# Transcript

**Presenter:** In today’s episode we look at the higher education system in refugee camps. To tell us more about this we have Paul O'Keeffe, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. Paul and his team work with refugees and how education can improve their lives. Paul starts with telling us why there is an increase in demand for higher education in refugee camps.

**Paul O'Keeffe:** So there are a number of reasons why there is a high demand, and an increasing demand for higher education in refugee camps at the moment. Probably the main one is the sheer number of young people in camps. We’ve seen over the last decade or so many, many more people finding themselves in refugee crisis situations. Refugee crises have become protracted – the average time or the official time definition of a protracted situation is five years, but we’re seeing people stuck in these crisis situations for a lot longer than that. Many young people have grown up in camps and gone through the primary and secondary education systems on offer there, so there’s a natural progression for them to want to go on to study further education. Another key contributor to this would be the encampment policies, especially in African refugee camps. A lot of the camps are removed from urban areas so there really is no access to tertiary education outside of the camp – it’s just too physically difficult to get from a confined camp in a desert to somewhere like Nairobi.

**Presenter:** Many initiatives believe that education is a key driver for global development. Initially, education in these types of camps focussed on primary and secondary education, but now there is a greater emphasis on tertiary and higher education. The interconnected nature of the world helps this. Mobile phones in camps mean that everyone is connected. This makes it easy for people in camps to see what higher education camps are available to them. The difficulty, though, is that there are so many refugees in the world. This means that there have been global efforts to push resilience, empowerment and self-efficiency. Higher education is a driver of this. It fulfils a need for development and humanitarianism.

Joining us for this episode we have 3 refugees from Kakuma in Kenya. They discuss their higher education journey. First, we have Samuel Niyonkuru.

**SY:** Hello everyone. I like this basic medical training course, and it was very useful in my life for 3 main reasons. First, it helped me to enhance my knowledge based on the one I had in my medical career I got from my country home Burundi. Second, it empowered my capacities of helping my community members by providing useful advice on how to prevent against most diseases, especially this Covid19 pandemic. Three, it allowed me to share my experiences and knowledge I have with my colleagues. Once I get an opportunity I would like to go further and specialise, in order to voluntarily and sufficiently come and help those in need like me. Thank you.

**Presenter:** Then we have Maker Mayen.

**MM:** Medicine has been my childhood dream because unfortunately I could not enrol in college for the course after my High School because of lack of school fees. In 2018 the University of Geneva sponsored my online basic medical course which I have been doing for the last 2 years.

The basic medical has been an eye opener for me. The first module on anatomy and physiology was very, very interesting – just a continuation of what I did in High School. When I did pathology I came to see everything around me very dirty and infectious! In fact, I became interested in studying medicine. I would like to become a doctor in the future.

**Presenter:** And finally we have Esther Namarone.

**EM:** I have done quite a number of courses such as Global History, Challenges of Global Poverty, Introduction to Global Health, and currently taking an online course in Research Methods and Statistics in Social Sciences.

With the pedagogic app that’s used and depending on the course we are normally provided with reading materials such as handouts and textbooks, flash drives that are used to compliment to online course. Sometimes Skype meetings with professors and done, and professors sometimes come on the site to summarise the course content, and also to clarify the concepts which have not been understood by the students. WhatsApp discussions are also done with online tutors and on-site tutors. However, it’s only in some courses depending on the university, because some of them it’s purely online and watching videos with assignments, then discussions with the peers.

