

**THE IMPACT OF REFUGEE CRISIS ON CHILDREN'S WELFARE IN NAKIVALE
REFUGEE CAMP IN BUKANGA COUNTY ABOUT 50KM SOUTH OF
MBARARA IN ISINGIRO DISTRICT**

RITAH TURGYAGYENDA

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

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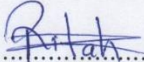
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Declaration

I, Turyagyenda Ritah, sincerely declare that the report I have presented, entitled "The Impact of Refugee Crisis on Children's Welfare in Nakivale Refugee Camp in Bukanga County About 50km South of Mbarara in Isingiro District" in Uganda, is entirely my own original work that has been not produced for review elsewhere.

I claim that the claims stated and the deductions made are the result of my investigation. I additionally attest that; the work I completed for the report is original and was done under my supervisor's broad supervision.

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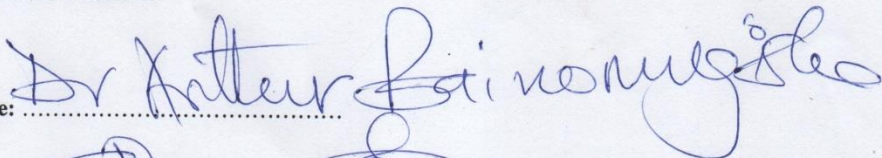
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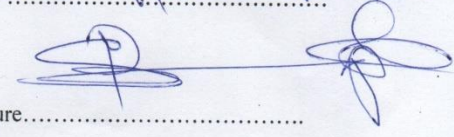
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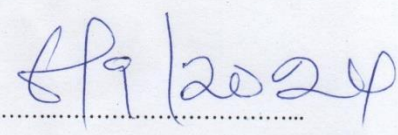
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Approval

This is to certify that this research dissertation by **TURYAGYENDA RITAH** under Registration Number **J22B56/023** has been written under my supervision and is thus ready for submission to the department of Governance and International Relations of Uganda Christian University for academic consideration for the award of Bachelor Degree in Governance and International Relations

Name: 

Signature..... 

Date..... 

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the personnel of Africa Renewal Ministries. Their kindness, cooperation, and desire to help definitely made a big difference for me during my field study. Along with my uncle Mushabe Emmy, my parents Natukunda Eve and Turyagyenda Denise, and my sponsors Pauletta Blueitt and Angie White King, who helped me out monetarily and with prayers throughout my studies, I also dedicate this work to them. Their encouragement and support allowed me the willpower to continue with my field research at every turn, even when things looked difficult. Your inspiration and assistance were really helpful to me and had a big impact on my studies. There are no words to express how much I appreciate each and every one of you. May God reward you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would want to sincerely thank Dr. Bainomugisha Arthur, my university supervisor. His vast knowledge, deep experience, and exceptional skill in statistical quality control have made it possible for me to successfully finish my fieldwork. I also want to thank him for being so patient, kind, and generous with me while I was writing my dissertation. His unceasing support and direction for my research project, which was one of the prerequisites for me to finish my degree at Uganda Christian University, made my work easier and helped me advance in my career.

Lastly, I would also like to sincerely thank the refugee members who helped me with my research and data collection. By not withholding information, the majority of them allowed me to complete my work on time.

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ABSTRACT

This study highlighted the the impact of refugee crisis on the welfare of refugee children in Nakivale Refuge Camp in Isingiro District. This research is guided by objectives which included: To find out the causes of refugee crisis that has impacted negatively on the lives of children in Isingiro District, analyzing the strategies that have been put into place to reduce the impacts of conflict on children in Isingiro District and to find out the negative contribution of refugee crisis on children welfare.

The study utilized a cross-sectional methodology, collecting data from a sample population at a single point in time where qualitative and quantitative method of data collection was used. The data was collected using interviews and questionnaires as a method of data collection, employing purposive sampling, and qualitative looking into the effects of the refugee crisis on children's welfare in the target group of over 40,000 young people. A sample size of 383 respondents who were male and female.

The findings showed that a number of methods have been created to address the impact of the crisis on children's well-being, some of which are described in this research. It is critical to understand that in order to provide a safe environment for refugee children, persistent investment and cooperation across different sectors are required.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS OR ACRONYMS

- UNHCR : United Nations High commission for Refugees
- OPM : Office of the Prime Minister
- UCU : Uganda Christian University
- NGO : Non-governmental Organizations
- CSOs : Civil Society Organizations.
- OCHA : Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- IDP : Internally Displaced Persons
- IDMC : Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- IRC : International Rescue Committee
- ICRC : International Committee of Red Cross
- CRRF : Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
- UNICEF: United Nations Children’s Funds
- WHO : World Health Organization
- WFP : World food programmes
- ILO : International Labor Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This research concept provides a brief overview of the investigation of how the refugee crisis has affected the welfare of children in the Isingiro District. There are seven sections to the idea. The study's background, covered in Section 1, primarily focuses on the history of the study's overall goal and its particular objectives are presented in section two, which addresses the global refugee crisis and how it has affected the lives of children in the Isingiro District. The problem statement, which explains how the refugee crisis has grown to be a significant issue in Isingiro District, is presented in Section 3. The study's scope is described in Section 4; it includes a content study that will examine how the refugee problem affects the welfare of children in the Isingiro District, a geographical scope that shows the study area, and a time scope that shows the amount of time that will be spent on the research. The study's justification is shown in Section 5; Section six highlights the study's importance to governments, refugees, and other academic communities. Section Seven outlines the study's conceptual framework, which places special emphasis on the issue of refugees and children's welfare in Isingiro District. The study's independent variables are the factors that contribute to the refugee crisis, such as hunger, climate change, and conflict, among others. The dependent variables, however, include things like the children of the refugees' access to food, healthcare, and education.

1.1 Background

People have always been forced to flee their home nations throughout human history because of a variety of difficulties, including war, political unrest, and persecution on account of race or religion. Various societies and religious establishments have voluntarily offered various kinds of assistance **Error! Reference source not found.** In order to handle the growing issue of war refugees, the United Nations placed a strong emphasis on the need to enlarge the current international treaties and institutions pertaining to refugees in the late 1940s.

According to the UNHCR report in 2022, 1 out of every 110 people in the world is displaced. This report also indicates that at the end of 2021, the total number of people worldwide who were forced to flee their homes due to conflicts, violence, and fear of persecution and human rights violations was estimated to 89.3 million. This is more than double the 42.7 **Error!**

Reference source not found.Africa is among the continents with the largest number of internally displaced persons of over 30 million refugees. And out of this, Uganda hosts over 1.5 million refugees of which 60 percent come from the neighboring South Sudan.

In 2022, a UNHCR report stated that 1 in 110 persons worldwide are displaced. This report also shows that, as of the end of 2021, an estimated 89.3 million individuals have to leave their homes owing to conflicts, violence, fear of persecution, and abuses of human rights. This exceeds 42.7 by more than twice **Error! Reference source not found..** With more than 30 million refugees, Africa is one of the continents with the highest number of internally displaced people. Furthermore, Uganda is home to more than 1.5 million refugees, of whom 60% are from South Sudan, a neighboring country.

The Office of the Prime Minister in DRDIP, the UNHCR, and the Ugandan government in 2022 provided information that these refugees are distributed throughout various refugee settlement places, including as Adjumani, Yumbe, Isingiro, Kikuube, Kampala, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, and Koboko. **Error! Reference source not found.**People who have fled their native nations owing to war, violence, conflict, or even persecution are considered refugees by the UNHCR. These individuals cross international borders in search of protection in another nation **Error! Reference source not found..** They barely have anything when they leave their homes, leaving behind their loved ones, belongings, and places of business. They have to start over in the country that is hosting them. According to UNHCR, there were about 25.4 million registered refugee men, women, and children worldwide by the end of 2017.

1.2 Problem Statement

Despite the growing number of refugees and significance of their welfare, there is lack of understanding in terms of key challenges refugee children in Nakivale Refugee Camp in Isingiro District face. This research therefore focuses on the finding out the impact of the refugee crisis on the overall welfare of the children in Nakivale Camp ranging from health, education, rights, nutrition and their parents. Therefore, the findings of this research will help in formulating policies and interventions which can effectively support and improve the lives of the refugee children in Nakivale Refugee Camp.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 general Research Objective

To examine the impact of refugee crisis on the welfare of children in Bukanga County about 50km South of Mbarara in Isingiro District.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- To find out the causes of refugee crisis that has impacted negatively on the lives of children in Isingiro District.
- Analysing the strategies that have been put into place to reduce the impacts of conflict on children in Isingiro District
- To find out the negative contribution of refugee crisis on children welfare

1.4 Research Questions

This research concept will be guided on the following research questions:

1. What are the causes of refugee crisis that affect the refugee welfare?
2. What are the negative contributions of refugee crisis on children's welfare?--
3. What are the strategies in place towards addressing the negative impact of refugee crisis on children's welfare in Isingiro District?

1.5 Scope Of The Study

The study will focus on examining the impact of refugee crisis on children welfare of Nakivale refugee settlement in in Bukanga County about 50km South of Mbarara in Isingiro District in Uganda. It will be limited to; establishing the negative contribution of refugee crisis on children welfare, examining the factors of refugee crisis that influence children welfare, and examining the strategies in place toward addressing the negative impact of refugee crisis on children welfare.

1.5.1 Geographical scope

The study will be conducted in Bukanga County about 50km South of Mbarara. It spreads across Rugaaga and Ngarama sub counties in Isingiro District of South-western Uganda **Error! Reference source not found.** The main focus area of this research will be in Nakivale Refugee Camp in Rushasha, Bukanga Isingiro District, and Western Region of Uganda.

1.5.2 Time scope

The duration of this study will be conducted for a period of two months. The time scope will depend on the availability of data and specific context of the study.

1.6 Justification Of The study

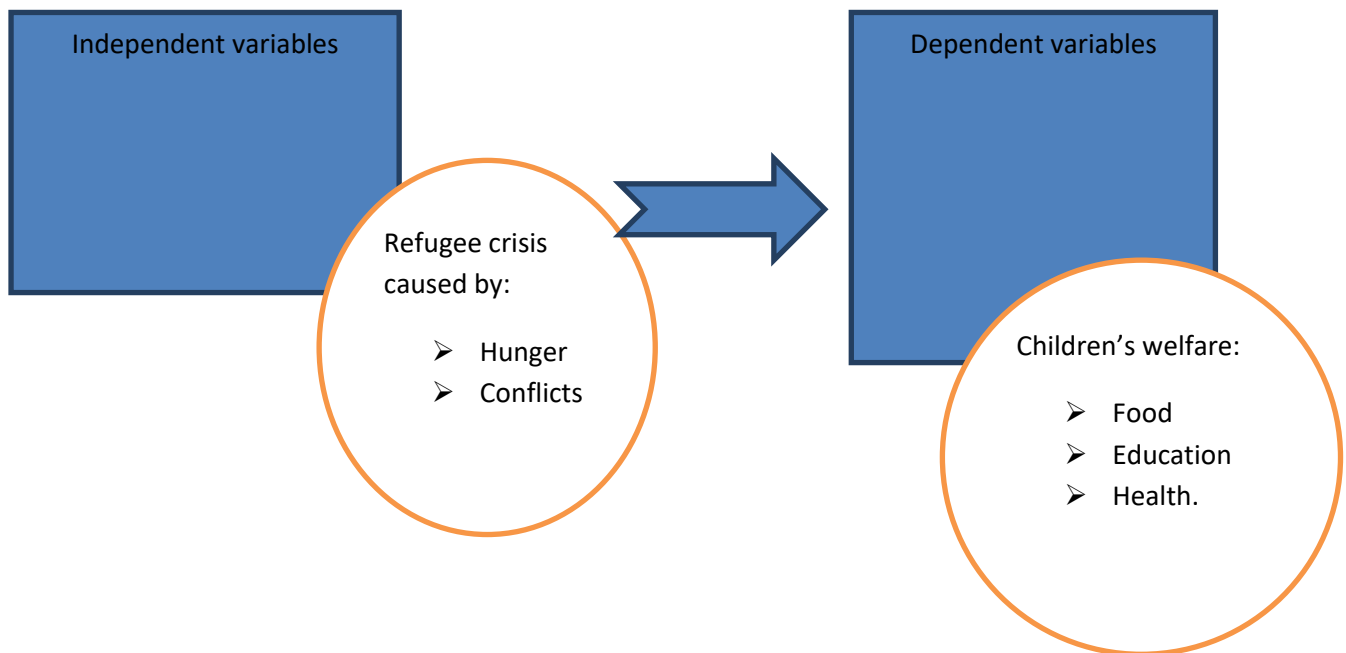
Studying the impact of the refugee crisis on children's welfare in Isingiro district is not only important for understanding the specific challenges faced by this vulnerable population but also for informing targeted interventions, raising awareness, advocating for greater support for refugee children and helping the already existing institutions by providing knowledge to policymakers, public officers and researchers in formulating and implementing effective strategies to prevent refugee crisis and improve the welfare of children. The study will also address pressing humanitarian issues and help in understanding the effects of refugee crisis on children's welfare.

1.7 Significancy Of The Study

1. The study is important to the Government of Uganda especially the office of the prime minister and the international community for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees in particular. The research will generate information that will be used to improve the intervention for the welfare of refugee children and refugee generally.
2. Also, the study is of benefit to scholars and academician's interested in pursuing studies on the refugee crisis especially on its impact on children both in Uganda as a country and other different parts of the universe as it would form a foundation for other studies.
3. The study also contributes to the existing knowledge on the welfare of refugee children in Uganda and the world.
4. Also the results of this research would provide the reference for other researchers who would aim to do future research on the refugee crisis especially on its impact on children in Uganda.
5. Finally, the study is significant to different organizations like Non-Governmental Organizations and UNHCR as it would provide them with the necessary data and statistics impact on the refugee crisis on children in Bukanga village in Nakivale Refugee Camp in Isingiro District.

1.8 Conceptual Framework

The study will be guided by the conceptual framework that illustrates the relationship between refugee crisis and the impact it has on children. It also highlight the factors to refugee crisis like hunger, war and persecution.



1.9 Definition Of Key Terms

Refugee Crisis: A refugee crisis refers to a situation where a large number of people are forced to leave their homes and countries due to various reasons such as war, persecution, violence, or human rights violations.

Isingiro District: Isingiro District is located in the Western Region of Uganda. It is one of the districts that have been affected by the issue of refugees from neighbouring countries, particularly those fleeing from conflicts in South Sudan.

Welfare of Children: The welfare of children refers to their overall well-being, including their physical, emotional, mental, and social development. It encompasses their access to basic needs such as food, shelter, healthcare, education, and protection from harm.

Impact: in this context, refers to the effects or consequences of the refugee crisis on the welfare of children in Isingiro District. It highlights how the influx of refugees has influenced the living conditions, opportunities, and support systems available to children in the area.

Displacement: Displacement is the forced movement of people from their homes, often because of conflicts, persecution, or natural disasters. In the case of the refugee crisis, it refers

to the displacement of individuals who have sought refuge in Isingiro District and its impact on the local population, particularly children.

Host Communities: Host communities are the local populations in the areas where refugees settle. In the context of Isingiro District, the host communities are the residents of the district who have been affected by the influx of refugees and the subsequent challenges it presents.

Humanitarian Aid: Humanitarian aid refers to the assistance provided to individuals and communities affected by crises, such as refugees. This aid can include food, shelter, healthcare, education, and other essential services to help alleviate their suffering and improve their living conditions.

1.11 Limitations Of The Study

While conducting my research, there were various hindrances that limited me from reaching the wider number of refugee children in Nakivale Refugee camp. First of all, given the fact that I am a student finances were not enough to accommodate me for long so I had to do things fast since I didn't have enough funds for food and accommodation. Also, I had little time to run my research since it was a requirement for achieving my Bachelor's Degree in Governance and International Relations and graduation was in six months.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In order to provide a clear and accurate comprehension of the subjects under investigation, this chapter reviews and analyzes the literature in relation to the topic, "The impact of refugee crisis on children's welfare in Nakivale refugee camp in Isingiro District." The information analysis aids in demonstrating the distinct information that the study was biased toward obtaining as well as the obvious relationship between the many paradigms included in the investigation. In order to facilitate a more thorough consideration of the study's conclusions and challenges, this section briefly conceptualizes some of the concepts used in the research.

Additionally, this section provides a partial and theoretical response to a number of research questions, including those regarding the causes of the refugee crisis that lead to refugee welfare, the detrimental effects of the refugee crisis on children's welfare, and the tactics used to mitigate those effects. In line with my research goals, I intend to provide an explanation of the various publications and contributions that have been made about the refugee crisis and how it affects the wellbeing of children.

2.1 Conceptualization

2.1.1 Child's Welfare

Children's welfare, as defined by the Information Gateway Research Center, is a collection of public and private services aimed at guaranteeing that every kid lives in a secure, long-term, and stable environment that promotes their well-being (Mcnan, 2021). Services for child welfare may deal with whole families or they may concentrate on working directly with children. The federal, state, and municipal levels are where the public child welfare system is implemented. In addition, a large number of private and community-based groups work to promote the welfare of kids. As a result, state-by-state variations in the child welfare system are common.

Children in need were mainly taken care of locally and privately until the early 20th century. During the colonial era, the public assumed care for children mostly when they were left orphans. However, many of these kids had at least one live parent—always a mother—who was unable to support them, so they weren't truly orphans in the modern sense. During their early years, these kids were usually placed under the supervision of family members, with occasional financial assistance provided by the nearby Overseers of the Poor. More mature kids were enslaved to labor for different households. In the 17th and 18th centuries, children from wealthy families were frequently enslaved in this manner to learn a craft from adults who would, it was believed, be less indulgent than parents **Error! Reference source not found.**

The future belongs to children, especially those who are refugees. To reach their full potential, they require extra protection and nurturing. The dependency, vulnerability, and developmental needs (i.e., needs for healthy growth and development at different ages) of refugee children are three interconnected aspects that contribute to their specific demands. Youngsters, especially those in their early years, rely on their parents or other adults to provide the needs of life. Moreover, they are acknowledged by both domestic and international law as legally reliant on their parents or guardians for direction and supervision **Error! Reference source not found.**

2.1.1.1 Food

The World Food Programme (WFP) defines food as any material that people absorb to provide nutritional support to their bodies. This encompasses all sorts of food, including grains, fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, dairy products, and other nutrient sources. Food has an important role in supporting children's well-being. Adequate and nutritious food is critical for children's growth, development, and well-being. Children require a well-balanced and diverse diet that includes all of the nutrients required for their developing bodies and brains. A lack of food or inadequate nutrition can cause stunted growth, malnutrition, and other health issues. Malnutrition in children can have long-term repercussions, such as impaired cognitive development and lower educational performance **Error! Reference source not found.** The World Food Programme (WFP) feeds millions of refugees worldwide, including many children. According to the information supplied by the UNHCR In 2021, the WFP served more than 28 million refugees and internally displaced individuals in 57 countries throughout the world **Error! Reference source not found.** However, it is difficult to quantify how many refugee children benefit from WFP support because the organization gives food assistance to entire families and communities rather than individual individuals.

2.1.1.2 Education

Education is a broad and multidimensional subject, with many different interpretations. Scholars' perspectives on education as a factor in refugee children's welfare include Professor Jean Piaget of the US Education Department, who stated, "Education, for most people, means trying to lead the child to resemble the typical adult of his society... but for me, education means making creators." You must produce inventors and innovators, not conformists."**Error! Reference source not found.**

Professor John Dewey, a prominent American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer, stated, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."**Error! Reference source not found.** Dewey's theory was founded on the premise that knowledge is not static and must be acquired by experience, reflection, and interaction with others, of which refugee children are not exempt. He believed that helping refugee children have access to education would help them acquire critical thinking abilities, creativity, and a feeling of social duty, which would benefit their lives.

Lev Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist noted for his work on the development of language, cognition, and culture in children, once characterized education as a social process; education is growth; education is not a preparation for life, but rather life itself."**Error! Reference source not found.** He believes that providing refugee children with access to school will allow them to socialize with others, resulting in the formation of good citizens in the community.

These researchers therefore emphasize that education is more than just learning and skills; it is also about human development, critical thinking, creativity, and social involvement. Education can be viewed as a lifetime process that allows refugee children to reach their full potential and contribute to the benefit of society.

2.1.1.3 Health care

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." This definition highlights that health comprises features of physical, mental, and social well-being in addition to the absence of illness or disease**Error! Reference source not found.**Healthcare services are essential for the well-being and welfare of all children, especially refugee children. Refugee children have unique healthcare issues as a result of the physical and mental strains of dislocation and trauma. As a result, it is critical to provide comprehensive

healthcare services that satisfy their demands while also promoting physical and emotional wellness. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines healthcare services as refugees should concentrate on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Disease and infection prevention is critical to keeping refugee children healthy. This involves vaccinations and immunizations, as well as addressing the underlying social determinants of health, such as cleanliness and access to safe drinking water. Refugees who have suffered physical or emotional trauma may also benefit from rehabilitation treatments. These services may include physiotherapy, counseling, and other sorts of assistance to aid youngsters in their recovery and adjustment to their new surroundings.

Hynie et al. (2017) emphasize the necessity of culturally suitable medical treatments to refugee children. Medical professionals ought to comprehend the cultural customs and values of the populations they serve, in addition to the special obstacles that refugees encounter. For instance, refugees might have suffered trauma in their home country or while traveling, this can have a substantial influence on their psychological well-being **Error! Reference source not found.**

A further investigation from Sami and colleagues (2018) underlines the value of integrating caregivers and families in the delivery of healthcare. Parents and caregivers can contribute useful data regarding a child's health the past, ensuring that they receive proper care. Involving refugee parents and caregivers can also serve to boost the child's overall well-being and health, as well as foster trust between healthcare providers and the refugee population.

2.1.2 Refugees

Refugees are juridical and social groups of persons that have been compelled to escape their native country because of intimidation, armed conflict, or other significant dangers to their health and safety. Nevertheless, other academics and organizations have expressed their perspectives on the idea of refugee, as follows: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees defines a refugee as "a person who is forced to leave his or her country due to intimidation, warfare, or violence." A refugee has a legitimate fear of harassment because of their ethnicity, faith, nationality, political opinions, or participation in a specific social group." **Error! Reference source not found.**

According to the works of Hannah Arendt, a German-born American ideological thinker and author, the term 'refugee' refers to "a person who, for reasons of ethnicity, nationality, faith, or political views, has been ordered to flee his or her country of citizenship and is unwilling or

unable to avail himself or herself of that the nation's security or to return there due to concern about oppression." **Error! Reference source not found.**

In the words of James Hathaway, a Canadian constitutional intellectual and human rights specialist recognized for his research in international refugee law, a refugee is "a person who is outside their country of nationality and is unable or hesitant to return to that nation for a well-founded fear of persecution." **Error! Reference source not found.**

Most of the above descriptions underline that refugees are people who have been compelled to escape their countries owing to grave risks to their safety and well-being. The term of refugee is strongly related to the idea of fleeing persecution, and it is frequently utilized to differentiate refugees from other categories of migrants, such as economic migrants or expatriates.

2.1.2.1 Internally displaced persons

An internally displaced person (IDP) is an individual that has been pushed to depart their homeland because of violence, conflict, extreme weather, or other emergencies but is still within the boundaries of their native nation. The following are some descriptions of the notion of IDP from various researchers and structures: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) "An internally displaced person (IDP) is a person who is compelled to leave their native country but stays within the country's boundaries. They are frequently referred to as 'evacuated persons' or 'internally displaced people'." **Error! Reference source not found.**

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) defines internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a collection of people who were compelled to leave their residences or places of regular residence because of violent conflicts, violence, infringements of human rights, or disasters of any kind, but stay within the boundaries of their nation of origin **Error! Reference source not found.**

Walter Kälin, a Swiss human rights specialist specializing in the safeguarding of refugees and people who have been internally displaced, characterized Internally displaced people are defined as individuals or groups of people who have been forced or obligated to evacuate or depart from their homes or places of usual residence, particularly as a result to avert the consequences of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-caused calamities, but who have not crossed a globally recognized border **Error! Reference source not found.**

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As defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an asylum seeker is someone who is not regarded a citizen or national within any nation's legislation. A loss of citizenship can result from any number of circumstances, including prejudice, disputes, or loopholes in nationality legislation. Being homeless can have serious repercussions, namely lack of possibilities for schooling, medical care, work, and legal rights. These individuals may also have difficulty going somewhere, acquiring identification documents, and receiving essential services. Owing to the United Nations, there are roughly 3 and plus millions of people without homes globally, however the real figure could be considerably greater owing to insufficient reporting **Error! Reference source not found.**

The descriptions underline that individuals without citizenship have no legal link to any nation or ethnic background, and hence frequently suffer considerable barriers to accessing basic rights and services like as education, healthcare, and work. The idea of being homeless is similar to the idea of citizenship, with the exception that homeless people are not regarded as citizens by any government.

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2.1.2.3 Asylum seekers

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines a person seeking asylum as an individual who has sought for safety and is awaiting a decision on their request for asylum. Someone who seeks asylum has the right to international legal safeguards while their refugee status is decided. During this time, individuals may be given temporary residences, basic necessities, and legal representation to make sure that their liberties are valued **Error! Reference source not found.**

A study by Hathaway (1991), a person seeking asylum is someone who has legitimate concerns of discrimination in their home country because of their nationality, ethnic background, political beliefs, or participation in a specific social group. Hathaway underlines the significance of a legitimate fear of persecution, which indicates that the asylum applicant must possess a credible reason for fearing persecution if they return to their native country.

Hathaway also mentions asylum seekers' freedom from refusal to return, a principle of international refugee law that forbids the repatriation of refugees, asylum seekers, or other individuals in need of international protection to a country where they may face persecution, assault, or other forms of severe harm **Error! Reference source not found.**

Researcher Jacobsen (2005) emphasizes the importance of agency and decision-making in the asylum-seeking procedure. Jacobsen contends that those seeking asylum are not victims who suffer, instead proactive actors who make deliberate decisions according to their own interests and expertise. Refuge seekers have the option to apply for refuge in particular nations according to the accessibility of social networks, the credibility of the refugee structure, or the existence of ethnic or language groups. Jacobsen additionally highlights the necessity of comprehending the cultural and environmental aspects that impact the lives of asylum seekers, such as gender, religion, and socioeconomic class. **Error! Reference source not found.**

In general, the above definitions underline that those seeking asylum are people who have fled their home country owing to persecution or the fear of punishment and are looking for refuge in another nation through the legal procedure of requesting for asylum. The notion of asylum seeker is closely related to the concept of refugee; however the difference is that asylum seekers are still awaiting a judgment on their claim for protection.

2.1.2.4 Causes of refugee crisis and their impacts on children's welfare

Scholars have identified numerous primary drivers for refugee crises. These reasons have a major effect on children's wellbeing since they frequently result in relocation, trauma, and a variety of other issues. Various researchers have highlighted the following as the key fundamental causes of the refugee crisis and their implications on children's welfare:

2.1.2.4.1 Conflict and War

According to Professor Alexander Betts (2018), an instructor of compelled migration research, contends that warfare is the primary cause of displacement and refugee crisis. He cites examples like the Syrian conflict, which has created thousands of refugees, and the current conflict in Yemen, which has driven away thousands of individuals. He contends that the core reasons of these conflicts are frequently financial, political, and social, and that resolving these fundamental causes is critical to averting repeated refugee crises. Children are especially sensitive to the effects of conflict, as they may suffer trauma, injury, or the loss of family members. Disturbance in education and healthcare facilities can have a lasting impact on their development and well-being **Error! Reference source not found..**

2.1.2.4.2 Environmental Disasters

Professor Jane McAdam (2015), a well-known Australian law professor and specialist on refugee policy and law, argues that natural calamities like storms, floods, and droughts may trigger migration and refugee crisis. Climate change and pollution frequently worsen these disasters, which can cause malnutrition, illnesses, and other obstacles for children **Error! Reference source not found..**

2.1.2.4.3 Poverty and Economic Insecurity

According to Stephen Castles' findings, a scholar on migration and social change, believes that destitution and financial instability can trigger relocation and refugee crises by forcing individuals to leave their communities in pursuit of better chances. Children who reside in poor places may not have the opportunity to receive education, medical care, and other important services, which can have long-term effects on their well-being and future opportunities **Error! Reference source not found..**

2.1.2.4.4 Persecution and Human Rights Abuses

Professor Catherine Dauvergne is a Cambridge University Law and Global Health professor and expertise in medical law and human rights. According to Dauvergne, persecution and human rights violations, such as prejudice on the basis of ethnic origin, faith, or gender identity, can lead to relocation and refugee crises. Children victimized by such persecution may endure trauma, fear, and a variety of other harmful effects on their physical and mental well-being **Error! Reference source not found..**

2.2 Refugees in Uganda.

According to the UNHCR (2023) data portal, Uganda is now experiencing one of the globe's worst refugee crises, with over 1 million refugees and asylum seekers expected to live in the nation by the end of 2023. Nakivale have over 60000 refugees with children. The majority of these migrants have escaped persecution and war in countries nearby, such as South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Burundi among others. This figure is projected to rise in the future decades given the continuing fighting and humanitarian problems in the area **Error! Reference source not found..**

Government of Uganda maintains an evolving refugee strategy that gives refugees a chance to have land, access to education, and economic possibilities, in addition to the freedom to roam about and establish their own communities. This strategy is based on the Comprehensive

Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) principles that seek to encourage refugees' self-sufficiency, diversity, and adjustment into host communities.

However, a significant number of refugees in Uganda has put a burden on the nation's natural assets, such as land, water, and healthcare facilities. Many refugees live in congested camps with inadequate access to essential facilities, making them more vulnerable to health risks and disease transmission, such as COVID-19.

In reaction, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its coalition partners have been trying to supply refugees with food, medical care, and other basic necessities. The UNHCR has also helped the Ugandan government to reintegrate refugees into their host communities through programs such as professional training, education, and programs for income generation.

Notwithstanding these attempts, Uganda's refugees continue to have substantial basic necessities. Furthermore to fundamental requirements such as food, housing, and medical care, refugees confront barriers to education, career possibilities, and legal protection. Many refugees continue to experience prejudice, exploitation, and abuse, especially sexual and gender-based assault.

Finally, the refugee problem in Uganda is an intricate problem that calls for ongoing focus and assistance from the worldwide community. Although Uganda's progressive refugee policy is a start in the right guidance, more work must be done to address refugees' basic requirements and secure their security, mental health, and protection.

2.3 Strategies in place in response to refugee children's welfare

There are numerous techniques currently in place to respond to refugee child welfare, and many global and local organizations are working to carry out them, as put forward by various researchers following;

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) offers education and psychological assistance for refugee children through projects like the Education Cannot Wait Fund and the Refugee Education Trust. Other organizations, such as Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), offer educational and psychological assistance **Error! Reference source not found.**

Under child protection, UNICEF is a prominent organization in refugee child protection, offering legal assistance, advocating for social-friendly policies, improving grassroots child protection systems, and increasing the ability of child protection stakeholders. Other organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and World Vision, give protection services for children **Error! Reference source not found.**

In terms of health and nutrition, World Health Organization (WHO) offers medical assistance and Nutrition. The World Health Organization (WHO) provides healthcare services for refugees through initiatives such as the Global Health Cluster and the Emergency Medical Teams program. The World Food Programme (WFP) delivers food supplies to refugees through programs like school meals and financial transfers **Error! Reference source not found.**

Livelihoods and Economic Opportunities: The International Labour Organization (ILO) encourages adequate employment and financial possibilities for refugees through programs like the Refugee Employment and Skills Initiative and business prospects **Error! Reference source not found.**

As a whole, these organizations collaborate to deliver extensive support to refugee children and their households, meeting their varied requirements and assisting them in overcoming the hardships of displacement and persecution.

To summarize, the governments of the various nations from which the refugees originate, as well as the Ugandan government, in collaboration with Ugandan safety non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental entities, have definitely implemented multiple approaches to tackle the effect of the refugee crisis on children's welfare. These efforts have proven effective in assisting refugee children in areas such as education, health care, food and nutrition support as a means of providing welfare for the children. However, there is still a need for improved assistance for refugee children's wellbeing, as they continue to get minimal services.

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2.4 Existing gaps in the literature.

This section discusses the gaps that the preceding literature fails to address when dealing with the study subject.

First and foremost, the social services provided to immigrant children have been generalized. That is, the majority of the services provided are for all refugee children. This will make the service ineffective because not all refugee children have the same needs or adapt quickly to the system of the specific service being provided.

The available research fails to tackle how to solve the core reason of the refugee dilemma. In this situation, few attempts are made to address the underlying reasons of the refugee issue, but humanitarian aid is offered in the months following the crisis. This will result into the continuation of the global refugee crisis that will have a major effect on children in impacted

societies.

Also, the published material does not discuss humanitarian concepts in order to give a framework for welfare personnel or humanitarian workers to function on. This demonstrates inadequate management of aid provided for improving the well-being of refugee children.

There is no outlet that demonstrates how many different parties involved might form collaborative partnerships so as to deliver the best efficient welfare solution for immigrant children. This demonstrates that there are restricted platforms for volunteers, donors, and other support agencies to bring in additional assistance to serve refugee children.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the study methods which are going to be utilized while looking into the effects of the refugee crisis on children's welfare in the target group of over 40,000 young people. This chapter will go over the research design, sampling strategy, data collection methods, and analytic procedures.

3.1 Research design.

The research design was used for a case study with a descriptive approach. In order to enable collecting data, summarization, presentation, and interpretation for the goal of clarification, descriptive survey research designs are employed in initial and experimental investigations (Orodho, 2005). The study complied with the requirements of the descriptive design for survey research since no variables were manipulated during data collection and reporting.

Within this study, the method of qualitative research was mostly used. Since qualitative research enables a thorough examination of the lives of the children impacted by the refugee crisis, it is a suitable research design for this study. I was able to learn more about the children's views, opinions, and impressions of what they experienced thanks to the qualitative technique. Nonetheless, the scholar employed a quantitative research strategy to aid in the application of statistics, the generalization of the results, the testing of theories and hypotheses, and, ultimately, the identification of a connection connecting both variables.

3.2 Study area

In the Nakivale refugee camp in Isingiro District, which is located in Bukanga County approximately 50 kilometres south of Mbarara, the study was done. It is distributed throughout the sub counties of Rugaaga and Ngarama in the southwest Ugandan district of Isingiro (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The Western Region of Uganda and the Nakivale Refugee Camp in Rushasha, Bukanga Isingiro District, would be the primary focus areas of this study. At an elevation of roughly 1030 meters (3379 feet) above sea level, the Nakivale refugee camp is situated, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

3.3 Study Population

With a rapidly increasing population of refugees from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan, Nakivale is one of the most populous refugee settlements in Uganda. Approximately 48000 refugee children reside in the camp; all of them do live within the camp according to UNHCR and OPM estimates from 2023. The UNHCR field office, OPM, and numerous other groups that actively support the interests of refugees and asylum seekers were located by the researcher in the settlement and the neighbourhood. As a result, the study sample comprised field officials from several organizations, administrators of various organizations, and refugees themselves. This happens to be the case because the researcher was curious about the community's view of refugee children and how they relate to them, as well as how they might be used as an instrument to affect the children's wellbeing. However, those organizations must also express their opinions about the well-being of the minor refugees. This is undeniably the case given their centrality to refugee-related matters, including advocacy for refugee rights, legal representation, and provision of stuff, technical skills, and counselling help.

3.4 Sample size

To establish the sample size for this investigation, a simple random sampling procedure with a purpose was used. Purposive sampling was employed in the study's participant selection process. The data saturation point was used to calculate the sample size. When no new information can be gleaned from the data, data saturation has been reached, meaning that a sufficient number of participants have been included in the study. The formula below was used to calculate the sample size:

$$N / (1 + N(e^2)) = n$$

Where sample size (n) is N is the population size. e = error margin, with a 5% setting

The sample size will be determined using the following formula:

$$n = (1 + 48000(0.05^2)) / 48000 \text{ n is } 383.$$

Thus, 383 people will make up the study's sample size.

Table 3.1 Sample table for the key informants and focus group

Type of Respondents	Examined population	Sample size	Sampling technique	Method of gathering data
Girls	25000	199	Sampling methodology	Questionnaires

			Surveys	
Boys	23000	184	Basic technique for random sampling surveys	Questionnaires
Total	48000	383		

Source: *primary data*

Table 3.2 Key informants and focus group

Source Sampled	Sample	Sampling Method	Method of gathering data
Supervisors of UNHCR Staff	5	Purposive sampling method	Interview
OPM employees	7	Purposive sampling method	Interview
Guardians	75	Speak with Guardians	Questionnaires
Total	87		

Source: *primary data*

3.5 Sampling methods

Because it allows the researcher to hand-select respondents based on their informational character and capacity to provide the necessary data in accordance with the study's research objectives, the researcher employed a purposive and simple random sampling technique.

.6 Source of data

Primary source;

Semi-structured interviews were used as the main method of data collection for this study, and the researcher also gave questionnaires to a subset of those interviewed to acquire their feedback. One technique for gathering qualitative data that enables participants to be asked open-ended queries is semi-structured interviews. The interviews took place in person. To guarantee the participants' freedom of expression, the interviews were performed in their mother tongues. In order to have a comprehensive understanding of the children's situations, interviews were done with both the parents or guardians and the children themselves. A

questionnaire is a type of research tool made up of a list of inquiries intended to elicit data from subjects, either individually or in groups.

The researcher employed semi-structured interviews and a questionnaire, in addition to focus session talks. Focus groups entail gathering a group of individuals to talk about a particular subject in order to gather qualitative data. Focus group conversations will be held with children who have been impacted by the refugee crisis, guardians, the UNHCR, and OPM in order to explore their perspectives and experiences in a group context.

3.7 Data collection methods and instruments

Researcher administered questionnaires:

The questionnaire used had open-ended inquiries that compelled the respondent to provide more information about the topic at hand. Because open-ended questions don't call for direct communication, they allow those who responded to freely share their opinions and give them time to consider their answers before responding. Closed-ended or semi-structured questions with predetermined responses were utilized, and respondents had to mark the response that best addressed the issue at hand. The scholar took part in the process of instructing those who responded to ensure that the correct data is acquired from the respondents because the researcher would be using questionnaires that the researcher presented. A Likert scale with the numbers 1 (strongly agree), 2 (agree), 3 (neutral), 4 (disagree), and 5 (strongly disagree) was used to score the questionnaires.

Key information interviews:

Face-to-face interviews with informants at the Nakivale refugee settlement in the Isingiro District were conducted using key information interviews. To get detailed information from the key informants, a structured interview guide was employed as an instrument. As the interviews were being conducted, the interview guide's current issues and questions were examined. The questions in the guide were designed to elicit professional opinions about how the refugee crisis affects the welfare of children in the Nakivale refugee camp. Because key informant interviews offer detailed information that may not be gathered by the use of a questionnaire, as recommended by **Error! Reference source not found.**

3.8 Data Quality control

Reliability

During research, reliability is a crucial component of data quality control. It speaks to the reliability and consistency of the information gathered or produced throughout a research

project. Put another way, it assesses how effectively the research findings can be repeated or replicated in the event that the same processes and methodologies are used to conduct the study again. The supervisor looked over the questions in the original questionnaire to ensure its dependability and estimated how long it would take to finish the interview.

Validity

Making sure an instrument measures what it is intended to measure in light of the application environment is known as validity. In cooperation with a researcher and supervisor, the questionnaire created for this study was distributed to academic colleagues in order to assess its superficial and substantive validity as well as its clarity of concept and analytical bias.

3.7 Procedures of data collection

I requested permission from the Nakivale refugee camp administration to use an introductory letter I received as a researcher from the faculty of social sciences at Uganda Christian University for use as a case study. With their permission, I conducted interviews with a variety of respondents and gave them the questionnaire guides to use whenever it was most convenient for them. After the respondents completed the questionnaires, they were gathered.

3.8 Data analysis

Analysis of quantitative data

The gathered data was coded, entered into a database created with computer software called Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS), arranged, and checked for mistakes that might have happened during the gathering process. Statistical analysis was performed on the data using Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for the Social Science (computer program). Data summaries and descriptions were created using qualitative statistical methods. Following that, the data were evaluated using percentages, frequencies, and descriptive statistics. Tables and figures were used to present the results.

Qualitative data analysis

Content analysis was required for this. As a result, the qualitative data was revised and rearranged into coherent sentences. Stated differently, a thematic method was employed to evaluate qualitative data in order to identify themes, categories, and patterns. Selected direct quotes from participants were used as illustrations in the results to highlight the recurring themes that surface in relation to each guiding question from the interviews.

3.9 Ethical consideration

Since this study recognized the significance of ethical concerns in research, I interacted with and obtained information from the sources while keeping in mind the ethical concerns of confidentiality, integrity, honesty, and respondents' rights. Prior to participation, the participants signed a consent form after being advised of the study's goals and purpose. I made sure that all data was anonymized and kept safe, and that the participants' names remained secret. Throughout the research time, the researcher made sure to be patient and tolerant. The fact that the data was obtained solely for academic purposes was demonstrated by a letter from the university.

3.10 Anticipated limitations and delimitations of the study

To begin with, a few participants expressed apprehension about the source of the information and were unwilling to disclose it. This was resolved by receiving an introductory letter from the university and by the nice amazing reputation of the learning institution in the study area. More to that, as a research student, I was also constrained by the financial resources I required to motivate respondents, pay for printing, and even cover the expense of transportation for data collection. But I made use of my own initiative and tactics to get my family to contribute financially.

Furthermore, some respondents took longer than expected to return the questionnaires, which impacted my goal time for studying his work. In order to fill in the gaps left by those who failed to return the surveys, this was fixed by distributing additional questionnaires outside of the target group. And last, linguistic barriers presented a difficult problem. Since the target groups speak more than five languages, it is challenging for me to interact with them. However, this was resolved by using interpreters who are fluent in both the people's native tongues and English.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDING

4.1 Introduction

The results of an analysis conducted to examine the study's specific aims in respect to the examined literature are presented and discussed in this chapter. The Nakivale refugee camp in Isingiro District was home to children aged five to eighteen, as well as key informants such as OPM, UNHCR, and Guardian workers. The study was conducted utilizing a questionnaire and interviews with respondents. Tables are used in the presentation of the results to aid in comprehension and interpretation.

4.2 Response rate

Table 4.1 Response rate for quantitative data for sample size

Response	Sample Size	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Questionnaires filled	295	77%
Questionnaires not filled	88	23%
Questionnaires expected to be filled	383	100%

Source: primary data

As can be seen from table 4.1 above, 295 (77%) of the 383 (100%) respondents who were from Nakivale village answered to the questionnaires, leaving out 88 (23%) of the total. Ahuja (2009) states that a response rate of 60% is good, 50% is adequate for analysis, and 70% is great. As a result, the 77% response rate was deemed suitable for the study and dependable. Due to time constraints imposed by the approaching deadline for data collection and the fact that some respondents declined to participate in the study, the researcher was unable to obtain all the necessary data.

Table 4.2 Response rate for key informants and focus group

Informants	Number	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Expected Interviews	12	100
Interview conducted	10	87

Interviews not consented	2	13
Questionnaires filled	68	91
Questionnaires not filled	7	9
Questionnaires expected to be filled	75	100

Source: primary data

Table 4.2 above shows that a total of 12 (100%) respondents who worked for the UNHCR and OPM offices were anticipated to participate in the interviews; of them, 10 (87%) answered the interview guiding questions, with 2 (13%), missing. Additionally, 68 (91%) of the 75 guardians who were expected to reply to the questionnaire did so, leaving out 7 (9%).

Furthermore, a response rate of 70% is considered exceptional, 60% is considered decent, and 50% is sufficient for analysis, according to Ahuja (2009). As a result, the 77% response rate was deemed suitable for the study and dependable. The hectic schedules of several interviewees prevented them from being available for the scheduled dates of the interviews and questionnaire responses, which is why the researcher was unable to get all the data.

4.3 Findings on the population characteristics of respondents.

The respondents' background information was thought to be required since it significantly influenced their capacity to provide adequate information on the study variables. The respondents' background information requested data on the samples, which is grouped below by gender, age, educational attainment, and victim of refugee crisis.

Table 4.3 Background information about the respondents

Category	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	160	34
	Female	310	66
	Total	470	100
Age	5-14	170	36
	15-24	135	29
	25-34	75	16
	35 and above	90	19
	Total	470	100
Education level	A level	57	12

	Tertiary	43	9
	University	30	6
	Others	220	47
	No Education	120	26
	Total	470	100
Victim of refugee crisis	Yes	445	95
	No	25	5
	Total	470	100.0

Source: primary data

Given that women made up 66% of the study site's population and men made up 34%, Table 4.3 above demonstrates that women made up the majority of survey respondents. As a result, there were more female respondents than male respondents overall. Because they made up the majority in the refugee community, there were more female respondents than male respondents. But the purpose of including both male and female respondents was to gather differing opinions on the subject of the study.

The table mentioned previously also reveals that the great majority of responses were in the following age range: 5–14 years old (36%), 15–24 years old (29%), 25–34 years old (16%), and 35 years and older (19%). This suggests that the majority of those surveyed at the Nakivale refugee camp are still considered to be in the child and youth age groups.

Furthermore, as the above table demonstrates, more than half of respondents, or 47% of the sample, are at other educational levels. These are subsequently followed by 26% of those surveyed who did not have the opportunity for formal education, 12% of those surveyed who are in the higher levels of education, 9% of those surveyed who reached the tertiary level of education, and 6% of those surveyed who are at the university level. Since it is assumed that respondents with diverse levels of education think differently and have varying viewpoints, this suggests that information was obtained from respondents at different educational levels, which helped in getting different views regarding the topic under research.

In conclusion, the research's table above shows that 95% of those surveyed are casualties of the refugee crisis, while 5% of the population belongs to a minority that is not affected by the issue. This suggests that in an effort to gather diverse perspectives on the subject of the study,

information was obtained from participants who were both victims and non-victims of the refugee crisis.

4.4 Causes of refugee crisis in Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro District.

Using a Likert scale with SA = (Strongly Agree), A = (Agree), N = (Neutral), D = (Disagree), and SD = (Strongly Disagree), Table 4.5 below sums up the responses of the participants on the causes of the refugee crisis in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Bukanga County, about 50 km south of Mbarara in Isingiro District.

Table 4.5 Causes of refugee crisis in Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro District.

Statement	Response				
	SA	A	N	D	SD
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
Conflict/ civil war	287 61%	119 25%	56 12%	8 2%	00 00%
Hunger	101 22%	240 51%	95 20%	30 6%	4 1%
Climate factors	145 31%	190 40%	89 19%	37 8%	9 2%
Other	10 2%	40 9%	28 6%	290 62%	102 22%

Source: primary data

As can be seen from table 4.5 above, at the Nakivale refugee community in Bukanga County, approximately 50 km south of Mbarara in the Isingiro District, 61% and 25% of those surveyed completely agreed, accordingly, that violence or civil war is the root cause of the refugee situation. While 2% and 0% of those surveyed disapproved and strongly disapproved with the assertion, accordingly, 12% of respondents were unsure.

According to the survey, at the Nakivale refugee community in Bukanga County, approximately 50 km south of Mbarara in Isingiro, 22% and 51% of the respondents strongly agreed, respectively, that hunger is another factor contributing to the refugee issue. Twenty

percent of the respondents were unsure about the statement. Furthermore, 2% of respondents don't agree that the refugee issue is caused by hunger.

Furthermore, the study's results showed that, at the Nakivale refugee settlement in Bukanga County, about 50 km south of Mbarara in the Isingiro District, climate factors such as drought and heavy rain that cause floods, among others, are the main contributors to the refugee crisis. Of those surveyed, 31% and 40% completely agreed and agreed, accordingly Of the those surveyed, 19% were unsure about the statement made. Furthermore, 8% and 2% of those surveyed objected and completely disapproved with the claim that the refugee issue is caused by climatic conditions.

Finally, the study's findings, as presented in the table, indicate that 2% and 9% of respondents, respectively, strongly agreed and agreed that the refugee issue is mostly caused by other factors, such as economic difficulties and natural disasters. 62% of them disagreed and 22% strongly disagreed with the statement that the refugee problem is caused by factors other than those already discussed, while 6% of them were unsure about the statement. Thus, the study's main conclusions showed that starvation, climate change, and conflict or civil war in the refugees' home countries are the main causes of the refugee issue in the Nakivale refugee camp in Bukanga County, which is located about 50 km south of Mbarara in the Isingiro District. The UNHCR, OPM employees operating in the Nakivale refugee settlement, guardians of the refugee children, and other respondents' responses were used to ascertain this.

4.5 Impact of refugee crisis on children’s Welfare in Nakivale refugee settlement.

Table 4.6 provides a summary of the responses provided by the respondents about the impact of the refugee crisis on the well-being of children in the Nakivale refugee camp in Isingiro District. The Likert scale includes the following options: SA (strongly agree), A (agree), N (neutral), D (disagree), and SD (strongly disagree).

Table 4.6

Statement	Response				
	SA	A	N	D	SD
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
Insufficient food	210 45%	216 46%	44 9%	00 0%	00 0%
Limited access to education	168	212	74	9	7

	36%	45%	16%	2%	1%
Poor Health condition	221	179	53	11	6
	47%	38%	11%	2%	1%
Others	115	193	98	40	24
	24%	41%	21%	9%	5%

Source: primary data

Table 4.6 above shows that, among respondents, 45% strongly agreed and 46% agreed that the refugee crisis causes nutrition issues because there is a shortage of food in refugee settlements like Nakivale, which is located in Bukanga County, about 50 km south of Mbarara in the Isingiro District. Furthermore, 9% of the respondents were unsure of their position regarding the idea that the refugee issue is a direct result of poor nutrition and a lack of food supplies.

The study also found that, in the Nakivale refugee community in Bukanga County, roughly 50 km south of Mbarara in the Isingiro District, 36% and 45% of those surveyed affirmed and affirmed, accordingly, that the refugee crisis results in the children of the refugees have limited access to education. With regard to the claim that the refugee crisis results in restricted access to education, 16% of respondents were unsure. On the other hand, 2% and 1% of respondents, respectively, disagreed and strongly disagreed with the assertion that the refugee crisis results in restricted access to education.

According to the results of the research, 47% and 38% of those surveyed completely agreed and agreed that children's health suffers as a result of the refugee crisis because they have restricted access to medical facilities and services. 11% of respondents were unsure about the claim that children's health problems are a result of the refugee situation. Additionally, 2% and 1% of those surveyed disapproved and objected strongly with the statement that children's health suffers as a result of the refugee situation.

Finally, the study's findings, as presented in the table, indicate that, respectively, 24% and 41% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the refugee crisis has a negative impact on children's wellbeing by causing emotional and psychological problems in youngsters. According to the assertion that children face additional welfare-related issues as a result of the refugee crisis, 21% of them were unsure. The statement that the refugee crisis is to blame for issues like psychological and emotional discomfort in children was met with disagreement from 9% of respondents and significant disagreement from 5% of respondents.

Thus, the study's conclusions demonstrated that inadequate food, poor health, restricted access to education, and other issues like emotional and psychological trauma are the main effects of the refugee crisis on refugee children at the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Bukanga County, which is located about 50 km south of Mbarara in the Isingiro District.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The welfare of children who are impacted by displacement, separation from family, being exposed to violence, and not having access to necessities like healthcare, food, and education has been greatly impacted by the refugee crisis. To meet these children's needs and lessen the crisis' adverse impact on their well-being, a number of initiatives have been created in response. This chapter will examine a few of the measures that have been put in place to deal with how the refugee crisis has affected the welfare of children.

Psychological Assistance

In order to meet the emotional and mental health needs of children impacted by the refugee crisis, psychological assistance is an essential therapy. With the help of this assistance, children can learn strategies for coping, voicing out how they feel in a safe environment, and get treatment and counselling. Programs for psychological assistance include therapies like, games, therapeutic art, individual or group therapy, and other activities that assist children in expressing their feelings and creating healthy coping mechanisms.

Education

It is imperative that children impacted by the refugee situation have access to schooling. Education helps children acquire the knowledge and abilities they will need for the future, fosters socializing, and gives them a feeling of routine and normalcy. However, discrimination, a lack of finances, and language difficulties prevent many refugee children from attending school. Language instruction, teacher training on how to instruct refugee children, the provision of educational materials and resources, and lobbying for laws that support the inclusion of refugee children in schools are some of the interventions intended to overcome these obstacles.

Health and Nutrition

Because of the challenging living circumstances they frequently encounter, children who are refugees are vulnerable to sickness, malnourishment, and other health issues. The provision of food aid, access to toilets as well as safe water, and medical care are some of the interventions intended to address these problems. These services, which are being offered in host towns or

refugee camps, entail collaborations between local nutritionists, health care practitioners, and humanitarian groups.

Protection and Legal Assistance

In addition to potential legal obstacles to receiving services and safeguards, refugee children are vulnerable to exploitation, neglect, and violence. Actions to tackle these challenges include supporting child protection structures, raising awareness of refugee children's rights, and offering legal aid to refugee children and their families. In order to provide a safe environment for refugee children, these interventions entail collaborating with governmental organizations, local authorities and other interested parties.

Family Reunification and Alternative Care

Following the process of displacement, many refugee children split off from their families, which can have a serious negative effect on their emotional and mental well-being. Programs that facilitate family reunions as well as alternative care choices like foster care and adoption are interventions meant to address this problem. The purpose of these interventions is to help refugee children stay connected to their relatives and communities while also providing them with secure and safe living conditions.

5.1 Conclusion

A diverse approach is necessary to address the difficult issue of how the refugee crisis is affecting children's welfare. A number of methods have been created to address the impact of the crisis on children's well-being, some of which are described in this chapter. It is critical to understand that in order to provide a safe environment for refugee children, persistent investment and cooperation across different sectors are required. Additionally, these interventions must be tailored to the unique requirements of each individual child and family. All children can be given the chance to flourish and realize their full potential if we address how the refugee crisis is affecting the welfare of children

5.2 Recommendation

To the Administration of Nakivale Refugee Camp

First, it is important to ensure greater educational access. The Nakivale refugee settlement's management ought to give top priority to providing education for kids. This can be accomplished by expanding the number of schools, offering educational resources, and employing more competent educators.

Also, there should be improved mental health services. The management of the Nakivale refugee camp in Bukanga County, roughly 50 km south of Mbarara, should give priority to

the provision of mental health services, considering the high rates of trauma and psychological distress endured by refugee children. This can be accomplished through offering counselling services, starting kid-focused support groups, and expanding the pool of qualified mental health specialists.

The administration needs to enhance access to healthcare. The management of the Nakivale refugee camp, located in Bukanga County, approximately 50 km south of Mbarara, should make sure children can get services like vaccinations, immunization, and treatment for common illnesses, and emergency medical attention.

Boost child protection measures. Preserving children from abuse, exploitation, and violence should be the first priority for the management of the Nakivale refugee camp, located in Bukanga County, about 50 km south of Mbarara. This can be accomplished through bolstering child protection protocols, like creating committees to safeguard children, educating community members about child safety, and setting up secure areas for kids to hang out.

To researchers

Researchers should perform continuous studies. Tracking the long-term consequences of the refugee crisis on the health of children should be the main focus of future study. This will facilitate a deeper comprehension of the difficulties encountered by refugee children and how effective it is of measures meant to enhance their welfare, particularly with regard to the children themselves.

Furthermore, researchers need to undertake comparison studies. Another important area of future research should be comparing the well-being of refugee children in various settlement circumstances through study comparisons. This can help build successful strategies by giving a better knowledge of the elements that lead to excellent outcomes for children.

Employ mixed-methods approaches. To gather data, researchers should blend quantitative and qualitative techniques. This will offer a more thorough picture of the kids and the success of programs meant to enhance their well-being.

To Supporting Organizations

Boost financing for child-focused interventions. Charitable institutions ought to give financial support to initiatives that are especially aimed at the wellbeing of children. Funding for healthcare, mental health services, education, and child safety measures can all be increased in order to accomplish this.

Encourage cooperation between organizations. Organizations that provide support ought to encourage cooperation amongst the many groups that operate in refugee settlements. This will guarantee that resources are shared, initiatives are coordinated, and the impact is increased to the fullest.

Interact with refugee communities. In order to make sure that interventions are both culturally relevant and sensitive to the needs of the community, supporting organizations should interact with refugee communities. Involving community people in the planning and execution of interventions is one way to do this.

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APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DATA COLLECTION

Greetings, responder as a student at Uganda Christian University's (UCU) main campus in Mukono, my name is Turyagyenda Ritah. I'm pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Governance through the social sciences faculty. My research focuses on the effects of the refugee crisis on the wellbeing of children, with a particular focus on the Nakivale refugee camp in Bukanga County, which is located around 50 kilometers south of the Mbarara region in Uganda.

This questionnaire was created by me based on the subject. I would really appreciate it if you could take 10 minutes to complete the nine questions on the questionnaire. Your answers will be crucial to understanding the research's analysis.

Researcher's signature

Would you like it participating in this study?

YES (Proceed)

NO (Terminate the process)

Instructions

Answer the questions below carefully.

- 1. Where there are boxes, please tick in one box per question.
- 2. Answer the various areas indicated using the tables that are provided. If necessary, kindly provide a brief explanation.

SECTION A: Bio data

1. Respondent's gender;

a) Male

b) Female

2. Age of respondent.....years

3. Marital Status:

a) Single

d) Separated

b) Married

e) Divorced

c) Widowed

4. What is your education Status?

a) No education

b) Primary education

c) Secondary education

d) Diploma

e) Bachelor's degree

f) Postgraduate

g) Tertiary education

SECTION B: Causes of refugee crisis.

5. Are you aware of causes of refugee crisis/ Problem?

a) YES

b) NO

6. In your view, what are the main causes of refugee crisis?

Causes of refugee crisis	Response				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Conflict/war					
Hunger					
Climate factors					
Other					

SECTION C: Challenges faced by the refugee children

7. What are some of the challenges faced by the refugee children that affect their welfare?

Challenges encountered by refugee children	Response				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Insufficient food.					
Limited access to education					
Poor Health condition					
others					

8. Do you think there are ways of solving the challenges faced by the refugee children?

a) YES

b) NO

9. If yes, can you briefly explain how?

.....

.....

.....

APPENDIX II

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR ILA UGANDA STAFF

4. What is your name and how do you see the welfare of children?
5. What factors contribute to the refugee crisis?
6. What detrimental effects has the refugee crisis had on the welfare of children?
7. What plans are in place to mitigate the detrimental effects of the refugee crisis on the wellbeing of children?

8. How should the wellbeing of the children who are refugees be promoted, in your opinion?

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR UNHCR

4. Could you tell me your name and how you define a refugee?
5. What are the global reasons behind the refugee crisis?
6. What detrimental effects has the refugee crisis had on the welfare of children?
7. How does UNHCR advance the welfare of displaced children?
8. What plans are in place to mitigate the detrimental effects of the refugee crisis on the wellbeing of children?
9. Is there a strategy in place for refugees who wish to reintegrate into their home country?

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR OPM

1. Please tell me your name and what you mean when you say "child welfare"?
2. How does OPM contribute to the welfare of children who are refugees?
3. What standards are applied to evaluate the success of welfare initiatives or programs carried out by the various organizations assisting the refugees?
4. What are some of the difficulties OPM faces in overseeing and supervising the humanitarian organizations operating within the settlement?
5. Does the refugee population have a policy for reintegration?



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

August 28th, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: **INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH**

This is to introduce to you **TURYAGYENDA Ritah** Registration number **J22B56/023**, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Governance and International Relations. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above mentioned award.

Topic: "The Impact of Refugee Crisis on the Children's Welfare in Nakivale Refugee Camp in Isingiro District."

The purpose of this communication is to request your office to allow her collect data from your organization. Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



Doreen Kukugiza
Coordinator, Research & Fieldwork Programmes
Tel: 0773395349
Email: dkukugiza@ucu.ac.ug

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P.O. Box 4, Mukono, Uganda (East Africa). Plot 67-173, Bishop Tucker Road, Mukono Hill. Tel: +256 (0) 31 235 0000, www.ucu.ac.ug
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