# Appraising the Rights and Influx of Refugees in Africa: Contributions and Challenges on Host Country

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Abstract

he writer employs the existing literatures like, international, national and regional instruments on refugee, text books, journals, theses and internet facilities to search lighting the historical background to refugee. The writer also distinguishes the term refugee with rights accrued to refugee and other concepts like internally displaced persons, stateless persons and asylum seekers; causes of refugee; contributions of refugees to host country and challenges post by refugees to their host country. This paper revealed that entering a state party unlawfully does not forfeit the protection under the Convention and illegal entrants can still qualify as refugees if they fulfill the relevant criteria. The paper concludes that the United Nations should provide funds and open a consolidated account for the protection of refugees. The United Nations High Commissioner Report and other implementing partner should work in close deal with the media in shaping public opinion on refugee protection. Refugee should be encouraged and celebrated when they make meaningful contributions or achievements in host country.

Keyword: Refugee, Protection, Public opinion, State party

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## **Background to the Study**

The United Nations Refugees Convention was ratified by states in 1951, up till today, refugee's problem remains a complex and constant threat to state stability in Africa. This is compounded by global changes and emerging trends relating to free movement of people and goods that have made states vulnerable to fighting terrorism, proliferation of small and big arms, competition over scarce resources, corruption, poverty, bad governance, insecurity and unemployment. The refugee's problem is as complex as the very reason that causes refugees to flee from their countries. Tackling the refugees' mystery needs various mechanisms to address the root causes that influence people to flee their countries in the first instance. It has been observed that the major challenge confronting the world today is the problem of permanent peace.<sup>1</sup> This has been the Africa's nightmare for many decades. Indeed, in the last fifty years, Africa remains a fragile continent, crowded by interstate conflicts that sadly have led to repeated and sustained mass influx of refugees. Sustainable peace is a delicate process, heavily influence by democratic climate of state. This translates to good governance, strong legal frameworks, citizen engagement and participation, strong economic development, peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness. States are nowadays constantly reinventing themselves due to the threat to survival. The fragility of peace weakens states identities and their sense of belonging. These vested interests have further widened the refugee brainteaser making it very complicated. The principle of refugee burden sharing has come truth in harnessing some of the challenges stated above. This principle is grounded in states expressing solidarity to one another and in their commitment to protecting refugees.<sup>2</sup>

The international refugee's protection needs a revolution albeit with caution that the legitimate concern of states must not compromise the right of at risks person seeking asylum. A major concern has been the indefinite nature of refugee protection that is majorly influenced by political and economic complexities in refugee producing states.<sup>3</sup>

The world is facing with worst refugee crisis immediately after the Second World War in 1945.<sup>4</sup> Uganda has been hosting refugees and asylum seekers since its independence in 1962. The country has been praised for having one of the most progressive and generous refugees' law and policy regime in the world. In fact, in 2016, United Nations Summit for refugees declared Uganda refugee policy as a model. The 2006 Refugee Act and 2010 refugees Regulations allow for integration of refugees within host communities with refugees having access to the same public services as nationals. The refugees in Refugees camps and settlements have freedom of movement and are free to pursue livelihood opportunities including access to the labour market and to establish business.<sup>5</sup> The paper relies on existing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> J. M. Munywoki, *Rethinking Obligation: A Critical Analysis of Refugee Cessation Based on 'Changes in Circumstances' in Kenya*, '(Master Thesis, University of Nairobi, Kenya, 2013), 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> M. Albertson, *Peace Research: Past, Present and Future*, 6 (4)The International Studies Association, Wiley, (1963), 39.<a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/3013629?seq=#page\_scan\_tab\_contents">https://www.jstor.org/stable/3013629?seq=#page\_scan\_tab\_contents</a>, accessed 22 July 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> James c. Hathaway, 'Reconceiving International Refugee Law,' (Hague, Martinus Nijhoff Publisher, 1997) https://brill.com/flyer/title/10393?print+pdf, accessed 19 Sept 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> S. Somini, *Refugee Crisis in Europe Prompts Western Engagement in Syria*, N.P 30, The New York Times, (September 2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Uganda Contribution to Refugee Hosting Study Summary, 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="http://www.ug.org/content/dam/uganda/docs/Undpug17-uganda.contribution">http://www.ug.org/content/dam/uganda/docs/Undpug17-uganda.contribution</a> to refugee> accessed 12 July 2018.

literatures to distinguish refugee and rights accrued to it under international instruments, internally displaced person, stateless person and asylum seeker. The paper further examines the causes of refugees, contributions of refugee to economic growth of the host country and challenges post by refugees on host country.

## **Distinguishing Refugee**

The only international legal norms applying specifically to the status of refugees at global level are the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees (Geneva Convention) and the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees. The Geneva Convention and its protocol have been ratified by almost 150 countries. However, a number of countries such as Gulf States and India are not among the signatories. The Convention was drafted under the specific conditions of the post-World War II period, applying only to persons who became refugees as a result of events occurring before the 1st Day of January, 1951 in Europe. The temporal and geographical limitation was removed by the 1967 Protocol.

Prior to World War II, the term refugees were defined on an ad hoc basis with reference to their national origin. After the war, the United Nations General Assembly decided to adopt a general refugee definition which was included in United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1950 Statute<sup>7</sup> and shortly after, the 1951 Convention<sup>8</sup> relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 Protocol.<sup>9</sup> Refugees are special class of migrants who under international law deserve specific attention by their host state. The 1951 Convention as modified by the 1967 Protocol defined refugee as a person who 'owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.<sup>10</sup> This definition implies that to be qualified as a refugee, several qualifying conditions must be considered.

- i. The person must be present outside his home country;
- ii. There must be well-founded fear of persecution (being at risk of harm is insufficient in the absence of discriminatory persecution); and
- iii. Incapacity to enjoy the protection of one's own state from the persecution feared.<sup>11</sup>

This definition was actually intended to exclude internally displaced persons, economic migrants and victims of natural disasters, person fleeing violent conflict but subject to discrimination amounting to persecution.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> L. Zamir, *Refugee Status under International Law*, European Parliamentary Research Service, (2015) https://epthink.eu/2015/10/27/refugee-status-under-internationallaw accessed 19 July 2018.

 $<sup>^7</sup>$  This general definition has been annexed to Resolution 428 (v) of the United Nations General Assembly of  $14^{\rm th}$  December, 1949

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees was adopted in 1951 and entered into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1954.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Protocol Relating to the status of Refugees (also referred to as the New York Protocol) was entered into force on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1967.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Article 1 of Geneva Convention, 1951.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> L.Zamir, (note 6).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

Entering a state party unlawfully does not forfeit the protection under the Convention<sup>13</sup> and illegal entrants can still qualify as refugees if they fulfill the relevant criteria. Refugees unlawfully in the country of refugee should not be punished for their illegal entry if they come directly from a territory where their life and freedom was threatened and report themselves immediately to the authorities, showing good cause for their illegal entry.<sup>14</sup> Restriction of their movement can only be imposed pending the regularisation of their status. The Convention grants them the right to choose their residence and move freely.<sup>15</sup>

The Convention establishes a duty on host state to accord rights to refugees that in certain area are on a par with those of their population while in other, are similar to those granted to the most favoured aliens in general. Rights accrued to refugees incrementally depending on the legality of their situation in their host country and the duration of their staying there. The first tier of rights applying merely on the basis of presence within state party territory even if this presence is illegal. Such rights include freedom of religion, <sup>16</sup> property right, <sup>17</sup> the right to primary education, <sup>18</sup> the right to the access to court <sup>19</sup> and limited right to move freely subject to justifiable restriction.<sup>20</sup> The second tier of rights are granted when refugees are lawfully present in the host country, for example, while their asylum claim is processed, including right to self-employment<sup>21</sup> and right to move freely subject to regulations applicable to aliens in general.<sup>22</sup> Other rights are accrued when refugees are lawfully staying in a state party, usually after recognition of their refugees' status by the state concerned, including the right to paid employment<sup>23</sup> under condition no less favourable than for other aliens. The right to work without any restriction accrued only after a period of three years exceeded residence.<sup>24</sup> The essence of 'lawfully staying' or 'residing lawfully' in the Convention is to afford state, considerable discretion in according rights to refugees. In practice, states are free to grant permanent or temporary residence and to assign or decline right to work and move freely. This leads to great differences as regards refugees' rights.

## In Rwanda, the term refugee refers to:

a. Any person who, owing to all founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, ethic or tribal origin or political opinions is outside the country their nationality or whose opinions are contrary to the administration of the country of their nationality and as a result, owing to such fear, they are unable to receive protection from that country;

<sup>13</sup> Article 31, Geneva Convention, 1951.

<sup>14</sup> Article 31, Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Article 26, Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Article 4, Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Article 13, Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Article 22, Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Article 16 (1), Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Article 31 (2), Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Article 18, Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Article 26, Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Article 17, Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Article 17 (2), Ibid.

- b. Any person who, no longer having a nationality and being outside the country of their former habitual residence, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, ethnic or tribal origin, nationality, membership of a particular social group or whose opinions are contrary to the administration of the country, is unable or unwilling to return to it;<sup>25</sup> and
- c. Any person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or in the whole of their country of origin or nationality, was compelled to leave their place of habitual residence in order to seek a refuge in another place outside their country of origin of nationality.<sup>26</sup>

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' International Protection Mandate considers refugees under treaties and arrangements in place of the time when the Statute was adopted to the following categories:

- a. Any person who, as a result of events occurring before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality and is unable or, owing to such or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of their former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to return to it.<sup>27</sup>
- b. Any other person who is outside the country of their nationality or, if they have no nationality, the country of their former habitual residence, because they have or had well-founded fear of persecution by reasons of their race, religion, nationality, or political opinion and is unable or, because of such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of the government of the country of their nationality, or if they have no nationality, to return to the country of their former habitual residence.<sup>28</sup>

The 1950 Statute has been supplemented by other instruments for it does not encompass the entire mandate of UNHCR with regard to refugee. Development in particular, resolution adopted by General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), organisational and state practice- has resulted in widening the definition of refugee for the purposes of UNHCR'S international protection mandate. In fact, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the General Assembly authorised UNHCR to provide assistance on a 'good offices' basis to specific groups of persons who did not fully meet the refugee definition contained in the statute, or generally refugees who did not 'come within the competence of the United Nations.'<sup>29</sup>

 $<sup>^{25}</sup>$  See Article 1 of the Law n 34/2001 OF 5<sup>TH</sup> July, 2001 relating to refugees, Official Gazette (O.G) n 24 terof 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2001.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Article 1 (1) & (2), OAU Refugee Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problem in Africa, (1969).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> See Article 1 A (2), the 1951 Convention relating to refugees status.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> See Paragraph 6B of UNHCR Statute,(1950).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> UNHCR, Procedural Standards for Refugees Status Determination under UNHCR's Mandate, Geneva, UN Refugee Agency, (2005), 8.

# Who is an Internally Displaced Person?

The United Nations guiding the principles defined internally displaced persons (IDPs) as persons or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their home or places of habitual residence in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict situations of generalised violence, violation of human rights or natural or human made disaster, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border. In other words, these are people who have fled their homes as a result of violating the human rights and man-made or natural disaster but have not crossed international border. They fled and sought refuge in another part of the same country not afflicted by the reason of their flight.

These individuals seek safety anywhere they can find it in nearby towns, schools, settlements, internal camps, even forests and fields. IDPs which include people displaced by internal strife and natural disaster are the largest group that UNHCR assists. Unlike refuges, IDPs are not protected under the 1951 United Nations Convention and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) Statute and they are not eligible to receive many types of aid because they are legally under the protection of their own government.<sup>32</sup> However, international concern for the plight of IDPs has contributed to acquire and attract a degree of urgency in recent years due to the increasing number of people displaced within their countries.<sup>33</sup>

#### Who is a Stateless Person?

A stateless person is someone who is a citizen of any country. He is someone who is not considered to be a national by any state under the operation of law, he may be or not necessarily a refugee.<sup>34</sup> Citizenship is the legal bond between a government and an individual and allows for certain political, economic, social and other rights of individual as well as the responsibilities of both government and citizen. A person can become stateless due to variety of reasons, including sovereign, legal, technical or administrative decisions or oversights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights underlines that, 'Everyone has the right to a nationality.<sup>35</sup>

#### **Asylum Seeker**

Asylum seeker is a general term for a person who has not yet received a decision on his claim for refugee status. Someone who has not submitted an application for an answer. <sup>36</sup> Therefore, when any person flees his country for safety into another country, he applies for asylum. <sup>37</sup> It is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> United Nations Guiding Principle on Internally Displaced Persons, Para. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> C. K. Okoli and H. D. Kutigi, Refuge Protection and the Impact on Host Country, 4 (2) Journal of Public Law & Constitutional Practice, (2012), 79-88 at 82.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> USA for UNHCR, The UN Refuge Agency <a href="https://www.unrefuges.org/refuge-facts/what-is-a-refuge">https://www.unrefuges.org/refuge-facts/what-is-a-refuge</a>>-accessed o2 August 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> C. K. Okoliand H. D.Kutigi, (note 31).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> The Convention relating to the status of stateless persons, (1954).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Refugee Protection: A Guide to International Refugee Law. (Hand Book for Parliamentarians No.2, 2001),48. <sup>37</sup> Ibid.

a protection which a state grants under the control of certain of its organs to a person who comes to seek it. Until such an application is granted, the person is referred to as an asylum seeker and has no legal entitlement to financial support or protection from any state.<sup>38</sup> Granting of asylum to any person does not establish refugee status, it only confirm it.<sup>39</sup>

# **Examining the Causes of Refugee**

The causes of war have progressively been defined overtime as a combination of biological, social, psychological, anthropological, economical, philosophical, religious and historical factors. All these contributed to refugee displacement in Africa. Uganda is traditionally refugee hosting country since 1990s and 2000s. Its proximity and strategic location enable it to receive asylum producing of neighbouring countries like Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan and Great Lake region. <sup>40</sup> The following are some of the causes of refugees.

#### War and Civil War

The United Nations refugee agency reported in June 2015 that war and persecutions are the main causes of refugee crises throughout the world. In 2014, six people were forced to leave their home every minute but this average has increased four times because of wars that drive 24 people out of their homes in every minute in 2015. <sup>41</sup> When a country is entangled in civil war, citizens of that country find themselves in a perilous condition that takes away their life, security, shelter, food, clothes and peaches. Some years ago, Sudan in Africa was in devastating civil war that took tens of thousands of lives and made a considerable number displaced. Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iraq, Niger, Rwanda and Somalia also experienced severe refugee crisis caused by civil war. <sup>42</sup>

## **Human Rights Violations**

In country shrunken by massive corruption and ravenousness by those political office holders, many people have been forced to leave their homes in search of survival in foreign countries. Corruption and greediness by those in power in a country includes their amassed of too much wealth at the expense of many, and they end up clutching property such as land from the marginalised and murdering the innocent, situations where even when one has the necessary qualifications, he or she cannot find work, all work positions are occupied by relatives who sometimes may not even have qualifications for them, all the country's' resources are in the hands of the lucky few in political offices coupled by their misuse of surplus when many are suffering with nothing and remain in tears as is the case in many African nations, for example Eritrea, Nigeria, Sudan, Southern Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and many others being on top of the most corrupt countries in the world when

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> C. K. Okoli. and H.D.Kutigi, (note 31),82-83.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> UNHCR, 'Global Trends: Refugee Asylum Seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons, 2007. http://www.unhcr.org/statistics accessed 24 August 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> J. M.Munywoki, (note 1), 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> A. Edwards, *Refugees, United Nations High Commissioner for Global Forced Displacement Hits Record High*, (2016).www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/6/57/63b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html, accessed 23 Sept 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> S. Farhan, What Causes Refugee Problem? Quora, (2018) https://www.quira.com/what-causes-Refugee-problem, accessed 23 Sept 2018.

their citizens are suffering. This situation of discrimination, marginalisation and disparity leads many to get tired and risk their lives in boat voyages to anywhere they can, expect some changes in their lives for example, Europe, Canada or North America and Australia among other Countries.<sup>43</sup>

# **Discriminatory Treatment**

Discriminatory treatment toward a particular group of people by a government may also cause refugee crisis. This type of scenario was found in the case of Myanmar where Muslim community named 'The Rohingya' live. Though, they are historically and born citizens of Myanmar, they have been denied access to live there.<sup>44</sup>

## **Poverty and Despair**

These are the results of imposition of neoliberal economic reforms which have led to the demise of industries, agriculture, collapsed of social services and state institutions. People from the backward regions of the world are greatly affected by such neoliberal economic reforms, thrown them to the dustbin of poverty and despair. As they face food crisis, scarcity of resources and shortage of daily needs, they decide to leave their own community, thereby become refugees.<sup>45</sup>

#### **Natural Calamities**

In recent time, significant numbers of people in the world have taken refuge in another country due to reoccurrence of multiple types of calamities like flood, famine, drought, landslide, global warming, sea level rise, salinity and earthquake as result of rapid process of globalisation and urbanisation. Different types of harmful gases like sulfur, carbon-monoxide, methane, carbon-dioxide, hydrochloric acid and others are emitted extensively. Consequently, these gases destroy our ecosystem resulting in fatal natural calamities to happen and natural calamities destroy our dwelling places, corn-field and playing grounds, compelling tens of thousands of people to leave their houses and take shelter in other countries as refugees.<sup>46</sup>

#### **Environment and Climate**

Although, these two concepts may not fit the definition of refugees as given in the UN Convention, people displaced by the effects of climate change are often being termed 'climate refugees' or 'climate change refugees. The term 'environmental refugee' is also commonly used and about 25 million people are currently be classified as such. The alarming estimates by the UN, charities and some environmentalists that between 200 million and 1 billion people could flood across international borders to escape the impacts of climate change in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Top Ten most Corrupt Countries in the World, 2016.

<sup>44</sup> S. Farhan, (note 41).

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> K.Alex, 'West Warned on Climate Refugees' (BBC online Environmental Correspondent and Presenter of Costing the Earth, (1999)<news.bbc,co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/613075.stm>, accessed 23 Sept 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> S. Hannah (2008-06-17). UN Warns of Growth in Climate Change Refugees, The Times. London, (2008).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Climate Mass Migration Fear Unfounded. (BBC News. 4<sup>th</sup>February, 2011)

the next 40 years are realistic.<sup>50</sup> Case studies from Bolivia, Senegal and Tanzania shown that the three are extremely prone to climate change, indicate that people affected by environmental degradation rarely move across borders. They however, adapt to new circumstances by moving short distances for short periods, often to cities.<sup>51</sup> Millions of people live in places that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. They face extreme weather conditions such as droughts or floods. Their lives and livelihoods might be threatened in new ways and create new vulnerabilities.<sup>52</sup>

## **Economic Hardship**

A forcibly displaced person is distinguished from an economic migrant. The UN Office for the Coordination of Human Rights Affairs in 2008 proposed a better term for migrants who fled for the purpose of their and their dependents' basic survival was 'forced humanitarian migrants.' These economic migrants fall outside the mandates of the support structures offered by governments and non-governmental organisations for refugees. Even economic migration requires a certain level of 'wealth' as migration is always a selective process - and the poorest and most vulnerable people are often excluded as they will find it almost impossible to move due to a lack of necessary funds or social support.<sup>53</sup> An example is the 2008-2009 mass movement of Zimbabweans to neighbouring countries. Most migrants did not fit in either category and had more general needs that fell outside the specific mandate of the UNHCR.<sup>54</sup>

The Regional Office for Southern Africa of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs coined the term 'migrants of humanitarian concern' in 2008 to emphasise the importance of a common humanitarian position on the outflow of Zimbabweans into the region. Most of those crossing the border did not apply for refugee status, but they could also hardly be considered as 'voluntary economic migrants.' Many of them were neither legally protected, nor received humanitarian support. In Botswana, Zambia and Malawi, asylum is available to Zimbabweans; in Mozambique, the few applicants for asylum had been rejected due to the state's decision to consider Zimbabweans as 'economic' and not as forced humanitarian migrants. Except for South Africa, protection and access to services in most countries in the region is contingent on receiving the refugee status, and require asylum seekers to stay in isolated camps, unable to work or travel, and thus send money to relatives that stayed behind in Zimbabwe. South Africa was considering the introduction of a special permit for Zimbabweans, but the policy was still under review. 55

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Trondheim, 'Security and Environment Climate Wars, Does a Warming World Really mean that more conflict is inevitable. (The Economist, 2010).<a href="https://www.economist.com/international/2010/07/08/climate-war....">https://www.economist.com/international/2010/07/08/climate-war....>, accessed 12 Sept 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> T.Cecila, Not only climate change: Mobility, vulnerability and socio-economic transformations in environmentally fragile areas in Bolivia and Tanzania, International Institute for Environment and Development, London, (2011), 40.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> B.Terminski, *Environmentally-Induced Displacement. Theoretical Frameworks and Current Challenges*, Universite de Liège (2012).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Associated Press Story on Debate, MSNBC, (2012).

 $<sup>^{54}\,</sup>R.\,Black, Environmental\,Refugees: Myth\,or\,Reality, United\,Nations\,High\,Commissioner\,for\,Refugees, (2012).$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Zimbabwean Migration into Southern Africa: New Trends and Responses, (2009).

## **Political Responses**

Since the establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, population displacement have been identified by registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in countries where local governments have failed to provide or protect the economic means and social rights of their citizens. <sup>56</sup> Khan, a former Deputy High Commissioner in 1963 stated that after visiting Africa, some refugees are a byproduct and will probably not have much of a chance to return to their country. <sup>57</sup>

## Appraising the Effects of Refugees on Host Country

Provisions designed and implemented exclusively for refugees can often lead to broader utilisation by natives of the host country. In Uganda that witnessed an influx of refugees from Kenya, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo in the late 1990s and early 2000s, this can be seen in the education sector. Obviously, schools built purely for refugees' children have served local students who might not otherwise attend school at all. The presence of refugees ensure enrolment stability, thereby helping to keep the schools open and functioning for all children, this in turn encourages continued investment and improve the educational infrastructure of the country and boost long-term economic productivity. <sup>58</sup>

Apart from educational institutions, government and international organisations may, because of the crisis such as medical clinics, housing development and road to access refugee camps that can be maintained and used for the population at large when the refugee crisis subsides. <sup>59</sup> These temporary structures originally built to support refugees can exist beyond the crisis and bolster to host country's infrastructure and development prospects. It is also important to consider the demographics of the refugees themselves. Many of the factors that derive refugees' crises, especially war or terrorism are relatively indiscriminate to class.

On the premise, refugees may come from skilled and educated background.<sup>60</sup> For instance, in South Africa in early 2000s, only 3% of refugees were unemployed prior fleeing their home and increased to 24% on arrival to South Africa. It seems ridiculous to discover that some Somalis who were lawyers or engineers in their home country to be forced into homeless in South Africa.<sup>61</sup> Also, in the 1990s, Jewish refugees from Soviet Union who settled in the United States were highly skilled and even more educated than Americans, leading to quick economic integration, high labour force participation rates and high average incomes.<sup>62</sup> This

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> F.Schnyder, 'Joint Press Conference Given by Mr Felix Schnyder, United Nations High Commissioner for refugees and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Deputy High Commissioner,' (9 October, 1963). http://unhc.org/adm/hcspeeches/3ae68fb910joint-press-conference-given-by-felix-schnyder-united-nations-high-commissioner.html *accessed 22 Sept 2018* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> A. Khan, visits UNHCR Headquarters to Discuss Enhanced Cooperation, 2018. <a href="http://www.akdn.org/press-release/aga-khan-visits-unhcr-headquarters-dicussed-enhanced-cooperation-accessed">http://www.akdn.org/press-release/aga-khan-visits-unhcr-headquarters-dicussed-enhanced-cooperation-accessed</a> 22 Sept 2018.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> S. Dryden-Peterson and L. Hovil, *Local Integration as a Durable Solution: Refugees, Host Population and Education in Uganda,' New Issue in refugee Research*, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee, (2003).
 <sup>59</sup> UNHCR Baseline Survey, 2003. Also see Zetter Roger, 'Are Refugees Economic Burden or Benefit? Forced Migration Review, Oxford Development of International, (2012).

<sup>60</sup> UNHCR Baseline survey

<sup>61</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> J. Gold Steven, Soviet Jewish in United States, The American Jew Year Book, (1994), 3-57.

situation can also be seen in Canada where 77% of refugees arrived with a university degree or vocational degree.<sup>63</sup> Given that the refugees are often highly skilled but unemployed, they may, if given the opportunity through productive policy, possess the capacity to boost their host country's economic output.<sup>64</sup> Automatically, as skilled and educated workers, they may also integrate more easily into the formal labour markets of the more developed economies host country.<sup>65</sup> However, a limiting factor is the transferability of the qualifications that often necessarily come with skilled occupations, licenses, certifications and other credentials recognised by the host country.<sup>66</sup> This process, particularly in highly developed countries like United States can be a time consuming and expensive proposition.<sup>67</sup> In United States, the result has been unemployment for roughly half of the skilled refugees.<sup>68</sup> Ordinarily, when lawyers, engineers and other scientists are driving taxicabs and medical practitioners are working in restaurant kitchens, as a result of lack of proper certification, the potential economic boom they could provide to the host country is dampened.<sup>69</sup>

Another demographic factor is the age of refugees. The European Union with respect to current refugee crises provides an illustrative snapshot of a situation in which refugees have the potential to be an enormous economic asset. Eurostat estimates that 81% of refugees seeking asylum in the European Union in 2015 were younger than 35 and 55% were between the ages of 18 and 34. <sup>70</sup> To Europe, these comparative younger refugees could help to alleviate an increasingly bleak demographic crisis.

Labour market interruption which has been viewed as negative but it may rather be positive. The often cited view was that, refugees will drain the economy by taking jobs that would otherwise been taken by locals may be driven more by rhetoric than fact. In reality, refugees often take jobs that native citizens are not willing to take, such as in constructions or low-wage income in agriculture.<sup>71</sup> For instance, researcher in southern Turkey discovered that about 40% of Syrians who lost their jobs blamed their predicament on the influx of Syrian refugees to the region.<sup>72</sup> The authors though noted that the perceptions of many Turkish business leaders was that Syrian refugees are not stealing jobs from the locals but they are filling needed positions for unskilled labour that the locals Turkish were not ready to take.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Y. S. E. Ouellet and A. Warmington, *Refugees Integration in Canada: A Survey of Empirical Evidence and Existing Services*, 24 (2) Refugees Canada Journal on Refugee (2007).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> B. Christian, *Is the Refugee Crises an Opportunity for Aging Europe*? The Brooking Institution, N.P., (2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> K. Shellito, *The Economic Effects of refugee Crises on Host Countries and Implications for the Lebanese Case*, Thesis Submitted to Joseph Wharton Scholars School, (2016), 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="https:respository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?articl+1022&content=joseph-wharton-schola.Thesis or dissertation">https:respository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?articl+1022&content=joseph-wharton-schola.Thesis or dissertation</a> accessed 11 July 2018.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> R. Linda, *Credential Recognition in the United States for Foreign Potentials*, Migration Policy Institute, (2003).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> H.Mathew, A. Sunser, G. F. Dejong and D. R. Graefe, *The Geography of Immigrant Skills: Educational Profiles of Metropolitan Areas*, The Brooking Institution, (2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> K. Shellito, (note 65).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> D. Drew, *Refugee Sure Brings Youth to an Aging Europe*, Pew Research Centre, (2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> K. Omer, *Jordan's Syrian Refugees*, The Brooking Institutions, (2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> O.Oytun and S. S. Gundogar, *Effect of the Syrian Refugees on Turkey*, Centre for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies, (2015).

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

Furthermore, refugees do not necessarily concentrate in and compete for one particular type of job but they pursue a multitude of diversified employment opportunities and compete for lower skilled jobs. It can push inexperienced workers by necessity into increasingly specialised jobs and lead to long-sum wage increases for natives on average.<sup>74</sup>

Refugees can boost growth by serving as productive consumers and producers in their host country.<sup>75</sup> From consumers' perspective, refugees possess enormous economic purchasing power due to their sheer volume.<sup>76</sup> Consequently, many local producers see refugees as a significant new consumer market for their products. Tanzania for instance, has been seen by many of its local consumers 'export' their food surplus to the considerable number of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi than the host countries.<sup>77</sup> The influx of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi in late 1990s caused increased in demand and price of food thus benefitting local farmers.<sup>78</sup> Similarly, in Uganda, There is no doubt that refugee's play prominent role as consumers for local Uganda producers. About 97% of refugees in Uganda bought food from Uganda producers.<sup>79</sup> The economic activities among refuges in settlement areas and camps can have positive trick down effects for local purchasers further up the value chain from final consumers. Specifically, 80% of urban refugees noted that Uganda producers were their most important suppliers.<sup>80</sup> For example, a wholesale beverage company may distribute to multiple storefront locations in a refugee settlement while the refugees operating this storefront are producers within the context of the local settlement economies, they are also wholesale consumers for the local Ugandan business.<sup>81</sup> The positive shock demand can lead to increased employment and boost the productive capacity of the host country.82

From producer perspective, the refugees are more likelythan natives and other migrants on average, to become small business promoters. This is in turn has ripple effect on local employment not just for the refugees but for the citizens of the host country as well.<sup>83</sup> It is obvious that refugee entrepreneurs in urban areas employed about 40% of Ugandans for their businesses.<sup>84</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> F. Mette and G. Peri, *Immigrants and Native Workers: New Analysis Using Longitudinal Employer-EmployeeData*, National Bureau of Economic Research, (2014). Also see Del Carpio Ximena V., and Mathis Wagner, *The Impact of Syrian Refugee on Turkish Labour Market*, World Bank Group: Social Protection and Labour Global Practice, (2015).

Popular Assumptions, (University of Oxford Refugees Studies Centre, (2014).
 B. Alexander, L. Bloom, J. Kapla and N. Omatta, Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions, (University of Oxford Refugees Studies Centre, (2014).
 B. Alexander, L. Bloom, J. Kapla and N. Omatta, Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions, (University of Oxford Refugees Studies Centre, (2014).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> V. Philip and J. F. Mystadt, Forced Displacement and Refuges in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Economic Inquiry, The World Bank Group, (2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> J. Alix-Garcia and D. Saah, *The Effect of Refugee Influx on Host Community: Evidence from Tanzania*, 24 (1) Oxford Journal, (2010) 148-170.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> B. Alexander, L. Bloom, J. Kapla and N. Omatta, *Refugee Economies: Rethinking Popular Assumptions*, University of Oxford Refugees Studies Centre, (2014).

<sup>81</sup> K. Shellito, (note 65).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> Z. Roger, Are Refugees Economic Burden or Benefit? Forced Migration Review, Oxford Development of International, (2012).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> J. S. Gold, *Refugee and Small business: The Case of Soviet Jew and Vietnamese*, 11 (4) Ethnic and Racial Studies, (1988) 411-438.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> B. Alexander, (note 75).

Another good example of this situation was in the Eastleigh district of Nairobi, Kenya. Following the outbreak of the Somali civil war in the early 1990s, hundreds of thousands of refugees fled Somalia for neighbouring Kenya. The UNHCR estimated that as at 2007, about sixty thousands Somali refugees were living in the Eastleigh district. As a result of this influx of residents, Eastleigh transformed from a primarily residential neighbourhood to a burgeoning business and shopping centres of Nairobi economy. Commercial and housing investment picked up in order to accommodate the growing population. However, much of the development was driven before, purely for the refugees. For instance, in many cases, families resumed trade crafts and enterprises, that is, import and export businesses, restaurants, lodging, small shopping stalls, cafes, kiosks, exchange services, transport services and so on that has been destroyed or abandoned as a result of the war. Similarly but from broader and more concretely qualitative perspective, it has been revealed that Dadaab refugees camp in Kenya has had a positive economic impact on the surrounding communities to the tune of \$14 million per annum.

More so, productive capacity of refugee has manifested itself in Pakistan. Due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, hundreds of thousands of Afghans fled their homes for neighbouring Pakistan. Presently, Pakistan host over 1.5 million refugees which the NUHCR has noted to be the largest protracted refugee population in the world. Purely from an entrepreneurship and production capacity, these refugees have come to develop and dominate the Pakistan trucking and transportation markets over the past thirty five years. More recently, the United States war in Afghanistan has led to massive growth in military and humanitarian supply lines. Naturally, Afghanistan refugees, having an understanding of both regions as well as a hold on the industry, have capitalised on this growth. Refugees' productive capacity then, in turn, can boost the economy capacity of the communities in which they live. As stated earlier, this entrepreneurial activity of refugees can lead to increased employment opportunities for citizens of the host country. Compared to other immigrant groups, refugees have been found to work longer hours by 4%, earn more income by 20% and take more business risks, all these are critical tools in establishing productive business.

Language skill tends to be a particular contentious and politiicsed issue. Cortes finds out that refugees, vis-à-vis other immigrant groups develop better local language skills by 11%,

<sup>88</sup> E.Martin, B. Hansen, A.Umar, B. Gildestd and M. Owen, *In Search of Protection and Livelihoods: Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts of Dadaab Refugee Camps on Host Communities*, 2010.

<sup>89</sup> UNHCR, Pakistan Profile, (2015).

L. Anna, Protected Displacement and Remittances: The View from East leigh, Nairobi, UNHCR, (2007).
 Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> Z. Roger, *Are Refugees Economic Burden or Benefit? Forced Migration Review*, Oxford Development of International, (2012).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> A. Mathieu, *From Metropole to Borderland: Pakistan Trucking Industry*, Pulitzer Centre on Crisis Reporting, (2013). <sup>92</sup> K.Shellito, (note 65).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> C. Kalena, Are Refugees Different from Economic Immigrants? Some Empirical Evidence on the Heterogeneity of Immigrant Groups in Unites States, 86 (2) The Review of Economic and Statistics, (2004) 465-480.

ultimately, refugee ability to develop local language skills can help to ensure that they become the productive consumers and producers hypothesised in the studies. 94

Refugees may increase bilateral trade between their host country and their country of origin. This may be particularly pronounced in protracted refugee situation which UNHCR defines at least, five continuous years of living in the host country. There is no gainsaying that the immigrants take with them to their host country, knowledge of and wealth of relationships within their country of their origin. This easy to see how this may also apply to a particular category of immigrants such as refugees. This of course, tempered by the fact that refugees leave their country of origin for very different missions (war and persecution) than economic migrants and existing relationships or desires to conduct business in the country of origin might be non-existent due to these extenuating circumstances albeit, less than non-refugees migrants effects on trade outcomes.

## Challenges of Refugees on the Host country

Refugee crises may have negative consequences on economic of the host country. Although, this position commonly advanced in political punditry, existing academic literature has also identified many indices where these consequences occur.

One of the challenges is that, refugees can strain the services systems of the host country. These strains occur in the task of processing and receiving refugees as well as integrating them into the host country. Examples of the expenses include housing, health care, education, food, water and utilities. <sup>98</sup> Understandably, the quality of a specific service may go as it becomes strained to accommodate more people. In Turkey, increases in Syrian refugees have been associated with decline in quality of education and health care services. <sup>99</sup> Similarly in Europe, the International Monetary Fund estimates that refugees will cost European Union nearly 0.1% of GDP on average. <sup>100</sup> Those countries facing the largest strain from refugees for examples, Turkey, Jordan, Uganda and Lebanon called upon the international community for support and diffusion of financial responsibility. <sup>101</sup> While it has been previously highlighted that some public expenditures may strengthen the long-term infrastructure of a country, this does not come without the short-term cost like increased taxation to pay for the project as well as the opportunity cost of foregoing other potential investment opportunities. <sup>102</sup>

<sup>94</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>95</sup> G. Sucharita, *Do Refugee Immigrants Affect International Trade? Evidence form the World Largest Refugee Case*, 37 (2) Journal of Policy Modeling, (2015) 291-307.

<sup>96</sup> K.Shellito, (note 65).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> W.Roger and B. Tadesse, *The effect of Refugee and Non-Refugee Immigrant on United States Trade with their Home Countries*, 19 (2) The Journal of International Trade and Economic Development: An International and Comparative Review, (2010) 289-317.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>98</sup> A. Shekhar, B. Barkbu, N. Batini, H. Berger and E. Detragiache, *IMF Staff Discussion Notes: The Refugee Surge in Europe: Economic Challenges*, International Monetary Fund, (2016)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> O. Harun and T.Goksel, *The Economic Effects of Syrian Refugee on Turkey*, 196, A Synthetic Mdelling ORSAM, (2015.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> A. Shekhar, B. Barkbu, N. Batini, H. Berger and E.Detragiache, (note 98).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> L. Josh, Germany and Turkey call on NATO for Help with Refugee Crisis, Newsweek, (9 February 2016).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> Z. Roger, '(note 90).

Another aberration relating to strained services is the issue of overcrowding in the host country. When hundreds of thousands of refugees arrive a concentrated area, diseases can quickly breakout. United Nations reported that overcrowding has turned refugee camps in south Sudan, for example, from a welcoming refugee to a squalid encampment teeming with outbreaks of Hepatitis, cholera, malaria and jaundice. 103 This has immediate economic effect but can also have long-term economic effects by negatively impacting maternal and early childhood health challenge. 104 In line with this idea of a lack of physical space, refugees may, as a result of overcrowding, outnumbered natives in local economic market from food to housing and distort prices. 105 Turkey has witnessed dramatic increases in rental prices for housing as a result of the refugee crisis. 106 In some cases, unscrupulous but opportunistic landlords have wrongfully ejected lower income Turkish tenants in favour of Syrians, many of whom may have higher willingness and capacity to pay.<sup>107</sup> In addition, while the aforementioned study refugees from Rwanda and Burundi in Tanzania showed that an increase in food prices benefitted local providers, it hurt local net-consumers, often requiring to rely heavily on food aid from organisations like the UN World Food Organisation Programme. 108

Overcrowding can further lead to environmental degradation which has become a serious concern in countries with challenge of large influx of refugees. <sup>109</sup> UNHCR concedes that refugees affected areas may face increased issues of deforestation, soil erosion, pollution and depletion of water resources. <sup>110</sup> Smith notes that these environmental consequences also have spill effects, stating that in a refugee situation, exclusive damage to the environment not only causes deterioration of refugees' welfare but also leads to competition with local communities over scarce resources. <sup>111</sup>

The influx of refugees has overstretched local resources and would undermine the peoples' way of doing things. There is always competition and struggles for white collar jobs between the citizens and the refugees especially in country which practices equal employment opportunities. Refugees have in several occasions been accused of increasing the crime rate in their host countries through armed robbery, stealing, prostitution and other crimes. Refugees compete with the citizens for scarce resources such as farmland, jobs,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> S. Vidushi, *Refugee Camps Spread Life-Threatening Diseases*, Voice of America, (18 September, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> B. Javier, *Civil Wars Beyond their Borders: The Human Capital and Health Consequences of Hosting Refugees*, 96 (2) Journal of Development Economics,(2011) 391-408.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> J. H. Timothyand J. G. *Williamson, Demographic and economic Pressure on Emigration out of Africa*, 105 (3) The Scandinavia Journal of economic, (2003), 465-486.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> O. Oytun and S. S. Gundogar, *Effect of the Syrian Refugees on Turkey*, Centre for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies, (2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> J. Alix-Garcia and D. Saah, (note 78), 148-170.

<sup>109</sup> K. Shellito, (note 65).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> UNHCR, Refugees and Environment, (2001).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> M. Jayna, *The Refugee Crisis: Evaluating the Effects of Displaced Populations on the World Environment*, (N.P. nd. Web 10/04/2016.

<sup>112</sup> World Refugee Report, 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> C. K. Okoli and H. D.Kutigi, (note 31), 85.

environmental resources (water, rangeland or firewood and existing infrastructures like schools, housing, health facilities and others.<sup>114</sup>

The next concerning implication for refugee crisis is the disruptive negative economic impact that can emerge as a result of societal strife and potential civil conflict. On a broader level, refugees may increase the potential for internal conflict and war in the host country. <sup>115</sup> In horn of Africa for example, famine-driven refugee crises have often led to conflicting tribal and ethnic groups confined to a small geographic area. <sup>116</sup> Refugees create social tension, especially in situation where the refugees have distinct religious, political or ethnic identities from the citizens of the host country. <sup>117</sup> This has been seen in Sweden- a fairly homogeneous nation, through the torching of refugees shelters. <sup>118</sup>

Apart from refugees, native dynamic, societal strife grow between factions of the native population over how to deal with the refugees. This can be seen in the case of the EU where countries like Sweden and Germany have adhered to more of an open door policy, while some countries like Hungary have completely closed off borders.<sup>119</sup>

It is obvious that refugees can bring about a number of positive and negative effects to the host countries. The key to responding to the current crisis is to take lessons from the past and present and employ policy tools that amplify the benefits that refugees have been shown to bring while no two countries or situations are the same, lessons can certainly be gleaned from the past. By discovering how countries benefitted and suffered from refugee crises and taking the appropriate scholarly research into account, host countries like Lebanon and Uganda can equip themselves with the potential to turn a seemingly devastating situation into a relatively more positive one for all. <sup>120</sup>

## Recommendations

The insinuations on state renunciation of its responsibilities under international refugee law and guaranteeing discussions, states appreciative about reconsidering their duties, shall be watched at as a call not to deprecate its requirements under the international law, but rather, to tactically evaluate innovative and novel approaches of defeating the refugee menace. The problem has been the stagnant nature of the refugee legal framework. However, not all is lost and as guiding frameworks, these conventions are still relevant. It is up to the states to device innovation in minimising conflicts, pull together as regional bloc, develop strong movements that take into consideration common approaches in forced migration that are adaptable to the modern time. 121

<sup>114</sup> Ibid, 86.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> S. Idean and K. S. Gleditsch, *Refugees and Spread of Civil War*, 60 (2) International Organisation (2006), 335-366.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> S.Idean, *The Externalities of Civil Strife: Refugees as a Source of International Conflict*, 52 (4) American Journal of political Science, (2008), 787-801.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> T. Ann, Sweden: Doubling the Number of Refugees as Centers Burn, Al-Jazeera: N.P., (22 October, 2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> T. James, 'The Death of most Generous Nations on Earth,' (Foreign Policy, N. P., 10 February 2016. <sup>119</sup> Ibid.

<sup>120</sup> K.Shellito, (note 65).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> J. M.Munywoki, (note 1), 64.

Using resources that are locally available researches on the changing face of forced migration and particular in Africa provides a rich resource from an informed perspective. Others include upholding strong democracies, developing progressive legal frameworks and constitutions, promoting inclusive development of minority groups, promoting cohesion and reconciliation programmes, planning for self-sufficient economies and societies, respect for social diversities and the protection of civil and political rights are some of the just but a few of the issues that states need to constantly remember in their development agendas. 122

The need for government to take measures to address conflicts has been emphasised by the African Union and through regional organisations. During peer review mechanisms, governments have made commitments to address issues that trigger war situations like insecurity, poverty and ethnicity with little success. This has resulted in unending displacement and fragile states without the much desire solutions. Conflict resolution and transformation has in essence, becomes a constant bug that the states have to balance. In supporting this view, Miall advises that for as long as the root causes of conflict, especially, ethnicity, discrimination and relative deprivation are not addressed, states cannot transform into peaceful co-existence through conflict resolution and reconciliation. Repatriation should be voluntary and not forceful. A person should not be sent back to a country where his life is being threatened.

The provisions as contained in the international instruments on refugees, human rights law and humanitarian law should be complied with in the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. The mandate and structure of implementing organisations agencies and institutions should be renewed to ensure a better coordination and proper use of resources meant for refugee protection. Refugee should be accommodated in budget plans of states, regional government and organisations.

The problem of finance has been a major constraint in refugee protection. The protection of refugee becomes more adequate and effective when enough funds are committed to it by states and international communities, therefore, the United Nations should as a matter of urgency provide funds and open a consolidated account for the protection of refugees. The UNHCR and other implementing partner should work in close deal with the media in shaping public opinion on refugee protection.

Refugee should be encouraged and celebrated when they make meaningful contributions or achievements in host country. The burden of refugees should be shared equitably by international community irrespective of race, religion or region. 124

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> M. H, Ramsbotham and T. Woodhouse, Contemporary Conflict Resolution: The Prevention Management and Transformation of Deaths Conflicts, Cambridge, (1999), 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> C. K. Okoli and H.D.Kutigi (note 31), 85.