

Refugees' interests in achieving security: pursuing safety and settlement in exile

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Introduction

- Functional integration
- Policies to restrict integration
- Perceived/approached as a “voluntary”, not forced migration issue
- Refugees’ interests in integration

Integration for exile

- Flight from indirect or direct effects of violence/conflict/State collapse
- Seeking the same conditions anywhere
- and to live a life in exile before
(mostly) returning
- Importance of integration for refugees

“my move to Kenya.., it was safer yes but at the risk of my personal life.. because you know going to a place that you’ve never been, you are going to a place where you don’t know nobody uh then facing new lives that you are leaving all you’ve got.. Once you are waiting [in Kenya for Somalia to improve].. you’re in a foreign country already, you are not in your home. So while you are here in Kenya, its better at least to find some place which gives you um the prospect in life, that gives you the security of your life um because you left your home, you left everything that you’ve got, you cannot stay in Kenya forever. If you want to say in a foreign country it is better to stay where you can, you can rebuild your life, you can restart you life from Mogadishu, you know? Absolutely not for my case and for many of my friends.. nobody saw Kenya as a long-term place to live.”

Asad

Obstacles to integration

- Intentions v achievements re integration
- Waiting for status
- Focus upon immediate challenging living conditions
- Worrying for those left behind
- Lacked support or assistance
- Surprised at the difficulties - expected a better 'welcome' as refugees. Further loss of time.

Obstacles to integration (cont)

- Ambition to achieve more, yet building new lives takes time.
- Ambition still to build better lives.
- Loss of potential through treating people as “just refugees”?
- Need help to succeed, whilst retaining hope to one day return and succeed at home

Conclusions

- Personal interests and enthusiasm in integration not being fully harnessed or supported
- Receiving state support *as* refugees, but facing a more individualised struggle to succeed
- Affording socioeconomic rights not enough due to obstacles they face
- Integration should be treated as a key part of exile