

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Socio-Economic Impacts of Refugee and Refugee Camp on the Host Communities: in the Case of Bambasi Refugee Camp, Benishangul-Gumuz Region, Ethiopia

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Abstract

Refugees as people crossing international borders in order to escape from conflict or Human right violation have been a major global challenge. Therefore; the study basically aims at investigating the socio-economic impact of refugees in the Bambasi refugee camp on the host community in Benishangul Gumuz Region. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods for data collection and analyses. In the study, descriptive research design was employed. The study used questionnaires, interviews, document reviewing and discussion with focus groups as research tools. On the basis and types of data gathered and the instrument used, the quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS and the qualitative data was annualized thematically. The result of the study indicates that the presence of refugee and establishment of refugee camp has greatly affected the livelihood of the host communities who are living around the camp. As the study indicated the existence of the refugee camp in this vicinity, the host communities got better health and education services, clean water and electricity that did not exist before. Thus, to improve the lives of host communities and refugee Ethiopian government should reform camp policies which necessarily defend the social and economic condition of the local communities who are living around the camp.

Keywords: *refugee, food security, women, livelihood*

Introduction

Ethiopia is the second largest refugee hosting country in Africa, sheltering more than 900 000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea as Ethiopia grants prima facie recognition to most asylum seekers from neighboring countries (Assefa, 2010).

Refugees as people crossing international borders in order to escape from conflict or Human right violation have been a central focus of international relations. Moreover, the world refugee problem is caused by a variety of reasons including massive violation of human right, direct and structural violence, war, internal conflict, ethnic and religious strife, direct political persecutions and economic and natural disasters. Likewise, majorities of the mass movements of refugees in the contemporary world are caused by ethnic conflict, natural disasters and shaping of socio-economic imbalance (Boamah Gyau, 2008).

The Horn of Africa is one of the most conflict prone regions of the continent (Kassahun, 2013). For instance, for the last 50 years, the region has suffered protracted chronic and

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complex conflicts and almost all the countries that constitute the region have experienced intra- and inter-state conflicts of varying degrees and intensity (Kassahun, 2013). The eruption of violence in South Sudan in December 2013 placed an additional burden on an already volatile region of eastern Africa, which continues to suffer from conflict and displacement (UNHCR, 2015:5). Therefore, more than 100 million people have become refugees since the beginning of the 20th century as a result of war, revolutions, famine or political boundary changes (Wondosen, 1995). Nevertheless, the magnitude of refugee influx in recent years has generated urgent concern throughout the world widely perceived as an unprecedented crisis, these flows, have produced a mixture of humanitarian concern for the millions of people forced to leave, fearful of the potential threat to the social, economic and political stability of the host states caused by flow of new comers (kirui & Mwaruvie, 2012).

The Government of Ethiopia generally maintains open borders for refugees who are seeking protection. Moreover, those countries that are bordered Ethiopia are facing political, social, economic and environmental challenges which led to the substantial increase in refugees in the country (Kassahun, 2013). As of July, 2014 a total of 588,000 people from about 13 countries were refugees in Ethiopia. The majorities are Somalis (242,765), South Sudanese (217,000), Eritreans (94,000), and Sudanese (34,000). Ethiopia also hosts 43,000 refugees from several other countries including Kenya, DRC, Djibouti, and Yemen. Altogether, 59,637 new refugees registered in Ethiopia in June 2014 including 2,565 from Eritrea, 505 from Sudan 1,054 from Somalia and 25,947 from South Sudan (Kassahun, 2013).

Furthermore, among the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia had experienced a large influx of refugees over the last two decades. This is the result of the volatile and conflict condition of the neighboring countries (Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea) (Kassahun, 2013). The security problem in Southern Sudan and the conflict between the southern and northern Sudan push civilian out of their home in to Ethiopian border, according to UNHCR's most recent figures, more than 28,000 people crossed into Ethiopian from Kurmuk, Geissan and other locations on the Ethiopian- Sudanese border in the western Ethiopia (IFRC and RCS, 2011). It is clear that the refugees brought their culture; material and intangible culture, with them. In their interaction with the host community, they exchange different cultural aspects, even though there are some ethnic and racial similarity between the refugees and the host community. (Wondosen, 1995).

It is widely accepted that influxes of refugees into an area can place considerable stresses on natural resources, leading to both environmental and social impacts (Martin, 2005). The problems associated with refugees may not be restricted to a particular border area but may have spillover effects on the internal security situation of a region. Refugee migration inflicts a significant economic burden on host countries. The discourse on the impact of refugees on the neighboring and host community is not a new concept. Globally, a country that received large numbers of refugees faces a variety of social and economic impacts (Jacobsen, 2002). Thus, the situation in neighboring countries along Ethiopia's western borders has gradually gotten worse and has become more complex with inter-ethnic fighting adding to internal conflict in South Sudan and ongoing conflicts with the North. This has resulted in increased and even more ethnically mixed and multifaceted populations seeking assistance in the Ethiopian regional states along the border, Benis-hangul-Gumuz in Bambasi refugee camp of western Ethiopia (ERCS, 2011).

However, most studies conducted in western Ethiopia by UNHCR focused on refugee camps alongside the needs and problems of the refugees themselves, taking into consider-

ation the impact that the refugees have on the host community. Even the existing studies tend to show the environmental impact that refugees brought on the host community alone. In countries where ethnic cleavages are deeply entrenched, unexpected migrant inflows may tilt the delicate ethnic balance in the host society and sparks inter group conflict (Atim 2013:6). Atim further argues that, the sudden influx of refugees can aggravate ethnic problems and changing the domestic balance of power. In addition, refugee flow affects the security and stability of the host country by contributing to organized armed conflict on the territory. The influxes from neighboring states significantly increase the risk of civil war. Therefore, refugee inflows may lead to the violent turmoil on the host country's territory (Atim, 2013). Here, the sense of exclusion and relative deprivation of local communities generated by provision of aid services to refugees is one of the major drivers of tension and conflict between refugees and host communities. With some exceptions, the focus of the humanitarian support has been on the refugees without paying attention to the host community (Dereje, 2014).

The presence of refugees has both positive and negative impacts on the socio-economic of the host community (Berry, 2008). Hence, it is widely accepted that the influxes of refugees could have considerable impacts on natural resources and socio-economic aspects (Martin, 2005). As Atim (2013) stated, refugees upset the ethnic balance in their host countries through what may be thought of as a demographic externality. He further argues that, the sudden influx of refugees can aggravate ethnic problems and changing the domestic balance of power. Other researcher like Dereje (2011) focus mainly on the impact of Sudan and South Sudan civil war by fueling ethnics' rivalry in Gambella without addressing comprehensively the impacts of South Sudanese refugees on the host community in relation to the socio-economic, environment and security. Despite the presence of humanitarian organizations reports, little research has been conducted on the impact of refugees on the host community.

Thus, as Ethiopia is a host for the huge and an increasing number of refugees, the attention given to the socio-economic impact on the host communities in the country was very limited. However, the socio-economic impact of refugees on the host communities in western Ethiopia has not been studied so far particularly, in the Bambasi refugee camp. Therefore, the study specifically aims at examining the socio-economic impact of refugees in the Bambasi refugee camp on the host community who are living around the camp. Hence, the overall objective of this study is to assess the socio-economic impacts of the Bambasi refugee camp on the host community.

Methodology and Description of Study Area

Description of Study Area

The Bambasi is located in the western part of Ethiopia in Assosa zone as one of the administrative Zones of Benishangul Gumuz Region located at about 600 km west of Addis Ababa. The refugee camps from which respondents for the study were selected from Assosa zones where Bambasi Woreda is found. BGR is one of the regional states in Ethiopia comprises 22 Woreda. The Bambasi is the museum of many ethnicities, languages, religions of western Ethiopian in which Amhara and Oromo dominantly inhabit. The most common language spoken in the area is Amharic, Arabic, Barta language, Oromegna and others. During the nineteenth century this area was politically autonomous and divided into small territorially discrete political units, each with its own hereditary king and agriculture is the mainstay of the Woreda population.

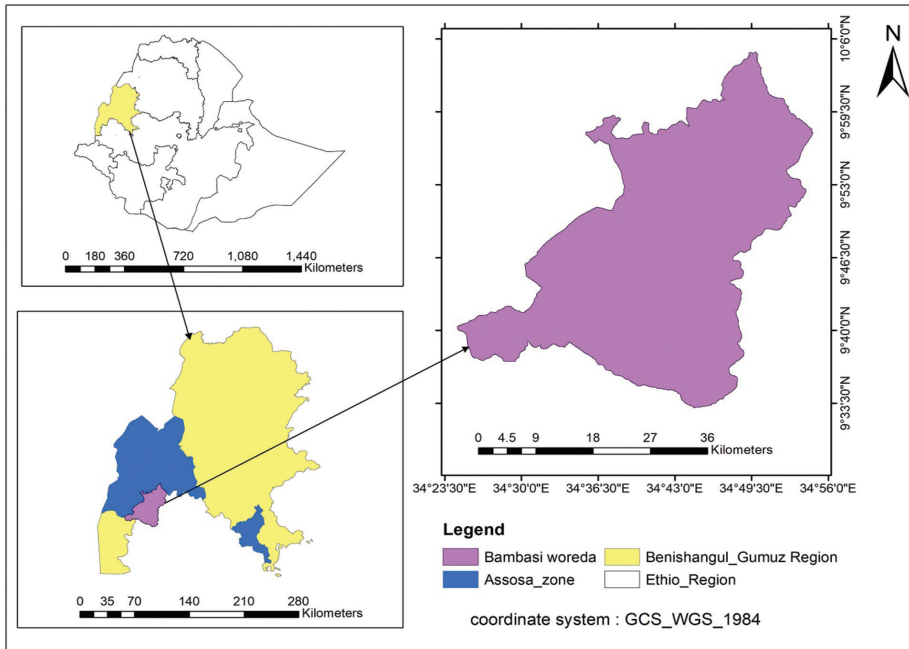


Fig .1 Map of Study Area

Research design

The research employed mixed research design in order to describe Socio-Economic Impacts of Refugee and Refugee Camp on the host communities. The survey was used to validate the qualitative findings and to come up with additional numerical information on the necessary socio-economic conditions of the host communities (Creswell, 2007).

Research Method

To address the specific objectives of the study, mixed research method was employed. First, quantitative data was collected followed by the collection of qualitative data, eventually, integration occurs when the findings were interpreted. Therefore, the researcher preferred to use mixed research method to collect, triangulate and integrate the finding of the study.

Sampling Method and sample size

Currently, Benishangul Gumuz regional state has five refugee camps (Bambasi, Sherkole, Tsore, and Tongo, Guyo shumbule) hosting South Sudan refugees dominantly. From the five refugees' camps, three (Bambasi, Sherkole, Tsore,) camps are found in Assosa zone, accordingly, Bambasi 'woreda' is selected purposively on the basis of accessibility and convenience and others were not selected due to distance and security related issue. According to population bureau the region (2016), in the Bambasi Woreda there are around 4,563 male and 3665 female total 8,228 households with in 16 kebele. From this, a total of 820 households (461 male and 359 female) inhabited in the bambasi kebele, which

hosts refugee camp). The sample size of the host's respondents for each site was determined by the proportional sampling technique.

$$n = N / (1 + N (e)^2)$$
$$n = 820 / (1 + 820 (0.083)^2)$$
$$= 124$$

Therefore, the total sample sizes of the survey participants were 124 by using Yamane (1967) proportional formula. On the other hand, a non-probability sampling technique used to select participants for FGDs and key informants.

Method of data Collection

Questionnaire

Questionnaire is an appropriate data collection tool for collecting quantitative data from household. A structured and close-ended question was prepared for gathering information from sample households. The questionnaire was administered through self-administration or face-to-face interview strategies depending on the literacy status of a sample respondent.

Focus group discussion

The FGDs was held with Woreda administrative, religion leader and chairperson of kebele and household from host communities. Each FGD session approximately took 50 minutes of discussion and it was moderated by the researcher. One FGD with members ranging from 6 to 10 had been conducted. Open-ended items were included in the FGD guiding questions.

Key Informant Interview

KII is also another tool for gathering information from informants that were selected from the Woreda purposively and also key individuals from hosts around refugee camp. KII guideline was prepared to address the intended objective.

Field Observation

Observation is very important method for collecting data from fields. The infrastructures including housings, roads, school, shopping, mills and health clinics were observed in the refugee camp and its surrounding community. This observation took place in the morning, afternoon and evening just to check the difference that time has on observation.

Methods of Data Analysis

The data gathered from different sources were analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. For quantitative data, frequency, percentage and standard deviation were computed using SPSS 21 version. The qualitative data was analyzed qualitatively through narrative descriptions. Then descriptive statistics (e.g., -percentage, mean, median) were used. On the other hand, qualitative data obtained through in-depth- interview was transcribed and categorized into emerging themes and sub-themes. Triangulation of data from various sources was made concurrently to reveal the result of the research in line with objectives of the research.

Result and Discussion

This chapter has two parts; the first part deals with the characteristics of the respondents; and the second part is presented the analysis and interpretation of the main data. The objective of the study is exploring socio economic impact of refugee and refugee camp on the host communities, Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Assosa zone, bambasi woredas. There was also discussion on the findings from the fieldwork and presents some of the facts as well as perceptions which offer useful explanations for understanding the socio-economic impact of refugee and refugee camp in the study area.

Personal Characteristics of respondents

The study focused on the socio-economic impact of refugee and refugee camp in the host communities, Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Assosa zone bambasi woredas, out of the total of 124 respondents 34 were women whereas the rest (n=90) were male respondents.

The average age of the household head in the study was 40.1 (SD=10.4). The age of the youngest respondent in the study was 18 years old whereas the oldest respondent was 74 years old. The average age for women respondents was found out to be 39.06 years (SD=9.6) whereas that of men was found to be 44.25 years (SD=12.6).

Out of the total respondents, 38 percent are literate (above first cycle) and 62 percent are unable to read and write. Out of the male respondents, 25 % are literate of which 2 have attended college level school and the rest attended secondary school and below that. Out of women respondent, 13 percent are literate in the sample and only two of them completed elementary school, but the rest are dropouts from elementary school at various levels. No one of the women in the sample attended high school.

All the respondents are Christians and Muslims. It was found out that 67% of the total respondents are Muslims whereas 33 % are Orthodox Christian. Among women respondents 56% are Muslim and the rest 44% are Christian. Of the male respondents 60% are Muslim whereas 40% are Christian. However, it is to be noted that strong cultural elements and a set of taboos are strongly adhered to in the community as a whole.

Household Characteristics

The average family size of the respondent households was 4.93 (SD=2.27), which is slightly higher than the regional average household size 4.7 (CSA, 2007). The minimum family size in the sample respondents was found to be 1 whereas the maximum was 10 persons. The average family size for women head households was 4.52 (SD=2.01), whereas the average family size for male-headed households was 6.55 (SD=2.26). The age dependency ratio was found to be 1.04 which is higher than the regional figure of 0.95 (Regional Statistic and Population Office 2007).

The average landholding of the total respondents (n=124) is 1.56 ha. The average landholding of the certain households in one Woreda is found to be lower than that of other households of the woreda. Due to the shortage of farming land men are pressured to engage in other economic activities and leave their origin.

Table .2 Average land size of the house hold

No	The average land size	Frequency	Percent	Remark
1	below 0.5 hectare	5	3.0	
2	0.5-1 hectare	14	16.7	
3	1-2 hectare	61	54.2	
4	above two hectares	44	26.2	
5	Total	124	100.0	

Source: Computed from survey data (2019)

Depending on household labor availability and the management capacity of household head, land renting is practiced in the area. Out of the total respondents (n=124) in the study 13% have reported that they rented out their land during the last production season whereas 5% reported that they have rented land in the same year. All those who rented out their land happen to be de facto women heads. Out of those who rented land, one of them was a woman whereas the rest four happen to be male-headed households.

Household Labor Supply

In the study area farm labor is the most critical input in the production of output because of the highly labor-intensive agricultural production system. In the study area family labor, hired labor and labor sharing arrangements are the most important sources of labor for agricultural activity. Most of the respondent (56%) households in the survey have reported that they hired labor for different operation in the farming cycle.

Livelihood Strategies

Traditional mixed farming where the crop and the animal sub-sectors are mutually interdependent is the standard kind of livelihood for all households interviewed. All households, however, reported that crop production is more important than livestock production. to them in terms of immediate food supply and income to the household. Livestock ownership is considered vital for access to manure and as an important means of survival in case of unexpected crises and shock to livelihood due to natural or artificial reasons through sale of the animals as described in previous section

Agriculture in the study area is highly subsistence-oriented and very few households manage to be self-sufficient in food supply. Out of the surveyed 124 households only 13% of the households reported that they are food self-sufficient.

Food Security Status of host communities after emergence of refugee and refugee camp
The survey result shows that the majority of the host community members were food insecure. With the exception of key informants selected from different offices, all sources (KKIs with host communities, FGDs and questionnaire respondents) revealed that the community members were generally food insecure. The great majority (84%) of survey respondents reported that establishing refugee camp had not brought significant improvements on their food security and livelihood condition. Specifically, 60% of the total respondents said that food security was better met before the coming of refugees to their respective kebeles. Although it contradicts with the views of key informants selected from officials, this result goes in line with the FSS measured based on the number of calories obtained from food produced, purchased and borrowed.

Table 4: Sources and amount of food available to sample respondents

Food Source	Amount produced (in quintal) & Household size (ADE)					
	Total	%	Mean	Std	Min.	Max.
Cereals	10342.50	83.80	30.07	21.21	0.00	97.00
Legumes	523.50	4.20	1.52	8.10	0.00	19.00
Oil seeds	733.00	5.90	2.13	7.13	0.00	32.50
Vegetables	364.50	3.00	1.06	1.23	0.00	11.00
Total Produced	11963.50	96.90	34.78	22.25	0.00	97.00
Grain Purchased	289.00	2.30	0.84	2.13	0.00	3.00
Grain Borrowed	97.50	0.80	0.28	0.15	0.00	1.50
Grand Total	12350.00	100.0	35.90	-	-	-
Grain Sold (GS)	5204.50	42.10	15.30	6.50	0.00	26.50
Seed Reserve (SR)	402.50	3.20	1.17	1.11	0.00	9.50
Grain Lost (PHL) (5%)	598.18	4.80	1.56	0.24	0.013	4.20
Total Deduced	6205.18	50.10	13.04	5.20	0.00	63.25
Net Available Food (NAF)	6144.82	49.90	17.86	10.20	0.01	42.50
Household size (number)	2301	-	6.68	1.53	1.0	13
Household size (ADE)	1785.88	-	5.19	2.13	1.25	10.18
Ave. NAF/ADE/year	3.44	-	1.31	2.78	1.02	13.52

Source: Survey data (own observation), 2019

According to the results in Table 4.5, the per capita crop yield for all respondents before reducing all the necessary deductions was 6.69quintal/ADE/year showing that on average all households were food secure comparing with 2.25quintal/ADE/year. This was in line with the information obtained from settlement and food security departments of all sample 'respondents' which shows all households were food secure in their kebeles. However, calculation of the net available food after necessary deduction was 1.31quintal/ADE/year showing on average the host communities are still food secure according to FAO recommendation. But the calorie indicator shows that the majority (i.e., about 67%) of households were food insecure which contradicts with the measurement given by food security department of all sample 'households' where host communities were 100% food secure.

The social impact of Refugees on the Host Communities

Table 5: shows social impact of refugees on the host communities

Is there any social impact of Refugees on the Host Communities?	Number of respondents	Percentage	Remark
Yes	100	81	
No	12	9.67	
Not certain	12	9.67	
Total	124	100	

Source: Survey data (own observation), 2019

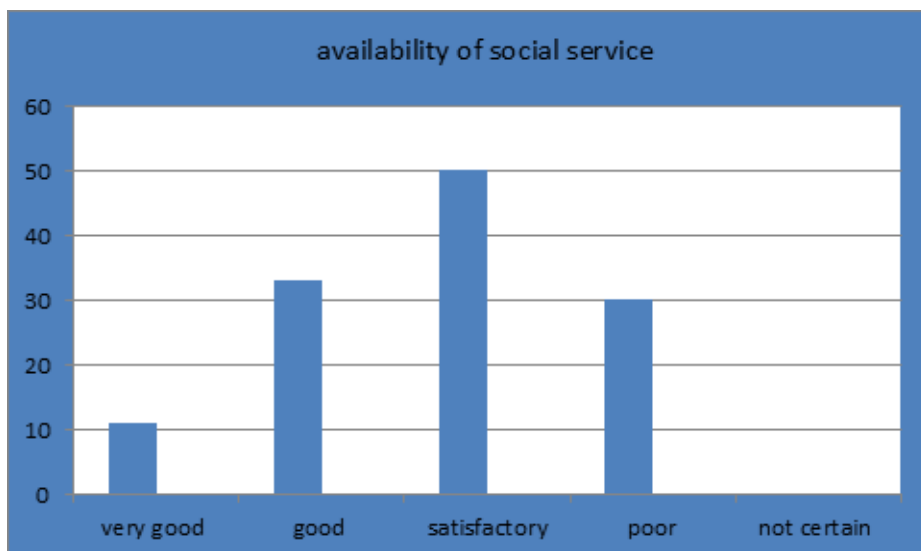
According to the data obtained from both the interview and focus group discussion, the

social and cultural interactions and relation of refugees and the host communities have two forms. On the one hand, the local host community and refugees have many social and cultural elements that the two groups share in common which played a role for the peace full co-existence of the groups. On the other hand, there are some activities of refugee which contributing to the social sick of the local community due to the presence of them in the area. However, as the study participant indicated, both the host and refugee communities have many socio-cultural elements in common that strength their social relations and their peaceful co-existence.

The respondents from the local community point out that due to the existence of - better social interaction and relation between the refugees and the host community, members of the - host community acquired some social elements like religion, idir, ekub and language from the refugee community that do not exist before. The daily interaction of the local communities with the refugees gave them the opportunity to learn how to speak English language in addition to Arabic language. Local communities have also acquired hard working habit from refugee and thus they are producing even during summer season in their small garden. At the same time, local communities have acquired their motivation for education.

Improvement in Access to Basic Social Services

The key informants reported that social services have already existed prior to the establishment of refugee camp, but the problem was when people lived far away from them and did not have good access to basic social services. These services were accessible only to those who lived closer to them but difficult to access by those who lived in scattered settlements. Here the bar graph drawn below shows the variation of participants ‘response in relation to the accessibility of basic social services.



Source; Computed from survey data, (2019)

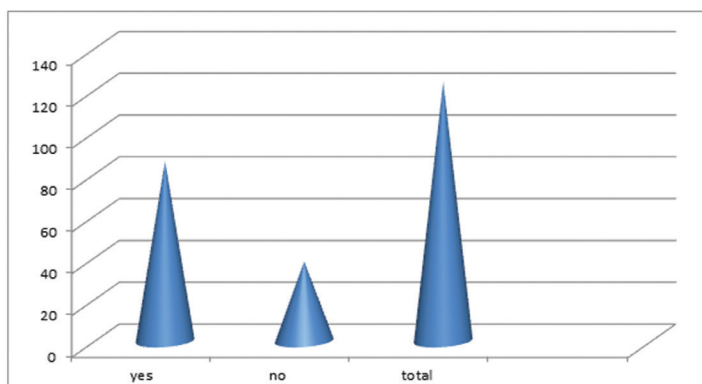
Out of 124 respondents, 11 (8.87%) stated that the improvement in access to basic social service was perfect, as 33(26.6) stated an increase in access to basic social service was good. Out of 124 respondents, 50 (40.32%) and 30 (24.19) said, the growth in access to

basic social service was satisfactory and poor respectively.

Educational Service

Coming to educational service, as the survey result shows, people who previously lacked better access to it began to access the service after the establishment of refugee camp and emergence of refugee in the villages. Now, education is no longer a problem like before, as schools are close to people. Villagers are also pleased, especially about the fact that children do not have to wait until the age of ten to start school like before. As per the observation, discussion with focus group, there is primary schools in the villages with teachers employed by the government who regularly do their job.

Availability of Educational Service



Source; Computed from survey data, (2019)

As one of the interviewee expressed his view concerning the accessibility of education service as follows:

I am so happy about the establishment of refugee camp basically because children are now able to go to school. Going to school was something very hard for children in the past. But now, due to the presence of refugee NGO and government gave attention for the host communities in villages. For this reason, I am no longer worried because children can now access what was inaccessible to them in the past (KII, B).

Health Service

As the above table indicate, out of surveyed 124 sample respondent -, 84(67%) stated the health service provided for them were not adequate as promised for them by Government. Remaining, 40(33%) of respondent said the service provided for them were appropriate and satisfied by what happens in their respective dwelling site.

As the survey result shows, the other most crucial thing that happened due to the emergence of refugee is that access to health service has improved. Now, people can get medical treatment whenever sicknesses occur because there is a health Centre as well as health posts in villages which provide services to the people. No one dies anymore because of the distance of health service like before.

As one of the KI interviewees from study site said,

the fact that health service is now closer to me in the village has brought a huge relief. I now have better access to the service and can access it anytime I feel the need. I believe everyone is happy about this, as well (KII, D).

The impact of Refugees and refugee camp on Social Services

Table .6 shows the impact of Refugees on Social Services

Is there any impact of Refugees on Social Services?	Number of respondents	Percentage	Remark
Yes	110	88.7	
No	5	4.83	
Not certain	9	7.25	
Total	124	100	

Source: Survey data (2019)

As the participants from the host community indicated that the coming of refugees to this locality has helped the host communities to provide health service, clean water, school and generator that does not exist before. Here in the case of health center, there was no equipped and organized health institutions that give service for the patient before the presence of refugees in the area. But now a day with no limitation, the health center gives significance number of services for patients of the host community coming from different parts of the area to make use of this free health service. Also, as most respondents indicated patient with health problem including mother during delivery capacity of the health center always referred to the Assosa hospital freely without any payment. As the respondent showed that, similar to other social services, water is also constructed for the local community by IRC and UNHCR. IRC is constructed borehole and denoted for every kebele who are nearest to the Bambasi camp. All of the water boreholes are currently functional and providing the host community of these area with clean water service. Beside to the construction of clean water service, IRC provide WASH related awareness rising and educational service to the local host community.

The Economic Impact of Refugees and refugee camp on the Host Communities

Table 7: Shows Economic Impact of Refugees on the Host Communities

Is there any Economic Impact of Refugees on the Host Communities?	Number of respondents	Percentage	Remark
Yes	110	88.7	
No	5	4.3	
Not certain	9	7	
Total	124	100	

Source: Survey data (own observation), 2019

The data obtained from the survey, interview, focus group discussion and filed observation showed that, local communities have benefited due to the presence of the refugees in the area that they are selling their product to the refugees and at the same time buy different goods and services from the refugees. Also, there is high scale flow of relief food and material aid for the refugees. This aid engulfs the market and has devastating impact on the local products of good and service in the market. Similarly, some of the educated and non-educated people are able to get employment by the aid agencies.

As respondents showed, at the same time before the coming of refugees in the area, the local communities were not producing the production for the market and also the price of the production was not high. After the influx of the refugees to the area, there is the change of the price of the production. According to the respondents who are employed to serve the refugees, there is the high change of the price of different goods and services in the recent time in this area. The increment of the price of items is enabling the producer to produce more than before, helping them to get better income from the production.

Change in livelihoods due to the establishment of refugee camp

Table.8 shows Changing livelihoods due to the establishment of refugee camp

Have experienced any Change in livelihoods due to the establishment of refugee camp?	Number of respondents	Percentage	Remark
Yes	60	48.3	
No	55	44.35	
Not certain	9	7.35	
Total	124	100	

Source: Survey data (own observation), 2019

As the survey result indicates, providing livelihoods before the refugee presence is explained by all respondents as extremely challenging. Several respondents from the villages of bambasi Woreda described the situation as featured by “no food, no income and no sustainability”. Eating wild fruits collected from far away and digging in the river for water was the main source of surviving for the great majority of the host community respondents. Respondents from villages (bambasi Woreda) explained that they could go starving for days without food, some even died of starvation according to the respondents.

The majority of the respondents identified that they have experienced some small changes. The most reported change in providing livelihood is that the refugee camp has created a larger market for them to sell items such as firewood, charcoal and others. In addition, the camp presence has created new job opportunities for hosts. The creation of new market and job opportunities improved their situation to some extent in terms of providing livelihoods. The majority of the respondents are still facing big challenges in their daily lives and struggle to provide livelihoods for their families.

Sex workers and sexual exploitation of girls from the host community in the refugee camp is mentioned by some of the interviews. The respondents argue that girls from the host community go to the camp and get involved in sex work in search for livelihood as their opportunities are limited.

Establishment of refugee camp and adapting to the new realities

Table. 9 patterns of adapting to the new realities

Have you experienced new realities?	Number of respondents	Percentage	Remark
Yes	100	80.64	
No	9	7.25	
Not certain	15	12	
Total	124	100	

Source: Survey data (2019)

As the information from discussant indicates, adapting to new realities accompanied by the refugee camp has brought changes for some. Some of the respondents identified that they have experienced some improvement on the individual level. The changes explained by the respondents mainly relate to the fact that they have experienced some improvements in terms of accessing the camp for providing livelihoods through work, business and trading. The remaining respondents argue that the new opportunities are limited and still face similar challenges and have no sustainability in providing livelihoods.

Environmental impacts of refugees and refugee camp on the host community

All the key informants replied that there is still a devastating impact of refugees on the forest in the region. This posed a serious problem to the host community who depend on the forest for their livelihoods. Another impact of the refugees on the environment is loss of wild animals and plants on which the people relied on -food. This environmental impact can be observed from the loss of wild life population from Ambessa forest which was known in the past for its large number of wild life population. This implied that the presence of refugees has negative environmental impact on the host community.

Social discrimination on female host communities

According to the respondents, there are many problems related to reproductive and sexual harassment. The following indicate the insights from the key informants: "When youth from the refugee camp make sexual contact with any member of the host community, she is totally discriminated by almost the host community. This perception and attitudes within the community impose on females that are vulnerable and are pushed to make wrong decision such as abortion and taking wrong drugs" as pointed out by a participant.

"Females from the host communities start sexual relationships with youths from the camps assuming that they will go together to some other developed countries by the help of the NGOs. Gradually, they grow children without valid marriage and the females become the victims of social discrimination. On the other hand, only a few succeed to establish stable marriage with refugees" (KII, C).

Discussion

In all the study considers the impact of the presence of refugees on the host community who are living surrounding the bambasi refugee camp. Notably, the study makes the discussions on the socio-cultural and economic impact of refugees on the host community of Bambasi camp. Particularly, the host communities have benefited from the presence of refugees in the areas of social service, health care, education, clean water and sanitation. As the countless refugees cross into neighboring countries, they face complicated life experiences and challenges as the move from their home to often unwilling or under-prepared hosting states. Basically, refugees or displaced peoples are forced to seek the minimal level of goods and services for mere survival, even depending or usurping on host community resources and properties. In addition, refugees impose direct and indirect threats to their host communities due to humanitarian issues, and the heavy requirements for basic material resources (Jacobsen, 2002).

The finding of the study showed that the presence of the refugees in bambasi camp in western Ethiopia has substantial social impact on the surrounding host community. According to the study the impact has both positive and negative like the study conducted in

different parts of the world. As finding of the study indicated that both host and refugee communities share social and cultural elements in common that make strong their co-existence. Due to the positive social and cultural interaction between host and refugee communities, refugees borrow different kinds of things including animals from the host communities. Moreover, host communities and refugees celebrated national and international holiday like world environment day and world refugee day. As a matter of chance, the host community reflected their own culture and value to the international communities.

The finding of the study shows that refugees are disturbing peace and security by making hostility with the local community on the utilization of natural resources. Refugees are also the cause for the prevalence of prostitution in the area which pave the way for HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted disease. Mostly refugees are claimed by the local community for their incidence of crime related to rape, promotion of drug addiction like shish/hash, kchat, alcoholism, cigarette and others. As a result, the local youth have adopted the habits of the refugees. Likewise, stealing and robing activities of the refugees badly harm the host communities and there are the youth who participate and support refugees with the activities that did not exist before.

This study revealed that there is a perception of key informants that the refugees bring long term health impacts on hosting communities, primarily related to the issues of sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and expansion of sexually transmitted infections in the host community. The influx of sexually active adolescents in the refugee camps has led to increased demand of social interaction with females in the host community. However, the risky behaviors of the desperate members of the refugees can lead to sexual violence, unintended pregnancies, and increased predisposition to STI such as HIV. Tis emerging reality pose long-term social and mental health impacts on members of the host community (Miller, 2018).

According to a previous study conducted among Eritrean refugees, pre-migration and post migration living difficulties were directly associated with depressive symptoms [Getnet, etal 2019] which may contribute to substance abuse, polyamorous behaviors, and criminal activity (including sexual abuse). Some have suggested the need for programmatic intervention packages to reduce violence and the social health impact of refugees to the host community [Stark L, 2018].

In the case of education host communities have benefited because the supporting agencies like UNHCR constructed the school and provide different education equipment for the school and provide even modes for the female students of the host communities. However, the refugee supporting agencies did not reject the local communities to provide them clean water and sanitation hygiene service as they are doing for the refugee communities. IRC and UNHCR constructed numbers of borehole water and sanitation hygiene facilities for the host communities as they did it for the refugee communities.

At the same time refugees sell plastic sheet, blanket, metal and other materials by the low price to the local communities. Similarly, as the study conducted by UNHCR (1997), on Social and economic impact of large refugee populations on host developing countries showed that the presence of refugees benefited the local people through the local purchases of food, non-food items, payment by the aid workers, the properties brought by refugees themselves as well as employment and income increased to local population directly or indirectly. On the other hand, there is an increase of the cost of living within the community as food and other commodities have become very expensive.

Yet again, refugees participating in purchasing different goods and service from the market using income they received from remittance and the income they received from employer to buy the original product from the market. This event creates competition between the local communities and refugees on the local product. As a result, the local product is not sustained for the long period of time. This leads to an increment of the price of goods and service in the area. Consequently, the price of items and production used for consumption have highly increased with the increment of the incoming people to the area (chambers, 1996). Likewise, the study conducted by Whitaker (2002) on Refugees in Western Tanzania showed that the distribution of burdens and benefits among local host realized that the presence of refugees increased food security in local village and even after they started to receiving ration, they continued to depend on local crops for the diversification of their diets.

Conclusion

It is clear that the refugees who are in Bambasi refugee camp are crossing international border to come to settle in the camp. The arrivals of these refugees impact the social and economic situation of the host communities positively and negatively. However, refugees and host communities of Bambasi camp share social and cultural elements that make them to live together easily. They have similar language and religion which help them to have better communication. This study has explored the impacts of refugee on host communities through social and health perspectives.

The study was carried out with broader objective of assessing the socio-economic, impacts of refugees on the host community in Bambasi woreda. One of the peripheral regions of Ethiopia, BGR, has been predominantly characterized by presence of large but also ever-increasing number of refugees from South Sudan. The overall findings in this study shows the general conclusion that the massive presence of refugees have more of negative implications than positive gains for the host community. Economically, the presences of refugees have both positive and negative impacts on the host community. Some of the positive economic impacts on the host communities include, creation of new employment opportunities to the host communities, diversification of production and commercialization of local goods.

The study also revealed that refugees have negative impact on both environment and security on the host community by the destroying the forest and other natural resources and fueling the ethnics' tension in the region. Furthermore, refugees buy different necessities like cloth, vegetables, fruits and others from the market. This is a means of an income for the host communities that supply goods to the markets. There are also refugees who rent their labor to earn an income and receive remittance from abroad. There is also the change of the price of items in the market due to the presence of high consumer and insufficient production supplied to the market. This is caused the shortage of locally produced items. This is also cause competition between refugees and host communities on the consumption of the local production.

Generally, this research argues that the host community have experienced slightly more positive than negative impacts. Hosts have adapted their livelihood approach to opportunities found in the camp. Although most of the host community members still struggles to maintain a stable livelihood, the majority is using the camp and it has improved the household viability.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and analysis of this study, policies of national government and international organizations should be holistic enough to ease the burden refugees place on host community.

- Ethiopian government should reform camp policies which necessarily defend the social and economic condition of the local communities who are living around the camp.
- UNHCR and IP supporting agencies should continue to supply the social services to the host communities as before to reduce the hostility between host and refugee community on the social services.
- The humanitarian organizations should be able to distinguish different categories among host communities, especially those who are poorer, more vulnerable and more likely to be hurt by refugee competition just as the case in BGR, Ethiopia.
- Agency for refugee and returnee affairs should strongly control the local youths who are developed drug addiction and participate to theft and robbing with the refugees.
- In this way durable solutions would be sought to mitigate if not eradicate the negative implications for the host communities.
- Repatriation of refugees to their original country is the best option ever, since the pushing factor for refugee flight might be civil war, natural disasters and war are not elongated problems.
- UNHCR and supporting agencies should increase their support and diversify the food and non-food aid.
- The supporting agencies also should supply the alternative means of energy and build the home of the refugees by other material rather than grasses to maintain hostility on natural resources.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank the Almighty God for his unreserved gift. I also want to express my gratitude to research participants Without their support, the completion of this work would not have been possible. I am indebted to Assosa University research and community service directorate and large number of individuals for their encouragement and help while conducting this study.