

**THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN POLICY AND
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SETTLEMENT
SCHEME IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP, KENYA**

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DECLARATION AND CERTIFICATION

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

This thesis is my original work prepared with no other than the indicated sources as supported and has not been presented elsewhere for a degree or any other award.

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ABSTRACT

Globally, humanitarian policy has been progressively adopted as a guiding framework for integrated refugee settlement. Within the Horn of Africa, the Republic of Kenya has accommodated the most substantial refugee population over the past three decades. In 2015, Kenya integrated global humanitarian policies by establishing the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement within the Kakuma refugee camp, with the specific aim of addressing the region's enduring humanitarian crisis. However, a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between global humanitarian frameworks and its localized implementation for refugee integration in Kalobeyei is currently underdeveloped in the academic literature. This investigation was designed to achieve three specific objectives: first, to investigate the mechanisms through which global humanitarian policies are integrated within Kenya's local refugee integration frameworks; second, to evaluate the structural factors within Kakuma that influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme, and the third is to assess the implications of domesticating global humanitarian policies on local refugee integration frameworks within Kakuma. Drawing upon theoretical frameworks of liberal institutionalism and constructivism, the study utilized a mixed-methods approach. It involved 165 respondents, comprising 99 refugees, 61 household heads, and 5 key informants affiliated with humanitarian and governmental organizations. Data collection included the administration of questionnaires through surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Regarding the first specific objective, the findings indicated a universal awareness of global humanitarian policies among respondents. However, the comprehension of these policies was noted to be inconsistent and primarily disseminated via local forums, humanitarian personnel, and administrative channels. Study findings on the second specific objective revealed that, a higher proportion of respondents (38.1%) indicated enhanced funding for social services as a priority, (28.4%) indicated the importance of more robust legal safeguards, and (26.1%) considered access to work permits as a pivotal factor for successful integration. These perspectives highlighted advancements in infrastructure, markets, education, and social services, yet also revealed discrepancies between the operational frameworks of humanitarian and county systems. Study findings on the third specific objective revealed that (23.5%) of respondents perceived their participation in governance and decision-making platforms as genuinely substantive. This limited engagement appeared to be attributable to factors such as established institutional hierarchies, ambiguities in mandates, and insufficient feedback mechanisms. The study concludes that unless integrated refugee settlement schemes are anchored on inclusive governance, equitable service delivery, strengthened livelihood opportunities, legal protections, and meaningful community participation, they risk reproducing marginalization, weak social cohesion, unequal access to resources, and unsustainable refugee integration outcomes. The study recommends, fortifying institutional support to facilitate inclusive decision-making processes; broadening livelihood initiatives that cultivate cooperation between host and refugee communities; and establishing community-level mechanisms capable of effectively contextualizing global norms.

Key words: *Global Humanitarian Policy, Integrated Refugee Settlement, Refugee Integration, Policy Domestication, Local Governance*

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
FGDSs	Focus Group Discussions
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GCRP	Global Humanitarian Policy Frameworks
GOK	Government of Kenya
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
KISED	Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

OPERATIONALIZATION OF KEY CONCEPTS

Global Humanitarian Policy was operationalized through respondents' awareness of international refugee frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, as well as perceptions of how these policies influenced services, livelihoods, and inclusion within Kakuma and Kalobeyei. Measurement focused on survey responses, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews examining policy awareness, access to information, and perceptions of policy effectiveness in practice.

Institutional coordination referred to the level of cooperation, role clarity, and administrative alignment among national government agencies, county authorities, and humanitarian organizations implementing refugee integration policies. This variable was measured through evidence of coordination gaps, overlapping mandates, bureaucratic delays, and respondents' perceptions of how effectively institutions worked together to support integration outcomes.

Integrated refugee settlement was defined as the coexistence of refugees and host communities within shared social and economic spaces supported through integrated service delivery and development-oriented planning. This variable was measured through indicators such as shared access to schools, healthcare, markets, livelihood opportunities, and perceptions of refugee–host community relations collected through surveys and qualitative interviews.

Local integration frameworks were operationalized as the governance arrangements, institutional systems, and operational structures guiding refugee inclusion at settlement and county levels. Measurement focused on respondents' experiences with public

services, participation structures, institutional responsiveness, and perceptions of fairness and coordination among government and humanitarian actors.

Participation in governance referred to the extent to which refugees and host communities were involved in consultations, community forums, and decision-making processes related to integration policies and programs. It was measured through respondents' reported participation levels, awareness of consultation platforms, perceived inclusivity of engagement processes, and qualitative narratives on barriers to involvement.

Policy domestication referred to the processes through which global humanitarian norms were translated into Kenya's legal, administrative, and institutional systems, particularly through the Refugees Act 2021, KISED, and the Shirika Plan. It was measured by examining coordination mechanisms, policy communication channels, administrative procedures, and community experiences with documentation, service delivery, and implementation practices across refugee and host populations.

Socioeconomic inclusion was understood as the extent to which refugees and host communities could access livelihoods, public services, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities within the settlement system. Measurement focused on access to employment opportunities, livelihood support, markets, healthcare, education, and perceptions of equality in service provision, while movement rights were assessed through experiences with mobility restrictions, work authorization, and administrative procedures affecting economic participation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The increasing scale and complexity in forced displacement has prompted the development of global humanitarian frameworks, primarily aimed at reinforcing refugee protection and advancing sustainable approaches to settlement. Globally, humanitarian policies have transitioned from responses focused on immediate emergencies to more comprehensive strategies, which integrate humanitarian assistance with long-term development and initiatives designed for resilience-building (Betts & Collier, 2017). Contemporary frameworks for humanitarian policy increasingly emphasize moving beyond traditional encampment models towards integrated refugee settlement approaches that support refugee self-reliance and foster cooperation between refugee and host communities (Crisp, 2020; Milner, 2014). Scholars Zetter and Ruaudel (2018), argue that such policy shifts are critical, largely because protracted displacement has emerged as a defining characteristic of the global refugee situation, with many individuals remaining displaced for several decades (Omata & Betts, 2020;). Globally, forced displacement stands as one of the pre-eminent humanitarian and governance challenges of the 21st century. Specific regional contexts illustrate this complexity. In the United States, for instance, scholarly inquiry has investigated the trajectory of refugee resettlement policies and their consequences for socio-economic integration, underscoring the vital contributions of both federal and community institutions in fostering refugee adaptation (Kerwin, 2018). Concurrently, German scholarship has concentrated on the administration of refugee reception systems and the inherent difficulties in integrating a substantial influx of asylum seekers post-2015

(Schammann & Kühn, 2016). In India, researchers have delved into the intricacies of refugee governance, particularly within a context where the nation is not a signatory to international refugee conventions, thus highlighting the influence of state discretion and prevailing humanitarian practices in the management of refugee populations (Samaddar, 2017). Within the African continent, at a regional scale, the management of refugee populations has been considerably shaped by persistent conflicts, political instability, and widespread economic disparities. In South Africa, existing highlights a notable disjuncture between progressive legislative frameworks for refugee protection and the substantive impediments refugees encounter in securing employment, social services, and legal safeguards (Crush & Ramachandran, 2017). Investigations conducted in Nigeria have addressed the dynamics of internal and cross-border displacement stemming from insurgency and conflict, thereby emphasizing the requisite institutional and policy interventions for effective displaced population management (Akinola, 2018). Concurrently, scholarly work concerning Libya has critically examined its dual function as both a transit and destination country for migrants and refugees, with researchers illuminating the inherent complexities of migration governance within an inherently fragile political environment (Paoletti, 2011). Within the East African region, refugee hosting has emerged as a pivotal policy issue, primarily stemming from the area's protracted history of political instability and recurrent cross-border conflicts. Academic scholarship, notably, has acknowledged Uganda's forward-thinking refugee policy framework, which grants refugees access to land, employment, and social services as integral components of a wider self-reliance paradigm (Betts *et al.*, 2019). Ethiopian research, in particular, has investigated the programmatic shift from traditional encampment policies towards more encompassing refugee response frameworks, explicitly designed to foster economic participation and

integration (Hammond, 2014). Correspondingly, analyses pertaining to Rwanda highlight ongoing endeavors to assimilate refugees into national development initiatives, concurrent with addressing persistent challenges associated with resource constraints and the complexities of host community interactions (Turner, 2015). In Kenya, the refugee management system has historically operated on a foundation of encampment policies, particularly evident in sites like Dadaab and Kakuma; however, contemporary policy discussions have progressively shifted toward models of integration and sustainable settlement (Horst, 2006). Academic analysis suggests that Kenya navigates a multifaceted dilemma, balancing the imperatives of national security with its international humanitarian commitments and the promotion of socio-economic inclusion for refugee populations (Campbell, 2006). Moreover, various studies highlight that the efficacy of refugee settlement policies in Kenya is contingent upon several interacting factors, including governmental capacity, the quality of relations with host communities, and the level of international donor assistance. Consequently, a thorough comprehension of these intricate dynamics is indispensable for developing robust policy frameworks designed to enhance refugee protection and foster sustainable integration within the specific operational context of Kenya.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Global Humanitarian Policy frameworks have increasingly shaped responses to forced displacement by promoting coordinated, rights-based, and long-term approaches to refugee protection and settlement (World Bank, 2022). Institutions such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have advanced global policy directions that encourage states to move beyond short-term humanitarian relief toward systems that support self-reliance, shared responsibility, and socio-economic inclusion (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,,2023). Through instruments like the

Global Compact on Refugees, there has been a clear policy shift away from traditional encampment models toward what is now widely referred to as integrated settlement approaches, where refugees and host communities are expected to access shared services, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities within the same geographical and governance space (Betts *et al.*, 2021). In this study, an integrated settlement is understood as a practical arrangement where refugees and host communities coexist within shared administrative and service systems, rather than being managed through separate and parallel humanitarian structures.

Kenya provides a particularly important context for examining this shift because it is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa and has actively aligned its refugee governance with global humanitarian policy frameworks since 2016 (World Bank ,2022). This alignment is reflected in national instruments such as the Refugees Act 2021, the Kenya Integrated Refugee and Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED), and the Shirika Plan, all of which aim to operationalize integrated settlement and self-reliance within refugee-hosting areas (UNHCR, 2023). Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement were selected for this study because they represent one of the most developed attempts in Kenya to implement this integrated model in a protracted displacement setting. Together, they host a large and diverse refugee population living alongside Turkana host communities, making them a critical site for observing how global policy intentions interact with local governance realities.

Despite these policy developments, implementation challenges remain significant. Kenya currently hosts over 700,000 refugees and asylum seekers, with Kakuma alone accommodating more than 250,000 people from multiple countries of origin (UNHCR ,2023). Studies show that while the policy shift toward integration is clear at the

national and international level, its translation into everyday practice is constrained by limited resources, weak institutional coordination, and socio-economic pressure on host communities (Omata & Betts, 2020). As a result, integrated settlement in Kakuma and Kalobeyei remains uneven, with gaps between policy ambition and lived reality. This makes the setting not only relevant but necessary for understanding how global humanitarian policies are actually experienced, negotiated, and implemented in one of the world's most established refugee-hosting environments.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine how global humanitarian policies are translated and implemented within the integrated settlement approach in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, and how this process shapes the everyday experiences of refugees and host communities. While existing studies have largely focused on global refugee frameworks or broad humanitarian outcomes, limited attention has been given to how these policies are actually interpreted, negotiated, and applied within local governance systems and community relations in refugee-hosting areas. This study therefore addressed that gap by examining how international commitments on self-reliance, inclusion, and shared responsibility are operationalized through local institutions, service delivery systems, and participation structures in Kakuma. In doing so, the research generated grounded evidence on how governance capacity, institutional coordination, and community perceptions influence integration outcomes, contributing to both academic debates and policy discussions on refugee integration in protracted displacement settings.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to investigate the interplay of the Global Humanitarian Policy on the implementation of integrated refugee settlement in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. This specific objectives of the study were to:

- i. Examine mechanisms through which global humanitarian policies are domesticated within Kenya's local refugee integration frameworks in Kakuma.
- ii. Evaluate the structural factors within Kakuma that influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme.
- iii. Assess the implications of domesticating global humanitarian policies on local refugee integration frameworks within Kakuma.

1.5 Research Questions

The study addressed the following questions:

- i. What mechanisms are employed to domesticate global humanitarian policies within Kakuma's local refugee integration frameworks?
- ii. What structural factors within Kakuma influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme?
- iii. How does the domestication of global humanitarian policies affect the practical functioning of local refugee integration frameworks in Kakuma?

1.6 Justification of the Study

The justification of the study was examined from two main perspectives: the academic justification, which explains the how the study contributes to existing scholarship and knowledge gaps, and the policy justification, which highlights its relevance in

strengthening refugee governance, integration policy, and implementation practice in Kenya.

1.6.1 Academic Justification

Existing scholarship on refugee governance has made important contributions to understanding humanitarian protection, international cooperation, and refugee integration, but significant gaps remain in explaining how global policies are translated into everyday realities within local refugee-hosting contexts. Studies by Betts and Collier (2017) explain how international frameworks influence national refugee responses, while Harrell-Bond (1986) critiques the top-down nature of humanitarian systems that often marginalize refugee agency and local realities. More recent work by Barbelet (2018) emphasizes the importance of localization and context-sensitive humanitarian action, while Ager and Strang (2008) highlight the role of rights, social connections, and access to services in shaping integration outcomes. However, much of this literature remains focused on either global policy design or broad program outcomes, leaving limited empirical understanding of how these policies are negotiated, interpreted, and implemented within local governance systems such as Kakuma and Kalobeyi. The literature also pays limited attention to how institutional weaknesses, perceptions of fairness, and refugee–host community relations shape the actual success or failure of policy domestication at local level.

This study addressed that gap by moving beyond policy analysis at the international and national level to examine how global humanitarian frameworks are experienced in practice within an integrated settlement setting. Drawing on Rawls’ Theory of Justice (1971), the study assessed whether integration frameworks produce fair and equitable outcomes for refugees and host communities, while Nussbaum’s Capability Approach (2006) helped evaluate whether these policies expand real opportunities and freedoms

in everyday life. Scott (1998) further explained how bureaucratic systems, fragmented coordination, and administrative processes shape implementation outcomes on the ground. By combining institutional, normative, and lived-experience perspectives, the study contributes empirical evidence from Kakuma and Kalobeyei that strengthens academic understanding of policy domestication, local governance, and the practical realities of refugee integration in protracted displacement settings.

1.6.2 Policy Justification

From a policy perspective, this study contributes beyond existing work on refugee governance in Kenya by moving past broad discussions of refugee protection and examining how integration policies actually function within local governance systems and everyday community life. While previous studies have largely focused on legal reforms, humanitarian assistance, or sector-specific outcomes, this study provides grounded evidence on how major frameworks such as the Refugees Act 2021, KISED, and the Shirika Plan are being implemented in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, and why gaps continue to emerge between policy intention and lived experience. The findings show that the challenge is no longer the absence of progressive refugee policies, but the uneven capacity to operationalize them through coordinated institutions, efficient administrative systems, and meaningful participation by both refugees and host communities. In this way, the study adds practical insight into how state capacity, local legitimacy, and perceptions of fairness directly shape the success of refugee integration policies in practice.

The study also contributes by linking refugee governance more clearly to sustainable development and local inclusion agendas. Its findings directly support the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees alongside Kenya's domestic refugee reforms by identifying where administrative bottlenecks, weak coordination,

and unequal service delivery continue to slow integration outcomes. By highlighting these gaps, the study provides evidence that can help institutions such as UNHCR, county governments, and national agencies strengthen coordination systems, simplify documentation and work authorization processes, and improve participatory governance structures. The study further supports the achievement of SDG 1 on poverty reduction, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, SDG 11 on inclusive and sustainable communities, and SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, all of which are closely connected to refugee inclusion and equitable access to opportunities (United Nations, [UN],2015). In doing so, it reinforces the broader policy commitment of “leaving no one behind” by showing that integration becomes sustainable only when policies translate into fair and visible improvements in people’s everyday lives.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study focused on how global humanitarian policies are translated into local refugee integration practices within Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement in Turkana County, Kenya. Particular attention was given to the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, and how these international commitments were implemented through Kenya’s Refugees Act 2021, KISED, and the Shirika Plan (UNHCR, 2018). The study examined how these policies moved from international and national policy spaces into local governance systems, service delivery structures, and everyday experiences within Kakuma Municipality. By concentrating on Kakuma and Kalobeyei, the research was able to capture the practical realities of integrated settlement approaches in one of the largest and most policy-relevant refugee-hosting areas in the region.

The study also focused on both refugees and host communities in order to understand how integration policies affected social relations, access to services, livelihoods, and participation in local governance processes. Rather than looking only at policy documents or institutional frameworks, the research examined how people experienced inclusion, fairness, and self-reliance in practice. The time scope covered the period from 2015, when the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement was established, to 2026, allowing the study to assess key policy reforms and shifts toward development-oriented refugee governance over time (Barbelet, 2018). This scope provided a grounded understanding of how global humanitarian norms are adapted within local political, social, and institutional realities in protracted refugee settings.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

A key limitation of this study was the difficulty in accessing complete and fully reliable data on refugee integration and socio-economic participation within Kalobeyei. Many refugee-related policies and programs were still evolving during the study period, and information on informal livelihoods, mobility, and everyday social interactions was often fragmented or not systematically documented. To address this challenge, the study relied on multiple sources of data, including government reports, UNHCR publications, NGO assessments, surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews, allowing findings to be verified through triangulation and comparison across sources. Snowball sampling was also used to reach participants who were less visible within formal records, particularly refugee youth, women, elders, and persons with disabilities whose experiences are often overlooked in official datasets.

Another limitation involved the possibility of response bias, since refugees and host community members sometimes viewed integration policies differently based on their

social and economic experiences. Refugees were more likely to focus on challenges related to documentation, movement restrictions, and access to livelihoods, while some host community members emphasized concerns about competition over resources and services. Rather than treating these differences as inconsistencies, the study understood them as part of the broader realities shaping integration in Kakuma and Kalobeyi. To reduce bias and strengthen balance in the findings, the study included perspectives from government officials, humanitarian actors, policy experts, and community representatives. Participants were also assured of confidentiality and anonymity throughout the research process to encourage open and honest responses, helping to improve the credibility and trustworthiness of the study.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

The study assumed that refugees, host community members, and institutional actors involved in integrated settlement programs in Kakuma would share their experiences openly and provide information that reflects their real understanding of how global humanitarian policies influence daily life and program implementation. It was also assumed that staff working with government institutions and humanitarian agencies had sufficient knowledge of key policy frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees and related national instruments, and were therefore able to explain how these policies are applied in practice within settlement settings (UNHCR, 2018). These assumptions were important because the quality of the findings depended on participants having both lived experience and practical knowledge of how integration policies operate on the ground.

The study further assumed that global humanitarian policies are not only well defined at the international level but are also consistently reflected in national and local

implementation structures governing refugee settlements in Kenya, particularly in Kakuma. It was also assumed that institutions such as the Government of Kenya and humanitarian partners operate within clear policy frameworks that guide integration efforts, even where implementation challenges exist. In addition, the study assumed that relevant respondents and institutional information would be reasonably accessible to the researcher and sufficient to support an informed analysis of how global humanitarian commitments are translated into local integration practices.

1.10 Chapter Summary

This chapter introduced the study by outlining the problem of how global humanitarian policies are applied in Kalobeyei, described the research objectives and questions, and highlighted the significance of understanding how refugees and host communities experience integration. The chapter also provided a brief overview of the scope, limitations, and structure of the study, setting the stage for the rest of the research. The next chapter introduces the Literature review.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Chapter Two presents a review of literature relevant to the study and situated the research within existing scholarly and policy debates concerning global humanitarian policy and integrated refugee settlement. Further, the chapter discusses theoretical perspectives underpinning the study, identified knowledge gaps, and concludes by presenting the conceptual framework that guided the research.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Liberal Institutionalism Keohane and Nye *et al.* (1977)

This study required a multi-theoretical approach that accounted for both the design of international norms and their local enactment. Liberalism, developed in the modern sense by thinkers such as Immanuel Kant (1795), John Locke, and more recently institutionalized through the work of Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye (1977), emphasizes international cooperation, institutional frameworks, and the role of norms and law in shaping state behavior

One major critique of Liberal Institutionalism is that it overestimates the effectiveness of international institutions in constraining state behavior. Mearsheimer (1994) states that institutions have minimal independent influence on state behavior because they largely reflect the interests of dominant states rather than shaping those interests. Consequently, Liberal Institutionalism may exaggerate the capacity of institutions to foster genuine cooperation in the international system. According to Grieco (1998), the focus on relative gains can undermine the cooperative arrangements envisioned by

Liberal Institutionalism, thereby limiting the effectiveness of international institutions. According to (Moravcsik, 1997), domestic political preferences and societal interests play a crucial role in determining state behavior in international cooperation, suggesting that institutional explanations alone may not fully capture the complexity of global governance.

In the context of refugee governance Liberal institutionalism explains how global humanitarian policies, including the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, emerge from international cooperation, shared responsibility, and institutional mechanisms designed to promote self-reliance, inclusion, and protection for displaced populations (UNHCR, 2018). The theory accounts for the adoption of these norms into Kenya's Refugees Act 2021 and development-oriented strategies like KISED, illustrating how supranational commitments are operationalized within national policy frameworks. However, Liberal institutionalism alone underrepresents the agency of local actors, the influence of community identities, and the social interpretation of norms, leaving gaps in understanding how policies are negotiated in settlements like Kakuma.

2.2.2 Constructivism by Alexander Wendt *et al.*, (1992)

Constructivism, as theorized by Alexander Wendt (1992), Martha Finnemore (1996), and Nicholas Onuf (1989), complements the Liberal Institutionalism perspective by foregrounding the socially constructed nature of reality, norms, and identities, emphasizing the role of local actors in interpreting and adapting global frameworks. This theory highlights how refugees, host communities, and local governance structures in Kakuma actively negotiate the meaning of integration, participation, and inclusion, shaping how global policies are domesticated on the ground. Constructivism provides

an explanatory lens for the dependent variable local refugee integration frameworks by demonstrating that policies are not simply imposed top-down but are mediated through discourse, social interactions, and locally constructed norms. Nevertheless, Constructivism alone does not fully account for the creation of global humanitarian norms or the power dynamics between international institutions and states, which are critical in understanding how Kenya initially adopts global frameworks.

According to Wendt (1999), the international system is not inherently characterized by conflict or cooperation; rather, its nature depends on how states interpret their relationships and identities within the system. This perspective highlights that state interests and behaviors are not fixed but evolve through social interaction and historical context. Furthermore, identities and interests are mutually constituted, meaning that how states define themselves influences the policies they pursue. For example, states that identify as democratic or peaceful actors may be more inclined to support cooperative international initiatives and multilateral agreements. Constructivism offers a valuable framework for understanding international relations by highlighting the significance of norms, identities, and social processes in shaping state behavior and global governance.

By combining Liberalism and Constructivism, the study bridges the global-local nexus: Liberalism accounts for the development, dissemination, and institutionalization of global humanitarian policies, while Constructivism explains how these policies are interpreted, resisted, or adapted within Kakuma's local governance structures and community networks. This dual approach aligns directly with the objective of the study: it enables examination of the mechanisms through which policies are domesticated, evaluation of structural factors influencing adoption, and assessment of the practical implications of policy implementation. Together, these theories provide a

comprehensive framework for analyzing how global norms interact with local realities, ensuring that the research captures both institutional design and local agency in refugee integration.

2.2.3 Mechanisms through which Global Humanitarian Policies are Domesticated within Kenya's Local Refugee Integration Frameworks.

Liberal Institutionalism traces how global commitments such as the Global Compact on Refugees are translated into national instruments like the Refugees Act 2021 and operational frameworks such as KISED, highlighting formal pathways of policy transfer, coordination structures, and institutional design (Keohane & Nye ,1977). However, when applied to this objective, a clear gap emerged: while the theory explained how policies are adopted and structured at higher levels, it did not adequately account for why these same policies became uneven, diluted, or selectively implemented once they reached local governance systems. The field-level evidence in Kakuma therefore became critical in testing this limitation, particularly in understanding how administrative procedures, communication gaps, and institutional capacity shaped what policy domestication actually looked like in practice.

Constructivism complements this by shifting attention to how these policies are understood, interpreted, and reshaped by refugees, host communities, and local officials in everyday settings. Through this lens, domestication is not simply a technical process of implementation but a social process where meaning is negotiated through lived experience, local priorities, and community interactions (Wendt, 1992). Yet here too, a gap became visible: while Constructivism explained variation in interpretation and local agency, it was less precise in explaining how these interpretations were structured or constrained by formal institutions and power hierarchies. By bringing both theories into the same analytical space, this study addressed these gaps by showing that

mechanisms of domestication sat at the intersection of formal institutional design and informal social negotiation, where global norms are neither fully imposed nor entirely locally constructed, but continuously reshaped through the interaction between policy systems and everyday realities in Kalobeyei.

2.2.4 Structural Factors influencing the Adoption of Global Humanitarian Policies in the Local Refugee Integration Scheme

Liberal Institutionalism explains how formal governance arrangements, legal frameworks, and institutional coordination are expected to enable implementation. Through this lens, policies such as the Global Compact on Refugees are translated into national and local systems via instruments like the Refugees Act 2021 and development frameworks such as KISEDPA, with the assumption that clear rules, shared responsibilities, and institutional cooperation will facilitate adoption (Keohane & Nye, 1977). However, when this objective was tested against realities in Kakuma, a gap became evident. The theory assumed that once institutions are in place, implementation will follow relatively smoothly, yet it did not sufficiently explain how weak county capacity, overlapping mandates, resource constraints, and bureaucratic inefficiencies disrupted this process. The field evidence therefore challenged the idea that institutional presence alone guaranteed effective policy adoption, showing instead that the quality, coordination, and resourcing of these institutions are what ultimately determine outcomes.

Constructivism (Finnemore, 1996) brings in a necessary layer by showing that structural factors are not only technical or administrative but are also shaped by how different actors perceive and respond to them. In Kakuma, issues such as documentation systems, service access, and resource allocation were being experienced differently by refugees and host communities, influencing whether policies are seen as fair, inclusive,

or exclusionary. This perspective helped explain why similar structures can produce different outcomes depending on local interpretations and social dynamics. At the same time, a limitation emerged when applying Constructivism to this objective: while it captured how people navigated and made sense of structural constraints, it did not fully account for the deeper institutional and material inequalities that shape those constraints in the first place. By combining both theories, the study showed that structural factors influencing policy adoption are both institutional and socially mediated, where governance systems set the conditions, but everyday experiences and perceptions determined how those conditions are accepted, resisted, or adapted in practice.

2.2.5 Practical Implications of Domesticating Global Humanitarian Policies on Local Refugee Integration Frameworks Within Kakuma.

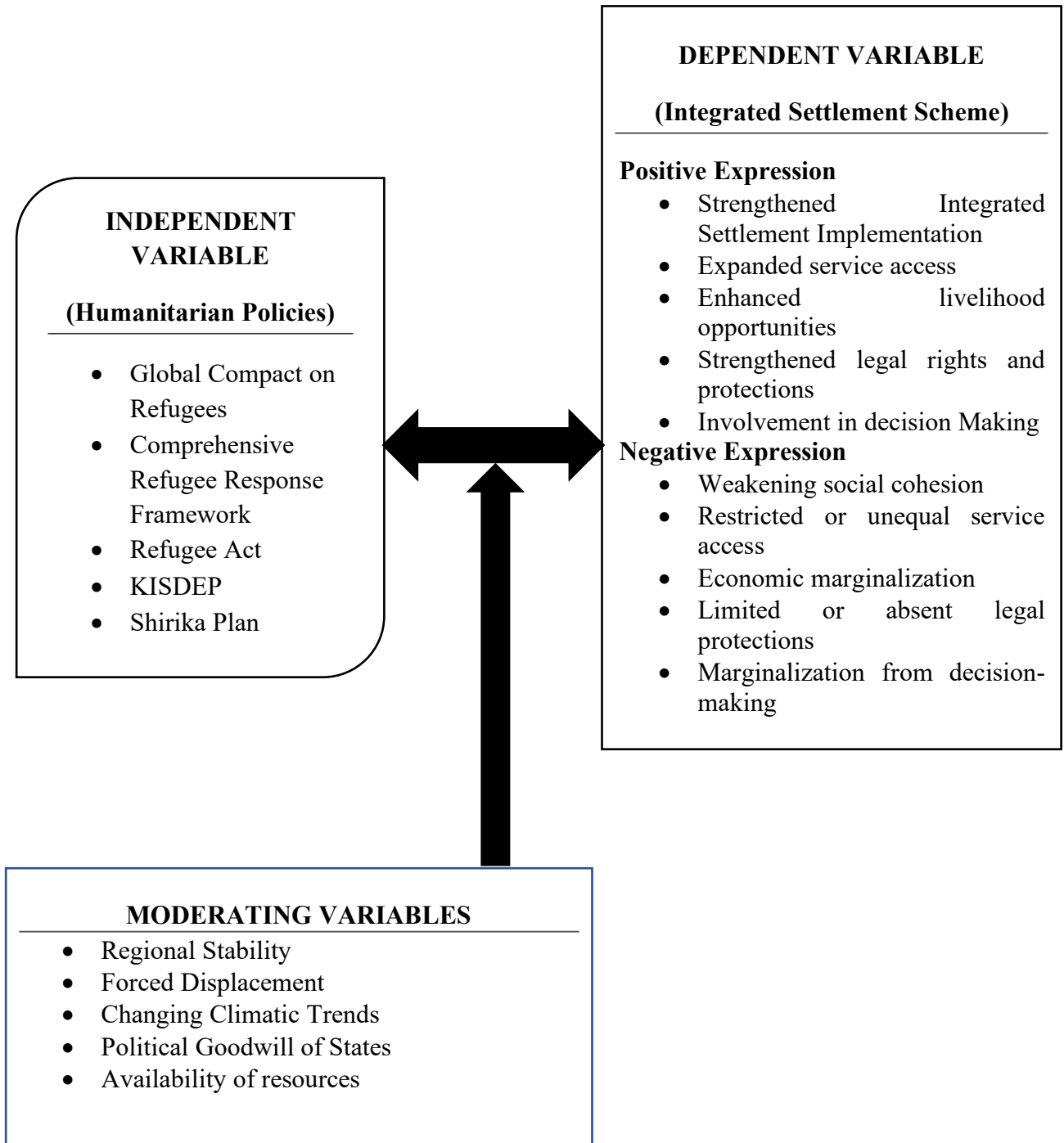
Liberal Institutionalism guides in explaining what these policies are intended to achieve once implemented. It frames outcomes such as self-reliance, access to services, and socio-economic inclusion as the result of coordinated institutional action flowing from global commitments like the Global Compact on Refugees into national policies such as the Refugees Act 2021 and programs like KISED (Keohane & Nye, 1977). From this perspective, it is safe to assume that effective implementation should translate into improved livelihoods, stronger service systems, and greater inclusion. However, when tested against field realities, a clear limitation appeared. The theory did not adequately explain why, despite strong policy alignment, outcomes on the ground remained uneven, with gaps in service quality, delays in work authorization, and limited participation. This objective therefore exposed the disconnect between intended policy outcomes and lived experiences, showing that institutional design alone could not fully account for the variation in how benefits were realized at community level.

Constructivism (Wendt ,1992) deepens this analysis by focusing on how these policies are actually experienced and interpreted in everyday life. In Kakuma, integration was not primarily understood through policy documents but through daily interactions in markets, schools, and shared services, where refugees and host communities negotiated coexistence, opportunity, and fairness. This perspective helped explain why some policy outcomes, such as improved social relations, could emerge even when formal systems were weak, while other intended outcomes, like participation and equitable access, remained limited. At the same time, Constructivism had its own limits in this context, as it did not fully capture how material constraints such as infrastructure shortages, funding limitations, and administrative barriers restricted what was practically possible. By combining both theories, the study showed that the real implications of policy domestication lied at the intersection of institutional delivery and lived experience, where policies only became meaningful when they translated into tangible, equitable improvements in people's everyday lives.

2.3 Conceptual Framework Model

Figure 2.1

Conceptual Framework Model showing the interplay between Global Humanitarian Policies and the Integrated Settlement Scheme



Source: Author (2025)

2.3.1 Independent Variable: Global Humanitarian Policies

Humanitarian policies, including frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (Betts & Collier, 2017), The Refugee Act 2021, KISED P and the Shirika Plan constituted the independent variable in this study, as they established the normative and operational standards intended to guide refugee protection, rights, and inclusion in host countries. In the context of Kalobeyei, these policies provided the overarching goals for integration (Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, 2021), defining legal entitlements, economic opportunities, and access to social services for refugees. Survey indicators related to knowledge of policy rights, access to work permits, and perceived fairness of service delivery captured how these policies were understood and experienced by refugees and host communities. Focus group discussions and key informant interviews further illuminated how these global mandates were interpreted, adapted, or constrained by local actors, highlighting both the aspirations and the limitations inherent in policy translation to practice.

2.3.2 Moderating Variables

Regional stability, patterns of forced displacement, changing climatic conditions, political goodwill among states, and the availability of resources acted as moderating variables influencing how global humanitarian policies were translated into local integration outcomes in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. Continued instability in neighboring countries contributed to fluctuating refugee inflows, while climate-related pressures such as drought and resource scarcity affected livelihoods, access to services, and relations between refugees and host communities. At the same time, the willingness of the Government of Kenya and international partners to support integration policies shaped the extent to which frameworks such as the Refugees Act 2021, KISED P, and the Global Compact on Refugees could be operationalized in practice. The study also

found that limited financial, institutional, and infrastructural resources constrained implementation, affecting service quality, economic opportunities, and participation. Evidence from surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews demonstrated that these broader structural conditions significantly shaped whether global policy commitments translated into meaningful improvements in inclusion, self-reliance, and coexistence at the local level.

2.3.3 Dependent Variable: Integrated Settlement Scheme

The integrated settlement scheme represented the dependent variable and constituted the measurable outcome of policy domestication and governance mediation. Indicators included the degree of refugee-host interaction, equitable access to services, economic inclusion, legal empowerment, and participation in local decision-making processes. Survey statistics captured the percentage of respondents accessing services, employment, or community decision-making, combined with FGDS and KII narratives, provided evidence of how integration is operationalized in practice. In Kalobeyei, the integrated settlement is not only a physical space but also a socio-political construct which reflected the cumulative influence of global policies and local governance on lived experiences, social cohesion, and sustainable inclusion.

2.3.4 Conceptual Framework Summary

The conceptual framework illustrated the dynamic relationship between global humanitarian policies, national and local governance structures, and the integrated settlement scheme, emphasizing the process of policy domestication and its socio-economic and cultural outcomes. Global policies set the normative parameters for inclusion and protection, while governance structures at county and local levels mediate these policies through planning, resource allocation, and service delivery. The integrated settlement scheme, as the dependent variable, captured the realized outcomes

of these interactions, reflecting the degree of integration, equity, and socio-economic participation among refugees and host communities. This framework aligned with the the mixed-methods approach in the study, linking survey indicators with qualitative data from FGDSs and KIIs to provide a holistic understanding of how structural, administrative, and social factors converged to influence integration outcomes in Kalobeyei. By systematically mapping these relationships, the framework not only clarified the theoretical underpinnings in the study but also guided the interpretation of findings in relation to policy effectiveness, local governance capacity, and lived experiences of refugee and host populations.

2.4 Chapter Summary

This chapter presented the literature and theoretical perspectives that informed the study. The chapter also identified research gaps and presented the conceptual framework that guided the overall investigation. The next chapter introduces the research and methodology.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology used in the study. It outlines the research design, study population, sampling procedures, data collection methods, and analytical approaches applied to generate evidence for the study objectives. The chapter also explains the ethical considerations and measures taken to ensure validity and reliability of the findings.

3.2 Research Paradigm

This study used an interpretivist research paradigm, meaning it focused on understanding how people make sense of their own experiences within a specific context. Instead of assuming there is one fixed reality, interpretivism recognizes that reality is shaped by people's perspectives, interactions, and social environments (Schwartz-Shea & Yanow, 2012). In the context of Kalobeyei, this approach was important because refugees, host community members, and institutional actors do not experience or understand integration in the same way. Their views are shaped by their daily lives, roles, and challenges, so the study aimed to capture these different perspectives as they are lived and expressed.

This approach also meant being aware that the research process is not completely neutral. The researcher's role, choices, and interactions influence how data is collected and interpreted, so attention was given to being reflective and careful throughout the study. To make sure the findings were both grounded and reliable, the study combined qualitative and quantitative methods, using surveys for broad patterns, key informant

interviews and focus group discussions to understand the deeper meaning behind those patterns. This allowed the research to go beyond numbers and capture the real experiences behind refugee integration, making the findings both credible and easy to relate to in practical terms.

3.3 Research Design

This study used a descriptive case study design which is useful when the aim of a study is to understand a real-life issue in depth, especially where policy, institutions, and everyday experiences are closely connected (Yin ,2018). By focusing on Kakuma and Kalobeyei as a single case, the study was able to explore how international refugee frameworks, national laws, and local governance systems interact in practice and shape relations between refugees and host communities.

The study also applied methodological triangulation by combining both quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the issue from different angles. Surveys helped identify broader patterns in areas such as access to services, livelihoods, and participation, while focus group discussions and key informant interviews provided deeper insight into people's experiences, perceptions, and institutional challenges. Using different methods to examine the same issue strengthened the credibility of the findings because it allowed information from one source to be compared and confirmed with another. This approach made it possible to capture not only what was happening in Kakuma, but also why it was happening and how people experienced it in their daily lives.

3.4 Site of study and Unit of Analysis

The study was conducted in the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement- Village One and the neighboring host community village of Esikirai in Turkana County. Kalobeyei was

selected because it represents Kenya's most deliberate shift away from the traditional refugee camp model toward an integrated settlement approach that combines humanitarian support with long-term development and self-reliance strategies. Established in 2015 and later formalized under the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP), the settlement was designed to reduce pressure on the overcrowded Kakuma Refugee Camp while promoting shared services, market integration, and coexistence between refugees and host communities (UNHCR, 2018). Unlike older refugee camps in Kenya such as Dadaab and the earlier sections of Kakuma, which were primarily organized around emergency humanitarian assistance and encampment policies, Kalobeyei was intentionally structured around the principles later reinforced by the Global Compact on Refugees, including inclusion, socio-economic participation, and shared development benefits. This made it the most suitable site for examining how global humanitarian policies are translated into local governance and everyday integration practices within the Kenyan context.

Kalobeyei also provided an ideal setting for this study because it brings together multiple actors, including national government institutions, county authorities, UN agencies, humanitarian organizations, and development partners, all working within one integrated policy environment (Betts *et al.*, 2017). The primary unit of analysis consisted of refugees and host community members who directly experience the effects of integration policies in their daily lives through access to services, livelihoods, and social interaction. Policymakers, administrators, and implementing agencies formed the secondary unit of analysis because they play a key role in designing and implementing these policies. To ensure the study captured both institutional and community perspectives, data collection focused on Kalobeyei Village One and the adjacent host community of Esikiriait. Village One was selected because it is the largest and one of

the most socially diverse sections of the settlement, hosting refugees from different national backgrounds and reflecting a wide range of experiences related to livelihoods, governance, and service access. Pairing it with Esikirait allowed the study to compare refugee and host community experiences in a practical and balanced way without attempting to cover the entire settlement population.

3.5 Target Population

The target population for this study consisted of refugees living in Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and members of the surrounding host community in Turkana County. According to UNHCR population statistics released in March 2025, Kalobeyei hosted 78,905 refugees and asylum seekers from different nationalities (UNHCR ,2025). The host population context was informed by Turkana County's broader population of 926,976 recorded during the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, [KNBS],2019). However, because the study focused specifically on Kalobeyei Village One and the neighboring host community of Esikirait, the accessible study population was narrowed to 8,500 refugees and 3,800 host community members, giving a total target population of 12,300 individuals. The accessible population was narrowed to respondents living within these two locations.

To create a workable sampling frame, the study converted population figures into household estimates using the Turkana County average household size of five persons per household, as reported by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2019). The calculation was done as follows:

Refugee households: $8,500 \div 5 = 1,700$ households

Host community households: $3,800 \div 5 = 760$ households

Total estimated households: $1,700 + 760 = 2,460$ households

These 2,460 households formed the sampling frame used for determining the survey sample size and proportional representation in the study.

3.6 Sampling Strategies and Sample Size Determination

The study used the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula to determine the survey sample size because it provides a reliable way of calculating representative samples from a known population. The calculation was based on the estimated 2,460 households drawn from Kalobeyei Village One and Esikiriait. The formula used was:

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

Where:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \text{required sample size} \\ X^2 &= \text{chi-square value at 95\% confidence level} = 3.841 \\ N &= \text{population size} = 2,460 \\ P &= \text{population proportion} = 0.5 \\ d &= \text{margin of error} = 0.05 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the figures into the formula:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \frac{3.841 \times 2460 \times 0.5(1 - 0.5)}{0.05^2(2460 - 1) + 3.841 \times 0.5(1 - 0.5)} \\ S &= \frac{3.841 \times 2460 \times 0.25}{0.0025(2459) + 0.96025} \\ S &= \frac{2362.215}{6.1475 + 0.96025} \\ S &= \frac{2362.215}{7.10775} \\ S &\approx 332 \end{aligned}$$

The statistically recommended sample size was therefore 332 respondents.

The research was designed as a qualitative-dominant mixed-methods study, where sample adequacy is determined not only by statistical representation but also by the depth, richness, and triangulation of data collected across multiple sources (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). For this reason, the survey component was scaled to 102

respondents and complemented with extensive qualitative engagement through six focus group discussions involving 60 participants and five key informant interviews with institutional actors directly involved in refugee governance and service delivery.

The Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table provides a recommended sample for large-scale survey generalization, but it also allows researchers to adjust sample sizes depending on the nature, scope, and methodological orientation of the study, especially where the objective is analytical depth rather than population-wide prediction. The reduction from 332 to 100 respondents was therefore made deliberately to balance statistical coverage with intensive qualitative inquiry.

Preliminary field assessment showed that the population within Kalobeyei Village One and Esikirait shared relatively similar experiences regarding service access, livelihoods, and integration challenges, meaning that thematic consistency could be achieved with a smaller but proportionally representative survey sample when combined with qualitative methods. In addition, the study prioritized proportional representation of both refugee and host communities, ensuring that the reduced sample still reflected the actual demographic structure of the study area. This approach strengthened the quality of engagement with respondents, allowed more time for detailed interviews and discussions, and ensured that quantitative findings could be effectively cross-checked against qualitative evidence, thereby maintaining methodological rigor despite the smaller survey sample size.

The proportional allocation across the two groups was further calculated using the household ratios derived from the sampling frame. Refugee households represented 1,700 out of 2,460 households:

$$1700 \div 2460 \times 100 = 69\%$$

Host community households represented 760 out of 2,460 households:

$$760 \div 2460 \times 100 = 31\%$$

These proportions were then applied to the final survey sample of 100 respondents:

$$\text{Refugee respondents: } 69\% \times 100 = 69$$

$$\text{Host community respondents: } 31\% \times 100 = 31$$

This produced a final survey sample of 69 refugees and 31 host community members.

Within the refugee sample, further stratification was done by nationality to ensure representation of the major refugee groups living in Kalobeyi Village One. Population proportions from settlement records guided this allocation, with South Sudanese refugees forming the majority of respondents because they constitute the largest refugee population in the settlement.

Table 3.1

Proportional Allocation of Survey respondents by Village

Settlement Village	/	Estimated Population	Estimated Households	Population Proportion	Allocated Sample
Kalobeyi Village (Refugees)	One	8,500	1,700	69%	69
Esikiriait Community	Host	3,800	760	31%	31
Total		12,300	2,460	100%	100

Source: Author (2025)

For qualitative data collection, the study conducted six focus group discussions involving a total of 60 participants. The discussions were divided equally between refugees and host community members and further organized by gender and age categories to encourage open participation. The structure included refugee men, refugee

women, refugee youth, host community men, host community women, and host community youth groups. Each focus group discussion consisted of 10 participants. Efforts were also made to include elders and persons with disabilities within these categories to ensure diverse perspectives.

Table 3.1

Summary of Sample Size

Population Group	Target Population	Sampling Frame	Sampling Technique	Sampling Strategy	Final Sample
Refugees – Kalobeyei Village One	78,905 refugees in Kalobeyei Settlement	Adult refugees (18+) in Village One	Stratified + Simple Random Sampling	Proportional allocation by gender, age, vulnerability	69
Host Community – Esikiriait	Turkana County population 926,976	Adult host residents (18+) in selected village	Stratified + Simple Random Sampling	Socioeconomic and demographic stratification	31
Refugee FGDSs – Village One	Subset of Village One adults	Youth, men, women (incl. elders & PWDs)	Purposive	3 groups × 10 participants	30
Host FGDSs Esikiriait	Subset of host village adults	Youth, men, women (incl. elders & PWDs)	Purposive	3 groups × 10 participants	30
Key Informants	Institutional actors in Kakuma/Kalobeyei	DRS, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, Municipality, Local administrator	Purposive (Expert)	One per institution	5
Total Participants	—	—	—	—	165

Source: Author (2025)

In addition, five key informant interviews were conducted with individuals directly involved in refugee governance and policy implementation. These included representatives from the Department of Refugee Services, Turkana County government, UNHCR, humanitarian organizations, and local leadership structures. Purposive sampling was used for key informants because the study specifically required

participants with technical knowledge and institutional experience related to refugee integration and policy implementation.

The combination of stratified survey sampling, purposive qualitative sampling, and proportional allocation ensured that the study captured both statistical representation and in-depth perspectives, making the findings balanced, credible, and grounded in the realities of Kalobeyei and the surrounding host community. These ratios directly informed the proportional allocation of the final survey sample.

3.7 Methods of Data Collection

This study utilized both primary and secondary data sources to enhance the comprehensiveness and credibility of the research. Primary data was collected through structured surveys, focus group discussions (FGDSs), and key informant interviews (KIIs), while secondary data was obtained from credible institutional sources including UNHCR, Cities Alliance, and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. The use of multiple data sources strengthened the reliability of the study, while methodological triangulation, involving the cross-verification of information from surveys, FGDSs, and interviews, enhanced the validity of the findings. Data collection methods were aligned with interpretivist and constructivist research paradigms, emphasizing the exploration of participants' perceptions, meanings, and lived experiences related to refugee integration in Kalobeyei.

3.7.1 Surveys

Surveys were used as one of the main tools for collecting data in this study. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered using both closed-ended and open-ended questions. The closed questions helped generate measurable data on issues such as service access, participation, and livelihoods, while the open-ended questions gave

respondents space to explain their experiences and views in their own words. This combination made it possible to capture both clear statistical patterns and the everyday realities behind them, which is considered an effective approach in mixed-methods research (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

Table 3.2

Summary of the Sample Survey Size, Total Population

Population Group	Estimated Population	Proportional Allocation (%)	Sample Size
Refugees in Kalobeyei	44,000	68.8%	69
Host Community (Ward)	20,000	31.2%	31
Total	64,000	100%	100

Source: Author (2025)

Table 3.3

Summary of the Sample Survey Size by Nationality

Population Group	Subgroup	Proportional Allocation (%)	Sample Size
Refugees (Kalobeyei)	South Sudanese	71.7%	47
	Burundians	12.0%	8
	Ethiopians	6.9%	5
	Congolese	6.2%	4
	Sudanese	1.0%	1
	Ugandans	1.2%	1
	Rwandans	0.6%	1
	Tanzanians	1.0%	1
	Somalis, Eritreans, and Others	0.4%	1
Host Community (Turkana)	Stratified by income, education, and employment	100% of host allocation	31
Total	—	100%	100

Source: Author (2025)

3.7.2 Key Informant Interviews

Key Informant Interviews were conducted with individuals working in government institutions, humanitarian organizations, and policy-related agencies involved in refugee integration in Kalobeyei. These interviews helped the study gather informed perspectives from people directly engaged in planning, coordinating, and implementing

refugee policies and programs. Participants shared their experiences on how integration initiatives are carried out, the challenges institutions face, and how international humanitarian frameworks are translated into local practice.

This method was particularly useful because it provided a broader understanding of issues that are not always visible at community level, such as institutional coordination, policy implementation, legal procedures, and administrative challenges. Speaking directly with officials and practitioners also helped the study understand the gap between policy intentions and actual practice on the ground. The interviews created space for participants to explain issues in detail and from their own professional experience, making the findings more grounded and context-sensitive.

Table 3.4

Summary of key Informant Interview Participants

Category	Specific Role
Government Officials	Local Administrator
	Representative from the Department of Refugee Services (DRS)
Humanitarian Actors	UNHCR Representative
	UN-Habitat Representative
Local Governance	Manager or Assistant Manager of Kakuma Municipality

Source: Author (2025)

3.7.3 Focus Group Discussions

Focus Group Discussions were used to gather detailed, lived experiences of refugee integration from both refugee and host community members. Instead of spreading the

discussions across many locations, the study focused on one selected village in each community to allow for deeper engagement and more focused conversations.

Table 3.5

Summary of the FGDS plan for the Kalobeyei refugee and host communities

Community	Village	FGDS Group	Participants per Group	Stratification	Justification
Refugees	Kalobeyei Village One	Youth	10	Below 35 years, mixed gender, include PWDs	Capture generational perspectives and diverse nationalities
Refugees	Kalobeyei Village One	Men	10	Above 35 years, include elders	Reflect senior male perspectives, decision-making roles, and integration experiences
Refugees	Kalobeyei Village One	Women	10	Above 35 years, include elders and PWDs	Capture senior female perspectives, household management, and community integration
Host Community	Esikiriat	Youth	10	Below 35 years, mixed gender, include PWDs	Represent younger Turkana perspectives on integration
Host Community	Esikiriat	Men	10	Above 35 years, include elders	Capture senior male perspectives on governance and community engagement
Host Community	Esikiriat	Women	10	Above 35 years, include elders and PWDs	Understand women's role in community decision-making and social integration

Source: Author (2025)

Three separate discussions were held in Kalobeyei Village One village, grouped by youth, adult men, and adult women, while also ensuring that elders and persons with disabilities were included so that different social and vulnerability groups were represented. A similar structure was used in Esikiriat host community village to allow for a fair comparison between refugee and host perspectives. Each discussion brought

together about ten participants, which helped keep the conversations open and interactive while still allowing everyone a chance to speak.

3.7.4 Training of Research Assistants

Research assistants received structured training prior to field deployment to ensure consistency, ethical rigor, and cultural sensitivity throughout the data collection process. The training covered research objectives, qualitative interviewing techniques, facilitation of focus group discussions, ethical considerations including informed consent and confidentiality, and accurate recording of responses in line with established field research standards (Patton ,2015). Particular emphasis was placed on translation accuracy and neutrality to minimize interviewer bias and ensure that participants' perspectives were conveyed faithfully across languages. To support linguistic and cultural inclusivity, the team included one assistant from the Turkana host community, one from the broader refugee community leadership structure, one South Sudanese assistant fluent in Nuer, Dinka and Arabic, and one Ethiopian assistant proficient in Amharic and Afaan Oromo, enabling effective communication across the major population groups in Kalobeyei. These assistants played a critical role not only in real-time translation during interviews and focus groups but also in clarifying culturally specific concepts, thereby strengthening the reliability and contextual validity of the collected data

3.7.5 Secondary Data

Secondary data were drawn from policy documents, reports, and scholarly literature covering the period from 2015 to 2025, encompassing the establishment of the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and subsequent policy developments central to Kenya's refugee integration efforts. Data from 2019 provided baseline socio-economic

information for Turkana County, as reported by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS ,2020), while refugee data from 2025 reflected the contemporary status of refugee governance in the Kakuma-Kalobeyei region, (UNHCR ,2025). The selected timeframe enabled a longitudinal perspective on policy shifts and their practical implications, enhancing the analytical rigor of the study.

3.7.6 Validity of Research Instruments

Validity in this study was ensured through the careful design of research instruments to accurately capture the phenomena under investigation. Methodological triangulation across multiple data sources—including surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, structured observations, and secondary documents enhanced the comprehensiveness and credibility of the findings by enabling cross-verification of evidence. Construct validity was further reinforced by aligning all data collection instruments with the theoretical framework in the study, linking Liberal Institutionalism to global policy mechanisms and Constructivism to local integration dynamics. Through this combination of rigorous instrument design, multi-source triangulation, and theoretical coherence, the study effectively captured both the independent variable (global humanitarian policy) and the dependent variable (local refugee integration outcomes), thereby enhancing the accuracy and reliability of the research findings.

3.7.7 Reliability of Research Instruments

Reliability in this study was ensured by making sure that the tools used to collect data worked consistently across all participants and settings. The same survey questions, interview guides, and focus group discussion prompts were used throughout the study so that everyone responded to the same set of issues in a structured and comparable way. This helped reduce variation caused by differences in how questions were asked or interpreted, making the responses more stable and easier to compare across groups.

To further strengthen reliability, the process of collecting and analyzing data was kept clear and consistent from start to finish. Care was taken to apply the same procedures in every interview, discussion, and survey session, and the analysis followed a systematic approach so that findings could be traced back to the original responses. This consistency means that if the study were repeated in a similar setting using the same tools, it would likely produce similar results, which increases confidence in the credibility and dependability of the findings.

3.8 Data Analysis and Presentation

Table 3.6

Summary of the relationships between the variables (independent, moderating, and dependent variables), data collection and analysis methods, and the relevant theoretical frameworks that guide the study

Variables	Relationship	Data Collection Methods	Data Analysis Methods
Independent Variable: Global Humanitarian Policies	Global humanitarian policies influence the design and implementation of integrated settlement schemes.	Document analysis of policy frameworks, guidelines, and reports; Interviews with policymakers and humanitarian organizations.	Qualitative analysis of policy content; Thematic coding of interview data.
Moderating Variables: Regional Stability; Forced Displacement; Changing Climatic Trends; Political Goodwill of States; Availability of Resources	These factors moderate the relationship between global humanitarian policies and integrated settlement schemes.	Interviews with government officials, local authorities, and community leaders; Field observations of governance practices.	Qualitative analysis; Comparative analysis.
Dependent Variable: Integrated Settlement Scheme	The integrated settlement scheme is the outcome influenced by global policies and local governance structures.	Case studies of settlement schemes; Surveys of refugee and host community members; Focus groups with community organizations.	Statistical analysis of survey data; Content analysis of case studies; Descriptive and inferential statistics.

Source: Author (2025)

Data from the survey was analyzed using a mixed-methods approach that integrated both qualitative and quantitative techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of refugee integration dynamics within the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. Quantitative data were processed using descriptive and inferential statistics to summarize trends and examine potential relationships between key variables. Qualitative data from open-ended survey questions, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews were subjected to thematic analysis, with patterns and narratives systematically coded to capture the lived experiences, perceptions, and priorities of participants. This triangulation of quantitative and qualitative data enhanced the analytical depth of the study and strengthened the credibility of the findings by presenting both measurable outcomes and contextual.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were central to this study to ensure that everyone who took part was treated with respect, dignity, and care throughout the research process. The study followed widely accepted international ethical standards, including the Declaration of Helsinki and UNHCR guidance on research involving refugees, which emphasize protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring voluntary participation (World Medical Association ,2013). Before fieldwork began, ethical approval was granted by the Laikipia University Institutional Review Board, and research authorization was obtained from NACOSTI, ensuring the study met national and institutional research requirements.

Informed consent was not treated as a formality but as an ongoing conversation. Because of literacy levels, language diversity, and the sensitivity of the context, consent was obtained verbally after participants were given a clear explanation of the study in

a language they understood. This explanation covered the purpose of the research, what participation involved, and the fact that involvement was entirely voluntary, with the option to stop at any time without any negative consequences. Instead of relying only on signed documents, consent was recorded through documented verbal agreement, field notes, and confirmation logs maintained by the research team, which served as verifiable proof of participation consent while also reducing discomfort or suspicion that written signatures can sometimes create in refugee settings.

To further protect participants, all information was anonymized so that no names or identifying details could be linked back to individuals, and data were stored securely with restricted access. The interview tools were designed using a trauma-informed approach to avoid distress, and participants were free to skip any question they were not comfortable answering. Research assistants were trained not only in data collection but also in sensitivity, confidentiality, and referral procedures in case any participant required additional psychosocial support. These measures ensured that ethical practice was not only procedural but also practical, reflecting the realities of conducting research in complex humanitarian settings.

3.10 Chapter Summary

This chapter outlined the research methodology employed in the study. It adopted a descriptive case study design with a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative surveys with qualitative data from focus group discussions (FGDSs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) to ensure both depth and representativeness. The target population comprised refugees in Kalobeyei Village One and host community members in Esikiriait, with a proportionately stratified sample of 100 survey respondents, complemented by 60 FGDS participants and 5 KIIs. Validity and reliability were

ensured through methodological triangulation, standardized instruments Ethical rigor was maintained through informed consent, trauma-informed data collection, and formal approval. The next chapter introduces the research findings of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

The chapter presents the study findings on the implementation of integrated refugee settlement within Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. It outlines the data collected from key informants and community respondents and explained how the results were organized according to the study objectives.

4.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents

This section presents the findings on the demographic characteristics of the respondents, focusing on gender, age, residency status, education level and level of education.

4.1.1 Age of Respondents

Respondents were asked to indicate their age category. The distribution of responses is summarized in Table 8

Table 4.1

Age of respondents

		N	Percent
Age Groups	18-24	10	10.8%
	25-34	34	33.3%
	35-44	41	41.2%
	45-54	15	14.7%
Total		100	100.0%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Table 8 presents the age distribution of the study respondents. The majority of participants were within the 35–44 age group (41.2%), followed by those aged 25–34 (33.3%), indicating that most respondents were in mid-career stages and likely to hold decision-making or influential roles within their communities. Participants aged 45–54 comprised 14.7% of the sample, while the youngest group, 18–24, accounted for 10.8%. The predominance of respondents in the 25–44 age range is particularly significant, as this demographic is often actively engaged in community leadership, social interaction, and local governance, making their perspectives highly relevant for assessing the implementation and impact of humanitarian policies and integration initiatives in the Kalobeyei settlement.

4.1.2 Gender of Respondents

Respondents were asked to indicate their gender by selecting either male or female. The findings are presented in Table 4.2

Table 4.2

Gender of respondents

		N	Percent
Gender	Male	66	65.7%
	Female	34	34.3%
Total		100	100.0%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Table 9 presents the gender distribution of the study respondents. 65.7% of participants in the study identified as male and 34.3% identified as female. The option called "Other (Specify)" was not used by any respondent.

The findings demonstrate that the survey captured views from both genders, though with a stronger representation of male participants.

4.1.3 Residency Status of Respondents

Respondents were required to indicate their residency status. The results are displayed in Table 4.3

Table 4.3

Residency Status of Respondents

		N	Percent
Residence	Refugee	66	65.7%
	Asylum Seeker	2	2.0%
	Host Community Member	31	31.4%
	Other (Specify)	1	1.0%
Total		100	100.0%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data represented in table 10 established that 65.7% were refugees and 31.4% were part of the host community. Only a very small number were asylum seekers (2.0%) or entered the country in another way (1.0%). This distribution indicates that the survey captured perspectives primarily from refugees while still incorporating a substantial representation of host community members. The inclusion of smaller categories such as asylum seekers adds nuance to the dataset by reflecting varied legal and social positions within the study area.

4.1.4 Nationality of Respondents

The respondents were asked to indicate their nationalities. The results are summarized in Table 4.4

Table 4.4*Nationality of Respondents*

Nationality	Frequency	Percent
Burundian	8	7.8
Congolese	4	3.9
Ethiopian	5	4.9
Kenyan	31	32.4
Rwandans	1	1.0
South Sudanese	47	47.1
Sudanese	1	1.0
Ugandans	1	1.0
Tanzanians	1	1.0
Others	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data represented in table 11 showed that a higher portion of the respondents identified as South Sudanese (47.1%) and Kenyans (32.4%). A smaller group consisted of Burundians (7.8%), Ethiopians (4.9%) and Congolese (3.9%) and others like Rwandans, Sudanese, Ugandans and Tanzanians each made up just 1.0% of the population. Kenyan nationals, representing the host community, enabled comparison between refugee and host perspectives on integration dynamics. This distribution demonstrates that the findings reflect both majority and minority refugee groups as well as host community members, supporting subgroup analysis of integration experiences across different national and social backgrounds.

4.1.5 Duration of Respondents Stay in Settlement

The respondents were asked to indicate the duration of their stay in Kalobeyei settlement. The results are summarized in Table 4.5

Table 4.5

Duration of respondents stay in Camp

		N	Percent
Duration in Camp	1-3 years	3	2.9%
	4-6 years	28	28.4%
	6-10 years	51	51.0%
	More than 10 years	18	17.6%
Total		100	100.0%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Qualitative Data represented in Table 12 showed that majority of respondents (51.0%) claimed to have been living in the settlement for 6–10 years, while 28.4% said they had lived there for 4–6 years. Less than half (2.9% and 28.4%) had lived in the settlement for six years or less, whereas 17.6% had spent more than 10 years there and only 2.9% were residents for one to three years. This distribution suggests that the settlement hosts a relatively stable population with extended experience of local systems, services, and social networks, which may influence perceptions of integration, access to opportunities, and interactions with host communities. The data also indicate that all respondents had prior residence abroad exceeding one year, highlighting experiences of displacement that extend beyond the immediate local context and potentially shape expectations regarding social, economic, and governance structures within Kalobeyei.

4.1.6 Highest Level of Education of Respondents

The respondents were asked to indicate their highest level of education. The results are summarized in Table 4.6

Table 4.6

Highest level of Education of respondents

		N	Percent
Highest level of education	No formal education	2	1.9%
	Primary Education	4	3.9%
	Secondary Education	54	54.4%
	Vocational Training	18	17.5%
	College/ University	22	22.3%
Total		100	100.0%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data represented in table 13 showed that majority of respondents (54.4%) of the respondents attended secondary school as their highest education. 22.3%, had graduated from college or university and 17.5% had finished vocational training. Few had only primary school education (3.9%) and an even smaller group had no formal instruction at all (1.9%). These findings suggest that the surveyed population possesses a moderate to high level of formal education, which may influence their ability to access, interpret, and engage with local integration initiatives, participate in decision-making processes, and navigate institutional frameworks within the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement and surrounding host communities.

4.2 Findings for Specific Objective 1

Objective 1: To identify the mechanisms through which global humanitarian policies are domesticated within Kenya’s local refugee integration frameworks in Kakuma–Kalobeyei.

4.2.1 Respondents’ Knowledge of Global Policies

The respondents were asked whether or not they were aware of Global and Local policies. The results are summarized in Table 4.7

Table 4.7

Respondents’ Knowledge of Global Policies

Awareness	Frequency	Percent
Yes	94	94.1
No	3	2.9
Not Sure	3	2.9
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data represented in table 14 showed that awareness of global and local refugee integration policies among respondents is high. 94.1% reported being aware of these policies, while only (2.9%) were unaware, and 2.9% were uncertain. These results indicate that formal policy frameworks were widely recognized among both refugee and household participants. The limited proportion of respondents who lacked awareness suggests that information about integration policies had reached most community members within the settlement context.

According to qualitative evidence gathered from focus group discussions conducted in and around Kalobeyei Village one and Esikiriait, participants described policy changes

and integration experiences primarily through everyday realities such as movement, services, and livelihoods rather than formal policy language.

“I hear about these policies mostly when organizations come to talk to us or during youth meetings. For me, what matters is that things are changing *kidogo kidogo*, we can try to move outside to look for small jobs, not like before when everything felt closed. We don’t know the big names of the policies, but we feel the difference in daily life.” (Interview with refugee youth in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

This account points to the gradual domestication of global humanitarian policies at community level, where awareness is shaped more through everyday experiences, youth engagement forums, and limited livelihood mobility than through formal understanding of policy frameworks themselves.

“Maisha imekuwa nafuu kiasi, si kama zamani tulikuwa tunatembea mbali sana kutafuta huduma. Sasa soko iko karibu na hospitali pia, lakini bado kazi ni shida na hatujui kama hizi sheria mpya zitatupa nafasi zaidi. Tunaskia kuna mipango mingi, lakini tunataka kuona matokeo kwa maisha ya familia.”

“Life has become a bit easier, not like before when we walked very far to find services. Now the market is closer and the hospital too, but work is still a problem and we don’t know whether these new laws will give us more opportunities. We hear there are many plans, but we want to see results in family life.” (FGD with female refugee respondent in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025).

This account highlights that while integrated settlement approaches have improved physical access to services such as markets and healthcare, economic inclusion and employment opportunities remain limited, revealing a gap between policy intentions and lived socio-economic realities.

“Sisi wenyeji tunasikia mambo ya wakimbizi kwa baraza na kwa viongozi wa serikali, lakini wakati mwingine tunaona kama faida inaenda zaidi kwao kuliko sisi. Tunataka maendeleo ya Pamoja, maji, kazi, Barabara, ili kila mtu aone maana ya hizi sera. Bila hiyo, watu wanaweza kufikiria vibaya kuhusu hii mpango ya kuishi pamoja.”

“We as the host community hear about refugee issues in public meetings and through government leaders, but sometimes it seems the benefits go more to them than to us. We want shared development, water, jobs, roads, so that everyone sees the meaning of these policies. Without that, people may start thinking negatively about this integration plan.” (Interview with household male elder in Esikirait, 9th September 2025.)

This account points to emerging perceptions of inequality among host communities, where support for integration is closely tied to whether development benefits such as water, roads, and employment are distributed fairly between refugees and local residents.

The qualitative evidence from KIIs corroborated the same findings.

“Our laws reflect global standards, but implementation is still catching up because resources and systems must grow alongside these commitments.” (Interview with DRS Representative in Kakuma, 10th September 2025.)

Qualitative data gathered from a key informant Interview with the representative from the Department of Refugee Services described global humanitarian policies as the foundational blueprint shaping Kenya’s evolving integration model. The Refugee Act 2021 deliberately draws from international durable solutions, resettlement, voluntary repatriation, and integration are not Kenyan inventions but principles Kenya inherited from global frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Hence domestication happens at the point where these global principles are translated into national legal entitlements and administrative practices. However, the process is still maturing,

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with a Municipality representative emphasized that global humanitarian frameworks have compelled Kenya to innovate institutionally, particularly through the creation of Kakuma Municipality. The municipality was described as an institutional response to our global commitments.

explaining that becoming a signatory to global protection frameworks pushed the government to establish local structures capable of managing a long-term refugee presence. Global norms on socioeconomic inclusion had hence influenced urban planning requirements and the design of mixed-use settlement spaces in Kalobeyei.

The qualitative evidence collected from respondents from the humanitarian space reveals that global humanitarian standards have gradually pushed Kenya to replace parallel humanitarian service systems with more inclusive government-led models. These shifts reflect a global push for refugees to be integrated into existing national systems, rather than creating two separate worlds. The influence of global policy is visible in the growing attempts to align refugee services with county planning frameworks. Instruments such as the Global Compact on Refugees provide the conceptual pathways through which Kenya now frames its refugee response. Integration is encouraged as a durable solution and counties are actively urged to sign annual plans that operationalize these global commitments. The influence of global humanitarian policy manifests most clearly through multi-year investment planning, joint needs assessments, and county-level development compacts.

“Tunaambiwa kwamba wakimbizi na wenyeji wanapaswa kutumia visima vya maji vilevile, shule zilezile na kliniki zilezile kulingana na sera za kimataifa, si mila zetu.”

“We are told that refugees and hosts must use the same boreholes, the same schools, the same clinics that comes from international policy, not our traditions.” (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 12th September 2025.)

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with Local administrator explained that while global humanitarian policies are discussed in local barazas, their effects are felt daily because they reshape how services are shared.

4.2.2 Specific Global and Local Policies Respondents were Aware of

The respondents were asked the specific Global and Local policies they were aware of.

The results are summarized in Table 4.8

Table 4.8

Specific Global and Local Policies Respondents were Aware of

Policy	Responses (N)	Percent
Shirika Plan	85	65.4
KISED P	29	22.3
Refugee Act (2021)	9	6.9
County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs)	5	3.8
Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)	1	0.8
Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)	1	0.8
Total	130	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data in Table 15 revealed that respondents identified specific policies they were familiar with. The Shirika Plan emerged as the most recognized (85 mentions, 65.4%), followed by the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED P) (29 mentions, 22.3%). Recognition of national and global frameworks such as the Refugee Act 2021 (9 mentions) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) or Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) (1 mention each) was comparatively low, suggesting stronger familiarity with locally implemented policies than global standards. These results demonstrate that policy visibility at the local implementation level corresponded with higher recognition, whereas higher-level legal and global frameworks were not known by the respondents.

Participants demonstrated greater familiarity with locally visible initiatives such as the Shirika Plan and KISED P than with national legislation or global humanitarian frameworks, which were often perceived as distant and abstract.

“We usually hear about Shirika when organizations come to talk about training or business opportunities, so people connect it with things that can help immediately. I do not know much about the international policies, but when there is a project in the community, that is what makes sense to us. For many youth, what matters is whether it brings work or skills.” (FGD with youth participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The data suggests that awareness of integration policies among refugee youth is shaped more by immediate livelihood opportunities and community-level programs than by formal understanding of global humanitarian frameworks, highlighting the practical and localized nature of policy domestication.

“KISED P imeonekana kwa soko na huduma kidogo kuboreshwa, lakini bado hatujaona mabadiliko makubwa kwa ajira. Tunajaribu biashara ndogo ndogo lakini ushindani ni mingi na mtaji ni kidogo, kwa hivyo maisha bado ni magumu. Sheria mpya tunasikia zipo, lakini hatuelewi vizuri zinatufikiaje sisi moja kwa moja.”

“KISED P has been seen through the market and some improvement in services, but we have not yet seen big changes in jobs. We try small businesses, but competition is high and capital is limited, so life is still difficult. We hear there are new laws, but we do not clearly understand how they reach us directly.” (FGD with female refugee respondent participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The account indicates that while KISED P has improved market activity and some social services, limited employment opportunities, low capital access, and weak communication of policy benefits continue to constrain meaningful socio-economic inclusion and policy legitimacy among refugees.

“Sisi tunasikia kuhusu mipango kwa baraza, wanatuambia tutafaidika pamoja na wakimbizi, lakini bado kuna wasiwasi kwa sababu rasilimali ni chache. Wakati soko inakuwa kubwa ni vizuri kwa biashara, lakini pia ushindani inaongezeka na vijana wanahisi nafasi zinapungua. Tunahitaji kuona manufaa ambayo ni wazi kwa jamii yote.

“We hear about these plans in community meetings; they tell us we will benefit together with refugees, but there is still concern because resources are limited. When the market grows it is good for business, but competition also increases and youth feel opportunities are shrinking. We need to see benefits that are clear for the whole community.” (FGD with a male household participant in Esikiriait, 9th September 2025.)

The data shows that host community support for integration remains conditional on equitable access to resources and visible shared benefits, with economic competition and limited opportunities shaping perceptions of fairness and social cohesion.

Recognition of locally implemented initiatives was substantially higher than awareness of national or global frameworks, with the Shirika Plan and KISEDPA being most frequently identified while the Refugees Act 2021, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework were rarely mentioned by name. The qualitative accounts reinforce the quantitative finding that policy awareness is strongly mediated by visibility of implementation, suggesting that domestication of humanitarian policy is experienced primarily through programs, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities rather than through formal legal or international discourse.

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with DRS representative showed that that alignment requires a practical operational plan backed by resources, political commitment, and sustained government leadership. Policies cannot remain aspirational; they must outline clear implementation mechanisms and accountability frameworks.

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the municipality representative stressed that alignment must begin with participatory processes, explaining that refugees and hosts must have active roles in shaping integration policies. Policies imposed from above will never succeed without local legitimacy. Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the Humanitarian representative suggested a structured, tiered approach that connects national directives to county planning and community-level implementation. Extensive public participation and evidence generation through focus group discussions, suggesting that integration must be grounded in lived experiences rather than assumptions.

It was stressed that the state must understand both the economic opportunities and challenges inherent in integration to craft balanced policies and strengthening government capacity so that integration becomes a government-owned agenda

“Watu huanza kuamini uwezekano wa kuishi pamoja wanapoona mabadiliko halisi yakitokea mahali wanapoishi, sio ahadi tu kutoka mbali. Ardhi inapogawiwa kwa kilimo cha pamoja, vijana wanapofanya kazi pamoja, na viongozi wanapoendelea kuzungumza kwa uwazi, mashaka hubadilika polepole kuwa imani. Kilicho muhimu zaidi ni kuonyesha jamii kuwa ujumuishaji unaweza kuboresha maisha ya kila mtu, sio wakimbizi pekee.”

“People begin to believe in coexistence when they see real change happening where they live, not just promises from far away. When land is shared for farming, when youth work together, and when leaders keep talking openly, suspicion slowly turns into trust. What matters most is showing communities that integration can improve life for everyone, not just for refugees. (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 12th September 2025.)

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the local administrator emphasized the importance of practical measures such as allocating land for shared projects, improving county engagement, and fostering continued dialogue to build trust between communities.

4.2.3 Mechanisms through which Respondents accessed Information on the Relevant Policies

The respondents were asked mechanisms through which they accessed information on the relevant policies. The results are summarized in Table 4.9

Table 4.9

Mechanisms through which Respondents accessed Information on the Relevant Policies

Source	Responses	Percent
Word of mouth	54	32.0
Community meetings	46	27.2
NGOs/Humanitarian Organizations	39	23.1
Social media/TV/Radio	17	10.1
Government offices	13	7.7
Total	169	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative Data in Table 15 showed mechanisms respondents were able to access information on the policies. Word of mouth (56.3%) and community meetings (47.9%) were the most common sources, followed by NGOs/humanitarian organizations (40.6%) and media platforms such as radio, TV, and social media (17.7%). Government offices accounted for the least reported channel (13.5%), pointing to the reliance on informal and civil society-led dissemination. These patterns indicated that formal state-led communication channels played a comparatively limited role in how residents

accessed information. The distribution of responses pointed to a communication environment shaped more by informal networks and humanitarian intermediaries than by direct government outreach.

According to qualitative evidence from focus group discussions, participants emphasized that awareness of integration policies often travels through informal community networks before reaching individuals through official channels.

“Most of the time we don’t hear from offices first; it is neighbors who explain what is changing. Someone attends a meeting and then shares with others, so information spreads step by step in the community. By the time officials come, people already have their own understanding.” (FGD with youth participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The data indicates that informal community networks play a central role in policy communication, showing that local understanding of integration policies is largely shaped through peer interpretation rather than direct state engagement.

“Kwa baraza ya chieftunasikia mambo ya serikali, lakini si mara nyingi sana. Mara nyingi vijana wanapata habari kwa WhatsApp au kwa watu walienda kwa meeting ya NGO, halafu wanatuambia sisi wengine. Lakini kama huna simu ama bundle, unapitwa na taarifa.”

“At the chief’s meeting we hear government matters, but not very often. Many times, youth get information through WhatsApp or from people who attended NGO meetings, then they tell the rest of us. But if you don’t have a phone or data, you miss the information.” (Interview with a household youth participant in Esikiriait, 9th September 2025.)

The account suggests that access to policy information is uneven and influenced by digital connectivity and social networks, revealing how technological and socio-economic inequalities affect participation and awareness within both refugee and host communities.

“Tukikutana kwa chama ya wanawake au kanisani, mtu anaelezea alichosikia kuhusu permits au msaada kubadilika. Hapo ndipo tunauliza maswali mpaka kila mtu anaelewa vizuri kwa lugha rahisi. Serikali inaweza kusema kitu, lakini sisi tunaelewana kwanza kwa jamii.”

“When we meet in women’s groups or at church, someone explains what she heard about permits or aid changes. That is where we ask questions until everyone understands in simple language. The government may say something, but we first understand it within the community.”
(Interview with a refugee female participant in Kalobeyi Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The account demonstrates that community spaces such as churches and women’s groups function as localized platforms for interpreting and translating policy information into understandable and socially relevant meanings, reinforcing the role of collective social processes in policy domestication.

The FGDS data revealed that most respondents learned about integration initiatives through community meetings, peers, and humanitarian actors rather than direct government communication, reinforcing the finding that awareness is socially mediated and unevenly distributed depending on access to networks, leadership forums, and digital connectivity. Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with DRS representative showed that international organizations are currently the primary drivers of integration initiatives in Kenya. They fund most integration-related programs and provide ongoing advocacy on how global commitments should be implemented locally.

Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with municipality representative noted that while international organizations remain central, there is a growing expectation that government entities will eventually assume leadership. Global agencies often set the integration agenda, while local governments are expected to institutionalize it over time. Qualitative evidences collected during key informant interview with Humanitarian respondent described the dual responsibility between government management and international agency financing. While camps fall under government authority, it is international agencies that sustain them through service

delivery, infrastructure support, and technical expertise. International organizations were also framed as conduits of global norms and funding streams. Development aid was increasingly directed through government systems to support education, health, and livelihoods programs that serve both refugees and host communities.

“Wanatusaidia sana, ndio, hasa kwenye maji, shule na afya, lakini wakati mwingine wanasahau kwamba sisi wenyeji pia tuna njia zetu za kutatua matatizo kwa haraka. Tunajua matatizo ya jamii yetu vizuri kuliko wengine, na tunataka kushirikishwa katika maamuzi muhimu ili kila mtu aone manufaa yake.”

“They help us a lot, yes, especially with water, schools, and health, but sometimes they forget that we, the local community, also have our own ways of solving problems quickly. We know our community’s challenges better than others, and we want to be involved in key decisions so that everyone sees the benefits.” (Interview with Kalobeyei Local administrator in Kakuma, 12th September 2025.)

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the local administrator revealed that international organizations fill gaps that local institutions cannot yet manage, especially in service provision and community development. However, reliance on external actors may overshadow local decision-making

4.2.4 Respondents Attitudes Towards Policies Facilitating Refugee Integration

The respondents were asked if the policies facilitated refugee integration. The results are summarized in Table 17. Quantitative data as presented in Table 17 revealed that only (11.8%) of the respondents agreed, while (58.8%) felt they did not, and (29.4%) were unsure. These results showed that fewer than one in eight participants perceived policies as effective, while nearly three in five viewed them as inadequate in promoting integration outcomes. The substantial proportion of respondents who were uncertain further reflected limited clarity or visibility regarding how integration policies functioned in practice. Overall, the findings pointed to a significant gap between the

presence of formal policy frameworks and community perceptions of their practical impact on refugee integration.

Table 4.10

Respondents Attitudes Towards Policies Facilitating Refugee Integration

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	11.8
No	60	58.8
Not Sure	29	29.4
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

According to qualitative evidence from focus group discussions, participants highlighted a persistent gap between formal policy intentions and everyday experiences of integration.

“Hatuoni mabadiliko kwa maisha ya kila siku. Wakati tunasikia kuhusu sera za wakimbizi, kazi na mafunzo bado ni nadra, na hiyo inatufanya tuone tofauti kubwa kati ya maneno na vitendo.”

“We do not see changes in daily life. When we hear about refugee policies, jobs and training are still scarce, and that makes us see a big difference between words and action.” (FGD with youth participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The data reveals a persistent gap between policy commitments and lived realities, where limited access to jobs and skills training weakens confidence in the practical impact of refugee integration policies.

“Sera ziko juu, maisha iko chini. Shule na kliniki tunashiriki, lakini mara nyingi tunajisikia kama sera hazigusi maisha yetu ya kila siku. Tunataka mabadiliko ya kweli, sio maneno tu.”

“Policies are up there; life is down here. Schools and clinics are shared, but often we feel policies do not touch our daily lives. We want real

change, not just words.” (FGD with female refugee respondent participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The account suggests that although shared services such as schools and healthcare facilities support coexistence, many refugees still perceive integration policies as distant from their everyday socio-economic challenges, highlighting weak local legitimacy of policy implementation.

“Wakati miradi inaisha, hata ushirikiano unapungua. Tunaona maendeleo kwa muda, lakini mara nyingine tunarudi nyuma. Hii inaonyesha kwamba sera hazina nguvu kama hazitashikiliwa na miundo ya serikali.”

“When projects end, even cooperation declines. We see development temporarily, but other times we fall back. This shows that policies have little strength if they are not anchored in government structures.” (Interview with a middle-aged male household participant in Esikiriait, 9th September 2025.)

The data indicates that integration gains remain fragile and heavily dependent on donor-supported projects, demonstrating that sustainable policy domestication requires stronger institutional anchoring within government systems and long-term governance structures.

Qualitative data from the FGDSs revealed that a significant portion of respondents were unsure about the tangible impact of integration policies, demonstrating that while global frameworks inform local programs, the practical benefits are often mediated by the continuity of projects and administrative clarity, highlighting a persistent disconnect between policy design and lived realities.

Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with the DRS representative viewed international policies as largely supportive, noting that they help institutionalize refugee self-reliance and encourage equitable resource distribution. Integration cannot succeed if hosts feel excluded, saying. A policy that benefits refugees but ignores hosts will never work, and global frameworks actually recognize this. Qualitative data

collected during key informant interview with the municipality's showed that, international policy frameworks have opened the door for investments that would not otherwise reach Turkana West. Global commitments attract development financing from actors like the World Bank and private sector agencies, which strengthens local infrastructure for both communities. At the same time, she acknowledged that alignment with global norms can sometimes create pressure on local systems to deliver more than their capacity allows.

Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with Humanitarian respondent's accounts offered a more cautionary reflection, describing international frameworks as both enabling and unrealistic at times. While they inspire progressive reforms, global policies sometimes overlook "the realities on the ground," leading to expectations that local governments and communities are unprepared to meet. When integration fails, people assume the government has failed, when sometimes the global idea did not match the local context. International policies were also framed as indispensable in shaping Kenya's integration agenda, citing Kenya's adoption of global norms into national sessional papers and county planning documents. Global standards push for the inclusion of refugees in services and livelihoods programs, which enhances long-term development outcomes. Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with the local administrator revealed the mixed emotional and cultural impacts of international policies at the community level. While global policies bring resources, visibility, and new opportunities, sometimes these policies arrive faster than people can understand them. Some host residents worry that integration will dilute cultural practices or increase competition for scarce resources.

4.2.5 Respondents Implementation Challenges to Policy Implementation

The respondents were asked to state some of the implementation challenges to integration. The results are summarized in Table 4.11

Table 4.11

Respondents Implementation Challenges Policy Implementation

Challenge	Responses	Percent of Cases
Resistance from host communities	52	36.6
Limited government resources	46	32.4
Lack of awareness	40	28.2
Bureaucratic barriers	4	2.8
Total	142	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative Evidence from respondents identified barriers that hinder effective policy implementation. Resistance from host communities (36.6%), limited government resources (32.4%), and lack of awareness (28.2%) were the most commonly reported obstacles. Bureaucratic barriers were mentioned least frequently (2.8%), reflecting operational and social challenges more than procedural ones.

The findings indicated that social and structural constraints were the most prominent challenges affecting the implementation of refugee integration policies. Resistance from host communities was the most frequently cited barrier, suggesting that perceptions of competition over resources and services remained a significant concern at the local level. Limited government resources followed closely, indicating that financial and institutional capacity gaps continued to affect the delivery of integration-

related services and infrastructure. Lack of awareness, reflected gaps in information dissemination and understanding of integration policies among both refugees and host populations. Bureaucratic barriers were mentioned showing that procedural obstacles were perceived as less significant than social tensions and resource limitations.

“Watu wanafikiri rasilimali ni chache, hivyo unapoweka mpango wowote ya kusaidia wakimbizi na wenyeji pamoja, wengine wanashuku kama tunachukua nafasi zao.”

“People think resources are limited, so whenever any program is set up to help both refugees and hosts, some suspect we are taking their space.” (FGD with household male in Esikiriait, 9th September 2025.)

The account shows that perceptions of limited resources continue to shape host community attitudes toward integration policies, reinforcing concerns that shared programs may increase competition over already constrained opportunities and services.

“Wengi wa wenyeji wanasema sisi wakimbizi tunapata msaada wa haraka, lakini ukweli ni kwamba sisi pia tunateseka na mara nyingi hatuna msaada wa kutosha. Hii inaleta kuchanganyikiwa kwa jamii na kuvuruga mpangilio wa ushirikiano.”

Many locals say we refugees receive help quickly, but the truth is we also struggle and often lack sufficient support. This creates confusion in the community and disrupts cooperative arrangements. (Interview with a young male refugee respondent in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The account indicates that differing perceptions of aid distribution between refugees and host communities contribute to mistrust and weaken social cohesion, revealing how perceived inequalities can undermine collaborative integration efforts.

“Hospitali iko, lakini madaktari wachache sana, hivyo wengi wanabakia bila huduma. Kwa kweli, mpango wa kuunganisha jamii unasaidia kidogo, lakini bado tunaona upungufu wa rasilimali.”

“The hospital is there, but there are very few doctors, so many remain without service. Truly, the integration program helps a bit, but we still see a shortage of resources.” (Interview with a female participant from the household in Esikiriait, 9th September 2025.)

The data suggests that although integrated settlement approaches have expanded access to shared services, inadequate staffing and resource shortages continue to limit service quality and weaken confidence in the sustainability of integration programs.

Qualitative data from the FGDs identified host resistance as the most frequently cited barrier, followed closely by limited government resources and information gaps. They highlight those relational tensions, perceptions of inequity, and uneven dissemination of policy knowledge shape integration outcomes as much as, if not more than, formal administrative procedures. The data, illustrate that practical constraints, service shortages, miscommunication, and mistrust, mediate the lived impact of domesticated humanitarian policies, highlighting the importance of targeted community engagement alongside structural support. Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the DRS representative emphasized that the largest gap lied in the absence of a coherent operationalization plan capable of translating global standards into field-level systems. While Kenya's laws closely mirror international norms, implementation remains inconsistent due to limited funding and insufficient inter-agency coordination.

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the municipality representative explained that global policies often fail to account for cultural complexity, particularly in contexts where land, identity, and kinship shape daily life. Some global frameworks expect forms of integration that are politically and socially sensitive in Kenya, such as freedom of movement or land allocation. Global policy talks about integration, but here we must balance it with the traditions and expectations of the Turkana. Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the humanitarian representative accounts, one of the critical gaps concerns the definition of "integration" itself. Globally integration implies spatial and economic inclusion,

whereas in Kenya the model remains largely administrative and symbolic. Government often interprets integration as partial rights within encampment systems rather than full incorporation into national structures. They further highlighted the structural gap in infrastructure planning, noting that global policy stresses shared services, yet Kenya continues to construct refugee-only facilities, thereby reinforcing separation. True integration cannot happen when the communities live parallel lives. capturing the challenge of translating global aspirations into local spatial realities. Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the Local administrator observed that local leaders are often excluded from the policy design process, resulting in policies that do not fully align with community dynamics in Kalobeyei. Integration policies are rarely explained in local languages, which hampers understanding.

4.3 Findings for Specific Objective 2

Objective 2: To examine the structural factors within Kakuma that influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme.

4.3.1 Relationship between Refugees and Host Community

The respondents were asked how they viewed the relationship between refugees and host community. The results are summarized in Table 4.12

Quantitative evidence represented in Table 4.12 examined perceptions of equality in access to services between refugees and host community members. Survey results showed that 68.6% of respondents believed both groups had equal opportunities to access education, healthcare, and employment, while 26.5% reported that access was not equal and 4.9% were uncertain. These findings indicated that, although a majority perceived service access as equitable, a substantial minority experienced or observed disparities in how services were distributed. The presence of uncertainty among a small

proportion of respondents further suggested uneven awareness or inconsistent experiences across locations and population groups.

Table 4.12

Relationship between Refugee and Host Community

Perception	Frequency	Percent
Neutral	24	24.5
Somewhat Negative	9	8.8
Somewhat Positive	37	37.3
Very Positive	30	29.4
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Participants highlighted how integration manifests in everyday cooperation and conflict management, illustrating both the practical benefits and persistent challenges of domesticated global policies.

“Tumejifunza kushirikiana katika masoko na biashara ndogo ndogo; itakuwa rahisi kwetu sote. Hii imetusaidia kuunda marafiki na kuongea kuhusu namna ya kufanya biashara pamoja bila kuingiliana.”

“We have learned to collaborate in the markets and small businesses; it makes life easier for all of us. This has helped us build friendships and talk about how to do business together without interfering with each other.” (FGD with youth participant in Kalobeyi Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The data shows that collaboration in markets and small businesses is strengthening social connections between refugees and host communities, with economic interaction serving as a key driver of trust-building and informal integration.

“Mara nyingine tunapigana hoja kuhusu ardhi ya malisho na kazi, lakini hatuwezi kuishi bila kusaidiana. Tunajua tunahitaji kila mmoja kuonyesha heshima ili kuishi kwa amani. Tunajaribu suluhisho kwa mazungumzo badala ya vurugu.”

Sometimes we argue over grazing land and jobs, but we cannot live without helping each other. We know we all need to show respect to live in peace. We try to solve issues through discussion rather than violence. (FGD with male participant in Elelea, 9th September 2025.)

The data indicates that while tensions over resources such as land and employment occasionally arise, coexistence is sustained through negotiation, mutual dependence, and a preference for dialogue over conflict, reinforcing the role of everyday interaction in maintaining social stability.

“Tunashirikiana kila siku katika shughuli za nyumbani na kulea watoto; hivyo tunaishi kwa amani na kuheshimiana. Mtandao wa msaada kwa wenye ulemavu na wazee umesaidia sana ili kila mtu apate huduma muhimu. Hii inatupa hisia kwamba tuna thamani na kila mmoja anashirikishwa.”

“We cooperate daily in domestic tasks and childcare, so we live peacefully and respectfully. Support networks for persons with disabilities and elders have been very helpful to ensure everyone accesses essential services. This gives us a sense of value and that everyone is included. (FGD with female refugee respondent participant in Kalobeyi Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The qualitative account reveals that routine cooperation in household activities and inclusive support networks for vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and elders is reinforcing a sense of belonging, dignity, and shared responsibility within the settlement. The qualitative data from the FGDs revealed that that integration is experienced not only through formal programs but through daily collaboration, conflict negotiation, and reliance on mutual support networks, underscoring that the domestication of global humanitarian policies has tangible effects on social cohesion and community resilience.

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) representative explained that relations are strongly shaped by

perceptions of fairness in the management of shared natural resources. Turkana society is organized around communal access to water, land, and grazing areas, and any belief that refugees receive more or better resources quickly becomes a trigger for tension.

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the Municipality representative noted that much of Kalobeyei sits on communal land held in trust by the county. Permanent structures built for refugees raise deep questions about long-term land ownership which affects how the host community perceives refugee settlement. Qualitative evidence from the humanitarian representative accounts linked host–refugee relations to broader spatial planning challenges. Unless infrastructure and services are distributed equitably, host acceptance will remain fragile. Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with humanitarian representatives account that weak county capacity also affects relations. Without adequate financing or authority, hosts interpret service gaps as deliberate unfairness rather than structural shortcomings. Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the Kalobeyei Local administrator stated that relations improve when benefits are visibly shared but deteriorate when communities feel excluded.

4.3.2 Respondents’ views on how Services were Distributed between Refugees and Host Community.

The respondents were asked how they viewed how services were distributed between refugees and host community. The results are summarized in Table 4.13

Table 4.13

Respondents' views on how Services were Distributed between Refugees and Host Community.

Response	Frequency	Percent
No	26	26.5
Not Sure	5	4.9
Yes	69	68.6
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative Evidence represented in table 4.13 showed that Participants described access to services, program participation, and daily interactions as central to how they experienced integration and the practical effects of domesticated humanitarian policies.

“Tunapata huduma zote, lakini wakati mwingine inakuwa vigumu kupata madawa. Wakimbizi wengine wanapata vipimo haraka kuliko wengine, na hili linatufundisha kuwa kila kitu hakipatikani kwa urahisi. Lakini bado tunaendelea kutumia huduma na kujifunza jinsi ya kushirikiana na jamii.”

“We receive all services, but sometimes it is difficult to get medicines. Some refugees get checkups faster than others, and this teaches us that not everything is easily accessible. Still, we continue using the services and learning how to cooperate with the community.” (FGD with a refugee participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The data indicates that while basic service access exists within the settlement, variations in quality and waiting times, particularly in healthcare, reveal unequal service delivery that continues to shape perceptions of fairness and lived experiences of integration.

“Kwa baadhi ya miradi ya chakula na pesa, watu wa jamii ya wenyeji hawajui jinsi ya kuomba. Wakati tunajua masharti, bado kuna utata wa kila siku kwenye upatikanaji wa msaada. Hii inatufundisha kuwa elimu na mafunzo kuhusu huduma ni muhimu kwa wote.”

“For some food and cash programs, local people don’t know how to apply. Even when we know the requirements, there are daily challenges

in accessing support. This teaches us that information and training about services are important for everyone. (Interview with a household youth participant in Esikiriait, 9th September 2025.)

The data shows that gaps in information and procedural understanding around assistance programs limit equitable access for both refugees and host communities, highlighting that policy effectiveness depends heavily on communication, awareness, and local capacity-building.

“Kila mtu anapewa nafasi ya kuzungumza kwenye mkutano wa kijiji, na hii inasaidia kuelewa nani anahitaji msaada zaidi. Lakini wakati mwingine lugha na tarakimu zinakuwa kizuizi kwa wenyeji kushiriki kikamilifu. Tunahitaji mashirika ya misaada na serikali kushirikiana zaidi ili kila mtu ajue haki na majukumu yake.”

“Everyone is given a chance to speak at the village meeting, and this helps understand who needs support most. But sometimes language and literacy become barriers for hosts to fully participate. We need aid organizations and government to work together so everyone knows their rights and responsibilities.” (Interview with a refugee participant in Kalobeyi Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The data suggests that although participatory spaces such as village meetings exist and support collective decision-making, barriers such as language and literacy continue to limit meaningful inclusion, indicating that participation in governance remains uneven despite formal structures being in place. The qualitative data revealed that practical engagement, access to services, and participatory governance shape perceptions of fairness and inclusion, while gaps in program awareness, resource distribution, and local capacity continue to mediate the lived experience of integration for both refugees and host communities.

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the Department of Refugee Services highlighted how disparities in access can generate tension:

“Refugees benefit from programs that sometimes do not reach nearby host communities, especially when services are subsidized or free inside the settlement. This sometimes leads to complaints and local friction.

We are aware, and efforts are ongoing to engage both groups more equitably.” (Interview with DRS official, 10 September 2025.)

The account reflects a governance and resource allocation tension where differential access to subsidized refugee services, without equivalent provision to host communities, contributes to perceptions of inequality and emerging local friction, highlighting gaps in equitable policy domestication and shared benefits. Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the municipality representative similarly acknowledged shared facilities as a positive step, stating that schools and hospitals often serve both refugees and hosts, enhancing social interaction. Yet, they noted that the limited capacity and concentrated planning for refugees sometimes leave local residents feeling secondary, particularly in service-heavy periods such as vaccination drives or exam registrations.

“We see both refugees and hosts using the same health centers, yet medicines sometimes run out before everyone is served. It is not fair, but it reflects limits in capacity. We are trying to coordinate better, but the problem persists.” (Interview with humanitarian representative, 11 September 2025.)

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the humanitarian representative account that service delivery is uneven not because of neglect, but because infrastructure and staffing are stretched:

“Kwa kweli, tunajitahidi kuhakikisha kwamba kila mtoto anapata elimu, lakini wakati mwingine wazazi wa wenyeji wanajikuta wanalipa ada kubwa huku wakimbizi wakipata msaada bure. Hii inasababisha hisia za kutoridhika na kutoelewana,”

“Indeed, we strive to ensure every child receives education, but sometimes host parents have to pay high fees while refugees receive support for free. This creates feelings of dissatisfaction and misunderstanding.” (Interview with the Kalobeyei Local administrator, 12 September 2025.)

Qualitative data collected during a key informant interview with the Local administrator reiterated that competition over limited services particularly healthcare and education is one of the most frequent sources of everyday conflict.

4.3.3 Respondents' Views on Barriers hindering Access to Services Refugees and Host Community received

The respondents were asked some of the barriers they viewed hindered access to services refugees and host community received. The results are summarized in Table 4.14. Quantitative evidence revealed that respondents who reported unequal access to services, policy restrictions were identified as the dominant barrier, cited in 75.8% of responses. Discrimination followed at 21.2%, while only 3.0% associated service inequality with lack of funding. The distribution of responses shows that perceived obstacles were primarily linked to regulatory and administrative limitations rather than financial resource shortages. These findings indicate that structural governance factors shaped access experiences more strongly than material constraints within the study area.

Table 4.14

Respondents' Views on Barriers hindering Access to Services Refugees and Host Community received

Barrier	Responses	Percent
Policy restrictions	25	75.8
Discrimination	7	21.2
Lack of funding	1	3.0
Total	33	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Participants emphasized the influence of regulatory frameworks and administrative procedures on practical access to resources and livelihoods, often outweighing material constraints.

“Kila kitu kinahitaji kibali cha serikali, hata kama una ujuzi. Hata kuanza biashara ndogo ndogo unahitaji hati maalum, na mara nyingi taratibu ni ngumu kuelewa. Lakini tunajua lazima tuendeleo kushirikiana na viongozi wa kambi ili kupata msaada.”

“Everything requires official permission, even if you have the skills. Even starting small businesses needs specific documents, and often the procedures are hard to understand. But we know we must keep working with settlement leaders to get support.” (Interview with a refugee male participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The qualitative data shows that bureaucratic procedures and documentation requirements act as key structural barriers to socioeconomic participation, where even skilled individuals face restricted access to livelihoods due to complex and poorly understood administrative systems.

“Watu wetu hawajui jinsi ya kuomba; wakimbizi wanajua kwa sababu wamelipatiwa mafunzo. Hii inasababisha ukosefu wa usawa kati ya jamii ya wenyeji na wakimbizi, hasa pale huduma zinapohusiana na ajira na ardhi. Tunajaribu kujifunza na kushirikiana na mashirika lakini mara nyingi taarifa zinachelewa kufika kwetu.”

“Our people don’t know how to apply; refugees know because they are trained. This causes inequality between host and refugee communities, especially regarding employment and land services. We try to learn and collaborate with the agencies, but information often reaches us late.” (FGD with a household male participant in Esikiriait, 9th September 2025.)

The account reveals that unequal access to information and capacity-building opportunities between refugees and host communities contributes to perceived and actual disparities in employment and land access, weakening fairness and reinforcing uneven policy benefits.

“Hatuwezi kutumia ardhi vizuri kwa sababu mashamba madogo na kame. Pia maji ni kidogo hasa msimu wa ukame, hivyo inakuwa vigumu kulima na kulea mifugo. Lakini tukishirikiana na wakulima wengine na mashirika, tunapata mbinu za kutumia rasilimali zilizopo.”

“We cannot use the land well because the farms are small and dry. Also, water is scarce during the dry season, making farming and livestock rearing difficult. But when we cooperate with other farmers and agencies, we find ways to use the resources available.” (Interview with a refugee female participant in Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

The data indicates that environmental constraints such as land scarcity and water shortages limit productive livelihood activities, but cooperative practices between communities and agencies help partially offset these resource limitations and support adaptive use of available assets. Qualitative data from the FGDs resonated with survey data showing that respondents frequently identified regulatory and procedural barriers as central to their experiences of integration, with limited access to farmland, water, and formal employment cited as recurring challenges. Data from Host community members highlighted the strain on local resources and institutional capacity, while refugees noted that documentation requirements constrained both mobility and economic participation. Qualitative data from respondents from the Key Informant Interviews emphasized the critical role of infrastructure in enabling sustainable integration while highlighting practical barriers to policy implementation.

“Without proper roads, schools, and clinics, all these integration plans remain on paper. Even when the law allows movement or work, people cannot access services easily if the infrastructure is lacking. Policy restrictions around movement, documentation, and work permits remain significant obstacles in practice. (Interview with DRS Representative, 10th September 2025.)

The account shows that weak infrastructure and restrictive administrative systems continue to undermine the practical realization of integration policies, as physical access barriers limit the effectiveness of even well-designed legal and policy frameworks.

“The challenge is not only resources but also coordination. County offices, national agencies, and NGOs sometimes duplicate efforts or leave gaps, which delays services and confuses both refugees and hosts. Institutional misalignment affects program effectiveness. (Interview with Kakuma Municipality official, 10th September 2025.)

The account indicates that fragmented coordination among county government, national agencies, and humanitarian actors reduces implementation efficiency, leading to duplication of efforts, service gaps, and weakened policy coherence.

“Some services run parallel. Refugees get donor-funded support, while hosts rely on county services with fewer resources. This unintentionally creates perceptions of exclusion, even though the goal is shared development.” (Interview with Humanitarian representative, 11th September 2025.)

The data reveals that parallel service delivery systems for refugees and host communities create unequal experiences of support, which unintentionally reinforces perceptions of exclusion and undermines the goal of shared development.

A Humanitarian respondent added, “Operational constraints make full alignment difficult. We try to coordinate, but in practice, it is challenging to ensure that both refugees and hosts experience comparable service quality.” (Interview with Humanitarian respondent, 11th September 2025.)

The data suggests that despite efforts toward coordination, operational constraints within implementing agencies limit the ability to deliver equal service quality across populations, weakening the intended inclusivity of integration frameworks.

“Sera zipo, lakini usajili ni changamoto. Wakati mwingine huduma zipo, lakini ni vigumu kuzipata kutokana na taratibu tata. People get lost in the paperwork and feel the services are far even when technically they are there.”

“Policies exist, but registration is a challenge. Sometimes services are available, but accessing them is difficult due to confusing procedures. People get lost in the paperwork and feel the services are far even when technically they are there.” (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 12th September 2025.)

The account highlights that complex administrative procedures and documentation requirements act as a significant barrier to access, meaning that services that exist in principle are often difficult to reach in practice, reducing trust in governance systems. Qualitative evidence collected illustrates that while infrastructure, coordination, and administrative clarity are foundational for integration, practical barriers continue to shape how global humanitarian policies are experienced on the ground, confirming both Liberalist and Constructivist perspectives regarding institutional and social mediation of policy.

4.3.4 Services Accessed by Refugees and Host community according to Respondents

The respondents were asked some of the services refugees and host community received. The results are summarized in Table 4.15. Quantitative evidence represented in table 22 showed that access to basic social services was nearly universal among respondents. Education services were accessed by 99% of respondents, while 97.1% reported using health care services, making these the most widely accessed sectors. Social protection programs, including cash-based assistance, were also prominent, with 81.4% of respondents indicating participation. In contrast, only 43.1% reported accessing employment or livelihood support, and 39.2% engaged with environmental programs. These results indicated that while education, health, and social protection services were broadly available, access to economic and environmental support remained comparatively limited among the study population.

Table 4.15*Services Accessed by Refugees and Host community according to Respondents*

Service	Responses	Percent
Education	101	27.5
Health Care	99	27.0
Employment/Livelihood Support	44	12.0
Social Protection	83	22.6
Environmental Programs	40	10.9
Total	367	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

According to qualitative evidence, participants across refugee and host communities described access to education, health, and social protection services as generally available but uneven in practice, particularly when resources were strained or administrative procedures created delays. The narratives reflected how people experienced these services in everyday life, linking survey patterns of high access in education and health with more limited opportunities in livelihoods and environmental programming. The voices below illustrate how policy availability translated into lived realities within both Kalobeyei Village One and the neighboring host settlement of Esikiriait.

“Shule zinafanya kazi vizuri na watoto wanajifunza pamoja bila ubaguzi, lakini walimu ni wachache sana na madarasa yamejaa. Wakati mwingine watoto wanarudi nyumbani bila kuelewa vizuri kwa sababu mwalimu hana muda wa kuwafikia wote. Tunafurahia kuwa na elimu karibu, lakini bado tunahitaji msaada zaidi.”

“The schools are working well and children learn together without discrimination, but there are too few teachers and classrooms are overcrowded. Sometimes children return home without understanding properly because the teacher does not have time for everyone. We are

happy to have education nearby, but we still need more support.” (FGD female refugee respondent, Kalobeyei Village One, 8 September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a female refugee respondent explained that education services were valuable but still under pressure because of population growth and limited staffing. She noted that children from different nationalities learn together, which she saw as positive for coexistence, but worried that overcrowding affects learning quality.

“Hospitali ipo na tunahudumiwa pamoja na wakimbizi, lakini dawa zinakoma kabla ya zamu yetu kufika mara nyingi. Unarudi kesho au siku nyingine, na hiyo inaleta uchovu kwa watu wa kijiji. Tunashukuru huduma kuletwa karibu, lakini bado changamoto zipo.”

“The hospital is there and we are served together with refugees, but medicines often run out before our turn arrives. You come back the next day or another day, and that brings frustration for people in the village. We appreciate the services being brought closer, but challenges still exist.” (FGD with male household participant, Esikiriit Village, 9 September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a host community man described how health services were technically accessible to both communities but shortages often created frustration, especially when medicines ran out before everyone was served. He linked this to perceptions that services were overstretched due to the large refugee presence, even though he acknowledged the benefits of improved infrastructure.

“The cash support really helps families because you can pay rent and buy food when there is nothing else, but when you try to join training or business programs, they sometimes tell you the system shows you already benefited. It feels like you are stuck because you want to work but opportunities are limited. Many young people want to be independent, not just depend on aid.” (FGD with refugee youth, Kalobeyei Village One, 8 September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a refugee youth highlighted the importance of social protection assistance while also describing difficulties accessing livelihood opportunities, particularly when administrative systems prevented repeat participation in programs. He explained that financial support helped households meet immediate needs but did not necessarily create long-term economic independence.

Qualitative data reinforce survey findings showing widespread access to education, health, and social protection alongside comparatively limited engagement with livelihood and environmental programs, illustrating how implementation constraints, resource pressures, and procedural barriers shape everyday experiences of service access across integrated refugee–host settings.

“Education and health are where you first notice the gap. Refugees often get these services free, but host communities outside the settlement must pay user fees. That is why even when access exists, 26.5 percent of survey respondents feel there is inequality.” (Interview with DRS representative, 11 September 2025.)

The data shows that perceived inequality in service access is driven less by formal availability and more by differences in cost structures between refugees and host communities, which shape everyday perceptions of fairness in education and healthcare.

“The creation of joint schools and hospitals has helped. Many host families can now access facilities they couldn’t before, but the demand is high. Population growth means long queues, overcrowding, and pressure on teachers and health staff.” (Interview with Kakuma Municipality official, 11 September 2025.)

The qualitative data indicates that shared infrastructure such as schools and health facilities has expanded access for both communities, but rising population pressure is straining capacity, leading to overcrowding, longer waiting times, and reduced service efficiency.

“Integration is complicated when affordability differs. If refugees receive free or subsidized services while hosts must pay, resentment can build. Equity is not just about legal access; it’s about how people experience it day to day. Hosts now use refugee-targeted schools and clinics, but congestion and staff shortages still frustrate them. The intention is inclusion, but capacity limits affect perception” (Interview with Humanitarian respondent, 11 September 2025.)

The data suggests that integration outcomes are strongly influenced by how affordability differences translate into social perceptions of fairness, where legal

equality in access does not necessarily produce experienced equity. While inclusive service systems have been introduced, limited staffing, congestion, and resource constraints continue to undermine service quality, affecting how inclusion policies are experienced on the ground.

Qualitative evidence from key person interviews with the local administrator described the human experience of service delivery:

“Queue ni ndefu, dawa zinakosa, na shule chache zinapatikana. Hii ndiyo inayoamua jinsi watu wanavyoona usawa kuliko sera yenyewe.

“The long lines, medicine shortages, and limited school places make people feel inequality, even if policies are fair.” (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 10 September 2025.)

The data highlights that lived experiences of long queues, medicine shortages, and limited school spaces are central in shaping perceptions of inequality, showing that practical service delivery conditions have a stronger influence on perceived fairness than formal policy design.

These narratives reveal that despite formal policy frameworks promoting inclusion, practical realities such as user fees, overcrowding, and limited resources strongly mediate perceptions of equality, confirming that the domestication of global humanitarian policies is experienced through local social and infrastructural contexts.

4.3.5 Quality of Services as rated by Respondents

The respondents were asked to rate the quality of services they receive. The results are summarized in Table 4.16

Table 4.16*Quality of Services as rated by Respondents*

Service	Minimal	Moderate	High	Total
Education	12	75	13	100
Healthcare	57	39	4	100
Employment/Livelihood	83	16	1	100
Social Protection	86	13	1	100
Environmental Programs	88	11	1	100

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative evidence represents in Table 4.16 showed that education services were most commonly rated as moderate in quality, with 76% of respondents selecting this category, while 14% reported high quality and 12% indicated minimal quality. This distribution suggests that education was generally perceived as functioning at an acceptable but not optimal level, with a relatively small proportion experiencing high standards.

Healthcare services received more critical evaluations, with 58% of respondents rating quality as minimal and 40% as moderate, while only 4% perceived healthcare services to be of high quality. These figures indicate that a majority of participants experienced significant limitations in healthcare provision, pointing to gaps in service capacity and consistency.

Employment and livelihood support was rated as minimal by 84% of respondents, with only 17% indicating moderate quality and 1% reporting high quality. This pattern

reflects limited effectiveness of current economic inclusion initiatives and suggests that most participants did not experience meaningful support for income generation or labor market participation.

Social protection services followed a similar trend, with 87% of respondents rating them as minimal, 14% as moderate, and just 1% as high. The concentration of responses in the minimal category indicates that safety nets and welfare-related assistance were widely perceived as insufficient.

Environmental programs were also rated predominantly as minimal, with 89% of respondents selecting this category, compared to 12% who rated them moderate and 1% who rated them high. These findings show that environmental and sustainability-focused initiatives were among the least positively assessed services within the settlement context.

According to qualitative evidence, FGDs respondents described integration initiatives in education, health, livelihoods, social protection, and environmental management as visible but uneven, with practical limitations often linked to shortages in infrastructure, materials, and institutional capacity. Their experiences mirrored survey patterns showing that access does not necessarily translate into adequacy, particularly where demand exceeds available resources. The narratives below reflect how both refugee and host populations interpret the gap between policy promises and daily realities.

“Shule ina walimu wa kutosha lakini vifaa ni kidogo sana, wakati mwingine watoto wanarudi nyumbani bila vitabu na tunajaribu kuwasaidia sisi wazazi. Tunaona juhudi zinafanyika kwa sababu watoto wa jamii zote wanasoma pamoja, lakini bado mahitaji ni mengi kuliko rasilimali. Elimu ni muhimu kwetu hata kama mazingira si rahisi.”

“The school has enough teachers but materials are very limited; sometimes children return home without books and we try to support them as parents. We see efforts being made because children from all

communities' study together, but needs are still greater than resources. Education is important to us even if the environment is not easy." (FGD with male refugee respondent, Kalobeyei Village One, 8 September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a male refugee reflected on education conditions, explaining that although teachers were present and children from different communities learned together, shortages in materials meant families often had to improvise to support learning at home. He emphasized that education remained important because it represented hope for children's futures despite these limitations.

"Watoto wetu na wakimbizi wanashirikiana darasani na hiyo ni jambo nzuri, lakini madarasa ni madogo na wakati mwingine hawapati nafasi ya kutosha kujifunza vizuri. Hospitalini pia tunasubiri muda mrefu kabla ya kuona daktari kwa sababu watu ni wengi kuliko huduma. Tunashukuru huduma kuwa karibu, lakini bado zinahitaji kuongezwa."

"Our children and the refugees learn together in class and that is a good thing, but classrooms are small and sometimes they do not get enough space to learn properly. At the hospital we also wait a long time before seeing a doctor because there are more people than services. We appreciate having services nearby, but they still need to be expanded." (FGD with female household respondent, Esikiriait Village, 9 September 2025.)

A female household respondent described similar pressures in both education and health services, noting that integration had increased access but also stretched available facilities. She expressed appreciation for shared services while also highlighting the strain caused by overcrowding and long waiting times.

"Ajira ni chache sana na mara nyingi tunategemea misaada ya chakula kwa sababu hakuna kazi ya kudumu. Tunajaribu pia kulinda mazingira yetu, lakini vifaa na elimu ya mazingira ni kidogo sana, hivyo inakuwa ngumu kufanya vizuri. Watu wanataka kujitegemea lakini nafasi ni ndogo."

"Jobs are very few and often we rely on food assistance because there is no stable work. We also try to protect our environment, but resources and environmental education are very limited, so it becomes difficult to do it properly. People want to be self-reliant but opportunities are small." (FGD with refugee youth, Kalobeyei Village One, 8 September 2025.)

Qualitative evidence from a refugee youth showed the difficulty of achieving economic independence, explaining that limited employment opportunities and inconsistent assistance created continued reliance on humanitarian support. He connected environmental challenges to the same resource shortages, noting that communities wanted to protect their surroundings but lacked tools and structured systems. These accounts illustrate how integration frameworks have expanded shared access to services while simultaneously exposing capacity gaps, reinforcing the need for stronger infrastructure investment, institutional coordination, and livelihood programming to align local implementation with global humanitarian policy objectives. The Key Informant Interviews consistently highlighted economic conditions as a critical structural factor shaping integration outcomes in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, revealing both practical and systemic barriers to self-reliance.

“The problem is that refugees cannot move freely to seek work, and the work permit process takes too long. This delays economic participation and creates frustration, as people compete for the few available resources,” (Interview with DRS Representative, 10th September 2025.)

The account indicates that restrictive movement policies and delayed work permit systems significantly constrain refugee economic participation, intensifying competition for limited livelihoods and reinforcing dependency within the settlement.

Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with the municipality’s emphasized the practical limitations despite legal provisions:

“*Sera zipo, lakini kupata ruhusa za kazi ni ngumu sana.* Most refugees end up working informally because the system does not facilitate access, leaving them dependent on aid,” highlighting how law and practice often diverge.

Policies exist, but obtaining work permits is very difficult. Most refugees end up working informally because the system does not facilitate access, leaving them dependent on aid. (Interview with Kakuma Municipality official, 11 September 2025.)

The account shows a clear gap between formal legal provisions and actual administrative practice, where procedural barriers to work authorization push refugees into informal employment and weaken the intended outcomes of self-reliance policies. Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with the Humanitarian respondent account provided a broader structural perspective, noting,

“The economic environment is poorly regulated. Land tenure is unclear, businesses operate without oversight, and taxation is inconsistent. Both refugees and hosts are vulnerable, and without stronger frameworks, Kalobeyei risks becoming a crowded informal settlement rather than a model for urban-humanitarian integration. Kenya prioritizes citizens, which limits refugees’ access to the national economy. Humanitarian programs help, but they also create dependency and reduce incentives for state agencies to integrate refugees fully” (Interview with Humanitarian respondent, 11 September 2025.)

The data highlights that weak regulatory oversight, unclear land tenure systems, and inconsistent taxation structures create an unstable economic environment that undermines both refugee and host community livelihood security and limits effective integration. National prioritization of citizens over refugees shapes structural exclusion from formal economic systems, reinforcing aid dependency and weakening the full realization of integrated settlement objectives.

Qualitative data collected during key informant interview with the local administrator framed the community-level impact:

“Both refugees and host families face few livelihood opportunities because the markets are small and roads are poor. Integration will stay a dream unless investments target these weaknesses directly.” (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 12th September 2025.)

The account demonstrates that limited infrastructure, weak market systems, and poor connectivity at the local level significantly constrain livelihood opportunities for both refugees and host communities, making meaningful integration dependent on targeted investment in foundational economic systems.

This data illustrates that economic structures, bureaucratic barriers, and uneven regulatory frameworks critically shape the lived realities of integration, confirming that practical outcomes depend not only on policy design but also on local economic and institutional conditions.

4.3.6 Challenges in Accessing Services according to Respondents

The respondents were asked to state some of the challenges they faced in accessing services. The results are summarized in Table 4.17

Table 4.17

Challenges in Accessing Services according to Respondents

Challenge	Responses (N)	Percent
Limited availability of services	91	48.1
Distance to service centers	47	24.9
Discrimination	23	12.2
Lack of documentation	16	8.5
High cost of services	12	6.3
Total	189	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative evidence represented on table 4.17 showed that access to services was shaped primarily by structural barriers, with limited availability emerging as the most frequently reported challenge at 48.1% of responses. Distance to service centres followed at 24.9%, indicating that physical proximity remained a major constraint on utilization. Reports of discrimination accounted for 12.2%, while lack of documentation was cited by 8.5% of respondents, reflecting administrative hurdles that restricted access for some groups. High costs were mentioned in 6.3% of responses,

suggesting that financial barriers, though present, were less dominant than supply and distance limitations. Overall, the pattern of responses indicated that service access difficulties were driven more by infrastructure and system capacity gaps than by purely interpersonal or attitudinal factors.

According to qualitative evidence, respondents connected infrastructure shortages, economic pressures, and governance ambiguities directly to their daily experiences of seeking services and sustaining livelihoods. Their accounts showed that integration has improved physical proximity to schools, clinics, and markets, yet persistent capacity constraints continue to shape how useful those services are in practice.

On the qualitative data from the FGDs, it was revealed that accessing health care often required significant sacrifice because nearby facilities were overcrowded or understocked, forcing families to travel further while already struggling financially.

“Tunatembea masaa kwenda Kakuma kupata dawa kwa sababu hapa mara nyingi hazipatikani, nauli ni kubwa na hatuna bima ya afya. Watoto wakiumwa usiku inakuwa shida zaidi kwa sababu hakuna usafiri rahisi na pesa pia hakuna. Tunashukuru huduma zipo karibu kuliko zamani, lakini bado ni ngumu kuzifikia wakati zinahitajika sana.”

“We walk for hours to Kakuma to get medicine because here it is often unavailable, transport costs are high, and we have no health insurance. When children get sick at night it becomes even harder because there is no easy transport and we also lack money. We appreciate that services are closer than before, but it is still difficult to reach them when they are most needed.” (FGD with female refugee respondent, Kalobeyi Village One, 8 September 2025.)

Qualitative evidence from a refugee respondent shared how illness created anxiety not only because of health risks but also because of the cost and uncertainty involved in getting treatment.

“Shule ni chache na wakati mwingine hakuna nafasi za shule ya upili hata kwa sisi wenyeji, hivyo vijana wengi wanabaki nyumbani bila kazi. Wakati tunatafuta ajira tunakutana na wakimbizi pia wanatafuta, na kazi zenyewe ni chache sana kwa kila mtu. Hapo ndipo migogoro

inaanza kwa sababu kila mmoja anahisi anapigania nafasi yake ya kuishi.”

“Schools are few and sometimes there is no space for secondary school even for us hosts, so many youths remain at home without jobs. When we look for employment, we meet refugees also searching, and the jobs themselves are very limited for everyone. That is where conflict begins because each person feels they are fighting for their chance to survive.” (FGD with household youth, Esikiriait Village, 9 September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a household youth reflected on how shortages in education and employment opportunities affected young people from both communities, sometimes creating frustration and competition. He emphasized that the lack of opportunities, rather than the presence of refugees alone, was what generated tensions, especially when resources appeared unevenly distributed.

“Tungependa kufuata sheria zote na kufanya biashara vizuri, lakini sheria hazituhakikishii maendeleo kwa sababu bado hatuna uhuru wa kusafiri au kupata ardhi. Wakati mwingine tunasikia huduma ni za shirika fulani au serikali, lakini hatujui nani wa kuuliza msaada au wapi pa kuanzia. Hiyo inafanya watu wahisi sera zipo lakini hazibadilishi maisha yetu moja kwa moja.”

“We would like to follow all the laws and run businesses properly, but the laws do not guarantee our progress because we still lack freedom to move or access land. Sometimes we hear a service belongs to an agency or the government, but we do not know who to ask for help or where to begin. That makes people feel policies exist but do not directly change our lives.” (FGD with male refugee, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

A male refugee discussed how legal and administrative systems limited the effectiveness of integration efforts, noting that restrictions on movement and uncertainty about institutional responsibilities created confusion and reduced economic opportunities. He expressed frustration that following regulations did not always lead to meaningful improvements in livelihood prospects.

These accounts demonstrate that infrastructure capacity, economic opportunity, and institutional clarity remain decisive factors shaping whether integration policies translate into meaningful improvements, reinforcing survey findings that access alone

does not ensure equitable outcomes without sustained investment in systems, livelihoods, and governance coordination. The Key Informant Interviews revealed nuanced perspectives on the operationalization of the Refugees Act 2021 and its practical implications for integration in Kakuma.

“The Refugees Act 2021 is a milestone, but we still lack clarity on operational roles, especially for county governments. Overlapping responsibilities make it hard to coordinate programs, and without adequate water, roads, and electricity, even the best policies cannot translate into meaningful integration, highlighting the centrality of physical planning and infrastructure to effective policy implementation. (Interview with DRS representative, 10th September 2025.)

The account shows that although the Refugees Act 2021 provides a strong legal foundation for integration, unclear institutional roles and weak infrastructure at county level significantly limit its practical implementation and slow down meaningful coordination across governance systems.

“The Act mentions inclusion, yet rights like land ownership and freedom of movement remain limited. Our new municipal structure aims for integrated planning and a 50–50 benefit-sharing principle in new projects, but confusion over institutional roles still affects delivery and community perceptions of fairness emphasizing the importance of institutional clarity. (Interview with Kakuma Municipality official, 10th September 2025.)

The account indicates that while national and municipal frameworks promote inclusion and shared benefits, persistent uncertainty over institutional mandates and restricted rights such as movement and land access continue to shape perceptions of uneven fairness in integration processes.

“Policies do not address refugees arriving for economic reasons, which fuels local anxiety over scarce resources. Turkana County does not receive sufficient financial transfers to manage these responsibilities, so participation in integration can be more symbolic than substantive. Without predictable funding, county involvement cannot support long-term integration effectively, pointing to gaps in both policy articulation and resource allocation. (Interview with Humanitarian respondent, 11th September 2025.)

The account reveals that limited and unpredictable county-level financing weakens the ability of local governments to fully participate in integration, making implementation dependent on donor and humanitarian support rather than sustainable public systems.

“Humanitarian programs continue to fill gaps where government systems are incomplete, creating temporary fixes rather than long-term reforms. Schools, markets, sports, and youth activities have become informal spaces for integration, but multi-sectoral coordination and capacity building are critical if county-led governance is to sustain these gains, underlining the need for institutionalized, collaborative approaches to integration. (Interview with Humanitarian respondent, 11th September 2025.)

The account suggests that humanitarian actors have become essential in filling service delivery gaps, but their continued centrality points to weak state capacity and highlights the need for stronger multi-sector coordination to transform short-term interventions into lasting institutional reforms.

“Maji na barabara ni ishara kwamba serikali inashiriki kwa usawa, lakini mila na desturi huzuia wanawake wa wenyeji kushiriki katika shughuli za pamoja. This limits opportunities for interaction and understanding between hosts and refugees, even when infrastructure is available,” (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 12th September 2025.)

The data shows that even where infrastructure like roads and water systems is present, social and cultural norms, particularly those affecting gender participation, continue to influence how effectively refugees and host communities interact, shaping the depth of everyday integration beyond physical development. The qualitative data revealed that practical integration in Kakuma is mediated by infrastructure, resource distribution, institutional clarity, and cultural norms, confirming both the institutional focus of Liberalism and the social-constructivist dynamics emphasized by Constructivism (Keohane & Nye 1977; Wendt 1992).

4.4 Findings for Specific Objective 3

Objective 3: To analyze the practical implications of the domestication of global humanitarian policies on local refugee integration frameworks within Kakuma.

4.4.1 Policy and Program Priorities that could Strengthen Local Integration as rated by respondents

The Respondents were asked to state policy and program priorities that could strengthen Local Integration. The results are summarized in Table 4.18

Table 4.18

Policy and Program Priorities that could Strengthen Local Integration as rated by respondents

Policy/Program to Improve Integration	N	Percent
Easier work permits for refugees	67	26.1%
More funding for social services	98	38.1%
Stronger legal protections for refugees	73	28.4%
Increased government involvement	19	7.4%
Total	257	100%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data presented in table 4.18 revealed that several policy measures respondents perceived as most likely to strengthen refugee integration in Kalobeyei. The majority (38.1%) prioritized increased funding for social services, reflecting the critical role of education, healthcare, and community programs in promoting social cohesion. Stronger legal protections for refugees were emphasized by 28.4% of respondents, highlighting concerns around rights, documentation, and formal recognition. Access to work permits was cited by 26.1%, indicating that economic inclusion remains a central determinant of integration outcomes. A smaller proportion

(7.4%) called for greater government involvement, suggesting that while institutional support is valued, respondents primarily focused on direct improvements in services, legal rights, and livelihood opportunities. These findings show that integration policies must balance social, legal, and economic dimensions to effectively meet refugee and host community needs.

According to qualitative evidence from the FGDs, respondents consistently connected meaningful integration with four interrelated elements: adequate social services, legal recognition, economic participation, and inclusion in local decision-making. Their narratives suggested that infrastructure improvements alone were not sufficient unless accompanied by documentation systems and participatory governance that allowed both refugees and host communities to influence outcomes. These perspectives reinforce survey findings that social services, legal protections, and work opportunities were the most frequently identified priorities for strengthening integration.

“Serikali iweke pesa zaidi kwa shule na kliniki ili watoto wetu na jamii yote wapate huduma bora, kwa sababu tukiona maendeleo yanagusa kila mtu tunahisi kuna haki. Huduma zikiwa chache, migogoro huanza kwa sababu watu wanahisi kuna upendeleo. Tunataka maendeleo ya pamoja, si ya upande mmoja.”

“The government should allocate more funds to schools and clinics so that our children and the whole community receive better services, because when we see progress touching everyone we feel there is fairness. When services are limited, conflicts begin because people feel there is favoritism. We want shared development, not development for one side.” (FGD with refugee elder, Kalobeyi Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a refugee elder showed the importance of government investment in shared services, explaining that schools and clinics were central not only for wellbeing but also for peaceful coexistence between communities. He emphasized that when services improved for everyone, tensions reduced because people felt treated more equally.

“Kwenye vibali vya kazi na hati sahihi tunaweza kushiriki zaidi katika uchumi na kusaidia familia zetu bila kutegemea misaada kila wakati. Watu wengi wana ujuzi lakini wanazuiliwa na taratibu, hivyo nafasi inapotea. Tukiruhusiwa kufanya kazi vizuri, hata jamii ya wenyeji itanufaika.”

“With proper work permits and documentation we can participate more in the economy and support our families without always depending on aid. Many people have skills but are restricted by procedures, so opportunities are lost. If we are allowed to work properly, even the host community will benefit.” (FGD with male refugee respondent, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a female house hold respondent reflected on participation in local governance, acknowledging that opportunities to engage with village leadership had increased but that community voices were not always reflected in final decisions. She stressed that genuine consultation would strengthen trust and cooperation between refugees and hosts.

“Tumepata nafasi ya kuzungumza na viongozi wa kijiji kuhusu masuala yetu, na hiyo ni hatua nzuri, lakini mara nyingine maamuzi hufanywa bila kuzingatia maoni yetu kabisa. Watu wanataka kusikilizwa kwa sababu tunajua changamoto zetu kila siku. Ushirikishwaji wa kweli unaweza kuimarisha uhusiano kati ya wakimbizi na wenyeji.”

“We have opportunities to speak with village leaders about our issues, and that is a good step, but sometimes decisions are made without considering our views at all. People want to be heard because we understand our daily challenges. Genuine participation can strengthen relations between refugees and hosts.” (FGD with female household respondent, Esikiriait Village, 9th September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a male refugee respondent highlighted the transformative role of documentation and work authorization, explaining that legal recognition would allow refugees to contribute economically rather than depend on aid. He linked employment opportunities directly to dignity and self-reliance, noting that economic inclusion benefits both refugees and the host economy. The data demonstrates that although access to shared facilities has improved, the effectiveness of integration policies

depends heavily on whether communities experience fairness in resource distribution, legal empowerment, and meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

Qualitative data from key informant interviews reinforced the importance of clear policies, documentation, and administrative clarity in achieving meaningful refugee integration.

“Countries that succeed in integration have very clear frameworks defining responsibilities across government departments while protecting both refugees and citizens. Kenya could benefit from structured accountability like in Europe, where displaced populations join local development programs without disadvantaging hosts. Operational clarity, not just legislative promises, is what makes integration real.” (Interview with Department of Refugee Services officer, 10th September 2025.)

The account indicates that effective refugee integration depends on clearly defined institutional roles and accountability structures, as ambiguity in governance frameworks limits coordinated implementation and weakens the translation of policy into practice.

“Policies need to clearly show how integrated services should function at county and municipal levels. Ambiguity makes it hard for institutions to plan and allocate resources, slowing progress for both refugees and host communities.” (Interview with Kakuma Municipality official, 10th September 2025.)

This account shows that unclear legal and administrative guidance at county and municipal levels constrains planning and resource allocation, thereby slowing down the operationalization of integrated settlement policies for both refugees and host communities.

“County governments lack defined roles in refugee management, which complicates collaboration. Humanitarian actors and government entities need clearer mandates, budgets, and frameworks to support joint planning. Otherwise, integration remains fragmented and driven by individual agencies rather than sustainable governance. The backbone of economic participation is predictable administrative procedures, proper documentation, and work authorization. Without these, refugees

cannot fully engage in livelihoods, and integration remains theoretical rather than practical” (Interview with humanitarian respondent, 11th September 2025.)

The qualitative evidence highlights that weakly defined mandates and fragmented coordination between government and humanitarian actors undermine joint planning processes, resulting in a disjointed implementation system that limits sustainable integration outcomes. Restrictive or unpredictable administrative procedures, particularly around documentation and work authorization, significantly reduce refugees’ ability to engage in livelihoods, thereby weakening the practical realization of self-reliance and economic inclusion.

“Wakati watu wanaweza kufanya kazi kisheria na wanapojua haki zao, jamii inakuwa tulivu zaidi, na migogoro inapungua.

“When people can work legally and know their rights, the community becomes calmer, and disputes reduce.” (Interview with Local administrator in Kalobeyi Village One, 12th September 2025.)

The account suggests that when legal access to work is supported alongside awareness of rights, social tensions reduce and community stability improves, showing a direct link between lawful economic participation and strengthened refugee–host coexistence. The data shows that effective integration in Kakuma depends on enforceable legal frameworks, efficient documentation, and operational clarity across institutions, highlighting the interplay between policy design, administrative practice, and community experience.

4.4.2 Community Participation in Consultations and Decision-making Platforms rated by Respondents

The respondents were asked whether the communities participated in consultations and decision-making platforms. The results are summarized in Table 4.19

Table 4.19

Community Participation in Consultations and Decision-making Platforms rated by Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percent
No	77	76.5%
Yes	23	23.5%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data presented in table 4.19 revealed that participation in integration-related forums was low among respondents. Only 23.5% reported having taken part in community discussions, consultations, or decision-making platforms related to integration, while 76.5% indicated they had never participated in such processes. This pattern suggested that most refugees and host community members had limited direct involvement in formal structures where integration planning and dialogue occurred. The distribution of responses highlighted a significant gap between policy intentions promoting inclusive participation and the extent to which community members reported actual engagement in integration forums.

According to qualitative evidence from the FGDs, community members described multiple barriers that limited meaningful participation in integration planning, ranging from logistical challenges to unclear communication and gendered responsibilities. These narratives highlight the persistent gap between formal policies promoting inclusion and the realities of everyday life for refugees and host community members.

“Tunapewa taarifa baada ya mkutano kumalizika, hivyo maoni yetu hayazingatiwi. Tunataka kushiriki, lakini mara nyingi nafasi hiyo haipo. Ni vigumu kuwa na sauti yetu katika maamuzi yanayohusu maisha yetu ya kila siku.”

“We are given information after the meeting has already ended, so our opinions are not considered. We want to participate, but often that space does not exist. It is difficult to have our voice in decisions affecting our daily lives.” (FGD with refugee youth, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a refugee youth from Kalobeyei Village One revealed expressed frustration with timing and procedural exclusion, emphasizing that decisions are often made before young people can contribute.

“Hatutambui ni nini kinaendeshwa kwenye mkutano, hivyo siwezi kuhudhuria. Watu wanakuja na maamuzi tayari yametengenezwa. Napenda kushiriki, lakini taarifa hazionekani wazi kwetu wenyeji.”

“We do not understand what is being conducted in the meeting, so I cannot attend. People come with decisions already made. I want to participate, but information is not clearly visible to us as hosts.” (Interview with female household respondent, Esikiriait Village, 9th September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a female household respondent from Esikiriait described challenges in understanding meeting agendas, which prevented her from attending and contributing.

“Mkutano ni mbali na nyumba zetu, hatuwezi kufika kwa wakati. Wengine wanakuja wakiwa tayari wamepata taarifa kabla yetu. Ni changamoto kubwa kwa wanaume na wazee kama mimi kushiriki kikamilifu.”

“The meeting is far from our homes, and we cannot arrive on time. Others come already having information before us. It is a major challenge for men and elders like me to participate fully.” (FGD with male refugee respondent, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a male refugee respondent from Kalobeyei Village One highlighted logistical barriers and distance as key obstacles, noting that even when meetings are open, reaching the venue is a struggle. Qualitative data shows that meaningful participation in integration planning is constrained by temporal,

informational, and infrastructural barriers, underscoring the need for more accessible, inclusive, and gender-sensitive engagement strategies.

Key informants provided nuanced perspectives on the challenges and opportunities related to community participation in integration forums, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity, transparency, and local leadership.

“Public participation is the foundation of fair integration. When consultations are meaningful, refugees and host communities can raise their priorities and understand how resources are shared. People accept the outcomes more because they know they were part of the process,” explained a Department of Refugee Services officer, highlighting how broad-based engagement strengthens legitimacy. (Interview with DRS official, 10th September 2025.)

The account shows that meaningful public participation strengthens the legitimacy of integration processes by allowing both refugees and host communities to influence resource allocation and better understand how decisions are made.

“In Laikipia, the digital land registry allows everyone to see which land is available and who is using it. If Turkana adopted something similar, it could reduce suspicion, prevent disputes, and encourage people to join integration discussions.” (Interview with Kakuma Municipality representative, 10th September 2025.)

The account highlights that transparency in land and resource management systems, particularly through accessible information structures, reduces suspicion and improves trust in integration processes, thereby encouraging broader community engagement.

“Trust grows when planning is transparent,” observed a Humanitarian representative. “If communities can see land and settlement plans clearly, they are more willing to engage. Limited documentation creates tension, but sharing clear information reduces rumors and makes forums meaningful.” (Interview with Humanitarian representative, 11th September 2025.)

Qualitative evidence indicates that openness in planning processes enhances trust and reduces misinformation, with clear and shared information systems improving participation in integration forums.

“Attendance depends on how early people are informed and whether local leaders are involved. When elders and youth leaders mobilize their communities, turnout is higher, but many refugee households rely on word-of-mouth, so information gaps still limit participation.” (Interview with Humanitarian representative, 11th September 2025.)

The data shows that participation levels are strongly shaped by the effectiveness of communication channels and the involvement of local leadership, with information gaps significantly limiting inclusive engagement.

“Integration works best when humanitarian agencies engage through local leadership. Tensions arise when organizations bring projects without first sitting with elders, women, and youth leaders. Joint forums where humanitarian actors, county officials, and community representatives meet allow us to solve problems together. People feel heard, and conflicts over resources or services are easier to manage.” (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 11th September 2025.)

The data demonstrates that integration outcomes improve when humanitarian actors work through established local leadership structures, as this strengthens coordination, reduces tensions, and enhances community acceptance of interventions. Joint decision-making forums involving humanitarian agencies, county officials, and community representatives enhance problem-solving, improve trust, and reduce conflicts over resources and service delivery. These qualitative data illustrate that effective community participation relies on early information, involvement of local leadership, transparent planning, and inclusive forums, confirming both the Liberalist emphasis on institutional mechanisms and the Constructivist insight that local social dynamics shape policy enactment.

4.4.3 Strategies That Could Strengthen Refugee–Host Relations rated by Respondents

The respondents were asked to state some of the strategies that could strengthen refugee- host relations. The results are summarized in Table 4.20

Table 4.20*Strategies That Could Strengthen Refugee–Host Relations rated by Respondents*

Strategy	N	Percent
Increased dialogue between refugees and hosts	82	35.0%
Joint community projects	63	26.9%
More inclusive county development planning	55	23.5%
Cultural exchange programs	34	14.5%
Total	234	100%

*Multiple selections permitted.

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data presented in table 4.20 revealed that respondents most frequently identified increased dialogue between refugees and host communities as the key strategy for strengthening relations, accounting for 35% of all responses and selected by 80.4% of participants. Joint community projects followed at 26.9% of responses, representing 61.8% of cases, indicating strong support for collaborative, shared activities at the local level. More inclusive county development planning constituted 23.5% of responses and was selected by 53.9% of respondents, reflecting a perceived need for greater participation of both communities in formal planning processes. Cultural exchange programs were the least selected strategy at 14.5%, though still identified by 33.3% of participants, showing moderate recognition of the role of social and cultural interaction. Overall, the distribution of responses indicated a stronger emphasis on structured dialogue and practical cooperation mechanisms than on symbolic or cultural initiatives alone.

According to qualitative evidence from FGDs, respondents highlighted the critical role of dialogue, joint projects, and participatory planning in fostering cooperation and reducing tensions between refugees and host communities. These narratives reveal that

practical experiences of engagement often matter more to residents than formal policy statements, and that trust, inclusion, and shared responsibility emerge through repeated interaction and collaborative work.

“Tukizungumza mara kwa mara, mambo yanakuwa rahisi. Tunaweza kuelewa mahitaji ya kila mtu na kupunguza migongano. Mikutano hii inatupa nafasi ya kusema mawazo yetu na kushirikiana.”

“When we talk regularly, things become easier. We can understand everyone’s needs and reduce conflicts. These meetings give us a chance to voice our ideas and collaborate.” (Interview with refugee youth, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Qualitative data captured from refugee youth from Kalobeyei Village One described the value of regular communication forums, emphasizing how consistent dialogue helps resolve misunderstandings and smooth daily interactions.

“Tunaweza kufanya kazi pamoja, tukipanda miti au kusafisha shule, tunajua kila mmoja ana thamani yake. Muda tunaposhirikiana, mawasiliano yanazidi kuwa bora. Hii inatufundisha kushirikiana na kujali kila mmoja.”

“We can work together, planting trees or cleaning schools, and everyone knows their value. Over time, as we collaborate, communication improves. This teaches us to cooperate and care for one another.” (FGD with household youth, Esikiriait Village, 9th September 2025.)

Qualitative data from a young woman from Esikiriait highlighted the tangible benefits of joint community projects, linking practical collaboration with mutual respect and shared responsibility.

“Tukiingizwa kwenye mipango ya mtaa, tunahisi tumethaminiwa. Hii inatupa motisha kushiriki zaidi katika jamii. Tunajua sauti yetu inasikika na inahesabiwa.”

“When we are included in neighborhood plans, we feel valued. This motivates us to participate more in the community. We know our voice is heard and counted.” (FGD with female refugee respondent, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Qualitative evidence from a female refugee respondent from Kalobeyei Village

One reflected on participatory planning and its effect on dignity and inclusion, noting how involvement in decision-making strengthens a sense of value and belonging. Qualitative data highlight that integration thrives not simply through top-down policies, but through repeated engagement, visible collaboration, and genuine inclusion in planning processes. They also highlight the delicate balance required when resources are scarce, illustrating that social cohesion initiatives must be paired with practical support to sustain trust and cooperation.

“We need structured dialogue platforms that bring everyone to the same table regularly. Collaboration works best when communities are involved from planning through implementation, not just in consultations.” (Interview with DRS official, 10th September 2025.)

The account indicates that effective policy domestication depends on continuous and structured community engagement, where integration becomes stronger when refugees and host communities are consistently involved in decision-making rather than only consulted at formal stages.

“Community voices must guide integration decisions. Refugees and hosts feel the impact of these policies more than anyone, so their presence in every discussion is not optional. Involving both groups builds ownership and reduces misinformation.” (Interview with Kakuma Municipality official, 10th September 2025)

The qualitative data shows that local governance legitimacy is reinforced when integration policies are shaped by the lived realities of both refugees and host communities, as meaningful participation reduces misinformation and strengthens shared ownership of outcomes.

“Countries like Sudan and Chad have shown that when refugees and hosts share the same villages and public facilities, cohesion grows naturally. Integrated schools, boreholes, and health centers reduce duplication and allow both sides to see real improvements in daily life.” The official noted that practical, visible services help communities

internalize policy intentions beyond theoretical frameworks. When refugees and hosts work together on water points, markets, or youth programs, they form relationships that policies alone cannot create. Shared projects turn abstract commitments into lived cooperation (Interview with Humanitarian respondent, 11th September 2025.)

The account suggests that social cohesion is strengthened when integration is supported through shared infrastructure such as schools, water points, and health facilities, as these visible services translate policy intentions into everyday experiences of cooperation and mutual benefit. Integration outcomes are deepened when refugees and host communities engage in joint practical activities, as shared projects transform policy frameworks into lived relationships that cannot be achieved through formal structures alone.

“Watu wetu wanataka sera zinazoonyesha jinsi wafugaji wanavyotumia ardhi, jinsi fidia inavyofanywa, na jinsi mifumo yetu ya kitamaduni inavyotatua migogoro.”

“Our people want policies that reflect how pastoralists use land, how compensation works, and how our cultural systems resolve conflict.” (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 11th September 2025.)

The account reveals that the effectiveness of integration policies is influenced by their alignment with local cultural systems, land use practices, and conflict resolution mechanisms, showing that policy acceptance increases when governance frameworks reflect indigenous social and economic realities.

4.4.4 Practical Benefits Emerging from Domestication of Global Policies rated by Respondents

The respondents were asked the practical benefits that emerged from domesticating global policies. The results are summarized in Table 4.21

Table 4.21

Practical Benefits Emerging from Domestication of Global Policies rated by respondents

Topic/Purpose of Discussion	Frequency	Percent
Economic empowerment/livelihood	5	22.7%
Peace/coexistence	7	31.8%
Self-reliance/sustainability	6	27.4%
Refugee–host integration	3	13.6%
Others	1	4.5%
Total	22	100%

Source: Field Survey Data (2025)

Quantitative data presented on table 4.21 revealed that most forums focused on peace and coexistence (31.8%). This was followed by discussions centered on self-reliance and sustainability (27.4%) and economic empowerment or livelihood issues (22.7%). A smaller proportion of participants identified refugee–host integration specifically as the main topic of discussion (13.6%), while only 4.5% referred to other themes. The distribution shows that dialogue spaces were more frequently oriented toward maintaining social harmony and promoting self-reliance than toward explicitly addressing integration as a formal policy objective. Overall, the findings indicate that practical and relational themes featured more prominently in community discussions than institutional or policy-framed integration issues.

According to qualitative evidence from FGDs, participants highlighted that integration is most tangible through everyday interactions, shared economic activities, and structured programs that facilitate trust and cooperation. The voices below illustrate

how refugees and host communities experience social cohesion, self-reliance, and joint problem-solving on the ground.

“Mafunzo ya ufundi yanatupa njia ya kujitegemea, tunapojifunza pamoja, marafiki wapya wanajitokeza na tunaweza kusaidiana kila siku,”

“Vocational trainings give us a way to become self-reliant; when we learn together, new friendships emerge and we can help each other every day.” (FGD with refugee youth, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Quantitative data from a refugee youth from Kalobeyei Village One revealed vocational trainings and the ways they foster independence, noting that skill-sharing initiatives help youth create practical pathways to self-reliance while strengthening social bonds.

“Tunaposhirikiana kwenye masoko na mafunzo, marafiki wapya wanajitokeza kila wakati na tunasaidiana kwenye changamoto za kila siku,”

“When we collaborate in markets and trainings, new friendships emerge all the time, and we help each other with daily challenges.” (FGD with male youth, Kalobeyei Village One, 8th September 2025.)

Quantitative data from a male participant from the youth FGDs in Kalobeyei Village One emphasized how collaborative market and training activities facilitate social networks and friendships that extend beyond the programs themselves.

“Sasa tunashirikiana, hakuna tofauti, pesa zetu zinasaidia wote na tunajua tunaweza kutegemeana,”

“Now we cooperate, there is no difference, our money helps everyone and we know we can rely on each other.” (FGD with female from household respondent, Esikiriait Village, 9th September 2025.)

Quantitative data from a female household respondent from Esikiriait described how joint savings groups and market participation have enhanced trust and mutual benefit between hosts and refugees. These accounts demonstrate that integration, while framed by formal humanitarian policies, is most vividly experienced through daily cooperation,

shared livelihoods, and relational networks, highlighting how global frameworks are locally interpreted and enacted in both tangible and social ways.

Qualitative data gathered from the key informant interviews reinforced the community-level findings by highlighting gaps between policy design and practical implementation.

“The laws are there, but they are not fully put into practice. If the Refugees Act 2021 and its regulations were applied consistently, people would know what to expect, and integration would feel more predictable and fairer.” (Interview with Department of Refugee Services officer, 10th September 2025.)

The account indicates that despite the existence of formal legal and policy frameworks such as the Refugees Act 2021, inconsistent implementation at the operational level continues to weaken predictability, fairness, and trust in the integration process.

“We are expected to deliver programs without the matching resources. Clarity in roles and financing is essential; otherwise, joint initiatives fail despite good intentions.” (Interview with Kakuma Municipality official, 10th September 2025.)

The qualitative evidence shows that limited financial and institutional resources at municipal level constrain effective service delivery and coordination, making policy execution dependent on capacity rather than design.

“Counties cannot manage this alone. Development partners must be engaged early so that investments benefit both refugees and hosts in a balanced way, ensuring services and livelihoods are sustainable.” (Interview with humanitarian representative, 11th September 2025.)

The account revealed that effective integration is strongly linked to early and coordinated engagement between counties and development partners, suggesting that fragmented planning reduces the sustainability and equity of refugee-host interventions.

“Integration works best when tied to self-reliance strategies. If both groups can earn, build, and plan for themselves, the dependency gap

closes, and integration becomes more natural, not forced.” (Interview with humanitarian representative, 11th September 2025.)

The qualitative evidence indicated that self-reliance strategies are central to reducing dependency and strengthening integration outcomes by enabling both refugees and host communities to achieve shared economic stability.

“Pumziko na shule zinapowekwa mahali ambapo wote wanaweza kufikia, mzozo unapungua mara moja. Livelihood programs lazima ziwe za pamoja, si kila mtu akafanya kazi kando kando.”

When a borehole or school is placed where everyone can access it, tension decreases immediately. Livelihood programs must be designed so that people work together, not separately. (Interview with Local administrator in Kakuma, 12th September 2025.)

The data showed that equitable access to shared infrastructure such as schools and water points plays a critical role in reducing tensions and strengthening coexistence, while joint livelihood programs enhance cooperation and social cohesion at community level. The qualitative evidence showed that policy domestication depends not only on legal frameworks but on predictable implementation, coordinated development planning, equitable access to resources, and program designs that actively promote shared engagement, reflecting both institutional and social dimensions of integration.

4.5 Discussion of the Findings

4.5.1 Analysis for Specific Objective 1

Objective 1: To identify the mechanisms through which global humanitarian policies are domesticated within Kenya’s local refugee integration frameworks in Kakuma–Kalobeyi.

The findings for this objective show that global humanitarian policies have become visible within Kalobeyi, but the way they are understood and experienced locally is shaped more by everyday governance practices than by formal policy knowledge. The

fact that 94.1% of respondents reported awareness of integration-related policies suggests that global frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework have successfully filtered into local systems through national laws, settlement programs, and humanitarian interventions. However, this awareness was strongest for practical and visible initiatives such as KISED P and the Shirika Plan rather than for the global frameworks themselves. This pattern suggests that people engage more with policies when they are tied to tangible experiences such as schools, markets, documentation processes, and service delivery rather than abstract international commitments.

Findings also reveal that the domestication of policy in Kakuma–Kalobeyei is heavily mediated by informal structures. Community meetings, NGOs, and interpersonal communication emerged as the main ways people accessed policy information, while direct government communication remained limited. This is important because it shows that local legitimacy is not built primarily through formal state institutions, but through actors that communities interact with more regularly and trust more directly. In practice, this means that humanitarian organizations and community networks have become central intermediaries between global policy and local experience. While this strengthens local access to information, it also creates uneven understanding of rights, entitlements, and responsibilities depending on who receives information and through which channels.

A major pattern emerging from the findings is the gap between policy visibility and policy confidence. Although awareness levels were high, only 11.8% of respondents believed these policies were effectively supporting integration, while most respondents either viewed them as ineffective or remained uncertain about their impact. This suggests that the issue in Kakuma–Kalobeyei is not the absence of policy frameworks,

but limited trust in the ability of institutions to implement them fairly and consistently. The independent variable, represented by global humanitarian policies such as the GCR and CRRF, appears to have influenced the dependent variable by expanding settlement programs, increasing access to some services, and creating stronger legal and institutional language around inclusion. However, these positive expressions of integration remain incomplete because they coexist with weak social cohesion in some areas, unequal access to opportunities, and limited participation in decision-making. In other words, the policies created the framework for integration, but local institutional realities shaped how much of that framework translated into meaningful outcomes.

Qualitative findings help explain why these uneven outcomes emerged. Respondents repeatedly pointed to limited government resources, weak coordination, communication gaps, and tensions between refugees and host communities as barriers to effective implementation. These patterns indicate that policy domestication depends not only on adopting international frameworks but also on the strength and legitimacy of local governance systems. Where institutions lack capacity or clear coordination structures, policies become fragmented and inconsistently applied. This has direct implications for refugee–host relations because perceptions of unequal access to services or opportunities can easily undermine trust and social cohesion. As a result, integration becomes negotiated through daily experiences of fairness, inclusion, and access rather than through legal reforms alone.

These findings strongly support the theoretical framework in the study. Liberal Institutionalism helps explain why Kenya adopted global refugee frameworks and embedded them within laws and settlement policies such as the Refugees Act 2021 and KISEDPA However, the findings expose the limits of the theory by showing that institutional adoption alone does not guarantee effective implementation at local level.

Constructivism helps explain this gap by showing how refugees, host communities, and local actors interpret and reshape these policies through everyday social interaction and lived experience. Yet the findings also demonstrate that these local interpretations are constrained by institutional weaknesses and unequal power relations. Together, the theories help explain that policy domestication in Kakuma–Kalobeyi is neither purely top-down nor entirely community-driven, but rather a continuous negotiation between global policy ambitions, local governance realities, and the everyday experiences of the people expected to live within these systems.

4.5.2 Analysis for Specific Objective 2

Objective 2: To examine the structural factors within Kakuma that influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme.

The findings for this objective show that the adoption of global humanitarian policies within Kakuma–Kalobeyi is shaped less by the existence of policies themselves and more by the structural conditions surrounding implementation. While frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees, the Refugees Act 2021, and KISED P provide formal guidance for integration, their success on the ground depends heavily on governance capacity, administrative coordination, and resource availability. The study found generally positive relations between refugees and host communities, with 66.7 percent of respondents describing interactions as somewhat or very positive. Shared markets, schools, water points, and daily economic activities have created spaces where cooperation and coexistence are visible. However, these relationships remain fragile because they are strongly tied to perceptions of fairness in how resources and opportunities are distributed.

The findings reveal that access to services is relatively high in some sectors, particularly education and healthcare, yet this has not translated into equal experiences of inclusion. Many respondents pointed to overcrowding, long waiting times, uneven service quality, and limited livelihood opportunities as major concerns. The fact that 75.8 percent of respondents identified policy and administrative restrictions as the main barriers to equal access is particularly significant because it shifts attention away from funding alone and toward governance systems themselves. Delays in documentation, movement restrictions, and complex work authorization procedures were repeatedly mentioned in interviews and discussions, showing that bureaucratic systems have become one of the main ways integrations are either enabled or constrained. These patterns suggest that integration outcomes are deeply shaped by state capacity and institutional efficiency rather than by policy commitments alone.

The findings also demonstrate that structural conditions directly affect local legitimacy and refugee–host relations. Where services are perceived as unequal or opportunities appear limited, tensions over employment, land, and resources become more visible. Although many respondents acknowledged peaceful coexistence, frustrations emerged when either refugees or host communities felt excluded from the benefits associated with integration programs. This means that structural inequalities do not only affect service delivery but also shape how communities interpret the fairness and credibility of integration policies.

The interaction between the independent and dependent variables becomes particularly clear in this objective. Global humanitarian policies and national legal frameworks created the foundation for integrated settlement approaches by promoting shared services, legal inclusion, and self-reliance. In some areas, this contributed positively to expanded access to schools, healthcare, and social interaction between communities.

However, structural weaknesses such as poor coordination, administrative delays, and limited infrastructure also produced negative expressions of integration, including perceptions of inequality, restricted economic opportunities, and marginalization from decision-making processes. The findings therefore show that policy domestication is not linear. The same governance systems designed to support integration can also reproduce exclusion when institutional capacity is weak or unevenly distributed.

These findings closely connect to the theoretical framework in the study. Liberal Institutionalism helps explain why Kenya adopted and institutionalized global refugee frameworks through laws and governance structures intended to support integration. However, the findings expose a major limitation in the theory because institutional adoption did not automatically produce effective implementation. The realities in Kakuma showed that weak county structures, overlapping mandates, and bureaucratic inefficiencies significantly shaped outcomes in ways the theory does not fully explain. Constructivism helps fill this gap by showing that people's perceptions of fairness, inclusion, and access influence how policies are understood and accepted locally. Refugees and host communities interpreted the same systems differently depending on their experiences with services, livelihoods, and participation. At the same time, the findings also reveal the limits of Constructivism because local interpretations alone cannot explain the deeper structural inequalities and institutional weaknesses shaping those experiences. Together, the theories show that structural factors influencing policy adoption are both institutional and social, where governance systems create the framework for integration, but lived experiences determine whether that framework is seen as legitimate, fair, and sustainable.

4.5.3 Analysis for Specific Objective 3

Objective 3: To analyze the practical implications of the domestication of global humanitarian policies on local refugee integration frameworks within Kakuma.

The findings from Kakuma and Kalobeyei show that the domestication of global humanitarian policies has created visible improvements in coexistence, shared services, and livelihood opportunities, but these gains remain uneven and highly dependent on institutional capacity and local implementation. Respondents frequently associated integration with practical experiences such as access to schools, healthcare, markets, and livelihood support rather than with policy documents themselves. This suggests that the success of policy domestication is ultimately measured through daily realities rather than formal legal adoption. While policies linked to the Global Compact on Refugees, the Refugees Act 2021, and KISEDPP promoted self-reliance and inclusion, many participants still experienced delays in documentation, limited work opportunities, and unequal service quality. In Kakuma and Kalobeyei, markets, schools, dialogue forums, and community projects became the spaces where integration was most visible, strengthening social interaction and reducing tension despite existing structural inequalities.

The findings also reveal that policy domestication alone does not automatically produce inclusion or legitimacy at the local level. Although global and national frameworks strongly promote participation and shared governance, only a small proportion of respondents reported taking part in consultation or decision-making forums. This gap points to broader challenges in state capacity, communication systems, and local accountability. The findings therefore move beyond simply reporting participation levels and instead show how weak institutional coordination, bureaucratic delays, and limited civic engagement undermine trust in integration processes. Through the lens of

Liberal Institutionalism, the study demonstrates that while international and national institutions successfully transferred global refugee norms into Kenya's legal and policy frameworks, institutional presence alone was insufficient to guarantee effective implementation. Constructivism helps explain why outcomes varied across communities, showing that refugees and host populations interpreted integration through everyday experiences of fairness, opportunity, and access rather than through formal policy language. Together, the findings demonstrate that the practical impact of policy domestication depends on the interaction between institutional systems and lived social realities, where integration only becomes meaningful when policies translate into tangible and equitable improvements in people's everyday lives.

4.6 Chapter Summary

Study findings established that domestication of global humanitarian policies in Kakuma and Kalobeyei has brought both practical and social benefits for refugee integration, particularly through improved access to social services, legal recognition, economic participation, and inclusive governance. Key strategies such as increased funding, streamlined work permits, and participatory initiatives like dialogue and joint community projects have strengthened social cohesion, self-reliance, and cooperation between refugees and host communities. However, challenges including low community participation, logistical barriers, and limited institutional clarity highlight gaps in implementation, suggesting that effective integration requires aligning global policy frameworks with local realities through coordinated, equitable, and culturally sensitive approaches. The next chapter introduces the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents practical and context-specific recommendations aimed at strengthening policy implementation, improving integration outcomes, and enhancing collaboration among key actors. The chapter concludes by reflecting on the overall contributions, its limitations, and areas for future research in the study.

5.1 Summary of Findings

This study examined how global humanitarian policies are domesticated within Kenya's refugee integration framework in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, and how this process shapes governance, service delivery, and everyday relations between refugees and host communities. The findings show that the domestication of global refugee policy is not simply a legal or administrative process, but a negotiated interaction between international frameworks, state institutions, and local realities. Across all objectives, the study found that policies linked to the Global Compact on Refugees, the Refugees Act 2021, KISEDPA, and the Shirika Plan have significantly influenced the structure of refugee governance in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. However, their effectiveness depended less on the existence of policy frameworks and more on the ability of local institutions to implement them fairly, consistently, and in ways that communities considered legitimate. The study therefore contributes to knowledge by shifting attention from policy adoption alone to the practical realities of policy domestication, demonstrating that integration outcomes are shaped through everyday experiences of access, participation, and fairness rather than through formal policy commitments alone.

Findings for the first objective showed that the domestication of global humanitarian policy in Kakuma and Kalobeyei occurs mainly through national legislation, settlement planning frameworks, humanitarian programs, and local administrative systems. Respondents were generally aware of integration-related initiatives, particularly KISED P and the Shirika Plan, but most understood these policies through visible programs and services rather than through formal policy language. This finding is important because it demonstrates that policy visibility in refugee settings is driven more by implementation practices than by civic or legal awareness. The study also found that communication gaps, inconsistent awareness dissemination, and weak coordination between institutions limited local ownership of these policies. These patterns reveal an important contribution to policy and practice: domestication is not automatically achieved through legal adoption, but depends on whether governance systems can translate global commitments into understandable and trusted local processes. The findings therefore challenge assumptions within Liberal Institutionalism that institutional adoption alone guarantees effective implementation, while also supporting Constructivist arguments that policies acquire meaning through local interpretation and lived experience.

Findings for the second objective revealed that structural factors played a decisive role in shaping how global humanitarian policies were adopted and experienced locally. Although relations between refugees and host communities were generally positive, the study found that these relationships remained highly dependent on perceptions of fairness in access to services, livelihoods, and opportunities. Shared schools, markets, and health facilities created important spaces for interaction and coexistence, but tensions continued to emerge around employment, land use, documentation systems, and uneven service quality. The study showed that the main barriers to integration were

not simply financial limitations, but institutional and administrative weaknesses, including bureaucratic delays, overlapping mandates, weak county coordination, and inconsistent implementation procedures. This finding contributes to existing scholarship by showing that state capacity and governance quality are central to the success of refugee integration policies, particularly in protracted displacement settings. It also adds a practical policy dimension by demonstrating that integration frameworks cannot succeed without strong local institutions capable of coordinating actors, reducing administrative bottlenecks, and delivering services equitably across both refugee and host populations.

Findings for the third objective showed that the practical implications of policy domestication were most visible in everyday experiences of participation, livelihoods, and social interaction. Respondents associated successful integration less with policy documents and more with whether they could access work opportunities, education, healthcare, and shared community spaces. While the policies promoted self-reliance and inclusion, many refugees still faced restrictions linked to documentation processes, limited economic opportunities, and weak participation in decision-making forums. The study found that integration outcomes improved where communities interacted regularly through markets, schools, and joint projects, suggesting that social cohesion often developed through practical cooperation rather than through formal institutional design alone. However, low participation in governance forums revealed persistent gaps in local legitimacy and accountability, with many respondents feeling excluded from decisions affecting their daily lives. These findings contribute to knowledge by demonstrating that the success of refugee integration policies depends not only on legal frameworks but also on whether institutions create meaningful opportunities for participation and equitable access to resources. In practice, the findings suggest that

integration policies become sustainable only when they strengthen both institutional systems and social trust simultaneously.

Overall, the study contributes to policy, theory, and practice by demonstrating that refugee integration in Kakuma and Kalobeyei is shaped through a continuous interaction between global humanitarian norms and local governance realities. The findings show that policy domestication is uneven because institutions operate within conditions of limited resources, competing priorities, and complex social dynamics. At the same time, the study demonstrates that integration can produce meaningful coexistence where governance systems are responsive, participation is inclusive, and resources are distributed fairly. The research therefore provides grounded empirical evidence on how global humanitarian policies are negotiated at local level, while also offering practical ways of strengthening institutional coordination, improving participation, and building more equitable refugee integration systems in Kenya and similar displacement contexts.

5.2 Conclusion

This Chapter Five brings together the findings of the study into a single interpretation of how global humanitarian policies are experienced in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. Rather than treating policy as something that simply exists on paper, the study shows how it becomes meaningful only when it is filtered through institutions, local relationships, and everyday survival realities. Across all objectives, a consistent picture emerges: global frameworks are strong in design and ambition, but their local impact depends heavily on state capacity, coordination, and how communities interpret and respond to them in practice.

Starting with the first objective on mechanisms of domestication, the study finds that global humanitarian policies such as the Global Compact on Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework are clearly present in Kenya's legal and institutional systems, especially through the Refugees Act 2021, KISED, and the Shirika Plan. However, awareness at community level is shaped more by visible programs and services than by direct understanding of policy texts. This means that policy "travels" into Kakuma not through formal communication alone, but through schools, health services, NGOs, and daily interactions. The key issue here is not absence of policy, but dilution of meaning as it moves downward through institutions. This creates a gap between formal policy intent and lived understanding, which weakens local ownership and limits how strongly people connect themselves to integration goals. Theoretically, this confirms Liberal Institutionalism's strength in explaining policy transfer through institutions, but also exposes its limitation in assuming that adoption automatically leads to meaningful understanding and implementation. Constructivism helps explain this gap by showing that people reinterpret policy through lived experience, but it also reveals that interpretation alone cannot overcome weak communication systems and fragmented governance structures. Therefore, domestication is not a single institutional process but a layered social translation shaped by both governance systems and everyday realities.

The second objective on structural factors shows that implementation is shaped less by policy design and more by institutional capacity and coordination at local level. Even where legal frameworks are clear, implementation is uneven because of overlapping mandates, limited county capacity, resource constraints, and administrative inefficiencies. These structural weaknesses directly affect how refugees and host communities experience integration, especially in access to documentation, services,

and livelihoods. The findings suggest that social cohesion in Kakuma is real but fragile, because it depends on whether communities perceive fairness in how resources are distributed. Where services are shared and visible, relations improve; where inequalities appear, tensions rise. This helps explain why integration outcomes differ across settings even under the same policy framework. In theoretical terms, Liberal Institutionalism assumes that formal structures are enough to drive coordination, but the findings show that without strong administrative capacity, coordination remains weak in practice. Constructivism adds depth by showing that people's perceptions of fairness shape whether these structures are accepted or resisted. The broader contribution to knowledge is that state capacity and legitimacy are not abstract ideas here; they are experienced daily through access, delays, and visible inequality, which directly shape trust between refugees, host communities, and the state.

The third objective focuses on the practical implications of domesticated policies and shows that integration is most visible in everyday spaces rather than formal governance structures. Markets, schools, shared services, and community projects emerge as the real sites of integration, where refugees and host communities interact, cooperate, and sometimes compete. While policies promote self-reliance, participation, and inclusion, the findings show that actual participation in decision-making remains low, and livelihood opportunities are still constrained by legal and administrative barriers. This creates a situation where integration is experienced unevenly: socially it may be improving in some spaces, but economically and politically it remains limited. The key insight here is that policy outcomes are not failing entirely, but they are inconsistent and dependent on local conditions. Liberal Institutionalism explains the intended outcomes of policy systems, such as improved livelihoods and inclusion, but it struggles to explain why these outcomes remain partial despite strong policy alignment.

Constructivism helps explain why informal spaces like markets and community interaction become more important than formal participation structures in shaping real integration outcomes. The contribution here is that integration in Kakuma is not primarily a policy outcome but a negotiated social process shaped by both opportunity and constraint.

Overall, the study contributes to knowledge by showing that global humanitarian policy does not simply “arrive” in local contexts; it is translated, filtered, and reshaped through institutions and lived experience. It also shows that successful policy domestication depends less on policy existence and more on governance capacity, institutional coordination, and perceived fairness in everyday life. In terms of policy and practice, the findings suggest that improving integration requires strengthening local administrative systems, simplifying documentation and work processes, and creating more meaningful participation channels for both refugees and host communities. Without these adjustments, even well-designed policies risk remaining uneven in their impact. The study therefore adds to existing scholarship by grounding the global–local policy debate in lived realities from Kakuma, showing that integration is ultimately sustained not by policy design alone, but by how fairly and consistently it is experienced on the ground.

5.3 Recommendations

The findings of this study show that the success of refugee integration in Kalobeyei depends less on the existence of progressive policies and more on how those policies are interpreted, coordinated, and implemented at the local level. The recommendations below are therefore tied directly to the study objectives and focus on strengthening

policy domestication, improving institutional capacity, and enhancing practical integration outcomes for both refugees and host communities.

In relation to the first objective on the mechanisms through which global humanitarian policies are domesticated within Kenya's refugee integration frameworks, the study recommends strengthening policy communication and local interpretation structures within Kakuma and Kalobeyi. The findings showed that although awareness of integration-related programs was relatively high, most respondents understood these policies through visible services and humanitarian activities rather than through clear knowledge of their rights, responsibilities, or legal protections. This suggests that policy domestication in Kakuma remains largely administrative rather than participatory. To address this gap, national government institutions, county authorities, UNHCR, and implementing partners should establish structured and continuous community engagement forums where policies such as the Refugees Act 2021, KISEDPA, and the Shirika Plan are explained in practical and accessible ways. Information dissemination should move beyond formal documentation and include community dialogue platforms, local leadership structures, refugee committees, women's groups, and youth networks that people already trust and engage with. The study further recommends that county-level integration be strengthened to improve coordination between humanitarian actors and devolved governance structures, since weak institutional communication was found to contribute to uneven policy interpretation and selective implementation. These recommendations support existing scholarship arguing that global humanitarian norms only gain legitimacy when local communities are actively involved in shaping how they are understood and applied in practice.

For the second objective on the structural factors influencing the adoption of global humanitarian policies, the study recommends strengthening institutional capacity and

improving coordination between national government agencies, county governments, and humanitarian organizations. The findings revealed that many of the barriers affecting integration were not caused by lack of policy frameworks, but by weak implementation systems, overlapping mandates, delayed documentation processes, and unequal access to services. This points to a broader issue of state capacity and governance fragmentation within refugee-hosting areas. To address these challenges, the government and humanitarian partners should invest in integrated administrative systems that simplify documentation, movement authorization, and access to work permits. Digitization of refugee registration and service coordination systems would help reduce bureaucratic delays that currently undermine trust and participation. The study also recommends that refugee integration be more deliberately embedded within Turkana County development planning so that services such as healthcare, education, water, and livelihoods are expanded equally for both refugees and host communities. This would reduce perceptions of inequality that continue to strain refugee–host relations. The findings showed that positive social relations were strongest where communities interacted through shared services, markets, and economic activities, but weakened where competition over resources and uneven service quality persisted. Investments in infrastructure and local economic development are therefore necessary not only for service delivery but also for sustaining social cohesion and local legitimacy. These recommendations align with arguments by Ager and Strang (2008) and Nussbaum (2006), who emphasize that integration becomes sustainable when institutions create fair access to opportunities, participation, and social belonging.

Regarding the third objective on the practical implications of domesticating global humanitarian policies, the study recommends prioritizing meaningful participation and livelihood inclusion as central components of integration policy. The findings

demonstrated that many refugees and host community members still felt excluded from decision-making processes despite policies emphasizing participation and shared governance. Participation remained low because of weak communication, centralized planning processes, and limited engagement with local community structures. To improve legitimacy and accountability, integration programs should institutionalize regular consultation forums involving refugees, host communities, women, youth, elders, and persons with disabilities in decisions related to land use, services, infrastructure, and livelihoods. These forums should not function as symbolic consultations but as mechanisms through which local concerns directly shape planning and implementation. The study further recommends expanding joint livelihood programs that bring refugees and host communities together through vocational training, business support, and market development initiatives. Findings showed that integration was experienced most positively in shared economic and social spaces where communities interacted as partners rather than competitors. Strengthening local economic opportunities would therefore help reduce dependency, improve self-reliance, and minimize tensions linked to resource competition. At the same time, monitoring and evaluation systems should move beyond measuring outputs such as the number of beneficiaries reached and instead assess lived experiences of fairness, inclusion, and social cohesion. This is important because the study found that integration outcomes were often judged by everyday realities such as dignity, access, and opportunity rather than by policy commitments alone. These recommendations contribute to broader debates on policy domestication (Goodhand & Hulme, 2021). by demonstrating that successful refugee integration depends on whether global humanitarian principles can translate into practical improvements that communities themselves recognize as fair and meaningful

5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

Future research should go beyond examining how policies are implemented on the ground and look at the wider social, political, and economic effects of refugee integration over time. While initiatives in Kalobeyei have improved interaction and shared opportunities between refugees and host communities, tensions remain over limited resources, jobs, and access to services. Studies that explore the long-term impact on host communities could reveal whether perceived or real inequalities foster resentment or opposition toward refugees, especially in areas that have historically received little state investment.

Political inclusion is another area for deeper inquiry. Refugees often participate economically, through taxes or business regulation, without any formal political voice. Research into how this affects perceptions of fairness, accountability, and belonging could illuminate how non-citizens negotiate their role in local governance and social contracts.

Finally, longitudinal studies are essential to understand whether the gains from integration, improved livelihoods, social cohesion, and institutional support, are sustainable over time, particularly as funding and development priorities shift. Tracking changes in community relations and institutional performance will help policymakers design integration approaches that balance humanitarian protection with long-term development and avoid unintended social tensions.

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ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE A: INTRODUCTION LETTER FROM RIARA UNIVERSITY


Riara University

Ref: RU/IRD/15/05/25/05 May 15, 2025

To:
National Commission for Science and Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)
Off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete
P.O.BOX 30623, 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Sir/Madam,

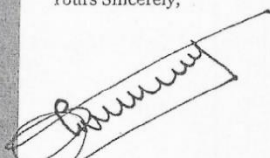
RE: INTRODUCTION OF MS. EILEEN AYIEKO OTIENO (ADMISSION. NO. 24ZAD109513) AS A BONAFIDE POST-GRADUATE STUDENT OF RIARA UNIVERSITY SEEKING RESEARCH AUTHORISATION

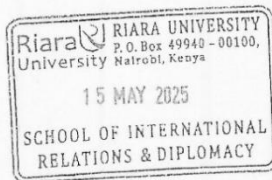
The above mentioned is a bonafide post-graduate student of Riara University due for field research and dissertation writing as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the School of International Relations and Diplomacy.

Ms. Eileen Ayieko Otiemo (Admission No. 24ZAD109513) will be conducting a study entitled, *"Examining the Nexus between Global Humanitarian Policy and Integrated Settlement Scheme for Refugees: The Case of Kakuma Kenya"*. Attached to this letter, kindly see the interview schedule and broad interview questionnaire formulated to assist her in accomplishing the task.

Your assistance to enable her to obtain research authorization to conduct the study will be greatly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,


Prof. Francis Onditi, PhD
Head of Department,
School of International Relations and Diplomacy


RIARA UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box 49940 - 00100,
Nairobi, Kenya
15 MAY 2025
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS & DIPLOMACY

Riara University, Mbogethi Way
P.O. Box 49940-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 0703 038 000
Email: info@riarauniversity.ac.ke
Website: www.riarauniversity.ac.ke
© f t @RiaraUniversity

ANNEXURE B: FROM ETHICS REVIEW LETTER LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY



INSTITUTIONAL SCIENTIFIC ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ref: LU/APP/161/2025

16th May, 2025

Eileen Ayieko Otieno
Eotieno9513@stu.laikipia.ac.ke
NAIROBI

Dear Ms. Otieno,

Re: Examining the Nexus Between Global Humanitarian Policy and Integrated Settlement Scheme for Refugees: the Case of Kakuma, Kenya

This is to inform you that the Laikipia University Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee (LU-ISERC) has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **LU/APP/161/2025**. The approval period is **16th May, 2025 – 15th May 2026**

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including (informed consents, study instruments, MTA) will be used;
- ii. All changes including (amendments, deviations, and violations) are submitted for review and approval by Laikipia University Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee;
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to Laikipia University Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee within 72 hours of notification;
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to Laikipia University Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee within 72 hours;
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions;

Page 1 of 2

A

Vision: Nurture and Transform for the World

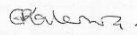
Mission: To Contribute to the World through Education, Research, Training, Consultancy, Innovation, Outreach and Collaboration



Laikipia University is ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Certified



ANNEXURE C: NACOSTI PERMIT

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Ref No: 660358	Date of Issue: 05/June/2025
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
This is to Certify that Miss.. Eileen Ayieko of Riara University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Turkana on the topic: EXAMINING THE NEXUS BETWEEN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN POLICY AND INTEGRATED SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR REFUGEES: THE CASE OF KAKUMA, KENYA for the period ending : 05/June/2026.	
License No: NACOSTI/P/25/4174258	
660358 Applicant Identification Number	 Deputy Director NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
	Verification QR Code 
NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.	
See overleaf for conditions	

DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER
TURKANA WEST SUB-COUNTY
13 JUL 2025
P. O. Box 1-30503
KAKUMA



ANNEXURE D: COUNTY RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

Telegram 'ELIMU', Lodwar
Telephone
Fax/No:
Email: cdeturkana@gmail.com

TURKANA COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE,
P.O. BOX 16- 30500,
LODWAR.

3Rd July 2025

REF:TC/CONF/ED.12/1/VOL.II/292

DEPUTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TURKANA WEST SUB COUNTY

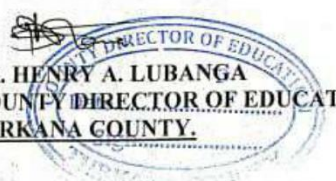
RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION: MS. EILEEN AYIEKO

LICENCE NO: NACOSTI/P/25/4174258

This is to authorize the above named researcher to carry out research on "Examining the Nexus between Global Humanitarian Policy and Integrated Settlement Scheme for Refugees: The Case of Kakuma in Turkana West Sub County in Turkana County, Kenya." As for the letter Reference No. NACOSTI/P/25/4174258 dated 05/June/2025 from the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation. The research period ends on **5th June 2026**.

Any assistance accorded to her will be highly appreciated.

Thanks in advance.



DR. HENRY A. LUBANGA
COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
TURKANA COUNTY.

CC:

- The County Commissioner
Turkana County
- Ms. Eileen Ayieko
- The Governor, Turkana County
- Director General - NACOSTI

ANNEXURE E: QUESTIONNAIRES

Student name and surname: Eileen Otieno

Student Number: 24ZAD109513

Degree: MA International Relations

Research title: THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN
POLICY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED SETTLEMENT
SCHEME IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP, KENYA

Annex 1: Survey Questionnaire for Host and Refugee Communities BIO-DATA

1. What is your age group?

- ☐ Below 18
- ☐ 18 – 24
- ☐ 25 – 34
- ☐ 35 – 44
- ☐ 45 – 54
- ☐ 55 and above

2. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

3. What is your current residency status?

- ☐ Refugee
- ☐ Host community member
- ☐ Asylum seeker
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

4. How long have you lived in Kalobeyei Settlement?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 – 3 years

- 4 – 6 years
- More than 6 years

5. What is your highest level of education?

- No formal education
- Primary education
- Secondary education
- College/University
- Vocational training

Section A: To identify the mechanisms through which global humanitarian policies are domesticated within Kenya's local refugee integration frameworks in Kakuma.

1. Have you heard of any local or global policies related to refugee integration?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

2. If yes, which policies are you aware of? (Select all that apply)

- Refugee Act (2021)
- Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISEDPA)
- Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)
- County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs)
- Other (Please specify) _____

3. How did you learn about these policies? (Select all that apply)

- Government offices (e.g., Department of Refugee Services)
- NGOs and humanitarian organizations
- Community meetings
- Social media and radio programs
- Word of mouth (friends, family, neighbors)
- Other (Please specify) _____

4. Do you think these policies help refugees integrate into the local community?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

5. If no, what are the main challenges in implementing these policies? (Select all that apply)

- Lack of awareness
- Bureaucratic barriers
- Resistance from host communities
- Limited government resources
- Other (Please specify) _____

Section B: To examine the structural factors within Kakuma that influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme.

1. Do you and your family have access to the following services? (Select all that apply)

- Education
- Healthcare
- Employment/livelihood support
- Social protection (e.g., cash transfers)
- Environmental conservation programs
- None

2. How would you rate the quality of these services?

Service	Minimally	Moderately	Highly
Education	☐	☐	☐
Healthcare	☐	☐	☐
Employment/livelihood support	☐	☐	☐
Social protection	☐	☐	☐
Environmental conservation programs	☐	☐	☐

3. What are the biggest challenges in accessing these services? (Select all that apply)

- Distance to service centers

- High cost of services
 - Discrimination
 - Lack of documentation
 - Limited availability of services
 - Other (Please specify) _____
4. **How would you describe the relationship between refugees and the host community?**
- Very positive
 - Somewhat positive
 - Neutral
 - Somewhat negative
 - Very negative
5. **Do both refugees and host communities have equal access to services like education, healthcare, and jobs?**
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
6. **If no, what are the barriers to equal access?**
- Discrimination
 - Policy restrictions
 - Lack of funding
 - Other (Please specify) _____

Section C: To analyze the practical implications of the domestication process of Global humanitarian policies to local refugee integration frameworks within Kakuma

7. **Which of the following policy measures, if implemented locally, would best support the integration of refugees in Kakuma? (Select all that apply)**
- Simplified and accessible work permit processes for refugees
 - Increased funding and support for local social services (e.g., education, healthcare)
 - Enhanced collaboration and coordination among local and national government institutions
 - Strengthened legal and institutional frameworks to protect refugee rights
 - Other (Please specify): _____

8. **Have you ever participated in consultations, community forums, or government-led discussions on the integration of refugees in Kakuma?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

9. **If yes, what was the main focus or agenda of the discussion?**
(Please describe briefly): _____

10. **In your view, which of the following strategies best reflect the practical implementation of refugee integration policies at the local level? (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Joint development initiatives involving both refugees and host communities (e.g., livelihood or business projects)
- ☐ County-led inclusive planning and budgeting that integrates refugee needs
- ☐ Cultural awareness and exchange programs to foster mutual understanding
- ☐ Dialogue platforms between host community leaders and refugee representatives
- ☐ Other (Please specify): _____

Section D: To interrogate the viability of the 'refugee city' model as a comprehensive approach to managing refugees

1. **Have you ever heard of the "Refugee Settlement Model" as a way to manage refugee communities?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

2. **If yes, which aspects of the model seem most beneficial? (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Promotes economic self-reliance
- ☐ Encourages peaceful coexistence
- ☐ Provides better infrastructure and services
- ☐ Offers more governance and autonomy
- ☐ Improves access to jobs and businesses
- ☐ Other (Please specify) _____

3. **Do you believe Kalobeyi Settlement can transition into a self-sufficient city where both host and refugee communities coexist?**

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree

- Neutral
 - Disagree
 - Strongly Disagree
4. **If disagree or strongly disagree, why?** _____
5. **What do you think are the biggest challenges to living in Kalobeyei Settlement? (Select all that apply)**
- Lack of land and space
 - Limited economic opportunities
 - Resistance from host community
 - Insufficient government support
 - Lack of funding for infrastructure
 - Insecurity and crime
 - Other (Please specify) _____
6. **What would help improve social cohesion between the host and refugee communities? (Select all that apply)**
- More shared community spaces
 - Joint business ventures
 - Government policies that promote integration
 - More interaction through cultural events and education
 - Other (Please specify) _____
7. **Who should be responsible for governing Kalobeyei Settlement?**
- Refugee-led leadership
 - Turkana County Government
 - National Government of Kenya
 - A mix of host and refugee representatives
 - International organizations (e.g., UNHCR, NGOs)
 - Other (Please specify) _____
8. **Would you participate in local governance structures if given the opportunity?**
- Yes
 - No

- Not sure

9. If no, why? _____

10. Do you think Kalobeyi Settlement is a viable option to refugee management?

- Yes
- No

Annex 2: Key Informant Interview (KII) Questions

Section A: To assess community awareness and perceptions of global humanitarian policies within the local integration context

1. How do global humanitarian policies influence the way refugees are integrated locally?
2. Do you think international policies support or hinder local refugee integration? Why?
3. What are some gaps between local refugee policies and global humanitarian standards?
4. How can local policies better align with international humanitarian frameworks?
5. What role do international organizations play in supporting local refugee integration?

Section B: To examine the structural factors within Kakuma that influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme

1. What legal or policy barriers make it difficult for refugees to integrate locally?
2. How do economic factors, such as job opportunities, impact refugee integration?
3. What role does the host community play in the success or failure of local integration?
4. How does access to education and healthcare affect refugee integration efforts?
5. What infrastructure or resources are needed to support long-term refugee integration?

Section C: To explore how community participation influences the domestication of global humanitarian policies in the integrated settlement scheme

1. What challenges have been encountered in translating international refugee protection frameworks into local integration policies in Kakuma?
2. In what ways have global humanitarian policies influenced local refugee integration strategies in Kakuma?

3. What local legal or policy changes have been made in response to global refugee frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees?
4. How effective is the collaboration between local government authorities and humanitarian actors in implementing refugee integration policies derived from global frameworks?
5. What strategies or practices from other countries' domestication processes could be adapted to improve refugee integration in Kakuma?
6. How do current integration efforts balance the needs of both refugee and host communities in line with global policy expectations?

Section D: Viability of the Refugee City Model

1. Do you think the "Refugee City Model" can work in Kenya? Why or why not?
2. What are the biggest challenges to transforming refugee camps into self-sufficient urban centers?
3. How would the "Refugee City Model" impact host communities?
4. What governance structures would be needed for a successful refugee city?
5. What key factors should be considered before adopting this model in Kalobeyei or other settlements?

Annex 3: Focus Group Discussions Questionnaire

Section A: To assess community awareness and perceptions of global humanitarian policies within the local integration context

1. What do you understand about the policies or rules that guide how refugees and host communities are supposed to live and interact in this area?
2. In your view, how well are these policies explained to people in the community?
3. Have you noticed any changes in the way services or programs are delivered because of these policies?
4. Do you feel that these policies support peaceful living between refugees and the host community? Why or why not?
5. What are your main concerns or expectations when you hear about new policies affecting life in Kakuma or Kalobeyei?

Section B: To examine the structural factors within Kakuma that influence the adoption of global humanitarian policies in the local refugee integration scheme

1. How would you describe the relationship between refugees and the host community in your area?
2. Do both refugees and hosts get the same chance to access services like school, hospitals, water, and livelihood support? Please explain your experience.
3. What challenges do people face when trying to access these services?
4. How do land, water, roads, electricity, and other infrastructure affect daily life and interaction between the two communities?

5. Are there any rules, restrictions, or government procedures that make it easier or harder for people to benefit from programs here?
6. In your daily life, how do language, culture, or communication differences affect how refugees and hosts live or work together?

Section C: To explore how community participation influences the domestication of global humanitarian policies in the integrated settlement scheme

1. In your experience, are community members—both refugees and hosts—invited to take part in decision-making about programs or services in Kalobeyei and Kakuma?
2. When meetings or consultations happen, do you feel your ideas or concerns are listened to and acted upon?
3. What makes it easy or difficult for community members to participate in planning, discussions, or problem-solving in settlement affairs?
4. What would help strengthen or improve community participation so that decisions reflect the needs of both refugees and the host community?

To interrogate the viability of the “refugee city” model as a comprehensive approach to managing refugees

1. Do you think Kalobeyei/Kakuma feels more like a temporary camp or a growing town/city? Why?
2. What services or opportunities would need to improve for this place to function well as a long-term town for both refugees and hosts?
3. Do you feel safe and free to move, work, study, or run a business the way people normally do in a town?
4. How well do you think the current services (water, health, schools, markets, roads) support long-term living?
5. What would make this settlement more sustainable and livable for many years to come?