

Effects of Urban Refugees On Social-Economic Development in East Africa: A Case of Kenya

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on the effects of urban refugees on social-economic development in East Africa with specific reference to the Kenyan experience. The objectives of the study were to assess the conceptual link between refugees and the economic development in host countries, to examine the impact of urban refugees on social-economic development in Africa and finally to critically assess the impact of urban refugees on social-economic development in Kenya. The study was based on refugee-aid and development theory. The study used a pragmatic approach using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Respondents were selected through purposive sampling. The study established that international migration both voluntary and involuntary has been caused by the environmental, political and economic reasons across the borders. A further examination also revealed that the consumer, labour markets are largely controlled by the urban refugees while external remittances also was observed to be on increase as a result of refugee's presence. Majority of the respondents were of the opinion that urban refugees have contributed to the increase in demand to the limited social amenities and increase in housing pricing and poverty levels. Key effects are development of business, creation of employment, increased labour in urban areas that have had positive impact, consequently, a high increase in crime rate in urban areas, human and drug trafficking as well as terrorism was observed to have a negative effect to socioeconomic development in urban centres and therefore there exist a negative impact of urban refugees on socioeconomic development in Kenya. The study recommends that policy making and program development decisions in urban centres should draw on the best and most reliable data concerning urban refugees.

Keywords: Urban refugees, Social-economic development, East Africa, Impact, Kenya.

INTRODUCTION

As of the year 2024, the global forced displacement has surged significantly, more than 110 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events severely disrupting public order. This represents an increase of 19 million people compared to the end of 2021, which is more than the entire populations of Ecuador, the Netherlands, or Somalia (Hossain, 2024). Approximately 62.5 million people are internally displaced within their own countries due to conflict or violence, while the number of refugees worldwide stands at 36.4 million, individuals who have sought refuge across international borders to escape danger and seek safety in other nations. Additionally, there are 6.1 million asylum-seekers globally awaiting a decision on their claims, along with a significant number of other people in need of international protection, including stateless individuals. To put it in perspective, more than 1 in every 74 people on Earth has been compelled to flee their homes.

The concept of refugees is a developmental issue that is part of human civilization that started back in the early human habitation phase of the earth. The effects and causes, as well as the solutions to this, are complex. The primary victims globally are an individual whose movements create pressure on environment, society and government at large and are dependent on their size, duration and frequency of their migration (Sciaccaluga, 2020). The refugee phenomenon especially urban refugees dates back to Biblical times, history has shown that wars and conflicts have left a trail of refugees. Russian revolution, for example, resulted in 1.5 million refugees in parts of Europe and Asia. The collapse of the Ottoman Empire caused a migration of about 120,000 American refugees into the Balkan. The German Nazi attack on Jews resulted in over 400,000 Jews who migrated to Israel (Solís, 2022).

The Middle East crisis has caused a large migration of refugees from Syria to Canada in the past few years. After the outbreak of the Syrian conflicts in 2011, massive exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries were recorded, for example, on 24 November 2015, Canada received 25,000 Syrian refugees (Bose, 2022). United States of America (USA) President Donald Trump in 2018 and 2019 put a ceiling of 45,000 and 30,000 refugees that can be accepted into the USA respectively. This represents the lowest target since Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980. Consequently, in 2018 alone the USA admitted 22,491 refugees representing the lowest figure since the beginning of the resettlement program. The urban refugees, however, have strained the local communities further and inform the reason of the strenuous laws in the USA (Landry et al., 2020).

African continent, on the other hand, hosts most of the world refugees due to protracted conflicts and political instabilities within the continent. Over 30 million persons of concern to UNHCR as of 2024 reside in Africa (Maloba, 2024). The consequences of these refugees on social-economic development have been observed in most African countries and further affected by the high poverty standards within the continent. Sub-Saharan Africa alone holds more than 18 percent in the global refugees populace and this number is drastically increasing due to high tension in most countries including South Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) among others (Dolidze, 2023).

Tanzania within the East African region hosted about 1.5 million refugees between 1993-2003, though greater efforts have been made to repatriate some of these refugees, more than 340, 669 refugees and asylum seekers are in Tanzania. Consequently, 264 refugees reside in urban areas in which the government has pointed out that it has turned out to be a problem to the country's growth agenda creating scarcity of resources and causing an increase to insecurity (Verme & Schuettler, 2021). The government asserts that the national program quality has been compromised such as the welfare and national poverty reduction strategies.

Uganda, on the other hand, became the among the top immigrant host nation in the globe having a total of 1,611,732 refugees registered in 2024 (Musasizi et al., 2024). Four percent of these refugee populations reside in Kampala city while the rest of the refugees live in resettlement and camps across the country. The large contributors to Ugandan refugees are the DRC and South Sudan at about twenty four percent and sixty eight percent respectively. UNHCR found that 132,546 refugees in Uganda were resettled in 2019 with the majority being South Sudanese.

From the UNHCR statistics, the burden of urban refugees falls upon the poorest countries in the south of the Sahara. The settlement of refugees in metropolitan areas has become more enticing than confinement in the resettlement camps. The absence of clearly demarcated boundaries in urban areas signifies a singular refugee community with host communities within East Africa (Araya, 2022). The refugees are widely spared throughout the cities and intermix with the locals and caused a number of social-economic developmental effects that this research seeks to identify within the context of East Africa with a case study of Kenya. The previous years have observed significant progress in the quantity of urban refugees across the globe with a probable figure of fifty six percent of the total 25.9 million refugees

living in urban regions. Additional refugees are projected to travel to town regions in search of 'better living standards. This has necessitated the host countries to integrate their development plans on different scales with a surge of urban refugees' needs.

In urban hosting communities, refugees have become part of the social-cultural and economic development agenda whether it is constant with home communities or not. Urban refugees' travel is considered as a vibrant means that upsets the growth and economic progression of the host communities either positively or negatively (Burrai et al., 2023). It has been noted to reshape the urban sizes, locations, internal structures and their physical as well as human characteristics.

Today, more of the world's refugees that are served by the UNHCR reside in the urban areas other than refugee camps and settlements (Morris, 2021). More of today's refugees look for better survival opportunities in cities than being confined in rural refugee camps. This trend has gradually increased since the late 1950s and it's likely to continue in the near future as more refugees will be trying to survive in cities and towns. The growing population of urban refugees resides in developing countries and more so East African has the largest urban refugees in African according to UNHCR. These third world countries have the highest urban growth rate and are confronted with varied challenges emanating from rapid urbanization. The cities lack adequate social amenities, resources and capacities to plan for services and infrastructure and they struggle to provide for the growing urban populace. The arrival of urban refugees in these cities is transforming the way of life and creates tension between different groups.

The presence of urban refugees in any country impacts on the host communities either socially, psychologically, economically as well as politically (Şafak-Ayvazoglu et al., 2021). The scholars have focused majorly on the description and evaluation of the causal connection between violent conflicts and their suffering in the hands of the host communities. Most of the government policies against refugees in urban areas have skewed the studies by many scholars and policymakers towards ignoring or downplaying the existence of urban immigrants in East Africa. The consequences of the refugees in urban areas on social-economic development have not been explored deeply, which this research seeks to assess the effects of urban refugees on social-economic growth on host communities with a specific assessment of the urban refugee effects economic, social and security.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Studies have shown that the urban refugees' effects and their features differ from one nation to the other. Bose (2022) argues that the source and the social-economic status of refugees in their home country would define the choice of place to escape to. Accordingly, refugees from urban areas are likely to resettle in urban areas of the countries they escape to. However, when such refugees are confined to camp, they would eventually escape and live in urban areas. Their difference with the rural ones is based on their level of education and other skills. It's agreed that refugees from urban conflict centres would prefer settlement in urban areas within the host country, however, the literature fails to show the effects of these metropolitan refugees on the home societies in the country where they're accommodated.

Ajil et al. (2020) posits that more than three quarters of refugees who settled in urban areas were from other urban areas. This was also evident with the Syrian refugees, however, those from rural areas also contributed massively to the increase. The research focused on the demographics of the refugees which is important in the analysis of the trends of the refugees but did not analyze the end effects of the urban refugees in host communities where they were accommodated.

Simone (2021) argues that refugees in any country impose a burden on the host countries' expenditure and some rural refugees also sneak out of the camps to join the urban living refugees. Even though the author acknowledges the fact that urban refugees impose a

burden on the host communities which is compounded further with the rural refugees who sneak out of the camps, he did not mention how the burden has impacted the social-economic development of the host communities which this research seeks to assess.

Equally, Kanojia (2023) argues that if the problem of unemployment to the refugees is evident, the state is affected by their unemployment rates and if employed, also cause burdens as the jobs that would have been taken by the locals are consumed by them. The argument poses the dilemma with which the host countries face in accommodating the urban refugees, to what extent are the refugees in urban areas a source of discontent to the East African countries? And what is the basis of this displeasure? This research would seek to look into the effects of urban migrants from a theoretical perspective to understand the impacts of urban refugees on the social-economic growth of a nation.

According to Leeson et al. (2023), the urbanization levels in East Africa, especially in Kenya, rose because an influx of refugees in urban centres, certain centres such as East lands, as well as those on borders with Ethiopia and Somalia transformed to trade centres. The economy in this trade centres rose and the economy benefited in money transfer, shops mushrooming and utilization of skilled labour from the refugees in certain skilled jobs. While in other parts of the world such as Jordan, approximately forty percent of the Iraqi migrants depended on cash transfer only. While this argument supports the impact of urban refugees to economic development, this research seeks to assess further the effect of such economic models to the larger urban community.

Tulibaleka et al. (2022) observed a noticeable impact on urban communities hosting large and rapidly growing refugees. She further argued that movement of refugees into urban centre affected the way of life of the host nation and their impact were noticeable because they result into an unexpected competition over the meagre resources that are not even enough for the residents in the city. Although this study acknowledged the impact of refugees in urban areas, she did not, however, mention the kind of effects that the urban refugees pose with regard to social-economic development.

Similarly, Ozkul and Jarrous (2021) investigated refugees' movement in the Asian case and observed that the arrival of refugees in countries such as Iraqi in countries like Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, led to a noteworthy increase in prices of commodities such as food and fuel. This also contributed to housing demands and other public amenities. The migrants according to this study threatened the home country by creating a burden to the economy of the cities they were resettled. This predisposes the effects of those refugees on social-economic activities which this research seeks to establish within the context of East Africa.

Mbazumutima (2023) posted a relationship between the expenses of garden-fresh merchandises such as milk, plantains and bananas, in the areas that have been inhabited by refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania. It was established that an increase of Burundian migrants in the west side of Tanzania is connected to the rise in the cost of commodities. The difference in the impacts was clarified by measuring the diets of the two categories (Refugees and Locals in the city centres) as well as the nature and magnitude of two groups. The study further analyzed changes in the expenditures and welfare indicators. The author observed that the existence of urban migrants amplified the demand and prices of essential living indicators including electricity, vehicles and even refrigerators in the surrounding areas of the camps. The findings showed that there was a close correlation between price increases and the increase with the urban refugees.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This investigation depended on refugee-aid and advancement theory. This theory calls for systems that connect refugees' help programs with neighbourhood improvement strategies. The theory was first utilized by Betts Roberts and German Robert during the second International Conference Assistance to refugees in Africa (ICARA II) in 1984. The two researchers stated that refugee help ought to be

formative arranged and should consider the host networks' needs (Arar, 2020). Various variables have hindered successful joining of refugee help and advancement arrangements, remembering absence of help for benefactor and host nations, feeble coordination among refugee and improvement organizations and challenges incorporating an expanding number of refugees.

The scholars contend that refugees are expected to differently affect assorted classes, segments, sexes and provincial leaders of the nation. Chamber's on the side of this contention of refugee help and improvement, contend that the refugee circumstance that is relied upon is likely to be dynamic after some time; what begins as obligation may transform into an asset and the other way around (Betts et al., 2023). This exploration sought to add to this line of research by analyzing not just the expense and advantages related with urban refugee but also their socio-economic effects among the people over the previous years. The investigation investigated the impacts of urban refugees on socio-economic development in the host communities within East Africa.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research employed a pragmatic approach where both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to consider the main issues in terms of the research purpose and objectives. Quantifiable (quantitative) analysis was used in the analysis of the population of refugees living within East Africa with particular emphasis on Kenya. The study also conducted content analysis using secondary data. Secondary sources included books, scholarly articles, journals, newspapers, official documents and reports. Other sources included online sites such as JSTOR. Primary sources were collected through oral interviews and the use of structured questionnaires administered to key informants comprised of persons working with urban refugees.

Targeted respondents for the interviews and questionnaires comprised both refugees and host communities including elders, business persons and women. Respondents were selected through purposive sampling within Nairobi and Mombasa. The researcher preferred using purposive sampling in this research since it afforded the benefits of choosing respondents from different subgroups that were well known to the researcher.

The study was descriptive in nature and the chosen design offered an explanation to facts found during the data collection about urban refugees' impact on socio-economic development. The research was designed in such a way that all sections in Nairobi and Mombasa were adequately covered in terms of demographic characteristics, economic and social-related factors. This was accomplished by identifying the key leaders in every section to guide the researcher. Qualitative data was presented in tabular form and descriptive analysis was applied.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Conceptual Link Between Urban Refugees and Economic Development

The study first sought to explore urban refugees in Africa and beyond, focusing on policies and practices. International migration both voluntary and involuntary has been caused by the environmental, political and economic reasons across the borders. Within East Africa, population movements started early in the days of colonialism from 1830 to 1980 with a European influence that shaped the region's history. Majorly, the distribution of population and different political and social groups were influenced by human mobility across Africa (UNHCR, 2023). The migration of people had a direct link with developmental changes that happened in areas where they settled. The general economic situation and general development during the pre-colonial period in Africa were as a result of these migrations.

In the twentieth century, refugees have come to dominate the discourse of migratory movements. A record number of forceful migrations of persons caused by conflicts and persecution have been recorded in East Africa. The understanding of how the refugees should adapt to the new environment has evolved over time with the changes in the concept of refugee protection and the desire to have self-reliant refugees than the concentration in camps. After independence, many of the African governments allowed refugees the freedom to decide to settle without necessarily being under the concept of self-settlement.

Local integration is considered permanent resettlement while refugees' status carries a connotation of return to the home country once the situation has normalized or once the reasons for migration have been reversed. Countries however within East Africa have tightened the rules and regulations concerning refugees' formal employment, social welfare and equal protection making it difficult for the refugees for engaging in developmental activities in the urban areas where they're settled.

UNHCR has conducted research that has led to the evaluation and adoption of policies that address urban refugees. These policies included an extension of assistance to urban refugees for them to have a decent livelihood within the communities where they reside and have them be self-reliant in the long term. The revised UNHCR urban refugee policy of 2009 marked a new approach to recognized legitimate urban refugees for them to enjoy the rights of protection (Morris, 2021). However, the practical application of the same policies has encountered criticism since the humanitarian actors have little knowledge of the concerns of the urban refugees as well as governments' resistance to extend such privileges to the refugees.

Urban refugees' transformation may be dramatic and analytically curious in some parts of developing countries such as Africa. In addition to the social, physical, emotional, and psychological hardship that is synonymous with any form of forced migration, the migration of refugees from camps to urban areas or from conflict zones to urban areas is connected to life, new patterns of production and new dynamic values and identities which tend to have a significant impact to social-economic development of the urban areas especially in African countries.

The urban refugees who move from third world cities or between developing cities are in a better position to convey municipal markets as compared to those migrating from the undeveloped areas, however, they are also confronted with extended periods of undefined legal status, discrimination, language barriers and violence that greatly reduce their capacity to enhance progression of the urban areas. The population trends of the urban refugees can change the cities both the emigrants and the locals in the cities in which they reside.

According to the UNHCR statistical data of the 2001 yearbook, about forty out of a hundred of all people of distress to the organization resided in evacuee campgrounds, while forty per hundred who were displaced in rustic zones are not quantified about their whereabouts and only thirteen in a hundred live in town parts. This thirteen percent represent approximately two million migrants crosswise over 116 countries with the top figure of migrants being in Latin America and Europe (Landau, 2004). The combination of continuing conflicts around the world and increasing asylum seekers makes it obvious those urban areas refugees' will likely remain to grow.

Urban centres are prospective to interest a relatively large number of migrants in smuggling and trafficking. The majorities of whom has been guaranteed or have high hopes of better life especially finding employment to sustain their livelihood requirements before living their place or country of origin but later on, they find themselves involved in criminal networks upon reaching their intended destination. The majority of them might have never been involved in criminal activities but when detained by the host authorities, they are categorized as criminals or unlawful migrants and face exile.

The study also looked at the concerns of urban refugees policies and practices. The international law, the protection of refugees whether in urban areas or in the camp falls under the responsibility of the host country. This is specified under the 1951 convention of refugees and other international instruments. The matter of protection is accorded to all refugees in the country irrespective of where they reside and regardless of the national policies and legal instruments. The 1997 UNHCR policy on urban refugees begins with the statement that:

“The objective of this document is to provide clear guidelines for the provision of assistance to and promotion of solutions for refugees in urban areas. It takes into account of both their specific situation and the problems that may be created by an unregulated movement to urban areas, whether this movement takes place within the country or from another country where the refugee had found protection.”

This opening statement summarizes key assumptions on which the UNHCR strategy is based on, they include; the main worry of the UNHCR on urban refugees is providing of aid, secondly, such urban migrants cause urban problems and thirdly, migrants’ movement to urban areas is through unregulated movement. While most of the African countries consider refugees in camps eligible for assistance and protection, urban refugees have often been left out in such programs and therefore the burden exerted on the local development programs has been left to the municipality of the areas where refugees are settled.

Urban refugees have provided opportunities for possible agricultural practices, education and skill enhancement in the cities where there resettled. Most of the urban refugees have engaged in commercial business mostly the service industries. Since self-settled refugees are expected to be self-sufficiency, they have endeavoured to engage in business activities that have contributed to development in the cities where they’re settled. For example, the urban refugees in Nairobi are a direct result of the growth of business in centres such as Eastlands. In other countries, such as South Africa, Cairo and other western countries, they have granted legal permits to urban refugees since most of these countries do not have refugee camps (Dalal, 2022).

East African governments have always viewed urban refugees as an environmental burden that strains the already little national resources and conditions of the home societies/communities. They also see the presence of the urban refugees as strain to urbanization efforts by the administration in the provision of services. The relationship between urban refugees and urban planners and developmental specialists has been minimal as most of the development plans have failed to capture the growing needs of the refugees. The implication of the presence of migrants in urban areas has resulted in increased poverty levels and as a result, the poverty reduction strategies have been poorly understood. It has been noted that most of the third world nations are battling with neediness, absence of assets and framework and other social-financial improvement challenges and therefore the additional urban refugees in these cities cripple the economy of the host communities.

Nevertheless, refugees are attracted to the cities because of the opportunities that present themselves within these urban areas such as employment, business opportunities. Certain areas in the urban areas have considerably grown due to the economic activities that urban refugees engage in that provide a source of revenue to the cities. Most of the urban refugees have educational and professional skills that they have provided a pool of skilled manpower that otherwise could not be found within the local communities and thus social-economic development has been observed to grow in certain areas. For example, in Kenya, most of the refugees have enabled the growth of housing and transport industries. Besides the professional knowledge, the refugees also have brought in the much-needed capital which they could not invest in their own countries and thus provided employment opportunities to the locals.

Urban refugees who have access to work tend to be engaged in an informal economy. They make their living by getting involved in multiple livelihood making strategies, mostly in casual labour and petty trade. Female refugees interviewed were involved in small scale businesses such as grocery business, Jewellery and homemade products. Similar kinds of income-generating activities are common

among the local communities as well. Consequently, these refugees are also considered as a subset of the larger communities. They face similar challenges as the local community such as poverty, living in inadequate and overcrowded living conditions.

Urban refugees are again always associated with wider social and economic problems and have become a scapegoat for the different crimes and social illnesses within the society in which they are settled. The perceived threat that urban refugees pose is the economic, political, moral, social and health-related issues. Therefore their link to development has been twofold, they are perceived as burden (those coming to take away the jobs, business opportunities of the locals, unnecessary competition to local resources, those responsible for the economic and social crimes in society) and on the hand, they're viewed as bringing opportunities to the locals through job opportunities emanating from their investment, encourage the government investment in infrastructure and a ready market for local products as well as housing.

The large scale invasion of migrants in municipal zones advances serious concerns for both the refugees and the responsible ones of managing the cities in which the refugees get settled. Service delivery those not included in the urban census and do not have proven residences has been difficult in many circumstances. While refugees in rural camps have contact to clean water, healthiness care, education and housing which is provided by the international organization, the urban refugees only survive on the existing public services (Wardeh & Marques, 2021). The international organization, however, finds it difficult and expensive to provide aid to urban areas; these further causes a strain on the limited resources available in urban areas and further slows down development in urban areas.

Impact of Urban Refugees to Socio-Economic Development in Africa

Based on urban refugees in Africa in retrospect, South Africa has over 586,000 people of concern within the urban areas, out of which 112,192 are registered refugees in different cities while 463,940 are asylum seekers with pending cases. The majority of the South African refugees originate from countries such as Zimbabwe, Somalia, DRC, Ethiopia and Burundi.

Table 1: South African Statistics on Refugees

Country Of Origin	Urban Refugees in South Africa
Zimbabwe	6,217
Cote D' Ivoire	6,035
Rwanda	1,814
Burundi	3,653
Somalia	40, 133
Ethiopia	18,830
DRC	30,125
Others	5,385
Total	112,192

Source: unhcr.org

South African host a large number of Somalis in the urban centres with a total of 40,133 refugees registered by the UNHCR. Congolese are the second with a total of 30, 125 urban refugees registered in the country and followed by Ethiopian citizens at 18, 830 registered refugees in urban areas. Other refugees are from Zimbabwe, Cote D'Ivoire, Rwanda and Burundi among others as shown in Table 1 above.

South Africa has experienced several social integration problems for over a long period with major xenophobic attacks mainly in Soweto near Johannesburg where a number of refugee shop keepers were attacked by then angry locals. In April 2015 for example, there was

recorded high violence that resulted in 9,000 people being displaced. This affected heavily the social-economic development of the two provinces with foreign traders refraining from investing in the region, causing an increase in the unemployment rate and high insecurity in the towns.

African states that are faced with a large number of refugees often tend to restrict their movement and confine them into camps, while those that allow urban refugees often also do not offer assistance in the areas where they resided and view the refugees as a burden to already depleted resources. The impact on socio-economic development can be categorized into economic, security, institutional and social effects. The refugees residing in urban areas come from different social, economic, cultural and political backgrounds and thus when settled in different cities, they are met an opposite environment from what they have been accustomed to.

However, in urban areas, refugees have contributed to growth in some countries in Africa. The urban refugees transform the urban social and economic structures in places where they reside. The UN-Habitat established that refugees have been active in urban markets and are always associated with high demands on goods and services in markets. In addition, the provision of goods and services to the refugees has created more job opportunities for both locals and refugee workers.

Based on urban refugees effects to urban security, security is a vital component of human beings bearing in mind that humans themselves contribute to insecurity through their own behaviours. The influx of refugees contributes to human security negatively and positively. The responsibility to provide security rest with the government agents and the government has the primary duty to protect its citizens including the international migrants. Urban refugees, on the other hand, are endangered species, in most cases, the locals have the perception that they're expensive for an upsurge of insecurities in cities where they reside.

With the increasing cases of transnational crimes, terrorism and other organized crimes, refugees have become an easy target for these groups. The influx of refugees has made provision of security a challenging task especially in cases where we have unregistered refugees. The locals also due to the difference in social-cultural differences, the living conditions in urban areas where refugees reside is characterized by apprehension and suspicion between the communities and the refugees. This has resulted in growing incidents of violence among people of different social structures such as in Johannesburg and Cairo as well as Lagos (Mawadza, 2008). In some countries such as Nigeria, Johannesburg where inappropriate policies to deal with the mushrooming of cities and has contributed to a lot of problems such as social ills.

Mwandza (2008) notes that as a result of the outbreak of many internal conflicts as well as natural hazards causing disasters that threaten the livelihood of people. The relationship amongst the urban expatriates and the home communities can be understood through social contrast theory which shows that the discourses and practices have shifted refugees' flows from a humanitarian perspective to a security-oriented idea. The terrorist activities in urban cities are now associated with large numbers of refugees in cities, especially within East Africa.

Urban refugees' movement also has been received with a mix of impacts of social services. Urban refugees have been associated with an upsurge in demand for some basic needs in cities where they reside. This includes high demand in such services as health, housing education and sanitation services which in most cases are inadequate even with the host communities alone. When the government fails to address this shortage well in advance they may lead to negative effects on service provision to the host communities and normally result in social conflicts in society. In many cities, however, the administration lacks enough services to meet the growing demand in the cities.

While we have limited evidence, refugees appear to generate long term benefits to the local economies. When refugees arrive, they will definitely need more help from the host government. The new urban agenda calls for a more integrated approach to refugees and advocate more of observance of Human Rights with regard to handling urban refugees. The collaboration between different players dealing with urban refugees is crucial since in most cases the host government had seen the host cities' role as weak in support of urban refugees.

The growing number of urban refugees' inabilities has resulted in the growing demand for greater involvement of the cities in international refugee-related issues. The presence of urban refugees in cities has necessitated the growth of the role of the municipalities in refugee's reduction especially in highlighting the probable shares of the urban centres in sharing the good practices and lessons on the ground. Through this concerted effort by cities to support the rights and concerns of urban immigrants, cities are able to benefit through various programs run by UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations that also offer opportunities to the local communities.

Social-cultural impacts of urban refugees have been observed to be high inabilities that accommodate refugees who's social-cultural and linguistic factors differ significantly, however in a region where the social factors are more or less the same as the host community, peaceful integration has been observed. For example, 25,000 migrants from the CAR in Africa were integrated in 1990 in DR Congo, the Congolese host could speak the same language (UNHCR, 2023). The interaction of such a homogeneous population results in positive social integration and contributes positive social development of the cities where the refugees settle.

The social integration amongst the migrants and the home societies/communities in which the communities are heterogeneous often result in negative impacts that are detrimental to social-economic development of the urban areas. The interaction of a heterogeneous population often leads to the rise of new characteristics. Xenophobia is a response of the heterogeneous interaction of migrants from other countries and the local communities, especially in South Africa. This kind of attack on town migrants is a result of the perception that they create unnecessary competition in job market and are also given preferential treatment in the job market.

The urban refugees also may cause tension due to social inequalities between the refugees and the non-refugees. The host communities tend to view the refugees as a person profiting from the privileged access to resources not reaching the home communities. As a result, the privileged status offers the refugees basic livelihood, vocational training and access to education and health facilities access. The international nongovernmental organization tend to focus on the refugees more than the local communities. In areas where the response by the nutritional organization has favoured both the refugees and the local communities, the integration has been peaceful and has enhanced proper co-existence between the two communities. For example, the special program for Refugee affected areas in Tanzania (1997 to 2003) helped the home urban societies through the promotion of economic activities such as road construction, farming activities among other income-generating activities.

Another observed social effect of urban refugees to social-economic development is an increase in gender dominance that often increases due to economic and environmental hardship. Women have become vulnerable to sexual misuse and abuse, trafficking and violence. Gender relations within the society in which they are hosted include prostitution and this has affected even the traditions.

Transformation of some African urban areas has happened due to the presence of urban refugees which has resulted in tremendous completion to the marketplace, pushing out most of the local traders and even the Asian retailers who had previously dominated the market. The refugees have made a tremendous change in the retail sector with some transforming some of the retail malls into large profitable industries and medium-sized retailers with goods variety, ranging from hardware to electronics, fruits and vegetables. For

example, in Mayfair and Yeoville in South African which host of the Somali and Congolese refugees respective. These urban refugees have had an active involvement in business and other forms of entrepreneurship in the formal and informal economy of South Africa.

Forced migrants are often relatively educated and skilled and therefore they bring a wealth of experience to the labour market in the urban centres in which they are settled. A wealth of professionals such as doctors, lawyers, accountants and other professionals with several credentials find themselves in urban centres in which they provide the expertise that may be lacking in the host cities. Some of these professionals establish their own business enterprises that provide services to the locals as well as employment to the unemployed youths in urban areas. Such kind of refugees contributes to the economic development of urban centres, however, impact negatively to economic growth in urban areas.

Housing is one of the sectors that has been most affected by urban refugees across African urban refugees. Accommodation is vital for all city inhabitants for both individual and financial safety. As urban refugees continue to flock in urban areas, the demand for housing increases. While most of the migrants are not able to get in touch with extended families and friends -as with the case of Somalis - to provide them with shelter, such arrangement and resources have always proved to be inadequate. The urban refugees, therefore, compete with the locals for the limited low-cost housing in the urban outskirts that lead to the growth of slums or peri-urban settlements that are detrimental to economic development.

Urban refugees expand the native marketplaces. Migrants are also active customers of the local products in the host city where they reside from local businesses. Certain industries particularly benefit from migrant benefaction. In Cairo, Sudanese refugees visit web bistro's which empower them to keep in touch with their transnational systems and in this way are pursued by neighbourhood entrepreneurs. Refugees likewise buy nearby supplies for their work, with most of Congolese refugees in Kampala for example, they purchase *Jewellery and Bitenge* from the local Ugandan wholesalers thus promoting the local economy. The educated and skilled refugee population has increased the local economy capacity of Kampala city through their teaching of vocational skills areas such as Kampala.

Refugees in Addis Ababa, for example, have created a dynamic new market for both the local and refugees' communities through business agglomerations. It is particularly visible among the Eritrean refugees in Milkael. The Eritrean refugees work in the leisure and hospitality business and in service provisions. Somalis tend to be employed in shops, selling mobile phones and their accessories. The urban refugees in Addis Ababa have improved current initiatives by creating a new supply and customer base.

From the study it was established that out of the businesses that are operated in the Addis Ababa city, the retail sector is the most dominated by the urban refugees with 87 percent being owned by the Somali traders and 18 percent by the Eritrean urban traders while leisure and hospitality industries being dominated by Eritrean refugees who control about 24 percent while Somalis control on 13 percent of the same as shown below.

Table 2: Refugee Nationality by Business Type

Types of business	Eritrean Owned (%) N=38	Somali Owned (%) N=8	Yemen Owned (%) N=4
Retail	18	87	0
Services	45	0	25
Leisure & Hospitality	24	13	0
Construction	13	0	75
Total	100	100	100

Source: Urban refugee economies: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2018

The study established that out of the businesses that are operated in the Addis Ababa city, leisure and hospitality industries is being dominated by Eritrean refugees who control about 24 percent while Somalis control on 13 percent of the same. In the service industry, Eritrea owned 45 percent of the businesses while Yemen refugees owned 25 percent while the construction industry is controlled by 13 percent Eritrean and 75 percent Yemen refugees as shown in table 2 above.

The refugees and their businesses have internationalized their local products since they are part of the global economic systems and with great links with the diaspora, they have been essential in creating new ventures in Africa. The systems work both at the nearby and global levels and incorporate cross fringe chains. The refugees take part in both transnational and sub-provincial exchange arranged by utilization of their most recent innovation to speak with family members abroad and furthermore import remote money through their ordinary settlements this has promoted the urban economy in cities where they are settled.

Table 3: Refugees Contribution to Wider Economy

Types of Contribution	Businesses (%) N=195
Consumer	90
Labour Source	35
International Trade	10
Skills and Products	23
Remittances	54
Other	4

Source: Urban refugee economies: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

In Addis Ababa, urban refugees consume local products as well as services. It was established that 90 percent of the consumer goods and services are used by the urban refugees, 35 percent of the labour force in Addis Ababa cities is provided by the urban refugees and 10 percent are involved in international or cross-border business. The refugees' skills and products constitute 23 percent of all the products available in the city while remittances by the urban refugees contribute about 54 percent of the income generated in Addis Ababa city as indicated by table 3 above.

Effects of Urban Refugees on Social-Economic Development in Kenya

Kenya has relatively stable economic and relatively porous borders in East Africa and is a neighbour to countries characterized by the long protracted conflicts such as Somalia and South Sudan, which means that the country is a host to large refugees, ranking among the top countries in the world. Before the 1990s, the laws of Kenya favoured refugee integration in the cities as it sought to attract skilled labour from the persons fleeing from their countries. For example, the Ugandans who fled their country in 1970 during the political turmoil in Uganda were encouraged to live, work and settle in Kenyan urban centres as the policy by then was aimed at attracting professionals and intellectuals as well as business-oriented persons into the country.

The integration policy, however, was reversed in 1990 following an influx of refugees from conflict states such as Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda and DRC. By the end of 1992, Kenya hosted more than 300,000 refugees and this prompted a shift of the policy from that of integration in cities to that of the encampment. The Kenyan refugees' situation will continue to be marked by the political developments and the humanitarian concerns in the country. The main source of refugees in Kenya is Somalia and South Sudan but there exists advancement of urban refugees from Rwanda, DRC and Uganda as well as Ethiopia.

At of 2024, Kenya is a host to 573,500 refugees, which is an increase from 479,194 in 2019, representing 6.4% of the total population, 47,873 of the total refugees lives in urban places, mainly Nairobi and Mombasa, along with 18,500 stateless people and 26,885 asylum seekers who reside in urban centres as shown in the table below.

Table 4: Refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya by country of Origin

Country/location	Dadaab	Kakuma	Urban	Total
Somalia	205,178	34,143	19,389	258,710
South Sudan	936	111,714	6,640	119,290
DR Congo	81	12,715	29,905	42,701
Ethiopia	6,541	10,104	10,657	27,302
Burundi	79	10,784	3,559	14,422
Sudan	33	9,824	173	10,030
Uganda	70	1,417	939	2,426
Eritrea	4	35	1,755	1,794
Rwanda	11	639	1,133	1,783
Others	3	125	608	736
Total	212,936	191,500	74,758	479,194

Source: unhcr.org; statistical summary of refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya

Kenya will continue to be the top host of urban refugees in Africa with the continual political turmoil in East African likely to continue for decades to come. The urban refugees in Kenya who reside in Nairobi are found in urban estates such as Kawangware, Mlango Kubwa, Komarock, Eastleigh, South C, Hurlingham, South B, Langata, Kangemi, Kayole, Kasarani, Ngara, Ruiru, Zimmerman and Satellite estates. While in Mombasa the urban refugees are commonly found in Kisauni, Bamburi, Magongo, Mtwapa, Changamwe and Miritini.

The study further sought to identify if urban refugees is a problem in Kenya from the respondents' perspective. The results are presented in table 5 below.

Table 5: Urban Refugee as a Problem in Kenya

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	26	74
No	9	26
Total	35	100

Source: Research Data

The majority of Kenyans, 74 percent of the respondents believe that urban refugees have brought more challenges in urban refugees to the extent that the government is unable to control them effectively. While a small portion of the respondents, 26 percent are of the view that urban refugees are a blessing and do not pose any problems to urban centres but instead attribute the challenges to ineffective policies and in the ability of the government to provide social amenities to the growing population in urban areas such as Nairobi and Mombasa. This, however, leads to the conclusion that urban refugees are a source of problems for the socio-economic growth of Kenya.

The findings were further emphasized by one of the member Community Peace and conflict management in Likoni Mombasa who said that:

“The refugees in urban areas, for example here in Mombasa have been a source of urban community conflict due to competition on limited resources, they have increased insecurity in some parts especially in the informal settlements such as Likoni, Kisauni that most of this Somali refugees reside and also has social integration with the locals has yielded negative perception among the community who hosts them and those who don't.”

The respondents pointed out that, since the population of urban refugees has considerably increased in places such as Likoni, Majengo, Bondeni, Changamwe and other areas, the locals are having a feeling of social insecurity because they are not comfortable with their social behaviours as well as they are the source of insecurity and they are given preference by UNHCR at the expense of the locals who host them.

Nairobi city is the host of the majority of the urban refugees who have had both positive and negative effects of urban refugees on the social-economic expansion of the estates inhabited by these refugees. Eastleigh is one of the suburb estates within Nairobi that portrays the effects of the characteristics of urban refugees. The estates have transformed considerably due to the influx of Somali refugees. Eastleigh is a host to Somali urban refugees who have remained in the country for a very stretched periods in the hope of being self-sustaining and escaping from the harsh conditions of the Dadaab refugee campsite. The findings of the effects of urban refugees on economic development are as shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: Influence of Urban Refugees on Economic Development

No.	Public Perception	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Do not Agree %	Percentage %
1	Businesses set up	64	15	21	100
2	Employment	47	35	17	100
3	Housing sector	53	20	27	100
4	Labour & Market	36	33	31	100

Source: Research Data

Most of the respondents, 64 percent strongly believe that urban refugees have been involved and contributed immensely to development in business, 15 percent also agree that urban refugees are involved in commercial actions while about 21 percent do not agree that business growth has been as a result of urban migrants. For those who strongly agree that urban refugees have contributed to the business in town, attribute to the high-level entrepreneurial skills of Somalia refugees. While those who do not agree, argue that, locals are the ones involved in business activities but the government is biased towards the promotion of foreign-owned business than the locals.

On creation of employment, 47 percent strongly agree that urban refugees' activities have been a source of employment to many locals and also through their set up of business in urban centres, they also employ the locals who would have otherwise failed to secure employment in any other form. 35 percent also agree especially in the informal sector where most of the locals do not have any form of employment and thus some get employed by the refugees which eventually contribute to the development of the socioeconomic of the urban centres.

The housing sector has improved greatly in some urban centres such as Nairobi Eastleigh, Kisauni and some parts of Changamwe where most of the refugees are either tenants or landlords. 53 percent of the respondents strongly agree that refugees have contributed to the high demand for the housing sector and also it has influenced the high prices of rental houses in urban areas. On the other hand, migrants have also provided low-priced labour in the market, with 36 percent of the respondent confirming that most of the employers prefer refugees than locals since they are cheap and not subject to labour laws of the country.

Since the 1990s, the Somali refugees have transformed the Eastleigh estate from being an inhabited area into a lively profitable and commercial centre. Several dealings range from small retail business to large scale import-export business including real estate, hotels, lodges and international money transfer and exchange facilities. The economic changes in the estate have brought about tremendous competition to the market place that has pushed away from the monopoly of the Asian retail traders who had dominated the business

sector in the town. The business activities ranging from hardware, electronics and small scale vendors have created employment opportunities if most of the local communities thus helping in reduction of the poverty level of the urban areas.

Yusuf Ali a refugee in Kisauni noted that:

Some refugees especially Somali refugees have led to increased house rent that has displaced many locals and created unemployment to locals as they provide also cheap labour to the market. He refugees also lead in the introduction of business skills, for example, the refugees organize themselves into groups so as to arise capital that enables them to start and run large scale businesses such as transport of goods from the ports to the hinterland. This also creates employment for the locals such as those who are employed in clearing and forwarding.

Urban refugees have controlled the business sector in areas where they reside and have denied the locals opportunities to venture into similar business ventures. In Eastleigh, the Somali community has it very difficult for other nationals including the Kenyan community to find jobs and start a business in the area. However, some of the refugees involved in business have hired Kenyans with a view to acquiring improved acceptance of the local market. Additionally, urban refugees use Kenyans to register their own businesses. They have also believed that by employing the local Kenyans, they have a chance of gaining acceptance in the community and gain a positional advantage in the market since they believe that Kenya can cater to the requirements and prospects of prospective customers. But on the other hand, the local community have a feeling that refugee tests them in terms of how much they should earn since, for refugees, they accept any payment as long as it gives the opportunity to sustain themselves in town.

The urban refugees are composed of persons of different social-cultural backgrounds who comments reside in communities whose cultural background are sometimes incompatible. The refugees' presence in cities, therefore, presents a possible public influence on the cultural equilibrium in the urban areas, social struggle and an impediment to social service delivery. The findings of the effects of urban refugees on social development are as shown in table 7 below.

Table 7: Urban Refugee effects on Social Dimension in Urban Centres

No.	Public Perception	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Percentage
1	Trafficking	42	23	35	100
2	Social Amenities	59	28	13	100
3	Poverty	48	27	25	100

Source: Research Data

It was found that 42 percent of the respondent strongly agree that urban refugees have been participating and facilitating human trafficking and utilizing their houses as a hub for the transit of migrants. 23 percent also agree to this fact while 35 percent were not sure if urban refugees are involved in human trafficking. The respondents mentioned that majorly those refugees from Ethiopia, Nigeria and Eritrea are the most commonly associated with human trafficking in Mombasa. 59 percent of the same respondents strongly agree that urban social amenities have been affected by the presence of urban refugees in urban centres. 28 percent were of the opinion that urban refugees always get crowded in one place. For example, it was mentioned that Somalia refugees can stay in one two-bed house five families and as such the utilization of sanitary and water services becomes a constraint to even the locals.

Poverty levels were blamed for the increase of informal settlements in the suburbs of the cities. In Mombasa for example, 48 percent of the respondents blamed the mushrooming of informal settlements in Likoni and Changamwe to a large number of migrants. While 25 percent of the respondents were not sure if the poverty level they encounter in urban centres and in the suburbs can be blamed on urban refugees.

The traditional animosities between communities' cultural and ethnic groups may come to manifest when one group becomes exposed as a result of displacement. When the refugees are from a country that shares the same linguistic and cultural background then the integration will result in peaceful co-existence and interactions with the local populace. For example, the Ugandan refugees in Nairobi who are conversant with Swahili and Kenya cultures have existed very well with the locals' communities on areas such as Jamhuri estate.

The presence of urban refugees in Kenya cities such as Nairobi and Mombasa has led to an upsurge in the demand for housing from any of the urban refugees themselves or the expatriate aid workers from the refugees' population. Even though this benefited the local property owners, it has disadvantaged most of the Kenyans especially the medium and low-income earners who are looking for rental housing. With the increase of urban refugee's urban centres, the host population that has admittance to the properties or power are better situated to profit from the influx of refugees, causing a social imbalance within the society. These social imbalances cause within the city causes further marginalization of the locals as they are pushed further to the periphery by the refugees.

Urban refugees contribute to an increase in urban population, consequently, the metropolitan refugees tend to settle in tightly inhabited and poorly overhauled estates which causes a further increased competition between people over the inadequate resources such as land and water which result in urban crises. In Nairobi for example, the city hosts a diverse refugee population that includes, South Sudanese, Somalis, Ethiopians, DR Congolese who reside in very harsh environmental conditions with limited resources characterized by a high unemployment rate that restrict access to the labour market. Such areas such as Kawangware, Kariokor, most of the urban refugees are forced to engage in unregulated work segments with inadequate safety including domestic workers and commercial sex workers.

Commenting on the social effects of urban refugees, Mohamed Salat in Bamburi said:

The refugees in Mombasa have had several challenges and have affected the social life of the community in many ways. In the first instance, Kenyan Somali men have opted to marry Somali refugee girls so as to evade payment of dowry and they are easily available and have low education standards. This means that the host community girls miss out on marriage opportunities at the right and end up engaging in prostitution especially in Mtwapa. Some men also marry refugees and their second wife's leading to a domestic conflict that eventually breaks up some marriages. The presence of refugees also has led to an increase in prostitution, because, they seek alternative means of survival within the urban areas.

Another aspect of the social effects of urban refugees has been in the contribution to insecurity. Unravel refugees have brought a different social dynamic in the urban environment which has created a negative security challenge that has affected development in certain sectors.

Yusuf Hussein noted that:

Urban refugees pose a security risk on the host communities as most of the refugee youths organize themselves into groups and engage in robbery, murder so as to destabilize the security of the area. Some of the refugees have acquired firearms and have used them to engage in criminal activities with the aim of sustaining their livelihood.

On the contrary, some of the urban refugees have also transformed the social standards of the communities in which they reside. Because of the youth skills they have acquired over time, they have engaged in other youth activities such as the formation of talent groups, such as the African Refugees Talents Group which is engaged in programming aimed at developing different skills among the urban youth refugees as well as facilitating access to the market for their products. With such talents and development of skills, it has enabled money, goods and people to flow regularly between urban centres, refugee camps and even back to their home countries thus facilitating trade.

The study assessed the security effects of urban refugees in urban areas and it further impacted the socio-economic developments in Kenya. Security is considered as a fundamental right that needs to be provided by the government to its citizens. Security is again a vital aspect of human beings and its upon which all other socioeconomic aspects are dependent on. The assessment was sought through an understanding of how the host communities feel about the presence of urban refugees living in their surroundings. The findings of the study on the effects of urban refugees on security development are as shown in table 8 below.

Table 8: Urban Refugees Relationship with Urban Insecurity

No.	Public Perception	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Do not Agree %	Percentage %
1	Terrorism	53	24	23	100
2	Criminal Gangs	62	18	20	100
3	Social Security	71	16	13	100
4	Human trafficking	57	26	17	100
5	Drug use and Substance abuse	47	31	22	100

Source: Research Data

Most of the respondents in Mombasa, 53 percent strongly agree that the terrorists' incidents have considerably increased and they attribute these phenomena to the presence of urban refugees of particular is the area that is commonly inhabited by Somalian Refugees such as Likoni, Kisauni and Majengo wards. With 24 percent also agreed to the same sentiments, about 23 percent were not certain if indeed urban refugees contribute terrorism in Mombasa.

Mombasa and Kwale counties have bared the brand most of the presence of criminal gangs and 62 percent of the respondents believe that urban refugee youth have participated in criminal gangs as they sought ways and means to survive in the society. 18 per cent of the respondents also approve the argument that presence of urban refugee youth have contributed to the increase of criminal gangs, however, not all respondents were able to associate presence of urban refugees to criminal gangs especially in Majengo Mapya in Likoni and Shikaadabu ward in Likoni which are believed to be the hub of criminal gangs.

Human trafficking has been observed to be on the increase in urban areas, with 57 per cent of the respondents strongly agreeing to this fact, while 26 percent also agree that urban refugees are a source of human trafficking. Only 17 percent were not sure if the urban refugees participate in influence human trafficking. Kenya has recorded a high number of human trafficking in urban areas such as Nairobi and Mombasa. Among the most urban refugees that are mentioned in human trafficking are Ethiopians, Somalis and Nigerians as well as refugees from Comoros. There is also the smuggling of Eritreans to South Africa and have to save hiding places in houses occupied by these urban refugees. One of the officers in charge of community peace building and conflict prevention in Likoni said:

“There have been many reported cases of Human smuggling here in Likoni and Majengo, where even police have arrested foreigners of Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somalis who were hiding in the house of one of the registered Urban refugees and in the hope of being taken to South Africa”.

Kenya was observed to be an attractive route of transit and destination for human trafficking and smuggling of many migrants as a result of its stability and infrastructure compare to her neighbours, while the gain is described as a country of origin mainly because of socioeconomic reasons. The Coastal Region is considered as the main hub and origin of human trafficking with both push and pull factors, one of it being urban refugees at the coast. The Society for International Development observed that the port of Mombasa and the Eastleigh suburb constitute the hub of East Africa in the smuggling of migrants as well as trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sex slaves and other forms of forced labour.

To a great extent, the existence of refugees does not pose an important influence on the administrative and safety situation in urban areas. However, with the changing security dimension, urban refugees have been connected with urban safety situation which in turn has an important impact on the socio-economic improvement of the urban cities. While in rural camps, the refugee camps have been situated close to the border of the nation of origin and thus the refugee camp can provide a safe haven for the rebel or criminal gangs.

CONCLUSION

Urban refugees have had both negative and positive impact in most of the urban centres where they have been resettled. Africa continent has been on the lead in terms of recorded number of migrants, this has been mainly through the increased insecurity and disasters in Africa after the cold war. The policies have assumed that the socio-economic problems faced by the majority of the urban centres are attributed to the presence of urban refugees and that UNHCR has focused much on assistance programs only. The relationship between the urban refugees and urban planners and developmental specialists has been minimal as most of the development plans have failed to capture the growing needs of the urban refugees. The conceptual link exists between urban refugees and the socio-economic development of urban centres.

Africa has had a large number of refugees in the world and this has been attributed to the high number of intra and interstate conflicts within the continent. The Urban refugees have had great effects on the socio-economic development of the urban centres. The most affected urban centres are; Johannesburg, Durban, Cairo, Abuja, Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Kampala. The resultant effect of these urban refugees has been xenophobia as witnessed in South African and this resulted in poor socioeconomic development in urban areas, however, the cities such as Addis Ababa have benefited much in the presence of urban refugees and therefore there exist a positive impact of urban refugees on socioeconomic development in Africa.

Kenya has been a host to urban refugees for a decade and the growing number of refugees has had a significant effect on socio-economic development. The assessed effects range from economic, social and security aspects that are the main determinants for urban socioeconomic development. Key effects are development of business, creation of employment, increased labour in urban areas that have had positive impact, consequently, a high increase in crime rate in urban areas, human and drug trafficking as well as terrorism was observed to have a negative effect to socioeconomic development in urban centres and therefore, there exist a negative impact of urban refugees on socio-economic development in Kenya.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that policy making and program development decisions in urban centres should draw on the best and most reliable data concerning urban refugees. The data available on urban refugees is scanty and not updated to reflect the current states and therefore critical decisions concerning urban refugees have been made based on assumptions drawn from outdated data. A multi-stakeholders data collection and management system that is shared among key actors will improve on close monitoring and protection of both urban refugees and host communities. The study further recommends an establishment of a constructive and meaningful policy making environment that is all-inclusive of the National government, donors and other partners to raise awareness and create opportunities for social integration of the urban refugees and host community to ensure a mutual benefit among them. The government of Kenya to work closely with the partners such as UNHCR to give the urban refugees recognition and other assistance thereby enabling them to fulfil their basic necessities and not to overburden the economy of the country.

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