

**URBAN TRANSITION LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES AMONG THE SOUTH  
SUDANESE REFUGEES IN ELDORET CITY, KENYA**

**BY  
POLYCARP OWUODHO OPIYO**

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FORCED MIGRATION STUDIES**

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## DECLARATION

### Declaration by the Student

This Thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in this or any other University.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Opiyo Polycarp Owuodho**

**SASS/PGPA/15/12**

### Declaration by the Supervisor

This research Thesis has been produced with our approval as university supervisors.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dr. James K. Chelang'a**

Department of History, Political Science

and Public Administration

Moi University, Eldoret.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Dr. Matui Bramwel**

Department of History, Political Science

And Public Administration

Moi University, Eldoret.

**DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my late father Jaduong' Owuodho Opiyo and Mama Rusanael Ogaya, My wife Millicent Akoth, My Children Tony Opiyo, Blavian Ouma, Ryan Odhiambo, Dick SalimLone Ojalla and Albert Oduor.

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## ABSTRACT

Refugees are increasing worldwide and according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), their hosting is the preserve of the destination countries and the international community. Support to refugees is sometimes challenging because refugee agencies and host governments lack adequate resources to take care of their welfare. Most of the refugees are left to fend for themselves. The study extensively reviewed literature and the research gap lied in three areas that it sought to address Social Cohesion, Livelihoods and Economic integration. The general objective of this study was to examine overall Urban Transition Livelihood Strategies among South Sudanese Refugees in Eldoret City, Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were to analyze South Sudanese refugees' transition livelihood strategies, assess the role of stakeholders on South Sudanese refugee livelihood strategies, establish the challenges that South Sudanese refugees face in their livelihood strategies and assess the mitigation efforts on refugees' challenges on livelihood strategies in Eldoret City. The study incorporated both the individualist theory and the model developed by Harris and Todaro. This approach was employed to conduct a comparative analysis of agricultural wages with those earned in the manufacturing sectors in urban areas. The study adopted a descriptive research design and utilized mixed methods approach. The target population comprised of all adult South Sudanese living in Eldoret City, Kenya. The population size was 1396 adults. The sample size of the study as determined by Krejcie and Morgan formulae was 301. The respondents were picked from their households using systematic sampling technique in which every 5<sup>th</sup> household was selected until the desired sample (n=301) was reached. The study instruments included a questionnaire and interview guide. Three hundred and one questionnaires were disseminated to refugees while seven (7) interviews were conducted for government officers. Data was coded, entered and cleaned with the aid of SPSS software. Quantitative analysis was done using descriptive statistics while qualitative data was thematically analyzed and interpreted. The quantitative findings of the study were presented using tables and charts while the qualitative data was presented using themes, narrative descriptions and use of participant quotes. The study findings indicated that most (55.1%) of the Sudanese refugees were engaged in business as a livelihood strategy, while 15.0% were employed. However, the leading livelihood strategy was skill trading in which service is offered for money so as to sustain individuals and/or families. Majority (40.2%) of the refugees depended fully on monetary assistance from their relatives while 34.9% depended on this assistance partly and 19.9% did not depend on it. The Monetary assistance was provided by family/relatives and friends at a rate of 65.3%. 49.8% of the refugees had transnational networks for accessing remittances while 45.2% had local contacts. 30.2% of the refugees believed that provision of job opportunities could be a way out to solve the challenges they have on livelihoods. Data from qualitative interviews indicated that sometimes refugees lack money to use, and in such situations the religious members assist them. In addition, other challenges experienced include discrimination by landlords and security enforcement officers. The challenges experienced on refugee livelihoods was exacerbated by inadequate refugee funding. The study concluded that there was a myriad of challenges which refugees face in their day-to-day life and engagement in business is not able to solve most of these challenges. The study recommends provision of jobs and funds to help urban refugees mitigate on challenges.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CARE</b>	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
<b>COERR</b>	Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>GOK</b>	Government of Kenya
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>ICARA</b>	International conference on Assistance of Refugees in Africa
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>RLP</b>	Refugee Livelihood Project
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based violence
<b>UDHR</b>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCSR</b>	United Nations Convention to Status of Refugee
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>USAID</b>	United States of America International Development

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter covers the background of the study. It also states the problem of the study, research objectives, research questions, justification of the study, scope of the study and the theoretical framework.

#### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Sudanese refugees have been forced to leave their country for a variety of reasons, including armed conflict, persecution, and economic hardship. The ongoing conflict in Darfur and South Kordofan regions has been one of the main causes of displacement in Sudan. Additionally, the government's policies towards minority groups, such as the Juba people, have resulted in forced displacement and persecution (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2021). According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2021), the number of Sudanese refugees worldwide was over 2.2 million as of the end of 2020. The majority of these refugees were hosted by neighboring countries, such as Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Chad, while others have sought refuge in countries further afield, such as Egypt and Europe.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), (2021) states that the situation in Sudan remains volatile, with ongoing conflicts in several regions, including Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. These conflicts have resulted in displacement and a significant humanitarian crisis in the country. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners continue to provide

assistance and protection to Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country and in neighboring countries.

South Sudanese refugees moved out of their country due to a variety of factors, including armed conflict, political instability, economic crisis, and environmental degradation. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) the ongoing armed conflict and violence in South Sudan, which erupted in 2013, has forced millions of people to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring countries. The conflict has been characterized by brutal attacks on civilians, widespread sexual violence, and the recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2021. In addition to the conflict, South Sudan has also been affected by political instability, including a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar, which led to the outbreak of the civil war in 2013. The political crisis has worsened the country's economic situation, with high inflation rates and widespread poverty, which has pushed many people to leave in search of better opportunities (BBC, 2020).

Environmental degradation has also contributed to the displacement of South Sudanese refugees. The country has experienced frequent floods, droughts, and other natural disasters, which have destroyed crops and homes and left many people without food or shelter United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2021. Overall, the combination of these factors has led to a significant number of South Sudanese refugees seeking safety and security in neighboring countries.

The iconic image of refugees is row upon row of white tents in a sprawling emergency camp.

Livelihood refers to the means and activities required for securing basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, and clothing. It involves the capabilities, assets, and activities that individuals or communities utilize to support themselves. Chambers and Conway (1992) define livelihood as the "capabilities, assets—including both material and social resources—and activities required for a means of living." In the context of forced displacement, Jacobsen (2002) explains that livelihoods encompass how refugees access and mobilize resources to enhance their economic security and reduce vulnerabilities exacerbated by conflict.

For refugees, the pursuit of livelihood is often shaped by the opportunities and constraints of their social environments. The concept of sustainable livelihood has gained prominence in refugee assistance, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) advocating for self-reliance as a means for refugees to achieve economic independence and resilience. Sustainable livelihoods enable refugees to cope with and recover from shocks, improve their capabilities, and contribute to their host communities' economies while maintaining dignity and self-sufficiency.

Refugees often migrate from camps to urban areas due to inadequate services, insecurity, and lack of economic opportunities in camps. Overcrowded camps with limited healthcare, poor education facilities, and insufficient clean water drive refugees to seek better opportunities elsewhere. Security concerns, such as internal violence and gender-based exploitation, further prompt refugees to leave camps. The inability to engage in meaningful economic activities in camps often leads refugees to seek work in urban settings, where informal employment is more accessible (UNHCR, 2005).

Urban areas attract refugees with the promise of better services, including healthcare, education, and social amenities. Cities offer more diverse job opportunities, both in formal and informal sectors, allowing refugees to achieve financial independence and rebuild their lives. Additionally, cities often host established refugee or diaspora communities, which provide social support and help refugees integrate into their new environments. Social networks play a crucial role in helping refugees navigate urban life.

Refugees in urban areas adopt various strategies to sustain their livelihoods. These include engaging in informal employment, utilizing social networks, receiving remittances, and forming inter-household economic partnerships. Social networks, both within host countries and transnationally, provide vital support for refugees by facilitating access to resources and economic opportunities. For instance, Somali refugees in Kenya often pool resources by sharing living spaces, which helps them survive in economically challenging environments. Training and skills acquisition also play a crucial role in improving refugees' livelihoods. Many refugees pursue vocational training or education to enhance their employability. However, financial constraints often prevent refugees from completing their education, forcing them into low-paying jobs in the informal sector. Some refugees, particularly women, face additional vulnerabilities, such as exploitation and gender-based violence, which further complicates their efforts to secure sustainable livelihoods.

The livelihood strategies of refugees are shaped by the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including host governments, humanitarian organizations, and the private sector. Host governments, such as Uganda, have enacted legislation to promote refugee self-reliance, allowing refugees to work and integrate into local communities.



Humanitarian agencies like UNHCR play a key role in coordinating refugee operations and promoting sustainable livelihoods through policies that encourage economic independence. The private sector also contributes to refugee livelihoods by providing employment opportunities, especially in the informal economy. Collaboration between governments, humanitarian agencies, and the private sector is essential to creating an enabling environment for refugees to thrive economically and socially.

Despite the opportunities urban areas provide, refugees face significant challenges in securing sustainable livelihoods. These include high living costs, inadequate housing, discrimination, and limited access to formal employment due to legal restrictions. Refugees are often vulnerable to exploitation by landlords and employers, and they face difficulties accessing public services such as healthcare and education. Additionally, refugees in urban settings are at greater risk of social exclusion and exploitation, particularly women and children, who may resort to risky coping mechanisms such as prostitution and child labor. These challenges are exacerbated by the lack of legal protections and the high cost of living in urban areas, which place further strain on refugee households.

Several strategies have been proposed to mitigate the challenges faced by refugees in securing livelihoods. These include promoting economic development strategies, supporting vocational training programs, and facilitating access to financial resources such as micro-credit. Empowerment initiatives, such as skills training and income-generating activities, help refugees become more self-reliant and contribute to their host communities. Humanitarian organizations and governments must collaborate to create protective environments that enable refugees to engage in economic activities.

By building refugees' capacity for self-reliance, stakeholders can reduce their dependence on aid and promote long-term integration into host societies.

Refugees' livelihoods are influenced by a complex interplay of factors, including the socio-economic conditions of their host environments, the availability of resources, and the support of stakeholders. Sustainable livelihoods are critical to refugees' long-term well-being, allowing them to rebuild their lives with dignity and contribute to their host communities. Addressing the challenges refugees face in urban settings requires concerted efforts from governments, humanitarian agencies, and the private sector to create environments that support economic inclusion and self-reliance. Kenya included where gross domestic per capita is fairly low at below \$2,187. Kenya like any other developing country is ill equipped to receive the refugees and at times is unable to keep pace with their own urban planning and development needs. Nonetheless, the arriving of refugees are seen to further contribute to rising crime rates, over burdening public services and competing for scarce jobs, housing and resources. Rarely are the refugees in urban areas viewed as potential assets who could contribute to economic stimulation and growth-filling both skilled and unskilled labour shortages and bringing in new skills and talents.

The debate on refugee livelihood has dominated the humanitarian concerns for long. According to Chambers and Conway (1992), "refugee livelihoods" comprise the capabilities, assets and activities required for means of living. Still in relation to livelihood, issues about strategies to the same take centre stage concern. How is it attained? Does it lead to sustainable livelihoods to refugees? These questions alongside challenges posed to host communities create constant dilemma to stakeholders on refugees matters. On the other hand, the freedom of refugees is a

human right and ensuing benefit from their freedom and integration somehow return to the hosting community. The refugee livelihood strategy rests on their yearning to live decent lives away from the camps.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Refugees have increasingly found themselves in many large urban areas (transition) even though initially they are designated to be in isolated camp sites. In the North Rift region of Kenya, most of these refugees' dwell in Eldoret City. In this town, the biggest numbers of such refugees originate from the South Sudan. No matter their origin, it is notable that large numbers of refugees have tended to move from the refugee camps into larger cities in different countries. The reasons for this are many and includes; search for employment, poverty in camps, overcrowding, thinking of life after camp especially education for the young, and inadequate infrastructure. Host governments often restrict refugees' movement for reasons such as security but the desire to integrate for better life never dies among refugees.

The need to and desire to live decently in conformity with developments taking place globally often come with a lot challenges because dynamics unfold in particular contexts, Eldoret not left out, where refugees face difficulties navigating complex urban environments while addressing issues of integration and social cohesion. Consequently, this study seeks to understand how South Sudanese refugees integrate into the urban social and economic fabric of Eldoret, offering insights into their well-being and the broader impact on the communities they inhabit.

## **1.3 General Objective**

This research assessed Urban Transition Livelihood Strategies among South Sudanese Refugees in Eldoret City.

### **1.4 Specific objectives**

In support of the main objective, this study benefited from specific objectives to enhance the study. These objectives were to:

1. Analyze South Sudanese refugees' transition livelihood strategies in Eldoret City, Kenya.
2. Assess the role of stakeholders on South Sudanese refugee livelihood strategies in Eldoret City, Kenya.
3. Establish the challenges that South Sudanese refugees face in their livelihood strategies, Eldoret City, Kenya.
4. Assessing the mitigation efforts on refugees' challenges on livelihood strategies in Eldoret City.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

The research questions derived from the ensuing objectives were as follows;

1. What are the South Sudanese refugees' livelihood strategies in Eldoret City, Kenya?
2. What are the roles of stakeholders on South Sudanese refugee livelihood strategies in Eldoret City, Kenya?
3. What are the challenges that South Sudanese refugees face in their livelihood strategies, Eldoret City, Kenya?
4. Assessing the mitigation efforts on refugees' challenges on livelihood strategies in Eldoret City.

### **1.6 Justification of the Study**

The subject matter of refugee livelihood strategies and urban life continue to be much probed and a subject of interest. Despite many studies, such as those by Lokiru (2009), Campell (2005) and De Vries (2016) having focused on livelihood strategies,

global trends continue to show dynamics play out in specific contexts, where refugees must navigate complex urban environments while grappling with integration and social Cohesion. Therefore this study desired to understanding how South Sudanese refugees integrate into the urban social and economic fabric of Eldoret, thereby providing insights into both their well-being and the broader impacts on the community they live in.

In many other countries such as Uganda, Michela (2011) suggests, in his writing expressions, that refugees are not only a burden as has been often thought but also an opportunity. Despite the realization that refugees have desires and needs backed by human rights for basic needs of life, few nations and states have thought of allowing them to attain their livelihood beyond the camps.

This study comes from the backdrop of desires not backed by provision of livelihood strategies for refugees as expressed in Michella (2011). There is a broad misconception of refugees as traumatized, unproductive individuals who are simply living off external aid handouts.

While most refugees experience a tremendous amount of personal hardship including food insecurity and health risks, a closer analysis of the current literature on refugees reveals a growing number of refugees engage in a variety of livelihood strategies which have been adopted in urban cities by the refugee groups as well as in the camps.

Academically, under the 1997 policy, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other stakeholders have focused primarily on the provision of protection in urban settings, instead of service delivery. It is generally believed that refugees who make their way to cities had the means and skills to provide for

themselves and required little outside assistance. Those deemed particularly vulnerable received subsistence allowance usually for a limited amount of time until they could find their own means of survival. Due to continued growth, there is need to carry out more studies on refugee livelihood strategies. Host government legislation and non-government organization service provisions have not changed and adjusted in step with the revised United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) urban policy. Indeed host governments do not provide urban refugees with the right to work or even residence permits to facilitate rental of apartments. There is therefore a need for standardization within the legislations of host countries.

### **1.7 Scope of the Study**

The study focused generally on refugee livelihood strategies and urban life, centering on Eldoret City in Kenya. The main focus was on the South Sudanese refugees who reside in Kapsoya estate, Eldoret City. As a major town on infrastructural basis in the North Rift region found not far from Uganda border, the town is nearest to refugee camps in the Northern Kenya in comparison to others, while also it is situated on the route to South Sudan and Ethiopia. Within this town many refugees have stayed and numerically the Sudanese have been the majority. This town therefore became a very important focus for this study. The study respondents included South Sudanese refugees from selected households who are over 18 years of age and are residents of Kapsoya estate. Questionnaires will be disseminated to persons from those households to enable respond and return them.

### **1.8 Limitation of the Study**

The study was limited by the fact that the South Sudan refugees could not be accessed in large numbers, as they opted to be represented by their community leaders. It is also worth noting that a good number of refugees, especially the elderly had language

barrier, such that they were unable to communicate effectively either using Kiswahili or English. The inability to access the refugees and language barrier was overcome by getting them through their community leaders and translators respectively. The study was also affected by fear on the part of the South Sudan refugees. The refugees sometimes were doubtful of some of the probing questions asked to them by the researcher. This was necessitated by the nature of their citizenry; being refugees does not give them the freedom to associate, just the way Kenyan citizens would do. So they were fearful sometime and this made them not to divulge adequate information. To overcome this, the researcher attempted to assure them anonymity and hence treating the information obtained as confidential.

## **1.9 Operational Definitions of Terms**

### **Livelihood strategy**

Livelihood strategies refer to the methods and resources that refugees use to secure their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and income. These strategies are influenced by a variety of factors, including the social, economic, and political context of the host country, as well as the skills and resources that refugees bring with them (de Haan & Zoomers, 2005).

According to de Haan and Zoomers (2005), refugees' livelihood strategies are shaped by three main factors: the institutional context of the host country, the social networks and support systems available to refugees, and the refugees' own skills and resources. These factors interact with each other to determine the extent to which refugees are able to access employment opportunities, social services, and other resources needed to support their livelihoods.

In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of supporting refugees' livelihood strategies as a means of promoting self-reliance and reducing dependence on humanitarian aid United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2014). This has led to the development of livelihoods programs that aim to support refugees in developing sustainable livelihood strategies, such as through skills training, vocational education, and entrepreneurship support.

### **Transition Livelihood Strategy**

The transition livelihood strategy is a term used in the context of refugees, which refers to the process of moving from a state of dependence on humanitarian aid to self-reliance through sustainable livelihoods. It involves supporting refugees to



acquire the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to rebuild their lives and become independent members of their new communities

**Urban Transition Livelihood Strategy**

Refers to livelihood transition strategies in respect to a town (urban) environment

**Refugees**

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a refugee is a person who has been forced to flee their country of origin because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee is someone who has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group

**Legal Status**

Legal status refers to the formal recognition of a refugee's right to reside in a host country and receive protection under international law. This status is granted by the host country's government, and it allows refugees to access a range of rights and services, such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

### **1.10 Chapter One Summary**

Chapter one discussed the reasons for the displacement of Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees, such as armed conflict, persecution, economic hardship, and environmental degradation. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that the majority of Sudanese refugees are hosted by neighboring countries, while South Sudanese refugees have fled to neighboring countries due to the ongoing conflict, political instability, and environmental degradation in their home country. The chapter also highlights the changing trend of refugees moving to urban areas rather than living in camps. The definition of a refugee is also discussed, and scholars' perspectives on refugees' livelihood strategies and urban life are examined. The livelihood of refugees is defined as the means used to maintain and sustain life.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the relevant literature on the study. It seeks to explore literature on refugees and the livelihood strategies that urban Kenya refugees rely on. This has been built by looking at the wider literature on refugees' livelihood strategies. This chapter describes the key themes associated with the refugees' livelihood strategies and from the objectives of the research. In the end it expected to help the study come up with generalizations about other scholarly writings in view of refugees and urban life.

#### **2.1 Definition of Livelihood**

Livelihood generally refers to the means and activities involved in securing the necessities of life, such as food, water, shelter, and clothing. It encompasses the capabilities, assets, and activities required for a means of living. According to Chambers and Conway (1992), livelihoods comprise 'capabilities, assets – including both material and social resources – and activities required for a means of living.' Jacobsen (2002) as cited in Neidhardt (2013) on the other hand argues that, the pursuit of livelihoods in the context of forced displacement encompasses 'how people access and mobilize resources enabling them (refugees) to increase their economic security, thereby reducing the vulnerability created and exacerbated by the conflict.' Essentially, livelihoods refer to the means used to maintain and sustain life (De Vriese, 2006). Within this context, refugees may use different means to access resources and pursue livelihood activities, actively navigating the opportunities and constraints of their social worlds. The theme of livelihoods has become an important agenda in the domain of refugee assistance. With this growing interest in the

economic aspect of refugees' lives, there is now a burgeoning body of research into the livelihoods of forced migrants (Jacobsen, 2002 & 2005).

A livelihood can be sustainable or not sustainable. A sustainable livelihood is one that can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) emphasizes sustainable livelihoods among refugee communities for several critical reasons. Primarily, the ability to work and earn a living is one of the most effective ways for refugees to rebuild their lives with dignity and peace after fleeing war or persecution. Economic inclusion not only helps refugees become self-reliant but also contributes to their resilience, enabling them to meet their needs in a safe, sustainable, and dignified manner. The approach to sustainable livelihood prevents the depletion of assets and dependence on aid, while also allowing refugees to contribute to the economies of their host communities (UNHCR, n.d.). By advocating for the right to work and supporting refugees in gaining access to local labor markets, UNHCR has helped refugees to facilitate their economic inclusion. This involves collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including states, development and humanitarian organizations, the private sector, and civil society, to enhance economic outcomes for both refugees and host communities. Sustainable livelihood initiatives are integral in helping refugees transition from emergency aid to long-term self-sufficiency, thereby supporting their integration and fostering social cohesion with host populations (UNHCR, n.d.). It is for the aforementioned reason that UNHCR launched the Refugee Livelihood Project in 2003.

The Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit of UNHCR launched the Refugee Livelihood Project in 2003. The unit expressed its interest in enhancing its understanding of refugees' livelihood strategies and promoting sustainable livelihoods in protracted refugee situations (UNHCR, 2003). Currently, enhancing refugee livelihoods is synonymous with the promotion of self-reliance in UNHCR's conception. UNHCR's Handbook for Self-Reliance, for instance, articulates that self-reliance refers to developing and strengthening refugee livelihoods and reducing their vulnerability and dependency on external aid. For instance, UNHCR has been increasingly adopting and encouraging the 'self-reliance' of refugees with the guiding philosophy that refugees have the skills and potential to stand on their own economically. (UNHCR, 2005) defines self-reliance as the social and economic ability of an individual, a household or a community to meet essential needs (including protection, food, water, shelter, personal safety, health and education) in a sustainable manner and with dignity (Hunter, 2009). Thus, currently, enhancing refugee livelihoods is synonymous with the promotion of self-reliance. The notion of *livelihood* has entered the discourse of refugee assistance accompanied by a renewed interest in refugee situations, self-reliance, and empowerment with an increased attention to the refugees and how they seek to construct their livelihoods (De Vriese, 2006). Traditionally there has been a tendency amongst humanitarian organizations to approach the issue of livelihoods of refugees from a technical perspective. However, there are needed efforts to focus more on the broader societal impacts or financial aspects.

## **2.2 Migration from Camps to urban: Push and Pull Factors**

Refugees often begin their displacement journey by settling in refugee camps, which are typically located in rural or isolated areas. However, over time, many refugees seek to relocate to urban centers. These movements are driven by a combination of push and pull factors that influence their decision to leave camps and move to cities, such as inadequate job opportunities, political persecution, poor healthcare, and scarcity of resources like water and food. Conversely, cities attract them with the prospect of better job opportunities, higher living standards, more comprehensive educational and medical facilities, and enhanced security and freedom. These push and pull factors not only underscore the challenges faced in camps but also highlight the perceived opportunities in urban areas which can offer a more sustainable and dignified life (UNHCR, 2005).

### **2.2.1 Push Factors**

One of the primary push factors that forces refugees to move out of the camps is the inadequate services available in refugee camps. Camps often suffer from overcrowding, limited access to healthcare, poor educational facilities, and insufficient basic amenities such as clean water and sanitation. These conditions can lead to a sense of hopelessness and dissatisfaction among refugees. The International Rescue Committee (2019) notes that the poor living conditions in camps significantly contribute to the decision to move to urban areas where better services are perceived to be available. Another significant push factor is security concerns within the camps. Refugee camps can be unsafe due to internal conflicts, violence, and exploitation. Gender-based violence is a particular concern, as highlighted by UNHCR (2017), which reports that the threat of violence, including sexual violence, is a major factor driving refugees away from camps. Additionally, the lack of economic opportunities

in camps is a critical factor pushing refugees toward cities. Many camps do not provide legal work opportunities, leaving refugees dependent on humanitarian aid with little prospect for self-sufficiency. Betts, Bloom, Kaplan, and Omata (2017) emphasize that the inability to engage in meaningful economic activities in camps often leads refugees to seek better opportunities in urban settings where they can find informal or formal employment. A case scenario is the dependence of refugees on deteriorating aid rations and services, as well as overcrowding and insecurity in camps, that has encouraged migration to Nairobi (UNHCR and Danish Refugee Council, 2012). Those migrating are often breadwinners who are ready to take some degree of risk to look for work, albeit access to work and other services may still be too risky for other household members.

### **2.2.2 Pull Factors**

On the other hand, cities attract refugees due to several pull factors. One of the most compelling is the access to better services. Urban areas generally offer improved healthcare, education, and social services compared to refugee camps. The World Bank (2018) underscores that the availability of better services in cities is a key reason why refugees choose to move from camps to urban areas. Cities also provide more economic opportunities because, being a urban area typically have a more diverse economy with more job opportunities in both the formal and informal sectors. Refugees are drawn to cities where they believe they can secure employment and achieve a level of financial independence. The International Labour Organization (ILO) (2018) notes that the availability of jobs in urban areas serves as a strong pull factor for refugees, as it offers them the chance to rebuild their lives and support their families. Finally, the presence of social networks and established communities in cities is another important pull factor. Cities often have established communities of

refugees or diaspora groups that can offer social support, help with integration, and provide a sense of belonging. According to Jacobsen (2006), these social networks play a crucial role in attracting refugees to urban areas, as they seek to join family members or ethnic communities that can assist them in navigating their new environment. An example is comprise SS and Somali refugees who were once urban dwellers in their home country have depicted a clear preference for migrating to Nairobi as opposed to the camps, where they are likely to find better opportunities to utilize their skills to earn an income and access social amenities.

The pull and push factors mean that refugees worldwide are increasingly likely to end up in urban areas rather than camps (Brees, 2008; Jacobsen, 2006). According to the UNHCR website, more than half of the refugees live in urban areas. The ‘urbanization’ of refugees certainly applies to many parts of the world, and states and governments who have committed to the Refugee convention of 1951 have the obligation to ensure that the rights of refugees to basic support and the opportunity to sustain themselves through employment is observed. Despite this observance, livelihood opportunities can be enhanced or limited by factors in the external environment. The vulnerability context is the range of factors in the external environment that make people vulnerable, and thus the external environment is an important influencing factor on a refugee’s livelihood. These factors determine the vulnerability context in which households have to operate (Jacobsen, 2006). A single most factor comprise the host government and by extension other stakeholders, who the refugees depend on its policies in those countries. Importantly, their relationships with the vast stakeholders depend on a number of things. Omata (2012) observed that, the issue of how to understand and support the livelihoods of refugees has emerged as a pressing agenda due to the large number of protracted refugee situations globally. In



the face of these daunting challenges, the international refugee regime has realized that refugees should be ‘assisted to assist themselves.

### **2.3 Global Refugee Trends in 2023**

At the end of 2023, approximately 117.3 million people remained forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and events severely disrupting public order. This marks an 8 percent increase, or 8.8 million additional people, compared to the end of 2022, continuing a trend of year-on-year growth over the past 12 years. Globally, 1 in 69 people, or 1.5 percent of the world's population, was forcibly displaced, nearly double the 1 in 125 figure from a decade ago. Based on operational data, UNHCR estimates that forced displacement continued to rise in the first four months of 2024, likely surpassing 120 million by the end of April 2024. During 2023, the global refugee population grew by 7 percent, reaching 43.4 million, driven primarily by new displacements from Sudan and revised refugee counts in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Germany. The year-end total includes 5.8 million people in need of international protection, mainly from Venezuela, reflecting a half-million increase from 2022 due to revised population estimates in Colombia and Brazil. It also includes 6 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate (UNHCR, 2023).

The number of new individual asylum applications surged to 3.6 million during the year. However, the overall number of people seeking international protection in 2023 decreased by 17 percent to 5.6 million, largely due to a reduction in Ukrainian refugees applying for and receiving temporary protection, mainly in European countries. The total number of asylum-seekers awaiting decisions rose by 26 percent to 6.9 million by the end of the year, as new applications outpaced the resolution of

cases. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the number of people internally displaced by conflicts increased significantly by 5.8 million, reaching 68.3 million by the end of 2023. This figure includes refugees, asylum-seekers, and others in need of international protection, with cumulative displacement figures reflecting instances where individuals may have been displaced multiple times (UNHCR, 2023). An example of inaccurate refugee statistics is seen in The Gambia, where many refugees are not located within the Basse and Bambali camps. Instead, there is a significant population of urban refugees in the Greater Banjul area and along the border with Senegal. The challenge in accurately researching urban refugees in The Gambia lies in the absence of a consistent definition of ‘urban refugees’ by UNHCR. In existing UNHCR documentation, the term is variously used to refer to: (a) refugees from an urban background living in a camp or settlement; (b) refugees with an urban background residing in a city; and (c) all refugees, regardless of their background, who live in urban areas (Conway, 2004).<sup>2.4</sup> The refugees’ livelihood strategies and urban life.

Previously, most or some refugees have developed a dependency on receiving humanitarian assistance. For some, humanitarian assistance has become part of the livelihood strategies developed by refugees. Hence, humanitarian aid becomes a component of a refugee’s livelihood strategy. Due to the increasing recognition of transnationalism, in recent years numerous studies on the role of remittances for refugee livelihoods have emerged (Horst 2004 and 2006b). Remittances can not only supplement the income of recipients but also strengthen the economic capabilities of recipients by being directly invested into income-generating activities (Durand et al. 1996). The livelihoods identical to some refugees involve; remittances play a special role in the livelihoods of refugees living outside camp-based settings. An estimated

four out of every ten refugees interviewed in Banjul were reliant upon remittances sent to them by family members living in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom or other countries. The majority of refugees receiving funds were Sierra Leoneans and a small number of Liberians. One Liberian man interviewed said he had received approximately \$50 to \$100 per month from his stepmother in the USA. Most of this money was used to pay his rent and feed his family. He had yet to save enough money to start a micro-business.

Another important strategy a number of refugees have readily adopted is the development of inter household economic and social networks (De Vriese, 2006). These networks, based on solidarity, provide a safety net built on mutual aid in coping with limited income-generating opportunities and social insecurity. This is purely a practice among the Somali refugees in Kenya who have frequently shared small apartments and in this way, it helps in pooling of resources which contributes to economic survival and securing livelihoods. Campbell (2005) noted that Somali refugees in Kenya have mobilized the necessary funds through their transnational ties with diaspora in the West to launch mini-bus businesses.

Another important strategy a number of refugees have readily adopted is the development of inter-household economic and social networks. These networks, based on solidarity, provide a safety net built on mutual aid in coping with limited income-generating opportunities and social insecurity. As illustrated by case-studies in Egypt and Ecuador (Al-Sharmani, 2004; Lo, 2005), refugees frequently share small apartments. This pooling of resources contributes to economic survival and securing livelihoods. Apart from social networks abroad, refugees also turn to social networks in the host country. As most of developing countries have no functional social welfare system for the refugees, they often try to fall back on solidarity. Research in South

Africa (Golooba-Mutebi, 2004) for instance, revealed that some Mozambican refugees joined their fellow countrymen who had formerly migrated to South Africa for economic reasons. These networks allowed them to more rapidly improve their livelihoods as opposed to other refugees. Baruti (2006) observes that refugee livelihood strategies have gone beyond employment as perceived. A growing trend of social networks has been revealed to be facilitating the livelihoods of the refugees in their host country. According to Al-Sharma (2003) as cited in Baruti (2006), social networks refer to ties of all kinds and various people and institutions and kinship which provide social, financial and political support in order to facilitate social development of their members. It is revealed that social networks play a crucial role in the refugee's lives and constitute a reaction to the social exclusion they face in the host country.

Jacobsen (2002) cited in De Vriese (2006) contends that communication and ties with relatives and friends living abroad have helped refugees survive the harsh conditions of their displacement. Assistance from family and friends abroad can include financial resources, such as remittances, as well as the social capital that comes with refugee networks which increase information flows and enable trade and relocation. These trans-national resources often complement assistance provided by humanitarian agencies and the host government. It is through social networks that a survival strategy is built among refugees with the need for reliance on others for accommodation and even meals. For instance, as expounded by Neidhardt (2013), Iraqi husbands who are unable to find resources in Syria decide to look for them back in Iraq, and are thus temporarily separated from their wives and families who remain in the country of asylum.

Apart from social networks abroad, refugees also turn to social networks in the host country. As most of developing countries have no functional social welfare system for the refugees, they often try to fall back on solidarity as Neidhardt (2013) argues that social networks are beyond the remittance sending but includes also knowledge-sharing with their fellow countrymen who had earlier migrated in the host country in abide to mobilize social capital. For instance as expounded by Baruti (2006), Congolese refugees in Durban reportedly advised their new entrants not to count on their academic qualifications or status back home to earn a living, but rather to look for any job which can enhance a livelihood. With this sense, it is arguably evident that these networks have allowed some refugees to more rapidly improve their livelihoods as opposed to other refugees. In her research, personal networks in Congolese refugee communities have played a crucial role in elevating their economic subsistence (Amisi, 2006: 26-27). Refugees generate new bonds with their host communities to strengthen their livelihoods. In the Sembakounya camp in Guinea, there have been several joint businesses between refugees and local people through their personal connections (Andrews 2003: 6). Kampala-based refugees are deeply linked with business demands in their country of origin. For instance, one of the Congolese refugee interviewees had been purchasing plastic items such as jerry cans, water tanks, buckets, and basins in Kampala and exporting them to retail sellers in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through this trade networks. A large number of refugees make only sporadic income through petty trading, begging, and provision of services such as hair-dressing. On the other hand, while presenting a wide range of commercial activities employed by self-settled refugees in Uganda, Hovil (2007) as cited in Omata (2012) underlines that some of these refugee enterprises are thriving. And whilst the previous research provides a number of important insights into

displaced persons' livelihoods, relatively few studies focus on the role and potential of the stakeholders as a centre piece for enhancing refugee livelihoods (Omata, 2012).

The other livelihood strategy is acquiring skill through training. Neidhardt (2013) noted that in Syria, enrollment in school acts as a residency permit to the refugees, besides training for skill, and this has helped in knowledge and skill development amongst Iraqis. However, despite the access to education, most refugee children have always dropped out of school due to financial constraints, and therefore, the opportunity to complete their education is not in fact taken up since they have to make ends meet through engaging in occasional work as maids. The diverse sources of income – for instance, through different income earners in Iraq and Syria – are an important basis for refugee families to pursue livelihood security (Neidhardt, 2013). The existence or lack of such income sources is in turn a key predictor of vulnerability. However, cash income is not sufficient to ensure livelihood security. This is most evident when refugees are forced to rely on negative coping mechanisms such as child labour and trafficking, two aspects that result from and contribute to the vulnerability of refugees. Baruti (2006), while researching on Congolese refugees in Durban, highlighted that there is a link between education and income levels regardless of the field of activities. Some refugees who have qualifications or technical skills have been employed in sectors of their expertise and trainings. Therefore, their earnings bound to bridge them to a better livelihood especially in starting up businesses to cover expenses and the little which remains as social security. Skills training and education are no luxuries. A society's level of economic growth and prosperity is intimately linked to the quality of education and training. Education and training should not be seen as ancillary but vital, primary and no less important than the provision of food and health care points De Vriese (2006).

Refugees take whatever opportunities they can to establish their livelihoods and increase their resilience to shocks and uncertainty in the changing and new social environment they live in (Baruti, 2006). That is why they are active in hairdressing, shoemaking and repairs, guarding cars, prostitution, and child labour as these comprise easily with employment in the informal sector which maximize their potential to survive. Also important is the fact that there is no clear division between the economic activities that refugees perform to survive since these activities overlap and refugees move between activities according to constraints and opportunities that emerge. Opportunity maximization also includes combining more than one job, manipulation and maximization of the few opportunities, income from sources other than employment such as creation of small community-based organizations, creation of ethnic based political parties and churches, membership from various religious organizations, and providing more than one service.

Regarding incomes, the informal economy remains the main source of income of refugees. Household income does not come solely from employment. However, refugees' incomes are mostly used to cover accommodation-related expenses since they live in urban areas where rent is high compared to the rural settings. Such social networks with co-nationals in an asylum country have become an important avenue for livelihood opportunities. Sudanese refugees in Cairo are often employed by Egyptian-Sudanese owners who prefer hiring co-nationals at their restaurants and coffee shops (Omata, 2012). With such networks, refugees have also been initiated into a number of businesses with engagements mostly in the informal economy. Many researchers (Baruti, 2006, De Verse, 2006, Ndhereti, 2012) have highlighted the significance of various types of social networks in enabling refugees to construct their livelihoods. Baruti (2006) reveals in her research that, personal networks in

Congolese refugee communities have played a crucial role in elevating their economic subsistence. That is, refugees generate new bonds with their host communities to strengthen their livelihoods. This is also evident in Kenya where there are several joint businesses between refugees and local people through their personal connections whether in Nairobi, Eldoret or Bungoma. In Nairobi, for instance, self-settled refugees are involved in running kiosks and small restaurants in the informal sector (Omata, 2012; Pavanello et al. 2010). As well, Sudanese refugees in Kenya as advanced by De Montclos and Kagwanja 2000 have a history of frequent displacement and consequently have developed trading businesses with partners in neighbouring countries (Omata, 2012).

Sub-regional trading by refugees is also well-documented. Sudanese refugees in Kenya have a history of frequent displacement and consequently have developed trading businesses with partners in neighbouring countries (De Montclos & Kagwanja, 2000). The existing research shows that refugees maintain their ties with the country of origin and often utilize them for their economic activities. For instance, in Nairobi, Ethiopian refugees are making an income by selling African dresses, coffee pots and spices which are imported from Ethiopia through their established trade networks (Campbell, 2007).

Research on refugees in Gabon (Stone and De Vriese, 2004) showed that provision of micro-credit in support of selected activities by refugees is one of the most prominent activities in the assistance provided to refugees in Gabon by UNHCR. These funds are provided to selected refugees in two ways: first as a form of micro-credit which has to be reimbursed, and another initiative which provided the equivalent of a once-off grant in which no repayment was expected. This practice is encouraged through



formation of self-help groups especially women groups where the money is disbursed to startup income generating activities. However, as might be expected, there was high demand for micro-credit assistance, but the Commissions in charge of resettlement were either unable to fund all such demands or judged some to be inappropriate for this support, either on account of the candidates themselves or the nature of the proposed activities (Stone and De Vriese, 2004) .

Refugee women and men's experiences in creating and maintaining livelihoods are different because they face different constraints and insecurities. And as argued by De Vriese (2006), due to flight and experience in exile, changes have occurred in gender roles and socio-economic status. Old authorities are losing grip and a new authority – humanitarian organizations – is perceived as having control over resources and ideological formations. According to Turner (1999) in De Vriese (2006), the UNHCR's policy of equality between men and women has challenged older hierarchies of authority and has becoming an influencing factor in the refugees' room for maneuver and coping strategies. The gendered division of labour, including income and basic needs provision as well as care tasks have changed over time. It seems that in many refugee situations, women are assuming the primary role of breadwinner. For instance, women have taken greater responsibility for their families often because men are absent, disabled or unwilling to do the lower status and lower paid jobs that are available. Faced with several hindrances in their attempts to establish a livelihood, refugee women try to build up their social capital for example by forming groups through which they harness their joint labour (De Vriese, 2006; Sebba, 2005). Social capital helps to increase women's productivity, improves their access to income generating activities and facilitates knowledge sharing. Often, women do not earn cash income but exchange their labour for food or housing that

contributes to their household's survival. Studies reveal that when household livelihoods are on the brink, for instance, girls are the first to be pulled out of schools or face early marriage, and women may even risk sexual abuse or enter into prostitution to protect their families' lives and livelihoods. Refugee women as expounded by Machtelt (2006) are particularly susceptible to dependency on relationships with men as a way to sustain themselves and their families financially. As a result, teenage pregnancy is common, giving many young women the added burden of providing for a child and thus perpetuating the need to be dependent on a boyfriend and even risks of HIV/ AIDS spread is high.

A number of refugees have turned to subsistence farming as a coping mechanism. However, the development of rural livelihoods such as agriculture and pastoralism depends on the availability of and access to land and natural resources (De Vriese, 2006). When insufficient land is available, many refugees may still engage in agriculture by encroaching on land which they have no right to use. Or because refugees hope for a quick return, they could resort to unsustainable farming practices such as for example indiscriminate land clearance. These agricultural activities can take a toll on the environment by causing inter alia: deforestation, water pollution, and overuse of arable and grazing land. For example, in Guinea, the indiscriminate extraction of palm oil by refugees for the production of palm wine led to the destruction of large numbers of palm trees. As it is, there are grounds to conclude that the livelihoods of the refugee community are not sustainable since they are mainly active in the informal sector where individuals' livelihoods are insecure and precarious because there are links between working informally and being poor since the average incomes are lower in the informal economy than in the formal economy. As a result, a higher percentage of people working in the informal economy, relative

to the formal sector, are poor. However, there is no simple relationship between working informally and being poor or working formally and escaping poverty (Baruti, 2006; Chen, *et al.*, 2001: 15).

Research among refugees in Guinea (Kaiser, 2001) cited in De Vriese (2006) reveal that refugees regard education and training as anti-conflict strategies, and as the principal means of making capital out of their exile and perceive education as a key to escape poverty. In promoting refugee livelihoods to improve the standard of living of the people of refugee, hosting countries with

UNHCR have implemented a self-reliance strategy promptly. A case of Ugandan government which has provided refugees with agricultural land with the objective of making them self-sufficient; pending a durable solution. This has also contributed to a change in attitude among refugees and the host communities from free handouts to self-help and capacity building, and peaceful co-existence between the two communities. The provision of land and opportunities to refugees in the refugee hosting areas under the right of use for the time refugees are in exile, is seen as instrumental in the refugees' progress towards self-reliance and the improvement of their livelihoods (De Vriese, 2006).

## **2.5 Role of Stakeholders**

Although a considerable number of refugees are making a living in the business sector, most of the studies instead point to host governments and humanitarian agencies as actors responsible for improving refugees' economic activities. Usually, these works end up with very general suggestions for strengthening refugee livelihoods stating, for example, that the humanitarian community should assist the host government to provide an enabling environment for refugees' economic

activities. Research on refugee livelihoods in Uganda (Omata, 2012) shows that the Ugandan government (host government) has played a tremendous role in enhancing refugee livelihood strategies. This has been done mostly through legislation in a bid to meet the refugee protection parameters enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention. For instance Uganda enacted the Refugees Act which recognizes the right of the refugees to work, and move around freely within the country and live in the local community, rather than in camps (Omata, 2012). The governments also play a role in promoting ‘self-reliance’ of refugees; this means that rather than limiting responses to refugees to humanitarian relief, a space is open for a development-based approach to refugee assistance (Omata, 2012; Betts 2012).

The humanitarian community has the responsibility of assisting the host government to provide an enabling environment for refugees’ economic activities. In addition, Feinstein International Center (2012) suggests, the humanitarian community enhances awareness-raising among refugee communities especially about resettlement or repatriation, as well as rights and responsibilities while in the host country. The awareness-raising campaigns do not only target the refugee community but also the local/host population about refugees in the country, including their rights and responsibilities, and the value of living with diversity. This is done by agencies with local neighborhood charities and community leaders to raise awareness of refugees in their neighborhoods, particularly among slum dwellers, and help foster relations with local populations.

UNHCR is also mandated to play a role of coordination of refugee operations of which for the case of Kenya, there are well-established coordination mechanisms that ensure coherence of programming both at the inter-agency and sectoral level and

provide the necessary forums for technical and operational discussions amongst all actors United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2015). It is also worth noting that UNHCR within its mandate has developed self-reliance policies in an attempt to address the long-term needs and economic security of refugees in settlements (Hunter, 2009). These self-reliance policies have been adopted by the host countries to enhance the livelihoods of the refugees are sustainable in abide to disband off the dependency syndrome. As a result, assistance programmes for protracted refugee situations have been constantly deprived of adequate funding. Currently, as Milner and Loescher (2011) point out, over two-thirds of refugees in the world are trapped in prolonged exile in poor developing regions where host states and communities often have scarce resources (Omata, 2012).

The private sector is another important stakeholder where a considerable number of refugees are making a living in collaboration with the business sector. Omata (2012) defines private sector broadly as both formal and informal companies at all levels – from small-scale up to large global corporations – including for-profit and nonprofit. Most point to host governments and humanitarian agencies as actors responsible for improving refugees' economic activities. However, with the declining financial assistance to humanitarian agencies, the humanitarian community is increasingly recognizing the importance of partnership with the private sector. Whilst the existing research highlights a number of important insights (Omata, 2012) on refugees' livelihood strategies, relatively few studies investigate the role of the private sector as a key instrument for enhancing refugees' economic activities. In general, the role of stakeholders cannot be under-minded with a number of studies on the refugee livelihood strategies sighting the contributions played by the government, humanitarian community, and the private sector in refugee livelihoods.

## **2.6 The Challenges on refugees' Livelihood Strategies in Urban Centres**

Despite the enticing and increasing move to urban centres, urban life has challenges too to refugees' livelihood, thus a lot of dynamism on livelihood strategies. According to CARE (2014), half a million Syrian refugees living in urban areas in Jordan are struggling more than ever to cope with inadequate housing, high debts, rising costs of living and educational challenges for their children. According to CARE's household assessment of more than 2,200 Syrian refugees, 90 percent of the refugees are living in debt to relatives, landlords, shopkeepers and neighbors and rents have increased by almost a third in the past year. The insecurity to provide for their families causes increasing levels of stress and sets women at risk of sexual exploitation. In many cases, young sons become the family's breadwinner to make ends meet. Three years after the Syria crisis started refugee families are becoming more and more destitute. More than 80 percent of the refugees in Jordan do not live in camps, but in poor neighborhoods in the urban areas or the outskirts of Jordan's cities, often in inadequate dwellings, informal tented settlements and makeshift shelters. Often, they have to share tiny, run-down flats with more than one family.

In the international refugee regime, the issue of how to understand and support the livelihoods of refugees began to emerge as a pressing agenda around the beginning of this century. Its emergence is largely due to the failure of the international refugee regime to provide any effective solutions for the numerous protracted refugee situations. Currently, over two-thirds of refugees in the world are trapped in prolonged exile in poor developing regions where host states and communities often have scarce resources (Milner & Loescher, 2011). With the declining financial commitment of the international donor society, it has become clear that UNHCR is unable to ensure essential needs for all prolonged refugee populations (Jamal, 2000).

Urban refugees face similar challenges as the urban poor such as growing slum areas, rising unemployment rates, insecure housing access, increased pressure on state and community resources, compounded with barriers such as xenophobia and insecure legal status that makes them more vulnerable to exploitation and marginalization. The situation of Columbian refugees in Ecuador (Lo, 2005) as cited in De Vriese (2006) illustrates this rather sharply: unlike the urban poor with whom they share many hardships, Columbians face the additional strains of severe discrimination, problems regarding legal status. They also lack the community and family networks that most Ecuadorians depend upon for daily survival and in times of crisis, and so their livelihood tends to be of a gamble. Apart from economic limitations, other factors may limit the pursuit of refugee livelihoods. For example, although the refugee certificate issued by the Government of Gabon implies the right to engage in income-generating activities similar in all ways to that of a Gabonese national, refugees encounter considerable difficulties or are not allowed to carry out economic activities due to restrictions imposed by the local authorities and employers. The refugee certificate issued by the national government does not seem to be recognized by all arms of the government services leading to harassment at barriers and check-points (Stone and De Vriese, 2004).

As argued by Durieux and McAdam (2004), there is no doubt that a large number of states - no matter how good their intentions - lack the resources to immediately grant the full range of the 1951 Refugee Convention rights to sudden large influxes of refugees. It is a sad but common feature of mass influx situations that refugees are denied many of the economic and social protections stipulated by the Convention. Nevertheless, Durieux and McAdam continue by stating that while some rights restrictions may be justifiable during the initial emergency phase of a mass influx,

protection should, in the spirit of the Convention, improve over time rather than stagnate or deteriorate. Except a handful of refugees who are entirely dependent on remittances and charitable support from fellow refugees and the church, a number of refugees are making a living in the private sector affirms Omata (2012). Studies have shown that even in countries where refugees are restricted in work, in reality, refugees do engage in petty trading or gain employment in small-and medium-sized businesses (Omata, 2012; Pavanello et al. 2010). Majority refugees are also self-employed and can even create jobs and new markets for the host economy. Refugees often face greater expenses than other urban poor because of costs associated with bribes, often related to the lack of documentation. Refugees are discriminated against by landlords and employers who often require higher rents or extra “fees”. Refugees are targeted by criminals, who know they are less likely to seek recourse. The poor are more likely to rely on child labour and to engage in risky coping strategies including illegal and criminal activities such as prostitution and smuggling. Accessing public health and education services may pose a financial burden on refugees that exceed the burden experienced by other urban poor. In many cases financial shocks come in the form of school fees and hospital bills that exceed their monthly income and may indebt them to their community or employers (UNHCR, 2011).

Stakeholders on refugees’ livelihood are constrained by certain legal frameworks that guide refugees’ life and which often define who they are and their relations to host nations. In all these, there are constant meanings from diverse instruments that stakeholders use. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in the Article 23.1, and in the Article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); The Right to Work is a right established which allows men and women of all ages and backgrounds to live in dignity and to become self-reliant.



According to Articles 17, 18 and 19 of the 1951 Geneva Convention, this right to work includes refugees.

Other challenges affecting refugees in urban centres include prostitution and theft which Conway (2004) identifies as survival strategies. This, he points were more present in Banjul than in the rural camp settings. This can be attributed to two factors: a) the high population density of the urban context and competition over resources, making people highly vulnerable and desperate, and b) easy access to activities that are harmful and illegal. Often, refugees suffer from the absence of civil, social and economic rights including freedom of movement and residence, freedom of speech and assembly, fair trial, property rights, the right to engage in wage labour, self-employment and the conclusion of valid contracts, access to school education, access to credit; protection against physical and sexual abuse, harassment, unlawful detention and deportation. De Vriese (2006) states that; by depriving refugees from access to education, refugees will lack the means to a better life for their children in any future durable solution. Education is a way to prevent the recurrence of violence and to create economic opportunities that allow refugees to become self-reliant, both in their situation as refugees and in the event of a durable solution.

With the declining financial commitment of the international donor society, it has become clear that UNHCR is unable to ensure essential needs for all prolonged refugee populations (Jamal 2000). These challenges have pressed UNHCR and other refugee-supporting agencies to pay attention to refugees' economic capacity and to improve their understanding of how refugees construct their livelihoods (Conway, 2004). For example, in launching the Refugee Livelihood Project in 2003, the Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit of UNHCR expressed its interest in enhancing its understanding of refugees' livelihood strategies and promoting sustainable livelihoods

in protracted refugee situations (Omata, 2013; UNHCR, 2003). Consequently, Colombian refugees must sustain illegal livelihoods during the asylum application process. Lo (2005) argues that removing the restriction on asylum-seekers will reduce the fear associated with working illegally, but will not help Colombians find work.

According to Ecuadorian law, asylum-seekers are not permitted to work until their legal status is resolved. The waiting period, which can be as long as one year, is full of fear and anxiety and is more stressful because of the refugees' inability to legally engage in formal employment, the lack of labour opportunities and discrimination. In contrast, the ability of Liberian refugees in Ghana to exercise the rights of freedom of movement, access to employment and public education has contributed to their relative success to become self-reliant (Dick, 2002). It is worth noting that the categorizing of refugee strategies is rather superficial, especially given that most households do not limit themselves to one activity. On the contrary, many authors have found that diversification is often used as a livelihood strategy. By carrying out different income-generating activities, refugees try to make the most of the opportunities available to them. The strategies are not just limited to diversification of activities but also of location. As illustrated by Levron (2006) Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugee households in Guinea strategized their settlement to diversify their resources. The situation of urban refugees living in Uganda's capital Kampala is less conducive. According to Machiavelli (2003), an estimated 15,000 refugees live in Kampala but are unable to fully use their skills for the benefit of their families or the Ugandan economy. This is mainly caused by the failure of Ugandan law to give refugees legal rights to work.

Refugees have limited freedom of movement, difficulty getting permission to work, no access to land for agricultural production, and no access to the credit or saving

sector. Essentially, the refugees are confined to the camp areas. Further research by Horst (2001), on the situation of Somali refugees in Dadaab, states that the search for a livelihood is mainly complicated by the following two factors. First, Somali refugees are forced into the “informal sector” because their economic activities are considered illegal given the fact that they are not granted work permits. Second, the location of the Dadaab refugee camp further complicates attempts to secure a livelihood because the camp is located in an ecologically marginal area where refugees can hardly fall back on available natural resources.

In urban settings, protection and livelihoods are closely intertwined. Forcibly displaced people need to acquire goods and services, and cash every day, but many aspects of urban settings make the pursuit of livelihoods risky. Host government policy often makes it illegal for refugees to work or to own property or businesses. Even in situations where refugees can legally work, access to decent employment continues to be a huge obstacle. Cases of discrimination and harassment by the state (police, immigration authorities) can make it difficult for refugees to move around freely to work or engage in economic activities (UNHCR, 2011). This is despite instruments such as Geneva Convention, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in their various stipulations upholding and linking right to life with certain obligations.

According to Nahr (2015), “Syrian refugee women living in Iraq’s host communities are more vulnerable to exploitation and face more unsanitary living conditions than those in refugee camps”, says an international women’s charity. “Some women squat, some rent unfinished buildings that are exposed to rain and wind where the kitchen is

a building site. They have their own life but their vulnerability increases because the protection [of the refugee camp] is not there,” said Hendessi. “When Syrian women go out to find work, we hear many reports they are told, ‘Either you sleep with me or you don’t get a job’.” Female refugees from Syria’s conflict, who seek a normal life and some autonomy by living outside the camps, live in “grotty and poorly equipped” buildings because they have little money to afford better accommodation, said Hendessi, regional director for the Middle East and Europe ([www.womenforwomeninternational.org.uk](http://www.womenforwomeninternational.org.uk)).

## **2.7 Mitigation**

In the international refugee regime, the issue of how to understand and support the livelihoods of refugees began to emerge as a pressing agenda around the beginning of this century. Its emergence is largely due to the failure of the international refugee regime to provide any effective solutions for the numerous protracted refugee situations. Currently, over two-thirds of refugees in the world are trapped in prolonged exile in poor developing regions where host states and communities often have scarce resources (Milner & Loescher, 2011). With the declining financial commitment of the international donor society, it has become clear that UNHCR is unable to ensure essential needs for all prolonged refugee populations (Jamal, 2000).

One of the mitigation strategies is to support institutions and non-state actors. In such cases, support to institutions may not be effective - it may be more important to support non-state actors in order to reduce vulnerability and improve access to refugees. USAID (2005) asserts, state regimes and powerful individuals working within those regimes may actively block access to essential assets, just as they may facilitate access to others. When the state deliberately marginalizes particular groups, livelihoods are constrained and the likelihood of conflict increases. In additions, when

policies and institutions of such states are positive, but weak, providing support to strengthen state institutions and the policy environment can be an effective approach. In addition to this, conflict management and resolution is important to match mitigation. Conflict damages livelihoods, helps restore access to resources, and can build a foundation for peace and reconciliation. Livelihood support should not be seen as a substitute for the important tasks of conflict resolution and peace-building, but it may resolve some of the tension and urgency surrounding the conflict. Therefore, it can be an important tool for ending hostilities.

An additional mitigation revolves around promoting economic development strategies. Roger and Héloïse (2014), point out that, the challenge for humanitarian and development actors is to stabilize the precarious economic situation, forge a transition from assistance to development, promote economic development strategies that support host and refugee communities equitably, and reduce the potential for negative economic impacts to exacerbate domestic and regional tensions. At the same time it is imperative to ensure and enhance a ‘protective environment’ for the refugees to do business. An activity within the promoting economic development strategies is initiating income generation activities. Income generation initiatives boost incomes for those who are already working, without having a significant impact on those without any employment. Many of the other livelihood’s interventions have chosen to focus on non-monetary gains, such as providing food and skills, because refugee restrictions and guiding regulations prevent them from adequately earning an income (Mendoza 2011).

Another mitigation to livelihood has to do with empowerment, and in this regard NGOs and governments should work as facilitators for the process (Action Aid 2004). The range of vocational trainings and agricultural initiatives available to people

expands their preparation for a vast array of livelihood strategies. Empowerment may involve interventions such as organic farming, cooking, hairdressing, motorcycle repair, income generation through pig-raising and micro-credit for small shops, soap making and handicraft-making. Building on people's own efforts to protect and strengthen their livelihoods can complement conflict resolution efforts. For example, in Bosnia in the mid-1990s, the first people who were able to contemplate reconciliation were traders who formed economic linkages with others on the opposite side of the conflict. These "patterns of pragmatic cooperation" typically start on a very modest scale. Traders are often the first to venture across front lines, selling goods or trading with the perceived enemies. People also negotiate across battle lines to get access to basic services. With shared economic interest comes an increased confidence between actors and greater willingness to take investment risks or to build up savings. In South Africa and Sri Lanka, business communities have progressed beyond these first steps to mobilize for peace at the national level (International Alert 2002). On the other hand, empowerment can be through skill acquisition. In the most recently conducted NGO survey on employment, more than 50 percent of refugees in seven camps listed their current occupation as 'housework' and more than 55 percent reported having no income (ZOA Refugee Care, 2011).

Other mitigation strategies include offering psychosocial health of refugees by giving them productive activities to engage in. For instance, the COERR's programs for vulnerable groups strived to provide emotional support, which is an extremely beneficial by-product that has the potential to alleviate social problems stemming from boredom and frustration (Purnell 2011). While livelihood strategies change in response to shifts in a household's access to assets, their effectiveness depends on many external factors.

In summary, mitigations may involve; developing a more secure evidence base on which to build better targeted interventions, tackling the costs and impacts and the livelihood needs of the refugees and the host populations, tackling national-level impacts and the fiscal stress on public services, safeguarding and enhancing the rights of refugees and embed a rights-based orientation within the governance structures of the countries, Stronger legal benchmarks and better coverage of protection gaps in the national legal frameworks, and need to promote respect for refugees' rights, prevent violations and abuses towards refugees and reduce vulnerability. Policies and institutions, both formal and informal, are powerful forces that either help or hinder access to assets. These include systems of governance, gender roles, ownership systems, religious doctrine, and cultural mores (Lautze 1997). Policies and institutions are very vital for livelihood mitigations and more especially it points to the work of stakeholders (government or non-state actors).

## **2.8 Theoretical Framework**

The study used the individualist theory of migration proposed by (John Locke's (1689). The key texts where Locke proposed his ideas include "**Two Treatises of Government**", where he laid out his theories on natural rights, the social contract, and the role of government. These works have had a profound influence on the development of political thought and are foundational to classical liberalism. Harris and Todaro (1970) proposed the Harris-Todaro Model, which is anchored on individualistic theory. The model explains rural-urban migration in developing countries. This It postulates that refugees move from designated camps as a matter of personal benefits. It is a rationally guided decision whereby individuals are guided by their skills e.g. educational level, training and work experience. The theory was used to compare agricultural wages and the wages earned from the manufacturing sectors

in the cities. The refugee livelihood strategies have a close link to this. They choose to migrate to urban settings in pursuit of good life i.e. good health, careers, educational systems and economic opportunities. The search for personal survival causes refugees to leave camps. Harris and Todaro are complimented by Betts et'al (2014) who term this search 'refugee economies. Their meaning is a compound terminology which encompasses stakeholders benefitting from refugees as a business, it again links itself to the subject of this research in a way of terming their livelihood strategies as their economy.

According to Betts et'al (2014), it is stated that, 'Refugee economies' remain under-researched and poorly understood. Few economists work on refugees. There is a lack of good data available on the economic lives of displaced populations. Existing economic work on refugees tends to focus narrowly on refugee livelihoods or on the impact on host states. Yet, understanding these economic systems may hold the key to rethinking our entire approach to refugee assistance. If we can improve our knowledge of the resource allocation systems that shape refugees' lives and opportunities, then we may be able to understand the mechanisms.

## **2.9 Chapter Two Summary**

The text discusses various examples of how refugees use personal networks and transnational ties to generate income and strengthen their economic capabilities. Remittances are found to be a crucial source of support for many refugees, who use the funds to supplement their income or invest in income-generating activities. The examples include refugees launching mini-bus businesses, joint businesses with local people, running kiosks and small restaurants, and engaging in sub-regional trading. The text also notes that refugees often maintain ties with their country of origin and



utilize them for their economic activities. Finally, the text touches upon the challenges of researching urban refugees due to the lack of a concrete and agreed-upon definition.

The chapter discusses the challenges faced by Syrian refugees living in urban areas, including inadequate housing, high debt, and rising costs of living. Many refugees rely on child labor or engage in risky coping strategies such as prostitution and smuggling. Female refugees living outside of camps are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and unsanitary living conditions. These challenges are exacerbated by discrimination from landlords and employers, and financial burdens associated with accessing public services.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents captions such as; the study design, research scope, study population, sampling procedure, ethical issues in research, reliability and limitations of the study as well as the study areas, source of data, data processing and analysis. The research in overall used a mixed method approach which embraces qualitative and quantitative study methodology.

In their work, Miles and Huberman (1994) made several observations on the strengths of qualitative data. These include; “focus on naturally occurring, ordinary events in natural settings ...”. Meaning then that data is collected in relatively close proximity to the phenomenon under study. Again, such data have the potential to reveal complex constructs because of the “richness and holism” that exists through lived experiences and the various meanings people attach to them. Thirdly, qualitative data allow researchers to explore new areas and test where necessary any hypotheses. Finally, they allow researchers to “supplement, validate, explain, illuminate, or reinterpret quantitative data gathered from the same setting”. In this study, the researcher sought to examine urban transition livelihood strategies of South Sudanese refugees in Eldoret City; it was therefore of paramount imperative to use qualitative approach.

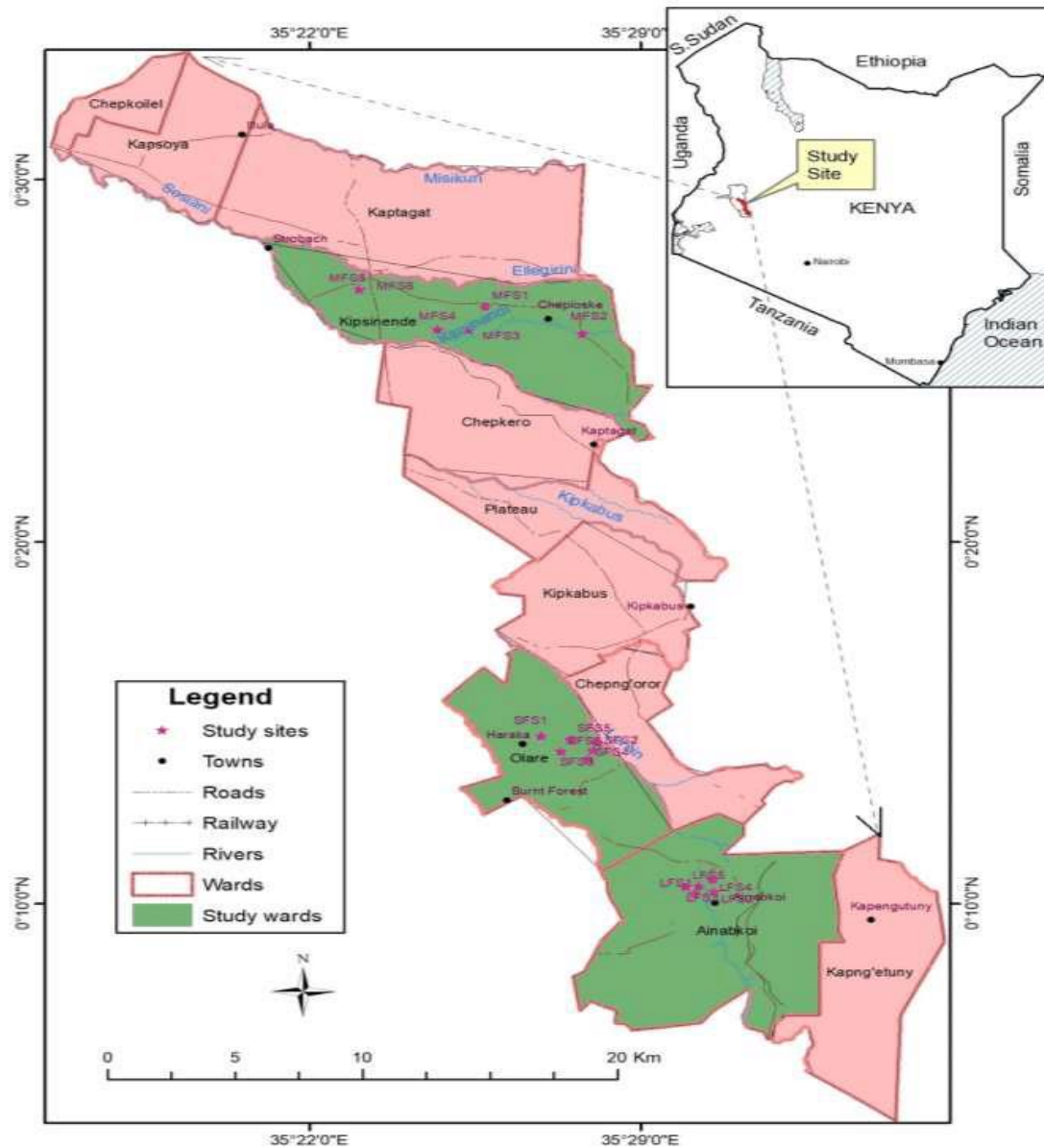
Marshall and Rossman (1995) observed that, traditional schema of scientific inquiry, is appropriate when data can be obtained from experiments, the variables are known and unambiguous, and processes are relatively simple.

### **3.1 Research Design**

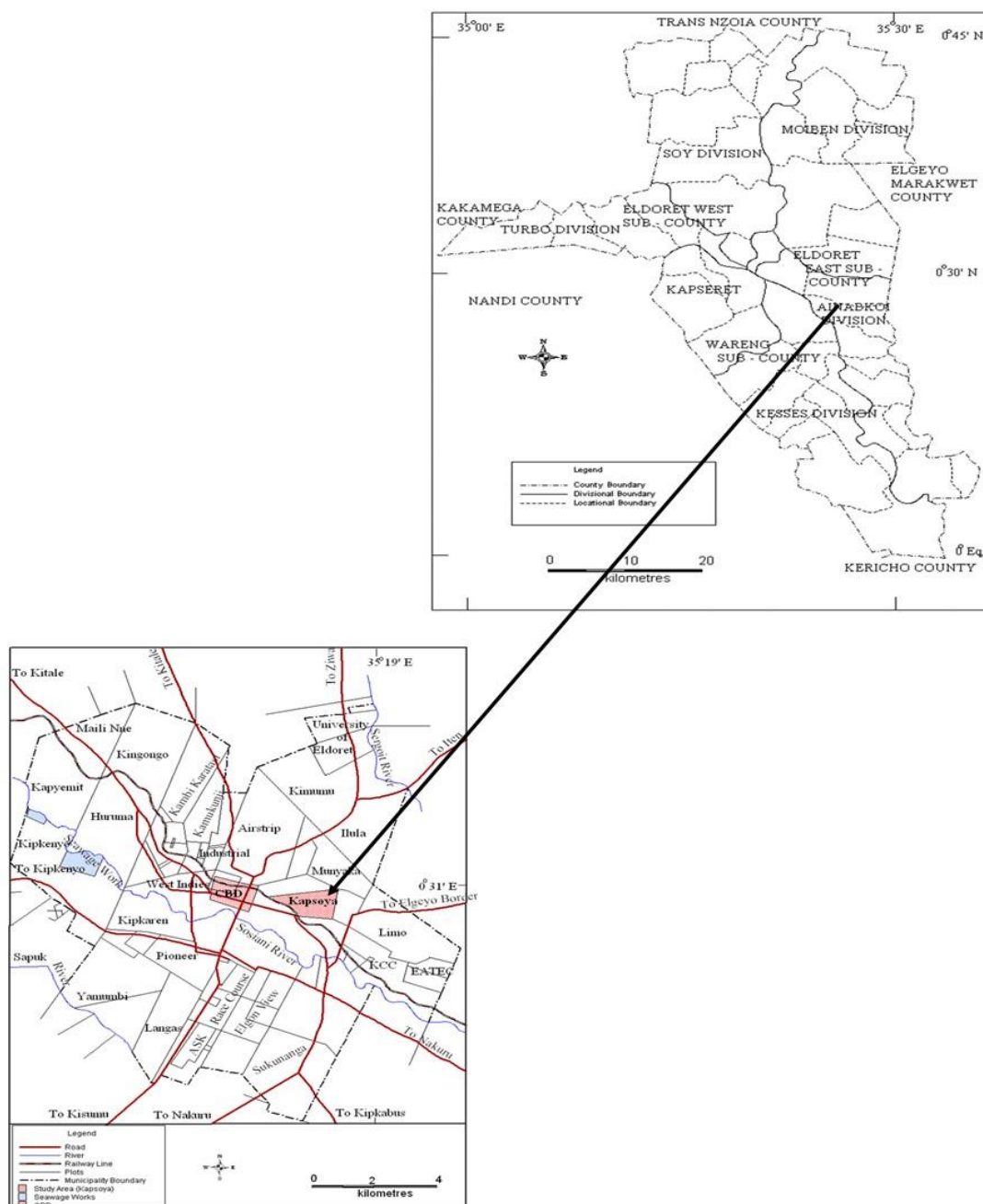
A research design, as outlined by Kombo and Tromp (2006), serves as a specific framework that guides a researcher in conducting a study. They describe it as the foundational structure of research, acting as the cohesive force that integrates various components of a research project. Gay, Mills, and Airasian (2009) characterize a research design as a comprehensive plan devised for investigating a particular problem, encompassing elements such as literature review, discussion of the design itself, methodologies, and data analysis techniques. They emphasize that a well-thought-out research design is crucial as it compels researchers to consider all facets of the study, aids in its evaluation, and ensures methodological rigor, ultimately leading to higher quality research. Similarly, Kothari (2008) views a research design as a blueprint essential for data collection, measurement, and analysis, outlining the overall strategy for a study. The study adopted a descriptive design. This design is deemed appropriate because it provides information as it is on a practical perspective. While adopting mixed methods, explanatory approach (Almeida, 2018) was used, in which the questionnaire was utilized as the main tool to collect quantitative data and interview schedule as a supplementary tool. Mixed methods approach was used because it served to help validate and corroborate the findings (Mertens, 2015), and at the same time it provides flexibility in addressing multiple types of research questions (Greene, 2007). The qualitative data from the questionnaires was used to supplement quantitative data from the questionnaires and hence mixed methods, explanatory approach. Therefore, quantitative data was given more weight (high) because the research goal was to quantify refugees' transition livelihood strategies, challenges and mitigation efforts on refugees' challenges.

### 3.2 Research Area

The researcher conducted the study in Kapsuya estate, Eldoret City in the North Rift region of Kenya (Map 1). Kapsuya estate is located in Ainabkoi Subcounty of Uasin Gishu County (2). Eldoret exists in the larger Northern part of Rift Valley. Kapsuya is a residential neighbourhood about three kilometres from Eldoret Central business district. The area has been selected for study because of two reasons; it (Kapsuya) hosts a considerable number of South Sudanese refugees. Its proximity to the South Sudan border made it a logical destination for many refugees fleeing conflict. Secondly, Eldoret is one of the fastest-growing cities in Kenya, offering various economic opportunities that attract refugees. On the basis of infrastructure and size, the town is a modern city with attractions to many including refugees who then feel that they can also attain their livelihood in this place. Therefore, understanding the livelihood strategies in such a context can provide insights into the broader dynamics of refugee adaptation and integration in urban settings and how they adapt and find livelihoods in a rapidly urbanizing, which can reveal important trends and challenges in urban refugee livelihoods. The county where Eldoret City is located according to district strategic development plan (2009-2011), has six constituencies namely; Soi, Turbo, Moiben, Ainabkoi, Kapseret and Kesses (GOK, 2012). It is an agricultural City with a number of economic activities including farming which is relegated to the rural parts of the county. It receives high amount of rainfall throughout the year reliably and this is well distributed. About 95% of the land here is arable, good for keeping dairy cattle and it is agriculturally endowed.



**Figure 3. 1 Map of Ainabkoi Sub-county showing the administrative units**  
**Source: Moi University Department of Geography and Environment and Environmental studies GIS Lab**



**Figure 3.2: Map of Ainabkoi Sub-county and Kapsoya (Eldoret) showing South Sudanese residence**

**Source: Moi University Department of Geography and Environment and Environmental studies GIS Lab**

### 3.3 Target Population

The study targeted the South Sudanese refugees living in Kapsoya estate, Eldoret City. Their total population is 2709. Out of this, those over 18 years were 1396, and this comprised the accessible population (Table 3.1).

**Table 3. 1: Sudanese population in Eldoret and Target population**

	Female		Male		Total
Age group	N	%	N	%	
0-4	135	0.1	140	0.1	275
5-11	242	0.1	247	0.1	489
12-17	271	0.2	278	0.2	549
18-59	641	0.4	680	0.4	1321
60 and above	67	0	8	0	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>50.10%</b>	<b>1353</b>	<b>49.90%</b>	<b>2709</b>

**Source: UNHCR, January 2021**

The researcher collected information from key informants from among the refugees and organizations that deal with them.

### **3.4 Sampling Technique**

The researcher obtained information on South Sudanese households from the Refugee Affairs Secretariat in Eldoret. The refugees live in private rented apartments in the expansive Kapsoya estate. Households were identified using the refugee register available at the Refugee Affairs Secretariat, then contacting them via their telephone contacts. For any given household, the study used systematic sampling in which every  $k^{\text{th}}$  ( $k=3, 4, 5, 10\ldots\text{etc}$ ) household was selected, so that the desired sample of 301 would be reached. Systematic sampling is a probability sampling method where every  $k^{\text{th}}$  element in a population is selected for inclusion in a sample. The value of  $k$  was determined by dividing the size of the population by the desired sample size. This sampling method is often used in situations where the population is too large to be enumerated, and a simple random sample is impractical. For example, if a researcher wants to select a sample of 100 individuals from a population of 1000, the researcher would select every 10th element ( $1000/100=10$ ).

In the study, the desired sample was based on the total number of households in the refugee community, and this was 1396. To obtain the k, 1396 was divided by the sample (n=301) to obtain 4.637, which is approximately 5. Therefore, from the registry at the refugee office, every 5<sup>th</sup> household was selected until the 301 household is reached. The study also used purposive sampling technique to get information from experts and persons who were knowledgeable about refugee issues. The goal is to help researcher as Mugenda puts it, removing biasness during the sampling in a study (Mugenda, 1999).

### 3.5 Sample Size

Considering the accessible population of 1396, the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) Formulae for determining the sample size was used as follows:

$$n = \frac{x^2 N p (1 - p)}{d^2 (N - 1) + x^2 p (1 - p)}$$

$X^2$  =table values of chi-square at d.f. =1 for desired confidence level (0.5=3.841)

N= Population size

P=population proportion (assumed to be 0.5)

d=degree of accuracy (expressed as a proportion)

Substituting for N=1396, we have

$$n = \frac{3.841 * 1396 * 0.5(1 - 0.5)}{0.0025(1396 - 1) + 0.025(1 - 0.5)} \\ = 301.$$

Therefore the sample size 301

$$n = \frac{x^2 N p (1 - p)}{d^2 (N - 1) + x^2 p (1 - p)}$$



$$n = \frac{3.841 * 24 * 0.5(1 - 0.5)}{0.0025(24 - 1) + 0.025(1 - 0.5)}$$

### 3.6 Data Collection Instruments

The researcher collected data from the urban South Sudanese refugees in Kapsoya estate, Eldoret City, Uasin-Gishu County, Kenya. Because matters of refugees involve security issues of hosting governments, it implied there was need to access the officers of the state and other non-state actors that work with the refugees. The state actors included Ministry of Special programmes, County commissioner and Area chief, while the non-state actors Kenya Red Cross Society, North rift region, International organization for Migration (IOM), Refugee affairs secretariat and diocese of Eldoret. These organizations were instrumental in giving relevant data inform of statistics at their disposal when sought.

This study employed data collection by use of questionnaires. This method was good because it allowed for both face to face interaction with respondents while at the same time where the respondents are busy, one can drop an instrument for later collection. Questionnaires enabled all participants to respond to the same standard set of questions, and this ensured uniformity, thus ensuring that the data can be compared and analyzed systematically (Fowler, 2013). Additionally, Questionnaires offered a relatively low-cost method for collecting large amounts of data as the tool can distributed to many participants simultaneously without the need for extensive resources (Babbie, 2020). The questionnaires were also designed to collect both quantitative numerical data and qualitative information, providing a holistic view of the research subject (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

### **3.7 Piloting of Instruments**

The researcher pilot tested the questionnaire and interview guide through conducting a few trial data collection and interviews to test the flow and effectiveness of the tools. Based on feedback and observations from these trials, the researcher refined the tools for clarity and relevance (Turner III, 2010). Active listening and appropriate probing skills were exercised for the interviewers to obtain rich, in-depth data (Rubin & Rubin, 2012). The researchers ensured that confidentiality and informed consent, and being sensitive to the emotional and psychological well-being of their participants was catered for (Brinkmann & Kvale, 2015).

The study used a five-level layered Likert scale response to allow for scaling the response to fit the objectives with varied answer options for respondents. According to Vogt, Likert scale is commonly used to measure attitudes, knowledge, perceptions, values, and behavioral changes. A Likert-type scale involves a series of statements that respondents may choose from in order to rate their responses to evaluate questions (Vogt, 1999). Printed copies of paper questionnaires were administered in person with the help of a research assistants and community leader who is privy to the area. This ensured high response rates and the opportunity for immediate clarification.

### **3.8 Interview Guide**

An interview guide in research is a structured framework that researchers use to conduct qualitative interviews. It usually contains a list of questions or topics that need to be covered during the interview, but unlike a questionnaire, it allows for more flexibility and open-ended responses. The guide serves as a roadmap for the interviewer, ensuring that all necessary topics are discussed while leaving room for probing and follow-up questions based on the interviewee's responses. The study

developed an effective interview guide by clearly setting questions as per the objectives of the study, which informed the topics and questions to be included in the guide (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009). A list of questions or prompts, which were open-ended was prepared to encourage detailed responses, or more structured to gather specific information (DiCicco-Bloom & Crabtree, 2006). The researcher called the few (seven) selected refugees and booked an appointment on a day when the interview could be conducted. The booking comprised of the day, time and venue of the interview. On the material, the researcher and the interviewee met at the agreed time and venue and questions would be asked and responses written.

### **3.9 Validity and Reliability**

To determine and improve the validity and reliability, the study put emphasis on sources of gathering scholarly materials to bring about relevancy, then data collection tools were subjected to checks and corrections as advised to ensure this is attained. The researcher ensured right persons are sought for after the right sampling technique is approved. Kothari (2004) states that the reliability refers to the ability of the test to consistently yield the same result on repetition. Accordingly, reliability therefore implies the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. In normal circumstances, instruments must also be coherent with the existing body of thoughts.

### **3.10 Data Collection**

Data was collected via primary and secondary sources. The primary source included a structured questionnaire and interview schedules, while the secondary sources included data from other research works. The questionnaire was mostly used to collect quantitative data while the interviews schedules were used to collect qualitative data. On the day of data collection, questionnaires were disseminated to

designated respondents, who would then fill and hand it back to the researcher. Responses from oral interviews were captured as per the objective in the interview schedules.

### **3.11 Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Questionnaires were sorted by serializing them. Code book was prepared in SPSS and data entry done by keying in the responses marked. Data cleaning was done on the dataset and analysis carried out. In analyzing the data, the researcher was aided by SPSS tool version 27.0, after which results were interpreted in the necessary format in line with the objective and literature reviewed to arrive at conclusions. Qualitative data was analyzed in form of themes and on the basis of content analysis. Quantitative data was presented using tables, charts and narratives. Qualitative data was presented by thematic analysis, narrative descriptions and use of participant quotes. Thematic analysis involves identifying and analyzing patterns or themes within qualitative data. These themes are derived from coding and organizing the data, then presented with supporting quotes or examples (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Narrative descriptions are used to provide detailed accounts of individual cases or participant experiences. This approach helps to contextualize the data and allows the researcher to convey the richness of the participants' perspectives (Creswell & Poth, 2017). Additionally, use of participant quotes from participants will be included to illustrate key themes or points. These quotes are presented in verbatim to maintain the authenticity of the participants' voices and its interpretation (Patton, 2015).

### **3.12 Ethical Consideration**

These are norms or standards for conduct that distinguishes between right and wrong. They help to determine the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. The researcher views ethics in research as comprising diverse steps in

giving validity to a study. On this basis, permission to carry out the study was sought from the relevant authorities; the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Moi University upon satisfaction with the Thesis gave authorization letter which was used to seek for higher authorization from National Commission for Science and Technology Innovation (NACOSTI) and later on get participants consent in the study. In ethics, the researcher must respect the individual rights to safeguard their personal image. To achieve this, the respondents are assured of anonymity and confidentiality during data collection. In ethical consideration, names or personal identifications are only mentioned where respondents allow.

### **3.13 Chapter Three Summary**

The chapter typically outlined the research design, sampling methods, data collection procedures, and data analysis techniques. The research design refers to the overall plan for the study, including the type of study (e.g. quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods), the research questions, and the hypothesis or theoretical framework. Sampling methods describe how the refugees or data sources were selected, and include systematic sampling, purposive sampling. Data collection procedures outlined how the data was collected, such as through questionnaires and interviews guides. Finally, data analysis techniques described how the collected data was analyzed by the aid of statistical software.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **ANALYSIS OF SOUTH SUDANESE URBAN REFUGEES TRANSITION LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES IN ELDORET CITY, KENYA**

#### **4.0 Overview**

In this chapter, Urban South Sudanese Refugees Transition livelihood strategies have been discussed. These include, education, trade, healthcare, social interactions, training and skills improvements among others. The 2006 Kenya Refugee Act requires all asylum seekers and refugees to live in either Kakuma Refugee camp, Kalobeyei settlement or one of the camps in Daadab. However, the Act of 2006 was amended in 2019 to allow refugees the right to reside anywhere in Kenya, but with certain restrictions and obligations. In addition refugees in Kenya have certain rights and protections under international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Consequently, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, most of refugees are now living in urban areas. In an increasingly global economy, urban refugees hold more economic opportunities compared to those in settlements and / or camps which are isolated from the economy. Evidence suggests that when supported, most urban refugees make economic contributions and employ various livelihood strategies, despite huge challenges that they face in accessing basic services resulting into xenophobia

The right of refugees to live in towns is guaranteed under Article 26 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. This provision states that refugees "shall be free to move within the territory" of the host state and "shall have the right to choose their place of residence". The right to live in towns is an important aspect of refugees' freedom of movement, which is recognized as a fundamental human right. It

allows refugees to access essential services such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities, and to integrate into the host community.

In addition to the 1951 Convention, other international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights also recognize the right to freedom of movement and the right to choose one's place of residence.

The Kenyan government has historically maintained encampment policies, which required refugees to live in designated refugee camps, such as Kakuma and Dadaab, in northern Kenya. However, in 2020, the Kenyan government announced a new policy that allows refugees to live and work outside of the camps in designated urban areas. The policy is based on the Kenyan Refugee Act of 2006, which provides for the rights and protection of refugees in Kenya. Specifically, Section 58 of the Act allows refugees to reside outside of camps, subject to certain conditions, including the requirement to obtain permission from the government and to reside in designated areas. The new policy was announced in response to a court ruling that declared the encampment policy unconstitutional and discriminatory. The policy change is expected to provide refugees with greater freedom of movement and opportunities to engage in livelihood activities.

#### **4.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics**

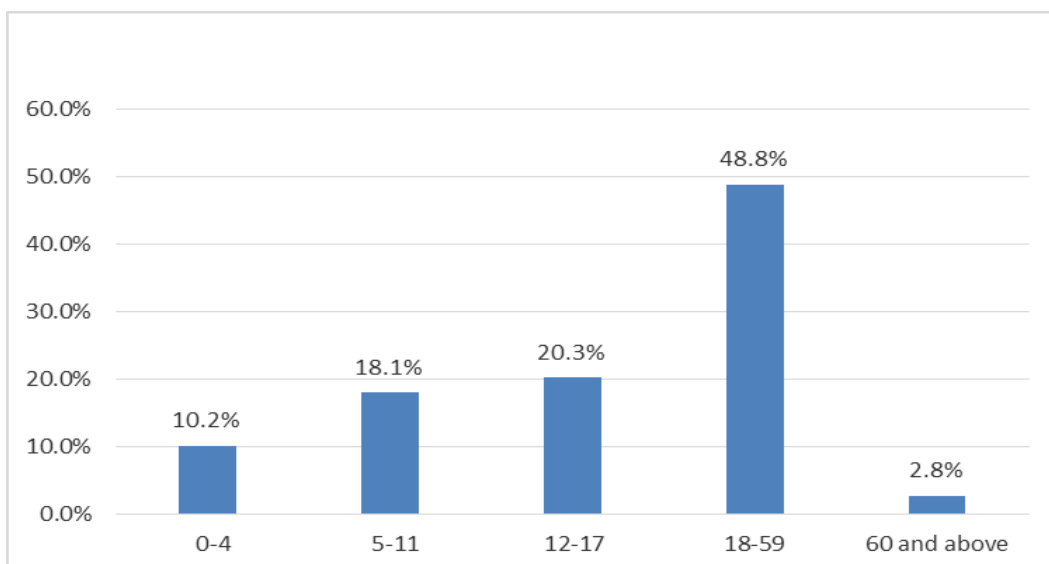
The respondents age and gender of the members of the South Sudanese was adopted from the Eldoret refugee office. Collectively the respondents who had attained adult age as per the Kenyan law, that is 18 years and above comprised the highest proportion at 1396 (51.5%); Out of these 708 (50.1%) are females while 688 (49.3%) are males. The age group composition of the South Sudanese population can

significantly impact its livelihood in various ways. According to research, an aging population can result in decreased economic growth, increased healthcare costs, and reduced productivity (Lee & Mason, 2014; Zhang, 2019). On the other hand, a young population can lead to increased economic growth, a larger workforce, and greater productivity (Canning & Pedroni, 2008).

One of the primary ways the age composition of the population can affect the livelihood strategies is through labor force participation rates. As people age, they tend to participate less in the labor force, which can result in a decline in productivity and economic output (Lee & Mason, 2014). In contrast, a youthful population can help to drive growth of livelihood strategies by providing a larger pool of workers and consumers, thereby increasing demand and investment opportunities (Canning & Pedroni, 2008).

Moreover, an aging population can also lead to increased healthcare costs and strain on the social welfare system, which can impact the government's ability to invest in infrastructure and other areas that stimulate economic growth (Zhang, 2019). In contrast, a young population can drive innovation and technological advancements that can benefit the economy in the long term (Canning & Pedroni, 2008). In conclusion, the age group composition of a population can significantly impact its economy in various ways. A young population can lead to increased economic growth and productivity, while an aging population can result in reduced economic output and increased healthcare costs.



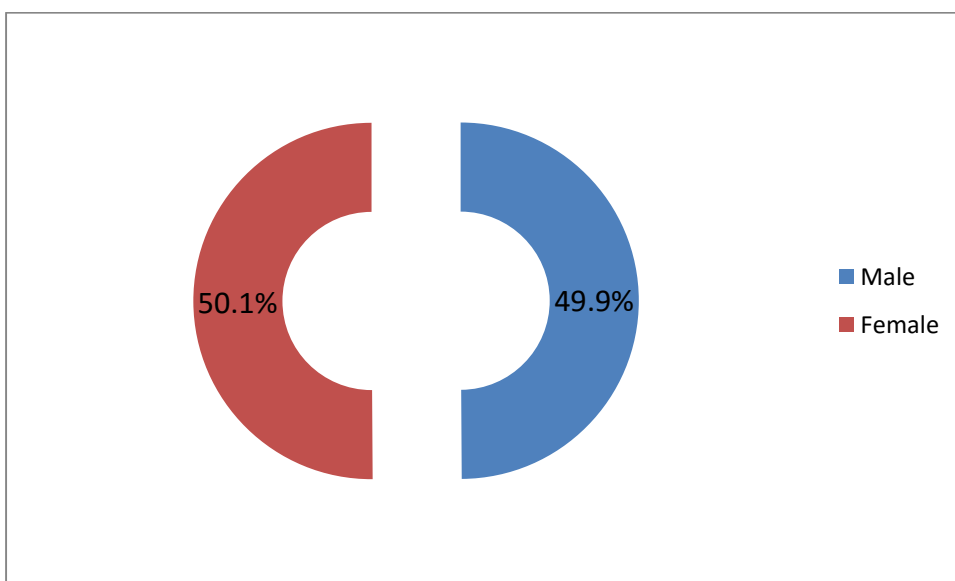


**Figure 4. 1 Age of the South Sudanese**

Source: Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), Eldoret

#### 4.1.1 Gender of the South Sudanese

The gender composition of the South Sudanese refugees who participated in the study was almost equal. The proportion of the males was 697(49.9%) while that of females was 699(50.1%) implying that in terms of participation in livelihood strategies, men and women equally participate.



**Figure 4. 2 Gender of the refugees**

Source: Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), Eldoret

The gender composition of a population can have a significant impact on its economy in various ways, including labor force participation rates, education and skill levels, entrepreneurship, and household spending patterns. One area of research is the impact of increasing women's participation in the labor force on economic growth. According to a study by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), if women participated in the labor force at the same rate as men, it could add up to \$28 trillion or 26% to the global GDP by 2025 (MGI, 2015). Similarly, a study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) found that increasing women's labor force participation rates could result in a significant boost to GDP per capita in both advanced and developing economies (IMF, 2018).

Another way in which gender composition can impact the economy is through entrepreneurship. A study by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) found that women entrepreneurs tend to focus on different industries and have different motivations for starting a business than men, which can lead to different economic outcomes (Brush, de Bruin, & Welter, 2009). Women-led businesses also tend to be smaller and less profitable, but they create more jobs and have a greater impact on social issues such as gender equality (GEM, 2019).

Household spending patterns can also be influenced by the gender composition of a population. For example, a study by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) found that women control a significant portion of household spending globally, and they tend to prioritize spending on education, health, and other social issues (BCG, 2018). This can have implications for industries that cater to these preferences, such as education and healthcare.

In conclusion, the gender composition of the South Sudanese Refugees can have significant implications for the livelihood strategies in various ways, including labor force participation rates, entrepreneurship, and household spending patterns. The studies cited above demonstrate some of the ways in which gender composition can impact economic outcomes.

Finally, in terms of the education, the respondents were either in college pursuing a course or had a degree 75(24.9%) or a diploma 135(45.2%) or both in some cases (Table 4.1).

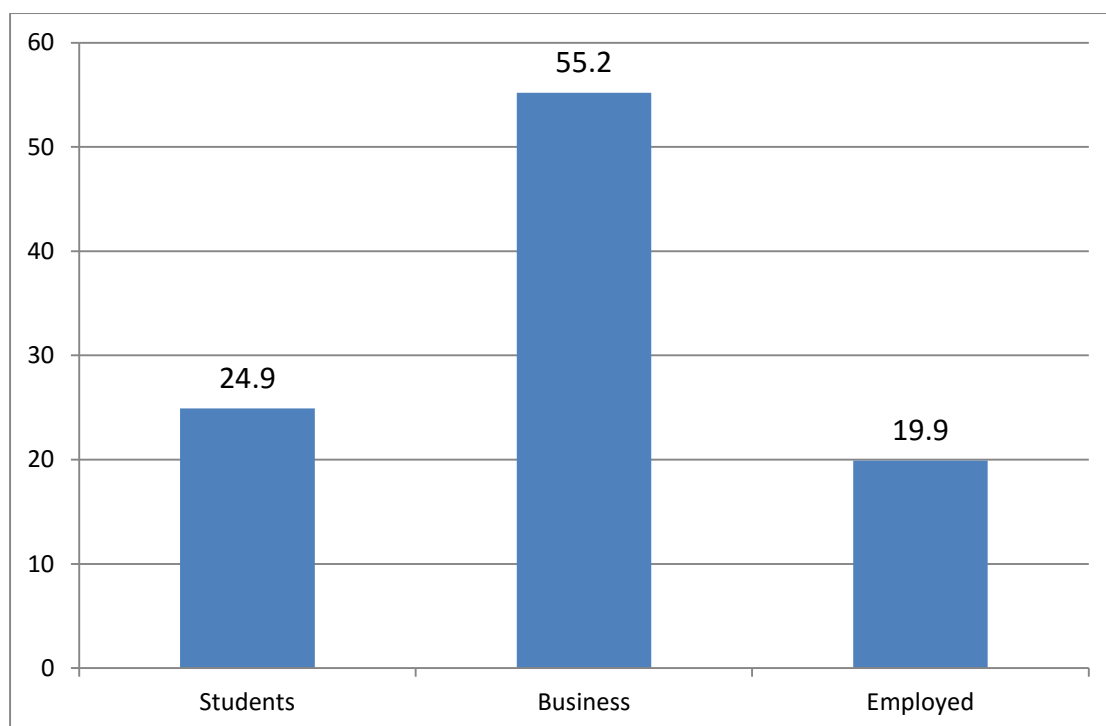
**Table 4.1: Education level of the respondents**

Education qualification	Frequency	Percent
Certificate	90	29.9
Diploma	75	39.9
Degree	136	60.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

#### **4.1.2 Occupation of South Sudanese refugees**

Figure 3.2 shows the occupation of the South Sudanese refugees living in Eldoret City. Majority no. 66(55.1%) of the South Sudanese refugees are mainly engaged in business activities, while no. 45(15.0%) are employed in some organization in Kenya. The rest, no. 45(29.9%) are not engaged in any activity (Figure 4.3).



**Figure 4. 3 Occupation of South Sudanese living in Eldoret City**

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

#### **4.1.3 Nature of Work**

The South Sudanese refugees who are mainly engaged in business do such businesses such as operating retail shops dealing with general wares 60(19.9%) and clothing 15(5.0%), offering services such as MPESA 15(5.0%), beauty and therapy services 15(5.0%) selling agricultural products 30(10.0) and selling foodstuffs 16(5.3%).

**Table 4. 2: Nature of work of South Sudan Refugees**

Occupation	Work	Frequency	%
Business	Shop owners	60	19.9
	Financial services	15	5.0
	Saloon	15	5.0
	Agricultural products	30	10.0
	Clothing business	15	5.0
	Restaurant	16	5.3
	None	90	29.9
	Administration	30	10.0
	CEO	15	5.0
Employed	Lecturer	15	5.0
	TOTAL	301	100.0

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

From the results of table 4.2, majority of the South Sudanese refugees are not working nor engaged in any business activity implying that the dependency ratio could be high.

#### **4.1.4 Education and Training Skills**

During research visits, it was clear that there were a large number of South Sudanese children in Kapsoya and Border Farm Primary Schools. This is a clear indication that the refugees are keen on seeing that their children are well educated. Further interview revealed that they also have a large number of their children learning in local secondary schools, technical training colleges i.e Rift Valley Technical Training Institute, the Eldoret Polytechnic as well as in other commercial colleges around Eldoret. This trend continues up to university levels. It is an empowerment process or phenomenon which allows them to take greater responsibility over their decisions, assets, policies, processes and institutions that affect their lives (Source: DFID, Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheets).

## 4.2 Analysis of South Sudanese Refugees' Transition Livelihood Strategies in Eldoret City, Kenya

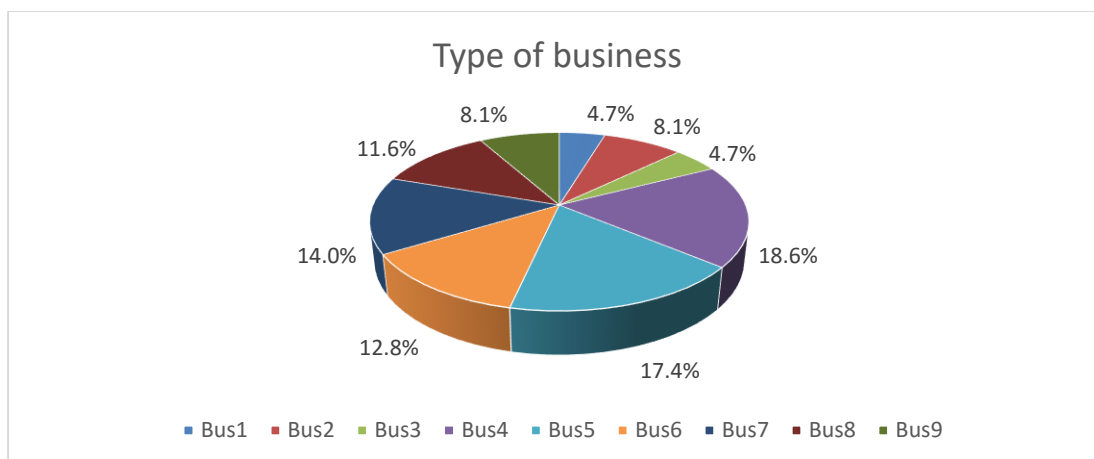
**Table 4.3: South Sudanese refugees' transition livelihood strategies**

<b>Livelihood Strategies</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Business was done to earn a living and sustain individuals and/or families	61	20.5%
Using skill, service was offered to for money so as to sustain individuals and/or families	69	22.9%
Assistance from relatives and family friends who were working abroad was available	51	16.9%
Education and training for individuals and/or family members sought with intention to secure a job	65	21.7%
Education and trained was attained by individuals and hence have some job	33	10.9%
Individual was employed in some organization or institution	22	7.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

### 4.2.1 Business Livelihood Strategies

Popular business includes retail shops and selling of agricultural products and food stuffs. Those employed in whichever position are less than 10.0%, with majority being employed in the organization dealing with refugees in Kenya. Multiple response analysis indicated that, other business that were most popular included food related at 240(18.6%), entertainment business 225(17.4%) and clothing and textile 180(14.0%). This was followed by beauty and therapy business at 165(12.8%) and transport business at and accommodation and petty trade, e.g., selling boxes at 8.1% each (Figure 4.4).



**Figure 4.4 Popularity of Business Livelihood Strategies**

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

The study findings in Figure 4.4 indicate that the businesses supply or offer strictly essential services that are mainly required by the South Sudanese refugees. Some of these services may be categorised as basic because it is what they need in their day-to-day lives. It is also worth mentioning that the businesses are confined to their residential areas, that is, where they live. Some of the refugees own one or more businesses, however, one comprises the main one and the other an alternative stream of income.

#### **4.2.2 Trade**

Generally, refugees move to the cities to exploit opportunities in trade and use their skills in offering services to city residents who are seen to be better-off. They also easily access hospitals both in public and private health facilities. The other pull factors include accommodation, schooling vocational training, internet access which helps them in keeping contact with relatives, transfer of money and exploration of business opportunities. They also especially the rich ones enjoy recreational and intellectual activities like sports and social entertainment.

It can also be argued that urban refugees are economically, politically and culturally connected to the urban community making their life very interdependent in local relationships. Urban settings give refugees specific opportunities and constraints which improves their livelihoods.

However, it is worth noting that urban refugees face same challenges as the urban poor in the host community / government, such as, slum life, high unemployment rates, poor access to housing, increased pressure on state /community resources such as discrimination like xenophobia, lack of legal status and services. This makes them vulnerable to exploitation and at times marginalization – source, the example of Colombian refugees in Ecuador (Lo, 2005).

Despite the fact that formal and informal sectors of the urban economy have a wide opportunity in employment and business chances, livelihoods around this create risk exploitation and serious protection problems. In an interview with one of the refugee code 1, he said *'the county security and reinforcement team occasionally harass us on business licenses and sometimes demand for bribes'* (Interview notes, page 1 line 7).

The most common livelihood strategy among South Sudanese in Kapsoya, Eldoret is to perform day jobs like shop keeping, selling in beauty shops, MPESA transactions and general petty trade. This trend is guided by relying on a good information network. Research (Lo, 2005; Levron, 2006; Al Sharmani, 2004) indicates that a lot of refugees in urban settings are part of transnational networks including refugees in camps as well as relatives in urban centres in Europe, Australia and other parts of the world. Trans-national connection also helps South Sudanese in Eldoret in getting remittances from close family and friends abroad. The fact that South Sudanese refugees have acquired the right documents for legal status, they do business freely in



the area, their children also go to local schools without a hitch. This has resulted into most of them becoming self-reliant.

Legal status with respect to refugees refers to the rights and protections that are afforded to refugees under international and domestic law. It is a key aspect of refugee protection, as it determines the degree to which refugees are able to access essential services, such as education, health care, and employment, as well as their ability to move freely and exercise other basic rights.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), refugees are defined as individuals who "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 or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country" United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (1951).

Under international law, refugees are entitled to certain rights, including the right to seek asylum, the right to non-refoulement (i.e. the right not to be returned to a country where they face persecution), and the right to freedom of movement United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (1951). In addition, refugees may be eligible for legal status in the form of residency or citizenship in the host country. Domestic laws vary widely in their treatment of refugees, and may provide additional rights and protections beyond those established by international law. For example, some countries may offer refugees the right to work, access to education, and access to social services, while others may limit these rights or deny them altogether. In particular, Uganda is widely recognized for its progressive refugee policies. Refugees in Uganda have the right to work, move freely, and access public services, including

education and healthcare. Uganda's approach has been praised for its inclusivity and efforts to integrate refugees into local communities (World Bank, 2016). On the other hand Bangladesh does not allow the Rohingya refugees to work legally, and their access to education and social services is severely restricted. The government has established separate camps where refugees are confined, limiting their access to broader social integration (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2021).

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (1951). Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Retrieved from <https://www.org/en-us/3b66c2aa10>  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

With the right skills, urban South Sudanese refugees are able to cope with life just as the local people. A good number of them are not helpless since they possess assets just as the local citizens.

For instance (Machiavello; 2003), urban refugees in Kampala have welcomed many of the problems hindering their efforts to secure a livelihood by depending on self-employment. This trend is being practiced by South Sudanese in Eldoret.

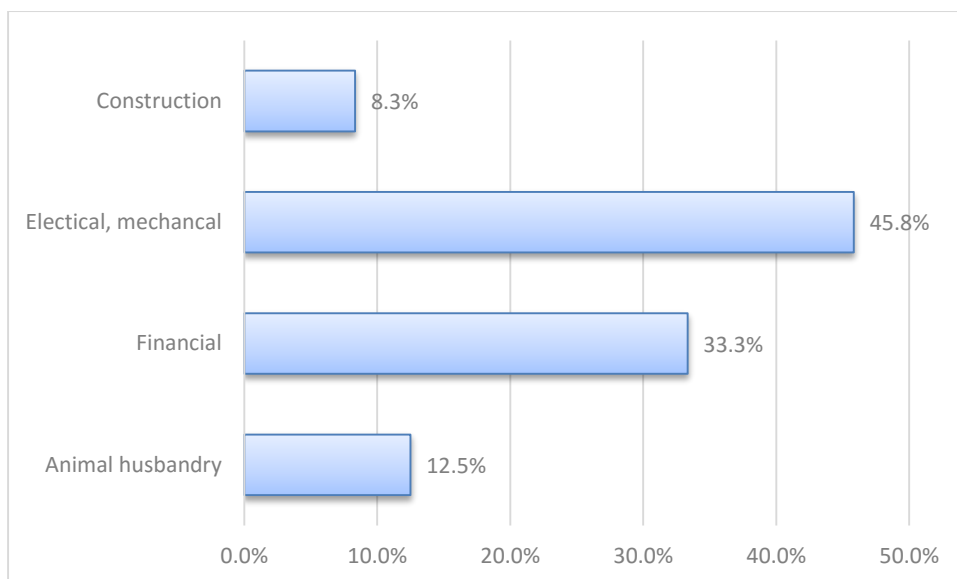
This is very much part of urban refugee livelihood strategies, refugees do trade in buying and selling goods (firewood, charcoal, vegetables, prepared food such as “*chapatis* and *mandazis*” cigarettes, sweets etc). For them to succeed in the above, local language i.e. Kiswahili is very handy as a medium of communication in Kapsoya centre. A good number of South Sudanese are able to speak fairly fluent Kiswahili especially the youth.

The example of Liberian Refugees in Ghana (Dick, 2002) can be given as an illustration of refugees entrepreneurship. The Liberians trade what they have in order to get what they need. Culturally inappropriate maize rations received from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were sold to the Ghanaians to buy rice. Also, men and women are running successful tailoring, clothing, shoe, carpentry and electronic goods repair shops and beauty salons and clean water, among others.

This similar trend is common at Kapsoya urban refugee centre, the South Sudanese are literally engaged in these kinds of trade (Researcher, July, 2022).

#### **4.3 Service for Livelihoods**

The refugees are also keen on providing services. This is one of the livelihood strategies that make the refugees earn money to meet their daily expenses. They emphasize on skill acquisition, through learning, as one of the way in which the refugees aspire to pursue to be able to garner jobs for survival. A higher proportion 165(45.8%) of the refugees offer services in areas such as electrical and mechanical. This involves offering consultancy to people's homes in terms of connecting electricity and lighting homes. Others offer mechanical engineering works in terms of automotive repairs and fixing problems in motor vehicle engineering. The other popular service offered by the refugees was financial services 120(33.3%). These ranged from offering mobile phone transaction, alias MPESA and small credits through shylock (Figure 4.5).



**Figure 4.5 Services for money**

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

Some of the other services offered include plumbing and organizing the community.

#### **4.4 Assistance from Family and Friends**

A significant proportion of the refugees who do not have any occupation are either depending on the family for upkeep or depend on relatives back at home 150(49.8%) or those who are overseas 136(45.2%). The study findings found out that despite the refugees running businesses or having other source of income, they still depend on assistance from relatives. Some receive this assistance partly 105(34.9%) or fully 121(40.2%). Most 226(65.3%) of those who receive assistance, receive them in the form of money while those who receive them in form of materials comprise 60(17.3%) with a similar proportion receiving the assistance in other forms (Table 4.4).

**Table 4.4: Form of Assistance from Refugees**

Kind of assistance	N	Percent
Monetary assistance was provided by family/relative and friends	197	65.3%
Material assistance was provided by family/relative and friends	52	17.3%
Other assistance besides monetary and material was provided by family/relative and friends	52	17.3%
Total	301	100.0%

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

From the study findings, it is clear that, despite having some occupation that gives the refugees income, they still depend on assistance to make ends meet.

As indicated in Table 4.3, the most single popular occupation for South Sudan refugees is engaging in business activities. However, when combined, the study findings indicates that most of them would prefer offering service 69(22.9%) in exchange of money.

Some of the services offered include being labourers in the construction industry. Despite this some of them do menial jobs that do not require specialized skills such as performing household tasks that include gardening and laundry/washing of clothes.

Interviews with the staff at the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), Eldoret office indicated that, *the Sudanese nationals have benefited a lot from apprenticeship, where they get skills in areas of mechanic, selling clothes having been sponsored through Norwegian refugee program.* The Norwegian refugee program is a program that focus on skills training in specific areas such as mechanical engineering and electricity; plumbing; masonry; Also, as part of boosting livelihood strategies, the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) office staff often midwife the community leaders with organizations that sponsor talents identification and growth. Examples of such organizations include by Adidas, Tecla Lorupe foundation. For those new in business,

the lack of business skills is a drawback, and some of these organizations become handy in skill provision or sponsorship thereof.

Interviews with the staff and community leaders indicated that another livelihood strategy utilized by the Sudanese refugees is cutting of costs through community living and garnering support from the church welfare. By living as one large family in a single apartment, the refugees are able to leverage on economies of scale, thereby cutting costs and lowering the standard of living. Refugee coded 3 said that ‘by many of us living together, each one of us brings food and this makes work life easy for each one of us’ (Interview notes, pg 2 line 8).

Whenever there are issues within the refugee community, social workers and elected leaders present these issues to government so that they can be assisted. One community leader said *‘whenever there are issues, social workers and our elected leaders take our issues with the authorities’*. The leaders also rally the refugees to follow local laws, hence not find themselves on the wrong side of the law.

#### **4.4.1 Refugee Livelihoods**

Due to the limited protection and assistance to refugees in urban areas, refugees livelihoods are resourceful yet often unsustainable (Bernstein, 2005; Jacobsen, 2006; Kibreab, 1996 and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2009). Usually, protection for urban refugees is limited partly due to the lack of legal status, which makes it difficult to make claims to their rights. Refugees often become victims of abuse from society and police due to lack of legal status and negative attitudes towards them by the host community. An example of problems associated with lack of legal status for refugees and the effect on livelihoods can be seen in Cairo, Egypt. Cairo, Egypt has long been regarded as an urban centre that

hosts a large number of refugees. It is home to many Sudanese refugees due to the two countries political and economic ties, dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Grabska, 2005).

#### **4.5 Chapter Summary**

The chapter focused on the demographic characteristics of the refugees, what they do for a living and their qualification in terms of education and training skills. A majority of South Sudanese are engaged in business activities such as owning shops while some are offering skilled services. Those not working depend on the others and these are significantly many. Most youths are focused on education with the aim of going back home to look for a job.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS ON REFUGEE LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES**

#### **5.1 Overview**

Objective two sought to establish the role played by various entities on refugee livelihood strategies. The stakeholders include United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Sister Agencies, Non-Profit Organizations, Community leaders, civil society, national government, religious organization and host communities. There are also Development and Private Sector Groups or actors. Interviews data with the RAS office in Eldoret indicated the role of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as follows.

##### **5.1.1 United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and Community Leaders**

In refugee's studies, the first stakeholders is usually the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which has obligations given to it in the Geneva conventions / declaration of 1948. This is a UN body charged with responsibility of ensuring refugees well-being whenever and wherever there is violence. It works hand in hand with, host government, community leaders, civil society, religious organizations, non-governmental organizations i.e. the Red Cross, among others. Through UN, the Geneva conventions basically address humanitarian issues that affect refugees. It is a body of international treaties and protocols that regulates the conduct of armed conflicts by seeking to limit its effects.

According to RAS officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ensures that civilians, health workers and aid workers provide services such as food distribution, health services provisions to the refugees in the camps.



However, given its human nature it also follows refugees in urban set ups as is the case with South Sudanese in Eldoret City. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) occasionally checks on the well-being of the South Sudanese in Eldoret. This is a short-term measure outside their major concentration on refugees in the camps i.e. Kakuma in Turkana West and Dadaab in Garissa, North Eastern region of Kenya United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2014).

The first mandate of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to ensure that refugees are accorded security and humanitarian protection. To achieve this, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) helps in monitoring border areas in which the refugees reside and are able to report any threats that they detect to the security Agencies / Authorities and Immigration officials. It also provides legal aid and representation to the refugees to avert trampling upon their lives due to ignorance.

Kenya government is concerned with ensuring that South Sudanese are properly registered and settled at Kapsoya Centre. Working with stakeholders majorly under United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the government ensures that the refugees are issued with relevant identification documents – Alien Refugees cards against police harassment and extortion which protects them against.

In providing the security, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) helps monitor border areas in which the refugees reside and are able to report any thing sinister to the security authorities that include law enforcement officers and immigration officers. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also provides legal aid and representation to refugees so that their rights are not trampled upon due to ignorance.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has also been at the forefront of ensuring that refugees get equitable and timely access to services using the right criteria within the existing standard procedures. This is usually done to small extremely vulnerable group for a period only. Further, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also provides community based protection to the urban operations which has to be assessed regularly to help refugees have access to existing services and facilities within their host society. They also provide a little financial stipend to critical cases, that is, life-saving needs through the individual assessments. This is done by targeting only the vulnerable. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also provides safe accommodation for deserving cases and attempts to explore community safe housing and livelihood safety nets. Community leaders are very instrumental in coordinating the above mentioned roles with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also ensures that children who have been separated from their parents access vocational training and get the assistance needed United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2021).

### **5.1.2 National Government**

The national government ensures that refugee's statuses are cleared by RAS for registration and issuance with movement passes to proceed in camp. The national government also ensures that refugees are not subjected to harassment, extortion, vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence. The Kenya national government, ensures that refugees are given Alien cards which they use to open Bank accounts and get KRA pin numbers. It is the same cards that they use in case of any issues linking them with the national security agencies especially the police. This is a protection

document recognized by all the stakeholders in as far as urban refugee life and operations are concerned. It also helps the refugees in operating MPESA businesses, which are very common as business concern.

### **5.1.3 Civil Society**

The civil societies have a critical role to play in advocacy against police harassment, protect and promote basic human rights of refugees in the country. They also commit to help Kenyan government build a strong asylum system. Further, they provide legal aid, vocational training and protection for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) victims. Such organizations include urban refugee protection network (URPN).

They deal majorly with advocacy issues regarding political issues back in their country of origin as well as Kenyan situation. Civil society agencies have been very active in ensuring that the South Sudanese are well informed about their political affairs. During differences such as what rose up between President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar in 2013 it passed this information to the South Sudanese accordingly, that there was yet again, a civil strife in their country. By passing such information, the refugees are restrained from attempting to go back home and also receiving new guests. This is very essential because of averting clanism here in their Eldoret City, Kapsoya, Kenya. It is worth noting that the South Sudanese in Kapsoya are of two different clans, i.e. the Nuer and Dinka (Community representative / leader). However while doing this, they ensure that it is very diplomatic to avoid any further divisions, that could sharply arise between the clans in the centre.

#### **5.1.4 Host Communities and Religious Organizations**

In line with provision of the county integrated development plan, the host community has a role to play in promoting self-reliance of refugees as well as host communities. They also conduct training sessions for urban refugees for skill improvement. The religious organizations come in handy in financially supporting the vulnerable refugee members besides giving them spiritual nourishment. In an interview with refugee code 4, he said ‘we sometimes lack money to use, and in such situations the religious members of our light house church assist us’.

#### **5.1.5 International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that was established in 1951. It is the leading global organization in the field of migration, working closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners. The IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, providing services and advice to governments and migrants. Its function with regard to refugees include supporting refugees through various programs and initiatives that include emergency response and assistance, resettlement, repatriation, integration and advocacy and policy development. The IOM provides emergency assistance to refugees, including shelter, food, and medical care during crises (IOM). They also facilitate the resettlement of refugees to third countries, working with UNHCR and other partners to identify and process refugees for resettlement. Additionally, they assist refugees and displaced persons in voluntarily returning to their home countries in a safe and dignified manner. Furthermore they support the integration of refugees into host communities through language training, employment assistance, and cultural orientation. Over and above, they engage in advocacy to ensure that the rights of refugees are respected and

working with governments to develop policies that support refugee protection and assistance (UNHCR).

#### **5.1.6 Red Cross and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**

The Red Cross is a global humanitarian organization dedicated to providing emergency assistance, disaster relief, and education in communities affected by crises. It operates through a network of national societies, each focusing on the needs of their specific regions, while adhering to common principles and goals. The Red Cross is frequently collaborates with UN agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to coordinate humanitarian efforts and maximize the impact of their aid. UNICEF's child protection programs in Kenya focus on safeguarding refugee children from violence, exploitation, and abuse. The organization trains Community Protection Volunteers (CPVs) who are refugees themselves. These volunteers help monitor the well-being of children in refugee camps like Kakuma and Dadaab and ensure they have access to necessary services. This initiative is crucial for creating a safe environment for children who are particularly vulnerable in refugee settings (UNICEF Kenya, 2024). This is a UN Branch which ensures that humanitarian assistance is accorded to the refugees both in the camps and also in their urban sites. It delivers water services, food, health and partial educational support to the families which are vulnerable. Red Cross works with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in ensuring that refugee children are well nourished by providing balanced diet and medical services. It also pays for lunch programmes at primary schools i.e. Kapsoya and Boarder farm primary Schools (Source: Headteacher). The Red Cross/ United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provide essential services required by the refugees. These include education and health services, which are described as follows.

#### **5.1.6.1 Education**

Skills training and education are no luxuries to wish away concerning urban refugees. For a country to realize economic growth and prosperity, it has to invest in quality education and training. This means that education and training should not be seen as ancillary but as a very vital concern just as good as provision of food and healthcare. According to research among refugees in Guinea (Kaiser, 2001), refugees regard education and training as anti-conflict strategies, and as the principal means of making capital out of their exile and they see education as a key to escaping poverty.

This is also illustrated by Kuhlman (2002) who states that Liberian refugees in Cote d'Ivoire have gone to great lengths and made considerable sacrifices to ensure that their children are in school.

Provision of skills training for young refugees is a component in promoting livelihoods for refugees. It is important for young people to develop the practical, intellectual and social skills that can serve them throughout their lives. However, concrete possibilities for putting education and skills training to income-generating example in farming or trade and services must be realistic. According to Sesnan, Wood, Anselme and Avery (2004), the role should be simple: no market demand, no training. This implies that vocational training schemes should be geared towards the local labour market of the host country or towards employment opportunities in the country of origin. According to the South Sudanese refugee leaders in Kapsoya, Education has enabled a good number of their youth to secure jobs in Kenya i.e. with

NGOs and back home in their government (Researcher). According to the refugee coded 2, she said, *'being allowed to have our children study in Kenya's schools has assisted us a lot because our children can secure jobs not only here in Kenya but also back home in South Sudan'* (Interview notes, page 2 line 1).

Once a pupil has cleared class 8 (eight) and especially those who score above 400 marks, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies them with the sole purpose of paying for their secondary school fees. These trends extend up to University and middle level educational institutions. In doing this however, the concerned students must be aided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) education leaders based in Kakuma who help with proper identification of need levels of the pupil. This is done vis-à-vis the ability of the parents. Education is a key area of concern and hence the reason, why even back in the camps, the refugee children are included in the national education system. It is properly guided by Ministry of Education policies which ensure there is quality teaching and as much as possible aiding the institutions technologically by providing computers, laptops etc. According to the Headteachers of Kapsoya and Boarder Farm Primary Schools, this is a way of supporting marginalized children because it allows for total integration, in terms of linkage and support. Refugee coded 5 had this to say: *'We were really affected by the war and as such we are a vulnerable group and we genuinely need assistance from all stakeholders where possible'* (interview notes, pg 3 line 19) (Refugee coded 5).

During COVID-19 pandemic period, March to October, 2020 their counterparts in Kakuma and Kalobeyi settlement Camps were better handled i.e. an education hub was opened at Turkana West to facilitate collaboration with universities, distance

learning was also opened and this supported integration with local host community tertiary education programmes. This also led to opening of an additional secondary school for girls at Kalobeyei settlement as well as elevation of universal Health coverage by the national government. *Source: Government of Kenya, comprehensive refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Action Plan 2020.*

Development actors and the private sector are increasingly concerned with refugees affairs. This makes them plan objectively so that refugees are salvaged out of their socio-economic problems. In this concern, World Bank has been supportive to both host community and refugees in order to help them in Global Refugee Forum Pledges and these achievements have been captured in the new Refugee Act. Under this approach, the PROSPECTS partnership is an International Partnership Programme which solely improves the hosting and protection of refugees within their regions of origin. It is headed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), ILO, UNICEF, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Bank. They have reached out to forced displacement crises and complemented well in humanitarian assistance. Their link commonly focuses on education, protection, employment, training and financial inclusion and this has been recognized in Kenya as the refugee hosting communities who have benefited from this approach.

The European Union (EU) Trust Fund also supports self-reliance for refugees both in the camp and in urban areas and the host communities. This is done together with the private sector. It is what essentially happens at Kakuma and Kalobeyei areas as it has ensured employment opportunities for refugees and Kenyans.



The other stakeholder has been the PAMOJA project, which is funded by the United Kingdom's (UK) Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). It facilitates durable solution, inclusive, integrated and sustainable humanitarian and development solutions. The Danida and GIZ have contributed immensely in water sector as well as in livelihoods and economic inclusion areas.

It is worth noting that the above organizations, majorly concentrate on refugees in the camp, but their operations also cascade to refugees in the urban areas. This is so as concerns education of the refugee children. Their approach is also inclusive to the host communities i.e. the Turkana in the west where several development projects have been concentrated. The organizations have assisted in provision of clean water by digging boreholes, health services as well as nutrition provision.

#### **5.1.6.2 Health**

According to the South Sudanese refugee leaders, health service provision during Covid-19 lockdown impacted badly on them. This led to some of them going back to Kakuma Refugee Camp because remittances from relatives abroad were not forthcoming. As urban refugees, they are majorly supported at personal / individual level in as far as health is concerned and this is why most of them are frequent patients in public health facilities than in private ones.

#### **5.1.7 Turkana County Government**

As a stakeholder, Turkana County is the host county for South Sudanese who reside in Kakuma Refugee camp for the last thirty years. It is located in the Northwest of Kenya and borders South Sudan and Ethiopia to the North and North East respectively. This region hosts refugees in Kakuma Camp and Kalobeyei integrated

settlement with about 200,000 people. The South Sudanese 2013, conflict made about 85,000 refugees to relocate to neighbouring countries for asylum seeking.

Although Kakuma camp has been hosting refugees (since 1992), more than two thirds (67%) of its population arrived only in the recent years i.e. between 2013 and now.

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Kenya government partners. Turkana county – County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP II). It is from these camps that urban South Sudanese Refugees in Eldoret have come from.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Bank's knowledge, the socio-economic situations of refugees in Kenya study of 2018, there are younger Refugees in Kalobeyei and Kakuma and they continue to eye Eldoret as the ultimate urban centre for them to settle in the future. Stakeholders work in partnerships for achievement of long-term sustainable benefits and solutions to the refugees. This is a resource combination approach solely intended to help the refugees.

Generally, it can be argued that stakeholders strengthen inclusive and sustainable access to quality healthcare to the refugees. They are the ones with the mandate of ensuring that refugees children are included in the national government education system by liaising with the Ministry of Education officials. By doing this, they ensure that education is expanded in terms of access and quality improvement in teaching and learning at the pre-primary, primary, junior / secondary stages. This can be attested to by the current competency based curriculum (CBC), which is undertaking construction of classrooms / dormitories and other infrastructural resources and

amenities meant to ensure success, quality assurance by local participation, which will ensure sustainability.

The above undertakings also cover refugee children in the urban set ups, including Eldoret City. The stakeholders also help in building capacity of national government/ county governments for protection providers responsible for persons of concern to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). They also promote inclusion in public participation processes for national and county bills policies for protection to actively including tailoring, communication which boosts their capacity to lead. In campsites, refugees and host community capacity are enhanced to construct shelter and household latrines. The stakeholders also encourage refugees to visit Huduma centres for registration and inquiries about Kenyan government services i.e. training opportunities, education and support for business undertakings among others. One refugee code 6 commented that *‘whenever, we show up at the huduma centres the staff listen to us and check on the best way to assist us solve our problems’* (Interview notes pg 5 line 2). This helps in business training. There is however strong partnerships on market system analysis to identify relevant sector within the urban places. The major sectors relevant here is textile (dresses) business, shoes and other petty dressings which attract majorly the youthful refugees.

## **5.2 Chapter Summary**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the main stakeholder in refugee studies, responsible for ensuring the well-being of refugees and providing humanitarian protection in situations of violence. It works with various organizations and stakeholders, including host governments, community leaders, civil society, and non-governmental organizations. The United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) monitors border areas and provides legal aid and representation to refugees. The organization also ensures that refugees have access to services and facilities within their host society, provides safe accommodation and financial stipends to vulnerable cases, and assists separated children with vocational training. The government of Kenya also works with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to issue relevant identification documents to South Sudanese refugees settled in Kapsoya Centre. Other stakeholders include host communities, Red Cross and Turkana County Government.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **THE CHALLENGES FACING URBAN SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN ELDORET CITY**

#### **6.0 Overview**

This chapter covers challenges faced by Urban South Sudanese Refugees in Eldoret City in their livelihood strategies. The challenges range from education, inadequate housing, high debts and rising costs of living, harassment by police, insecurity, stress and sexual exploitation, discrimination by landlords and unemployment among others.

#### **6.1 Challenges facing Urban South Sudanese Refugees in Eldoret City**

The study findings indicated that 75(24.9%) of the refugees face inadequate housing was a challenge. However, 91(30.2%) were undecided while 60(19.9%) strongly disagreed that inadequate housing was a challenge. A higher proportion of 105(34.9%) of the refugees strongly agreed that high debts, rising costs of living was a challenge. Another challenge in which 135(44.9%) strongly agreed costs relating to rent. Insecurity to provide for their families was another challenge as agreed and strongly agreed by 135 (44.9%) and 75(24.9%) respectively. Other challenges experienced by the refugees include stress sexual exploitation 135(44.9%), unconditional housing -exposed to rain and wind 106(35.2%) and high costs associated with bribes as agreed and strongly agreed by 121(40.2%) and 105(34.9%) respectively (Table 6.1). Other challenges include being discriminated against by landlords and employers 61(20.3%) agree and (75(24.9%) strongly agree, prostitution and theft with 135 (44.9%) agreeing and 45(15.0%) strongly agreeing so; deprivation of adequate funding as agreed 166 (55.1%) strongly agreed by 60(19.9%); Inadequate refugee funding 90 (29.9%) agree and 150 (49.8%) strongly agree and lack of

sufficient food security tied to inadequate food rations as agreed by 106 (35.2%) and strongly agreed by 60 (19.9%). More challenges are depicted in Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1 Challenges Experienced by refugees in Livelihood Strategies**

Challenges	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	N%	N	N%	N	N%	N	N%	N	N%
Inadequate housing	60	19.9	91	30.2	0	0.0	60	19.9	75	24.9
High debts, rising costs of living	15	5.0	60	19.9	0	0.0	76	25.2	105	34.9
Educational challenges	15	5.0	15	5.0	15	5.0	181	60.1	60	19.9
Rent costs	15	5.0	15	5.0	0	0.0	136	45.2	135	44.9
Insecurity to provide for their families	0	0.0	30	10.0	61	20.3	135	44.9	75	24.9
Stress sexual exploitation	15	5.0	76	25.2	45	15.0	135	44.9	15	5.0
Unconditional housing-exposed to rain and wind	30	10.0	105	34.9	60	19.9	106	35.2	0	0.0
High costs associated with bribes	0	0.0	30	10.0	30	10.0	121	40.2	105	34.9
Discriminated against by landlords and employers	0	0.0	105	34.9	60	19.9	61	20.3	75	24.9
Prostitution and theft	15	5.0	76	25.2	30	10.0	135	44.9	45	15.0

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

The study findings indicate that there is a myriad of challenges that the South Sudanese refugees experience. However, some are prominent, and they include high debts and increasing cost of living, educational challenges where they may not access funding because they are foreigners, high cost of house rent and insecurity. Other prominent challenges include high costs associated with bribes after being harassed by policemen, prostitution and theft, inadequate refugee funding, lack of sufficient food security tied to inadequate food rations, lack of access to credit, rampant fear of security personnel, rampant prejudice, dealing with tenants and local competition for their businesses. Often there is no action taken due to harassment by the policemen since they are the ones who are supposed to provide security.

Interview for in depth information from one of the officers who works with the office of refugees indicated that the Sudanese's nationals experience challenges from corrupt locals (Kenyans). For instance, to open their MPESA business, they need registration

and because they cannot register, they use Kenyans who have identity cards, and in the process they get cheated by the Kenyans. Refugees coded 7 said that:

*‘The Uasin Gishu county revenue staff visits us at the shop and demand for business permits and because we are aliens they harass us and demand bribes. In some situation they forcefully pick our items from the shop if one is unable to pay.’*

Another problem that relates to not being a Kenyan is that they cannot be able to register CBOs and freedom of association is not guaranteed. They cannot also be able to register to borrow loans and often depend on loans borrowed from individuals. With regard to business registration, rogue county employees take advantage of them by making them to pay more because they are at the mercy of these rogue policemen. The police officers understand too well that those with business especially petty informal ones do not have any form of registration and as such they harass them. Sometime they also get hostilities from the host communities. For businesses such as transport (taxi), NTSA does not recognize refugee documentation, and as such they operate their transport business in very restrictive environments.

### **6.1.1 Illiteracy**

The urban South Sudanese have a challenge in education in that a good number of the adults do not know how to read and write. They also have fees problems while attempting to put their children in school especially post primary and secondary levels. Whereas United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) steps in to educate children / pupils who score highly in standard 8, those who are not lucky to get good grades in class 8, remain under sponsorship of the parents who are poor. This can get worse when there is failure on reception of remittances by close family members living back home and abroad. The recent covid-19 outbreak March – October in 2020 and April - June, 2021 drove this reality home to the urban refugees in Kapsoya.

When schools fully re-opened in October, 2020, a good number of the children who had gone back to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Turkana West, had to be brought back. Covid-19 school closures subjected the refugee families to starvation in the urban centres necessitating return to the camps. To bring back the pupils / students to Eldoret, the parents and other sponsors had to sacrifice more resources and this was a real constrain to them (Lokiru, 2009).

South Sudanese Refugees face many challenges on their livelihoods both in camps and urban residence. The assistance provided to them is inadequate due to policy and resource constraints from the remittances by the family members and other actors outside the host country. This makes them to devise livelihood strategies that enable them access supplementary assistance and support in order to safeguard their livelihoods. Essentially, livelihoods strategies are the ways in which, families deploy their diverse assets – i.e. financial, social, human, natural and physical assets and use their capabilities in order to meet their objectives.

Refugees strategies and efforts to develop and protect livelihoods include deliberate maintenance and formation of social networks that enable them to exploit opportunities within, around and beyond the refugee camp (Jacobsen, 2002). Often displaced populations face challenging environments and this can impose economic environmental and security burdens on their hosts. A good example (Lo, 2005), the economic crisis in Ecuador has resulted in high levels of discrimination against Columbians as they compete for resources and employment opportunities.

The other challenge that South Sudanese face is language “barrier” this is commonly noticed when interacting with adult refugees who cannot learn Kiswahili in schools due to age factor. Although some of them have enrolled as adult learners within



Kapsoya Centre, their manner of attendance is not adequate. The teaching programme is organized by the Light House leaders who help the adult Sudanese to know how to read and write (Researcher; June 2002).

### **6.1.2 Inadequate Housing**

Housing system in any urban area is always a challenge to many people even under normal urbanization residence. The existence of slum centres in our major towns affirms this, many times coupled with ethnic enclaves typical in such areas. What encourages these socio-cultural and economic orientation where people tend to be attracted to certain areas of residence following their ethnic communities (Kericho Ndogo, Kisumu Ndogo”, Kiamba estates) syndrome. It is the power of language that persuades this group of people into settling together in such areas. The other common practice can be nature of trade, i.e. fish mongering etc.

For South Sudanese in Eldoret Kapsoya centre is ideal for them because there is fairly good housing system. The South Sudanese moved in here when Kapsoya was a newly emerging estate in late 1990s to 2000s with large spaces for construction of houses. This attracted many Sudanese refugees and Kenya government luckily agreed to allow the refugees to live here. However, the local Kenyan population also quickly moved into this place by acquiring pieces of land for building rental houses.

**Table 6.2: Challenges Experienced by Refugees in Livelihood Strategies**

Challenges	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	N%	N	N%	N	N%	N	N%	N	N%
Deprivation of adequate funding	15	5.0	0	0.0	15	5.0	166	55.1	60	19.9
Inadequate refugee funding	15	5.0	15	5.0	15	5.0	90	29.9	150	49.8
Lack of sufficient food security tied to inadequate food rations	30	10.0	90	29.9	15	5.0	106	35.2	60	19.9
Lack of adequate space and structures for longer-term food storage	45	15.0	135	44.9	0	0.0	61	20.3	45	15.0
Lack of access to credit	0	0.0	30	10.0	0	0.0	151	50.2	60	19.9
Rampant fear of security personnel	45	15.0	0	0.0	30	10.0	136	45.2	75	24.9
Rampant prejudice	45	15.0	0	0.0	30	10.0	121	40.2	105	34.9
Language problem makes communication hard	30	10.0	0	0.0	15	5.0	121	40.2	135	44.9
Dealing with tenants	15	5.0	0	0.0	15	5.0	151	50.2	105	34.9
Local competition	15	5.0	0	0.0	30	10.0	91	30.2	165	54.8

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

Since the refugees are assumed to get financial support from various bodies i.e. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), NGO's, charitable organizations and that some of them are rich the rent rates went up so suddenly. The result of this being that refugees are not of the same socio-economic standing, some of them are very poor only that they share same status of being refugees. Due to this status, a number of refugees live in dilapidated houses.

The other reason for poor housing is that United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) funding continues to dwindle even in the camps where they support refugees. This is also being felt by the urban refugees because they also lack regular remittances etc. From the above, it is clear that, despite the good housing system in Kapsoya, the rent rates are too high for the refugees of low-income i.e. petty traders, young families whose incomes are hardly enough to support their children in schools.

Critically this is a socio-economic pressure. It is widely perceived that refugees are a drain on national resources and social-economic burden to the state (Horil 2007, Jacobson 2007). The refugees lack employment and hence the good reason why in most cases host governments confine refugees to the camps. Housing as a social concern remains a big challenge even to the host communities especially in urban cities. Due to this, the Kenya national government since 2013 has been attempting constructing houses to the working class, but it has not been able to fully accomplish this. This is due to lack of adequate funding by the government and the sponsoring partners.

### **6.1.3 Security Challenges**

Encampment policies are a deliberate strategy to exert control over refugees in a contexts of real and perceived security concerns (Bailey 2004), the security concern has many faces i.e. in a way refugees are seen as a threat to host state (Crisp, 2009), a threat to their country of origin (Soma, 2001) and a threat to themselves (Hori, 2009). The Urban South Sudanese refugees experience police harassment in their social interactions business and even Association wise i.e. church or religious groupings. This is generally experienced despite the Alien certificate, that they possess and no wonder they simply see it as extortion.

In Egypt, before 1995 urban refugees had substantial rights to education and livelihood opportunities. However, following an Assassination attempt on Egyptian president which was carried out by Sudanese extremists the Freedom of urban refugees were cut (Grapska, 2006). To counter frequent police harassment on the South Sudanese refugees, they have formed community leaders groups within the residences with the mandate of preventing any arrests. They operate a register of all their people almost on a daily basis which is manned by older people and a group of

young informed boys and girls. In case of any arrests, once reported they take up the issue with the relevant authority to resolve the matter amicably (Researcher, 2022). This approach has proved fruitful as it has tamed their youth from pad associations especially those that they may span into long night stays - i.e youth parties, birthday bashes etc.

Before the establishment of community leadership's many of their youth were arrested charged in courts and even jailed in Kenyan prisons. However, with the operationalization of community leadership, close contact with national government official i.e. assistant chiefs and chiefs. This trend has gone down. If there is any security threat, the community leaders address it through their Barasas together with the Kenyan authorities.

#### **6.1.4 Stress and sexual exploitation of South Sudanese refugees in Eldoret City**

According to Usdin et al (2000), sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remains a disturbing phenomenon which exists in all areas of the world. It affects individuals, societies and Nations. Given its difficulties, sexual and gender-based violence is best addressed by multiple actors and subsectors, who should assist in identification and security assuring measures.

In Kapsoya centre where Urban South Sudanese live, it is not very common. This is because security measures put in place by the community leaders. The two Sudanese ethnic groups who live in Kapsoya i.e. the Nuer and Dinka groups administer heavy penalties to the parties in case it occurs especially among their youth. On the other hand, Kenyan authorities have also strict measures in dealing with sexual offences and rape and this has acted as deterrence restraining Kenyans from such attempts on refugees in their areas of residence.

As indicated by United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA (2013), sexual and gender-based violence, includes sexual threats, exploitation, humiliation, assaults, molestation etc. Female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices (such as early marriages, which increase illness and death) are forms of sexual and gender-based violence against women which cannot be justified on the grounds of customs or culture (Van, 2004). The UN Declaration on the elimination of violence against women defines gender based violence (GBV) as any act of violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary denial of liberty.

According to South Sudanese community leader in Eldoret, Kapsoya estate, in case of sexual harassment resulting to especially pregnancy the man involved is made to pay a heavy fine and the girl involved can easily be declared as a social misfit. This is what restrains their youth from such engagements. In their inter community interactions with Kenyan families this practice has been made clear to them so that no Kenyan youth can be involved in such acts. The national security agencies have also been informed accordingly especially the police. In Kenya the sexual offences Act of 2006 is entirely committed to the prevention of UN response to sexual violence through different minimum punishing guidelines and improved sentences ranging between ten years to life imprisonment. All the offences are put under one law for sentencing to be realized, technological advancement such as DNA testing is used to help in proof of such offences.

In comparison with Somali community, in case of disputes, they use a traditional dispute resolution called Maslahah Court. This is a system that is rooted in Somali

culture where community members, mainly men intervene informally to resolve a communal conflict.

The other challenge faced by South Sudanese refugees in Eldoret is high cost of bribes while looking for business permits. This is because they are holders of Alien Identification Cards, which are not easily recognized by some unscrupulous government officials. During application for such, they get frustrated and more often they have to use Kenyan friends to acquire these permits. Even where heavy bribes have been used, it takes another long time to process the permits and this causes fatigue to the refugees as it impedes in their livelihoods. However according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), they practice non-tolerance to bribery whether it is for business registration or for third country resettlement. If it happens, and one is caught practicing it, he or she definitely loses their job. The Kenyan government officials have also been trained to shun taking bribes from refugees.

#### **6.1.5 Discrimination by Landlords in as far as Tenancy is concerned**

The UN Refugee Agency United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has left the issue of housing to community-based organizations who assist in identifying housing needs. This is because housing needs discrimination is but one of the challenges faced by asylum and refugees in Kenya. For urban refugees, it can be very competitive because of socio-economic ability of the refugees. Where the landlords know the economic status of refugees in a group, a preference will be accorded to the “rich” ones while others considered “poor” may be disregarded. *Refugee coded 8 said that, ‘the landlords are discriminative, and would prefer people who are well endowed with financial resources’* (Interview notes page 11 line 5). The

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operates through local charity groups to assist refugees in getting safe housing. However, this can be frustrated by lack of money to support monthly rental and engagements. The landlords would rather give their houses to individual refugees that they see as being able to meet regularly monthly rent payments. This has led many low-income refugees to live in poor housing estates. Although a small number of refugees receive support from international organizations, the churches, mosques or local foundations / United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides no housing assistance to refugees. Only in high-risk security cases would it do or bother to find housing for refugees i.e. where the refugee is a senior government official back in his/her country of origin (HRW, 2002.)

According to the refugees living in Kapsoya, Eldoret, many landlords make refugees to pay rent three months in advance to avoid failure on monthly basis. This denies them access to affordable and adequate housing. Because of this, many refugees are forced to live in overcrowded or substandard housing conditions due to a lack of affordable options and discrimination in the rental market. In some cases, refugees may also face legal barriers to accessing housing, such as restrictions on their ability to sign rental contracts or access social housing programs. They added that other challenges they face include discrimination and social exclusion, and precarious living conditions. Refugees face discrimination and social exclusion in the housing market, which can limit their options for housing and contribute to their marginalization in their host communities. Discrimination can take many forms, including landlords refusing to rent to refugees, or neighbors expressing hostility or harassment towards refugees living in their community.

Finally, refugees may also experience precarious living conditions, such as living in informal settlements or temporary housing arrangements that lack basic services and infrastructure. These conditions can pose significant risks to the health and safety of refugees, particularly in situations where they are exposed to environmental hazards or at risk of forced eviction. Research has highlighted the importance of addressing these challenges in order to promote the well-being and long-term livelihoods of refugees. For example, a study published in the *Journal of Refugee Studies* found that access to affordable housing is critical for refugees' social and economic integration in their host communities (Krogstad & Sandnes, 2017). Another study published in the *International Migration Review* found that addressing discrimination in the housing market can help promote the social integration of refugees (Kwak, 2019).

Addressing the housing challenges facing refugees requires a comprehensive approach that involves a range of stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups. This approach should include efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing, address discrimination in the rental market, and promote the development of safe and sustainable housing options for refugees.

#### **6.1.6 Employment / Unemployment**

This is very hard to come by except within centre. Being aliens, refugees do not have permit to work in Kenya. In many instances, refugees only engage in self-employment using their learned skills after attaining education and training. Unemployment is rampant especially among the older south Sudanese refugees in Kapsoya estate, Eldoret City. Ordinarily, securing employment is a big challenge even among the Kenyan population, especially the youth. A general survey among educated Kenyan



youth reveals that a number of them, despite the good education they have, remain unemployed.

## **6.2 Chapter Summary**

This chapter covers the challenges facing South Sudanese Refugees in Kapsoya Estate, Eldoret. These range from inadequate or poor housing to high debts relating to cost of living, illiteracy or language barrier especially among the elderly. They also face security challenges based on the fact that they are Aliens which makes Kenyan security agents to occasionally mishandle the foreigners. The other area of challenge is the tenancy, mostly refugees especially the poor ones live in low class houses within the estates. Landlords give preference to the refugees that they perceive to be rich who are able to cope or pay high rents on either monthly, quarterly or yearly basis.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### ASSESSING THE MITIGATION EFFORTS ON SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES' CHALLENGES ON LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES IN ELDORET CITY

#### 7.0 Overview

This chapter looks at the mitigation efforts that the South Sudanese refugees proposed to enable them mitigate the challenges experienced when pursuing their livelihoods. A number of strategies were suggested and it included but not limited to allowing them to access land for farming, providing job opportunities, giving them license permits. Other strategies included repatriation, facilitating them to go abroad/overseas. It was further suggested that curbing corruption and improving governance was another strategy.

#### 7.1 Efforts to Mitigate Refugees' Challenges on Livelihood Strategies

The study findings revealed a number of mitigation strategies that the south Sudanese refugees proposed to help them in mitigating challenges in their livelihood strategies.

##### 7.1.1 Providing Job Opportunities

A significant majority 91(30.2%) indicated that they should be provided with Job opportunities (Table 7.1). The provision of job opportunities to refugees can play a critical role in their livelihood strategies, as it provides a pathway to self-sufficiency and financial independence. Employment opportunities can enable refugees to support themselves and their families financially, reducing their dependence on humanitarian aid. Job opportunities can also provide refugees with a sense of dignity and self-esteem, as they become active contributors to society. Through employment, refugees can acquire new skills, gain work experience, and improve their employability, which can enhance their long-term economic prospects. *In an interview with Refugee coded*

9, she said *'it will be good if the government can provide employment to refugees so that they can support themselves and their families'* (Interview notes pg 5 line 12).

Additionally, employment can facilitate the social integration of refugees into their host communities, as they interact with locals in a work setting and become part of the local economy.

Research has shown that access to job opportunities can have a positive impact on the livelihoods of refugees. A report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) highlights the importance of economic empowerment for refugees, noting that employment can improve their overall well-being and help them build resilience in the face of adversity (ILO, 2018). Another study published in the IZA World of Labor found that employment opportunities can improve the economic outcomes of refugees, particularly in terms of their income and social integration (Naudé, 2018). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has also emphasized the importance of economic inclusion of refugees in the labor market, noting that it can help refugees achieve self-reliance and contribute to the development of their host communities United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2018).

### **7.1.2 Provision of Land for Homesteads and Food Production**

Out of these, 15(5.0%) indicated that other than the opportunities, they should be given land to put up homes. This was followed by 45(15.0%) of the refugees, who indicated that they should be allowed to farm, that is, to do farming (Table 7.1). The provision of farming land to refugees can be a crucial component of their livelihood strategies, providing them with a means to grow their own food, generate income, and rebuild their lives; In particular, farmland can assist refugees in becoming food secure. With access to farming land, refugees can grow their own food, reducing their

reliance on aid agencies or the host community. *In an interview with refugee coded 10, provision of land can be the best solution to most of refugee problems but land cannot be available within the town and Kenyans don't easily accept*' (Interview notes pg 6 line 7).

This can help ensure food security and provide a sustainable source of nutrition (FAO, 2018). Secondly, refugees can generate income. Farming can also provide refugees with a source of income, allowing them to become self-sufficient and reducing their dependence on aid. Refugees can sell their produce in local markets or to the host community, generating income that can be used to support their families and invest in their future. Farming can also improve the well-being of the refugees (Maystadt & Verwimp, 2014). The ability to grow their own food and generate income can have a positive impact on the mental health and well-being of refugees. It can provide a sense of purpose, self-worth, and hope for the future. Lastly farming build communities such that it is a way to bring refugees together and foster a sense of community. Working together on a farm can create a shared sense of purpose and provide a platform for social interaction United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2019).

### **7.1.3 Licenses to Operate Business**

Notably other refugees 15(5.0%) proposed that local government must permit them to get licenses to operate businesses like other Kenyans (Table 7.1). The provision of business licenses to refugees can be an essential element in their livelihood strategies, as it provides a pathway to self-employment and financial independence. Business licenses enable refugees to start and operate their own businesses, allowing them to earn income and support themselves and their families. Through entrepreneurship,

refugees can also create job opportunities for themselves and others in their communities.

Research has shown that access to business licenses can have a positive impact on the livelihoods of refugees. For example, a study published in the *Journal of Refugee Studies* found that self-employment can improve the economic outcomes of refugees, particularly in terms of their income and employment status (De Vries & Bekkers, 2016). Another study published in the *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour & Research* found that entrepreneurship can facilitate the social integration of refugees into their host communities, as it enables them to interact with locals in a business setting and become part of the local economy (Kotabe & Murray, 2019). In addition to providing refugees with a means of earning income, business licenses can also help refugees build skills and knowledge related to entrepreneurship. This can include training in business planning, marketing, and financial management, which can enhance their long-term economic prospects.

A similar 15(5.0%) proportion felt that they should be repatriated (taken back to their home countries) or taken to other countries abroad (Table 7.1). Repatriation of refugees can have both positive and negative impacts on their livelihoods. On one hand, returning to their country of origin can provide refugees with a sense of stability and security, allowing them to rebuild their lives in their home communities. Repatriation can also enable refugees to reconnect with family and friends, access their land and property, and participate in the local economy (IOM, 2019).

On the other hand, repatriation can also pose significant challenges to refugees' livelihoods. In some cases, returning refugees may face political instability, social unrest, and economic hardship in their home communities. This can make it difficult

for them to find employment, access basic services, and rebuild their lives. Repatriation can also disrupt the social networks and support systems that refugees have established in their host communities, leaving them isolated and vulnerable United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2019). To ensure that repatriation supports the livelihoods of refugees, it is critical that it is carried out in a safe and voluntary manner, with the involvement of refugees in the planning and decision-making processes. Repatriation efforts should also be accompanied by measures to support the reintegration of refugees into their home communities, including access to basic services, employment opportunities, and support for small business development. Sustainable reintegration also requires efforts to promote peace building, reconciliation, and social cohesion in communities that have been affected by conflict and displacement United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2019).

**Table 7.1 Assessing the mitigation efforts on Refugees' Challenges on Livelihood Strategies in Eldoret City**

<b>Strategy to overcome challenges</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Allow refugees to farm and get employment	15	5.0
Be treated equally like the citizens	15	5.0
Change governance	15	5.0
Educate the refugees	15	5.0
Empowerment of the refugees by the local government	15	5.0
Give jobs and find security	15	5.0
Give refugees land for farming and employment	15	5.0
Help participants to go overseas	15	5.0
Local government must permit participants with licenses	15	5.0
Promotion of good relationship	15	5.0
Provide funds to encourage refugees to return back home	15	5.0
Provision of job opportunities	91	30.2
Provision of job opportunities and land	15	5.0
Recognition of identity cards by Safaricom and issue of certificate of good conduct	15	5.0
Stop corruption	15	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Research findings, 2021*

Others suggested that there was need to change in governance, curbing corruption, provision of education opportunities to the refugees and empowerment of the refugees by the local government each at 15(5.0%). These findings are indicated in Table 7.1

Overall, the impact of repatriation on refugees' livelihoods depends on the specific context in which it takes place and the measures that are taken to support refugees' reintegration. Therefore, it is essential that repatriation efforts are carefully planned and implemented in a way that prioritizes the well-being and long-term livelihoods of returning refugees.

The findings above imply that the south Sudanese refugees do not enjoy the rights enjoyed by the locals (Kenyans) and as such the refugees want to enjoy these rights. Licenses to operate businesses and being allowed to do farming is what was given keen interest. In Gabon, the government, in what is called local integration, the refugees have been proposed to be allowed to carry out livelihood strategies for their livelihood. The two main activities that have been supported by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as its main means of intervention was agriculture and micro-credit support (Machtelt, 2004). Agreement was reached from the outset that refugee livelihoods would be primarily examined through activities relating to agriculture and/or micro-credit. These decisions were taken given that they are the two main subject areas addressed from the outset of the care and maintenance programme co-ordinated by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the government and other agencies in an attempt to provide some livelihood support to refugees.

One of the strategies that were used in Gabon was issuing refugees with protection documents. Despite these documentation, many refugees mentioned direct clashes

with the local authorities and security forces over these papers. Outcomes cited included confiscation of the refugee document, destruction of the document – ripping it apart or burning it, torture and/or imprisonment of the holder by security forces, bribery of the holder by the security forces, limitations to freedom of movement and access to markets on at least one occasion, the murder of a refugee by local people without a trial (Machtelt, 2004).

Although the refugee document implies the right for that individual to engage in income-generating activities in Gabon – similar in all ways to that of a national – refugees encounter considerable difficulties or are not allowed to carry out economic activities due to restrictions imposed by the local authorities and employers. One example was found of a refugee man who obtained work with a local international company, only to be told two days after starting that he no longer had work on account of his status. In most cases, these restrictions seem to relate to the lack of a resident permit which allows foreigners to carry out economic activities in Gabon. Such papers are most often given to economic migrants, and can be purchased. In order to obtain a resident's permit, however, refugees must revoke their refugee status and take on that of an economic migrant. Not wanting to do this – or probably in the majority of cases not being able to afford this – many refugees work illegally at whatever source of employment they can find.

The existence/elaboration of a sound legal framework for refugees is a precondition of any discussion and elaboration of a longer term plan. It would seem timely that refugees are now fully informed about the three durable solutions United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) can offer on their behalf: repatriation, resettlement or local integration. The eligibility criteria, probability, consequences,



and the advantages and disadvantages of each of these solutions should be clearly explained to refugees and others, especially at government and the general public levels. Clear statements should be prepared on issues such as nationalization (for those wishing to integrate), the status and rights of children born in Gabon (of refugee and mixed marriages), and the rights of those wishing to retain refugee status. Such statements should be widely transmitted to all concerned authorities, community leaders and others to allow full integration.

## **7.2 Chapter Summary**

The text discusses the challenges faced by South Sudanese refugees in terms of accessing rights and economic opportunities. The refugees are not able to enjoy the same rights as the locals and face difficulties in obtaining licenses for businesses and engaging in farming activities. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has provided support in the form of micro-credit and agriculture, but refugees still face challenges in carrying out economic activities due to restrictions imposed by local authorities and employers. The chapter emphasizes the need for a sound legal framework for refugees and suggests that refugees should be fully informed about the durable solutions offered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including repatriation, resettlement, and local integration. Clear statements should be prepared on issues such as nationalization, the status and rights of children born in Gabon, and the rights of those wishing to retain refugee status.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 8.0 Overview

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU; 2006), livelihood concerns have been pursued by many actors working either independently or with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These include the academic, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and development partners or agencies. Livelihoods cover areas such as assistance and protection given that refugee situations are usually protracted because of the parties involved for example, the producing and host states and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

On attaining status of a refugee according to the 1951 definitions, “That a refugee is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion by observing non-refoulment.

Urban refugee is on the other hand defined as refugees who decided to move to an urban area rather than in a refugee camp in the country or territory where they fled to.

i) The objectives were four namely:-

- Analyze, South Sudanese Urban Refugees transition livelihood strategies in Eldoret.
- Assess the role of stakeholders on South Sudanese refugees livelihood strategies in Eldoret.
- Establish the challenges that South Sudanese refugees face in their livelihood strategies in Eldoret.

- Assessing the mitigation efforts in South Sudanese refugees challenges on livelihood strategies in Eldoret City.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (1950), refugees simply needed assistance and legal protection plus organizing resettlement programmes mainly in Europe. However, this approach changed drastically between 1960 –70s and the 1980s during which time many African states experienced refugee movements.

Currently, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, many refugees seek to stabilize their lives in towns or urban settlements where they are able to use their knowledge and skills. In Kenya, upto the year 2006 refugees were meant to live in the camps either in Kakuma or Dadaab.

## **8.1 Conclusion**

### **8.1.1 Refugee Camps**

According to Jacobsen; 2002, many refugees cannot establish or maintain their livelihoods due to inability to exercise the rights to which they are allowed as human beings under the international human rights or humanitarian law or refugee law. In order to arrest the suffering that refugees face due to lack of civil, social and economic rights touching on freedom of movement and residence, in the camps urban residence is the right way to go. The situation of urban refugees in Kenya cannot be said to be conducive. This is because the refugees are not fully using their skills for the benefit of their families and Kenya at large in terms of economy. The main hindrance is that Kenya like any other third world country lack employment opportunities even for their own local population especially the youth.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2020), Kenya hosts about 80750 urban refugees many of whom have relevant skills which remain untapped due to lack of employment opportunities, livelihood strategies require participation of all members of the family especially from the youth to adults. The other strategy is that women must also be accorded chance to contribute to family livelihood engagements, by ensuring that they are well educated and trained. It is worth noting that refugee life leads to changing of roles in families.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), refugee households are the same as other households in the sense that given the opportunity, they will manage their resources and exercise maximize their options in a very optimal manner. This therefore means that urban refugees resort to diverse tactics in order to manage their families involving both men and women. The South Sudanese refugees engage in different income generating activities using the most opportunities available to them. As illustrated by Levron (2006), Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea strategized their resettlement to diversify their resources by partially being found in the camps as well as in the urban centres. During the researcher's interview with South Sudanese community leaders, there is this kind of practice by the refugees.

### **8.1.2 Role of stakeholders**

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); (2020), it is necessary to monitor borders and detection facilities to help in building capacity of law enforcement, immigration officers and other actors that are integral. It is mandatory to provide legal and as well as supporting refugee Bill and refugee policy processes.

As a major stakeholder United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2020) main intervention for urban refugees focus primarily on ensuring equitable and timely access to services based on clear criteria. Also in the urban settlements, community based protection is necessary to the refugees. This ensures enhancement to have access to services based on clear criteria. According to Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) Eldoret, the current government policy is that all new arrivals should be registered and issued with movement passes to move to Kakuma camp.

The fact that there is good working relationship with Refugee Affairs Secretariat, Eldoret (RAS) has enabled United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to build her capacity given that RAS is only about three years old and continues to grow in its refugee management role. On the other hand, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to advocate for the protection of refugees both on the camps and urban areas by offering training as well as offering technical expertise in the areas of individual cases.

As a stakeholder for refugees, Turkana County continues to enjoy support of many actors especially NGOs, World Bank and International Monetary Funds (IMF). As recent as in 2018, the organizations have built schools and health facilities in Kalobeyee regions of Turkana.

### **8.1.3 Challenges facing Urban South Sudanese in Eldoret**

These include inadequate housing, rise cost of living, insecurity, discrimination by landlords and other social vices and illiteracy. However, many stakeholders led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have stepped in to contain these challenges. It has engaged partners to enhance community safe housing and livelihood safety nets. In doing this, it has identification or use of foster care

arrangements for separated children and unaccompanied minors. In order to sustain this, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to provide vocational training both in the camps as well as urban settlements. The other challenge is medical services which is being availed to refugees by building facilities near the camps as well as encouraging refugees to enlist with National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) in the urban centres. They also encourage entrepreneurship as well as private financial institutions to engage with refugees.

#### **8.1.4 Security Challenges**

This has been brought into control by ensuring that refugees both in the camps and urban settlements are issued with Alien cards or Movement Passes in case of new arrivals. The Kenya government especially department of National Police Service has units that deal with refugee matter in liaison with Refugee Affairs Secretariat apart from available general Police Services. This approach has helped bring down sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) against refugees especially by Kenyans – Usdin et.al., (2000). The South Sudanese also have their own way of handling this vice.

Discrimination by landlords in the tenancy - This has been handled well by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which left it to community based organizations CBOs and individuals except where there are persons of concerns (PoCs). This only applies in high risk security cases especially former government officials in the former countries. Generally, housing remains a challenge even to Kenyans since the government is unable to guarantee good housing to her own workforce.

### **8.1.5 Employment / Unemployment**

This has remained a big problem even to Kenyans. The only way to help urban South Sudanese is to allow them to do private business, get good education or training for subsequent use back home once they get a chance to go back to South Sudan.

### **8.1.6 Mitigation efforts**

Among the suggestions is that they should be allowed to own lands. However, this is out rightly not possible due to Kenyan Land Policies which are handled by National Land Commission and is very complex even to local population. Working or employment opportunities are also not available either it is also not possible to repatriate them due to non-refoulment policy which Kenya is a signatory to by virtue of conventions and treaties guided by UN policies.

While in the urban settlements, refugees are allowed to freely go back to their country so long as there is peace. The Kenya government through Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, refugees are allowed to look for third country settlements aided by International Organization of Migration (IoM). The Kenya government has also allowed South Sudanese to do business as is evident in Kapsoya Centre, Eldoret. In these settlement areas, they are co-existing with the host community freely as they run their business errands.

## **8.2 Recommendation**

Considering the periods that refugees spend in the designated camps are subsequent movement to urban is usually very long and tiring. Kenya as a host government should ensure that skillful refugees are allowed to either integrate or move to urban centres without much delay in the camps. This would allow them to settle quickly and start using their professional skills. United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) should team up with Kenya government to quickly identify programmes targeting improvement of economic and security challenges. This would make the refugees to take care of themselves and restore their dignity in good time.

From the above conclusion and recommendation, it is clear that there is need for a policy decision to help refugees become productive members of society with constant engagement. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) should continue making support and promotion of refugees' livelihood part of its policy as it continues to work with Kenya government.

What comes out clearly is that United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is committed to assisting refugees as well as Kenya government being the host. It is therefore necessary for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Kenya to look for more funding from other organizations such as European Union (EU). There is also need for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to create the right environment and important role to play at political level for advocacy for protection of refugee rights. This would ensure productive economic rights, resulting into more funds to support urban refugees just as it does for the camp refugees.

### **8.3 Chapter Eight Summary**

This chapter covers the role of stakeholders in helping to monitor borders, capacity building and interventions. It also shows the working relationship between refugees' affairs secretariat in Eldoret in conjunction with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the national government.

It also covers the challenges facing urban refugees in Eldoret City. These challenges include security, discrimination by landlords, and unemployment among others.



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Verbatim Transcript

<sup>1</sup>Refugee coded 3 said that ‘by many of us living together, each one of us brings food and this makes work life easy for each one of us’ (Interview notes, pg 2 line 8)

<sup>2</sup>Being allowed to have our children study in Kenya’s schools has assisted us a lot because our children can secure jobs not only here in Kenya but also back home in South Sudan’ (Interview notes, page 2 line 1)

<sup>3</sup>We were really affected by the war and as such we are a vulnerable group and we genuinely need assistance from all stakeholders where possible’ (interview notes, pg 3 line 19) (Refugee coded 5).

<sup>4</sup>Refugees coded 7 the Uasin Gishu county revenue staff visit us at the shop and demand for business permits and because we are aliens they harass us and demand bribes. In some situation they forcefully pick our items from the shop if one is unable to pay

<sup>5</sup>Refugee coded 8 said that, ‘the landlords are discriminative, and would prefer people who are well endowed with financial resources’ (Interview notes page 11 line 5).

<sup>6</sup>In an interview with Refugee coded 9, she said ‘it will be good if the government can provide employment to refugees so that they can support themselves and their families’ (Interview notes pg 5 line 12).

<sup>7</sup>In an interview with refugee coded 10, provision of land can be the best solution to most of refugee problems but land cannot be available within the town and Kenyans don’t easily accept’ (Interview notes pg 6 line 7).

**Appendix II: Research Questionnaire**

My name is Polycarp Owuodho Opiyo, working and a Masters candidate at Moi University. This questionnaire is part of data generating process for my thesis report concerning “*Urban Transition Livelihood Strategy among Refugees: a Case Study of South Sudanese in Eldoret City*”. The information received from you will be used for academic purpose only. Your co-operation is vital towards realizing the objective of this study. Kindly answer all questions truthfully and objectively. There are two sections in this questionnaire; Section A, B and C. In all the sections, answer as per what best applies to you.

Yours Researcher/Student,

Polycarp Owuodho Opiyo

### SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Name:.....(Optional)
3. Gender: .....
4. Age: .....
5. Level of education: .....
6. Organization of Work:.....(eg Business/Employed/e.t.c.)
7. Nature of Work:.....

### Section B: Examine Urban Transition Livelihood Strategy among Refugees: The Case of South Sudanese in Eldoret City.

The following statements point to urban transition strategies among refugees living in Eldoret City, Kenya. Indicate one that applies to you in terms of what you do for a living to sustain your life for yourself and/or your family.

Strategy	Yes	No
1. I do business to earn a living to sustain myself and/or my family		
2. I offer service using my skill to for money so as to sustain myself and/or my family		
3. I get assistance from relatives and family friends who are working abroad		
4. I have sought sough education and training for myself and/or my family members with intention to secure a job		
5. I have education and trained and hence have some job		
6. I am employed in some organization or institution		

### For strategies in the above table, which

1. Business are you engaged in? .....
2. Services do you offer in exchange for money?.....
3. Is the extent (%) to which, you get assistance from relatives, family members?  
None ☐      Partly ☐      Fully ☐

4. Is the extent (%) to which, you get assistance from relatives family members?

None ☐

Partly ☐

Fully ☐

5. Level have you attained in your education and training?

**Certificate** ☐

**Diploma** ☐

**Degree** ☐

**Other Specify** ☐

6. On a scale of 1-5 (Where 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Not Sure 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree) please score your agreement to the following;

Examine Urban Transition Livelihood Strategy among Refugees: The Case of South Sudanese in Eldoret City.	1	2	3	4	5
Ease in understanding culture					
There is assistance skill acquisition					
After training one can attain livelihood					
Education helps in attaining livelihood					
Prior work experience in getting jobs					

### Section C: Finding out the role of stakeholders on refugee livelihood strategies in urban life.

The following are the stakeholders who may in one way or another have a role to play on refugee livelihood strategies in urban life. For each of the stakeholder, state their role in terms of assistance or otherwise, as far as your livelihood strategies is concerned.

#### Stakeholder

Stakeholder	Role of the stakeholder
Host government	
UHCR Operational and implementing partners	
National and local authorities,	
Members of the community:	
Community leaders e.g. traditional chiefs	
Civil society	
Local NGOs	
Women's groups,	

Human rights groups),					
School-board members					
Religious organizations,					
Host communities					
Finding out the role of stakeholders on refugee livelihood strategies in urban life.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Stakeholders assist in getting accommodation					
Stakeholders assist in startup finances					
Stakeholders assist in getting schools for children					
Stakeholders assist in acquiring business premises					
Stakeholders assist in licensing issues					

**Section D: Challenges refugees' face in their livelihood strategies in urban centres (especially) in Eldoret City.**

The following are some of the challenges that you may be facing towards pursuing your livelihood strategies in Eldoret City. On a scale of 1-5 (Where 1=Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3=Not Sure 4=Agree and 5=Strongly Agree), please indicate the degree to which you have experienced the highlighted challenge.

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>
Inadequate housing,					
High debts, rising costs of living					
Educational challenges					
Rent costs					
Insecurity to provide for their families					
Stress sexual exploitation					
Unconditional housing -exposed to rain and wind					
High costs associated with bribes					
Discriminated against by landlords and employers					
Prostitution and theft					
Deprivation of adequate funding					
Inadequate refugee funding					
Lack of sufficient food security tied to inadequate food rations					
Lack of adequate space and structures for longer-term food storage					
Lack of access to credit					

Challenges refugees' face in their livelihood strategies in urban centres (especially) in Eldoret City.	1	2	3	4	5
Rampant fear of security personnel					
Rampant prejudice					
Language problem makes communication hard					
Dealing with tenants					
Local competition					

1. What other challenges do refugees' face in their livelihood strategies in urban centres (especially) in Eldoret City?

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**Section E: Assessing the mitigants to challenges on refugees' livelihood strategies in urban centres.**

On a scale of 1-5 (Where 1=Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3=Not Sure 4=Agree and 5=Strongly Agree) please score your agreement to the following;

Mitigants to challenges on refugees' livelihood strategies in urban centres.	1	2	3	4	5
Leaders Interventions					
Faith Based Interventions					
Non-Governmental Organization Based Interventions					
Government Interventions					
Community Interventions					



2. In your opinion, what do you think should be done to overcome some of the challenges?

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(Thank you for your response)

### **Appendix III Interview guide**

The following questions will be asked to **Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) officers, staff and community leaders, UNHCR field staff officers and security agencies**. The questions asked aim to understand the experiences, challenges, and needs of refugees living in Kenya, specifically focusing on aspects like community living, education, vulnerability due to war, challenges in business operations, discrimination in housing, employment opportunities, and potential solutions for refugee welfare. Kindly provide answers as vividly as possible.

1. Can you describe how living in a community with other refugees has impacted your daily life or work situation?
2. How has access to education in Kenya benefited your family, particularly your children?
3. In what ways has the war affected you and other refugees, and what kind of assistance do you believe is necessary for your community?
4. Have you faced any challenges with local authorities regarding business operations, and can you share any specific incidents?
5. Can you share any experiences of discrimination you've faced in housing or from landlords?
6. What are your thoughts on how the government could improve the livelihoods of refugees in Kenya?
7. In your opinion, what would be an effective solution to the problems faced by refugees, and what challenges do you foresee in implementing such solutions?

**Appendix IV: Research Thesis/Dissertation Time Schedule**

<b>February, 2021</b>	<b>July, 2024</b>	<b>November, 2024</b>	<b>November, 2024</b>
Thesis			
	Thesis Defense/ Clearance		
		Corrections and Data Collection	
			Data Processing, Analysis & Compilation

### Specific Business

Types	Activities
Farming	Selling agricultural crops, brokerage of crops with locals
Animal husbandry	Rearing livestock
Petty trade	Selling general merchandise (i.e. soap, match boxes, cooking oil)
Entertainment	Running movie theatres, selling digital music
Technical services	Electrician, mechanic, carpentry, craft-making
Beauty care	Hair salon
Wholesale businesses	Selling food items, beverage and general merchandise
Food-related businesses	Restaurant, bar, butchery, brewery, selling beverages
Clothing	Tailoring, selling clothing textiles/second-hand cloth and shoes
Finance	Money transfer, Forex bureau, micro-finance
Transportation	Boda-boda (motorbike taxi), taxi, mini-bus
Medical work	Running a pharmacy, nursing
Accommodation	Running a guest house/lodge
Manual work	Construction, farming for others, housekeeping chores for others
Institutional employment	Working for UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) IPs and Ops
Electricity	Power supply using generators
Negative coping strategies	Commercial sex, begging

## Appendix V: Introductory Letter from School



**MOI UNIVERSITY**  
*(ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED)*  
**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Tel: (053) 43620  
 Fax No. (053) 43047  
 Telex No. MOI VARSITY 35047

P.o Box 3900  
 Eldoret  
 Kenya

15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**P.O. BOX 30623-00100**  
**NAIROBI**


**REF: POLYCARP OWUODHO OPIYO- SASS/PGPA/15/12**

This is to confirm that the above named is a student in the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of History, Political Science and Public Administration pursuing Masters Degree in Public Administration and Policy. He has successfully completed his coursework and defended his proposal titled: **"Urban Transition Livelihood Strategy Among Refugees: The Case of South Sudanese in Eldoret Town"**. He is now allowed to obtain research permit in order to collect data in the field.

Any assistance given to him will be highly appreciated.


**Prof. Ken Oluoch PhD.**  
**Chairman, Department of History Political Science and Public Administration**

## Appendix VI: NACOSTI Documents

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Ref No: 598352	Date of Issue: 22/April/2021
<b>RESEARCH LICENSE</b>	
	
This is to Certify that Mr.. POLYCARP OWUODHO OPIYO of Moi University, has been licensed to conduct research in Uasin-Gishu on the topic: <u>URBAN TRANSITION LIVELIHOOD STRATEGY AMONG REFUGEES- THE CASE OF SOUTH SUDANESE IN ELDORET TOWN</u> for the period ending : 22/April/2022.	
License No: NACOSTI/P/21/10126	
598352 Applicant Identification Number	 Director General NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
<p><i>Approved and Forwarded</i></p> <p><i>ST/2021</i></p> <p>FOR: COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION          UASIN GISHU COUNTY</p> <p><b>05 MAY 2021</b></p> <p>P.O. BOX 9843 - 30100, ELDORET          TEL: 02063342 / 0719127212</p>	<p><i>Approved. Proceed</i></p> <p><i>ST/2021</i></p> <p>for COUNTY COMMISSIONER          UASIN GISHU COUNTY</p>
NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.	
Verification QR Code 	

## Appendix VII: Ministry Of Education Letter

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

  
 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
 MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT  
 DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
 AINABKOI SUB COUNTY  
 P. O. Box 3862  
 ELDORET

Email: [dcainabkoisubcounty@gmail.com](mailto:dcainabkoisubcounty@gmail.com)


Ref. No.ADM.5/4.VOL.I (15) 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021


The Director General  
 National Commission for  
 Science Technology & Innovation  
 P.O. Box 30623, 00100  
**NAIROBI**

**RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION: POLYCARP OWUODHO OPIYO**

Reference is made to your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021 for authority to carry out research on *“Urban Transition livelihood Strategy among Refugees. The case of South Sudanese in Eldoret town”*.

You are hereby granted your request for authority in carrying out research in our Sub County for a period ending 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022.

  
**ELLAH CHEBET**  
**FOR: DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER**  
**AINABKOI SUB COUNTY**


  
 DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
 AINABKOI

Copy:  
 The Sub County Education Officer  
 Ainabkoi Sub County



## Appendix VIII: Ministry of Education Permit

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND BASIC  
EDUCATION**

Telegrams:  
Tel: 0208093829  
Email: eldoreteastdistrict@gmail.com  
Ref: No. ED/UG.E/G/43/127

SUB COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE,  
AINABKOI SUB COUNTY,  
P. O. Box 273,  
ELDORET.

DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2021


To  
All Principals,  
All Head teachers.

**RE: AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH-POLYCARP OWUODHO  
OPIYO.**

The bearer, **Polycarp Owuodho Opiyo** has been given authority by this office to conduct research on the topic **“Urban transition livelihood among Refugees. The case of southern Sudanese in Eldoret Town –Ainabkoi Sub County”** in your institution.

Kindly accord him necessary assistance.

Thank you.

  
**DAVID KIPSAAT**  
**SUB COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**  
**AINABKOI SUB- COUNTY.**

SUB - COUNTY DIRECTOR  
OF EDUCATION, AINABKOI  
P. O. BOX 273 - 30100 ELDORET  
DATE: 7/5/2021