Enhancing food security for refugees through land use planning and land banks

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Abstract.
The global refugee crisis had placed a critical spotlight on the issue of food security for displaced populations. This article delved into an investigation of the pivotal roles that land use planning and land banks played in mitigating food security challenges among refugees. Often uprooted from their homes due to a range of hardships, refugees frequently found themselves in unfamiliar regions with limited access to resources and opportunities for livelihoods. Ensuring their food security became of paramount importance. The research question under scrutiny in this study held substantial relevance and had been the subject of scrutiny in numerous scholarly works. However, it was noteworthy that this research question remained relatively underexplored within the Ukrainian context. The study first discussed the pivotal role of land use planning in granting refugees access to arable land, diversifying their livelihoods, and developing essential infrastructure. Secondly, it underscored the importance of land banks in securing land rights for refugees, making investments in infrastructure development, and promoting responsible land resource management. This research underscored the pressing need to address food security among refugees on a global scale. It highlighted the significance of fostering self-sufficiency, economic empowerment, and long-term resilience through the implementation of land use planning and land banks. As the global refugee crisis continued to expand, the adoption of these strategies became increasingly imperative to support those in need and ensure a more secure future for displaced communities worldwide.

Keywords:
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Introduction. The global refugee crisis has brought to the forefront significant challenges faced by displaced communities, including the critical issue of food security. Refugees, forced to leave their homes due to various hardships, often find themselves in unfamiliar territories with limited access to resources and livelihood opportunities. Ensuring the food security of these vulnerable populations is of paramount importance. This article explores the interconnected roles of land use planning and land banks in mitigating food security issues among refugees.

The research question is highly relevant and has been addressed in several scholarly works. Specifically, studies investigating the impact of land use on refugees in Bangladesh are discussed in references [1, 2], while research on Syrian refugees is cited in [3, 4]. Furthermore, various aspects related to financial economics, public administration, and the activities of land banks in Ukraine have been explored in sources [5-14]. However, it should be noted that this question remains relatively under-researched in the context of Ukraine.

1. Land Use Planning and Food Security for Refugees

One of the most pressing challenges faced by refugees is access to arable land for agriculture. Land use planning can play a pivotal role in addressing this issue. By designating specific zones for refugee agricultural activities, land use planning enables refugees to cultivate their own crops, reducing their reliance on external food aid. This approach not only provides immediate relief but also promotes long-term food security by supporting self-sufficiency.

Beyond agriculture, land use planning can identify areas suitable for small businesses and markets. Diversifying livelihoods allows refugees to generate income, facilitating access to food markets and enhancing overall food security. Such diversification also increases the resilience of refugee communities by reducing their dependence on a single source of income.

Effective land use planning extends to the development of essential infrastructure and amenities within refugee settlements. This includes road construction, water supply systems, and sanitation facilities. Improved access to these
amenities not only enhances living conditions but also supports food storage and distribution, reducing food losses and waste. Adequate infrastructure is crucial for efficient food resource management and the well-being of refugee populations.

Proper land use planning takes into account ecological considerations when allocating and managing land resources. This involves avoiding land allocation in environmentally sensitive areas and promoting sustainable land use practices. Sustainable land use practices are essential for preserving soil fertility and natural resources, which are critical for long-term food security.

2. Land Banks and Food Security for Refugees

Land banks play a pivotal role in addressing refugees' access to land. These organizations can acquire land and allocate it to refugees for agricultural purposes. Lack of secure land rights often leaves refugees vulnerable to eviction or land disputes. Land banks can provide legal land rights, giving refugees the ability to invest in their land and plan for the future without fear of displacement.

Land banks can also invest in the development of infrastructure within refugee settlements. This includes initiatives to make land suitable for agriculture and provide necessary services. Adequate infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and storage facilities, directly contributes to improved food production and security among refugees.

Through their control over land allocation and use, land banks play a crucial role in preventing land and forest degradation. Conserving natural resources is fundamental to maintaining land productivity and sustainable food production in the long term. By implementing responsible land resource management practices, land banks contribute to ecological resilience in agricultural activities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, food security among refugees remains a pressing global issue. Refugees, often compelled to settle in unfamiliar territories with limited resources, require comprehensive solutions to meet their nutritional needs. This article has explored the vital roles of land use planning and
land banks in improving food security among refugees. Land use planning, through the allocation of agricultural land, diversification of livelihoods, infrastructure development, and environmental considerations, empowers refugees to cultivate their own crops and reduce their dependence on external food assistance. Additionally, land banks play a crucial role in securing land rights, supporting infrastructure development, and promoting responsible resource management within refugee settlements. The combined impact of these approaches is significant, contributing to self-reliance, economic empowerment, and long-term resilience of displaced communities. By advancing these aspects, land use planning and land banks take important steps towards enhancing food security and the overall well-being of refugees. In the face of a growing global refugee crisis, it is of paramount importance to develop and implement these strategies to support those in need.

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POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION


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