



Refugee Integration Mechanism and the Impact of Income to Peaceful Coexistence in the Osire Refugee Camp in Namibia's Otjiwarongo District, Namibia

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Abstract: *Refugee crisis has deep roots and imposes moral-legal concerns as a result of numerous injustices that even voluntary return cannot fix. Although there are still gaps in our understanding of integration process as to whether it leads to harmonious coexistence between host communities and refugees, the refugee integration mechanism is considered as a possible breakthrough in the refugee crisis. This study aims at employing the refugee integration mechanism as an approach to peaceful co-existence among refugees in Osire Refugee Camp and the host farm communities around Otjiwarongo District, Namibia. The study was guided by two objectives: To assess effectiveness of refugee integration mechanism to peaceful coexistence and to examine refugee integration mechanism to peaceful coexistence in Osire Refugee Camp Otjiwarongo District, Namibia. This study employed mixed methods approach with a focus on descriptive research design. The target population was 3,588. Data was collected using the questionnaire and interview guide. The data was also analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version (26.0) for quantitative data and thematic content analysis for qualitative data. The study established the following findings:*

Keywords: *Refugees, Integration, Peace, Communities, Mechanism, Namibia*

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1. Introduction

Peace is essential for community development, personal progress, and our planet's survival. Every believing community and culture acknowledges the significance of peaceful cooperation for productive, meaningful lives and long-term civilizations. Peace is essential to our quality of life and the fabric of our communities, and as our weapons become more powerful, our very survival as people on this planet is in jeopardy. (Lazarenko, 2019).

According to Alencar (2018), interaction between refugees and the local community is a symbol of integration and a requirement for social connection. In truth, integration is not possible without interaction, even though integration does not always imply amicable relations. Hence, if not handled well integration can lead also to an increase in tensions and conflicts as members

of different groups compete for resources, the chances for misunderstanding increase and so on (Nambuya, Okumu & Pagnucco, 2018).

Gaps in social, political, and civic involvement are grievances that give extremist groups opportunity to lure refugees into participating in violent extremist actions (Ospino, 2020). Violent extremists take advantage of rising unemployment, particularly among youth, who are economically disadvantaged, out of school, idle, and socially frustrated and lack opportunity to public forums. It's worth noting that failing to incorporate forced relocation in humanitarian, development, and peace building operations is likely to leave conflict triggers ignored, and may even reinforce or generate them (Le Billon, 2021). Strong integration programs allow refugees and their families to participate in the country's social, economic, and cultural life with equal rights and

opportunities. While UNHCR (2020) recognizes and affirms each State's need to approach resettlement in a manner appropriate to its particular context, It also advocates that relocated refugees' legal and socioeconomic requirements be fulfilled in a way that provides a long-term solution. Refugees are often very vulnerable to injustice, discrimination and exclusion from many benefits described in the international bills of human rights and refugees' rights. Despite the existence of international conventions on refugees, they are treated differently in various countries. Even within the same country, treatment of refugees may vary with time. For instance, some countries may warmly welcome refugees, and provide them with the resources that they need to establish themselves in the host country, while other countries try to stop refugees from entering, or even if they do so, they treat them harshly in an attempt to dissuade them from staying. Unfortunately, most refugee hosting countries are developing nations, and so they are not well placed to treat refugees well, even if that is their initial intention.

Globally, providing targeted integration support is a wise investment on a global scale. There is little evidence that refugees with the highest education and work experience will assimilate the fastest. However, there is evidence that with the correct support, even the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people can effectively integrate (Bouchara, 2021). Promoting optimal conditions for integration enables refugees to settle harmoniously and achieve independence, using the skills and attributes they have brought with them to benefit their new country. According to Astolfo, Allsopp, Rudlin and Samhan (2021), adjusting to a new society is demanding for all migrants, including resettled refugees. Most refugees, on the other hand, face personal, social, and economic challenges and require specific assistance once they arrive. The genuine global estimates are estimated to be substantially higher; the refugee crisis has not improved since UNHCR's founding, and, if anything, the situation for refugees around the world is deteriorating. Rather than an individual who is in danger and seeking refuge, the refugee is perceived as a burden. Nonetheless, participation with refugees has dwindled over time: Hospitality has been replaced with hate (McFadyen, 2012).

Integration of migrants is not a new phenomenon in Africa, as the continent has been the hardest struck by the refugee problem for the past decade, following the end of colonialism and World War II (Tshibambe, 2020). Two of the main causes for host governments' reluctance to refugee settlement among the host population in Africa, according to Bensimon (2020), are security concerns and resource constraints. Many host governments, particularly in Africa, have claimed their country economy's inadequate capacity to absorb refugees as the principal reason for their hostility to local integration over the last decade. Security concerns have added another compelling motive since the 1990s. When the refugees are considered to have caused or aggravated these difficulties, the host

community's initial sympathy and readiness to aid them typically turns to anger (Bensimon, 2020). Ethiopia has one of the biggest refugee populations in Africa (UNHCR: 2021). Ethiopia now shelters about 740,000 refugees, predominantly from Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, and South Sudan, making it the African country with the highest refugee population (UNHCR, 2021). The country maintains an open-door policy, welcoming refugees and allowing humanitarian aid and protection to enter. Thousands of people have been forced to evacuate their homes in the Central African Republic due to confrontations between competing factions. Thousands of people in the Central African Republic have been forced to flee their homes owing to clashes between rival factions. Over 2 million people have been displaced in Nigeria, including 1.87 million who have left the extremist organization Boko Haram's attacks since 2014. (UNHCR: 2021).

Uganda has been a world leader in developing an integrated strategy to refugee management, with refugees having virtually the same rights and access to jobs and services as Ugandans (Idris, 2020). Both refugees and host communities have profited from this method. The former has land and restricted livelihood choices, while the latter benefits from enhanced services for all and the favorable economic consequences of refugees. Despite this, both confront substantial obstacles. Refugees face challenges in becoming self-sufficient, while host communities face greater competition for resources and services (Kaiser, 2015). South Africa is noted for receiving a large number of refugees from several African nations that are experiencing violence and insecurity (Carciotto & Ferraro, 2020). It has no camps, and refugees are not eligible for any type of social or financial aid from the government or UNHCR. Refugees can reside in any area of the country as long as they have a legal permit, which is a condition for all refugees once they are settled. They can take advantage of a variety of possibilities and integrate socially and culturally with the host society. In most cases, they also have the same human rights as the local South Africans (Carciotto & Ferraro, 2020).

Locally, while Namibia is less affected by refugee flows than other African countries, the impact of refugees on Southern African communities, as well as governments and other stakeholders' abandonment of their obligations to refugees, are cause for concern (Egge, 2014). Both the 1951 and AOU Refugee Conventions are signed by Namibia. In compliance with Namibia's international obligations, the Namibia Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act 2 of 1999 was passed. The Act is based on the 1951 and AOU Refugee Conventions, however the country has made a reservation to Article 26 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which addresses freedom of movement.

Namibia has welcomed people in need of international protection since its independence, and it continues to do so now (Oliver & Ilcan, 2018). Namibia had 2,603 refugees and asylum seekers as of February 2015.

According to the UNHCR (2020), around 1,742 former Angolan refugees were still seeking documents for local integration in Namibia. By the end of 2016, nearly everyone had settled in the Osire Refugee Camp. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the primary source of refugees in Namibia (2,074), followed by Burundi (266), and Rwanda (165). At least two people chose voluntary repatriation in 2014, while 53 people were resettled to other nations. When the Angolan cessation clause was activated in June 2012, 3,200 Angolan refugees chose to return home. The Namibian Cabinet authorized 2,400 former Angolans for local integration in August 2014. (Egge, 2014). In Namibia, around 1,742 Angolans are seeking documentation for local integration. They have been in the country for over a decade.

After UNHCR intervention, the Namibian Government agreed to locally integrate the remaining 1,742 former refugees in Namibia. Their integration would take the form of permanent residence permits paid for by UNHCR. The permits would be endorsed in passports supplied by the Angolan Government. While the process of local integration is still continuing, the majority of the former Angolan refugees reside in the Osire refugee settlement where they are also subjected to exit control procedures by the Namibian authorities. However, Namibia has not considered local integration for refugees of other nationalities. UNHCR is still engaging the government to review its stance on these issues (UNHCR, 2021).

It was reported that the Namibian Cabinet stated that there was a need for clarity on the possibility of local integration of a selected number of refugees with the skills and potential to contribute to Namibia's economic development, according to the statement, "skilled refugee of all nationalities should be seen as a valuable resource and would be integrated into a policy strategy to be adopted by government" (Diallo K&Chabake TAS statistical 2007).

Be that as it may, unless and until the relevant legislative or policy framework is in place coupled with effective implementation mechanism, the protection and rights of asylum seekers and refugees' integration in Namibia will remain a challenge.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Refugee Integration Mechanism

The refugee crisis has been one of the many factors that have eroded human dignity and respect. According to research by Loescher, Milner, Newman, and Troeller (2008), The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was determined to reduce some of the repercussions and implications of being a refugee throughout the 1950s.

A global plea for finance and resettlements was made to all governments throughout the world. The United Nations' refugee coordination is focusing on long-term

refugee solutions (Loecher et al, 2008). The authors also claim that the concept of a Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) has been highlighted by The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in its efforts to alleviate refugee conditions around the world over the years. This strategy entails the establishment of broad terms and responsibility sharing across stakeholders, countries, and organizations. The countries of origin and asylum, as well as third nations or donors and resettlement countries, fall under this category. As a result, refugee integration should be approached in a holistic and multi-dimensional manner, incorporating all available resources.

According to Mercader-Moyano, Porras-Pereira & Levinton (2021), refugee camps are effectively cities that are built overnight. The researcher agreed with this notion because even proper shelter would be impossible to build, as refugees keep arriving and often new dwelling have to be built to accommodate the refugees. However, because of their hasty construction and the indeterminate nature of their existence, they have a limited lifespan. Water, food, and sanitation are all lacking in refugee camps, as are other amenities and services found in similar-sized metropolitan populations. The situation is compounded by the host countries' weak economic conditions. As a result, the refugees appear to be an unwanted burden to countries that are already struggling to care for their own inhabitants. Consequently, most nations are not very welcoming to refugees from other nations and therefore, in order to discourage long stays, refugee camps are often built in remote and inhospitable locations in the host country.

While redefining the international refugee regime: UNHCR, UNRWA, and the challenge of multi-generational prolonged refugee situations, Abu-Laban (2021) demonstrated that the promise of local integration now applies to just a small percentage of refugees in protracted situations. Since the end of the Cold War, the opportunity of host governments providing permanent sanctuary and integrating refugees into host societies has decreased. Because they have not through determination procedures and hence do not have full refugee status, host governments in developing countries prefer to perceive refugees living in border zones as prima facie refugees (Abu-Laban) (2021). Most refugees in these nations, according to the researcher, never become fully conventional refugees, do not have the same rights and privileges as Convention refugees, and are unlikely to be legally absorbed into the host country.

Indeed, some of these rights are not even in existence for the local people in many host nations. UNHCR, on the other hand, considers prima facie refugees to be refugees in every meaning of the word, entitled to all of the 1951 Convention's rights, including local integration (Krause, 2021). As a result, Syrian refugees in Europe, for example, are victims of political hyperbole. From a human rights standpoint, it may be claimed that refugees should be treated with respect and dignity, just like any

other human being. According to Mark (2021), even the practice of allowing self-settlement has been restricted in recent years. Only a few governments, like Uganda, Mexico, and Brazil, have offered local integration to refugees 'who are unable' or 'unwilling to return' home. Temporary protection and limits for refugees, including encampment, are preferred in both developed and developing host countries until repatriation occurs. For researcher, local integration, with its connotation of permanence, has fallen out of political favour, and the term is now a loaded one arousing negative reaction in host governments and donor agencies alike.

Manhart (2020), indicated that protracted situations are characterized today by a care and maintenance or warehousing model of refugee assistance in countries of first asylum. Host governments, UNHCR, donor governments and international agencies have, with a few exceptions, been unimaginative in their response to long term refugee populations. There is no vision that refugees' and assistance programs could be a development asset to countries of first asylum, or that they could promote human security there. To quote one observer, in a refugee context question of development and human capabilities are put on hold the situation is supposed to be merely temporary after all. This failure to look for more creative and positive approaches to protracted refugee situations represents an extraordinary waste of resources.

In a study on best practices in refugee integration, Zamani (2020) discovered that local integration is contingent on the good will of important groups in the host country. The researcher concluded that without this good will, refugees will have a harder time settling in and integrating into society. The willingness of the local population to accept local integration depends on who benefits and who loses from the continued presence of refugees, and on whether the interests of the various actors, particularly the most powerful, are being sufficiently served (or at least not opposed). There are multiple actors (or stakeholders) in a refugee hosting area, each with varying interests in refugees, and varying degrees of power to block or enable local integration. In a study, Bürkin, Huddleston, and Chindea (2013) looked at refugee integration and how indicators were used. According to research from Central Europe, integration of refugees is a fluid process and varied two-way process that requires efforts from all parties involved. Refugees' readiness to adapt to the receiving society without abandoning their cultural identity, as well as receiving communities' and public institutions' ability to accommodate refugees and handle the needs of a diverse population. The study analysed the IET data on access to education, employment and lifelong learning, housing and family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection in the four project countries.

The data collection started with a training workshop in Prague on 27-29 August 2012 for the UNHCR staff and governmental focal point working on the project. The study revealed that the development of integration

indicators for a comparative view of integration policies and programmes were still in its infancy. However, much progress had been made in the last few years in the area of immigrant integration, including the latest Europe Central (EC) report on Using Indicators of Immigrant Integration. The EC report lists, among others, the various national approaches to indicators for immigrant integration and it is striking that only the Nordic countries Denmark, Norway and Sweden include refugees in the target group. This again testifies to the importance of the current report and project that serves not only fill this gap, but also to offer a more comprehensive methodology for indicators through the so-called joined-up approach.

Şimşek & Çorabatır (2016) looked at the problems and prospects of refugee assimilation in Turkey. The study was motivated by the fact that integration remained an empty concept outside the realm of asylum discourse in Turkey, which mainly focused on protection and procedural issues and problems. This study was mainly based on literature review and interviews-focus groups discussions with refugees. The review of major international refugee law documents and international human rights law; the review of integration literature; and the review of country practices literature. An examination of international law from a comparative perspective, refugee law, and Turkish asylum legislation and practices from the perspective of integration was also included in the study.

The study found that a few participants who brought their families to Turkey stated that the process of bringing their families from Syria to Turkey was not difficult as their families entered in Turkey without any problem. Those who did not have a passport or an identity card indicated that this process was extremely tough for them because they were unable to move their family from Syria to Turkey, and some of them used smugglers to do so. Families of participants who tried to arrive to Turkey from outside of Syria were not accepted in Turkey under the right to family reunification. As a result, the researcher support this, UNHCR's appeal to the entire world, is based on the idea that having reliable and trusted institutions for resolving conflicts and fostering a sense of equality and respect for human rights among refugees can inspire peaceful coexistence, both in sentiment and in practice, within and without groups, and in accordance with international standards.

As previously stated, the lengthened duration of contemporary political crises has resulted in refugees spending longer lengths of time in their first asylum country. The rising number of refugees in neighbouring countries has made local integration a difficult task for host governments in Africa, which perceive security concerns and the financial weight of uncertain permanence as a problem. Simultaneously, the long-term prospects for refugees appear to be becoming increasingly hazy. Humanitarian aid has mostly been relied on by host governments in Africa and other areas of the world to meet the needs of people who have been forcibly moved to their

country. On the other hand, those countries of the world who welcome refugees face enormous economic and social challenges. As a result, creating a solution that involves local integration and takes advantage of the benefits that new immigrants can offer to the host country is crucial (Dryden-Peterson & Hovil, 2004).

Uganda is regarded as one of the most progressive and kind countries because it provides free health and education to refugees and has abolished the camping ban. It also permits refugees to freely migrate around the country. According to Idris (2020), Uganda is actively involved in developing an integrated refugee management strategy in which refugees have essentially the same rights and access to jobs and services as natives. In fact, the researcher considers the Ugandan government's approach to be an excellent model because it promotes harmonious coexistence between locals and refugees.

The study also found that the approach benefited both refugees and host communities: the former benefited from improved services for everyone and the positive effects of refugees on the local and wider economy, while the latter benefited from improved services for everyone and the positive effects of refugees on the local and wider economy. Both, though, faced substantial obstacles. Refugees fought to become self-sufficient, while host communities had to compete for resources and services. Rising refugee numbers, combined with financing constraints, exacerbated host community refugee tensions, raising questions about Uganda's approach's long-term viability. According to the report of UNHCR (2019), it was hosting 1.38 million refugees as of the end of 2019, with the majority coming from South Sudan, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with the majority being clustered in the north and south-west of the nation. Indeed, many African countries, including Namibia, are still lagging behind in terms of treating refugees properly and humanely. According to Muluji (2020), the Osire refugee Settlement is home to all Namibian refugees and asylum seekers. The camp is established at Osire, halfway between Otjiwarongo and Gobabis, and residents must obtain an exit permission in order to leave, for example, to visit the hospital in Otjiwarongo, making transportation extremely difficult for refugees. Some refugees have fled the Osire Refugee Settlement without a permit, although there is little information regarding their living conditions. There is a police station, a health clinic, a primary and secondary school, and a women's center in the Settlement. Since 1992, Osire Refugee Camp has been the country's lone camp. As a local NGO, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety, and Security (MHAISS) manages the Camp. Some asylum seekers and refugees work in the settlement administration or at the agricultural project on a part-time basis. Others run tiny businesses or work part-time to make ends meet. According to UNHCR and WFP, the Osire refugee community is severely reliant on food aid (UNHCR: 2021).

As a result, refugees were unable to enjoy a happy stay in the country while being welcomed by the local people. Namibia had 2,603 refugees and asylum seekers as of February 2015. In addition, around 1742 former Angolan refugees in Namibia were still seeking documentation for their local integration at that time. Almost everyone lives in the Osire Refugee Camp (UNHCR, 2015). Refugee settlements in Namibia are not synonymous with local settlements, refugees cannot access employment outside the settlement but they have rights to social services including health care and education especially primary institutions. Consequently, refugees and their children were to remain with a refugee status in the country, and an emphasis on their self-reliance began to take root. Since the adoption of the OAU refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol and the OAU refugee Convention, empirical and theoretical studies have produced a wide range of literature on various aspects relating to refugees.

The definition of terms like refugee protection and asylum; the role of institutions like UNHCR and their ability to achieve their mandate; refugee entitlements and responsibilities in host countries; arresting of asylum seekers; and long-term solutions for refugees have all dominated the literature in this field. Despite the fact that various research have been undertaken on Africa, there are few records of the continent. This study aims to fill the vacuum in the literature on specific nation experiences by using Namibia as a case study. An examination of the growth of refugee protection in any given setting would provide the reader with insight into the social, economic, cultural, and political context in which the concept of refugee protection in that setting emerges (Abuya, 2007).

Overall, the physical security of the populace is guaranteed. A police station is located at the Osire Refugee Camp. However, some events involving the physical safety of the inhabitants occurred at the camp, which is home to around 4000 people. Due to a lack of certain foods and non-food goods, girls, in particular, are frequently subjected to sexual harassment and exploitation. The monthly ration of paraffin, for example, is frequently insufficient, and refugees and asylum seekers must seek firewood outside the camp. Two rape cases were reported in Osire in 2016 according to UNHCR. Only a small number of refugees and asylum seekers used their right to return. With UNHCR support, roughly 20 people were repatriated to the DRC, Liberia, Angola, and Burundi in 2006. (UNHCR, 2016). Furthermore, UNHCR is aware that approximately 40 people have chosen to return to Angola voluntarily. The government and UNHCR are unaware of any cases of refoulement. The government did not deport refugees or asylum seekers to other nations or repatriate them to their home countries.

As described above, the appeal process has only just begun to function, and Namibia is, therefore, only likely to be faced with the issue of return of finally rejected asylum-seekers in 2007. During 2006, several refugees

and asylum seekers` were imprisoned, primarily due to a lack of` exit permits or permits that had expired. Refugees and asylum seekers must live in a refugee camp under section 20 of the Namibia Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act, 1999 (Naldi, 1995). These are some of the legal challenges that Namibia's "refugee integration" process is dealing with, and they need to be revisited in order to accommodate refugees in terms of travel and integration into local communities throughout the country.

The researcher indicated that Namibia was one of the peaceful` countries in Africa, therefore has attracted refugees as it has been praised as a generous country with progressive refugees` policies. However, there are a variety of obstacles to overcome, ranging from failure of implementing such progressive refugees` law and policies, to limited resources and little international support threatened Namibia`s hospitality.

Namibia made a reservation to Article 26 of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, which allows for the free movement of refugees. As a result, permits are only provided for a specified term and destination, and anyone discovered in violation of these conditions are usually arrested and detained. Approximately 48 refugees and asylum seekers were arrested and detained by immigration authorities in 2006. After UNHCR intervention and cooperation from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, the majority of them were released. By the end of 2006`, some half-dozen refugees and asylum-seekers were still in detention awaiting trial for suspected criminal offences. The Government of Namibia` has no record of detention or physical punishment of refugees by traditional, customary, or extralegal authorities including refugees themselves. Although detention of refugees` and asylum seekers` was not subject to independent monitoring, UNHCR was informed of the arrest and detention of refugees by immigration and police authorities. While there are no reported cases of refugees challenging their detention before independent tribunals, article` 12 of the Namibian` Constitution guarantees the right` to access to court and this constitutional provision has generally been upheld (Naldi, 1995).

The current study will look at the impact of income and refugees' integration mechanisms on peaceful coexistence in the Osire' refugee' camp in Namibia's Otjiwarongo District.

2.2 Income and Refugees Integration to peaceful coexistence

In an ideal world, the self-reliance strategy envisions refugees being able to meet` all of their economic needs, including income for non-food needs, when they generate enough food for their subsistence. The strategy also does not restrict refugees to camps, but rather allows them to roam freely and engage with members` of the host` society, which should aid in their integration` and the establishment` of amicable relationships or peaceful`

coexistence with the host` population. Namibia's government, like that of many other African countries, implemented a camping policy that isolates refugees` from the local` society and puts a pressure` on the country's economy. The researcher believed that refugee integration mechanism would aim to concentrate on the income and refugees` integration mechanism of refugees into host` communities and the promotion of peaceful coexistence between them for this purpose.

The current policy evolution has showed that the term "integration" is utilized in a different of ways. Achievement and access` to employment`, housing`, education`, and health`, gaining citizenship and access` rights, developing` a social connection within and between groups within the community for peaceful coexistence, and understanding the structure barrier s connected to languages, cultures, and the local environment were among the major integration concerns observed. Agriculture, cattle, and trading are the main economic pursuits for` refugees` in rural areas. In urban regions, refugees` trade in agricultural` products (for example, food, basic farm supplies) and operate a various of businesses (for example, stores, restaurants, transportation services), with some nationality-based difference.

The researcher finds major similarities with refugees` in Osire` Camp who are restricted by the government, As a result` when occasion arise, they find it difficult to interact with the local due to the language barrier, and even in selling their small farm products. Therefore, this hinder the process` of integration to peaceful` coexistence between` the refugees` and the local` community when` there are no` free dialogues and teaching each other cultures and languages.

According to Bilgil (2015), the data` shows that economically better-integrated migrants, particularly those with stable work, are much more likely` to remit, remit more, and remit more for investment goals than for consumption. Unfamiliarity with the language, legal concerns, weak interviewing skills, prejudice, and insufficient of essential documentation are just some` of the barriers that prevent` refugees` from finding` work in both urban centers and settlements. Access to skilled occupations is even more difficult (for example, because of differences in academic qualifications). In Namibia, refugees also have trouble getting credit and income. Female-headed` families` are more likely` than male-headed` families to sell homemade goods and produce food, as well as undertake paid housework, but they are less likely to get money from casual labor or selling bush products (Poole, 2019).

Women face discrimination in accessing productive resources, land, credit, work, and self-employment opportunities, putting their lives at danger. Previously, services` for refugees` and host` communities were delivered in parallel, with the former getting significantly more financing. Integrating services (such as health,

education, and water and sanitation) had the purpose of eliminating disparity and promoting peaceful cohabitation. The host community receives 30% of the services, while refugees receive the remaining 70%. In refugee settlements, primary health care services are provided, and integration has improved access for host communities. Despite the fact that refugees are entitled to free basic education, differences in curricula and language result in low enrollment and high dropout rates (only 43% of refugee children attend primary school) (Vemuru et al, 2016).

The researcher has also noted that refugees find it difficult to enrol in high school since they cannot afford the expenses simply because most parents in Osire Camp are unemployed. In comparison to primary school, a substantially lower percentage of refugee children attend high school. When individuals are permitted to contact with one another in a spirit of brotherhood, there is a significant economic relationship between refugees and host communities. This is because Primary school is given freely even to the refugees. Although on a small scale, there is evidence that refugees in Namibia have had considerable positive effects on host communities in terms of job creation, increased demand and supply of commodities (increased trade). These consequences are felt locally as well as throughout Namibia's economy. The 'income spill over' (local income generated by refugee households) easily exceeds the cost of food aid for refugees (and is higher for aid given as cash rather than as food). Namibia's policy of not giving refugees access to land benefits refugees and adds significantly to their negative effect on income in the Osire Camp.

The migration of refugees into a certain area of the host country, according to Alix-Garcia and Saah (2009), may have positive benefits. In terms of social services, this might imply that areas like health and education are supported through the development of schools and hospitals. These services are typically designated for refugees during the early phase of a refugee influx, but in the long run, they may help local residents as well, as they will have expanded access to these services. The host town has claimed increased market, business, and job prospects as some of the most positive outcomes. Trading with refugees in the camp or working for them in exchange for food or money has provided more chances for hosts to make income and provide a living. For many of the host respondents of Osire Refugee Camp, Otjiwarongo District, Namibia, this has been the most significant adjustment in terms of their livelihood style.

According to the *World Bank Development Report World Bank* (2019), social services in refugee-hosting towns are frequently improved, as seen by communities in Mexico in the early 1990s. The host community's respondents ranked improved access to health care as the third most favorable impact. The host population now has access to free medical care offered by humanitarian organizations at clinics in the camps. In contrast to the hospital in town of Kakuma, Kenya, services in the camp are free.

However, due to host country regulations that separate refugees from the host population, host populations may be denied access to these services, potentially reducing the benefits of hosting refugees. The researcher observed that, this is exactly what is happening currently in Osire refugee Camp whereby the refugees are separated from the communities and at the same time the local communities are also cut off from using the services offered in the camp for the refugees. Since conflicts are reduced when natural resources are regulated, the handling of such concerns by NGOs typically leads to conflict resolution (Wasau et al., 2008).

The government, on the other hand, is in charge of assuring the safety and security of refugees who have been permitted access into the country. Furthermore, because they are not part of the military hierarchy, NGOs are frequently regarded as independent entities in peacekeeping operations. The government, has a responsibility to play in assisting NGOs by providing citizens and refugees with essential necessities. The UNHCR and international NGOs such as the Red Cross, according to the researcher, paid close attention to the refugee surge, establishing large relief operations to meet the needs of refugees and, in some cases, local hosts. However, prior to the unforeseen socio-economic repercussions of Covid -19, which have impacted the entire world, less attention had been paid to contingency preparation. As a result of this situation, donor countries provide less financial and material aid to refugees than they did previously to meet their basic needs. In the Osire refugees Camp, this circumstance poses problems to the refugees' integration mechanism as a means of peaceful coexistence.

According to Irrera (2010), NGOs have developed a wide range of conflict prevention and resolution activities, including conflict monitoring and early warning of new violence, opening dialogue between adversarial parties, directly mediating conflicts, strengthening local conflict resolution institutions, and assisting countries affected by violent conflict in strengthening the rule of law and democratic processes. Demonstrating the significance of humanitarian organizations in fostering peace and conflict settlement. According to Irrera (2010), use a variety of conflict resolution and humanitarian relief strategies. The traits have an impact on knowledge supplier, peace facilitator, and voice articulator. The Sphere is now being utilized by many humanitarian organizations to achieve project goals. Sphere (officially known as the Sphere Project) is a global initiative created in 1997 by a coalition of 13 non-governmental humanitarian organizations and with the objective of increasing the quality of humanitarian assistance, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Its goal was to increase the quality of their humanitarian response while also holding them accountable.

The Sphere concept is founded on two key beliefs: people impacted by catastrophe or conflict have the right

to a dignified life and, As a result, the right to aid; and all reasonable efforts should be made to alleviate human suffering caused by disaster or conflict. The essential humanitarian norm in carrying out an activity is also included in the Sphere. The standard has commitments that explain critical procedures and organizational responsibilities for achieving minimal standards of quality and accountability. *Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion* (WASH), Food Security and Nutrition, Shelter and Settlement, and Health are the response sectors covered by the standards (Sphere Association, 2018).

"Food security assessment," for example, is one of the prerequisites for this type of activity in the Food Security and Nutrition response is that it be done in a timely manner. (Assessments are conducted in areas where people are at risk of food insecurity to see that the severity and scope of the problem, identify individuals who are most affected, and determine the best solution.) An essential signal for this criterion is the application of established protocols to analyze food security, livelihoods, and coping techniques. Percentage of analytical reports that summarize findings, including assessment methodology and constraints (Sphere Association, 2018). There are various kind of activities mentioned in the Sphere along with their minimum standards and indicators, by following the regulation, humanitarian organizations tend to achieve service quality when implementing projects. Even among affluent countries, the researcher found significant variances based on the continent, the economic strategy driving state government (capitalist, social, or non-alignment), and the management of refugee camps. To fill this need, the current research is focused on the Osire Refugee Camp in Namibia's Otjiwarongo District, with the purpose of evaluating the influence of income and integration on peaceful coexistence in Namibia. As a result, the purpose of this study will be to fill up the gaps noted in the above-mentioned literature by looking into the impact of income and refugees integration mechanism on peaceful coexistence in the Osire' refugee camp in Namibia's Otjiwarongo District.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study will employ a convergent mixed method design. A mixed method design is a method that incorporates independent yet complimentary research methods. This design will be preferred by the researchers because it allows them to use a variety of procedures that converge or merge simultaneous mixed methods of both qualitative and quantitative data in order to give a comprehensive analysis of the research phenomena: collection methods so that each complements the other, resulting in a stronger Research Design, valid and reliable findings. By searching for evidence of cause-and-effect correlations in the data, this approach will be anchored by descriptive design: to learn how or why the diverse and wide-ranging phenomena of Refugee Integration Mechanism to peaceful existence operate or function. A Research Design is a strategic plan that outlines the overall scope and important aspects of the project (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2019). The most preferred method of gathering information in descriptive design is a questionnaire (Kumar & Reinatz, 2016).

3.2 Target Population

A target population is a whole group of people from which a sample could be taken, and the members of the target population share some characteristics (Asiamah & Oteng, 2017). It has a limit and may be counted. The study will focus on the Osire Refugee Camp in Namibia's Otjiwarongo District. It is situated in Namibia's central region. The camp depends almost exclusively on international and governments for livelihood. The total population of Osire refugees Camp, according to the UNHCR official report by the end of 2021 were 3588 refugees who are residing in the Camp (RMF 2021). The population was made up of all age groups of different countries and ethnic groups. The researcher applied the questionnaires to those aged 18 and above years old. In addition, the study targeted two UNHCR Agencies and two MHAISS Officials totalling to four officials for interview. Table 1 shows the target population.

Table 1: Target Population

Category	Target population
Refugees	3,588
UNHCR Agencies	2
MHAISS Officials	2
Total	3,592

Source: (RMF, 2021)

3.3 Description of Data Collection Methods

This study will collect primary data using both questionnaire and Key Informal Interview. A questionnaire is a pre-formulated written set of questions to which the respondents record the appropriate responses as required and in accordance with the choices provided if any. Questionnaire will be utilized on the grounds that it enables the respondents to give their reactions in a convenient manner. The questionnaire will be self-administered to all the respondents. This study prefers questionnaire because it is an effective data collection instrument that allows respondent to give much of their opinions pertaining to the researched problem (Husain-Gambles *et al.*, 2018). To collect primary data from Osire` refugees Camp, Otjiwarongo District, Namibia, the researcher` will employ closed-ended questions for quantitative research and open-ended questions for qualitative research. According to Kothari (2012), information acquired from questionnaires is free of bias and researcher influence, resulting in accurate and valid data. Closed-ended questions will be included in the questionnaire to steer respondents' responses within the options provided. The questionnaire will be administered to the refugees in the camp through the third party, while the Key Informal Interview will be administered to the camp management team via Skype or Zoom due to Covid-19 regulations.

3.4 Description of Sampling Method

According to Orodho (2009) sampling is a procedure of selecting a representative of a population on which research can be conducted and inferential conclusion from the study can be applied in general terms to the entire population. According to Cooper and Schindler (2011), well-chosen samples of roughly 10% of a population can

often provide good reliability. The practice of selecting a few members from a larger group to work with in order to estimate the prevalence of unknown information, circumstance, or outcome in the larger group is known as sampling (Kumar, 2018). This study will use stratified sampling technique. The technique gives every member of the target population a known chance of being included in the sample. The sample size for the refugees will be determined using Krejcie & Morgani (1970) formula as presented below:

$$n = \frac{X^2NP(1 - P)}{e^2(N - 1) + X^2P(1 - P)}$$

Where:

$$N = 3,588$$

$$X^2 = 3.841$$

$$p = 0.5,$$

$$e^2 = 0.05$$

Applying the formula to 3,588 targeted refugees, the sample size for the study will be:

$$n = \frac{3.841 * 3588 * 0.5(1 - 0.5)}{0.025(3588 - 1) + 3.841 * 0.5(1 - 0.5)}$$

$$n = \frac{3,445.377}{9.92775}$$

$$n = 347$$

The sample size for the study will therefore comprise of 347 refugees. In addition, the study will use census method to study the UNHCR Agencies and MHAISS Officials. Table 3.2 shows the sample size for the study.

Table 2: Sample Size

Category respondent	Target population	Sample Size	Sampling technique
Refugees	3588	347	Simple random
UNHCR Agencies		2	Purposive sampling
MHAISS Officials		2	Purposive sampling
Total		351	

Source: (RMF, 2021)

3.5 Data Analysis

Data analysis, according to Zikmund et al. (2010), is the use of reasoning to comprehend data acquired with the goal of identifying consistent patterns and summarizing the key details in the inquiry. This project will gather and analyze both quantitative and qualitative primary data, which will be entered into excel and then analyzed using SPSS version 26.0. The procedure will include identifying and correcting data mistakes (data cleaning), coding the data, and storing it.

Quantitative techniques will be used to analyse the quantitative data. The data from the questionnaires will also be edited for completeness and consistency; coded and the response on each item put into specific main themes. The data to be obtained will be analysed by use of descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) and inferential statistics. the researcher` will also utilize Pearson's coefficient of correlation to evaluate the strength of the association between the variables. This will be used to show the strength and direction of the relationship between the variables. Pearson In statistics, coefficient correlation will be used to quantify the strength of the

relationship between variables and their relationship with one another. Goodness of fit of the model will be undertaken using Analysis of Variance, (Analysis of Variance will be used in this study as a marketer when I want to test a particular hypothesis and I will use it help me to understand how different groups respond with a null hypothesis for the test that the means of the different groups are equal), while test of significance will be done at 5% level of significance, with the analytical model being multiple regression. The significance of the independent factors' influence on the dependent variable will be tested using a multiple regression model. A quantitative analytical model will be utilized or applied to answer a specific query or make a specific design decision. Thematic content analysis will be used to analyze the qualitative data acquired via Key Informant Interview (KII). Tables, charts, and bars will be used to present the findings. The following is an example of a multiple regression equation model: -

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + e \dots \dots \dots (3.1)$$

Where:

Y is the dependent variable (peaceful coexistence)

X₁ is income and refugees' integration mechanism

X₂ is income and refugees' integration mechanism

X₃ is refugees' policy integration

e is an error term

β₀ is the constant (Co-efficient of intercept)

β₁, β₂, β₃, are the slopes of the regression equation.

3.7 Validity and Reliability

3.7.1 Validity

Validity in relation to questionnaires refers to the ability of the research instruments to measure what it purports to measure (Bell, Bryman & Harley, 2018). There are three methods to measure the validity of the research tool, which are: content validity, criterion related validity, and construct validity. This study will use construct validity and content validity. For construct validity, the questionnaire will be divided into several sections to ensure that each section assesses information for a specific objective. This is also to ensure that the information being assessed closely ties to the conceptual framework for this study.

Factor analysis will be used to test construct validity. Establishing construct validity is a process that involves the verification of predictions made about the test scores. Factor analysis is the commonly used statistical method of testing for construct validity. Validity test will be

conducted using factor loading test. For a data set to be regarded as adequate and appropriate for statistical analysis, the value of factor loading should be greater than 0.5 (Field, 2013).

3.7.2 Reliability

Reliability is the consistency of responses; the degree to which an instrument measures in the same way each time under the same conditions. Reliability is broadly defined as the degree to which measures are free from error and therefore yield consistent results (Zikmund, 2010). Reliability can be computed through different methods like test- retest reliability, internal consistency reliability, and equivalent form's reliability. In this study, questionnaire reliability was checked by using internal consistency method to measure the correlation between each item in the questionnaire and others.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations relate to the moral standards that the researcher should consider in all stages of the research process. Research deals with people; therefore, the researcher has the responsibility of protecting the participants, developing trust with them, and guarding them against misconduct in order to promote integrity of the research. Conducting research on migration is sensitive and touches on delicate refugee issues, the study will observing ethical standard namely confidentiality and anonymity of respondents. It will a standard procedure to explain the details of the study first, its objectives and significance and how the data and information collected will be used hereafter. All the respondents will be asked to give their consent for voluntary participation and will be informed and assured of the highest levels of confidentiality and protection from direct quotation. The respondents will have freedom to withdraw from the study at any time and this will be explained at the beginning of the interviews. The study will not involve persons below the ages of 18 years.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Refugee Integration Mechanism

The first objective of the study was to assess refugee integration mechanisms adopted by the government of Namibia to ensure peaceful coexistence in Osire` refugee Camp, Otjiwarongo District, Namibia. In Osire` refugee Camp, Otjiwarongo District, Namibia, respondents were asked to identify their level of agreement or disagreement with constructions of refugee integration mechanisms. The results are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Descriptive Summary Statistics on Refugee Integration Mechanisms

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
The government of Namibia has a clear resettlement and integration plans for refugees according to United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) resettlement programme.	3.90%	1.40%	3.20%	32.90%	58.60%	4.407	0.931
The government of Namibia grants all refugees regardless of country-of-origin entry into the country to seek asylum.	2.90%	2.10%	10.00%	19.30%	65.70%	4.429	0.959
The government Namibia has a program that allows refugees and asylum seekers to reunite with their families.	2.90%	2.10%	7.90%	31.10%	56.10%	4.354	0.927
The government of Namibia has been instrumental in ensuring the refugees in Osire Camp [→] get income and refugees integration.	2.50%	4.60%	2.50%	26.80%	63.60%	4.443	0.937
The government of Namibia has always been more than willing to integrate refugees in Osire Camp [→] into the surrounding community.	3.60%	4.60%	4.30%	25.40%	62.10%	4.379	1.016
The government of Namibia allows refugees in Osire Camp [→] to participate in public affairs like locals.	33.60%	57.10%	2.50%	3.20%	3.60%	2.379	1.943
Overall						4.398	0.952

The results in Table 6 shows that most (91.50%) of the respondents agreed that the government of Namibia had a clear resettlement and integration plans for refugees according to United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) resettlement programme, 3.20% were undecided, while 5.30% disagreed with the statement. The responses had a mean and standard deviation of 4.407 and 0.931. The majority of the respondents (85 percent) agreed with the statement that the government of Namibia allows all refugees, regardless of their country of origin, to enter the nation to seek asylum. The average response was 4.429, with a standard deviation of 0.959. Furthermore, the majority of respondents (87.20 percent) felt that the Namibian government had a program that allowed refugees and asylum seekers` to rejoin with their relatives, as corroborated by (mean=4.354; standard deviation=0.927).

Furthermore, the majority of respondents (90.40 percent) agreed that the Namibian government had been instrumental in ensuring the refugees in Osire Camp[→] received income and integration, while 8.50 percent said the Namibian government had always been more than willing to integrate refugees in Osire Camp[→] into the surrounding community. Finally, the majority of respondents (90.70 percent) disagreed that Namibia's government allows refugees in Osire Camp[→] to participate in public affairs in the same way that locals do. The mean and standard deviation of the statement responses were 2.379 and 1.943, respectively. The findings support Egge's (2014) assessment that the Namibian Cabinet cleared 2,400 former Angolans for local integration in August 2013, and the process is currently ongoing.

Additionally, UNHCR Agencies and MHAISS Officials were requested to identify some of the most prevalent strategies employed by the Namibian government and

other humanitarian agencies in integrating refugees in Osire Camp through Key Informant Interviews. Officials from the two UNHCR Agencies responded by saying:

“First the Namibian Government has encouraged free repatriation those who wish to return to their countries. The country has also allowed refugees to be resettled in other countries, especially to the West. Those who want local integration were allowed to choose a region of their liking and helped to settle” (Respondent One).

When asked in an interview whether they believed the mechanisms in place were the most appropriate in integrating the refugees, MHAISS Officials reported that:

“The mechanism is too slow, there are many refugees who have been in the country for more than 20 years and wish to be integrated but all in vain” (Respondent Two).

The key informants were also asked whether the mechanisms in place by the government of Namibia had been successful in integrating refugees in Osire Camp or not. In response, they all dictated that:

“No, the mechanisms have not been successful because there is biasness in the integration process since the integration was only given to Angolan Nationals and no other Nationals” (Respondent three)

4.2. Income and Refugees’ integration

The study's second objective was to determine the impact of income and refugee integration to peaceful coexistence in the Osire Refugee Camp in Namibia's Otjiwarongo District. In Osire refugee Camp, Otjiwarongo District, Namibia, respondents were asked to identify their level of agreement or disagreement with income and refugee integration constructions in terms of fairness for peaceful coexistence. The results are listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Descriptive Summary Statistics on Income and refugees' integration

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
The government of Namibia is committed to improving social economic Status of Refugees in Osire Camp.	3.60%	3.60%	7.50%	41.80%	43.60%	4.182	0.972
The government of Namibia economically empowers refugees in Osire Camp by allowing them to participate in economic activists within the society.	3.20%	8.60%	5.40%	40.00%	42.90%	4.107	1.052
The government of Namibia caters for the health expenses of refugees that are not sponsored by other humanitarian agencies.	5.70%	1.40%	6.10%	32.50%	54.30%	4.282	1.048
The government of Namibia allows refugees in this camp to acquire basic education just like local children.	51.80%	35.00%	7.90%	2.10%	3.20%	2.300	0.941
The government of Namibia offers refugees in Osire Camp work permits and allow them to start businesses and potentially offer work visas to refugees with particular skills, as well as training and work experience.	63.90%	28.20%	3.20%	1.10%	3.60%	2.479	0.900
The government of Namibia plays a key role in supporting the economic inclusion of refugees in various economic development programs.	6.80%	0.70%	4.60%	33.90%	53.90%	4.275	1.074
Overall						4.271	0.998

According to Table 4, the majority of respondents (85.40 percent) agreed that the government of Namibia is committed to improving the social and economic status of refugees in Osire Camp, and 82.90 percent agreed that the government of Namibia economically empowers

refugees in Osire Camp by allowing them to participate in economic activists within the society, as evidenced by a mean and standard deviation of 4.107 and 1.052, respectively. The findings also suggest that the majority of respondents (86.80%) believe the Namibian government

is covering the medical costs of refugees who are not sponsored by other humanitarian organizations. The mean and standard deviation of the statement responses were 4.282 and 1.048, respectively.

However, the results suggest that the majority of respondents (86.80%) dispute that the Namibian government allows refugees in this camp to receive basic education on par with native children. Furthermore, the majority of respondents (92.10 percent) disagreed with the statement that the Namibian government provides work permits and allows refugees in the Osire Camp to start businesses, as well as potentially offering work visas to refugees with specific skills, as well as training and work experience. The average response was 2.479, with a standard deviation of 0.900.

Finally, the majority of respondents (87.80%) felt that the Namibian government plays an important role in assisting refugees in participating in various economic development projects. (Mean=4.275; standard deviation=1.074) verified the same. The average mean and standard deviation of the responses on the variable were 4.271 and 0.998, respectively. The findings are consistent with Bensimon's (2020) comments that security concerns and resource constraints are two of the key reasons for host governments' resistance to refugee settlement in Africa. Many host governments, particularly in Africa, have claimed their country economy' inadequate capacity to absorb refugees as the principal reason for their hostility to local integration over the last decade.

In an interview, key informants from UNHCR agencies and MHAISS officials were asked whether the Namibian government offered refugees in Namibia income and integration opportunities or not. They responded by saying:

“Yes, the government of Namibia is doing enough to offer the refugees in Osire` refugee camp economic integration. Just recently a big garden, and school were open with the aim of economically integrating the refugees”(Respondent One).

They were also asked to indicate how the income and refugees' integration granted to the refugees had been helpful to them. They reported that:

The income and refugees' integration granted to the refugees have been important to them in the sense that this has helped the refugees make a living, some managed to buy cars, houses thus

helping them to easily integrate in the society (Respondent Two).

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

Furthermore, the study concludes that the Namibian government is committed to integrating refugees by allowing all refugees, regardless of country of origin, to enter the country to seek asylum. Additionally, the government of Namibia has a program that allows refugees and asylum seekers to reunite with their families. The study also suggests that the Namibian government plays an important role in ensuring that refugees in Osire Camp receive money and are integrated into society. Furthermore, the Namibian government has long been eager to integrate refugees in Osire Camp into the local population.

The study suggests that the government of Namibia integrate the refugees in the Osire` refugee camps into the local communities in order to improve peaceful coexistence between the refugees and the local communities, based on the findings and conclusions presented above. While negotiations between the government of Namibia and UNHCR on long-term solutions for the refugee caseload continue, the report suggests that UNHCR and WFP update their budgets and plan for the continuance of food aid, care, and maintenance of refugees in Namibia's Osire` refugee camp.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings, relations with the host community are important where local integration is considered as one of the durable solutions. The nearest settlement to Osire Camp is Otjiwarongo; a town situated 140 km away. Unlike other refugee camps in the Southern African region, private commercial farms surround Osire Camp and thus, there is little interaction with the local community, except for the school children who attend the refugee school. Therefore, there is need for the government of Namibia, in collaboration with other stakeholders, such as UNHCR, to integrate refugees in Osire Camp socially, economically, culturally and legally to reduce the animosity between the nearby communities and the camp population.

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