ABSTRACT

The study aimed at investigating factors affecting the reintegration of Rwandan returnees in Gatsibo District of Rwanda. The study was guided by the three objectives namely; to explore the socio-economic factors for the reintegration of Rwandan returnees in Gatsibo District, Rwanda, to assess the challenges faced during the reintegration of Rwanda returnees in Gatsibo District Rwanda; and to venture into possible solutions for sustainable reintegration of Rwandan returnees in Gatsibo District, Rwanda. The literature review for the study was extracted different text books, journals, manuals, reports and websites from different libraries and computer laboratories in Kabale and Gatsibo District in Uganda and Rwanda respectively. The research process involved proposal writing, data collection, data analysis, presentation and discussion of the results. The study used qualitative and quantitative in nature. Both simple random and purposive sampling methods were used to select the one hundred and forty (140) respondents who included the local authorities in charge of social affairs and returnees in Gatsibo District. The researcher used the questionnaire, focus group discussions, and interview and observation guides to collect primary data from the field. Data was finally presented in tables, pie-charts and graphs. Conclusions and recommendations of the study were drawn basing on the results of the study. It was found out that 99% the highest number of returnees were motivated by the various factors to return to their country of origin. 87% the biggest number of returnees wished to stay in their country of origin forever and 48% the highest number of respondents noted that their condition in their country of origin was good compared to that of the country of asylum. It was concluded that returnees were motivated by various factors to return to their country of origin, the majority of the returnees wished to stay in their country of origin forever, he consent of many returnees that the condition in the country of origin was better that that of the country of asylum, returnees faced a variety of challenges while returning home from their country of asylum, returnees faced several challenges trying to settle in their country of origin and the majority of the respondents(70%) were aware of the measures in place to solve the challenges returnees were facing in their country of origin. The study recommended that there is need to build upon UNHCR’s refugee and returnee based interventions and move to a more articulated, sustainable and consistent development approach at the district level aimed at linking reintegration and rehabilitation with development initiatives and the need to improve and support governance as a conducive environment to sustain the UNHCR and Rwandese investments in the concerned districts, among other recommendations.