



**Relocation Intentions of Dzaleka Residents in Anticipation of a  
Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Malawi**

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## **I. Introduction**

Among definitions of the term “migrant”, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights defines an international migrant as a person who has moved from their country or state of origin by birth or citizenship to a host country or state (OHCHR, 2021). A majority of the migrants are refugees who are described strictly as those who leave their country of origin seeking freedom from conflicts or persecution occurring in their country of origin. As of 2017, about 56% of the world’s refugees were hosted in Africa and the Middle East Alone (UNHCR, 2018) and in the year 2020, about 86% of displaced people were hosted in developing countries (UNHCR, 2021). Patriaca (2018) concluded that migrants are subjected to hostile responses from the host community in most places around the world. Globally, under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Global Compact on Refugees, refugees are entitled to protection from situations that would put their lives at risk, or infringe on their freedom (UNHCR, 2018). The UNHCR regards integration as one possible and lasting solution to the treatment of refugees. Accordingly, integration aims to ensure that the refugees can attain permanent residence rights and thus be able to participate in the socio-economic activities of the host country without discrimination or exploitation (UNHCR, 2018, 2021). As highlighted in the 2021 report, most refugees are yet to have found a durable solution e.g., integration in the host nation, safe and voluntary repatriation, or resettlement to a third country; a situation the COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened.

### **Refugee Integration Policies in Africa**

At regional levels, there have been a number of efforts through policies to ensure that refugee integration is promoted and achieved. In Africa, following the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the Abuja Treaty of 1991 established the African Economic Community (AEC) (Tsion Tadesse

Abebe, 2017). This treaty recognizes that well-managed migration presents significant benefits to both origin and destination countries. In support of the Abuja Treaty, the 2015 African Union's Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) was adopted to support effective human mobility legislations in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Such RECs include the ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, COMESA and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States. On the contrary, even though there were some regional agreements within Asia, there has not been much progress regarding refugee protection and integration. The adoption of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration 2012 has been viewed to focus more on the economic interests of states than on the human rights of the migrants (Mayerhofer, 2018).

### **Dzaleka Refugee Camp**

Dzaleka Refugee Camp, located near the capital Lilongwe, was established in 1994. Currently, it hosts over 51,000 refugees (UNHCR, 2021). These refugees are mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Ethiopia and others from the East and Horns of Africa. The camp was designed to host a maximum of 12,000 people. The current population and the continued immigration of additional refugees pose pressure on the resources and opportunities available to refugees. This congestion also poses potential health risks for the population (UNHCR, 2021).

### **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)**

Increasingly, global trends in refugee protection have shifted towards policies of integration. This is due to the protracted nature of political conflicts in refugee-producing regions and the consequent sharp rise in numbers of displaced people worldwide, that have caused a stark funding crisis.

On September 19, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Within the declaration is a

commitment for “a more predictable and more comprehensive response to these crises” called the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, or CRRF (UNHCR). The CRRF has four principal objectives that are: to ease the pressures on host countries and communities; to enhance refugee self-reliance; to expand third-country solutions; and to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Aside from setting common objectives, the CRRF empowers individual states and local stakeholders to formulate and implement country-specific refugee hosting policies and plans.

## II. Motivation for the Study

Malawi has an encampment policy that guides its operations towards hosting refugees and asylum seekers. The policy restricts refugees from certain rights, including access to public tertiary education and employment opportunities. Besides, the policy postulates that the refugees cannot legally live outside Dzaleka refugee camp. Living conditions in Dzaleka have not been favourable, as it is overcrowded with few or no opportunities for self-development, leading to some refugees seeking opportunities for self-reliance outside the camp, and some settling down and marrying Malawi nationals.

The Government of Malawi (GoM) pledged to adopt the CRRF during the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2016. Contrary to the pledge however, the government planned to enforce re-encampment<sup>12</sup> by issuing a directive that refugees and asylum seekers who left Dzaleka Refugee camp return to the site by 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 (Kasakula,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.africanews.com/2021/05/06/malawi-refugee-camp-return-government-order-suspended//>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.voanews.com/a/africa\\_malawi-orders-all-refugees-back-camp-within-14-days/6204712.html](https://www.voanews.com/a/africa_malawi-orders-all-refugees-back-camp-within-14-days/6204712.html)

2021). The directive was issued on the basis that the presence of refugees outside of the camp poses a matter of national threat, according to the Minister of Homeland Security, Chimwendo. This brought mixed reactions from stakeholders, as Dzaleka Camp has far exceeded its absorption level with a current 300% excess in the resident population (UNHCR, 2021).

There is merit in undertaking this research in Malawi as Malawi is considering this policy shift. It is a known fact that refugees play a role and are involved in various economic activities in this country. Therefore, this study provides much-needed information regarding potential levels of influx of refugees into the national territory, disaggregated by target geographical location and economic sector. The findings of this study also provide a basis for implementing either the CRRF (as per the government's pledge) or the re-encampment policy (as per government's current plans and long-standing policy framework). In addition, the findings may also inform policy formulation and guide policy implementation by various relevant stakeholders.

### **III. Main and Specific Objectives of the Study**

The study aimed to collect and analyse data on refugees' intention to emigrate from Dzaleka.

Specifically, we want to assess:

- i) The size of their business capital,
- ii) Their educational and professional qualifications,
- iii) The size of their investment capital,
- iv) Their destination of preference.

## **IV. Literature Review**

### **Studies on Encampment Policies Internationally**

Empirically, studies have sought to explore the impact of encampment policies on refugees and their livelihoods. Mboya (2015) found that an encampment policy has composite effects on refugee youths' livelihoods and, more specifically, on their ability to achieve economic self-reliance, acquisition of basic and quality formal education, and mental and preventive health. The study recommended that action be undertaken to mitigate encampment's effects on the youths, including construction of more schools and provision of more material resources and trained teachers; prioritization of secondary and tertiary education to alleviate effects on youths' education; investment into the economic empowerment of refugees through facilitation of income-generating activities; recruitment of counsellors to provide psycho-social support to refugees, and the initiation of "accelerated" education programmes to provide education to "mature" learners and to engage more children and youth in the arts, music, sports and cultural activities.

In the UK, Mulvey (2015) found that the consequences of broader government policy around asylum and refugee issues negates any positive support in the form of refugee integration programmes and actively inhibits integration. This poses an obstacle to the self-reliance of refugees. Besides, Njogu (2017) found that Kenya used national security concerns to enforce strict encampment policies, which resulted in refugees being denied basic human rights, and exacerbated the protracted nature of the camps. It is worth noting that gender disparities arise in the process of accessing resources among migrants. Ryussen and Salomone (2018) retrieved the causal effects of gender discrimination on potential female migration. Women's awareness of gender discrimination increases their desire to move. However, the actual preparation of their

migration journey is mainly guided by traditional drivers such as income and networks, both of which are more accessible to their male counterparts.

### **Studies on Encampment Policies and Refugee Livelihood in Malawi**

The refugees' intention to leave Dzaleka camp and settle on the national territory has never previously been researched. In Malawi, studies have focused on the livelihood of the refugees at Dzaleka Camp. A study by Mchenga (2015) on Cultural Diversity and Non-Formal Health Education in Dzaleka Camp found that there is a need for a hygienic environment and healthy community members. Non-formal health education in the camp strives to assist the camp in the prevention of illnesses, given that there is overcrowding. Refugees' livelihoods are constrained by the access to land for subsistence farming. A study by Barnett (2003) on the effects of Mozambican refugees in Malawi on the natural resource base found that the refugee livelihood has a long-term impact on the environment, such as appreciable changes on the availability of firewood. This was partly shaped by the regulations surrounding how refugees' access, utilize, and impact the host environment.

Furthermore, Ramer (2016) found a gendered duality regarding the visibility of female refugees and their access to necessities, particularly heating resources. Women may consequently engage in negative survival strategies such as prostitution to make ends meet. Furthermore, Msowoya (2019) found that the various business enterprises that refugees established positively contributed to the local and national economies in different forms, such as creating employment, expanding consumer markets, and stimulating economic growth in regional areas through tax remittance. However, the challenge being faced was that Malawi's encampment policy is limiting the nation from experiencing the full potential that the economic integration of refugees and asylum seekers could bring.



De Leo (2020) studied the sub-group of refugees in Malawi that resided illegally outside Dzaleka camp to find a means for financial independence through informal business initiatives, prior to the 2021 directive re-enforcing the encampment policy. Findings reveal that at least half of sampled refugees utilize an informal system of borrowing within their community to fuel business growth, and one in five gives capital to fellow refugees to start, sustain or increase a business without expectations of repayment, thus developing a viable model for business success in the informal economy sector. De Leo also measured job creation effects for the host community and found that each refugee operating a business in the city was employing at least two Malawian staff, or at least three for refugees conducting business in rural areas.

## **V. Methodology**

### **a) Study Sites/Locations**

Dzaleka refugee camp is divided into zones that bear names of Malawian towns and cities. The government set up the zones for administrative purposes. The study focused on zones selected based on population density. Zones surveyed were:

1. Lisungwi
2. Kawale 1, Kawale 2,
3. Likuni 1, Likuni 2,
4. Zomba,
5. Blantyre
6. Katubza

### **b) Study Participants**

A sample of refugees was drawn from the different locations as highlighted in the study sites above. Participants were treated with respect, and ethical compliance was

maintained throughout the implementation of this study. Clearance was obtained from the University of Malawi.

### **c) Study Period**

This study took place from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

### **d) Sampling Methods**

In terms of the sampling method, a systematic random sampling design was used to select individuals. We interviewed one respondent from every fifth household. This approach reduced bias (Griffith, 2020; Stehman & Overton, 2020). Before conducting the interviews, permission was obtained from the Ministry of Homeland Security, the responsible government entity that oversees the affairs of the camp. The enumerators had a vast knowledge of the area since they are members of the refugee community.

### **e) Sample Size**

A sample of 342 participants was drawn from the population across all the study sites. The sample was representative enough and not biased.

### **f) Data Collection Instruments**

The study collected the data using tablets. We used Open Data Kit software ([ODK](#)). ODK is open-source software for collecting, managing, and using data in resource-constrained environments. ODK allowed for offline data collection with mobile devices in remote areas. The submission of the data to a server was performed daily at a site where Internet connectivity is available. Using ODK enabled us to observe and manage the data in real-time as it was being collected. The questions to be asked have been put on a questionnaire which has been attached in section VII.

### g) Data Management Methods

All data was stored on cloud. All hardcopy documents were anonymized and will be kept in the office of the PI for 12 months. Thereafter they will be destroyed by burning them.

### h) Data Analysis Method

We employed both parametric and non-parametric approaches since the distribution of the data is expected to be not normally distributed. Furthermore, univariate and multivariable regression analyses, respectively, were undertaken. All analysis was done in Stata.

## Results

**Table 1: Nationality**

What is your nationality?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Burundian	40	11.73
Congolese	258	75.66
Ethiopian	4	1.17
Other	1	0.29
Rwandese	38	11.14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100</b>

The Congolese had the highest composition of about 75.6% of the sample, followed by the Burundians (11.73%) who were slightly different from the Rwandese (11.14%). The Ethiopians were least, having 1.17% composition of the sample. Other Nationalities were also included even if their composition was almost negligible (0.29%).

**Table 2: Age Composition**

Age, how old are you?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age group: 15-24	70	20.47

Age group: 25-34	135	39.47
Age group: 35-44	64	18.71
Age group: 45-54	39	11.40
Age group: 55+	34	9.94
<b>Total:</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100</b>

In terms of age, the sample had a high composition of 25 to 34-year-olds (39.47%), followed by those in the 15 -24 age group (20.47%). The lowest composition of the sample (9.94%) came from people aged 55 and above. The results are highlighted in table 2 above.

**Table 3: Sex Disaggregation**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	195	57.02
Male	147	42.98
<b>Total:</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100</b>

Females comprised more than half of the sample (57.02%), with the men at 42.98%.

**Table 4: Willingness to Migrate**

If Malawi changed its laws to allow refugees to live either inside or outside Dzaleka, would you leave the camp?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No	122	35.67
Yes	220	64.33
<b>Total:</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100</b>

A significant number of the refugees (64.33%) were willing to migrate if Malawi changed its laws to allow refugees to live either inside or outside the Dzaleka camp, while the remaining 35.67% were not willing to migrate.

**Table 5: Preferred Area of Migration**

If yes, where would you want to go?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
City	173	79.00
Rural	46	21.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100</b>

Among the 64.33% refugees who were willing to migrate, a majority of them (79%) would go to the city, while only 21% would migrate to the rural area.

**Table 6: Reason for City Migration**

Why the city?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
I can find a job	72	41.86
I can start a business where people are rich	62	36.05
I know some people there	6	3.49
I want to have electricity, running water, and access to city services	32	18.60
<b>Total:</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 79% who would migrate to the city, 41.86 % reported the ability for them to find a job in the city being the top reason for migration, followed by 36.05% who reported that they could start a business where people are rich. 18.60% wanted to have electricity, running water, and access to city services. Only 3.49% reported to have known someone in the city and considered it as a reason to move there.

**Table 7: Reasons for Rural Migration**

Why rural?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
I can farm	9	26.47
I can start a life with a smaller capital	1	2.94
I know some people there	4	11.76
I would feel more secure	20	58.82
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>

From Table 7 above, more than half (58.82%) of the people who wanted to migrate to the rural area reported feeling more secure there. On the other hand, 26.47% saw opportunities for farming, while only 2.94% believed they could start a life with a smaller capital there.

**Table 8: Reasons for Emigration from Dzaleka**

<b>Why do you want to emigrate from Dzaleka?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Poor living condition	104	47.49
Over population	15	6.85
To start a business	49	22.37
To look for a job	30	13.70
To study	15	6.85
I do not want to leave Dzaleka	6	2.74
<b>Total:</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the reasons why the refugees wanted to emigrate from Dzaleka, 47.49% reported that there were poor living conditions at the camp, 22.37% of the refugees wanted to start business, and 13.70% wanted to look for a job. In contrast, 2.74% of the refugees did not want to leave the Dzaleka camp. For more reasons, refer to table 8 above.

**Table 9: Education Level**

<b>How far have you gone with your education?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
College degree.	13	3.81
College diploma.	20	5.87
High school diploma.	133	39.00
Master's degree.	2	0.59
None of the above.	150	43.99
Other	23	6.74
<b>Total:</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100</b>

Among the sample, 43.9% of participants had not completed high school; 39% and 5.87% had a high school diploma and a

college diploma respectively; 3.81 % had a college degree; and only 0.59% had a Master`s degree.

**Table 10: Field of Qualification**

What field are you qualified in?	Frequency	Percentage %
None	128	37.43%
Teaching	48	14.04%
Business	40	11.70%
Farming	15	4.39%
Social Work	14	4.09%
Agriculture	13	3.80%
Tailoring	10	2.92%
ICT	7	2.05%
Nursing	7	2.05%
Accounting	6	1.75%
Literature	5	1.46%
Science	5	1.46%
Technical Training	4	1.17%
Biochemistry	3	0.88%
Bricklaying	3	0.88%
Carpentry	3	0.88%
Electrician	3	0.88%
Health	3	0.88%
Humanities	3	0.88%
Engineering	2	0.58%
English language	2	0.58%
Handcraft	2	0.58%
Law	2	0.58%
Plumbing	2	0.58%
Political Science	2	0.58%
Veterinary	2	0.58%
Barbershop	1	0.29%
Language Interpreting	1	0.29%
Mathematics	1	0.29%
Mechanic	1	0.29%
MSCe	1	0.29%
Physics	1	0.29%
Rural Development	1	0.29%
Shoe Making	1	0.29%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Table 10 above shows that 37.43% of the sampled refugees were not qualified in any field, 14% were teachers, 11.70% businesspeople. Farming, social work and agriculture were all qualifications held by approximately 4% of the sample.

**Table 11: Formal Professional Experience**

<b>Do you have any work experience in a formal professional environment?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No	187	54.84
Yes	154	45.16
<b>Total:</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100</b>

Just over half of the sampled refugees (54.84%) did not have any work experience in a formal professional environment.

**Table 12: Business Experience**

<b>Do you have any business experience (whether formal or informal business)?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No	100	29.41
Yes	240	70.59
<b>Total:</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>

The results in Table 12 above show that about 70.59% of refugees have experience in doing business (whether formal or informal).

**Table 13: Source of Capital**

<b>If you were going to start a life outside the camp, where would you draw your capital?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
My savings	135	45.00
Friends or family outside the country would send some money	146	48.67
I have property that I would sell	19	6.33
<b>Total:</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>



If the sampled refugees were to start a life outside the camp, 48.67% reported that they would draw their capital from friends or family outside the country, 45% would use their savings and the remaining 6.33% refugees reported to have had property that they would sell.

**Table 14: Crosstab on Willingness to Migrate**

	If Malawi changed its laws to allow refugees to live either inside or outside Dzaleka						Chi square	P
	No		Yes		Total			
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%		
<b>Age, how old are you</b>								
Age group :15-24	22	31	48	9	70	100	5.48	0.24
Age group: 25-34	45	33	90	7	135	100		
Age group: 35-44	24	38	40	3	64	100		
Age group :45-54	13	33	26	7	39	100		
Age group: 55+	18	53	16	7	34	100		
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>What is your nationality?</b>								
Burundian	13	33	27	8	40	100		
Congolese	93	36	165	4	258	100		
Ethiopian	4	100	0	0	4	100	9.94	0.04
Other	1	100	0	0	1	100		
Rwandese	11	29	27	1	38	100		
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>Sex</b>								
Female	70	36	125	4	195	100	0.01	0.92
Male	52	35	95	5	147	100		
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>Why do you want to emigrate from Dzaleka?</b>								
Poor living condition	25	19	104	1	129	100		
Overpopulation	1	6	15	4	16	100		
To start a business	2	4	49	6	51	100		
To look for a job	10	25	30	5	40	100	146.40	0.00
To study	6	29	15	1	21	100		
I do not want to leave Dzaleka	65	92	6	9	71	100		
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>How far have you gone with your education?</b>								
College degree.	4	31	9	9	13	100		
College diploma.	3	15	17	5	20	100		

High school diploma.	52	39	81	6 1	133	100		
Master's degree.	1	50	1	5 0	2	100	7.01	0.22
None of the above.	57	38	93	6 2	150	100		
Other	5	22	18	7 8	23	100		
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>6 4</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>Do you have any work experience in a formal professional environment?</b>								
No	78	42	109	5 8	187	100		
Yes	44	29	110	7 1	154	100	6.35	0.01
Total	122	36	219	6 4	341	100		
<b>Do you have any business experience (whether formal or informal business)?</b>								
No	46	46	54	5 4	100	100		
Yes	76	32	164	6 8	240	100	6.30	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>6 4</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>Do you receive any money from organisations such as UNHCR etc for internship or</b>								
No	8	17	38	8 3	46	100		
Yes	114	39	181	6 1	295	100	7.82	0.01
Total	122	36	219	6 4	341	100		

From Table 14 above, a higher percentage (53%) of individuals who expressed a desire to remain in Dzaleka even if Malawi changed its laws to allow refugees to live either inside or outside Dzaleka, were the elderly in the age group of 55 and above. On the other hand, those in the age group 15-24 comprised of the large population (69%) who were willing to migrate if laws permitted. More males (65%) were willing to migrate as compared to women (64%). Per different nationalities, 71% Rwandese, 68% Burundians, and 64% Congolese were willing to migrate. 69% of the refugees who had a college degree, 85% who had a college diploma, 61% who had a high school diploma, 50% who had a Master's degree, and 62% who had no education background expressed to be willing to migrate if Malawi changed its laws to allow refugees to live either inside or outside Dzaleka.

Of the people who had formal professional work experience, 71% were willing to migrate and 29% were not. On the other hand, of those individuals who had no experience in any formal professional environment, 58% were willing to migrate and the remaining 42% were not. 68% of those who had business experience were willing

to migrate whereas more than half (54%) of those who had no business experience expressed the same view. A higher percentage (83%) of the refugees who do not receive any money from organisations such as UNHCR for internship were willing to migrate, while 39% of those who receive money from organisations were not willing to migrate even if permitted.

**Table 15 - Education status by age of people willing to Move out of Dzaleka**

How far have you gone with your education?	Age group											
	15 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 44		45 to 54		55+		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
College degree	0	0	2	50	2	50	0	0	0	0	4	100
College diploma	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	100
High school diploma	13	25	19	36.5	13	25	4	7.7	3	5.8	52	100
Master's degree	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	1	100
None of the above	6	10.5	22	38.6	9	15.8	6	10.5	14	24.6	57	100
Other	1	20	1	20	0	0	2	40	1	20	5	100
Total	22	18	45	36.9	24	19.7	13	10.7	18	14.8	122	100

Chi-square = 34.40; P-value =0.024

We then moved on to assess those willing to move out of Dzaleka, by age group and education status. In total, there were 122 people willing to move out of Dzaleka, of which a majority were aged 25 -34 (37%). These were seconded by those in age group 15-24. Among those in majority, 33.3% had a college diploma and 36.5% had high school diploma. The association is even strengthened by the chi-square which is significant at the 5% level of significance. For more, see Table 16

**Table 16 – Education / Location Preference**

In addition to the previous analysis, we also did a crosstab analysis between the education level of those willing to get out of Dzaleka and into the city. Table 16 shows that most of them have just a high school diploma, and no advanced qualifications. A similar pattern of more people with high school diplomas wanting to move out of Dzaleka was also observed among those who were willing to go to the rural area.

How far have you gone with your education?	Why the city?				Total
	I can find a job	I can start a business where people are rich	I know some people there	I want to have electricity, running water, and access to city services	

	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
College degree.	5	62.5	2	25	0	0	1	12.5	8	100
College diploma.	6	40	5	33.3	0	0	4	26.7	15	100
High school diploma.	29	45.3	28	43.8	3	4.7	4	6.3	64	100
Master's degree.	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100
None of the above.	26	36.6	23	32.4	3	4.2	19	26.8	71	100
Other	6	46.2	3	23.1	0	0	4	30.8	13	100
Total	72	41.9	62	36	6	3.5	32	18.6	172	100

How far have you gone with your education?	Why rural?							
	I can farm		I can start a life with a smaller capital		I would feel more secure		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
College degree.	0	0	0	0	1	100	1	100
College diploma.	2	100	0	0	0	0	2	100
High school diploma.	13	81.3	3	18.8	0	0	16	100
None of the above.	6	27.3	8	36.4	8	36.4	22	100
Other	4	80	1	20	0	0	5	100
Total	25	54.3	12	26.1	9	19.6	46	100

Chi-square = 20.0681 P-value = 0.010

## Summary of Findings

Our research participants were asked a set of questions based on the hypothesis that Malawi offered them the opportunity to leave Dzaleka and settle on the national territory. We found that 64% of people stated that they would choose to move out of Dzaleka. -Among those willing to move out, 79% would want to settle in an urban location, hoping to find a job (42%) or to start a business venture (36%).

Furthermore, 59% of respondents who indicated they would leave Dzaleka to go to a village said that the choice was based on feeling safe in a rural area, while 26% expressed an interest in farming.

Regarding age distribution, almost half of respondents were between 25-34, considered a productive age bracket in economic terms.

Overall, almost half (48%) of the people we interviewed cited poor living conditions in Dzaleka as the main reason for intending to leave, whereas 22% said their motivation was to set up a business. Only 14% indicated that they would want to take up a job in the formal sector. This result is interesting in the context of common

myths related to foreigners posing a threat to citizens in a nation with high unemployment rates.

### **Relocation Intention by Education Level and Work Experience**

The majority of those willing to leave Dzaleka to settle elsewhere in Malawi were people who did not hold any tertiary education. This was somewhat surprising, and the reasons require further research. However, an assumption might be that degree- and diploma-holders would rather be resettled to a more economically advanced nation, where their prospects for formal employment are higher.

When asked whether they held any formal professional experience, 45% of the sampled individuals indicated that they did; however, when asked about business experience, formal or informal, a large proportion (71%) responded positively.

Refugees who indicated they would have capital to start a business said this would originate from friends and family from abroad (49%) and from their own savings (45%).

### **Policy Implications**

Since data shows that not all refugees are willing to move out of Dzaleka, integration may be offered on a voluntary basis, and services related to refugee protection in the camp would still be required. We found no particular evidence that integration would result in job losses for Malawians.

Survey responses demonstrate a need to increase access to higher education for refugees, as well as to address the poor living conditions reported by the population as their principal motivation for wanting to leave Dzaleka.

From the observation that most of those willing to migrate are young, we conclude that integration might supply the needed labour force to add on to the working-age population of Malawi.

Allowing integration may enable refugees to set up businesses that add value to the country's economic output based on three important factors: their prior business experience, their access to capital in foreign currencies from friends and family overseas, and their saving culture.

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## VII. Data Collection Instruments

### MODULE A. EMIGRATION

**A.1** Do you have refugee status?

1. No (*Ayi*)
2. Yes (*Eya*)

**A.2.1** Age, how old are you? *Muli Ndi zaka zingati?* \_\_\_\_\_.

**A.2.2** Sex?

1. Male (*Wammuna*)
2. Female (*Wamkazi*)
3. Other

**A.3** If Malawi changed its laws to allow refugees to live either inside or outside Dzaleka, would you leave the camp? [*if no, skip to A4*]

*Kodi zitatheka kiuti boma la Malawi lasintha malamulo awo okhuza anthu othawa nkhondo, ndikukupatsani ufulu wakokhala nkati kapena kunjwa kwa msasa wa Dzaleka, Kodi mungachoke?*

1. Yes... (*Eya*)
2. No... (*Ayi*)

**A.3.1** If yes where would you want to go? [*if rural, skip to 3.3*]

*Ngati eya, mungafune kupita kuti?*

1. City... (*ku tawuni*)
2. Rural... (*kumidzi*)

**A.3.2** Why the city? *Chifukwa chani ku tawuni?*

**A.** I can find a job... (*Nditha kupezako ntchito*)

**B.** I can start a business where people are rich... (*nditha kuyamba business komwe*

*anthu ali opeza bwinoi*)

**C.** I want to have electricity, running water, and access to city services...

(*Ndikufuna ndizikakhala komwe kuli magetsi, madzi komanso ndisamavutike kufikila*

*ndi kugwiritsa ntchito zinthu zomwe zimapezeka mutauni*)

**D.** I know some people there... (*Ndikudziwako anthu ena*)

**A.3.3 Why rural? (Chifukwa chani kumidzi)**

- A. I can start a life with a smaller capital (*Nditha kuyamba moyo wina ndi kandalama kochepe*)
- B. I can farm... (*Nditha kumalima*)
- C. I would feel more secure... (*Nditha kumamva kutetezeka ndi mtendere*)
- D. I know some people there... (*Ndikudziwako anthu ena*)

**A.4 Why do you want to emigrate from Dzaleka?**

*Ndichifukwa chani mukufuna kusamuka/ kuchoka ku Dzaleka?*

- 1. Poor living conditions... *Makhalidwe athu ndi amuumphawi*
- 2. Over population... *Kuchulukana kwa anthu*
- 3. To start a business... *Kukayamba ka business/ malonda*
- 4. To look for a job... *Kusaka ntchito*
- 5. To study... *Kukaphunzira*
- 6. I do not want to leave Dzaleka, but if Government closes the camp, I will be forced to... *Sindikufuna kuchoka ku Dzaleka koma ngati boma lingagamule ndekuti ndikakamizika kuchoka.*

**MODULE B: EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

How far have you gone with your education? *Munapita patali bwanji ndi maphunziro anu?*

- 1. High school diploma.
- 2. College diploma.
- 3. College degree.
- 4. Master's degree.
- 5. None of the above.
- 6. Other.

**B.2** What field are you qualified in? [*insert code*] *Munazama mudera lanji lamaphunziro?*

**B.3** Do you have any work experience in a formal professional environment? *Munagwirapo ntchito ina iliyonse kapena muli ndi maluso antchito?*

- 1. Yes... Eya
- 2. No... Ayi

**B.4** Do you have any business experience (whether formal or informal business)? *Kodi munapangako buzinesi kapena malonda ali onse?*

- 1. Yes... Eya
- 2. No... Ayi



### **MODULE C. AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL CAPITAL**

**C.1** If you were going to start a life outside the camp, where would you draw your capital from?... *Mutakhala kuti mwayamba moyo wina kunja kwa msasa waDzaleka, mpamba kapena ndalama zampamba mungazitenge kuti?*

- A.** My savings... *Zomwe ndimasunga*
- B.** Friends or family outside the country would send some money...  
*Anzanga kapena achibale kunja kwadziko atha kunditumizila*
- C.** I have property that I would sell... *Ndili ndi katundu yemwe ndingagulitse.*

### **MODULE D. SOCIAL ECONOMIC STATUS**

**D.1** Do you receive any money from organisations such as UNHCR etc for internship or voluntary work that you provide?... *Kodi mumalandila ndalama zilizonse kuchokera kumabungwe monga UNHCR kapena pogwira ntchito yopanda malipiro kapena kuti yaufulu?*

- 1.** Yes... *Eya*
- 2.** No... *Ayi*

**D.2** How much per month?... *Mumalandira ndalama zingati pamwezi?*

**End of Interview!**