

**CONTRIBUTION OF CONTEXT-SPECIFIC COMMUNITY SECURITY
INNOVATIONS TOWARDS WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN KAKUMA REFUGEE
CAMP, KENYA**

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of Master of Science in Governance, Peace and Security Studies in the Department of
Governance Peace and Security Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences of
Africa Nazarene University**

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work, and it has never been presented at any other institution of higher learning for any academic honor.


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This research project is submitted with our consent as university supervisors.


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DEDICATION

This study project is dedicated to my family, who have been my strongest support throughout my academic career, as well as my work as a humanitarian worker has inspired me to succeed.

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ABSTRACT

Refugee women face heightened vulnerabilities to gender-based violence, exclusion from leadership and lack of access to security mechanisms, globally. The overall research objective was to explore the contribution of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. Specific research objectives included: to examine the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment; to assess the extent to which context-specific community security approaches contribute to socio-economic empowerment of women; and to identify the challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context-specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment in Kakuma refugee women. The study was grounded on Empowerment and Feminist Security theories. The study adopted a descriptive research design and targeted 127,670 women in Kakuma refugee camp from which 383 respondents were sampled using Krejcie and Morgan formula. Multistage, simple random, and purposive sampling techniques were used. Primary data was collected using structured questionnaires for refugee women and semi structured interviews for community leaders, humanitarian staff and security actors. Secondary data was collected from UNHCR Microdata Library and governmental and national statistics. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS version 27.0. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percent, mean, standard deviation) presented data summaries while inferential statistics (Pearson's Correlation Coefficient, Independent Samples t-test, and Logistic Regression) used to test study hypotheses at 95% confidence level. Qualitative data was coded thematically and presented in narrative form and verbatim quotations. The results showed that there was a positive relationship between the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment where empowerment levels varied significantly depending on the nature of community security approaches ($t = 2.119, p = 0.035$). Similarly, context-specific community security approaches significantly contributed to socio-economic empowerment of women ($F=217.336, p < 0.05$) with the results indicating that approximately 69.7% ($R^2 = 0.697$) of the variance in women's socio-economic empowerment could be explained by these community security variables. Finally, there were significant challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation of context-specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment ($\chi^2 = 46.403, p < 0.05$). The study concluded that the delivery of context-specific community security innovations is a predictor of women's empowerment in refugee camps. Thus, for protection of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp and for their empowerment, policymakers and humanitarian actors should develop a gender-responsive community security system which enables women involvement and removes cultural and structural barriers while securing ongoing financial support through collaborative partnerships with numerous stakeholders.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Community Security:	The general security procedures and practices that relate to the safeguarding of the Kakuma refugee camp community and acquisition of its safety and welfare.
Community:	People at the Kakuma refugee camp having some characteristic in common with one another, capable of association or united in any interest, or group of persons living near to one another and occupying the same home locale.
Context Specific Community Security:	Security measures and practices at Kakuma refugee camp like functionality of women's protection groups, inclusion and participation, perceived safety and freedom from violence among others, that are imposing to address the security needs and conditions of a designated community in a particular context.
Context:	Refers to specific circumstances, conditions and factors including its social, economic, cultural, and environmental aspects which influence and affect Kakuma refugee camp in which a certain event or situation occurs (Liscio et al., 2022).
Context-Specific Security Strategies:	Refers to context-specific security strategies that are based on the socio cultural, environmental and institutional dynamics (Liscio et al., 2022).
Context-Specific:	Refers to unique characteristics and needs of a particular context or environment (Liscio et al., 2022).
Empowerment:	Process of allowing women at Kakuma refugee

camp to possess more agency and confidence, as well as access to resources, as a way to enable them to make decisions to improve their lives.

Gender-Based Violence:

Harmful acts or threats that are targeted at people in Kakuma refugee camp, based on their gender, most commonly at women because of power imbalances and systemic inequalities.

Innovations:

Refers to new and inventive ways, means, or techniques which lead to substantial improvement or change (Alzoubi et al., 2025).

Involvement:

Refers to active participation and engagement in community activities or initiatives (Rijal, 2023).

Security:

Refers to measures and practices undertaken to safeguard the safety of individuals and communities (Omotunde & Ahmed, 2023).

Women:

Refers to female individuals, typically considered as a demographic group within a Kakuma refugee camp community (Westkott, 2024).

Women's Empowerment:

Refers to the specific event or process and outcome of increasing women's ability to choose and to transform the choices into the desired actions and outcomes as well as ability to influence and control their own lives (Sen et al., 2023).

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU:	Africa Union
GBV:	Gender-Based Violence
IRC:	International Rescue Committee
KNBS:	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
NACOSTI:	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UN:	United Nations
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WPS:	Women, Peace and Security

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The study sought to assess the influence of women empowerment through innovating context-specific community safety approaches in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. The chapter provides the study's background material, problem statement, objectives and research questions, significance, scope, limitations, assumptions, and delimitations. The chapter also presents a theoretical framework and a conceptual framework.

1.2 Background of Study

Women empowerment and community security are issues of great concern to the world and with a lot of dedication made on women's safety and empowerment led by the United Nations in development of different initiatives and frameworks. The UN Habitat's Global Assessment on Women's Safety underlines that women in general, and especially the poor and urban women in developing countries, live with pervasive risks in public and private spheres, and therefore require more inclusive design of urban areas and delivery of public services, in order to make them safer (UN Women, 2021). Innovative and context-specific community safety measures functionality of women's protection groups, inclusion and participation, perceived safety and freedom from violence among others have played an important role in empowering women, especially in refugee contexts where standard security frameworks sometimes miss gender-specific concerns. These policies are aimed at addressing the specific issues that displaced women confront, such as gender-based violence (GBV), limited mobility, and exclusion from decision-making processes (Donnelly & Muthiah, 2019). These projects provide women safer settings, legal and emotional assistance, and chances for participation in security governance by incorporating culturally relevant and locally driven solutions (Shenoy et al., 2021).

As humanitarian organizations become aware of the unique vulnerabilities and the immense potential women have as agents of change, women's empowerment in refugee camps is becoming a growing focus across the world. For instance, in Jordan's Zaatari Refugee Camp, the activities by UN Women and other NGOs have established 'women's centers' whereby refugee

women receive skills training, literacy programs, and also a safe space to undertake social and economic empowerment (Jaber & Nashwan, 2022). In addition to improving women's capacity, these centers also decrease women's reliance on aid to initiate small businesses such as tailoring and beauty services (UN Women, 2021). Similarly, according to Agrawal and Hossain (2021), the international effort to assist Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar has consisted of programs aimed at women providing psychosocial support, vocational training (including embroidery and tailoring), and leadership development. Protection from and promotion of gender-based violence (GBV) and promotion of community resilience (UNHCR, 2024) are described as requiring empowerment. Yet, changes have not come easy particularly due to cultural norms, lack of funding, and insecurity, at times, limiting the reach and the impact of empowerment initiatives. Okunade et al. (2024) note that these global efforts seek to promote women's full participation in social development and safe cities for women are good cities for everyone.

In Africa, women empowerment through community security approaches is particularly relevant considering that Africa is a unique continent in terms of the socio-cultural dynamics and challenges. Refugee camps in Africa demonstrate particular problems in that they are protracted, and that infrastructure is weaker, but targeted women's empowerment programs have been promising there as well. Several studies have proven that education, economic participation and political inclusion are important strategies in empowering women in African societies (Okunade et al., 2024). For instance, in South Africa, GBV policy changes, social initiatives, and support services are essential for enabling women's empowerment and safety (Ochman & Ortega-Díaz, 2020). Nonetheless, across Chad's Dar es Salam Camp, home to Nigerian refugees fleeing Boko Haram, UNHCR and IRC run livelihood programmes that help women gain agricultural skills and access to markets to boost food security and economic independence (Rohwerder & Szyp, 2022). As such, gender equality and women's empowerment are core drivers for achieving sustainable development on the continent as stated in the African Union's Agenda 2063. These are indications of the increasing recognition that gender perspectives are needed to be integrated in community safety and development processes, in order to advance social and economic development goals.

According to Betts (2021), women's empowerment remains one of the areas where Uganda is often referred to as a global leader in progressive refugee policies. This is implemented through the Settlement Transformative Agenda through the integration of refugee women into the local economy by the Ugandan government in collaboration with NGOs such as CARE and Oxfam. Vocational training, governance structures and micro finance programs are all part of the women's participation in BidiBidi refugee camp in Uganda, the largest refugee settlement in Africa. One of these initiatives is "Women's Empowerment Centres" where women receive skill building in agriculture, soap making, tailoring, and financial literacy (Betts, 2021).

In Kenya, Dadaab, once the largest refugee camp complex in the world, hosts predominantly Somali refugees. Organizations like the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), CARE International and UNHCR have implemented women's empowerment programs. Other projects included education and literacy projects for girls, GBV prevention, and small business training among other things. In Kakuma refugee camp, organizations such as the Danish Refugee Council, Jesuit Refugee Service, UNHCR run programmes specifically targeted at women such as education, entrepreneurship, leadership training and GBV prevention. However, women still suffer increased dangers of gender-based violence and have restricted access to resources and opportunities. Research indicates that women in Kakuma face a number of security threats including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and lack of access to justice (Kantai, 2021). Despite these security measures having also been adopted by foreign humanitarian groups, research conducted by Betts, Bloom, and Omata (2014) indicates that security measures implemented lack fit with local cultural settings and do not bridge these implementation gaps. Additionally, structural inequities and deeply entrenched social norms continue to limit women's engagement in community driven safety work and prevent them from exercising agency for defining and implementing security policies and interventions (Lwamba et al., 2022).

Nonetheless, empowerment functions as a complex system which helps women develop their abilities to make choices by themselves while also gaining control over social and economic resources and affecting policy decisions. The research by Okunade et al. (2024) establishes that empowerment involves both personal freedom and institutional changes which empower women to participate in all areas of society. The researchers Nche and Epsé Mbongo Endeley (2023)

explain that empowerment in displacement situations extends past basic survival needs by focusing on how women develop abilities and self-assurance to build their own futures. Women who face displacement experience enduring social inequalities which continue to affect their lives as refugee camps restrict their ability to make choices (Donnelly & Muthiah, 2019).

Displacement leads to increased danger for women through sexual violence and forced marriage and economic challenges which makes women's empowerment essential in refugee camps (Donnelly & Muthiah, 2019). The limited access to financial, medical, and educational resources among refugee women creates conditions which enable their exploitation and maintain patriarchal systems that force them into subordinate roles (Almakhamreh et al., 2022). Hanmer et al. (2024) describe true empowerment as requiring methods which boost women's abilities and leadership roles and governance participation rather than simply providing protection. As a result, interventions must focus on literacy, economic opportunities, vocational training, and leadership development programs in order to give them the tools they need to improve their rights and change security structures in refugee camps. This research points to the requirement of participatory frameworks in which women are actively engaged in the development, implementation, and evaluation of security initiatives that remain in tune with refugee populations' experience of reality. This paper therefore looks at the contribution of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

In an ideal humanitarian environment, refugee camps would indeed be not only spaces of protection, but also of empowerment and self-reliance. In such contexts, women are regarded as agents of change instead of as recipients of aid. In this vision security expands beyond physical to social, psychological and economic. For refugees, community security innovations when locally developed and contextually appropriate would be adapted to the particular needs, social mores, and status hierarchies of the community. The development of these initiatives would have been co created by the men and women in the camp, with inclusive participation, community trust and long-term transformation (UN Women, 2020).

Yet the ideal is violently disrupted in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. Although the

camp has received more investment in women focused programs, most of them are externally designed and culturally detached, and are therefore ineffective and unsustainable (Turner & Swaine, 2023). Moreover, from the women and girls who live in Kakuma Refugee Camp, more than 60% of them experience safety concerns in the public space while less than can 30% access official security services (Citaristi, 2022). Likewise, the World Bank report from 2022 shows that refugee women face employment rates which exceed 70% thus they remain economically helpless while facing higher risks of exploitation. Additionally, the top-down approach that is used in many of the security programs also degrades the voices of women in the decision-making process, which results in failed solutions that do not resonate with women's lived realities (Lwamba et al., 2022; Zetterqvist, 2019). The present data shows that security systems together with empowerment structures continue to experience fundamental structural deficiencies. The current study thus examined the contribution such innovations made to reducing insecurity and increasing women's agency in Kakuma refugee camp.

1.4 Overall Research Objective

To explore the contribution of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

1.4.1 Specific Research Objective

- i. To examine the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.
- ii. To assess the extent to which context specific community security innovations contribute to socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.
- iii. To identify the challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation of context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment at Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

1.5 Research Hypotheses

- i. **H₀₁:** The is no significant relationship between the nature of context-specific community security innovations and women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

- ii. **H02:** Context specific community security approaches do not significantly contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.
- iii. **H03:** There are no significant challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The research advances the knowledge base about how women achieve empowerment through displacement by studying multiple social obstacles which include cultural barriers, security threats, and gender discrimination. The research reveals two main aspects of refugee women's empowerment obstacles and offers effective solutions which need to be adapted to local conditions for use in humanitarian operations. The research contributes to academic discussions and policy development regarding gender-sensitive security measures in refugee environments through its focus on participatory methods which include displaced women in decision-making roles.

The research is significant as it supports the development of refugee policies which should back up female leadership and empowerment in security governance systems. Traditional security systems used with refugees tend to keep women out of decision-making roles which determine their personal safety and protection. The inclusion of gender-sensitive policies by humanitarian organizations together with legislative bodies will create a more inclusive and strong community safety system which acknowledges both women's safety requirements and their role in community protection.

The research provides specific suggestions to eliminate systemic barriers while showing how to build better security governance through legal reforms and targeted development programs for women. Organizations need to take strategic steps which will break down structural obstacles and build capacity programs while creating inclusive policies to boost women's involvement in security governance. The first step to remove systemic obstacles requires dismantling patriarchal systems together with structural barriers which stop women from joining security decision-making processes. The implementation of inclusive legislation requires

organizations to create gender-responsive policies which establish formal security responsibilities for women.

1.7 Justification of the Study

Dravena (2019) defines justification as the purpose for doing a study. This study fills an important academic gap at the intersection of gender, security, and refugee studies. Most of the published work on refugee camps has been the humanitarian response, basic service, delivery and protection from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) from a top-down perspective (Krause, 2015). Yet there is virtually no scholarly attention paid to bottom up, locally specific security innovations, including what effect these innovations may have on women's empowerment. In Kakuma as in other protracted displacement settings, an academic question revolves around local, culturally grounded models of community safety that empower women by enhancing mobility, voice in decision making, and access to public space. Additionally, this study contributes to the field of feminist security studies, which redefine security as not just physical protection but also includes emotional, psychological and social well-being (Shepherd, 2010). The research closes the gap between empowerment theory and real-life practice of security innovations in humanitarian settings by linking the concepts to how security innovations enable or hinder women's agencies.

This study offers responses from a policy perspective to a number of national and international frameworks that seek to enable gender equality and security within displacement contexts. The Republic of Kenya is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, The Global Compact on Refugees and has adopted the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2020–2024) (UNHCR, 1951; Republic of Kenya, 2020) with an emphasis on the role of women in peacebuilding and protection. The study also fits with Sustainable Development Goal 5's aim to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. However, while these commitments have been made, there is a policy implementation gap in refugee contexts, such as Kakuma, where women face systemic barriers including to safety, participation, and access to justice. The study results provide evidence which helps create policies through its analysis of how security systems based on community involvement affect women's everyday lives and their ability to gain power. The research findings guide humanitarian organizations together with local

authorities and refugee-led groups to develop practical advice for combining gender-responsive protection methods with community-based security systems.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The study's scope definition by Creswell and Creswell (2017) describes how researchers should determine their research subject boundaries. This research targeted to analyze how specific safety measures implemented by communities affected the empowerment process of women who lived at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. The study analyzed how refugees used specific safety initiatives to boost their safety while gaining more control over their choices and their complete self-determination. The researcher studied different community-based programs which included women-led safety patrols and security planning with public involvement and peer-based support systems to fight against gender-based violence and other security problems. The researcher selected Kakuma Refugee Camp as a case study which provided a complete understanding of how social and economic and security factors affected women's ability to gain power in this area. The study was done between May to October 2025. This period is selected because it provides opportunity to examine the trends and developments of community security innovations that affect the empowerment of women. This is a part of the time frame of the post implementation period for transforming key policy shifts and humanitarian strategies influenced by COVID and evolving gender sensitive programming (UNHCR, 2021). Besides, it guarantees the relevance and reliability of data for academic analysis within a dynamic and the current research context.

1.9 Delimitations of the Study

Delimitations of a study are characteristics of the research that restrict the study to what the researcher does not include (Miles, 2019). This research focused on women's empowerment through context-specific community safety initiatives in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The study focuses entirely on Kakuma, omitting other refugee camps, to give a thorough and contextually appropriate review of safety solutions in this specific location. The study further focused on developing safety solutions which local communities could create through women-led security programs and protection programs that involved community participation and safety networks built at the community level. The researcher distributed questionnaires to refugee

women for as the main data collection process besides interviews with vital participants from humanitarian agencies, local security groups, and leaders of women-led organizations. The research examined security-related programs which governments launched during the previous ten years to determine their usefulness for current security threats and public safety strategies. The research findings might apply to other refugee settlements but different social structures and political systems in these areas probably limit their usefulness when applied outside of Kakuma.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

According to Miles (2019), research limitations represent the various obstacles which researchers must solve while they conduct their research projects. The combination of various demographic groups, different governance systems, and humanitarian programs in Kakuma does not show how women experience life in other refugee camps and urban displacement areas. The researcher further encountered other obstacles that included participants literacy levels, language limitation, and unwillingness to give some information around personal security issues including gender-based violence which then hindered effective data collection efforts. Likewise, some women participants stayed silent about their experiences due to their concerns about losing their anonymity and getting harmed hence a challenge to gather enough data.

Among the ways to overcoming the limitations, the researcher developed a background framework which included innovative safety methods for particular communities to address the study's existing restrictions. The researcher broke down the study topic with help from local research assistants who specialized in handling language limitations. The researcher explained to respondents why the study needed their participation to create an environment of trust which would result in obtaining precise information. The researcher explained all research objectives together with operational methods and participant rights and data management practices during the research process. The researcher promised all participants that their personal information together with their answers would stay secret while the study would report results through anonymous data presentation. Despite the listed limitations, the research findings demonstrate how community-based safety methods help refugee women develop their personal empowerment even though the study contains certain constraints.

1.11 Assumptions of the Study

Creswell & Creswell (2017) asserts that assumptions are so fundamental that the research topic cannot be addressed without them. Thus, it was assumed that all respondents who engaged in the study were familiar about innovative context-specific community safety initiatives, and that their literacy levels allowed them to submit the necessary data for the study. The researcher further assumed ongoing context-specific community security innovations had an impact on women's empowerment. Further, it was assumed that participants had a contextual understanding of what security and empowerment mean within the setting of Kakuma Refugee Camp, even if their definitions differed from academic or policy-oriented definitions.

1.12 Theoretical Framework

In this study, Empowerment Theory and Feminist Security Theory provided a theoretical framework for understanding the link between women empowerment and innovate context-specific community safety approaches.

1.12.1 Empowerment Theory

Empowerment Theory offers a conceptual framework for comprehending how people and communities take charge of their lives, stand up for their rights, and engage in decision-making. According to (Peterson, 2014), the theory proponent asserts that empowerment is a continuous process that helps marginalized groups increase their self-efficacy, leadership potential, and collective power rather than just a final result. The theory functions at three interconnected levels: the individual level, wherein one's own self-assurance, consciousness, and abilities are cultivated; the organizational level, wherein establishments implement inclusive frameworks that encourage involvement; and the community level, wherein group advocacy and mobilization contest established power structures (Peterson, 2014). Social sciences and development studies have established empowerment theory as their foundation yet critics attack its vague concepts and its failure to produce actual change and its ability to support current power structures.

However, the term "empowerment" faces criticism as it describes too many things which prevents researchers from measuring its impact and implementing it successfully in different situations. Research (Scarborough & Cornwall, 2016) shows that empowerment projects which receive outside funding tend to support paternalistic approaches through their implementation of predetermined solutions which block groups from achieving real self-determination. The

empowerment theory further faces criticism as it focuses too much on personal control while ignoring the deep social obstacles which include economic inequality, built-in discrimination, and power structures that block disadvantaged communities from gaining enduring empowerment (Lwamba et al., 2022).

Despite these criticisms, the empowerment theory continues to serve as a vital framework for the current study which helps understand and support gender equality through methods that include both personal and social transformation approaches which work in specific local environments. The theory provides a structured approach which demonstrates how women at Kakuma refugee camp move from receiving aid to actively shaping their community's safety and leadership systems. Nonetheless, the Empowerment Theory fails to recognize how gender-based power systems and established social inequalities affect individual empowerment potential. To mitigate this challenge, the researcher used the Feminist Security Theory which analyzes women's actual life experiences together with their experiences of institutional discrimination and security systems that shape their empowerment results.

1.12.2 Feminist Security Theory (FST) Theory

Feminist security theory (FST) studies the way gender shapes conflict patterns and security threats which lead to violent situations. Security requires a human-centered approach which includes gender perspectives according to FST although conventional security theories tend to focus on states, military operations, and male viewpoints (Turner & Swaine, 2023). J. Ann Tickner the proponent of Feminist Security Theory supports it by opposing the realist and neorealist security approaches which excluded women's security governance knowledge and their vital role in security governance throughout history. The theory promotes security concept expansion to include protection against gender-based violence, human security needs, and conflict-related political economy issues (Turner & Swaine, 2023). The academic community has developed FST through studies which demonstrate how gender-based power dynamics shape security decisions and affect women who experience conflicts during both active combat and peace periods (Hanmer et al., 2024).

The field of security studies experienced major changes as Feminist Security Theory

(FST) established new knowledge which demonstrated how men and women experience security differently while challenging the dominant state-focused security approach. However, it has been chastised for its apparent lack of empirical rigor and strong moral orientation, which some scholars claim favors advocacy over objective analysis (Turner & Swaine, 2023).

However, the critics of this theory argue that the broad security definition which FST uses contains personal and social and structural insecurities which might reduce its analytical strength and block its application in current security systems (Ekanayake et al., 2023). The main security ideas which FST opposes face criticism from particular scholars as the theory does not produce specific policy recommendations which mainstream security organizations would accept (Turner & Swaine, 2023).

Even though FST focuses on women's experiences in insecure situations, it might not include enough about how local people and circumstances influence refugee life in Kakuma. Much of the feminist theory's focus on country-specific patriarchy which overlook grassroots innovations and community-led security adaptations that contribute directly to women's empowerment in localized, culturally nuanced ways. Nonetheless, Feminist Security Theory (FST) is extremely pertinent to this study since it changes the emphasis away from traditional, state-centered security measures and toward human-centered, gender-responsive tactics that address the unique vulnerabilities of refugee women. FST reveals the systemic disparities and patriarchal norms that sustain insecurity in displacement contexts, providing a key perspective for understanding the need of context-specific, community-driven safety solutions in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

1.13 Conceptual Framework Model

This section establishes the context in women empowerment through innovating context-specific community security approaches in Kakuma refugee camp can be understood. Nature of context-specific community security innovations, extent to which community Security approaches contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women, and challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation community security innovations that promote women's empowerment form the independent variable as shown in Figure 1.1 Also, from the

figure, the dependent variable which is women empowerment is presented and the possible confounders of intervening variables which is government policy.

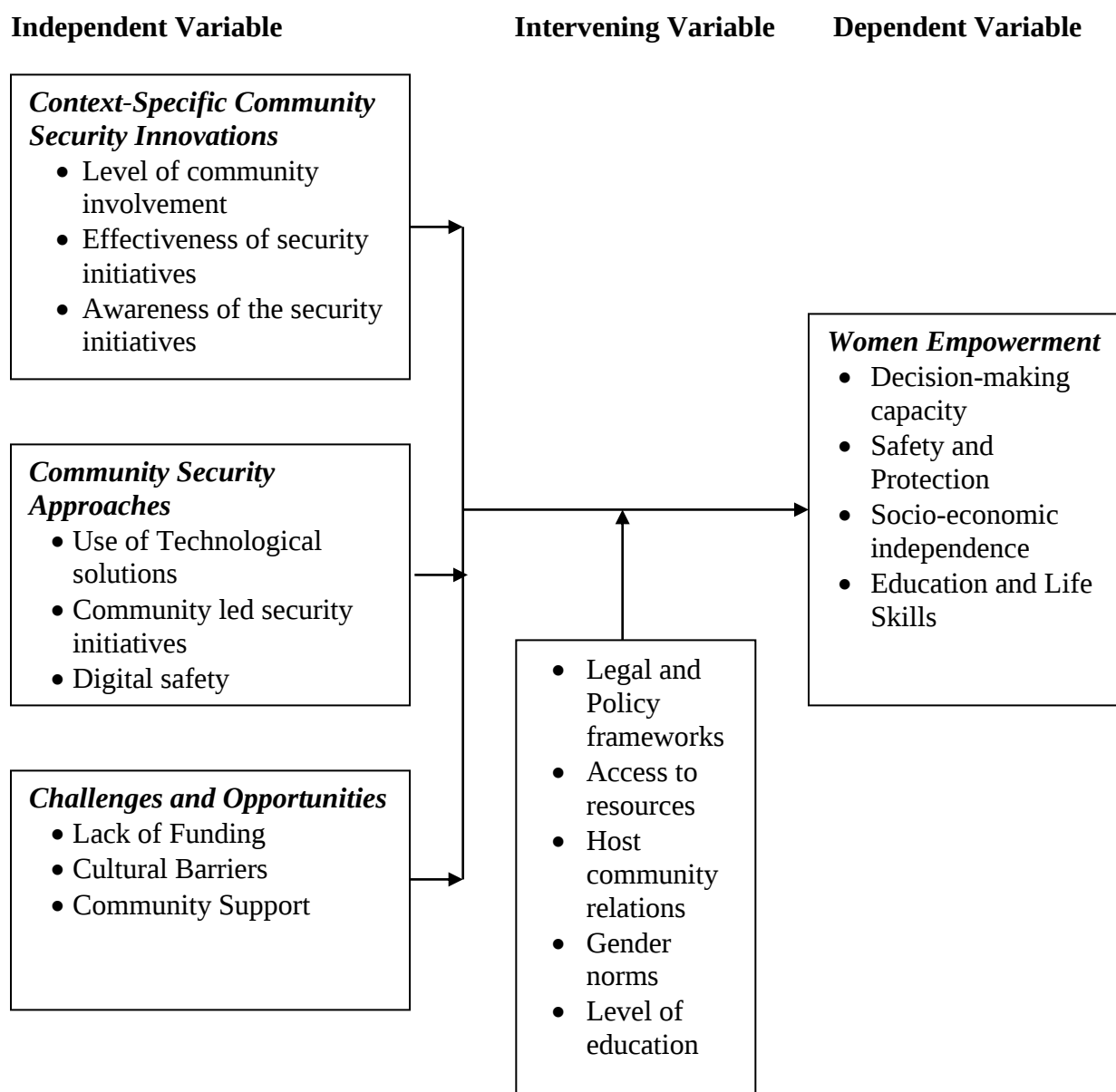


Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework Model

Source: Researcher (2025)

The conceptual framework shows how context-specific community security innovations help women become more empowered in Kakuma Refugee Camp by creating a protected space that lets them make choices and become self-sufficient economically. The combination of

technological solutions with community-led initiatives through these innovations improves security systems and digital protection which strengthens social empowerment and economic opportunities for women to obtain education and health services and community support more efficiently. The transformation process receives additional support from legal systems that work well with host communities yet faces obstacles because of persistent gender stereotypes which slow down progress toward total protection and self-sufficiency for refugee women.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature on women's empowerment through innovative context-specific community security approaches from a global, regional, and local viewpoint. It also summarizes related literature and identifies research gaps.

2.2 Review of the Empirical and Conceptual Studies

Several researchers have already conducted study and based their findings on global, regional, and local perspectives on women's empowerment through innovative context-specific community safety approaches across the world. This section examines existing literature on three variables: nature of context-specific community security innovations, extent to which community security approaches contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women, and challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya that improve women's leadership and agency in security-related issues.

2.2.1 The Nature of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations

Context-specific community safety initiatives are critical for enhancing women's leadership and agency in security-related issues, especially in vulnerable and conflict-prone environments. These techniques aim to address specific dangers by incorporating cultural, economic, and political variables into safety interventions, ensuring that women are not passive recipients but active participants in security governance. Security solutions which match local area needs provide specialized defense systems that protect particular regional threats while they enable complete community participation and individual empowerment. The United Nations Development Programme (2022) report presents three global methods which includes community policing, participatory surveillance, and grassroots protection networks used to build trust while maintaining accountability and enhancing the ability to serve women and vulnerable populations. Likewise, the security systems of Sub-Saharan Africa established new technologies developed to connect different defense systems in areas that experience fragile situations and refugee influxes (African Union, 2021).

In the Kenyan community, established policing methods together with local peace committees create better ties between citizens and security organizations which result in enhanced public safety (National Crime Research Centre, 2020). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that women-led protection groups together with reporting systems and NGO programs work to prevent gender-based threats while they support women in Turkana County and Kakuma Refugee Camp (UNHCR, 2023). Women achieve empowerment through these new technologies as they create better security measures and open doors to financial and communal resources which also allow women to make their own decisions. Women who have achieved empowerment work to maintain community security through their active participation which creates a positive cycle between empowerment and community safety. According to Skjelsbæk (2016), when women take on leadership positions in security initiatives, community trust increases, conflict resolution improves, and gender-based violence decreases.

Despite Kakuma Refugee Camp having achieved multiple accomplishments yet women still face major barriers which block their access to resources because of patriarchal systems, insufficient government backing, and limited financial resources (Sultana et al., 2018). The security participation of women requires enhanced support through training programs which teach their culture and through official systems and prolonged community-based initiatives that match the needs of refugee populations.

Bulley (2014) conducted research about refugee camp governance systems in Jordan refugee camps titled "Inside the Tent: Community and Government in Refugee Camps." The study's primary aim was to look at how humanitarian actors have used the notion of "community" as a means of regulation and keep control over the conduct of camp governance. The study used a critical discourse analysis methodology to draw on Foucauldian theories of governmentality and biopolitics and then to deconstruct the framing of "community participation" by analyzing humanitarian policy documents, institutional texts and theoretical literature. The research shows refugee camps operated as political zones which used community-based language to establish their managerial systems through top-down control. The systems

which allowed people to participate in decision-making maintained existing power structures which gave them the appearance of controlling hidden systems but did not help refugees become independent. The authorities used refugees as instruments for control instead of recognizing their right to self-determination.

Bulley (2014) further presented a strong theoretical analysis in his study but did not show any actual proof regarding how refugees used or built these governance systems to protect themselves and gain more control of their lives. This gap was filled by the current study involving the empirical investigation of context specific community security innovations in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The current study explored how refugee women actively work within and adapts to community security systems, providing practical and gendered lessons about how governance systems can limit or aid empowerment of women in refugee settings.

Similarly, Hanmer *et al.* (2024) studied Women's Voice and Leadership in Decision-Making: Assessing the Evidence from Humanitarian and Development Contexts. The study reviewed the evidence in a global context from countries in Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The main objective of this study was to assess how much women's participation in decision making in humanitarian and development fields played a role in the more inclusive, equitable and effective outcomes. The study also aimed to determine the structural and cultural barriers to the women's leadership in these contexts. The authors develop a systematic literature review methodology applied to more than 70 empirical and theoretical studies from many areas and programmatic evaluation studies. The findings showed that women's presence on leadership structures like peace committees, camp governor bodies & community forums often increased gender sensitive and inclusive outcomes, but gender biases and restrictive social norms and tokenism were complacent barriers. In most refugee settings women were underrepresented in the most important decision-making structures and leadership was often symbolic rather than substantive.

The study by Domingo et al. (2015), however, did not focus on how women in refugee camps promote community security innovations, and specifically via localized, context-specific mechanisms. This gap is addressed by the current study, which explored how refugee women in

Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, are engaged in or leading security innovations to address the specific safety need of women. It expands the gender and governance discourse with empirical data from the context of a refugee camp, and it concentrates on women's agency in shaping protection responses.

Furthermore, Easton-Calabria and Pincock (2018) studied Refugee-led Social Protection, Reconceiving Refugee Assistance, examining how refugee led initiatives provide alternative and complementary lines of social protection within displacement settings. The study was done in Uganda and Kenya to understand the ways in which refugees organize their own support mechanisms when formal humanitarian assistance is absent or severely limited. The main aim was to demonstrate and reframe refugee agency in the process of designing and delivering assistance towards a top-down humanitarian aid model. The authors used a qualitative method that involved case studies, observation in the field, and interviewing refugee led organizations and their members. The findings revealed that refugees normally utilized their own resources, knowledge and networks in mobilizing community structures like savings groups, education services and informal protection mechanisms. It was found that these initiatives were adaptive, sustainable and closely related to local needs. The study pointed out that such efforts were under recognized and under supported by international humanitarian actors and there was no systematic documentation of them.

From the study by Easton-Calabria and Pincock (2018), one key gap that was identified was there were limited investigations into how this refugee led systems responded to security issues in general, and in particular, from a gendered perspective. However, the study did not investigate how refugee women in particular took advantage of, or participated in, such protection mechanisms. Beyond describing refugee women's contributions to these localized security innovations, the current study looked specifically at how refugee women affect, create, and benefit from context specific community security innovations in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, linking this to protection strategies and women's empowerment and agency in protracted displacement contexts.

Moreover, Mburu (2024) assessed the impact of security intelligence analysis to the

safety of humanitarian communities in Kenya. The study was carried out in Kenya on the use of security intelligence analysis and its role in improving the protection of humanitarian personnel, assets and operations. It was to evaluate whether intelligence systems are able to predict threats, understand how intelligence supports proactive security response and how intelligence figures in operational decision making. A mixed methods design was adopted, with both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews with security officers, NGO personnel and government representatives who are directly involved in humanitarian operations. It was found that security intelligence dramatically enhanced situational awareness, helped to detect threats early, and permitted strategic decision making in high-risk environments. While there were challenges, like poor coordination, information silos, and lack of training in intelligence utilization, this resulted in poor effectiveness overall. While this topic is relevant, the study by Mburu (2024) was primarily institutional, with little attention paid to how innovations of community-based community, especially those implemented within refugee camps, contribute to protection at its broader scale. Additionally, the responses did not consider gender dimensions in security responses. Thus, the current study sought to fill the gap by investigating context specific community security innovations in Kakuma Refugee Camp, and specifically, refugee led safety mechanisms, and the effect these have on women empowerment.

2.2.2 Community Security Approaches Contribute to Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

In an article *Assessing the Civil Society's Role in Refugee Integration in Turkey: NGO-R as a New Typology*, Sunata and Tosun (2019) looked at the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their roles in the refugee integration within Turkey. The central purpose of the study was to develop and evaluate the idea of how civil society actors can support refugee integration, especially those of NGOs beyond their traditional humanitarian work. Using qualitative methods, including in depth interviews with 33 NGO representatives and document analysis, a typology of NGOs and NGO-R was developed for categorizing NGOs in terms of their level of engagement in refugee support on legal, social, cultural and economic domains. The findings suggest that NGOs made an impact on socio economic empowerment of people through their contribution to vocational training, legal aid, psychosocial empowerment in forms of community building

platforms; mostly for women and children. The study by Sunata and Tosun (2019) was able to garner important benefits regarding the socio-economic role of civil society, however, did not address the community security approaches and their relationship with empowerment, specifically in camp settings. This gap will be filled by the current study, which explores how community security initiatives in Kakuma Refugee Camp promote women's socio-economic empowerment, thus taking the integration to empowerment in the context of protection linked empowerment in displacement.

Similarly, Hanmer et al. (2024) examined the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in 2002 and 2003 in a study, "Is a Human Security Approach Possible?" Compatibility between the Strategies of Protection and Empowerment." Case studies and reviews of policy documents were used to study the compatibility of protection with empowerment strategies in the case studies. The researcher noted that protection and empowerment strategies in combination are critical human security approaches and found that human insecurity can be addressed through protection programs that allow socio economic empowerment, with special attention paid to women. Nevertheless, the study Hasegawa (2007) did not examine which of these community security approaches enable women economically. The current study aimed to fill this gap by investigating the particular security measures that were put in place in the community in Kakuma Refugee Camp and analyze their effect on their socio-economic empowerment of women.

Moreover, Ekanayake et al. (2023) conducted a study in Uganda on "Analysis of Empowerment of Refugee Women in Camps and Settlements". Field research and national policy analysis were used in combination to study Rhino Camp settlement. Qualitative interviews and participatory observations were used to understand how displacement changes gender roles. The findings of the study showed that forced displacement can destabilize and reshape traditional gender roles, which may result in women's empowerment. Negotiations of gender relations in refugee camps often helped women break patterns of patriarchal relations and increase their socio-economic status. Nevertheless, the study by Krause (2014) did not go into the role played by security approaches within the community in the empowerment process. This

gap was filled through the current study, which focuses on how community security innovations affect women socio-economic empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp hence providing a deeper understanding of the security dimension.

In addition, Rodgers (2021) conducted a study on "'Host' Label: Forming and Transforming a Community Identity at the Kakuma Refugee Camp" in Kenya. The qualitative methods used in this study were interviews and focus groups, to research the socio-economic integration agenda Kakuma Refugee Camp. The conclusion of Rodgers is that humanitarian programming can achieve socio economic integration by creating a 'host community' identity. Better access to resources and economic opportunities in these communities often benefitted women. Nevertheless, the study by Rodgers (2021) did not explore in particular the contribution of community security approaches in empowering women in terms of their socio-economic empowerment. In the context of Kakuma, the current research focused on the detailed analysis of approaches to community security, their particular effect on the socio-economic empowerment of women.

2.2.3 Challenges and Opportunities Emerging from the Implementation Context Specific Community Security Innovations that Promote Women's Empowerment

In a study, "Women, Peace and Security: New Conceptual Challenges and Opportunities" Turner and Swaine (2023) critically analyzed the implementation and conceptual problems of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda for which they provided case references from the Middle East and other conflict affected regions. The purpose of the study was to critique how global gender and security frameworks, such as those whose foundation rests on United Nations Security Council Resolutions, often do not match up with women's actual reality in conflict zones. By using qualitative content analysis of policy documents, academic literature and empirical examples from Palestine and similar contexts, the authors argued that despite the WPS agenda providing institutional space for gender mainstreaming, the agenda often contributed to reinforcing stereotypes of women as passive victims or peacemakers, emphasizing the importance of considering how such policy comes to exist. The researchers argued that this approach failed to incorporate the grassroots innovation and the multi-faceted, interrelated

realities that shaped women's participation in local security. From the study by Pratt and Richter-Devroe (2013), empirical focus on refugee settings as well as the effects of community-led security innovations on women's empowerment in displacement contexts was a key gap. This gap was addressed by the current study which explores empirically how such innovations are implemented on the ground, and the challenges and opportunities they offer for women's empowerment under the conditions of a protracted refugee situation in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

Similarly, Hendricks (2017) studied "Progress and Challenges in Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture" a discussion on from the African Union (AU) and examples from several African countries. The central objective of the study was to measure just how far the AU had moved the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda within its peace and security frameworks. The policy analysis qualitative methodology was applied in the study and involved document review, institutional assessment of AU organs like the Peace and Security Council. However, implementation was uneven, although the AU had made notable progress in policy formulation, such as adoption of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and integration of gender perspectives in peacekeeping. The WPS agenda's transformative potential was however constrained by structural challenges, weak accountability mechanisms, lack of political will, and minimal grassroots participation, in particular of refugee and displaced women. It also pinpointed a crucial gap between high level policy and local security practices that affect vulnerable populations. To fill this gap, the current study examined how the community level security innovations were being implemented in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya and ways in which they were both creating challenges and opportunities for women's empowerment in practice in the displacement setting characterized by institutional frameworks that are weak or fragmented.

Moreover, in a study *Against the Odds: Refugee Integration in Kenya*, Sturge and O'Callaghan (2018) conducted research in Kenya to help understand the bigger picture of refugee integration. The study sought to examine the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in urban and camp settings, identify the barriers to integration, evaluate the effectiveness of policy

and humanitarian responses in facilitating the inclusion and integration of refugees. Authors followed a mixed methods approach with qualitative interviews of refugees, host communities and stakeholder, and review of secondary data. Despite restrictive legal and policy environments, the study shows that many refugees in Kenya (particularly in urban areas) exercised agency in negotiating informal economies and building up community ties. The research area faced integration barriers because refugee settlements similar to Kakuma operated under restrictive camp rules which prevented residents from moving freely and working outside the camps. The community started to develop basic informal systems which included both governance structures and protection methods but these systems operated without proper organization and failed to protect women adequately. Moreover, the study was not designed to assess the ways in which such security innovations do or do not contribute to women's empowerment, particularly in protracted displacement contexts. This gap was filled by the current study which examined the gendered challenges and opportunities of women within these community security structures focusing on how they affect women's safety, participation and empowerment outcomes.

2.3 Summary of Literature Review and Research Gaps

The reviewed literature gives the increasing relevance of context specific community security innovations that would further promote women's empowerment within refugee settings. Turner and Swaine (2023) and Jesmin (2024) confirm the efficacy of gender inclusive security models such as women led patrols and peace committees in conflict prone environment, but these are thwarted by structural barriers such as patriarchy and funding shortages. Mburu (2024) critically analyses governance in refugee camps and show how community participation is more symbolic than real and thus reducing the agency of refugee women. Following this, women's leadership in humanitarian contexts is often tokenistic, according to Hanmer et al. (2024) because of cultural norms and exclusion from key decisions. However, despite the under-recognized value of refugee-led initiatives, Easton-Calabria and Pincock (2018) failed to assess the impact of refugee-led initiatives on women's security. However, Mburu (2024) was interested in institutional security intelligence at the expense of grassroots innovations and gendered impacts. Sunata and Tosun (2019) and Hanmer et al. (2024) both explored the socio-economical prospective of the protection frameworks, however their focus was not on security

related empowerment. Despite confirming shifting gender roles in camps, Ekanayake et al. (2023) and Rodgers (2021) did not analyze community security mechanisms. However, collectively these studies highlight the critical need for localized, gender aware protection, but still, few have empirically linked community security innovations to tangible empowerment outcomes among refugee women in camps like Kakuma.

Noteworthy, from the reviewed literature, there are several gaps that the current study is trying to fill. While previous research often takes place in urban settings and with formal protection mechanisms, grassroots safe community security in camps like Kakuma remain underexplored (Grzeškowiak, 2024; Mburu, 2024). Most studies provide too shallow insights on how the experience of being protractedly displaced changes women's agency in informal protection arrangements. Many studies take a conceptual approach to examining women's participation and leadership in humanitarian settings (Domingo et al., 2015; Pratt & Richter-Devroe, 2013), and these roles are not linked directly to community security innovations or examined in the context of empowerment. Women refugees are usually viewed as playing peripheral rather than transformative security roles. However, like (Hanmer et al., 2024), (Jesmin, 2024) and many other previous works, those prior works rely on literature review or institutional analysis, without empirical, gender disaggregated data from camp environments. This current study filled in these gaps by conducting a field based, descriptive study of how refugee women in Kakuma participate in and benefit from context specific community security innovations. It examined the ways in which they face these challenges both from the perspective of agency creation and socio-economic inclusion and inclusion and protection. This approach offered a more grounded and gender sensitive view of security innovation in protracted displacement settings.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The chapter discusses the study design, study area, and target population. The segment further discusses sampling procedure and sample size, data collection instruments, data processing and analysis, and legal and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Design

This study adopted descriptive research design. Descriptive research design is a quantitative method used to systematically describe characteristics or phenomena or behaviors without manipulating the variables (Creswell, 2017). The research design enables researcher to collect actual observed information which contains detailed descriptions about particular populations and existing conditions. The study benefits from this design because it enabled the researcher to document the current security system of the community together with how women view its impact on their empowerment. The descriptive research design combines qualitative research with quantitative research methods to deliver a complete multi-dimensional analysis of female participation in security governance. The combination of qualitative data with quantitative information produces detailed interpretations about female empowerment which maintain statistical accuracy and broad application potential.

3.3 Study Area

The research area exists within the institutional premises which serve as the base for conducting the study (Mills, 2015). The research project takes place at this specific corporate site which also functions as the field location for investigative work. The research occurred at Kakuma Refugee Camp which lies within Turkana County (Map of the area of study: Appendix V). The geographical position of Kakuma Refugee Camp stands at 3.73°N and 34.85°E which places it in Turkana County of northern Kenya near Lake Turkana an important international geographical site. The camp serves as Africa's largest refugee settlement as it provides shelter for more than 200,000 refugees and asylum seekers who arrived from South Sudan, Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The camp population consists of more than 70% women and children who reside within its boundaries. The region

experiences a semi-arid climate which brings between 250 and 500 millimeters of yearly rainfall together with temperatures that reach above 35°C.

Turkana County extends across 68,680 square kilometers which makes it the largest area in Kenya yet it remains underdeveloped because of frequent droughts and limited access to essential services (Ng'asike, 2019). The camp started operations in 1992 at its location within Turkana County which experiences harsh weather because of the dry climate, limited resource availability, and social problems that affect how people live in this area. The Turkana people continue their traditional pastoral lifestyle while the refugees who settled in the area run their operations through business activities and maintain several small-scale businesses.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operates the camp through its partnership with the Kenyan government and multiple non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which deliver humanitarian support together with security services and development initiatives to enhance refugee living conditions. The current initiatives have not solved the multiple problems which Kakuma faces as the area experiences excessive population growth, unstable conditions, and severe sexual violence against women and girls. The security situation in Kakuma becomes highly dangerous because ethnic conflicts and sexual violence crimes occur frequently while police forces operate with limited power which creates dangerous conditions for refugee women who must navigate carefully (UNHCR, 2024). Humanitarian organizations have adopted various protective strategies yet women encounter continuing obstacles to join security governance as patriarchal systems persist and traditional beliefs create barriers. Jaji (2021) states that women face restricted access to security governance because patriarchal systems continue to exist and traditional beliefs create obstacles for them.

3.4 Target Population

According to Tipton (2022), the unit of analysis which consists of people and other entities make up the study population. The units for which survey findings are intended to generalize are known as target populations, and they might be actual or imagined groupings of people, events, or things. The study's target demographic consisted of refugee women living in Kakuma Refugee Camp, as well as important players in community safety and empowerment efforts including local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement personnel,

and local women-led groups; the host community representatives. This study concentrated on women aged 18 and older who are directly affected by security issues and might benefit from community-driven safety solutions. According KNBS (2024), the total female population is 127,670 which was the study's target population. Thus, from this target population, a representative population sample was drawn by the researcher.

3.5 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

Sampling techniques and sample size are both procedures and strategies used in research studies. They both identify various strata from which a sample size is computed.

3.5.1 Sample Size

A sample is therefore a small group deliberately selected from the entire population consisting of the cases (units or components) to be investigated and drawn from a designated study population (Berndt, 2020). In this study, many strategies were utilized to choose respondents. The researcher utilized the Krejcie and Morgan formula as illustrated (Krejcie, & Morgan, 1970).

$$S = \frac{X^2 \cdot N \cdot P \cdot (1 - P)}{d^2 \cdot (N - 1) + X^2 \cdot P \cdot (1 - P)}$$

Where:

- S = Required sample size
- X^2 = Chi-square value for 95% confidence level (typically 3.841)
- N = Population size
- P = Proportion of the population (usually 0.5 for maximum variability)
- d = Margin of error (usually 0.05 or 5%)

Therefore:

$$S = \frac{3.841 \times 127670 \times 0.5 \times (1 - 0.5)}{(0.05^2 \times (127670 - 1)) + (3.841 \times 0.5 \times 0.5)}$$

$$S = \frac{122654.06}{320.13275}$$

$$S = 383.135 \approx 383$$

The study's sample size was 383 females from the Kakuma refugee camp.

3.5.2 Sampling Procedure

Sampling is a strategy for selecting groups from a larger population because it is impossible to include the entire population in study (Sanaullah et al, 2022). In other words, sampling is the process of selecting a subset of people or items from a population to serve as a representative of the entire. The purpose of sampling is to provide general estimates. The chosen sample should appropriately represent the overall population. They each create distinct categories for choosing an appropriate sample size. According to Dasa (2015), sampling techniques are the process of selecting a subset of a population to test hypotheses about the whole population. In this study the researcher utilized both probability techniques which included multistage, stratified, and simple random sampling and non-probability sampling technique mainly purposive sampling.

According to Rahman et al. (2022), multi-stage sampling works best for extensive populations that are spread out because it becomes unfeasible to reach every single person directly. Thus, the main reason for using this technique over the others was to allow the research process to become more manageable by dividing the Kakuma refugee camp population into smaller units allowing the researcher to handle survey more effectively (Makwana et al., 2023). The method requires multiple steps to perform clustering followed by subsampling. The first step involved stratifying the refugee camp into the operational areas (Kakuma 1 to Kakuma 4) by using UNHCR maps which served as the main sampling units. Stratification created balanced representation (Makwana et al., 2023) through population density, national composition, and infrastructure accessibility.

The researcher then selected the operational areas through probability proportional to size (PPS) method which allowed for efficient transition to household sampling for women

respondents while maintaining geographic and demographic diversity. In the second step, the selection process continued with random household selection from the designated zones. Simple random sampling assures that all the respondents in the study have an equal probability of being chosen (Sanaullah, 2022). The key justification for choosing simple random sampling over other methods was that this technique lacks biasness and simplicity. Finally, the third step thus entailed selecting women from these households who meet the age-based criteria as defined in this study.

Concurrently, the researcher used purposive sampling to select vital informants for detailed interviews who included the local community leaders, humanitarian staff from UNHCR and INGOs, law enforcement personnel, and representatives from women-led host community organizations. Purposive sampling allows the researcher to choose subjects who possess particular attributes or specialized knowledge that aligns with their research needs instead of using random selection methods (Obilor, 2023). The main reason why the researcher used this method was because it helped choose respondents with valuable information for qualitative studies which led to thorough comprehension of complicated subjects like community security innovations through the interviews. The hybrid methods decrease bias, operational costs, and safety hazards while gathering different viewpoints. Thus, the combination of these methodologies improved the study's representativeness, enabling for a more nuanced understanding of how context-specific safety improvements contribute to women's empowerment in the Kakuma Refugee Camp.

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

Babbie (2016) defines data collecting instruments as the tools that a researcher uses to help gather data from respondents. Research requires this essential stage because researchers need to monitor the collected data which contains both qualitative and quantitative information. The research study combined survey methods with semi-structured interview techniques to conduct a detailed analysis of women's involvement in security governance operations at Kakuma refugee camp.

3.6.1 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a research tool composed of a series of questions designed to elicit

data or information from informants. Questionnaires are simple and frequently used for gathering survey information, giving organized, typically numerical data that may be delivered without the researcher's presence (Marrionson, Manion, & Cohen, 2011). One of the advantages of employing questionnaires in this study over other instruments is that the researcher could collect a large amount of data in less time. Furthermore, survey software is both inexpensive and easy to use when surveying online. The questionnaire had many items to guarantee that all ontological perspectives are adequately captured in the study.

The questionnaire was structured into five parts. Part one constituted demographic information of respondents. Part two contained information on context-specific community safety strategies that improve women's leadership and agency in security-related issues, part three contained information on involvement of women in community safety and security programs, and part four contained information on institutional and sociocultural obstacles preventing women participation in security agenda. A five-point Likert scale was utilized with 1 as strongly disagree and 5 strongly agree. Finally, the questionnaire included both open and closed-ended questions.

3.6.2 Interview Guide

The researcher also created and administer the interview guide, which was used to gather in-depth qualitative data from representatives of local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local (host community) women-led groups who were chosen throughout the sample process. The researcher conducted the interviews personally, and the respondents' agreement was obtained before the talks are recorded. The interviews took place in person, but in some circumstances, the research considered using technology-enabled media such as phone talks.

Table 3. 1 Summary of Population Category, Population Size, Sample Determination, Sample Size, and Method of Data Collection

Population Category	Population Size	Sample Determination	Sampling Techniques	Sample Size	Method of Data Collection
Females from the Kakuma Refugee Camp	127, 670	Krejcie and Morgan formula	Multistage and Simple random sampling	383	Questionnaires
Local community leaders,	75	Random selection	Purposive sampling	5	Interview Guides
Humanitarian workers only in managerial position	200	Random selection	Purposive sampling	5	Interview Guides
Law enforcement officers	350	Random selection	Purposive sampling	5	Interview Guides
Local host community women-led groups	50	Random selection	Purposive sampling	5	Interview Guides

3.6.3 Pilot Test of Research Instruments

The term "pilot testing" refers to the practice of mimicking a research study with a small sample of participants prior to launching the full-scale investigation. In other words, pilot study is a smaller version of a bigger study that necessitates a comprehensive test of the research instrument (Fraser, 2018). Pilot testing is critical since it helps the researcher to determine whether the study technique is effective. In other words, it lets the researcher determine if the study's techniques are correct and whether the research is easily duplicated. In this study, women were randomly selected as well as representatives of local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local women-led groups from the Hagadera refugee camp in Garissa County which served as a pilot for the research instruments due to their similarities to

the study population, but they were not included in the final sample. The researcher used 38 respondents in the pilot study which is 10% of the main study sample size.

The questionnaire items from the field showed clear relevance because respondents successfully understood them with minimal confusion about question meanings. The reliability analysis results demonstrated that study constructs maintained sufficient internal consistency because all scales produced Cronbach's alpha values which exceeded the 0.70 threshold thus confirming instrument reliability for extrinsic motivation and job satisfaction measurement. The pilot study required minor adjustments to the questionnaires which involved two main changes: first, researcher needed to clarify the confusing questions and second, modifying the order of survey questions to achieve better question organization. The research instrument proved its intended functionality during the pilot test because it successfully collected trustworthy data which scientists need for their primary research investigation.

3.6.4 Instrument Reliability

The researcher utilized internal consistency reliability to determine the validity of the survey's quantitative results. The alpha dependability coefficient is the gold standard for determining this level of trustworthiness. Cronbach's Alpha is the most used dependability metric in this case. The Cronbach Alpha coefficient, as defined in the questionnaires, can be used to measure the dependability of the research items. In other words, the Cronbach Alpha coefficient is appropriate for assessing the reliability of research items as described in questionnaires. Notably, any test measure less than 0.7 is considered unreliable. Results ranging from 0.7 to 1.0 are considered acceptable and dependable (Sürücü & MASLAKÇI, 2020). The reliability results were as in Table 3.2.

Table 3. 2: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	No. of Items
.823	40

From Table 3.2, Cronbach's Alpha is .823 for 40 items suggesting that the questionnaires had good reliability. As per Barbosa de Sousa (2020), a Cronbach's Alpha of greater than .70 is acceptable, and values approaching .80 or higher reflect a good level of internal consistency. This implies that all the individual items in the instrument measure a

composite underlying construct, and respondents provide consistent answers across related items.

3.6.5 Instrument Validity

The researcher subjected the study instruments to face validity. According to Mohajan (2017), face validity is determined by expert assessment. It refers to how accurately a research instrument produces results depending on the study that has been completed. It assesses how well the study findings match the available data (Dravena, 2019). The researcher engaged University lecturers to determine whether data collecting tools matched the study questions. Their comments, suggestions, and recommendations on the overall questionnaire style were utilized to make relevant revisions and adjustments besides the observations made during pilot study.

3.7 Data Processing and Analysis

The researcher in this study obtained an introduction letter from Africa Nazarene University and an authorization letter from the National Council for Science and Technology Information (NACOSTI). Appointments were scheduled with respondents from the sampled community groups through the camp officials, in addition to visits to the refugee camp to distribute questionnaires to the selected samples. Respondents were provided with instructions on how to fill out the questionnaires. The researcher planned meetings with the responders on the designated interview days. To conduct the surveys, the researcher asked the camp officials to create a meeting area for the women, who are majority of the respondents.

On the other hand, data analysis is the process of examining, cleansing, transforming, and modeling information to get insights. It provides the collected data structure, meaning, and organization. The complicated components of research data are broken down into digestible bits that can be more easily synthesized and understood (Babbie, 2022). Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected. The questionnaire data was cleaned, verified, and sorted by research topic before being placed into a computer and analyzed with the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27.0.

The data was described using descriptive statistics, such as frequency, percentage,

standard deviation, and averages. For the qualitative data gathered from conducting interviews, it was carefully examined to ensure its correctness and completeness. To analyze the original data, content analysis was used. It is suitable to do content analysis on qualitative data since it preserves the interviewees' comments, does not limit their responses, and aids in gathering additional information from the respondents. Thus, the qualitative data was reported in narrative format based on the respondents' common themes and verbatim quotations. The following statistical hypotheses were tested using inferential statistics at 5% significance level:

Table 3. 3: Summary of Data Analysis per Specific Objective

Specific Objective	Data Analysis Method	Data Presentation
i. To examine the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.	Pearson Correlation Coefficient and Independent Samples t-test	Tables, Pie charts, Mean, Standard Deviations, Percentages, and Thematic analysis for qualitative data.
ii. To assess the extent to which context specific community security approaches contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.	Multiple Linear Regression	Tables, Pie charts, Mean, Standard Deviations, Percentages, and Thematic analysis for qualitative data.
iii. To identify the challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.	Logistic Regression	Tables, Mean, Standard Deviations, Percentages, and Thematic analysis for qualitative data.

3.8 Legal and Ethical Considerations

The term "research ethics" refers to a set of moral standards that guide researchers in how to conduct and present studies without intentionally or accidentally deceiving participants or informants. Research ethics should not be overlooked. One of its many advantages is that it assists researchers in meeting their objectives of enhancing comprehension and decreasing inaccuracy. Furthermore, it promotes teamwork-related qualities (Resnik 2020). To guarantee that ethical considerations are met, the researcher first obtained approval from Africa Nazarene

University from the school of Humanities and Social Sciences, the National Council of Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) in Nairobi. This allowed the researcher to carry out the research in an appropriate manner.

At the field, in order to meet the legal and ethical requirements of the study, the researcher followed the concept of beneficence, which includes freedom from damage, exploitation, and a risk-benefit ratio. The researcher also ensured that the rights of persons involved in the inquiry were protected. Also, justice is another value that the researcher considered when doing the study. This concept included both the right to fair treatment and the right to privacy. Finally, the researcher ensured that no plagiarized material is provided, and that no incorrect information is presented.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the research findings on the contribution of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma refugee camp. The findings were organized according to the research objectives. The chapter is organized as follows: Instrument return rates and the demographic information of the study participants. This is followed a presentation of the context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment, context specific community security approaches which contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women, and challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

4.2 Response Rate

Instrument return rate as explained by Mugenda and Mugenda (2019) refers to the number of questionnaires that were duly filled and returned for organization for final data analysis process. They are useable research instruments issued out to sampled and contacted respondents during the study. In this study, the researcher administered a questionnaire to all the sampled women aged 18 years and above and the response rate was 82.8% (317 out of the 383 administered questionnaires). According to Booker et al. (2021) a response rate of 80% or higher is considered excellent. Thus, the study's response rate of 82.8% is considered as excellent. This indicated that only 66 of the sampled respondents failed to answer and return the questionnaires assigned to them. Among the reasons why some respondents failed to answer and return the questionnaires was because they some lacked sufficient reading skills and struggled with language differences, other faced time constraints, while others trust issues and thus, they had to deal with difficult circumstances that made it hard to take part in the study. The higher response rate helped reduce non-sampling errors (Uakarn et. Al., 2021).

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The study sought to determine demographic data of the informants which was vital for the study's findings and conclusions. It is believed that varied characteristics of the respondents'

results into varied findings and conclusions because of their different views on the topic of study. The researcher thus sought to understand the respondents' age bracket, marital status, country of origin, level of education, employment status, and length of stay in Kakuma refugee camp. Table 4.1 presents the findings on demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Table 4. 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Category		Frequency (n=317)	Percent (%)
Age_Bracket	18 -25 Years	60	18.9
	26 - 35 Years	61	19.3
	36 - 45 Years	181	57.1
	46 Years and above	15	4.7
Marital_Status	Married	130	41.0
	Single	128	40.4
	Widowed	43	13.6
	Divorced or Separated	16	5.0
Country_of_Origin	South Sudan	103	32.5
	Congo (DRC)	76	24
	Somalia	39	12.4
	Ethiopia	27	8.5
	Burundi	21	6.6
	Uganda	21	6.6
	Rwanda	14	4.4
	Sudan	8	2.5
	Others	8	2.5
Education_Level	No formal education	78	24.6
	University degree and above	26	8.2
	Post-secondary education (vocational training, diploma)	41	12.9
	Primary level education	95	30
	Secondary level education	77	24.3
	Unemployed	169	53.2
Employment_Status	Formally employed	43	13.6
	Community service work involved (i.e., Volunteering, NGO roles etc.)	62	19.6
	Small scale trade, craft etc.	43	13.6
	4–7 years	136	42.9
Length_of_stay_in_Kakukama_Refugee-Camp	8 years and above	153	48.3
	1–3 years	28	8.8

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.1, in terms of age bracket of the respondents, the findings shows that the largest group of respondents were aged 36–45 years (57.1%), followed by 26–35 years (19.3%) and 18–25 years (18.9%). Only 4.7% were aged 46 years and above. This indicates that the majority of women in Kakuma refugee camp are in their economically and socially active years, suggesting higher energies for involvement and responsibility in community activities.

On marital status, the study results indicate that 41.0% of participants were married while 40.4% remained single. The remaining 13.6% were widowed and 5.0% had divorced or separated. The data shows that married and single women exist in nearly equal numbers which creates a balanced viewpoint about how people experience community security participation at home and as individuals.

On the country of origin, the majority of survey participants came from South Sudan with 32.5% followed by Congo DRC at 24.0%, Somalia at 12.4%, and Ethiopia at 8.5% and smaller numbers from Burundi Uganda Rwanda Sudan and other nations. The diverse population of Kakuma refugee camp reveals multiple ethnic groups which means community safety strategies need to adapt for different cultural backgrounds.

Moreover, on the participants education level, 24.3% completed secondary school while 30.0% finished primary school and 24.6% never attended school at all. Only 12.9% had post-secondary and 8.2% university education. The current distribution shows restricted opportunities for university studies which proves the necessity to establish literacy-based communication methods when implementing security innovations.

Similarly, on employment status, the survey results indicate that 53.2% of respondents are unemployed while 19.6% participate in community service or NGO activities, 13.6% work in formal employment, and 13.6% run small businesses. The data shows high unemployment rates but active community participation which suggests people depend on social programs although they face obstacles to gain empowerment.

Finally, on the length of stay in Kakuma Refugee Camp, most survey participants have spent eight or more years in the camp with a total of 48.3% staying for that length of time. The

data shows that 42.9% of the population stayed at the camp for 4 to 7 years and only 8.8% remained for 1 to 3 years. The residents have shown total community integration through their long-term presence which helps them assess how well local security changes work.

4.4 Nature of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations Towards Women's Empowerment

The first research question for this study was to examine the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. In order to achieve this research question, women aged 18 years and older who are directly affected by security issues and might benefit from community-driven safety solutions in Kakuma Refugee Camp were issued questionnaires containing queries and statements on various aspects on context-specific security innovations towards women's empowerment. Similarly, representatives of local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local women-led groups were also interviewed to triangulate the responses from the questionnaires. The results were as discussed herein.

4.4.1 Descriptive Statistics of Nature of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations Towards Women's Empowerment

The researcher sought first to understand from the women who participated in the research whether they were aware of any community security innovations implemented at Kakuma refugee camp and how effective were those strategies in promoting women's security. The findings are as presented in Figure 4.1 and Table 4.2.

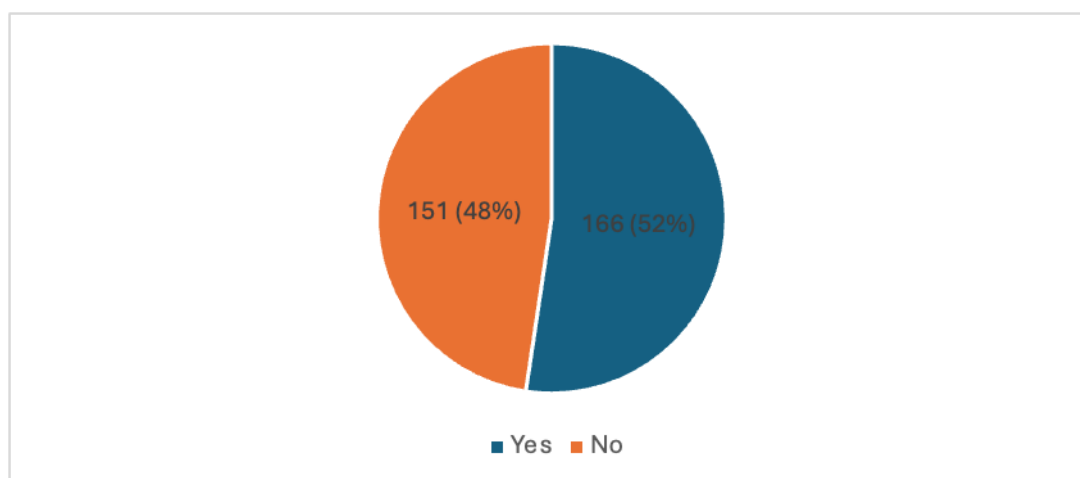


Figure 4. 1: Women Awareness on the Implemented Community Security Innovations

Source: Field Data, 2025

Figure 4.1 indicates that a majority of women 166(52%) were aware of the existing community security innovations. This awareness is a critical precursor to participation and empowerment, suggesting successful information dissemination but not necessarily full engagement or ownership.

Table 4. 2: Women’s Perceptions on the Effectiveness of the Strategies Used in Promoting Women’s Security

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Very Effective	79	24.9
Neutral	98	30.9
Ineffective	79	24.9
Very ineffective	61	19.3
Total		100

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.2, most respondents rated the strategies as neutral (30.9%), while 24.9% found them very effective and 24.9% ineffective, with 19.3% rating them very ineffective. This balance around neutrality implies mixed experiences while some women perceive improvements in safety and empowerment, others find the initiatives inadequate or inconsistently applied.

Respondents were further given different questions on a Likert scale where 1=Strongly

disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, and 5=Strongly agree. The researcher thus asked them to indicate their thoughts on the nature of context-specific security innovations at the camp. Table 4.3 presents findings on the perceptions of women responses on the nature of context-specific security innovations implementation strategies at Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. Analysis of the study's findings was merged into three (3) categories, namely, SD and D for the disagreeing option, N for the neutral, and A and SA for the agreeing option. This is presented as follows:

Table 4. 3: Women’s Responses on the Nature of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations Implementation Strategies

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev.
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)		
Community security innovations are effectively implemented Kakuma refugee camp.	40 (12.6%)	118 (37.3%)	59 (18.6%)	60 (18.9%)	40 (12.6%)	2.42	1.24
Implementation strategies for community security innovations are inclusive.	40 (12.6%)	158 (49.8%)	19 (6.1%)	60 (18.9%)	40 (12.6%)	2.39	1.27
Community security innovations are diverse and address various aspects of women’s safety.	80 (25.2%)	157 (49.5%)	60 (18.9%)	20 (6.4%)	0 (0.0%)	2.06	0.83
The implementation of community security innovations takes into consideration women’s feedback.	20 (6.4%)	138 (43.5%)	79 (24.9%)	40 (12.6%)	40 (12.6%)	2.38	1.14
Different types of community security innovations are more beneficial to women.	60 (18.9%)	58 (18.3%)	59 (18.6%)	60 (18.9%)	80 (25.3%)	4.63	1.45
Updated of community security innovations are done regularly to address emerging challenges.	80 (25.3%)	137 (43.2%)	0 (0.0%)	40 (12.6%)	60 (18.9%)	2.36	1.46
Average						2.71	1.23

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.3, the majority, 158 (49.9%) of the survey respondents, disagreed with the statement, “Community security innovations are effectively implemented.” The research results

demonstrate that women in Kakuma Refugee Camp see the safety and empowerment programs as ineffective in their current design. The researcher established that multiple community security programs exist but their implementation runs into problems because of restricted funding, poor agency collaboration, and insufficient community involvement. The various elements in the environment have decreased the perceived effectiveness of the new innovations. The mean score of 2.42 indicates a general tendency toward disagreement, suggesting that women have limited confidence in the effectiveness of the existing initiatives. The standard deviation of 1.24 indicates different participant experiences which suggest that some people gained from successful projects but others faced subpar execution or left out of vital activities which resulted in various levels of satisfaction with the community security programs in the camp.

Further, the majority of respondents which includes 198 (62.4%) disagreed with the statement, “Implementation strategies of community security innovations are inclusive.” The findings indicate that most women experienced exclusion from important decision-making and execution processes of community safety programs. The researcher identified three main obstacles to inclusiveness which included cultural traditions, insufficient knowledge about participation, and inadequate systems for collecting feedback from women. The absence of community members in this process leads to reduced local ownership and makes it challenging to maintain project sustainability. The mean score of 2.29 indicates a low level of agreement (disagreement), confirming that inclusiveness was weakly achieved. The standard deviation of 1.26 shows that people had different opinions because some respondents thought the programs let women participate actively while others thought men controlled everything from the top down.

Moreover, the majority of 237 (74.7%) participants rejected the claim that, “Community security innovations address the unique needs of women.” The findings suggests that most female participants believed these programs failed to meet their particular requirements for safety and empowerment. The researcher found that most new designs occurred without attention to gender-based threats which include domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and restricted

access to essential resources. The interventions which were implemented failed to achieve complete empowerment for women while not establishing enough protective measures for them. The mean score of 2.06 reinforces this finding, showing strong disagreement with the idea that women's needs were fully addressed. The standard deviation of 0.83 shows people had similar answers which means most women felt the innovations did not respond well.

Similarly, from the findings, the majority, 158 (49.9%) of the respondents, disagreed with the statement, "Implementation considers women's feedback." The evidence shows that women seldom participate in the process of creating or assessing community security plans. The researcher discovered that organizations used community forums to gather feedback but the collected input failed to produce any actual impact on decision-making processes. The programs faced challenges to adapt and stay relevant in the long run because of the absence of feedback systems which allowed users to participate. The mean score of 2.38 indicates disagreement, showing that women felt unheard in the implementation process. A standard deviation of 1.14 represents moderate variations in experiences yet most participants stated that NGOs together with local committees never asked for their feedback during consultations.

In addition, the majority of respondents 140 (44.2%) agreed with the claim, "Different innovations are beneficial to women." These finding implies that organizations that have implemented programs to address various challenges have delivered actual benefits including safety education and skill development and better community connections. The researcher established that vocational skill programs, gender-based violence awareness campaigns, and leadership development training produced positive effects on women's self-assurance and community engagement. The average rating of 4.63 shows that participants agree certain innovations prove useful even though their actual implementation faces significant challenges. The data shows a standard deviation of 1.45 which demonstrates various perspectives about the effectiveness of this program because different women received different levels of benefit from it. Women who lived in areas with better services and who participated in community groups experienced more positive outcomes.

Finally, the majority, 217 (68.5%) of the respondents, disagreed with the statement,

“Community security innovations are regularly updated to address new challenges.” The survey results demonstrate that most women think the programs remain stuck in their current state without making progress to tackle new security challenges and requirements. The study shows that organizations perform infrequent initiative reviews because they encounter financial constraints and changing donor requirements and lack proper evaluation systems. The system operates with a set structure which prevents community security methods from maintaining their ongoing usefulness and sustainability. The mean score of 2.36 confirms general disagreement, implying that innovations are viewed as outdated or static. The standard deviation of 1.46 shows varying experiences where some respondents may have observed improvements through newer projects, while others continued to interact with outdated strategies.

4.4.2 Qualitative Result on Nature of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations Towards Women's Empowerment

Representatives of local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local women-led groups were interviewed to give their opinions on the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment. The researcher found assorted perceptions from the respondents, thus using thematic analysis to present the results. The researcher first sought to understand their opinion on particular strategies put in place to promote community security in Kakuma refugee camp and how successfully had they provided for women's security needs. The respondents were coded as per the responses they provided, and the following are the findings;

One of the top themes from the findings is that majority of the responses described the establishment of community security committees as a turning point for inclusive dialogue (5 Respondents). These committees were seen as mechanisms that promote community ownership of safety programs and enhance cooperation between men and women. One local community leader observed:

The committees have helped us include women in decision-making about security. Before, it was only men who discussed these issues, but now women attend and speak on their safety concerns.

However, according to the respondents the participation of women in these activities

stays restricted to a few individuals who are already part of leadership or literacy development programs. A host community women's group leader stated:

The number of women who participate in these activities remains extremely low. People continue to stay silent because cultural restrictions block them from speaking out when males are present.

Similarly, another recurring theme from the law enforcement officers was that they reported that their collaboration with local organizations has resulted in better early warning systems and more efficient community response (3 Respondents). A police officer explained:

We have established partnerships with refugee leaders and women's groups in the present time.

They further expounded the observation by noting that the system provides immediate alerts about problems which has led to reduced violence in particular areas. The system also shows progress in community-based policing and proactive conflict resolution methods. However, local women leaders expressed frustration about inconsistent responses to reported cases, especially those involving GBV. A host women group representative stated:

The authorities tend to delay their response or ignore cases when women do not have proper identification or when there are no witnesses.

In addition, most of the respondents identified UNHCR International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) capacity-building and gender training programs as essential for their development (4 Respondents). The programs aim to teach women self-defense skills while building their leadership abilities and knowledge about preventing gender-based violence (GBV). A humanitarian worker explained:

We deliver educational programs which teach personal safety skills and leadership abilities and proper procedures for handling gender-based violence incidents. Through these sessions women have gained the ability to spot dangers and take appropriate action against them.

Likewise, one women's group leader stated:

Safe spaces have given women the courage to share their experiences and support each other. Through tailoring and business training, they now earn income and support their families.

This demonstrates that gender-responsive training enhances awareness and self-efficacy, enabling women to participate more confidently in security initiatives. However, respondents also noted challenges in continuity and follow-up. A humanitarian respondent lamented:

Training is effective only if it continues. Many women are trained once and then left without support or practical follow-up activities.

Secondly, in their view, could they provide some examples of types of community security innovations introduced in Kakuma refugee camp and speak of their effects on women's empowerment? Similarly, the respondents were coded as per the responses they provided, and the following are the findings;

From majority of the interviewees, a recurring theme, enhanced safety and reporting mechanisms, revealed that innovations such as community policing, women protection committees, and gender-based violence (GBV) hotlines had improved women's confidence to report abuse and move freely within the camp (5 Respondents). For instance, a local police officer noted that;

Community policing has bridged the gap between refugees and security agencies, making women feel safer to seek help.

Further, another theme, economic empowerment through security-linked initiatives, highlighted that vocational training and entrepreneurship programs integrated within security projects have given women livelihood options, reducing dependency and vulnerability (4 Respondents). For example, a humanitarian worker shared that;

Women achieve family support through tailoring and small business training because these programs create independence from food assistance programs.

Further, another common theme from the study was that programs which support women to join peace committees and conflict mediation teams have successfully expanded their

decision-making power (3 Respondents). The women group leader explained that;

Women have gained the right to participate in camp safety discussions because their voices now reach decision-making spaces.

All in all, the local community leaders together with humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and host community women-led groups representatives showed that Kakuma Refugee Camp developed community security solutions through community policing, gender training and safe spaces have contributed positively to women's empowerment and participation. The researcher interpreted the responses as progress toward inclusivity, but noted persistent cultural and social barriers. The researcher similarly observed that although there is improved coordination between police and communities, bureaucratic procedures, gender insensitivity, and inadequate case follow-up undermine women's confidence in the justice system. However, as much as livelihood-centered innovations effectively link safety with economic independence, their limited scale and inconsistent funding constrain their reach.

4.4.3 Inferential Statistics

The first study objective was to examine the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The following hypothesis was advanced;

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the nature of context-specific community security innovations and women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Statistical test: Pearson Correlation Coefficient and Independent Samples t-test.

Pearson Correlation Coefficient was first used to determine the strength and direction of the linear relationship between the intensity/coverage of security approaches and empowerment. The output was as presented herein;

Table 4. 4: Correlations (n=317)

		Community Security Innovative Effectiveness	Participation in decision making	Inclusion of women opinion	Women feel safe when take part in community activities	Security measures take care of women's safety concern	Supported to achieve economic independence	Resources available for economic independence
Community Security Innovative Effectiveness	Pearson Correlation	1	.563**	.520**	.524**	0.635	.674**	0.581
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0	0	0	0.004	0	0.002
Participation in decision making	Pearson Correlation		1	.873**	.514**	.597**	.861**	.510**
	Sig. (2-tailed)			0	0	0	0	0
Inclusion of women opinion	Pearson Correlation			1	.637**	.699**	.846**	.608**
	Sig. (2-tailed)				0	0	0	0
Women feel safe when take part in community activities	Pearson Correlation				1	.812**	.665**	.721**
	Sig. (2-tailed)					0	0	0
Community security measures take care of women's safety concern	Pearson Correlation					1	.775**	.862**
	Sig. (2-tailed)						0	0
Supported to achieve economic independence	Pearson Correlation						1	.748**
	Sig. (2-tailed)							0
Resources available for economic independence	Pearson Correlation							1
	Sig. (2-tailed)							

Source: Field Data, 2025

The results in Table 4.4 indicates strong positive relationships among key variables of community security innovation and women's empowerment. Community security innovation effectiveness correlated positively with inclusion of women's opinion ($r = .520$, $p < .01$), women's sense of safety ($r = .524$, $p < .01$), support for economic independence ($r = .674$, $p <$

.01), and participation in decision-making ($r = .563$, $p < .01$). These results show that when women are included in decision-making and their security concerns are addressed, their empowerment levels rise. The researcher found that working together between community groups and women's organizations leads to better security confidence and increased participation. The strong relationships between empowerment outcomes in Kakuma demonstrate that these results depend on security measures which include participation and inclusion.

Independent Samples t-test was utilized to compare empowerment outcomes between different groups of women who participated in community security initiatives and those who did not.

Table 4. 5: Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances					t-test for Equality of Means		95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Empowerment_Score	Equal variances assumed	18.271	.003	2.119	286	0.035	0.27778	0.13107	0.01979	0.53577
	Equal variances not assumed			2.034	197.187	0.043	0.27778	0.13659	0.00842	0.54713

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.5, the independent samples t-test showed a meaningful difference between women's empowerment scores because different types of community security approaches produced distinct empowerment results ($t = 2.119$, $p = 0.035$). The researcher found that women who participated in both active and inclusive community security programs achieved better socio-economic empowerment results than women who did not participate. Thus, the study rejects the null hypothesis ($p < 0.05$) and concludes that community security programs deliver substantial empowerment benefits to women at Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Table 4. 6: ANOVA

Empowerment_Score					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	39.018	2	19.509	18.667	.003
Within Groups	297.86	285	1.045		
Total	336.88	287			

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.6, the ANOVA results ($F = 18.667$, $p = 0.003$) demonstrate that empowerment levels vary substantially between groups who have experienced various security initiatives. Studies demonstrate that different community security programs produce distinct levels of empowerment for women. The study shows that programs which merge safety elements with economic support achieve better results than programs that concentrate solely on protection. These findings thus show that security and development programs need to work together to achieve their goals.

Table 4. 7: Tukey Post Hoc Tests (Multiple Comparisons)

Dependent Variable: Empowerment_Score						
(I) Length of stay in the Camp	(J) Length of stay in the Camp	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
4–7 years	8 years and above	-0.15476	0.12471	0.43	-0.4486	0.1391
	1–3 years	-1.57143*	0.2576	0.00	-2.1783	-0.9645
8 years and above	4–7 years	0.15476	0.12471	0.43	-0.1391	0.4486
	1–3 years	-1.41667*	0.25558	0.00	-2.0188	-0.8145
1–3 years	4–7 years	1.57143*	0.2576	0.00	0.9645	2.1783
	8 years and above	1.41667*	0.25558	0.00	0.8145	2.0188

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.7, the Tukey post hoc analysis shows which specific groups have meaningful differences in empowerment scores based on their duration of stay in the camp. The women who stayed in Kakuma between 1 to 3 years showed lower empowerment scores than the women who stayed for 4 to 7 years or longer than 8 years ($p < 0.05$). This finding shows that

empowerment accumulates with longer exposure to community programs. The researcher found that sustained participation in community initiatives fosters stronger social networks and greater confidence among women.

4.5 Extent to which Context Specific Community Security Approaches Contribute to Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

The second research question for this study was to assess the extent to which context specific community security approaches contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Questionnaires with related questions and statements on the Likert scale were issued to women aged 18 years and older who are directly affected by security issues and might benefit from community-driven safety solutions in Kakuma Refugee Camp to determine their views on context specific community security approaches contributing to their socio-economic empowerment. Representatives of local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local women-led groups were also interviewed to allow triangulation of information on the issue. The results were as discussed herein.

4.5.1 Descriptive Statistics of Extent to which Context Specific Community Security Approaches Contribute to Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

The researcher to first sought to understand if there were any measures that facilitated security of women and if they were there how effective were they in enhancing the conditions of women's safety. The findings were as shown in Figure 4.2 and Table 4.7.

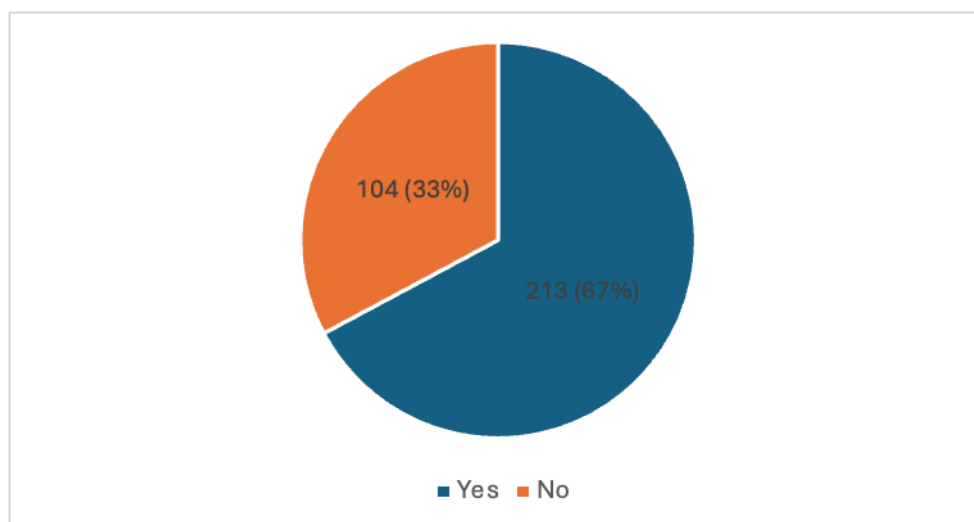


Figure 4. 2: Availability of Measures that Facilitate the Security of Women

Source: Field Data, 2025

Figure 4.2 shows that most respondents, 213 (67%) acknowledged the presence of security measures addressing women's safety in Kakuma. These include community policing, protection committees, and safe reporting spaces. The researcher observed that such measures have built awareness and a sense of protection among women, though gaps remain in their regular updating and inclusivity.

Table 4. 8: How Effective are the Measures in Enhancing the Conditions of Women's Safety

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Very effective	77	24.3
Effective	77	24.3
Neutral	43	13.6
Ineffective	60	18.9
Very ineffective	60	18.9
Total	317	100

Source: Field Data, 2025

According to Table 4.8, 24.3% of respondents rated security measures as very effective, another 24.3% as effective, while 18.9% rated them ineffective or very ineffective, and 13.6% were neutral. The distribution shows that half of the women who participated in the study find

the measures beneficial, but a considerable portion still experience gaps. The average pattern shows that women value current programs yet their success remains limited because of uneven program execution.

The researcher further sought to evaluate how current community security systems at Kakuma refugee camp affected women opportunities. The findings were as presented in Figure 4.3.

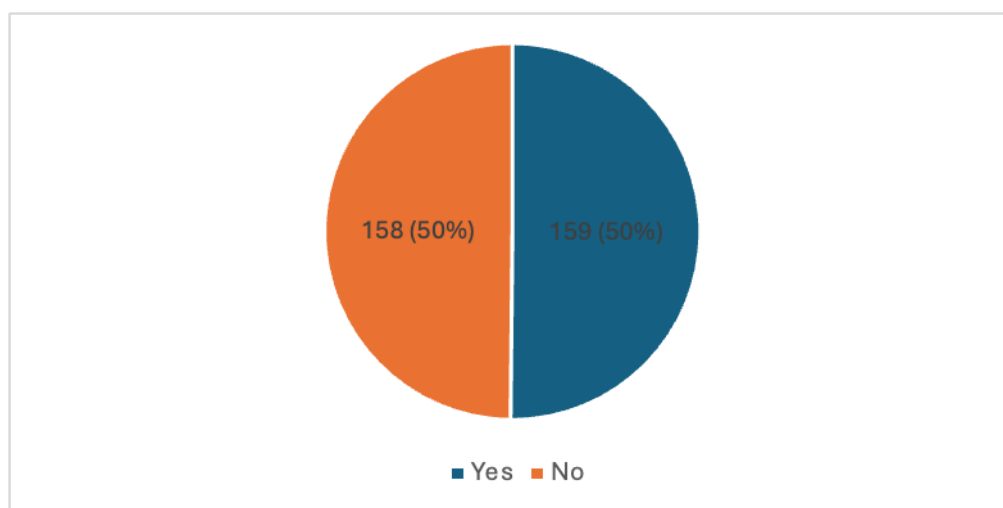


Figure 4. 3: Community Security Approaches Creating Economic Opportunities for Women

Source: Field Data, 2025

Figure 4.3 shows that half of the participants (50%) answered “Yes” while the other half chose “No.” The responses display a divided opinion because half of the participants view community security programs as economic opportunity providers yet the remaining half either doubts their impact or has no direct proof of such benefits.

In addition, Table 4.9 shows how women older than 18 view community security systems and their impact on their economic and social growth at Kakuma refugee camp. Analysis of the study’s findings was also merged into three (3) categories, where, strongly disagree (SD) and disagree (D) form the disagreeing option, neutral (N) for neutral, while agree (A) and strongly agree (SA) form the agreeing option.

Table 4. 9: Women’s Responses on Community Security Approaches and the Contribution on their Socio-economic Empowerment

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev.
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)		
Women’s needs are factored in the security measures.	80 (25.2%)	79 (25.0%)	60 (18.9%)	98 (30.9%)	–	2.46	1.17
Security measures are regularly reviewed to ensure women’s safety.	60 (18.9%)	119 (37.6%)	78 (24.6%)	60 (18.9%)	–	2.44	1.0
Community security approaches help in enhancing women's social empowerment.	80 (25.2%)	–	118 (37.3%)	59 (18.6%)	60 (18.9%)	3.06	1.4
Women are encouraged to take on social leadership roles.	60 (18.9%)	60 (18.9%)	39 (12.4%)	98 (30.9%)	60 (18.9%)	3.63	1.41
Effective community security approaches do create economic opportunities for women.	60 (18.9%)	–	138 (43.5%)	39 (12.4%)	80 (25.2%)	3.25	1.35
Community security approaches support women in their economic endeavors.	40 (12.6%)	19 (6.0%)	139 (43.8%)	59 (18.6%)	60 (18.9%)	3.25	1.2
Average						3.02	1.26

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.9, half of the respondents, 159 (50.2%), disagreed with the claim that “women’s needs are factored in the security measures.” This finding indicates that security planning with gender sensitivity has made some progress yet numerous women continue to experience insufficient consideration of their needs in camp security decision-making processes. The researcher found out that community security systems operate with restricted participation because they fail to incorporate women's perspectives during both the design and execution

phases. The findings indicate that current programs continue to follow male-dominated hierarchical structures which fail to protect women from particular dangers they face. The average score of 2.46 shows moderate agreement because participants held different views about this issue. The standard deviation of 1.17 shows that women experience moderate differences in their experiences because their location and community involvement vary.

Similarly, the majority of respondents at 179 (56.5%) expressed disagreement with the statement “security measures are regularly reviewed to ensure women’s safety.” The finding shows that most women view current security systems as unchanging because they believe these systems lack ongoing reviews for new threats. The researcher discovered that organizations create policies but organizations struggle to establish systems which track policy implementation results for women's safety. The stagnant situation exposes women to ongoing safety threats which take place in their domestic areas as well as in communal spaces and market areas inside the camp. The 2.44 average score demonstrates weak agreement levels which suggests women show low satisfaction with the current system. The standard deviation of 1.00 shows that participants demonstrated moderate agreement in their responses which indicates that many people share identical worries about insufficient review procedures within community security systems.

Moreover, 80 (25.2%) of the total participants disagreed with claim “community security approaches help in enhancing women’s social empowerment,” while 118 (37.3%) were neutral, and 119 (37.5%) agreed with it. This finding suggest that the respondents maintain divided opinions about these security interventions because half of the population agrees with them while the other half remains neutral. The security interventions fail to provide direct social empowerment benefits to all women because different women experience these benefits in different ways. The researcher established that community security programs enable women to join safety initiatives but these programs do not lead to substantial social empowerment benefits like improved leadership confidence or enhanced decision-making power. Security initiatives do not automatically produce better social agency outcomes for women. The mean score of 3.06 indicates moderate agreement, suggesting partial acknowledgment of the empowerment potential

of such programs, while a standard deviation of 1.4 shows a wide variation in responses, reflecting differing access to or awareness of community security activities.

Similarly, 158 (49.8%) of the participants agreed with the assertion “women are encouraged to take on social leadership roles.” The results show that more than 50 percent of participants believe the community security framework actively supports women's leadership development. The researcher found out that women now take part as peace mediators, community watch leaders, and safety champions which leads to higher self-assurance and elevated social position. The large number of people who disagreed shows that these opportunities probably exist only for certain groups or specific locations. The mean score of 3.63 demonstrates a relatively strong level of agreement, indicating a general sense of encouragement toward women's leadership, while the high standard deviation of 1.41 signifies diverse experiences, where some women feel empowered while others remain excluded from leadership spaces.

Further, the majority of respondents 138 (43.5%) stayed neutral about the claim “Effective community security approaches do create economic opportunities for women.” The findings show that some women understand the economic benefits of security stability but most people do not see these connections. The researcher found that better community safety creates chances for women to start economic activities like trading, vocational work, and area movement but the actual benefits remain limited. Security initiatives for economic empowerment create benefits which distribute in an indirect way yet their impact remains unpredictable. The mean score of 3.25 indicates moderate agreement, showing some recognition of economic benefits, while a standard deviation of 1.35 suggests a wide range of views which shows that different people have different experiences with safe workspaces and livelihood programs throughout the camp.

Finally, the survey results show that 139 (43.8%) of respondents remain undecided about the assertion that “community security approaches support women in their economic endeavors.” This output shows that community safety programs help some women with their economic goals but most women doubt these programs will deliver actual benefits. The researcher found that

security stability enables women to run small businesses and participate in training sessions and cooperative activities without experiencing harassment or theft. The respondents' neutral stance suggests they might not have received enough information about these programs or the benefits might not be equally accessible to everyone. The mean score of 3.25 shows moderate agreement that security efforts enhance women's economic pursuits, while a standard deviation of 1.20 reflects noticeable but not extreme differences in perception suggesting that while progress exists, gaps in consistent implementation remain.

4.5.2 Qualitative Result on Extent to which Context Specific Community Security Approaches Contribute to Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

The researcher further sought to understand again the opinion of representatives of local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local women-led groups on how the context specific community security approaches contributed to socio-economic empowerment of women at Kakuma refugee camp.

The researcher sought to understand their opinion on the role community security play in socio economic empowerment of women as well as how the approaches influenced their social empowerment and leadership in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The respondents were coded as per the responses they provided, and the following are the findings; Local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local women-led groups widely highlighted that community security initiatives had increased women's confidence in other words improved their visibility and public participation (5 Respondents). A local community leader explained;

Women now attend meetings and patrol discussions freely because they feel safer moving around the camp.

On the same point, a humanitarian worker observed that;

When women's safety is prioritized, they can engage in leadership and social programs without fear.

Similarly, another host community women's group leader noted that;

The public meeting used to be a space where women stayed quiet but now, they actively participate in market security and dispute resolution leadership roles.

These sentiments from the interview participants shows that specialized security systems which include women in patrol forces and neighborhood watch organizations create safer communities that empower social growth.

Moreover, another conspicuous theme was that economic stability through security functions as a key factor for achieving economic empowerment of women (4 Respondents). A law enforcement officer reported that:

Security measures had successfully decreased theft and harassment incidents which enabled women to operate market stalls and small businesses during early morning hours.

A representative from the local women-led organization further stated that;

Safety provides women with the ability to trade and attend training and save money without fear.

The evidence shows that community safety enables women to maintain their economic activities and business operations.

Finally, the testimonies from women-led groups revealed leadership transformation as a recurring theme because community security programs enabled them to develop leadership abilities (4 Respondents). A host community women's group leader noted that;

Through some safety trainings and mediation roles, we have learned to make decisions and influence others, not just follow.

The joint patrols and reporting systems which include women officers have gained approval from law enforcement personnel because they establish better community-police connections and deliver security services that address the needs of women.

As such, the research results show that context-specific community safety programs in Kakuma create social empowerment for women yet they require more institutional backing to achieve permanent leadership equality.

4.5.3 Inferential Statistics

The second study objective was to assess the extent to which context specific community security approaches contribute to socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The following hypothesis was advanced;

H₀₂: Context specific community security approaches do not significantly contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Statistical test: Multiple Linear Regression

The output was as presented herein;

Table 4. 10: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.835 ^a	0.697	0.693	0.48670

a. Predictors: (Constant), Resource access, Community inclusion, Generic and one-off training initiatives

From Table 4.10, the correlation coefficient ($R = 0.835$) indicates a strong positive relationship between community security approaches (resource access, community inclusion, and training initiatives) and women's empowerment. The R^2 value (0.697) means that approximately 69.7% of the variance in women's socio-economic empowerment can be explained by these community security variables. This demonstrates a substantial contribution of security initiatives to women's empowerment outcomes in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Table 4. 11: ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	154.443	3	51.481	217.336	.000 ^b
Residual	67.272	313	0.237		
Total	221.715	316			

b. Dependent Variable: Empowerment_Score1

c. Predictors: (Constant), Resource access, Community inclusion, Generic and one-off training initiatives

From the ANOVA results, Table 4.11 show an F-value of 217.336 with ($p < 0.05$), which is highly significant. This means that the combined predictors resource access, community inclusion, and training initiatives significantly influence women's socio-economic

empowerment. Thus, the null hypothesis (H_{02}) that context-specific community security approaches do not significantly contribute to women's empowerment is rejected.

Table 4. 12: Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	0.965	0.081		11.860	0.000
Resource access	0.163	0.032	0.230	5.035	0.000
Community inclusion	0.467	0.032	0.671	14.832	0.000
Generic and one-off training initiatives	0.016	0.054	0.015	0.297	0.006

a. Dependent Variable: Empowerment_Score1

From Table 4.12, the regression model confirms that community inclusion ($\beta = .467$, $p < .05$) and resource access ($\beta = .163$, $p < .05$) are the most influential aspects of community security on women's empowerment. Although generic and one-off training initiatives are significant ($\beta = .016$, $p < .05$), their small coefficient shows they are less impactful when not sustained or context-specific.

Using these results, the following prediction equation was derived:

$$\text{Empowerment Score (Y)} = 0.965 + 0.163 \text{ Resource Access} + 0.467 \text{ Community Inclusion} + 0.016 \text{ Generic and one-off training initiatives} + \varepsilon$$

According to the model, community inclusion is more critical for enhancing empowerment score than resource access and generic and one-off training initiatives, but all play an important role in women's empowerment in Kakuma refugee camp.

4.6 Challenges and Opportunities Emerging from the Implementation of Context Specific Community Security Innovations that Promote Women's Empowerment

The final research question for this study was to identify the challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote

women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. To achieve this research question, the researcher issued a questionnaire with questions and statements on various aspects related to this subject to women aged 18 years and above in Kakuma refugee camp. Representatives of local community leaders, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officers, and local women-led groups were also interviewed to triangulate the responses from the questionnaires. The results were as discussed herein.

4.6.1 Descriptive Statistics of Challenges and Opportunities Emerging from the Implementation of Context Specific Community Security Innovations that Promote Women's Empowerment

The researcher sought first to understand if there were challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The findings are as presented in Table 4.13.

Table 4. 13: Challenges and Benefits Emerging from the Implementation of Community Security Innovations

Statement		Frequency (n=317)	Percent (%)
Benefited from community security innovations like trainings, safety programs	Yes	129	40.7
	No	188	59.3
Ever experienced challenges while accessing community security services	Yes	231	72.9
	No	86	27.1
There is sufficient community support for implementation of security innovations	No	147	46.4
	Yes	170	53.6

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.13, out of 317 respondents, 40.7% indicated that they have benefited from community security innovations such as training and safety programs, while 59.3% had not. This implies that a majority of women have yet to fully experience the benefits of these innovations, suggesting limited reach or awareness of such programs.

Moreover, the survey results indicated that 72.9% of respondents faced difficulties when trying

to access community security services because of multiple barriers including distance and bureaucratic procedures and cultural limitations. The remaining 27.1% of participants did not experience any obstacles during this process.

Likewise, the results shown that 53.6% of participants believe security initiatives receive enough community support but 46.4% of them do not share this opinion. The results show that people engage with their community but their participation levels differ between various neighborhoods. The findings shows that community security innovations create positive results yet multiple obstacles block their implementation with respect to accessibility and inclusivity.

The research study further involved an additional question which asked participants to assess the difficulties and benefits that arise from community security innovation implementation which promote women's empowerment at the camp through different statements given on a Likert scale where 1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, and 5=Strongly agree. Table 4.14 presents findings where analysis of the responses was merged into three (3) categories, namely, SD and D for the disagreeing option, N for the neutral, and A and SA for the agreeing option.

Table 4. 14: Women's Responses on challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation of community security innovations that promote women's empowerment

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std. Dev.
	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)	F (%)		
Increased funding would enhance women's empowerment through community security innovations.	40 (12.6%)	40 (12.6%)	0 (0.0%)	137 (43.3%)	100 (31.5%)	3.685	1.3588
The effectiveness of community security innovations is hampered by cultural barriers.	40 (12.6%)	40 (12.6%)	20 (6.3%)	157 (49.6%)	60 (18.9%)	3.5	1.2819
Community security innovations are limited by inadequate infrastructure.	40 (12.6%)	20 (6.3%)	20 (6.3%)	118 (37.3%)	119 (37.5%)	3.808	1.3398
Community members are actively involved in supporting security innovations.	60 (18.9%)	138 (43.5%)	60 (18.9%)	39 (12.4%)	20 (6.3%)	2.435	1.1193
Community support is crucial for the sustainability of security innovations.	60 (18.9%)	0 (0.0%)	98 (30.9%)	59 (18.7%)	100 (31.5%)	4.688	1.4210
Community security innovations are further enhanced through the collaborations with NGOs.	40 (12.6%)	20 (6.3%)	78 (24.7%)	79 (24.9%)	100 (31.5%)	4.565	1.3288
Average						3.780	1.308

Source: Field Data, 2025

From Table 4.14, the majority of respondents 237 (74.8%) agreed with the statement "Increased funding would enhance women's empowerment through community security innovations." This output indicates that community members believe financial resources function

as the main requirement for achieving success and long-lasting results in security programs. The researcher found out that women face barriers to training participation, leadership development, and security-related income activities because of their restricted financial resources. The program would reach more people through better infrastructure and gender-specific programs if it received additional funding. The mean score of 3.685 indicates general agreement among respondents, while the standard deviation of 1.36 suggests moderate variation in opinion, possibly reflecting differing access to donor-supported initiatives.

Moreover, the study shows that 217 (68.5%) of respondents share the belief that cultural obstacles prevent community security innovations from achieving their full potential. This finding suggests that community security initiatives face obstacles because cultural traditions and norms continue to prevent women from fully participating in them. The researcher found out that gender roles in certain Kakuma communities prevent women from taking part in security leadership and decision-making which produces negative effects on program results. The mean score of 3.50 indicates moderate agreement, confirming that cultural barriers are recognized as a significant challenge. The standard deviation of 1.28 shows varied experiences, likely due to differences in cultural dynamics among ethnic groups.

Similarly, the majority of respondents 237 (74.8%) agreed with the claim, “Community security innovations are limited by inadequate infrastructure.” This result shows that community security projects face limitations because of inadequate infrastructure which includes restricted communication networks and insufficient lighting and restricted roadways. The researcher identified that infrastructural deficits create obstacles for mobility and surveillance operations and quick security incident responses in remote camp areas. The mean score of 3.81 indicates a high level of agreement, showing that respondents consistently recognize infrastructure as a key limitation. The standard deviation of 1.34 reflects moderate differences in experience, suggesting that infrastructure quality varies across areas of the camp.

In addition, the survey results indicate that 198 (62.4%) of the respondents chose to disagree with the statement “Community members are actively involved in supporting security innovations.” The survey results show that people in the community do not participate much

when it comes to backing security programs. The researcher discovered that residents possess knowledge about the topic yet only a small portion actively participates in implementation activities and monitoring duties and decision-making processes. The lack of participation will probably damage both the long-term success and the accountability of these new ideas. The mean score of 2.44 reflects low agreement, confirming limited community involvement, while the standard deviation of 1.12 indicates that most respondents shared a similar perception of weak participation.

Similarly, out of all participants 159 (50.2%) supported the statement “Community support is crucial for the sustainability of security innovations.” The results show that people agree with the need for ongoing community involvement and control to achieve lasting success in security projects. The researcher found that empowerment programs thrive best when locals are directly involved in management and decision-making processes. The mean score of 4.69 shows strong agreement, confirming that respondents value community ownership highly. The standard deviation of 1.42 indicates moderate variability because different types of community support programs exist across various sectors.

Finally, the study shows that 179 (56.4%) of the participants agreed with the claim, “Community security innovations are further enhanced through the collaborations with NGOs.” The findings show that working with NGOs improves both the extent and quality and sustainability of community security initiatives. The researcher found that NGOs provide technical expertise and funding and training which support women's social and economic empowerment. The mean score of 4.57 indicates strong agreement, suggesting that NGO collaboration is widely recognized as beneficial. The standard deviation of 1.33 indicates different experiences which show how much NGO participation varies in different locations.

4.6.2 Qualitative Result on Challenges and Opportunities Emerging from the Implementation Context Specific Community Security Innovations that Promote Women's Empowerment

The research aimed to identify the challenges and benefits which result from using community security solutions designed for particular areas to promote women's empowerment at

Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. The researcher reached out to local community leaders, humanitarian staff members, law enforcement personnel, and representatives from women-led local organizations to gather their perspectives about this matter. The responses from the participants received were then coded based on the responses found which produced the following results.

From the thematic analysis, patriarchal opposition and gender discrimination emerged as a common theme because the participants confirmed that established gender expectations continue to restrict women's involvement in security programs (5 Respondents). A community elder mentioned that;

Men in this area continue to believe security duties belong to men which leads to negative reactions when women take on such roles.

Similarly, a humanitarian worker supported this view by stating that;

Mansplaining prevents women from taking leadership roles in safety committees because they block program approval.

Further, a law enforcement officer explained that;

Some women avoid reporting crimes and joining patrols because they fear their community and their families will disapprove.

From the analysis, another top theme across the responses was that gradual cultural transformation, highlighted growing acceptance of women in community safety efforts (3 Respondents). For example, a host community women-led group member stated the following:

Our first experience showed that men believed security matters should not fall under our jurisdiction but we earned their trust to become their go-to source for resolving problems.

The change developed because people in the community talked together while receiving training and witnessing successful cases of female mediators.

The final theme demonstrated how awareness programs together with NGO partnerships help create new possibilities which break down cultural resistance (5 Respondents). A humanitarian worker mentioned that;

Cultural transformation requires time but every forum that includes women normalizes their involvement.

All in all, the participants reached a consensus which showed that cultural traditions create major barriers yet they continue to work together with others to change views and support female participation in Kakuma's community security system.

4.6.3 Inferential Statistics

The final study objective was to identify the challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The following hypothesis was advanced;

H₀₃: There are no significant challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Statistical test: Logistic Regression.

Logistic Regression was used to predict the likelihood of women encountering specific challenges or either benefiting from empowerment opportunities, mainly based on their individual exposure to various community security innovations in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The findings were as presented herein;

Table 4. 15: Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients

		Chi-square	df	Sig.
Step 1	Step	46.403	10	.000
	Block	46.403	10	.000
	Model	46.403	10	.000

From Table 4.15, the model yielded a Chi-square value of 46.403 with 10 degrees of freedom ($p < 0.05$), indicating that the logistic regression model significantly predicts the dependent variable. This means that the predictors resource access, community inclusion, and training initiatives collectively have a significant influence on the challenges and opportunities arising from community security innovations. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_{03}) that there are no significant challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee

Camp, Kenya is rejected.

Table 4. 16: Model Summary

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	380.258 ^a	0.202	0.371

a. Estimation terminated at iteration number 4 because parameter estimates changed by less than .001.

Similarly, the results in Table 4.16 show that the -2 Log Likelihood was 380.258, while the Cox & Snell $R^2 = 0.202$ and Nagelkerke $R^2 = 0.371$. These results suggest that the model explains between 20.2% and 37.1% of the variance in women's empowerment outcomes arising from the implementation of community security innovations. Although moderate, this shows that the included predictors account for a meaningful portion of the variations observed.

Table 4. 17: Classification Table^a

Observed			Predicted		Percentage Correct
			Benefited from community security innovations		
			Yes	No	
Step 1	Benefited from community security innovations	Yes	129	39	42.3
		No	188	58	89.7
	Overall Percentage				60.4

a. The cut value is .500

Table 4.17 on the other hand shows that the logistic regression model correctly classified 60.4% of cases overall. It accurately predicted 89.7% of women who did not benefit from community security innovations and 42.3% of those who did. This implies that while the model effectively identifies challenges, it has moderate ability to predict positive empowerment outcomes, suggesting the need to include more explanatory factors such as leadership participation or program duration.

Table 4. 18: Variables in the Equation

								95% C.I. for Exp(B)	
								Lower	Upper
Step 1 ^a	Resource Access	0.051	0.135	1.410	1	0.000	1.052	0.653	1.110
	Community inclusion	0.135	0.229	0.143	1	0.000	1.145	0.809	1.368
	Generic and one-off training initiatives	-0.161	0.134	0.348	1	0.021	0.852	0.730	1.795
	Constant	0.461	0.344	1.800	1	0.000	1.586		

a. Variable(s) entered on step 1: Resource Access, Community inclusion, Generic and one-off training initiatives.

From Table 4.18, resource access (Exp(B) = 1.052, $p < 0.05$) and community inclusion (Exp(B) = 1.145, $p < 0.05$) had positive and significant relationships with women's empowerment. This finding suggests that access to resources and participation in decision-making processes drives better empowerment results. The research results showed that generic and one-off training initiatives (Exp(B) = 0.852, $p = 0.021$) had a negative but significant coefficient. The results show that short-term generic training programs fail to create lasting empowerment benefits. The researcher demonstrated that security innovations which last for extended periods and receive proper resources and support prove to be the most effective method for empowering women in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

The logistic regression equation is presented as follows;

$$\log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = 0.461 + 0.051\text{Resource Access} + 0.135\text{Community inclusion} - 0.161\text{Generic and one off training initiatives}$$

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, discussion, the conclusion, and the recommendations in line with the study's objectives.

5.2 Summary of Major Findings

The overall study's objective was to examine the contribution of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. In other words, the research aimed to determine whether community security innovations which depend on specific contexts would bring meaningful benefits to women empowerment in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya. The research followed three particular objectives which steered the investigation.

The research began by examining the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The data displayed in Table 4.3 shows that the average rating from women regarding the implementation of context-specific community security innovations stands at 2.71 with a standard deviation of 1.23. The evaluation results demonstrate that most participants maintain indifferent or unfavorable views about community security innovations because their individual experiences with these initiatives vary when it comes to proving effective and creating inclusive environments. The findings were supported by the results in Table 4.5, the independent samples t-test yielded a significant difference ($t = 2.119$, $p = 0.035$) between women's empowerment scores, indicating that empowerment levels varied significantly depending on the nature of community security approaches. The researcher found that women exposed to active and inclusive community security innovations reported higher socio-economic empowerment compared to those less involved. Thus, the significant p-value (< 0.05) offered strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis confirming that there is a significant relationship between the nature of context-specific community security innovations and women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

The second objective of the study was to assess the extent to which context specific community security approaches contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. In this regard, the result from Figure 4.3 indicates that responses were evenly divided, 50% of the respondents indicating “Yes” with the same number indicating “No” on the question to whether community security approaches contribute to socio-economic empowerment of women. This balance suggested a mixed perception among participants in that while half recognized community security initiatives as creating economic opportunities, the other half remain unconvinced or have not personally experienced such benefits. Similarly, from Table 4.9, the overall mean (3.02) showed a moderate level of agreement that community security approaches contribute to women’s socio-economic empowerment while the overall standard deviation (1.26) suggests diversity in perceptions, likely influenced by differences in exposure to or participation in security initiatives.

These results were further supported by the model summary findings in Table 4.10, the R^2 value (0.697) meaning that approximately 69.7% of the variance in women’s socio-economic empowerment could be explained by these community security variables. The ANOVA results Table 4.11, confirmed that there were statistically significant differences in women empowerment level caused by context-specific community security, F-value of 217.336 with $p = 0.000$, which is highly significant ($p < 0.05$). Thus, the null hypothesis (H_{02}) was rejected, meaning context specific community security approaches significantly contribute to socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

The third study objective was to identify the challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. From Table 4.14, the overall mean of 3.780 and standard deviation of 1.308 indicate that respondents generally agreed that community security innovations face both challenges (such as cultural barriers and limited infrastructure) and opportunities (through funding and NGO collaboration). For example, the interviewees clearly noted that on challenges like patriarchal resistance and gender bias, traditional gender roles still limit women’s participation in security initiatives. The Omnibus Tests of Model

Coefficients results Table 4.15, confirmed that the logistic regression model significantly predicts the dependent variable, Chi-square value of 46.403 with 10 degrees of freedom ($p < 0.05$). This means there is a likelihood of women encountering specific challenges or benefiting from empowerment opportunities, based on their exposure to various community security innovations. Thus, the null hypothesis (H_{03}) was rejected, meaning there are significant challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

5.3 Discussion of Research Findings

5.3.1 Nature of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations Towards Women's Empowerment

From the findings, there is a statistically significant relationship between the nature of context-specific community security innovations and women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Correlation output indicated a strong positive relationship among key variables of community security innovation and women's empowerment. Similarly, the independent samples t-test confirmed the statistical significance of these variables ($t = 2.119, p < .05$) with the ANOVA results ($F = 18.667, p = 0.003$) showing a significant difference in empowerment levels among groups based on their exposure to different security initiatives. The findings shows that women achieve different levels of empowerment because of the various community security strategies which exist. The research findings indicate that different community security measures produce various effects on women's empowerment.

The research findings align with the previous studies which demonstrate that security innovations need to be modified for local environments through cultural elements to achieve better results in empowering women leaders. The research findings from Turner and Swaine (2023) support these conclusions and the author demonstrates through their work that gender-responsive security approaches and community involvement lead to better trust relations and reduced violence and higher female participation which matches the results from Kakuma.

Likewise, the findings are consistent with those of (Hanmer et al., 2024), which suggested that women's participation within peace committees and governance infrastructure

will often translate to more comprehensive and female-friendly outcomes. At the same time, they agree, as this study also finds, that empowerment is not always equal, regardless of female participation, where either symbolic participation or streamlined security infrastructure are in question. It is clear, as this study finds, that all security innovations did not have the same empowering effect.

Moreover, (Jesmin, 2024) found that Rohingya women refugees involved in local protective committees showed greater levels of empowerment, although this was contingent on the type of innovations available through the communities. Essentially, this corroborates Kakuma's point, which underlines the type of intervention, and not merely the presence of the intervention, as being decisive in relation to empowerment. On similar lines, the research by Ekanayake et al. (2023), focusing on gender and forced displacement in humanitarian in refugee camps among them South Sudanese IDP camps, identified empowering initiatives in 'community policing projects,' though strongly circumscribed by patriarchic norms, as underlined in the Kakuma study.

Similarly, research conducted in Uganda by Odoch and Kasaija (2022) showed that women-led peace committees created important empowerment effects but these committees achieved success only in areas which upheld female public involvement according to cultural traditions. The results of this study show that empowerment levels differ based on the amount of exposure and cultural acceptance for each group. Further, the Dadaab Refugee Complex study by McAlpine et al. (2020) showed that gender-sensitive security programs with proper organization delivered results which matched the positive effects seen at Kakuma Refugee Camp.

The present study delivers new quantitative results which confirm previous theoretical and qualitative findings about women's participation in community security organizations. The research by (Turner & Swaine, 2023) and (Hanmer et al., 2024) showed gender-based security programs could improve female empowerment but they failed to provide statistical evidence for their claims. The empirical data from Kakuma shows security innovations create measurable empowerment changes through t-test and ANOVA results and significant correlations. The research findings build upon previous refugee studies (Ekanayake et al., 2023; McAlpine et al.,

2020) through their analysis of how different cultural elements, structural, and programmatic characteristics affect empowerment results from particular innovations.

However, despite the research results show important patterns yet they depend on correlational analysis which prevents researchers from proving direct cause-and-effect relationships between community security innovations and women's empowerment. Similarly, the use of aggregate measures could also mask intra-group variations among women with different economic and socio-cultural backgrounds.

Nonetheless, the research results convincingly show that community security programs which focus on particular areas lead to better results for women's empowerment at the Kakuma Refugee Camp. The established positive correlations between variables and major group distinctions demonstrate that customized security plans function as more than just protective measures because they create different empowerment results. The researcher believes these findings show that developing security programs which unite local communities will help women access better social and economic opportunities.

5.3.2 Extent to which Context Specific Community Security Approaches Contribute to Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

The findings thus indicates that context specific community security approaches significantly contribute to socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. It was found that the combined predictors under study that is resource access, community inclusion, and training initiatives significantly influenced women's socio-economic empowerment. This pattern is further confirmed by statistically significant ANOVA results ($F = 217.336, p < 0.05$). The results from this study match the findings from other research which shows community-based and gender-sensitive security programs develop safe spaces for female empowerment in displacement areas.

For instance, Sunata and Tosun (2019) discovered that civil society organizations support refugee economic and social integration through vocational training and psychosocial support and community platforms which boost women's ability to recover. The investigation continues

the knowledge base by showing that security-based programs which connect resource availability and participatory involvement lead to similar improvements in social and economic empowerment for refugee women. The present research advances these discoveries through its investigation of how security-based programs together with resource provision and community participation lead to equal social and economic empowerment results for refugee women.

Moreover, the research results support Hasegawa's (2007) theory which suggests human security systems reach the highest performance levels through combined protective measures and empowerment strategies. The increasing number of women who join community policing teams and safety committees and mediation groups at Kakuma creates both protective benefits and leadership opportunities which strengthen their self-confidence and economic involvement. The research by Ekanayake et al. (2023) demonstrates that safety measures help women gain power because displaced women need to support community programs which allow them to perform male tasks.

Furthermore, the research by Grześkowiak (2024) shows that women who stayed in long-term refugee settlements in Uganda achieved improved economic participation through their work in community safety networks and inclusive governance systems. The research results from this study support the existing study findings which show community-led security programs create safer areas that enable women to reach higher social and economic achievements.

Likewise, Stark et al. (2021) conducted research which shows that community participation with female leaders brings about improved social unity and economic independence. The results of the current study match the findings about how community involvement affects empowerment levels of women from Kakuma. Schmidt (2021) conducted research which shows that security awareness training combined with leadership development and community response system education enables women to acquire skills that boost their social standing and professional growth.

The research findings gain strength from statistical proof which shows that community security methods based on local context led to better socio-economic empowerment results for

women. The research identifies three essential factors which include resource access, community inclusion, and training initiatives to provide a complete understanding of empowerment development. The ANOVA results show strong empirical support for the study because they match previous research findings which proves their validity for humanitarian and displacement situations.

Despite the research findings show strong statistical validity, they present only combined predictor effects which restrict our ability to understand how each individual component operates. The research study faces two distinct problems because it uses cross-sectional quantitative data which prevents researchers from drawing causal conclusions and fails to track empowerment outcomes over time. The study fails to examine enough contextual elements which include cultural norms, power relations, and institutional constraints which might hinder our understanding of how community security systems lead to lasting socio-economic empowerment for women.

Nonetheless, the primary finding of this research demonstrates that community security methods which adapt to specific settings produce measurable improvements in women economic empowerment at Kakuma Refugee Camp. Local security organizations obtain their authority through available resources and active community involvement and training initiatives which help them support female empowerment. The findings indicate that women gain improved movement abilities and financial access and self-assurance by joining community security programs which let them lead safety operations and manage resource-based initiatives. The research findings show security and empowerment maintain a strong link which requires gender-specific security systems to achieve enduring empowerment results.

5.3.3 Challenges and Opportunities Emerging from the Implementation Context Specific Community Security Innovations that Promote Women's Empowerment

The findings therefore revealed a significant interplay of challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote

women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Based on the output in Table 4.14, the overall mean of 3.780 and standard deviation of 1.308 indicate that respondents generally agreed that community security innovations face both challenges (such as cultural barriers and limited infrastructure) and opportunities (through funding and NGO collaboration). The research results showed that women empowerment in Kakuma needs external backing together with local management to maintain its effectiveness.

Noteworthy, the research results support particular findings from earlier studies. The research by Turner and Swaine (2023) demonstrates that worldwide gender-security programs fail to understand local cultural settings which blocks community participation at base levels. The cultural restrictions at Kakuma stem from male-dominated social systems which block women from leadership roles and maintain traditional gender expectations that restrict their public involvement. The research conducted by Odoch and Atim (2021) reveals that refugee women face cultural barriers which stop them from achieving personal safety management control.

Moreover, the quantitative results together with existing research show that community support systems maintain similar patterns throughout different areas of the region. According to Hendricks (2017) the security systems of Africa fail to deliver complete protection as the operational frameworks contain fundamental defects and the systems for holding people responsible remain underdeveloped. The implementation of community-based security measures at Kakuma encounters various obstacles because of insufficient lighting infrastructure, restricted access to training facilities as well as financial backing.

Likewise, the study shows that several important opportunities exist which remain unaffected by the identified barriers. The survey results indicate that people think NGOs should work together while securing more funds and involving communities actively to achieve improved results in women's empowerment. The research findings support the results from Sturge and O'Callaghan (2018) who found that community-based innovations operate as vital protection systems for displaced people although they function through informal structures with restricted resources.

The key highlight of the current study is that while the findings show that cultural obstacles and insufficient facilities and restricted community involvement prevent women from joining community security innovations, NGO partnerships and financial backing and cultural transformations create valuable opportunities for improvement. The contributions of this study to the prior studies is that it presents new data from a refugee camp environment which shows how women within Kakuma develop and gain advantages from community-based security systems. The research provides a distinctive perspective because it investigates how community security innovations combat patriarchal systems while establishing practical empowerment methods which previous theoretical and policy research has neglected to study.

Although the research results show different obstacles and possibilities, the study depends on basic statistical analysis which prevents detailed understanding of how particular obstacles restrict empowerment results. The method of using mean scores provides an oversimplified view of individual experiences which hides the multiple variations that exist between different groups of people. The research fails to show actual comparisons between external support systems and local management effectiveness which creates uncertainty about which elements drive the success of women's empowerment projects.

Nonetheless, the research shows that women achieve empowerment through community security programs which function within Kakuma Refugee Camp by understanding how different barriers and supportive elements interact with each other. According to the researcher women refugee empowerment experiences two main obstacles which stem from cultural differences and weak infrastructure but also gains advantages through NGO partnerships. The core strategy thus requires combining external support systems with robust local management structures because this approach proves more durable than temporary outside help.

5.4 Conclusion of the Study

The first objective of the study was to examine the nature of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The overall average score of 2.71 with a standard deviation of 1.23 shows that women experienced these innovations with low to neutral levels of inclusivity and effectiveness. The independent

samples t-test revealed a statistically significant difference which showed that women who experienced active participatory coordinated security approaches achieved higher empowerment levels. The findings demonstrate that security innovation success depends on both the quality and design as well as implementation methods for achieving empowerment results. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected, confirming a significant relationship between community security innovation practices and women's empowerment. Thus, the study concludes that the nature of context-specific community security innovations significantly influences women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

The second objective of the study was to assess the extent to which context specific community security approaches contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. From the findings, the regression analysis confirmed that 69.7% of the variance in empowerment is explained by community security variables. The data analysis revealed that security approaches generate essential impacts on women's economic and social outcomes. The null hypothesis was thus rejected, confirming that community security programs which adapt to local needs generate real benefits for women's economic independence at Kakuma Refugee Camp.

The last research objective focused on identifying the challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation context specific community security innovations that promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The results indicated that women respondents believe that cultural limitations together with patriarchal systems and missing infrastructure prevent successful program execution. At the same time, opportunities such as increased funding, NGO collaboration, and evolving community support enhance empowerment prospects. The research shows that cultural opposition continues to block women's involvement but changing attitudes and growing partnerships create better conditions for their participation. The logistic regression model ($\chi^2 = 46.403$, $p < 0.05$) demonstrated significant predictive relationships which resulted in the rejection of the null hypothesis about the absence of major challenges or opportunities. The research thus concluded that community security programs at Kakuma refugee camp create two opposing effects which both establish important barriers and

valuable chances for empowering women.

Noteworthy, this study overall concludes that context-specific community security innovations play a significant and multifaceted role in advancing women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The research shows that different security innovation types create various empowerment results because each approach produces distinct levels of influence. Community security methods help women achieve socio-economic independence by providing them with better resource availability and community participation and specialized training programs. However, the effectiveness of these innovations is shaped by existing challenges, including cultural barriers and infrastructural constraints. The research therefore demonstrates that refugee women need both outside assistance and strong local leadership to gain lasting meaningful empowerment through integrated security programs.

5.5 Recommendations

From the study's results, the following are proposed recommendations and suggestions for further research all in line with the study's specific objectives;

5.5.1 Study's Recommendations

Stakeholders need to develop multiple and diverse community security innovations which actively involve participation and address gender needs by using local cultural knowledge from Kakuma Refugee Camp.

The government together with humanitarian organizations needs to establish better community security systems which focus on expanding women's resource access and developing their skills for socioeconomic growth.

Implementers need to reduce cultural and infrastructural obstacles by using NGO partnerships together with donor support through strong local management systems to maintain sustainable women's empowerment programs at Kakuma Refugee Camp.

5.5.2 Suggestions for Further Research

A longitudinal study should be conducted to assess how specialized security innovations for Kakuma Refugee Camp impact women's empowerment levels over extended periods.

Also, a comparative evaluation should be done on how different security methods affect socio-economic empowerment results between various Kenyan refugee settlements.

Finally, conduct a study to identify particular methods to fight cultural barriers and infrastructure problems while capitalizing on working with NGOs for better implementation results.

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APPENDICES

Appendix: I: Women Questionnaire

Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire. All information supplied in this questionnaire will be kept strictly secret and used exclusively for academic reasons. If you have any explanations or queries, please contact the researcher in charge.

Instruction:

- i. Do not write your name or contact information on the questionnaire.
- ii. Answer all questions according to the directions.

Consent: If you agree to participate in the study, please acknowledge it below.

Signature.....

Date.....

Signature.....

Questionnaire on an assessment of women empowerment through innovating context-specific community safety approaches: a study of Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

Questionnaire Number: _____ Date: / / 2025

Please check the box [] for their acceptable response in the questions below or fill out the blanks given.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS

1. What is your age bracket? 18–25 years [] 26–35 years [] 36–45 years [] 46 years and above []
2. Marital status;
Single [] Married [] Widowed [] Divorced/Separated []
3. Country of origin;
South Sudan [] Somalia [] Congo (DRC) [] Burundi [] Ethiopia [] Rwanda []
Uganda [] Sudan []
Other, please specify
4. Education Level;
No formal education [] Primary level education [] Secondary level education [] Post-secondary education (vocational training, diploma) [] University degree and above []

5. Employment Status;
 Unemployed ☐ Small scale trade, craft etc. ☐ Formally employed ☐ Community service work involved (i.e., Volunteering, NGO roles etc.) ☐
6. Length of stay in Kakuma Refugee Camp:
 Less than 1 year ☐ 1–3 years ☐ 4–7 years ☐ 8 years and above ☐

SECTION B: Women Empowerment

7. How safe do you feel in your community?
 Very unsafe ☐ Unsafe ☐ Neutral ☐ Safe ☐ Very safe ☐
8. What measures do you think could improve your sense of security?

9. Do you have access to resources that allow you to be economically independent?
 Yes ☐ No ☐
10. Women empowerment in the community, particularly in the refugee camp setting is crucial for security-related issues. Indicate your agreement or disagreement level with the following statements. (1=Strongly disagree 2=Disagree 3=Neutral 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
There is active participation of women in the decision making process in Kakuma Refugee Camp.					
In Kakuma Refugee Camp, opinions from women are taken into consideration in decisions in the community.					
Women feel safe when they take part in community activities.					
Community security measures take care of women's safety concerns promptly.					
Women are supported in their efforts to achieve economic independence.					
Resources for women's economic independence are provided by community programs.					

11. What types of resources would help you achieve socioeconomic independence?

.....

SECTION C: Nature of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations

Implementation Strategies

12. Are you aware of any community security innovations implemented in your area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, What types of community security innovations have been implemented in your area?

.....

.....

13. How effective do you think these strategies are in promoting women's security?

Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective ☐

14. The nature of context-specific community security innovations is crucial for women empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Indicate your agreement or disagreement level with the following statements. (1=Strongly disagree 2=Disagree 3=Neutral 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
Community security innovations are diverse and resourceful thus addresses various aspects of women's safety as well as their empowerment.					
Implementation strategies for community security innovations are inclusive.					
Generic and one-off training initiatives are more beneficial to women.					
Community security innovations are effectively implemented in Kakuma Refugee Camp.					
The implementation of community security innovations takes into consideration women's feedback.					
Community security innovations are regularly updated to address emerging challenges.					

15. Which of the implemented innovations are most beneficial for you?

.....

.....

SECTION D: Community Security Approaches Contributing to Socio-economic

Empowerment of Women

16. Are there any measures that facilitate the security of women?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, how effective are these measures in enhancing the conditions of women's safety?

Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective ☐

17. How do community security approaches help toward social empowerment?

.....

18. Community Security approaches should contribute to Socio-economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Indicate your agreement or disagreement level with the following statements. (1=Strongly disagree 2=Disagree 3=Neutral 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
Women's needs are factored in the security measures.					
Security measures are regularly reviewed to ensure women's safety.					
Community security approaches help in enhancing women's social empowerment.					
Women are encouraged to take on social leadership roles.					
Effective community security approaches do create economic opportunities for women.					
Community security approaches support women in their economic endeavors.					

19. Have community security approaches led to the creation of economic opportunities for women? Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, What types of economic opportunities have been created and to whom?

.....

Section E: Challenges and Opportunities Emerging from the Implementation of Community Security Innovations that Promote Women's Empowerment

20. Have you personally benefited from community security innovations (e.g., training, jobs, or safety programs)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

21. Have you experienced challenges while accessing community security services?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, list some of the challenges or barriers that exist

.....

22. Challenges and opportunities emerging from the implementation community security

innovations should promote women's empowerment the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

Indicate your agreement or disagreement level with the following statements. (1=Strongly disagree 2=Disagree 3=Neutral 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree)

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
Increased funding would enhance women's empowerment through community security innovations.					
The effectiveness of community security innovations is hampered by cultural barriers.					
Community security innovations are limited by inadequate infrastructure.					
Community members are actively involved in supporting security innovations.					
Community support is crucial for the sustainability of security innovations.					
Community security innovations are further enhanced through the collaborations with NGOs.					

23. Is there sufficient community support for the implementation of security innovations?

Yes ☐ No ☐

24. What role do NGOs play in supporting community security innovations?

.....

Thank You!

Appendix II: Interview Guide for Representatives of Local Community Leaders, Humanitarian Workers, Law Enforcement Officers, and Local Women-led Groups

Please take some valuable time to answer to this interview. All information supplied in this questionnaire will be kept strictly secret and used exclusively for academic reasons. If you have any explanations or queries, please contact the researcher in charge.

Instruction

- i. Answer all of the questions using the guidelines provided.

Questionnaire on an assessment of women empowerment through innovating context-specific community safety approaches: a study of Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

SECTION A: Background Information

1. Please state your sex.
2. What is your highest level of education attained?
3. How old are you?
4. In which capacity are you in Kakuma Refugee Camp and how long have you been working in that position?

SECTION B: Input on your awareness, knowledge on contribution of context-specific community security innovations towards women's empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.

5. How are women involved in making decisions within the community security initiatives of Kakuma Refugee Camp?
6. How have community security innovations led to women's socioeconomic independence in Kakuma Refugee Camp?
7. Which particular strategies were put in place to promote community security in Kakuma

Refugee Camp and how successfully have they provided for women's security needs?

8. Can you provide some examples of types of community security innovations introduced in Kakuma Refugee Camp and speak of their effects on women's empowerment?
9. What role does community security play in socio economic empowerment of women in Kakuma Refugee Camp?
10. How do community security approaches influence women's social empowerment and leadership in Kakuma Refugee Camp?
11. What are the impacts of cultural norms and barriers to the implementation of community security innovations and women's participation in them?
12. What role do community support play in the success or failure of community security innovations in Kakuma Refugee Camp?

Thank You!

Appendix III: University Letter



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3rd July 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: RESEARCH PERMIT: GLADYS NYAKIEGA MUIGA; STUDENT NO. 22J01DMGP036

Gladys Nyakiega Muiga No (22J01DMGP036) is a Bonafide postgraduate student at Africa Nazarene University in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences – Governance, Peace & Security Studies department. He is pursuing a master's degree in governance, Peace & Security Studies. This program entails Coursework and Thesis. He has successfully completed coursework and defended his thesis proposal entitled:

“Contribution of Context-Specific Community Security Innovations Towards Women's Empowerment in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya”

Any assistance accorded to him to facilitate data collection and complete his thesis will be highly appreciated.

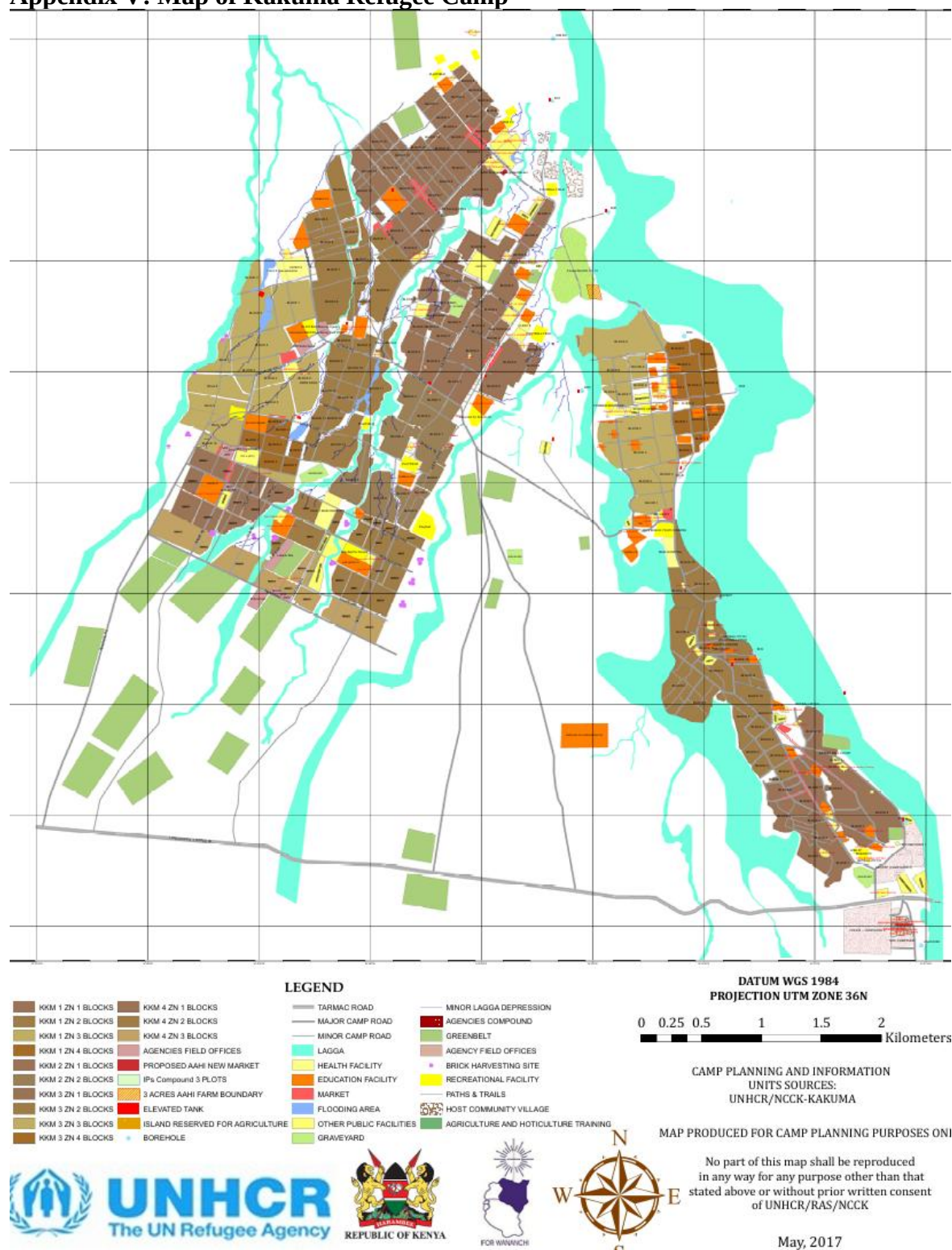
Faithfully,

Prof. Orpha Ongiti
Dean of Postgraduate Studies & Director Institute of Research.

Appendix IV: NACOSTI Permit

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This is to Certify that Miss. Gladys Nyakiega Muiga of Africa Nazarene University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Turkana on the topic: THE CONTRIBUTION OF CONTEXT-SPECIFIC COMMUNITY SECURITY INNOVATIONS TOWARDS WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP, KENYA for the period ending : 29/January/2027.	
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Appendix V: Map of Kakuma Refugee Camp



Source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal