

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**CENTER FOR MIGRATION STUDIES**

**SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING THE  
INTEGRATION OF FORMER LIBERIAN REFUGEES IN GHANA:  
A CASE STUDY OF ACCRA, KASOA AND BUDUBURAM.**

**BY**

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### **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this long essay is the result of an original research undertaken by me under the supervision of Dr. Mary Setrana and that no part of it has been submitted elsewhere for any other purpose. Further, references to the work of other persons or bodies have been duly acknowledged.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my dear parents, the late Mr. Kwaku Fiati and Madam Gladys Adade whose prayers has helped me very much in pursuing this course. I again dedicate it to my exquisite wife Mrs. Stella Amoani Arthur, my divine children, Festus Amoani K. Fiati and Bejoy Amoani Hillary Agbenosi and most importantly to God almighty for the divine strength and direction through my studies.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

GoG	-	Government of Ghana
GRB	-	Ghana Refugee Board
GIS	-	Ghana Immigration Service
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NHIS	-	National Health Insurance Scheme
NRC	-	National Reception Committee
UN	-	United Nation
UNHCR	-	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
LI	-	Local Integration
PNDC	-	Provisional National Defence Council
OAU	-	Organization of African Unity
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States

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## ABSTRACT

Globally refugee integration has been one of the three durable solutions that has been used worldwide. Millions of refugees around the world live year after year with little hope of ever returning home. Some cannot because their countries are engulfed by endless conflict or because they fear persecution if they were to return. In cases where repatriation is not an option, finding a home in the country of asylum and integrating into the local community could offer a durable solution to their plight and the chance to build a new life. This study examined the socio-cultural and economic factors affecting integration of former Liberian refugees in Ghana. The specific objectives were to examine the demographic characteristics of L.I applicants and how it affected their integration processes, economic and socio-cultural factors effect on L.I applicants as well as how GRB and UNHCR approach towards integration of refugees in Ghana. The research employed a mixed methods approach with a sample size of seventy (70) respondents for quantitative and eight (8) in-depth interviews consisting of four (4) LI applicants and relevant organizations including GRB, UNHCR, GIS and NADMO (Camp Management) for the qualitative. The concepts of social, cultural and economic integration were used for the conceptual framing of the work. Among the key findings of the study were that; first, 48.6% of the respondents opted to stay in Ghana because of physical security, two-fifth of them (40.0%) used the money received as part of the LI package to pay school fees. The main economic factors affecting the integration of the LI applicants is high standard of living and difficulty in getting access to job opportunities in Ghana. Socio-culturally, more than half (61.4%) of the respondents could not speak any Ghanaian language, which is vital to the integration process, but overwhelming majority (91.4%) responded yes to enjoying Ghanaian food. Again, close to three-quarters (71.4%) mentioned that they belong to a religious group. The study concluded that, support from GRB and UNHCR and some state organizations aided in the integration process through skills training, facilitation of legal documents as well as community integration. It is recommended that, access to social services, acquisition of resources should be made available and accessible to L.I applicants to ensure fairness and balance in acquiring resources. Since issues surrounding local integration are complex in nature, such processes should start from the time the country (Ghana) opens its borders to refugees in order to avoid possible problems at the end of the refugee cycle.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### **1.0 Background of the study.**

The migration of individuals from one place to another has occurred throughout history. For thousands of years, migrants around the world have chosen to leave their home countries on discovery missions and in search of a better life in foreign places. Unfortunately, many others with little choice have been forced to leave their place of birth. Unlike immigrants, refugees are individuals who have not chosen to leave their home countries. Instead, they have often faced conflict and persecution and have had to settle into new communities with little or no resources.

In June 2019, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimate that, about 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from home, Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees and 3.5 asylum seekers, over half of whom are under the age of 18 (UNHCR, 2019). This rise in the number of refugees, according to UNHCR, is due to the upsurge of conflicts or wars, persecutions, violence and human rights violations across the globe. Africa in recent times has witnessed huge numbers of refugee movements, which has affected its demographic and social structure. Africa constitutes about 12 per cent of the World's population but sub-Saharan Africa alone, for example, produced about 26 per cent out of about 25.9 million refugees in the world. Moreover, nine out of the top twenty nations that produce refugees in the world are from Africa. For several decades, Africa has witnessed many armed and violent conflicts, which have forced millions of people out of their homelands into neighbouring countries and beyond (Beck, 2009). Due to the large numbers of refugees produced on the continent, African countries have the responsibility of hosting huge numbers of displaced

persons. In fact, most of the refugees' are hosted in the regions, particularly in the neighbouring states.

The West African sub region, unlike places such as the great lakes region in Africa experienced less significant refugee flow since the end of colonialism. Eastern Africa, the Great Lakes region, in particular, has been responsible for producing such huge refugee influxes. However, this fortune turned from the 1990s when West Africa started generating and receiving refugees substantially. Ever since, obstinate conflicts such as the ones in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Togo and Guinea in West Africa and other Africa countries like Sudan, Rwanda, Somali, Eritrea etc, have contributed enormously to the generation of refugees in Africa. The mass influx of refugees that has bedeviled the sub-region over the last twenty years is unprecedented. This is not to state that there were no refugees before the 1990s. For instance, Ghana has hosted refugees since attaining independence, however, the number of refugees at those times were minimal and the geographical location of the refugees were largely diverse.

Since 1990, Ghana has been a transit and a host country for refugees and asylum seekers. Ghana has since then hosted refugees largely from African and Non- Africa countries (Acheampong, 2015). Ghana has become a preferred destination for refugees most especially from Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East due to its relative peace and stability.

This research examined socio-cultural and economic factors affecting the integration of former Liberian refugees in Ghana by using mixed method as a research approach. Specific objectives such as, demographic characteristics of the LI applicants and how it influences the integration process, the factors that affect economic and socio-cultural integration process of the LI applicants and the roles of Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) and United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) support systems in facilitating integration of the L.I applicants were looked at.

The study unearthed the fissure in the refugee act in facilitating integration of former refugees in Ghana and thus informs a need to reformulate it to make it clear and applicable for all refugees seeking integration in the country.

### **1.1 Statement of problem**

Ghana has experienced the influx of Liberian refugees since 1990. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), by the end of 1996 about 40,000 Liberian refugees were in Ghana. This refugee population were hosted in the Buduburam refugee camp in the Gomoe East District in the Central Region of Ghana (Agblorti, 2011). Refugees are mostly met with short-term assistance from the host country and UNHCR that is mandated to manage the affairs of refugees at the global level. The aim of this assistance is to provide a source of relief to the refugees and asylum seekers with the anticipation that things will get better at their country of origin for them to return home (Crisp, 2003). However, the protracted nature of conflicts usually make it impossible for them to return immediately. In an effort to address the predicaments of refugees, UNHCR provides three durable solutions as policies in addressing the situation. These policies are Voluntary Repatriation, Local Integration (LI) and Resettlement (Acheampong, 2015).

Whereas voluntary repatriation is the acceptance of refugee to return to their country of origin willingly. Local integration refers to a process whereby the refugees choose to settle in the host country. Resettlement on the other hand is where the refugee is transferred to a third country. A refugee is considered to have secured a solution to his or her circumstance if he/she finds a safe and permanent solution to his/her plight through one of these durable measures (Stein, 1986). However, following the improved security situation in Liberia and a return to lawful rule, the international community invoked cessation clause for Liberian refugees on June 30, 2012

(UNHCR, 2014). Ghana first local integration was implemented in 2013 for Liberia refugees after the invocation of the cessation clause.

This cessation clause meant that Liberians no longer had refugee status globally. Consequently, the Liberian refugees in Ghana needed to either repatriate by the end of June 2012 before the implementation of the Cessation Clause or commence a process of local integration. About 7,000 Liberian refugees remained in Ghana at the end of June 2012 after the voluntary repatriation of some of them back to Liberia.

The government of Ghana in partnership with UNHCR and Liberia government implemented the L.I for four thousand one hundred and seventeen (4117) who opted to be integrated (GRB, 2014). During the implementation, UNHCR gave a monetary grant of \$400 to each adult, \$200 to each children and rolled them onto National Health Insurance Scheme for one (1) year. The Liberia government issued them with national passport while Ghana government issued them with four years residence and work permit.

Ideally, applicants need to leave the camp to settle in any part of the country of their choice but because some challenges like, delayed in their passports, most of them are still living inside the Buduburam camp.

Assessing the significance of local integration of former Liberian refugees in terms of their socio-cultural and economic factors affecting the LI applicants is the focus of this study. Some research have been done before and after the implementation of the LI but little was done about the socio-cultural and economic factors affecting the integration of the applicants. For instances, reflections and views of individual refugees who are taking part in the integration program (Acheampong, 2015). The host community perception about the local integration of Liberian refugees in Ghana (Agblorti, 2011). Also most of the work that were done on the topic were

done qualitatively which allow for smaller sample size as a result the finding could not be generalized.

The study seek to examine the socio-cultural and economic factors affecting the integration of theses former Liberian refugees in Ghana by using mixed method. That is using both quantitative and qualitative method.

## **1.2 Objectives**

The following research objectives were interrogated;

1. To examine the demographic characteristics of the LI applicants and how it influences the integration process.
2. To examine the factors that affect economic and socio-cultural integration process of the LI applicants.
3. To find out the roles and support systems of Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) and United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in facilitating integration of former Liberian refugees who opted for L.I in Ghana.

## **1.3 Rationale of the study**

By giving priority to the views of L.I applicants, Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) and United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials, the study provides firsthand information about the social, economic and cultural factors affecting the integration of former Liberians refugees who opted for L.I in Ghana. Thus, this empirical study focuses on both ‘bottom-up’ and ‘top-down’ approach in terms of investigating the socio-economic and cultural



factors affecting their integration. For any former refugee seeking integration into local community there are internal and external factors that influence the process of integration.

The process of integration is dependent on both the phenomenon touching directly on a refugee, their environment and the policy framework established by government and other key players in refugee operations. The study sought to put all these factors in perspective and thus eliminate any tendency to put focus on certain factors while neglecting others. The information obtained from this study has added to the existing literature that will benefit researchers, humanitarian organizations as well as government agencies involved in refugee affairs. The information presented by the findings of this study will enable the GRB to relook at the policy framework that facilitates the integration of refugees into local community as enshrined in the Ghana Refugee Act (PNDC Law 305D). The information can also be used to inform the need to improve record keeping of integration of former refugees into local communities in Ghana.

Again, the study unearthed the fissure in the refugee act in facilitating integration of former refugees in Ghana and thus informs the need to reformulate it to make it clear and applicable for all refugees seeking integration in the country.

The information gathered also reveals the gap in policy for humanitarian agencies in working with refugees seeking integration and those who have already sought integration. By coming up with policy for working with refugees who have integrated or seeking integration, which mean interactions at the government level, inter agency and most importance resource allocation. The humanitarian organizations might use the information gathered from this study as a monitoring, evaluation data source and help improve their institutional capacity and performance. The mixed

method approach helped to unearth the feelings and emotions of the respondents supported by statistical figures.

#### **1.4 Definition of Concepts.**

##### *Refugee*

This study will be guided by the 1969 OAU definition of a refugee which adequately reflects the 1951 Refugee convention and the 1961 protocol's definition of a refugee. Also, the 1992 Ghana refugee law adopted the 1969 OAU definition of a refugee. According to OAU definition: A refugee is "every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or event seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country or origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality." (OAU, 1969)

##### Protracted Refugee Situation

A protracted refugee situation is "one in which refugees find themselves in a long standing and intractable state of limbo. Their lives may not be at risk, but their basic rights and essential economic, social, and psychological needs continue to be unsatisfied after years of been refugee".

##### Repatriation

This is one of the three durable solutions, which is bravely made by refugees to return to their homeland. However, this must be done in a way that it does not undermine the core principle of non-refoulement, thus, it must be voluntary in nature. Repatriation is linked to the cornerstone of refugee protection, which is the principle of non-refoulement (UNHRC, 2019).

##### Local Integration.

Integration refers to strategies aiming at the incorporation into society or an organization of individuals of different groups. Local integration is a complex and gradual process with legal, economic, social and cultural dimensions. It imposes considerable demands on both the individual and the receiving society. In many cases, acquiring the nationality of the country of asylum is the culmination of this process.

Harrell-Bond defines local integration as “a situation in which host and refugee communities are able to co-exist, sharing the same resources (both economic and social) with no greater mutual conflict than that which exists within the host community” (Harrell-Bond, 2000) This means that refugees get decent jobs and wages, good social services such as education, healthcare and housing. However, besides acknowledging the economic and social dimensions of local integration, UNHCR adds that cultural and legal elements cannot be left out in the local integration process.

Resettlement.

Resettlement is the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another state that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent settlement. It's Statute and the UN General Assembly Resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of the three durable solutions mandate UNHCR.

### **1.5 Structure of Chapters**

This study is organized into six (6) main chapters. Chapter 1 is the introduction of the study and it covers the background to the study, the problem statement, objectives, rational of the study, definition of concepts and structure of the study. Chapter 2 is literature review of the study, chapter 3 is the methodology adopted by the study, chapter 4 & 5 consists of data analysis and discussion whiles chapter 6 entails summary, conclusion, and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

In this chapter, the issue of integration of refugees is investigated through literature. Many aspects correlate with the purpose of the study that has been introduced in this chapter. Literature review about Refugee Situation in Africa, Integration of Refugees in Ghana, finding durable solutions to protracted refugee situation in Africa, Effect of local integration of refugees on the host communities and Government of Ghana Policies to successfully integrate the Liberian Refugees is presented to frame the issue in literature.

The refugee situation has hardly been given the needed attention it requires particularly the living conditions of refugees still in exile (residual refugees) and their impact on host societies. However, this is not to imply that nothing has been done on this subject matter. Some scholars have contributed their quota to the subject of refugee integration situations in Africa and notable among them include Crisp, Whitaker, Essuman-Johnson, Gil Loescher Agblorti, Agyemang Acheampong and James Milner. The works of some of these scholars were considered as part of the literature review for this research. Studies of general and specific protracted refugee situations and how it impacts their host countries will be reviewed and apply in the case of the former Liberian refugees in Ghana.

#### **2.1.1: Refugee Situation in Africa.**

Africa is one of the main producers and at the same time hosts of refugee worldwide. Africa is confronted with natural disasters, such as bush fire, famine, droughts, among others add up to producing huge refugee flows in the continent. Nevertheless, civil wars, ethnic strife, human

rights abuses, coup d'états and repressive governments adjudged to be the cause for generating the bulk of refugees on the continent (Nmoma, 1997).

Conflicts over decolonization was the main source of refugee flows in Africa continent during 1960's and early 80's, (Rutinwa, 2002). In the early 1960's, when African countries were struggling for their independence from colonial rule, the refugee population stood at around 400,000 which up surged to around 750,000 around the 1970's. During the 1980s after many countries in African had gotten independence, it was expected that the refugee population would decrease.

However, the population did not decrease but rather continued to rise at a frightening rate. Refugees on the Africa continent augmented to about 6,000,000 by the end of 1993 (Nmoma, 1997). This escalating development indicated above were as an outcome of reoccurred conflicts or clashes, which took a new form such as civil wars and struggles between countries. As a result, Africa continent is considered the poorest continent in the world with conflicts and its associated outcome of flows of refugee (Essuman-Johnson, 2011).

In Gil Loescher and James Milner's article title; the long road home: Protracted refugee situations in Africa, they wrote about the protracted refugee situations in the African continent. They argue that, conditions are a thoughtful and growing component in "persistent conflicts and instability mostly in Africa continent" (Loescher and Milner, 2005. p. 158). Such situation could affect security architecture in the continent, such as the proliferation of arms among migrants mostly refugees, across borders conflict, indirect safety concerns and struggle over access to scarce resources available in the destination between local residents and the refugees present there (Loescher and Milner, 2005).

Protracted refugee situations impede peace building, promotion and weaken efforts to economic growth. These stimulate uncertainty in neighbouring countries which prompts intervention. At times refugee camps are used as bases by armed groups that engage in rebellion, resistance and terrorism. The study revealed that Burundian refugees in Tanzania and Somali refugees in Kenya and Liberian Refugees in Ghana make-up of the most tough protracted refugee situations in the continent of Africa. “The response to protracted refugee situations remains fragmented, classified and ineffective” (Loescher and Milner, 2005). They recommended in the above study for new approach that “extends beyond conventional boundaries and seeks to integrate the resolution of protracted and recurring regional refugee problems with economic development and security issues” (Loescher and Milner, 2005).

Jeff Crisp, in his article: No solutions in sight: the problem of protracted refugee situations in Africa also argue that, Africa is not in seclusion in terms of protracted refugee phenomenon, it is in most parts of the earth. According to him, about three (3) million refugees were trapped in protracted conditions in African continent at the end of 2001. This is not novel occurrence in Africa; Crisp contends that for the last two decades, circumstances and conditions of Africa’s longstanding refugees have changed significantly for the nastiest. The author identified some factors that are creating such protracted refugee situations in the continents such as prolong or non-intervention conflicts, repatriation and integration challenges, and political gains of crucial players in society (Crips, 2005). Crisp avers that, some factors such as Psycho-social and gender issues, material denial, social tension and violence disturb the wellbeing of some of these displaced persons. Crisp argues also that, some refugees generally enjoy better conditions on the camps and their host communities than others. However, situation these protracted refugees bump into is dejected to say (Crips, 2005).

### **2.1.2 Finding Durable Solutions to Protracted Refugee Situation in Africa**

Concerning durable solutions, Ahimbisibwe et al in article titled Local Integration as a Durable Solution. The Case of Rwandan Refugees in Uganda argues that, repatriation is not a good choice for the Rwandan refugees because their rights cannot be assured in their country of origin so local integration is the finest durable solution for numerous Rwandese refugees in Uganda. The Rwandan refugees interviewed stated that the policy of repatriation has not worked with them because the refugees the Ugandan government and UNHCR sent back to Rwanda have all returned to Uganda. This is a clear sign that local integration is the best durable solution in their case (Ahimbisibwe et al, 2017). The authors coincide with Rutinwa's assertion that local integration had its hay days in Africa in the 1960s and 80s; thus, many host countries were ready to offer integration, which aims at naturalization to refugees (Rutinwa. 2002). The Ugandan government has considered the option of local integration and has even tabled the motion before the legislative body but the process towards implementation of a good integration programme for the Rwandan refugees in Uganda promises to be a lengthy one (Ahimbisibwe et al., 2017).

The authors recommend that, the Ugandan government must work with their Rwandese counterparts to guarantee that no refugee(s) attempts to politically and militarily subvert Rwanda when promoting the local integration option for the refugees. According to them, the refugees will be successfully integrated if the government of Uganda and UNHCR offer them socio-economic opportunities. For instance, assistance programmes like livelihood training, formal education among other relief items given to refugees kept isolated in camps, these will benefit both the refugees and the local communities.

### **2.1.3 Refugee's integration challenges**

Though UNHCR supports refugees, they still face challenges in the host states in terms of shelter, means of living, job opportunities, higher education, and health care, among others. Porter et al., 2008 in a study, identified that refugees depend largely on income received from UNHCR and other international donors for survival.

The problem of shelter for refugees in Ghana cannot be underemphasized. Refugees upon arrival are incapable to afford accommodation and therefore end up in camps and sleep in tents provided by UNHCR and GRB which are mostly inadequate. Refugees who are economically challenged are forced to adopt severe means of finding roof over their heads until enough space and shelter are provided by UNHCR and GRB. Lanphier (1983) asserts that, major glitches refugees face at the host communities comprises language barrier, cultural alteration and type of work available to do.

As a result of financial challenges, refugees usually opt for substandard items and use on themselves and also cut down their expenses to their basic needs. (Hussain, 2005).

Refugees at their host countries most at time are face with challenges in using their skills to advantage them economically impeding their integration process. Socio-cultural integrating of a refugee is subjected to the ability to acclimatise more rapidly and be able to copy the local inhabitants. This to some extent is difficult especially for those who stay for a short period as compared to individuals who stays for a longer period.

### **2.1.6 Social-Cultural Factors affecting Refugees Integration into Local Community**

The social and cultural dimension of integration has been a topic of discussions focusing on adaptation to hosts 'culture and retention of own culture. As (Castles, Maja, Ellie, & Steven, 2005) observe, the term integration is used in two diverse ways. Firstly, integration as normative,



this infers a single way procedure by which refugees adopt the culture of the destination thus dominant culture. Secondly, integration as two way process thus both refugees and host populations adapt to each other. Many scholars emphasise refugees' capacity to maintain their cultural identities and co-exist with local residents with the existence of refugees in particular and will not be a source of conflicts amid the refugees and local residents in destination country. Refugees being absorbed and becoming culturally indistinguishable from local residents is what assimilation entails carries connotations of durability and is repelled by refugees, locals and the host government (Beck, 2009). Ideal way is multiculturalism which allow the refugees to maintain their cultural traits at the destination country whiles they learn the culture of the host community as well (acculturation)

Language is also another socio-cultural factor that have a great influence on Integration of Refugees into a host country. The role language play in society is frequently misconstrued perhaps following the reckless statements of some African authors and scholars to the level that any language can be used to express African culture (Bodomo, 1999). However, a significant component of language is that, it is moreover culture-specific: each language is unique compare to others because each of them has a specific way of arranging the symbols or signs that translate connotation of communicating to its speakers. This means that, every language is a well-organized tool for showing the peculiarities of the specific group of people in a society. Robust assessment of this facet of language has been enunciated by Sapir and Whorf, two scholars' languages and philosophy. Their work is popularly branded as the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis:

*Human beings do not live in the objective world alone or alone in the world of social activity as ordinarily understood, but are very much at the mercy of the particular language, which has become the medium of expression for their society. It is quite an illusion to imagine that one adjusts to reality essentially without the use of language and that language is merely an incidental means of solving specific problems of*

*communication or reflection. The fact of the matter is that the 'real world' is largely unconsciously built up on the language habits of the group. We see and hear and otherwise experience very largely as we do because the language habits of our community predispose certain choices of interpretation (Sapir, 1929).*

Because languages is firstly identify by specific cultures, each single language appears to represent a specific culture. This is the reason why there is a close relationship among language and ethnicity in several parts of the world. Language enunciates the indigenous belief, socio-cultural, political, economic systems of any society (Bodomo, 1999). There cannot be a communication without a language, reflects one's self and is an essential component of culture. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o referred to language as the soul of culture (Thiong'o, 1986). Meaning a person's language is a driver of their specific culture.

Makoni and Trudell argue that, language is one of the main indicators of culture in sub-Saharan Africa (Makoni & Tradell, 2006). Notwithstanding, Webb and Kembo-Sure assert that, in Africa people are most at times recognized or linked to a group based on the particular language they speak (Webb & Kembo, 2000).

In addition, language is key in relation to expression and participating in community activities. However, languages are also valuable as collective human accomplishments and ongoing manifestations of human creativity and originality. UNESCO argued that language preservation represent an extraordinary wealth of human creativity in the world. That is a whole pool of thoughts developed over time by means of heritage; local traditions and customs transferred using local languages (UNESCO, 2007). In addition, language is a source of authority, societal movement and prospects (Williams & Snipper, 1990). The language structure of a country generally replicates its sovereignty, as is an active tool of social regulation. Language has been a cause for conflicting, and as a criterion for acceptance as well. Language can aid in all areas of

societal life, thus to bringing societies together or bringing division between and among societies. Language privileges can aid to unite societies, nonetheless abuse of language privileges will be able to generate and aggravate conflict among societies and groups (Bodomo, 1999).

Religion is also a socio-cultural factor when it comes to refugee or migrant integration in a host country. As refugees move, they move range of traditions and religious faith to their destination (Kemp, 2004). Refugees easily categorize themselves as Muslim, Christian, or Buddhist, among others and at time follow a specific set of behaviours founded on that religion or tradition. In every religion, there exist differences view about some of the simplest principles of the religion and other doctrinal issues. Being a refugee, the anguish during the war; loss of home, identity, culture and the challenges face in the destination affects spirituality both negatively and positively. Mostly all the basic spiritual needs (hope, faith, meaning, relatedness, forgiveness or acceptance, and transcendence) are threatened and often unmet in the refugee process. However, most refugees use religious and faith base group as a coping strategy in their integration process. For instance, when the Liberian refugees arrived in Ghana, some of them joined local churches, mosques around the camp and some established branches of their church in Liberia at the camp.

#### **2.1.4 Liberian Refugees in Ghana**

In 1990, the first group of Liberian refugees arrived in Ghana together with evacuated Ghanaian citizens who were living in Liberia. When they arrived, a National Reception Committee (NRC) was established to address the necessities of these refugees. The committee made up of the Ghanaian Ministry of Mobilization and Social Welfare together with some NGOs (Porter et al., 2008). Moreover, the Ghana government was not prepared to accommodate the huge number of refugees; hence, it called on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) for assistance. In hosting this huge number of refugees, land was acquired from the traditional authorities of Buduburam village in Gomoa District of the Central Region of Ghana by the

government and made available for a refugee camp. The Budumburam refugee camp, served as the settlement for most of Liberian refugees who fled to Ghana during and after 1990 (Acheampong, 2015. P.5).

Before the arrival of the Liberian refugees, the Buduburam settlement was one of the poorest settlement in the central region though it is close to Accra, which is the capital town of Ghana. Economic activities in the area by then was farming. After the arrival of the Liberian refugees in the area, other stakeholders, the government of Ghana through GRB began to develop the area with social amenities to accommodate the Liberian refugees. UNHCR on the other hand also targeted support to the host community, with 20% of all programmes in the camp being directed towards the host population (Agblorti, 2011).

Facilities such as schools, hospital, police and fire station, portable water, among others were provided which to serve both the camp and the host community. The development in the area attracted many refugees from other African countries to the area and some Ghanaian businesspersons also took their business to the area. Currently, the Buduburam camp is urban settlement in Ghana and is the largest refugee camp in Ghana with booming economic activities, and has attracted a significant migrant population.

However, after the cessation of Liberian refugees, the landowners are pleasuring to take over their land from the government. The challenging part as at now according to Mr. Tetteh Padi, the Programme Director of Ghana Refugee Board is that, ‘most of the LI applicants and some exempted refugees are still occupying the camp; they need to vacate the camp to enable the government to hand over the land to the official owners’.

### **2.1.5 Integration of Refugees in Ghana.**

Refugee-Host Interaction in the Krisan Refugee Settlement in Ghana, article by Agblorti and Awusabo-Asare's point out that, 1990s is when Ghana experienced its first influx of refugees thus the Liberians who fled during the civil war. The article "assess factors likely to influence the integration of refugees at Krisan camp in the Western Region of Ghana within the framework of refugee-host interaction" (Agblorti and Awusabo-Asare, 2011. P.41). The main argument by Agblorti and Awusabo-Asare in the above article was that, "the integration of refugees depends on the tolerance of host communities to infractions and the preparedness of the refugees to operate within the acceptable norms of the community (Agblorti and Awusabo-Asare, 2011).

The imprint is that governments have the power to receive refugees without considering the role of the community residents in accepting the refugees. The acceptance of refugees into host communities is reliant on the degree to which refugees are able to adapt to the culture and beliefs of the host communities. Although refugees in the Krisan camp and the hosts community live in harmony, conflict is ubiquitous so there are occasional conflicts that comes between them yet; marriage and religious affiliation have helped to ease the tensions (Agblorti and Awusabo-Asare, 2011). Again, the researchers reported that one of the sources of conflicts in Krisan has to do with the forest resources.

The host community revere the forest resource as the home of ancestral spirits and abodes of gods but believe that the refugees were defiling it. The study established that, there was mutual advantage for the host community and the refugees. The refugee's serves as a source of cheap labour to the host community whiles the host community also serves as a source of market for the refugee's products and employment opportunities as well.

The recommendations by the authors was that, to ensure serene relationship between refugees and the hosting communities “there is the need for periodic platforms for stakeholders (Ghana Refugee Board, UNHCR, the host community leaders, refugee leader among others) to interact and address potential conflict areas.”

Abeeku Essuman-Johnson’s article “When Refugees Don’t Go Home: The Situation of Liberian Refugees in Ghana” examines the situation of Liberian refugees who have not repatriated back to Liberia even though the conflict in Liberia has ceased.

The UNHCR led repatriation exercise, which sought to repatriate some of the Liberian refugees in Ghana who opted to go back to Liberia. There exercise was a failure to some extent because there were no proper rehabilitation and re-integration package for the returnees hence most of them came back to Ghana. Repatriation of the Liberian refugees has been a challenge to the Ghana Refugee Board and UNHCR alike. Another reason for the failure is due to the fact that refugees cannot be repatriated based on UNHCR’s assessment that circumstances accountable for their flight has changed for the better (Essuman-Johnson, 2011).

The Liberian refugees have refused to learn the local languages, which is key in integrating into the Ghanaian society because they felt it would block their chances to be resettled into a third country. Almost all the Liberian refugees prefer to be resettled in a third country of asylum such as the United State of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Germany among others. Finally, Essuman recommends that “when the international community “secures the end of the conflict they ought to go on further to help secure rehabilitation and development of the country concerned. If no, some of the refugees would use the ominous condition of the country in the post conflict peace-building phase to refuse to repatriate and create all manner of problems for their host country (Essuman-Johnson, 2011)”.

### **2.1.7 Government of Ghana Policies to successfully integrate the Liberian LI applicants**

Local integration is one of the durable solutions to protracted refugee problems. However, the Government of Ghana (GoG) accepts this durable solution, which has been clearly enshrined in the refugee law, went further to established agency to be in charge of providing policy advice and refugee management in the country, and named it Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) in 1995. The GRB is the government agency hosting UNHCR in relations to refugee management in Ghana. The Ghana Refugee Act (PNDC Law 305D) is responsive to global refugee managements and standards because of its policy of free access to asylum. However, UNHCR and states prefer repatriation to integration and resettlement to a third country because it seems to be the best durable solution to them and Ghana is not exception to this preference.

Essuman-Johnson in articles “Ghana’s Response to the Liberian and Sahelian Refugees Influx” and When Refugees Don’t Go Home: The Situation of Liberian Refugees in Ghana” reveals that, “granting of de facto refugee status to the Liberians was to dismiss any notion of longer stays in Ghana on the part of the refugees” (Essuman-Johnson, 1994, 2011).

The former Liberian refugees who opted for the integration in Ghana have the option to naturalize through the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), continuous renewal of their resident permit as Liberia citizens in Ghana, marrying a Ghanaian national to acquire citizenship and continue to leave in Ghana as an ECOWAS citizen. After the cessation clause in 2012, some of the Liberians who chose local integration option were given Liberian passport with four years residence permit issued by the Ghana government through Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) with collaboration with Liberia government and UNHCR.

Seven years after the cessation clause, the main challenge has not been issues with legal integration, as in issues such as naturalization or work permits. Most of the challenges that impede the successful integration of the Liberians in Ghana include high standard of living in Ghana, the provision and access to social services, economic and its related issues such as unemployment and under employment, security and protection (Hamilton-Kodua, 2018).

In resolving these challenges, the GoG has rolled-out some policies and packages for the LI applicants, the policies has helped and continues to assist the Liberians to integrate in Ghana. The government of Ghana, in 2013 in partnership with UNHCR Ghana provided willing Liberians with skills training to assist them earn a living. They were trained in Carpentry, hairdressing, fashion designing, farming, masonry, welding among others. The refugee board in Ghana is of the view that such training opportunities have made several Liberians in Ghana self-sufficient (GRB official, 2019).

The government of Ghana believes that education is the key to the attainment of self-sufficiency for Ghanaians and this holds true for the Liberians in Ghana. Basic and Secondary Education are currently free in Ghana and Ghana's refugee policy demands that refugees be granted access to education on an equal level as that of Ghanaians. As a result, the ministry of education has enrolled the Liberians unto the free Basic and Secondary school policies, which are enjoyed by Ghanaians. (Interviewed by GRB officer, 2019) This move according to the official interviewed at GRB has eased many Liberians parents burden of having to look for funds to see their wards through aforementioned levels in school. However, in relation to financial challenges, the former Liberians hardly afford tertiary education hence their enrollment at this level is low compare to the basic and secondary levels, which is now free (interview by Buduburam camp manager, 2019). However, GoG through GRB ensured that the LI applicants pay the same subsidized tertiary fees as Ghanaian nationals. This means that the former Liberians refugees are exempted



from paying foreign fees to access services in Ghana compared to other foreign nationals who are not refugees.

## **2.2: Conceptual framework**

This study is guided by the concept of local integration. The term “integration” has lately been extensively used in the literature in relation to refugees (Moreira & Baeninger, 2010; Eastmond, 2011; Phillimore, 2011; Pittaway, Muli, & Shteir, 2009; Olwig, 2011). The 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees clearly points out that local integration plays a pivotal role in restoring refugees to dignified lives and provision of their human rights. The concept has also become a key policy goal for many governments and NGOs.

However, there continues to be variations among academics, governments and NGOs about what constitutes successful integration. Ager and Strang (2008) suggest that the varying definitions and interpretations positive integration prove a dependence on situation and viewpoint, where different policies, histories, cultures and attitudes have influenced the integration of refugees within society.

In the words of Robinson, the concept of local integration is ‘chaotic’, that is, the term is used “by many but understood differently.” According to Robinson, the concept is “individualized, contested and contextual” and believes that there is little hope for a unifying definition. (Robinson, 2008). Castles et al, adding to Robinson’s view, assert that, “there is no single, generally accepted definition, theory or model of immigrant and refugee integration. The meaning of local integration differ from country to country depending on the values, perspectives, interests of the people involved, and time. The concept remains to be arguable and fervently contested.” Castle et al., 2001 point out that, the concept of local integration simply means bringing people of diverse backgrounds together in one society. In broad terms, local

integration has to do with issues of community interconnection, meaning how certain societies or groups “can be part of the social, political and economic aspects of a society (Kulman, 1991).”

The concept “integration” is derived from the Latin word ‘Integer’, which means untouched or whole (Maagero & Simonsen 2005, p.147). Kathleen Valtonen (2012) in defining integration as a goal oriented dimension of settlement underscores the point that, migrants in seeking to be part of a new society, look forward to full participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of that society. This process goes hand in hand with impacts on their culture and identity. Integration therefore is the active participation of the migrants in the political, economic and social life of the mainstream society of a host country. As part of the process, it is important that institutions of the host country are accessible for all members of the society and the process for admittance of new members is flexible.

This study views Harrell-Bond, delineation as a very fit delineation of integration. According to Harrell-Bond (2000), integration is “a situation in which host and refugee communities are able to co-exist, sharing the same resources (both economic and social) with no greater mutual conflict than that which exists within the host community.” This definition is similar to that of Kuhlman who presents some guidelines used for assessing integration of refugees into host societies. Kuhlman (Kuhlman, 1991) identifies, inter alia, the ensuing features of a fruitful integration process: “the socio-cultural change they undergo permits them to maintain an identity of their own and to adjust psychologically to their new situation, friction between host populations and refugees is not worse than within the host population itself and refugees do not encounter more discrimination than exists between groups previously settled within the host society.”

In examining the policies that promote or hinder integration, it is imperative to refer to the social, economic and cultural factors constituting the definition of integration. There is the likelihood that refugees may face certain difficulties in their bid to be part of the host society. The past experience of refugees make things difficult for them in terms of integration. Because of some of these circumstance and structural constraints in asylum countries, refugees to some extent, may face limited access to economic and social resources or accommodation outside the refugee camp in the country of asylum (Interview with UNHCR official, 2019). They might have had their education interrupted or might be unable to make available their academic certificates, and other documents. The Liberian refugees in Ghana were not exempted from these challenges; they faced difficulties in getting asses to jobs opportunities especially in the formal sector, higher education, quality healthcare, and housing outside the camp, among others (see Porter et al., 2008).

Refugees in the developing countries especially Africa face these challenges because the countries themselves are poor and cannot even provide for its citizens in terms of jobs and social amenities (Dryden-Peterson & Hovil, 2004, p. 4). It is in this light that Kibreab asks the question “how can these countries be able or expected to establish policies, legal frameworks and institutions that would allow the absorption of thousands of refugees into their societies permanently?” (Kibreab, 1989).

Ager and Strang’s work: Understanding Integration: identified certain elements pivotal to perceptions of what constitutes a successful integration. Ager and Strang from their fieldwork and other literature produced four keys elements central to every integration process. The first

element of integration according to them are employment, housing, education and health (Ager and Strang, 2008. p.157)

These areas are vital facets of integrating into a new society. As a result, every integration process or programme must certainly have such elements. Furthermore, they acknowledged citizenship and its related rights and responsibilities as crucial element of integration. Countries adopted integration and implement them base on their own sense of identity, the cultural tolerances of nation (Sagger, 1995). Some of the countries require refugees to take up citizenship before they can enjoy some benefits. However, stakeholders are with the view that, refugees must enjoy the same rights as citizens in any integrated programme. It is clear from the above itemization that in developing an effective policy framework on integration, governments need to clearly eloquent strategy on the rights given to refugees.

Social interaction within and among people including refugees and other migrants in a community constitute the next element acknowledged by ager and Strang as crucial for integration. Almost all refugees desire to live with family or people who are delicate to their culture, understand and accept them. Refugees also “feel at home” when members of the host community are sociable to them.

Any good integration policy or document must acknowledge the existence of structural barriers to integration such as language, culture and the local environment. The state is charge with the task of ensuring the removal of such barriers. For example, in the health sector of an English-speaking African country, providers of health care would have to go an extra mile of providing translation materials or aid for refugees who cannot speak English (Ager and Stran. 2008, p.158) Also, in terms of safety and stability, refugees feel “at home” in their communities if they realise

it is peaceful. However, the community members become concern about the influx of refugees because of the misconception that refugees or migrants tend to destabilise the peace.

The researcher employs Barbara Harrell-Bond and Talcott Parsons's conceptualization of local integration as guide for this study. Both Harrell-Bond and Talcott emphasizes on social and economic as two key components of integration of refugees but a third aspect of cultural integration by Talcott is also examined for the purpose of this study.

### ***2.2.1 Economic Integration***

Two approaches can be used to find out whether refugees in a new country are economically integrated or not. The first is by comparing the occupation in their origin country and their present occupation in the destination country. This helps to easily assess the extent to which refugees are economically integrated if their occupation in the destination country is on the same level with the previous occupations in their countries of origin. The other way or approach is if the refugees get equivalent socio-economic prestige and living standard as compare to the indigenous people in the destination country or community then it can be considered as successful economic integration (Hosseini-Kaladjah, 1997).

Employment is the most important factor in securing the integration of migrants into society as it enables interactions, increases opportunities for learning local language and it provides the opportunity to build a future and to regain confidence (Phillimore, & Goodson, 2006). This means that if refugee levels of employment are at parity with the locals, then there is successful economic integration. When this happens, it tells you that, the refugees enjoy equal rights and opportunities as compare to the host community members. However, access to work or employment opportunity are based of skills, capability, competence and willingness (Rutinwa, 2002). Refugees who are working adjust more easily to the host society than those who are unemployed (Failure to get work and underemployment are the major barriers to successful

integration of refugees into the host society. Refugees struggle to locate employment matching with their skills and as a result the process of integration is often associated with brain waste to the refugee and the country of origin while it serves as a cheap labour and brain gain to the host country. Refugee employment is very important because it serves as a livelihood to them and also when they are working, they contribute to development of the destination country's economy.

Talcott Parsons's conceptualization of local integration was adopted, Parson's work focused on economic, social and cultural facets as the three (3) key gears of integration of refugees (Talcott, 1978).

### ***2.2.2 Social Integration***

Social integration is a chaotic concept, used by many but understood differently by most (Robinson, 1998). Social integration is the process during which newcomers or minorities are incorporated into the social structure of the host society. In sociology, the concept of social integration refers to a situation where minority groups come together or are incorporated into mainstream society (Talcott, 1978). However, we should note that, this doesn't mean in a forceful way. Nevertheless, for a successful social integration there should be largely agreement on a shared system of meaning, language, culture, among others between all peoples of a community thus the residents and the refugees to coexist in harmony and this will bring about equality in all areas of the society. Most governments aim at building and enabling of a cohesive and a well- functioning society where all members are equally treated or involved. It is widely recommended that refugees be empowered to “access those parts of society that the individual wishes to participate in at the moments they wish to do so”. To overcome discrimination against refugees, they should be fortified to ascertain means to bridge “cultural, ethnic, and social divisions” (Talcott, 1978).

More light has been thrown on social structure and peoples' behavior with the help of social integration. Multiple factors contribute to how smooth refugees' integration occurs, including their experiences, their physical and mental health, or social support. There is in general a lack of understanding of the diversity and the range of experiences refugees bring with them. Protective factors that can support their social integration include key resilience characteristics such as personal agency, beliefs that life has meaning, goal direction, sense of purpose, and motivation (Kuschminder, 2017; Rivera, Lynch, Li & Obamehinti, 2016).

Refugees' integration is a two way process depending on how resourceful is the individual and how open the society (Strang, & Ager, 2010). Social structure here has to do with how individuals or the refugees partake in formal organizations and social relationship such as spending time with family and friends or neighbours and volunteering. In terms of understanding peoples' behaviour, social integration is defined as “a structural or affective interconnectedness with others and with social institutions. It encompasses patterns of social interaction, participation and attitudes regarding institutions and relationships” (Voydanoff, 2004). A successful socially integrated community enables refugees to enjoy freedom, security and safety. Refugees respect a situation whereby they have work and engage in the larger community.

### ***2.2.3: Cultural Integration***

Culture comprises of the beliefs, behaviours, objects and other characteristics which are shared between members of a particular community or society. People define themselves and adhere to societal values through culture. Therefore, culture consists of customs, language, morals, norms, technologies, institutions and rules (Cliffsnotes.Com, 2019).

With a successful “integrated society, diversity and multiculturalism are regarded as encouraging and inspiring for those aspiring to be part of a community.” More often than not, people in such societies have varied norms, beliefs, practices and values. Mutual respect for diversity of the

various cultural elements guarantees growth of the society and peace; however, disrespect for the diversity of the society causes chaos and tensions. For instance, if the refugees disregard the society's norms and values, it will lead to tensions and unrest.

Language is a crucial component of Culture and the UNHCR coincides with this argument. According to the UN Refugee Agency, it is expedient on the part of refugees if they know the language of their host countries.

The knowledge of the asylum country's language will help the refugees to successfully integrate into the society. Knowledge of the asylum state's language also "enable the refugees gain a sense of dignity, security, and self-worth." Nevertheless, a lot of factors can impede on the refugees' ability to learn the language(s) of the asylum state. The refugees' age, educational background, mental state, physical health, gender are some of the factors that can lead to abovementioned impediments.

### **2.3 Summary**

It was evident from the literature expounded that, the concept of integration has been criticized for having several meanings or lacking consistency in its meaning when it comes to refugees integration and its related issues. This assertion has derail coherent refugee policy development and public debate (Ager and Strang, 2008). Again extensive review of literature on social, cultural and economic integration were done. This was significant for the fruitful local integration of refugees in their host countries.



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter describes the methodology of the study thus, it describes in detail, the methods used, specific steps taken and the tools employed in the gathering and analysis of data needed to address the research.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

A blend of quantitative and qualitative research methods commonly referred to as mixed-method approach (Creswell, 2009) was adopted in data gathering, analysis and reporting. The choice of the approach was because good social research requires the use of more than one research approach since they complement the strength and weaknesses of each other (Ennew & Boyden, 1997; Teye, 2012). The quantitative focused on making statistical generalization based on a large number of responses obtained on socio-cultural and economic factors of integration as well as the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

The qualitative approach, on the other hand, focused on key informant interviews with refugee stakeholders such as GRB, GIS, UNHCR as well as some local integration applicants. The use of both researches approaches simultaneously made it easier for comprehensive analysis and provided a better understanding of how cross-border movements and control practices are managed in the study area.

### **3.2 Target population**

As stated by Bell (2005), a population consists of a whole group of individuals selected for a specific study. For this study, the population is comprised of Local Integration (LI) applicants stationed at Accra, Kasoa and Buduburam camp as well as opinion leaders and officials from GRB, GIS, UNHCR and Buduburam camp manager.

#### ***3.2.1 Sample size and sampling technique for the quantitative approach***

A sample is the representative part of the total population selected for scrutiny through research (Bryman & Bell, 2007). The sample size of the study was seventy (70). The systematic sampling method was employed which consist of two stages. Firstly, the entire L.I applicants list was obtained from Ghana refugee board (GRB) and was assigned a number from 1 to the nth value.

Secondly, the simple random technique was applied to select each respondent by picking the assigned number from a bowl where the investigator mixed thoroughly before picking. This procedure was followed until the last respondent was selected. The randomization of this procedure allowed each member within the population to have equal chance to be selected and calculated for (Branner, 2005: Bourke, 2014).

### ***3.2.2 Sample size and sampling technique for the Qualitative approach***

For the qualitative approach, a purposive sampling technique was employed in selecting four (4) key informants from organizations such as GRB, GIS, UNHCR and camp manager, and four (4) opinion leaders and local integration applicants who had in-depth knowledge on integration of refugees and its related issues. This technique was appropriate for this study because it aided in selecting persons or an area deliberately to provide important information (Patton, 2000; Tongo, 2007).

## **3.3 Data collection procedure**

### ***3.3.1 Quantitative data collection: Questionnaire survey***

For quantitative data, instruments for data collection were structured questionnaires with both open ended and closed ended questions, which aided in collecting information from respondents. This was useful in answering the research questions which were structured into sections namely socio-demographic characteristics, livelihood and integration issues. The questionnaire consisted of both open and close ended questions which gave respondents a range of options to choose the most appropriate answer from. The quantitative survey questionnaire was used for the purpose of generalization of results of the findings (Babbie, 1990). The questionnaire used was administered by the researcher and his assistants and was structured to gain responses in the following areas:

- The socio-demographic and economic background
- Reasons for choosing local integration (L.I)
- Economic and livelihood activities of respondents
- Socio-cultural factors of integration

### ***3.3.2 Qualitative Data Collection: In-depth interviews***

For the qualitative data, an in-depth interview guide was used to gather data from officials of the various organizations (GRB, GIS, UNHCR, and Camp manager) as well as opinion leaders who are L.I applicants. This enabled the researcher to obtain information in lengthy conversations with respondents in a one-on-one interaction. The researcher sought insight on information, which was not captured by the questionnaire in order to achieve the aim of the study. One disadvantage of in-depth interview is that just a section of the respondents can participate in the interview, thus its outcomes cannot be generalized.

- The interview guide for the various organizations explored the L.I processes for applicants, available documents required, settlement packages as well as challenges associated with local integration.
- Again, to ascertain ways to minimize integration challenges and socio-cultural factors that impede integration processes.

## **3.4 Data analysis**

### ***3.4.1 Quantitative data analysis***

After the questionnaire administered to respondents was retrieved, each questionnaire was checked, coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20) software. Analytical tools such as descriptive and inferential statistics, which included frequency, percentage, cross-tabulation, and chi-square test, were used for the analyses.

### ***3.4.2 Qualitative data analysis***

In-depth interviews were audio recorded by the researcher. All interviews were carried out in English which was the common language both researcher and respondents could communicate in. Thus, interviews recorded were transcribed without any difficulties. The interviews were then

coded, put into themes by referring to the objectives. This helped to categorize and analyze the themes thereby reducing many words into coherent and logical phrases. This supported the explanations of the quantitative data.

### **3.5 Ethical Consideration**

Before embarking on the field for collection of data, the researcher, bearing in mind that field ethics consideration is one of the important parts of research, took all necessary steps to avoid committing any ethical mistakes and adhere to all ethics to the latter. Ethics are the norms or standards for conduct that distinguish between right and wrong. They help to determine the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. The researcher took measures not to indiscriminately take photograph or tape record without gaining permission, consent were sought from respondents by explaining the purpose of the study to them to decide whether to be part of the study or not. The anonymity and confidentiality of all informants and information were protected and finally yet importantly, the researcher safeguarded access of forthcoming researchers to the study areas would not be risked by his activities and words.

### **3.6 Positionality**

The researcher's positionality is very much important since it can influence the interview and the presentation of the results (Teye, 2012). The researcher is a staff at Ghana Refugee Board, and with his position and knowledge about issues about local integration, the researcher knew it would influence some of the responses, as some respondents might think responses would be attributed to them no matter how well the researcher explained the aim of the study to them.

In order to preclude this, the researcher employed three interns and train them to conduct the interviews for the study. Regardless of the researcher's position at the Ghana Refugee Board and relationship with the respondent, the researcher presented the responses the same as were given by the respondents without altering anything. In order to get true data about the subject matter,

the responses from the three interns were also compared to ensure consistency. The researcher tried to analyse the data objectively without altering anything.

### **3.7 Limitation**

There is no research without a challenge hence this research was no exception. The researcher had some challenges relating to bureaucratic procedures which the researcher had to follow in order to enable him to conduct any interviews with agencies like GIS, UNCHR, and GRB. Since the study sought to find out how socio-cultural and economic factors affect the integration of former refugees which is a sensitive area, the researcher had to constantly reassure them that it would be confidential, and the information was meant for only academic purposes and just that purpose alone. In addition, limited time and available resources did not permit the researcher to expand the study sample.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND INTEGRATION PROCESSES**

#### **4.0: Introduction**

This section seeks to address objectives one and two of the research which talks about examining the background characteristics and integration processes adopted by respondents in the study area. The section discusses the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents including sex, age, and level of education among others and further presents analyses and discussions on livelihood and integration processes.

#### **4.1 Background characteristics of respondents**

Due to the complexities surrounding refugee's migration, their presence in host country and their integration locally, respondents consisting of former Liberian refugee's background were ascertained. Out of the 70 respondents sampled, half (50%) were males and half (50. %) were females. The disparities between males and females are attributed to the availability of respondent readiness during the research. In terms of the age of respondents, more than three-fifth (62.9%) fall within the workable age cohort (25-44) years while those within the ages of (45-54) years constituted one-fifth (20%) of the total population. The rest of the age cohort was less than 15 percent. Given the age distribution of the respondents, it is a characteristic of a youthful age group. Additionally, in relation to the marital status of the respondents, more than half of them (64.3%) were single, followed by married respondents (22.9%). The rest of the marital status characteristics were less than 10percent. Educationally, close to half (47.1%) had completed SHS while those with Voc/Tech education constituted 17.1 percent with tertiary education level of respondents as 18.6 percent. This evidence is an indication that large

proportion of the respondent has some level of education. Respondent's length of stay in Ghana shows that majority have stayed in the country for more than 10 years and place of stay in their origin country were urban areas (78.6%) compared to the rural areas (15.7%). Again, respondents with children ranging from 1 to 3 were close to two-third (65.7%) while those with 4 to 6 children were 15.7 percent followed by those with no children (12.9%).

**Table 4.1: Background characteristics of respondents**

Variables		Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	35	50.0
	Female	35	50.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age	15-24	4	5.7
	25-34	14	20.0
	35-44	30	42.9
	45-54	14	20.0
	55-64	8	11.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Marital status	Single	45	64.3
	Married	16	22.9
	Divorced	2	2.9
	Widowed	5	7.1
	Cohabitation	2	2.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Educational status	Never attended school	3	4.3
	Primary	2	2.9
	JHS	7	10.0
	Voc/Tech	12	17.1
	SHS	33	47.1
	Tertiary	13	18.6



<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Religious status	None	3	4.3
	Christianity	58	82.9
	Islam	6	8.6
	Traditionalist	3	4.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Length of stay in Ghana	Less than 10 years	1	1.4
	10-15 years	6	8.6
	16-20 years	18	25.7
	More than 20 years	45	64.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Former place of stay (Liberia)	Urban	55	78.6
	Rural	11	15.7
	Others	4	5.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Number of children	1-3	46	65.7
	4-6	11	15.7
	7-10	3	4.3
	None	9	12.9
	Not stated	1	1.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field work, 2019**

#### **4.1.2 Respondent's knowledge about local integration (L.I)**

Local integration is one of the strategy profess by refugee agencies and are adopted by refugees (Polzer, 2009). Respondent knowledge of local integration was explored. Out of the sampled population, 32.9 percent see local integration as living in the last country after ceasing to be a refugee while the same percentage also constituted section of the respondents with no idea on

what local integration is. The rest of the respondent's knowledge of L.I was less than 10percent.

One L.I applicant had this to share:

I have been in Ghana for more than 20 years now. All I know about L.I is having equal opportunities to stay in Ghana other than Liberia which is my origin of country (**Saboba an L.I applicant, 2019**)

**Table 4.2: Respondent's knowledge about local integration (L.I)**

Knowledge on L.I	Frequency	Percent
It means you don't want to go to Liberia	3	4.3
Protection and safety	7	10.0
When you choose to live in your host country after the war	23	32.9
To help refugees in Ghana	1	1.4
To continue living in the country of asylum as a refugee with benefits	4	5.7
If you decide to live in another country because you don't have anywhere to go	2	2.9
The moment you enter a different country you want to be integrated	2	2.9
Living in a different country	2	2.9
No idea	23	32.9
Others	3	4.3
Total	70	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

#### **4.1.3 Respondent's reasons for opting for local integration (L.I)**

Table 4.3 presents the respondent's reasons for opting for local integration (L.I) in Ghana. In rank order, the most significant reasons are physical security (48.6%) losing everything back home (12.9%), followed by schooling here, better education for my children and economic security which constituted 7.1 percent of the total response obtained. This is consistent with work

done by Sandvik (2010) who expounded that refugees seeking for L.I consider factors that will improve their wellbeing and their security. An official from GRB had this to say:

When you enquire from those seeking for L.I, most of them admit that they will want a country that can help them improve upon their well-being and have protection as equal as that of the citizen (**GRB Official, 2019**)

**Table 4.3: Respondent's reasons for opting for local integration (L.I)**

Reasons for choosing L.I	Frequency	Percent
Physical security	34	48.6
Lost everything back home	9	12.9
I was schooling here	5	7.1
I was gainfully employed	2	2.9
The package	3	4.3
Was misled	3	4.3
Better education for my children	5	7.1
Economic security	5	7.1
Social network in Ghana	1	1.4
Others	3	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **4.1.4 Percent distribution of reasons for local integration (L.I) by gender**

Reasons for choosing for L.I by gender of respondents were explored. Among the male population, two-fifth (40.0%) of the respondents cited physical security followed by losing everything back home (17.1%) and economic security (11.4%). The rest of the reason for L.I was just less than 10percent. Similar responses were obtained from the female population but higher among females than males. The finding is consistent with Jacobsen (2002) who explicated that

refugees consider factors such as security and economic benefits when choosing to integrate locally. However there was no significant association ( $\chi^2 = 6.925$ ,  $df = 10$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.732 > 0.05$ ) between one's gender and reasons for opting for L.I. An official from UNHCR had this to say;

Issues of L.I is very complex when the deciding factors lie in the hands of the refugees. Most of them will opt for it when they are convinced of security protection and the ability to integrate economically (UNHCR officially, 2019)

**Table 4.4: Percent distribution of reasons for local integration (L.I) by gender**

Reasons for choosing L.I	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Physical security	14 (40.0%)	20 (57.1%)	34 (48.6%)
Lost everything back home	6 (17.1%)	3 (8.6%)	9 (12.9%)
I was schooling here	3 (8.6%)	2 (5.7%)	5 (7.1%)
I was gainfully employed	1 (2.9%)	1 (2.9%)	2 (2.9%)
The package	1 (2.9%)	2 (5.7%)	3 (4.3%)
Was misled	2 (5.7%)	1 (2.9%)	3 (4.3%)
Better education for my children	2 (5.7%)	3 (8.6%)	5 (7.1%)
Economic security	4 (11.4%)	1 (2.9%)	5 (7.1%)
Social network in Ghana	1 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)
Others	1 (2.9%)	2 (5.7%)	3 (4.3%)
Total	35 (100.0%)	35 (100.0%)	70 (100.0%)

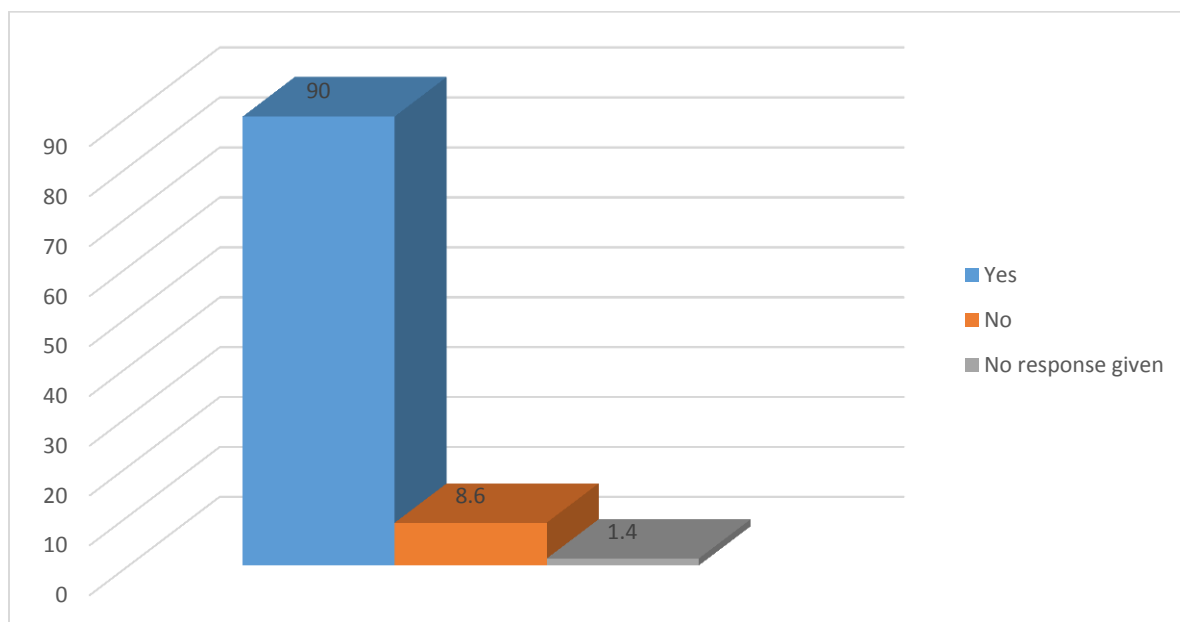
( $\chi^2 = 6.925$ ,  $df = 10$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.732 > 0.05$ )

**Source: Field work, 2019**

#### 4.1.5 Receipt of L.I package

With respect to the receipt of L. I. packages figured 4.9.1 shows that an overwhelming majority (90.0%) responded yes to receipt of such packages while just a few (8.6%) responded no. L.I applicants who received packages said it aided in their integration processes. The overall implication as explained by Ahimbisibwe et al.(2017) posited that supports received from organizations towards refugees integration includes packages that consist of money, skills training to help them adapt easily.

**Figure 4.9.1: Receipt of L.I package**



**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### 4.1.6 Respondent's reasons for not receiving local integration package

Table 4.5 presents information the reasons some respondents did not receive any L. I package. Out of the sampled population, more than four-fifth (88.6%) had no responses to that effect while the rest of the reasons cited were less than 10percent of the total outcome obtained. The

general implication is that many were not aware of the date and time of the sharing of the package whereas some of the respondents were reluctant in talking about it. Due to the importance attached to the packages received for onward integration, many who don't get such packages integration becomes problematic since it affect their well-being in terms of fending for themselves and their families. This assertion confirms Hussain (2005) study on refugee's integration and stated that absent of L.I packages for refugees which includes financial assistants pave way for many to opt for sub-standard facilities which affect their well-being. A camp manager who played a role in the sharing had this to say:

Many could not get it because they were not able to provide a document to that effect as well as reporting on later dates when the packages had already been distributed. **(Camp manager, 2019)**

**Table 4.5: Respondent's reasons for not receiving the local integration package**

Reasons for not receiving L.I package	Frequency	Percent
Was not around during the distribution	4	5.7
My name was not on the list	2	2.9
No response is given	62	88.6
Others	2	2.9
Total	70	100.0

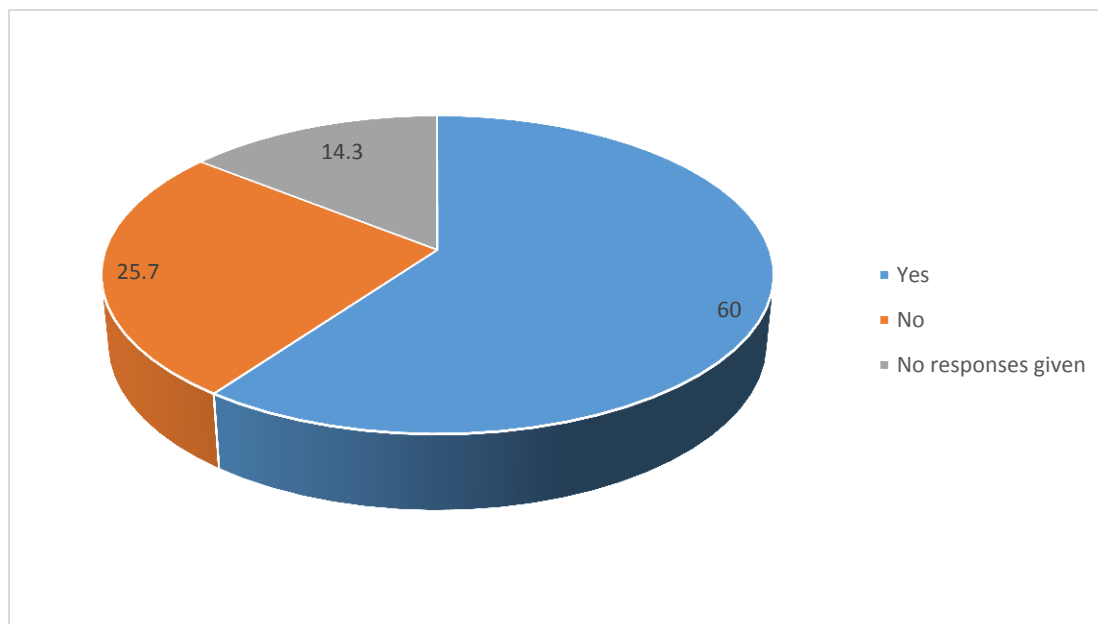
**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### 4.1.7 Is the package the same as promised?

Respondent's views on the package received in terms of what was promised were explored. Out of the sample population, figure 4.9.2 shows that three out of every five (60.0%) of the respondent cited yes to the package as promised while a quarter (25.7%) said no to such package as promised. Those who did not respond were just 14.3 percent of the total population. Those who received the packages as promised is in line with work done by Agblorti and Awusabo-Asare that resettlement packages helps L.I applicants to adapt easily in the locality they find themselves. One L.I applicant had this to say:

With respect to the package distributed, the things we were promised during our meetings with the officials were given to us but some of my colleagues complained of not having the full package (**L. I applicant, 2019**)

**Figure 4.9.2: Is the package the same as promised?**



**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### 4.1.8 Type of package received

Types of the package received by L. I applicants were explored. In rank order, full package (64.3%), money and NHIS (10.0%) followed by passport, NHIS, and money as individual packages (7.1%). The general implication is that applicants consider these packages as the most essential when they decide to integrate locally. One L.I. applicant had this to say in that regards;

Full package for local integration is the best offer you can get because it helps you to integrate without any hindrances in the host community. This assertion is consistent with work done by Muleya (2013) who explicated that packages for resettlement especially on local integration should be a sustainable one that most people refer as the full or complete package.

**Table 4.6: Type of package received**

Type of package received	Frequency	Percent
Full package	45	64.3
The passport	4	5.7
Money	5	7.1
Passport and NHIS	5	7.1
Money and NHIS	7	10.0
No response	4	5.7
Total	70	100.0

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **4.1.9 Challenges faced in receiving the L.I package**

As stated by Jacobsen (2002), receipt of L.I packages came with numerous challenges. It is in this vein that respondents' views were ascertained. Out of the 70 respondents interviewed close to three-fifth (57.1%) cited delay of passport as a major challenge with the delay of money (11.4%) as the next significant challenge they face. However, those who did not give responses



to that effect constituted 12.9 percent of the total responses obtained. The overall implication is that the most significant challenges with respect to receipt of L. I packages are delay of passport and money which affect L. I applicants the most. Again specific challenges reiterated by respondents is consistent with work done by Essuman-Johnson (2011) which opined that, absent of essential document like passport makes it difficult for refugees to access some social services when the need arise. One applicant alluded that:

The passport is our main source of identity so when it delays it affect everything that has to do with money (**L.I applicant, 2019**).

**Table 4.7: Challenges faced in receiving the L.I package**

Challenges faced in receiving L.I package	Frequency	Percent
The passport delayed	40	57.1
Problems associated with my passport	4	5.7
Money delayed	8	11.4
Have not received my NHIS	5	7.1
No challenges	4	5.7
No responses are given	9	12.9
Total	70	100.0

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **4.2.0 Bivariate analysis between the challenges faced in receiving L.I package and gender**

Bivariate analysis between challenges faced in receiving L. I package and gender was explored. Among the male population, delay of passport had the highest percentage (54.3%) as a major challenge followed by delay of money and those who did not give any responses constituted (14.2%). Similar outcomes were obtained from the female population but higher among males than females. With regards to delay of passport, males were 6times (54.3% - 60.0%) less than

that of their female counterparts and was statistically insignificant ( $\chi^2 = 7.511$ ,  $df = 5$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.185 > 0.05$ ) with respect to respondent view on such challenges. The general implication is that one is bound to face these challenges irrespective of your sex. An official from GIS had this to say;

With regard to the issuance of passport, we do have some challenges but not always. Once we face such challenges, anyone applying for such documents (e.g., passport) is likely to be affected and has nothing to do with your sex (**GIS officials, 2019**).

**Table 4.8: Bivariate analysis between the challenges faced in receiving L.I package and gender**

challenges face in receiving L.I package	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
The passport delayed	19 (54.3%)	21 (60.0%)	40 (57.1%)
Problems associated with my passport	4 (11.4%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (5.7%)
Money delayed	5 (14.3%)	3 (8.6%)	8 (11.4%)
Have not receive my NHIS	1 (2.9%)	4 (11.4%)	5 (7.1%)
No challenges	1 (2.9%)	3 (8.6%)	4 (5.7%)
No responses given	5 (14.3%)	4 (11.4%)	9 (12.9%)
Total	35 (100.0%)	35 (100.0%)	70 (100.0%)

( $\chi^2 = 7.511$ ,  $df = 5$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.185 > 0.05$ )

**Source: Field work, 2019**

#### **4.2.1 Status in relation to your residency**

Table 4.9 presents information on respondents stating with respect to their residency. Out of the total population, respondents whose passport and permit have expired were more than a third (34.2%) whereas those with a valid passport and permit constituted (32.9%). Those with expired

passports were just few (12.9%). The rest of the respondent's statuses were less than 5percent with the exception of those who did not give any response (15.7%). Renewal of documents and getting it on time is a challenge in Ghana and GIS is not exceptional as explicated in the literature to financial and logistical challenges (IOM, 2015). These affect L.I applicants whenever they are transacting business or receipt of packages or signing any contractual agreement that involves documentation becomes a challenge to them.

**Table 4.9: Status in relation to your residency**

Status in relation to your residency	Frequency	Percent
My passport has expired	9	12.9
My permit has expired	2	2.9
Both passport and permit has expired	24	34.3
Passport and permit are valid	23	32.9
No passport	1	1.4
No responses are given	11	15.7
Total	70	100.0

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **4.2.2 Summary of key findings.**

Briefly, the chapter expounded on the socio-demographic characteristics and how it influence their integration processes. It was evident from the findings that most of the respondents were youth and large proportion of them were below 40 years old. Again, significant fraction of the respondents had some level of education. Three out of every five respondent admitted of receipt of full L.I package, which aided their local integration but also faces several challenges including delays of receipt of passports and financial assistance.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF INTEGRATION**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This section seeks to address objectives presents the economic or livelihood activities of L.I applicants, socio-cultural factors, challenges relating to integration. Again, ways of managing these challenges were explored.

##### **5.1.1 Respondent's profession in the origin country**

In ranked order, the respondent's profession in their country of origin was ascertained. It was evident that half (50.0%) of the respondents were students/apprentices, 12.9 percent constituted traders followed by unemployed (10.0%). The rest of the profession was less than 10 percent of the total responses. The profession status of these respondents attests to the fact that majority of the L.I applicants are likely to be youth since in times of wars, single and the youth are the ones likely to escape.

**Table 5.1: Respondent's profession in the origin country**

Profession in country of origin	Frequency	Percent
Trading	9	12.9
Teaching	3	4.3
Artisan	4	5.7
Student/Apprentice	35	50.0
Unemployed	7	10.0
Politician	1	1.4
Pastor/Priest	2	2.9
Office worker	1	1.4
Labourer	2	2.9
Caterer	1	1.4
Others	5	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.1.2 Respondent's current occupation in the host country**

Respondent's current occupation in the host country was explored to see if there are changes as compared to when they were in their origin country. Out of the 70 respondents sampled, more than a third (34.3%) were traders followed by artisan and unemployed (18.6%). Students/apprentice, which was the highest in terms of percentages in their home country, reduced to 10 percent as a profession in the host country. The likely reason is that many of the respondents who were students/apprentices could not continue and decided to work as traders. One respondent had this to say;

I was at university when the war started and I had to stop. I came to Ghana and there was no way I could continue, in order to survive, I started doing petty trading. **(Post refugee, 2019)**

**Table 5.2: Respondent's current occupation in the host country**

<b>Current occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Farming	1	1.4
Trading	24	34.3
Teaching	4	5.7
Artisan	13	18.6
Student/Apprentice	7	10.0
Unemployed	13	18.6
Pastor/Priest	1	1.4
Office worker	1	1.4
Labourer	2	2.9
Caterer	1	1.4
Others	3	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field work, 2019**

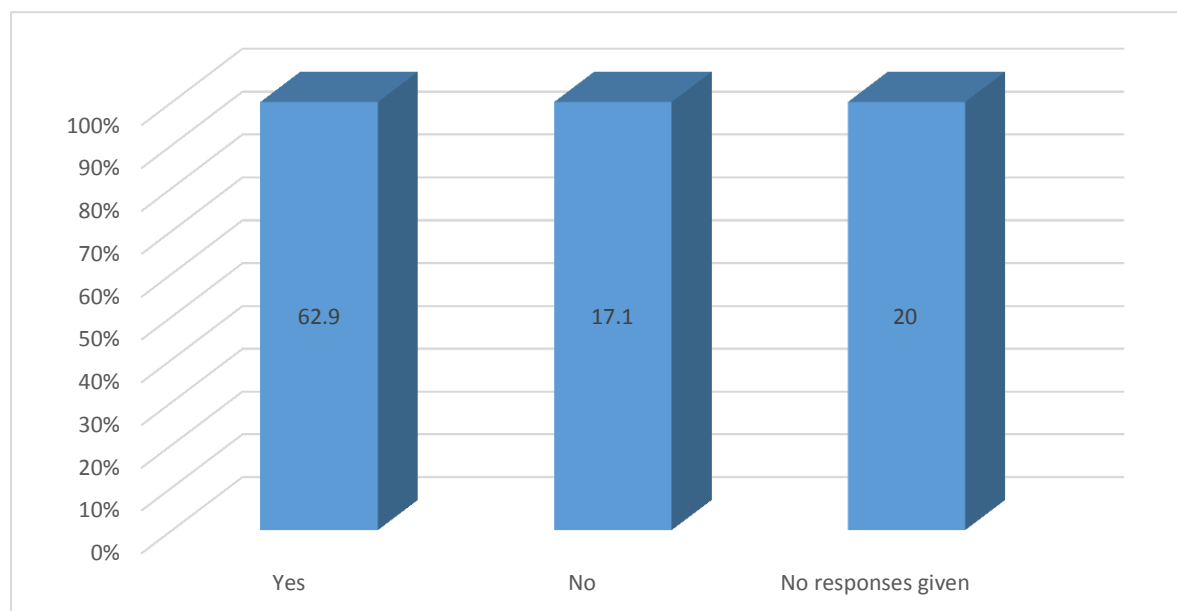
### **5.1.3 Right to the establishment of work in Ghana**

As explain by the EWOCAS protocol, member state nationals within the sub-region have the right to the establishment of work in any country within the ECOWAS region. It was on this premise that respondents' views were explored on the matter. Out of the total population, more than half (62.9%) responded yes to the right of establishment which means that they enjoy right of establish that is they can establish their own businesses and also work while (17.9%) said no to such rights meaning they don't enjoy right to establish business and work in Ghana. Those who did not give any response to that effect constituted just one fifth representing (20.0%) of the total outcome. As opined by Agyei and Clottey (2007) these rights before operationalizing it required certain responsibilities such as capital, one's residential status and working permits

among others. Absent of these documents can hinder on ECOWAS citizen ability to establish a work in the member state other than his or her own country. A respondent who has a shop at Kasoa, which is part of the study area, had this to say:

Prior to establishing my shop at Kasoa, I went to the municipal office to register and obtained certificate for that and my documents were verified. I believe that you can establish a work anytime if you have the capital and you follow the right procedures (Akaa post refugees, 2019).

**Figure 5.3: Right to the establishment of work in Ghana**



**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **5.1.4 Main source of income**

Source of income for refugees in the host countries is very challenging especially if you are not recognized as such (Campbell, 2006). It was on this premise that the respondent's main source of income was explored. Out of the study population, more than three-fifth (65.7%) sources of income were through their occupation while 15.7 percent rely on remittances. 10 percent (10%) of the respondent's sources of income were from other means such as begging on the street. This

confirms one study done of local integration of refugees in Rwanda, which posited that, most of the integrated refugees hardly receive support from NGOs and donor groups hence make meaningful income through the occupation they engage in (Bulcha, 2008).

**Table 5.4: Main source of income**

Sources of income	Frequency	Percent
Partner/Husband	2	2.9
Remittances	11	15.7
NGOs	2	2.9
My occupation	46	65.7
No responses are given	2	2.9
Others	7	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **5.1.5 Relationship between main sources of income and gender**

Relationship between sources of income and gender were explored about the applicants. Among the male population, three-fifth (60.0%) income sources emanate from their occupation while a quarter (25.7%) income sources are through receipt of remittances. A similar outcome was obtained about the female population where other means as a source of income saw the females be 3 times (11.4% - 8.6%) more than their male counterparts. However, there is no significant association ( $\chi^2 = 6.945$ ,  $df = 5$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.225 > 0.05$ ) between sources of income and one's sex. The general implication is that respondents' sources of income depend on your network and your ability to secure a job. One female respondent had this to share;

I sell indomie at the entrance of the camp in the evening while in the morning I do cleaning services at a nearby school. This is how I survive with my family (A female L.I applicant, 2019)



**Table 5.5: Cross tabulation between main sources of income and gender**

Main sources of income	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Partner/Husband	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.7%)	2 (2.9%)
Remittances	9 (25.7%)	2 (5.7%)	11 (15.7%)
NGOs	1 (2.9%)	1 (2.9%)	2 (2.9%)
My occupation	21 (60.0%)	25 (71.4%)	46 (65.7%)
No responses given	1 (2.9%)	1 (2.9%)	2 (2.9%)
Others	3 (8.6%)	4 (11.4%)	7 (10.0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 (100.0%)</b>	<b>35 (100.0%)</b>	<b>70 (100.0%)</b>

( $\chi^2 = 6.945$ ,  $df = 5$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.225 > 0.05$ )

**Source: Field work, 2019**

### **5.1.6 Amount received and its usage**

The amount received by respondents and how it was used was explored. With regards to the amount received, more than half (52.9%) received cash ranging from (600-1000) Ghana cedis followed by those who had (1100-2000) Ghana cedis (14.3%) while 10 percent had (200-500) Ghana cedis. The rest of the amount received was less than 5 percent. Juxtaposing this with its usage, it was evident that two-fifth (40.0%) use it for settling school fees followed by purchase of food items (24.1%) and renting of houses (17.1%). The rest of the usage of the money was less than 10 percent. This outcome is in consonance with the World Bank report (2015) that most migrants and refugees use money received on basic household needs. The overall implication is that the amount received was just for basic needs and cannot be used for other purposes such as investment among others. Two of the L.I applicants had these to say;

In fact, the money received is just for household consumption and cannot be used for any meaningful venture because it is not enough for starting a business (**Male L.I applicant, 2019**).

The money received was used to buy food. I need to pay my rent but the money was small so it could not help (**Female L.I applicant, 2019**).

UNHCR official who said this confirmed these;

The money given to the LI applicants was not enough to meet their needs, to set up business to become self-reliance (**UNHCR official, 2019**).

**Table 5.6: Amount received and its usage**

Variables	Frequency	Percent	
Amount received (GH¢)	200-500	7	10.0
	600-1000	37	52.9
	1100-1500	10	14.3
	1600-2000	2	2.9
	2100-2500	3	4.3
	3100 and above	1	1.4
	Don't remember the amount	1	1.4
	Have not received any money	1	1.4
	No responses are given	8	11.4
Total	70	100.0	
Usage of the money	Food	17	24.3
	Rent a house	12	17.1
	Business	5	7.1
	Pay school fees	28	40.0
	Others	2	2.9
	No responses are given	6	8.6
Total	70	100.0	

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### 5.1.7 Percent distribution of amount received by gender

The amount received as an L.I applicant was explored from the gender perspective. Among the male population, close to half (48.6%) received amount in the range of (600-1000) Ghana cedis while just one-fifth (20.0%) had (1100-1500) Ghana cedis. The rest of the amount received was less than 10 percent. Similar outcomes were obtained with regards to female population but higher among females than males. There was no significant association ( $\chi^2 = 7.319$ ,  $df = 8$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.503 > 0.05$ ) between amount received and one's sex. The general implication is that the amount received could be attributed to case by case bases with respect to local integration procedure. An official from GRB had this to share;

Amount of money normally distributed to L.I applicants consider a lot of things in addition to individual needs. An applicant with children is likely to receive more than a single individual (**GRB official, 2019**)

**Table 5.7: Percent distribution of amount received by gender**

Amount received (GHC)	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
200-500	3 (8.6%)	4 (11.4%)	7 (10.0%)
600-1000	17 (48.6%)	20 (57.1%)	37 (52.9%)
1100-1500	7 (20.0%)	3 (8.6%)	10 (14.3%)
1600-2000	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.7%)	2 (2.9%)
2100-2500	2 (5.7%)	1 (2.9%)	3 (4.3%)
3100 and above	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.9%)	1 (1.4%)
Don't remember the amount	1 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)
Have not receive any money	1 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.4%)
No responses given	4 (11.4%)	4 (11.4%)	8 (11.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 (100.0%)</b>	<b>35 (100.0%)</b>	<b>70 (100.0%)</b>

( $\chi^2 = 7.319$ ,  $df = 8$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.503 > 0.05$ )

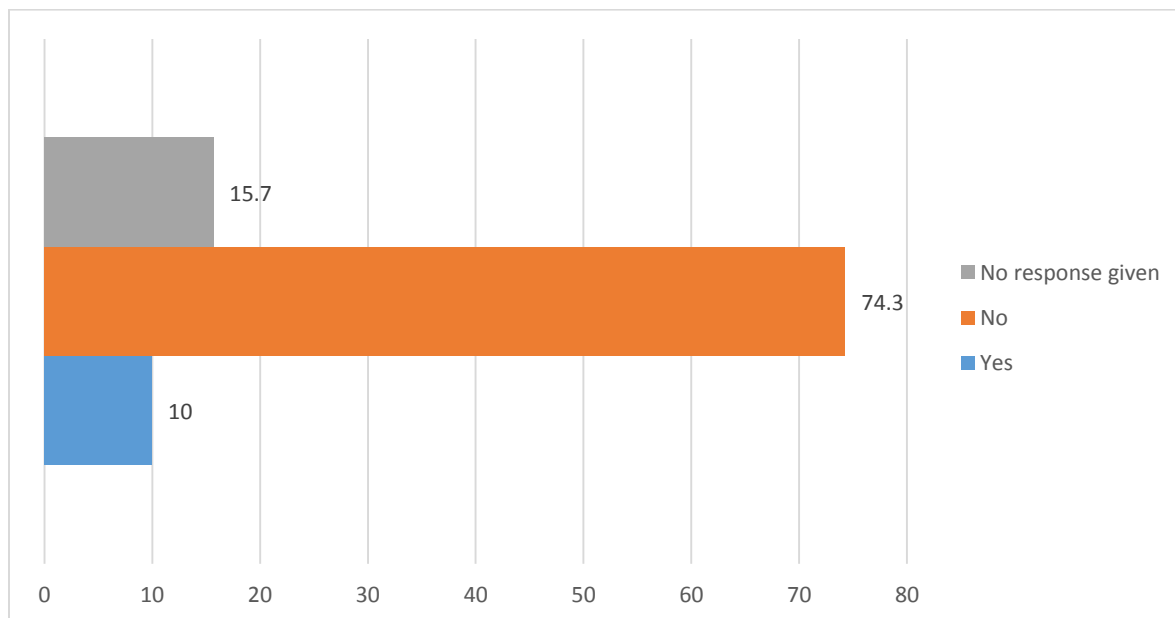
**Source: Field work, 2019**

### 5.1.8 Saving culture among respondents

Figure 5.8 presents information on whether respondents had saving culture in terms of the money they received. Close to three-quarters (74.3%) responded no while just 10 percent mentioned yes to saving some of the money received. Those who could not give immediate responses were 15.7 percent. Respondent's source of income coupled with the type of employment engaged in is a reflection on their saving culture. This outcome conforms to a study conducted in Bangladesh by Asfar(2009) on refugee's livelihood which came out that very four out of five refugees hardly save part of income generated since it is only meant for household consumption. One respondent had this to say;

The money we receive is not enough for our daily upkeep so it becomes difficult to save. Those who are able to save do other work that gives them extra income (**L.I applicant, 2019**).

**Figure 5.8: Saving culture among respondents**

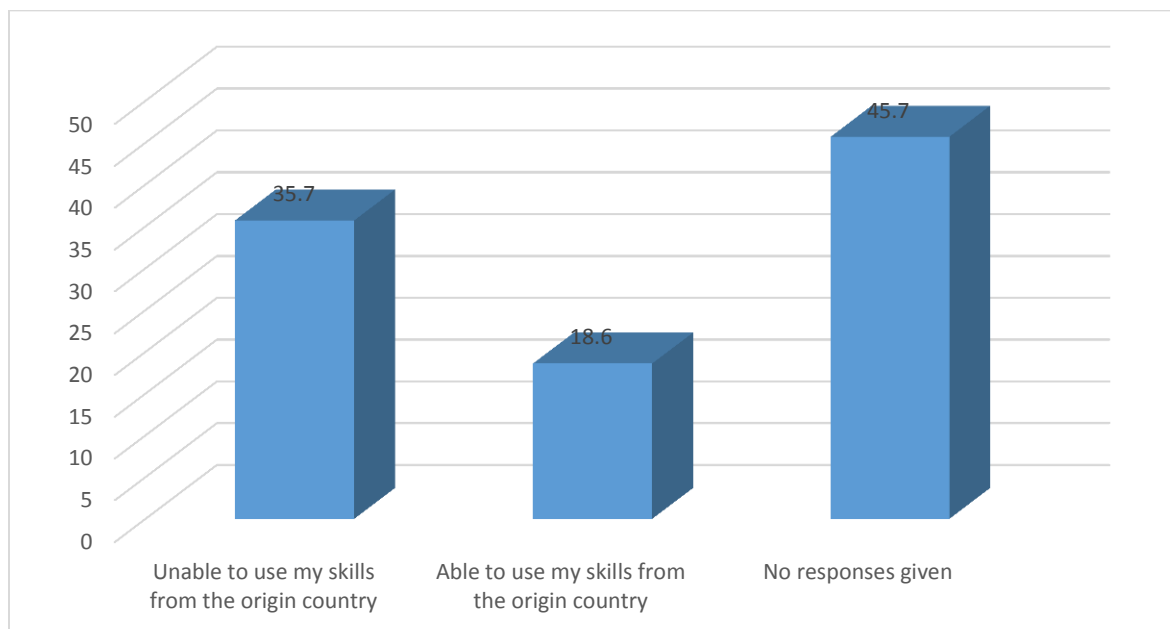


**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### 5.1.9 Respondent's ability to use their skills in Ghana

Human and cultural skills play a role in securing a job (Smith, 2010) and respondents' ability to use their skills in Ghana was explored. Figure 5.9 shows that more than a third (35.7%) were unable to use their skills from their home country while just 18.6 percent did. Those who did not give any response to that effect were more than two-fifth (45.7%) of the total responses obtained. The reasons why large section of the respondents could not use their skills to work in Ghana is that most of them had no experience for the new job acquired since their area of expertise was below the jobs satisfaction.

**Figure 5.9: Respondent's ability to use their skills in Ghana**



**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### 5.2.0 Respondent's standard of living

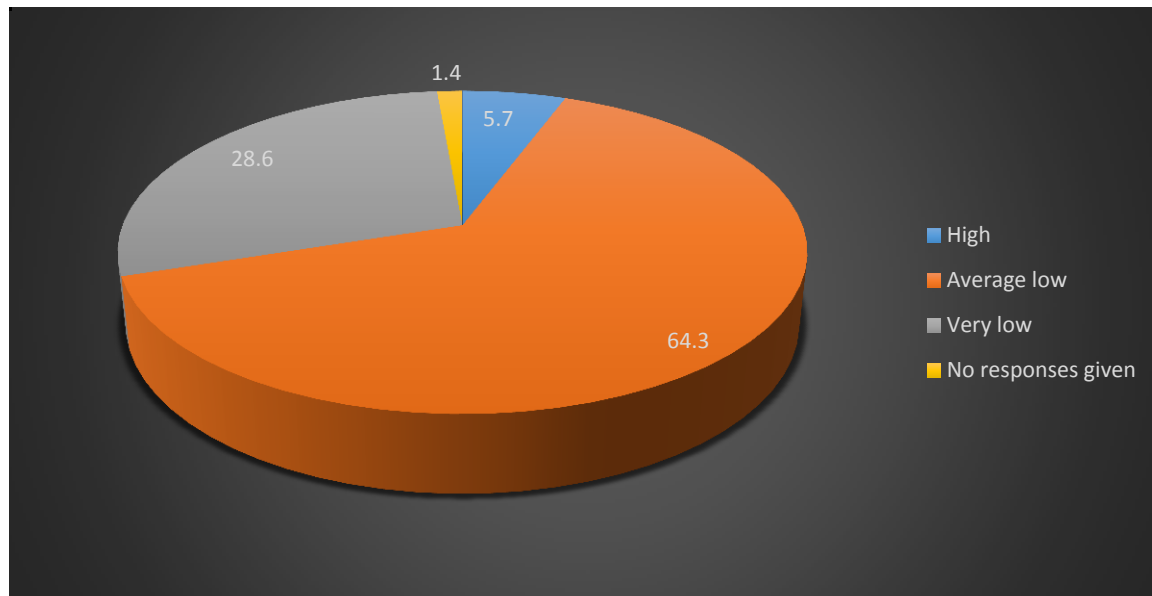
The standard of living among refugees depends on where refugees find themselves since most of the developing countries themselves have issues of standard of living with respect to their own citizens (Crisp, 2003; Gibney & Gibney, 2004). It was in this vein that the standard of living of respondents was ascertained. The figure 5.9.95 shows that more than three-fifth (64.3%) of the respondent's standard of living was average low followed by those with very low (28.6%) standard of living. The general implication is that either majority of the respondent are unemployed or do work that pays very little hence had low standard of living. One respondent has this to say:

My standard of living is worst if i compare with my home country and even the time I was a refugee. The reason is that in my country I was working as a Technician, during the time I was a refugee too GRB/UNHCR were supporting us but now no support from GRB/UNHCR only permit renewal and am unemployed so I only rely on the assistance received from friends for survival (**A male L.I applicant, 2019**).

A UNHCR official who had this to say confirmed this assertion:

We did our best as an organization to take care of the LI applicants when they were refugees. Bear in mind that now they are no more refugees, hence we don't add them to our budget. However, we only support them to renew their permits (**UNHCR official, 2019**).

**Figure 5.9.1: Respondent's standard of living**



Source: Fieldwork, 2019

### 5.2.1 Composition of the family size of respondents

Respondent's family size was explored. Out of the study sample, those with family size ranging from 1-3 and 4-6 were more than two-fifth of the responses obtained. This is an indication that large portion of the respondents came to Ghana with their families. This is inconsistent with work done by Lindley (2009) and Peters (2011) who expound that during war t since not all will be at your present location when about to escape war-situation, the likelihood to have your entire family move with you becomes difficult. But the current study findings stated otherwise since most of the L.I applicants mentioned of migrating with their families.

**Table 5.9.2: Composition of the family size of respondents**

Family size composition	Frequency	Percent
1-3	31	44.3
4-6	30	42.9
7+	9	12.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.2.2 Number of family members gainfully employed**

Securing employment especially in developing countries like Ghana is not an easy task especially being a refugee (Dzeamesi, 2008; Hardgrove, 2009). It was in this vein that respondents' views on the number of their family members who were gainfully employed ascertain. It was evident that close to half (48.6%) of their family members had no jobs while family members ranging from 1-3 who were gainfully employed constituted (41.4%). This is an indication that large section of refugees are still unemployed.

**Table 5.9.3: Number of family members gainfully employed**

Number of family members gainfully employed	Frequency	Percent
1-3	29	41.4
4-6	4	5.7
7+	3	4.3
None	34	48.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**



### 5.2.3 Attending school/livelihood training in search of employment in Ghana

Respondents who have attended a school or have had a livelihood training in search of jobs in Ghana were explored. A careful observation of the outcome indicated that it aided half (50.0%) of the respondent in searching for employment. While more than two-fifth (44.3%) mentioned no to such training. However, those who said no stated that it was highly bided for since the recipient were more than what was offered for the training. The overall implication is that it helped most of the respondents to obtain skills that were needed in the Ghanaian job market.

Two of the respondents had this to say:

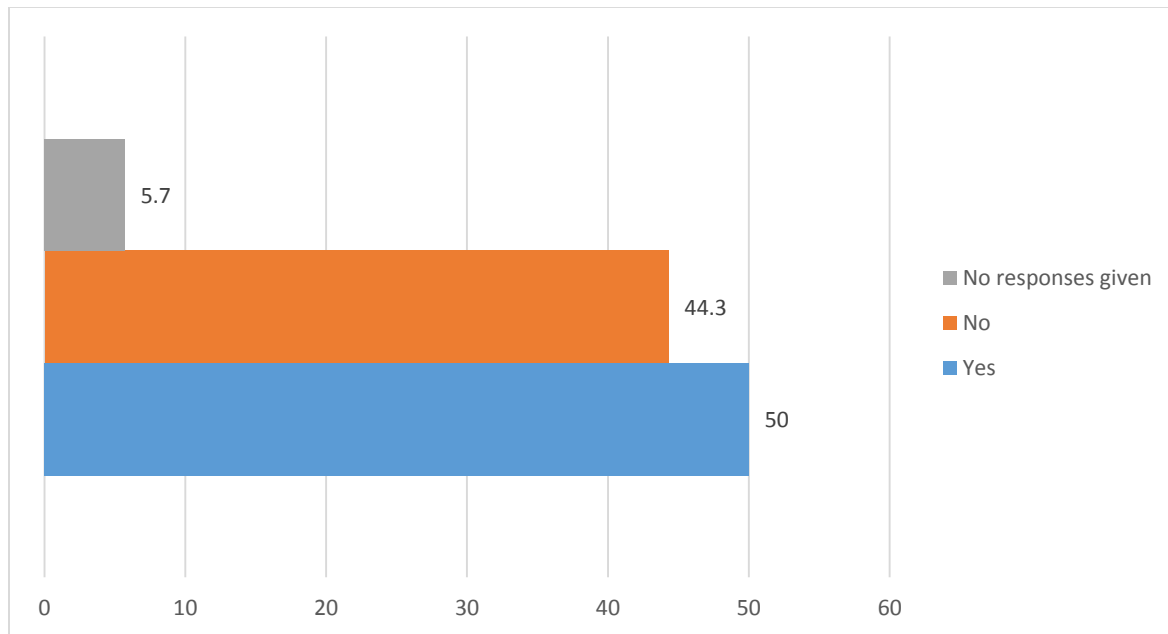
I benefited from that program and today I have a shop with apprentices where I repair mobile phones (**Post refugee, 2019**).

Funding from DAFI scholarship was able to help me to pursue a post graduate studies and that have help me to secure a job as a university lecturer (**Post refugee, 2019**).

This was also confirmed by an official from GRB who had this to share:

We have been organizing livelihood training and scholarships for most of the refugees and the outcome is great. Some are independent now in terms of taken care of themselves and their families through this programmes (**GRB official 2019**).

**Figure 5.9.4: Attending school/livelihood training in search of employment in Ghana**

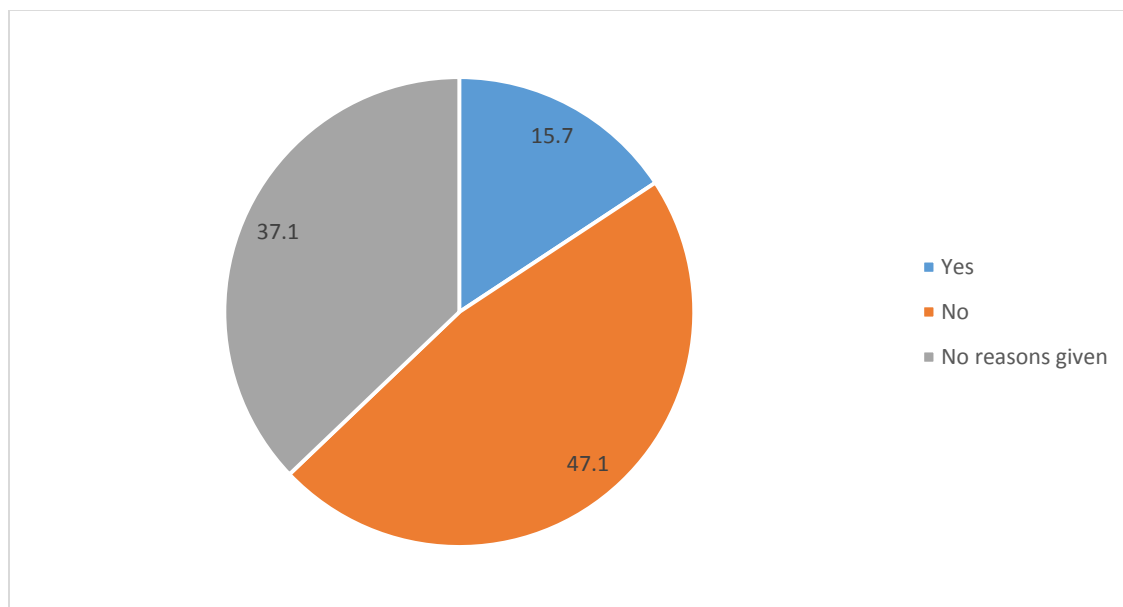


**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **5.2.4 Did school /livelihood training aid in job acquisition?**

Further enquires were ascertained from the respondents whether school attended or training obtained aided in the job search. Apparently, close to (47.1%) said no followed by those who did not respond to it (37.1%). Those who said yes to such program were just (15.7%) of the total response obtained. According to the respondents, jobs creation and it availability from the training received were limited and this accounted for more than a fourth inability to secure a job.

**Figure 5.9.5: Did school /livelihood training aid in job acquisition?**



Source: Fieldwork, 2019

### **5.2.5 Specific program trained on**

Again, specific programs that respondents were trained on were explored. Out of the total population, four out every five (80.0%) of the respondent did not state the type of program they were trained on while the rest of the training programs were less than 10 percent. An in-depth interview with some of the respondent said that they were not aware of the training and the information they received on the training for the first few days were just acquisition of basic skills and they have that prior to their migration to Ghana. This is what one respondent had to say:

In fact, what we were trained on are basic skills and cannot secure you any better work hence many of my colleagues see it as normal which is similar to training we have already from our home country **(Post refugees, 2019)**

**Table 5.9.6: Specific program trained on**

Specific program	Frequency	Percent
SHS	5	7.1
Technical training	5	7.1
Vocational training	4	5.7
Training program not stated	56	80.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

### 5.2.6 Respondent's experience in the job market in Ghana

Generally, job experiences are characteristics required in the job market (Nunley et al., 2016; Olszak & Gajowska, 2017). Respondent's experiences were sought out and was evidential that half (50.0%) of the respondents did not give any information on their experiences with the job market. More than a quarter (28.6%) had fair treatment on the job market in terms of their experiences while 18.6 percent mentioned discrimination as the approach towards them. This is an indication how foreigners including refugee are treated on the job market when seeking for job. This assertion has been contested by scholars such as Kianto, Vanhala & Heilmann (2016) who explained that it is not always the case since it depends on foreigner's situation, skills available and the sector he or she is applying to. One of the respondents had this to say;

The moment you interact with employers your language tone, first of all, tells them who you are and then they begin to ask you questions that are typical of Ghanaian which sometimes does not play a role in the job that you are seeking for. I see this as a form of discrimination. **(Post refugee, 2019)**

**Table 5.9.7: Respondent's experience in the job market in Ghana**

Experience in the job market	Frequency	Percent
Fairly treated	20	28.6
Discriminated upon	13	18.6
No responses are given	35	50.0
Others	2	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

### **5.2.7 Percent distribution of respondent's experiences on the Ghanaian job market by gender**

Experiences in the job market were explored with respect to gender. A careful observation of the outcome indicates that out of the male population, those fairly treated and discriminated against were more than a fourth of the male population. Similar responses were obtained among the females. In terms of fair treatment, males were 6 times (25.7% - 31.4%) less than that of their female counterparts. This could be attributed to the typical job search. However, there is no significant association ( $\chi^2 = 6.226$ ,  $df = 3$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.101 > 0.05$ ) between experiences on the job market and one's sex. One L.I applicant had this to say;

In fact, experiences on the job market do not depend on your sex but rather your network and the ability to convince employers that you can do the work (**L.I applicant, 2019**).

**Table 5.9.8: Percent distribution of experiences in the Ghanaian job market by gender**

Experiences in the job market	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Fairly treated	9 (25.7%)	11 (31.4%)	20 (28.6%)
Discriminated upon	10 (28.6%)	3 (8.6%)	13 (18.6%)
No responses given	16 (45.7%)	19 (54.3%)	35 (50.0%)
Others	0 (0.0%)	2 (5.7%)	2 (2.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 (100.0%)</b>	<b>35 (100.0%)</b>	<b>70 (100.0%)</b>

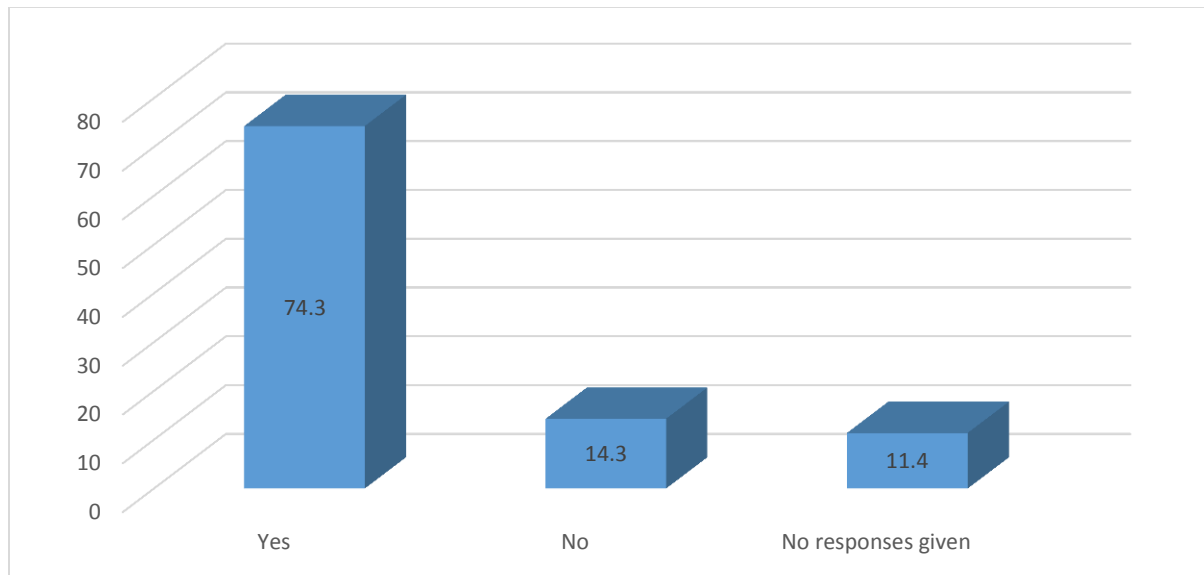
( $\chi^2 = 6.226$ ,  $df = 3$  and  $p\text{-value} = 0.101 > 0.05$ )

**Source: Field work, 2019**

### 5.2.8 Peaceful nature of the Ghanaian community in achieving your aspirations

Respondents were asked if the peaceful nature of the Ghanaian community will help in the achievement of their aspirations. Figure 5.9.9 shows that close to three-quarters (74.3%) responded yes while 14.3 percent said no. This is evident in the stability of Ghanaian democracy since 1992. Tete (2005) and Dzeamesi (2008) posited that Ghana forms part of the most peaceful countries in the sub-region hence attract a lot of foreigners as well as refugees for resettlement.

**Figure 5.9.9: Peaceful nature of the Ghanaian community in achieving your aspirations**



**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.2.9 Respondent's reasons why Ghana is safe**

Respondent's reasons for choosing Ghana were explored. It was evident that more than two-fifth (42.9%) chose Ghana because of the peace and stability the country enjoys. This was followed by a good security system for protection (18.6%) and absence of war (71%). Apparently, those who did not respond to that effect constituted 30 percent of the total population. The rest of the reasons were less than 5 percent. According to Ayee (2013), Ghana has had successes with its democratic governance which has accorded Ghana to be one of the peaceful countries in the sub-Saharan African. One L.I applicant had this to say;

Within the sub-region, I will always choose Ghana because they have stable democratic system and the country is peaceful compared to others in the sub-region (**L.I applicant, 2019**)

**Table 5.9.91: Respondent's reasons why Ghana is safe**

<b>Reasons for Ghana being safe</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
There are peace and stability	30	42.9
There is no war	5	7.1
There is freedom	2	2.9
Because here is where I find myself	1	1.4
There is no discrimination	1	1.4
There is a good security system for protection	6	8.6
Ghanaians are very hospitable	4	5.7
No responses are given	21	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

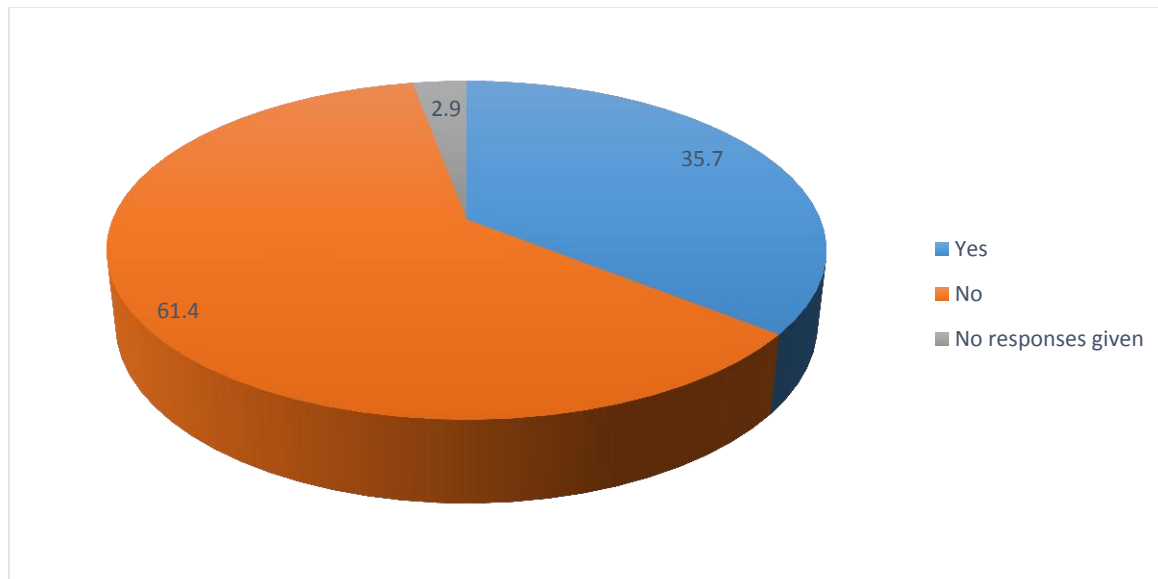
Source: Fieldwork, 2019

### **5.3.0 Spoken Ghanaian language**

Spoken Ghanaian language also forms part of the integration processes. According to Boyd (2014), language plays a role in labor integration of foreigners in host countries. It was in this vein that Ghanaian language spoken by respondents was ascertained. Figure 5.9.92 shows that three out of every five respondents (61.4%) cannot speak any Ghanaian language while more than a third (35.7%) can do that. This is inconsistent with Talcott (1978) who opined that for a successful social integration there should be largely agreement on a shared system of language which aide in adaptation very fast. The overall application is that language barrier still a challenge with regards to integration of the LI applicants.



**Figure 5.9.92 Spoken Ghanaian language**



**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.3.1 Communication relationship with the local community**

Communication also plays part in local integration as explained by (McLeod, Scheufele & Moy, 1999). Out of the study population, a quarter (25.7%) of the respondents had a fairly easy communication relationship with the local community while 24.3 percent had a fairly difficult relationship. Very easy and very difficult communication relationship with the community was little over one-fifth of the total responses obtained. This is an indication that communication relationships between respondents and the local community surpass just language communication since other factors come to play in relating with local community.

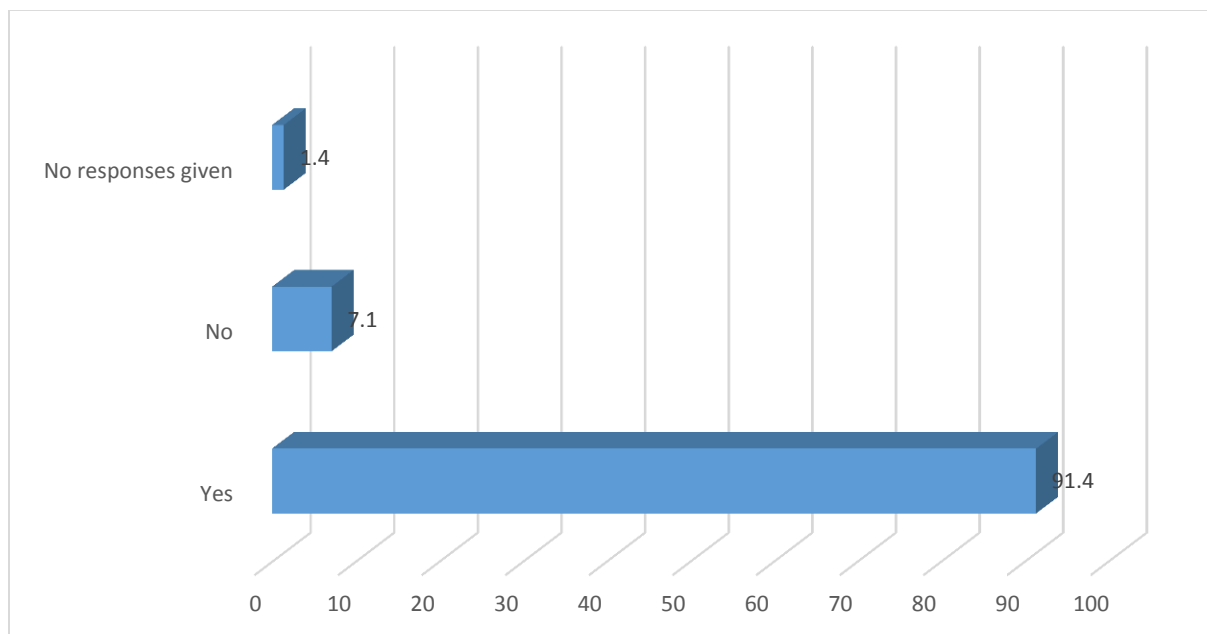
**Table 5.9.93: Communication relationship with the local community**

<b>Communication relationship with the local community</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very easy	16	22.9
Fairly easy	18	25.7
Fairly difficulty	17	24.3
Very difficult	15	21.4
No responses are given	4	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.3.2 Do you eat Ghanaian food?**

Respondent's patronage of Ghanaian food was ascertained. Out of the study population, overwhelming majority (91.4%) responded yes to enjoying Ghanaian food while a few (7.1%) mentioned no. The general implication is that respondent's cultural integration has been enhanced. Cultural integration is significant for the fruitful local integration of refugees in their host countries as expound by Ager and Strang (2008) societal norms which include food peculiar to a particular area or ethnic group becomes part of their culture, hence integrating in such areas will be easily if one is able to assimilate with things of that area including their food can aide their integration culturally.

**Figure 5.9.94: Do you eat Ghanaian food?**

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.3.3 Enjoyment of rights and opportunities and its types as that of Ghanaians**

Exercise of one's right and available opportunity for individuals is enshrined in the 1992 constitution of Ghana. This enjoyment and opportunities are extended to other non-citizens and were explored by asking the respondents. The majority (71.4%) of the respondents mentioned yes to such right with the rest responded no. However, with respect to the type of rights enjoyed as that of Ghanaians, access to education had the highest percentage (26.0%) follow by human rights (22.0%) and access to utility (20.0%). The rest of the rights enjoyed were less than 20 percent of the total responses. The general implication is that large proportion of the respondents enjoy equal rights and have access to other opportunities. One respondent had this to say;

Being in Ghana allows you to enjoy human right which comes with other opportunities such as access to education and health among others. I enjoy peace, I do my business, freedom of worship, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, and I have NHIS. **(L.I applicant, 2019)**

**Table 5.9.95: Enjoyment of rights and opportunities and its types as that of Ghanaians**

Variables		Frequency	Percent
Enjoyment of rights and opportunities	Yes	50	71.4
	No	20	28.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Types of right	Access to utility	10	20.0
	Access to education	13	26.0
	Access to health	9	18.0
	Access to social service	5	10.0
	Human right	11	22.0
	No discrimination	2	4.0
	Rights not stated	1	2.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

**5.3.4 Accessibility of social services and it types**

Respondent's accessibility of social protection services and their type were explored. It was evident that overwhelming majority (85.7%) access social services while the rest responded no to such services. Reasons that accounted for the majority to access such service is in line with the gradual process of social integration where minority groups are not force on local communities but local authorities are engaged prior to integrating such people in order for the residents and the refugees to coexist in harmony and this bring about equality in all areas of the society. This assertion is consist with Tadesse (2016) work on impact of refugees on host countries the case of South Sudan refugees. However, concerning the type of service accessed, half (50.0%) of the respondents did not give out information whether they access such service or not. Again, in rank order, the accessible social services were education (15.0%), equal protection as that of Ghanaian

(10.0%) and access to the police (6.7%). The rest of the services accessed were 5 percent and below.

**Table 5.9.96: Accessibility of social services and it types**

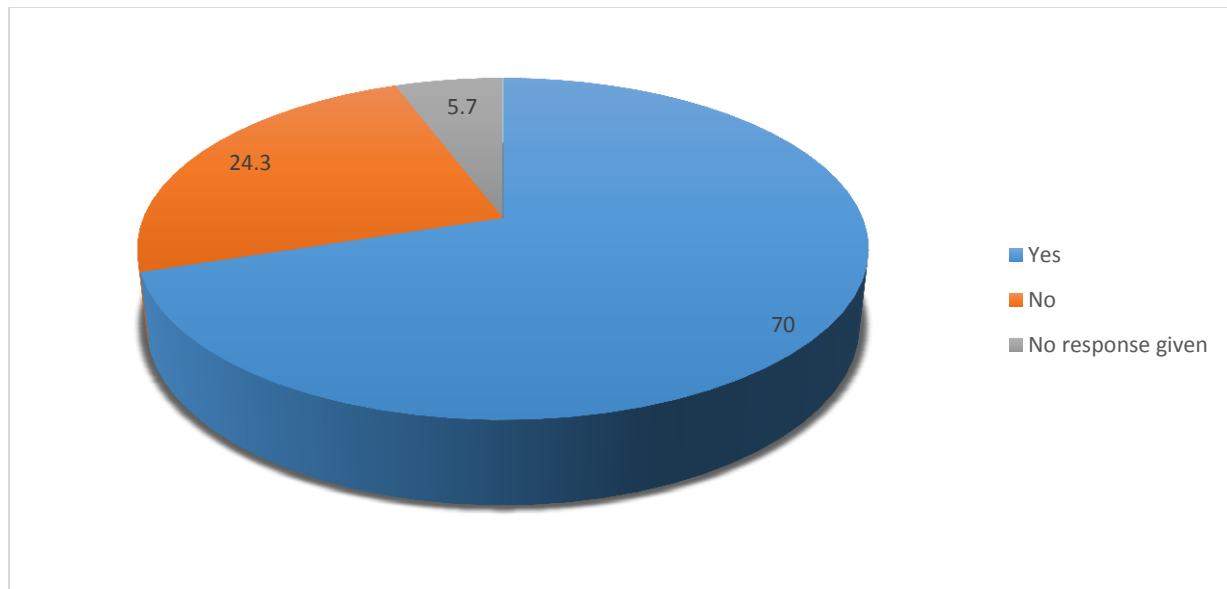
Variables		Frequency	Percent
Access to social services	Yes	60	85.7
	No	10	14.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Type of services accessed	Access to education	9	15.0
	Access to NHIS	3	5.0
	Both education and NHIS not available	4	6.7
	No means to get such services	2	3.3
	Access to the police	4	6.7
	Enjoy protection like Ghanaians	6	10.0
	No responses are given	30	50.0
	Others	2	3.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### 5.3.5 Access to health insurance

Health insurance is key in accessing healthcare since it offset health bills any time you visit the hospital. Out of the study population, the majority (70.0%) of the respondents mentioned yes to accessing health insurance while 24.3 percent stated no. Those who are not able to access indicated that delay of requisite documents by GIS has accounted for their inability to obtain NHIS and affect them a lot when they are to seek for health care in Ghana. The general implication is that usage of health insurance is key in accessing health care in Ghana and is patronized by L.I applicants.

**Figure 5.9.97: Access to health insurance**

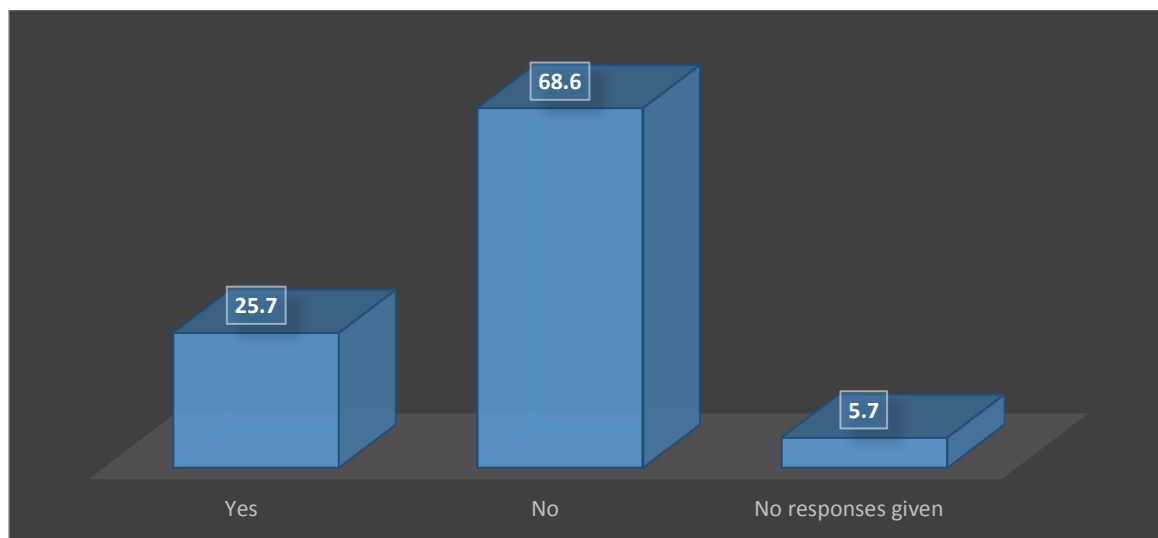


**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.3.6 Access to free education**

Access to free education was explored. The information in figure 5.9.98 shows that more than half (68.6%) don't have access to free education while more than a quarter (25.7%) responded yes when it comes to accessing free education. The overall implication is that large proportion of the respondents do not have access to free education for themselves and their family members.

**Figure 5.9.98: Access to free education**



**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.3.7 Main challenges in accessing social services in Ghana**

In as much as the accessibility of social service is easy, it also comes with challenges. Out of the study population, three-fifth (60.0%) mentioned access to social services to be very expensive while 10 percent had no idea where to access them. The rest of the challenges were less than 10 percent with the exception of those who did not give any response (22.9%). A similar study conducted by Huisman et al. (2011) on Somalia's refugees in Kenya opined that basic services enjoyed by the citizens are not equally enjoyed by the refugees since they don't have the financial capabilities to access them. One respondent had this to say;

Accessing social services can be challenging for instance, when you don't have health insurance. It is very expensive accessing health care in Ghana (**L.I applicant, 2019**).

**Table 5.9.99: Main challenges in accessing social services in Ghana**

<b>Main challenges</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Difficult to obtain	4	5.7
Very expensive	42	60.0
No idea where to obtain them	7	10.0
No responses are given	16	22.9
Others	1	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.3.8 Ways of improving challenges associated with social services**

Respondent's views on ways of improving challenges associated with social services were explored. Out of the study sample, close to two-fifth (38.6%) suggested a review of the prices of the services while 10 percent cited making services accessible and available. However, those who did not give any suggestions constituted two-fifth (40.0%) of the total responses obtained.



**Table 5.9.991: Ways of improving challenges associated with social services**

<b>Ways of improving social services</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Prices of services should be reviewed	27	38.6
Educational awareness on where to get such services	5	7.1
Provision of jobs	2	2.9
Fight against corruption	1	1.4
Services should be made available and accessible	7	10.0
No suggestion is given	28	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

### **5.3.9 Associations that respondents and their families belong to**

Belonging to an association or a social group come with a lot of benefits for its members (Firang, 2007). It is in this vein that respondents and their family members' associations were explored. Out of the sample population, majority (71.4%) mentioned that they belong to a religious group, followed by other groups (8.6%) such as keep fit club. The rest of the associations that respondents and their family members belong to were less than 6 percent of the total responses obtained. As indicated Antwi –Bosiako (2009), association group's form by the minority contribute to their integration and adaptation processes in communities they find themselves. The few (5.7%) who did not join any association reiterated that, many times executives of such associations misappropriates funds meant for the association without accountability. One respondent had this to say;

Religious groups are the immediate ones we can join because they are in abundance where we live compared to the other associations (**L.I applicant, 2019**)

**Table 5.9.992: Associations that respondents and their families belong to**

<b>Associations</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hometown associations	4	5.7
	50	71.4
Religious group		
No association but receive support from associations or community groups	1	1.4
An association without an emergency fund but ad-hoc contributions are made to help members	1	1.4
An association where regular cash or in-kind contributions are regularly shared among members in a rotatory manner	4	5.7
No association and no support from any group	4	5.7
Others	6	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019****5.4.0 Challenges of integration**

Integration could be challenging depending on the context either cultural, social or economic (Grimm, 2000). Respondent's views on integration challenges were ascertained. It was evident out of the many choices, the most significant challenges chose by applicants were high standards of living and difficulty in accessing job opportunities representing (11.4%) each and constituted the highest integration challenges. The rest of the integration challenges were less than 10 percent. However, those who did not give any response to that effect constituted 22.9 percent of the total population.

**Table 5.9.993: Challenges of integration**

<b>Integration challenges</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Difficulties in accessing services (bureaucracies, expensive etc)	3	4.3
Standard of living in Ghana is very high	8	11.4
Difficulties in the renewal of expired passport	4	5.7
Inadequate information on L.I to applicants	5	7.1
Difficulty in getting access to job opportunities	8	11.4
Lack of housing	2	2.9
Unable to pay for school fees	6	8.6
Language barrier	3	4.3
Discrimination	5	7.1
High crime rate at the camps	2	2.9
No such challenges	2	2.9
No response is given	16	22.9
Others	6	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019**

#### **5.4.1 Role of UNHCR and GRB in facilitating local integration integration program**

The United Nations General Assembly, by a Resolution passed in December 1951, adopted a Statute by which UNHCR was established. The mandate assigned to UNHCR specifically makes the Organization responsible to the UN organization for international protection and material assistance to all refugees worldwide. Consequently, UNHCR has offices in almost all countries where there are refugees. The UN Organization provides funds for the UNHCR's administration, but annually, each member country of the UN is requested to contribute towards UNHCR operational budget. At the initial stages of UNHCR operations, its mandate covered persons

recognized as refugees in the countries of asylum. In this light, UNHCR bases its interventions on general assessment of the prevailing conditions in the country of asylum rather than on an assessment of individuals. As signatories to the UN Refugee Convention, governments are under obligation to grant the Rights of Refugees to those legally recognized. The government of Ghana is one of many developing countries striving hard to meet the developmental needs of their nationals and can ill-afford adequate resources to meet the legitimate needs of refugees. The government felt overburdened with the challenge of hospitality for the thousands of refugees who entered the country. It was at this point in time that the refugee administration reached its peak. It became necessary for the government to invite the UNHCR to establish a Branch Office in Ghana in 1993 to assist the government in the management of refugees. UNHCR formerly existed in Ghana as a Counselling Service from 1976 and then as an Office of the Charge de Mission in 1990. In 1992, PNDC Law 305D was promulgated in Ghana and this established the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) in 1995 under the administration of the Minister for the Interior. The Refugee Board is the official government counterpart of UNHCR in Ghana. Co-operation between the UNHCR and the Board covers a wide range of activities, from the initial registration, recognition of asylum seekers for refugee status to the time refugees return home, are settled in another country, or are locally integrate in Ghana. A successful local integration have three indicators. Firstly, it aide the LI applicants to acquire legal status with documentation in order to attain wide range of rights in the host country in this case Ghana. Such rights include access to social services, freedom of movement, right to work among others. In view of the above, UNHCR facilitated and paid for Liberian passport for all applicants and GRB acquired residence/work permit for them, which was issued by GIS. Applicant, UNHCR and GRB officials had these to say in that regard:

The passport was good because we did not have travel document, and so we were happy to get passport with permit. Therefore, it was able to help us to get a document to use to

go to the bank to open an account, to identify yourself so the passport was helpful to us **(LI applicant, 2019)**

You know, applicants are no more refugees to use refugee ID card or attestation to stay in Ghana so we brought Liberian Immigration to vet and issue Liberian passport to them to enable their movement and identify them as well **(UNHCR official, 2019)**

Applicants were assisted to integrate legally, by being provided with free Liberian passports and free residence/work permits. **(GRB official, 2019).**

Second indicator is integration as an economic process of providing sustainable livelihood for the applicants. According to McCord (2011), skills training, as a social protection program involves the deliberate transfer of skills to poor groups of a society with the aim to enhance their livelihoods. In relation to this, GRB and UNHCR trained applicants to acquire skills and provide them with capital to start businesses. Adult among them were issued with work permit to help them to work legally in Ghana. Also, as part of the LI package UNHCR gave the applicants a monetary grant of \$400 to adults and \$200 to children. However, as the family size increase the amount reduces. Though the money was less than what the applicants were expecting it played a role in their economic lives. All these were to help their economic integration. Two of the applicants from Buduburam and Accra respectively have these to say;

I learnt hairdressing through GRB/UNHCR skills training programme at the Buduburam camp. Now I have my own shop at the camp with four (4) apprentices **(Female LI applicant, 2019).**

You know as a foreigner I cannot work as a lecturer in Ghana without work permit. The passport with the residence/work permit received allow me to work here in Ghana. In addition, when you apply for a different country's visa from Ghana as a foreigner, without residence permit in your passport, the embassy will not grant you the visa but now I get visa to travel whenever out of Ghana because I have permits in my passport **(Male LI applicant, 2019).**

The third indicator is socio-cultural. UHNCR with this in mind propel the refugees towards integrating socially and culturally through a process of adaptation and acceptance in order to contribute to the social life of the host country and live without fear or discrimination. GRB on the other hand, is responsible to global refugee managements and standards because of its policy of free access to asylum with core mandate to include interviewing individuals seeking refugee status, granting refugee status to asylum seekers from areas of civil conflict or places where they face political persecution among others. It also have oversight responsibility of all refugee camps in the country. Due to the complexes surrounding refugees, it always collaborates with the UNHCR and other state agencies such as NADMO, Social welfare, Ministry of Education among others to assist these refugees.

As part of facilitating successful integration of the LI applicants socio-culturally, the refugee camp was established with in a community close to urban center for easy acculturation. GRB through Ministry of Education has been able to include the LI applicant to the Free Education Programme from basic to secondary level. One respondent had this to say in relation to this;

We have NHIS and my children are enjoying free education, it has really reduce my burden like three children school fees how will I be able to pay? petty trader like me (**LI applicant, 2019**).

#### **5.4.2 Ways of improving integration processes**

Again, Table 5.9.994 presents respondents' views on improving integration challenges. Most of the respondents opted for subsidization of school fees and free education (15.7%) while others call for constant support from GRB/UNHCR (14.3%). The rest of the suggestion was 10 percent and below. However, those who did not give any suggestion constituted 21.4 percent of the total responses obtained.

**Table 5.9.994: Ways of improving integration programs**

Ways of improving integration programs	Frequency	Percent
Provision of jobs	8	11.4
Subsidize school fees/free education	11	15.7
Provision of skill training to applicants	3	4.3
Educating applicants on L.I	5	7.1
Provision of basic needs (housing, health care etc)	7	10.0
Support from GRB/UNHCR	10	14.3
Beef up security in the camps	3	4.3
Equal treatment for both nationals and L.I applicants	3	4.3
No suggestion is given	15	21.4
Others	5	7.1
Total	70	100.0

**Source: Fieldwork, 2019****5.4.3 Summary of key findings**

The chapter highlighted the integration processes in terms of economic and socio-cultural factors. It was evident that most of the respondent's main source of income was through their own occupation, which supported them in the host community. Again, accessing social services were generally positive since large proportion accessed education and health without any hindrances. UNHCR and GRB role in facilitating integration shows that durable solution processes were adopted in integrating post refugees in Ghana.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **6.0 Introduction**

This section presents a summary of the study's major findings in relation to the objectives of the study, which are, demographic characteristics of the LI applicants and how it influences their integration process, factors that affects economic and socio-cultural integration process of the applicants and the role of UNHCR and GRB support system in facilitating integration of the applicants. In addition, this section provides a conclusion based on the findings and finally, some recommendations are made based on the findings of the study. Despite the invocation of the cessation clause on Liberian refugees globally, most of them in Ghana still lives in the camps though they have taken the local integration package, which was the final benefit for them to vacate the camp to live on their own. The study examined the socio-cultural and economic factors affecting the integration of these post Liberian refugees using the mixed method approach.

#### **6.1 Summary of key findings**

The study examined how socio-cultural and economic factors affect the integration of former Liberian refugees who opted for LI in Ghana, using Accra ,Kasoa and Buduburam refugee camp as the case study, seventy (70) respondents were selected in addition to eight (8) in-depth interviews with key informants. The key findings are discussed below.

The finding indicates that both males and females had the same population (35.0%) with youthful age group consisting of 62.9 percent. This is consistent with Awumbila (2011) study that the type of group of people likely to move will the youth and the single ones. A large



proportion of the respondents were educated. With regard to their knowledge of local integration (L.I), a significant proportion believes it to be living a host country (32.9%) as well as having protection and safety. Respondent's knowledge on integration is inconsistent with UNHCR local integration model where it highlight durable solutions to include legal processes, economic process and socio-cultural processes of adaptation and acceptance. Again, majority (90.0%) received L.I package, with those not receiving cited reasons of absence during the distribution period. In terms of L.I package received, more than three-fifth (64.3%) had the full package. Notwithstanding the above assertions, challenges faced in receiving the L.I package was delay in passport acquisition and receipt of money. The findings also revealed that the amount received (600-1000) Ghana cedis was the highest and was mostly used for settling school fees (40.0%). However, with regards to receipt of the monies, it was higher among males than females.

In terms of integration strategies, large proportion cited peace and stability of Ghana and the absence of war while majority enjoy Ghanaian food. Accessing social services, more than four-fifth (85.7%) responded yes and were able to access services such as education, health, NHIS among others. Finally, integration challenges encountered were high standard of living and difficulty in accessing job opportunities. The study finding also revealed ways of improving the integration programs and suggested the subsidization of school fees and provision of jobs as the most significant ones.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

On the backdrop of the findings of this study, it was evident from the conceptual framework that local integration of applicants must have good economic and socio-cultural standing in terms of job, livelihood, education, food, language and association. Large proportion of the applicants had some form of job and livelihood but were lacking in terms of finding a permanent job and also had challenges with the local language. In view of this, respondent's livelihood strategies in

terms of the program that aid in job search, main sources of income and communication relationship with the locals were largely positive but only a fraction of the respondents benefited fully. Again, support from key informants such as GRB, UNHCR and some state organizations aided in the integration processes in terms of skills training, facilitation of legal documents as well as community integration. This confirm work done by Ager and Strang (2008) and Cliffs.com (2019) that aside agencies contribution towards local integration, individual applicant ability to assimilate from the perspective of language, culture aide their integration and adaptation.

It was also evident that specific challenges arose as a result of their integration. The most eminent challenges were difficult in accessing social services as well as the inadequate information on L.I to applicants. Males' and female's responses on their experiences on the job market were similar with respect to fairly treated and discriminated upon.

### **6.3 Recommendation**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

- With regards to refugee stakeholders, there should be a help to establish the environment for mutual facilitation of local integration by governments of origin, host countries and UNHCR.
- Again, access to social services, acquisition of resources by L.I applicants should be made available to ensure fairness and balance in acquiring resources by the host country.

Since issues surrounding local integration are complex in nature, such processes should start from the time the country (Ghana) opens its borders to refugees in order to avoid possible problems at the end of the refugee cycle, also seek the views and challenges of the applicants, and factor them into the implementation of the programe.

- There should be a policy to distinguish L.I applicants from other foreign nationals in Ghana in terms of payments for services by government of Ghana.
- GRB and UNHCR should feed the L.I applicants with all the information regarding the integration program to help them take independence decisions and refugees who opt for local integration should be continuously sensitized especially those who still believe they must be “looked after”.
- The UNHCR and the GRB should re-visit the local integration package and consider applicants problems. However, In future, cash grant and legal aspect of LI package should be given concurrently.

#### **6.4 Areas for further research**

Based on the findings of the study, I suggest further research to ascertain the socio-economic and legal implication of local integration on Ghana as a host country. In addition, there should be a research on the LI applicants to ascertain how their socio-demographic characteristics is influencing their integration processes.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Questionnaire

#### SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND.

Age in Completed years .....

1. How old are you now?
  1. 15 – 24 [ ]
  2. 25 – 35 [ ]
  3. 36 – 50 [ ]
  4. 51 – 59 [ ]
  5. 60 and above [ ]
2. What is your sex?
  1. Male [ ]      2. Female [ ]
3. What is your current marital status?
  1. Single [ ]    2. Married [ ]    3. Divorced [ ]
  4. Widowed [ ]    5. Co-habitation [ ]    6. Separated [ ]
  7. Other [ ] (Specify) .....
4. What is your highest level of education attained?
  1. Never attended school [ ]    2. Primary [ ]    3. J.H.S [ ]
  4. Voc / Tech. [ ]    5. SHS [ ]    6. Tertiary [ ]
5. What is your religion?
  1. None [ ]    2. Christianity [ ]    3. Islam [ ]    4. Traditionalist [ ]
  5. Other [ ] (Specify).....
6. How long have you been staying in Ghana?
  1. Less than 10 years [ ]    2. 10 – 15years [ ]    3. 16 - 20 years [ ]
  4. More than 20 years [ ]
7. How would you describe where you were living before
  1. Urban [ ]    2. Rural [ ]    3. Other [ ]
  - (Specify).....

migrating to Ghana?

8. How many children do you have? 1. 1-3 [ ] 2. 4-6 [ ] 3. 7-10 [ ] 4. More than 10 [ ]

## SECTION B: REASON FOR CHOOSING LOCAL INTEGRATION (LI).

- 9 What do you know about Local Integration (LI)? .....
- 10 Why did you opted for local integration? 1. Physical Security [ ] 2. Lost everything back home [ ]
3. I was schooling here [ ] 4. I was gainfully employed [ ]
5. The package [ ] 6. Was misled [ ] 7. Better education for my children [ ] 8. Economic security [ ]
9. Social network in Ghana [ ]
10. Other [ ] (Specify).....
- 11 Have you received the LI package? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
- 12 If no, why? 1. Wasn't around during the distribution [ ] 2. My name was not in the list [ ] 3. No respond [ ] 4. Other [ ] specify .....
- 13 If yes, Is the package same as was promised you? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
- 14 If yes, How much of the package have you received? 1. Full package [ ] 2. The passport [ ] 3. Money [ ]
4. Passport and NHIS [ ] 5. Money and NHIS [ ]

**15** What challenge did you face in receiving your package? **1.** The passport delayed [ ] **2.** Have not receive my passport yet [ ]

**3.** Money delayed [ ] **4.** Have not yet receive my NHIS [ ]

**16** What is your status in relation to your residency? **1.** My passport has expired [ ] **2.** My permit has expired [ ]

**3.** Both passport and permit expired [ ] **4.** Passport and permit are valid [ ]

**5.** No respond [ ]

**SECTION C: ECONOMIC/LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES OF L.I APPLICANTS.**

**17.** What was the amount of money you received?

**18.** What did you use it for?

**1.** Food [ ] **2.** Rent a house [ ] **3.** Business [ ]

**4.** Pay school fees [ ] **5.** Other [ ] (Specify)

.....

- 19.** Were you able to save some? **1.** Yes [ ] **2.** No [ ] **3.** No respond [ ]
- 20.** What was your profession in country of origin? **1.** Farming [ ] **2.** Trading [ ] **3.** Teaching [ ] **4.** Artisan [ ]
- 5.** Student/Apprentice [ ] **6.** Nursing [ ] **7.** Unemployed [ ]
- 8.** Retired [ ] **9.** Politician [ ] **10.** Other [ ], specify.....
- 21.** What is your current occupation? **1.** Farming [ ] **2.** Trading [ ] **3.** Teaching [ ] **4.** Artisan [ ]
- 5.** Student/Apprentice [ ] **6.** Nursing [ ] **7.** Unemployed [ ]
- 8.** Retired [ ] **9.** Politician [ ] **10.** Other [ ], specify.....
- 22.** What is your main source of income? **1.** Partner/Husband [ ] **2.** Remittance [ ] **3.** NGOs [ ]
- 4.** My occupation [ ] **5.** Other [ ] (Specify) .....
- 23.** What best describes your ability to use your skills in Ghana? **1.** Unable to use my skills from the country of origin [ ] **2.** Able to use skills from the country of origin [ ]
- 3.** No respond [ ]
- 24.** What is your standard of living? **1.** Very high [ ] **2.** High [ ] **3.** Average Low [ ]
- 4.** Very low [ ]



25. What is your family size? 1. 1-3 [ ] 2. 4-6 [ ] 3. 7-10 [ ] 4. More than 10 [ ]
26. Do you enjoy right to establishment and work in Ghana? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
27. How many people in your family are gainfully employed? 1.1-3 [ ] 2. 4-6 [ ] 3. 7-10 [ ] 4. More than 10 [ ]
28. Did you or any member of your family attend any school or had any livelihood training to aid your search for employment in Ghana? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
29. If yes, did it help to acquire a job? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
30. If yes, specify program .....
31. You or a household member experience in the job market? 1. Fairly treated [ ] 2. Discriminated upon [ ] 3. No respond [ ] 4. Other [ ] (Specify) .....

#### SECTION D: SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS OF INTEGRATION.

32. Do you think the Ghanaian community is peaceful enough for you to achieve your future aspirations? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
33. If yes, why you think Ghana is safe?
34. Can you speak any of the Ghanaian language? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]

35. Which of the following rating is applicable to you in terms of communicating with the local community? 1. Very easy [ ] 2. Fairly easy [ ] 3. Fairly difficult [ ] 4. Very difficult [ ] 5. No respond [ ]
36. Are you able to eat Ghanaian local foods 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
37. Do you enjoy rights and opportunities as Ghanaian do? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
38. If yes, list them  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....
39. What is your current housing system? 1. Rented house [ ] 2. Own house [ ] 3. Refugee camp [ ] 4. Hostel [ ] 5. No respond [ ] 6. Other [ ], specify .....
40. Do you have access to social protection services? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
41. Explain your answer.  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....
42. How frequently do you or your household member visit hospitals? 1. Daily – Weekly [ ] 2. Monthly [ ] 3. Quarterly [ ] 4. 6 months [ ] 5. Yearly [ ] 6. Never attend hospital [ ]
43. Do you or your household access health insurance? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]

44. Do you or your household access free education? 1. Yes [ ] 2. No [ ] 3. No respond [ ]
45. What is the main challenge in accessing services? 1. Difficult to obtain (*e.g. far distance*) [ ] 2. Very expensive [ ] 3. No idea where to obtain them [ ] 4. No respond [ ] 5. Other [ ] (Specify) .....
46. What do you think can be done to improve it? .....
47. What type of association / group do you or other members of your household belong to? 1. Home town association [ ] 2. Religious group [ ] 3. No association but received support from associations or community groups [ ] 4. An association without an emergency fund but where adhoc contributions are made to help the members [ ] 5. An association with an emergency fund to help members [ ] 6. An association where regular cash or in-kind contributions are regularly made and shared among the members in a rotatory manner [ ] 7. No association and support from association [ ] 8. Other, [ ] specify .....
48. What are your challenges of integration? .....
49. What do you think can be done to improve the integration program? .....

.....  
.....

50. Is there something else you will like to .....  
talk about? .....

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**

## **Appendix 2 Interview guide for LI applicants**

### **Integration package from informants perspectives.**

1. Why have you opted to stay in Ghana?
2. Have you received the integration package from the Ghana government?
3. Is the package same as was promised you?
4. How much of the package have you received?
5. Can you tell me what you are using your package for?
6. How does it help to meet your needs?
7. Which other needs do you, have that has not been covered?
8. Did the government seek your views about the package before determining the contents of the package?
9. Do you have any job skills?
10. Did you acquire them before moving to Ghana or during your stay in Ghana?
11. Was the skills attained through UNHCR/GRB funded training programs?
12. Have you attained any training from the integration program?
13. Has the program helped you to secure employment?

### **Informant self-reflections and aspirations.**

14. What do you think about the local integration program in Ghana?
15. Are you able to communicate in any of the Ghanaian local language?
16. What rights and opportunities do you enjoy as a local integration applicant? (Probe for right of employment, access to social services (Free education, paying local fees for services, health care, NHIS), human rights etc)
17. How is the local integration program helpful to you in these aspects in Ghana?
18. What do you hope to achieve by locally integrating in Ghana?

**Policy relevant issues.**

19. What do you think can be done to improve the local integration program?
20. Do you think that Ghana has what you need to help you achieve your future aspirations?  
(Includes reasons to your answer)

**Appendix 3: Interview guide for officials.**

Position in the organisation: .....

1. Can you tell me about your organization?
2. What is your organization's role in working with refugees?
3. How long have you been working with Liberian refugees in Ghana?
4. In your opinion, has the LI been successful? (Probe for details).
5. Do you think it is helpful to them in meeting their needs?
6. What do you think about the modes of determination of the package?
7. If not a good way, what do you think would be the better way in this case?
8. Do you think taking refugees views and needs into consideration should be considered in the program?
9. In your view, do you think the local integration of Liberian refugees is a success or not?  
(Probe for reason of the answer)
10. What challenges does your organisation face in relation to refugee local integration?
11. How are you overcoming such challenges?
12. What do you think can be done to improve future integration programs?
13. Any final comments on the above subject matter?