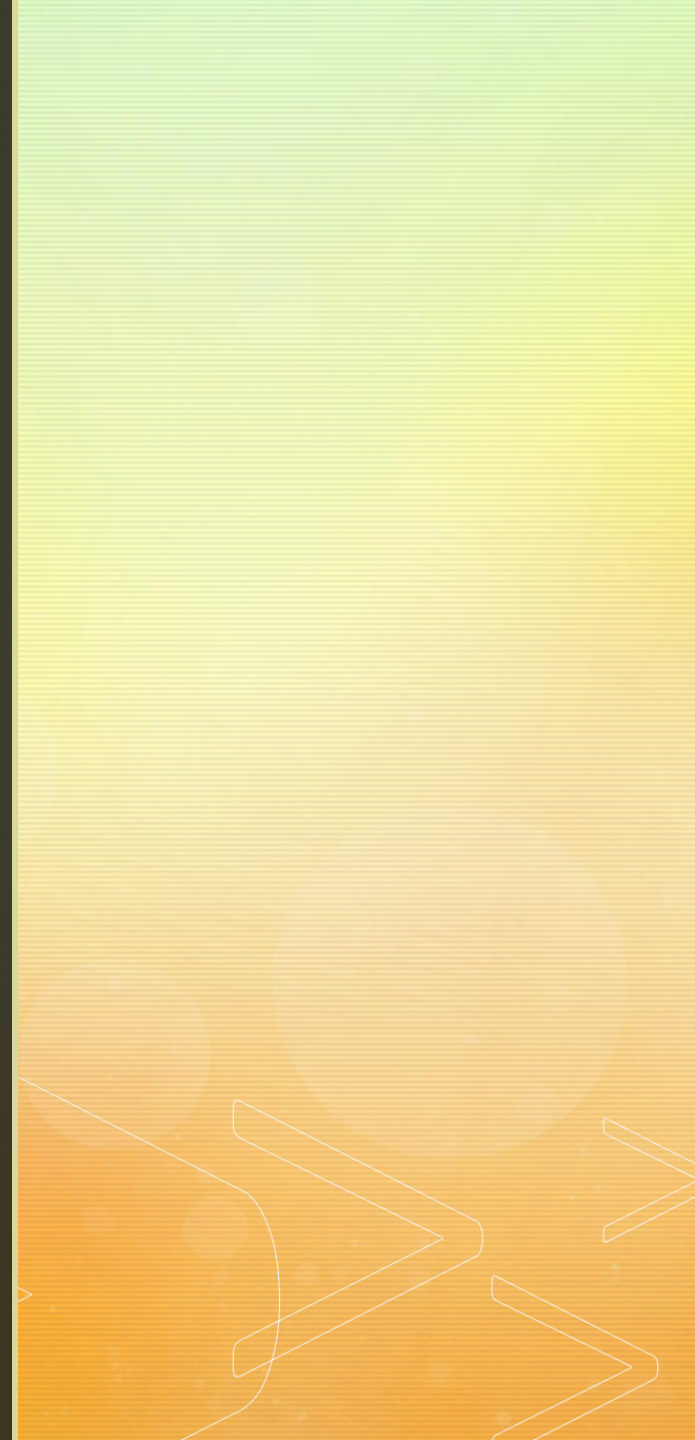




Allyson Dykstra Presents:

Refugee Camp Education: Hope, Gaps, and Barriers



While topics to be discussed are common in refugee camps, each camp is unique and may not have all issues present in this literature or have any at all that are listed. This presentation is to highlight the perceived challenges facing refugee camps based on current perceived refugee hopes as gathered by sample populations.



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Introduction to Refugee Camps



Expectation vs. Reality



A refugee is unable/unwilling to return to their home country for fear of their life outside of their control



Best case scenario



Second best case scenario



Refugee camp:
provide food, shelter,
safety and education

Physical and Mental Condition

- UN Refugee Agency approximates 2.6 million refugees are living in camps
- 37,000 people recorded fleeing their home each day
- Averaging a likely human displacement **for nearly two decades**
- The urgency to provide

Method of Literature Review

- Addo2016_Refugees Expectations Of Durable Solutions
- Bellino Closing Information Gaps Kakuma
- Reflections on refugee students major perceptions of education in Kakuma Refugee Camp Kenya
- Refugee children in South Africa Access and challenges to achieving universal primary education
- Refugee Survey Quarterly-2012-Gladden
- Refugee Survey Quarterly-2013-Gladden
- 18 Gladden/refugee interview transcripts

“Physiological needs, when unsatisfied,
dominate the organism, pressing all capacities
into their service.”

- Maslow



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Primary Needs Focus

- PTSD, depression and anxiety, somatization, adjustment disorders, and substance abuse diagnoses
- **“The overwhelming focus of the participants on physical needs shows that this is an area of great need.”**
 - When physical needs aren't being met, there is little room for sociological improvement

Coping and Hoping

- Coping strategies are limited
- **Lazarus and Folkman: to manage or change the problem causing stress (problem-focused coping)**
- Education is a main coping tool used by refugees to attempt to escape their problems and change their situation.
- Education is specifically important for refugees to have access to as it **functions as a survival mechanism for young people enduring contexts of uncertainty, risk, and marginalization** (Michelle J. Bellino and the Kakuma Youth Research Group).

Interviews

- **Schooling to help oneself**
 - **Staying in school keeps one away from bad crowds**
 - **Education means hope for a job**
 - **Above all, send people to school**
-
- The plea for quality education is so strong among refugee communities because 1) it is advertised as the only way for an improved life and 2) refugees are aware being uneducated in this world leads to a lower quality of life.

Good Education

- Education is the key to producing economic growth and improving quality of life for many nations and peoples.
- **Education provides a normalizing routine which can help refugee children deal with hardships**
- **Human right defined by the UNHCR**
- **Produces “self-reliance and social and economic development by building human capital.”**
- opportunity “**towards improvement in their standards of living, as well as, safety from all forms of persecution.**”



“Good education should be given to our children when we go back home. If you give us money alone, it will finish, but with good education for our children, we are sure that they will get a good job for survival. This will make us happy because they are our hope for the future. **We shall benefit from them.**”

- Adults: passive hope
- Children: active hope



Barriers to Access Education

- Study found that there are two forms of barriers to refugee children's access to education: obstacles to enrolling in a school and barriers in respect of sustaining themselves after enrolling at schools
- 24% of the school age children of asylum seekers are not in school in South Africa and more than half of school-aged refugee youth do not attend secondary school.
- Women are most disadvantaged

Pressure to Succeed and Provide

- Kariem's brothers did not talk to him for a week when it became clear that he had no college prospects. Ibrahim wondered aloud if school in Kakuma was a waste of time.
 - The family pressure
→ostracization
 - With school being their only hope, when school becomes unobtainable they have let their whole family down



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- Camp → overstretched
 - Upper grades are hindered from poor learning conditions and low quality education in lower grades
 - **Limited utility/value of secondary education with legal restrictions on the right to work and few opportunities to access tertiary education.** (Michelle J. Bellino and the Kakuma Youth Research Group)
-



Winthrop and Kirk (2008) found education was helpful in increasing hope and drive for young people **but only when students saw themselves engaged in meaningful learning**

If not education, then what?

- Areas of independence where refugees can provide for themselves outside of schooling
- **Modern farming and computing**
- **Entrepreneur training i.e. finances, marketing, management**
- **Carpentry, electrical, mechanical, etc.**



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Host Country Policy and Regulation

- Livelihood skills
- Farming and carpentry learning centers
- Lifting trades and employment policies



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■ Kakuma students left secondary school “with little understanding of the alternatives” and an “emergent sense of betrayal” due to the perceived promise that completing their education would solve their problems.

- If the attempt to properly educate is failing due to lack of resources **allow access to information** to be a driving force of hope.
 - Don't force refugees to make blind steps into their future
- The fear of humanitarian aid workers is that freedom of information will cause a group to be disheartened and unmotivated to strive and hope. While this may happen, it is more useful for a people to see obstacles and make decisions for themselves

Bad for Refugees, Bad for the World

- Education is the key to the future, not only for an individual child but the continent as a whole” (News24, 2010).
- Preventing children from education hurts the entire organism that is a nation. It leads to lower wages, more stress on the government, blighted communities, and wasted human capital.
 - **7.7 million children being cared for by the UNHCR**



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Children's Education

- “All of Africa’s children, including refugee children, should be enabled to reap the long-term benefits of education.”

“The barrier’s inhibiting refugee children’s access to education is not unique to South Africa. Similar challenges have been experienced by refugee children in Australia (Taylor and Sidhu, 2012), Czech Republic (Bacakova, 2011), and the USA (Roxas, 2011). According to the UNHCR (2012), there are about 14 million refugee children globally, including “refugees, asylum seekers and stateless as well as returnee and internally displaced”.

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Call for Self-sustainable Camps

- Improvement among the structure of UNHCR aid
 - Shift assistance programs to sustainable programs (growing, not giving [as much] food)
 - Structure and enforcing law is crucial
- **For the quality of life for refugees to improve the quality and quantity of necessities must be met**
- “Conceptions of the refugee camp as a temporary space of exile further impeded the sustainability expected of YPAR and community mobilizations. Beyond their capacity to act, young people did not feel a strong obligation to contribute to the common good within Kakuma, desiring to move on from “this waiting place,” rather than improve it.”

Conclusion

- The hope of refugees is to successfully provide food, shelter, and safety for their family and receive a quality education or other means of employment for their children and themselves. They wish to live peacefully, have opportunity for growth, and be self-sufficient.
- Making the refugee camp better for future use
 - A new system must emerge, this world must adapt for this growing refugee crisis
- Stop thinking of refugee camps as temporary—its just not reality
- Provide quality education with long-term educators and sufficient materials and resources