

FORCED MIGRATIONS AND REGIONAL SECURITY. A CASE STUDY OF WEST NILE**1 Kaziro Nicholas, 2 Okee Jill Margaret, 3 Namuyonga Rebecca****1, 2, 3 Metropolitan International University****ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the study was to discover the prevalence of forced migration on regional security in West Nile. The study was based on the results from 2018-2020 respondents who presented to the researcher accurate data out of the sample size of 250 respondents. The objectives of the study were to examine the salient causes of forced migrations to migrants in West Nile, to determine the effect of forced migrations on regional security in West Nile and finally to explore the effect of forced migrations on the environment in West Nile. Data was collected from the officials from the office of the prime minister, local people in West Nile, refugees, police men and from the ministry of internal affairs. The results of the study in this report indicate that over 79% of the respondents asserted that forced migration is responsible for the insecurity in the region however the other percentage of the respondents say that force migration also came with positive benefits in the region. It can also be observed that 146 (75%) of the sample strongly agreed that there were increased security risks to the security organs to ensure to avert criminality, 39 (20%) agreed to the assertion and 10 (5%) disagreed. This implies that indeed there was increased security risks to the security organs to ensure to avert criminality since the majority agreed to the assertion. 136 (70%) of the sample strongly agreed that there were some of the refugees who migrated with small arms that were in a danger to the area (State), 39 (20%) agreed to the assertion and 20 (10%) disagreed to the assertion. It can conclusively be stated that there were some of the refugees who migrate with small arms that are a danger to the area (State). Upon the recommendations, there was need to sensitize the public about the code of conduct by Sudan's in order to not poorly confront them since it was evidenced that Sudan's more so the young one's likes fighting. This is because most of the migrant in West Nile are from South Sudan.

Key words: forced migrations and regional security**Background of the study**

Forced migration refers to the movements that refugees, migrants, and IDPs make (Ninsiima et al., 2023). These can be either within their country or between countries after being displaced from their homeland. As of 2020, 1 person is uprooted every 2 seconds (often with nothing but the clothes on their backs). Currently, the global total of forcibly-displaced people is over 68.5 million (Allan et al., 2023). There are a number of different factors that lead hundreds of millions of people around the world to leave their homes. Security refers to the

approach to implement human security, human development, and state building concepts at local level (Betts, 2006). It aims to protect people from the loss of traditional relationships and values and from sectarian and ethnic violence (Mercy et al., 2023). The term safety of the community refers to the community's security from criminal conduct by the Defendant, whether violent or not. Too often security services and 'solutions' are disconnected from the needs of ordinary people. Safer world works with communities to ensure that people are

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in the lead in developing their own security solutions with authorities (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022). The security will be measured in terms of national, human and food security. National security refers to the security of a nation state, including its people, economy, and institutions (Christopher et al., 2022). In practice, state governments rely on a wide range of means, including diplomacy, economic power, and military capabilities (Gray, 2011). Uganda has traditionally been a host use for worldwide migrates from forced migrations from a couple of countries in East and Central Africa. Fleeing conflicts and situations which might be characterized by using long-term volatility and destruction (specifically inside the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Somalia, these refugees regularly live in Uganda for many years, creating multiple long-term refugee situations and presenting a number of demanding situations for effective refugee assistance (Svedberg, 2014). Most ignorant conditions aren't resolved quickly (Jac & Kazaara, 2023).

Statement of the Problem

Despite the government's efforts on security, there still exist gaps challenges especially brought by forced migrations to West Nile. Countries are grappling with global forced migrations that have

hit the nations and continue to affect the security of countries especially that of the host countries (Richard, 2022). African countries provide rich insights associated with various aspects of human security for instance caused by forced migrations. There have been insecurity threats in northern Uganda especially those caused by the LRA rebels which ended. The forced migration influx to West Nile northern from South Sudan has increased the security threats of the region since many of this come from different aspects of life, the forced migrants move from different backgrounds, many come from war zones presenting threats to nations and humans and even those from non-war zones present insecurity on food to the host countries (Carvalho, 2008). But given the increasing context forced migrations in Uganda especially in West Nile were migrants from South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia are on rampage, the status of the migrants is deemed to provide a security threat to humans, national and food in the country (Sharpe and Namusobya, 2016). The status of the migrants presents a situation of dire need for an inquiry to be conducted in order to change the status quo in the country. It's imperative that a study on the impact of forced migrations on regional security be conducted to alleviate the status quo in West Nile.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the salient causes of forced migrations to migrants in West Nile.
2. To determine the effect of forced migrations on regional security in West Nile.
3. To explore the effect of forced migrations on the environment in West Nile.

Methodology

Research design

The researcher used a descriptive survey research design based on quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The reason of choosing this design was that, the researcher focused on the links among a smaller

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number of attributers across a sample of cases depending on the resources available and the size of the target population. The researcher did quantify social phenomena particularly issues conducted and problems that were prevalent in the society. The researcher collected the information that described and helped the researcher in understanding social life. The design was based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches where data collection was done based on questionnaires and interview guides. This was intended to explore more detailed information and the aspects which remain unrevealed during quantitative analysis, qualitative data was collected. This data/information was collected through key informant interviews technique. It was a useful technique which provided more useful and in-depth knowledge in less time and limited cost.

Population of the study

According to Saunders (2005), a population referred to any group of institutions, people or objects that had common characteristics. The target population for this study involved all staff from the refugee camps selected; it also included the Government official (ministry of refugee officials, office of the prime minister), UNHCR officials and local leaders in the camps area. The study populations included a total of 381 that was selected for data collection. The study population involved the population of the people involved in the refugee camps of Rhino-camp and Bidi-Bidi forced migrants' camps.

Sample Size

The method for determining the sample was purposefully selected by the researcher and was determined by the number of respondents from each category.

The Slovine's formula was used to determine minimum sample size

$$N$$
$$\frac{n}{n} = \frac{1 + Na^2}{1 + Na^2}$$

Where, N= Total Population

n=sample size

a= correlation coefficient 0.05)

$$n = 381$$
$$\frac{1 + 381(0.05)^2}{1 + 381(0.05)^2}$$
$$n = \frac{381}{1.9525}$$
$$n = 195$$

Therefore, a sample of 195 respondents was selected to participate in the study.

Category	Population	Sample
UNHCR and connected officials	50	10
Ministry of Internal affairs and OPM	95	49
Local leaders	164	79
NGOs	72	37

Total	381	195
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Source: Human resource Manual, 2021

Sampling Procedure

The respondents were selected using stratified and simple random sampling procedure to select the sample population and the respective people for data collection specifically from the population categories, then he selected simple random sample independently from each Sub-population of the camp officials, NGOs and local government. The respondents categorized into the strata of then select the sample using simple random sampling to attain the respondents. This provided equal chance for all the respondents to be chosen for data.

Data collection Instrument

The questionnaire survey and interview methods were used for data collection.

Questionnaire survey

The questionnaire survey method was adopted based on the structured questionnaire as the instrument for collecting data. The questionnaire was suitable for non-observable form of data such as perceptions and feelings of the respondents and appropriate for quantitative assessment (Artino, La Rochelle, Kent and Hunter, 2014). Closed ended questionnaires were the main data collection instruments because they allowed the collection of information from a large number of respondents without much effort. These were intended to collect quantitative sample that was aimed at collecting quantitative samples for the study since the questionnaires were self-administered, they served the respondents' convenience in addition to relieving the researcher of the need to sit with the respondents until they finish answering the questions therein. The study employed closed ended questionnaires.

Interview guides

Using semi structured interview guides, situational interviews was particularly being administered for systematic and comprehensive data collection. According to Amin (2005), the interview method was used to collect in-depth revelations of key informants about the subject of study. Qualitative data of the study was gathered by use of interviews. The interviews were considered for a limited number of respondents. In fact, the only category that was considered for interviews was management.

Data analysis

Quantitative data analysis

Quantitative analysis of field survey data was done using computer-based programmes, namely the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) and the Microsoft Excel programmes respectively (Nelson et al., 2022). These were used to aid methods preferred for quantitative data analysis including descriptive statistics (frequency distribution, arithmetic mean & standard deviation), Pearson's correlation co-efficient test and multiple linear regression analysis.

Qualitative data analysis

Qualitative analysis was used on data from open ended questions of the interview guide. The content and interpretive analysis methods was used for this purpose. The analysis was used to interpret detailed perspectives on variable relationships into simple information.

RESULTS**Causes of forced migration**

Causes of forced migration	Response											
	Strongly agree		Agree		Not sure		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
There was war that caused refugees to flee homes due to fear for their life	146	75	49	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	100
The tribal and inter-tribal conflicts occasioned the forced migrations to the camp	156	80	39	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	100
The occurrence of forced migrations are due to existent of drought conditions in the area	175	90	20	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	100
The economic hardships due to war led to occurrence of forced migrations	185	95	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	100
The occurrence of local conflicts over resources led to forced migrations	146	75	49	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	100
The occurrence of hunger due to war created forced migrations to the refugee camp	156	80	39	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	100

Table 1 shows that 146 (75%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the fact that there was war that caused refugees to flee homes due to fear for their life, while 49 (25%) agreed that there was war that caused refugees to flee homes due to fear for their life. None of the respondents disagreed and none was not sure. It implies that indeed, there was war that caused refugees to flee homes due to fear for their life.

156 (80%) strongly agreed that the tribal and inter-tribal conflicts occasioned the forced migrations to the camp and 39 (20%) of the respondents agreed and no one disagreed while all the respondents were sure of their respondents. This implies that indeed the tribal and inter-tribal conflicts occasioned the forced migrations to the camp

175 (90%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the occurrence of forced migrations is due to existent of drought conditions in the area, while 20 (10%) of the respondents agreed that the occurrence of forced

migrations is due to existent of drought conditions in the area; implying that indeed the occurrence of forced migrations are due to existent of drought conditions in the area

185 (95%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the economic hardships due to war led to occurrence of forced migrations, while 10 (5%) of the respondents agreed that indeed the economic hardships due to war led to occurrence of forced migrations.

Further still, 146 (75%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the fact that the occurrence of local conflicts over resources led to forced migration, while 49 (25%) agreed that the occurrence of local conflicts over resources led to forced migrations. None of the respondents disagreed and none was not sure. It implies that indeed the occurrence of local conflicts over resources led to forced migrations

156 (80%) strongly agreed that the occurrence of hunger due to war created forced migrations to the refugee, 39 (20%) of the respondents agreed and no one disagreed while all the respondents were sure of their respondents.

This implies that indeed the occurrence of hunger due to war created forced migrations to the refugee camp

Source: primary data, 2022

Effect of forced migrations on regional security

Effect of forced migrations on regional security	Response											
	Strongly agree		Agree		Not sure		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
There are conflicts between the communities and the refugees in this area	98	50	39	20	29	15	29	15	-	-	195	100
Some refugees are key crime makers and cause trouble to this area	121	62	65	33	10	5	-	-	-	-	195	100
There are increased security risks to the security organs to ensure to avert criminality	146	75	39	20	-	-	10	5	-	-	195	100
There are some of the refugees who migrate with small arms that are a danger to the area (State)	136	70	39	20	-	-	20	10	-	-	195	100
There is a danger in the area by migrants (some have military backgrounds)	97	50	78	40	-	-	20	10	-	-	195	100

Source: Primary data 2022

From the table 2 above, it can be observed that 98 (50%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the fact that there are conflicts between the communities and the refugees in this area, 39 (20%) agreed, 29 (15%) were not sure

and 8 (15%) disagreed. It therefore implies that indeed there are conflicts between the communities and the refugees in this area since the majority of the participants responded to the affirmative.

121 (62%) strongly agreed to the assertion that traditional and cultural practices such as female genital cutting (FGC) contribute to the early marriage of girls, 65 (33%) agreed; while 10 (5%) were not sure. This therefore implies that indeed some refugees are key crime makers and cause trouble to this area thus affecting the security of the region

It can also be observed that 146 (75%) of the sample strongly agreed that there is increased security risks to the security organs to ensure to avert criminality, 39 (20%) agreed to the assertion and 10 (5%) disagreed. This implies that indeed there is increased security risks to the security organs to ensure to avert criminality since the majority agreed to the assertion.

136 (70%) of the sample strongly agreed that there are some of the refugees who migrate with small arms that are a danger to the area (State), 39 (20%) agreed to the assertion and 20 (10%) disagreed to the assertion. It can conclusively be stated that there are some of the refugees who migrate with small arms that are a danger to the area (State).

97 (50%) strongly agreed that there is a danger in the area by migrants (some have military backgrounds) 78 (40%), 20 (10%) were not sure and 4 (8%) disagreed. It can therefore imply that there is a danger in the area by migrants (some have military backgrounds). This indeed is a threat to the security of the region.

Effect of forced migrations on the environment

Forced migrations and the environment	Strongly Disagree		Agree		Not Sure		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
The refugees have used the vegetation's coverage in the area	136	70	39	20	10	5	10	5	-	-	195	100
There has been use of forests in firewood and fuel for the refugees	121	62	65	33	10	5	-	-	-	-	195	100
The refugees cut trees for fire wood for use in cooking thus adversely endangering the environment in the community	136	70	39	20	10	5	10	5	-	-	195	100
The refugee population has affected the artificial vegetation and tree covers	97	50	78	40	-	-	20	10	-	-	195	100
Refugees have led to depletion or over usage of water resources	97	50	39	20	29	15	29	15	-	-	195	100
There has been an attack on	121	62	65	33	10	5	-	-	-	-	195	100

vegetation to create accommodation for the refugees													
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From the table above, it can be observed that 137 (70%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the fact that the refugees have used the vegetation coverage in the area leaving the land bear, 39 (20%) agreed, 10 (5%) were not sure and 10 (5%) disagreed. It implies that indeed the refugees have used the vegetation coverage in the area leaving the land bear and affecting the environment.

121 (62%) of the respondents strongly agreed that there has been use of forests for firewood and fuel for the refugees and this has resulted into environment damage. 65 (33%) agreed to this fact while 10 (05%) weren't sure. Since 95% of the respondents affirmed to this assertion, it can be concluded that indeed there has been use of forests for firewood and fuel for the refugees and this has resulted into environment damage (Christopher & Felex, 2022)

Finally, it can also be observed that 136 (70%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the fact that the refugees cut trees for fire wood for use in cooking thus adversely endangering the environment in the community, 39 (20%) agreed, 10 (5%) were not sure and 10 (5%) disagreed. It implies that the refugees cut trees for fire wood for use in cooking thus adversely endangering the environment in the community since the majority agreed to the assertion.

97 (50%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the assertion that the refugee population has affected the artificial vegetation and tree covers thus endangering the environment; 78 (49%) of the respondents agreed, none was not sure while 20 (10%) disagreed to this assertion. Since 90% of the respondents agreed to this assertion, it is indeed true that the refugee population has affected the artificial vegetation and tree covers thus endangering the environment

Further still, 97 (50%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the assertion that refugees have led to the depletion or over usage of water resources; 39 (20%) of the respondents agreed; while 29 (15%) were not sure and then 29 (15%) disagreed. Due to the fact that at least 70% of the respondents responded to the affirmative of this claim, it can therefore be concluded that indeed refugees have led to the depletion or over usage of water resources causing environmental damage.

Finally, 121 (62%) of the respondents strongly agreed that there has been an attack on vegetation to create accommodation for the refugees and this has resulted into environment damage. 65 (33%) agreed to this fact while 10 (05%) weren't sure. Since 95% of the respondents affirmed to this assertion, it can be concluded that there has been an attack on vegetation to create accommodation for the refugees and this has resulted into environment damage

From the findings in the table above reveals forced migration had impacted negatively on the environment, as several studies have corroborated. The impacts included: deforestation; de-vegetation; erosion destruction, degradation and pollution, of water sources and catchment areas, illegal poaching and fishing, and over grazing.

At one extreme, they made things worse, as they appeared to have done in Bas Zaire in 1978, straining food supplies and services and exacerbating the effects of drought (Betts, 1980b).

In subsequent years, humanitarian agencies incorporated environmental considerations in overall program design and began, implementing environmental education, awareness and conservation programs that were wide in scope, taking the broader local context into account and with benefits accruing to host as well as refugee communities. In Uganda, numerous organizations run active forest protection project as part of its larger environmental intervention program around refugee settlement areas, as well as conducts environmental education, awareness and conservation activities. The trend had changed whereby more trees and vegetation were being harvested than were being planted.

Impact on security: refugee situations could also mean loss of physical security and raided across borders this gave a negative, recurrent assertions regarding refugees. That was, those refugees were: threatening external and internal peace and security; causing environmental degradation; destroying physical and social infrastructure; creating an extensive burden on local governance and administration; and hampering socio-economic development.

Impact on government: Local government authorities including law enforcement and the judiciary have received considerable assistance from UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies.

Conclusion

The study of impact of forced migration on regional security was impressive and very encouraging for policy makers and migrants themselves. It is not surprising that influx of refugees keeps as seen from the research findings, which were: to question1). Forced migration indicated factors that were associated with mostly negative changes in the region, during the settlement period of refugees It was rather a sympathetic talk to give them a special privilege among the host communities however these turned to be a burden to the locals as insecurity issues and competition for resources increased.

Recommendations

The ministry of internal affairs should debrief refugees from the effects of war and sensitize them about the cultures and laws in Uganda and how best to integrate in order to feel at home and at peace.

The Prime Minister's office with the ministry of disaster and preparedness should try to find safe grounds to cater for the refugees mostly the IDPs.

There is need to sensitize the public about the code of conduct by Sudan's in order to not poorly confront them since it was evidenced that Sudan's more so the young one's likes fighting. This is because most of the migrant in West Nile are from South Sudan.

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