



**UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

RESEARCH CHAIR ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT



*October
2025
Volume V
Issue I*



IDRC · CRDI

Table of Contents

<i>1</i>	Chair's Message
<i>2</i>	Coordinators Corners
<i>3</i>	Research
<i>3</i>	Writing Workshop
<i>4</i>	Publications
<i>5</i>	Reflections from the Fieldwork
<i>8</i>	Seminars
<i>9</i>	Training
<i>10</i>	Outreach in Kakuma Refugee Camp
<i>11</i>	Reflections from the Interns
<i>14</i>	National Policy Dialogue
<i>16</i>	Links, Collaboration, Network, Impact, Sustainability
<i>17</i>	Global South School of Thought
<i>18</i>	Impact - Knowledge Sharing with other Projects
<i>19</i>	New Board Members



Prof. Opportuna Kweka

**Chair
Research Chair on Forced
Displacement**

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The second semester of the third year has been fruitful and impactful with the climate change and displacement nexus project which compare Kenya and Tanzania taking off. The Chair continued with its activities of research in which members were supported to attend a writing workshop and produced papers for conferences and policy briefs for a policy dialogue. The focus of the fieldwork is also moving to the regional level with outreaches completed in Uganda and Kenya and now plans for fieldwork and later comparative papers on policies and empirical issues (legal, social, livelihood, environment, climate change and durable solutions). While the processing of permit is on-going in Uganda, it is completed in Kenya. The process of recruitment of researchers in Uganda is completed and it is on-going in Kenya, with plans to have 3 researchers from Kenya on refugee as 3 of them are already working in the climate and displacement while 8 researchers (for refugees in urban and rural, climate drought and floods and development induced displacement) in Uganda are ready waiting for the permit. Six interns from Kenya all of which with lived experience of

displacement 3 from Kakuma and 1 from Daadab Refugee Camps and 2 from Nairobi as urban refugees) were supported and hosted by the Danish refugee Council, Lutheran World Federation and Refugee Led Research Hub of Nairobi respectively. One postdoctoral from Uganda has also been recruited and added to the team. The regional research team is consisted of 72 active members. The Interns have delivered different outreaches from awareness on rights to employment and business to child protection and parenting in Kakuma refugee camp. Plans are underway for 3 special publication in journal, book and the Compendium of the Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement which is a result of seed money from IDRC-Carleton University for enhancing collaboration of the 12 research chairs funded by the IDRC. More outreaches are planned in Rwanda and Burundi in year five, 2026-2027. The two research projects conducted at the Chair on refugees and climate change have emerged as the first and the second winners respectively at the Unit level competition of the University of Dar es Salaam.

COORDINATORS CORNERS

Message from the Internship and outreach Coordinator



Saumu Ibrahim

Internship and outreach Coordinator

Our outreach and internship activities in Kenya were successfully conducted this year as planned. This marked a particularly special milestone, as we were fortunate to recruit and support six interns—all of whom were refugees based in Kenya. Through their placement, they made meaningful contributions to the lives of fellow refugees in the Kakuma and Dadaab camps. In turn, the internship and outreach engagements offered valuable opportunities for the interns to gain new knowledge, refine their skills, and grow both personally and professionally.

These achievements would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our esteemed partner organizations. We extend our deepest appreciation to the **Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH)**, the **Lutheran World Federation (LWF)**, and the **Danish Refugee Council (DRC)** for hosting and mentoring our interns so generously.

In parallel, I had the privilege of coordinating students supported by the Chair across various academic levels. While the students supported last year have made remarkable progress, we also acknowledge the continued need to strengthen our academic pipeline. We are currently in the process of recruiting qualified candidates from Uganda to fill the remaining Master's and PhD positions. We remain confident that the Chair's capacity-building initiatives will have lasting impact—not only on the interns and students directly involved, but also on the broader communities they are part of and serve.

We look forward to another productive year and remain deeply committed to fostering refugee- and internally displaced-led scholarship, while promoting inclusive and transformative academic growth.

Message from the Seminar Coordinator



Glory Lymo

Seminar Coordinator

From January to June 2025, the Research Chair on Forced Displacement hosted an engaging series of seminars that offered an important platform for dialogue, reflection, and knowledge exchange on key issues in displacement. These seminars, organized under the Chair's leadership, covered topics such as refugee mobility, cultural preservation during relocation, gendered impacts of externalization policies, and the complex realities of integration, social protection, and refugee return in the Great Lakes region. Each session deepened our collective understanding of displacement dynamics while enhancing the Chair's role as a center for promoting evidence-based research and policy engagement.

In addition to our internal seminars, members of the Chair actively participated in webinars organized by the Local Engagement Refugee Research Network (LERRN) at Carleton University. These engagements connected us to global conversations on displacement, situating our experiences and research within broader South and South–North dialogues. The webinars highlighted Global South perspectives on climate change, refugee leadership, gender, geopolitics, and the realities of internally displaced persons (IDPs). By engaging with these sessions, the Chair strengthened its international collaborations and ensured that voices from the Global South remain central in shaping global debates on forced displacement.

Together, these activities reaffirm the Chair's commitment to fostering inclusive, cross-regional, and interdisciplinary conversations that inform scholarship and practice in displacement studies.

Research



Two of the projects conducted under the chair namely Strengthening Knowledge Evidence Use and Leadership in Forced Displacement and *'Understanding society-centred resilience to Climate Change, Conflict and Displacement: Focus on East Africa'* won the first and the second position as the best research in the College.



WRITING WORKSHOP

AT CONSOLATA MISSION CENTER CONDUCTED 3rd - 4th APRILY 2025

The workshop was attended by 7 participants from the research chair on forced displacement. The participants were Prof. Opportuna Kweka, Prof. Kamanga, Dr. Robert Katikiro, Dr. Richard Mbunda, Dr. Saumu Mwashu, Ms. Naishie Stayle and Mr. Mussa Kasimu.



Publications

Discourses on Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health of Forced Internally Displaced Persons

Ignasia Paskal Mbatta

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-8279-1007>

Department of Sociology, Unit of Psychology, University of Dar es Salaam

Email: sembatta2019@gmail.com, mbatta.ignasia@udsm.ac.tz

Abstract

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has risen at an unprecedented rate in recent years, resulting in profound psychological, social, and economic consequences for affected populations. This study provides a comprehensive exploration of the unique challenges and needs experienced by IDPs, synthesising existing literature to offer critical insights for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers striving to improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of forcibly displaced persons. Employing a qualitative discourse analysis (DA) approach, the study critically examines how psychosocial vulnerabilities among IDPs are constructed, represented, and contested within academic, policy, and humanitarian narratives. It draws upon a range of discourses, including national and international policy documents (e.g., reports from UNHCR, IOM, the Tanzanian government, and humanitarian NGOs), academic literature (peer-reviewed journals and scholarly reports), and public communications (news articles, advocacy texts, and press releases). The analysis centres on key themes such as psychosocial well-being, post-traumatic stress disorder, and the multifaceted challenges and potential opportunities arising from forced displacement. Findings reveal that forced displacement generates both immediate and long-term adverse effects on the mental health and well-being of displaced persons and host communities. Women, children, and other highly vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by the loss of livelihoods, protective services, social networks, and shelter, factors that intensify psychosocial distress. The study advocates for the integration of mental health and psychosocial support into relocation and displacement planning, emphasising the need to restore dignity, resilience, and hope among displaced populations.

Keywords: Forced Relocation; Internally Displaced Persons; Psychosocial Well-Being; Mental Health; Vulnerable Groups.

Tanzanian Journal of Population Studies and Development, Vol. 32 No. 1, 2025: 34-56

Pre-displacement Psychosocial Well-being Among Planned Displacement: The Perspectives of Msimbazi Basin Residents in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Ignasia Paskal Mbatta*

Abstract

Over the past few decades, development-induced displacements have become increasingly prevalent across developing countries, including Tanzania. However, the psychosocial impacts of these displacements remain under-explored in academic discourse. This article investigates the lived experiences of communities facing planned displacement in the Msimbazi River Basin, employing Cernea's impoverishment risks and reconstruction (IRR) model as a theoretical framework. Data was collected in October 2023 through an exploratory qualitative design, incorporating in-depth individual interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, documentary reviews, and field observations. The findings reveal that, in the absence of a comprehensive resettlement plan and adequate compensation, planned forced displacement significantly undermines the psychosocial well-being of the affected. It dismantles traditional modes of production, fractures social networks, erodes cultural identity; and compromises livelihoods, homes, and environments attuned to residents' skills and practices. These disruptions foster a profound sense of loss and dislocation, heightening the risk of mental health challenges and deepening impoverishment among displaced populations. The article concludes by emphasizing the critical need for inclusive planning processes in development projects. Ensuring community participation, fair compensation, structured resettlement, and accessible psychosocial support are imperative to mitigate the long-term adverse effects of displacement, and to uphold human dignity.

Keywords: development-induced displacement, psychosocial well-being, mental health, forced relocation, Cernea's IRR model.

Kweka, O., Katikiro, R., Rikanga, M. D., & Lyimo, G. (2025). Challenges of the Mandate Syndrome: Climate Change and Humanitarian Funding Regimes. *Utafiti*, 20(1), 33-52.

<https://doi.org/10.1163/26836408-15020109>

Abstract

Climate change and displacement are two major global challenges today. Climate change has led to displacement, and sometimes displacement causes deforestation which has been widely recognised as a contributor to climate change. Despite these manifest connections between the crises of forced displacement and abrupt climate change, there has been little effort to link these two in the humanitarian responses we researched. The Nduta camp in Kibondo district of the Kigoma region in Tanzania hosts the large scale protracted Burundian refugee community. Due to the lack of substantial collaboration between the respective funding regimes addressing the refugee crisis and the climate crisis, ongoing programmed activities result in poor humanitarian support and deteriorating climate-adaptive practices in the forests near the camp. A unified, combined funding regime is one approach that will allow funding agencies to address these two interdependent challenges effectively.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELDWORK

Reflection
#1

Harvesting hope: Migration, conflict, and resilience in Mkuyuni

Robert Katikiro

In the heart of Kasulu District, Mkuyuni hamlet is undergoing a profound transformation. Over the past decade, waves of Sukuma agro-pastoralists have migrated to the area, drawn by its relatively fertile land and access to water—resources that have become increasingly scarce in their home regions. For many, the move is not one of choice but necessity, as erratic rainfall, shrinking grazing lands, and resource competition push them away from their ancestral homes. “Back home, we waited for rains that never came. Here, we can farm and keep our cattle,” explains a female youth, who relocated from Geita in 2017.

One of the most unexpected findings during the fieldwork was how deeply social dynamics have shifted due to this migration. While conflicts over land and resources were anticipated, what stood out was the way roles of women have been transformed. Traditionally, Waha women were primarily engaged in farming, but with increasing pressure on land, they have been forced to find alternative livelihoods. Some have ventured into livestock trade, a field previously dominated by men, while others have become more involved in market activities. “Before, we had space to farm without worry. Now, we compete for land with newcomers, and it is getting harder,” shared one female farmer from Mkuyuni. However, adaptation has been key, and for some, migration has opened new economic doors.

Beyond economic shifts, the complexity of integration was another striking discovery. While tensions exist, particularly between herders and farmers over land encroachment, a sense of coexistence is gradually emerging. Intermarriages between Waha and Sukuma, market collaborations, and the sharing of farming knowledge are fostering a new cultural mix. Kasulu district community development officer noted, “There is simply not enough land for both farming and grazing, and without proper planning,



tensions will continue to rise.” Yet, even amid conflicts, the communities are finding ways to live together, though not without struggles.

Perhaps the biggest lesson learned from this research is that climate-induced migration is not just about movement—it is about adaptation. The newcomers are not just passive migrants; they reshape the economic and social structures of the places they settle in. In Mkuyuni, they have introduced ox-plowing techniques, expanded rice farming—previously uncommon in Kasulu—and stimulated local cattle markets. While this has boosted economic activity, it has also deepened land scarcity and heightened the need for clear land-use policies.

The story of Mkuyuni is just one example of how migration is reshaping rural Tanzania. The challenge is no longer whether migration will continue—it will—but how communities and policies can adapt to it. Without structured interventions, both host communities and migrants risk long-term instability. The question remains: how can rural landscapes sustain both their people and the growing pressures of migration?

In Defence of the Indigeneity of Tanzania's Maasai Pastoralists in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Richard Mbunda

Richard Mbunda, a post-doctoral fellow at the Chair of Forced Displacement, had the opportunity to attend the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) conference in Toronto Canada, from 3rd June to 6th June 2025, which was held at the University of Toronto. Mbunda presented a paper titled “In Defense of the Indigeneity of Tanzania’s Maasai in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.” The theme for the conference was: “Making, Unmaking, and Remaking Africa.”

Mbunda argues that, the past three decades have witnessed repeated land-use conflicts between Maasai pastoralists and conservation authorities in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), which is UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere Reserve; Mixed World Heritage Site; and Global Geopark, but allows multiple land use arrangement. For reasons related to conservation, the government, as recently 2022, made a decision to relocate the pastoralists to other areas, which had alarmed many stakeholders including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In its statement, the Forum called upon the government of Tanzania to comply with, inter alia, the provisions recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and ensure the rights of the Maasai communities to participate in decision-making on matters related to their land, resources, their lives and territory. Impliedly, the Forum regarded the Masai of



the NCA as indigenous communities. However, the government of Tanzania has unswervingly refused to recognize and accord the NCA pastoralists this status. Using qualitative data, Mbunda’s paper discusses the status of Maasai pastoralists in accordance with the criteria provided by the UNDRIP and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR). It is concluded in the paper that, Maasai in the NCA, are indeed indigenous peoples and a forceful eviction from their habitual territory to areas that do not support their cultural lifestyle is tantamount to subjecting them into cultural genocide. Mbunda recommends not only recognition of the NCA pastoralists as indigenous peoples, but also adopting a policy that caters for the interests of indigenous communities during relocation and resettlement.

REFUGEE LEGAL PROTECTION IN TANZANIA: WHAT IT TAKES TO PERFORM

Leonard Chimanda Joseph



With the law that remains unchanged since 1998, the Tanzania landscape of legal protection of refugees in camps remains with protracted challenges. These include strategic legal ambiguities and contradictions, potentially unenforceable rights, lack of parent Act's guiding Regulations, and limited space for legal rights awareness among refugees. While these challenges may primarily be attributed to the host state, the global decline of international cooperation and more particularly decline of funding, has made the state unable to simultaneously deal with the wellbeing of both nationals and non-nationals.

The above narrations emanate from fieldwork conducted in November 2024 collecting data pertaining to two and the only remaining camps in Tanzania Nyarugusu and Nduta. While Nyarugusu is composed of both Congolese and Burundians, Nduta is composed of Burundians alone. It is recommended that the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, 2018 especially on operationalizing the principle of international cooperation and responsibility sharing should be incorporated in the global refugee policy and practices especially in prioritizing support in terms of equitable funding and capacity to countries that have hosted large number of refugees for a long time. This may lead to improvement of the livelihoods and wellbeing of refugees that are hosted in developing countries including Tanzania. While the principle of international cooperation has been threatened by the USA (the leading donor country) potential withdraw from global refugee funding, still the remaining countries can leverage their available resources to effect the principle.

The legal protection narratives of Tanzania represent majority of states in the Global South something that signifies the continued North-South power dimensions that trace their origins from colonialism.

SEMINARS

SEMINAR REPORT FOR THE RESEARCH CHAIR ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT – JANUARY-JUNE 2025

As part of its commitment to deepening scholarly engagement and policy dialogue on issues of forced displacement in the Global South, the Research Chair on Forced Displacement at the University of Dar es Salaam organized a series of thought-provoking seminars between January and June 2025. These seminars brought together leading academics, practitioners, and displaced community voices to interrogate the intersections of gender, geopolitics, environmental justice, integration, leadership, cultural identity, and refugee return. From comparative analyses of refugee leadership to the gendered impacts of externalization policies and reflections on integration in protracted displacement settings, the sessions created a platform for inclusive, interdisciplinary, and Southern-led conversations.

The table below provides an overview of the seminars held during this period:

S/N	Title	Presenter	Date
1.	Refugee Mobility in Africa: Evaluating Migration Policies and Humanitarian Solutions for Inclusive, Safe, and Free Movement	Edith Sherura	11 th Feb 2025
2.	Cultural Preservation in Relocation Planning: Insights from the Msomera Maasai community	Naishiye Stanley	11 th Feb 2025
3.	Women in Environmental Conservation and the Use of Renewable Energy	Prof. Kweka Dr. Casiana Lwiwa Dr. Saumu Mr. Rikanga	7 th March 2025
4.	Understanding Integration: Perspectives from Refugees and Hosts in Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp	Gordon Ogutu	25 th March 2025
5.	Social Protection in the Context of Marginalized Women	Flora Myamba	8 th April 2025
6.	Transforming the gendered impact of externalization policies for the protection of forcibly displaced persons	Prof. Mary Setrana	29 th April 2025
7.	Refugee Return to Burundi: Land Conflict, Identity & Protracted Displacement	Stephanie Schwartz	27 th June 2025

Members also took part in other seminars organized at the Chairs levels

S/N	Title	speakers	Date
1.	Global South Perspective on Displacement	Prof. Opportuna Kweka Andrew Hopper Dr. Desiree de Rosario-Sosa Dr. Amal El-Wasif	30 th Jan 2025
2.	The Politics and Process of Refugee Leadership: A Comparative Analysis of Factors Conditioning Refugee Leadership in the Global South	Dr. Stephanie Lopez Villamil Dr. Ronald Akaldiang'o Lublín Preto Mohamed Hassan	6 th Feb, 2025
3.	Global South Perspectives on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)	Paula Gaviria Betancur Abebaw Minaye Hiram Ángel Houwayda Matta Sawsan Abdulrahman	13 th Feb, 2025
4.	Gender, Geopolitics and Forced Displacement: Global South Perspectives	Prof. Susan Martin Prof. Paula Banerjee Prof. Mary Setrana	27 th March 2025

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC

Refugee Mobility in Africa: Evaluating Migration Policies and Humanitarian Solutions for Inclusive, Safe, and Free Movement

PRESENTER
Edith Sherura
Programme Officer
International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI)

Date: 11th February, 2025 | Time: 04-05 PM (EAT)

Scan the QR code to join the meeting

Hekima ni Uhuru
www.udsm.ac.tz



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC

Refugee Return to Burundi: Land Conflict, Identity & Protracted Displacement

PRESENTER
Stephanie Schwartz
Assistant Professor
Department of International Relations,
London School of Economics and Political Science.

Date: 27th June, 2025 | Time: 16:00-17:00 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code to join the meeting

Hekima ni Uhuru
www.udsm.ac.tz



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC

Transforming gendered impact of externalization policies for the protection of forcibly displaced persons

PRESENTER
Prof. Mary Boatman Setrann
Director
of the Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, and IDRC Forced Displacement Chair for West Africa.

Date: 29th April, 2025 | Time: 16:00-17:00 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code to join the meeting

Hekima ni Uhuru
www.udsm.ac.tz



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
College of Social Sciences (CoSS)
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE USE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT: WITH A FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

SEMINAR TOPIC

Social Protection in the Context of Marginalised Women

PRESENTER
Flora Myamba, Ph.D.
Senior Specialist for Social Protection and Gender
Women and Social Protection Tanzania

Date: 8th April, 2025 | Time: 16:00-17:00 Hours (EAT)

Scan the QR code to join the meeting

Hekima ni Uhuru
www.udsm.ac.tz



TRAINING

The Chair's capacity-building initiatives are implemented through a combination of internship programs and research funding support for Master's, PhD, and postdoctoral positions. Six refugee interns have been recruited four males and two females and placed in three organizations working on issues related to forced displacement. Chieng Banpieny Wuol working with Refugee Led research Hub (RLRH) in Nairobi, Salumu Dominic Asani working with Danish refugee Council (DRC) Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, Fatuma Valerie Kahambwe working with (RLRH), Ernest Oburak Abel working with DRC. Dominic Wani Luka working with DRC, Deko Gaiye Shahow Lutheran World Federation (LWF). In the pictures is also the postdoctoral researcher, Joseph Opul.

Strengthening knowledge, evidence use and leadership in the global south on forced displacement: with a focus on East Africa

Interns and Postdocs for 2025-2026

 Chieng Banpieny Wuol Bachelor of Development Studies with IT at Masena University Placement: Refugee led research Hub in Nairobi, Kenya	 Salumu Dominic Asani Bachelor of Art in Sustainable Development (BA-SD), Xavier Institute of Management University, India Placement: Danish refugee Council in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya	 Fatuma Valerie Kahambwe Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Media Studies at University of Nairobi Placement: Refugee Led Research Hub in Nairobi, Kenya
 Ernest Oburak Abel Bachelor of Arts in Sustainable Development (BA-SD) at XIM University in India Placement: Danish Refugee Council in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya	 Dominic Wani Luka Bachelor of Arts in Sustainable Development at XIM University and Diploma in Liberal Studies at XIM University Placement: Danish refugee Council in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya	 Deko Gaiye Shahow Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Language, Culture, and Teaching, York University, and B.A. Student, Faculty of Educational Studies, York University Placement: Daadab camp in Kenya

Post Doctoral Candidate

Dr. JOSEPH OPUL (Ph.D.)
Doctor of Philosophy (Education) at Makerere University,
Master of Education in Educational Foundations at Makerere University
And Bachelor of Arts in Education at Makerere University

OUTREACH IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP

The Chair travelled to Lawdar to conduct outreach in Kakuma refugee camp and Kaleboyei settlement in Northern Kenya.



Assessment of intern in Nairobi hosted by the refugee Led- Research Hub of Kenya



A seminar with youths in Kakuma refugee camp on rights to work and business



Interns and outreach facilitators in Kakuma



Interns in Kakuma refugee camp



Katarina and Dominick in a parent seminar on parenting



Children in Kakuma outside after the seminar on child protection



Katarina in a session with student on child protection

REFLECTIONS FROM THE INTERNS

#1 Enhancing Learning Support for Displaced Learners in a Refugee education Context

Geko Gaiye Shahow



Pupils in Daadab camp assisted in reading by our intern Geko

During my internship at unity primary school in Dagahaley refugee camp, I had the chance to engage with displaced learners from diverse backgrounds, many of whom had faced trauma, language barriers, and interrupted schooling. My role included classroom support, observing teacher practices, and assisting in learning activities. I quickly realized that language was one of the biggest barriers for many learners while some other pupils struggled to understand classroom instructions in English or Kiswahili, especially in lower grades. I supported teachers by helping translate simple instructions and using visual aids during lessons and also setting up interactive reading sessions using stories that reflected learners' realities, which increased their interest and participation at classroom level.

What I'm proud of was helping to organize small group discussions for struggling with learners to improve reading, writing, speaking, revising topics, and also questions about name this and so on. These sessions created a safe space for learners to ask questions and catch up on content at their own pace. I also participated in guiding learners during creative activities like storytelling and drawing, which helped them express emotions and build

confidence. From my observations, many teachers were dedicated but overwhelmed by the too much workload. Class sizes were large, and there was little time for individualized attention, and as well most of the teachers have not been trained. Learners who needed extra help often got left behind, many learners also lacked consistent parental support at home due to displacement, poverty, language gaps, or living with relatives (guardians).

I would have recommended, more teacher training on how to support multilingual and traumatized learners in refugee set up since most of the teachers are direct from class, the Provision of learning materials in mother tongue for early grades, and as well as an increasing parental and guardian involvement through regular sensitization meetings since some learners are about to dropout school due to lack of parental support at home.



Story telling time in Daadab

May marked the beginning of my internship journey with the Research Chair on Forced Displacement of the University of Dar Es Salaam through its project titled “Strengthening Knowledge, Evidence Use and Leadership in the Global South on Forced Displacement: with a focus on East Africa” at the Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH). Throughout the month, I was introduced to the Basic Research Skills core aspects of research on forced displacement and immersed in practical learning experiences. I actively participated in weekly team meetings and training sessions focused on qualitative research skills and transcription.

Within the first month of my ongoing internship at the Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH), I have realized a learning of relevant skills and a better start to my learning journey in acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary to my professional goal of becoming a researcher in future, particularly in the field of research on forced displacement matters. Throughout this internship, I have honed a range of essential professional and research skills that have significantly enhanced my effectiveness in academic and organisational settings. I developed strong basic research and transcription skills, enabling me to accurately process and analyze qualitative data. My presentation and notetaking abilities improved through regular research pillar team meetings and knowledge-sharing sessions, helping me convey ideas clearly and capture key discussion points. I also gained professional communication skills, learning the art of writing effective emails and choosing appropriate communication channels. Training on the use of AI in research and understanding plagiarism equipped me with ethical and efficient research practices. Additionally, I strengthened my time management, goal setting, and accountability, ensuring I met deadlines and stayed aligned with project objectives. Finally, I participated in outreach and event planning, which sharpened my organizational and logistical coordination skills, particularly in preparing for stakeholder engagements and community-focused events.

To sum up, this internship has been a transformative experience, equipping me with foundational research skills and exposing me to ethical research practices rooted in lived refugee experiences. This internship is more than work, it’s a learning journey. From the

complexities of qualitative research to the nuances of ethical storytelling in displacement, I’m gaining not just skills but perspective. Therefore, being embedded in refugee-led research spaces isn’t just about learning, it’s about unlearning assumptions and reimagining research through lived experience.”

Bridging Gaps in Child Protection: An Internship Experience

Dominic Wani Luka

I recently finished a child protection internship with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Kakuma Refugee Camp as part of the University of Dar es Salaam’s Research Chair on Forced Displacement. I was able to hone my professional abilities and gain firsthand experience with humanitarian programming.

As part of my job, I had to record new child protection cases, visit foster children and children with disabilities in their homes, and gather support from vulnerable families and foster parents. Along with supporting teen pregnancy awareness classes for both boys and girls, I also helped distribute academic and material support and led recreational activities in kid-friendly areas. In order to help close communication gaps in case management, I also provided translation services between Arabic and English.

I gained useful abilities in case documenting, community mobilization, facilitating psychosocial assistance, and intercultural communication as a result of these assignments. Language problems, a lack of transportation for field trips, and the requirement for more organized psychosocial care for kids and teenagers were some of the difficulties I encountered during my internship.

All things considered, this internship was a life-changing educational experience. It strengthened my enthusiasm for working with displaced populations and improved my comprehension of child safety in humanitarian settings. I am appreciative of the Danish Refugee Council and the University of Dar es Salaam for providing me with the chance to participate and gain knowledge via practical fieldwork.



Salumu Dominic Asani
Organization: Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
Humanitarian Disarmament and Peace
building (HDP)

When I was an intern in the HDP department of the Danish Refugee Council in Kakuma, I learned to regard myself as a knowledgeable learner into becoming a competent field facilitator. The orientation and the weekly interactions helped me realize that true peace building must start with the element of trust that is created by the virtue of presence, active listening, and respectful communication. There was one occasion that touched my heart when I assisted a four-member Burundian family to repatriate as refugees. The hope and dignity which they had, made me remember that peace is not only the absence of violence, but also the recuperation of the humanity.

In my outreach about legal rights and inclusion in the economy, I passed my message to more than 40 young and women of various nationalities here in Kakuma refugee camp. We talked about reaching employment and business opportunities, and that was where we focused on legal documents and social empowerment. The discussion with the great input and interest-inspiring questions supported the necessity of awareness in the displaced environments. This outreach event that was attended by Prof. Opotuna as our guest of honor promoted

the idea that knowledge is power particularly in the displaced cities. It was an honor and privilege to be given the responsibility to co-host this session.

I was also involved with conflict resolution too, domestic conflict, theft related conflict and water point sourced conflict. There was this one instance with a girl below 18 years, who was pregnant and her parents were about to marry her. We were able to negotiate her right to education and safety through debates with local leaders and protection officers and I think it is paramount to note why the child protection is so important in humanitarian setting.

Also, I observed the manner in which climate change instigates conflict in communities. The lack of water and firewood because of the long periods of droughts has created conflicts among neighbors. All these problems are environmental issues that require immediate solutions and locally based sharing of resources.

The internship has helped me understand that listening is the way to peace and service is the core of leadership. I am also adamant on helping the vulnerable groups in society by providing knowledge, protection, and peaceful co-existence, in order to make even stronger communities in the future.” Asani Salumu Dominic”

National Policy Dialogue

The Chair also conducted a fruitful policy dialogue on the 20th of June 2025, World Refugee Day; which was attended by members of the Government of Tanzania from the refugee Department, Prime Ministers Office, Ministry of gender and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. The officer received the policy briefs and respond to the recommendations. As we move to the regional level it is the plan of the Chair to engage more with the East African Community where the research will input into the regional policies on refugees and other climate displacement comparative research on issues of legal and social rights such as education, environmental and climate change issues and mobility of pastoral communities.



Mr. Mbonea talking about the refugee policy in Tanzania looking is a representative from the European Union



Dr. Saumu Ibrahim presented on those affected by climate change gut do not move



Mr. Darius from the office of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MCDGWSG), Tanzania



Dr. Veronica, from Law, explaining on the right of quality education to the refugees



From left is Dr. Ibrahim Akilimali from KINNAPA and Ms. Asimwe from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries





LINKS, COLLABORATION, NETWORK, IMPACT, SUSTAINABILITY

One of the two major achievements of the Chair is its linkages with the IDRC's funded Chair in the Horn of Africa and upscaling of activities to have a collective voice at the regional and global levels. At the regional level, the Chair has joined a network of researchers from the East and Horn of Africa who are working on displacement. The network was established in April 2025 and it will be hosted at the Addis Ababa University.



GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

At the global level is the establishment of the Global South (Critical) School of Thought on Displacement which was organized in collaboration with the Chairs from Thailand, Addis Ababa and Mexico. With a three day webinar with more than 52 scholars who attendance 44 presentations, the School makes one of the remarkable achievement of the Chairs. In May 2025, the four chairs met in Addis to compile the introduction chapter which will be published together with the papers from presenters in a compendium. pave a way for the Global South (Critical) School of Thought on Forced Displacement. We thank Carleton University and IDRC for the seed money to establish the School. The school will be a continuous engagement between the Chairs beyond the IDRC funds and will rotate from one region to another.

Towards a Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement

**Webinar,
May 7-9, 2025**

Day 1: Asia, 7th May
Day 2: Africa, 8th May
Day 3: Latin America, 9th May



**BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS
AND
ABSTRACTS**



ISBN 978-9976-5355-3-2

Towards a Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement



**Webinar
May 7-9, 2025**



Prof. Paula Barnerjee
IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, the Asian Institute of Technology - Center on Gender and Forced Displacement (India)



Prof. Abebaw Minaye
IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)



Prof. Hiram Angel Lara
IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, University of Guadalajara (Mexico)



Prof. Opportuna Kweka
IDRC's Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement, University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)

SCAN THE QR CODES TO REGISTER

Day 1: 7th May 2025



Day 2: 8th May 2025



Day 3: 9th May 2025



IMPACT -

KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH OTHER PROJECTS

MECMEA PROJECT

Our chair was invited to MECMEA project (Managing the Impact of Environmental Change and Conflict on Mobility in Eastern Africa Through Evidence-Based Inclusive Policy Dialogue and Collaborative Action in Ethiopia 29th of may 2025.



MAPS PROJECT

The Chair was invited to give a key note speech in conference organized by the project title a project titled MAPS Migration and Displacement Action Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa (MAPS)

Climate mobility Africa Research network

Decolonising the Climate Mobility Discourse: Towards a Global South School of Thought on Forced Displacement (90 mins)

Climate Mobility Africa Research Network
Réseau de Recherche sur la Mobilité Climatique en Afrique

- **Dr Oluwatoyin Adejowo (CHAIR)**
Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, and CMARN Co-Chair
- **Professor Opportuna Kweka**
East Africa Research Chair on Forced Displacement, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- **Professor Paula Banerjee**
IDRC Endowed Chair on Gender and Forced Displacement and Director, Centre on Gender and Forced Displacement, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
- **Professor Hiram A. Ángel Lara**
Chair of Forced International Migration, Inclusion, and Human Rights at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico
- **Professor Ademola Jegede**
Director, Ismail Mahomed Centre for Human and Peoples' Rights, University of Venda, and CMARN Steering Group

IMPACT – USE OF OUR RESULTS BEYOND THE CHAIRS ACTIVITES

One of our member Dr. Ignatia Mbatta presented the Tanzania Psychological Association results of her findings on those displaced by development activities.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Njoki Wamai and Dr. Eunice Akullo



Dr. Eunice Akullo
Uganda



Dr. Njoki Wamai
Kenya

The Chair has recruited two new board members 1 from Kenya and 1 from Uganda Dr. Njoki and Dr. Eunice Akullo, following expansion of the work to these regions and the need to ensure gender representation in the board.

Eunice Akullo (P.hD) has garnered teaching experience at various universities in Uganda. She currently works as a lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Makerere University. Her areas of teaching experience include refugees and internal displacement; peace, and conflict; and security studies.

She holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences (Makerere University); a postgraduate diploma in Refugee Law and Forced Migration (Makerere University), a master's in International Politics and Security Studies (University of Bradford, UK) and a PhD in Politics and International Relations (University of Southampton).

Akullo has researched humanitarian communities such as internally displaced persons and children born to formerly abducted children. She participated in a UNOHCR – led research on the transitional justice needs of IDPS in northern and Eastern Uganda before they returned to communities after 2005-2006 attempted peace talks. While working as an intern with UNDP (Lira) she participated in a return needs assessment in preparation for the return of IDPs to their former localities. Her PhD research was on the integration of children born to formerly abducted females. Hence, much of her research experience and interest cover issues of women and children in conflict-related-situations.

Njoki Wamai, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the International Relations Department at the United States International University-Africa (USIU-A). She was a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Governance and Human Rights (CGHR) at the Politics and International Studies Department at the University of Cambridge. She completed her PhD in politics and international studies as a Gates Cambridge Scholar in Cambridge University.

Her current research focus is on Gender and Climate Change, Women, Peace and Security, Women in Politics, the Politics of Transitional Justice. Njoki has previous degrees from Kings College London's African Leadership Centre (ALC and the University of Nairobi.

She has published book chapters and articles with Oxford University Press, Brill, Routledge and Zed Books on Women, Peace and Security, Transitional justice, international intervention, Kenyan Politics, Mediation and using feminist, postcolonial and decolonial approaches. She has recently edited with others a special issue on Youth and Transitional Justice in the International Journal of Transitional Justice 2022.



University of Dar es Salaam
College of Social Sciences
Department of Geography
Research Chair on Forced Displacement

Contact

Prof. Opportuna Kweka
Chair, Research Chair on Forced Displacement
Office Number 210
Geography Department, IRA Building
kweka@udsm.ac.tz
+255 763 677 254

Ms. Marium Msambya
Research and Administrative Assistant
Office Number 213
Geography Department, IRA Building
Maryhmsambya09@gmail.com
+255 759 812 936