

**EXPLORING RESPONSE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY TO CHALLENGES OF  
HOSTING REFUGEES: THE CASE STUDY OF NAKIVALE CAMP, ISINGIRO  
DISTRICT, WESTERN UGANDA**

**A Research Thesis  
Submitted to the Directorate of  
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**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award  
Degree of Master in Conflict Resolution**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis titled **Exploring Response of Local Community to Challenges of Hosting Refugees in Nakivale, Isingiro District, Western Uganda** is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other academic award in any other university or institution of learning.

Name of Candidate

.....

Signature of Student

.....

Date

.....

**APPROVAL**

I confirm that the work reported in this thesis was carried out by the candidate under my supervision

Name of Supervisor

.....

Signature of Supervisor

.....

Date

.....

## **DEDICATION**

To the family of Mr and Mrs. Ahmed Katwire and my whole Family for the love, care, support and advice they extended to me during the days of study

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Firstly, I will thank Allah for having brought me this far and helping me in any endeavors.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>GoU</b>	Government of Uganda
<b>KM</b>	Kilometers
<b>OPM</b>	Office of Prime Minister
<b>RAD</b>	Refugee Aid and Development
<b>SQ</b>	Square
<b>IDI</b>	In Depth Interview
<b>LC</b>	Local Council
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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**Figure 1**                      The relationship between theory and method

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<b>Table 1</b>	Thematic analysis: six phases
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## ABSTRACT

This study explored the response of the host community towards the challenges of hosting refugees in Nakivale camp, western Uganda. Using a qualitative research design, 32 participants were purposively recruited in the host community and the refugee settlement. Four focus group discussions each consisting of 6 participants and eight in-depth interviews were conducted. The focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were minute recorded, transcribed, coded, and analyzed thematically based on the objectives of the study. The findings indicated that In general, the host communities have developed ways to adapt to refugee crisis. They have built social integration with the refugees' community; they have resorted to prayer to strengthen them and they have accepted the refugees and always shared with them the little resources such as water, land, education and health available; which has helped the host communities and refugees to share different ideologies, experiences and future prospects sometimes. The study also revealed that the host community have both positive and negative perceptions to local host communities. Many participants of the host community were sympathetic and some took advantage of the refugees' opportunities and benefited substantially from the presence of refugees and international relief organizations and have positive perception towards any help they receive. However, some were not able to benefit as much, and some even lost access to resources like land, water and health services which they previously enjoyed which gives them negative perception towards refugees.

The study revealed that land conflicts were very common in the areas around Nakivale camp and alongside the few environmental and political conflicts that existed. The conflicts between the host community and the refugees are to a larger extent caused by limited and scarce natural resources that are shared. In addition, the conflict is mostly caused by unequal treatment between the refugees and the host community by both donors and the government. It was reported that the host community does not get aid or support the same way refugees do through refugee agencies like UNHCR and this implies that refugees get the chance to access better education, health, and basic livelihood which the host do not get. Land usage is a limited resource that causes conflicts in Nakivale camp and local areas around. The host community and refugees use land for grazing their animals, cultivating their crops and building the shelters on. It was reported that host

community has sometimes been removed by force from their ancestral land by Uganda government authorities to give room for the settlement of refugees.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter gives the introduction to this study by describing the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study, definition of key terms and limitations of the study.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

#### **1.1.1 Historical Perspective**

Human kind history in every era has to tell to the next generations about people who were forced to leave their countries of origin due to wars, persecutions, and political oppression. At the end of the 20th century, there were an estimated 175 million international migrants where nearly 16 million of them were refugees which are about 9%. Therefore, the past decade witnessed a number of ethnic and local conflicts worldwide with the result of alarming levels of forced migration in Africa, Asia and Europe (UNHCR, 2003).

Globally, an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.4 million refugees, 40 million are internally displaced and 3.1 are asylum seekers. 57% of refugees worldwide came from South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Syria. Top refugee hosting countries are Turkey with 3.5m refugees, Uganda with 1.4m, Pakistan with 1.4m, Lebanon with 1m and Islamic Republic of Iran with 979,400 refugees (UNHCR, 2018).

Movements of refugees in Asia and Middle East dates back from the soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Following the 1948 proclamation of the state of Israel, the first Arab-Israel war began. Many Palestinians had already left, some by their own choice and some fleeing acts of terrorism and the coming warfare causing them to become refugees. The great majority have remained refugees for generations as they were not permitted to settle in Israel or in the Arab countries where they lived (UNHCR, 2009).

Throughout history, the Middle East has been one of the major crossroads of humanity, where continents, cultures, and ideas intersect. People have always been on the move in this corner of the world, though not always voluntarily so. Like other troubled regions, the Middle East has

produced, and hosted, millions of refugees over the past decades. Two years since the beginning of the Arab Spring, a long and difficult transition period now lies ahead for the region. Its old and new refugee crises form part of the various challenges it must grapple with during this process (The Cairo Review of Global Affairs, 2013).

The Middle East sub region continues to be characterized by armed conflict and the large-scale displacement followed by it. In Iraq, despite the success in retaking Ninewa Governorate in August 2017, over 833,000 people remain displaced due to the Mosul crisis. Syria is the biggest humanitarian and refugee crisis in the world today. The conflict is in its seventh year, with 6.15 million people internally displaced. Over 1.3 million people were newly displaced during the first half of 2017. As of September 2017, more than 5.1 million Syrian refugees were registered in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Yemen is also host to more than 280,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Somalia, and who are suffering from the escalation of the conflict, inadequate basic services and a shrinking economy that has weakened the protection environment. Despite war and insecurity that make conditions in Yemen not conducive to asylum, there were an estimated 60,000 new arrivals during 2017 (UNHCR, 2018).

In Europe, an estimated 362,000 refugees and migrants risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea in 2016, with 181,400 people arriving in Italy and 173,450 in Greece. In the first half of 2017, over 105,000 refugees and migrants entered Europe. This movement towards Europe continues to take a devastating toll on human life. Since the beginning of 2017, over 2,700 people are believed to have died or gone missing while crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, with reports of many others perishing en route. These risks do not end once in Europe. Those moving onwards irregularly have reported numerous types of abuse, including being pushed back across borders (UNHCR, 2018)

In 2018 so far, there has been a total arrival of 57618 refugees and migrants in Europe. 54,460 refugees and migrants have arrived by sea to Italy, Greece, Spain and Cyprus. 3158 refugees and migrants have arrived by land to Spain whereas 1477 refugees and migrants are feared dead (UNHCR, 2018)

The history of refugee influx to Uganda dates far back in the 1940s, and 1950s when it hosted Polish refugees, Rwandese and Sudanese (Holborn, 1975), and in the present times, Uganda is

one of the hosting countries in the world with the highest number of refugees. It is the first largest refugee-hosting country in Africa and the third in the world (UNHCR, 2018). Most of the refugees to Uganda have recently come from South-Sudan, Burundi, and Democratic Republic of Congo. Whereas Uganda has had to deal with big numbers of refugees in the past, the influx of refugees in the country in the most recent years is overwhelming. As of April 2016, the total refugee and asylum seekers' population in Uganda was estimated at 525,968 (UNICEF, 2016), by the end of the year 2016 total estimates were 982,700 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2016), but by June 2017 the total had shoot to a tune 1.3 million refugees and asylum seekers (UNICEF, 2017). Out of this, 275,037 came from DR Congo, 52,388 from Burundi, while a big number of refugees came from South Sudan, that is, as at June 2017, 977,746 South Sudanese refugees call Uganda home of which 296,409 arrived from 1st January 2017, and children constitute 60% of the total refugee population (UNICEF, 2017). Political instability and ethnic violence are the major reasons why people leave those countries in large numbers. Needless to know that by the end of May 2017, there were 30 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants in Uganda.

Refugees continue to arrive from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In the reporting period, around 1,100 refugees from DRC arrived every week compared to 683 in March 2018. 5,095 new refugee arrivals from South Sudan came to Uganda in April compared to 6,397 received in March but slightly higher than 4,947 refugees received in February 2018. 82% of all new refugees in Uganda are women and children (UNICEF, 2018)

Uganda is currently hosting the highest number of refugees in the country's history and is receiving simultaneously emergency influxes from south Sudan, DRC and Burundi. According to the office of the prime minister, 2018, Uganda currently has 1,444,873 refugees from different countries which represents 3 per cent of Uganda's entire population and 86% of these are women and children. (OPM, 2018)

The protection of refugees is one of the functions of the central government under Article 189 (1) of the constitution. As a result, several refugee settlements have been set up in different regions of the country. These include Adjumani settlements, Rhino Camp, Imvepi, Kyangwali (the oldest in Uganda), Nakivale (the second oldest and the largest in Uganda), Bidibidi, Kiryandongo, kyaka II, Oruchinga, palolinya Pagilinya among others (Interaid, 2009).The overwhelming refugee population is partly explained by Uganda's flexible refugee policy. Uganda has the most



liberal and generous refugee policy in the world (Refugee Studies center, working paper no.95, 2003). With the enactment of the 2006 Refugee Act, refugees in Uganda are entitled to internationally recognized refugee rights including the right to work under Section 29(1) (VI), and freedom of movement in Uganda under Section 30(Refugee Act, 2006).

For any camp to be established, its established in an area where the local communities are already present and living meaning the establishment of refugee camps and influx of refugees will in some way be affecting the lives of peoples living in that area. This often results in host communities to adapt to the changes and challenges brought on by the camps establishment that might have different impacts towards their livelihoods (Chambers 1986). How presence of Nakivale and interactions between host community and refugee population shape livelihoods of local population will be main focus of this research.

### **1.1.2 Theoretical perspective**

The study was based on Refugee Aid and Development (RAD) Theory developed by Robert F. Gorman in 1993 which explains complex links and interactions between development and refugee subjects which should focus mainly on facilities capacity in hosting refugees on top of recognizing refugees' needs as well.

### **1.1.3 Conceptual perspective**

The conceptual perspective looked at how the interaction between the refugees and host community is shaped by the context (Government policies, rules and regulations) which bring about the effects (social, economic, cultural, political, environmental and health).

### **1.1.4 Contextual perspective**

The study was conducted in Isingiro district specifically in and around Nakivale refugee camp exploring the response of host community towards refugee influx in the area. In Uganda, Nakivale refugee camp is the second oldest and largest camp implying that it harbors a lot of refugees from different countries such as DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan and Somalia. Since the influx of refugees has some pros and cons, this research was designed to explore how the host community respond to this influx.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Uganda is currently hosting the highest number of refugees in the country's history and currently has 1,444,873 million refugees from different countries (OPM, 2018). Currently, there are 13 refugee Uganda camps in and Nakivale is one of the oldest with a long history of hosting large number of refugees in the country (Inter aid, 2018)

Nakivale currently accommodates over 127,084 persons of concern from Burundi, Rwanda, DRC and Somalia with few remnants from other countries and despite sustained activities to promote voluntary repatriation for refugees, very few are willing to return home (Windle international, 2018). Such a tragic state of affairs has ramifications not only for the people who have been forced from their homelands, but also for those who must receive and subsequently host them (Jacobsen, 2001). Though the main aim of hosting refugees is to create co-existence between refugees and the host community, this has not been the case. This is mainly because refugee crisis in any given country or community comes along with challenges to the host community. There is a common source of discontent among a local population in the poor refugee host community of Nakivale as they see refugees receiving services or entitlements which are not available to them. Services such as education, health and free plots of land for agriculture are provided freely for refugees undermining the local cost recovery approach. This is due to failure by institutions like UNHCR and OPM to consult and coordinate well with local authorities (Meyer and Sarah. 2006). This causes resentment in the host communities against the refugees, which consequently results into social wrangles in the hitherto stable communities.

Also, the higher salaries offered by humanitarian agencies and NGOs encourage the medical staff to leave local clinics and join health service aid staff in the camp. This creates a health service gap between the local people in the host communities and the refugees in the camps, and consequently causes discomfort and suffering among the local people. (Peri, 2014)

These challenges plus many more others are faced by the host community due to refugee influx, hence, there was a need to closely explore how the Nakivale host community reacts to the arrival of refugees in their territory and how they cope to the challenges they face thus the study exploring the challenges of refugee influx on host community basing its study on Nakivale refugee camp in Isingiro district, western Uganda.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The main objective of this study was to explore response of local community to challenges of hosting refugees.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- i. To understand coping strategies the Isingiro host community uses to adapt to refugee crisis.
- ii. To explore host community's perceptions towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees in Nakivale.
- iii. To explore the types and characteristics of conflicts existing due to the presence of refugees in host community.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

- i. What are the coping strategies the host community has put in place to adapt to refugee crisis?
- ii. What are the perceptions of the host community towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees in Nakivale?
- iii. What are the types of conflicts that exist between the host community and refugees due to refugee crisis?

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This research will contribute to the areas of policy and practice. The lack of knowledge regarding challenges brought by refugee presence and how the host community copes with them may also contribute to an overall lack of appropriate interventions and policy to guide these interventions. With better knowledge, policies can be developed to better assist the host community and create co-existence between refugees and host community

Also the study will help in understanding the nature of conflicts between the refugees and the host community and how best these conflicts can be controlled. This knowledge can help in preventing similar conflicts in newly established camps in the country or anywhere else in other countries.

The study can act as a whistle blower to the government and all refugee aid agencies to come up with programs that benefit not only the refugees but the host community as well. The current refugee aid agencies and donor nations tailor their help towards the refugees only which should not be the case because sometimes the host community is in great need of help as well as refugees do

The study will also act as a guide to other researchers who will be conducting their researches in a similar field of study.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

### **1.6.1 Geographical Scope**

This research targeted host community and refugees camp situated near the Tanzanian boarder in western Uganda in Isingiro district. Nakivale camp is the second oldest and largest camp in Uganda; therefore, the researcher found that as a suitable environment to study challenges related to refugee influx and the response of host community to such challenges.

### **1.6.2 Time Scope**

The study was confined to a time period from 2010 – 2018. This is because this time is the time when there was a high refugee influx in Uganda particularly in Nakivale so it helped the researcher study the problem at hand.

## **1.7 Operational Definition of Key Terms**

**Refugee** According to the United Nations Status of Refugees (UNHCR 1979) a refugee is a person “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...”

**Influx** Cambridge dictionary defines influx as the fact of a large number of people or things arriving at the same time.

**Explore** According to Cambridge dictionary, explore means to investigate, study, analyze or look into.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

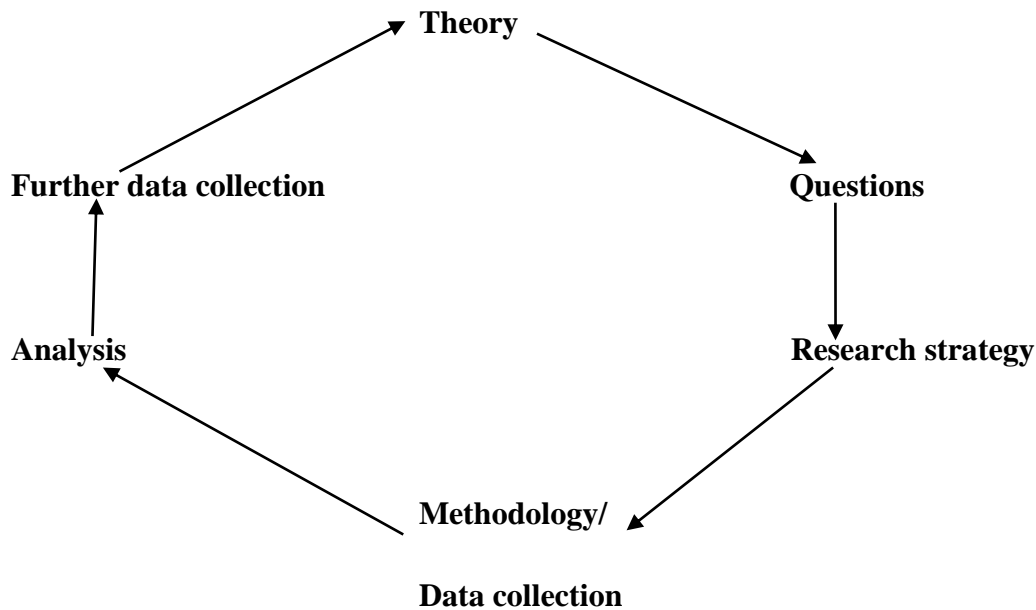
### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

This study was guided by Refugee Aid and Development (RAD) Theory developed by Robert F. Gorman in 1993. This theory explains complex links and interactions between development and refugee subjects which should focus mainly on facilities capacity in hosting refugees on top of recognizing refugees' needs as well. It is a development oriented concept that puts into consideration both the host community and the refugees (Betts, 2004; Morfor, 2012). The theory claims that the incoming refugees are considered as a burden to the host nation and the community meaning they are not considered as an opportunity. In order to develop peaceful and good relations between the refugees and the host community, both parties need to be involved in various projects and operations (Kuhlman, 1990). RAD approaches try to remove the impression that refugees are a burden since it transforms refugees from the so called burden to a self-sufficient status. In summary there is need for aid agencies and the host government to allow both refugees and host community to share resources equally and indiscriminately since in most cases the host communities feel left behind especially in provision of amenities only to the refugees. This theory was relevant to the study because it helped the researcher to explore the challenges the co-existence of host community and refugees has brought to the host community, how the host community copes with the challenges and the perceptions the host community have on government initiatives to help the refugees.

**Figure 1: The relationship between theory and method.**



**Source: Kielmann, K., Cataldo, F. and Seeley, J. (2012)**

From the above figure, it is well shown that theory shapes the questions which the researcher thinks are worth asking which in turn determine research strategy (study design). The study design helps choose appropriate methods. Particular methods yield data sets which you analyse and which may lead to further data collection. This simply shows that everything centers on the theory the researcher chooses and that's why this particular theory was used to guide this study as it was useful in shaping the research questions in this study.

## **2.2 Review of Related Literature**

### **2.2.1 The coping strategies to adapt to refugee crisis**

The provision of safe havens to refugees by many countries is not a new thing, recent global events have been shading lights on the impact refugees have on the living conditions of the host communities for example; resistance of relocating Syrian refugees to Germany by local communities, the decision of European Union to stop migration into Europe, president Donald Trump of United States of American campaigns rhetoric, about the effect of immigrants on host community and the recent signing of executive order to bar more than 6 Muslim countries migrants and visitors from entering USA (Paige, 2017). The refugees and host countries outcry

rotates around issues such as economy, environment, culture and security. The current refugee crisis appears to pass the “deaf ears” of the developed nations since they are currently hosting the smallest percentage of the total refugees’ population in the World. This explains why developing countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Ethiopia, and Kenya are home to nearly 90 per cent of the World’s refugees (UNHCR, 2016).

The most common strategy is through formal livelihood support programs in camps such as food security, water safety, health, environmental protection, disease control and management of community resources. These resources at least in the initial phase of establishment are mainly concerned towards the refugee population, although it is possible that some become available also to the host community at varying scale. Livelihood support by humanitarian assistance may also have the ability to create economic stimuli to the economy of the host community (Jacobsen 2002). The influx of agencies to areas of refugee presence can create new economic demands and inputs spreading beyond the camp, empowering livelihood opportunities for both locals and refugees. This can be done through such areas as deliveries, construction, administrations and job generating. New economies such as markets and trading of food aid and other merchandises between refugees and locals are often experienced (Jacobsen, 2003).

### **2.2.2 The perceptions of the host community towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees**

Empirical research by Aukot (2003) suggests that the perception of the host Turkana and refugee communities was relatively good in the first years of the camp existence. Although, it is documented that this good relationship has declined over time. Refugees in Franklin, Ohio contribute to the local economy as consumers and small-business owners. Ohio refugees’ household spending in 2015 is \$ 36.9 million and their total contribution to the local economy is \$ 1.6 billion (CRP Partner Organizations, 2015). Furthermore, about 873 refugee-owned businesses in Columbus Ohio employ over 3,900 workers. In Franklin, the rate of refugee entrepreneurship (13.6 percent) is twice the general Franklin County rate of entrepreneurship (6.5 percent) (CRP Partner Organizations, 2015). Similarly, refugees in North Dakota also contribute to the local economy as homeowners and taxpayers. According to Valley News Live, a report indicates that at least 100 refugee families in North Dakota own houses and pay about \$200,000 in taxes (Stanwood, 2015).

Refugees also stimulate the growth of the host economy through other direct and indirect means. Refugees directly influence the expansion of the local market by increasing the demand for local food produce and commodities such as building materials (Grindheim, 2013). Increased food, housing, and land prices bring more income to local farmers, and landowners (Mercy Corps, 2012). At the same time, the presence of refugees indirectly contributes to the built and social capitals of the host communities. The host communities could seemingly benefit from assistance programs that provide infrastructure and welfare services to refugees in need (Zetter, 2010).

The support that refugees get is far better than what the local host community get, for example delivery of relief food, access to resources and built structures many a times create violence between the two groups (Aukot, 2003). In addition, although rural residents are highly invested in the notion of American identity, it is not seen as an attitude determinant for rural residents in predicting opposition to immigration (Garcia and Davidson, 2013). Rural residents feel threatened and act less receptive when refugees are from a lesser known and more visibly distinct culture. In the past, refugees predominantly resettled in the metropolitan areas. However, over the past two decades, resettlement has been shifting away from urban areas to rural areas where cost of living is comparatively low (Garcia and Davidson, 2013). Since most of the rural areas are homogenous communities, refugees can be easily identified as a new population (Nezer, 2013).

Sudden influx of a diverse population who are culturally, racially, and religiously different can unsettle the localities' historically stable notions of belonging (Nezer, 2013). Since rural residents are not accustomed to the presence of refugees from diverse cultures, and are uncertain about problems that may arise with immigration (Garcia and Davidson, 2013), refugees presence may seemingly threaten the localities distinct traditional world-view and way of life (Fennelly, 2008). As a result, refugees can be viewed as a threat to local values consequently generating negative attitudes toward refugees and whatever they get (Zárate *et al*, 2004).

### **2.2.3 The types of conflicts that exist between the host community and refugees due to refugee crisis**

In refugee-affected and hosting areas, there may be inequalities between refugees and non-refugees that give rise to social conflicts (Betts, 2009). Refugees are frequently viewed as benefiting from privileged access to resources unavailable to the local host population. In this



regard, refugee status offers an opportunity for education, literacy, vocational training, health, sanitation, and basic livelihood which has escalated resource conflicts with the host communities (Betts, 2009).

The refugees and the host community population cut or use woods from the nearby shrubs and forests resulting to environmental conflicts since the host feel bitter about the cutting of trees (Kumssa, Jones, and Herbert, 2009). Refugees worsen ethnic tensions, deepen economic rivalry with locals, and expand rebellious social networks by transporting weapons and using camps to recruit and haven fighters (Shaver and Zhou, 2015). The host governments often construct refugee camps where the local host communities are more penurious and side-lined than the refugees themselves. The support that refugee get is far better than what the local host community get, for example delivery of relief food, access to resources and built structures many a times create violence between the two groups (Aukot, 2003).

In Lebanon, for example, since 2010 more than a million Syrian refugees have arrived, contributing to a situation of rapid, unsustainable urbanisation in an already vulnerable and fragile context. This situation has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and increased pressure on provision of basic urban services on under-funded and under-equipped local municipalities (Shaver & Zhou, 2015). Because the urban context is characterised by complex, fluid, diverse and interconnected communities, underlying structural vulnerabilities can intensify inequality, resource scarcity, competition, social conflict and protection challenges during crises (Donald *et al*, 2015). Therefore it is no surprise that tensions have emerged between refugee and host communities and between local communities and those who administer them. In the case of Lebanon, this is described as leading to a potential tipping point and is pushing the protection and enhancement of a somewhat fragile stability into key strategic objectives identified by national, international and local stakeholders (Mercy Corps, 2015)

Crisp (2003) describe protracted situations in Africa as featured by limited physical security, violence and frequent conflicts between refugees local populations. Root causes for such uprising conflicts between refugees and local population are complex and many. Crisp (2003) identifies two typical areas that are creating tensions in the initial influx stage. The first one depends on the degree that locals recognize their benefits from projects and services provided to refugees. Increased pressure on vital natural resources which the host community is depending

upon is another possible source of conflict between them. Causes of conflicts between refugees and hosts are not a straight forward process to identify, as many variables and impacts are affecting the relationship.

Jacobsen (2002) supports the arguments by Crisp (2003) that when refugees arrive in new communities there are likely risks of security problems of different nature both between refugees and with the host community. Such conflicts may vary over a broad spectrum including local crime and violence, clashes between refugees and the local community, organized crime, drug smuggling, human trafficking amongst others (Jacobsen 2002). Since the mid-1950s, the majority of violent conflicts have been intrastate, relatively small in scale and located in developing countries (Gleditsch et al., 2002). The 1990s saw a growing concern that at least some of these conflicts may be linked to environmental issues. The evidence for this linkage is heavily contested. Much of the evidence comes from case studies (e.g. Homer-Dixon, 1999), and this has been criticized for sample bias: cases were selected because they were characterized by both armed conflict and environmental degradation (Stalley, 2003). Large-N statistical testing for relationships between environmental variables and conflict has sought to avoid such bias. However, these tests have tended to produce contradictory findings (Hauge & Ellingsen, 2001). Stalley (2003) has found for interstate conflict what Hauge & Ellingsen (2001) found for intrastate conflict: land degradation renders a country more prone to conflict. However, both these studies use the Global Assessment of Soil Degradation (GLASOD), a data source that is highly problematic, for example because it extrapolates small plot studies to present large area classifications (Keeley & Scoones, 2003).

In this case study of the Bonga Camp in Ethiopia, the host communities find that resources such as land, forests, and wildlife have become scarcer, and blamed the arrival of refugees for this (Martin 2005). They also complained about refugees stealing crops and water, destroying their irrigation channels, and spoiling traditional grazing lands (Martin 2005). Despite the methodological difficulties faced by those seeking evidence of an environment–conflict nexus, we should not ignore the fact that there are at least forty case studies in which environmental resource scarcity has been cited as a factor contributing to violent conflict. Worryingly, some of the basic characteristics of these cases match the very type of violent conflict that now occurs most frequently: they are mainly intrastate, small scale and with a context of poverty (Baechler,

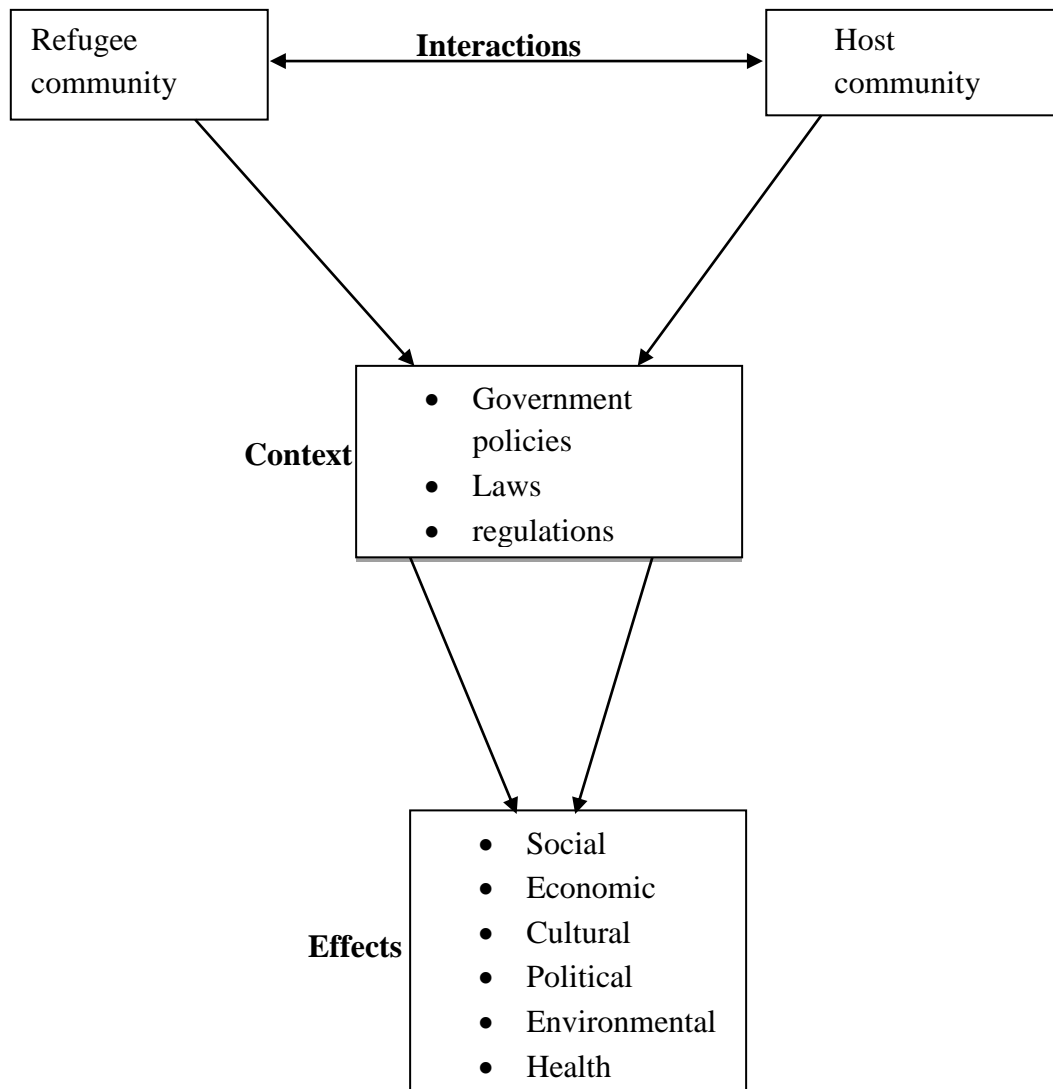
1999). The dominant narrative explaining this possible association is that issues of resource scarcity interplay with social processes, stimulating well-known triggers of violence (Goldstone, 2001). In other words, environmental scarcity acts as an indirect cause of conflict by amplifying/triggering traditional causes of conflict such as ethnic difference. Such amplification of existing social fault-lines is associated with institutional failure that is linked to scarcity and poverty (Homer-Dixon, 1999).

#### **2.2.4 Research Gap**

Little attention has been put on the study of response of host community to the challenges of hosting refugees. Even the little studies done mainly neglect the host community and concentrate on the refugee community yet the host community sometimes suffer more than the refugees due to refugee presence. Therefore this study seeks to proceed from this gap to understand the coping strategies by the host community, perceptions they have on the refugees and the initiatives they receive, nature of conflicts existing between them.

### 2.3 Conceptual Framework

This is not a conceptual framework per se as popularly known but just the concepts that guided the study.



**Figure: 2.1 Conceptual Framework**

**Source: Developed by Researcher 2018**

From the above framework, it can be clearly seen that the interaction between the refugees and host community is shaped by the context (Government policies, rules and regulations) which bring about the effects (social, economic, cultural, political, environmental and health).

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction.**

This chapter includes research design, strategies for data collection, analysis and interpretation, validity and reliability, ethical considerations that were used to address the study's research questions.

#### **3.1 Research Methodology**

Research methodology is the way to systematically solve the research problem. According to Bryman (2008) the decision to choose a specific methodology should be based on its suitability to answer the research questions. The knowledge claims, the strategies and methods all contribute to a research approach that tend to be quantitative, qualitative or mixed (Creswell, 2003).

#### **3.2 Research Approach**

A qualitative investigation was employed for this study. This was considered the most appropriate for this research because it is the best when conducting research on topics that sufficiently describe complexity of people's experiences as expressed through their social values, attitudes and perceptions and is more effective in obtaining culturally specific information and social context in which a particular observation occurs (Weinreich, 1996). It also enhances exploration and interpretation of study elements. This research approach made it possible for the researcher to study a small number of participants through extensive engagement, to develop patterns and relationships of meaning (Creswell, 2003). This field of study as well as its exploratory nature demanded a more flexible and open research design rather than one that is highly structured and rigid hence the use of a qualitative approach. This inquiry was guided by a phenomenological study approach to unearth and emphasize the meaningful nature of peoples' perceptions, character and participation. (Elster, 2007)

I chose the phenomenological study design in my research as I found it the most suitable approach for this particular research project. It helped in the study of individuals' lived experiences of events.

### **3.3 Research philosophy**

This study was guided by interpretivism research philosophy. Interpretivism refers to the approaches which emphasize the meaningful nature of people's character and participation in both social and cultural life (Elster, 2007). It has its roots in the philosophical traditions of phenomenology, and the German sociologist Max Weber is generally credited with being the central influence.

Interpretivist scholars claim that the positivist criteria of objectivity, replicability and falsification are inapplicable to social analysis, because its subject of social reality, differs fundamentally from the natural world (Schwartz Shea and Yanow 2013). While positivists treat social reality as stable, external to human experience, but still knowable by human researchers, interpretivists draw an important distinction between social and physical phenomena.

The occurrence of physical phenomena depends on the interaction of what one calls forces, matter and other substances existing independently of what humans think about them and to the best of our knowledge are incapable of strategic or conscious action. The occurrence of social phenomena depends of the interaction of social subjects. Interpretivist scholars believe that the most crucial feature of social facts and interpretation is that they can never be said to be completely stable. Of course, there is a fair degree of similarity in how humans interpret their external environment however this similarity never becomes absolute sameness.

This philosophy was used as it was deemed suitable for this kind of research depending on the methodology of the study.

### **3.4 Study Population**

This research involved mainly the host community and external actors in and around Nakivale camp situated near the Tanzanian boarder in south western Uganda in Isingiro district. In total, 32 participants were recruited. 8 external actors and 24 host community members who were all recruited purposively.

### **3.5 Data Collection Tools and Sampling Procedure**

This study was conducted from September to November, 2018. Before the data collection began, permission was sought from the manager at the refugee settlement.

The purpose of the study was explained to the manager who then introduced the researcher to the external actors at the settlement. Also, the purpose of the study was explained to the chairman LC1 of the host community who subsequently introduced the researcher to potential participants. The host community members, who were willing to participate after the purpose of the study had been explained to them by the researcher, provided their contact details. Appointments were then scheduled for the data collection at times convenient for participants.

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were the main method for data collection. The participants were purposively selected based on their prior experiences in relations to research topic and notion of homogeneity (people who know each other and have similar social statuses (Rice, 2010). This was possible due to the help of local leaders in those locations who helped select individuals who know each other and have lived in an area for at least three years. More influential people were not included in the groups as they would dominate discussions.

Four (4) Focus group discussions were employed and Each FGD consisted of six participants (for effective interactions between participants) as follows: FGD1 (two males and four females), FGD2 (six males), FGD3 (three males and three females), and FGD4 (six females) and each FGD lasted about 40-60 minutes. Some FGDs were divided according to gender and age which allowed different groups to express their views which might be difficult to do in mixed groups (Dunn *et al*, 2011). However to get mixed reactions, mixed groups of females and males were also conducted.

Eight (8) In Depth Interviews (IDIs) were employed. The IDIs were conducted with 3 females and 5 males who were selected based on individual expertise and experience such as local leaders, religious leaders, government officials, and personnel from humanitarian organisation and Each IDI lasted about 30-40 minutes.

Participation in both FGDs and IDIs was voluntary. Participants were informed of their right to withdraw their participation at any point in time of the study and were assured of confidentiality concerning information provided. Verbal consent was sought from each participant.

Both FGDs and IDIs used Open-ended guiding questions based on the objectives of the study. The open-ended questions allowed participants to express themselves freely and in the process enabled the researcher and participants to discuss emerging issues in detail. The questions were prepared in English and administered in English and in common language (Runyankole) for those who were not conversant with English. No interpreter was required since the researcher was competent with all languages. All discussions in FGDs and IDIs were recorded in the minute book after seeking permission from the participants. To resist the tendency to 'interview' individuals in the group, an assistant to facilitate the FGDs as the researcher sat quietly taking notes was employed. This was purposely done not to miss any reaction nor statement from the participants as they never wanted to be tape recorded.

Following the data collection, the researcher reviewed and critically read his minutes recorded from the respondents for the purpose of analysis. To conceal the identities of participants, the data was coded and stored in a secure location. Data resulting from the transcriptions was evaluated, coded, and analyzed thematically.

Broad themes were extracted by the researcher from the text. Emerging themes that were coded considered statements of meaning that were present in most of the data and were used to address the objectives of this study.

### **3.6 Data Analysis and Interpretations**

Given the nature of the study, the data collected from the field was transcribed in order to familiarize the researcher with the data and analysed inductively using thematic analysis (Guest, *et al* 2012). Braun-and-Clark (2006) describes thematic analysis as one of the foundational techniques for qualitative analysis in '*identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within data*'. In here categories and broad themes were developed. It emphasized pinpointing, examining, and minutes recorded in their patterns/themes within data and all that can be achieved (Braun *et al*, 2006).



As such, the six phases as outlined in Table 1 below were a useful guide in conducting thematic analysis.

**Table 1 – Thematic Analysis: Six Phases**

<b>Phase 1</b> Familiarizing yourself with your data
<b>Phase 2</b> Generating initial codes - Codes refer to the basic component of the raw data that can be evaluated into meaningful groups to form themes.
<b>Phase 3</b> Searching for themes – Themes emerging from sorting codes
<b>Phase 4</b> Reviewing themes – (i) Refinement of the candidate themes by creating new sub-themes (ii) Re-read entire data set
<b>Phase 5</b> Defining and naming themes – Clear definition and identification of themes
<b>Phase 6</b> Producing the report – Final analysis and report write up

**Source:** Braun and Clark (2006)

The transcripts were intensively coded line-by-line, sometimes word-by-word, to uncover the meaning grounded in the data. After coding, categories were developed in order to find recurrent patterns that can be grouped into themes through the use of discursive interpretation. By this I mean the data is organized systematically by the identification of topics that link together from codes into categories, and later developing meaningful and exclusive themes.

The most important stage in the analysis of qualitative data is the process of coding which is a way of evaluating and organizing data in order to unearth the meaning contained in the data. In the coding process, I allowed the data to “speak to me” so that I was able to see the strongest themes that characterized the data.

Mindful of accuracy, the researcher reviewed and critically re-read his minutes recorded from the respondents several times to come up with accurate information that was reported. Further analysis of data coded developed categories and themes important in this study

### **3.7 Validity of research instruments**

In order to lessen the danger of obtaining inaccurate answers to research questions, emphasis was put on one particular research design: validity.

Validity is related to the soundness, legitimacy and relevance of research approach and its investigation. (Kitchin and Tate, 2000). Validity is the degree with which a test measures what it actually wishes to measure.

In this study, the question of the response of the host community towards refugee influx in Nakivale camp was validated through the study design employed which according to Weinreich (1996) describes as the best when conducting research on topics that sufficiently describe complexity of people's experiences as expressed through their social values, attitudes and perceptions and is more effective in obtaining culturally specific information and social context in which a particular observation occurs.

Validity was also checked by respondent validation technique. This technique involved testing initial results with participants to see if they could still ring true. Although the research had been interpreted and condensed, participants still recognized the results as authentic and they were able to refine the researcher's understanding.

Furthermore, to avoid possibilities of different interpretations and conclusions of the same results, the researcher triangulated as he shared the coding process with the supervisor and analysis of the same data.

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

In order to conduct this research, there were important ethical issues that were considered in all phases. At the beginning of my fieldwork, I introduced myself to the local chairman (chairman lc1) to whom I introduced the nature and purpose of the research. He then introduced me to the potential participants from whom consent was perceived.

The researcher was also mindful to acquire Informed consent from the participants where by Potential participants freely agreed to be part of the project, with full understanding of the

research activities and any risks or benefits attached to being part of it as was explained to them by the researcher why the research is relevant and how it would be conducted

Most importantly I was concerned with ensuring research participants against any harm during or after the research. This was ensured by keeping the talks private between us since invasion of privacy and deceptions in relation to the research can be harmful (Bryman, 2008).

For issues of confidentiality, participants asked not to be tape recorded as it would have limited them from expressing themselves freely. This request was adhered to by the researcher where by field notes were taken instead of tape recordings.

To gain access to the camp, permission was sought from the manager of the camp who introduced me to other external actors in the camp who he thought would be of importance with regard to the purpose of the study as I explained to him

Also as a university rule, the researcher got an introductory letter from the Department coordinator of Kampala International University to prove that the Topic is researchable and has been approved.

### **3.9 Study Limitations**

The expenses for the whole research study were a bit too high putting into consideration transport costs, printing costs, telephone costs and so on.

Also, accessing the correct permits for entering the refugee camp made it a long and struggling process which consumed most of the researcher's time.

Furthermore, it was challenging to get into contact with external actors such as politicians and government workers since they are always busy.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents upon the main themes and present the findings which arose out of the interview process and subsequent data analysis. Analysis of the responses revealed four main themes in relevance to the study objectives.

#### 4.1 Strategies the host community has put in place to adapt to refugee crisis

Coping strategies are vital for the psychosocial well-being of people. As the host community involved in this study encountered challenges, they employed coping mechanisms to aid their survival and well-being.

In order to intergrate with the refugees, most of the host community respondents revealed that developed a special bond with the refugees to promote friendship between the two sides. Some children of the Isingiro natives are attending the same schools with the children of refugees which is always bringing the refugee families closer to the host community in any crisis.

*“Our children have been sent in the same schools as refugees. We have done that in order to promote harmony and togetherness. Hats the only thing we can do because there is nothing we benefit from hatred and segregation. They are people like us.” One woman discussed.*

The group discussants also revealed that “sharing stories and past events between the refugees and the host community was another strategy put in place by the host community to adapt to the refugee crisis as this would help them put themselves in the refugees’ shoes and feel sorry for them.

*‘When we talk about those stories, we feel like crying and say to ourselves thank God we are not refugees. It makes us see how hard it is to survive as arefugee and we decide to leave them live freely here.’*

Social acceptance was also revealed to be an integral component of a refugee’s integration process which should be prioritized in programming and policy development. Promoting social

integration can facilitate access to other components of the integration process, such as housing and employment, and potentially improve other outcomes, such as mental health.

Furthermore, it was revealed that taking part in religious activities was a coping strategy resorted to by majority of the participants. They placed emphasis on prayer, hope, and faith in God at the onset of influx of refugees

*“Prayer is the key; we have come this far because of God. From the time the refugees started coming up to now. God has been good and continues to be good to us. I pray to God every day about the challenges we are facing and I know He will answer my prayers.”*

Involvement in religious activities among the study participants reflected the challenges they face due to refugee influx. Majority of them mentioned that through prayer, they received the necessary strength and courage to continue living, while hoping for an improved situation. Describing the importance of prayer in their lives, a participant claimed:

*“We depend on God because he created us. Sometimes the refugees come at night and steal our agricultural products which are a source of income and food. This makes us live without money and food. This makes life very expensive but I survive because God is in control. My son is in school and paying his fees is a burden, I don’t worry so much. When I have, I eat and relax my mind and when I don’t have, I say, God do the rest.”*

Membership in religious groups was beneficial for the host community since it helped them to strengthen their faith in God and also to overcome their challenges. It was noted that the church community helps to the material and spiritual needs of participants.

The coming up of different humanitarian agencies with local communities through their local leaders that are familiar with the political and security context of the host community, and also aid agencies have provided guidance about how to distribute resources or implement programmes for the refugees in Nakivale camp. The discussants added that these programmes have improved social relationships and in doing so the people of Isingiro adapt to the refugee crisis. The group also added that disaggregating host and refugee populations was done as another way of managing refugees’ crisis in Nakivale camp.

Generally, all the IDIs described that teaching of the community on the challenges faced by the refugees and how much they need help was the best strategy the host community could adapt to the refugee crisis. Some of the participants responded that;

*“the government works with the NGOs to put up measures of adapting to refugee crisis for example the government has started the construction of classroom blocks at six primary schools of Kamubeizi PS, Nyabyondo PS, Kamengo PS, Kamutomo PS, Guma Memorial PS and Burigi Church of Uganda PS which accommodate children of the refugees and host communities in Isingiro district. Each school is also to get two 10,000 stainless steel water tanks and 5 stance latrines”* Mr. Jeremiah Kamurari, LC5 chairperson Isingiro

*“Nakivale refugee settlement in is one of the oldest and largest refugee settlements in Uganda with a population of around 90,000 people. The settlement hosts refugees from mainly Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia. Always, we train and talk to the host communities to welcome the refugees and share with them what they can inform of basic needs and even stories which heal them psychologically. We always give them information which I can call obvious information that these people are not refugees by choice but were displaced from their comfortable home because of the wars in our neighboring countries”* Mr Henok Ochalla, the UNHCR field officer

*“We always move out of the camp, get some casual jobs from the host community members. We share with them our sad stories and those who are merciful welcome us to their home and give us food and clothing which we put on. You can see how smart I am!; it is all from those merciful ladies and gentlemen around this camp who dress us and feed us like Jesus said “feed the needy I will always bless you”. I appreciate the goodness with these people however some are hostile to us and the always think we are here to take their land”* Mr. Charles Nsenga, a refugee from DR Congo; and the chairman of welfare council at Juru sub base camp

*“the camp management always invites us for meeting about refugees and we also contribute on how to solve the challenges faced by refugees with the host community”*  
Naume, a Woman councilor in Isingiro district said

*“My church welcomes all people, I pray for everybody with no segregation. I welcome refugees and residents and I treat them as brothers and sisters because we are one family; we always prepare special prayers from the refugees where we solicited support for them to also feel comfortable and not miserable; I also encourage the refugees and the host community to pray together and engage in serving God because He is the Master and the Giver of everything”.* Pastor Asiimwe Moses said

*“I always advise my people not to harass the refugees; I also tell them to always share the few resources we have in this village with the resources for example they fetch water from our well, they study from our schools even one of my sons i.e. Allan studies with them at Guma Memorial PS. This has been one of my duties with my committee to sensitize the host community particularly in Kyarugaju village to adapt the refugee crisis”.***Chairman LC1 Kyarugaju Village said**

*“The NGOs have always been there to offer help to the refugees most especially UNHCR which is playing a very important role towards helping refugees in crisis for example through providing food; as government we have given some land to the refugees to grow food crops which can support little food they get from donors; On the case of security which is my basic role in Isingiro district, we offer enough security to the host community and to Nakivale camp because you know that some of these refugees here could have been rebels in their countries. Therefore with my team we have to make sure that they are protected not to destabilize us here”* RDC Isingiro district

#### **4.2 Perception of the government/donor incentives to sustain refugees**

Accordingly, the perception of the humanitarian presence in Nakivale was mixed amongst the host community respondents. Several respondents explained that NGOs and the UN are only concerned with the refugees and offer no assistance to the host community although they are living in similar challenging conditions as the refugees.

As always the public perceptions on any matter are always mixed i.e. both positive and negative

*“I believe that it is really good when I see our colleagues in the camp being helped”*. One participant narrated.

*“I don’t know why the government chose to bring Nakivale Camp here and not to other areas who have much land which is Idle like Kibale or Kiruhura where Museveni comes from. Last year, I had my cassava plantation; they came and cut it down claiming it to be government land and gave the land to the so called refugees; they have not compensated me; this has not happened to me only; also my neighbor Musinguzi and others. When I see the trucks carrying food taking to it and leaving us here without food for our families yet they are the cause of this food shortage and hunger. I just pray to God to take them back to their home and leave us with our peace they found”* A resident of Kyarugaju Village narrated.

*“I do not care, let them enjoy free things if they bring them; is it my money? If not why do I have to mind about that?”* A resident of Kyarugaju Village said.

*“I am very happy if I see the donors and the government helping those people because sometimes they come to my home and I give them food and clothes when I have. The refugees are seriously suffering because only one meal a day is not enough for someone more so the children I see in Nakivale camp. She ended saying that “God have mercy on them”* A resident staying near Nakivale camp in Isingiro district.

*“I feel so happy and am okay with everything the government or donors donate to Nakivale camp. I feel so pitiful to the children of my daughters’ age some 5, 4, 6 years in the camp and with the suffering they go through to get food; it’s sad and when the NGOs come up with something for these people, we really need to be thankful”*.

**Most of the IDIs that represented the host communities have a positive perception** towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees in Nakivale and only one had a negative perception. As reported below;

*“These people you see in Nakivale camp as refugees are not refugees by choice; there are wars in DR Congo, Burundi, and some areas of Rwanda which force these people to*



*come and settle here in our peaceful country Uganda. Any help given to them by the government through the office of the prime minister (OPM) and the NGOs like United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Medical Teams International among others, I highly commend it and call upon them and other organisation who can offer any help or donation to do it such that our brother, sisters, sons and daughters in Nakivale camp can forget the sadness on their hearts and feel at home”* Mr. Jeremiah Kamurari, LC5 chairperson Isingiro

*“The refugees depend on food and other support given by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and some few harvests from the land given to them to supplement food supplies. If I see the government of Uganda also giving the people something to put on their mouth or clothing to put on I feel happy because the people are in need more than us”* LC5 councilor, Isingiro town council

*“I have not received any burning complaints from the host community apart from last year when they reported to me that the refugees were encroaching their land which was solved; I can therefore say the host community has no problem with the refugees and obviously with what they receive from the government and donors”.* RDC Isingiro district

#### **4.3 Types of conflicts between the host communities and refugees due to the refugees’ crisis.**

From the FDGs conducted, land conflicts and tensions about services like water are the common conflicts. The majority of the host community respondents expressed that they have experienced or knew about conflicts between host and refugees. Conflict situations between hosts and refugees are frequent and mostly take place within and around the camp according to the respondents. Most of the participants revealed that the presence of refugees can create tensions and conflicts with host communities for a number of reasons. Refugees are often well served by humanitarian agencies and enjoy better access to water, food, health and education than the host population. As well as being poorly served by humanitarian agencies, host communities tend to exist in regions that are often neglected by the state. Due to the physical separation that often exists between refugee and host communities, the benefits enjoyed by refugees may be exaggerated in the eyes of host communities, driving further tension between the two groups.

*“Every good thing that comes this side stops in the camp. Let it be water in times of scarcity, food, health care and all that yet when they are in need they come to our area looking for help. For us we are here suffering when they are there enjoying when they are even on our land. Let them come again and see.” A male middle aged respondent narrated.*

*“UNHCR has built water taps and pumps in the refugee camp but still we normally see refugees coming to fetch water from our wells and boreholes for their domestic usage. Sometimes misunderstandings between the host community and the refugees arise on who has the right to fetch water first causing them to fight a times” Another respondent revealed*

This showed the level of discontentment the host community have towards the refugees regarding what they think they get compared to them. This asserts the theory of relative deprivation in contributing to conflicts.

Conflicts between host community and refugees over land and other amenities around the camp were also one of the key types of conflicts mentioned by participants in this study. Generally, participants indicated that the relationship between them and the host community was not friendly when it came to land issues. The host community emphasized the dangers they face while collecting resources or using land. Similarly, both refugees and host community claimed that they have altered their patterns of land use, decreasing encounters and conflicts with the other group. For refugees, this was explained by refugees adhering to the host communities demands on which lands were used for cultivation, livestock grazing, and collection of resources such as wood. For the host community, this was instead shown as avoidance on their part of using lands that have been historical hotspots of conflicts between the groups. One male participant explained

*“Our relationship with the refugees is not good when it comes to sharing resources. I must admit that the refugees have not been good to us. We usually fight with refugees over almost everything, including common water. The refugees are the source of the problem because they always encroach on our resources leading to scarcity. This scarcity leads to competition which usually leads to conflicts”*

The information gathered from the participants for this study further confirms the importance of natural resources in the conflict between communities. Conflict over natural resources accounted for 75% of security incidents reported through the quantitative survey. Refugees and the host community were all equally affected by conflict arising over natural resources.

FDG 4 revealed that *“The major problem in Nakivale is unclear boundaries. People don’t know where the settlement separates with the land that belongs to the citizens of Uganda who live in Nakivale. We have said this but nothing much is being done”*

Most of the IDI participants revealed that land conflicts were the major conflicts in the area which were escalating every now and then.

*“Land conflicts are the most common here and these conflicts are characterised by displacement of residents. In 2017, Isingiro residents attacked refugees in Nakivale Refugee Camp accusing them of encroaching and stealing their land. This was settled when the government of Uganda through the office of Prime Minister (OPM) put aside sh2.9b to improve the conditions of the host communities in Isingiro district. This funding to Isingiro is under the Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP) that is also running in other refugees hosting districts in the country. This was the first time since we started hosting refugees that we have also benefited” Mr. Jeremiah Kamurari, LC5 chairperson Isingiro said*

*“I have already talked about the land conflicts that were here last year!, also maybe fighting for resources like water as you know that Isingiro district always faces the problem of water scarcity mostly in dry season; you therefore find the host communities they want water for their animals first but those are minor conflicts I think” RDC Isingiro district said*

*“The refugees in Nakivale camp are increasing every day and therefore they need more land for settlement and cultivate food to supplement on the little they get from the donors; in this context therefore we work with the government and the district land board to acquire any redundant land hence end up in land conflicts with the host communities who always tell us that the land is for Uganda and hence for Ugandans not foreigners” Mr Henok Ochalla, the UNHCR field officer said*

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of the findings with respect to the study objectives, conclusions and recommendations of the study.

#### 5.1 Discussion of the study findings

The researcher discussed the study finding according to the study objectives

##### 5.1.1 The coping strategies the Isingiro host community uses to adapt to refugee crisis

In this study revealed that host communities have built social integration with the refugees' community; they have accepted the refugees and always shared with them the little resources such as water, land, education and health available as ways of adapting the refugees' crisis in Nakivale camp. This was in agreement with Jacobsen (2003) who argued that the most common strategy is through formal livelihood support programs in camps such as food security, water safety, health, environmental protection, disease control and management of community resources. These resources at least in the initial phase of establishment are mainly concerned towards the refugee population, although it is possible that some become available also to the host community at varying scale which has helped the Isingiro host community to adapt to the refugees' crisis in Nakivale camp.

Also, it was revealed that participating in prayer and being members in religious groups was another coping strategy by the host community. Participants revealed that prayer was a major source of emotional support with which to cope with challenges they face due to refugee influx. This was in agreement with Kashyap and Sharma (2014) who argued that Spirituality influences and promotes active coping processes. Faith and hope in God were vital coping strategies emphasized by participants. This is consistent with Shoeb, *et al* (2007)'s study, which found that religious practices and beliefs generated active coping among refugees. Likewise, Pahud *et al*, (2009) suggest that Religion, faith, spirituality, and related practices have been found to be important coping resources for dealing with difficulties.

### **5.1.2 The perceptions of the host community towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees in Nakivale**

Most of the host community had positive perception towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees in Nakivale camp. The members expressed that people you see in Nakivale camp as refugees are not refugees by choice but the wars in the neighboring countries of DR Congo, Burundi, and some areas of Rwanda force these people to come and settle in Uganda. It was therefore commendable to support the refugees with any form of incentives which included food, clothes, health services, education services among others. This study further revealed that the refugees in Nakivale have stimulated economic growth in the area which gives the host community a positive perception regardless of what they are given. This was in line with Aukot (2003) who suggested that the perception of the host Turkana and refugee communities was relatively good.

However, a few of the host community had a negative perception towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees in Nakivale camp. They responded to this saying that the government had forgotten them and concentrated to the “foreigners” i.e. refugees. This was in agreement with Garcia and Davidson (2013) who described that the support that refugee get is far better than what the local host community get, for example delivery of relief food, access to resources and built structures many a times create violence between the two groups; For example in North Dakota, the refugees were as a threat to local community consequently generating negative attitudes toward them basically because of the favors in form of incentives and services they received from donors and the government (Stanwood, 2015).

### **5.1.3 The types of conflicts that exist between the host community and refugees due to refugee crisis**

Land conflicts are the most common here and these conflicts are characterised by displacement of residents; these were due to limited and scarce natural resources that are shared. In addition, the conflict was mostly geared by unequal treatment between the refugees and the host community by both donors and the government; the ideal behind this was that the host community was limiting refugees from using the land because it's scarcity. This was identified

in the Bonga Camp in Ethiopia where the host communities were land tensions and conflicts arose due to the increased influx of refugees in the camp (Martin, 2005).

## **5.2 Conclusions**

In general, the host communities have developed ways to adapt to refugee crisis while attempting to take full advantage of the positive opportunities created by their presence. The host communities have built social integration with the refugees' community; they have accepted the refugees and always shared with them the little resources such as water, land, education and health available; which have helped the host communities and refugees to share different ideologies, experiences and future prospectations sometimes. These strategies have helped the host communities to adapt to the refugees crisis in Nakivale camp.

It is not correct to say the host communities around Nakivale camp as a whole have positive perception on refugees' community towards government/donor incentives to sustain refugees in Nakivale. The situation created both positive and negative perceptions to local host communities. Many participants of the host community were sympathetic and some took advantage of the refugees' opportunities and benefited substantially from the presence of refugees and international relief organizations and have positive perception towards any help they receive. However, some were not able to benefit as much, and some even lost access to resources like land, water and health services which they previously enjoyed which gives them negative perception towards refugees.

The study revealed that land conflicts were very common in the areas around Nakivale camp and alongside the few environmental and political conflicts that existed. The conflicts between the host community and the refugees are to a larger extent caused by limited and scarce natural resources that are shared. In addition, the conflict is mostly caused by unequal treatment between the refugees and the host community by both donors and the government. It was reported that the host community does not get aid or support the same way refugees do through refugee agencies like UNHCR and this implies that refugees get the chance to access better education, health, and basic livelihood which the host do not get. Land usage is a limited resource that causes conflicts in Nakivale camp and local areas around. The host community and refugees use land for grazing their animals, cultivating their crops and building the shelters on. It was reported that host

community has sometimes been removed by force from their ancestral land by Uganda government authorities to give room for the settlement of refugees.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The government and all refugee aid agencies should come up with programmes that benefit not only the refugees but the host community as well. The current refugee aid agencies and donor nations tailor their help towards the refugees only which should not be the case.

The donors should develop and education campaigns centered on refugee experiences to prevent ongoing misinformation and misconceptions about refugees by the host communities. Educating community members about the realities of refugees' lives can help counter stereotypes, xenophobia and perceptions of competition between groups hence resolve the conflicts among them.

The government and the donors need to incorporate the use of shared community spaces into programs; Programming that addresses communitywide needs should be provided in ways that intentionally facilitate and promote social engagement. The donors need to integrated humanitarian and development programmes that seek to balance assistance to both refugee and host communities, or integrate services provided to them; more interactions may help communities view refugees as individuals rather than threats.

The donors should fund and pursue programs that support and serve refugees through an inclusive and holistic model, rather than sectoral responses; they should also identify beneficiaries based on vulnerability, and include necessary support to host communities. Donors should remove nationality-specific restrictions on funds directed toward refugees living outside camps, and support communities by focusing on vulnerability.

The government should work to educate host communities on refugees' experiences and actively promote positive social interactions among members of both communities. The government should also develop policies that reflect international protection norms and apply them to refugees regardless of nationality, thus reducing the politicization of refugee assistance.

Conflict resolution programmes should be designed and implemented; programmes that encourage workshops, discussions or regular meetings between both communities. These may involve training in conflict resolution skills or peace education

The host communities and local government administrators are gatekeepers to the various institutions that inform the concrete components of the refugee integration process, including access to medical care, education, and legal status, among others. All service providers should be trained on the legal rights and psychosocial needs of refugees to ensure they are equipped to perform their duties which can resolve and prevent any conflicts that may arise among the host communities and refugees.

Aid agencies should build more schools especially vocational training colleges that should enroll students from both the host community and the refugees. This will enable the youth to interact and embrace each other as they study together.

#### **5.4 Areas for further studies**

The future researchers may conduct studies on;

- The economic impact of refugees' inflow in Uganda
- Effects of refugees inflow on the peace and security in Uganda
- The Effects of Refugee Inflows on Uganda's Populations
- Refugee activities and Environmental Management in Uganda



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Windle International, 2018

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix I: Interview Guide for External Actors**

Dear Respondent,

My name is **MR.MANZI ABUBAKAR** Reg No: **MCR/18487/602/DF** pursuing Masters in conflict resolution at Kampala international university in Tanzania, conducting a research on **EXPLORING RESPONSE OF LOCAL COMMUNITY TO CHALLENGES OF HOSTING REFUGEES: THE CASE STUDY OF NAKIVALE CAMP, ISINGIRO DISTRICT, WESTERN UGANDA.**

You have been selected to participate in this study due to the importance of your information in the study. The information you provide will only be used for the purpose of this study and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please feel free and answer all the questions truthfully. Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

- 1. Name ..... (Optional)
  
- 2. Responsibility held in Isingiro district or Nakivale refugee Camp  
.....
  
- 3. What do you know about Nakivale refugee camp?  
.....
  
- 4. what is the trend of refugees status in the camp?  
.....
  
- 5. In your experience, what strategies has the host community put in place to adapt to the refugee crisis in Nakivale camp?  
.....
  
- 6. Do all refugees go back to their homelands when they are free from the conflicts that displace them? .....
  
- 7. What perception does the host community have on the refugees support from the government or donors?

.....  
.....  
8. How do you see the future of the relationship between host community and refugee population?

.....

9. What types of conflicts do exist between the host community and the refugees of Nakivale refugee camp?

.....

10. Any recommendation (s) for the above?

.....  
.....

11. Something else you would like to add in relation to the questions.

.....

**Thank you for your time**

## Appendix II: Focus group discussion tool

Moderator name		Number of participants	
Focus group name		Gender of participants	
Date			

### Introductory Notes

Hello, my name is MR.MANZI ABUBAKAR. First, I would like to welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this focus group discussion where I will ask you about the impacts of refugee influx on the host community. The information you will provide will only be for research purposes.

For anonymity reasons, I and the other focus group participants would appreciate it if you refrain from discussing the comments of other group members outside the focus group. If there are any questions or discussions that you do not wish to answer or participate in, you do not have to do so however please try to answer and be as involved as possible.

This session will take no more than 30 - 40 minutes.

### Guidelines

The most important rule is that only ONE person speaks at a time. There may be a temptation to jump in when someone is talking but please wait until they have finished.

There are no wrong answers but rather different points of view

There is no any particular speaking order. Speak when you have something to say, there are many of you in the group and it is important that I obtain the views of each of you.

Please feel free to share your point of view even if it differs from what others have said

Keep in mind that we're just as interested in negative comments as positive comments, and at times the negative comments are the most helpful.

The researcher/ research assistant informed the group members that he was taking minutes of the discussion; and these were to help him in his study. He was also the modulator

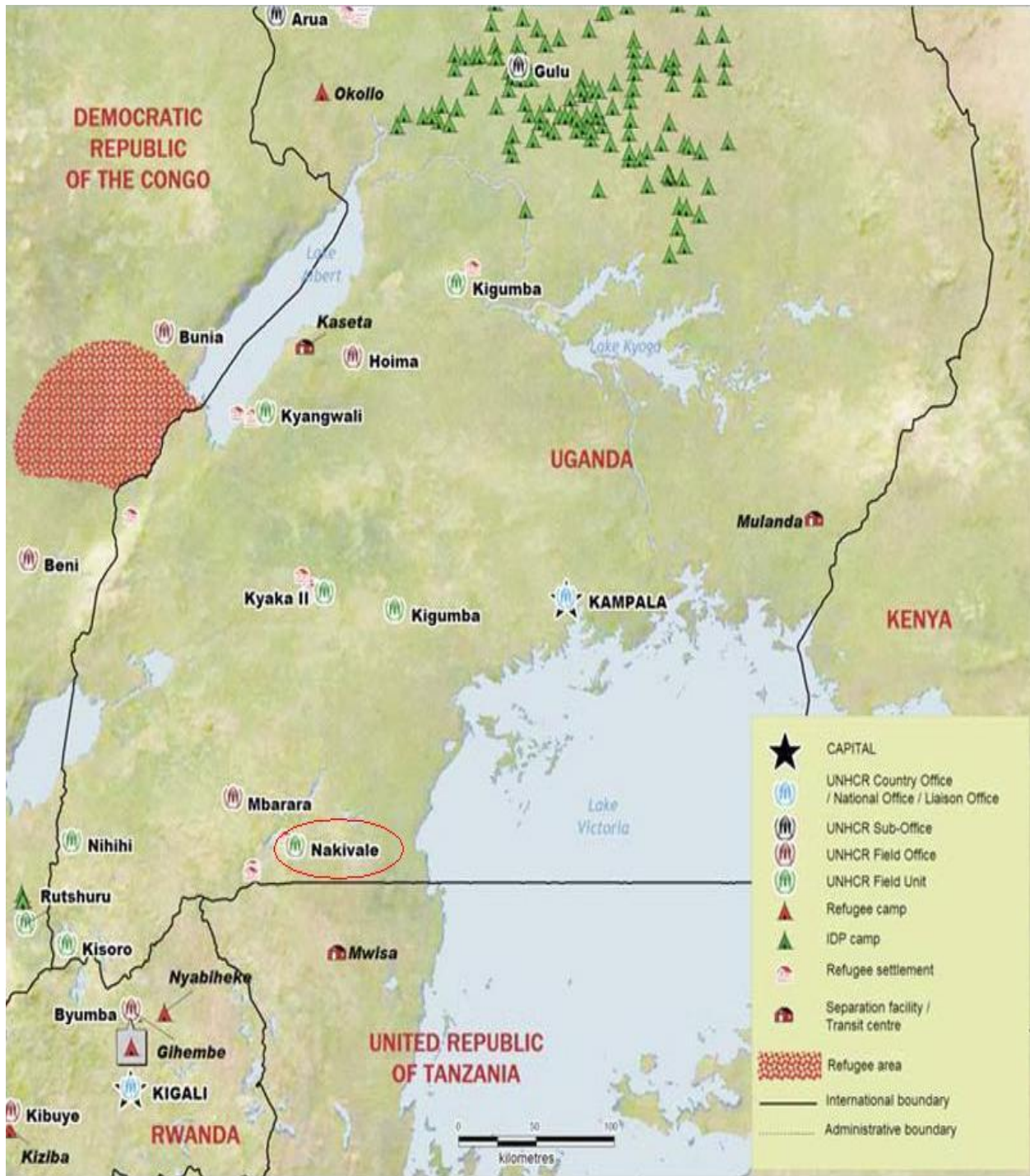
Any questions?

The discussion started by reading the guiding questions which were discussed as they were ordered.

1. Do you all know Nakivale refugee camp and have any idea about it?
2. Where do the refugees in Nakivale refugee camp come from?
3. How often do they come here?
4. What strategies have you put in place as the host community to adapt to the refugee crisis?
5. How do you feel when you see the government/donors giving help to the refugees in Nakivale camp?
6. What are the most common conflicts that exist between the host community and the refugees?

**Thank you for your cooperation**

**Appendix III: Location of Nakivale Refugee camp**



Source: google images

**Appendix IV: Over view and demographic characteristics of host community respondents.**

<b>Resp. No</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Educn background</b>	<b>Marital status</b>
1	M	26	Muslim	Tertiary	Single
2	M	50	Protestant	No formal educn	Married
3	F	29	Protestant	Secondary	Cohabiting
4	F	36	Catholic	Primary	Single
5	F	40	Traditionalist	No formal educn	Married
6	F	35	Catholic	Primary	Married
7	M	37	Muslim	Primary	Married
8	M	29	Adventist	Secondary	Cohabiting
9	M	30	Adventist	Secondary	Single
10	M	60	Catholic	Primary	Married
11	M	55	Protestant	Primary	Married
12	M	42	Muslim	Primary	Married
13	F	33	Muslim	Primary	Single
14	F	57	Muslim	Primary	Married
15	F	43	Muslim	Primary	Married
16	M	51	Muslim	Primary	Married
17	M	26	Catholic	Secondary	Cohabiting
18	M	29	Protestant	Secondary	Single
19	F	56	Muslim	Primary	Married

20	F	32	Catholic	Primary	Single
21	F	34	Protestant	Tertiary	Single
22	F	53	Catholic	No formal educn	Married
23	F	50	Catholic	Primary	Married
24	F	47	Muslim	Primary	Married



**Appendix V: Over view of external actors (respondents)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>employer</b>	<b>position</b>	<b>Area of work</b>	<b>Time working</b>
Jeremiah kamurari	Government	LC5	Local government	4 years
Henok ochalla	UNHCR	Field officer	Camp	2 years
Naume Ainebyona	Government	Woman councilor	Government	4 years
Charles Nsenga	UNHCR	C/man welfare council	Camp	6 months
Asiimwe Edmund	Church	Pastor	Church	4 months
Amos Katambi	Government	c/man Lc1	Kyarugaju village	3 years
Muhangi Herbert	Government	RDC	Government	4 months
Habibu Said	Camp	Manager	Camp welfare	1 year