

**PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF MSW PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL FROM ACADEMIC COUNSELLOR AT STUDY CENTER**

Enrolment No.: ID1051120.....

Program of study: Masters of Social Work (MSW).....

Date of Submission: 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2014.....

Name of the study center: ST. Mary's University

Title of the project: A study of challenges faced by social workers in refugee population: The case of Urban Refugees in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia......

Signature of the student:.....

Approved/not approved

Name and Address of Guide: Dr. Assaye

Legesse.....

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.....

Tel: +251-911-309486.....

Email: assayelegesse@yahoo.ie.....

Signature:.....

Date: .....

Name and address of student: Samuel Tadesse

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Bole KK,

Woreda 10, Household number new

Tel:+251-911-142390.....

Email: btadesse09@gmail.com.....

Signature:.....

Date: .....

**A study of challenges being faced by social workers in refugee population: The case of Urban Refugees in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Project Proposal**

**By**

**Samuel Tadesse Beyene**

**Enrollment# ID1051120**

**Submitted**

**To**

**ST. Mary's University: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Indira Gandhi National Open University**

**Masters of Social Work**

**June 2014**

# Chapter I

## Introduction

Ethiopia has been receiving and serving as a home for thousands of refugee populations fled from its neighboring countries for the past several decades. The refugee influx into the country has an older history as indicated in religious scripts and journals of many scholars. Currently the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Ethiopia, in collaboration with Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), World Food Program (WFP) and partner governmental and non-governmental organizations have been providing protection, support and assistance for a total of 409,066 (as of June 2013: the number is changing and updated on a monthly basis); refugees broken down into 239,286 (58.50%) Somalis, 73,059 (17.86%) Eritreans, 62,256 (15.22%) South Sudanese, 30,282 (7.40%) the Sudanese and 4,183 (1.02%) refugees from several other countries, including Kenya, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Yemen, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. These refugees are hosted in 20 camps in eight settlement areas including Addis Ababa, 4542 refugees are residing in Addis Ababa (UNHCR, 2014).

The refugees residing in Addis Ababa, hereinafter referred to as urban refugees, comprising individuals and families which are origins of several countries. Unlike the camp resident refugees, the urban refugees live in a scattered way in the village where they assimilate themselves with the host community and afford living costs. UNHCR is mandated UN agency to provide protection and facilitate assistance for refugees in collaboration with the government counterpart ARRA. Protection in an urban context demands engagement and partnership with a wide range of actors including municipal authorities, specific service providers, police, civil society actors and line ministries, as well as more traditional interlocutors. UNHCR has always been cognizant of the importance of providing support for both refugees and the host community and that becomes even more pertinent when refugees are sharing space and services in such close proximity with the urban host community. Thus, capacity development and technical support for institutions that serve both refugees and the local urban poor becomes even more imperative.

The UNHCR support reaches refugee population through partnership or project implementing partner organizations. Some of the organizations receive direct funding from UNHCR or receive funding from donors and internal sources depending on types of projects designed for implementations. Sectoral government Ministries such as Ministry of Health, Education, Agriculture, Natural Resource Development; non-governmental organizations such as International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children International, Medicine-San-

Frontiers, Development Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC), GOAL, etc. are part of organizations working with UNHCR to provide protection and humanitarian assistances for refugees in Ethiopia. To make this study narrow and specific to the topic, the social service given by DICAC and challenges being faced by the organization in general and its social workers will be assessed.

The purpose of this research is to study types of social services provided for urban refugees, analyze the nature and types of challenges that the social work agency is facing, the problems that social workers facing during delivering the social work services, and provide research based recommendations to mitigate some of the challenges.

### **Need for the study**

Social work in refugee program encompasses diverse meaning which depending on the nature of services provided for refugees and interpretation of the agencies on types of social work services. Some of the agencies consider social work in relation to psycho-social services, whereas others considering any form of community services or group work correspond to social work. The challenge for the social workers starts from such inconsistency on understanding of the social work services.

The United Nations refugee organization is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the world-wide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. Nevertheless, the UNHCR social work guiding documents for refugee operations are primarily focused on protection measures. The protection issue is a corner stone for the organization, and basis provisions of the UN summits, international laws, universal declarations and principles. Putting these provisions in to practices is mostly facing challenges. As this study focusing on specific issues, emphasis is given on the specific protection related issues in which UNHCR and partners governed with. The specific protection issues indicated as “UNHCR, governments and other partners should ensure that persons that have access to safe territory (the country of asylum in the case of refugees; other safe areas in the case of the internally displaced) continue to remain protected and that their human rights are respected. They should be able to live in an environment that promotes safety, dignity, and self-sufficiency when they are uprooted” (UNHCR, 2007).

The need for the study also part of fulfilment to finalize the course designed for Masters of Social Work study. This study examines the available resources that had been used as guiding document

for social workers, types of social services provided for urban refugee communities by the agencies and how the social work activities are executed by social workers and induces research based recommendations to mitigate challenges being faced by the social workers.

## **Objectives of the study**

The overall purpose of this research is to study social work activities in the context of urban refugees, analyze the causes, nature and types of problems that being faced by the agency and its social workers and provide research based recommendations.

### **Specific objectives:**

- To examine the available tools that provides guideline for social workers in the context of urban refugees
- To study the types of problems being faced by social workers
- Comparative analysis of various tools applied in the social work services
- Provide research based recommendations for the agencies and direction for future researches.

## **Methodology**

Research questioners and checklists will be designed to collect qualitative and quantitative data from primary and secondary sources. The timing and budget for data collection will limits the number of questioners to be administered, and statistical purposive sampling will be applied. The data required for this study will base on the types of social work and methodology used for the implementation of social work activities. The social work, in the case of refugees, mostly limited to the techniques of case work and group work. The explanatory variables will be presented in relation with the professional social case work and group work approaches. The collected data will be interpreted through deductive reasoning and presented under appropriate topics.

## **Research Questions**

The research questions will be designed to collect qualitative and quantitative data. The qualitative part will be administered though focus group discussion by using checklist. The quantitative data

collection will be administered by structured questionnaires to collect data from key respondents. Both questions will be designed in a way to address some of the questions; such as types of social work in the agency? Why these social work activities are selected? How social workers are recruited? The role of social workers in social work? Types of methods used for social work? How social work activities are supervised? What is going well and which is not going well and why? Community perspectives of social work, is the system addressing their needs? If not, why not? Reasons not working well? Way forward or suggestion for improvements etc.

## **Universe of study**

The study specifically focuses on urban resident refugees. UNHCR as a lead and mandated agency and ARRA the government counterpart, DACA the agency implementing social work will be considered in the study and key staffs will be contacted to administer key informant interviews. The social workers and sample/representative urban refugee members will be interviewed by using structured or semi-structured research questionnaires.

## **Review of literatures**

Extensive review of the available similar studies/journal articles and relevant literatures, produced by UN systems, NGOs as well as national governments will be done as the primary task of this paper. Emphasis will be, specifically, given to publications from UNHCR related to international and local protections, social work, Gender base violence, child and other vulnerable group protection, psychosocial services, HIV and AIDS etc. The result of the reviews serves as initial steps, on one hand to narrow down the type of information to be collected.

## **Data Analysis and Presentation**

Statistical method for qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis will be applied. The data collected by research tools will be encoded and recorded on Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) or Epi-Info software for data entry and analysis. The data will also be organized by using Microsoft Excel for simplified graphic and tabular presentations. Deductive and comparative analysis will be deduced from the data processed. The process will be systematically arranged as exploration stage, which starts with data preparation cleaning data and data transformations, data analyses, at this stage, extensive data analysis will be carried out using a wide variety of graphical and statistical methods in order to identify the most relevant variables, and

finally, development stage will apply multiple reasoning, the aggregate level data will be used to address research questions, what are major challenges and problems that social workers are facing and draw conclusions and recommendations.

## **Chapters**

The research document will be presented in five chapters, annexes and bibliography. The first chapter provides an introductory and design of the study, need for the study and objectives. Chapter two will be conceptual frameworks and literature review. Chapter Three research methods, data collections, methods of data analysis. Chapter four: factors influencing social work in the refugee program and problems faced by social workers. Chapter five: Findings, conclusions and recommendations.

## **Scope and limitation of the paper**

As refugee operation is unique by its nature and only few or limited specialized agencies are engaged in social work services, the scope of study might be confined with few organization. The study also undertaking by self sponsored program, budget limitation might squeeze the number of questioners to be administered.

## References

UNHCR. (2007). *Handbook for Emergencies* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Switzerland, Geneva: The Emergency Preparedness and Response Section.

UNHCR. (2014). Monthly Refugee Population Update: *Population statistics as of June 2014*, Addis Ababa: Diouf, G.



# **Research Project Outline**

## **Chapter One**

- Introduction which includes descriptions of study area
- Statement of the study
- Research question
- Objective
- Significance of the study
- Scope of the study
- Limitations of the study

## **Chapter two**

- Literature Review
- Categories of refugees
- Types of Social work in Urban Refugees
- Methods of social work in urban refugees

## **Chapter Three**

- Research methodology
- Research design
- Universe of study
- Sampling and Sample size
- Data collection tools
- Data collection procedures, methods of analysis and ethical considerations

## **Chapter Four**

- A Qualitative and qualitative presentation of the data

## **Chapter Five**

- Discussion, Conclusion and recommendations

## **Appendices**