

Impact of the Humanitarian and Development Nexus on Sustainable Socio-Economic Integration of Refugees in Gisagara District. A Case of Mugombwa Refugee Camp and Hosting Community

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ABSTRACT

The integration of refugees into host communities presents challenges to socio and sustainable development as it requires a balance between humanitarian aid and development strategies. This study examines the impact of humanitarian development initiatives on the sustainable socio-economic integration of refugees in Gisagara District, focusing on Mugombwa Refugee Camp and the surrounding host community. The research combines qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. Interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions were conducted with key stakeholders, including refugees, host community members, government officials, and humanitarian organizations. Secondary data from reports and policy documents were also analyzed to assess the effectiveness of existing humanitarian initiatives. The sample size was 387. Findings indicate that while humanitarian interventions have significantly improved access to essential services and economic opportunities, challenges remain in fostering long-term self-reliance among refugees. Those challenges include limited employment opportunities, competition over resources, and social tensions between refugees and host communities that pose barriers to full integration. However, successful initiatives, such as skills development programs and inclusive economic

projects, demonstrate the potential for achieving sustainable socio-economic integration. Therefore, the research recommends promoting inclusive economic policies, the expansion of vocational training programs, as well as fostering social and peaceful interactions between both communities. This study concludes that a shift from short-term humanitarian assistance to development-oriented approaches is essential for long-term refugee integration.

Keywords: Humanitarian-development nexus, socio-economic integration, refugees, Mugombwa, Rwanda, development approaches, host communities.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rwanda has hosted refugees for nearly three decades, with Mugombwa Refugee Camp currently home to over 11,000 refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo. As humanitarian assistance shifts toward development-based strategies, understanding the long-term socio-economic integration of refugees becomes vital. This research investigates how humanitarian-development nexus (HDN) approaches affect refugee integration in Mugombwa, considering both refugee and host communities.

Problem statement

The majority of the civil conflicts that broke out in the late 20th and early 21st centuries occurred in Africa. Millions of civilians were displaced and relocated to other locations in order to escape the dangers at home as a result of the protracted civil wars that broke out in West African Liberia, Sierra Leone, and

currently Mali; in Central Africa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola; and in East Africa, in Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea (Rutinwa 2021). According to Crisp (2002), the "vast area of Central Africa which encompasses the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Congo Brazzaville, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia" is one of the two "principal sub-regions of displacement" in Africa (2002:2).

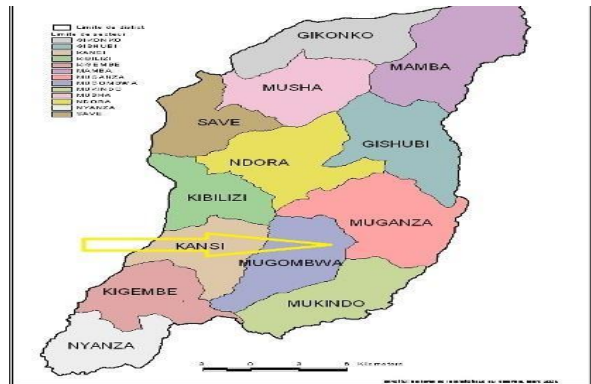
Together with UNHCR, the Rwandan government implements a variety of livelihood initiatives in the following sectors to assist the socioeconomic integration of refugees: Increasing socioeconomic data about Rwanda's refugee community in order to identify the most vulnerable households and those with the ability to become self-sufficient, boosting technical and entrepreneurial market-driven skills through livelihood training and the development of business plans, providing consistent and time-bound consumption assistance to enable them to meet their basic needs, providing lumpsum cash grants for employment start-ups, developing refugees' ability to save money as a tool to access finance and build resilience and ensuring the close mentorship and coaching of all beneficiary populations on life skills in a way that develops their self-confidence (MINEMA, 2020).

Geographical scope

This study focuses on Gisagara District, located in the Southern Province of Rwanda, with particular attention to Mugombwa Refugee Camp and its surrounding host communities. Gisagara District is situated in the southern part of Rwanda, bordering Burundi to the south. It is one of the eight districts in the Southern Province and is subdivided into 13 sectors, including Mugombwa, where the refugee camp is located. Mugombwa Refugee Camp is located within Mugombwa Sector in the northeastern part of Gisagara District. Established in 2014, the camp hosts primarily Congolese

refugees who fled conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As of recent reports, the camp accommodates



approximately 10,000–12,000 refugees. It is one of six official refugee camps in Rwanda and is managed by the Government of Rwanda in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The reviewed literature explores the theoretical and practical dimensions of the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, with a strong focus on the concept of localization. The study begins by highlighting the ongoing relevance and complexity of incorporating local actors into humanitarian, peace, and development responses. While the localization agenda emphasizes the importance of context-specific knowledge, ownership, and participation, it is challenged by four consistent obstacles: ambiguity in defining "the local," undervaluation of local capacity, insufficient political will, and the multi-level nature of conflict response. These challenges point to the need for critical reflection and integrated strategies like nexus thinking to break down sectoral silos and enhance cross-domain effectiveness (Slim, 2017).

The humanitarian-development nexus has evolved over decades, with early frameworks such as the relief-rehabilitation-development (LRRD) continuum gradually expanding to include concepts like resilience and stabilization. While these frameworks aim to ensure continuity between emergency aid and long-term development,

humanitarian actors often resist approaches they view as politicized or securitized (Goodhand, 2010; Tronc et al., 2019). The Triple Nexus approach, as introduced by UN Secretary-General Guterres in 2017, seeks to bridge peacebuilding with development and humanitarian efforts but faces criticism due to concerns over blurred mandates, particularly when peace efforts are perceived to align with military agendas (ICVA, 2017).

Localization has been formally recognized through initiatives like the 2016 Grand Bargain, which emphasized shifting power and ownership to local and national actors. However, systemic critiques persist, including accusations of bureaucratic inertia, top-down practices, and failure to integrate local knowledge effectively (Barbelet, 2018; Clarke et al., 2019). Despite being essential to operational success due to their cultural insight, language proficiency, and access to affected populations, local actors remain underutilized in strategic planning and decision-making (Tanner and Moro, 2016; Ward, 2020). The development domain has also struggled with genuinely localizing efforts. While theories such as Thinking and Working Politically and Community-Driven Development (CDD) promote participatory practices, field operations often remain controlled by distant central offices, limiting localized autonomy (Eyben, 2011; World Bank, 2019).

Peacebuilding efforts, both soft (diplomatic and reconciliation) and hard (security and stabilization), have increasingly emphasized the importance of local dynamics. Initially focused on internal causes of conflict (Ballentine and Sherman, 2003), new research recognizes the internationalization of civil conflicts and the importance of involving local communities to legitimize peace processes (de Waal, 2019). Stabilization strategies have evolved to include local participation and legitimacy, as reflected in revised US policy defining stabilization as a political endeavor anchored in locally legitimate authorities (US Department of Defence, 2018). Additionally, humanitarian action, though often apolitical, contributes to peace through trust-building, essential service provision, and creating dialogue platforms, aligning sustainable development objectives and complementing

peacebuilding work (International Peace Institute, 2018; UN, 2016).

The literature also explored the socioeconomic impacts of refugees on host communities, particularly in East Africa. Though early analyses often focused on the costs of refugee inflows, more recent studies reveal both negative and positive effects. For example, refugee presence has led to inflation in some local markets (Alix-Garcia and Saah, 2009), while also generating employment, investment opportunities, and labor market restructuring in others (Maystadt and Verwimp, 2014). These impacts vary based on displacement duration, refugee demographics, host country policies, and integration strategies (Kulhman, 1990; OECD, 2017). Integrated approaches, such as those used in Rwanda's GIZ program, promote employment, entrepreneurship, and social cohesion through vocational training and psychosocial support, aiming to serve both refugees and host communities equally (GIZ, 2022).

Despite decades of discourse around harmonizing humanitarian and development assistance, the aid system remains siloed, with separate funding streams, institutional cultures, and operating models (Bennett, 2015). The HDP nexus, now formally acknowledged in international frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals, advocates for rights-based, long-term responses that uphold human dignity (UNGA, 2019). However, criticisms persist regarding the lack of empirical research, particularly on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the dominance of Western-centric approaches that may marginalize local perspectives (Dubois, 2018). In contexts like Rwanda's Mugombwa Refugee Camp, there is a pressing need for locally grounded, comparative studies that examine how development and humanitarian interventions affect socio-economic integration and institutional collaboration.

Research gap

The challenge of bridging the humanitarian-development nexus is conceptual in nature and entails reconciling the various imperatives, approaches, and levels at which actors are involved

in peace, development, and humanitarian work (Bennett and Kawaguchi 2018). Enhancing coordination and reforming the organization is insufficient to tackle what appear to be basic conceptual challenges (development rights-based/political vs. humanitarian needs-based/non-political). However, despite adhering to principles that would put it at odds with the development sector, the humanitarian sector also has room within its protection responsibilities to concentrate on rights-holders, and this room has been expanding at the same rate as the sector's own expansion and accountability.

The humanitarian industry has found it difficult to safeguard the people it is supposed to assist, even with its growth and better coordination to tackle these increasingly complicated situations. Despite the increasing recognition of the humanitarian-development nexus as a critical approach to enhancing the long-term resilience of refugees and host communities, there remains a limited body of empirical evidence on how this approach contributes to sustainable socio-economic integration in specific local contexts, particularly in rural districts of Rwanda like Gisagara. While various humanitarian and development initiatives have been implemented in and around Mugombwa Refugee Camp, the extent to which these interventions foster inclusive and sustainable socio-economic outcomes for both refugees and host populations remains underexplored.

Existing studies tend to focus on either short-term humanitarian aid outcomes or macro-level development indicators, often overlooking the localized, community-level dynamics that shape integration processes. Furthermore, there is a lack of comparative analysis between the experiences of refugees and host communities in relation to access to education, employment, health services, and participation in local governance. This leaves a critical gap in understanding the synergies or disparities created by the humanitarian-development interventions in Mugombwa.

Additionally, limited research has been conducted on how local governance structures, cultural interactions, and institutional collaboration

influence the sustainability of integration efforts. This gap makes it difficult for policymakers and practitioners to design context-specific, evidence-based programs that effectively bridge humanitarian relief with long-term development goals.

III. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design combined with inferential analysis to examine the relationship between humanitarian development (independent variable) and sustainable socio-economic integration (dependent variable).

Using the Yamane formula, a sample of 387 respondents was drawn from a population of 11,790 refugees. Convenience sampling was used to collect data from key informants, including Refugee executive committee, Women cooperatives, Humanitarian organizations, Local authorities, and camp management.

Description of the research area

The study is set in Gisagara District, located in Rwanda's Southern Province, covering around 680 km² and divided into 13 sectors, including Mugombwa, which hosts one of Rwanda's major refugee camps. Established in 2014, Mugombwa Camp shelters more than 10,000 refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo, fleeing conflict and instability. It is managed by MINEMA, in partnership with UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations.

The camp features semi-permanent housing, schools, health facilities, and limited livelihood opportunities. Current interventions aim to shift from basic aid to self-reliance and socio-economic integration, with vocational training, agriculture, and community projects that also involve the host community.

Data Collection Techniques

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were employed using Questionnaires for refugees, cooperatives, and local authorities, Structured and one-on-one interviews with humanitarian organization reps and officials, and Focus group

discussions, particularly for illiterate cooperative women.

Data Analysis

Data was analyzed using SPSS. Descriptive statistics were used to assess perceptions, and multiple regression analysis was employed to explore how variables like: Immediate descent works, Peacebuilding, Leadership and governance, financial support, impact sustainable socio-economic integration.

Model:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (IDW) + \beta_2 (PB) + \beta_3 (LG) + \beta_4 (FS) + \epsilon$$

Where Y = sustainable socio-economic integration.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The tables below show the results and how they have been discussed during my research while

Table 4.5: Views of respondents on immediate descent works

	N	Mean	Std.Deviation	Comments
UNHCR's office in Huye delivers protection assistance and humanitarian support for refugees residing in Mugombwa camp.	387	3.91	.489	High mean Homogeneity SD
UNHCR works with authorities and humanitarian actors to ensure the rights of refugees are upheld	387	3.70	.904	High mean Homogeneity SD
Humanitarian intervention can boost livelihoods by providing essential services like healthcare, water, and sanitation	387	4.00	4.02	High mean Homogeneity SD
All refugees relocated to Rwanda will be treated in the same way regardless of the decision of their retreat claim	387	3.93	.403	High mean Homogeneity SD
In this camp, UNHCR and partners implement coordination mechanisms to ensure child protection, prevention, and response	387	3.52	.818	High mean Heterogeneity SD
Overall mean		3.84		

Source: Primary data, 2024

Legend: 5. Strongly Agree [4.21-5.00] = very high, 4. Agree [3.41-4.20] = high, 3. Not

Sure [2.61-3.40] = Moderate, 2. Disagree [1.81-2.60] = low, 1. Strongly Disagree [1.00-1.80] = very low, SD ≤ 0.5 = Homogeneity of responses, SD ≥ 0.5 = Heterogeneity of responses

The findings from the table show the perception of respondents on immediate descent works at

assessing the Impact of the humanitarian-development nexus on sustainable socio-economic integration in Gisagara district. A case of Mugombwa Refugee Camp and hosting community.”

Humanitarian development

The first specific objective of this study was to identify approaches to humanitarian development in Gisagara District, in the Mugombwa refugee camp. The approaches to the humanitarian and development nexus were effective in terms of immediate descent works, peacebuilding nexus, leadership and governance, and financial support.

Mugombwa refugee camp. There is an efficient method of immediate descent work. The overall

mean of 3.84 shows that immediate descent works are well implemented. The researcher viewed that while it is important to get refugees into work early, social dialogue is instrumental in maintaining and improving working conditions for all workers. The Refugees enjoy the right to just and favorable working

conditions, including when working in the informal economy. Workplace rights include working safely, in conditions that ensure respect for human rights and freedom from exploitation, violence, and harassment.

Table 4.6: Views of respondents on the peacebuilding nexus

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Comments
The Government of Rwanda, through MINEMA, administers the camp and is responsible for the security and protection of the refugees in coordination with UNHCR.	387	3.70	.787	High mean Heterogeneity SD
The locally legitimate authorities and systems can manage conflict in a peaceful way and prevent a resurgence of violence.	387	3.75	.571	High mean Heterogeneity SD
In this camp, there are conflict resolution workshops, dialogue promotion, and peace education.	387	3.83	.562	High mean Heterogeneity SD
The ability of the host nation to integrate refugees will be influenced by the Peacebuilding nexus.	387	3.96	.252	High mean Heterogeneity SD
Humanitarians and peacebuilders can benefit from understanding how humanitarian work can create circumstances for long-term peace.	387	3.26	.977	High mean Heterogeneity SD
Overall mean		3.70		

Source: Primary data, 2024

Legend: 5. Strongly Agree [4.21-5.00] = very high, 4. Agree [3.41-4.20] = high, 3. Not Sure [2.61-3.40] = Moderate, 2. Disagree [1.81-2.60] = low, 1. Strongly Disagree [1.00-1.80] = very low, SD ≤ 0.5 = Homogeneity of responses, SD ≥ 0.5 = Heterogeneity of responses

The results found in Table 4.6 show the respondents' views on the peacebuilding nexus in the Mugombwa refugee camp. In partial conclusion, it is to say the peacebuilding nexus is effective since the overall meaning is 3.70, interpreted as a high mean, which indicates the peacebuilding

nexus should be maintained. This implies that Peacebuilding seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict, helping people to resolve their differences peacefully and lay the foundations to prevent future violence.

Table 4.7: Views of respondents on leadership and governance

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Comments
There are efficient humanitarian operations in this camp.	387	4.16	.383	High mean Heterogeneity SD

UNHCR runs a regular protection desk, individual counseling, hotlines, home visits, and mass meetings with the refugee community to receive complaints and provide timely feedback	387	3.85	.609	High mean Heterogeneity SD
There is relevant local knowledge, and the ability to identify and effectively communicate with vulnerable populations.	387	3.94	.397	High mean Heterogeneity SD
In many development projects, the local community has received as much attention	387	4.06	.454	High mean Homogeneity SD
Development actors have a good understanding of the local environment.	387	3.59	.781	High mean Heterogeneity SD
Overall mean		3.92		

Source: Primary data, 2024

Legend: 5. Strongly Agree [4.21-5.00] = very high, 4. Agree = [3.41-4.20] = high, 3. Not Sure = [2.61-3.40] = Moderate, 2. Disagree [1.81-2.60] = low, 1. Strongly Disagree = [1.00- 1.80] = very low, SD ≤ 0.5 = Homogeneity of responses, SD ≥ 0.5 = Heterogeneity of responses

The results presented in Table 4.7 show that the views of respondents concerning leadership and governance in Mugombwa refugee camp enhance social cohesion by focusing on belonging, inclusion, participation, recognition, and legitimacy, presenting an open door to freedom and social justice for underrepresented communities, including refugees.

In a country like Australia, refugee community leadership is required in order to reconsider the politics of knowledge and the importance of advocacy to ensure “social justice” (or participation parity) (Charmaz, 2011; Fraser, 2008; Power, 2012). Social justice leadership frameworks examine whether individuals labeled as “non-traditional”, or

“refugees”, are socially treated un/fairly within their host community. Thus, refugee community leaders are instrumental in implementing and enhancing advocacy for the refugee community they represent. Community leaders advocate restlessly, aiming to achieve possible socioeconomic environments where refugees' choices of access and participation are prioritized (Power, 2012). Similar results were obtained by Pearce and Robinson (2007), who found that resource coordination is highly influenced by leadership effectiveness. Mbaka and Mugambe (2014) also found a significant relationship between leadership and resource availability in an organization.

Table 4.8: Views of respondents on financial support.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Comments
The management of the Camp encourages the refugees to decide between working with financial institutions.	387	3.96	.580	High mean Heterogeneity SD
There are very few economic effects of refugees in low- and middle-income host nations.	387	3.97	.514	High mean Heterogeneity SD
UNHCR also supports refugee entrepreneurs through start-up loans, financial literacy training, and access to vocational training to increase refugees' self-reliance.	387	2.58	.644	Low mean Heterogeneity SD

There are trading opportunities that can raise the incentives for refugees to start their own businesses around camps.	387	2.45	.601	Low mean Heterogeneity SD
Overall mean		3.24		

Source: Primary data, 2024

Legend: 5. Strongly Agree [4.21-5.00] = very high, 4. Agree = [3.41-4.20] = high, 3. Not

Sure = [2.61-3.40] = Moderate, 2. Disagree [1.81-2.60] = low 1. Strongly Disagree = [1.00- 1.80] = very low, $SD \leq 0.5$ = Homogeneity of responses, $SD \geq 0.5$ = Heterogeneity of responses

The findings from Table 4.8 indicate the respondents' view on financial support in the Mugombwa refugee camp. For the first statement, the respondents attested that the management of the Camp encourages the refugees to decide to work with financial institutions by considering the mean of 3.96, interpreted as a high mean.

For the second statement, the respondents revealed there are very few economic effects of refugees in low- and middle-income host nations, since the mean was 3.97, interpreted as a high mean. For the third statement, the respondents reported that UNHCR also supports refugee entrepreneurs through start-up loans, financial literacy training, and access to vocational training to increase refugee self-reliance on low means, considering the mean of 2.48 interpreted as a low mean.

Lastly, the respondents revealed that there are trading opportunities that can raise the incentives for refugees to start their own businesses around camps at low levels, by considering a mean of 2.45, interpreted as a low mean. The overall mean of 3.24 shows that financial support is moderately appreciated by respondents in this study. This means that all registered refugees, whether they have obtained an ID or not yet, can open a bank account to save and withdraw money. Hosting refugees presents difficult challenges for developing countries where financial and administrative capacities are limited. Most refugees need support for subsistence and housing until they

are economically integrated and can earn their own living.

In Rwanda, refugees have had access to full-fledged personal bank accounts since 2017, as part of the introduction of cash assistance across the camps. UNHCR's and other partners' cash transfers represent a critical first step towards financial inclusion. By working through existing formal financial institutions using both banking and mobile money services, UNHCR enables recipients to access a range of financial services and products that can be used for productive purposes. In addition to receiving monthly humanitarian cash assistance for basic needs and, e.g., livelihood grants, they also access micro-finance and loans from formal Microfinance Institutions and social enterprises and may use services related to village savings and loans, remittances, and utility payment services.

A close collaboration with MINEMA, UNHCR, and other partners has also enabled refugees to access top-up loans for their small businesses. Of course, with loans, extra precautions are taken, and proper due diligence is conducted to mitigate the risks that might arise in loan repayments. The bank agents' services are an essential part of refugees' financial inclusion because they continue to operate even when the branch offices are closed, like during weekends. The agents, who are usually vendors, selling food and other basic needs in the camps, can even work longer hours than the bank branches.

Sustainable socio-economic integration of refugees

The second specific objective was to find out the indicators of the sustainable socio-economic

integration of refugees and their surrounding communities of the Mugombwa refugee camp.

Table 4.9: Views of respondents on health improvement

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Comments
The health center is present in the Mugombwa refugee camp.	387	3.88	.455	High mean Homogeneity SD
The Ministry of Health also supports the health center with medical equipment.	387	3.96	.339	High mean Homogeneity SD
Access to healthcare and the ability to pay for health insurance	387	3.72	.998	High mean Homogeneity SD
Developing a savings culture helps me deal with health problems.	387	4.08	.312	High mean Homogeneity SD
Rwanda guarantees the right to free health care, regardless of immigration status	387	3.93	.546	High mean Heterogeneity SD
Overall mean		3.91		

Source: Primary data, 2024

Legend: 5. Strongly Agree [4.21-5.00] = very high, 4. Agree [3.41-4.20] = high, 3. Not Sure [2.61-3.40] = Moderate, 2. Disagree [1.81-2.60] = low, 1. Strongly Disagree [1.00-1.80] = very low, SD ≤ 0.5 = Homogeneity of responses, SD ≥ 0.5 = Heterogeneity of responses

Table 4.9 presents subjective measures of health improvement. The findings show the perceptions of respondents concerning health improvement in Mugombwa refugee camp. The overall mean of 3.91 shows that respondents appreciate the health improvement level in the Mugombwa refugee camp. The findings imply that the health interventions save lives and address immediate survival needs. Public health programs should always be available to refugees living in camp settings and settlements. UNHCR should encourage the authorities to grant refugees access to national services, where these are available and adequate.

A recent assessment shows that 92% of households in refugee camps own at least one mobile phone compared to 78% in host communities. Around two-thirds of households in refugee camps are registered with a mobile money provider, and one in ten households in refugee camps have saved money on their mobile wallet account. The repayment rate (about 80%) remains high for loans. Digital financial products and services are emerging and may further benefit the refugee populations. This growing trend of financial inclusion is therefore paving a sustainable way for promoting stronger livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugees and their host communities in Rwanda (KUI consortium, 2020).

Table 4.10: Views of respondents on improved education

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Comments
There are refugee children enrolled and integrated into national schools located nearby to the camp.	387	3.48	.950	High mean Heterogeneity SD
My child studies to get financial support	387	3.83	.539	High mean Heterogeneity SD
Through financial support, I can get a superior degree	387	3.98	.522	High mean Heterogeneity SD
Some students, especially high performers, are sent to schools of excellence (boarding)	387	4.11	.335	High mean Homogeneity SD

The legal frameworks of Rwand generally guarantee the rights of all children to access an education.	387	4.05	.222	High mean Homogeneity SD
Overall Mean		3.89		

Source: Primary data, 2024

Legend: 5. Strongly Agree [4.21-5.00] = very high, 4. Agree = [3.41-4.20] = high, 3. Not Sure = [2.61-3.40] = Moderate, 2. Disagree [1.81-2.60] = low 1. Strongly Disagree = [1.00- 1.80] = very low, $SD \leq 0.5$ = Homogeneity of responses, $SD \geq 0.5$ = Heterogeneity of responses

The findings of Table 4.10 show the perceptions of respondents concerning the improved education of refugees in Mugombwa Camp. The overall mean of 3.89 shows that the improved education was appreciated by the respondents in the Mugombwa refugee camp. This implies that education protects refugee children and youth from forced recruitment into armed groups, child labor, sexual exploitation, and child marriage.

Table 4.11: Views of respondents on income-generating activities

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Comments
I have been able to create off-farm activities, generating more revenue.	387	3.99	.088	High mean Heterogeneity SD
My revenues have increased after financial supports	387	4.00	.052	High mean Homogeneity SD
Overall mean		3.99		

Source: Primary data, 2024

Table 4.11 shows the perceptions of respondents on different practices or indicators of income-generating activities in the Mugombwa refugee camp. It was found that the Mugombwa refugee camp has implemented effective income-generating activities as indicated. This means that income-generating activities (IGAs) consist of small businesses managed by a group of people to increase their household income through livelihood diversification.

The overall mean of 3.99 shows that income-generating activities in the Mugombwa refugee camp. Table 4.12: Views of respondents on food security

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Comments
Access to primary needs, including food	386	3.99	.488	High mean Homogeneity SD
WFP provides monthly cash transfers for food assistance to refugees in the Mugombwa refugee camp on a targeted basis.	386	3.98	.521	High mean Heterogeneity SD
By using financial support, we are able to nourish well with family (food sufficiency)	386	3.39	.536	Moderate mean Homogeneity SD
After receiving financial support, my capacity to buy food for the family is not difficult	387	4.00	.004	High mean Homogeneity SD
Overall mean	386	4.02		

Source: Primary data, 2024

The results of this study imply that urgent action is often required to ensure that all members of the community have access to adequate food and basic services. UNHCR works with partners, national governments, and other UN agencies to ensure displaced populations can access adequate nutrient-rich foods and basic services to prevent malnutrition and reduce undernutrition.

Regression analysis

The third specific objective of this study was to analyze the impact of the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus on sustainable socio-economic integration of refugees and their

surrounding communities in the Gisagara District, in Mugombwa refugee camp.

To achieve this objective, the researcher used regression analysis was clarified in the methodology. The rule continues by saying that if the tabulated p-value is less than 0.01 or 0.05, the found relationship is said to be statistically significant. A regression model was used to determine the nature of the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The findings of the Model Summary, ANOVA, and Regression Coefficients are indicated in subsequent sections below. The summary of findings of the coefficient of determination and coefficient of adjusted determination is shown in the Tables below:

Table 4.13: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.616 ^a	.379	.372	.13606

a. Predictors: (Constant), Financial support, Peacebuilding nexus, Immediate descent works, Leadership and governance nexus. The correlation coefficient of 0.616 indicates that there is a positive relationship between the humanitarian, development, peace nexus, and sustainable socio-economic integration of refugees, and the R-squared of .379.

Table 4.14: ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	4.303	4	1.076	58.113	.000 ^p
	Residual	7.053	381	.019		
	Total	11.356	385			

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Socio-economic

b. Predictors: (Constant), Financial support, Peacebuilding nexus, Immediate Descent works, Leadership, and governance nexus

Table 4.15: Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.564	.290		5.395	.000
	Immediate descent works	.228	.022	.124	2.314	.009
	Peacebuilding nexus	.584	.024	.485	10.402	.000
	Leadership and governance Nexus	.309	.034	.399	7.293	.007
	Financial support	.246	.057	.051	1.169	.004

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Socio-economic

As revealed in Table 4.15, Immediate descent work have a significant and positive impact on sustainable socio-economic outcomes ($b=0.228$, $P<0.009$). As indicated in the table, the Peacebuilding nexus has a significant and positive impact on sustainable socio-economic outcomes ($b=0.584$, $P<0.000$).

The table has also shown positive significant and positive relationship between leadership and governance Nexus and sustainable socio-economic ($b=0.309$, $P<0.007$). The table revealed that financial support has a significant and positive impact on sustainable socio-economic ($b=0.173$, $P<0.004$).

Discussion of the findings on Humanitarian and Development programs in Mugombwa Refugee Camp

Humanitarian and Development Programs in Mugombwa Refugee Camp

The research identified a broad range of humanitarian interventions currently operational in the Mugombwa refugee camp. Core services include food aid, primarily facilitated by international agencies such as the World Food Programme, which ensures regular food distribution to camp residents. In addition, healthcare services are provided, encompassing primary care, maternal and child health, and in some cases, emergency care.

Education is also a key area of support, with schools established to cater to refugee children and youth, though resources remain limited. Furthermore, vocational training programs have been introduced to promote self-reliance and employability among refugees, particularly youth and women. Lastly, psychosocial support services are available to address the mental health needs of individuals affected by trauma and displacement.

Community Integration and Social Cohesion Programs

The study found the presence of several initiatives aimed at fostering interaction between refugees and the host community. These include joint cultural

events, sports tournaments, and livelihood projects designed to involve both refugee and host populations. While such initiatives contribute to enhanced social cohesion and reduced tension, their effectiveness varies based on local engagement levels, funding, and continuity. In particular, programs with consistent dialogue and community involvement tend to show better outcomes in building mutual understanding and trust.

Factors for Sustainable Integration

According to participant responses and stakeholder analysis, sustainable integration of refugees into host communities requires several critical components: The establishment of inclusive national and local policies, Access to land, education, and formal employment; Infrastructure development benefits both communities; the creation of legal pathways for residency or naturalization, where possible.

Moreover, representatives of humanitarian organizations and local administrations emphasized the importance of aligning vocational training with local market needs and strengthening partnerships between government bodies, NGOs, and community leaders to facilitate long-term planning and resource allocation.

Barriers to Service Access

Despite the availability of services, refugees face notable barriers in accessing humanitarian support. These include Insufficient resources and overcrowded facilities, Bureaucratic challenges in registration and service eligibility. Global humanitarian issues related to emerging crises in different parts of the world, as well as dramatic budget cuts for humanitarian action.

Coping strategies identified include reliance on community-based support systems, such as informal networks, peer support groups, and assistance from local or international NGOs, which occasionally offer translation services and legal aid to ease service navigation.

Enhancing Community Resilience for Integration

The findings suggest that enhancing the resilience of both refugees and the host community is

essential for sustainable integration. Effective strategies include Joint economic business enterprises (e.g., cooperative agriculture or small businesses), Community education and sensitization campaigns to combat stereotypes and reduce social tension, Investment in shared

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings of the study, it is concluded that humanitarian development has a high influence on the sustainable socio-economic integration of refugees. Based on the objectives of this study, it can be concluded as revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between humanitarian development and sustainable socio-economic integration of refugees and hosting refugees. However, this presents difficult challenges for developing countries where financial and administrative capacities are limited.

Most refugees need support for subsistence and housing until they are economically integrated and can earn their own living. Economic integration may take a long time because refugees come to the host country in search of security, often after experiencing potentially traumatizing events, rather than after a dispassionate and careful job search. Refugees also

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infrastructure (schools, clinics, markets), and the promotion of inclusive decision-making, with both refugee and host representatives involved in local governance and development planning.

require access to public services such as health care and education. Additional demand from refugees may strain access to scarce local resources such as housing, water, sanitation, and agricultural land for residents and refugees alike.

Recommendations

This study found that refugee self-reliance, essential for effective socioeconomic integration, remains low, as indicated by a mean score of 2.48. Despite UNHCR's support through start-up loans, financial literacy, and vocational training, its impact on integration is still limited. In addition, trading opportunities around Mugombwa refugee camp are underutilized, reflected by a low mean score of 2.45. To overcome these challenges and issues, the study makes the following recommendations: increasing housing allowances, promoting socio-economic inclusion between refugees and host communities, and strengthening support for refugee self-employment

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