

Life After Displacement: A Study of Refugees in a Nigerian Refugee Camp

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ABSTRACT Very few studies have been conducted on refugees. Still very few or none have focused on their life pattern and coping strategies in their new environment. This study was therefore conceived to address these issues. Specifically, the paper addressed the socio-demographic characteristics of refugees, and life in their new environment. With a sample of two hundred and sixty five refugees, eight indigenes and two officials of the refugee camp, data were collected through the use of questionnaire and in-depth interview method. Some of the major findings of the study include the fact that most of the refugees are males, possess primary and secondary level education, and are engaged in various economic activities to augment the relief materials supplied by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Furthermore, relationship with indigenes is nothing beyond economic relationships. Refugees also suffer from all kinds of illnesses but mostly malaria and some are also afflicted by sexually transmitted diseases. When ill however, they patronize the camp clinic for treatment.

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