

# **The Contest for Living Space between Refugees and local Communities in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement in Bunyoro Sub-region in Western Uganda**

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## **Abstract**

This article analyses the land conflict between refugees and local communities in Kyangwali in western Uganda. Uganda has been and still is a host to refugees from her neighbouring countries such as Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Burundi, and Kenya; a niche that has won the country a humanitarian praise for its progressive and generous refugee's laws and policy regimes in the world. In fact, the 2016 United Nation Summit for Refugees declared Uganda's refugee policy a model law in the World. Despite all the praises, beginning with the 1980's with the expansion of the refugee settlements in different parts of the country, land conflicts began to emerge between the refugees and the host communities especially in Nakivale and Kyangwali Refugees Settlements. Whereas it is also true that there are several studies on refugees in Uganda. Such studies have mainly dealt with issues relating to refugee welfare and general impact of refugees in the host-communities. The available information does not clearly explain the process through which refugee inflows and settlement have generated land conflict between refugees and the host communities in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement. It on such a basis that this study using a qualitative research methodology, analyses how the settlement of Refugees in Kyangwali has led to land conflicts between the refugees and the host-communities in the areas. The findings in this study show that the land conflicts have been due to the nature of history of the refugee settlement camp, which is fuelled by the Refugee Policy in Uganda, the demographic increase, and the resultant interventions by government officials.

**Keywords: Land, Conflict, Refugees. Kyangwali, Uganda.**