

**FINN CHURCH AID AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN RWAMWANJA
REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, KAMWENGE DISTRICT,
SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA.**

BY

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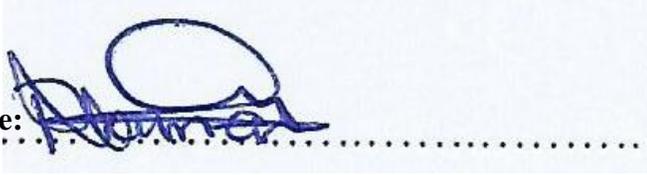
**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF MASTERS IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES
OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

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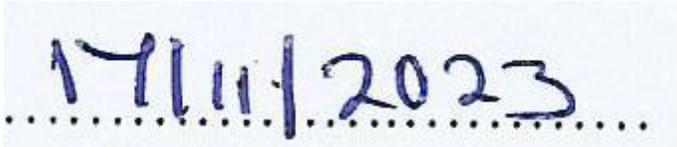
DECLARATION

I, Pheonah Namara, declare that this research is my original effort and that it has never been submitted to any other university or institution of higher learning here or elsewhere.

Signature:



Date:



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APPROVAL

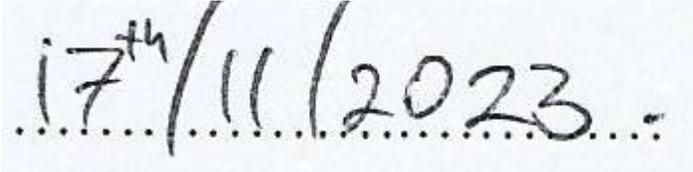
I certify that this research report is done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to Kampala International University.

Prof. Wilfred Tarabinah

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wilfred Tarabinah', written over a dotted line.

Date:

A handwritten date '17th/11/2023' written in black ink on a light blue background, positioned over a dotted line.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my lovely husband, Wycliffe, and my sweet children; Oprah, Olga, Ornan, Orla and Orlan; for continuously providing a shoulder for me to lean on, and for always encouraging me to keep achieving. I am forever thankful.

I would also like to dedicate this dissertation to my beloved late Dad, Johnstone, who believed in me as a girl child and also laid a foundation for the milestones I keep registering. Finally, I dedicate this academic work to my dear mom, May, whose words of encouragement keep me going.

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LIST OF ACRONMYS

BTVET:	Business, Technical, Vocational Education, and Training
COVID-19:	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
DEOs:	District Education Officers
DRDIP:	Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project
FCA:	Finn Church Aid
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ILO	International Labour Organisations
INGOs:	International Non-Governmental Organizations
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD:	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PLCC:	Person Linear Correlation Coefficient
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UNNGOF:	Uganda National NGO Forum
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
VSLAs:	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WRC:	Women's Refugee Commission

ABSTRACT

This study analysed the influence of international NGOs and youth empowerment in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Uganda with Finn Church Aid (FCA) as a case. In doing so, the study set out to realize three objectives: to establish the challenges afflicting the refugee youth; what International NGOs are doing to empower the refugee youth; and the strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements. In addition, the study was guided by Empowerment Theory by Rappaport (1981).. The sample size consisted of 120 respondents determined through the use of Krejcie and Morgan table of 1970 and data was analyzed at uni-variate, bi-variate and at multivariate level using means, standard deviation and Pearson Linear Correlation Coefficient (PLCC). The study revealed that there is a strong relationship between the studied variables. FCAs good practice has enhanced refugee self-reliance. It has created jobs for the youth by putting the skills acquired from training into gainful employment, 81% of the youth trained are either formally employed or they have started their own businesses. For example, some graduates in agriculture, welding, sandal making, motorcycle repair and hair dressing are employing fellow persons in their businesses. This boosts economic activity and inclusion in the region. On the second objective of the study, the study concluded that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that they are trained in entrepreneurship and business skills, the youth are provided with startup kits on completion of their skilling programs, Graduates are supported to form VSLAs; Schools have been constructed and equipped and Refugees that complete basic education are supported to enroll for higher education and vocational training. However, setting up baby care facilities to support female students with babies is still lacking. Concerning objective three, the study concluded that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that in a bid to deepen refugee empowerment, labour intensive initiatives should be prioritized; opportunities to engage youth in productive activities should be created; vocational training for skills and employability should be prioritized; and deliberate investments have to be made in the higher education of refugee youths. And lastly from the study findings and conclusions, the study recommended that NGOs should undertake studies on refugee youth and improve their programming and interventions in response to the evidence and circumstances prevailing; international NGOs should prioritize work for pay opportunities and facilities for the refugee youths; and international NGOs should undertake joint programming with other relevant actors for holistic and accountable youth empowerment.

CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study is about the contribution of international Non-Governmental Organizations on refugee empowerment. This section presents and describes the background of the study, problem statement, purpose and objectives of this study, research questions, scope of the study and significance of the study.

1.1 Background to the study

This background is divided into the historical, theoretical, conceptual and contextual perspective.

1.1.1 Historical perspective

The realities of war, persecution, conflict, violence, extreme poverty and the lack of a dignified life require a deeper understanding, especially on how they affect and influence individuals and their newly encountered contexts of life – as the refugees (UNHCR Global statistics, 2017; Sudheer & Banerjee, 2021). UNHCR Global Trends in Forced Displacement (2020) estimated the number of refugees worldwide at 26.4 million, among which 20.7 million are under the UNHCR mandate. Based on the same report, 82.4 million individuals have been forcibly displaced globally at the end of 2020 due to conflict, persecution, violence, human rights violations and events disturbing public order (UNHCR, 2020). With war, civil unrest and political persecution enduring, thousands more join this list each year.

Globally, according to UNHCR (2017) there has been debate on what could be the best approach to cater for refugees. And this debate was not only in conference and lecture rooms. It was in the living rooms of individuals.

The sudden influxes and prolonged refugee situations, places an increasing strain on government and donors that have to provide basic services and infrastructure (UNHCR, 2004). The basic argument is that the agency is constrained and restricted by structure – primarily by aid agency interventions and practices – and that refugee agency can be discerned only when the impact of such social systems is completely, or largely, absent.

In Africa, the refugee crisis has increased since most African countries attained independence; this is because the continent has witnessed several conflicts (Ogata, 2000; Blavo, 2019). Historically, refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa are mainly due to conflicts and wars but in some incidents, Sub-Saharan Africa has witnessed environmental refugees (Otunnu, 1992). Therefore, research and studies concerning refugees in Africa have mentioned that many refugees in Africa and particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa find themselves in protracted refugee situations; staying as refugees for more than 5 years with no immediate solution (Kaiser, 2010; Adepoju, 2019). Unfortunately, refugees face more rather than fewer challenges as their stay in other countries becomes protracted (Browne, 2006; Kaiser, 2006), their needs and desires change as a result of prolonged stay (Kaiser, 2006). This necessitates the host countries to occasionally review the refugees' policy, needs, and challenges. From the 1990s, African states adopted restrictive asylum policies due to limited resources because of prolonged stay of refugees, lack of assistance from the international community, and security concerns due to hosting big numbers of refugees (Milner, 2009; Crisp, 2018). However, the debate of refugees' intervention shifted from repatriation to integration of refugees because of the many refugees in protracted refugee situations in Africa (Crisp, 2003; Pincock *et al.*, 2021).

Uganda is a signatory to international legal instruments for refugee protection; the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention. Uganda also adopted a Refugees Act in 2006 which stipulates the rights of refugees such as freedom of movement, right to work, and access to land. Uganda's experience as a refugee host country dates to the pre-independence period (before 1962). Over time Uganda has hosted several refugees from neighboring countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and South Sudan (Ahimbisibwe, 2018; UNHCR, 2021).

Uganda as a host country for refugees has practiced two modes of settlement of refugees; encampment and supported self-settlement (Kaiser, 2006). These modes of refugee settlement were implemented through restrictive policies that restricted movement and work by the refugees (Kaiser, 2005; Kaiser, 2006). However, the Uganda government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in response to refugees changed from the restrictive approach towards refugees to what is called “Self-Reliance Strategy” to promote integration and self-reliance (Harrell-Bond, 1986; UNHCR, 2017; Betts, 2018; Adepoju, 2019). With the enactment of the Uganda Refugee Act 2006; it guaranteed refugees the freedom to move and the right to work, making Uganda one of the most lauded refugee-hosting country in the world (Betts, 2018; Betts *et al.*, 2019). Uganda’s policies and programs for refugees facilitate the integration of refugees with host communities and increase self-sufficiency; the policies enhance land ownership, free movement, and employment (Pirouet, 1989; Easton-Calabria, 2016; Rohwerder, 2016; Davis, 2019).

The Ugandan policies reduce the burden of supporting refugees by the Ugandan government and other actors like international organizations and local organizations. However, Uganda faces several challenges in hosting refugees such as the increasing number of refugees, for example, the South Sudan conflict has generated over a million refugees in Uganda, protracted refugee situations due to prolonged stay of the refugees, limited resources for the Ugandan government, environmental stress and security threat of hosting many refugees (Ahimbisibwe, 2018). So, the need to focus on assistance beyond the emergency response is necessary to help the refugees have access to necessities like water, food, clothing, and shelter while also ensuring poverty eradication for sustainable livelihoods (Milner, 2014; Easton-Calabria, 2016). This is crucial in responding to refugees’ needs under protracted refugee situations. Despite the increase in the number of refugees in Uganda, the government of Uganda has continued to pursue progressive policies under the self-reliance model to promote refugee integration and survival in the country. Betts *et al.*, (2019) emphasized that “policymakers and practitioners should reward countries like Uganda that provide refugees with the right to work and freedom of movement”. However, many of the refugees in Uganda are under protracted refugee situations and some studies have pointed out that refugees face increased challenges the longer they stay in protracted exile (Kaiser, 2006; Kreibaum, 2016). We, therefore, sought to understand the emerging challenges that refugees

living in protracted refugee situations in Uganda could be facing despite the progressive policies in place to facilitate their integration and inclusion in Uganda.

Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement is located in southwestern Uganda and was established in 2012 to accommodate the growing number of refugees fleeing conflict and instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The settlement was set up by the Ugandan government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide a safe haven for displaced individuals and families. Historically, the need for Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement arose due to the ongoing violence and insecurity in the DRC, which forced thousands of Congolese to seek refuge across the border in Uganda. The settlement was established to provide shelter, protection, and basic services to these refugees. However, Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement still faces a range of challenges that impact both the refugees and the host community. These include; overcrowding, limited resources, inadequate healthcare, insufficient education, limited livelihood opportunities, cultural and social integration mismatch, land disputes between refugees and host communities, Gender-based violence, environmental degradation and limited access to nutritious food (UNHCR, 2021).

Therefore, this research will take into account this historical perspective and appreciate how the notion of refugee empowerment shifted world attention from the traditional duty of accommodating refugees in camps.

1.1.2 Theoretical perspective

This study adopted one theoretical perspective which helps to serve as a deeper lens of analysis to the topic. The paper uses the empowerment perspective. Needless to mention, though the study uses one theoretical perspective, it is presented from the relevant standpoint. The theory of 'empowerment' provides the requisite lens to understand the research topic and questions.

The study draws inspiration from Rappaport (1981) who vouched for empowerment on the ground that it has no predetermined limit within which institutions and countries can revolutionise depending on the origin and demographic characteristics of the vulnerable groups they are targeting to endow.

The development specialist continues this thread of argument in subsequent publications offering an explanation on the forms of refugee empowerment making mention of critical aspects such as a welcoming and safe environment; meaningful participation and engagement; equitable power-sharing between refugees and natives; engagement in critical reflection on interpersonal and socio-political processes; participation in socio-political processes to affect change; and integrated individual- and community-level empowerment (Fajth, Bilgili & Loschmann, 2019). He sums up the explanation cataloguing the contests and openings that come with refugee empowerment.

From the foregoing, it is not farfetched to tease out why development partners have adopted this empowerment approach. To address the refugee crisis that shows no signs of abating, development partners should look beyond building refugee camps and offer economic opportunities to those displaced. This forms the crux of this study.

1.1.3 Conceptual perspective

Youth empowerment is the dependent variable (DV) for this study. Youth empowerment involves the creation of opportunities for young people to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to take control of their own lives, express their opinions, and engage in activities that promote positive social change (Checkoway & Gutierrez, 2006). The variable is further defined by Kenny & Fourie (2019) as encompassing a transformative process that aims to foster the active involvement of young individuals in shaping their own destinies, equipping them with critical thinking skills, and nurturing their sense of belonging and identity within society. In the context of this study, youth will be viewed as social constructs, and defined according to their socio-cultural background, political, institutional, geographical, governmental or economic context, therefore having different meanings according to a specific space and time (Wyn & Cahill, 2015). Nevertheless, youth are globally viewed as subjects of vulnerability and need of care and protection until reaching the age of 18 (UNCRC). Hence, despite the family context, at a macro level, the states are meant to ensure basic rights, protection and resources for these populations.

According to the United Nations (2023), the organization defines youth as a person(s) aged between 15 and 24 years old to be part of this category, being used with statistical purposes. The definition is relative, giving space and flexibility for different states to adjust it according to their settings, in terms of demographics, economy and socio-cultural aspects. Hence, in Uganda the Department of Youth and Children Affairs, under the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (2001) defines youth as any person between 18 and 30 years old. Further on, The National Youth Policy, gives a more complex definition:

However, according to Hughes (2014) a deeper look on the reality of refugee youth in the camps shows limitations in terms of rights and resources available and accessible to them, as part of the large refugee population. The effects of forced migration, together with all the lived experience of fear and persecution which children and youth have lived or witnessed, have strong repercussions on their emotional stability and well-being (Agier, 2011; Hughes, 2014). Moreover, the youth faces problems of adaptation, expression, being exposed to risks in the camps in terms of violence, addictions, delinquent behaviors, instability and disappointment. Nevertheless, if a safe and secure emotional environment is available, they are likely to adjust and regain emotional stability. Moreover, studies have shown their ability to remain bright and rapidly develop new skills (Trowell, 2003). An extensive body of literature highlights the refugee youth resilience and strengths as being highly present and evident in spite of adversity and lived experiences (Hughes, 2014; Simich & Andermann, 2014). However, this is not the case of all the children and youth as there is still ongoing distress and posttraumatic disorders growth among refugee youth (Sleijpen *et al.*, 2016). Turner (2016) talks about the life in the camps, where people are faced with new structures and have to habituate themselves with new identities and roles, which are likely to become favorable to marginalized groups as youth and women, as the camp reinforces new power structures and relationships.

Finn Church (International Non-Governmental Organization) is the independent Variable (IV) for this study. International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) are broadly defined as transnational entities that operate independently from any government and focus on promoting democratic governance, human rights, and social justice across national boundaries (Della Porta & Tarrow, 2005). Similarly, Keck & Sikkink (1998) defines INGOs as cross-border entities

comprised of diverse stakeholders, including civil society groups that collaborate to strengthen democratic institutions, advance transparency, and ensure the participation of marginalized communities in governance processes on a global scale. Likewise, Edwards & Hulme (1996) defines INGOs as global actors that work to foster accountable governance, civic engagement, and the rule of law in different countries, aiming to bridge the gap between citizens and state institutions to enhance democratic practices.

In this study, Finn Church Aid (FCA) is an international non-governmental organization (INGO) based in Finland. It focuses on various humanitarian and development functions, particularly in the field of international assistance, aid, and cooperation. Some of its key functions include Emergency relief, Development programs, Advocacy and human rights, Conflict resolution and peace-building, Capacity building, Gender equality and women's empowerment, Refugee and migration support, Healthcare and nutrition, Climate resilience, Partnerships and networking. FCA as an INGO aims to continue upholding humanitarian values, social justice, and empowerment and seem closely related to issues in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Uganda.

1.1.4 Contextual perspective

According to the Office of the Prime Minister (2022), Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement accommodates over 65,000 refugees Springfield from many nations—such as DR Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia—many of whom have fled violence due to ethnic, religious, or political persecution. I chose this area because it houses the largest percentage of refugee youth benefiting from the interventions of Finn Church Aid, as well as being geographically convenient for me to access (Goonan, 2013).

The 1951 U.N. Geneva Convention defines a refugee as someone who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country" (Weis, 1995).

The Office of the Prime Minister—a central government of Uganda ministry—is responsible for determining and admitting “qualified” refugees to be resettled in Uganda (OPM, 2022). However, the binary between immigrant and refugee is nuanced, and is politically determined by a complex legal framework. Many foreign students emigrate from their home countries such as Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya to seek affordable and better education opportunities in Uganda, and are not given the title of refugee or asylum seeker (Suarez-Orozco, 2001).

In Uganda, refugees who in most cases have not been using English in their home country, go to the same schools and classrooms with other students as Ugandans who study English as a language of instruction. Little to no affirmative action is offered to help refugees come to pace with nationals. Whereas Uganda has earned international acclaim as the most welcoming country in as far as welcoming and hosting refugees is concerned (UNHCR, 2020), there is no deliberate effort to integrate and empower them with the government largely relying on Non-Governmental Organizations to do the job. The acclaim misleads many refugees that may come to Uganda thinking they have the right to work, establish business, go to school, freedom of movement, and access to documentation; get land for shelter and agricultural use. Such provisions would have ensured the dignity of the individual and provide pathways for refugees to become self-reliant. The settlement approach, combined with these laws and freedoms, provide refugees in Uganda with some of the best prospects for dignity, normality, and self-reliance found anywhere in the world. These factors also create a conducive environment for pursuing development-oriented planning for refugee and host communities, as they slowly realize their idealistic vision of a good refugee settlement for all is a fantasy.

Without proper networks of support, the difficulties that force refugees to escape from their country are multiplied. Because Finn Church Aid (FCA) has been one of the leading international agencies implementing programs aimed at empowering refugee youths. FCA objective interventions are in education in emergency situations, vocational education and education sector development. The agency is also active promoting the right to develop, secure and sustain livelihoods through employment, entrepreneurship and strengthened resilience. FCA also advances consolidated peace by linking conflict transformation and peace building. The researcher thus found it necessary to undertake a study to ascertain the peculiar things FCA does

in the realms of refugee youth empowerment that are not common with other international NGOs.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The Government of Uganda has one of the most dynamic and favourable development programs in the world. The programs allow the government to partner with various players including international and local NGOs to improve the wellbeing and potential of various segments of the population (OPM, 2019).

In 2019, UNHCR promoted BTVET at the global level with three key stakeholders: FCA, GIZ on behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and ILO. These agencies joined their efforts at the BTVET for Impact Roundtable (Finland, October 2019) and the Global Refugee Forum (Geneva, December 2019) where BTVET was one of the focus areas under the Global Framework for Refugee Education. The need to establish a more systematic and organized approach to the sector emerged as a result of these meetings, especially since many activities and initiatives are active at the national level.

The Office of the Prime Minister and Kamwenge District Local Government have the constitutional and most devolved duty to cater for and deliver social services in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. But resource constraints and an ever increasing influx of refugees into Uganda due to conflicts in the region, necessitates the intervention of international NGOs.

The existing literature on refugee studies focuses more on what the international NGOs have been doing to provide and care for the refugees in camps for example relief food, tents, medical care, education, etc (OPM, 2018; UNHCR, 2018; UNNGOF, 2021). There is scanty of literature that focuses on youth empowerment.

Finn Church Aid (FCA), one of the international NGOs working in refugee settlements, has been selected for the study. Finn Church Aid has deliberate programs aimed at refugee empowerment unlike the other NGOs that are greatly inclined to relief provisions. The agency has a fully-fledged office and resident staff and has been working in Rwamwanja for the last ten years. Much as FCA has not fully realised the empowerment dream of refugees, the intervention steps it has been making in the refugee settlement are traceable. The current gaps in the empowerment of refugees despite the interventions FCA is making will form the crux of this study.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the role of Finn Church Aid on Youth Empowerment in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Kamwenge District, South Western Uganda.

1.4 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- (i) Examine the challenges afflicting youth in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement
- (ii) Evaluate the impact of empowerment programmes of Finn Church Aid in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement
- (iii) Investigate strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements.

1.5 Research questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- (i) What are the challenges afflicting youth in refugee settlements?
- (ii) What are the empowerment programmes of Finn Church Aid in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement?
- (iii) What are the strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements?

1.6 Scope of the study

The scope of the study covered the following: geographical scope, theoretical review, content scope and time scope.

1.6.1 Geographical scope

The study was carried out at Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge district, Western Uganda. Rwamwanja is among the few areas which the government of Uganda has gazetted as suitable for settling and empowering refugees on account of its large expanse and relative far distance from the common border with its neighbouring countries where the refugees mostly come from. The map of

Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement is in Appendix 4.

1.6.2 Theoretical review:

The study was guided by the Empowerment Theory by Rappaport (1981) in order to establish the relationship between the study variables.

1.6.3 Content scope

The study looked into the challenges afflicting refugee youth; what Finn Church Aid was doing to empower refugee youth; and also advanced strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements. The content was sufficient to cover the objectives of the study.

1.6.4 Time scope

The study covered the period from 2019 to 2022. This period is ideal to appreciate the programming Finn Church Aid has been having in the realms of youth empowerment.

1.7 Significance of the study

Policy makers and the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations will find the findings of the study relevant as the country moves to profile the contribution of civil society organizations in national development.

The Uganda National NGO Forum and the regional NGO forums will find some of the findings and recommendations relevant as they forge avenues of greater collaboration and networking for CSOs in the same locality or realm of interventions.

The study will also interest international funders and United Nations bodies such as World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) which normally

partner with International NGOs as special purpose vehicles to make interventions in the community.

Community members especially the youth in and around Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement stand to benefit from this research when government and development partners pick some ideas and suggestions to improve service delivery and programming.

Finally, the study about international non-governmental organizations and youth empowerment will enrich the body of existing literature in this evolving development and refugee response world.

1.8 Operational definitions of key terms

Non-governmental organization (NGO): Is defined as a group that functions independently of any government. It is usually non-profit. NGOs, sometimes called civil society organizations, are established on community, national, and international levels to serve a social or political goal such as a humanitarian cause or the protection of the environment (Devaney, 2022).

Youth: Is defined by the Uganda National Youth Policy (2021-26) as all young persons, female and male, aged 12 to 30 years (Youth Policy, 2022).

Youth empowerment: Refers to the process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives (Wyn & Cahill, 2015). They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes.

Refugee: Is defined as someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence (UNHCR, 2022). A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

CHAPTER TWO:

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature that has been presented by previous scholars on the research topic about the contribution of international NGOs on refugee empowerment. This review of literature is based on the specific research objectives of the study.

2.1 Theoretical review

This study is based on the Empowerment theory postulated by Rappaport (1981). The theory is employed because it explains the initiatives being made to ensure that refugees access and control the resources needed to uplift their wellbeing and standing in society.

Rappaport (1981) postulated empowerment theory, which emphasizes the importance of individuals and communities gaining control over their lives, identities, and environments. The theory underscores the significance of personal and collective agency in promoting positive change and addressing social issues. Empowerment theory seeks to enhance individuals' capacity to participate actively in decision-making processes, challenge systemic inequalities, and improve their well-being.

According to Rappaport (1981) the empowerment theory aims at the wellbeing of individuals within their social environment. The core orientation of empowerment is to present goals, aims and strategies for social change; while empowerment theory provides principles and a framework to organize that knowledge (Zimmerman, 1995).

Accordingly, the theory suggests that actions, activities or structures may be empowering, and that the outcome of such processes result in a level of being empowered. These definitions

suggest that empowerment theory is a process of actions and that the outcome of this process, eventually, leads to a new level of empowerment.

In order to develop a better understanding of ‘empowerment’ as phrased in the previous quotes, the process of empowerment is meant to gain control, obtain needed resources and understand the social environment of individuals. The process of empowerment succeeds if it helps people develop skills in order to enable them to be independent problem solvers and decision-makers. Empowerment outcomes, on the other hand, studies the consequences of citizen’s attempts to gain more control in their communities, or the effects of interventions designed to empower people (Zimmerman, 2012).

Therefore, the application of Empowerment Theory by Rappaport (1981) in the context of youth empowerment in the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Uganda, specifically in relation to the activities of Finn Church Aid (an international non-governmental organization) is aimed at promoting the empowerment of youth within the refugee community. This could involve initiatives that help youth develop skills, self-confidence, and a sense of agency. The organization might also facilitate platforms for youth to engage in decision-making processes within the settlement, allowing them to have a voice in matters that affect them. Furthermore, fostering supportive social networks among the youth could contribute to their overall empowerment.

However, empowerment processes and outcomes cannot be the same experience for everyone since it is an individual process and is affected by context and historical factors. In other words, “both empowerment processes and outcomes vary in their outward form because no single standard can fully capture its meaning in all contexts or populations.” (Rappaport 1984, Zimmerman 1993, as cited in Perkins & Zimmerman, 1995).

2.2 Conceptual review

A multitude of literature exists on the protection and provisioning of supplies to refugees inside camps. Yet less is known about the positive factors that make empowerment the sustainable and

better option. This research proposes empowerment as a conceptual foundation for understanding how refugees feel cared for, thrive and become useful to themselves and host communities when they are enabled to realize the fullest of their potential.

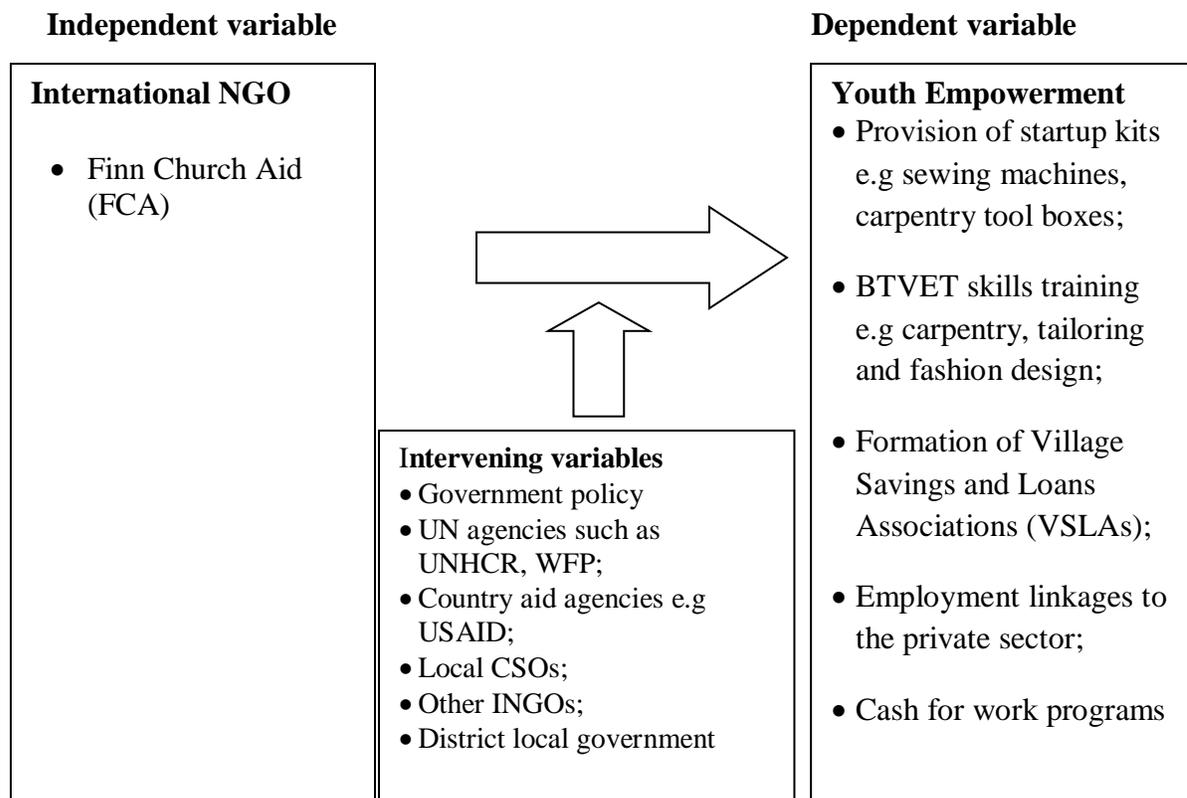
The literature suggests that refugees are empowered because it provides processes and structures for positive social interactions to emerge and develop. The literature presents empowerment as a mechanism that creates a positive social context, in which social cohesion and social capital thrive. Coordination of international protection, assistance and solutions is at the heart of UNHCR's refugee mandate. The Global Compact on Refugees, which was adopted by UN Member States in December 2019, makes specific reference to BTVET and further education. UNHCR is also leading on the Refugee Education 2030 Strategy and the 15by30 roadmap for refugee higher education. There is a clear interest from UNHCR in collaborating with other agencies on BTVET to ensure the inclusion of refugees into existing BTVET programmes and their preparation for work and durable solutions, whether refugees will stay in the country of asylum, get a resettlement opportunity, or return to their country of origin.

Finn Church Aid is another critical partner in this study given its field experience in BTVET. FCA is the biggest provider of international aid in Finland with experience of more than 70 years. FCA is a rights-based organization focusing on the three strategic focus areas of Right to Peace, Right to Livelihood and Right to Quality Education. Their work on BTVET links to FCA's orientation to ensure the Right to Quality Education. FCA contributes to improved Skills and labour market transitions for refugees and host communities access and better quality of learning through four pillars: Education in Emergencies (EiE), BTVET, Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E) and Education Sector Development and Teacher Education. The Linking Learning to Earning approach is FCA's bridge between BTVET and livelihood. For this particular study, FCA draws on its work in Uganda and an innovative model for developing creative industries skills among refugees, an emerging practice area for BTVET across the board.

This section presents the proposed domains of the conceptual framework, together with evidence from the above data sources in support of their inclusion. In this way, data from documentary

and conceptual analysis is integrated to provide the rationale for the proposed framework (outlined in Figure 1).

Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework on the contribution of international NGOs in the empowerment of refugee youth



Source: Developed by the Researcher (2023)

The framework attempts to illustrate the contribution of Finn Church Aid towards the empowerment of refugee youth. The framework suggests that Finn Church Aid (an International NGO), which is the independent variable, has been active in empowering youth through provision of startup kits, cash for work programs, formation of VSLAs and employment linkages to the private sector. This is a dependent variable. Country agencies such as USAID, Community Based Organizations, other international NGOs and the district local government sometimes intervene with programs to empower the youth and these are construed as Intervening variables.

2.3 Review of Literature

2.3.1 Challenges afflicting youth in refugee settlements

Kostelny & Wessells (2013) open the discussion on the problems afflicting refugee youth in refugee settlements arguing and correctly so that the absence of a descent shelter is the biggest problem. According to these sociologists, most youth in refugee settings are housed in emergency and traditional housing shelters where people experiencing shock first turn to for support or temporary residences of up to 24 months with wrap-around services to help people stabilize their lives. Weare (2021) describes the problem of refugee housing in detail noting that refugee settlements are characterized by inadequate space for family members because the size is determined by the size of the tarpaulin provided. Weare (2021) sums up the discussion on the refugee youth housing crisis noting that adolescents feel uncomfortable sharing houses with their parents while girls feel that they have no privacy at all.

Related to housing, Weare (2021) chronicles about the huge threat posed by malaria to youth, adults and children alike in refugee camps where refugees live en-masse in close quarters, without window screens or solid doors. Weare (2021) makes a spirited case for mosquito nets in refugee camps noting that they would have helped to minimize the problem of malaria but most families are allocated one mosquito net. The problem stings the adolescent youth more since they cannot share beds with their parents.

Agro-foresters join the fray of writers cataloguing the problems youth face in refugee settlements propounding that refugees face an acute shortage of building poles (Grosrenaud, Okia, Adam-Bradford, Trenchard, 2021). According to these foresters, termites are abundant in refugee settlements and easily destroy the poles used for building noting that the youth interested in building their own huts face a critical shortage of poles and have to start the process periodically when the ants eat the building poles (Grosrenaud *et al.*, 2021).

Grosrenaud *et al.*, (2021) continue the thread of discussion on trees and poles noting that refugees also face a critical shortage of wood fuel. The agroforestry scientists explain in detail

that wood fuel is never part of the rations offered to refugees leaving the responsibility of hewing wood from far distant lands away from the camp and mostly in protected areas in the vicinity of the camps to the youth. The quartet bring the problem of wood fuel relevant to the study emphasizing that hewing wood and fetching water are predominantly tasks often relegated to the youth.

Related to hewing wood is the task of fetching water which is entrusted to the children of the home. The World refugee body acknowledges that it is essential for refugees to receive an adequate quantity of good quality water because water has an impact on so many vital sectors of society, including nutrition, health, education and sanitation (UNHCR, 2010). UNHCR is however quick to point out that more than half of the refugee camps in the world are unable to provide the recommended daily water minimum of 20 liters of water per person per day noting that in the absence of an adequate quantity of water, public health issues of diarrhea and cholera crop up. Fetching water makes up the bulk of the chores performed by children and youth, making it a drudgery due to the type of water vessels used, long distances covered, the risks on the way and the fascinations adolescents face when they meet together at the water source (Kamya, Asingwire & Waiswa, 2021). Fetching water over long distances ends up presenting adolescent and sexual reproductive health challenges for government and agencies to handle.

Away from the bread and butter issues, refugee youth face a host of insurmountable challenges and notably that of lack of recognition and involvement. Refugee youth are seldomly consulted, frequently overlooked, and often unable to fully participate in decision making. Their talents, energy, and potential remain largely untapped (UNHCR & WRC, 2019).

The world refugee body catalogues the tribulations resulting from the limited involvement of refugee youths in a great detail. Perhaps informed by the long working relationship and involvement with refugees, UNHCR has a humanitarian and empathetic angle to the problems the youth in refugee settlements face. The world refugee agency attributes the challenges faced by the youth to the trauma that prompted refugees to seek safety in Uganda, the uncertainty of life in exile, and the resulting sense of hopelessness for a generation whose future has been squandered by conflict (UNHCR, 2020).

The unfortunate package of trauma, uncertainty and helplessness is not all of the problems that afflict refugees (UNHCR, 2020). The world refugee body had in an earlier publication chronicled about the gathering danger in refugee hosting communities where you find refugees between the age of 15-30 are disproportionately affected by the absence of meaningful education and life skills development opportunities (UNHCR 2018). This breeds a population that will forever be dependant on aid since it lacks the skills and capacity to fend for itself even in adulthood.

UNHCR (2018) has documented the lack of education and skills development opportunities as a critical challenge facing refugee youth but an online blog specializing in reporting about refugees observes otherwise. According to the blog, youths encounter insurmountable challenges, complexities, and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and/or local authorities. Without refugee or asylum documentation, a refugee youth lives on his own without any rations from government and is always at the mercy of police and immigration officials who arrest them wantonly and slap illegal entry charges on them with disastrous consequences (theconversation.com, 2020).

The news blog, theconversation.com (2020) makes phenomenal the difficulty in obtaining refugee and asylum documentation noting that it is a prerequisite for obtaining food rations and other necessities in the host country. But USAID (2020) makes a farce this argument noting that refugee youths emphasize that they would rather work than depend on humanitarian aid. According to the United States humanitarian agency, refugee youth aspire to take charge of their life through growing their own food or obtaining employment rather than going through the indignity of lining up for food and other provisions.

Tanner & O'Connor (2017) are in consonance with USAID (2020) on the challenges adolescent youths face while lining up for relief food and other provisions but go ahead to chronicle about the barriers youths face in seeking services from the police, church and health centers. Tanner & O'Connor (2017) catalogue that youth did not feel comfortable reporting gender based violence to the police or church due to fear of being sexually assaulted by both; the restricted access to

contraception for unmarried adolescent refugees; and the difficulty of obtaining abortion services in Uganda because of the illegal status of abortion services in Uganda.

One cannot conclude a discussion about refugees in Uganda without lauding the country for having an open refugee policy. Uganda is one of the largest refugee hosting countries in Africa. According to theconversation.com (2020), Uganda hosts over 1.4 million refugees; the refugee population makes up nearly 3.6 % of the country's total population of 42 million. Most refugees are from South Sudan (74 %), 19 % are from the DRC, and 3% are from Burundi (OPM, 2020). Despite this impressive policy put into action, refugees are not able to stand for election or vote in any governmental structure, ranging from parliament to village administrative bodies, as this right is reserved for Ugandan citizens (Uganda, 1995). Refugee youth identify a lack of empowerment and engagement opportunities as factors that limits youth involvement in decision making. Non participation in elections and other electoral processes essentially means that refugee youth in their prime years have very few opportunities to analyse issues, devise solutions, share their ideas with decision makers, and be heard.

2.3.2 The impact of FCA youth empowerment programmes in refugee settlements

Finn Church Aid (FCA) is one of the international NGOs working with refugee youth in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. FCA works with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR as well as other actors in empowering the refugee youths in Uganda (UNHCR, 2018).

As earlier noted by an international state actor, USAID (2020) chronicles that refugee youth emphasize that they would rather work than depend on humanitarian aid. In response to this glaring need, FCA has programmed and developed a business model which is implemented in the Rwamwanja refugee settlement with Congolese refugees and host community students (OPM, 2020). The project involves supporting youth for job readiness, to write business plans, starting their own businesses and linking them to the private sector for employment in the vicinity of their localities for instance in the vocations of tailoring, blacksmith, welding, sandal-making, construction, hotel management and motorcycle maintenance (FCA, 2021).

FCA (2021) acknowledges that the vocational skills aforementioned are male dominated but the humanitarian agency deliberately encouraged female refugees to take up these vocations because of the increased chances of getting employment or customers when you set up a workshop or workstation where females are.

Mantovani & Thomas (2014) always pick up gender angles in the studies they make. The social scientists carried out a study in Europe and Australia among refugees and notably found out that female refugees always miss out on refugee empowerment programs whenever they are pregnant or have just delivered. FCA (2021) probably had hindsight of Mantovani & Thomas (2014) literary works because the humanitarian agency set up baby care facilities to support female students with babies in Kyaka and Rwamwanja refugee settlements primarily to aid young mothers as they seek skills development or employment opportunities.

Mantovani & Thomas (2014) & UNHCR (2020) in separate publications recount the difficulty refugee youth even when skilled, encounter while trying to get startup capital. The publications summarize tales of how refugees are the least of priorities for financial institutions and how they normally wallow in frustrations due to lack of capital. FCA took cognizance of these realities and provided a startup kit relevant to the vocations each refugee trained. The humanitarian refugee agency boasts to have supported over 1,702 youths in Kyaka and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlements to start smallholder businesses in 2020 and 2021.

OPM (2010) acknowledges the need to support refugees with business startups and notably equipment support as a harbinger for job creation and enterprise development among the youths. The Uganda government ministry in charge of refugees is also quick to acknowledge that refugees none the less need money to stimulate and keep their businesses running. FCA (2021) takes cognizance of this and has been supporting refugee youth social and economic empowerment through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). The VSLAs in addition to helping the members develop a culture of thrift also provide an opportunity for members to borrow for business startup and expansion.

Uganda's open refugee policy though often lauded also comes with institutional and structural challenges. The country faces an acute shortage of learning facilities in refugee settlements. The existing schools in refugee hosting areas become congested and sometimes are sometimes on the brink unable to take on extra numbers of children OPM (2010). OPM has answered this call and made a substantial investments in the construction and equipping of classrooms. By 2021, FCA had constructed over 72 classrooms in refugee hosting settlements so as to improve the learning atmosphere of the learners.

FCA has been active in supporting girls' education. Under the project, teachers are trained to ensure that learners receive inclusive and quality education. Cognisant of the challenges that female learners face in accessing menstrual hygiene materials, the project provides menstrual hygiene materials to all girls to prevent them from missing classes. The provision of menstrual hygiene materials and scholastic materials have guaranteed the girls to attend classes without fear of being shamed for staining themselves or being sent away due to unpaid school costs or lack of uniforms (FCA, 2020). In rooting for menstrual hygiene materials, FCA argues and correctly so that education is especially important for girls as it gives them a future and prevents them from being forced into early marriage.

Various scholars have written about the deplorable experience refugees go through as they line up for food rations from aid agencies (UNHCR, 2020; Gettlife & Sitora, 2019; & OECD, 2017) concluding that most refugees prefer to grow their own food and take charge of their lives (UNHCR/WFP, 2020). In light of the development, FCA has been at the forefront empowering youths and small holder farmers in sustainable maize production so as to diversify income sources, food security and self-reliance among the refugees (FCA, 2021).

Through the Food System Lab in Uganda, FCA compliments the government's public extension system through a Community-based Extension system that coordinates the supply of quality inputs such as seeds, fertilisers and other necessities and agro-technical knowledge to the farmers to improve maize productivity (FCA, 2021). Under the Food System Lab in Uganda, farmers are organized into collectives to sell in bulk and to negotiate prices. Smallholders can receive financing from micro-finance agencies. The initiative has helped to empower refugees that venture into farming (FCA, 2021).

One cannot conclude a discussion related to the programming of International NGOs without mentioning what they did during the COVID 19 pandemic (UNNGOF, 2021). The Government ordered that all schools and other learning institutions to close in March 2020 till January 2022. As a consequence, FCA realigned its programming to provide 166,530 home learning packages to children who were out of school.

2.3.3 Strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

The UN refugee agency acknowledges the gathering danger of herding youth in refugee settlements without availing them with opportunities to work and get involved noting that it is a time bomb and thus appeals to partners to prioritize labour-intensive initiatives to create employment for youth in refugee settlements and adjacent host communities (UNHCR, 2018).

The UNHCR (2018) associated the failure to attend to the needs of refugee youth as a time bomb, noting that it is always a recourse to anti-social behaviour and beckoned on development partners to always create opportunities to engage youth in productive activities.

The UN refugee agency deplores emerging anti-social behaviours in refugee settlements some times which degenerate into riots and demonstrations and appeals to local authorities and the police to always move in quickly to contain such situations (UNHCR, 2018). UNHCR counsels and correctly so that the rowdy behaviour in refugee settlements should never be seen in isolation from the general criminality that is prevalent in the neighbouring communities.

The government of Uganda continues this thread of discussion calling upon partners to continue engaging refugees and host community leaders to promote peaceful coexistence as well as non-violent ways of addressing differences. According to government, the use of well-established conflict resolution mechanisms such as the camp administrators, Local Councils, Police and courts would help to resolve lingering conflicts and tensions in refugee settlements and neighbouring areas (OPM, 2020).

The Office of the Prime Minister goes ahead to appeal to development partners to positively engage the youth through vocational training. Skills training in tailoring, carpentry, weaving,

welding and other vocations offers the youth an opportunity to create jobs for themselves as well as integration in the formal market and income earning bracket in their localities (OPM, 2010).

Skills development aside, OPM (2010) calls for deliberate investment in the education as a means to nurturing refugee youth to aspire to greatness, and become responsible productive upright members of society both in asylum and in due course when they are able to return home.

The world refugee body is on the same page with OPM (2010) in rooting for formal education and vocational training in employable skills noting that it will help the refugee youths to overcome unemployment, physical abuse and psychological obstacles that displacement presents. UNHCR (2020) sums up the case for employment and skills development noting that it promotes psycho-social well-being and cognitive development; helps youth refugees to regain a sense of security, independence, dignity, and self-worth and provides youth refugees with skills and knowledge to become employed.

OECD (2017) concurs with UNHCR (2020) on the role of education and skills developing in helping the youth regain a sense of security and dignity but is more explicit in rooting for social capital and networks for effective refugee youth empowerment. According to the development agency, social capital and networks can help refugee youth obtain the necessary documentation, assistance and even jobs and more importantly boosting the youth's capacity to manage stress, solving problems and setting goals (OECD, 2017).

Gettlife & Sitora (2019) is in tandem with OECD (2017) on the need for social capital and networks but are quick to introduce into the discussion the need to provide paid work for refugee youth to flourish in the groups they will have formed. The social scientists argue and correctly so, that providing paid work to youth ensures that the refugee youth embark on the journey towards self-sustenance and realization of personal goals.

O'Neil, Tam, Anjali Fleury & Marta Foresti (2016) sum up the discussion on what can be done to empower refugee youths noting that the world has made numerous commitments to promote inclusive growth, decent work, job creation and entrepreneurship programmes for host

community members and refugees. The quartet note that it is vital that these global commitments are implemented to reach the youth affected by crisis and displacement.

From the foregoing, what has not been clarified is whether the empowerment of refugees will ever motivate refugee agencies and the international community to ponder on the push factors that have led to the proliferation of refugees across the globe. The research will in addition to what empowerment of refugees can do, tease out what can be done to curtail the burgeoning refugee crisis across the globe.

2.4 Gaps in the literature

Studies that relate Finn Church Aid (International Non-Governmental Organization) and Youth Empowerment have used a variety of conceptualizations, therefore their findings may not be conclusive until all potential conceptualizations are taken into consideration. It is obvious to note that these past scholars conceptualized these variables differently from how the current study operationalizes it, hence, exposing a content gap that this study has to fill.

The criteria of Empowerment Theory by Rappaport (1981) have not previously been applied to studies on Finn Church Aid (International Non-Governmental Organization) and Youth Empowerment in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, hence, creating a theoretical gap that this study wants to address.

CHAPTER THREE:

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the research design, study area; survey population; sampling strategies; data collection methods including the use of self-administered questionnaires and the review of documents.

3.1 Research design

The research was a cross sectional survey design. It involved obtaining a sample once (Mbaaga, 1990; Vogt, 1993) and including in the sample, the different categories of subjects which represented the target group in the population. The cross-sectional design was preferred because it uses a single point of research design for respondents that are in one location such as the refugees in Rwamwanja refugee camp in Kamwenge district. The survey research design allowed collection of both quantitative and qualitative data at the same time (Borg, *et al.*, 1996). The study used a mixed approach design where both qualitative and a quantitative technique were used as concurrently supported by Amin (2015) especially where the study involved in investigating people's opinions. "The qualitative method on the other hand largely constituted open ended questions which generated the most thorough and detailed information (Creswell, 2019). According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2018), qualitative research permits research to go beyond statistical results usually reported in quantitative research thus best used to explain human behavior".

Under this study, questionnaires were designed and administered to the respondents based on the sample size which had been drawn scientifically. Secondary data from various sources was also be used.

3.2 Research population

As of 2022, Uganda is still one of the largest refugee-hosting nations in the world, with 1,529,904 refugees (www.newvision.co.ug, 2019; Uganda-UNHCR Operational Update, 2022). According to the Office of the Prime Minister (2022), Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement accommodates over 65,000. However, the target population in this study involved Refugee youths, FCA staff and Kamwenge District Local Government Officials. The study targeted these groups because they are directly involved in the day-to-day issues affecting refugees in one way or the other.

3.3 Sample size

The sample size of 190 was calculated using a table of Krejcie and Morgan table of 1970 determining sample size. These included Refugee youths, FCA staff and Kamwenge District Local Government Officials.

Table 3.1: Population size and sample size

#	Stratum	Population	Sample Size	Sampling Technique
1	Refugee youths	100	80	Systematic Random Sampling
2	FCA staff	78	33	Systematic Random Sampling
3	Kamwenge District Local Government	12	10	Purposive Sampling
	Total	190	123	

(Source: Developed by the Researcher from the Sampling Framework)

3.4 Sampling procedure

To ensure effective representation and unbiased selection, systematic random sampling and purposive sampling were employed. Using systematic random sampling for selecting refugee youths and purposive sampling for selecting FCA staff and Kamwenge District Local Government officials in a study related to refugee empowerment was justified based on specific

research goals, practical considerations, and the characteristics of the population. Further additional justification for using systematic random sampling is that, it ensures that each member of the target population (refugee youths in this case) has an equal chance of being included in the study. This helped in achieving a representative sample that accurately reflects the characteristics of the larger population of refugee youths. Equally, purposive Sampling for FCA Staff and Kamwenge District Local Government was used because since FCA staff and government officials are directly involved in refugee empowerment initiatives and policy implementation; purposive sampling enabled the researcher to target individuals who possess relevant information that aligns with the research objectives.

3.5 Data collection methods

Data was collected by the use of both primary and secondary sources and it involved the following techniques and instruments;

3.5.1 Questionnaire surveys

Quantitative data was collected by use of researcher administered questionnaires. Under the scheme, the study identified a potential respondent, requested him or her to participate in the study and the person that accepted had the researcher administer the questionnaire on him or her. The respondents were met in the refugee settlement or vicinity of the settlement where the youth could be operating a business.

Structured questionnaires were adopted because they enable specific responses, and were time saving for both the respondent and the researcher. Besides they helped to avoid hasty responses (Kinoti, 1998 and Mugenda, 1999).

A questionnaire that was applied to the youths that benefited from FCAs interventions is attached in Appendix 1. The questionnaire was pre-tested at Rwamwanja on a few youth to ensure that it measured what was intended. The questionnaire sought information about the demographic

characteristics of respondents; the challenges the youth face in refugee settlements; the interventions FCA is making to empower the refugee youths; and the strategies to sustainably empower refugee youth.

3.5.2 Key informant interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted with officials of Finn Church Aid and Kamwenge District Local Government. The respondents were purposively sampled based on their involvement in refugee empowerment in and around Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Kamwenge district. Four respondents were selected from Finn Church Aid and four from Kamwenge District Local Government. An interview guide (Appendix 2) was used during the interviews to ensure consistency and uniformity. As Turner (2010) puts it, sometimes interviewees get off topic with certain questions either due to misunderstanding of the question itself or not wishing to answer the question directly. In this respect, Creswell (2007) suggests that when conducting interviews, interviewers should always explore reconstructing questions to make them clearer hence reducing misunderstanding and include effective follow-ups so as to improve understanding. Officers from Finn Church Aid and Kamwenge District Local Government were interviewed from within their office premises.

3.5.3 Secondary sources

Secondary data was obtained from various publications including the Office of the Prime Minister, Finn Church Aid, UNHCR and others.

Secondary data was gathered from recorded documents and some publications such as books, journals and policy documents. The other data was obtained from the internet.

3.6 Research instruments

The research instruments included the Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQs). SAQs were used because they are the most suitable in a survey that involves a large number of respondents (Amin, 2005). Moreover, SAQs consume less time and money compared to other methods (Alston & Bowels, 1998).

The research instruments that were used for this study consisted of the following: Part 1 was used to gather relevant information on the profile of respondents such as (gender, age among others); Part 2 of the questionnaire covered information relating to the study variables.

3.7 Validity and reliability of instruments

3.7.1 Reliability

For quality control, a pre-test of the research instrument was conducted to ensure validity and reliability. The purpose of reliability testing was to ascertain whether the instrument generated similar results in different settings. The designed instrument was tried out on selected individuals under situations similar to those of the actual sample that was finally used in the study.

Pre-testing helped to identify certain deficiencies e.g.; vague questions that would have been interpreted differently by respondents, or those that would have biased the respondents.

To test the reliability of the questionnaire, six (6) youth who were not be included in the sample size were selected.

3.7.2 Validity

The questionnaires were checked for accuracy and completeness based on alpha cron-bach test of more than 0.7. This coefficient tested whether all questions testing perception about a particular variable hang together as a set. In other words, it tested for internal consistency i.e., whether the questions teased out all the institutional weaknesses in a specific variable. In instances where the reliability is below 0.7, the researcher looked out for questions that were ambiguous, or where non-response was likely to be high. Such questions were either be improved or dropped.

The output of alpha analysis for the items included in the research were calculated as follows:

Correlation Analysis

Cronbach Coefficient Alpha

for RAW variables : 0.76729

for STANDARDIZED variables: 0.77102

	Raw Variables	Std. Variables		
Deleted Variable	Correlation with Total	Correlation Alpha	Correlation with Total	Correlation Alpha
SB2	0.365790	0.764471	0.358869	0.772209
SB3	0.356596	0.765262	0.350085	0.772623
SB4	0.444259	0.779964	0.434180	0.781626
SB8	0.185652	0.808962	0.176243	0.816080
SF1	0.426663	0.761443	0.443533	0.769178
SF2	0.401001	0.763201	0.418211	0.773390
SG2	0.419384	0.762229	0.434247	0.770623

The raw variable columns were used instead of the standardized columns since the variances showed a limited spread (data not shown). Had there been a mixture of dichotomous and multi-point scales in the study, we would have had relatively heterogeneous variances in which case the use of standardized variables would have been more appropriate. As it is, the procedure output has an overall raw alpha of .77 (rounded from .76729 from the top of table) which is good considering that .70 is the cutoff value for being acceptable.

The printed output facilitates the identification of dispensable variable(s) by listing down the deleted variables in the first column together with the expected resultant alpha in the same row in the third column. For this example, the table indicates that if SB8 were to be deleted then the value of raw alpha will increase from the current .77 to .81. Note that the same variable has the lowest item-total correlation value (.185652). This indicates that SB8 is not measuring the same construct as the rest of the items in the scale are measuring. With this process alone, the researcher was able to come up with the reliability index of the "REGULATE" construct but she also managed to improve on it. What this means is that removal SB8 from the scale will make the construct more reliable for use as a predictor variable.

3.8 Data gathering procedures

3.8.1 Before the administration of the questionnaires

An introductory letter was obtained from the Directorate of Higher Degrees and Researcher (DHDR) of Kampala International University. This letter enabled the researcher to seek permission from the relevant authorities and communities in which this study was to be carried out.

3.8.2 During data collection

After obtaining the details of potential respondents, the researcher selected some research assistants who were oriented and briefed to take part in data collection. The researcher took the responsibility of introducing the research assistants in the Refugee camp as well as communities before data gathering process kicked off.

3.8.3 During the administration of the questionnaire

During data collection, the researcher administered questionnaires to respondents. The researcher was helped by the research assistants to speed up the process of data collection. Respondents were kindly requested to fill in the questionnaires within two weeks. To ensure that respondents filled in the questionnaires within two weeks, the researcher and research assistants kept visiting the respondents and this kept them reminded on the deadline for gathering all the instruments. The researcher then got back the instruments while making sure that respondents answered all the questions.

3.8.4 After the administration of the questionnaire

When all the research instruments were collected, tallying of data and coding begun immediately. Frequencies and percentages were used for respondents profile while means were used to determine the responses related to study variables.

3.9 Data analysis

3.9.1 Quantitative data analysis

The data collected was analysed and interpreted using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). Frequencies and descriptive statistics were used to establish the role of International NGOs in Refugee Youth Empowerment in Uganda. Data on our variables of interest was determined and interpreted using this range as shown below;

Mean range	Interpretation
4.21- 5.00	Strongly Agree
3.41-4.20	Agree
2.61-3.40	Not Sure
1.81-2.60	Disagree
1.00-1.80	Strongly Disagree

3.9.2 Qualitative data analysis

Qualitative data was analysed by content analysis of answers given in the open ended questions. This was aimed at establishing the answers that emerged from respondents during and after collection based on the main study themes by sorting out and assembling them in paragraphs. The researcher also assigned codes to themes and sub themes using numbers. This determined the number of times each response appeared in open-ended questions. Coding was done by classifying answers given by the respondents into meaningful categories and grades for the purpose of bringing out the most important patterns.

3.10 Ethical considerations

An introductory letter introducing the researcher to Finn Church Aid (the field of study) was obtained from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kampala International University. Permission was also sought from FCA, OPM and UNHCR to use some of their published works in the study. The researcher also obtained consent from the Camp Commandant

and all the respondents to participate in the study. Anonymity was observed since most of the respondents did not want their names taken. The researcher observe extreme confidentiality while handling the responses. Assurances were given to the refugees that the information availed would not in any way jeopardise their chances of obtaining services from FCA in the future or endanger their stay in Uganda; and that participation was voluntary.

3.11 Limitations of the study

Prior to the study, the researcher anticipated to get resistance from respondents in the provision of information. This was overcome by increasing the number of targeted respondents. Due to the limitations of time and funds, the study did not look at the contribution of various international NGOs to refugee empowerment in all the refugee settlements of Uganda. This however did not have a material effect on the quality of the research work as steps were taken to ensure conformity with the entire necessary scientific rigor.

Another limitation was that some relevant information on numbers of beneficiaries of each intervention was not readily available and the researcher had to contend with this by generalising and also making necessary projections and assumptions.

CHAPTER FOUR:

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the presentation of data, analysis of the data and the interpretation of findings. The presentation is guided by the research objectives. The statistics are a manifestation of what it took to answer the research questions. The chapter begins with background information on the demographic characteristics of the respondents followed by descriptive statistics of the findings. The interpretation of the findings follows the statistics. The three research objectives guiding the presentation in this chapter are to:

- (i) Examine the challenges afflicting youth in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement;
- (ii) Evaluate the impact of Finn Church Aid youth empowerment programs in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement;
- (iii) Investigate strategies for deepening youth empowerment in Rwamwanja Refugee settlements.

4.1 Response Rate

The data from the study was from 91% from the respondents Even Mugenda (1999) as well as Saunders (2017) suggests that a response rate of 50% is adequate when quantitative data is manually collected.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Respondents Category	Sample Size	Actual returned	Percentage
All respondents	123	112	91%

Source: Primary Data, 2023

Table 4.1 above presents the response rate of the responses to which the research instruments were administered. The findings presented show that out of 123 respondents targeted 112 responded giving a response rate of 91%. This implies that the response rate was high.

4.2 Demographic characteristics of respondents

The study wanted to establish the demographic characteristics of refugee youth respondents. A total of 112 refugees were interviewed. There were more males (70.83%) staying in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement that were met during the study. Nearly half (47.92%) of those interviewed were aged between 18 and 29 years. More than a third (39.58%) of those interviewed had completed Primary Seven level of education. Nearly all the refugees (93.75%) were from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nearly all the respondents (93.75%) were refugees. The details are in Table 4.1.

Table 4.2: Showing the Demographic characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender (n=112)		
Male	79	70.83
Female	33	29.17
Age category (n=112)		
12-17 years	37	33.33
18-29 years	54	47.92
30-35 years	16	14.58
36-40 years	05	04.17
Highest education level attained (n=112)		
None at all	14	12.50
Primary Seven	44	39.53
Ordinary Level	33	29.17
Advanced Level	14	12.50
Others	07	06.25
Origin/Nationality of Respondents (n=112)		
Uganda	04	4.17
DRC	105	93.75
Burundi	03	2.08
Refugee Status (n=112)		
Ugandan	07	6.25
Refugee	105	93.75

Source: From the field by the researcher, 2023.

According to Table 4.1, the high number of males met during the study probably meant that more males are seizing most of the opportunities available for refugee youth empowerment.

Whereas an almost equal number of females and males enter the country as refugees, most of the females enter into marriage and the combined toll of marital, child bearing and raising obligations, make youth empowerment opportunities unappealing to such women.

The majority of the respondents in the age bracket of 18 and 29 years probably meant that these refugees came to Uganda on their own as teenagers. The high number of youths in the age bracket 18-29 years is a wakeup call on development partners and agencies to dedicate programming for this young energetic population lest it becomes a time bomb. These youth need livelihood, health and opportunities so as to safeguard them and also tap into their abilities.

The high number of refugees only possessing primary seven level qualifications can be attributed to the limited number of post primary institutions in the refugee camp. Primary seven graduates have limited capacity to innovate and create jobs for themselves and to also find employment in the job market. Effective programming is needed to create opportunities and later entice the budding youth in this age group with the blue-collar jobs in public works, farming and other vocations.

The high number of respondents emanating from DRC is probably due to the fact that Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement is designated by the government of Uganda to accommodate refugees from DRC. DRC will for a long time be a source of refugees to Uganda due to the continuous civil strife in the country. Diplomatic engagements and relevant programming should be made for these refugees that may inadvertently have to stay in Uganda for decades to come.

The highest number of respondents professing to be refugees probably can be attributed to the various programs and opportunities available for refugees than to the nationals. Development partners and aid agencies should be proactive in mobilising local people (nationals) to benefit from the various refugee empowerment programs so as to foster unity, cohesion and productivity in the refugee hosting communities.

During the key informant interviews, the Refugee Desk Officer for Rwamwanja revealed ‘*how the Office of the Prime Minister works with a number of international agencies that have*

active programs for the youth. “Nearly all the agencies working in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement have programs targeting the youth. Some refugees come to Uganda as teenagers and benefit from all the programs the different agencies have on offer”.

4.3 Challenges afflicting youth in and around refugee settlements

Data on the challenges afflicting youth in and around refugee settlement was obtained by interviewing the youth that had benefited from the operations and programs of Finn Church Aid. The results are presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.3: Showing challenges afflicting youth in and around Rwamwanja refugee settlement

#	Challenges	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Not sure (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	Absence of a decent shelter	45	27	8	20	0
2	Frequent bouts of malaria that are costly to treat	53	36	10	0	0
3	Affordable and accessible building materials e.g building poles	75	13	3	9	0
4	Inability to afford fuel for cooking and other purposes	72	18	0	10	0
5	Shortage of clean and accessible water	49	39	0	13	0
6	Lack of recognition and involvement	76	24	0	0	0
7	Trauma and an uncertain future of life in exile	63	17	0	8	12
8	Absence of meaningful education and life skills development opportunities	50	13	0	8	29
9	Challenges, complexities, and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and/or local authorities	10	10	0	30	50
10	The indignity of lining up for food and other provisions due to lack of employment opportunities	49	18	5	18	10
11	Unfriendly youth services at Police, Church and at health centres	20	45	10	15	10
12	Lack of opportunities to participate, be engaged, or access decision makers	26	36	25	0	13

Source: From the field by the researcher, 2023

From the study results in Table 4.2, the refugees agree that the absence of a descent shelter (72%); frequent bouts of malaria that are costly to treat (89%); affording and accessing building materials (88%); inability to afford fuel for cooking and other purposes (90%); shortage of clean and accessible water (88%); trauma and an uncertain future in exile (80%); the indignity of lining up for food and other provisions due to lack of employment opportunities (67%) are some of the challenges afflicting youth in and around Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement.

All the respondents (100%) agree that lack of recognition and involvement is a critical challenge affecting the refugee youth.

A considerable proportion of respondents (25%) are not sure whether they face challenges of lack of opportunities to participate, be engaged or access to decision makers.

Whereas the youths are unequivocal in agreeing that they face challenges as refugees, a considerable proportion of respondents disagree that there is an absence of meaningful education and life skills development opportunities (37%) and that there are challenges, complexities, and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and/or local authorities (80%).

The high number of respondents agreeing that youths face challenges in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement is a testament to the globally acclaimed belief that life in exercise is never easy. The long list of challenges justifies the growing number of development actors, both international and local NGOs and CBOs that are involved in different programming to protect, provide and empower the refugee youths.

The considerable number of respondents not sure whether they face challenges of lack of opportunities to participate, be engaged or access to decision makers points to the unfortunate outcome of always providing to able bodied adults. Indeed it is paradoxical how the youths that were found loitering or playing board games in the refugee settlement, could not be appreciating the precarious situation of lack of opportunities to stand on their own.

Some respondents disagree that that there is an absence of meaningful education and life skills development opportunities in the refugee settlement; and that there are challenges, complexities,

and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and/or local authorities. The combined efforts of government and development actors to provide formal education and skills development programs to the refugees has ensured that nearly all willing and interested youth attend all the education and skills development programs they need. The ease with which refugees find to access refugee status documents mirrors well on the good work the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are doing in ensuring a smooth and speedy process of refugee reception, transition, registration and settlement. The mere fact that no refugee can access services and provisions without OPM/UNHCR registration means that the authorities finalise the process quickly to protect and provide for the refugees.

During the key informant interviews;

“the District Community Development Officer emphasized the causal effect of drug abuse in scaling up the effects of trauma and domestic violence in Rwamwanja arguing that a drug addict has no regard to accepted societal norms and family values. “We receive reports of many children and women who are abused by men that have taken on to alcohol consumption and use of drugs as their favourite pastime”.

4.4 The impact of FCA youth empowerment programmes in refugee settlements

Data on the role of FCA in empowering youth in refugee settlements was obtained by interviewing the refugee themselves in Rwamwanja. The results are presented in Table 4.3.

From the study results in Table 4.3, the respondents agree that they were trained in youth entrepreneurship and business skills (96%); female refugees are deliberately encouraged to skill in male dominated vocations that are profitable (94%); refugees are provided with a start-up kit relevant to the vocations they have selected (90%); refugees were supported to form VSLAs for savings mobilization and credit disbursement (98%); FCA is constructing and equipping classrooms (96%); refugees are supported for higher education and vocational education (98%); provision of reading materials during COVID 19 (92%) and linkages to employment opportunities (64%).

A considerable proportion of respondents are not sure whether FCA is setting up baby care facilities to support female students with babies (33%); and has promoted sustainable maize production (48%).

Respondents vehemently disagreed that they are being supported to collectively handle, bulk and sale produce (42%).

Table 4.4: Showing the impact of FCA youth empowerment programs in Rwamwanja refugee settlement

#	Impact of FCA	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Not sure (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	Youth entrepreneurship and business skills training	25	71	0	2	2
2	Female refugees are deliberately encouraged to skill in male dominated vocations that are profitable	21	73	0	6	0
3	Setting up baby care facilities to support female students with babies	19	33	33	8	2
4	Provision of a startup kit relevant to the vocations each refugee trained	25	65	0	4	6
5	Formation and support of VSLAs for savings and credit disbursement	21	77	0	2	0
6	Construction and equipping of classrooms	25	71	0	2	2
7	Support to female youths for higher education and vocational training	25	73	2	0	0
8	Promoting sustainable maize production	17	10	48	21	4
9	Support to collective handling, bulking and sale of produce	0	10	42	25	21
10	Provision of reading materials during COVID 19	38	54	2	2	1
11	Linkages to employment opportunities	10	54	6	13	6

Source: From the field by the researcher, 2023

A number of international NGOs are actively working in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement to empower refugee youth. The NGOs are complimenting government to construct and equip schools. Unfortunately, whatever the NGOs are doing, the refugees seem to be seeing it as a process and not an end in itself.

NGOs and United Nations agencies have made deliberate efforts to skill, equip and more importantly provide monthly stipends in form of cash for refugees to subsist on. It is incumbent on the refugees to become innovative and enterprising and use the resources from the international agencies, the skills acquired and land offered by the government of Uganda to harness and multiply the resources offered for their survival and development.

The significant proportion of respondents not sure whether there are baby care facilities in schools and institutions is an affirmation that the facilities don't exist. This may not be surprising since the government of Uganda has been trying, with great difficulty, to engender the process of welcoming girls that become pregnant back to school, if they do wish to continue with studies.

Refugees seem to be unaware of any efforts to mobilize them to collectively handle, bulk and sale produce. The fact that the refugees do cultivation mainly for subsistence purposes notwithstanding, the government of Uganda with funding from the World Bank under the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) has started a project to construct a central market in Rwamwanja which will go a long way in boosting the volume of marketable produce.

The Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Kamwenge acknowledged the additional support the district was receiving because of hosting refugees by adding that. *“Government and development partners have invested in schools, health centres and roads to specifically cater for the refugees in Rwamwanja. The local people hosting refugees get chance to utilise these social services”.*

4.5 Strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

Data on the contribution of procurement planning to service delivery was obtained by interviewing the staff. The results are presented in Table 4.4.

Table 4.5: Showing strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

#	Strategies and Recommendations	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Not sure (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
1	Prioritize labour-intensive initiatives to create employment for youth	90	10	0	0	0
2	International NGOs should create opportunities to engage youth in productive activities	90	10	0	0	0
3	Involvement of local authorities and other institutions uphold law, order and justice	83	15	0	2	0
4	Use of existing structures such as LCs, Camp Administrators to resolve conflicts and tensions	79	11	2	4	4
5	Maximizing vocational training for the youth	94	6	0	0	0
6	Deliberate investment in the education of youths	94	6	0	0	0
7	Opportunities for psycho-social well-being and cognitive development	90	10	0	0	0
8	Developing social capital and networks for effective refugee youth empowerment	92	5	0	3	0
9	Provision of paid work to refugee youth	94	4	0	2	0
10	Implementation of global commitments to support youth, refugees and other vulnerable persons	92	4	0	2	2

Source: From the field by the researcher, 2023

From the study results in Table 4.4, all the respondents (100%) are very much in agreement that there is need to prioritize labor intensive initiatives to create employment for the youth; international NGOs should create opportunities to engage youth in productive activities; there is need to maximize vocational training for the youth; there is need to make deliberate investments in the higher education of refugee youths; and that there should be opportunities for psychosocial wellbeing and cognitive development .

Compared to the foregoing propositions which have all the respondents agreeing, not all the respondents agree that Local Authorities and other institutions should be involved in upholding justice, law and order in the settlement (98%); existing structures such as LCs, Camp Administrators, etc should be used to resolve conflicts and tensions (90%); there is need to develop social capital and networks for effective refugee youth empowerment (97%); need for provision of paid work to refugees (98%); and implementation of global commitments to support youth, refugees and other vulnerable persons (96%).

The research asserted the need for development partners and international agencies to deliberately create opportunities where the refugee youths can be employed and they earn incomes. The findings take cognizance of the fact the refugee youths may never find formal employment unless they are given affirmative action. Related to this, the youth in need of furthering their education and skillset, should also be enabled to active this feat. This finding becomes relevant aware that most refugee settlements can only provide education up to secondary school level and that the refugees may not be able to afford the high cost involved in seeking tertiary level education.

Refugees primarily leave their home countries escaping conflicts and disagreements and there is need to use the existing mechanisms to resolve the misunderstandings. The government of Uganda has justice, law and order sector structures including the police, courts of law, etc which should be empowered to mediate and resolve conflicts and misunderstandings within these refugees. Local authorities including LCs and Camp Administrators need to be empowered to resolve some of the relevant conflicts.

Refugees need to develop and widen the scope of their social capital in the new lands they are staying. This will increase their chances of finding employment and other partners for lifelong opportunities. Aware that the problems afflicting refugee youths are many and multipronged, there is need for developing partnerships and alliances for the realization of some of these international commitments and obligations for refugee care, protection and provisions.

During the key informant interviews with the Assistant District Health Officer, the need to integrate mental health issues in the menu of services available at all Health Centres in the refugee settlement was emphasised.

“Refugees present with a lot of trauma resulting from the loss of their dear ones and livelihoods due to war. We need to equip our health centres in terms of man power and drugs to detect and manage all persons in need of psychosocial services”.

CHAPTER FIVE:

SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The Chapter presents the summary of findings, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the study based on the findings and implications. The areas of further research within the study topic have also been suggested.

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 Challenges afflicting youth in and around refugee settlements

From the findings of the study, respondents agree that the absence of a descent shelter (72%); frequent bouts of malaria that are costly to treat (89%); affording and accessing building materials (88%); inability to afford fuel for cooking and other purposes (90%); shortage of clean and accessible water (88%); trauma and an uncertain future in exile (80%); the indignity of lining up for food and other provisions due to lack of employment opportunities (67%) are some of the challenges afflicting youth in and around Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement.

All the respondents agree that lack of recognition and involvement is a critical challenge affecting the refugee youth (100%). In the same vein, one in four of the respondents (25%) are not sure whether they face challenges of lack of opportunities to participate, be engaged or access to decision makers.

Some of the respondents disagree that there is an absence of meaningful education and life skills development opportunities (37%) and that there are challenges, complexities, and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and/or local authorities (80%).

5.1.2 Impact of FCA empowerment programmes in refugee settlements

According to the findings of the study, From the results in Table 4.3, the respondents agree that they were trained in youth entrepreneurship and business skills (96%); female refugees are deliberately encouraged to skill in male dominated vocations that are profitable (94%); refugees are provided with a start-up kit relevant to the vocations they have selected (90%); refugees were supported to form VSLAs for savings mobilization and credit disbursement (98%); FCA is constructing and equipping classrooms (96%); refugees are supported for higher education and vocational education (98%); provision of reading materials during COVID 19 (92%) and linkages to employment opportunities (64%).

A considerable proportion of respondents are not sure whether FCA is setting up baby care facilities to support female students with babies (33%); and has promoted sustainable maize production (48%).

Respondents vehemently disagreed that they are being supported to collectively handle, bulk and sale produce (42%).

5.1.3 Strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

From the findings of the study, there are a number of propositions that respondents have no iota of doubt on: prioritizing labor intensive initiatives to create employment for the youth (100%); international NGOs should create opportunities to engage youth in productive activities (100%); maximizing vocational training for the youth (100%); making deliberate investments in the higher education of refugee youths (100%); and creating opportunities for psychosocial wellbeing and cognitive development (100%).

Unlike the above findings where all the respondents are in total agreement, in these findings, there are some few pockets of disagreement. Respondents agree that Local Authorities and other institutions should be involved in upholding justice, law and order in the settlement (98%); existing structures such as LCs, Camp Administrators, etc should be used to resolve conflicts and tensions (90%); social capital and networks should be developed for effective refugee youth empowerment (97%); refugees should be engaged in work for pay programs (98%); global

commitments to support youth, refugees and other vulnerable persons should be implemented (96%).

5.2 Discussions

The discussion of the findings follows the research objectives. The three research objectives guiding the discussions in this chapter are to:

5.2.1 Examining the challenges afflicting youth in and around refugee settlements

Findings indicate that the absence of a descent shelter is a major challenge affecting refugee youths. This finding lends credence to assertions by Kostelny & Wessels (2013) who chronicled that refugees are accommodated in emergency and temporary small housing structures that offer limited privacy to the occupants. Officials from the Office of the Prime Minister tasked with receiving and accommodating refugees acknowledge this problem and blame it on the increasing number of refugees being received from the region and the declining budget from development partners to cater for them. A visit to the refugee settlement evidences this finding as housing structures are barely apart from each other. This finding has an implication for UNHCR and other development partners to accord refugees descent shelter so as to uphold their human dignity.

Field findings brought to the fore that refugee youth fall victim to frequent bouts of malaria that are costly to treat. This finding concurs with Weare (2021) who describes in detail the precarious conditions of living in malaria prone areas in congested quarters where houses are without window screens or solid doors and without mosquito nets. The incidence of malaria is high in Uganda. For example, in 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that there were an estimated of 13 million malaria cases and over 19,600 estimated deaths in Uganda. This finding has an implication for the Ministry of Health which as to prioritise the effective distribution of mosquito nets and prompt treatment for malaria in refugee hosting areas.

It was unearthed from the study that refugee youths intending to construct shelters can neither afford nor access building poles. The finding is in consonance with Grosrenauld, *et al.*, (2021)

who argued that years of cutting down trees for building materials had decimated most refugee hosting areas of any forest cover. It was further noted that the OPM and UNHCR does not include building poles on the tarpaulins offered to refugees to set up their shelters. Without poles, the refugees scavenge the area for any available pole to erect shelter. These poles are always on the risk of being eaten by termites making the process of erecting shelters a recurring activity each year. In response to this problem, the Government of Uganda has obtained funding from the World Bank under the DRDIP to undertake reforestation programs in refugee hosting communities. The onus is on the project implementers and camp administrators to plant and manage fast maturing trees that can respond to the wood needs of the refugees.

Related to the above finding, refugee youth are unable to afford fuel for cooking and other purposes. This vindicates the quartet of agroforestry scientists who argued that the youths have the primary responsibility of hewing wood for their households since fuel is never part of the rations offered to refugees. Years of using rudimentary methods for cooking without an appropriate forestry restoration program, has led to the profiling of wood fuel among the critical needs in refugee camps. The framers of the DRDIP program had foresight of this problem as this program is envisaged to re-afforest the refugee hosting areas. The finding has an implication for the government of Uganda and development partners to devise wood energy saving mechanisms and other high yielding cooking options for refugees aware that reforestation is a long term program that may not solve the recurring fuel wood needs of refugees.

Primary data findings revealed that refugee youth face shortages of clean and accessible water. This finding adds weight to earlier assertions by Kanya, Asingwire & Waisswa (2021) who explained that children and youth walk long distances, use inappropriate containers and meet numerous risks when fetching water. The UNHCR (2020) cannot agree any further with this finding noting that the absence of clean water supplies in settlements compromises the realization of nutrition, health, education and sanitation outcomes for the refugees. Adolescents are particularly fascinated and affected by the drudgery of fetching water from long distances as it predisposes girls to teenage pregnancies, STIs and other undesirable outcomes. This finding has an implication for development partners to invest in accessible and affordable clean water supplies and forestall the expenses that may result from the lack of this essential utility.

Primary data findings revealed that refugee youth face trauma and an uncertain future in exile. The finding underlines assertions by the world refugee body that most youth present with obvious signs of disillusionment and hopelessness resulting from maturing into a country where they have an uncertain future (UNHCR, 2020). Discussions with the head of the OPM Refugee Desk revealed that they receive many incidences of attempted and actual suicides in the Camp. This is not surprising given that refugees can only settle in a country up to ten years and either be relocated or returned to the country they fled from, always brings uncertainty among the youth. The finding has an implication for both the government of Uganda, development partners and UNHCR to invest in proactive and efficient psychosocial counselling and treatment facilities and systems to heal, rehabilitate and restore hope among the refugees.

Research findings revealed that the youth face the indignity of lining up for money, health services and other provisions due to lack of employment opportunities. This finding exonerates Tanner & O'Connor (2017) who argued that the youth did not feel comfortable going to for example report gender-based violence or reproductive health services as the providers often look down upon them. Despite Uganda's acclaimed open refugee policy, you cannot rule out such incidents where service providers may ridicule, back bite or scorn at refugees seeking services ordinarily meant for the local people. The onus is on government and development partners to create opportunities where refugees can meaningfully earn from their trade and skills and more importantly involving and empowering refugee hosting communities so that they see the presence of refugees in their locality as a blessing and not as a burden.

Primary data findings indicate that lack of recognition and involvement is a critical challenge. This finding lends credence to assertions by UNHCR & WRC (2019) that refugees are seldomly consulted, frequently overlooked and never engaged. Some refugee youth have talents, energy and great potential which remains latent. It is this gathering danger of herding youth in settlements without clear and concrete plans that is the crux of the upcoming Global Refugee Summit due in Kampala in December 2023. The onus is on development partners that are always praising Uganda for having an open refugee policy to augment the initiatives and provide the

support needed to ensure that refugees in the Global South are able to live in dignity and security, and to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Primary data revealed that an absence of meaningful education and life skills development opportunities. This finding waters down assertions by UNHCR (2018) that refugees between the ages of 15 -30 are disproportionately affected by the absence of education and life skills development opportunities. During discussions with officials from OPM, it was noted that government and community members had constructed two new secondary schools in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. It was also noted that a number of refugee agencies including FCA had specialised in the delivery of free business, technical, vocational educational training (BTVET) and life skills development opportunities for all willing refugees and other youths in the community. The denial that the youth lack educational and life skills development opportunities and the seemingly obvious precarious situation in which the refugees are in, is a question that requires deeper understanding and programming. The onus is on development partners to put in place relevant programs to absorb the multitude of these youths being trained.

Field findings indicate that the youths do not face challenges, complexities and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and other local authorities. This finding punches holes in assertions by the celebrated news blog on refugees, theconversations.com (2020) that refugees are often being hounded by the Police, Immigration and other law enforcement agencies for lack of the necessary documentations which they are chasing from UNHCR or OPM. This finding underlines Uganda's open refugee policy where refugees are initially screened and received at a Reception Centre before registration as Refugees which is a prerequisite to obtaining all care, protection and provisions from UNHCR and other agencies. This fact notwithstanding, if the research was being carried out in Kampala City where there are urban refugees often seeking resettlement in Western Europe or North America, the findings would be different. This has an implication on UNHCR and other development partners to woo the government of Uganda for a relevant policy and mechanism of integrating refugees that stay in the country for over ten years and wish to not go back to their home countries or seek third country resettlement.

5.2.2 Evaluating the impact of FCA youth empowerment programmes in refugee settlements

The Rwamwanja project, based on the Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E) approach, led to: Connecting relevant training to labour market needs. Career counselling has connected graduates with employers and help to start their own business. 71% of The Creative Industry programme, delivered by Finn Church Aid (FCA).

The pilot phase proposed courses on advanced digital skills in game design and music production and contributed to building an understanding that multi country collaborations are possible given the size of the market demands for these digital skills and limited regulation in place the graduates find work after BTVET Community-based courses, to accommodate distance and childcare needs, are provided in the training centers to young mothers. Partnerships with other organizations to develop digital skills among a selected group of refugees.

Primary data findings revealed that the refugee youths were trained in youth entrepreneurship and business skills. This finding lends credence to reports from OPM (2020) & FCA (2021) which mentions youth being trained for job readiness, to write business plans and starting their own businesses. A field visit to Rwamwanja Refugee Centre revealed that the presence of the FCA BTVET Centre, a fully-fledged training centre for honing the skills of the youth in business and entrepreneurship. The Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development which is in charge of Youth and Children Affairs, pulpitalizes business and entrepreneurship training as one plausible way of igniting the potential of the youth and widening their chances for job creation. The onus is on development partners to create opportunities and facilities for incubating and nursing the business ideas generated until fruition.

Primary data findings revealed that female refugees are encouraged to skill in male dominated vocations that are profitable. This finding concurs with FCA (2021) activity reports that have tales of women skilling in welding and blacksmiths, sandle making and other aptitudes that were traditionally a preserve for males. The Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) under the Ministry of Education and Sports has a deliberate program to encourage women to undertake

such vocations and has been certifying the skills development programs they undertake emphasizing that women who break ranks into male dominated fields have highest chances of getting royal clientele than their male counterparts. This finding has an implication on development partners who have to be prudent and offer affirmative action to the female trainees so that they are not weighed down by the rigorous rigours of the vocation during the training.

Field data findings revealed that refugees are provided with startup kits on completion of the skilling. This finding underlines assertions by UNHCR (2020) & FCA (2021) that the aid agency had realised the troubles youth face in raising money for start up capital and was augmenting their efforts with tools in line with the skills they had acquired. The provision of start up kits increases the chances of graduates immediately starting a job in line with the skill acquired. The Government of Uganda under the Presidential Initiative for Skilling the Girl Child has trained and offered start up kits to the graduates which has increased the number of females creating jobs for themselves and benefits along the value chain. This has an implication on FCA to identify and nurture enthusiastic refugees that are guaranteed to start the enterprise on graduation.

Field data findings revealed that refugees were supported to form Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). The finding vindicates FCA (2021) which reported that the refugee youths were supported to pool money and lend amongst themselves. The government of Uganda has developed a blue print for fighting poverty and stimulating rural transformation under the Parish Development Model (PDM). Under PDM, financial inclusion is an integral pillar. VSLAs come in handy as they act as nurseries to instigate the youth into developing a culture of savings and accessing credit. It is hoped that from VSLAs, the youth will graduate into SACCOs and MFIs and begin to borrow for investments and business expansion. The onus is on development partners to follow up and augment the functionality of these VSLAs to catalyse innovation, job creation and business expansion among refugees.

Primary data acknowledges that schools had been constructed and equipped for use by refugees and children in host communities. The findings vindicate FCA (2022) which had chronicled about constructing and equipping 72 classrooms in refugee hosting settlements. It was noted

during discussions with the Kamwenge District Education Officer that FCA played a vanguard role in constructing and equipping the four Universal Primary Education (UPE); four community primary and two secondary schools that serve the Refugee Settlement and surrounding areas. The intervention by FCA was timely aware that the influx of refugees often congests and leads to the quick deterioration of existing learning facilities in refugee hosting areas. The Government of Uganda under the DRDIP is slated to construct additional classrooms and facilities to increase the carrying capacity of schools in refugee hosting areas. This finding has an implication on the district education inspectorate department to continuously visit and monitor the schools established to ensure that all eligible children attend and complete school and more importantly realise the education learning outcomes.

Primary data findings revealed that refugees are supported for higher education and vocational education. The findings vindicate UNHCR (2021) which asserted that bright refugees keen on pursuing higher education are facilitated to complete studies. Under the specialised model of the NGOs working in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, the different agencies that interface such students in their interventions, always refer them to FCA which has over the years distinguished itself as a promoter of education. The onus is on development partners to encourage refugees to select science and vocational courses where they have increased chances of finding employment or creating jobs themselves.

Primary data findings revealed that refugee students were availed with reading and learning materials when conventional learning stopped during the COVID 19 lockdown. The finding concurs with the UNNGOF (2021) which chronicled about member NGOs availing learning materials to students during the lock down. The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports also made an attempt, with limited success, to distribute learning materials to students through DEOs and Local Council (LC 1) officials. This finding has an implication on NGOs that should always be flexible to realign their programs and intervene in tandem with the situations prevailing.

Field findings indicate that refugee youth are linked to employment opportunities. The findings lend credence to calls by UNHCR (2020) to development partners working in refugee

settlements to deliberately link qualifying refugees to job opportunities so as to improve their resilience and buoyancy in the country. The linking of refugees to employment opportunities will for a long time remain work in progress aware that the country is itself grappling with massive graduate unemployment. This has an implication on development agencies to heighten the role of career guidance and counselling so as to prepare the refugees to choose courses and vocations that are highly demanded in the job and enterprise market.

Field findings indicate that FCA had set up baby care facilities to support female participants whenever they have a function or a training. This is in fulfillment of Mantovani & Thomas (2014) concerns that female refugees were always missing out on refugee empowerment programs whenever they are pregnant or have just delivered due to lack of relevant facilities where they can take rest or breast feed in privacy. Discussions with various stakeholders further revealed the growing initiative to always cater for breast feeding mothers during various activity functions as copied from FCA. The Ministry of Health is currently promoting exclusive breast feeding for all children under the age of six months so as to foster healthy child growth and development and the inclusion of breast feeding rooms during meetings and functions is always pitched for. The onus is on UNHCR and the government of Uganda through the OPM to root for breast feeding facilities as a standard requirement among the many agencies working in Rwamwanja.

Primary data findings indicate that refugees were not being supported to handle, bulk and collectively sale produce. The findings water down assertions by UNHCR/WFP (2020) who chronicled about refugee farmers' interest to grow their own food and sale the excess to the market and FCA (2021) which was explaining its initiative about the Food System Lab in Uganda where farmers are organised into collectives to sell in bulk and to negotiate prices. The limited land holdings available to the refugees, that is, one acre per household, is partly to blame for the limited surplus produce available for sale. Kamwenge District Local Government has taken cognisance of this and is with funding from the World Bank under DRDIP constructing a modern central market in Rwamwanja Town Council which will go a long way in stimulating the population to produce for the market. The dwindling food ration cash of UGX 13,000 per person per month that is offered by the WFP is expected to instigate the refugees to appreciate the

benefits of growing their own food. The onus is on the World Food Programme and development partners to prioritise the distribution of farm inputs and initiatives to purchase at premium prices, all the produce from the refugees so as to draw them into maximum production.

5.2.3 Investigating strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

Primary data revealed that labour intensive initiative should be prioritised to create employment for the youth. This finding exonerates UNHCR (2001) which is promoting work for food and work for cash programs as a way of stimulating refugees to get out of the tents and go to the fields for work. Discussions with the Kamwenge District Community Development Officer warns of the gathering danger of herding able bodied youth into camps with no work noting that it's a recipe for disaster. Under the DRDIP program, a number of roads, a central market and social infrastructure facilities will be developed in Rwamwanja Town Council and it is envisaged that they will draw local labour from the refugee youth and the population in the area. This finding has an implication for Kamwenge District Local Government and the Office of the Prime Minister who will be supervising the project, to obligate the contractors to draw non specialised labour from the locality.

Findings from the field indicate that international NGOs should create opportunities to engage youth in productive activities. This finding augments the performance reports of UNHCR (2018) which argued that failure to indulge the youth in productive work was a gathering danger that was likely to lead these refugees into antisocial behaviour. During discussions with the OPM Refugee Desk Officer at Rwamwanja revealed that NGOs had taken cognisance of this problem and were very deliberate in deploying refugees for relevant tasks such as research, primary health care, etc so that they earn. The onus is on UNHCR and OPM to obligate all these agencies working in the Settlement to entrust work relevant work to refugees and if possible, enshrine it among the performance indicators so that agencies report on it.

Primary data points to the need to maximise vocational training for the youth. This finding underscores assertions by OPM (2010) which argued that skills training offers the youth an opportunity to create jobs for themselves as well as integration into the formal market and income earning bracket in their localities. The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of

Education and Sports and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has already prioritised vocational training for skills and employability. This has an implication on development agencies and specifically program officers who have to appropriately plan and budget for vocational training to enable the refugee youth escape from poverty and joblessness.

It was established from primary data that deliberate investments have to be made in the higher education of refugee youths. This finding underscores assertions by the OPM (2020) that its only higher education that can enable refugee youths aspire to greatness and become responsible productive members of society both in asylum and when they return home. Propositions from OPM (2010) are not farfetched. Early childhood, Primary and Secondary Education is basically meant to improve literacy and competencies in basic subjects and may thus never enable one to get any job in this world. With the increasing number of institutions of higher learning in Uganda, its next to impossible to get a job with secondary school education. This finding has an implication for development partners which should take deliberate steps to identify the few refugees that pass Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) and sponsor them for higher education.

Findings revealed that that the refugee youth need opportunities for psychosocial wellbeing and cognitive development. This finding further lends credence to assertions by OECD (2017) that some refugees have witnessed gruesome killings of their kin, isolations, and a looming shattering of the future they envisioned and thus need counselling and treatment of the trauma and psychological troubles they are facing. Discussions with aid agencies also revealed the need for functional mental health and psychological support for refugees. With the increasing number of attempted and complete suicides in the refugee camp, the need for mental health and psychological support cannot be over emphasized. This finding has an implication for government and development partners who have to fund mental health and psychological support services at all health centre services.

According to primary data findings, Ugandan Authorities and institutions should be involved in upholding justice, law and order in the Refugee Settlement. This finding is in consonance with UNHCR (2018) which decried emerging anti-social behaviours in refugee settlements which sometimes degenerates into murders, demonstrations, etc. The UNHCR beckoned the Police and

other law enforcement agencies to always move swiftly to contain such situations and let the suspects face the law. During the visit to the Settlement, it was noted that the Settlement and the surrounding areas are served by two fully fledged Police Stations. There is a Court in Kamwengye town to try suspects that will have been sanctioned by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). Under Uganda's open refugee policy, refugees just like citizens, on the wrong side of the law are handled by the authorities and sentenced if proven guilty. The onus is on the Justice, Law and Order Sector institutions to cover the area appropriately in response to the growing volatile population there.

Findings from the field suggest that existing structures such as Clan heads, LCs, Camp Administrators, etc should be used to resolve conflicts and tensions. This finding lends credence to suggestions from OPM (2020) which vouched for the use of these institutions to detect, deter and resolve wrangles and disagreements in and around the Camp. According to OPM, these structures have a lot of local knowledge, understanding of the situations and respect among the refugees and would thus be helpful in resolving conflicts among people. Whereas this is a plausible suggestion; under the Ugandan laws these structures can only be relied upon to handle minor disagreements and cases of civil nature since criminal cases are a preserve of the state. The onus is on development agencies to sensitise the refugees on the relevant cases that can be handled by the local authorities and later move to empower them to improve on their acceptability and effectiveness in conflict resolution.

Primary data brought to the fore the need to develop social capital and networks for effective youth empowerment. This finding concurs with OECD (2007) which articulated the benefits of social capital and networks in enabling the refugee youths to for example obtain the necessary documentation, assistance and even jobs. This advice presupposes that the youth are free to move and are outgoing to mix with the natives. This instruction has an implication on development agencies that interface the refugee youths to also instil in them socialisation and self-esteem skills.

It was evident from primary data that the refugee youth should be provided with opportunities to work and be paid. The findings are in tandem with Gettlife & Sitora (2019) who argued that paid work ensures that the refugee youth embark on the journey of self-sustenance and realisation of

personal goals. Indeed, work has the ability of enabling the youth regain a sense of security, independence and dignity. The onus is on development organisations that interface the refugee youth to instil in youth the value and essence of work and also create opportunities for the youth to work and be paid. Fortunately, mindset change is the gist of government's blueprint to transform communities under the Parish Development Model.

Revelations from the field point out to youth crusaders urging the government and other development partners to implement global commitments to support youth, refugees and other vulnerable persons. This finding vindicates O'Neil, Tam, Anjali Fleury & Marta Foresti (2016) noted that the international community has made promises and reached agreements that promote inclusive growth, decent work, job creation and entrepreneurship all of which need to be implemented to uplift the lives of host communities and refugees. The quartet probably had foresight of Uganda's dilemma in refugee care. Countries and development partners are yet to fulfill the commitments made at the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees that was held in Kampala in 2017 with the support of the United Nations. Uganda had hoped to rally international support for refugees and host communities, but five years down the road, the international community continues to offer lip services and praise singing Uganda for having an open refugee policy but withholding the much-needed donations, investments and innovative programmes for sustainable refugee management. This finding has an implication for development partners to rise up to their responsibility of supporting refugees and communities that host them so as to usher in sustainable progressive refugee models in the world.

5.3 Conclusions

The researcher makes conclusions following the research objectives. The three research objectives guiding the conclusions in this chapter are to:

5.3.1 Challenges afflicting youth in and around refugee settlements

Concerning objective one, the researcher concludes that respondents in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement perceive themselves as still having issues affecting their empowerments. This was reflected by the following: absence of a decent shelter where they can live in privacy. In the tents and temporary housing structures where they live, they fall victim to frequent bouts of

malaria that are costly to treat. The youth keen on constructing their own shelters can neither afford nor access building poles. Years of deforestation without any reforestation program have led to an acute shortage of wood fuel in the settlement and the refugees have to walk long distances to hew wood since fuel is never part of the rations offered. Related to wood, the youth walk long distances and meet numerous risks when fetching water. The youth are also manifesting with obvious signs of disillusionment and hopelessness resulting from maturing into a country where they have an uncertain future and are seldomly consulted, frequently overlooked and rarely engaged. Due to lack of incomes to afford basic necessities, the youth face the indignity of lining up for money, health services and other provisions. Youth eager to become self reliant have to struggle to get meaningful education and life skills development opportunities. The only silver lining is that the youths do not face challenges, complexities and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and other local authorities.

5.3.2 Impact of FCA empowerment programmes in refugee settlements

Based on the findings on this objective, the researcher concludes that respondents in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement perceive themselves as having felt a moderate impact of support from FCA as follows: The youth have been trained in entrepreneurship and business skills. Female refugees are encouraged to skill in male dominated vocations that are profitable and where they stand high chances of getting employment or clientele. To increase their chances of starting work, the refugees are provided with startup kits on completion of their skilling programs. Graduates are supported to form VSLAs as a gateway to the financial inclusion of these otherwise marginalised people. Aware of the critical importance of education, schools have been constructed and equipped for use by refugees and children in host communities. Refugees that complete basic education, are supported to enrol for higher education and vocational training. During the turbulent times of COVID 19 when conventional learning had stopped, refugee students were availed with reading and learning materials. There is an active program to link graduates to employment opportunities. In most offices and trainings, there are facilities where pregnant women or those that have just delivered can take a rest or breast feed in privacy. What is questionable however is whether refugees are supported to handle, bulk and collectively sale

produce. This leads to a general stand that FCA has significantly impacted positively the lives of the youth for the case of Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement.

5.3.3 Strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

From the findings of this objective, and the last objective of this study, the researcher concludes that the strategies employed for deepening youth empowerment in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement are generally perceived as being helpful, however, to further deepen refugee empowerment, labour intensive initiatives should be prioritised to create employment for the youth. Relatedly, international NGOs should create opportunities to engage youth in productive activities. There is need to prioritise vocational training for skills and employability and deliberate investments have to be made in the higher education of refugee youths. The youth also need counselling and treatment for the trauma and psychological troubles they are facing. And in case there are disagreements and misunderstandings among the refugees, Ugandan Authorities and institutions should be involved in upholding justice, law and order in the Refugee Settlement. Relatedly, existing structures such as Clan heads, LCs, Camp Administrators, etc should be used to resolve conflicts and tensions. Realistic empowerment is possible when the youth develop social capital and networks and also develop a positive attitude for self sustenance and realisation of personal goals. Conclusively, government and other development partners should implement global commitments to support youth, refugees and other vulnerable persons.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the above conclusions, the researcher makes the following recommendations:

5.4.1 Challenges afflicting refugee youth

It is recommended that FCA undertakes studies on the refugee youth and improves its programming and interventions in response to the evidence and circumstances prevailing. This is possible through mainstreaming refugee empowerment in all baseline and end of project evaluation studies.

5.4.2 Impact of FCA youth empowerment programmes in refugee settlements

It is recommended that FCA prioritizes work for pay opportunities and facilities for the refugee youths. Relevant work that can be undertaken by the refugee youth can intentionally be allocated to them and relevant payments made to them for the work accomplished.

5.4.3 Strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

It is recommended that international NGOs undertake joint programming with other relevant actors for holistic and accountable youth empowerment. This is possible with the active supervision and approval of programs by the OPM and the National Bureau of NGOs.

5.5 Contribution to knowledge

The study contribution to knowledge is that the Finn Church Aid can now empower youth by following up the issues of allowing inclined to relief provisions. This study has contributed to knowledge by examining the contributions of Finn Church Aid to youth empowerment in Rwamwanja refugee settlement. The study principally found that Finn Church Aid contribute to youth empowerment programs in Rwamwanja refugee settlement through provision of startup kits e.g sewing machines, carpentry tool boxes, BTVET skills training e.g carpentry, tailoring and fashion design, formation of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), employment linkages to the private sector and cash for work programs Policy preparation, Policy tracking, Implementation support and Implementation review. Also, youth take advantage of their proximity to the extensive networks to monitor and document the behaviour of provision parties whilst prescribing national and international action against ‘spoilers’ of international Non-government organisations efforts.

5.6 Areas for Further Research

Based on the gaps identified in the whole research, the following areas are recommended for further research:

- (i) Assessing refugee youth's satisfaction with the work of international NGOs;
- (ii) A comparative study of the work of international NGOs involved in refugee youth empowerment in different refugee hosting countries;
- (iii) The Impact of international NGOs sharing information and jointly programming for refugee youth empowerment.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire for refugee youth in and around the Refugee Settlement

Kampala International University Research Questionnaire for refugee youth in and around Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement - 2023

Serial No _____

Dear Respondent,

Introduction

I am a student pursuing a Master’s degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies from Kampala International University. I am currently carrying out research on the topic: **“Finn Church Aid and Youth Empowerment in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Kamwenge District, South Western Uganda”**

As a stakeholder in the work of FCA, you are kindly requested to share your ideas and suggestions on how FCA is empowering the refugee youth in Kamwenge district. The information provided will be treated with maximum confidentiality and will be used strictly for academic purposes.

Directions: The Respondent is kindly requested to circle or fill in the spaces provided.

Section A: Background information

1. Gender 1. Male 2.Female

2. Age group

Code	1	2	3	4
Years old	12-17	18 - 29	30-35	36 -40

3. Highest educational level attained

Code	1	2	3	4	5
Education level	None at all	Primary Seven	Ordinary Level	Advanced level	Others

4. What is your country of origin?

Code	1	2	3	4	5
Sector	Uganda	DRC	Burundi	Rwanda	Others

5 Client status

Code	1	2
Status	Ugandan	Refugee

FOR THE SECTIONS B, C AND D PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATELY ON THE NUMBERS 1 TO 5

KEY;

1. STRONGLY AGREE; 2. AGREE; 3. NOT SURE; 4. DISAGREE;

5. STRONGLY DISAGREE

Section B: Challenges afflicting youth in and around Rwamwanja refugee settlement

#	Challenges	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Absence of a decent shelter	1	2	3	4	5
2	Frequent bouts of malaria that are costly to treat	1	2	3	4	5
3	Affording and accessible building materials e.g building poles	1	2	3	4	5
4	Inability to afford fuel for cooking and other purposes	1	2	3	4	5
5	Shortage of clean and accessible water	1	2	3	4	5
6	Lack of recognition and involvement	1	2	3	4	5
7	Trauma and an uncertain future of life in exile	1	2	3	4	5

8	Absence of meaningful education and life skills development opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
9	Challenges, complexities, and delays in the process of obtaining asylum and related legal documents from UNHCR and/or local authorities	1	2	3	4	5
10	The indignity of lining up for food and other provisions due to lack of employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
11	Unfriendly youth services at Police, Church and at health centres	1	2	3	4	5
12	Lack of opportunities to participate, be engaged, or access decision makers	1	2	3	4	5

Section C: Role of International NGOs in empowering youth in refugee settlements

#	Role of FCA	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Youth entrepreneurship and business skills training	1	2	3	4	5
2	Female refugees are deliberately encouraged to skill in male dominated vocations that are profitable	1	2	3	4	5
3	Setting up baby care facilities to support female students with babies	1	2	3	4	5
4	Provision of a startup kit relevant to the vocations each refugee trained	1	2	3	4	5
5	Formation and support of VSLAs for savings mobilization and credit disbursement	1	2	3	4	5
6	Construction and equipping of classrooms	1	2	3	4	5
7	Support to female youths for higher education and vocational training	1	2	3	4	5
8	Promoting sustainable maize production	1	2	3	4	5

9	Support to collective handling, bulking and sale of produce	1	2	3	4	5
10	Provision of reading materials during COVID 19	1	2	3	4	5
11	Linkages to employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5

Section D: Strategies for deepening youth empowerment in refugee settlements

#	Strategies and recommendations	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Prioritize labour-intensive initiatives to create employment for youth	1	2	3	4	5
2	International NGOs should create opportunities to engage youth in productive activities	1	2	3	4	5
3	Involvement of local authorities and other institutions uphold law, order and justice	1	2	3	4	5
4	Use of existing structures such as LCs, Camp Administrators to resolve conflicts and tensions	1	2	3	4	5
5	Maximizing vocational training for the youth	1	2	3	4	5
6	Deliberate investment in the education of youths	1	2	3	4	5
7	Opportunities for psycho-social well-being and cognitive development	1	2	3	4	5
8	Developing social capital and networks for effective refugee youth empowerment	1	2	3	4	5
9	Provision of paid work to refugee youth	1	2	3	4	5
10	Implementation of global commitments to support youth, refugees and other vulnerable persons	1	2	3	4	5

Thank you for sharing your information with me (Tel 0782604409).

Appendix II: Interview Guide for FCA Staff and Local Government Leaders

Kampala International University

Research Questionnaire for FCA Staff and Local Government Leaders - 2023

Serial No _____

Dear Respondent,

Introduction

I am a student pursuing a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies from Kampala International University. I am currently carrying out research on the topic: : **“Finn Church Aid and Youth Empowerment in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, Kamwenge District, South Western Uganda”**

As a stakeholder in the work of FCA, you are kindly requested to share your ideas and suggestions on how FCA is empowering the refugee youth in Kamwenge district. The information provided will be treated with maximum confidentiality and will be used strictly for academic purposes.

Directions: Kindly write the responses in the information provided.

1. What are some of the challenges afflicting youths in and around Rwamwanja Refugee settlement?

2. What have International NGOs done to empower refugee youths around Rwamwanja Refugee settlement?

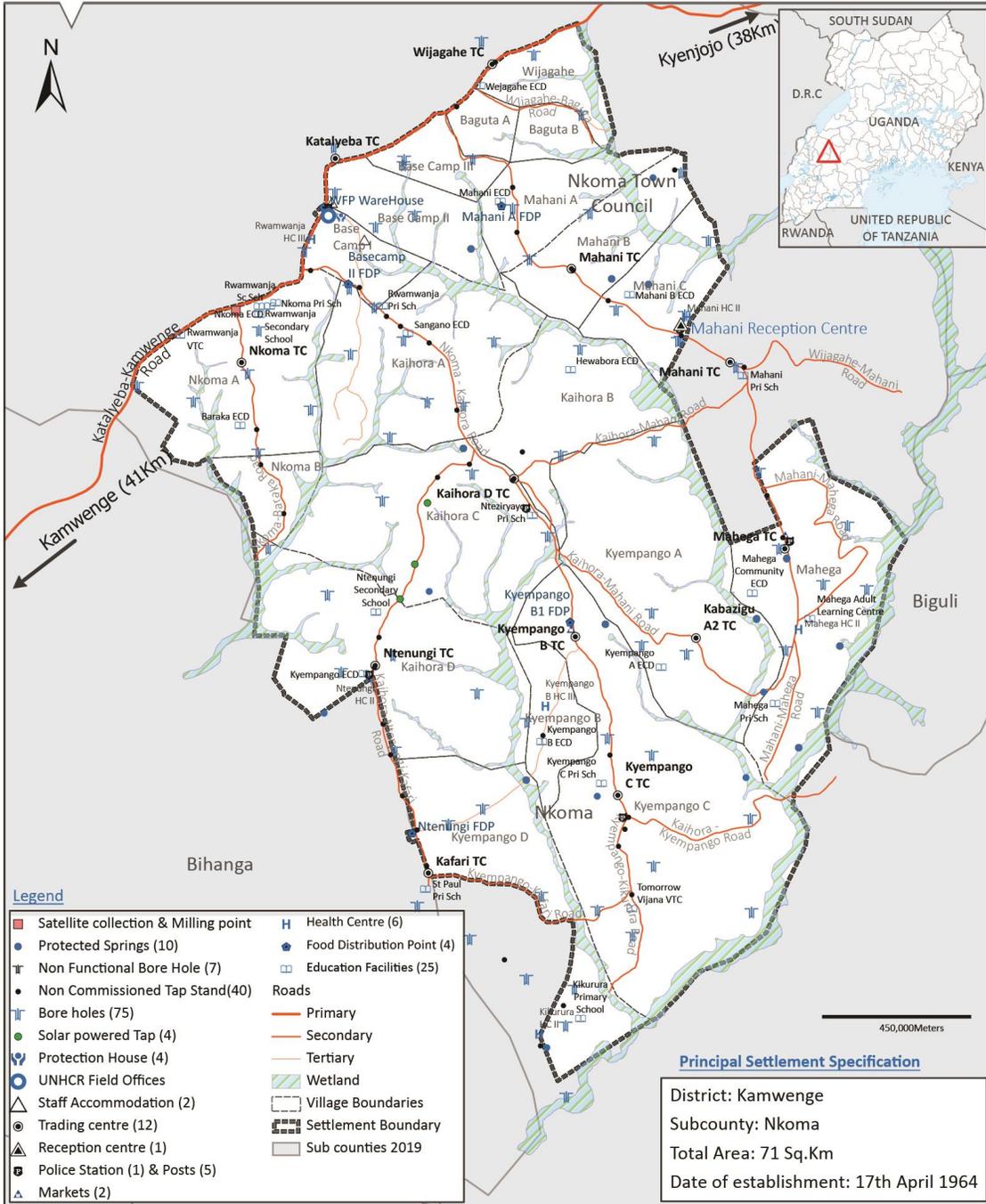
3. What can be done to deepen refugee youths empowerment around Rwamwanja Refugee settlement?

Thank you for sharing your information with me (Tel 0782604409).

Appendix III: Map of Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement



Uganda
Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement
as of 2022



Creation: March 2022

Sources: UNHCR, UBOS

Author: Technical Unit BO

Feedback: ugakatu@unhcr.org

Appendix IV: Letter of Introduction from the University to the Research Area



**KAMPALA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

Gigaba Road, Kansanga * PO BOX 20000 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: 0709654233/0774393791 Fax: +256 (0) 41 - 501974
E-mail: dhdrinquiries@kiu.ac.ug * Website: http://www.kiu.ac.ug

**Directorate of Higher Degrees and Research
Office of the Director**

Our Ref. 2020-08-01473

6th March, 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: INTRODUCTION LETTER FOR NAMARA PHEONAH
REG. NO. 2020-08-01473**

The above mentioned person is a student of Kampala International University pursuing a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies.

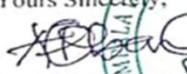
The student is currently conducting a research study titled, "*International Non-Governmental Organizations And Youth Empowerment In Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement Uganda; A Case Study Of Finn Church Aid (FCA)*"

Your organization has been identified as a valuable source of information pertaining to the research subject of interest. The purpose of this letter therefore is to request you to kindly cooperate and avail the student with the pertinent information needed. It is our ardent belief that the findings from this research will benefit KIU and your organization.

Any information shared with the researcher will be used for academic purposes only and shall be kept with utmost confidentiality.

I appreciate any assistance rendered to the researcher

Yours Sincerely,


Prof. Israel Obaroh
Director

C.c. DVC Academic Affairs
Principal-CHSS



"Exploring the Heights"

Appendix V: Krejcie and Morgan’s Table Of Determining the Sample Size

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	246
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	351
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	181	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	180	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	190	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	200	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	210	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	373
65	56	220	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	230	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	240	144	550	225	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	250	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	260	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	270	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	256	2600	335	100000	384

Source: Krejcie and Morgan’s Table (1979) of Determining the Sample Size

Note: “N” is population

“s” is sample size