Refugee Economies: Forced Displacement and Development

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Europe...17 years ago
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Refugee Economies

• **Focus:** Explaining variation in economic outcomes for refugees

• **Premise:** Refugee are not different as people but are in a different institutional context

• **Starting point:** New Institutional Economics
Uganda
Building a Research Team

Nakivale
- Osman Faiz, Somali RA
- William Bakanzi, Congolese RA
- Bernadette Muhongayire, Burundian RA
- Sada Faiz, Kenyan RA
- David Bachy, Congolese RA
- Demou-Kay, Congolese Film-maker

Kampala
- Robert Hakiza Ngirwa, Congolese RA
- Abdirahman Sheikh Mahi, Somali RA
- Gemus Ngirabakunzi, Rwandan RA
- Seniya Bekele, Ethiopian RA
- Caesar Bishovu, Rwandan RA
- Abdullahi Mahi, Somali RA

Kyangwali
- Wardo Omar Abdullahi, Somali RA
- Ntakamaze Nziyonvira, Congolese RA
- Hussein Ahmed Abukar, Somali RA
- Angelique Kabami, Congolese RA
- Kiflu Hussain, Ethiopian RA
- Cosomos Lugala, S.Sudanese RA
Three Contexts: exploring variation

1) Urban Context (Kampala)

2) Protracted Camps (Nakivale and Kyangwali)

3) Emergency Camps (Rwamwanja)
Income Distribution by Site

![Graph showing income distribution by site.](image-url)
Kampala

Living in Somali-concentrated area: Kisenyi

Strong presence of Somali institutions: ‘Somali Community Association’

Linkage with Somali-Ugandan private sector (i.e. City Oil)

Internal social protection mechanisms (i.e. ayuto, zakat)

Networks with Somali diaspora - access to transnational remittances
Nakivale and Kyangwali

Largest refugee settlements in Uganda
Protracted settlements located in rural and remote areas
Access to humanitarian aid
Granted land for farming
Informal and non-registered commerce inside settlements
Rwamwanja

Congolese influx 2012–
Heavy state regulation
‘New’ economy through barter
Emerges through sale of WFP/UNHCR rations
‘Outliers’ invest
Attract Ugandan business

Ugandan Chairperson of a host village described, ‘Things have changed so much since the arrival of refugees...Not only refugees but many Ugandans moved to this area because of economic reasons.’
Myth 1
Refugees as Economically Isolated?
Myth 2
Refugees as Burden?

- **Urban**
  - 21% employ others
  - 40% of employees are Ugandans

- **Number of people each refugee employs, on average**: 2.4
Myth 3
Refugees as Economically Homogenous?

[Graph showing percentage of refugees against average monthly income (USD $). The total monthly average is $29.]
Myth 4
Refugees as Technologically Illiterate?
Myth 5
Refugees as Dependent?

- 39% are employed by others
- 60% self-employed
- 1% not employed
Examples of Findings

1. What determines refugee incomes?
2. Why do refugees move to urban areas?
3. What difference does being a refugee make?
Example of Findings

**Regulation**
- [Urban v Rural v Emergency]

**Determinants Of Refugee Income**
- Education
  - Primary: 2.4%
  - Secondary: 4.5%
  - Tertiary: 6.2%
- Occupation
  - Farmers: 37%
  - Less; Self-employed 23% more
- Years in Exile
  - 4.5% first year; then Negative @13yrs
- Gender
  - [single women 30% less; married men]

**Occupation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>(1) Log Income</th>
<th>(2) Log Income</th>
<th>(3) Log Income</th>
<th>(4) Log Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years of Education</td>
<td>0.0320***</td>
<td>0.0115</td>
<td>0.0042***</td>
<td>0.0021***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years of Education Squared</td>
<td>0.00530</td>
<td>0.00162</td>
<td>0.00114</td>
<td>0.00243*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary School (per year)</td>
<td>(0.0114)</td>
<td>(0.0042)</td>
<td>(0.00243)</td>
<td>(0.00144)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary School (per year)</td>
<td>0.0149**</td>
<td>0.0129**</td>
<td>0.00177**</td>
<td>0.0121**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tertiary School (per year)</td>
<td>(0.0321)</td>
<td>(0.0229)</td>
<td>(0.00176)</td>
<td>(0.0321)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed Primary School</td>
<td>0.206***</td>
<td>0.0535**</td>
<td>0.0781</td>
<td>0.0805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed Secondary School</td>
<td>(0.149)</td>
<td>(0.091)</td>
<td>0.0781</td>
<td>(0.091)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed University</td>
<td>0.340**</td>
<td>0.136**</td>
<td>0.149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.00101</td>
<td>0.000578</td>
<td>0.000705</td>
<td>0.000125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years in Uganda</td>
<td>0.9474***</td>
<td>0.4399***</td>
<td>0.4391***</td>
<td>0.386***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years in Uganda Squared</td>
<td>(0.01476)</td>
<td>(0.0177)</td>
<td>(0.0176)</td>
<td>(0.0177)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Female, No Spouse Present</td>
<td>-0.240***</td>
<td>-0.251***</td>
<td>-0.250***</td>
<td>-0.250***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Male, No Spouse Present</td>
<td>-0.0546</td>
<td>-0.0703</td>
<td>-0.0729</td>
<td>-0.0728</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Children</td>
<td>0.0260**</td>
<td>0.0229**</td>
<td>0.0231**</td>
<td>0.0260**</td>
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<tr>
<td>S.Sudanese</td>
<td>-0.261***</td>
<td>-0.265***</td>
<td>-0.263***</td>
<td>-0.262***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>(0.0135)</td>
<td>(0.0135)</td>
<td>(0.0135)</td>
<td>(0.0135)</td>
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**Determinants Of Refugee Income**

- Education
- Occupation
- Years in Exile
- Gender

**Regulation**
- [Urban v Rural v Emergency]
Choice 1: Encampment
Choice 2: Urban Destitution
Choice 3: Dangerous Journeys
15 minutes from Za’atari...
One Size Does Not Fit All
Implications?

- Capacities not just vulnerabilities
- Development not just humanitarianism
- Jobs and education
- Autonomy as central
- Different models for different contexts