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Effect of Humanitarian Assistance for Vulnerable Communities on Social Welfare of Refugees in Rwanda: A Case of Mahama Refugee Camp

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Abstract

Humanitarian assistance continues to assist Rwandan refugees who select to voluntarily repatriate their children. Mahama camp experienced clean water supply which was below standards (at an average of 13.8 liters per person per day as compared to the standard of 20 liters per person per day), there was a lack of school facilities (60 students per classroom), and there were recurrent challenges in maintaining the provision of food assistance, land scarcity resulted in the congestion of refugee camps and limited opportunities for agricultural projects, and reduced support for self-reliance activities, with under 17,000 refugees engaged in income-generating activities during the year. Therefore, they are often very reliant on overseas aid, now they are no longer capable to enhance their resilience skills or preserve support livelihoods. Therefore, this study examined the effect of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities on social welfare of refugees in Rwanda. The specific objective of this study was to examine the implementation of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities in Mahama Refugee Camp; to assess the satisfaction level in refugees' welfare and to identify weaknesses in the acquisition of basic needs in Mahama Refugee Camp. The descriptive (quantitative and qualitative) and analytical research design was used in this study; the sample size is 100 respondents from 54000 population and using simple random sampling techniques. The data collected was coded and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20 was used for data entry and analysis, statistical tools were used including frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation. The implementation of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities by 4.15 of overall mean, the satisfaction level in Refugee welfare by 4.12 of overall mean and the weaknesses in acquisition of basic needs by 2.9 of overall mean. As recommendation, they should provide way of solving same challenges such as food security, security and water and sanitation.

Keywords: *Humanitarian Assistance, Vulnerable Communities, Social Welfare, Mahama Refugee Camp, Rwanda*

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1. Introduction

Humanitarian actors incorporate a range of businesses such as government, non-government, military, local as excellent as donor corporations that supply humanitarian assistance to affected populations in need. In this context, technological improvements encompass infinite tools such as cellular phones, social media, disaster mapping, crowd sourcing, statistics-sharing portals, and extra (PEIC, 2021). Protection has become an important element in the focus and mission statement of many humanitarian aid actors. In the context of humanitarian aid, protection is defined as all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of the law, (Collinson & Darcy, 2012).

The humanitarian assistance shifting from providing a palliative help to the most vulnerable to embracing developmental and conflict resolution goals, humanitarian assistance and principles became, again and even more, under question, with humanitarian decisions being, from then on, based less on need and more on political and developmental criteria. It has been in this changing scenario and in the context of complex emergencies and conflicts that the main critics to the new humanitarianism and its apology to the linkage between humanitarian assistance and development have arisen, focusing on its main risks and problems: political instrumentalization of humanitarian assistance, conditionality, challenging and/or oblivion of neutrality and other classic humanitarian principles, «privatization» of aid through subcontracting of humanitarian organizations by states, among others (Goodhand, 2018).

Humanitarian crises have become increasingly complex, protracted, and likely to be caused by conflict. As the scope of the SDGs increased over the original MDGs, so did the scale in terms of who would be factored in. Serving as a humanitarian or aid worker in the conflict areas requires resilience and un-proportionate courage, particularly the local staff working under bleak conditions. The organizations grapple with humanitarian space and aid worker security as emergent areas of risk. The humanitarian assistance has tended to focus on aid architecture, including financing mechanisms and or been aimed at the systemic or conceptual level (Hinds, 2015).

UNHCR continues to assist Rwandan refugees who select to voluntarily repatriate their children. Mahama camp experienced clean water supply which was below standards (at an average of 13.8 litres per person per day as compared to the standard of 20 litres per person per day), there was a lack of school facilities (60 students per classroom), and there were recurrent challenges in maintaining the provision of food assistance, Land scarcity resulted in the congestion of refugee camps and limited opportunities for agricultural projects, and reduced support for self-reliance activities, with under 17,000 refugees engaged in income-generating activities during the year (UNHCR, 2021).

Therefore, they are refugees who have high levels of poverty and malnutrition, poor market opportunities, protection, and the lack of post-elementary schooling for refugees. Now they are no longer capable to enhance their resilience skills or preserve support livelihoods. The current research aims at the effect of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities on social welfare of refugees in Rwanda, a case study of Mahama Refugee Camp in Kirehe District.

1.1 Objectives of the study

1.1.1 General objective

The general objective of this study was to examine the effect of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities on social welfare of refugees in Rwanda.

1.1.2 Specific Objectives

- (i) To examine the implementation of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities in Mahama Refugee Camp.
- (ii) To assess the satisfaction level in Refugee welfare.
- (iii) To identify the weaknesses in acquisition of basic needs.

1.1.3 Research Hypotheses

- (i) How is the humanitarian assistance implemented in Mahama Refugee Camp?
- (ii) What is the welfare satisfaction level of refugees?
- (iii) What is the non-coved basic need in refugee's camp?

2. Literature review

2.1 Empirical Literature Review

2.1.1 The implementation of humanitarian assistance.

According to a study on relationship between beneficial resource and welfare symptoms carried out through Gomanee, Girma, amp (2010) and Morrissey (2013), humanitarian beneficial useful resource does appear to be associated with upgrades in welfare (the Human Development Index and baby mortality) and they have an impact on is most brilliant in nations with decreasing values of welfare, likely due to the fact that these international locations have the most room for improvement.

They also suggest that they have an impact on of aid on welfare signs and symptoms is very frequently indirect, as it tends to enhance welfare via increased pro-public expenditure (PPE). This implies spending on sectors such as health, schooling and sanitation, which are the sectors with the strongest effect on welfare symptoms (Verschoor, 2012); however additionally expenditure on rural infrastructure, micro-credit and agricultural extension and science may additionally be endorsed to the poor, as properly as benefitting the public in significant (Morrissey, 2012). They moreover discover proof that pro-poor spending and beneficial aid each, separately, contribute to increasing welfare (Morrissey, 2012). At the identical time, even though it looks probable that positive economic insurance policies beautify growth, there is no proof that precise economic policies are indispensable to make sure resource effectiveness in contributing to welfare (Verschoor, 2012).

However, the effect of useful resource allotted to enchantment in welfare and dwelling stipulations for the terrible and to the information of proper governance is normally difficult to evaluate, as many things first of all are not easily measured, and secondly, in many instances take a lengthy time to materialize. Thus, the relationship between aid, PPE and welfare signs and symptoms is no longer clear. Some research find out that across international areas there is no proof of a noteworthy connection between public health spending per capita and under-five mortality as soon as earnings is managed for (World-Bank, 2012).

Nevertheless, other proof suggests that useful aid dispensed to public fitness interventions has a first-rate effect on health indicators: Although unique factors such as earnings per capita, schooling and gender inequality are huge determinants of baby and infant mortality at some stage in countries at a precise factor in time, some kinds of fitness spending (vaccinations etc.) are in a similar way influential Hanmer, lenmer, Lensink & White, 2013).

According to Morrissey additionally finds that beneficial aid extensively contributes to enchantment in welfare indicators. According to him, the as a substitute large proportion of useful resource spent on welfare enhancements is one of the explanations for the giant improvement in welfare warning signs in most growing international locations given that the 2001. And while increase has from time to time been real looking in the poorest countries, things have nonetheless received better.

The impact of violence, conflict, and disaster on non-citizens. The non-citizens face distinct challenges in humanitarian crisis, which are not addressed through regular programming. Therefore, they require special attention. The paper focused on cases studies of Libya, Japan, Thailand, the United States of America and Syria in regard to recent disasters/conflicts. Exclusion of non-citizens from relief services, their limitations in terms of movement and work permits, as well as lack of consideration for them in national frameworks lead to critical gaps in humanitarian response (Weerasinghe, 2015).

2.1.2 The effect of humanitarian assistance on level of social welfare.

Rwanda has developed complete insurance plan policies and strategies that contribute to ending hunger, attaining foods safety and improving nutrition. The overarching cause of humanitarian help is the safety of the inherent dignity of the human person. This entails the pleasure of positive integral wishes that are held to be vital to lifestyles of dignity. Thus, the content material of every specific human suited is to make contributions to this closing purpose. In fact, the human rights-approach, if really built-in into improvement efforts, adds an indispensable dimension to the enchantment of residing standards of individuals, in particular their entitlement to sure provisions, and avenues of redress if these are violated (Gunduz, 2014).

The individual organizations and interagency approach to protection remains a supply driven exercise. This results in doing stereotype activity in any crisis, not taking necessarily into consideration the specificities and context analysis. Moreover, effective protection in crisis is dependent on multiple stakeholders. Niland argued that the key element is the relationship between humanitarians and number of key stakeholders- such as state who have the primary legal responsibility to protect their populations within their jurisdiction; engagement of protection actors with non-state actors and UN peace keeping or political missions. In addition, “effective protection outcomes require inspired and creative action at the global as well as national, regional and local levels”. However, these efforts to ensure that humanitarian organizations consistently respect the principles of humanitarian action fail to take into account the workings of the system (Kauffman & Collins, 2018).

2.1.3 The relationship between humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities and socio-economic welfare

The historical improvement of psycho-social support after catastrophe can be traced returned to the tragedy at Aberfan, at which time there have been few skilled responders on hand and no agreed or proven strategies for aiding human beings affected with the aid of mess ups (Zyck

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& Krebs, 2015). Even so, neighborhood physicians and social workers in that aftermath of that catastrophe mentioned that the community would need expert psychological and social work support. As highlighted earlier, one of the largest challenges at that time was once the acceptability within the community of such assist given the truth that there was once a great deal less grasp then of trauma and bereavement and a reluctance to are seeking help for fear of being stigmatized (Zyck & Krebs, 2015).

Initial sensible assist (such as assist with filling in compensation forms) was once furnished through any recommendation middle which used to be quickly set up and staffed by the neighborhood Council of Social Service. The close by authority determined to reject outside affords of counseling and psychological help in desire of neighborhood services, even though this was once confined to two psychiatrists and three close by ordinary practitioners. Plans to deliver outdoor assist in to assist these restrained property seem to have been observed due to a lack of have faith (McLean and Johnes, 2017).

Humanitarian Policy Group (2016) recommended the following changes necessary for humanitarian system to be more effective: With the world fast changing, the system needs to adapt to the new realities, such as new types of donors and different approaches to humanitarian aid. Redefining success- rather than each actor being competitive for financial resources to be received, there shall be more synergies between actors, which would ideally become more specialized. Constant run after calling for proposals and funding opportunities leads to diversion from the purpose of quality interventions. Remaking humanitarian action- with multiple actors on the ground in the humanitarian world, it is essential to adapt the aspirations, complementarily of objectives, and variety of approaches (Zyck& Krebs, 2015).

Furthermore, better link between humanitarian and development activities shall be assured. According to Buchanan- Smith and Fabbri (2005), “better 'development' can reduce the need for emergency relief; better 'relief' can contribute to development; and better 'rehabilitation' can ease the transition between the two”. As a result, there is still a lot of room for improvement in bringing humanitarian and development sectors together to yield for better synergies.

2.2 Research gap

This research is very important therein it helps to fill the gap within the literature's examination of the factors that influence protection activities in humanitarian settings. Particular attention was paid to initiatives that aimed at advancing the rights of all people in Rwanda, with a focus on women, children, youth and the most vulnerable. And the UN supported the development of the Health Sector Strategic Plans, the Family Planning Policy, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy, Youth Policy as well as the Non-Communicable Diseases and Injuries Policy among others (United Nations Development Assistance Plan July 2013-June 2018). The current research aims at examining the effect of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities on social welfare of refugees in Rwanda especially in Mahama Refugee Camp.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is an analytical device with several versions and contexts. It can be applied in distinctive classes of work the place a general image is needed. in Figure 1.

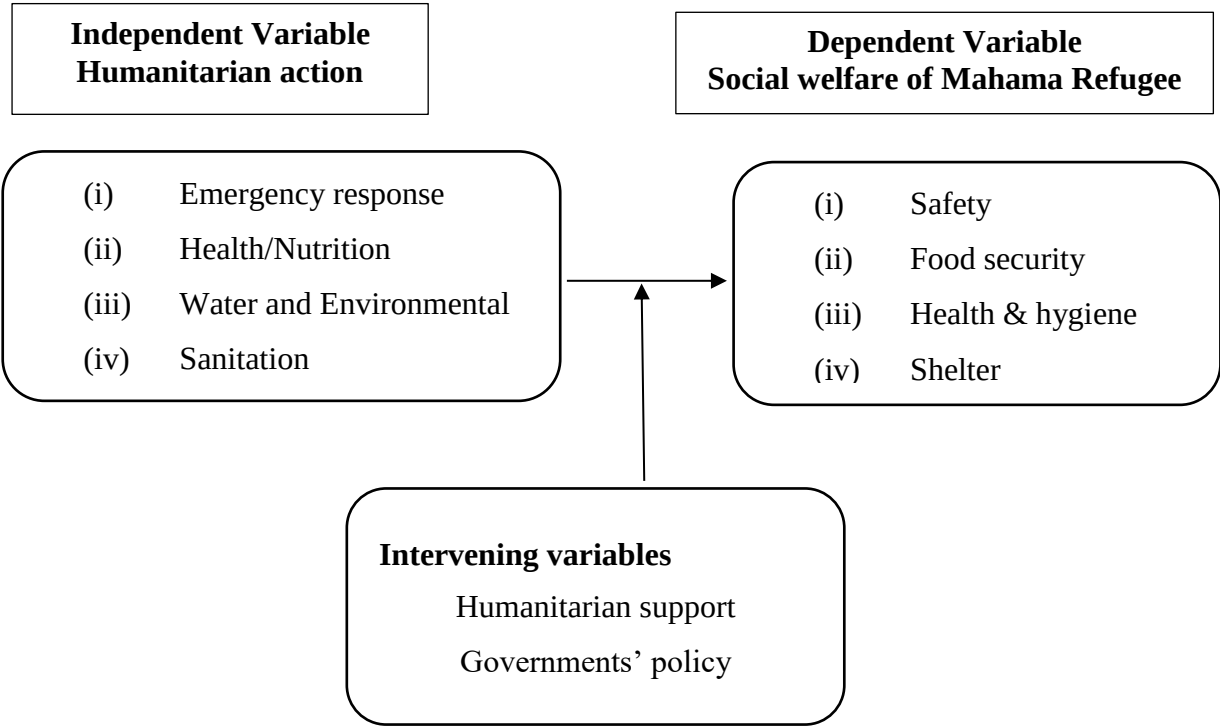


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher, 2023

One of the benefits associated with using the theory of change is a strengthened awareness of external factors that influence the impact of an intervention, including the motivations behind, and contributions of, other factors (Voger, 2012). Therefore, Figure 2.1 above presents the conceptual framework of the study whereby three variables are identified namely: Independent variable which is humanitarian assistance; dependent variable which is Socio-economic of welfare and intervening variables which are government policies. On the one hand, the independent variable which is humanitarian assistance is measure in terms of emergency response, nutrition, emergency food aid, support to health services hygiene and sanitation whereas a dependent variable which is Socio-economic of welfare is measured in terms of safety, food security, shelter and health& hygiene protection.

3. Materials and Methods

In the context of the current study, the research design employed in this study is a descriptive research design, which focuses on explaining the characteristics of the target population, specifically the refugees in the Mahama Refugee Camp in Kirehe District. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The target population for this study is estimated to be over 54,000 refugees, and a sample size of 100 respondents was determined using a systematic sampling method.

The data collection methods used in this study include primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected using self-administered questionnaires and interview guides for staff members. The questionnaires were designed to align with the research objectives and were distributed to the respondents at their homes. The secondary data included information obtained from textbooks, reports, and journals related to humanitarian assistance and social welfare. To

ensure the reliability and validity of the data collection instruments, a pilot study was conducted, and necessary adjustments were made to eliminate any ambiguities.

Once the data collection was completed, the data was edited, coded, and entered into the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) for analysis. Descriptive statistical tools were used to analyze the quantitative data, and statistical measures such as tables, percentages, frequencies, correlation, and regression analysis were employed. Ethical considerations were considered throughout the study, with confidentiality and voluntary participation being ensured. No personally identifiable information was collected from the respondents.

4. Research Findings

4.1 Demographic characteristics of respondents

Gender can help the researcher to identify their respondents. Where both men and women share responsibilities of works and financial decisions. Table 1 indicated that the categories of respondents based on the gender.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Gender		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Male	44	44.4
	Female	55	55.6
	Total	99	100.0
Age		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	between age of 21-30	11	11.1
	between age of 31-40	55	55.6
	between age of 41-50	24	24.2
	between 51-60	9	9.1
	Total	99	100.0
Marital status		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Single	51	51.5
	Married	21	21.2
	Widow/Widower	27	27.3
	Total	99	100.0
Education levels		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Illiterate	4	4.0
	Informal Education	47	47.5
	Primary	33	33.3
	Secondary level	15	15.2
	Total	99	100.0

Source: Primary data (2022)

Table 1 indicated that the categories of respondents based on the gender. Table 1 indicates that (44.4%) of the respondents were males and (55.6%) were females. The researcher clearly observed from the findings that the number of female employees is more than the number of male in Mahama Refugee Camp. Therefore, the damage has been affected the males more than females. It is also clearly indicated that a very large number of the respondents that was represented by (55.6%) were those that are ranging from the age of 31-40 years. This revealed that the research involved people that were mature enough to provide unbiased information. Also this age group is followed by 21-30 years, 41-50 and those above 51 with (11.1 %), (24.2%) and (9.1%) of respondents.

The table 1 indicated that out of 99 respondents, 51 respondents represent (51.5%) was single, 21 respondents represent (21.2%) was married and 27 respondents represent (27.3%) was widow. The majority of respondents are married. Anyway single are treated and given same level of refugees that Mahama refugee camp.

Table 2: Duration within refugee's camp

	Duration	Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Less than one year	5	5.1
	Between one and five years	23	23.2
	Above five years	71	71.7
	Total	99	100.0

Source: Primary data (2022)

According to table 2 indicated that appreciation of respondents about duration within Mahama refugee camp. Large number of respondents have occupied above five years by 71.7 % of responses. While between one and five years have occupied by 23.2%and 5.1 % of respondents have been less than one year.

Table 3: The main source of basic needs of provided by refugees

	Source of basic needs	Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Humanitarian NGOs support	75	75.8
	Family members living out of camp	24	24.2
	Total	99	100.0

Source: Primary data (2022)

According to table 3. indicated that the main source of basic needs provided by refugees come from humanitarian NGOs support by 75.8% of respondents, family members living out of cap is 24.2% of respondents. The small numbers of refugees were living out of camp caused by different activities other were adapter by voluntary members.

4.2 The implementation of humanitarian assistance in Mahama refugees' camp

The humanitarian system has passed through extreme adjustments and reforms over the years in order to improve its response to emergencies and reduce loss of live as the following table 4.

Table 4: Satisfaction levels of refugee's needs

Needs	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Security	99	4.73	.448
Shelter	99	4.60	.493
Water supply	99	4.20	.845
Kitchen material	99	3.73	1.105
Emergency food aid	99	3.87	1.149
Hygiene and sanitation facilities	99	3.73	.998
Health facilities	99	4.25	.437
Overall mean	99	4.15	

Source: *Primary data (2022)*

The table 4 indicated that the appreciation of respondent to satisfaction of refugees needs provided by humanitarian assistance. 4.73 mean and homogeneity of response appreciates by security, 4.6 mean and homogeneity by shelter, 4.2 mean and heterogeneity by water supply while kitchen material, emergence food aid and hygiene & sanitation facilities appreciates by 3.87, 3.87 and 3.73 mean and heterogeneity of response have been satisfied because the quantity of food provided by humanitarian agencies passed half of month in respectively.

Table 5: Appreciation of respondents by welfare in Mahama refugee camp

Welfare of refugees	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Humanitarian assistance help refugees to safety the basic needs	99	4.36	.483
Humanitarian assistance insure the basic needs and reduce stress	99	3.84	.889
The environmental in which we live allows the life security	99	4.28	1.040
The food security is satisfied at which level	99	3.83	.796
The acceptable health care of refugees is fulfilled at which level	99	4.30	.462
Overall mean	99	4.12	

Source: *Primary data (2022)*

According the table 5 indicated that the appreciation of respondents on welfare of Mahama refugees. Humanitarian assistance helps refugees to safety the basic needs by 4.36 mean and homogeneity responses, humanitarian agency reduce stress by 3.84 mean and heterogeneity. Environmental protects refugees in life security by 4.28 mean and heterogeneity and they were satisfied 3.83 mean and heterogeneity of food security in refugee camp. The health care of refugees is fulfilled by 4.3 mean and heterogeneity of responses.

Table 6: The appreciation of respondents by the weakness of humanitarian assistance in basic needs

Weakness	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The shelter doesn't allow enough privacy to parents	99	4.49	.503
The security in camp was disturbed	99	1.76	.701
The family members don't eat enough at their satisfaction	99	2.13	1.201
The health care was refused or came late	99	1.95	1.014
Our toilette was not clean for the comfortable usage	99	3.05	1.410
Have you at least once experienced the lacking of safe water in your household	99	4.07	1.136
Overall mean	99	2.90	

Source: *Primary data (2022)*

According to table 6 above indicated that the appreciation of respondents on the weakness of humanitarian assistance in basic needs. The shelter doesn't allow enough privacy to parents by 4.49 mean and heterogeneity of responses, the security in camps was disturbed by 1.76 mean and heterogeneity responses, the family members don't eat enough at their satisfaction by 2.13 mean and heterogeneity of responses. The health care was come late by 1.95 mean and heterogeneity of responses while toilette is not clear for comfortable usage by 3.05 mea and heterogeneity of responses and lack of safe water were accepted by 4.07 mean and heterogeneity of responses.

4.3 Findings and discussion

4.3.1. The implementation of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities in Mahama Refugee Camp

The evaluation of humanitarian assistance and satisfaction of refugee's. According to humanitarian beneficial useful resource does appear to be associated with upgrades in welfare and they have an impact on is most wonderful in nations with increasing values of welfare (Morrissey, 2013). Hence, views of respondents in last three years, they maintained that Humanitarian agencies are success by 4.15 mean at helping beneficiaries of their assistance.

4.3.2 The satisfaction level in Refugee welfare

The study showed perception of refugees for their welfare, humanitarian assistance helps refugees to solving their problem such as basic needs, life security, food security, health care and others necessary needs. The result from respondents mentioned that the welfare level occupied 4.12 of overall mean. Populations already suffering a lack of health services (reducing stress), food shortages, shelter and poor safe water and sanitation facilities is weak. These populations are extremely vulnerable to external shocks, and injuries are likely to be more severe, casualties higher, and the need for humanitarian assistance greater. Chronic development conditions are the driver for many acute emergencies (Drimie, 2014).

4.3.3 The weaknesses in acquisition of basic needs

The weakness of humanitarian assistance in Mahama refugee's camp, refugee finding indicated 2.90 overall mean namely the family members don't 'eat enough, clear sanitation, safe water shelter to family of large numbers is weak in general. The ways of improve the life standard may be integrated refugees to be able to pursue sustainable livelihoods and contribute to the economic life of the host country, and live among the refugees without discrimination or exploitation while to found job out of camp is very difficult. and the fact that the refugee population was being held presented a situation with the principles of humanitarian assistance. The ever increasing number of agencies on the ground, the difficulty of obtaining accurate intelligence, and the unpredictability of humanitarian crises make effective management and coordination extremely difficult. Solving this problem requires improved intelligence gathering and sharing, as well as tight management and coordination (Parker, 2012).

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, this research inquired to assess effect of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities on social welfare especially in Mahama refugee camp. Humanitarian assistance doesn't affect only helps refugees; but also contributed in terms of emergency response, nutrition, sanitation, and psychosocial activities.

Based on a sample of 99 refugees and review of report and other document, all specific objectives were achieved as indicated in the previous sub section. The humanitarian action and social welfare were studied fully, and the findings indicated that Mahama refugee camp have all of and they are supported under their specific adjective.

The appreciation of respondent to satisfaction of refugees needs provided by humanitarian assistance for 4.15 of overall mean, the appreciation of respondents on welfare of Mahama refugees for 4.12 overall mean and the appreciation of respondents on the weakness of humanitarian assistance in basic needs for 2.90 overall mean. Strong relationship between the study's variables was revealed after the analysis which was done out of the data gotten from the respondents but there are some items not satisfied.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings, some recommendations are addressed to different organization and future researchers. Humanitarian assistance should improve large number of rooms to families depends of number of persons include in house. They should provide protection to reduce augmentation of people in camp. Humanitarian assistance should help refugees access to activities out of camp to increase life standard of them. They should provide way reduce noise in conference house. Lack of safe water and water in general in camp it's problem, they should do solve it.

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