THE CONTRIBUTION OF ADJUMANI DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO THE MANAGEMENT OF SUDANESE REFUGEES.

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ABSTRACT

Evolution history has taught us about the wandering early man who moved from place to place in search of food and shelter. We continue to experience it today in another form of forced migration. However, the terra incognita in which migrating people usually settle encounters either blessings or curses because of their presence. This is the situation one finds today with the problem of refugees and displaced people worldwide. It is a phenomenon that affects the contemporary world resulting from conflicts and wars, natural disasters, man-made projects and political instability inter alia. This crisis does not only leave the area of concern in problems but also that of refuge especially its development. In seeking refuge, the forced migrants either pose another burden to their host as a result of the demographic effect or become contributors to their growth. This is felt in the economic, political and social domains and the situation is worse if hosts have fragile economies, inadequate social amenities or less powerful political systems (Renner 1997). Worse still, if many of its citizens still live at the periphery in abject poverty. If this is the situation of forced migration, Adjumani district faces a similar crisis due to the presence of refugees. The District Local government hosts the largest number of refugees mainly from Southern Sudan from 1996 about 60,777 to now about 10,000. The number fluctuates depending on the situation back home in Sudan. So far they are hosted in 38 camps and one transit camp, spread through out the five subcounties. The purpose of the study was to assess the Contribution of Adjumani District Development Plan to the management of Sudanese refugees in Adjumani District. The research instruments used were basically four; questionnaires, interview schedule, focus group discussion and observation that enabled the researcher elicit appropriate and accurate information. Data collected through questionnaires, an interview schedule, focus group discussion and observation was edited, coded, classified and tabulated. However, methods of data analysis included; use of frequencies, percentages (100%), degrees (3600), figures and maps. This was simplified by use of computer packages particularly SPSS. Data base and excel. The researcher therefore recommended the need for government intervention and support refugees on critical basic needs. Also, there is need for international community to work together towards prevention of wars so as to avoid the occurrence of refugees.