

Refugee Economies: Forced Displacement and Development

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Europe..17 years ago



The Netherlands



Ali-Addeh Camp, Djibouti



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 Bakunzi,
Congolese RA



Bernadette
Muhongalyre,
Burundian RA



Sada Faiz,
Kenyan RA



David Bachy,
Congolese RA



Demou-Kay,
Congolese
Film-maker

Kampala



Robert Hakiza
Ngirwa,
Congolese RA



Abdirahman
Sheik Mahi,
Somali RA



Wardo Omar
Abdullahi,
Somali RA



Gemus
Ngirabakunzi,
Rwandan RA



Seniya Bekele,
Ethiopian RA



Hussein Ahmed
Abukar,
Somali RA



Caesar Bishovu,
Rwandan RA



Abdullahi Mahi,
Somali RA



Kiflu Hussain,
Ethiopian RA

Kyangwali



Ntakamaze
Nziyonvira,
Congolese RA



Angelique Kabami,
Congolese RA



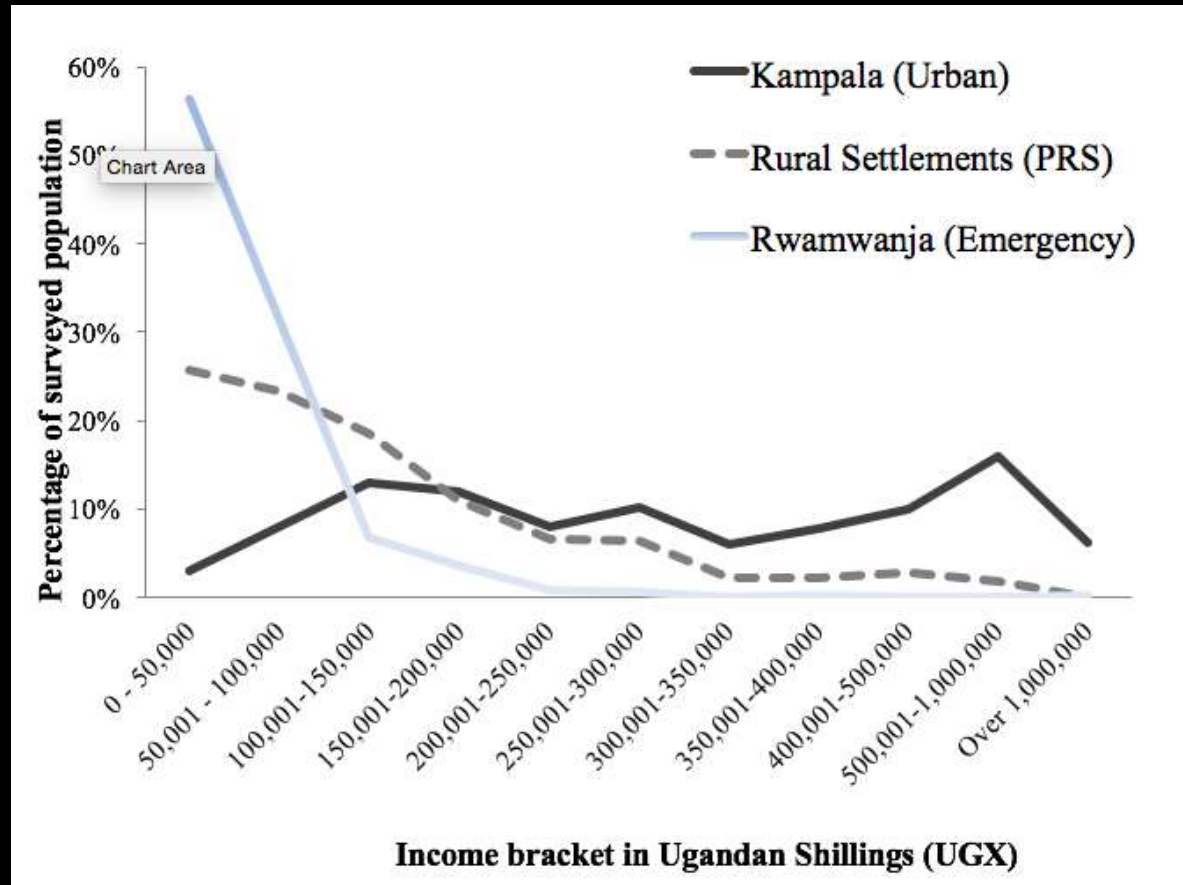
Cosomos Lugala,
S.Sudanese RA

Three Contexts: exploring variation

- 1) Urban Context
(Kampala)
- 2) Protracted Camps
(Nakivale and
Kyangwali)
- 3) Emergency Camps
(Rwamwanja)



Income Distribution by Site



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



Nakivale and Kyangwali

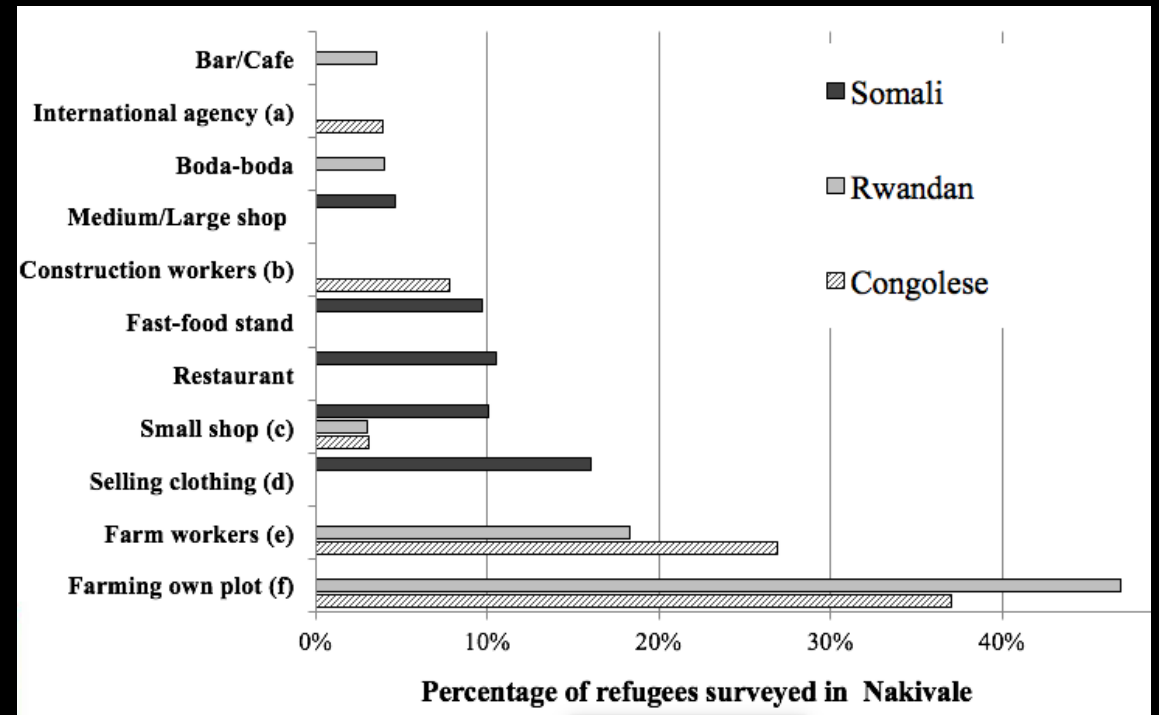
Largest refugee
settlements in Uganda

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

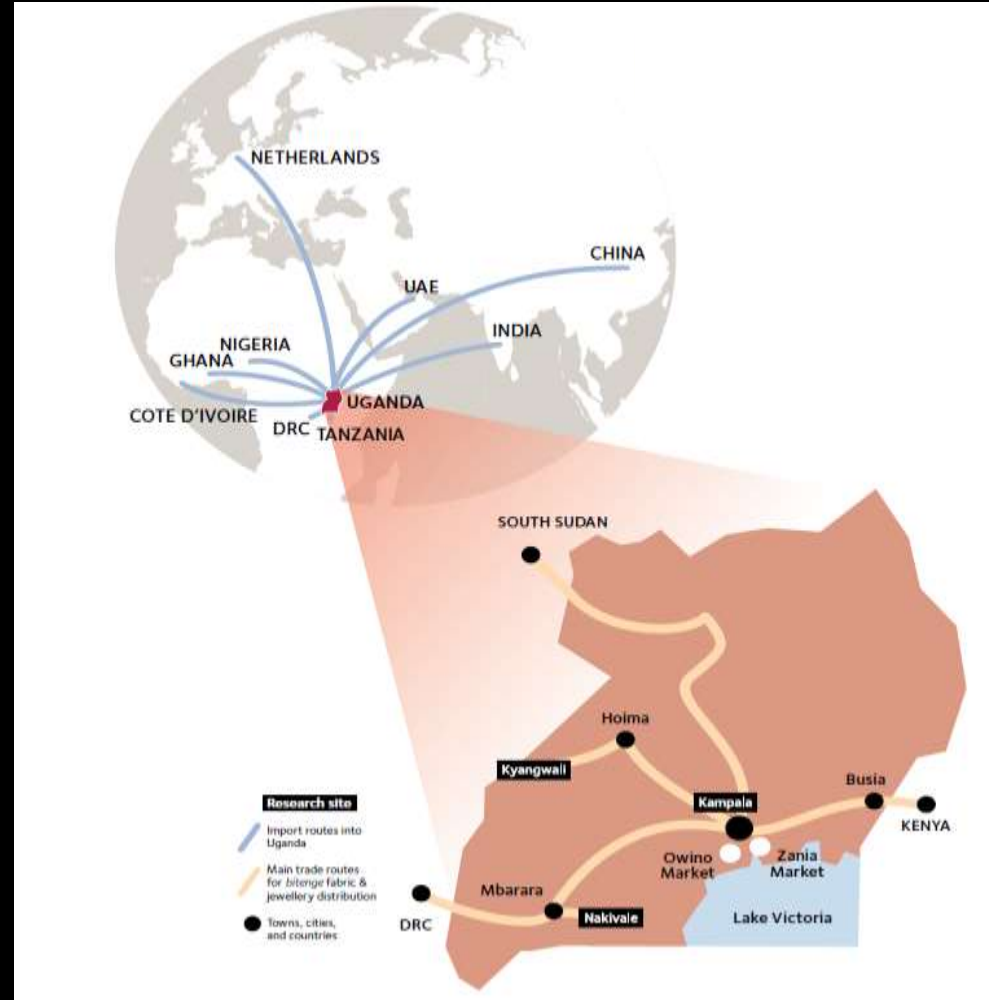
Attract Ugandan

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.’*



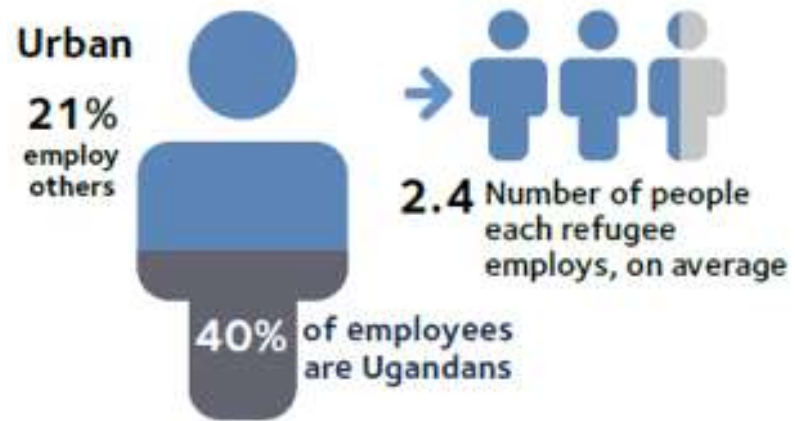
Myth 1

Refugees as Economically Isolated?



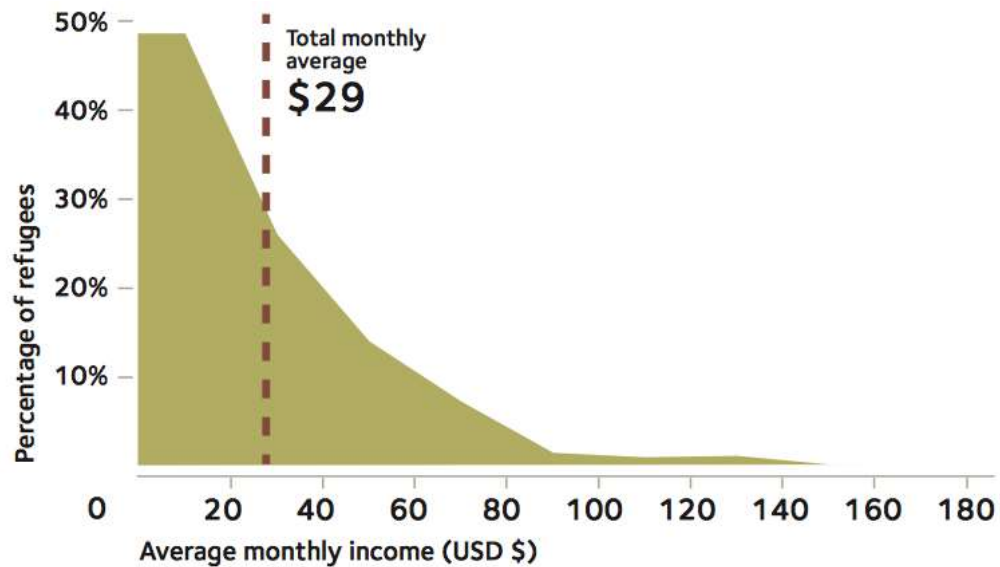
Myth 2

Refugees as Burden?



Myth 3

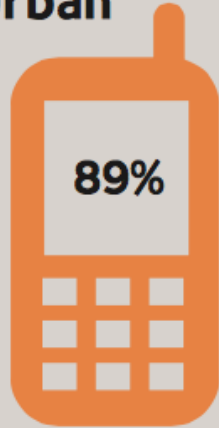
Refugees as Economically Homogenous?



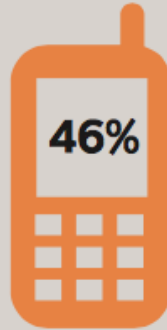
Myth 4

Refugees as Technologically Illiterate?

Urban



Rural



Myth 5

Refugees as Dependent?

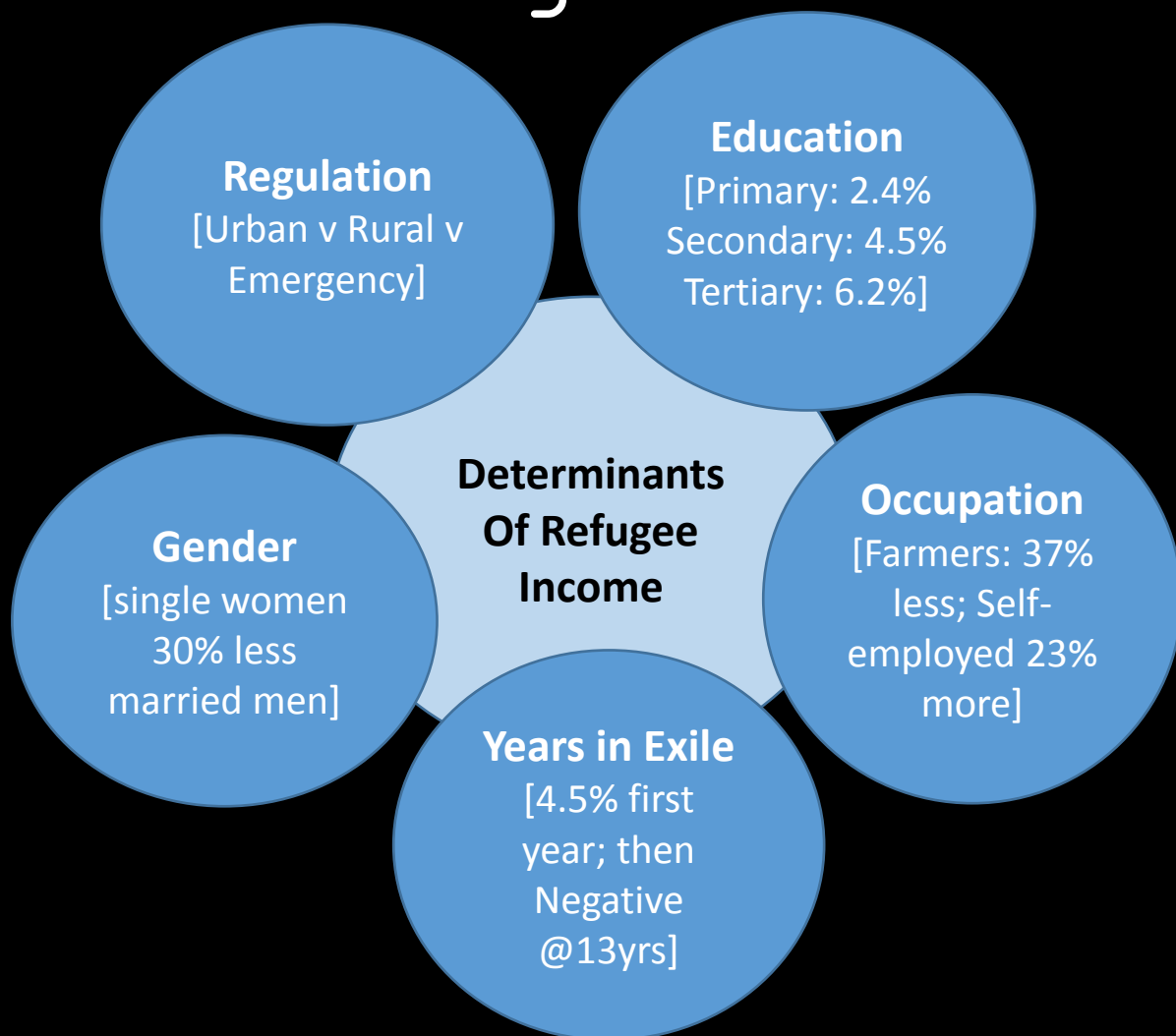


Examples of Findings

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



Example of Findings



VARIABLES	(1) Log Income	(2) Log Income	(3) Log Income	(4) Log Income
Years of Education	0.0326*** (0.00535)	0.0115 (0.0157)		
Years of Education Squared		0.00162 (0.00114)		
Primary School (per year)			0.0243** (0.00942)	
Secondary School (per year)			0.0449** (0.0229)	
Tertiary School (per year)			0.0617* (0.0321)	
Completed Primary School				0.206*** (0.0533)
Completed Secondary School				0.0781 (0.0805)
Completed University				0.340** (0.140)
Age	0.00101 (0.00231)	0.000578 (0.00233)	0.000705 (0.00232)	0.000125 (0.00231)
Years in Uganda	0.0474*** (0.0176)	0.0489*** (0.0177)	0.0491*** (0.0176)	0.0486*** (0.0177)
Years in Uganda Squared	-0.00192** (0.000881)	-0.00198** (0.000879)	-0.00200** (0.000878)	-0.00196** (0.000882)
Married Female, Spouse Present	-0.0627 (0.145)	-0.0903 (0.150)	-0.0907 (0.149)	-0.110 (0.153)
Married Female, No Spouse Present	-0.240*** (0.0871)	-0.251*** (0.0885)	-0.250*** (0.0885)	-0.275*** (0.0878)
Single Female	-0.285*** (0.0656)	-0.291*** (0.0658)	-0.290*** (0.0658)	-0.310*** (0.0652)
Married Male, No Spouse Present	-0.0546 (0.130)	-0.0703 (0.130)	-0.0729 (0.130)	-0.0728 (0.131)
Single Male	-0.169* (0.0953)	-0.175* (0.0948)	-0.173* (0.0947)	-0.176* (0.0934)
No. of Children	0.0280** (0.0138)	0.0290** (0.0138)	0.0291** (0.0138)	0.0289** (0.0138)
Disabled	-0.245*** (0.0697)	-0.235*** (0.0701)	-0.235*** (0.0701)	-0.234*** (0.0706)
Rwandan	0.533*** (0.0710)	0.537*** (0.0712)	0.539*** (0.0712)	0.527*** (0.0713)
S.Sudanese	-0.264** (0.131)	-0.265** (0.131)	-0.263** (0.131)	-0.249* (0.131)
Somali	0.782*** (0.0649)	0.783*** (0.0646)	0.789*** (0.0647)	0.769*** (0.0653)
Kyangwali	-0.333*** (0.107)	-0.312*** (0.108)	-0.314*** (0.108)	-0.335*** (0.108)
Nakivale	-0.734*** (0.0603)	-0.717*** (0.0618)	-0.717*** (0.0618)	-0.738*** (0.0615)
Constant	3.557*** (0.141)	3.585*** (0.143)	3.569*** (0.142)	3.675*** (0.135)
Observations	1,091	1,091	1,091	1,091
R-squared	0.320	0.321	0.321	0.320
Mean Monthly Income (USD)	71.14	71.14	71.14	71.14

OLS regression of log individual monthly income in USD on covariates.
Robust standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01; ** p<0.05; * p<0.1.
Omitted household type is Married Males with Spouse Present. Omitted location is Kampala.
Omitted nationality is Congolese. Omitted primary occupation type is employed in non-farming.

Choice 1: Encampment



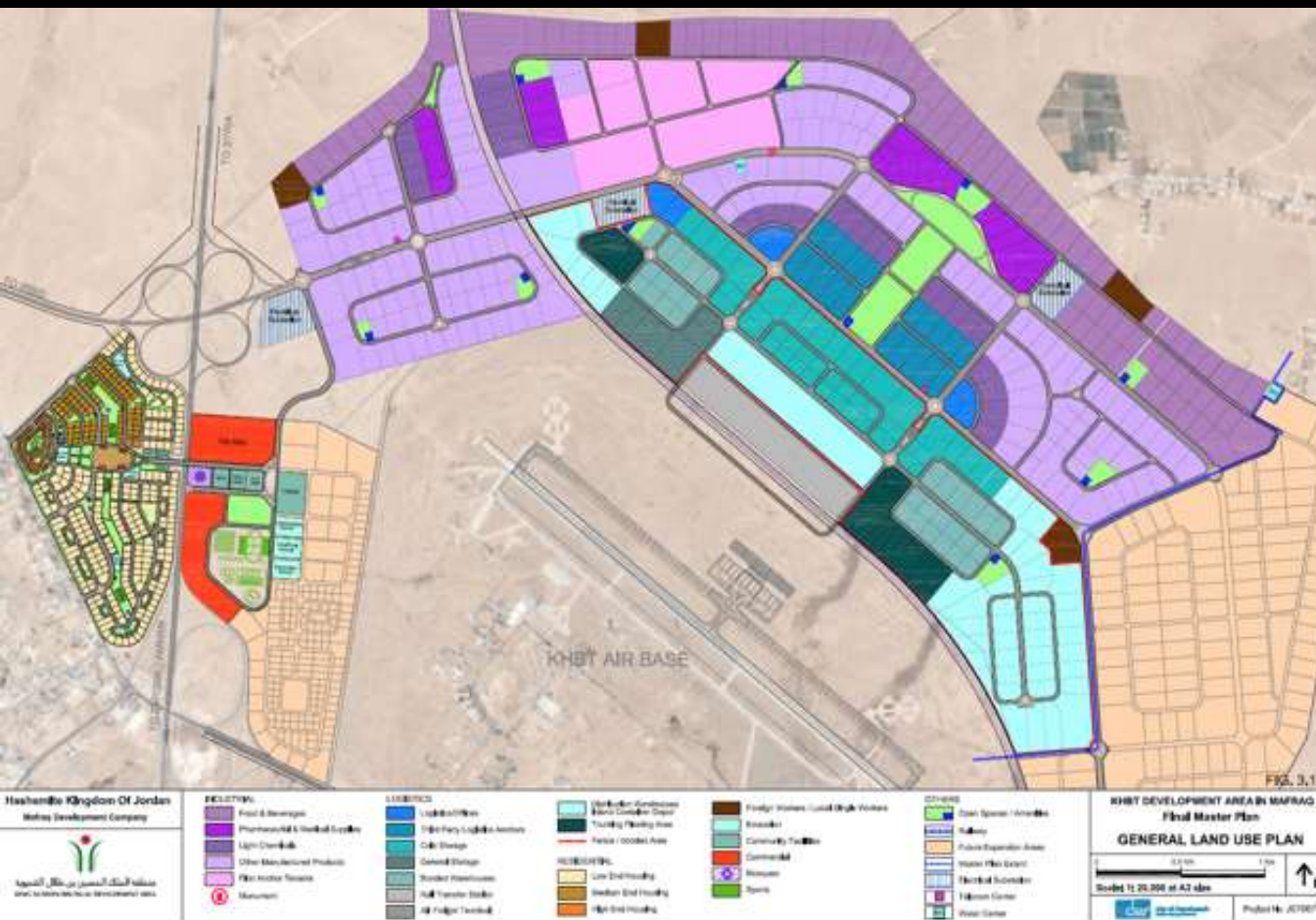
Choice 2: Urban Destitution



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

