Refugee Influx And Uganda's National Security

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Introduction

According to the Centre for International Governance and Innovation, it is documented that the world has about 650million refugees and displaced persons. With a series of conflicts breaking out daily across the world, this number has high chances of increasing. In the meantime, as crises continue to occur, the worst has been witnessed with some states restricting and others blocking the entry of vulnerable people. Uganda is among the few states that have stood to shoulder the burden of refugees, which might be detrimental to national security. This study was about assessing the relationship between the influx of refugees and the national security of Uganda.

Objectives

The study set out:

1. to examine the factors favoring the continued influx of refugees into Uganda,

2. to assess the national security concerns posed by the refugee influx, and

3. to assess the mechanisms in place to ensure national security amidst the refugee influx.

Methodology

The researcher reviewed relevant literature in connection with the topic and the objectives. Primary data were collected through direct interviews with respondents, key informants, and Focus Group Discussions. Secondary data were collected through a review of other documents including journals, newspapers, and books. The target population was 555 persons out of whom a sample of 356 respondents was selected to participate in the study through both purposive and random sampling techniques.

Findings

The findings revealed that there was relative peace prevailing in Uganda despite the volatility of the region and the attendant refugee influx into Uganda.

However, the study also found that the continued influx of refugees compromised the national security of the country in the sense that the big number of refugees strained the county's resources, economic opportunities, and social services—resulting in tension and unrest between refugees and the host communities. The study found that the big number of refugees came along with it increased crime, extremism, food insecurity, and public health issues.

Key recommendations

The study recommended that amidst big refugee numbers, the Government of Uganda needs to put in place measures such as keeping all refugees in settlement camps, registration and proper profiling of all refugees, as well as to monitor and

regulate refugee movements in and out of the country. It further recommended that the Government should through regional frameworks increase efforts to end the conflicts in the region that are responsible for the displacement of these refugees and also develop and implement a repatriation plan once the countries of origin are suitable for the return of refugees.

Key references

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