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A Comparative Case Study of American and Ugandan Refugee Policies

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A Comparative Case Study of American and Ugandan Refugee Policies

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Dedication

This is dedicated to refugees all around the world, who have each survived some of the most extreme hardships any person can endure. Your resilient and unbreakable spirits are truly inspirational, and I am honored to have been able to work with even just a handful of you.

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend an enormous amount of credit and gratitude to Ms. Hellen Acibo, of Kampala's Office of the Prime Minister, for the time and effort she dedicated towards my research efforts. Through every unforeseen complication, Hellen was there to provide everything I needed to be successful in this endeavor. I truly could not have completed this project without her, and I am incredibly thankful for everything she has done for me.

I would also like to acknowledge the staff of the School for International Training for their support and expertise throughout my research experience. Their guidance is deeply appreciated, and I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to learn from such dedicated and caring individuals.

Abstract:

This research was conducted in order to expand upon current understandings of the policies affecting refugees in Uganda and the United States (U.S.). Appreciating both policies and implementation strategies for each country is critical in providing the ability to fully grasp the reality of the refugee crisis faced by countries all over the world.

This study employed field-based research, including observations, focus groups, and interviews with refugees and those who implement refugee policies. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and implementing partners of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Uganda were interviewed, along with officers and commandants in the Office of the Prime Minister. Research was conducted within Kampala, Nakivale Refugee Settlement, and Bidi Bidi, the largest refugee camp in the world. Virtual interviews assisted in collecting information concerning U.S. policy. Additionally, a thorough exploration of the legal frameworks through which refugees exist, both in the U.S. and Uganda, was conducted through documentary research.

Preliminary research found that America and Uganda maintain distinctly different refugee policies. America's Refugee Act of 1980 focuses exclusively on resettlement. This contrasts with Uganda's Refugee Act of 2006, which emphasizes local integration and repatriation strategies. The research revealed that financial and infrastructure resource constraints, compounded by developmental obstructions, are among the most important implementation issues affecting refugees, especially in Uganda. These challenges highlight the complex nature of implementing refugee policy, as well as the intricate relationship that refugees have with national development.

Acronyms:

DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

IRC: International Rescue Committee

MDSD: Most Dissimilar Systems Design

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OAU: Organisation of African Unity

OPM: Office of the Prime Minister (Uganda)

ORR: Office of Refugee Resettlement (America)

RSC: Resettlement Support Center

SRS: Self-Reliance Strategy

UN: United Nations

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

US: United States

USRAP: United States Refugee Admissions Program

YARID: Young African Refugees for Integral Development

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1. Introduction:

The number of refugees around the world is growing at an alarming rate. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), forced displacement worldwide is at its highest in decades as of 2017. The total number of refugees seeking protection across international borders in 2016 was 22.5 million, which is the highest number ever recorded by the UNHCR (Edwards, 2017). Knowing this, it is increasingly apparent that refugee policies are beginning to have a larger impact on countries around the world. The policies that protect and affect refugees are becoming more important as the population grows. Additionally, these policies affect the entire population of the world: those who are displaced, and those learning how to live with the people who seek asylum in their home countries.

Uganda is the top refugee hosting country in all of Africa, providing accommodations for over 1.2 million refugees as of mid-2017 (Ongaro, 2017). America, in comparison, is the top country in the world in terms of resettling refugees (Migration Policy Institute, US Department of State, 2017). This study focuses on refugee law and policies concerning refugees in Uganda and the United States. It is comprised mainly of literary examinations, and it analyzes multiple paradigmatic conceptualizations of refugee problems within both countries. Specifically, the study addressed the implementation challenges and developmental hurdles that each respective policy faces, as well as the sustainability of each country's refugee policies. This comparative case study analyzed how different paradigms—namely, the neo-liberal development paradigm and the human development paradigm—both affect and are affected by different refugee policies.

2. Background:

Refugee hosting is not a recent phenomenon in either Uganda or the United States. The U.S. passed its first legislation concerning refugees just after World War II. As the Cold War dragged on, American refugee policy centered around a relatively unstandardized system through which migrants fleeing Communist regimes were accepted into the U.S. on an “ad hoc basis” (Felter & McBride, 2017). Uganda’s history with refugees is more complicated. Rwandan refugees fled to Uganda as early as 1957, during an intense period of ethnic conflict in their home country. Then, in the 1960s and 70s, many Ugandans fled and became refugees themselves in order to escape Idi Amin’s rule. Since then, refugees from countries throughout East Africa have continued to flee to Uganda.

Uganda’s most recent refugee policy is drawn from The Refugees Act of 2006, and was put into place by the current Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. The Refugees Act of 2006, which henceforth will be referred to simply as the Refugees Act, spells out how refugees are supposed to be received when they initially cross into Ugandan territory, and goes on to guarantee a number of rights to refugees who seek asylum within the country. Most notably, the Refugee Act guarantees under Part IV (Application for Refugee Status and Related Matters) that anyone who comes into Uganda with the intention of becoming a refugee needs to complete a written application requesting refugee status within his or her first thirty days of residing in the country (Government of Uganda, 2006). This constitutes what is typically referred to as an “open door policy,” meaning that one does not need to complete any sort of refugee application before entering the country. Uganda’s open door policy has allowed, at the time of publication, more than 1.2 million refugees to seek asylum within its borders. This number does not take into account past refugees who have since been repatriated, resettled, or locally integrated. As of

April 2017, Uganda is the leading refugee-hosting country in the entire continent of Africa (Ongaro, 2017).

American refugee policy offers a sharp contrast to that of Uganda. America's Refugee Act of 1980 introduced a regulated system through which all U.S. refugee resettlement applications are processed. The policy mandated that a definitive cap be placed on all refugee admissions every year, and it created the position for U.S. Coordinator of Refugee Affairs. Specific screening processes for refugee applications were created due to this policy, and the U.S. government regularly updates these assessment procedures. Because of America's geographic location in between two oceans, it is objectively easier for the U.S. to restrict its refugee intake due to its isolation from countries with intense conflicts that lead to large refugee populations. America's physical separation from countries that produce large numbers of refugees makes it natural for American refugee policies to be focused on resettlement, or taking in refugees who are already being hosted in another country. On January 27th, 2017, American President Donald Trump initiated the implementation of Executive Order 13769, entitled *Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*. As it was originally employed, the order banned all refugees from entering the U.S. for 120 days. President Trump also lowered the country's overall cap on refugees from 110,000 to 50,000 (Batalova, 2017). However, it is important to note that, as of January 20th, 2017, the U.S. was the largest refugee resettlement country in the world (Migration Policy Institute, US Department of State, 2017). More background information concerning refugee policies in Uganda and America can be found in the Literature Review section.

3. Justification:

The current state of American foreign affairs and immigration/refugee policies is a controversial topic to begin with. Americans have been historically consistent in resisting the admittance of large numbers of asylum-seekers, even if the official U.S. government's policy has allowed for generous refugee entry (Pew Research Center, 2015). Some of America's policies can be better understood when assessing the neo-liberal development paradigm, which many of the United States' refugee policies are based in. Briefly, the neo-liberal paradigm regulates and de-regulates different enterprises in order to gain the most economic profit (Ndebesa, 2017). This paradigm will be further addressed in the Research Discussion and Analysis section. America's President Trump has, as of the completion date of this study, signed three separate executive orders concerning the regulation and prohibition of immigrants and refugees from certain countries into America. Refugee policy within the United States, while highly contentious, is not widely understood by the general public. Two of President Trump's executive orders are entitled, *Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*. Linking terrorism with allowing refugees into the U.S. has the potential to be incredibly dangerous, as it prematurely categorizes an already marginalized group of people into a negative "terrorist" stereotype. The stigma surrounding terrorists could have adverse effects on the refugee community in America. Thus, researching American refugee policy is beneficial in that it will contribute to expanding the general public's understanding of refugees' rights, as well as how refugees are supposed to be treated in the United States. Looking into refugee policy implementation will additionally assist in fully comprehending the reality of the challenges that the U.S. faces when enforcing its policies.

Similarly, Ugandan refugee policies are a relatively polemic topic in the public sphere. Uganda's open border policy has made it host to over one million refugees, and as neighboring

South Sudan's political instability continues, that number is rising by the thousands every day (Hattem, 2017). Uganda's refugee policies are framed within the human development paradigm, which focuses on the improvement of human welfare (Ndebesa, 2017). While Uganda's refugee policy is considered "compassionate," overcrowding within refugee settlements is creating what Ruhakana Rugunda, Uganda's Prime Minister, referred to as "enormous strain on our public services and local infrastructure" (Hattem, 2017). Conducting research on these refugee policies and their implementation will help address the issue of how Uganda's development is being affected by its refugee population.

Comparative politics is a significant realm of political science in that it offers new opportunities to analyze and assess separate concepts that may benefit from qualified comparative evaluations. In terms of Uganda and America's refugee policies, the utilization of a comparative case study will offer beneficial results due to the countries' inherent political differences. Comparing a developed country with a conservative refugee policy to a developing country with a liberal and generous refugee policy will offer insight into the relationship that refugee policy has with development within each country. Making comparisons between these two policies and, more specifically, the implementation challenges that these policies impose will also facilitate a discussion of whether or not there is some kind of relationship or correlation between refugee policies and developmental processes. This kind of dialogue is vital in creating comprehensive developmental strategies that will positively affect countries that are responsible for multitudes of refugees.

4. Problem Statement:

The issue of refugees is a critical global crisis, and it maintains a high status in terms of its relevance to national and international politics throughout the world. Refugees require extensive amounts of resources, which must be provided by their host countries after the UNCHR's initial assistance is phased out. This means that refugees affect every host country's economic and political policies, which in turn affects the development of those countries. This demonstrates the crosscutting nature of the refugee crisis.

Uganda's status as a developing country makes its position as a prominent refugee host especially problematic. Resource constraints in Uganda are intense, and can be easily demonstrated simply by looking at the country's GDP per capita of \$615.30 US (World Bank, 2017). Uganda's unemployment rate sits at 58%, with 90% of those older than 25 unemployed (Walubiri, 2016). 19.7% of the country lives below the poverty line (World Bank, 2017). When over one million refugees are added into the country, the limitations on resources become even more strained. The purpose of this research is to provide a comparative case study of policies and policy implementation concerning refugees in Uganda and the United States, respectively, in order to address these issues.

5. Objectives:

The objectives of this project were to compare different governmental policies and analyze why these policies have been put in place. The specific goals of this research were as follows:

- I. To fully examine the management/structures that generate Ugandan and American legal policies concerning refugees
- II. To assess and compare implementation challenges that each country faces in terms of their respective policies

6. Literature Review:

There is a distinct lack of synchronization between domestic Ugandan refugee policy and international refugee standards. Uganda's refugee policy is, put simply, more generous than the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which was adopted by the United Nations (U.N.) and is exercised by U.N.-related organizations operating within Uganda. According to a critique of the Refugees Act published by the Refugee Law Project, the Act is "progressive, human rights and protection oriented" (Buwa, n.d.). However, this proclamation of progressivism should not suggest that there are no problems inherent within the Refugees Act. Most specifically, problems related to the implementation of refugee policy can be examined in the critiquing article. According to Commentary 15, the thirty day time limit for applying to be granted refugee status is "unrealistic and will result in a large number of valid refugee claims being arbitrarily dismissed" (Buwa, n.d.). This time limit is not the only unrealistic part of the Refugees Act.

This claim of impracticality in terms of implementation can be extended to many other aspects of the Refugees Act that are not necessarily denoted by the Refugee Law Project critique. For example, the provision of free primary and secondary education, while an admirable goal, is difficult to actualize on the ground due to a lack of resources within Ugandan refugee settlements and camps. Thus, while carefully written critiques and analyses of Uganda's refugee policies are vital in terms of improving the future status of refugees who seek asylum in Uganda, it is also imperative that a physical observation of these critiques be conducted. This research fulfills this joint need of analytical literary review in addition to qualitative observational data collection.

While refugee settlements are the primary focus of Ugandan refugee policies, American policies differ in that refugees rarely arrive in the United States without having already spent time seeking asylum in some other country. Resettlement, then, is the context upon which most

U.S. refugee policies are constructed. Like Uganda, the U.S. is party to the United Nations' 1951 Convention. The American definition of a refugee as "a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of a 'well-founded fear of persecution' due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin" is drawn from the 1951 Convention (American Immigration Council, 2015). The United States Refugee Act of 1980 provides the policies and procedures by which refugees are currently resettled and absorbed into the United States. The refugee clearance process requires extensive background checks, interviewing, and screening (American Immigration Council, 2015). Even when the 1980 Act was initially implemented more than thirty years ago, critiques of the policy's ability to be realistically executed popped up almost immediately. One 1983 article claimed that "new political realities have run roughshod over prior assumptions" (Brill, 1983). Brill goes on to explicate that the policy had changed to become more inclusive than its previous Cold War counterpart. However, the sheer number of refugees who were arriving in the U.S. rendered the policy untenable in its ability to manage the influx of refugees. More recently, President Trump's addition to U.S. refugee policy, Executive Order 13769, directly addresses new changes to the refugee resettlement program. Most notably, President Trump suspended all refugee entrances into the U.S. for 120 days immediately following the declaration of his executive order (Parlapiano, Park, Pecanha, 2017). It also lowered the cap for refugee entrances to the U.S. by over 50%, from 110,000 to 50,000. This order "received widespread international and domestic criticism and was the subject of dozens of legal challenges..." (Pierce, 2017). American resettlement policies, therefore, must continue to be critically analyzed in terms of their legality and their ability to be implemented. It is only through these kinds of appraisals that policies can begin to generate their desired effects.

7. Methodology:

7.1 Research Approach:

The researcher took an empirical approach to a comparative method of research, and methodologically conducted a case study of each country's refugee policies. The researcher utilized John Stuart Mills' Most Dissimilar Systems Design (MDSD). The MDSD involves examining "cases that are as different as possible, except on the outcome of interest. The difference of cases means... many alternative explanations are controlled" (Glasgow, 2014). The researcher used the differences between American and Ugandan refugee policies as variables in order to properly analyze each policy in contrast to its counterpart.

This heavily analytical research approach collected data both qualitatively and quantitatively. Interviews and focus groups offered qualitative data, while completing a documentary analysis of different laws and conducting research on specific implementation levels provided quantitative data. The documentary analysis attempted to identify similarities and differences between each country. Participatory appraisal was used to conduct research concerning qualitative data.

7.2 Data Collection Methods:

For this research project the researcher performed extensive literary review and textual analysis of governmental policies concerning refugees in each country. Case studies, laws, procedures, peer-reviewed articles and books are all cited in this research project. Media surrounding refugee laws in both countries was also examined in order to assess public awareness and understanding of these issues and policies. Public media was especially helpful in observing the public's perception of the situations in the U.S. and Uganda, as well as the reality of challenges that each country faces. Both primary and secondary sources were assessed in this project in order to keep the research well rounded. Primary sources such as the 1951 U.N.

Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, Uganda's Refugees Act of 2006, and many more were analyzed in order to gain an understanding of exact policies. Secondary sources, including articles like Kenneth Brill's *The Endless Debate: Refugees, Law and Policy and the 1980 Refugee Act*, helped to deepen understandings of how these policies are implemented, as well as provide professional critiques of certain aspects of the policies.

Interviews and focus groups with different government agents, NGOs, and refugees provided useful insight on how those who work most closely with refugee policy understand its impacts and challenges. 11 interviews were conducted in total, along with an additional two focus groups. One focus group contained three members, two of which were female and one of which was male. The second focus group contained nine members, seven of which were female and two of which were male. Both focus groups were made up exclusively of South Sudanese refugees. The researcher worked independently, travelling to conduct field research in various regions of Uganda. While based in Uganda's capital city of Kampala, the researcher interviewed those who work most closely with refugee policy and implementation in Uganda. Officers in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), as well as administrators of InterAid Uganda, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), were interviewed to assist with the researcher's investigation. For five days, research was conducted in Yumbe, a district located in the Northern region of Uganda. During this excursion to Yumbe, the researcher visited the largest refugee camp in the world, Bidi Bidi, to interview refugees and implementing partners of UNHCR working on the ground with refugee policy. The researcher also spent a day performing preliminary observations in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement, a community located in Isingiro district in Uganda's Southern region. Videochat

meetings were utilized to interview an American who volunteered teaching English to recently resettled refugees via the Pan African Association, as well as a refugee living in America.

Interviews are useful in gathering data because interacting with individuals in the personal setting of an interview can lead to the sharing of information that would not have otherwise been made public. This brings up the issue of confidentiality, which is further addressed in the Ethical Considerations sub-section of the Methodology unit. Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo best articulates the importance of focus group discussions within participatory appraisal when she writes:

“Within a community there may be differences in experiences or opinions and due to the sensitivity of the matter and cultural differences, a lot of issues may not come out easily... focus groups give you the opportunity to work separately with different groups... once groups are created, discussions are initiated; sensitive or silent issues will be divulged easily and a lot of information will be obtained” (Mafumbo, 2017).

7.3 Data Collection Tools

The tools used for this research include interview questions (samples of these can be found in Appendices I – IV). Videochat was one tool used to conduct interviews with some interviewees who were located outside of Uganda. Participant observation completed while in Nakivale Refugee Settlement and Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp was also a helpful data collection tool. A map highlighting the locations that the researcher visited can be found in Appendix V.

7.4 Data Analysis

Data analysis for this research project consists of analyses of in-person or virtual interviews conducted by the researcher. A total of thirteen interviews were conducted, including eight formal interviews, three informal interviews, and two focus groups. Officers from the OPM

in Bidi Bidi chose the refugee participants of the focus groups, all of which were South Sudanese refugees. These focus groups were separated into South Sudanese refugees who identified with the Dinka tribe, and South Sudanese refugees who identified with the Nuer tribe. Because these two tribes are not allied in the civil war in South Sudan, the researcher considered the separation of the two tribes necessary in order to conduct effective research. The Nuer focus group was comprised of seven refugee participants, while the Dinka focus group was comprised of three refugee participants. The questions asked to each tribe were identical (see Appendix I).

All interviewed participants' answers were analyzed individually at first, and then again within the context of every interview and research finding. Documentary analyses assisted in providing background information against which to analyze interviews and participant observations. John Stuart Mills' MDSD was employed to organize information in terms of a comparative analysis. Comparative tables designed in the style of MDSD were used to visually demonstrate the differences and similarities between Uganda and the U.S. in analyses of policy.

7.5 Ethical Considerations:

In terms of ethical considerations, it is necessary to acknowledge that refugees are regarded as a vulnerable population. Therefore, attention must be paid to the ethical quality of interviews and data collection concerning refugees specifically. The researcher followed the Local Review Board's ethical code of conduct for studying refugees, including involving mandatory consent and human subject forms when conducting interviews (See Appendix VI for the informed consent form, Appendix VIII for the human subjects review form in which details of ethical considerations are provided). All refugees' names are not included in the study in order to protect confidentiality and anonymity. The only identifiers used for refugee respondents include their ages and their country of origin.

All other participants in the study provided exclusive consent, via signed consent forms during formal interviews and verbal consent during informal interviews. Samples of signed consent forms can be found in Appendix VII. In order to protect confidentiality and anonymity, names of participants were only included if that participant verbally agreed to have his or her name used in the research.

Additionally, the researcher took extra precautions to ensure that all aspects of the research were relayed truthfully. When the researcher was being introduced to participants, no lies were told concerning the researcher's purpose or identity in order to get information. Participants were not compensated in order to ensure that answers were authentic and not provided out of bribery. The researcher made it a primary goal to provide all information, including information about the research and about herself, to participants as honestly as possible.

7.6 Challenges and Limitations:

Throughout the research period, the researcher encountered a variety of challenges and limitations. The inherent bias of the power dynamics that are put into play when a privileged, white, American researcher works with a vulnerable population such as refugees no doubt affects how refugees answer interview questions. At times, relatively significant overseers within camps and settlements accompanied the researcher during interviews for safety reasons. This created another problematic layer of power structure that could have affected how comfortable refugees felt voicing the challenges they faced within the camps.

The limitations of the researcher's language skills also created challenges. It was difficult to be sure that translators were being exact in their word choice when transferring information to and from those who were being interviewed. There were many times when translators noted that

words being used by the researcher in English did not exist in the language native to the interviewee, especially in the case of refugees who spoke various local languages from their home countries. Thus, the translated information collected from refugee focus groups may have been slightly altered or misinterpreted, creating difficulties in conducting entirely valid interview analyses.

While the research gathered in Uganda was relatively accessible for the researcher, the nature of the comparative case study made it difficult for the researcher to gather as much information concerning the United States' implementation of its own refugee policies. The time difference between the U.S. and Uganda created difficulties in scheduling videochat appointments that worked for all parties involved. Accessing contacts in the U.S. who were willing to be interview subjects was challenging, as well. Additionally, while the researcher was planning out this project, specific American refugee policies concerning bans were in the process of being contested in various courts throughout the United States. New policies were released via a Presidential Executive Order close to the end of the designated research period. This made many policies difficult to assess in terms of their implementation, because the policies were not solidified during the research period.

Finally, the researcher realized that six weeks was not enough time to complete a full study, especially when conducting an analysis of various implementation challenges. Therefore, it is important to recognize that all of the information and claims presented in this research are based on a limited sample of interviews and observations. The time limits imposed on the research study made it only possible for the researcher to experience one of the five zones in Bidi Bidi, meaning that some observations may not be representative of the entire camp. Similarly,

time constraints limited the researcher's access to being able to interview networks of officials who could have offered valuable information.

8. Research Discussion and Analysis:

The following sections describe the researcher's overall findings from the six-week period in which research was conducted. The researcher discusses how the project objectives, including examining the structures that generate Ugandan and American legal policies concerning refugees, as well as assessing and comparing implementation challenges that each country faces, were followed throughout the study. The objectives were completed via an analysis of documents as well as firsthand accounts of both challenges and successes in the implementation of refugee policies in the U.S. and Uganda. A comparative analysis of both countries' policies and their implementation is constructed throughout the section.

8.1 Structure of Ugandan Refugee Policies

This section is based almost exclusively on documentary research related to Uganda's Refugee Act of 2006, as well as the UN's 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)'s 1969 Convention on Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Uganda is a partner to both the UN and the OAU, and signed both of these groups' most recent documents concerning the rights and obligations of refugees. In addition, as of the publication of the Refugee Act of 2006, Uganda guarantees specific rights to refugees that are not necessarily denoted in the two aforementioned policies. These specific rights guaranteed to refugees in Uganda will be further explored in Section 8.1.3.

8.1.1 The UN 1951 Convention

International policies concerning refugees are essential to informing the standards of domestic refugee policies. The UN 1951 Refugee Convention creates a basic international

refugee policy foundation for all of its signatories. The treaty's chief principles center around non-refoulement, which is the condition that a refugee should not be forced to go back to a place where he or she faces grave dangers or threats to his or her life or liberty. The Convention begins by defining a refugee as:

“Any person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country” (UNHCR, 1951).

Subsequently, the rights of refugees are outlined throughout the treaty. Article I's subset Article 3 denotes that the provisions of the Convention should be applied to refugees “without discrimination as to race, religion, or country of origin” (UNHCR, 1951). Refugees are afforded the right of association to trade unions (Article 15), the same access as nationals have to engage in gainful employment (Article 17), the same access as nationals have with respect to elementary education (Article 22), and the right to freedom of movement with basic limitations (Article 26) (UNHCR, 1951). The Convention mandates that host countries issue refugee identity papers (Article 27), and the legal obligations of nations to protect refugees through non-refoulement are expanded upon in Article 33 (UNHCR, 1951). As will be observed in the following sections, Uganda's own national refugee policies are largely founded in the UN 1951 Convention.

8.1.2 The OAU 1969 Convention

The policies related to the refugee problem in Africa are critical to Uganda's handling of its own refugee population. The OAU's convention on explicit policies that affect the entire continent of Africa is encouraging in its recognition of “the need for an essentially humanitarian approach towards solving the problem of refugees,” (Organisation of African Unity, 1969). The

definition of the term “refugee” is one of the most notable aspects of the OAU 1969 Convention. Refugees, according to Article 1 of the OAU’s convention, are people who live outside of their home countries and cannot return, or are unwilling to return, because of a “well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion,” (OAU, 1969). This definition is almost verbatim in its replication of the UN 1951 Convention’s classification of a refugee.

The alignment of inter-continental and intra-continental refugee policies is notable in that it demonstrates a global interest in taking care of refugees, and a commitment by the continent of Africa to hold itself to the highest UN standards. The OAU policy states in Article II that no refugees on the continent should be subjected to “measures such as rejection at the frontier, return or expulsion” that could result in endangering their lives or liberties (OAU, 1969). This policy is directly relevant to Uganda’s open border policy, which is explained more thoroughly in Section 8.1.3, The Refugee Act of 2006. Another important clause of OAU’s 1969 convention falls under Article IV: Non-Discrimination. The convention binds all of its members to apply its provisions to every refugee, without taking into consideration any individual’s religion, race, nationality, or affiliation to a social group. This convention is relatively complementary to the UN’s 1951 Convention on refugees, and it is further built upon by Uganda’s national Refugee Act of 2006.

8.1.3 The Refugee Act of 2006

The Refugee Act of 2006 provides for more generous policies towards refugees than the UN’s 1951 Convention and the OAU’s 1969 Convention. In Uganda, refugees are afforded freedom of movement, freedom from discrimination, freedom to associate with trade unions, and many of the same rights as Ugandan nationals (Government of Uganda, 2006). Refugee women,

in particular, are provided with their right to freedom from discrimination through affirmative action. Refugees are supposed to receive equal rights to the level that is given to nationals concerning intellectual property, freedom of religion, and primary education (Government of Uganda, 2006). They are guaranteed, at minimum, the same treatment as aliens regarding issues concerning secondary and tertiary education, engagement in industries such as agriculture, commerce, and the establishment of companies, and profitable employment opportunities in a refugee's preferred profession (Government of Uganda, 2006). Any refugee's husband(s) or wife(s) and dependents are entitled to the same protections that are asserted by the refugee living in Uganda, even if the refugee dies. There is an Office of Refugees in Uganda, which is responsible for "all administrative matters concerning refugees – from welfare and protection to obtaining country of origin information to advising the Government and the Eligibility Committee on policy," (Refugee Law Project, n.d.). The Eligibility Committee, once it has received an application from an individual for refugee status, is mandated to make a decision concerning the status of that person within 90 days after obtaining his or her application.

One aspect of the Refugee Act of 2006 that is critical to the friendliness so characteristic of Uganda's refugee policies is Uganda's commitment to completely open borders. In Uganda, an open borders policy means that refugees can cross into Ugandan territory and immediately begin processing their applications for identification papers. Uganda does not reserve the right to discriminate against anyone claiming refugee status as they cross through checkpoints at the border unless they are involved with criminal activities. Refugees are permitted to stay in Uganda for the 90 days that their application for refugee status is being considered by the Eligibility Committee. The OAU Convention's policy that no refugee should be turned away at the "frontier," or border, provides a solid foundation for the open border policy.

Refugee policy in Uganda incorporates both nationals and refugees, in order to encompass the entire population and exemplify the relevance of refugees to local Ugandans. Specifically, there is a facet of refugee policy that benefits local communities living and working near refugee settlements and camps. This policy, most commonly referred to as the “70/30 policy,” states that, of all the externally funded aid that is provided to refugees, 30% is to be given to host communities living nearby. This policy does not include food or water aid, which is disbursed in its entirety to refugees. “The 70/30 rule is intended to promote equitable development and avert/minimize conflict” (Mathys, 2016). Many host communities donate large parcels of their own land to assist in creating camps and settlements. The policy “helps to thank them,” according to an OPM officer who works in Bidi Bidi (Personal Interview, OPM Officer 1, 2017). Charity Makelet, a community services officer for UNHCR’s implementing partner International Rescue Committee at Bidi Bidi, explained how her organization works with the local citizens in Yumbe. “We have 30% of our services that go to the host community. If it’s our livelihood services, we work with agriculture of people in the community... we engage them in one way or another with all of our other services,” (Personal Interview, 2017). This is important because the policy creates a sense of overarching community that extends throughout both refugee settlements and local Ugandan villages or towns. This sense of community assists with successful local integration.

Durable solution approaches are an aspect of refugee policy that is relevant on an international level. The issue of housing refugees is meant to be temporary for hosting countries, with the constant hope that refugees will eventually be able to return to their home countries. However, as refugee numbers continue to spike in the mid 2010s, the refugee problem is becoming significantly less temporary. Durable solution policies are a sustainable way to address

this increasingly permanent challenge for many host countries and communities. In total, there are three mainstream durable solutions that refugees and refugee policy-makers work with.

Repatriation is the durable solution strategy in which an individual voluntarily surrenders his or her refugee status, and returns back to his or her home country (UNHCR, 2017). Repatriation typically occurs once the external aggression that is the basis for people's refugee status ceases to exist. For example, for a South Sudanese refugee to begin the repatriation process, the civil war in South Sudan would need to end, and that refugee would need to feel comfortable returning to his or her home without any fear of persecution upon his or her repatriation. *Local integration* is the durable solution practice in which refugees gain the status of a national in the country that is hosting them (UNHCR, 2017). Finally, *resettlement* is the durable solution policy most typically employed when repatriation and local integration fail to apply to a refugee.

Resettlement involves refugees being transferred from their original host country to a second-party country, typically one with significantly more resources than the first host country, which plans to settle the refugee for an indefinite amount of time (UNHCR, 2017). Resettlement, then, can be understood as a kind of protection tool, used to relocate specific categories of refugees who may not have other options into a third country of asylum. For example, a refugee who seeks asylum in Uganda might apply to go through the resettlement process so that he or she can live in the United States or another developed country. Resettlement as a refugee policy is further analyzed below in Section 8.2: Structure of American Refugee Policies.

8.2 Structure of American Refugee Policies

American refugee policies are unique because of their exclusive focus on resettlement. The Refugee Act of 1980, America's most recent legislature outlining its full stance on refugee policy, highlights resettlement as America's most effective option for humanitarian refugee

assistance. The U.S., in addition to Uganda, is a signatory of the U.N. 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which was fully expounded upon in Section 8.1.1: The UN 1951 Convention. To avoid unnecessary reiterations, the UN 1951 Convention's policies will not be reproduced in this section. Instead, America's domestic refugee resettlement policies will be further investigated. This research was complicated by contentious changes in American refugee policy, initiated by President Donald Trump throughout 2017.

8.2.1 The Refugee Act of 1980

Before the U.S. Refugee Act of 1980, American refugee policy was irregularly employed and relatively unstructured. The Refugee Act of 1980 fulfills America's need for a systemized and regulated refugee admissions policy. Under Title II, Admission of Refugees, the term refugee is defined as anyone who is outside of his or her home country and either cannot or will not return to his or her home country "because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion" (US Congress, 1980). The similarities between this definition of refugee, and the definition of a refugee as constructed by the U.N. 1951 Convention, should not be overlooked. The basis of the Refugee Act of 1980 is still deeply seeded in the U.N.'s policy. The U.S. policy goes on to state that the U.S. Attorney General cannot deport any refugee if it is determined that "such alien's life or freedom would be threatened... unless there are reasonable grounds for regarding the alien as a danger to the security of the United States" (US Congress, 1980). This policy is directly centered on non-refoulement, another important aspect of the U.N.'s refugee policy.

One hallmark of the Refugee Act of 1980's frameworks was the creation of a process for evaluating and adjusting the maximum number of refugees allowed into the country per year.

This incorporated creating a required annual consultation between Congress and the President. Section 207(a)(1) provides that there is a specific refugee cap, which is determined by the President in the beginning of every fiscal year and agreed upon by Congress (US Congress, 1980). The policy goes on to say that, if an unforeseen refugee emergency situation occurs, going over the predefined yearly refugee limit is justifiable.

Title III of the Refugee Act of 1980 provides for the mandatory appointment by the President of a U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs. This coordinator is put in charge of managing “all United States domestic and international refugee admission and resettlement programs,” as well as creating a budget for all U.S. government refugee programs (US Congress, 1980). The Coordinator advises the President and other members of the government on refugee policy, and negotiates refugee issues on behalf of the U.S. with both other countries’ governments and international organizations. Essentially, the Coordinator analyzes and affects U.S. refugee policy on a current and consistent basis, in both a domestic and international setting.

An outline for how U.S. states receive federal aid to support the refugees they take in is included in the policy. States are required to submit extensive descriptions of how they will “encourage effective refugee resettlement,” as well as proof of the language training and employment opportunities that are made available to refugees in their territory (US Congress, 1980). State governments are responsible for designating someone to be in charge of coordinating refugee resources and determining how to care for unaccompanied refugee children. It is mandatory for states to provide specific identification for refugees who require specific medical treatment. In order to ensure that resources are being used effectively, the federal government is supposed to monitor the assistance that is provided to different states through

financial auditing and data collection (US Congress, 1980). Thus, the Refugee Act of 1980 ensures that the federal government works with local state governments to ensure that there is thorough implementation of refugee policy throughout the entire country.

Both public and private nonprofit agencies are contracted by the U.S. government to implement policies concerning refugee assistance. These organizations are hired to create and implement projects that support refugees in becoming economically self-sufficient, as well as to train them in the English language and to provide health, social, and educational services.

8.2.2 Refugee Admissions and Resettlement Policies

Before being accepted to resettle in the U.S., refugees must pass through strategic screening and vetting procedures. There are three key classifications for refugees in the U.S.: Priority One, Priority Two, and Priority Three. Refugees who are categorized into Priority One are “individuals with compelling persecution needs or those for whom no other durable solution exists” (American Immigration Council, 2015). Priority Two refugees are refugees “of ‘special concern’ to the United States” (American Immigration Council, 2015). Priority Three individuals are the relatives of refugees who have already been resettled into the United States. According to the U.S. Department of State’s refugee admissions page, refugees must go through the following steps to be granted asylum through resettlement in America. First, the U.S. Refugees Admissions Program works with UNHCR and the U.S. Embassy to go through refugee applications. Refugees who are registered with UNHCR submit biographical information and documentation to be used in their resettlement applications, and UNHCR has the ability to refer certain cases to the United States. Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) are the first point of access for all U.S. refugee applications. RSCs collect basic background information on applicants and prepare that information for security screening while refugees are still living in their host countries. RSCs

conduct initial interviews with refugee applicants, as well as cross-reference applicants' information in order to verify all submitted data. Once all information has been verified, enhanced refugee security screening is conducted by multiple U.S. government agencies (US Department of State, 2017).

According to the US Department of State, "refugees are screened more carefully than any other type of traveler to the U.S." (US Department of State, 2017). Refugees' fingerprints are screened against the Federal Bureau of Investigation's biometric database, the Department of Homeland Security's biometric database, and the US Department of Defense database. If there are any "problematic results" with these screenings, a refugee's application will be denied (US Department of State, 2017). In-person interviews are then conducted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration services in the host country before any approval can be made for resettlement. More interviews are conducted any time new information arises. Any inconsistencies between interviews lead to putting a hold on a refugee's application. Once the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services clears the refugee applicant, health screening is conducted so that all of the refugee's medical needs are fully understood. Any refugee applicants with contagious diseases (such as tuberculosis) are disqualified from entering the country (US Department of State, 2017). If a refugee applicant's case is cleared after the medical screening is completed, the process continues.

Resettlement agencies review refugee applicant information and establish where to resettle each individual refugee. After a refugee resettlement placement is determined, that refugee is notified of his or her destination, and the International Organization for Migration is put in charge of booking travel for the refugee. Before departing for the U.S., approved refugees sign a promissory note that states they will repay all travel costs. Refugees are screened through

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as the Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program. In total, the entire refugee resettlement process takes an average of 18-24 months (American Immigration Council, 2015).

When a refugee arrives in the U.S., it is important that he or she is received appropriately. U.S. policy on refugee arrivals states that a number of qualified staff must be made available at the entry point refugees use to come into America (American Immigration Council, 2015). These staff members from private voluntary agencies ensure that medical records are in order, and local health officials must be notified that refugees are arriving in their area and be provided with the appropriate medical records.

Assistance provided to refugees by the government of the United States of America is outlined in detail within the text of the Refugee Act of 1980. The director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is responsible for coordinating all of the resources used to assist resettled refugees. Specifically, adequate resources for employment preparation and assignment "in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency," the opportunity to receive lessons in how to speak English fluently, cash assistance, and "the assurance that women have the same opportunities as men to participate in training and instruction" are guaranteed to all resettled refugees in the U.S. (US Congress, 1980). Cash and medical assistance given to refugees by states are authorized for reimbursement to states by the federal government for the first thirty-six months in which the refugee is living in America. This reimbursement guarantee makes it more likely for states to provide adequate cash and medical support to refugees who could not otherwise afford these expenses. Cash assistance is "conditioned," or phased out, once a refugee accepts an offer of employment (US Congress, 1980). If a refugee finds a job within his or her first sixty days of living in the U.S., cash assistance is continuously offered until those first sixty

days are over. Assistance for refugee children is organized through projects for “special educational services (including English language training) to refugee children in elementary and secondary schools,” (US Congress, 1980). These policies have a direct focus on refugee sustainability and self-reliance, which are evident goals of U.S. refugee policy. One year after a refugee has been admitted into the U.S., he or she is eligible to apply for Lawful Permanent Resident Status, also known as a green card.

8.2.3 Refugee Policy Addendums in the Year 2017

This section will describe how U.S. refugee policies began changing with the Trump administration starting in January of 2017. While the U.S. still adheres to the Refugee Act of 1980 and the UN 1951 Convention, President Trump’s Executive Order 13769, *Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*, has affected refugee admissions policies. Initially implemented on January 27th, 2017, the order suspended the entire U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for 120 days (Section 5a). A refugee admission cap of 50,000 was set, decreased by more than 50% of the previous admissions ceiling (Section 5d). An indefinite block on all refugees from Syria was imposed (Section 5c), and refugee claims based on religious persecution were ordered to be prioritized once USRAP resumed its admissions program (Section 5b) (Trump, Executive Order 13769, 2017).

The January 2017 version of this Presidential Executive Order was immediately challenged in multiple U.S. court systems. Enforcement of the order was delayed by numerous U.S. court orders, which prompted the Trump administration to revise and reissue a new order concerning refugee admissions. On March 6th, 2017, Executive Order 13780 replaced previous Executive Order 13769. The USRAP was suspended for another 120 days, and the refugee admission cap of 50,000 was maintained within the new Order. On October 24th, 2017, President

Trump issued Executive Order 13815, *Resuming the Refugee Admissions Program with Enhanced Vetting Capabilities*. This Order ended the USRAP's 120 day suspension, and noted that "several ways to enhance the process for screening and vetting process for refugees" had been identified (Section 1d) (Trump, Executive Order 13815, 2017). These improvements are noted in Section 1e of the Executive Order, and it is implied that the refugee interviewing process and biographic information background checks have been revamped. Section 3b mandates that a report "on the effect of refugee resettlement in the United States on national security, public safety, and general welfare of the United States" will be presented within 180 days of the Executive Order (Trump, Executive Order 13815, 2017). It should be noted that this research study was finished on November 25th, 2017, and therefore a full review of the implementation of these new vetting procedures could not be completed. Nevertheless, it has already been implied by President Trump that these policies will increase the time it takes to process refugee applications, which will further intensify the American refugee application process. The impacts of these new policies will be far-reaching in the American political sphere.

8.3 Comparison of Ugandan and American Refugee Policies

"It is important to remember that while the West squabbles over the acceptance of a few thousand migrants and asylum seekers... countries such as Uganda with considerably fewer resources, and districts such as Adjumani which are themselves still recovering from decades of conflict, are accepting hundreds of thousands of refugees with minimal fuss" (Hovil, Kigozi, & Okumu, 2015).

Differences in domestic refugee policy play important roles in the context of how refugees exist within different countries. Comparisons made between different countries' policies can help facilitate a dialogue on how refugees affect national development. Comparisons

between countries' refugee policies are also beneficial in observing how individual countries view themselves in relation to international events, specifically the global refugee crisis. The comparisons made below offer insights into the levels of responsibility that the U.S. and Uganda each take for the refugee issue (See Figure 1).

Figure 1:

Organogram of United States vs. Ugandan Refugee Policies

	United States of America	Uganda
Refugee Cap	50,000 limit on incoming refugees per year	No limit on incoming refugees per year
Most Recent Refugee Policy	Refugee Act of 1980	Refugee Act of 2006
Country Location	Located in politically stable region	Located in politically unstable region
Refugee Living Location	(In general) homes or apartments in residential areas	(In general) settlements or camps
Durable Solution Focus	Focus on resettlement	Focus on local integration and repatriation
Policy Specifics	Specific nationalities banned from entering	Open borders to all nationalities
Average Amount of Time to Receive Refugee Status	Between 18 months and 2 years	90 days
Paradigm	Neo-liberal	Human Development

The importance of differing paradigms must be addressed when considering these two distinct refugee policies. According to Mwambutsya Ndebesa, a professor in the department of history and development studies at Makerere University, “a paradigm is a set of beliefs, values, or ideology that guides actions and behaviors” (Ndebesa, 2017). Development paradigms inform various developmental approaches. It can be argued that American refugee policies came out of the neo-liberal paradigm, which focuses on economic performance and free markets. The neo-liberal development paradigm posits that “the market leads to efficient allocation of resources” (Ndebesa, 2017). Uganda’s refugee policy is dominated by the human development paradigm,

which stipulates a priority of welfare over profit. These differences in the paradigmatic lenses ostensibly shape each country's refugee policies, and understanding the paradigms assists in understanding the reasons behind the differing policies.

American refugee policy initiates an exact limit on how many refugees may be admitted into the country annually. To put the refugee limit for the fiscal year of 2017 into perspective, Uganda would only allow 6,420 refugees into the country in 2017 if that same number were used proportionally according to Uganda's population size of 41.49 million (World Bank, 2016). To phrase this in a different way, if America maintained the same proportion of refugees to its population as Uganda currently has, the U.S. would be providing a safe haven to over 9.3 million refugees. In its entire history of formal refugee admission since 1980, the U.S. has only taken in about three million refugees (Pew Research Center, 2016).

These differences in refugee populations alone contribute to the differences in resource limitations affecting refugees in each country. Refugees residing in Uganda experience restricted resources because there are so many of them living there, which only further strains Uganda's already limited resources. Uganda's commitment to taking in the number of refugees it does each year shows that the nation feels it has a responsibility to the refugees living in the region, even when it means creating a bigger strain on the country's resources. Refugees residing in the United States benefit from national welfare programs, because the country had already had the chance to establish platforms that could help such marginalized populations, and because there are so few of them in relation to the national population (Kanof, 2015).

It is important to recognize that Uganda's location in a politically unstable region contributes to its need to take care of such a high number of refugees. While the U.S. can pick and choose which refugees it admits, carefully vetting them for years in most cases, Uganda does not have

that luxury. The refugees flooding Uganda's borders are fleeing direct oppression or direct fear of oppression from Uganda's neighboring countries. The refugees coming to America's borders have already established their positions as refugees in nearby host countries. Thus, Uganda's interaction with refugee admissions policy is necessarily more urgent than America's. When countries bordering Uganda are at war, disproportionately more refugees are bound to flee to the closest stable region. Hence, Uganda accepts a larger refugee population than the U.S. due to their geographical differences. This also contributes to the difference in the amount of time it takes to become recognized as a refugee in each country.

Uganda's open borders are an important focal point in terms of policy differences between the US and Uganda. One officer with OPM in Bidi Bidi explained that when refugees cross into Ugandan territory, they are led to designated checkpoints and begin the refugee registration process right away (Personal Interview, OPM Officer 1, 2017). The typical admissions process for a refugee who is being resettled in the U.S., on the other hand, generally takes between eighteen months and two years to complete (Felter & McBride, 2017). For one Rwandan refugee, it took four years from his first interview for resettlement until he set foot in America (Personal Interview, Refugee 1, 2017).

While some refugees in Uganda have self-settled in urban areas such as Kampala or Entebbe, many more refugees reside within settlements or camps. In America, refugees are resettled exclusively into existing American communities. They rent apartments or homes, and are not secluded in designated refugee areas. The effects of these policies are addressed more thoroughly in Section 8.6: Comparison of Implementation of Ugandan and American Refugee Policies.

8.4 Implementation Analysis of Ugandan Refugee Policies

While previous sections of this research outlined and explained existing refugee policies, the following sections will further consider the implementation of these policies. Policy execution must be recognized in order to fully comprehend the reality of the refugee crisis. Uganda's implementation of its current refugee policies is complicated by its status as a developing nation, as well as its limited amount of national resources. Taking these complications into consideration makes the successes of Uganda's refugee policy implementation all the more impressive.

8.4.1 Implementation Concerns in Ugandan Refugee Policies

The issues which refugees deal with in different locations are important indicators of policy implementation levels. According to a refugee who self-settled in Uganda for twelve years, the biggest challenges for refugees living in Uganda concerns a dearth of resources. "In Uganda, being a refugee, there are no resources around. If refugees are given opportunities... that is good. But it is not possible, because Uganda is poor as a country." (Personal Interview, 2017) Refugees living in Bidi Bidi camp noted that the challenges they face center around similar issues of resource deficiency. When Bidi Bidi refugees were asked about their biggest challenges, they listed a lack of basic necessities like firewood, cooking utensils, and medical supplies as major concerns. They also spoke of the need for school buildings, teachers, and school supplies. A twenty-eight year old female refugee living in the camp put it most simply: "We have a shortage of everything." (Focus Group A, 2017). The Settlement Commandant of Bidi Bidi, Robert Baryamwesiga, echoed these anxieties. "As a government, we are all committed to providing. But access to resources is a matter of the availability of those resources. The policy is there, the partner is committed, but we just don't have enough resources," (Personal Interview, 2017). So, while refugee policies in Uganda are generous in principle, the

lack of accessibility involving resources within the country makes it difficult for refugees to take full advantage of the programs they are guaranteed.

It is vital to look further into specific policies which are not necessarily being implemented to their highest capacity. Uganda is falling short of its guarantee to provide refugees with access to universal secondary education. It is critical to recall that, because U.N. and Ugandan refugee policies are not identical, there are some aspects of the Refugees Act that are not funded by the international community. Universal secondary school is not provided for by the 1951 Convention; therefore it is supposed to be up to the Ugandan government to provide this service. An informal interview with a head official at Uganda's Nakivale Refugee Settlement revealed that there is one secondary school available for the 136,000 refugees who reside within the settlement (Personal Interview, Nakivale Official 1, 2017). According to focus group-style interviews with Burundian refugees within the Nakivale settlement, that secondary school is shared with local Ugandan schoolchildren. It is true that sharing a school with Ugandan nationals is helpful in assisting with the local integration of refugee communities. However, sharing what is already a scarce resource forces both locals and refugees to receive a subpar provision of that resource. This school is obviously inadequate in terms of its ability to provide an education to those living within the settlement, due to the size of the population in the area. A 35-year-old male refugee living in Bidi Bidi stated that access to education for his children is the biggest challenge he faces. "There is a big population in Bidi Bidi, and the schools are not enough. Even if there is school, we don't have money for uniforms," (Focus Group A, 2017).

Another policy that Uganda does not facilitate to its full ability is refugees' right to freedom of movement, which is guaranteed in both Section 30(1) the Refugee Act of 2006 and Article 26 of the UN 1951 Convention. While complete freedom of movement is initially

implied in the Refugee Act of 2006, it is subjected to restrictions that are left up to the commissioner. There is no way for refugees to appeal any denial of free movement, a critique pointed out by the Refugee Law Project (Buwa, n.d.). It is also difficult for refugees to actualize their accessibility to free movement, due to financial limitations. If a refugee wanted to leave the camp he or she was living in, that refugee would need enough money to travel outside and support himself or herself without and of the aid that is provided by UNHCR and its implementing partners within camps and settlements. Thus, the implementation of the free movement policy is impaired by the monetary challenges that refugees face. In the end, many other rights that refugees are guaranteed are ultimately provisional to their right to free movement. “Without freedom of movement, rights to employment, education, legal access, identity papers, travel documents, naturalization, and many other fundamental entitlements are severely curtailed, if not completely blocked” (Lewis, 2015). These obstructions to other rights provided to refugees make the difficulty in accessing free movement incredibly pertinent to the overall implementation of Uganda’s refugee policies.

According to interviews with refugees and organizers of NGOs who work with refugees in Uganda, universal education is not denied outright to refugees, nor is freedom of religion or free healthcare. Joselyn Namukule, the head of Gender and Development at YARID, explained: “A country that is struggling with food security, a country that is struggling with poor healthcare, a country that is struggling with poor infrastructure, how is it going to be able to support people from outside?” (Personal Interview, 2017). Thus, the problem does not lie in the will to implement these policies, or the national attitude concerning refugees. It is the overall state of Uganda’s public services that creates issues for access to these services. Uganda’s status as a developing country means that everyone living in the country struggles with access to public

service industries. This is not correlated to Uganda's refugee policies as they are written. It is crucial to understand that nationals themselves live in abject poverty (World Bank, 2017). The initial lack of resources is the underlying cause of most implementation challenges in Uganda. Unfortunately, the strain that refugees add to this lack of resources is not especially productive in fixing the problem.

Overall, policy implementation difficulties in Uganda are related to both resource deficiencies and policy specifics. While Uganda faces many challenges with its refugee population, there are also many successful aspects of its policy and the country's efforts to effectively implement it.

8.4.2 Implementation Successes in Ugandan Refugee Policies

The concept of open borders seems like a daunting administrative task for administrators of refugee admissions into Uganda. Receiving and processing up to thousands of refugees per day at multiple border checkpoints provides potential for the strain of resources to become too much, and for refugees to be turned away due to a lack of available personnel. However, this is not the case. When multiple focus groups of refugees living in Bidi Bidi were asked if they had ever witnessed someone seeking asylum getting turned away from the Ugandan border, the answer was a resounding and unanimous "No." (Focus Group A, Focus Group B, 2017).

Analogously, an interview with Settlement Commandant Robert Baryamwesiga confirmed that no one attempting to cross into Uganda's territory as a refugee would ever be sent away by the Ugandan government (Personal Interview, 2017). Implementing partners in Bidi Bidi insist that all refugees who arrive at the Ugandan border are received with open arms, and implementing partners located in Kampala reiterate this notion. Uganda's open border policy is implemented in an efficient and successful manner.

Uganda's focus on local integration policies is another point of interest for an assessment of implementation. The Refugee Act of 2006 highlights that native Ugandans are an integral part of accepting and lifting up the refugee population within the country. The 70/30 policy assists with the local integration of refugees. Every implementing partner interviewed in this study highlighted the work they do with the 70/30 policy, and explained how they work with local Ugandan communities to create an environment that accepts refugees for who they are and what they need. It became apparent from visits to Nakivale Settlement and Bidi Bidi Camp that host communities are actually receiving benefits from the work being done for refugees in their areas, which is exactly what the policy denotes should be done. Ugandan schoolchildren study together in the same schools with refugee schoolchildren, and health centers originally built for refugees are open to the Ugandan public. Integrative implementation has been successful in what it provides for everyone living in Uganda, and the continuation of local integration policies could be an important key to the sustainability of how Uganda manages its refugee population.

8.5 Implementation Analysis of American Refugee Policies

America's implementation of its refugee policies is relatively simplistic. Because resettlement is the only form of refugee admission, its straightforward screening processes are closely adhered to. A caveat of this section lies in the nature of President Trump's most recent Executive Orders concerning refugees. The relevance of America's refugee screening process to this research is paramount; however, these changes in policy have not been in place long enough to conduct a full analysis of their implementation or effects on the refugee admissions process. For this reason, this section will focus exclusively on the implementation of refugee policy before the existence of Executive Order 13769. Implementation challenges lie in U.S. refugee policy's goals of economic self-reliance and sustainability.

Implementation of U.S. refugee policy before 1980 can be characterized as weak in general, due to its admission of refugees on an ad hoc basis. The 1980 U.S. policy for refugee resettlement was revolutionary in that it aimed to promote coordination and organization in the refugee resettlement process. The 1980 Refugee Act was supposed to increase efficiency in the process of resettlement, and provide overarching regulations that would standardize how refugee applications are handled. The policy accomplishes these goals because a head Coordinator for Refugee Affairs position was established, and there is no discrimination against specific nationalities in the Act. Unfortunately, the true state of affairs doesn't match up with the legislative text of the policy.

In terms of the efficiency of implementation, there are some specific aspects of the admissions process that are not fully catered to. Refugee processing is conducted separately from refugee admissions, and the admissions sector is separate from the resettlement sector. Different government agencies run each of these sectors (Kanof, 2015). This complicates coordination between the three subdivisions of refugee policy implementing partners. With this lack of coordination comes a lack of efficient implementation, which negatively impacts refugees in terms of their economic and mental health status. "It is generally the case that there is insufficient information provided about each [refugee applicant] ... this results in refugees often being placed in locations that does not support them to be successful" (Kanof, 2015). When refugees are placed in areas that do not offer employment opportunities that match their previous skills, their ability to engage in gainful employment is hindered. "One of the elements repeatedly found in studies to contribute to mental distress... is unemployment and economic hardship. The lack of appropriate employment and financial independence often results in psychosocial distress for refugee families" (Kanof, 2015). The importance of this mental distress should not go

unnoted by the U.S. government. One Rwandan refugee who was resettled into Boston, Massachusetts, described his first job in the U.S. during an interview. “I was an aircraft cleaner at Boston Logan Airport. My brothers, they came with me, they still work there. I stayed there for three weeks, but I hated it. To be honest with you, I started up an organization [back when I was living] in the refugee camp. My background is in business management,” (Personal Interview, Refugee 1, 2017). The refugee quit his job at the airport and began volunteering with an organization he felt matched his interests more. “At the airport, I made \$750 for two weeks. Now, I make \$430 for two weeks. But I am learning. Now I’m networking, and I know more people” (Personal Interview, Refugee 1, 2017). The refugee brought up how, in his original airport job, there was “no room for development” (Personal Interview, Refugee 1, 2017). The opportunities to move up the corporate ladder of aircraft cleaners is nonexistent, which means that the opportunities for economic self-sufficiency in that occupation are limited at best. Thus the goals of the policy—namely, economic self-reliance and sustainability—are hindered by the implementation of refugee job and living placements. In this way, U.S. refugee assistance resources aren’t being used as efficiently as they could be.

8.6 Comparison of Implementation of Ugandan and American Refugee Policies

Uganda’s active role in the global refugee crisis as the leading refugee host country on the continent of Africa plays into its interesting comparative qualities with the U.S.’s policy implementation. While it is true that the U.S. also plays an integral role in the refugee problem, leading the world in refugee resettlement cases, the difference in refugee populations between the two countries is staggering. Mr. Baryamwesiga explained the challenges of Uganda’s ability to implement its policies successfully as a global problem.

“The main challenge that I see is, when the rest of the countries sit back and watch. We are doing our part as an international community. So the role we are playing is because we are part of the world. The world sat and came up with a convention that we *all* signed and agreed that we would help. Other countries should not leave us to walk alone.”

(Personal Interview, 2017)

Interestingly enough, while Uganda’s policy is to settle refugees into camps and settlements, the country’s implementation of local integration efforts has demonstrated that the seclusion of refugee communities does not necessarily inhibit the refugee population’s interaction with local communities. In the U.S., it has been observed that, while refugees are resettled into residential areas within American neighborhoods, the local integration of these refugees has not been incredibly effective. Paradigmatic differences between the U.S. and Uganda can account for some of these variances. Uganda’s human development paradigm informs how its policies are implemented because this lens is overarching. The human development paradigm’s focus on removing obstacles to human development, such as inequality or a lack of resources, creates a general national acceptance of fighting for the equal treatment of refugees. Refugees aren’t necessarily conducive to America’s neo-liberal paradigm, which focuses on growth through economic enterprise. Because taking in large numbers of refugees would create the potential for overburdening public welfare systems that refugees heavily rely on, the implementation of the refugee cap policy is utilized so as to lower the economic burden that refugees impart on the United States.

In Uganda, the prevalence of a culture that is based in communal values creates opportunities for refugees to create bonds with local nationals. One resettled refugee in the U.S. explains that the individualism that is so pervasive in American culture leads to feelings of

seclusion and loneliness for resettled refugees. “[Other resettled refugees] just do factory, home, WhatsApp. Factory, home, WhatsApp, repeat. They are not involved. They always feel isolated. Their [physical] condition is good, but mentally they are depressed.” (Personal Interview, Refugee 1, 2017). One American volunteer who taught English to recently resettled African refugees in the U.S. voiced that, in her experience, refugees go through similar struggles. “There’s lots of isolation,” stated Addison Brown, who volunteered for the Pan African Association in Chicago for over a year. “[When you’re a refugee in the U.S.] you’re not with anyone you know, people look different, the customs here are different; it’s really hard. People don’t speak the same language, either. It’s one thing to know English, it’s another thing to go out and talk with native speakers,” (Personal Interview, 2017).

It makes sense that a refugee living in a country with liberal refugee policies would feel less isolated or alone. More generous policies towards refugees suggest that the overall national view, of both the government and the general population, concerning refugees would be positive. Emmanuel Kironde, a Senior Programs Officer for implementing partner of UNHCR InterAid Uganda, described refugees entering Uganda as “our brothers and sisters.” He went on to say: “There is no way to look at them as a burden.” (Personal Interview, 2017). One USAID report declares that the implementation of Uganda’s 70/30 policy represents a “national commitment” to creating better living conditions for refugee host districts as well as for refugees, and the policy “has contributed to the generally positive nature of relations between refugees and host populations” (Mathys, 2016). Polls of Americans’ feelings toward accepting refugees into the country show vastly different attitudes (See Figure 2) (Pew Research Center, 2015).

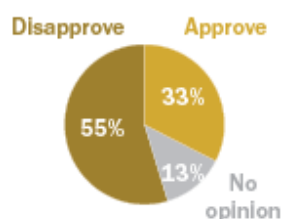
Figure 2:

Over the Decades, American Public Generally Hasn't Welcomed Refugees

% who say ...

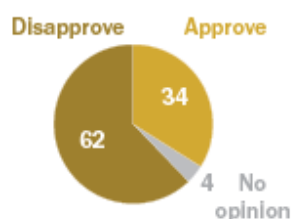
Hungarians, 1958

Would you approve or disapprove of a plan to permit 65,000 refugees who escaped the Communist regime in Hungary to come to the U.S.?



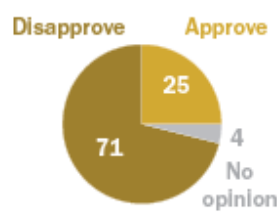
Indochinese, 1979

Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. gov't's plan to double the number of refugees from Indochina admitted, to 14,000 a month?



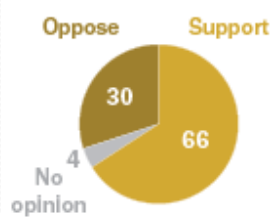
Cubans, 1980

Many refugees from Cuba have come to the U.S. recently. Do you approve or disapprove of allowing most of these Cuban refugees to settle in the U.S.?



Ethnic Albanians, 1999

Several hundred ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo have been brought to the U.S. Do you support or oppose the decision to bring them here?



Source: Gallup (Hungarians, July-August 1958; Albanians, May 1999)
CBS/New York Times (Indochinese, July 1979; Cubans, June 1980)

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It is evident that Americans throughout the years have been wary of global involvement, and this affects how the general population receives refugees and informs its lawmakers on refugee policy.

The contrasting policies between Uganda and America make a comparison of their implementation level difficult in many ways. It is apparent that both countries have a long way to go before their policy implementation has been perfected. However, the work that both Uganda and the U.S. do with refugees in the first place is admirable, and the implementation successes noted in each country shows that both nations are working towards comprehensive policy implementation.

9. Conclusions:

Refugee policies and policy implementation are beginning to play an increasingly large role in national development. Uganda's dwindling resources don't affect how the country creates its refugee policies, but they do affect how those policies are implemented. Refugees who flee to Uganda are faced with resource insufficiencies, specifically in the areas of economic funds and infrastructural deficiencies within established refugee camps and settlements. These resource shortages create problems for policy implementation concerning things like universal education and freedom of movement. Refugees in the U.S. face different, yet similarly pressing, challenges. American resettlement policies require that refugees spend over a year just to apply to be part of the resettlement process, and the screening processes added throughout 2017 will no doubt add time to that wait. Once refugees arrive in the U.S., the lack of coordination between specific resettlement processes can create dilemmas surrounding gainful employment and mental health in refugee communities.

The differences between U.S. and Ugandan refugee policies and their implementation imply that there are overarching differences between how the two countries understand their roles in the international community. The differences in policy represent the differences between each country in terms of development, as well as willingness to take responsibility for international crises. These policy differences specifically infer that there are absolute differences between each country's dominant, policy-informing paradigms. While Uganda voluntarily hosts over one million refugees, the U.S. is actively lowering its refugee cap so as to reduce any potential damage that refugees could incur on the country. This makes it apparent that Uganda feels the need to take responsibility for part of the global refugee problem, while the U.S. views its role in the matter as more isolationist. Therefore, these domestic policy implementation

differences between Uganda and America inform how each country interacts with the global community.

10. Recommendations:

1. The U.S. should focus more on refugees' occupational backgrounds when choosing resettlement locations, in order to fully maximize every refugee's economic potential. With the extensive background checks already being put in place by the most recent executive order concerning refugees, it only makes sense that these checks should be used to help refugees in their resettlement process. This would benefit the refugee community, in providing it with a more sustainable source of employment. It would also benefit the U.S., because refugees would have a larger ability to contribute to America's economy.
2. The U.S. should implement programs that promote the importance of taking in refugees to the public. Promoting refugees as a population that requires U.S. assistance could increase public acceptance of incoming refugee populations, as well as assist with local integration and reduce stigma. Locally integrating refugees into U.S. communities has not been effective, so speaking to the American public about these issues and creating more awareness for the global refugee crisis would be beneficial.
3. The U.S. should increase its refugee cap in order to cater to the increasing number of refugees in the world and to show that it takes the refugee crisis seriously as a nation. When countries like Uganda, which are cash-strapped and resource constrained, host 1.2 million refugees, it should make countries like the U.S. feel the need to step up to the international plate and take on more responsibility. America is a developed nation with

established resources, and it should take advantage of those resources by increasing its annual intake one of the most vulnerable populations in the world.

4. Uganda should call for increased international resource assistance to cater for its massive refugee population. Uganda's resource constraints could be alleviated in many ways by more international assistance than it currently receives. Just because Uganda has been taking in refugees for years, it doesn't mean that the country is better equipped to handle its large influx of refugees. If anything, the increase of the refugee population in Uganda over the years implies that more international aid should be sent to the country, in order to keep up with the demand.

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Appendices:

Appendix I: Sample Interview Questions for Ugandan Refugees

1. Basics: Country of origin? Age? Length of time spent in this camp/settlement?
Length of time spent in Uganda?
2. Was there any kind of orientation upon your entry to this settlement? If so, what were you told? Were you informed of your rights as refugees?
3. Have you ever experienced discrimination directly due to your status as a refugee?
4. Do you feel that you have adequate access to your basic human rights (i.e. food, water, shelter, education)?
5. Do you feel that you have access to free movement throughout Uganda?
6. Are you aware of anyone who has been turned away at Uganda's border when attempting to enter as a refugee?
7. What do you understand to be the largest challenge facing refugees in Uganda, and then more specifically in this settlement?
8. How would you assess the local integration between yourselves and the Ugandans living around you?

Appendix II: Sample Interview Questions for Ugandan Settlement Administrators

1. How many refugees currently reside within this camp/settlement? How many come in every day?
2. How many implementing partners work within this camp/settlement?
3. Do you provide refugees entering this camp/settlement with some kind of orientation? If so, what kind of information is relayed during that orientation?
4. How are refugees here made aware of their rights?
5. Are you aware of any discrimination within this camp/settlement? If there were to be some kind of discrimination, what is your policy on dealing with it?

6. Do you feel that refugees here are provided with adequate access to their basic human rights (i.e. food, water, shelter, education) that are guaranteed by the U.N. and by the government of Uganda?
7. Are refugees here given the option of having access to free movement throughout Uganda?
8. Are you aware of anyone who has been turned away at Uganda's border when attempting to enter as a refugee?
9. What do you understand to be the largest challenge facing refugees in Uganda, and then more specifically in this settlement?
10. How would you assess the level of local integration between this camp/settlement and the Ugandans living around it?
11. How would you assess the implementation levels of refugee policies in Uganda?
12. What do you think are the biggest challenges for implementing partners here?
13. How do you work with durable solution policies?

Appendix III: Sample Interview Questions for Ugandan Refugee Policy Administrators:

1. What are your organization's areas of specialization?
2. How many people work within your organization?
3. How do refugees access your services?
4. How are you funded?
5. What are the biggest challenges that your organization faces?
6. What would you say are the biggest successes your organization has accomplished?
7. How do you work with durable solution policies?
8. What do you think about the sustainability of Uganda's refugee policies?
9. What do you think are the biggest implementation hurdles for Ugandan refugee policies?


Appendix IV: Sample Interview Questions About American Refugee Policy:

1. How are you involved with refugees in the U.S.?
2. How do you understand the resettlement process?

3. How do you understand the employment process for refugees being resettled into the U.S.?
4. How would you assess the implementation levels of refugee policies in the U.S.?
5. What do you perceive to be the largest challenge facing refugees in the U.S.?
6. What do you think is the easiest part about being a refugee in the U.S. (compared to other countries)?
7. How have you perceived President Trump's most recent additions to refugee policy?

Appendix V: Map of Uganda

KEY:

 = Locations in which research was conducted

Appendix VI: Consent Form

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PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT FORM

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT TOPIC: Refugee Policies and Implementation

STUDENT NAME: Anna Feins

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this project.

My name is Anna Feins. I am a student with SIT Study Abroad Uganda program. I would like to invite you to participate in a study I am conducting. However, before you agree to participate in this study, it is important you know enough about it to make an informed decision. If you have any questions, at any time, please ask me. You should be satisfied with the answers before you agree to be in the study.

Brief description of the purpose of this study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate this country's refugee policies and the challenges they face in terms of their implementation. I am looking specifically at how challenges are perceived by those who work most closely with these policies.

Your participation will consist of voluntarily responding to various interview question and will require approximately _____ of your time.

There are no foreseeable risks in participating in this study and no penalties should you choose not to participate; participation is voluntary. During the interview you have the right to not answer any questions or discontinue participation at any time.

Rights Notice

In an endeavor to uphold the ethical standards of all SIT ISP proposals, this study has been reviewed and approved by a Local Review Board or SIT Institutional Review Board. If at any time, you feel that you are at risk or exposed to unreasonable harm, you may terminate and stop participation. Please take some time to carefully read the statements provided below.

- a. *Privacy* - all information you present in this interview may be recorded and safeguarded. If you do not want the information recorded, you need to let the interviewer know.
- b. *Confidentiality* - all confidential information will be protected.
- c. *Withdraw* – you are free to withdraw your participation in the project at any time and may refuse to respond to any part of the research. Participants who desire to withdraw shall be allowed to do so promptly and without prejudice to their interests

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant, you may visit the World Learning website and check its policies on Human Subjects Research at www.sit.edu or contact the Academic Director at 0779518546.

If you have any questions or want to get more information about this study, please contact me at phone: 0790871627 or email at: feins@bc.edu.

Please sign below if you agree to participate in this research study and acknowledge that you are 18 years of age or older.

Participants signature _____ Date_____ 2017

Researcher's signature _____ Date_____ 2017

Appendix VII: Signed Consent Form

ROBERT BARYAMWESIGA

Appendix VII: Consent Form

BIDA BIDA SETTLEMENT
COMMANDANT

SIT Study Abroad

School for International Training



OPM

PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT FORM

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT TOPIC: Refugee Policies and Implementation

STUDENT NAME: Anna Feins

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this project.

My name is Anna Feins. I am a student with SIT Study Abroad Uganda program. I would like to invite you to participate in a study I am conducting. However, before you agree to participate in this study, it is important you know enough about it to make an informed decision. If you have any questions, at any time, please ask me. You should be satisfied with the answers before you agree to be in the study.

Brief description of the purpose of this study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate this country's refugee policies and the challenges they face in terms of their implementation. I am looking specifically at how challenges are perceived by those who work most closely with these policies.

Your participation will consist of voluntarily responding to various interview question and will require approximately 30 min. - 1 hour of your time.

There are no foreseeable risks in participating in this study and no penalties should you choose not to participate; participation is voluntary. During the interview you have the right to not answer any questions or discontinue participation at any time.

Rights Notice

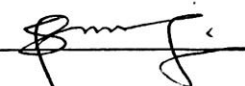
In an endeavor to uphold the ethical standards of all SIT ISP proposals, this study has been reviewed and approved by a Local Review Board or SIT Institutional Review Board. If at any time, you feel that you are at risk or exposed to unreasonable harm, you may terminate and stop participation. Please take some time to carefully read the statements provided below.

- a. *Privacy* - all information you present in this interview may be recorded and safeguarded. If you do not want the information recorded, you need to let the interviewer know.
- b. *Confidentiality* - all confidential information will be protected.
- c. *Withdraw* - you are free to withdraw your participation in the project at any time and may refuse to respond to any part of the research. Participants who desire to withdraw shall be allowed to do so promptly and without prejudice to their interests

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant, you may visit the World Learning website and check its policies on Human Subjects Research at www.sit.edu or contact the Academic Director at 0779518546.

If you have any questions or want to get more information about this study, please contact me at phone: 0790871627 or email at: feins@bc.edu.

Please sign below if you agree to participate in this research study and acknowledge that you are 18 years of age or older.

Participants signature  Date 11 Nov 2017Researcher's signature  Date Nov. 11th, 2017

Appendix VIII: Human Subject Review

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APPLICATION FOR HUMAN SUBJECTS REVIEW

The researcher has the primary responsibility to ensure safe research design and to protect human participants from all types of harm. Research that exposes human subjects to the risk of unreasonable harm shall not be conducted.

The Local Review Board (LRB) has the primary responsibility for determining whether the proposed research design exposes subjects to a risk of harm. If there is still uncertainty after the review, the Academic Director may solicit a full SIT Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Please read the following carefully, complete the attached form, and sign this agreement. Do **NOT** begin your research (including contacting potential research participants) until you are notified that your application has been approved.

Student Name: Anna Feins

Phone: 0790871627

Email: feins@bc.edu

SIT Study Abroad Program: Uganda Developmental Studies

ISP advisor's Name: Hellen Acibo

ISP advisor's contact (phone and email): (0)782 266 223, aciboelenna@gmail.com

Title of ISP: A Comparative Case Study of American and Ugandan Refugee Policies

ISP Site(s): Kampala, Yumbe

1. Brief description of the proposed project:

The purpose of this study is to evaluate this country's refugee policies and the challenges they face in terms of their implementation. I am looking specifically at how challenges are perceived by those who work most closely with these policies.

2. Data Collection: Brief description of human subjects' role in proposed research:

- a. Please indicate the number of participants by age and gender:**

- 1) 0 Children (under 18 years of age)
 - 2) 19 Adults (over 18 years of age)
- b. Does the study involve any vulnerable populations? If yes, please explain.**
- Yes. The study involves refugees currently living in the borders of Uganda, as well as refugees currently living within the borders of the United States of America. Refugees are popularly considered a vulnerable population.
- c. What are other relevant characteristics of participants including (but not limited to) institutional affiliation if any?**
- N/A
- d. If there is a cooperative institution, how was the institution's permission obtained?**
- While I was not specifically affiliated with any institutions via an internship, permission to conduct research in Bidi Bidi camp was obtained through submitting a research proposal to, and receiving explicit permission from, OPM.
- e. What will participants be asked to do and/or what information will be gathered? (Append copies of instructions, survey instruments, etc.)**
- See Appendices I through IV
- f. If participants are interviewed, will you conduct the interview yourself and, if not, who will? In what language(s) will participants be interviewed? Where will these interviews take place?**
- I will conduct the interview myself in all cases that involve participant interviews. If a participant does not speak English, I will utilize an interpreter and conduct the interview in the individual's native language to ensure the interviewee's comfort and use of precise language. Interviews of American officials and refugees will be conducted over the Internet via videochat. Interviews of Ugandan officials and refugees will be conducted in person.
- g. How many meetings will you hold with participants? (Will it become a burden to the participants of the research?)**
- I will hold only one meeting with each participant, creating as little burden as possible on the time constraints of the participants.
- h. Do participants risk any stress or harm by participating in this research? If so, why is this necessary? How will these issues be addressed? What safeguards will minimize the risks?**
- There are no known risks associated with participating in this research.

i. How are participants recruited?

Many of my interviews are with officials, such as directors of specific programs that deal with refugee policy and policy implementation. Those participants are recruited through contacting them and setting up specific interview dates. Focus group participants are chosen randomly, from going to various villages in the refugee camp and finding refugees who are willing to participate in the research. For focus groups, an attempt will be made to keep the sample randomized while controlling for some representation, i.e. a specific ratio of male to female respondents that is representative of the population as a whole.

j. How will you explain the research to participants and obtain their informed consent to participate?

See Appendix VI

k. If participants are minors or not competent to provide consent, how will it be obtained?

The informed consent of a legal guardian will be required in order for a minor to participate in this study. Similarly, if a participant is not competent to provide consent, the informed consent of a legal guardian will be required.

l. How will participants be informed that they can refuse to participate in aspects of the study or may terminate participation whenever they please?

During my explanation of the research, I will relay to the potential participants that this is a completely voluntary study. I will say that there is virtually no obligation to participate, and that if they do choose to participate, there is virtually no obligation to continue with the interview should they wish to stop. If I am utilizing a translator, I will speak with the translator beforehand and provide the translator with a script that details exactly how they should phrase that the potential participant is under no obligation to take part in the study (see Appendix).

m. How will you protect participants from feeling pressured to participate in the study due to any power differential?

I will explain to the participants that I am simply a student researcher, and I don't have any access to power that could help or hurt them. The fact that I am a student will be highly emphasized. I will also highlight that my research is purely for academic purposes, and it will not have any major impacts on government policies.

n. How might participation in this study benefit participants?

The potential benefits of this study include its ability to educate others on the challenges that the participants are facing, as well as its conceivable contributions toward informing future policy.

o. Will participants receive a summary of results or a copy of the ISP?

Participants will only receive a copy or summary of the ISP if they specifically ask for one.

p. Are participants compensated in some form?

Due to the high number of officials being interviewed, including multiple officials who work with the government through OPM, no compensation is given to participants, as it could be taken as a form of bribery.

3. How will the following be protected?

a. Privacy (protecting information about participants): Refers to an individual and their investment in controlling access to information about themselves.

All participants are provided with their own copy of the participant informed consent form (See Appendix VI). Thus, every participant has the ability to reach out to the researcher and learn what information is being published about himself or herself. All participants are informed that they may withdraw consent to participate at any time: before, during, or after their interview.

b. Anonymity (protecting names and other unique identifiers of participants):

Because this research focuses on a vulnerable population, all names and unique identifiers will be changed to protect anonymity, unless a participant provides explicit consent that his or her name can be used within the study.

c. Confidentiality (protecting data about participants): How is access to data limited? How data will be stored and for how long? Will it be used in the future and, if so, how permission for further use will be obtained? Will your ISP paper be accessible online?

4. Please discuss other details or procedures of the study that should be known by the Local Review Board:

I believe my research design meets the standards of the following Human Subjects Review category: ☐ Exempt ☐ Expedited Review ☒ Full Review

My research design may be EXEMPT because:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Research does not involve the participation of human subjects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research relies solely on the use of existing/archival data, documents, or records.

	Research involves the observation of public behavior only.
--	--

My research design may require an EXPEDITED review because the:

	Research involves individual or group contact in no risk/minimal risk circumstances and with non-sensitive topics, and does not utilize children or other vulnerable participants.
--	--

	Research involves non-sensitive topics and adult populations from gathered data from voice, video, digital or image recordings made for research purposes.
--	--

	Research involves non-sensitive topics and adult populations involving individual or group characteristics or behavior (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behavior.)
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	Research involves non-sensitive topics and adult populations involving surveys, interviews, oral histories, focus groups, program evaluations, human factors evaluations, or quality assurance methodologies.
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My research design may require a FULL REVIEW because:

X	Children or vulnerable groups are involved.
	Other (identify possible risks, sensitivities, etc.)

Please explain:

I have read and agree to comply with the SIT Study Abroad Statement of Ethics, SIT Human Participants Policy. Yes ☒ No ☐

By signing below, I certify that all of the above information (and that attached) is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I agree to fully comply with all of the program's ethical guidelines as noted above and as presented in the program and/or discussed elsewhere in program materials. I further acknowledge that I will not engage in ISP activities until my Academic Director has notified me that both my ISP proposal and my Human Subjects Review application are approved.

Anna Feins

Student's name (printed)

Student's signature

Date

**ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AS APPROPRIATE
(CHECK ALL THAT ARE ATTACHED):**

☒ ISP Proposal

☐ Recruitment letters or fliers

☒ Written Informed Consent form (see sample)

☐ Other(s) (please specify):

☒ Interview guides

☐ Survey instrument

☐ Instructions to informants

