

**Roles Of Civil Society Organizations in Conflict Managements Among the Refugees in
Uganda**

A Case Study of Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement

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ABSTRACT: One of the main problems of the 21st century is the refugee crisis. In 2017, there were 25.4 million refugees and 3.4 million individuals seeking asylum worldwide, as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The study evaluated the role of civil society organizations in managing disagreements among apparatus in Uganda, with the main goals being to identify the root causes of these disagreements, assess the role of civil society businesses in addressing them, and determine the association between these organizations and the health and well-being of the refugees. The study, which was carried out over the course of two months from the Nymanzi refugee settlement in the Adjumani area, evaluated the role played by civil society groups in the last three years in the administration of refugee violence. The use of an across sectoral survey methodology allowed participants to supply the required data. Based on the overwhelming majority of those polled, 44.2%, who were in general agreement with the declaration, followed by 30.8% who additionally backed by strongly agreeing, the findings demonstrated that organizations from civil society guarantee refugees appreciate the same liberties of Ugandan residents with the objective of expanding their conditions of living and welfare as a whole. However, 7.7% strongly disagreed, while 13.5% disagreed, and 3.8% were unsure.

Key words: civil society organizations, conflict managements and refugees

Background of the study

One of the main problems of the 21st century is the synthesizer crisis. In 2017, there were 25.4 million refugees and 3.4 million individuals seeking asylum worldwide, as reported by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). There are 28.8 million refugees and asylum seekers in the world. After Turkey and Pakistan, Uganda is the country that hosts the

most refugees, taking in people from Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Statistics show that 1,293,582 people who have their biometrics recorded as refugees are now residing in Uganda. But with more refugees predicted to come from the DRC, South Sudan, and Burundi, Uganda is likely to have 1.73 million refugees by the end of 2020.

Uganda's approach to refugees is far from ideal, and numerous stress points on the system run the risk of developing into serious rifts. Although Uganda's legislative environment is extraordinarily liberal, studies demonstrate that severe and persistent adverse emotions, along with societal risk variables, can result in melancholy. People who are uprooted by disagreement, mass rapes, intimidation, and other forms of violence are subjected to high levels of physiological pressures and are at a higher risk of acquiring mental illnesses like depressive symptoms, according to reports like UNCHR, 2017.

'Civil community' has a long tradition in political theory, and definitions based on Roman, Hegelian, Marxist, and Gramscian conceptions were used long before it was revived in the 1990s (Kumar 1993). However, a lot of academics emphasize the autonomy and voluntariness of CSOs. Larry Diamond, for instance, views civil society as the domain of structured social life. The wide areas of fairness and rights for everyone (economic, social, artistic, and democratic rights), decentralized governance, local government, and rural and urban development, electronic administration and access to knowledge, public administration reform, and combating corruption are all active with an important percentage of CSOs. Fewer organizations are at present involved in the highly institutionalized and specialized fields of congressional formation and electoral systems and procedures. CSOs with a concentration on these later fields are more often specialized institutions and interest groups engaged in related activities with strong ties to the government as a whole.

One of the nation's oldest communities, Nymanzi Refugee Settlement, also known as located around 200 kilometers from Kampala and was founded in 1952. Currently, it is home to 119,587 refugees from places like the DRC, Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. Despite the fact that many refugees in the region have been residing there for a while, current crises in

the neighboring nations have increased the number of arrivals on a daily basis. Conflicts among Ugandan refugees have received less attention in the study literature. However, the evidence that is currently available indicates that 67.4% of the refugees in northern Uganda had signs of war. Uncertainty exists regarding the situation in northern Uganda, specifically in the Nymanzi refugee camp (Amir, 2020).

Problem Statement

Although few individuals openly favor refugee camps, many regrettably come to the conclusion that they may be the only practical solution in a variety of refugee circumstances. 8 The exercise of a number of other rights requires freedom of mobility. Conflicts within refugee camps result from the absence of it, which undercuts the social and economic privileges of refugees and significantly restricts their ability to live in camps in comparison to their farmer hosts (Kaiser et al. 2017; Okello 2016).

In reality, it is clear that a sizable portion of refugees in Uganda elude the agreement reached system by either neglecting to register their status as refugees or, after doing so, by shirking their obligations to remain in the communities.

Research objectives

1. To assess the causes of conflicts among the refugees in Nyumanzi refugee camp
2. To establish the strategies developed by civil society organizations in managing conflicts among the refugees in Nyumanzi refugee camp
3. To evaluate the relationship between civil society organizations and the welfare of refugees in Nyumanzi refugee settlement

Research questions

1. What are the causes of conflicts among the refugees in Nyumanzi refugee settlement?
2. What are the strategies developed by civil society organizations in resolving conflicts in Nyumanzi refugee settlement?
3. What is the relationship between civil society organizations and the welfare of refugees in Nyumanzi refugee settlement?

Methodology

Research design

Due to the nature of the study descriptive and quantitative and the investigator's application of a cross-sectional sampling methodology, respondents were able to offer the information that was needed about civil society groups and conflict management among refugees in Uganda. The method of quantification was chosen because it allowed the investigator to get information from an inconsistent source and make use of structured information that was gathered through questionnaires and organized into specified groups of responses that are simple to understand, contrast, and extrapolate. (J. Adam & F. Kamuzora, 2008)

Study population

Study population in is the specific population about which information is desired (Amin 2005). The target population for this study complied 60 respondents who were the refugees and other stakeholders in the camp

Sampling Design

This section focuses on sample size and its determination together with the sampling techniques

Sample Size and Determination

According to Krejcie and Morgan (1970), a sample is an accurate portion of a population from which conclusions can be drawn about the full population. The survey has 52 respondents as its desired sample size. The population size was calculated using a table created by Krejcie & Morgan in 1970.

Techniques and procedures for sampling

The investigator used purposeful sampling, in which the people who were thought to have the necessary data had the opportunity to be encompassed in the study the specimen, and simple random sampling, in and this a sample had been chosen from the overall population without bias,

i.e., every participant had a comparable likelihood of having their names included in the sample size.

Data Sources

There researcher consulted both primary and secondary data sources.

Primary data

Primary data is the data collected by the researcher from the field for answering research the questions. The primary data was generated closed questionnaire qualitative which were provided out to the respondents to analyze the part of the study.

Secondary data

These are the publications in which authors describe the works of others. While undertaking the study, the researcher used of the different publications that are related to the topic of the study and these included journals, text books, abstracts of different authors, together with the reports published about civil society organizations and conflict management among the refugees in Uganda

Data collection methods

Questionnaire survey

To collect information for the investigation's questions and objectives, the investigator used an organized online survey. A survey via questionnaire is a set of elements that a respondent is intended to react to as they providing answers to the inquiries included in the survey, which are typically in writing (Amin 2005). This approach was chosen by the investigator because it allowed for the efficient collection of data from a large sample in the shortest amount of time at the lowest possible cost.

Analysis of Data

Following compilation, sorting, and coding to achieve the requisite level of quality, precision, and thoroughness of the field data collection. To determine the impact of civil society

organizations on refugee resolution of conflicts, the investigator employed SPSS (Nelson, K, 2022).

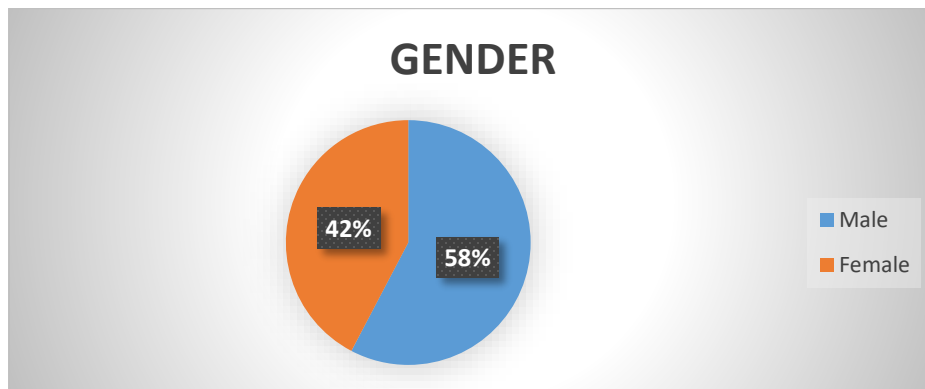
RESULTS

Respondent's demographic data

Demographic data was considered in order to generate a clear view of the respondents as illustrated below

Findings on the gender of respondents

Figure 1 Pie-chart showing the gender of respondents



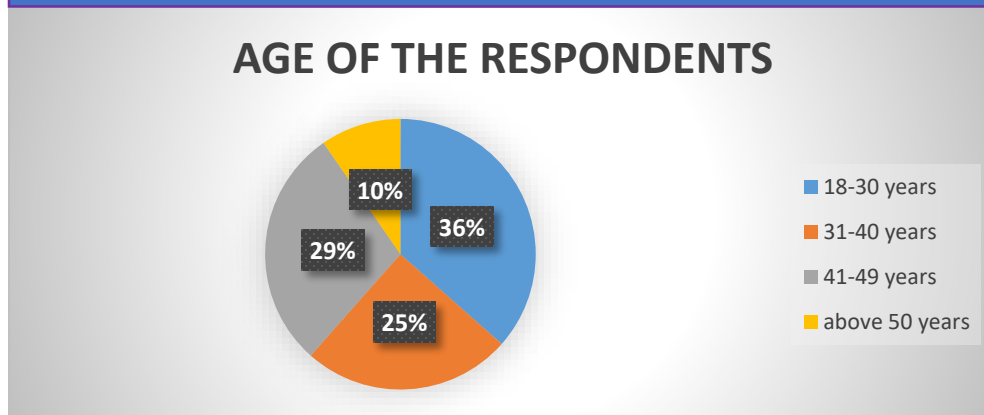
Source, researcher's construct 2020

Figure 1 above shows that majority of the respondents 58% were male and 42% female. Basing on the range in the percentages, it indicated that the study was gender sensitive and also revealed that there are both male and females staying in Nyumanzi refugee settlement.

Findings on the age of the respondents

The respondents were asked to identify their age and the findings were presented in figure 3 below

Figure 2 Pie chart showing findings on the age of respondents



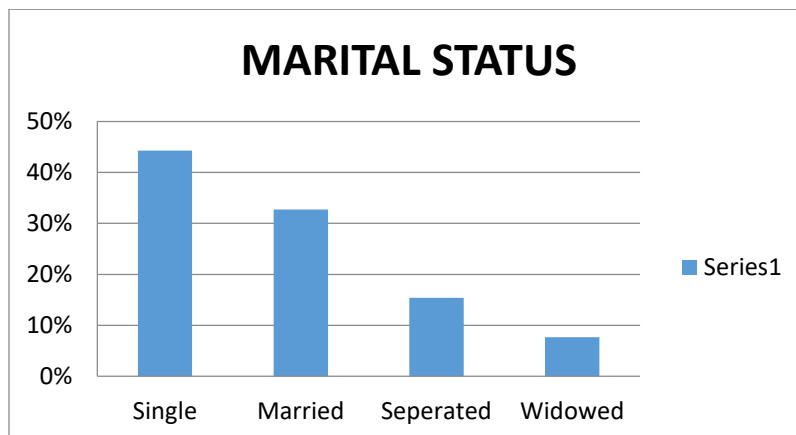
Source, researcher's construct 2020

Results in figure 2 above showed that majority of the respondents 36% were in the age bracket of 18-30 years. These were followed by those in the age bracket of 31-40 years, 41-49 years and finally those above 50 years.

Findings on the marital status of the respondents

The respondents were asked to reveal their marital status and the results were presented in the graph below

Figure 3 Graph showing marital status of respondents



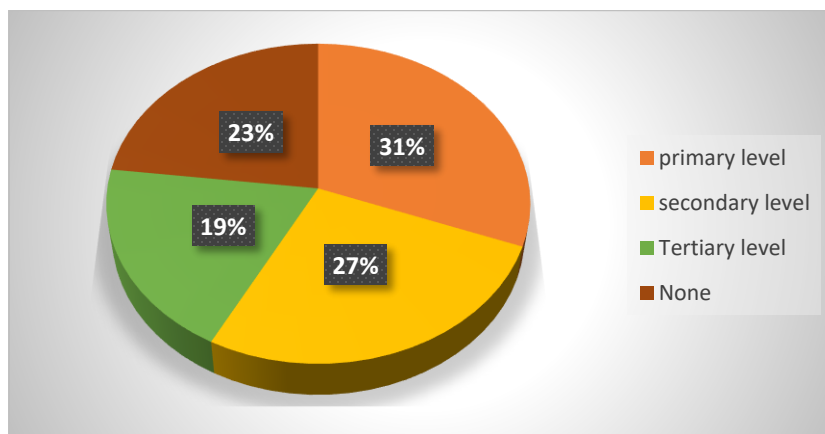
Source, Researcher's construct 2020

Findings in figure 3 above show that majority of the respondents 45% were still single followed by married, separated and finally widowed. On this aspect, it was found out that the separations between the patterns resulted from the family conflicts and misunderstandings and that some of the widowed was as a result of the consistent conflicts which used to exist within the settlement camp.

Findings on the education level of the respondents

The respondents were requested to indicate how far they went with education and the results were presented in the figure below

Figure 4 Pie chart showing the education level of the respondents



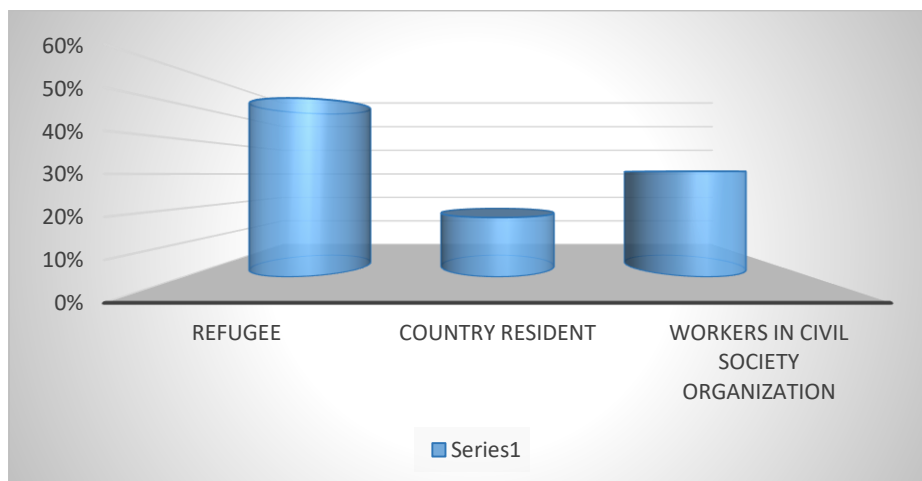
Source, Researcher's construct 2020

The results of Figure 4 show that 31% of those who responded were still in primary school, which was followed by those in higher education. Few respondents—including a number of community professionals and other professionals in civil society organizations—had completed tertiary education. There are still a sizable number of individuals who never attended school, which shows that the current state of lack of education between refugees in the Nyumanzi development camp provides to the rise in disagreements there. It also illustrates the need for civil society groups to participate in guaranteeing an upsurge in the level of literacy among the refugees as a strategy to reduce disagreements among them within the camp.

Findings on the category of respondents

The researcher assessed the categories of individuals who participated in the study and the findings were presented in the graph below

Figure 5 Graph showing the categories of the respondents



Source, Researcher's construct 2020

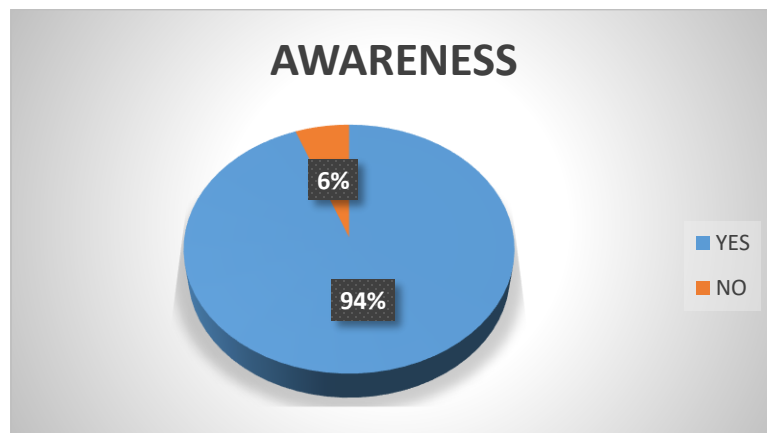
According to the findings in figure 5, employees in civil society groups and refugees in the Nyumanzi housing camp made up the bulk of the people who participated. Nevertheless, though they were in the harmonica other camp participants also took part in the study. The results showed that the study had included the correct types of people who participated who appeared to have the right knowledge about how civil society organizations may help manage conflict amongst refugees.

It came to light that the vast majority of the refugees in the Nyumanzi refugee colony camp originated from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and that this was due to the political unrest and safety problems in both nations.

Findings on causes of conflicts among the refugees in Nyumanzi Refugee settlement camp

On assessing the respondents' awareness on about the conflicts that exist among the refugees, majority of the respondents were aware that there are several conflicts that exist among the refugees in Nyumanzi refugees' settlement camp as reflected in the figure below.

Figure 6 Pie-chart showing findings on the awareness about the conflicts among refugees

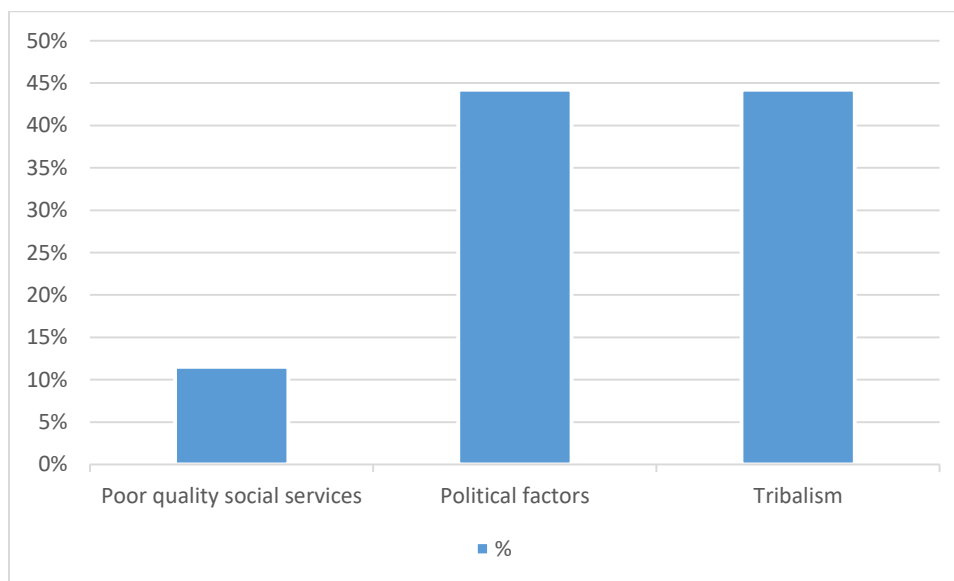


Source, Researcher's construct 2020

Results in the pie-chart above indicate that majority of the respondents 94% had awareness about the conflicts that exist among the refugees and only 4% lacked awareness about the subject.

Respondents who had awareness about the existing conflicts among the refugees were asked to briefly identify some of the conflicts that exist among the refugees in the camp and it was found that racism and nepotism are rampant among the refugees. However, there are other conflicts which were revealed and these included the interpersonal conflicts most especially among those who have some small businesses in the camp and tribalism have also taken a greater position in destructing peace among the refugees.

Figure 7 Graph showing factors for increasing conflicts



Source, Researcher's construct 2020

Figure 7 results show that tribalism and political factors are the major factors for increasing conflicts among the refugees in their settlement camps. Under these factors, it was discovered that the political influence on allocating land for cultivation to the refugees which is based on some terms and conditions leads to increase in conflicts over land. With tribalism, majority of respondents forwarded that due to the level of illiteracy among the refugees, majority of the refugees lack civilization and still rigid of not changing their living conducts and tend to promote tribalism which lead to increase in conflicts among the refugees.

Strategies employed by civil society organizations in managing conflicts among the refugees in settlement

Table 1 showing different strategies employed by civil society organizations in managing conflicts among the refugees in settlement

Source, Researcher's construct 2020

A large number of participants, as shown in table 1, believed that efforts should be made for the integration of refugee services into district institutions in order to guarantee effective service provision. 34.6% of respondents, who strongly agreed, backed them. Some responders, meanwhile, disputed the assertion, and the others weren't sure.

According to the vast majority of the participants (57.7%), the UNHCR DAR strategy views the

Statement	SA		A		NS		D		SD	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Efforts to integrate services to refugees into district structures to ensure effective service delivery	18	34.6%	23	44.2%	3	5.8%	6	11.5%	2	3.8%
UNHCR DAR strategy considers the enjoyment of refugee rights a pre-requisite if developmental approaches to refugee assistance are to be successful	14	26.9%	30	57.7%	2	3.8%	5	9.6%	1	1.9%
care and maintenance programs have been established to improve the conditions of life for refugees	17	32.7%	27	51.9%	2	3.8%	4	7.7%	2	3.8%
The civil society organizations ensures participation of refugees in the distribution of the few available resources	13	25.0%	27	51.9%	3	5.8%	6	11.5%	3	5.8%

full fulfillment of refugee rights as a requirement if modern methods are to be applied to refugee aid. 9.6% disapproved and 1.9% were strongly dissatisfied with the statement, compared to 26.9% who enthusiastically concurred and 3.8% who were unsure.

Table 1's findings also showed that initiatives have been implemented to improve the living circumstances for refugees. Results indicate that majority of the respondents 51.9% generally agreed and 25% strongly agreed that the civil society organizations ensures participation of refugees in the distribution of the few available resources. However, some of the 11.5% disagreed, 5.8% strongly disagreed and finally 5.8% were not sure of the statement.

Relationship between civil society organizations and the welfare of refugees in Nyumanzi refugee camp

Table 2 Showing findings on the relationship between civil society organization and welfare of refugees

	Statement	SA		A		NS		D		SD	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
A	Civil society organizations provide access to education to the refugees in the camp	9	17.3%	28	53.8%	4	7.7%	7	13.5%	4	7.7%
B	Civil society organizations ensures provision of employment, meaningful family life and livelihoods	14	26.9%	30	57.7%	2	3.8%	5	9.6%	1	1.9%
C	Civil society organizations have helped the refugees to acquire meaningful family life and livelihoods	14	26.9%	28	53.8%	2	3.8%	5	9.6%	3	5.8%
D	Civil society organizations ensure refugees enjoy the rights of Ugandan citizens	16	30.8%	23	44.2%	2	3.8%	7	13.5%	4	7.7%

E	Civil society organizations help refugees with business interests to get involved in trade to ensure that they can a living	1									
		3	25.0%	27	51.9%	3	5.8%	6	11.5%	3	5.8%

Source, Researcher's construct 2020

Findings in Table 2 indicate that more than half of the participants (53.8%) typically believed that community groups give refugees in the camp an opportunity for education, improving their welfare through fostering literacy and an improved standard of living. 17.3% of respondents who were completely in agreement with the statement did so as well. 13.5% disapproved, 7.7% strongly disapproved, and 7.7% were unsure, nevertheless.

The findings showed that nonprofit groups make sure that refugees have access to jobs, a fulfilling existence with their families, and livelihoods, all of which frequently increase their well-being. This was based on most of participants' 57.7% general agreement and 26.9% strong agreement ratings. However, 3.8% were unsure, 9.6% disapproved

Results from Table 2 showed that, according to the majority of the participants (53.8%), civil society groups have assisted refugees in building important families and careers. Additionally, 26.9% said they were 100% in agreement, followed by 9.6% who disagreed, 5.8% who strongly disapproved, and 3.8% who were unsure.

Based on the overwhelming majority of participants, 44.2%, who generally concurred with the declaration, followed by 30.8% who concurred by wholeheartedly, the findings demonstrated that civil society groups are working to ensure harmonica enjoy the same liberties of Ugandan residents aimed at enhancing their conditions of living and happiness. Nevertheless, 7.7% strongly disapproved, while 13.5% disapproved, and 3.8% were unsure.

Conclusion of the study

Based on the research results, it was determined that the circumstances necessary for dependence are not present in their development refugee camps, many refugees are in conflict due to food insecurity in the neighborhoods, both the quantity and the quality about social services have decreased, household growth without more assets has led to theft in the camp, and elites' influence of ethnic and geographic identities is an ongoing root for disputes in refugee camps.

Recommendation

Civil society organizations should ensure provision of employment to refugees, meaningful family life and livelihoods which all often improve the welfare of refugees and they have also helped the refugees to acquire meaningful family life and livelihoods.

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