

The Nature and Scope of Protracted Refugee Crisis in Kenya with Specific Reference to Garissa County

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Abstract

By the end of 2019, the UNHCR estimated that 42.5 million people had been displaced around the world. As a result, short- and long-term effects were felt in host communities, from humanitarian disasters to security threats. This study conceptualizes that the refugee issue and human security are inextricably linked. The statement of the problem was to bridge the knowledge gap by assessing the influence of the protracted refugee crisis on human security. Therefore, the goal of this research was to assess the nature and scope of the protracted refugee crisis in Kenya with specific reference to Garissa County. The New Security Paradigm and Critical Theory guided this research. A descriptive survey research design was used with a study sample comprising 339 household heads including refugees' and community household heads, UN Refugee Agency staff, NGO officials, and County and National Government officials. Primary data was collected using structured questionnaires and interview schedules. Secondary data was gathered from textbooks, newspapers, periodicals, and articles. Quantitative data was coded and put into SPSS Version 21.0, and descriptive and inferential statistics such as Pearson Correlation, Spearman Rank Correlation, and multiple regression analysis were used to analyze it. Qualitative data was analyzed based on the content matter of the responses. The study found that a variety of factors contributed to the long-running refugee issue. Civil conflict, lawlessness, high crime rates, and the search for greener pastures are among them. A positive and statistically significant link existed between prolonged refugee crises and refugee crises ($r=0.885$, $p<0.01$). The study concludes that the main reasons for the refugee crisis in Kenya are push factors from their home countries, such as civil war, lawlessness, and high crime rates. The study recommends a need for measures aimed at reining in on the protracted refugee crisis and also enhancement of human security which can be achieved via funding to deal with deplorable living conditions in refugee camps.

Keywords: Human security; Protracted refugee crisis.

1. Introduction

Since the beginning of human history, individuals have migrated throughout the globe. People relocate for a variety of reasons, based on a variety of factors in their place of origin and destination. Numerous times, individuals leave persecution in their native nations and seek asylum in other nations, thereby becoming refugees. Refugees are individuals who seek improved conditions of human security in a region remote from their place of origin. According to UNCHR (2020) Global Trend Report, by the end of 2020, there were 82.4 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Of these, 26.4 million were refugees. Developing countries hosted 86% of the global refugee population.

The procedure by which refugees opt to relocate to their desired country of asylum has a considerable impact on their human security challenges, and it differs from region to region, regardless of whether they reside in developed or developing countries. The current refugee problem is the worst since the conclusion of the world wars. According to estimates, one in every 113 individuals in the globe is a refugee (Pathak and Sharmiladevi, 2018). In 2014 alone, about 42,500 people abandoned their homes every day, which is four times as many as in 2010. Currently, Middle-Eastern countries, particularly Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, are experiencing civil turmoil. Asian nations include Nigeria, South Sudan, Burundi, and the Central African Republic. The Rakhine province in Myanmar has caused an influx of refugees.

Currently, the number of refugees in Africa remains alarmingly high, as many flee deadly local conflicts or political persecution. According to Schultheis (1989), the escalation of environmental issues such as drought and the endurance of famine have also produced a substantial number of migrants. In 2017, the UNHCR was responsible for an estimated 43 million refugees, a third of whom resided in Africa, with 13 million in Sub-Saharan Africa and over 400,000 in Northern Africa. According to the UNHCR, the refugee population in Africa in 2018 consisted of 7.7 million internally displaced persons, and 3.4 million refugees, of which more than 2.9 million are in Sub-Saharan Africa and more than 400,000 are in Northern Africa, and 721,000 are stateless people.

In Kenya, the refugee crisis has led to tensions and violence between community members and refugees in Turkana County, where the Kakuma Refugee Camp is situated. The primary cause of these conflicts has been a rivalry for scarce resources. In most instances, the local populace continues to believe that refugees are economically better off than natives due to aid from refugee aid organizations (Ali *et al.*, 2017). Conflict is also fueled by the differential treatment of the host community and refugees by the government and relief organizations. As a result of help, refugees have better access to health care, education, and living conditions than the majority of the local population, which frequently leads to hostility and conflict.

Due to competition for shared limited and scarce resources, refugee camps are sometimes marked by intermittent disputes between the host community and refugees (Betts, 2009). According to Ali *et al.* (2017) the refugee population in Kakuma had exceeded the native population, leading to fierce competition for a few resources including water, land, and wood. This is exacerbated at Kakuma by the camp's location in an arid and semiarid terrain.

Massive Somali refugee numbers in Kenya's Dadaab Camp have presented enormous hurdles to the Kenyan government. Kenya has borne the cost of hosting refugees for extended periods, frequently with adverse implications on national security (Manyala, 2016). In the war against terrorism, refugees in the Dadaab Camps have frequently found themselves in the firing line. Kenya has conducted police and military operations to combat insecurity, which is frequently attributed to refugees. This has had a significant toll on refugees, who have been subjected to forced repatriation and intimidation. Juma and Odhiambo (2021), posit that the fervor for regionalism is etched in the minds of the political class globally. Some advocate for continental integration while others call for regional groupings that consist of a few states whose defining criterion is territorial contiguity for the desire for sustainable peace.

In Kenya, refugees are regarded as a major source of terrorism (Kilonzo, 2017). The majority of Kenyans view refugee camps as breeding grounds for terrorist organizations. They are regarded as breeding grounds for radicalization and launching pads for violent terrorism in other regions of the country. Refugees frequently utilize their proximity to Kenya's weak borders to support the proliferation of Small and Light Weapons (SALWs) into the country. The extent to which these and other issues provided by the refugee crisis impact human security in Kenya about the Dadaab Refugee Camp has not been extensively explored. According to Chitembwe and Odhiambo (2021), a renewed movement to fight for the self-determination of citizens in the coastal region emerged in the counties of Mombasa and Kwale in 2008 when the MRC regained traction, calling for secession from Kenya. Among the 32 classes that were prohibited by the Ministry of Internal Security in Gazette Notice 125855 was the MRC might have been instigated by the sympathizers of Terrorism.

The Dadaab refugee camp, located in the northeast of Kenya, was established in 1991. The region receives severe weather, with extremely high temperatures during the dry seasons and flash floods during the wet seasons. The camp was supposed to house 90,000 refugees, but it now houses more than five times that amount. The main Dadaab camp includes the Dagahaley, Hagadera, and Ifo refugee camps, as well as the Ifo East, Ifo West, and Kambioos coping sites. The majority of refugees are Somali, followed by Sudanese, Ugandans, Eritreans, and Ethiopians.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The prolonged refugee crisis in Kenya is a persistent problem, and the state of the refugees living in camps remains tenuous in many parts. In 2020, there were 490,000 refugees in Kenya (Julia, 2022). More than half were children and young people, and more than half of them were from the Horn of Africa. Most were fleeing from Somalia, although there are also significant numbers of refugees from Burundi, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to the UNHCR Situation Report (2017), there were 247,798 refugees in Garissa County's Dadaab Refugee Camps. This is a significant number in a camp that was built to accommodate 90,000 refugees. An earlier UNHCR report (2016), showed that the population in Dadaab increased dramatically from 90,000 to 439,000 between 1992 and 2010. As a result, the number of refugees in Dadaab has fluctuated dramatically over time. This has had substantial negative consequences for the Garissa County host community, including humanitarian and security problems, competition for few resources, and environmental damage, among other things (Iteyo, 2018; Kumssa and Jones, 2014; Williams and Thompson, 2011).

The aforementioned predicament should not be the case, as the county already suffers enormous livelihood issues as a result of ongoing drought and a very arid climate (Kumssa and Jones, 2014). However, little research has been done on the true impact of the refugee crisis on regional security. This has resulted in significant, though not empirically confirmed, assumptions about the real and assumed contribution of refugees to regional human security. Despite the constant outcry about the obstacles posed by refugees in multiple humanitarian reports, a complete academic representation of the impact of refugees on human security in Garissa County remains virtually absent from the public realm. This study thus sets out to bridge this knowledge gap by assessing the influence of the protracted refugee crisis on human security in Kenya with specific reference to Garissa County.

1.3. Objective of the Study

To investigate the nature and scope of the protracted refugee crisis in Kenya with specific reference to Garissa County.

1.4. Research Question

What is the nature and scope of the protracted refugee crisis in Kenya with specific reference to Garissa County?

1.5. Justification of the Study

1.5.1. Academic Justification

The research on the link between Kenya's long-running refugee crisis and human security dynamics, particularly in Garissa County, is limited. This generates an empirical gap that needs to be filled. The main reason for this has been a lack of understanding of how the refugee crisis is putting a strain on scarce resources in developing countries like Kenya, due to increasing demand for education, health services, infrastructure, water supply, sanitation, natural resources, and security, all of which have an impact on the host country's economic, social, political, and environmental aspects (UNHCR, 2004).

The conclusions of this investigation will be crucial to the academic community. Academicians will obtain a better knowledge of the link between refugee crises and human security in the camp in this way. The findings could pave the way for more research into the association between the two variables in other parts of the world, as the number of refugees continues to climb as a result of global terrorism, war, and other factors. The findings acquired would also serve as helpful literature for other human security investigations. Students interested in peace and conflict studies, political science and diplomacy, and international relations at all levels can benefit from this course.

1.5.2. Philosophical Justification

There are significant philosophical gaps in our knowledge of the true impact of refugees on human security that needs to be addressed. Most academics ignore the issue of human security in the context of refugees, choosing to focus on other types of security. This explains the abundance of peace and conflict resolution literature. Despite growing evidence that migrants frequently transition from victims in need of humanitarian aid to willing participants in crimes against the host population, this conception remains merely rhetoric in the lack of empirical data.

In Kenya, for example, the local populace has long held the belief that refugees are better off economically than locals as a result of refugee aid (Ali *et al.*, 2017). However, because international help to refugees may not have a significant impact on local resource competitiveness, the conversation is diverted away from the main implications of refugees on human security in the country. Thus, in the context of external (international) help, it is necessary to investigate the impact of the refugee crisis on resource competition with local people.

This research is particularly essential because it will clarify the hazy areas between the refugee crisis and terrorism. The reason for this is that terrorism has an impact on the physical security of local inhabitants, among other things. However, the link between refugees and human security is frequently left to conjecture. Frequent terrorist assaults in Garissa County, Kenya, where the Dadaab refugee camp is located; have raised various human security concerns, prompting lawmakers to call for the camp's relocation to Somalia and the eventual shutdown of its Kenyan operations. However, the relative importance of the contribution to the rise in terrorism may be difficult to assess in the context of the region's other geopolitical concerns.

1.5.3. Policy Justification

The study would produce policy recommendations that are empirically tested and that could inform policy formulation on dealing with refugee crises the world over. The study would also provide valuable information that could help policymakers come up with policies aimed at dealing with such crises the world over. Furthermore, the findings obtained would be crucial in facilitating policy direction regarding ways of enhancing human security the world over. In this regard, the bodies that deal with refugees, governments as well as regional bodies would gain valuable literature for use in the formulation of policies aimed at dealing with refugees' crises as well as the associated challenges. National security agencies would also gain pertinent information for use in the formulation of policies aimed at strengthening their operations against the negative influences associated with refugee crises.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Protracted Refugee Crisis

Many the asylum seekers and refugees from Latin America flee their countries due to various reasons the main one being violence as a result of high crime in the region, especially drug trafficking (UNDP/OAS, 2010). The level of violence continues to rise as different gangs fight for control of routes through which they can smuggle their drugs en route to the United States and Europe. The fact that the region is the main source of cocaine in the world has seen the immense flow of resources including millions of dollars of money from the sale of the drugs and thus further threatening the security of the region as this has exposed political institutions, the police, and the military to the risk of corruption (UNDP/OAS, 2010). Though most refugees in Kenya are a result of conflicts in their mother countries, it is evident that unfavorable conditions at home are major causes of the refugee crisis as envisaged by this current study.

The South American region often faces major natural disasters such as the two major earthquakes that hit Haiti and Chile in 2010 (ECLAC, 2010). The high risk of occurrence of natural disasters also forces people to flee their homes. The region is highly susceptible to changing weather phenomena and is often hit by hurricanes, heavy flooding which leads to landslides, and tropical storms among others. The high rates of poverty also force people to leave their homes in search of greener pastures. This is in line with this study that hypothesizes that conducive environment of a host country leads to an upsurge of immigrants and refugees.

Since 2015, there has been a massive influx of refugees in Europe, especially in Greek and others crossing the Balkans to get into Germany. This inflow of refugees has demanded the attention of politicians, the media, and experts. Although before 2015 there were still refugees immigrating to Europe the number has increased since 2015. The refugees are not only coming from Syria due to the conflict there, but others also come from countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Eritrea, Sudan, and Somalia, among others. According to UNHCR (2015), Afghans make the second largest group of refugees arriving in Europe due to the increased insurgent activities in their country and the continued political and economic instability. The advancement of the Islamic State towards Mosul and Erbil in Iraq has further deteriorated the sectarian violence that has been witnessed over the last decade (UNHCR, 2015). Religious-motivated violence such as terrorism, which accounts for most of the refugees in Europe, could also explain the refugee crisis in Kenya where Somali refugees seek refuge from the onslaught of terrorist groups such as the Al-Shabaab.

According to Al Jazeera (2014), as cited in UNHCR (2015), Eritrea is described as an open-air prison, this is because every man and woman must join the military when they reach the age of 18 years for 18 months and at times the service lasts indefinitely, during this time the conscripts are exposed to torture and sexual abuse and many are used for forced labor by the government on construction projects. This has created a substantial number of migrants that have been witnessed from Eritrea. The presence of Boko Haram in Nigeria has also forced many people to find their way to Europe to escape from this group. The kidnapping of schoolgirls in 2014 gained the world's attention and saw the escalation of Boko Harams activities leading to more than 1.5 million people escaping the conflict zone. Several long-lasting conflicts have worsened since 2015 thus leading the UN to describe it as the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II (UNHCR, 2015). This is in line with this current study that conceptualizes that there is an undeniable link between terrorism and conflict from the originating country and the refugee crisis.

There are numerous studies on the protracted refugee crisis the world over. However, pertinent gaps arise. First, some of the studies reviewed are quite outdated and may not show the current situation of the issues under investigation. Though some of the studies are focused on Kenya, their trueness to Garissa County is hard to hard to fathom without studies such as this current one. Further, some of the studies were based on a desk review of extant literature which leaves apparent empirical literature gaps. This underlines the importance of this current study.

2.2. Relationship Between Refugee Crisis and Human Security

Refugees are not only considered to be a threat, but they are also placed in the same group of problems such as drugs, infectious diseases, and crimes. Their activities, characters, and behaviors affect their neighboring countries (Adelman, 1994). Many refugee camps have turned into a hub for terrorist groups that have continued to plan and execute attacks on innocent people. Therefore, this has rendered refugees to be considered a threat to the state and human security. Further, refugees are considered the epicenter of human security because they are vulnerable groups and their rights and freedoms are always violated. States need to put more emphasis on the issues of refugees because their interactions impact more negatively on the state's social, political, and economic aspects. The majority of stakeholders, non-state actors, and organizations have placed great concern about the world refugee problem.

As a result of more refugees, the host countries confront a variety of security challenges. Their problems are multidimensional, combining political, socioeconomic, domestic, diplomatic interstate, regional, and global security. They have been blamed for adding to political unrest in their host countries, fueling xenophobia, damaging the environment, committing more crimes like drug smuggling and terrorism, and causing a variety of other social and economic problems and costs. This is especially true of the camps where they are said to be hiding terrorists. All of these things are bad for a country's economy and threaten its citizens' safety, especially in the third world (Bernstein and Weiner, 1999; Mawadza, 2008). In this light, Job (1992) draws the following conclusion: the relationship between the insecurity problem and weak state structure as a phenomenon in the Third World, affects their security measures and policies as a whole. This is in stark contrast to the industrialized world, where refugee problems are routinely handled by well-established agencies. As a result, several African countries are struggling to cope with the influx of refugees and are unable to guarantee their inhabitants' safety.

Iteyo (2018), researched state conflicts and the refugee issue in Eastern Africa. The research shows that political instability contributes to the influx of refugees in Eastern Africa. These refugees present security risks in addition to humanitarian ones. This poses an immediate risk to the safety of our nation and its citizens. This is because of the correlation between the influx of migrants and the spread of SALWs in the region. Further, refugees have monetary, social, and ecological costs for the receiving nation. Another factor that leads to insecurity is the competition between refugees and locals for access to natural resources in host countries. The purpose of this investigation is to verify these results in Garissa County, Kenya.

Barasa and Matanga (2018), in a paper titled, "the refugee crisis and implications for national and international security," posit that the refugee phenomenon has significant implications on both notions of security: conventional and human at national and international levels. This is particularly so since refugees threaten state security in situations where they choose to employ terror techniques in destabilizing a state's principal national interests regarding territorial integrity and political integrity. Refugees harm the ever-depleting socio-economic resources at the disposal of the state and the international community. This affects health, education, food, nutrition, and other basic needs sectors. As conceptualized in this current study, this could lead to conflicts over scarce resources; leading to surges in insecurity.

Studied the security challenges in Africa with a special focus on the role of refugees in Kenya. The study used the securitization theory as an analytical tool. The main constructs of the study were refugees as a non-security issue; a humanitarian concern; and potential threats to national security. The study employed mixed methods with data being collected from both qualitative and quantitative methods. The findings obtained show that refugees were seen as perceived as potential threats to security in Kenya. They were also seen as major drivers of terrorism. Most of the respondents pointed out that refugees provided breeding grounds for terrorist groups since they created platforms for radicalization. They were also avenues for violent extremism for the combatant and contributed to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. These weapons went on to be used to train other vulnerable refugees in the camps. This posed human security challenges in the country.

Asfaw *et al.* (2014), carried out a study on conflict and migration concerning Somali refugees in Northeastern Kenya. The findings obtained show that the influx of refugees in the Northeastern region of Kenya contributed to increases in insecurity in the region. A related study by Kitur (2016), sought to find out if refugees posed a major threat to the national security of Kenya. The findings obtained show that some refugees were economic migrants and were a threat to Kenya's human security. It was thus pertinent for the government to put in place an efficient national security strategy for asylum.

Kumssa and Jones (2014), carried out a study on, human security issues of Somali refugees and the host community in Northeastern Kenya. The findings obtained show that most of the Somali refugees, who were housed at Dadaab in Garissa County, had strained living conditions in the camp. This was because the camp was home to more than a million refugees; which was way beyond its capacity. The findings obtained show that the high numbers of refugees at the camp posed human security issues in the host communities. They also strained the fragile social environment in the North-Eastern region that has been beset by numerous conflicts in the past.

Ali *et al.* (2017), studied The Refugee Crisis in Kenya: Exploring Refugee-Host Community Causes of Tensions and Conflicts in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The variable under investigation in the study was factors that had led to community-refugee tensions and conflicts in Turkana County where the refugee camp is located. These included limited resources, socio-cultural, political and security, and social welfare. The findings show that conflicts between refugees and the local population were mostly due to the perception that refugees were more economically endowed than the locals. This was due to aid from refugee aid organizations. The fact that the refugee population had also outnumbered the local population, resulted in conflicts. Competition for limited resources such as water, land, and wood is also a major challenge. This is aggravated by the fact that the Kakuma refugee camp is located in a poor arid and semi-arid region.

Salehyan and Gleditsch (2006), studied refugees and the spread of civil war. The study established that refugee crises had adverse effects on local populations. These included but were not limited to arms and combatants' importation. Refugee influxes also led to the diffusion of dangerous ideologies into the host countries from neighboring countries. This had the propensity to cause conflict. Neighboring countries can also support the escalation of conflict through refugees.

From the preceding discourse, it is evident that the refugee crisis has significant effects on human security. This has been attested to by numerous studies from the world over. Even studies undertaken in Kenya underline this link. However, none of the studies reviewed examine all the issues under investigation in this study under one banner. This means the extant literature cannot be relied upon to holistically explain the interrelations between all the subjects under investigation in this study. This leaves room for further studies such as this current one.

2.3. Conceptual Framework

Wasike and Odhiambo (2016), discuss the role of theories in guiding the thrust of academic studies. They emphasize the importance of theories in offering compelling and incisive causal explanations with calculated precision. They buttress their argument by quoting Smith (1986) who asserts that theories play the role of predicting, prescribing, and evaluating socio-political phenomena hence they cannot be ignored.

2.3.1. New Security Paradigm

The new security paradigm approach to understanding global vulnerabilities that make it pertinent to reconsider traditional notions about national security. It is attributable to a report by UNDP (1994) that focuses on people as the

key and the main object while underplaying the role of the state. Before the cold war era, security was state-based but the post-cold war has witnessed new threats that emerged leading to the expansion of the concept of 'security'. Security has expanded to include human, economic, environmental, social, and political security. The UNDP Report (1994) identifies human security to involve two main components which include freedom from fear and freedom from want. The new security paradigm relates to this study since human security fits into its expanded definition of security. It can thus explain the extent of the protracted refugee crisis in Garissa County as well as, the challenges posed by the protracted refugee crisis on human security in the County.

There are several proponents of the theory including but not limited to Paris in "Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?" MacFarlane and Khong (2006) in "Human Security and the UN: A Critical History," and Richmond (2013) in "Human Security in Turkey: Challenges for the 21st Century among others." The essentials of human security have been captured in a poetic yet practical way by Pettman (2005). According to Pettman (2005) human security about the young child that did not die of neglect, the serious epidemic that did not break out, the job that was not cut, the gun that was not run, the ethnic prejudice that did not result in violence, the dissident voice that was not made silent, the landmine that was not sold and installed, the woman who was not trafficked across state borders and sexually abused, the agricultural product that was not dumped to the detriment of poor farmers, the short-term capital investment that was not allowed to wreck an infant industry, the addictive drug that was not produced and shipped, the refugee who was not forced to flee or remain abroad, and soon (UNDP, 1994). Its believed that these are violated by incessant increases in refugee crises. Since extant literature shows that, refugees contribute to human security challenges, the new security paradigm is fitting to this current study."

The theory is relevant to this study since it provides a broad framework under which the nexus between the protracted refugee situation and human security dynamics in Garissa County can be assessed. By broadening the definition of security to include human attributes, the theory is best suited to assess the various security risks emanating from the refugee phenomenon in areas such as terrorism and loss of livelihoods through competition for resources among others. The application of this theory to this study is however limited because apart from creating a broad framework for the analysis of human security, it does not delve into the challenges posed by insecurity to various actors. This limits its applicability in explaining the challenges faced by security actors in achieving human security in Garissa County, Kenya. That's why there is a need for the introduction of the second theory which is the critical theory.

2.3.2. Critical Theory

The idea of human security widened the scope of security while also challenging the realists' emphasis on state protection. It was believed that the government couldn't protect its citizens from the new dangers posed by globalization. This school of thought often referred to as the Frankfurt School, is concerned with the critique of modernity and capitalist society, the definition of social emancipation, and the discovery of social illnesses. It provides a distinctive interpretation of Marxist philosophy concerning some of its core economic and political conceptions, such as commodification, reification, and critique of mass culture (Corradeti). Theorizing is always for somebody and some purpose, as Cox (1981) puts it. It emphasizes struggles for power and its distribution, as well as it's underlying political, social, institutional, and ideological reasons. It discusses the effects of the post-Cold War shift from a unipolar to a multipolar world order on the relationships between individual states. It contends that states are not the only basic actors in international systems and that there is a fight for influence among non-state entities as well.

The importance of civil society, which prioritizes the well-being of its members, is also acknowledged (Peterson, 2006). Even civil society itself is a political construct, not an apolitical area or apolitical to economic and political objectives. Human security is a strategy that prioritizes the needs of the people, although it has been criticized for being a cover for an interventionist, neocolonial, and neoimperialist practices because it relied on altruism (Baysoy, 2018; Duffield and Waddell, 2006). Peterson (2006). Cox agrees with me that the international system is defined by anarchy and that this affects the social, political, and economic concerns of each nation-state. However, the industrialized nations continually want dominance over the weaker governments to advance their own economic and political goals. Therefore, it is important to emphasize human security to guarantee parity in all fields and prevent the abuse of human rights.

There are glaring advantages to using critical theory in this investigation. To begin with, it broadens the scope of who is considered liable for ensuring the safety of individuals. Human security is a shared duty, as the idea argues, involving not just governments but also businesses, nonprofits, and private citizens. This theory is useful because it can direct the investigation of the broad measures put in place to deal with the refugee crises, where various parties are accountable for security in refugee camps and their environs. Garissa County will use this framework to analyze the effectiveness of state and non-state human security activities. The theory is flawed, however, because it does not offer any empirical explanations for the causes of human security threats or the effectiveness of the measures taken to counteract them. On the other hand, it doesn't delve far enough into what causes human insecurity, at least from the perpetrators' point of view. This raises questions about the efficacy of measures designed to address certain underlying causes of human insecurity in refugee camps and their environs, such as the current study. This is why we'll be using the securitization theory to shed light on the connection between the intake of refugees and national safety. An important factor being studied is how the refugee crisis, terrorism, and human security in Garissa County all interact with one another, and the securitization theory will be used to explain this.

2.3.3. Securitization Theory

The securitization hypothesis is also the theoretical underpinning of this investigation. Within the context of international perspectives, the theory is a theoretical reflection of the Copenhagen school (Huysmans, 2006). Ole Waever first proposed the idea of securitization in 1995 with the intent of refining the terminological means of security. It does this by critiquing and questioning all prior theoretical approaches to security that tend to be ontologically materialistic (Wæver, 1998).

When an industry is named as potentially dangerous in conversation or writing, securitization begins. In the next step, the possible danger is confirmed (defined) as an actual danger requiring immediate measures to be taken. Ultimately, the target audience realizes the threat is real and calls for action (Léonard, 2010).

The theory is being utilized to explain the connection between the intake of migrants and security within the context of the discourse surrounding the refugee crisis. Many African countries that have taken in large numbers of refugees now view this influx of people as a huge security risk. Furthermore, transnational threats to security, like terrorism, make the situation worse (Schneider, 2015). Some of the countries of origin for refugees are also hotbeds for terrorist organizations, so a connection is often drawn between the two. This has resulted in the militarization of refugee camps, which were formerly recognized as non-security issues but are now viewed as possible risks to human security, as predicted by the current study.

The securitization theory is pertinent to the current investigation because it provides insights into the rationale behind the wide range of security measures enacted by Kenya in response to real and perceived security risks like terrorism brought on by refugee crises. It also clarifies why people believe that refugee camps foster the spread of terrorists and small arms and light weapons. Refugees, according to many UN systems, pose a security risk, thus they agree with this assessment (UNHCR News, 2013). As a result, countries dealing with large numbers of refugees should take precautions to reduce these threats to national security. However, the securitization theory does have certain flaws, primarily because it does not account for the primary drivers of refugee crises. The hypothesis may fail to account for the influx of migrants into Kenya because it assumes their presence in a given region. In this context, Lee (1966) Push-Pull Theory will be utilized to explain the origins and implications of the ongoing refugee situation in Garissa County.

2.3.4. Lee's Push-Pull Theory (1966)

Lee (1966) Push-Pull Idea from 1966 is another relevant theory that helps to explain the current investigation. According to proponents of this view, all migratory patterns are the product of something in the home nation that is actively discouraging departure. On the other side, they are inspired to move by some sort of attractive feature in their new home. Intervening difficulties like transportation costs and migratory regulatory constraints affect the strength of the link between these two variables (Lee, 1966). These factors may promote migration, slow it down, or even halt it in its tracks. One of the driving forces behind migration is the individual's circumstances.

The push-pull theory has two primary flaws. To begin, its representation of the factors that influence people to move is oversimplified. Thus, it conceals the primary drivers of migration, both pull and push (De Haas, 2008). Although the theory's validity has been shown elsewhere, its micro-level applications remain controversial. So, it has little usefulness in understanding rural-to-urban migration (Mabogunje, 1970).

According to the findings of this analysis, war and domestic insecurity are two of the most common push factors. The vast majority of Kenya's displaced people fall under this category. Attractive factors include the new country's peace and stability, as well as its economic potential. Refugees have been drawn to Kenya largely due to the country's relatively stable political climate. As most of the refugees in Kenya have come from the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Regions, it is clear that distance and transportation have not been major hurdles for entering the country. The country's open land and marine borders make it an attractive destination for Somali refugees.

There has been a steady influx of migrants into Kenya for the better part of three decades, and good reason. Because of this, refugee camps are under extreme stress. The refugee problem in Kenya has been exacerbated by the presence of push factors, such as civil conflict, in some of Kenya's neighboring nations. As this study suggests, this has had diverse effects on the nation's human security.

2.4. Conceptual Framework Model

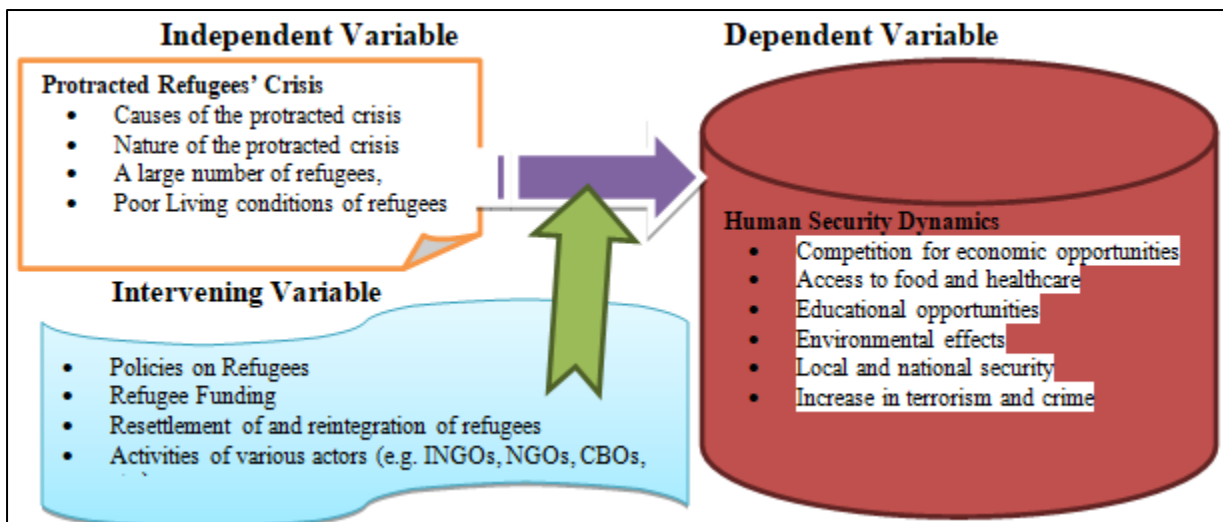


Figure-1. Conceptualization of the Nexus between Protracted Refugees Crises on Human Security Dynamics

Source: Researchers (2022).

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Design

According to [Cooper and Schindler \(2003\)](#), descriptive research is concerned with determining who, what, when, where, and how something will be described. In this view, the design explains the current state of affairs at a certain location, the parties accountable for it, and those affected within a specified time frame. In comprehending the relationship between the refugee crisis and human security, this design has been found suitable. Since descriptive studies collect data using quantitative and qualitative methodologies, Primary data for this study were collected through interviews and questionnaires. Therefore, this study design is regarded optimal for achieving the study's aims.

3.2. Study Area

The research was conducted in Garissa County. The county, which shares an eastern border with the Republic of Somalia, is home to the Dadaab Refugee Camps, which as of 2016 housed more than 260,000 Somali refugees. The county is situated in Kenya's northeastern area. Its headquarters are located in Garissa Town. The land area of the county is approximately 45,720.2 square kilometers. Islam is the predominant religion in the region. Due to recurrent drought, the county has a severely arid climate, and pastoralism is the primary agricultural and economic activity. Due to insufficient precipitation, Garissa County has limited arable land. This typically results in increased food prices. This results in malnutrition because individuals cannot afford the meals they want. Consequently, the majority of people who receive food assistance have no control over what they consume. Consequently, food insecurity is a significant issue in Garissa County (UNDP, 1994). This is another reason for conducting this research, as the inability to buy food would exacerbate the problems associated with human insecurity.

The majority of the county's residents are Somalis. According to [Kumssa and Jones \(2014\)](#), the living conditions in the Dadaab refugee camp in Garissa County were inadequate for the Somali refugees who were housed there. Nonetheless, the extent to which these refugees contributed to human security issues in the camp has not yet been rigorously determined.

Garissa County presents particular issues, despite not being the only county in Kenya to house refugees. Although Kakuma in Garissa County is home to one of Kenya's largest refugee populations, it does not face the same issues as Garissa County, such as constant terrorist threats and attacks ([Kilonzo, 2017](#)). In terms of the security challenges created by the enormous refugee population, this renders Garissa unusual. The conflict dynamics in Somalia impose additional difficulties on Garissa County, such as the periodic migration of refugees ([Manyala, 2016](#)). The bulk of Garissa County's inhabitants is ethnic Somali Kenyans. This compounds the refugee issue because locals are frequently mistaken for Somali refugees.

In Dadaab Refugee Camp, there are 218,873 refugees ([UNCHR, 2020](#)). The average number of children per refugee camp household is four (UNHCR, 2015). This is equivalent to around 54,718 households. According to Kenya Population and Housing Census ([KPHC, 2019](#)), there are 35,793 households in Dadaab. In Dadaab, there are 26 implementing partner NGOs (local and international) working with the UNHCR. These include Action Africa Help International, CARE International - Kenya, Danish Refugee Council, Africa Inland Church - Kenya, Salesians of Don Bosco - Kenya, Film Aid International - USA, Fafi Integrated Development Association, Fondation Terre Des Hommes, Francis Xavier Project, Haki Centre Organization, Finn Church Aid, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Kenya Human Rights Commission, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Services, Kenya Red Cross Society, and Kenya Human Rights Commission.

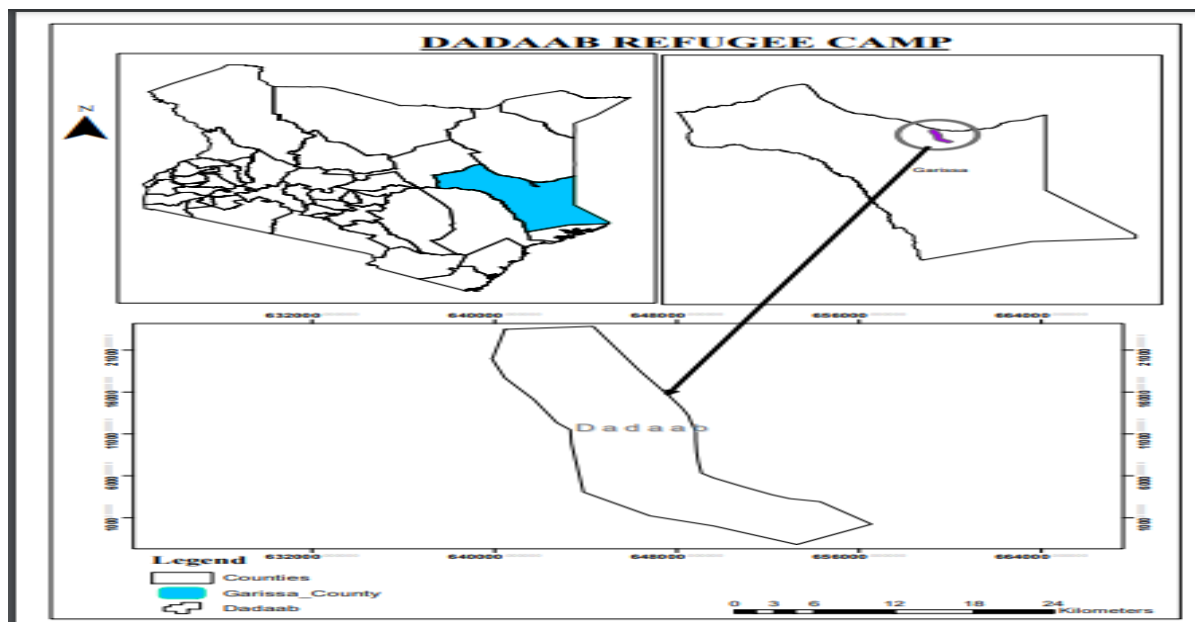


Figure-2. Map of Dadaab Refugee Camp

Source: County Government (Amendment Act), 2022.

3.3. Study Population

The target population for this study consists of 90,797 diverse individuals. These include 54,718 host community households, 35,793 refugee household heads in Dadaab, 200 UN Refugee Agency employees, 20 national government officials from ministries that partner with UNHCR, 20 Garissa County government officials, an official from each of the 26 UNHCR implementing partner NGOs, and 20 security agency officers. The survey only included officials from non-governmental organizations active in agriculture, health, and sanitation, as well as water and sanitation. The target population provided the information necessary for this study to meet its goals.

3.4. Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

To determine the sample size, the study will use the following formula for the 90,797 targeted participants as suggested by Kothari (2004). The sample size will be obtained using the formula developed by Taro Yamane in 1967.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N * (e)^2}$$

Where:

n=the sample size, N=population size, e= acceptable sampling error (assumed at 0.1)

The formula was applied for each stratum (category). Thereafter, the samples for each stratum were added up to make the overall sample size 339.

The study used proportionate stratified random sampling to pick household heads from each of the specified study categories who participated in the study. Consequently, each category constituted a stratum (Cohen, 2018). Within each stratum, people who fit the requirements of easy accessibility, availability at a given time, and willingness to engage in this study were selected using simple random sampling.

3.5. Data Collection Instruments

3.5.1. Primary Data

The researcher collected primary data from the respondents using structured questionnaires, interview guides for key informants (Appendix III), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (Appendix IV). These tools were constructed based on the objectives of the study. Questionnaires were administered to the respondents at the agreed time, answered, and collected by the researcher for analysis; while the interviews and FGDswere physically conducted by the researcher.

3.5.2. Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected from relevant secondary materials such as research articles, reports by government and humanitarian agencies, research dissertations, and policy documents among others. Each material was assessed based on its relevance to the study objectives. The data obtained was used to buttress the findings from primary data sources.

3.6. Data Analysis and Presentation

Descriptive statistics were used for data that had been coded and entered into SPSS 21.0, a statistical program designed for social scientists. The researcher drew upon secondary sources such as textbooks, newspapers, journals, and articles to fill up the gaps in primary data. These were used in addition to questionnaires and interview instructions. Research findings were compiled after being cleaned, edited, coded, and tallied. It was organized and classified following the goals and hypotheses. Because of this, the report-writing process went more smoothly. All

of the information we gathered went through a thorough editing process to ensure it is precise and complete. The questionnaires and interview guidelines were edited to make sure they achieved their intended purposes. The interview data were analyzed using a theme framework (Kothari, 2004). Thus, it was transcribed, and the resulting transcript was further sorted according to the themes and categories that emerged from the data. The correlation between the variables was analyzed using Pearson's, Spearman's, and multivariate regression.

4. Findings

4.1. Causes of the Protracted Refugee Crisis in Garissa County

The study sought to establish the causes of the protracted refugee crisis in Garissa County. The findings from the different respondents are presented in the following section.

4.1.1. Whether Refugee Fled Their Countries Due to Civil War

The UN Refugee agency workers and refugee household heads were presented with the statement, refugees fled their countries due to civil war. Their level of agreement with the statement was assessed on a scale of 1=Strongly Disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neither Agree/Disagree; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly Agree. Means (M) was used to indicate the converge point along the psychometric scale by the various ratings. The responses of UN Refugees Agency Workers and Refugees Household Heads were contrasted. The findings are shown in Table 1.

Table-1. Whether Refugee fled their Countries Due to Civil War

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
Refugees fled their countries due to civil war	163	4	5	5	0.16

Source: Field Data, 2022

The respondents strongly agreed with the statement that refugees fled their countries due to civil war. There was a high level of agreement with the statement as shown by a mean of 5 (strongly agree). In this regard, it can be deduced that civil war is the major cause of the refugee crisis. These findings are in line with the study by Salehyan and Gleditsch (2006) that established that civil war was closely linked to refugee crises; leading to adverse effects on local populations.

The findings from the questionnaire corroborate the findings from one of the interviewees who when posed with the question, What are the causes of the protracted refugee crisis in Garissa County? pointed out that the major causes of the protracted refugee crisis were civil war which made it hard to survive in Somalia. To this one of the respondents said:

I fled Mogadishu in November 2009 because, during the civil war, men wearing face masks were raping so many women near our home. There were many atrocities associated with the civil war such as rape, looting, and indiscriminate murder. Our family gave me money and when I reached the Kenyan border, I paid a smuggler \$200 to take me to Dadaab. (R4, 12/05/2021). Source: Field Data (12/05/2021)

It is thus evident that civil war was a major cause of the decision for refugees to flee their home country. This aligns with Lee (1966) Push-Pull Theory. In this regard, the study corroborates the findings by De Haas (2008) that posit that most push factors include war and insecurity in home countries.

Many experts, and even some Somalis themselves, have been unable to make sense of what started the civil war in their country. Many hypotheses have been advanced to explain the Somalia crisis. Scholars disagree on what exactly caused the civil war in Haiti, but common theories include colonial legacy clan rivalries, the fight for resources or power, weapon availability, elite manipulation, and dictatorial rule by the Barre (Mudane, 2018a). Yet, Edward Azar's PSC theory can be used to summarize the beginnings of the civil war in Somalia. According to Mudane (2018b), the origins of the Somali conflict and the beginning of the Somali civil war may be traced back to five main factors. The politics of clan identification or clanship is the root cause of the Somali civil war, along with four other factors: communal content, lack of basic requirements, poor governance and the oppressive role of the state, and international ties.

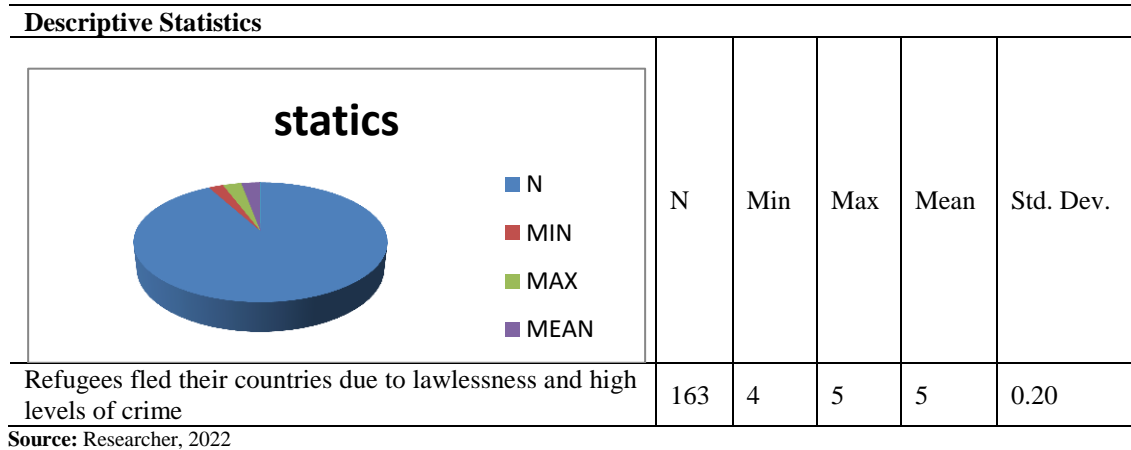
Kumssa and Jones (2014), note that although forced displacement is typically connected to a single proximal cause such as a war or natural disaster, the fact is that it occurs within a much broader context encompassing things including local, state, and global politics, environmental change, and the struggles of different racial and ethnic groups in the past. Due to the civil war and subsequent political instability in Somalia, as well as severe droughts in the region, a large number of Somalis were forced to relocate to neighboring countries, particularly Kenya.

Ingiriis (2016a), posits that the Somalia crisis began in 1991, when a popular revolt in Mogadishu, led by the United Somali Congress, overthrew Barre's two-decade autocratic military administration. Somalia quickly devolved into chaos after Barre fled. As a result, further political battles ended in a stalemate with no winner/no loser, causing the struggle to appear as a clan war evolving into a civil war.

4.1.2. Whether Refugees Fled their Countries Due to Lawlessness and High Levels of Crime

The respondents were presented with the statement, Refugees fled their countries due to lawlessness and high levels of crime. The statement was motivated by the fact that in addition to human security, refugees are likely to flee their home countries due to crime and violence. The findings are shown in figure 3.

Figure-3. Refugees Fled Their Countries Due to Lawlessness and High Levels of Crime



The respondents strongly agreed with the statement that refugees fled their countries due to lawlessness and high levels of crime. There was a high level of agreement with the statement as shown by a mean of 5 (strongly agree). In this regard, it can be deduced that lawlessness and high levels of crime are major causes of the refugee crisis. These findings agree with the study by Oscar *et al.* (2013) that shows that violence and crime aggravated human security challenges.

The foregoing findings make it apparent that the protracted refugee crisis in the county was attributable to security challenges in Somalia. To support this, an elderly community member said:

There are immense numbers of refugees from Somalia in Kenya. Most fled insecurity and lawlessness from their countries. Sporadic conflicts over the years have contributed to the present-day challenges that have pushed more and more people into the country. As long as total security is not restored in Somalia and other neighboring countries, we may continue facing this refugee crisis. (R5, 21/5/2021).

The protracted refugee crisis characterized by high numbers of refugees over the years was largely attributable to insecurity and lawlessness in Somalia. This leads us to the deduction that the protracted refugee crisis in Garissa County is hard to reign in as long as insecurity continues to persist in the refugees' countries of origin. This is in agreement with the study by Makori (2011) who posited that some of the factors that affect human security such as the breakdown of social order due to violence in the originating countries contribute to the influx of refugees in Kenya.

The results outlined above are consistent with those found in research by Mogire (2011) titled victims as threats: The effect of refugees on the safety of host countries in Africa, which argues that lawlessness and disorder are inevitable outcomes of refugee crises. Refugees, locals, and humanitarian workers are all at risk, and many are hurt or killed as a result. It causes a waste of government funds, which has a knock-on effect on people's daily life.

Menkhaus (2006), argues that Somalia exemplifies the collapse of administration and morality at its worst. There has been no functioning administration in the country since 1991, and sporadic armed warfare has plagued the country ever since. Under Barre's control, Somalia hardly had a functioning government even before the present crisis broke out, with basic public services applied inconsistently. Following Barre's departure, however, warlords seized control of most of the country and fought among themselves using private armies, much like grand dukes did in Europe during the Middle Ages, while hundreds of thousands of Somalis starved to death (Cockburn, 2002).

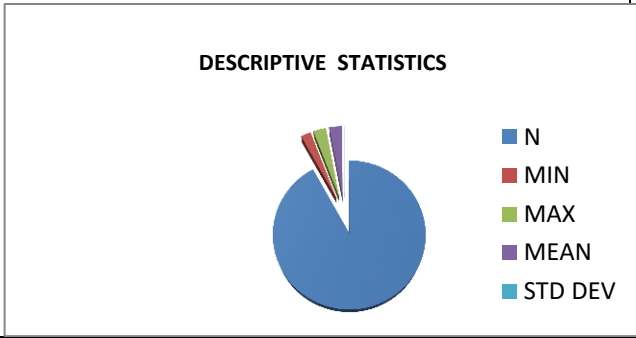
To restore law and order, the international community led by the USA intervened but the intervention made things worse rather than better. The US troops were sent into the country as part of a United Nations mission to avert famine. However, US troops were quickly drawn into local power struggles. The clan militias were fighting for power. Considering that most of the residents were already armed, it was easy for each disgruntled group to form a militia and fight. The US troops were humiliated as they lost soldiers in the battle against the militias, resulting in a withdrawal from Somalia (Cockburn, 2002).

Lawlessness and criminality followed Somalia's collapse as a state. The collapse of the state paved the way for anarchy, just as the outbreak of war makes for a more fertile setting for petty crime (looting, rape). In Somalia, lawlessness resulted in the most heinous crimes such as killings, massive land grabs, and mass population displacement (Bakonyi and Stuvoy, 2005). Many people were killed and their property was taken by force. A good example is the Somali Bantu in the Jubba Valley who became the target and were quickly exterminated. With militias wallowing all over the country, Somalia became unsafe for the elderly, women, and children. Thus, they had to flee the country.

4.1.3. Inabilities of Security Forces in My Country to Offer us Security Forced Us to Flee Into This Country

The respondents were presented with the statement, "Inabilities by security forces in my country to offer us security forced us to flee into this country." This statement is important since in most cases lack of capacity by security forces to offer security often forced refugees to flee. When people perceive that their national security agencies cannot safeguard their security, there are lively to seek it else; leading to an influx of refugees in the host community. These findings are depicted in figure 4.

Figure-4. Inabilities of Security Forces in My Country to Offer Us Security Refugees to Flee into this Country

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
					
NNNNNSsecurity forces to offer security	163	4	5	5	0.25

Source: Field Data, 2022

The majority of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that the inability of security forces in their country to offer them security forced them to flee their countries as shown by a mean of 5 (Strongly agree) as shown in table 4.9. Thus, it can be deduced that the rise in the inability of security forces to offer security to the people is a major cause of the refugee crisis. This agrees with Ligawa *et al.* (2016) that points out that the security capacities of a country to offer security could lead to increases in human insecurity.

Insecurity at home was also highlighted by the interview participants who pointed out that anarchy in Somalia after the civil war led to immense security challenges. No one had an assurance of state-provided security. Consequently, most people decided to flee the country to safer zones in neighboring Kenya and abroad. This explains the protracted refugee crisis in Kenya. In support of this, a community member said:

Insecurity in Somalia explains the high influx of numbers of refugees into Kenya. Failure of the government to provide security meant that most of the community members opted to run away to Kenya and other nations overseas in search of elusive peace. This largely accounts for the bulging refugee population in Kenya. (R5, 17/05/2021). This is corroborated by Odhiambo *et al.* (2012) when they stated that: Kenya Defence Forces' (KDF) preemptive and preventive actions are justified after the terrorist group known by the name of Al-Shabaab performed a series of kidnappings and cross-border incursions into Kenya, all of which threatened security and the lucrative tourism industry in East Africa's largest economy.

The foregoing statement shows that security is closely linked with refugee crises the world over. In Garissa County, the lack of security in Somalia and the countries of origin of other refugees agrees with the study by Kumssa and Williams (2011) that posits that the war in Somalia which erupted shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union had an impact on human security in the Northeastern region of Kenya [which includes Garissa County] due to the influx of refugees from Somalia.

Security, according to Hofreiter *et al.* (2015), is a situation in which risks and threats posed by them are minimized or eliminated. Second, security is a situation in which a given object does not perceive that its legal interests are in jeopardy. Buzan (1984), on the other hand, took a broader view of security than the traditional viewpoint. Security, according to Buzan (1984), should be addressed on five different levels and based on how states are endangered. Political dangers, military threats, economic threats, societal threats, and environmental threats are the five tiers.

Somalia's security problems involve several basic causes that span multiple dimensions. Since the colonization, decolonization, and post-colonization processes, security is a concept that cannot be established within this region. Chaos reigned in the country after the collapse of the Barre regime, which was followed by the Transitional Federal Government's inept measures on guaranteeing power. Economic investments halted, trade rates fell, and markets plummeted as a result of the upheaval. As a result, a lack of opportunities prompted Somalis to join non-state and illegal entities such as pirates, terrorist groups, and criminal gangs (Mudane, 2018a).

The combat between different actors accelerated the violence and means of attacks on civilians. Mostly, Al-Shabaab was using the method of suicide bombing, while the Ethiopians were responding with the use of white phosphorous bombs to demolish the rebel-possessed neighborhoods as a whole (Menkhaus and Boucek, 2010). Long-lasting refugee crises can be traced back to security stalemates. Political action and inactivity on the part of the international community and the country of origin (which led to the persecution and bloodshed that prompted individuals to emigrate) are to blame (UNHCR 2004).

As a result, since the early 1990s, tens of thousands of Somali refugees have been living in Dadaab camps with little hope of a solution. These prospects have dwindled as Somalia continues to witness insecurity as a result of renewed fighting and international neglect (UNHCR 2010). Thus, long-term displacement is the result of a combination of prevailing insecurity conditions in Somalia, policy responses in the international community, and a lack of adequate engagement in these situations. If the situation in Somalia is not addressed, refugees and displaced people will be unable to return home (Milner, 2011). Odhiambo *et al.* (2015), states that: the Somali militant group Al-Shabaab has given up all pretense of governing and has joined the depths of global jihadi depravity. On April 2, 2015, our gunmen affiliated with Somalia's Al-Shabaab jihadist-terror group, entered Garissa University College in Garissa, Kenya, killing 148 and wounding dozens. "The assault on Garissa a pastoral area that is home to many

Somali refugees stands in stark contrast to the group's deadly 2013 attack on Nairobi's Westgate shopping center, which was frequented by experts and rich Kenyans..."

4.1.4. Deplorable Living Conditions Due to Congestion at the Refugee Camp

The respondents were presented with the statement, "The camp has exceeded its original capacity and this makes living conditions deplorable." The motivation for this question was that poor living conditions due to congestion could lead to human security challenges.

Table-4. Deplorable Living Conditions Due to Congestion at the Refugee Camp

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
The camp has exceeded its original capacity and this makes living conditions deplorable	163	4	5	5	0.31

Source: Field Data, 2022

Table 4. shows that most of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that the refugee camp had exceeded its original capacity and thus the living conditions were deplorable as supported by a mean of 5 (strongly agree). This shows that the refugee camp was faced with human insecurity due to competition for limited resources Penninx (2004). This was affirmed by the interview and FGD participants who said that in most cases, the refugees had to be content with living in crammed-up spaces. There were limited resources to meet the needs of all, which further confounded living conditions in the camps. Stiff competition often led to conflict between locals and refugees. To support this, one of the respondents said:

There are occasional conflicts between locals and refugees over limited resources. Opportunities are fought over. Locals often feel excluded and feel that refugees have better lives than them. This breeds bad blood and challenges interpersonal relationships between the refugees and these locals. It becomes difficult for refugees to access local resources thereafter. (F4, 11/05/2021).

The FGD participants were posed with the question, "Are the camps enough for everybody?" The respondents pointed out that the camps are at capacity or overcrowded, with more refugees crossing the border every day. To this one of the respondents said:

With an influx of new arrivals in 2009, the Dadaab camp surpassed its capacity by over 100,000 individuals, leading to congestion in various sections. This makes living conditions deplorable and leads to challenges in living in harmony in the camps. (F2, 12/05/2021).

Daily, refugees arrive in the Dadaab camp from neighboring Somalia, creating one of the world's greatest refugee concentrations. The camp's surroundings have suffered as a result of the high concentration of refugees in an already tough semi-arid environment. As a result, one of the most prominent complaints among refugees has been the poor quality of their housing. The majority of Somali refugees in the camp live in prefabricated shelters, with tents added on occasion. These buildings do not offer adequate weather protection, and only a few people have access to shelter materials for repair or new construction. There is also no access to latrines. As a result, the refugees are compelled to seek sanctuary in the scrubland surrounding the camps. This has implications not only for cleanliness and thereby health but also for security. This scenario puts women's safety in jeopardy when they travel to the scrubland because they don't have access to latrines (UNHCR, 2016).

As a result of the overcrowding in the camps, poor hygiene and sanitation expose migrants to health and security risks. In extreme circumstances, 300 individuals share a single toilet. Even when they reach the Dadaab camps, women and children are particularly vulnerable. Women are subjected to sexual violence in addition to having to evacuate their homes. Every refugee is affected by the overcrowding in the camps. Every day, women and children line for water under the scorching sun. However, not everyone is so fortunate; water supplies are restricted, and pumps are unable to accommodate the daily demand (UNHCR, 2016).

Around 223,420 refugees, mostly from Somalia, are housed in appalling conditions at Dadaab. Some individuals live in rotting tents, unfinished structures with no insulation or heat, and no windows. Despite being in charge, the UNHCR is constrained in its ability to provide food and other help to those stuck there. Residents of the camp make every effort to maintain some kind of order, including arranging the delivery of private charitable food gifts. The scenario in Dadaab exemplifies the sorry state of the refugee camps, as well as how inadequately local authorities and the international community have handled the massive influx of asylum seekers and migrants (Phillips, 2015).

Despite this, studies demonstrate that poor housing has serious consequences for both physical and mental well-being. According to one study, people whose home conditions are subpar always have poorer mental health (Pevalin et al., 2017). Housing that is either inadequate or dirty can contribute to the spread of disease, which in turn drives up healthcare costs, prevents people from working, and endangers the health of the community as a whole. Communities as a whole feel the effects of individuals' substandard living situations. If living conditions are crowded and hygiene is inadequate, the spread of infectious diseases is accelerated. People with mental health issues have a harder time finding and keeping a job, which can have a chilling effect on economic growth and development in a region.

Moreover, the terrible conditions in which the refugees are living have an impact on their ability to learn (Mahruf and Shohel, 2022). A child's access to the best education possible is compromised in such a situation. More than that, the entire refugee family suffers when the children are not well educated. However, educated communities provide numerous advantages for refugees, such as access to better job markets, greater wages, and the possibility of

leaving refugee camps altogether. Further, one of the less explored ramifications of poor living situations is the impact on social relationships among refugees. Mental health is negatively impacted by poverty, which also has negative effects on crucial social networks including families and relationships. The reality is that people pay more attention to their daily challenges when they are living in appalling conditions.

5. Summary and Conclusion

The respondents strongly agreed with the statement that refugees fled their countries due to lawlessness and high levels of crime. There was a high level of agreement with the statement as shown by a mean of 5 (strongly agree). In this regard, it can be deduced that lawlessness and high levels of crime are major causes of the refugee crisis. The foregoing findings make it apparent that the protracted refugee crisis in the county was attributable to security challenges in Somalia.

The majority of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that the increased influx of refugees into the camp had strained living conditions as supported by a mean of 5. The interview participants pointed out that the influx of thousands of new arrivals into the already severely overcrowded and under-resourced refugee camps in Garissa has exacerbated shortages of shelter, water, food, and healthcare for all refugees-new and old. In addition, an unknown number of Somalis, possibly in the thousands, have traveled directly to Nairobi where most disappear into the city, receiving no support and remaining invisible to the outside world. These findings make it apparent that the protracted refugee crisis has contributed to strained living conditions in Dadaab.

The study concludes that the protracted refugee crisis was caused by a plethora of factors. These include civil war, lawlessness and high levels of crime, and, the search for green pastures. It is thus evident that the most important causes of the refugee crisis were related to insecurity as well as reduced livelihoods.

Recommendations

There is a need to put in place measures aimed at reining in on the protracted refugee crisis. These measures should be undertaken at national and international levels and should include Push factors in the countries of origin should be dealt with through international solutions such as enhanced governance and rule of law; Speedy resolution of conflict should be undertaken to reduce the influx of refugees. This should be done through comprehensive and inclusive mutual agreements and there should also be strategies to check international terrorism in the Horn of Africa by strengthening security agencies in the region.

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