FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN BIDIBIDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, YUMBE UGANDA.

BY

DUUKI RICHARD
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A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTERS DEGREE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY, 2019
DECLARATION

I, Duuki Richard hereby affirm that this thesis is my original work and is not a duplication of what so ever. This thesis has not been submitted to any university or institution of higher learning for any award. I further declare that all materials which are not truly my own have been duly acknowledged.

Signature: ……………………………

Name: Duuki Richard

Researcher

Date: ………………………..
APPROVAL

This Thesis has been prepared under my close supervision and I recommend it for final review and approval by the College.

Signature: ...........................................

Name: Dr. Chrisostom Oketch

Title: Supervisor

Date: .............................................
I dedicate this piece of work to my Mother Abiria Cicilia (RIP) and my father Olindo Lumago (RIP). You have been very critical pillars of my personal and career development. You out rightly instilled in me the morals of respect, hard work and integrity.

May God’s perpetual light continue to shine upon you.
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<tr>
<td>ACERWC</td>
<td>African Committee of experts on the rights and welfare of the Child</td>
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<td>ACPF</td>
<td>African Child Policy Forum</td>
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<td>CFS</td>
<td>Child Friendly Space</td>
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<td>CPC</td>
<td>Child Protection Committee</td>
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<td>CPWG</td>
<td>Child Protection Working group</td>
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<td>CWD</td>
<td>Children with disability</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
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<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focused group discussion</td>
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<td>IASFM</td>
<td>International association for the study of forced migration</td>
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<td>IASC</td>
<td>Interagency Standing Committee</td>
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<td>KII</td>
<td>Key informant interview</td>
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<td>OPM</td>
<td>Office of the Prime Minister</td>
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<td>RWC</td>
<td>Refugee welfare Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Save the children International</td>
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<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual and Gender Based Violence</td>
</tr>
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<td>UNCRC</td>
<td>United Nation’s Convention on the rights of the child</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence against children</td>
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<td>WVI</td>
<td>World Vision International</td>
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ABSTRACT

This study sought to examine the impact of forced displacement on violence against children. Forced displacement in the context of the study relates to the coerced movement of persons as a result of either natural or manmade disaster while Violence against children refers to deliberate usage of physical force or power, either threatened or actual, on oneself, another child or against a group of children with resultant impact on the child’s physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing. The study was guided by three main objectives which included; to examine the causes of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement; to examine the forms of violence against children in Bidibidi Refugee settlement; and to examine the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children in Bidibidi Refugee settlement. In this study, the researcher adopted a mixed method research where both qualitative and quantitative data was collected. The researcher also applied a descriptive research to carry out the study. The population to the study was 283,000 from which a sample of 399 were arrived at using Slovene’s formula for sample size determination. Respondents were sampled through stratified sampling technique for the survey respondents and purposive sampling for the Key informants. Data was collected using questionnaires interview guides and focused group discussion guides and was analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The study found out that VAC is happening in Bidibidi and is being influenced by a number of factors including separation of children from parents, lack of livelihood opportunities for care givers, and lack of awareness raising on child rights. The study further found out that unaccompanied children (UACs) in foster care, child headed households, and adolescent girls are the main categories of children at risk of sexual, physical and emotional violence. The study also found out that there are mechanisms established by humanitarian agencies to respond to violence against children with training in positive parenting, linking families to livelihood opportunities, supporting peer to peer mentorship programs and establishing child friendly spaces as the most effective mechanisms.. The study recommends for strengthening family support systems, enhanced coordination among humanitarian actors and establishing child friendly spaces as some of the interventions to prevent and respond to Violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement.
CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

A lot of global attention is being placed on child protection with the aim to ensure every child enjoys the right to fundamental freedom in every context as enshrined in relevant international and national legal regimes, yet global trends on violence against children have continued to rise (ACPF 2014). This has been exacerbated by increasing trends of displacement caused by both natural calamities and human factors like war. War related displacement has for instance had the worst effect on both boys and girls across the world. It has been observed that, during conflicts and subsequently displacement, families get separated, community based protection mechanism get broken down and national protection framework is weakened resultantly exposing children to the worst forms of violence (UNHCR Situational Report 2017). In response, a number of practitioners have designed robust programs to address the matter but with little result partly because no much of these strategies are a result of empirical data. As a practitioner I intend to examine this influence to develop practical guidance to address the matter. This chapter henceforth sets the context of the study on forced displacement and violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement. It therefore covers a background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research questions and hypothesis, scope of the study, justification of the study and the conceptual framework.

1.1 Background to the study

This section presents a background to the study variables. It covers mainly four parts which include; a historical perspective to Violence against child and forced displacement, a background to a theory that explains the relationship between displacement and violence against children, a conceptual understanding of violence against children and the background to the study context.

1.1.1 Historical perspective

The record of displacement began in pre-history and continues to reoccur even today almost everywhere in the world (IASFM, 200). The most profound historical examples of forced displacement include; the Roman attack on Carthage around 218-202 BC, the Goths attack on
Rome around AD 399-405 and conquests by Islamic and Crusader forces 1150-1186. More recently, the process of economic revolution that took place in Europe in the 17th and 18th century created a lot of upheavals that resulted into massive displacement of people within (IASFM, 2002). During the twentieth century, complex humanitarian emergencies especially the Holocaust in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s; and the expulsion of Chinese from Indonesia in the 1960s resulted into similar mass displacement of people (Cohen & Deng, 1998).

In Africa, forced displacement can be traced to the period following colonial conquest. During this period, many countries that were established and controlled by Europe as colonies went to violent uprising in the quest for decolonization. (Boyle, Halfacree and Robinson 1998) These later led into numerous military clashes in many of the new African countries. Which later influenced scale and lethality of displacement (IASFM, 2002). The main causes of forced migration are usually wars and armed conflicts. However, natural disasters and development projects may also be responsible for displacement of people. (Boyle, Halfacree and Robinson 1998:180).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are about 65.2 million uprooted people around the world, including both refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Nearly 80 per cent of them are women and children (UNHCR 2014). Forced migration is particularly disastrous because of its physical, social, economic, psychological, and traumatic effects that affected populations face as witnessed in Rwanda 1994, Kosovo 1999, and Somalia during the early 1990s. The atrocities are usually used as weapons of war (Vickers 1993). In situations of armed conflict, large numbers of men get killed, detained, displaced or disappear. Then women who are left behind suffer the consequences such as Gender based violence (GBV) and changes in traditional roles, which affect the social order of the family and the development of the nation as a whole (Giddens 1993:364-368).

Like displacement, the whole of recorded history contains references to acts that can be described as Violence against children, but professional inquiry into the topic is generally considered to have begun in the 1960s (McCoy, & Keen, 2013). Throughout the 20th century, until the 1970s, in some Western countries, children from ethnic minority origin were forcefully removed from their families and communities, by state and church authorities, and forced to
"assimilate". Such policies included the Stolen Generations and the Canadian Indian residential school system, with such children often suffering severe abuse (Griffiths, 2015). Since then, Violence against children has remained a global issue in both situations of displacement and in normal settings. Overtime, Violence against children became to be recognized internationally as a serious health, human rights and child protection concern. Article 19 of the Convention on the rights of the child (CRC) obligates states parties to undertake all necessary measures to protect the child against all forms of violence, exploitation abuse including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Available information however, including the United Nation’s Secretary General’s (UNSG) report on Violence Against Children Indicates that children continue to be exposed to high levels of violence namely; physical, emotional and sexual maltreatment throughout the world.

In Africa, Violence against children remains a significant problem. It occurs in the home, in the school, in the street, the workplace, in residential care homes and in penal institutions. (ACPF 2014). The child on the street brutally beaten by police; the girl in school sexually assaulted by her teacher or classmate; the child abused because of a physical deformity; the girl forced to submit to cutting of her genitals; the boy scarred from beatings for misbehavior; siblings afraid when they witness violence between their parents in a confined shanty dwelling. All these children experience the trauma of violence (ACPF 2014).

Approximately 77 million children under the age of 15 have their lives severely disrupted every year due to natural disasters or armed conflict. Each year, approximately 115,000 children are killed as a result of these events. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in these emergencies. Children who have experienced armed conflict and natural disasters and their aftermath face multiple risks, such as fleeing for their lives, abandoning threatened homes and communities or struggling to survive in post conflict contexts. In these conditions, government structures are often weakened and families are forced to cope with destroyed livelihoods, separation, security concerns. Thus the care and protection of children are crucial. During an emergency, children’s sense of wellbeing is endangered. They may be exposed to a sudden loss, to disruption in their routines, to frightening experiences. After a disaster or in an armed conflict, the violations of children’s rights often increase dramatically. These include, among others, rights for survival, protection, development, and participation. The established social protection
networks fall apart, and parents and relatives may not be able to care for and protect their children anymore.

The situation is similar or even worse in refugee settlements which are grappling with the effects of forced displacement and adjustment into new socioeconomic environment. According to the Refugee information management system (RIMS) at least 80% of the refugee population in Bidbidi are children and women. There are currently 1,474 children hosted in foster care arrangement and over 5,800 open cases of children with specific needs. Young children are especially vulnerable, because their basic care and development is disrupted, traditional support structures are not in place and the caregivers, experiencing extraordinary stress and are often unable to provide for basic protection and developmental needs of their children (World Vision CPIMS 2018).

1.1.2 Theoretical Perspective

This study was based on the Frustration-Aggression theory. The Frustration Aggression theory (F-A) was postulated by Dollard, Boob, Miller and Mowrer in 1939. The Frustration aggression theory suggests that individuals are bound to act aggressive or violent as a result of frustration arising from previous experience. The theory has the following assumptions:

They assumed that frustration is a result of interference towards achieving an individual or group’s goal. When individuals are blocked from achieving what they intended to achieve in particular period of time, they get frustrated.

The theory further assumed that violence is a direct result of frustration. In the words of Dollard et al. (1939) “the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression”.

The theory further assumes that frustration is a cumulative process. That ‘aggressive drive’ resulting from frustrations is somehow maintained within the organism and adds up to a level at which an otherwise tolerable frustration evokes aggression. Dollard et al. (1939) were very explicit about the assumed additivity of aggressive forces. They opined that the strength of a
hostile or aggressive reaction depends in part on the “amount of residual instigation from previous or simultaneous frustrations.

Dollard et al further assumed that individuals have a high likelihood of displacing their aggression to other subjects if it appears impractical to express their frustration. They proposed that a particular frustration instigates aggression primarily against the source of the frustration but also instigates aggression against targets that are to some degree related to that source. The strength of the instigation was seen to vary as a function of associative ties between the actual source of frustration and the alternative target.

The theory has great relevance to the study because during displacement, individuals undergo a series of psychological disorders including separation from families, witnessing violence including killings, loss of important assets and adjusting to anew socio-economic environment. These changes can condition them to become violent. As children are more vulnerable in society, such frustration is likely to be carried on them.

1.1.3 Conceptual perspective

The independent variable in this study was forced displacement. According to the UNHCR, Forced displacement is the coerced movement of a person or persons away from their home or home region and it often connotes violent coercion. (UNHCR, 2017). The United Nations Secretary General’s Report of 1992 described forced displacement as when numbers of people have been obliged to leave their homes as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, and systematic violations of human rights. Someone who has experienced forced displacement is a "forced immigrant", a "displaced person" (DP), rarely also a "displacee", or if it is within the same country, an internally displaced person (IDP). In some cases the forced immigrant can also become a refugee.

For the purpose of this study, Forced displacement meant the movement of persons as a result of continued conflicts and the deteriorating economic situation, particularly from South Sudan into Uganda. Therefore forced displacement will be measured in terms of the separation of families arising from the conflict, loss of traditional livelihood opportunities and assets and the
psychological and emotional cope up to the new environment and conditions within the refugee settlement.

The dependent variable, Violence against children, as defined by WHO referred to the deliberate usage of physical force or power, which may be through threats of violence or actual violence, on oneself, another child or against a group of children that may result in or has the high probability of resulting in injury, death, mental harm and mal-development or deprivation of the child (WHO 2002). This definition embodies several aspects that are central to this study. First, it incorporates the concept of power and thus implies analysis of the transaction in terms of relationship. Second, it includes the use of actual force as well as threatened force, the latter characterizing the bulk of the violence perpetrated against children. Thirdly, it includes the acts that lead to psychological harm, mal-development and deprivation, all of which are critical concerns when understanding the impact of violence on children.

For the purpose of this study, Violence against children entailed any harm or injury perpetrated against a child by either a fellow child, parent, care giver, teacher or other community members. In this study, Violence against children shall include the following forms: Physical violence, Psychological or emotional violence, Sexual violence (actual or threatened) and Neglect or the lack of provision of the basic needs for child.

1.1.4 Contextual perspective

South Sudan, is currently classified by the United Nations as one of four “Level 3” humanitarian emergencies in the world, and the only one in Africa (UNOCHA 2016). U.N. officials estimate that at least 50,000 people have been killed since the conflict began, but no reliable death count exists, and some experts suggest the toll may be much higher (Agence France-Presse, November 15, 2014.). More than 2.7 million people have been displaced since December 2013. At least 1.7 million people are displaced internally, and in September 2016 the number of refugees surpassed 1 million. The clashes in July and rising insecurity beyond Juba have sparked a new wave of flight from the country—according to the latest U.N. estimates, more than 160,000 by September 2016 people have fled to neighboring Uganda since the beginning of July. Many of those arriving in Uganda (almost 90% of whom are women and children) have reported threats from armed actors as they fled, including killings, rape, looting, and child abductions. This number
has risen over time to more than 800,000 people settled majorly in the west Nile region. Bidibidi settlement is believed to host over 280,000 South Sudanese (Majority of whom are children estimated at 61%), making it the largest single settlement in the world.

The war and resulting displacement have severely exacerbated humanitarian needs in a country that already had some of the world’s lowest human development indicators. (Aditi Gorur 2014) The conflict has disrupted farming cycles, grazing patterns, and trade routes, and local markets have collapsed. Many of the displaced lost their livelihoods when they fled their homes. Food prices have skyrocketed since the July fighting, leaving many unable to meet basic needs. The annual inflation rate surged to almost 730% in August 2016, with food costs rising almost 850%.

Refugees arriving in Uganda report that they were forced to flee their homes in fear of the violence that has characterized the conflict in South Sudan, including indiscriminate and ethnically motivated killings, disappearances, rape, looting of property, arbitrary detention and torture. Those who have fled South Sudan also tell of the high cost of living, escalating inflation, food shortages and lack of access to basic services such as healthcare and education (UNHCR 2017).

1.2 Problem Statement

Although the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989) clearly articulates, in the 19th Article the responsibility of states to protect children from all forms of violence, it is generally recognized that obligation has minimally been translated into practice. According to Susan et al (2016), over 1 billion children ages 2 to 17 years have experienced violence in the past year. For South Sudan, the humanitarian crises that has lasted for close to half a decade has exacerbated the situation for all children within the country and those displaced into neighboring countries (World Vision 2014). As noted by the UNHCR (2017), the war in South Sudan and subsequent displacement of South Sudanese into the region resulted in breakdown of families, loss of property and lives, war related stress disorders, separation of children from their families; which increases their vulnerability to sexual, physical and other forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. Much violence against children is un-reported and un-recorded. As such, little is known on the nature and extent of the violence used against. As earmarked by World Vision in a
report published ahead of the Oslo Donor Conference, (2014) on the situation of South Sudan children, ‘unless urgent measures are taken things will get unimaginably worse’ for children. This study accordingly sought to examine the effect of forced displacement on violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of forced displacement on violence against children in Bidibidi Refugee settlement.

1.4 Objectives of the study

This study was guided by the following objectives;

1. To examine the causes of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement.
2. To examine the forms of violence against children in Bidibidi Refugee settlement.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children in Bidibidi Refugee settlement.

1.5 Research questions

This study was guided by the following research questions;

1. What are the causes of Violence against Children in Bidibidi refugee settlement?
2. What are the forms of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement?
3. How effective are the existing mechanism to prevent and respond to Violence against children?

1.7 Scope of the study

1.7.1 Geographical scope

This study was carried out across the five zones of Bidibidi refugee settlement. Bidibidi refugee settlement is located in the central part of Yumbe district in the West Nile region of Uganda.
Yumbe district is bordered by the republic of South Sudan in the North, Moyo District to the east, , Arua District to the south, Maracha District to the southwest and Koboko District to the west. The headquarters of Yumbe are about 75 Kilometers north of Arua town. Majority of the population are Aringa speakers. However, other tribes like the Kakwa, Lugbara and Madi do exist. Besides an equal number of South Sudanese are being settled as refugees in the same district in Bidibidi refugee settlement, which diffuses the current demographics.

According to the office of the prime minister, Bidibidi is one of the newest as well as the biggest refugee settlements established in Uganda after the resumption of hostilities between forces loyal to former Vice President Dr. Riake Machar and those of President Salva Kiir. Following this conflict, a large number of South-Sudanese fled their homes for safety. Many sought asylum in neighboring countries including Uganda. As of 20th April 2017, Uganda received 885’818 refugees and asylum seekers. 283,000 of them are living in Bidibidi refugee settlement.

1.7.2 Content Scope:

In this study, Violence against children was construed as per the understanding of the Global Protection working group, Child protection Sub cluster to mean any acts, actual or attempted, directed against a child which has a long term effect on the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of a child. It shall therefore incorporate physical, emotional and sexual violence against children with special focus on violence during forced displacement. Acts of defilement/rape, sexual assault, recruitment into armed forces and armed groups, neglect, child labor, emotional abuse, exploitation, trafficking and abduction of children shall all be categorized to mean violence against children.

1.7.3 Time Scope

This study focused on the situation of violence between 2013, when the first South Sudan crises occurred to 2018. This period can be termed as where the period of early recovery within the refugee settlements. Behavior patterns for parents and children during the stated period was observed and discussed to understand how the displacement impacted on the prevalence of violence against children.
1.8 Significance of the Study

1.8.1 To the academic world

This study helped to gather empirical evidence on the prevalence, causes and practical strategies to end violence against children. This will inform future research in the subject and further influence teaching and learning on the subject matter.

1.8.2 To the practitioners:

This study generated evidence to support practitioner (i.e. humanitarian agencies) to understand the reasons for the high prevalence of violence against children, the community perception about violence against children and the workable strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children. This will support in developing workable intervention strategies.

1.9 Definition of Operational Terms

For the purpose of this study, the following terms were construed the meaning as described below. Exceptions were provided for as described in the particular paragraph, phrase or sentence:

**Violence against Children:** Any violations of the child’s rights to safety, life, dignity, health, education, parental care and protection from abuse and exploitation. This included all emotional, physical and psychological harm inflicted on children.

**Refugee:** The term refugee was defined as per the UN Convention on the status of Refugees 1951 and its additional protocol of 1967 to mean any person who “owing to a well-founded fear of persecution as a result of race, nationality, membership of a particular social group or religion is outside the country of his habitual residence and owing to such fear is unwilling or unable to return to his country of habitual residence.

**Office of the Prime Minister:** The particular government department, designated with the role of coordinating refugee affairs in the country.

**Child:** The term child was defined as provided for in Article 1 of the UNCRC (1989) and Uganda’s Children’s amendment act 2016 to mean as any person below the age of 18 years.
Unaccompanied child: This referred to a child who crossed the border and/or is currently living without a relative or any person who by law or custom is responsible for his primary provision.

Child Friendly space: Referred to places designed and operated in a participatory manner, where children affected by natural disasters or armed conflict can be provided with a safe environment, where integrated programming including play, recreation, education, health, and psychosocial support can be delivered and/or information about services/supports provided.

Separated child: This meant any child who has been separated from the biological parents or primary care giver and is being cared for by a member of the extended family.

Settlement: For the purpose of this study, a settlement meant a designated area by the Office of the Prime Minister within the host community for the purpose of settling and protecting refugees.

Persons of Concern: This referred to any person for whom the UNHCR is responsible for. This included asylum seekers, refugees and returnees.

Assimilate: Assimilate meant to influence an individual or a group of individuals to adopt a foreign culture and practice as part of their own ways of life.
CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction
In this chapter the research presents various concepts and theories postulated by scholars on Violence against children during situations of forced displacement. Special focus was on understanding the causes of violence against children, the global and national trend on violence against children, the impact of violence on children and the strategies that can be adopted to end violence against children. This chapter further reviewed one theory that explains the relationship between the variables and identify gaps in current literature to inform the focus area for this study.

2.1 Theoretical review
This study applied the frustration aggression theory to understand the relationship between forced displacement and violence against children in Bidibidi. The theory was first postulated by John Dollard, Neal Miller, Leonard Doob, Orval Mowrer, and Robert Sears in 1939 (Dollard et al 1939) and further developed by Neal Miller in 1941 and Leonard Berkowitz in 1969. The theory says that aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating, a person's efforts to attain a goal. (Dollard et al 1939)

The theory attempts to explain the cause of violence. According to Dollard et al, frustration is the "condition which exists when a goal-response suffers intrusion," while aggression is defined as "an act whose goal-response is injury to an organism." The theory says that frustration causes aggression, but when the source of the frustration cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced onto an innocent target. For example, if a man is disrespected and humiliated at his work, but cannot respond to this for fear of losing his job, he may go home and take his anger and frustration out on his family.

Assumptions of the Frustration Aggression Theory
The theory assumed that frustration is a result of interference towards achieving an individual or group’s goal. The theory further assumed that violence is a direct result of frustration. In the words of Dollard et al. (1939) “the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the
existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression”.

That frustration is a cumulative process. When an individual experiences some level of frustration, this builds up until an individual reaches the point of aggressive behavior. Dollard et al opined that the strength of a hostile or aggressive reaction depends in part on the “amount of residual instigation from previous or simultaneous frustrations.

That individuals have a high likelihood of displacing their aggression to other subjects if it appears impractical to express their frustration. They proposed that a particular frustration instigates aggression primarily against the source of the frustration but also instigates aggression against targets that are to some degree related to that source.

**Relevance of the Theory to Study**

The assumption that frustration is a necessary pre-condition of aggression is true, simply because instances of frustration can always be found especially after violent displacement where people have been disconnected from their sources of livelihood, separated from family members and in the extreme witnessed some of the family members being brutally tortured and killed. Such individuals may have a high likelihood of retaliating to members of the community from where the oppressors came from. Furthermore, it is known that people learn to act in ways sanctioned by their society. Consequently, aggressive reactions must often be suppressed or directed into socially acceptable channels, perhaps in disguised form. If so then practically every action can be interpreted as a ‘tendency’ toward ‘aggression’, perhaps redirected. Thereby the assumption that frustration is a sufficient condition for aggression cannot be falsified, simply because ‘tendencies’ toward aggression can always be found, or labeled as such. (Rapoport, 1974).

Subjective material supporting the frustration-aggression theory is, of course, abundant. A young man who is known to have hated his father and brother becomes an energetic political reformer, which provides opportunity to attack corrupt politicians, callous power figures, etc. Thus, he demonstrates both a frustration-aggression pattern and the ‘displacement’ of aggression into channels acceptable, at least to his followers.
Several anthropological and sociological observations have been interpreted in accordance with the frustration-aggression theory. People in different cultural environments behave toward each other in different ways. In some societies there is a great deal of interpersonal, overt violence; in others, overt violence is practically unknown. A common-sense view would ascribe more aggressiveness to the people in the former society and less to those in the latter.

Countless studies have revealed correlations between the incidence of criminality and low economic status. It can, and has been, argued that poverty is a source of frustration; Its right to assert that during displacement, members of the community become less productive and are therefore forced to live poverty-like conditions. These are frustrating conditions that can direct members of the community to act violently either to their own children or to other children in their community.

**Criticism of the theory**

The first criticism of this theory originates from the assumption that violence is a result of frustration. Scientists have proved over time that frustration is not a main cause of violence. For example, Seward, who studied rat behavior, suggested that aggression can also be caused by dominance struggles, which for him were different from frustration (Seward, 1945).

Further still, the hypothesis does not take into consideration the uniqueness of human beings. According to Dixon and Johnson, two people can respond differently to the same frustration stimuli. For instance, some could respond aggressively while driving on the highway after being cut off by another car, whereas others with a different temperament could not react to it. However, the theory assumes that if two different people receive the same frustration stimuli, they will react similarly or equally aggressively (Snyder and Fromkin, 1980).

The theory majorly explains why certain individuals are violent without clearly articulating why this violence is directed towards particular individuals. Psychologists have proved over time that certain characteristics of the individual especially sex, affiliation to minority groups, economic and social status, disability among others play a critical role in determining direction of violence which assertion is not recognized by the theorists.
2.2 Conceptual framework

Fig 1: Conceptual framework on Forced displacement and violence against children

Independent Variable: Forced Displacement  Dependent variable: Violence Against Children

Violent conflicts
Natural disaster

INTERVENING VARIABLES

Cultural believes and practices
Institutional capacity to prevent and respond
Legal and policy framework

Family separation
Physical, emotional and sexual violence
Loss of economic opportunities

Source: Adopted from the interagency guidelines on child protection and case management (2014) and modified by the researcher

2.3 Understanding the concept of Forced Displacement

The record of forced displacement began in pre-history and continues uninterrupted today. In forced displacement there is no prior intention or plan to leave. The concept describes a complex emergency situation that forces communities to relocate due to a particular type of disaster (Byrne, 1996). According to International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (2002), forced Displacement is usually related to the movements of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
The main causes of forced Displacement are usually wars and armed conflicts. However, natural disasters and development projects may also be responsible. Natural disasters include among others floods, desertification, storms and drought while development projects include villagisation, dams, mining, conservation, urban renewal schemes, land expropriation, resettlement and slum demolition (Boyle, Halfacree and Robinson, 1999).

The United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan’s Report of 1992 described forced Displacement as when numbers of people have been forced to leave their homes as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, and systematic violations of human rights. Forced Displacement has become a serious concern and topic of study because it affects millions of people and development of many countries. It continues to challenge the global society as regards international politics, international law, human rights, humanitarian aid, social and population policies (Zard, 2006).

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2002), there are about 50 million uprooted people around the world, including both refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Nearly 80 per cent of them are women and children while women and girls account for almost 50 per cent of the displaced population. The impacts of forced Displacement vary depending on political, socio-economic, cultural and environmental contexts. The effects also vary according to factors such as gender, class, age, race, or ethnicity (Cohen & Deng, 1998).

There are over 65.2 million people in dire need of protection and assistance as a consequence of forced displacement. They include refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum-seekers. Globally, over 40.8 million people are internally displaced (IDMC, 2015), compared to more than 21.2 million refugees and 3.2 million asylum-seekers (UNHCR, 2014). An estimated 12.4 million people were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2015 only. According to the latest UNHCR data, 51% of the global refugee population are children, the highest proportion in over a decade.

Finding durable solutions for refugees and other displaced persons is a challenge and includes voluntary repatriation to their home countries, which is the preferred long-term outcome for the
majority of refugees. While some of the displaced populations are able to return home, the lack of political solutions in their home country prevents many more from coming back and millions may stay in these protracted situations for several years and in some extreme cases for generations. Other solutions are local integration or resettlement of refugees, either in the country where they live or in third countries where they can be permanently resettled. Sustainable solutions for IDPs can be: return to their place of origin, local integration in areas where they have taken refuge or integration in another part of the country.

In the absence of durable solutions, those who remain internally displaced (IDPs) or in refugee camps face major challenges in terms of protection, access to shelter, food and other basic services such as health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and education. Refugees and IDPs who live in urban areas may encounter poverty, lack of psycho-social support and difficulties in normalizing their status. Violence, abuse and exploitation against the most vulnerable often peak in the aftermath of emergencies, which underlines the importance of effective protection mechanisms to be put in place immediately.

Forced Displacement and conflict: Forced Displacement is a clearer violation of human, economic, political and social rights as a result of the failure to comply with international humanitarian laws (Moser and Clark, 2001). Regardless of the cause, forced displacement is a human rights violation and results in distinct types of disadvantages for children and development. Although the displacement is often regarded as temporary, experience in countries such as Somalia and South Sudan shows that displacement is in fact a long process. Many generations have been displaced as a result of armed conflict worldwide and a significant number of people have been displaced more than once. Displacement disadvantages children because it results in reduced access to resources that are required to cope with household needs which increase physical and emotional stress (El Jack, 2002). Displacement further restricts children’s access to education which over time affects their holistic development.

Displacement also implies social exclusion and poverty, which are likely to prolong armed conflict. Forced displacement is often used as a tactic of war that targets gender relations which results in family breakdown and social decay. The displacement often leads to a shift in gender roles for both women and men. Demographic changes usually occur due to conflict, which
results in many women becoming heads of households and contributes to changes in the division of labour. Sometimes forced displacement creates new opportunities and empowerment for women but in some respects it further marginalizes their place in society (Bushra, Karib & Hadjipateras, 2002). In Bidibidi for example, more than 60% of the refugee households are women headed. In the settlement, women have to assume the roles that were traditionally meant for men. Similarly, separation resulting from the displacement subjects children to assume roles of heading households. In Bidibidi for example, there are over 200 households headed by children, most of whom are unable to access education.

2.4 Understanding the Concept of Violence against Children

The phenomenon of Violence against children has been recognized in literature since time immemorial and has been changing face from time to time throughout human history. Cases of infanticide, disfigurement, neglect and other forms of child abuse date back to ancient civilizations (Bensel, Rheinberger and Radbill, 1997). The historical record is also filled with reports of disheveled, weak and malnourished children cast out by families to fend for themselves and of children who have been sexually abused by relatives and strangers all alike.

Throughout recorded history, there existed generous groups and individuals who provided safe haven for those children who witnessed violence and abuse and worked to ensure such menace does not reoccur. Nevertheless, the issue did not receive widespread attention by across different academic spheres especially in the medical field (Kempe et al. 1962). In their 1962 publication, Kempe and the group coined the ‘‘battered child syndrome’’ to characterize the clinical manifestations of serious physical abuse in young children (Kempe et al, 1962). Later, there grew clear evidence that child abuse is a global problem. It occurs in a variety of forms and is deeply rooted in cultural, economic and social practices. Putting an end to this issues, therefore, requires a much better understanding of its occurrence in a range of settings, as well as of its causes and consequences.

It is pertinent that any global approach to violence against children must take into account the culturally appropriate values and expectations for parenting behaviour in various cultures around the world. Culture is a society’s common deposit of beliefs and behaviours, and its concepts of how people should conduct themselves. Included in these concepts are ideas about what acts
might abuse and neglect (Estroff, 1997). In other words, culture helps define the generally accepted principles of child-rearing and care of children.

With the variations in apprehending the different cultural believes and practices, some scholars have asserted that views on child-care across cultures might deviate to an extent that consensus on what practices are abusive or neglectful is enormously difficult to reach (Facchin et al, 1998). However, there also exists points of contention across cultures as to what is in excess of parenting especially in regard to issues related to very harsh punitive practices and sexual abuse (Bross et al, 2000).

The following are the main types of violence against children and their common definitions:

Physical violence is the deliberate use of bodily force against a child that may result in or has a high likelihood of resulting in harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity. These occur globally across different facets of society and are manifested inform of striking, kicking, beating, burns, and suffocation among others. (WHO, 2002).

Sexual violence is any sexual deed that is perpetrated against some one’s will and encompasses a range of offenses including a completed sex act without consent (defined as rape), attempted non-consensual sexual act (defined as attempted rape in legal terms), abusive sexual contact and non-contact sexual abuse, Sexual exploitation and survival sex. In context of this study, sexual exploitation and abuse, forced marriage, child marriage, survival sex and sexual contact with a child (below 18 years of age, whether consensual or not) shall be classified as sexual abuse (WHO, 2002).

Refers to any behavior that communicates to a child that he/she is worthless flawed, unloved, unwanted, endangered, or of value only meeting another’s needs. This includes acts of blaming, belittling, insulting, degrading, intimidating, terrorizing, isolating, restraining, confining, corrupting, exploiting, spurning, withholding affection and belittling the child’s capabilities, qualities and desires or otherwise behaving in a manner that is harmful, potentially harmful or insensitive to the child’s developmental needs or can potentially damage the child psychologically or emotionally (WHO, 2002).

Neglect is an important contributor to death and illness in young children. Neglect means the inability of parents or care giver to meet a child’s physical and emotional needs when they have
the capacity in terms of knowledge, access to services to do so including the failure to protect her or him from exposure to danger. However, in many settings the line between what is caused deliberately and what is caused by ignorance or lack of care possibilities may be difficult to draw (World report on Violence against children, 2002). For the purpose of this study, Neglect shall include failure to allow children to access education, health, birth registration and other services; failure to provide for food and other basic services and allowing children to engage in acts that threaten their physical and emotional wellbeing.

2.5 Causes of violence against children

A number of factors do contribute to the increased cases of violence against children. These range from the individual through the family to the entire community. Many scholars have generalized the causes of violence to a power imbalance between the perpetrator and the victim, with one being more powerful than the other. This power differentiation is heightened by a combination of factors as discussed below.

Displacement and vulnerability of children to Violence

More than half of all refugees are children and adolescents (UNHCR, 2017). Uprooted from their homes, forced to leave behind relatives, friends, familiar surroundings and established social networks, they may be exposed to an increased level of risk and vulnerability of becoming victims of abuse and exploitation. Children who are displaced in their own countries may also face perilous circumstances, lacking both protection and assistance. For refugee or internally displaced families and children who are returning to home communities, many barriers may be encountered during reintegration, and ensuring education and re-establishing family life and productive livelihoods may be difficult. During displacement, various factors may place children and adolescents at risk of either exploitative Child labour or sexual exploitation (including commercial exploitation). The following text presents the relationship between forced displacement and Violence against children.

Separation from families: Separation from families denies children the protection and guidance of parents and other family members. (NRC,1993) Abuse within institutions is thought to be widespread. Unaccompanied children may have to fend for themselves, while children in foster homes may have to fulfill expectations of contributing to the household economy. Adolescent
heads of households and children of disabled parents often have to accept adult responsibilities, including economic ones, which may make them especially vulnerable. For instance many of these are seen at distribution points to ensure that they receive the household ration denying them access to education (UNHCR 2017).

Lack of access to education places pressures on young people. Even if school exists, children may not be able to enroll because they lack proper documentation, are not considered residents of the area or are unable to pay school fees. This may lead to feelings of exclusion and pessimism in relation to their future.

Family poverty, and the associated sense of desperation that often go hand-in-hand with the refugee experience, is often a root cause of both exploitative child labour and sexual exploitation. The experience of flight and conditions in refugee camps may place children at increased risk of sexual exploitation. For instance, many sleep in very temporary structures without proper doors and shutters. Others are forced to walk long distances in search of firewood, water and other basic needs which increases their exposure to physical and sexual abuse.

**Lack of Reliable Livelihood Source**

Refugee and displaced families are cut-off from the economic structures of their former community and are often denied access to economic opportunities in their host community. Like all families, they have certain members who must earn a livelihood to support other members. Particularly when living in camp settings, these traditional wage earners are often unable to find relevant work in their new environment. Traditional wage earners’ decreased income often leads families to seek supplementary income from other members. At the same time, many children, particularly adolescents, have reached an age where they are physically able to perform the same work as adults. Many are asked to take on a greater responsibility for the economic survival of their family, or asked to work for no pay within the home in order to enable other members to work. This work is often performed by girls, spending long hours doing housework and minding younger siblings, and is not only performed unnoticed but impacts their ability to attend school.

While children work, the kinds of work they do, and their working conditions will be affected by levels of poverty and social inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, age, class and caste. As children and adolescents make decisions concerning whether or not to forgo education in favour
of work, they weigh the importance of earning extra income in the present in relation to the possibility of securing greater income in the future through education. The availability and relevance of school and vocational training to a child’s prospects of future work therefore affect this decision.

**Personal Characteristics of the Child**

Personal characteristics of the child may have a greater role in exposure or non-exposure of a child to violence and exploitation. Generally, certain categories of children are at a higher risk than others. Key characteristics to look at include age, sex and disability. A series of research has confirmed the role that each of the 3 contribute towards exposure to violence as discussed below:

Age of the child: Vulnerability to child abuse depends in part on a child’s age (Hunter et al.1978). This is because age and the development stage of a child determines the level of exposure and resistance a child will have towards abuse. Not all children at different age groups may suffer from the same forms of abuse. Mortal cases of physical abuse are commonly seen among young infants (Adinkrah, 2000 and Kotch et al., 1990). On the other hand, Sexual abuse rates, usually increase among children in the adolescent stage, (Olsson et al. 2000). The researcher asserts that this is majorly because the body changes that children go through increases their level of attraction to the perpetrators. Besides children at this age may want to act and behave like adults which exposes them to greater risk. Just like sexual violence, forced recruitment may be higher for children at puberty than infants.

Sex of the child: Like age, the sex of a child may increase or reduce the vulnerability of a child to particularly forms of violence. In majority of the countries across the world girls are at higher risk of sexual abuse, denial of opportunity to education, malnutrition, and survival sex as compared to boys. (Finkelhor, 1994). Global statistics by UNICEF indicate that 60% of the over 130 million children between the ages of 6 and 11 who are not in school are girls (UNICEF, 2000). In some countries, girls are deliberately denied of education due to a culture that prepares them to the traditional role of motherhood or are considered as last resort where the family resources are inadequate to support both the boy and girl child. Male children are usually at greater risk of harsh physical punishment in many countries and communities (UNICEF, 2000). High exposure of boys to harsh forms of punishment is majorly due to the fact that such punishment is seen as a preparation for adult roles and responsibilities. Clearly, the wide cultural
gaps that exist between different societies with respect to the role of women and the values attached to male and female children accounts for many of these differences.

Special characteristics/Disability: Children with specific needs are at higher risk of violence and neglect. Many studies have pointed that, premature, mentally retarded children with disabilities and twins have exposure to violence and neglect. This is further influenced by the cultural context from which a child belongs. (Wolfe, 1999). Though there are conflicting findings from studies on the importance of mental retardation as a risk factor, there is a general believed that low birth weight, premature birth, illness, physical or mental handicaps in a child interfere with attachment and bonding within the community which exposes the child to abuse and neglect and may make the child more vulnerable to abuse (NRC, 1993). This is usually worse where primitive believes ad practices are prevalent.

**Caregiver and family characteristics**

Research has shown a linkage between characteristics of the caregiver and features of the family environment as a reason for increased violence against children. These include the sex, family structure and resources and the size and composition of the family. These are further elaborated in the proceeding literature:

Sex: Male and female perpetrators of violence are seen to be engaged in specific forms of violence against children. Women are seen to perpetuate physical violence in the guise of physical discipline than men (Sariola & Uutela, 1992). On the contrary, men are seen to be the most common perpetrators of life-threatening head injuries, abusive fractures and sexual violence (Starling, & Holden, 2000). For sexual violence against females, studies tend to indicate that about 90% of the perpetrators are men. For violence against ale, between 63% and 86% of the perpetrators are men (Briere, 1994).

Family structure and resources: Family structure and resources determine the level of vulnerability of children to violence. These include the level of income, education level of parents, single parenthood and family size. Across all countries, poor, young, single mothers are among those at greatest risk for using violence towards their children (Zununegui, Morales and Martínez , 1997). A study carried out in the US indicate that, single mothers are thrice more likely to commit physical violence against their own children than mothers in two-parent
families. Studies from developing Countries and the United Kingdom further indicated that low education and a lack of income to meet the family’s needs increase the potential of physical violence towards children (Lindell, and Svedin, 2001).

Family size and household composition: The size of the family can also increase the risk for abuse. Across the World, it is found that families with four or more children are three times more likely to be violent towards their children than parents with fewer children (Larrain, Vega, and Delgado, 1998). This is majorly caused by the emotional stress that these parents go through in order to up bring the children through provision of basic needs and positive guidance. Nevertheless, the size of the family does not stand alone in determining the level of physical violence against children. Other factors like crowding within the household, income and educational level of the parents/caregiver and relationship of the caregiver to the children do play a critical role. (Isaranurug et al., 2001). Lastly, unstable family environments, where the structure and composition of the household frequently changes with in and out movement of members, are a feature particularly noted in cases of chronic neglect (NRC, 1993). The above characters are very vital for the study of violence in situation of displacement as such families are exposed to the conditions aforementioned.

**Personality and Behavioral Characteristics**

There is a direct link between ones personality trait and likelihood to abuse children. Parents with low self-esteem poor control of their impulses, mental health problems, and antisocial behavior are more likely to abuse their children than those with the contrary (NRC, 1993). Such parents are also more likely to neglect their children as they may have difficulty in planning important life events such as marriage, having children or seeking employment. Many of these characteristics compromise parenting and are associated with disrupted social relationships, an inability to cope with stress and difficulty in reaching social support systems. Further still, parents who are less informed are more likely to be abusive as compared to those who are informed. (Helfer, Kempe and Krugman, 1997). Research has found that abusive parents show greater irritation and annoyance in response to their children’s moods and behavior, that they are less supportive, affectionate, playful and responsive to their children, and that they are more controlling and hostile (NRC, 1993).
**Prior History of Abuse**

Studies have shown that parents maltreated as children are at greater risk of abusing their own children (Widom, 1989). That justifies why majority of the women who have been sexually abused or underwent domestic violence are more likely to commit violence. Likewise, men who have been associated to armed groups are more likely to apply physical violence while disciplining their children.

**Psychosocial Distress among Perpetrators**

Parents and care givers who undergo stress and so call exclusion are more likely to be violent than those who may not have undergone so. (Runyan et al, 1998). This is particularly true within violent displacements where communities are undergoing a process of social reorganization. It is stated that the process of displacement, the separation of families and loss of initial livelihood opportunities increases the potential of perpetrators to abuse children. It is believed that stress resulting from challenging jobs, loss of income opportunities, critical health and medical conditions or other aspects of the family environment can heighten the level of conflict in the home and the ability of members to cope or find support. Those better able to find social support may be less likely to abuse children, even when other known risk factors are present.

**2.6 The Impact of Violence Against Children.**

Violence against children is a great menace to the over development process. Apart from the physical, emotional and psychological effects on the survivors, violence against children results in further harm to the economy and the society where a child is being abused from this is elaborated here under:

**Health Burden**

It is being observed that medical complications arising from child abuse comprise a significant portion of the global burden of disease and ill health. Great research has been conducted on many of these medical conditions. However, others have only recently been given attention, including psychiatric disorders and suicidal behaviour (Trowell et al, 1999). Importantly, there is now evidence that major adult forms of illness are related to experiences of abuse during childhood (McBeth et al, 1999). Some survivors have serious psychiatric symptoms, such as
depression, anxiety, substance abuse, aggression, shame or cognitive impairments. While others meet the full criteria for psychiatric illnesses that include post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, anxiety disorders and sleep disorders (Fergusson, Horwood and Lynskey. 1996). Studies have recently established significant associations between sexual abuse during childhood and subsequent mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders and suicidal thoughts and behaviour (Fergusson, Horwood and Lynskey. 1996). Physical, behavioural and emotional manifestations of abuse vary between children, depending on the child’s stage of development when the abuse occurs, the harshness of the abuse, the relationship of the perpetrator to the child, the length of time over which the abuse continues and other factors in the child’s environment (Fergusson, Horwood and Lynskey 1996).

**Death of the Victim:**

Violence has had direct and indirect contribution to death of children. The direct cause comes as a result of the harm resulting into bleeding, damage to internal organs among others while the indirect cause may be suicidal acts resulting from psychological harm. According to the WHO, an estimated 57,000 deaths were attributed to homicide among children under 15 years of age in 2000. Despite the apparent widespread misclassification, there is general agreement that fatalities from child abuse are far more frequent than official records suggest in every country where studies of infant deaths have been undertaken (Meadow, 1999) Among the fatalities attributed to child abuse, the most common cause of death is injury to the head, followed by injury to the abdomen (Alexander, Levitt and Smith. 2001). Intentional suffocation has also been extensively reported as a cause of death (Meadow, 1999).

**Injuries**

Injuries inflicted by a caregiver on a child can take many forms. Serious damage or death in abused children is most often the consequence of a head injury or injury to the internal organs. Head trauma as a result of abuse is the most common cause of death in young children, with children in the first 2 years of life being the most vulnerable. Because force applied to the body passes through the skin, patterns of injury to the skin can provide clear signs of abuse. The skeletal manifestations of abuse include multiple fractures at different stages of healing, fractures
of bones that are very rarely broken under normal circumstances, and characteristic fractures of the ribs and long bones.

2.7 Effectiveness of community based mechanisms in preventing and responding to violence against children

While the prevention of child abuse is almost universally proclaimed to be an important social policy, surprisingly the result of such interventions have not been promising. This could be partly attributed to the fact that little work has been done to investigate the effectiveness of preventive and response mechanism/interventions. Careful work has been done on a few interventions, such as home visitation, but many more interventions in this field lack adequate evaluation. This section takes a careful analysis of the impact of various measures in enhancing prevention and response to violence against children:

Family support approaches

A number of measures designed to enhance parenting practices and providing family support have been developed. These types of programs generally educate parents on child development and help them improve their skills in managing their children’s behaviour. While most of these programmes are intended for use with high-risk families or those families in which abuse has already occurred, it is increasingly considered that providing education and training in this area for all parents or prospective parents can be beneficial. Taking a case of Singapore, education and training in parenting begins in secondary school, with ‘‘preparation for parenthood’’ classes. Students learn about child care and development, and gain direct experience by working with young children at preschool and child care centers (WHO, 1999). This program has had a great impact on the quality of care provided by parents and positive disciplinary measures adopted.

Home visitation and other family support programmes

Home visitation has been identified as one of the most encouraging for preventing a number of negative outcomes, including youth violence and child abuse (The David and Lucile Packard Foundation 1999). During the home visits, information, support and other services to improve the working of the family are offered. In some, home visits are provided to all families, regardless of their risk status, whereas others focus on families at risk for violence. Wasik & Roberts (1994) identified parents that primarily provided services for abused and neglected
children. Among these, the enhancement of parenting skills and raising the parents’ level of coping were considered the most important services, followed by emotional support.

**Intensive family preservation services**

This kind of support is designed to keep the family together and to prevent children from being placed in alternative care care. This program targets families in which child abuse has been confirmed. A broad array of services are usually offered, according to the needs of the family, including various forms of therapy and more practical services such as temporary rent subsidies. An example of such a programme in the United States is Homebuilders, an intensive in-home family crisis intervention and education programme (Kinney, et al 1990). Families who have one or more children in imminent danger of being placed in care are referred to this programme by state workers. Over a period of 4 months, the families receive intensive services from therapists who are on call 24 hours a day. The wide range of services being offered includes help with basic needs such as food and shelter and with learning new skills. One meta-analysis of several different intensive family preservation programmes found that those with high levels of participant involvement, using an approach that built on the strengths of the family and involved an element of social support, produced better results than programmes without these components (MacLeod and Nelson. 2000).

**Services for Survivors**

A review of treatment programmes for physically abused children found that therapeutic day care was the most popular approach (Oates and Bross, 1995). The approach incorporates therapy and specific treatment methods in the course of the child’s daily activities at a child care facility. Most programmes of this type also include therapy and education for the parents. An example of a specific treatment method for socially withdrawn, abused children has been described by Fantuzzo et al. (1998). Maltreated preschool children who were highly withdrawn socially were placed in playgroups together with children with higher levels of social functioning. The better-functioning children were taught to act as role models for the more withdrawn children and to encourage them to participate in play sessions. A wide variety of intervention approaches and treatment methods have been adopted to treat child victims of sexual abuse, including individual, group and family therapy (Finkelhor and Berliner 1998).
Legal and Related Remedies (Mandatory and voluntary reporting)

Many legal provision provide strict penalty for perpetrators to act as a deterrent for those who intend to do the same. This practice has had a positive impact in reducing the scale of violence against children. This includes arresting and detaining perpetrators, termination of those in the professional fields and other measures. This remedy includes mandatory reporting of cases of abuse by those with constant touch with Children like the medical workers and social workers. The reasoning behind the introduction of mandatory reporting laws was that early detection of abuse would help forestall the occurrence of serious injuries, increase the safety of victims by relieving them of the necessity to make reports, and foster coordination between legal, health care and service responses. In Brazil, there is mandatory reporting to a five member ‘‘Council of Guardians’’ (WHO, 1999). Mandatory laws are potentially useful for data gathering purposes, but it is not known how effective they are in preventing cases of abuse and neglect.

School Programmes

School-based programmes to prevent child sexual abuse are one of the most widely applied preventive strategies and have been incorporated into the regular school curriculum in several countries. World Vision Uganda is running the Empowering Children as peace builders program in Uganda, where children are trained in basic life skills, child rights and peace building. After the training, children are able to engage with the communities and families through awareness raising, dialogue meetings and other mechanisms. Children also form peer to peer support groups to be able to identify and report on cases of child abuse (University of Columbia, 2015). These programmes are generally designed to teach children how to recognize threatening situations and to provide them with skills to protect themselves against abuse. The concepts underlying the programmes are that children own and can control access to their bodies and that there are different types of physical contact (MacIntyre and Carr, 1999).

Although there is agreement among researchers that children can develop knowledge and acquire skills to protect themselves against abuse, questions have been asked about whether these skills are retained over time and whether they would protect a child in an abusive situation, particularly if the perpetrator was someone well known to and trusted by the child. In an evaluation of the Irish Stay Safe programme, for instance, children in the programme showed significant
improvements in knowledge and skills (MacIntyre and Carr, 1999). The skills were maintained at a follow-up after 3 months.

**Prevention and educational campaigns**

Widespread prevention and educational campaigns are another approach to reducing child abuse and neglect. These interventions stem from the belief that increasing awareness and understanding of the phenomenon among the general population will result in a lower level of abuse. This could occur directly – with perpetrators recognizing their own behaviour as abusive and wrong and seeking treatment – or indirectly, with increased recognition and reporting of abuse either by victims or third parties. In 1991–1992, a multimedia campaign was conducted in the Netherlands (Hoefnagels and Baartman, 1997). The goal was to increase disclosure of child abuse, both by victims and those in close contact with children, such as teachers. The campaign included a televised documentary, short films and commercials, a radio programme and printed materials such as posters, stickers, booklets and newspaper articles. Findings showed increased impact of the awareness campaigns in reducing violence against children.

**Societal Approaches,**

Most prevention efforts for child maltreatment focus on victims and perpetrators without necessarily addressing the root causes of the problem. It is believed, though, that by successfully tackling poverty, improving educational levels and employment opportunities, and increasing the availability and quality of child care, rates of child abuse and neglect can be significantly reduced. Research from several countries in Western Europe, as well as Canada, Colombia and parts of Asia and the Pacific, indicates that the availability of high-quality early childhood programmes may offset social and economic inequalities and improve child outcomes (Boocock, 1995). Other policies that can indirectly affect levels of child abuse and neglect are those related to reproductive health. It has been suggested that liberal policies on reproductive health provide families with a greater sense of control over the size of their families and that this, in turn, benefits women and children (Hesketh and Zhu, 1997).
Children Under Refugee Conditions

Children under refugee condition are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, exploitation and inability to enjoy all rights. The following narration clearly describes the situation of children under refugee condition.

**Child Labour and Exploitation.** Refugee girls and boys are subjected to the worst forms of child labour, including child trafficking and hazardous work. Child labour has been a common feature for South Sudanese and Sudanese refugee children in neighboring countries, with different types of labour affecting refugee boys (ACERWC, 2014). Refugee children outside of parental care, especially separated and unaccompanied children, are more at risk of exploitation. Children in host communities around refugee settlement and camp areas are also subjected to exploitation and child labour, with refugee areas and markets within them acting as a pull factor for children from host communities to access jobs and food (Regional Child Protection Network, 2014).

**Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).** SGBV was mentioned repeatedly during the revision of the Regional Child Protection Framework conducted by the Regional Child Protection Network in May and June 2015. Conflict-related sexual violence has been reported in South Sudan. Girls in particular are at risk of sexual violence, child marriage and early pregnancy— including by abduction in South Sudan. The displacement and family separation during flight has exacerbated risk factors for SGBV in countries of asylum. Sexual exploitation in countries of asylum, including survival sex is also a key concern. Girls are particularly forced to walk long distances in search for water and firewood exposing them to high risk of sexual violence in the host community. Besides, the desperate condition of shelter without door shutters usually increase vulnerability to sexual violence (Bidibidi SGBV Sub working group, 2018).

Family Separation: Over 34,000 children have been registered as unaccompanied or separated from their parents. Countries are strengthening systems for tracing, reunification, and alternative care arrangements in the best interests of children, and a regional initiative is being advanced to support tracing efforts. Nevertheless, better developed procedures to ensure effective cross-
border tracing and reestablishment of family contact for refugee children are still needed. (ACERWC 2014)

Education is a key strategy to protect girls and boys, strengthen resilience, and heal psychosocial distress. Nevertheless, given the huge influx of school-aged refugee children in South Sudan’s neighboring countries education services are currently very strained. The Youth and Children’s assessment report conducted by the CPWG in Bidibidi highlighted limited access to education, particularly to secondary and tertiary education. Key issues affecting access to education include the limited access to scholastic materials due to lack of reliable sources of livelihood for care givers, lack of light for evening studies, congestion in class rooms which affect the quality of learning, few opportunities for senior four and six candidate registration and loss of South-Sudanese high school certificates, which forces students to go back to primary classes (Bidibidi CPWG, 2017).

Lack of opportunities for adolescents and youth: Children and youth represent over 75% (UNHCR, 2017) of refugees. Conflict has uprooted thousands of adolescents and young people from their places of origin at a critical time in their lives, disrupting their education and curtailing their opportunities to have a self-sufficient and prosperous life. Adolescents and youth have often been mobilized to actively participate in the conflict, exposing them to violence and trauma. In an assessment conducted by the Child Protection Working group (April 2017), lack of opportunities for youth and adolescents has been a key issue exposing many to form gangs and engage in delinquency activities. The assessment report further indicated that Members of these groups are mostly aged between 14 and 25 year old. Some groups are formed along ethnic lines, while others are multi-ethnic. They are armed with sticks and pangas, and source of fear and protection concerns within the communities (harassment, sexual abuse, inter-gang conflict, petty theft, disturbance, etc.). Youth are believed to have enrolled in such activities because of lack of opportunities. Some joined these groups as copying mechanisms to stress and to displacement.

2.8 Gaps in Literature

Studies on violence against children especially by WHO (1999) and NRC (1993) focuses on home based and institutional violence. Even Uganda’s Violence against children survey 2002-2012 (MoGLSD, 2012) majorly focused on violence outside displacement cycle. All these
authors tend to portray that violence is either perpetuated by relatives in the homestead or in schools and other institutions like care centers. Experience from a practitioner’s view however indicates that the nature of displacement exposes children to neighbors and other community members who form most of the perpetrators. This study focused on understanding further violence committed by strangers.

Studies by ACERWC, 2014 on violence against children during displacement were more focused on the emergence phase. As in this review and in most cases, available literature only focuses on violence during the conflict perpetuated by armed forces and armed groups as civilians negotiate their way towards safety. While children have been most affected during this stage, evidence from many humanitarian crises indicates that violence at this period is more generalized affecting almost all facets of society. Most of the targeted violence against children occur in the aftermath of settling in refugee camps. At the emergency phase, there is increased presence of international humanitarian actors providing support to families. As this protection diminishes, families are subjected to a second wave of vulnerability as they transition into sustainable livelihoods.

Studies by Trowell et al, (1999), Sariola & Uutela, (1992) and Starling & Holden, (2000) focused on analysis of causes and effects of displacement. As a result, there is a bulk of literature on the causes of violence during displacement and its impact on the physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of the survivors. However, very little literature is available on the strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children. While practitioners have developed a series of actions for prevention and response, such actions have not been tested accordingly. This study moved further to examine the effectiveness of the different strategies designed to prevent and respond to violence against children.
CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher describes the methodology that was used to carry out the study. It presents the research design, the study location and target population, the sample size and selection method, data collection and analysis procedures that were applied by the researcher while conducting the study.

3.1 Research Approach

A research approach refers to the plan and the procedure for the research that spans from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. It provides the blueprint for data collection, analysis and presentation of findings. In this study, a mixed methods Approach was applied. Mixed methods research is an approach to inquiry involving collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, integrating the two forms of data, and using distinct designs that may involve philosophical assumptions and theoretical frameworks. The mixed method approach ensured a more complete understanding of the research problem than either approach alone. Through this, the researcher was able to triangulate the findings of the study.

3.2. Research Design

The study used a descriptive design. A descriptive design is concerned with determining the frequency with which something occurs (Bryman & Bell, 2003). Thus, this approach was appropriate for this study, since the researcher was able to collect detailed information through descriptions that were useful for identifying variables and hypothetical constructs. A descriptive design was preferred because it enabled the researcher to study and observe the participants in a natural and unchanged environment. The data collection allowed for gathering in-depth information that was both quantitative (surveys) and qualitative (Key informant interviews and focus group discussions) in nature. This method provided descriptions of the variables in order to answer the research questions in the study. Survey design allowed for comparisons between
respondents giving the right perspective on their opinion towards the violence against children situation within the refugee settlement.

### 3.3 Study Population

This study was carried out in Bidibidi refugee settlement. The 283’000 (with about 56’000 households) refugees settled therein constituted the study population. Bidibidi refugee settlement is located in the central part of Yumbe district in West Nile region of Uganda. According to the OPM’s Refugee information Management systems (RIMS), about 60% of the refugees in Bidibidi are children while women and children combined constitute about 80% of the total refugee population. The settlement is administratively being subdivided into units called zones. The zones are further subdivided into villages and blocks. There is an administrative structure within the refugee population called a refugee welfare council; from council 1 at village level to council III which is at the zonal level. There are also committees within the refugee population that support in coordination of specific humanitarian sectors. These include Child protection committees, Neighborhood watch, Village health teams and Water user committees among others. This study was carried out across the five zones of Bidibidi refugee settlement.

### 3.4 Sample and Sample Techniques

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) defines sampling as the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represent the large group from which they were selected. A total of 399 persons were sampled for the study based on the study population presented above. This sample was developed basing on Sloven’s formula which is:

\[
 n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}
\]

Where,
- \( n \) - Sample size
- \( N \) - Population,
- 1 is a constant and
- \( e \) is the margin of errors.

---

1 According to the OPM RIMS, there are currently 283,000 refugees settled in what is believed to be the largest refugee settlement in the world.
Working:
With population of 283,000,
\[ n = \frac{283000}{1 + 283,000 (0.05*0.05)} \]
\[ n = \frac{283000}{1 + 283,000 (0.05*0.05)} = 283,000 \]
\[ = 708.5 \]
\[ n = 399.4 \]
\[ n = 399 \]

Besides, another 10 persons directly working with children and child rights programming and 34 adolescents were sampled for key informant interviews and Focus group discussions respectively. These included people working in Child Friendly spaces, Case workers and child protection programmers. These were selected from Operational partners and Implementing partner staff, the United Nations High commission for refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children’s fund (UNICEF), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and Yumbe district probation and social welfare department basing on their varied expertise in social welfare and child protection.

Sampling Techniques

Table 1: Number of respondents sampled and the methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of respondents</th>
<th>Methodology used</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO workers</td>
<td>Purposive sampling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>Purposive sampling</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>committees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Elders</td>
<td>Purposive sampling</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee women and men</td>
<td>Stratified random sampling</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents</td>
<td>Purposive sampling</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The researcher applied stratified random sampling method to select respondents for the survey. Through this method, 399 respondents were sampled to participate in the study. Stratified random sampling was applied because it is an unbiased sampling method of grouping heterogeneous populations into homogenous subsets then making a selection within the individual subset to ensure representativeness. The strata were developed according to the geographical dispersion of the settlement that is, the five zones, with each zone forming a stratum. For each stratum, a convenience random sampling method was carried out. A convenience random sampling was applied because it was impractical to generate a sample frame because of the large population from which a probability sampling technique can be applied. However, the sample represented persons from the different spectrums of child welfare within the refugee community including education, social welfare, livelihood and law and order.

The researcher utilized purposive sampling technique for selecting participants for the qualitative study. This involved 10 respondents for the Key informant interviews and 34 respondents for the focus group discussions. For the KII, respondents were targeted purposively because of their particular expertise, knowledge and experience in child protection and child wellbeing that can aid the research. For the focus group discussion, adolescents were purposively targeted because of their role in peer to peer mentorship. Purposive sampling further enabled the researcher to focus on particular characteristics of the population that were of interest, which best enabled the researcher to answer the research questions. This was because, the experience of these subject matter experts provided additional knowledge that explained the statistical information collected from the survey.

3.4 Data collection methods

The researcher adopted the following methods for data collection;

The survey method

The research developed survey questions inform of a questionnaire that were administered to the respondents. These survey questions were both hard copies and soft copies uploaded on Kobo Collect which is a software for data collection. This software was installed in mobile gadgets and research assistants aided in the data collection process by administering the survey questions to respondents. This method easily worked since most of the refugees are semi illiterate and could
not respond to the printed survey questions that were earlier on distributed. For confidentiality purposes, there was no mention of respondents’ names and other identifying features to ensure that responses were anonymous.

**Key informant Interview method:** Barley (1994) defines an interview as a special social interaction between the researcher and the participant through discussion. It is a verbal interaction through questions and answers. The researcher applied this method for gathering information from technical persons working on child rights programming within the settlement. A total of 10 persons participated in the key informant interviews. This was to gather qualitative information on the study. The questions focused at explaining why certain phenomena persisted as they were. The interviews were conducted with Humanitarian workers working in child protection from UNICEF, OPM, UNHCR, SCI and WVI and selected child protection committee members.

**Focus group discussions**

Focus group discussions were conducted with Children and adolescents. A total of 05 Focus group discussions were held across the five zones. One group of children was sampled from each zone through simple random sampling. Names of the peace clubs (children’s groups) in a particular zone were put on pieces of paper, mixed up together from which the 05 were selected. The researcher then randomly selected 1 club per zone. A total of 34 children and adolescents participated in the focus group discussions. The breakdown was such that, the group in zone I had 07 participants, the group in zone II had 06 participants, the group in zone III had 08 participants, the group in zone IV had 06 participants and the group in Zone V had 07 participants. The researcher then asked respondents questions from which they provided narrative responses.

**Observation method**

For visible features within the settlement, the researcher undertook observation of situations to draw matters of concern. This was both systematic and naïve obtained in naturalistic, non-participant observation and active observation. Observable features included interaction between foster care givers and children in foster care, access of children to child friendly spaces, interactions between animators at the CFS and the children among other observable features.


3.5 Data Collection Instruments and Procedure

According to Ngechu (2004), there are many methods and tools of data collection and therefore a choice of a tool and instrument depends mainly on the attributes of the subjects, research topic, question, objectives, design, expected data and results. Basing on the above considerations and field based dynamics, the researcher utilized the following tools for data collection;

3.5.1 Questionnaire: The researcher used questionnaires to collect the statistical data. The questionnaire was organized based on the objectives of the study. The questionnaire consisted of six parts: Part A which sought for personal details of the respondents and Part B, C, and D which sought for specific information related to the areas under study as brought out in the conceptual framework. The questionnaires strictly had closed-ended questions where the respondents were provided with a range of alternatives from which to choose. This was to allow for effective statistical analysis of the information obtained.

Primary data was gathered directly from respondents by use of hard copy and soft questionnaires. A total of 199 hard copy questionnaires and 200 soft copy questionnaires were issued out to respondents during the study. Soft copy questionnaires were uploaded on Koboko Collect\(^\text{2}\) and administered with the help of trained research assistants. The research assistants were trained for 3 hours on the main purpose of the study, ethical considerations and the implications of unethical behavior on the quality and applicability of the data they will collect. After the training, the research assistants asked respondents questions that were on the tool and ticked their responses accordingly. This was done off line and later uploaded on the host website after review of the tools by the researcher. Hard copy questionnaires were delivered to respondents and later collected at convenience of both the researcher and respondent.

3.5.2 Key Informant Interview guide: The researcher developed an unstructured interview guide to help direct the interview process to ensure that important information to the study was not left out. The questions were of a wide range to seek for technical clarification and opinions.

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- \(^\text{2}\)KoBo Collect is a free open-source tool for mobile data collection, available to all. It allows you to collect data in the field using mobile devices such as mobile phones or tablets, as well as with paper or computers. It is being continuously improved and optimized particularly for the use of humanitarian actors in emergencies and difficult field environments, in support of needs assessments, monitoring and other data collection activities.
from the Key informants. The questions were open ended and mainly sought to understand the why and how of given phenomenon to the study. A total of 10 respondents participated in the key informant interviews.

3.5.3 **Focus group discussion guide:** A guide with specific questions was developed to lead discussions with children’s groups. The questions mainly provided a structure of what information was required from the respondents. The researcher flexibly probed for further information as the interview progressed. A total of 34 participants in 5 groups participated in the discussions with average number of 7 participants per group discussion.

3.5.4 **Observation check list:** A simple observation checklist on observable features to the study. This focused on matters as interaction between children and their families, interaction between children in foster care and their foster parents, access to schools and Child friendly spaces by children with disability and those without, and other features. This was administered during home visits and visits to specific facilities.

3.7 **Validity**

Validity refers to the degree to which a study accurately reflects or assesses the specific concept that the researcher is attempting to measure (Amin 2005). It is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of data actually represent the phenomenon under study. The researcher put due consideration for face, content, logical and criterion validity for all the instruments that were used. To enhance the instrument’s validity, the researcher sought for expert opinion by consulting the study’s supervisor in respect to content validity. From this expert guidance, questions or items to the study were classified as either valid or invalid. From this feedback, the content validity index (CVI) was calculated at 0.87 which was above acceptable limits using the formula;

\[
CVI = \frac{\text{Number of items rated as valid}}{\text{Total number of items in the questionnaire}}
\]
Total number of items in the questionnaire = 62
Number of items counted valid = 54

Therefore,

\[
CVI = \frac{54}{62} = 0.87
\]

3.6 Reliability

According to Shanghverzy (2003), reliability refers to the consistency of measurement and is frequently assessed using the test–retest reliability method. Reliability is increased by including many similar items on a measure, by testing a diverse sample of individuals and by using uniform testing procedures. Reliability is also concerned with the question of whether the results of a study are repeatable (Eriksson & Wiedersheim-Paul, 2001). Once validity was confirmed, a pilot was conducted by distributing the questionnaire among 10 respondents from 2 randomly selected zones in the settlement. The data was entered into excel and analyzed for internal consistence using Cronbach’s alpha consistence for internal consistence test. The result showed a consistence of 0.742. According to Hair et al., (1998), where the consistency exceeds 0.7, the questionnaire is acceptable for use. This showed that the questionnaire was internally consistent and therefore reliable to use for the study.

From the above formula,

\[
\alpha = \frac{k \times (1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k} \sigma^2_{y_i}}{\sigma^2_{y}})}{k-1}
\]

...where:

- \(k\) refers to the number of scale items
- \(\sigma^2_{y_i}\) refers to the variance associated with item i
- \(\sigma^2_{y}\) refers to the variance associated with the observed total scores

From the above formula, \(\alpha = \frac{57 \times (1 - \frac{56.48}{208.04})}{57-1} = 0.742\)
3.8 Data Analysis and Presentation

Quantitative data

After collecting data from the respondents, the researcher started the process of data analysis by editing it and coding it along the main thematic areas to identify inconsistencies and establish uniformity. Data was compiled to facilitate entry of the responses into the computer. Data was entered into Kobo Collect, an online survey application. The data was later retrieved and analyzed using Excel application. From this, the researcher was able to generate frequencies percentages, means and standard deviations to explain the findings of the study.

Qualitative Data.

The study applied thematic analysis to carry out the analysis of qualitative data from the key informant interviews and the focused group discussions. The themes were organized according to the objectives of the study into; causes of violence against children, forms of violence against children and effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children. All responses from participants were analyzed along those themes. The key aim of qualitative analysis was to provide or avail from the study, a complete, detailed description of the variables under study, as perceived by the study subjects so as to draw inference. The Qualitative date was triangulated with the quantitative findings for detailed explanation of phenomenon.

3.9 Ethical considerations

During this study, the researcher paid close attention to the different ethical principles and practices that guide social science research. During literature review, a close attention was paid to any lapses that would amount to plagiarism. In data collection, the researcher sought for permission from the managements of the respective organizations. A due consideration was also paid to the privacy of the respondents. Research assistants who supported in data collection were taken through basic ethical considerations to ensure compliance to research ethical considerations.
CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF STUDY FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a feedback on the data collected from the qualitative and quantitative data techniques described above. It presents the data as collected from the field and draws inferences from the data. In summary, the chapter presents the demographic information on the respondents, empirical findings on the causes of violence against children, empirical findings on the forms of violence against children and the empirical findings on the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children.

4.1 Response rate

Fig 2: Pie-chart showing response rate to the study

The researcher distributed a total of 199 hard copy research questionnaires and 200 electronic questionnaires that were administered through research assistants. From the hard copy questionnaires, the research retrieved a total of 186 questionnaires. For the electronic questionnaire that were uploaded on Kobo Collect and administered by trained research assistants, the research assistants moved from home to home and received instant feedback from 200 respondents who consented to the study. As a result, the study was able to capture 200 responses. In total, the researcher was able to retrieve 386 questionnaires which represented a 96.7 response rate. According to Amin (2005), if the response retrieval rate is more than 70% it is good enough to carry on and continue with the data analysis.
4.2 Demographic characteristics of the respondents

This section presents the demographic traits of the respondents who participated in the study. This demographic information is as it was provided for during the data collection. It includes distribution of respondents by sex, age category, location and responsibility within the community.

Respondents by sex

![Distribution of beneficiaries by sex](image)

As seen from Figure 2 above, 52% of the respondents to this study were females while 48% were males. According to information from the office of the prime minister, females constitute 52.6% of the total refugee population and 61.2% of the adult refugee population. Therefore, there was effective representation of both males and females in this study especially in a community that local leaders described as that with limited engagement of women in public affairs. According to a one Taban John, a refugee leader, “It is here in Uganda that many women are engaged in leadership. In South Sudan, the work of women is to cook, take care for the children and go to the garden”. It is important also to note that a big representation of women was ably achieved through the use of the mobile application Kobo Collect where participant’s views were instantly captured by research assistants since majority of them were unable to read and write and could not therefore fill the questionnaires.
Respondents by Age category

Fig 4. Bar graph showing distribution of respondents by age category

As reflected in Fig. 3 above, 39% of the respondents are between 25 and 34 years old. The number of respondents between 25 and 54 years (25-34 years and 35-54 years combined) was 71%. This is disproportionate to the actual refugee population distribution for the same age brackets. According to the office of the prime minister, the proportion of refugees between 18 and 59 years combined in Bidibidi is 26% which is less than half of the representation during this study. However, more participants were selected for the study within these brackets because this constitutes the category that is more actively engaged in community support activities and were easily accessed for the study. They also host a harbor of information on child protection.

Respondents by marital status

Fig 5. Pie chart showing distribution of respondents by marital status
As reflected in the figure above, 63% of the respondents to the study are married. Only 17% of the respondents are single, implying that 83% have at least been into marriage life and either got divorced, separated or widowed. This is atypical of the South Sudan society where marriage is taken at high regard. In fact according to one of the elders who was interviewed for the study, you are regarded a child and has no role in the community unless you officially join adulthood through a traditional marriage. This accordingly applies to both men and men. That is why in a normal community setting, you will hardly find persons above 20 years who are not married. This demographic characteristics is important to the study in that, with majority respondents being married, they have at the minimal interfaced with child rearing and upbringing and may have a concrete understanding of child abuse and child mal treatment.

**Respondents by Zone**

*Fig 6. Bar graph showing Distribution of respondents by zone*

As reflected in Fig. 5 above, there was almost an equal distribution of respondents across the 5 zones of the settlement. Zone III received the largest proportion of beneficiaries because current population figures show that the sub-settlement has the biggest number of refugees in the whole of Bidibidi.

**4.3. Empirical findings on causes of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement**

The table below presents information on the perpetrators, survivors and causes of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Respondents were asked to give their views on
the main perpetrators, survivors and causes of violence against children. The responses were ranked on a Likert scale of 1-5, where 1 stood for strongly disagree, 2 for disagree, 3 for neutral, 4 for agree and 5 for strongly agree. The responses were later on analyzed from which the mean score and standard deviations were arrived for each of the items in the study as presented in the table below.

Table 2: showing respondents’ views on the main perpetrators, survivors and causes of Violence against children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information on perpetrators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological parents</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other care givers not necessary parents</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbors</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strangers</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.1418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School teachers</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO workers</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other family members/relatives</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information on Survivors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied children in foster care</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child headed households</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with biological relatives</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with disabilities</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent girls</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent boys</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children living with biological parents</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in school</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children out of school</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Causes of violence against children</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separation from parents or primary care giver</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex of the child</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of the child</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of livelihood opportunities for care givers</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak child protection system within the community</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness on child rights</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological distress by perpetrators</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug addiction</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural believes and practices that perpetuate violence</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Field data compiled by the researcher)
Information on perpetrators

Table 2 partly presents findings on the perpetrators of violence against children. Accordingly, respondents agreed on the following items as the perpetrators of violence against children: Biological parents (with mean score of 3.4), other care givers not necessarily parents (mean score of 3.7), Neighbors (3.5) and other family members (3.4). However, respondents disagreed on the following as the perpetrators of violence against children; strangers (mean score 2.4), school teachers (mean score 2.8) and NGO workers (mean score 2.4). Therefore, it can be asserted that biological parents, neighbors, other care givers not necessarily biological parents and other family members are the main perpetrators of violence against children.

Findings from the focus group discussions with peace club members revealed that; Biological parents, foster care givers, neighbors, volunteer NGO workers, petty traders and truck drivers constitute the majority perpetrators of violence against children. Children alluded that most sexual violence is perpetuated by other family members, neighbors, volunteer NGO workers, petty traders and strangers. No case of sexual violence was indicated to have been committed by biological parents. A child in the discussions clarified that;

*Many neighbors and distant relatives take advantage of the trust in the relationship established among families to abuse children. There are relatives who come to visit us. Because of the limited space, they are put together with children. At night, they turn to sexually abuse children. Also, many parents send their adolescent children to share accommodation in the neighborhood with fellow adolescents of the same sex. Some adults or youths take advantage of girls in such joint communal shelters.*

Respondents from the focus group discussions further alluded that, biological parents are seen to be main perpetrators of physical violence as well as emotional violence. A child was quoted to have said “*Parents take beating and slapping as a normal practice to discipline children. Whenever you do something small, they resort to beating you*”. Children added that many parents emotionally abuse children by for instance confining them within the homestead as a punishment or to deter them from interacting with friends, hailing insults on them and belittling their efforts and creativity.
Findings from the key informant interviews revealed that; School teacher’s, petty trader and volunteer NGO workers also form part of the perpetuators of violence against children. A practitioner in child protection specified that, “Many teachers still lack positive disciplining skills and therefore resort to harsh punishments for child offenders of school rules and regulations”. A child protection committee member added that teachers camouflage by rolling a stick inside pieces of paper claiming that it’s a pointer and use it for kenning children. The worst case of physical violence according to CPCs involved where a child was hit on the head and left bleeding.

For NGO workers, participants indicated that community based volunteers working with NGOs take advantage to sexually abuse adolescent girls. This, a CPC member elucidated, occurs mainly because of the financial power that these volunteers have due to the small remunerations. “Some of these volunteers own smart phones and video players. As such they attract girls to watch while sexually abusing them. Some of them are also able to buy small gifts for adolescents in exchange for sexual favors” This similarly occurs with petty traders, casual workers and truck drivers operating in the settlement. “One girl in this village conceived for a truck driver and when the case was being followed the man ran away”.

**Information on survivors**

Table 2 partly shows findings on the category of children at heightened risk of violence in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Respondents agreed that Children out of schools (with mean score of 4.2), Unaccompanied children in foster care (3.9) child headed households (3.7) Children with disabilities (3.7) adolescent girls (3.8), children with biological relatives (3.3), children with biological parents 3.8) and adolescents boys are the main categories of children at heightened risk of abuse. However, respondents disagreed that children in school are at heightened risk of violence. It can therefore be asserted that children out of school, Unaccompanied children in foster care, child headed households, children living with biological relatives, children living with biological parents, children with disabilities, adolescent girls and adolescent boys are at heightened risk of violence.

Findings from the focus group discussions further found unaccompanied children in foster care, adolescent girls, child headed households, children living with biological relatives and
adolescent boys as the main categories of children at heightened risk of abuse. For children in child headed households, respondents alluded that, children heading the households are at greater risk of abuse as they have to drop normal schooling and adopt adult like responsibilities while the younger siblings get to school. Some are engaged in child labour and survival sex (especially for the adolescent girls) in order to meet the basic needs of the siblings. A child was quoted saying “here in Zone III, there is increased engagement of child headed households in stone quarrying and engagement in construction sites in order to raise additional support to meet the needs of the household”. For the younger children in child headed households, they face a low risk as they enjoy the support and protection of the older siblings. However, cases of physical and emotional abuse by the older siblings are believed to be common.

Information from key informant interview further indicate that, adolescent girls experience a high risk of not attending to school as they are expected to adopt some family management roles to support the mothers. Adolescent girls further experience threat of sexual violence from within the community, their peers and strangers. According to an elder who participated in a KII, girls from 14 years are (believed to be) ready for marriage and South Sudan culture demands them to get married. As a result, parents start threatening them such that they can get married “You are eating my food for nothing, you need to get married and produce” once they reach the age of 15 years.

A humanitarian worker specializing in child protection further alluded that, children with disability face great risk of violence from within the homestead and at school. He added that most violence against children with disability is emotional and goes unrecorded.

*There was a girl here who has severe mental and physical disability. At the age of 10 years, the girl cannot control her stool. She tries going to school but the children usually boo her. She had to get back home. The same girl stays with a maternal aunt. Because the aunty had no body to care for her once the aunt was out of home, she would tie the girl in the room for fear of disappearance. This was all seen in the community as a normal practice until it came to the attention of a humanitarian worker.*

This and other similar forms of violence are commonly perpetrated against children with disability with little concern from the rest of the population.
Information on causes of violence against children

Table 2 partly shows the findings on the causes of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Participants agreed that separation from parents or primary care givers (with mean score of 4.2), Sex of the child (with mean score of 3.5), Age of the child (with mean score of 3.4), Lack of livelihood opportunities for care givers (with mean score of 3.9) weak child protection system within the community (mean score of 3.8), Lack of awareness on child rights (mean score of 3.8) psychological distress among perpetrators (mean score of 3.6) drug addiction (mean score 3.7) and cultural believes and practices that perpetuate violence against children. It can therefore be asserted that the above listed are the main causes of violence against children.

Information from the KII indicated that, separation from parents, weak child protection system within the community and lack of reliable livelihood source for care givers are the main causes of violence against children. A child protection worker alluded that, separation from parents and primary care givers denies children of the initial protective nest there by exposing children to additional harm. A CPC member added that, “when a child is separated, he/she will lack clear guidance and provision there by exposing him/her to violence”. Besides, many adolescents especially girls have to concentrate on caring for their siblings, denying them of the opportunity to go school.

Practitioners in the KII further added that parents without substantial source of livelihood usually fail to provide the needs of the children. In turn, such children resort to engaging in adolescent risk behaviors like engaging with men in order to receive basic needs. According to a CPC member, “Some parents send children to engage in hard labour in construction sites in order to raise money to meet the household needs”. Some practitioners alluded that parents without livelihood sources are at risk of going through psychological distress which increases their violent actions as a response mechanism.

Findings from the Focus group discussion further indicated Drug addiction among perpetrators is a key determinant of a child’s exposure to violence. According to one peace club member, lack of opportunities for youths and adolescents has made many to resort in delinquency activities like drug and alcohol consumption. This combines with distress caused by other factors to increase their possibility of causing sexual violence. This is exacerbated by lack of awareness on child rights within the community. Beyond the youth population, there is increased involvement
of people in drug and alcohol consumption within the refugee population. This eventually affects their normal functioning there by exposing children to violence. A child indicated that “*Some of these men when drunk do not mind whether you are a girl or a big woman. They threaten to sleep with you*”.

Children indicated in the focus group discussion that while sex may not define the level of vulnerability, it contributes to determining which from of violence a child will face. A peace club member indicated that majority of the girls are not in school because they are girls. As a result, “*most of these girls get married at an early age of about 14/15 years*”. This is also attributed to the fact that it’s at this age that girls become more sexually active and are, therefore, under pressure from their families. Additionally, they face hardship in accessing basic needs, for example sanitary pads, towels and books within the settlements. Also noted within the refugee camp were instances where the parents of young girls forced them to get married for financial gain.

Like sex, age also contributes greatly in determining which form of violence will befall a particular child. As such, it combines with other causes like sex and lack of livelihood opportunities for care givers to increase a child’s exposure to particular form of violence. Sexual violence is seen to be very common among adolescents while physical violence is very common among children below 12 years. According to a child protection committee member from the settlement, most parents believe children blow ten years can only listen with a stroke.

**4.4 Empirical findings on the forms of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement**

The table below presents the study findings on the forms of violence common in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Respondents were asked on whether the items listed are common forms of violence in the settlement. The responses were ranked on a Likert scale of 1-5 where 1 stood for strongly disagree, 2 for disagree, 3 for neutral, 4 for agree and 5 for strongly agree. The resultant responses were analyzed with mean scores and standard deviations as in the following table.
Table 3: Showing the forms of Violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape/defilement</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beating</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect (withholding love and affection)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child to child sex</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitting</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biting</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burning</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strangulation</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocking</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of education</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kicking</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dropping</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poisoning</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffocation</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival sex</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal sexual harassment</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced marriage</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denying food</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confining</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolating</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal to register births</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of protection from harm or exploitation</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal to provide better shelter</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Field data, 2018)

Table 3. Presents findings on the forms of violence against children that are common in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Accordingly, respondents agreed on the following items as the forms of violence against children: rape and defilement (mean score of 3.9), beating (mean score of 4.0) Neglect (mean score 3.4), Child to child sex (mean score 3.5), hitting (mean score 3.4) verbal sexual harassment (mean score 3.5), forced marriage (mean score 3.5) isolating (mean score 3.4) denying food (mean score 3.4) and survival sex (mean score 3.4). However, participants disagreed on the following items as the main forms of violence against children: refusal to register births (mean score 2.9), refusal to provide better shelter (mean score 2.8), lack of protection from harm or exploitation (mean score 3.0), biting (mean score 3.1) burning (mean score 2.7), strangulation (mean score 2.7), choking (mean score 2.9), denial of education (mean...
score 3.0), kicking (mean score 3.2), dropping (mean score 2.8), poisoning (mean score 2.9), suffocation (mean score 2.7) sexual exploitation and abuse (mean score 2.7) and confining (mean score 3.2).

Therefore it can be asserted that, rape and defilement, beating, Neglect, Child to child sex, hitting verbal sexual harassment, forced marriage isolating denying food and survival sex are the main forms of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement.

Findings from the FGD found out that rape, defilement, child to child sex, beating, sexual harassment and emotional abuse are the main forms of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Children during the focus group discussion indicated that there is general acceptance for girls and boys above 15 years to engage in sexual activities and that many men think it is okay for them to have sexual intercourse even when the girl is not interested. Girls especially those without proper care arrangements are also forced to engage in sexual activities in order to meet their daily needs. “This is mainly done with small scale traders, truck drivers, casual workers and community volunteers working within the settlement”. A peace club member alluded.

Adolescents who participated in the FGDs further alluded that many girls escape to marriage in order to get a reliable person capable of providing their basic needs, such as shelter, food, security and secondary needs, such as clothing and cosmetics. However, most of the gender related challenges women and girls face are fueled by South Sudanese cultural practices, such as: bride price and dowry related violence, and the preference for sons.

Participants in the FGDs further indicated that physical violence is another common form of violence against children. This is mainly administered through beating and kicking with rare instances of burns, bites and hitting. Most parents adopt physical violence as a mechanism to punish children from harm. A peace club member added that “physical violence is mainly administered by parents within the household. There are also rare cases of physical violence being carried out by teachers in schools”.

Findings from the Key informant interviews indicated similar results from those of the FGDs. However, the KII reiterated the rising cases of emotional abuse in the settlement. According to a child protection committee member who participated in the KII, emotional abuse occurs in the
community and is mainly perpetuated by biological relatives and other family members. This usually happens through confining children, insults denying food and withdrawal of affection or neglect. However, rare incidences are reported because there is a general acceptance of such practices in the community. According to a practitioner, “emotional or psychological violence has far reaching impacts on children’s health, physical wellbeing and cognitive development. Many of these practices demean children’s self-esteem and expose them to further harm including suicidal tendency”.

4.5 Empirical findings on the effectiveness of existing mechanism to prevent and respond to violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement

Table 4 presents information on the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement. Respondents were asked to give their views on the how effective such practices are in prevention and response to VAC. The responses were ranked on a Likert scale of 1-5, where 1 stood for Very ineffective 2 Ineffective, 3 for neutral, 4 Effective and 5 Very effective. The responses were later on analyzed from which the mean score and standard deviations were arrived for each of the items in the study as presented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism in place</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training on positive parenting</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouraging children to go to school</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness sessions</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening community based protection mechanism (e.g CPCs)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linking children at risk and their families to livelihood</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of duty bearers (police, medical workers and school teachers) on child protection</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing child friendly spaces</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with children</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training children on critical life skills</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1.077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strict legal action on perpetrators</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source field findings)
Table 4 above presents findings on the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to Violence against children. Respondents agreed that the following are effective mechanism to prevent and respond to violence against children; Training on positive parenting (4.2), encouraging children to go to school (4.1) awareness sessions (4.0), strengthening community based systems (4.0) Linking children and their families to livelihood (4.1), training of duty bearers on child protection (3.8), establishing child friendly spaces (4.2), meetings with children (4.2), training children on critical life skills (4.3) and strict legal action perpetrator. 

Findings from the FGDs showed; establishing child friendly spaces, training on positive parenting, linking children to livelihood support and strengthening community based protection mechanisms as the most effective mechanisms for prevention and response to VAC. According to children who participated in the focus group discussions, training of parents in positive parenting provides parents with the information on how to care and provide for their children. Besides, parents are able to learn positive parenting skills rather than applying violent mechanism in administering punishment to children. Similarly, livelihood linkages provides the care givers with the needed resources and psychological wellbeing to provide for the basic needs of children. Children in the focus group discussions alluded that lack of financial means to provide for the needs of the family breeds a sense of violence among care givers as a response mechanism. Such violence is usually displaced on the children who become vulnerable. 

Related to that is the role of strengthening skills among children in resilience building and risk reduction. Children become aware of the risks and threats in their environment and are able to avoid circumstances that expose them to violence and can advocate for changes in policies and practices that perpetuate violence. Further still, children get to know when and where to report abuse once it occurs for effective and timely response.

According to key informants, strict legal action does not create a big impact on reducing incidences of violence against children. This is associated to the fact that a decision to perpetuate violence against a child is influenced by a number of factors which may not be over ridden by a legal action. According to a member of the refugee welfare council in Zone III of Bidibidi, “some perpetrators have become hard core criminals and do not mind of the legal action. In fact, they surrender to authorities once they have committed an offence”. However, practitioners in child rights and child protection have maintained that strict and consistent legal action against
perpetrators may over time result into a culture of accountability which can result in decline in the number of cases.

Practitioners further alluded that establishing a case management system is effective for response purposes only. According to a child protection expert interviewed,

>This systems must comprise of a functioning community structure that is able to identify cases of abuse, a standard operating procedure (SoP) that defines the standard of service to be provided to a child who has suffered from abuse, an effective referral system that explicitly defines who provides which service and where and a system of accountability that hold duty bearers answerable for the actions and inactions.

Participants indicated that a key objective of case management is to provide personalized care and assistance to children who have experienced abuse or violence through provision of a range of services including health, mental health and psycho-social support, etc. “Children who go through the case management process are able to emotionally and psychologically recover from the distress caused by the violence, rebuild hope, get healed of any medical complications and get reabsorbed into the entire community” another practitioner added.

Needless to mention is the role of child friendly spaces in prevention and response to violence against children. According to World Vision’s child protection officer, “A child friendly space refers to a formal setting during emergency situations to respond to psychological needs of children during humanitarian crises”. While Child friendly spaces were initially meant for psychosocial support, the need and operational space has grown over time to focus on entire protection of children.
CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the key findings of the study following the qualitative and quantitative data presented on violence against children and the conclusions and recommendations of the research to the academic world as the practitioners engaged in child protection work. For consistency and logical purposes, these will be presented according to the different objectives of the study.

5.1 Summary of Key findings of the study

This sections presents a summary of key findings from the study and draws inferences from these findings on forced displacement and violence against children. This includes findings on the causes, the forms and effectiveness of mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement.

5.1.1 Findings on Causes of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement

In this study, the researcher found out that violence against children is persisting within Bidibidi refugee settlement and is being preserved by a number of reasons all of which are influenced by displacement related conditions. Main causes to violence against children included separation from parents and primary care givers, lack of livelihood opportunities for parents and care givers, lack of awareness on child rights, cultural practices that perpetuate violence and psychosocial distress among perpetrators.

With separation for instance, children who are placed under alternative care have been subjected to sexual, physical and emotional abuse by the care givers. Similarly children heading households have to assume adult like roles of taking care of younger siblings there by exposing them to further risk including not attending to school, child labor and survival sex. These findings correlate with a 2017 UNHCR situational report that indicated that “separation causes a breakdown in family structure and impact children and families not only in economic ways, but emotionally as well”. The same position was highlighted in the regional frame work for
protection of South Sudanese refugees 2014. Accordingly, the framework noted that unaccompanied children may have to fend for themselves, while children in foster homes may have to fulfil expectations of contributing to the household economy.

With lack of livelihood opportunities, two situations occur. One is that parents get distressed due to failure to provide for their own yet the demand from the family continue to rise. As a result, parents naturally adopt violent mechanisms as a response. Secondly, lack of provision forces children to identify alternative sources of income to meet their needs which may include engaging in child labour, survival sex or petty theft. These findings correlate with a study by Monica L. and Stefanie M. (2009) which revealed that; When traditional wage earners’ get decrease in levels of income, other family members are forced to seek supplementary income from other sources. At the same time, many children, particularly adolescents, may have reached an age where they are physically able to perform the same work as adults. Many are asked to take on a greater responsibility for the economic survival of their family, or asked to work for no pay within the home in order to enable other members to work.

The study further found out that risk exposure to violence varies from one child to the other basing on the child’s specific characteristics. In general, unaccompanied children in foster care are at the greatest risk of violence which is perpetuated by either the foster care givers or the other family members within the foster family. Other categories of children at heightened risk of abuse include Adolescent girls, Child headed households and children with disabilities (CWDs). The study interestingly found out that the specific characteristic of a child further influence the kind of violence perpetrated against a child. Adolescent girls are at a higher risk of sexual violence as compared to boys while adolescent boys are at higher risk of physical abuse and child labor. The above findings concur with UNICEF’s 2000 study which indicated that “In some countries, girls are deliberately denied of education due to a culture that prepares them to the traditional role of motherhood.” (UNICEF 2000).

With CWDs, the study also noted that children face specific risk to violence following their disability. Most violence against children with disability is emotional and physical. According to Wolf (1999), “Children with specific needs are at higher risk of violence and neglect; premature, mentally retarded children with disabilities and twins have exposure to violence and neglect. This is further influenced by the cultural context from which a child belongs. (Wolfe DA 1999).
Similarly, a study by the NRC (1993) also indicated that while there might be conflicting findings on the importance of mental retardation as a risk factor, there is a general believe that low birth weight, premature birth, illness, physical or mental handicaps in a child interfere with attachment and bonding within the community which exposes the child to abuse and neglect and may make the child more vulnerable to abuse (NRC, 1993).

This study further found out that perpetrators of violence against children are varied. Qualitative data pointed out that perpetrator’s personal characteristics and environmental factors determine their choice to commit or not commit. The study further noted that most violence against children is committed by persons who are known to the child. These include biological parents, relatives and neighbors. It further found out that a perpetrator’s relationship to a child determines the kind of violence they advance towards children. Parents were found to be fond of physically and emotionally abusing children while neighbors and other family relatives are found of perpetuating sexual violence. As indicated by Dollard et al in their frustration aggression theory, the displacement robbed families of loved ones, separated children from their loved ones and lost previous economic stands while in South Sudan. Such individuals now transferred their frustration on children who become culprits. That justifies why most perpetrators of violence against children are known persons from within the refugee population.

Finally, the study noted that primitive cultural practices greatly influence the level of violence against children. Most of these cultural believes perpetuate sexual violence including forced marriage. The above findings concur with a study by War Trauma Foundation (2017) in Bidibidi refugee settlement which found out that there are two main sources of sexual violence among women and girls from South Sudan: the acute threat of warfare and Sudanese cultural practices. With culture, there is almost general acceptance among refugee population for girls to get married.

### 5.1.2 Findings on Forms of Violence against children in Bidibidi Refugee settlement

The study found out that different forms of violence are occurring within the community. Some are at wide scale affecting a big number of children while others are at small scale. Most prominent of the forms include sexual violence (rape, child marriage, child to child sex, sexual exploitation and abuse and verbal sexual harassment) and physical violence (beating, kicking,
hitting and strangulation) and emotional violence that occurs inform of confining, verbal abuses and isolating children.

Sexual violence is the most prominent form of violence taking place and been taking place throughout the displacement cycle. At the immense displacement phase, children were reportedly sexually abused as a means of war fare by armed groups. During the early recovery phase, sexual violence has been perpetuated by neighbors and distant relatives. Common forms of include rape, defilement, verbal sexual harassment, child to child sex survival sex and sexual exploitation and abuse. Rape and defilement is commonly perpetuated by neighbors some of whom are psychologically distressed due to the circumstances of displacement or separated from their marital partners. For survival sex and sexual exploitation and abuse, the study found out that this form is commonly perpetuated by community volunteers, petty traders and truck drivers. Most family members choose to arrange for marriages with the perpetrators of persons who commit sexual violence against children. Study findings also showed low reporting of cases by community members. These findings correlate to a study carried out by WHO (1997) which found out that, sexual violence is very common during displacement and that there are usually attempts to downplay the prevalence and nature of child abuse

For physical violence, the study found out that physical violence is very common among the refugee settlement. It is perpetuated within families through beating, hitting and kicking. The study found out that physical violence is so common within the family setting and in schools and is committed by parents, relatives and school teachers. This findings correlate to s tudy by ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development and UNICEF (2012) in which 91.3% of adults reported having used physical violence against children.

For emotional violence, the study found out that emotional violence is common in all settings. Emotional violence is majorly committed against children with disabilities and occurs through confining, isolating and verbal abuses. Emotional abuse is seen to diminish children’s self-esteem and cognitive development through imparting a feeling of inferiority and lack of self-worth. The above findings confirm the WHO 2002 study on violence against children which found out that physical, emotional and sexual violence are the most common forms of violence against children.
The study also found out that most violence against children goes unreported because it occurs within a family setting and is therefore viewed as a normal practice. The most common forms of violence that are not reported include emotional abuse, physical abuse, forced marriages and sexual violence by a parent or close relative. The study found out that where the perpetrator is a person of influence in the community, there is usually a general tendency to conceal the information. This correlates to findings on a study by ministry of Gender, Labour and social development and UNICEF (2012) which indicated that Violence children is under reported due to popularization of violence.

5.1.3 Findings on existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to Violence against children in Bidibidi Refugee settlement

The study further found out that different mechanisms have been established by humanitarian agencies with the help of the local communities to prevent and respond to violence against children. Some of these have been very effective while other were less effective. The most effective mechanisms included strengthening family support systems, building skills and resilience among children and establishing child friendly spaces. The less effective included training of duty bearers, awareness sessions and legal action.

With building capacities within children, the study found out that when children are empowered, they can know when to report cases of violence, where to report and how to support peers. This finding correlates with a joint study that was conducted by World Vision and University of Columbia on empowering children as peace builders in peace building and child protection-ECAP-(A program module that seeks to empower children as peace ambassadors and advocates for the own protection). The study found out that; the module provides children with basic skills in peace building and protection. “Children who were within the program area were more resilient and at lower risk of violence as compared to those who were in the control (University of Columbia, 2015)”

Findings from the study further found out that child friendly spaces are effective mechanism to enhance protection of children against violence. These findings correlate with a joint study conducted by World Vision UK, UNICEF, Columbia University and Save the children (2014). According to the study, children overwhelmingly reported increased protection and psychosocial
wellbeing as a result of the child friendly space. From the aforementioned study, Caregivers, regardless of their child’s involvement in CFS, reported a greater sense of protection for children and a heightened awareness of support structures for their protection within the settlement area over the evaluation period and CFS helped to bolster resources (assets) supportive of children’s development and to create a buffer against influences otherwise leading to the decline in children’s social and emotional well-being.

The study also found out that, no mechanism can work in isolation. For maximum results, there is need to apply a combination of mechanism as they reinforce each other. The study further indicated that the effectiveness of some of the mechanisms has been affected by level of coordination among humanitarian agencies there by breeding duplication and low coverage in other areas.

5.2 Conclusions on forced displacement and violence against children

This section presents the conclusions drawn basing on the findings of the study as presented above. It presents a conclusion on the causes, the forms and mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children in the context of Bidibidi refugee settlement.

Causes of violence against children

From this study, it is now clear forced displacement is a key factor that exacerbates violence against children. Foremost, displacement breaks the initial community based structure that provides protection to children, displacement results into separation of children from their families and thereby making children to assume adult like roles that expose them to more harm and abuse. For the few lucky children who have moved with the parents, the situation is almost similar as the parents have lost their initial livelihood sources and therefore cannot adequately meet the needs of the children. Some have turned violent as a response mechanism to the stress of lack of providence. This has been worsened by the existence of a traditional culture that breeds impunity and violence against children.

Forms of violence against children

Conclusively, it is apparently clear that there are varied forms of violence perpetuated against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement. The most prominent being sexual violence that occurs in
form of; rape and defilement, verbal sexual harassment, survival sex and sexual exploitation and abuse, physical violence inform of beating, hitting, and emotional violence that is perpetuated through confining children, neglect or withdrawal of affection and verbal abuses. These forms have direct correlation to the circumstances that children and perpetrators have gone through. Besides the commonly known forms, there are silent forms of violence that are being practiced with almost a general acceptance within the community. These forms of violence have far reaching impact on the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of children and their families.

**Effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children**

It is now clear that a number of mechanisms have been established to prevent and respond to violence against children in Bidibidi ranging from family support system, building capacities within children’s groups, institutional capacity building among others. All listed mechanisms have been considered effective in curbing down violence against children though the effectiveness varied from one mechanism to other depending on the level of coordination among partners, the level of involvement of community members, the risk factors a child is facing and the type of perpetrator in question. Overall, mechanisms that strengthen the family and community systems have proved more viable and sustainable. These range from establishing community managed child friendly spaces, training families on positive parenting and building capacities within children’s groups among others.

**5.3 Recommendations on forced displacement and violence against children**

This section presents the key recommendations that the researcher is advancing to practitioners to enhance prevention and response to Violence against children. These are separated as per recommendations to address the causes, address the specific forms and improve the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children.

**Causes of violence against children**

1. Partners working in mental health and psycho-social support should develop and roll out a comprehensive psychosocial support services to the entire refugee population that seeks to screen out persons with psychological distress and provide specialized care to such individuals.
2. Child protection partners should strengthen the capacities of child protection committees and other community based child protection structures to effectively monitor risk factors and create awareness to mitigate such risks.

**Forms of Violence against children**

1. Child protection partners in partnership with UNHCR and OPM should intensify awareness raising within the community and among small scale traders, truck drivers, casual workers and community volunteers on child sexual exploitation and abuse and establish effective mechanisms to respond to any allegations in a safe and confidential manner.

2. Child protection partners should provide life skills training for adolescents in resilience building, prevention of violence and livelihood skills and strengthen child to child mentorship programs such that children are active participants in their own protection. There is need to put special attention to adolescent girls through skills development, supporting with basic needs and advocating for their right to education.

**Effectiveness of exiting mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children**

3. Child Protection lead partners should work with livelihood partners to strengthen family support systems through providing training for parents and care givers in positive parenting and linking parents and care givers to livelihood opportunities to ensure able to provide adequate care.

4. Child protection partners should mobilize additional resources for establishing child friendly spaces to ensure accessibility of children to child friendly spaces in areas that are not covered and diversifying activities within the child friendly spaces to enhance protection of children.

5. Child protection partners should develop a joint settlement strategy to prevent and respond to Violence against children and pool resources together to implement that strategy.

**Contribution to Knowledge**

This study helped to examine the contribution of the frustration aggression theory in understanding aggressive behavior. The study first affirmed that displacement perpetuates
frustration as a number of individual goals; loss of loved ones, loss of economic opportunities and break down in family structure are being hampered. These cause psychological disorders which influence violence. In the same vein, the study profoundly established weaknesses within the theory. According to Dollard et al, there is a direct correlation between frustration and aggression. However, while the study found out that majority of the refugees have undergone frustration situation, not all of them became aggressive or violent. This disapproves the notion of a direct relationship between frustration and aggression. In other words, frustration can only result into aggressive behavior when it combines with other factors like resilience, systems and practices within a community and survivor characteristics.

The study further unearthed facts about the main forms of violence against children during displacement. Some of these include sexual exploitation and abuse, confinement,

The study further established the contribution of child friendly spaces in prevention and response to child abuse. While the notion of CFSs has been in place for years, its general contribution has been confined to psychosocial support to children suffering from the effects of displacement. The study unearthed the role of CFSs in building capacities within children and mobilizing communities

5.4 Recommended areas for further study

1. The influence of cultural believes and practices on violence against children
2. Host community and refugee interrelations and how they influence violence against children.
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Instrument I: Questionnaire

Dear Respondent,

My name is Duuki Richard. I am a student of Kampala International University Pursuing a Master of Arts in Human Rights and Development. As part of the academic requirements, I am carrying out a study on the impact of Forced displacement on Violence against Children in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement. You have been selected as part of the respondents to this study. Kindly spare part of your time to respond to these questions. Consider that your responses in this study will be treated confidential and only for the purpose of the study.

Part I: Information on respondent

Sex: Male □ Female □

Zone: Zone 1 □ Zone 2 □ Zone 3 □ Zone 4 □ Zone 5 □

Marital status

Single □ Married □ Divorced □ Separated □ Widowed □

Age category

18-24 years □ 25-34 years □ 35-54 years □ 55 years and above □

Part II: General information on Violence against children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicate how the following were perpetrators of violence against children in Bidibidi refugee settlement</th>
<th>Indicate 5 for strongly agree, 4 for agree, 3 for neutral 2 for disagree and 1 for strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological parents</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other care givers not necessary parents</td>
<td>--- --- --- --- ---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbors</td>
<td>Strangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Information on survivors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unaccompanied children in foster care</th>
<th>Child headed households</th>
<th>Children with biological relatives</th>
<th>Children with disabilities</th>
<th>Adolescent girls</th>
<th>Adolescent boys</th>
<th>Children living with biological parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Causes of Violence against children**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Separation from parents or primary care giver</th>
<th>Sex of the child</th>
<th>Age of the child</th>
<th>Lack of livelihood opportunities for care givers</th>
<th>Weak child protection system within the community</th>
<th>Lack of awareness on child rights</th>
<th>Psychological distress by perpetrators</th>
<th>Drug addiction</th>
<th>Lack of information (awareness) on child rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Forms of Violence against children**

| Rape/defilement | Beating | Withholding affection/love | Child to child sex | Hitting | Bites |
Burns
Strangulation
Denial of education
Denying food
Refusal to register births
Refusal to provide better shelter
Kicking
Chocking
Dropping
Poisoning
Suffocation
Sexual exploitation and abuse
Survival sex
Verbal sexual harassment
Forced marriage
Isolating
Confining
Lack of protection from harm or exploitation

Effectiveness of Mechanism for preventing violence against children

Describe how effective the following mechanism were in preventing and responding to violence against Children

| Training on positive parenting | Indicate 5 for very effective, 4 for effective, 3 for neutral, 2 for ineffective, 1 for very ineffective |
| Home to home visit             |                                                      |
| Establishing community based structures | |

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| Linking children at risk and their families to livelihood |   |   |   |   |
| Awareness sessions |   |   |   |   |
| Encouraging to go to school |   |   |   |   |
| Establishing child friendly spaces |   |   |   |   |
| Meetings with children |   |   |   |   |
| Training children on critical life skills |   |   |   |   |
| Strict legal action on perpetrators |   |   |   |   |
Guiding questions for key informant interview

1. What are the common forms of violence against children that you encounter in the settlement?

2. Which category of children are at heightened risk of abuse and why?

3. Who are the main perpetrators of violence against children?

4. How has the displacement impacted on violence against children?

5. What mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to Violence against children and how effective are they?

6. What is the role of your agency in the prevention and response to violence against children?

7. What are your recommendations to practitioners to enhance the prevention and response to violence against children?

8. What are the effects of violence against children on the physical, emotional and social wellbeing?
APPENDIX III: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR ADOLESCENTS

1. What do you understand by violence against children?
2. Does violence against children occur in your community?
3. Which category of children suffer most from Violence?
4. Where does violence against children occur most times?
5. Who are the main perpetrators of violence against children?
6. Where do you report in case a friend or your self is being abused?
7. What are the effects of violence against children?
8. What is being done to stop violence against children?
9. What should be done to stop violence against children?
APPENDIX IV: INTRODUCTION LETTER

Directorate of Higher Degrees and Research
Office of the Director

Wednesday 15th August, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INTRODUCTION LETTER FOR DUUKI RICHARD
REG. NO. 1163-06246-08920

The above mentioned candidate is a student of Kampala International University pursuing a Masters degree in Human Rights and Development.

He is currently conducting a research for his dissertation titled, “Forced Displacement and Violence Against Children in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Yumbe Uganda”.

Your organization has been identified as a valuable source of information pertaining to the research subject of interest. The purpose of this letter therefore is to request you to kindly cooperate and avail the researcher with the pertinent information he may need. It is our ardent belief that the findings from this research will benefit KIU and your organization.

Any information shared with the researcher will be used for academic purposes only and shall be kept with utmost confidentiality.

I appreciate any assistance rendered to the researcher.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Claire M. Mugerwa
Director

C.c. DVC, Academic Affairs
Principal CHSS

“Exploring the Heights”
APPENDIX V: MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING YUMBE DISTRICT
APPENDIX VI: MAP OF BIDIBIDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT