war ravaged South Sudan but also in Sudan, DRC, CAR, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, among others. These bodies should exercise strong responsibility to hold such leaders accountable for causing human atrocities and sufferings to innocent civilians; it is only through this that sustainable peace can be maintained in the region. The duty and responsibility to protect civilians should be responded to by addressing the root causes of refugees' plight rather than trying to fix the effects of their plight in another country.

5.3.5 Recommendation for the Donor Agencies

Most interventions in the refugee host communities target refugees only. Since most local and international humanitarian organizations are funded by donors whose interests of intervention may not necessarily be to address refugee induced challenges such as food crisis situation faced by host communities, it then provides thin possibility for organizations to intervene in the crisis situations faced by host communities. Donors should not therefore be rigid but rather flexible in their support of projects such as sustainable food security programs which sees funding of commercial farming activities in the refugee settlement areas which would otherwise have fundamental positive implications.

AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The researcher identified three areas for further research. First, this study revealed that human security situation is at stake in most host communities of West Nile Region in particular, the instances of overt conflicts between refugees and host communities and how these conflicts are handled and managed. Several reports from host communities indicate that when host communities are confronted by refugees or vice versa, the end result is severe fighting which have resulted into deaths or severe injuries of either party involved in the conflict. The only way known to them that these conflicts are solved is by government deployment of UPDF military and police personnel to crack down on the host communities. Hence, it is needful to understand this perspective of approach and how effective conflict management mechanisms can be employed to address such conflicts.

Secondly, a research on comparative studies between open asylum policy used in Uganda against restricted asylum policy in Kenya could be conducted in order to weigh the effectiveness of such policies in relation to refugees' influx. It is believed that such a study can ignite a paradigm shift if found that open asylum policy breaches human security of the host communities.

Thirdly, it is fitting and relevant to conduct a comparative research on districts with densely refugee population and non or less refugee population effects on human security of host communities. This will provide evidence of the extent to which open asylum policy can be of significance in principle and utility.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

My name is Obini Gerald. I am a student at Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), a constitute college of Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Nairobi- Kenya. I am pursuing a Master Degree in Peace Studies and International Relations. I am conducting a thesis research on: **“Forced Migration and Human Security in Uganda: A Study of Refugee Influx and Implications on Food Security in Arua District, West Nile Region (WNR)”**. I humbly request you to fill this questionnaire as honestly as possible. Your participation will help me to achieve my research objectives. The information given will be treated with highest confidentiality and will be used for academic purposes only. I appreciate and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Section A. Demographic Data

Research Questionnaire

Please put a Tick () in the brackets below with appropriate answers.

GENDER	MALE			FEMALE			
AGE	18-25 [], 26-36 [], 37 and above [].			18-25 [], 26-36 [], 37 and above [].			
NATIONALITY	Ugandan []			South Sudanese []			
OCCUPATION	▪ Local Gov. Official [] ▪ Civil Servant [] ▪ NGO Worker [] ▪ Uganda Police Force [] ▪ Private Sector []			▪ International Hum. Agency [] ▪ Farmer [] ▪ Transporter [] ▪ Student [] ▪ Secondary School Teacher []			
EDUCATION LEVEL	Primary	Secondary	Certificate	Diploma	Degree BA/Bsc	MA/Msc	PhD

Section B.

I. Impacts of South Sudanese Refugees Influx on Food Security in West Nile Region, Uganda

1. What is your general understanding of food security? (You can tick more than one)

☐ Physical food is available (Availability).

☐ Physical food is sustainable (stability).

☐ Physical food is accessible (Accessibility to food).

☐ Food prices are stable in the market (stability).

☐ All the above

2. How do you consider your above understanding to be before the influx of South Sudanese refugees in the region? (tick where appropriate)

Good	Fair	Bad	I don't know

Please, briefly explain your choice of answer

.....

3. How do you consider your above understanding to be after or with the influx of South Sudanese refugees in the region? (tick where appropriate)

Good	Fair	Bad	I don't know

Please, briefly explain your choice of answer

.....

.....

.....

4. In your opinion, which food security indicator/s listed above is/are **most** affected by the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region? (food availability, food sustainability, food accessibility, and stable food prices in market places).

.....

Please, explain your answer

.....

.....

5. In your view, has the influx of South Sudanese refugees interfered with the food security situation in the host communities of the West Nile Region? (tick where appropriate).

Yes	No	Not much	I don't know

II. South Sudanese refugees as threats to food security in the host communities of West Nile Region.

6. In your opinion, does the presence of South Sudanese refugees pose threat to food security in West Nile Region?

Yes	No	Not much	I don't know

7. If yes, kindly state your reason(s)

.....

.....

.....

8. If no, please state your reason(s)

.....

.....

9. In what ways have the refugee host communities experienced food insecurity in the West Nile Region?

☐ Increase in the prices of food

☐ Limited accessibility to food stuffs

☐ Diminishing food availability

☐ Premature harvesting of food stuffs

☐ Any other

.....
.....

10. In what ways can the food security challenges be addressed by different humanitarian stakeholders in the region?

☐ Food distribution

☐ Agricultural input distribution

☐ Financial empowerment of the local host communities

☐ All the above

III. Government and Stakeholders responses to the food security threats posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in WNR

11. In your opinion, are there measures that have been taken by stakeholder agencies to address the food security threats posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx to the host communities?

Yes	No	I have no idea

12. If yes, how have these different stakeholders' agencies played roles in addressing directly the food crisis faced by the host communities?

.....

13. If no, why do you think different stakeholders have not played active role in addressing the food crisis faced by host communities?

.....

.....

14. In your view, have the responses of government and humanitarian agencies had positive impacts on food security challenges posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in West Nile Region? (tick where appropriate).

Yes	No	Not much	I don't know

Please, explain your answer.....

.....

15. In your view, how would you wish the refugees problem and situation to be handled generally in suitable and sustainable ways?

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Thank you so much for your cooperation and dedication to answer the above questions. Happy and Prosperous Year.

Sincerely,

Obini Gerald (The Researcher, Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations, "HIPSIR", Nairobi, Kenya).

Interview Guideline

I: General understanding of food security and how it was before and after the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region (WNR).

- 1a). In your view, what would you describe food security to mean? (food availability, food sustainability, food accessibility, and stable food prices in market places).
- b). As far as West Nile Region is concerned, especially Arua district, what would you describe the food security situation to be like before and after the influx of South Sudanese refugees in the region?
- c). In your opinion, which food security indicator is/are most affected by the influx of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile Region?
- d). In your view, has the influx of South Sudanese refugees interfered with the food security situation in the host communities of West Nile Region?

II: South Sudanese refugees as threats to food security in the host communities of WNR

- 2a). In your opinion, does the presence of South Sudanese refugees pose threats to food security in WNR?
- b). In what ways have the refugee host communities experienced food insecurity in the WNR?
- c). How can the food security challenges be addressed by different humanitarian stakeholders in the region?

III: Government and stakeholders responses towards threats to food security posed by South Sudanese refugees' influx in WNR

- 3a). In your opinion, are there measures that have been taken by humanitarian agencies to address the food crisis faced by host communities?
- b). If yes, how have the different humanitarian agencies played roles in addressing directly the food crisis faced by the host communities?

c). In your view, are the humanitarian agencies doing enough to help address the food crisis experienced by the host communities?

d). In your opinion, how would you wish the refugees problem and situation to be handled generally in suitable and sustainable ways?

Thank You very much for your time to answer these questions. I appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Obini Gerald. (Researcher, Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations, “HIPSIR”, Nairobi, Kenya)