

# **REFUGEE-HOST INTERACTION IN THE KRISAN REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN GHANA**



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# OUTLINE

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- **Introduction**
- **Study Area**
- **Refugeeism in Ghana**
- **Conceptual Issues**
- **Data and Methods**
- **Findings and Discussion**
- **Implications for peaceful co-existence**
- **Concluding Remarks**



## **INTRODUCTION**

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- **West Africa has limited refugee experience**
- **Only twenty thousand refugees in 1988**
- **Number shot up to 700,000 by 1994**
- **Pursuit of livelihoods by refugees increases human security in host communities (Jacobsen, 2003)**
- **Pursuit of livelihoods invariably leads to interactions with hosts**



## **INTRODUCTION cont'd**

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- **Challenges in implementing the three durable solutions of UNHCR**
- **Healthy interactions necessary for peaceful co-existence with hosts (Option 2)**
- **This paper contributes to the search for peaceful coexistence and interaction between refugees and hosts**
- **Few studies on refugees in Ghana have concentrated on Budumburam Camp**

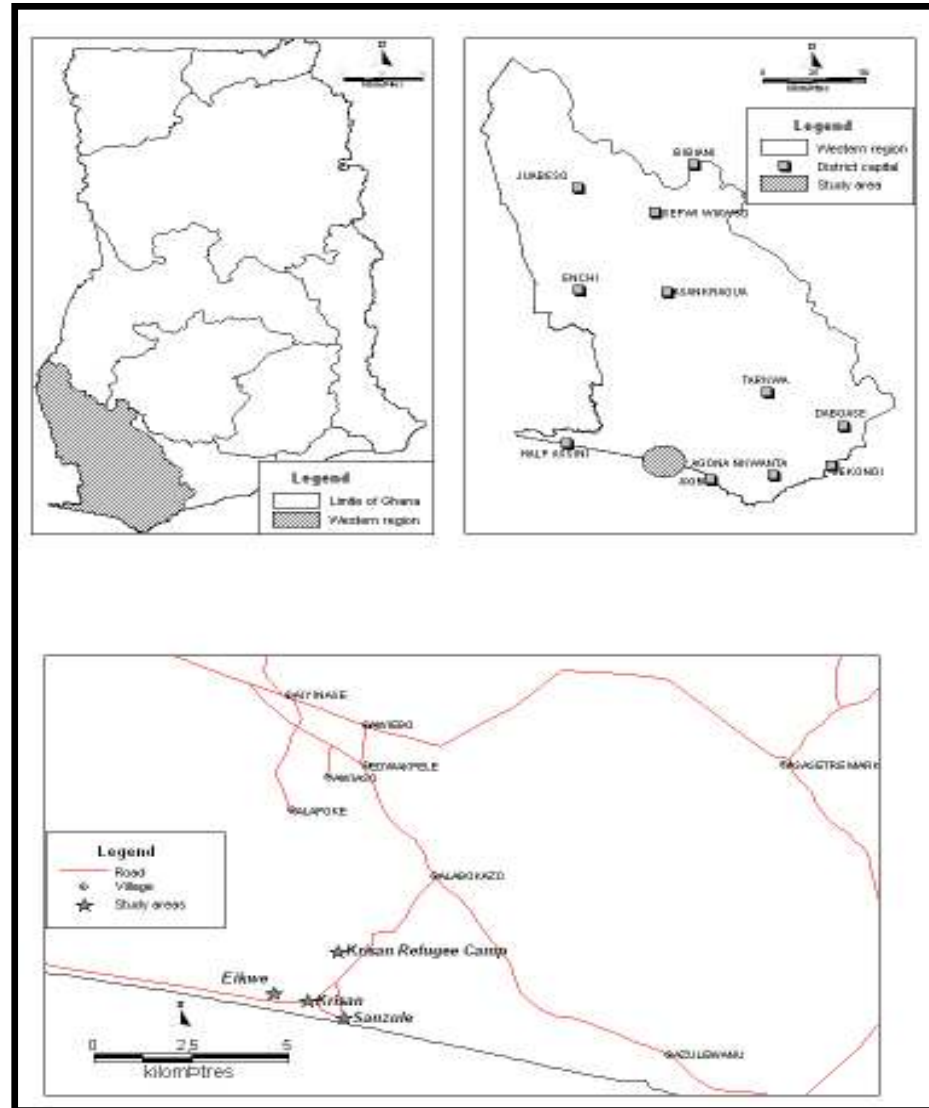


## **STUDY AREA**

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- **Krisan Refugee Settlement, one of the three camps in Ghana**
- **Established in 1996 to accommodate Liberian refugees**
- **Located near Krisan Sanzule and Eikwe in the East Nzema District of the Western Region of Ghana**

Figure 1: Map of Ghana showing the Study Areas





## **STUDY AREA cont'd**

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- **Total population in the Refugee Hosting Area**
  - **Host population**      **4,279**
  - **Refugees**              **1,321**



## REFUGEEISM IN GHANA

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- Refugeeism in Ghana dates back to colonial period
- Ghana's post independence foreign policy was driven by Pan Africanist considerations which allowed refugees
  - Non-Ghanaians 12% of population of 1960
  - Home to number of freedom fighters – Robert Mugabe, Hastings Banda, Mariam Makeba
- Subsequent governments after the overthrow of Nkrumah were less interested in refugees
- First major influx of refugees was in 1990 – Liberian refugees



## **REFUGEEISM IN GHANA cont'd**

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- **Led to passing of Refugee Law (PNDC Law 305D)**
- **Ghana as a safe haven in the West Africa sub-region**
- **Refugees from 11 African countries at the time of this study**
- **Ghana hosted 48,034 refugees by 2004**



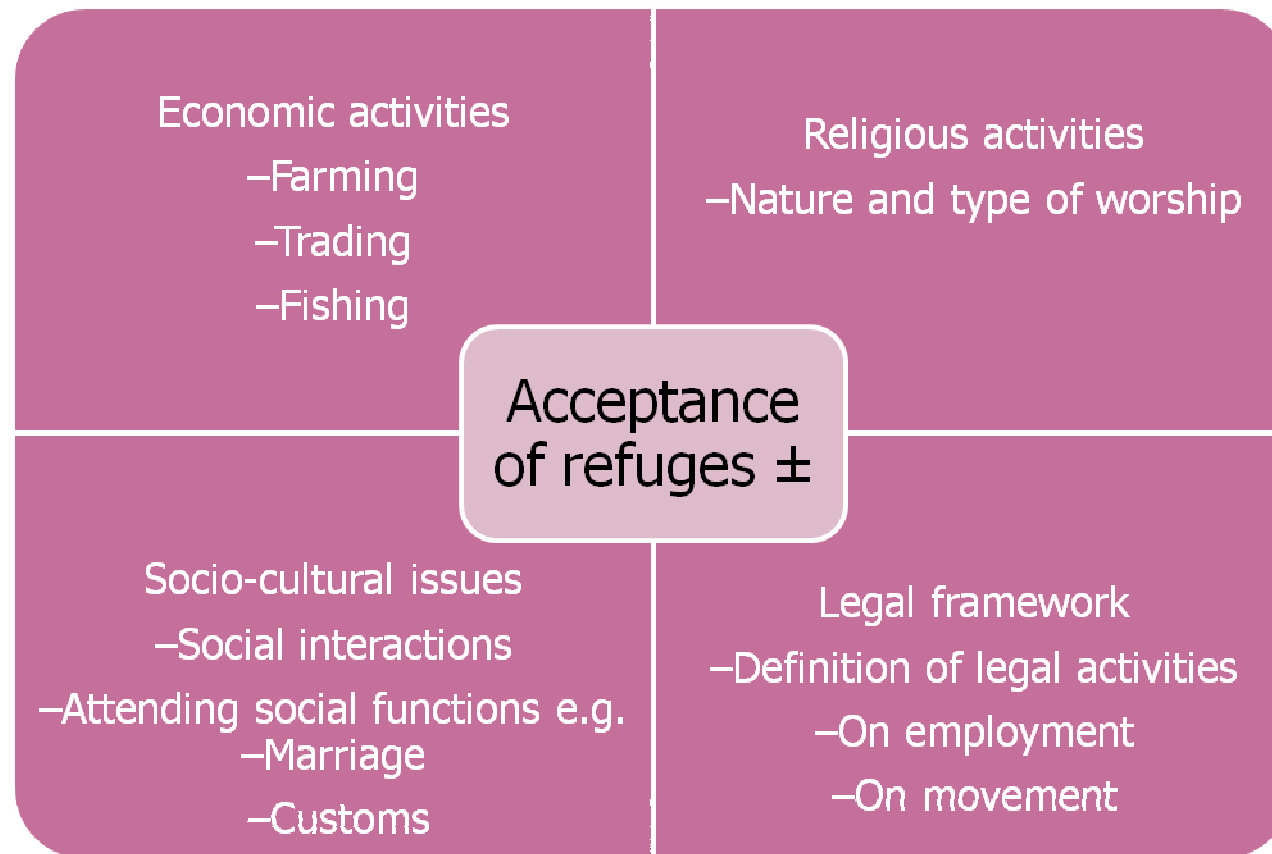
## CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

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- **Valtonen's (2004) three-stage of refugee integration**
- **Jacobsen's (2003) Livelihoods in Conflict Approach (goals, resources and strategies)**
- **Relationship between activities of refugees and their acceptance (Figure 2)**



**FIG. 2: FRAMEWORK FOR THE STUDY**



Source: Authors' construct



## Data and Methods

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- **180 each of refugees and hosts were selected**
- **Total sample size of hosts communities was proportional to the community's proportion in total**
- **Apart from Somalia and Eritrea, totals of other countries proportional to their proportion in total**
- **Questionnaire and in-depth interviews were administered**



## DATA AND METHODS cont'd

### Sample distribution of refugees

Country	Male	Female	Total
Togo	35	35	70
Liberia	19	19	38
Sierra Leone	16	16	32
Sudan	14	14	28
Congo & Congo DR	2	2	4
Rwanda	1	1	2
Cote d'Ivoire	1	1	2
Chad	1	1	2
Somalia	1	-	1
Eritrea	1	-	1
Total	91	89	180



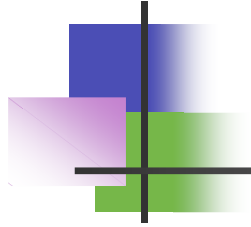
## Data and Methods cont'd

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### Distribution of sample size of hosts

	Community			
Sex	Sanzule	Krisan	Eikwe	Total
Male	34	19	37	90
Female	34	19	37	90
Total	68	38	74	180

Source: field survey, 2005



# RESULTS



## **Background characteristics of respondents**

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- **Sixty-eight per cent of hosts and 65% of refugees were between 20 and 39 years**
- **The refugees had higher formal education than the hosts**
- **Over half of both populations were married**

## Background characteristics of respondents

Age group	Host population		Refugees	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Less than 20	3.3	3.3	3.3	5.7
20-24	11.1	10.0	11.1	17.7
25-29	21.1	24.4	29.5	17.7
30-34	11.1	20.0	16.7	15.6
35-39	24.4	16.7	11.0	15.6
40-44	9.0	9.0	19.6	13.4
45-49	10.0	10.0	3.3	4.4
50-54	6.7	2.2	2.2	4.4
55-59	1.1	2.2	0.0	2.2
60-64	1.1	0.0	2.2	2.2
65+	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Education by sex				
None	12.2	24.4	0.0	19.1
Primary	18.9	30.0	11.0	20.2
Middle/JSS	52.2	37.8	29.7	28.1
Sec/SSS	8.9	5.6	50.5	31.5
Higher	7.8	2.2	8.8	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



# Background -cont'd

Age group	Host population		Refugees	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Single	32.2	27.8	45.1	11.2
Married	55.6	54.4	54.4	61.8
In-cohabitation	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Separated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Divorced	10.0	15.6	18.7	1.1
Widowed	1.1	1.1	4.3	22.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



# Socio-cultural interactions

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- Refugees increased host population by a third
- Ninety-four per cent of hosts admitted changes in social relations
- Five forms of change were identified
  - More social networks (90%)
  - Availability of potential spouses (68%)
  - Compelling indigenous children in public schools to speak English (38%)
  - Emergence of new ways of doing things (6%)
  - Adulteration of indigenous values (15%)



# Religious activities

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- **Ninety per cent of respondents were Christians**
  - 95% for hosts and 82% for refugees
- **Proliferation of many Christian churches in the camp - source of worry for hosts**
  - Could lead to quack pastors
  - Could compete with local churches



# Economic activities

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- **Presence of refugees expanded local market size**
- **Refugees helped revive flagging fishing industry and helped as farm hands**
- **Environmental degradation through harvesting of fuelwood and charcoal production was unacceptable to hosts**
- **Refugees blamed UNHCR for failing to provide them with charcoal**



## **IMPLICATIONS OF FINDINGS FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE**

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- **Hosts saw refugee labour as indispensable**
- **Refugees earned some income from working in indigenous industries**
- **This could increase human security as suggested by Jacobsen (2003)**
- **Environmental degradation through the activities of refugees threatening relationship**



## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

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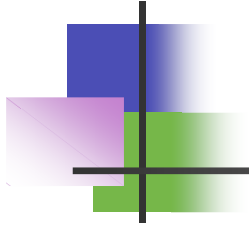
- **Bulk of refugee activities influenced acceptance of refugees positively**
- **Environmental degradation threatens refugee-hosts relations**
  - **Environmental issues play crucial role in livelihood strategies of rural hosts**
  - **Environment serves spiritual purposes as well and therefore should be at the fore of discussions**



## **CONCLUDING REMARKS cont'd**

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- **Refugee activities should be within the bounds of local regulatory structures to ensure peaceful co-existence**
- **Ghana Refugee Board and UNHCR to mediate**



***THANK YOU***