

COUNTRY PROFILE JRS KENYA

COUNTRY CONTEXT AND
REFUGEES' SITUATION IN KENYA
2020/21

REPORT BY JESUIT REFUGEE
SERVICE EAST AFRICA



**JESUIT
REFUGEE
SERVICE**

PHOTO: ONE OF THE STUDENTS AT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION CENTER (KAKUMA)
PHOTO BY: PAULA C. AGUIRREGABIRIA / JRS

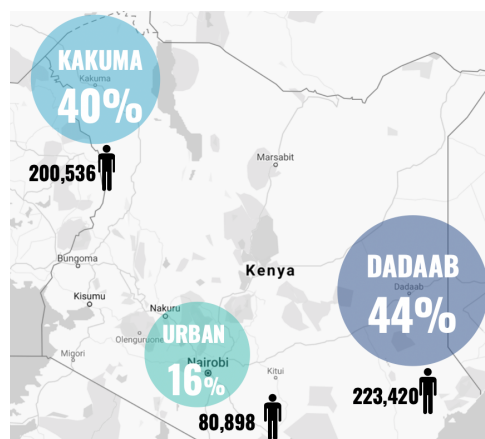
Refugees & Asylum-seekers in Kenya

+ **508,033**

Officially registered Refugees and Asylum seekers

(as per January 2021. Source: UNHCR)

Host Locations



* Kaobeyei figures counted within Kakuma's numbers

Kenya hosts a large asylum-seeking and refugee population, which at present is managed jointly by the country's Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) under the 2006 Refugees Act and the 2009 Refugees Regulations. Main host locations: Dadaab refugee camp (44% of total amount of refugees), followed by Kakuma refugee camp (40%) and Nairobi, with urban refugees (16%). There is also a "settlement" for refugees and host community located at Kalobeyei, 30km from Kakuma refugee camp*.

The majority of refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya are from Somalia (54%), South Sudan (24.6%), DRC (9%) and Ethiopia (5.8%).

Since 2016, the Kenyan Government has planned to close Dadaab and repatriate refugees; however, in 2017 the High Court halted the Gov. decision of closure of the camp. In March 2021, the Kenyan Government announced a new deliberation to work toward the closure of the refugee camps in Kenya, both Dadaab and Kakuma, and requested to UNHCR the finalization of a roadmap which includes voluntary return for refugees in safety and dignity, departures to third countries under various arrangements, and alternative stay options in Kenya for certain refugees from East African Community (EAC) countries.

Legal Framework

POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

Kenya is signatory to international treaties including the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 African Union Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Kenya adopted also the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Kenya Comprehensive Refugee Programme (KCRP) 2019-2020.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Kenya is formally committed to facilitate durable solutions for refugees. One notable change was the introduction of an encampment policy requiring all asylum seekers and refugees in urban areas to relocate to designated camps. Although refugees have been allowed to engage in informal employment, this appears increasingly difficult as the encampment policy constrains their ability to move, and work permits are rarely issued to refugees.

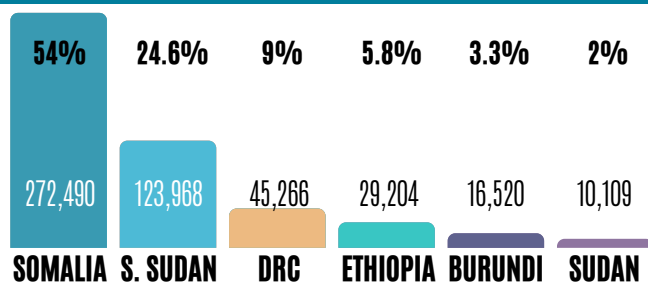
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Kenyan Government has communicated in March 2021 the intention to work toward the closure of the refugee camps by June 2022. The roadmap presented by UNHCR includes voluntary return, departures to third countries and alternative stay options in Kenya for refugees from East African Community. NGOs and civil society organizations advocate for the respect of fundamental rights and a more active engagement of refugees.

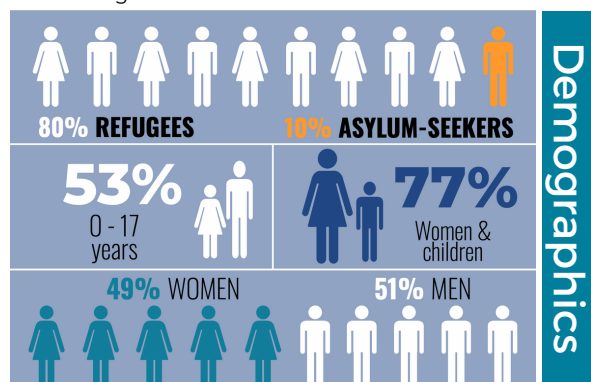
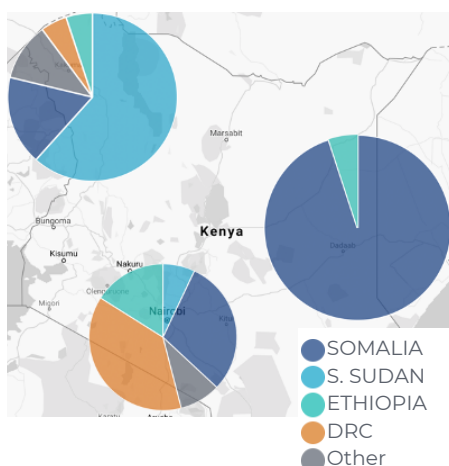
KISED

Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan in Turkana West, is a new approach co-led by the County Government and UNHCR to allow refugees and the host population to maximize their potential in an enabling environment.

Country of origin & distribution



Main reasons for displacement at main origins:



Main challenges

- Difficulties to access formal higher education
- Difficulties to get working permits and formal employment
- Difficulties for integrating into the local community and building a stable livelihood in the host country. (due to encampment policies, movement restrictions, and bureaucratic difficulties to get formal employment or higher education)
- Facing expectations of staying in the host country for long periods of time (due to maintenance of instability in countries of origin and dangers of repatriation)
- Declaration of GoK to close refugee camps in Kenya by June 2022

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an int'l Catholic org. founded in 1980 by the Society of Jesus as a practical and spiritual response to the suffering of the refugees at the time.

Today JRS is active in more than 56 countries, with the mission of **accompanying, serving and defending the rights of refugees**, internally displaced persons and anyone obliged to leave their homes forcefully. The main areas of intervention are: education, emergency, health care, sustenance activities, psychosocial support, inter-religious dialogue, promotion and safeguarding of rights.

JRS is present in Kenya and East Africa Region, since the 1980s. Due to its long-ago established roots in the region, JRS has been involved in multiple initiatives, has been an important actor during the birth of refugee camps in Kenya and has seen the growth of urban refugees in the capital.

Programs

Our main locations of work are the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyei Settlement and Nairobi urban area .

Kakuma Refugee Camp

Nairobi-based Urban

LIVELIHOODS

To ensure refugees become self-reliant, offering them dignifying sources of income as well as professional training.

PRIMARY TEACHER EDUCATION

Training for primary teachers on Early Childhood Development to grant minimum quality education.

DIGITAL LEARNING

Training on digital skills, programming, design and business skills to lead to employment opportunities.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Training business and community-based organization development.

MIKONO CRAFT SHOP

Craft shop supplied by beneficiaries.

AGRIBUSINESS – MIKONO FARM

Growth of vegetables, chicken, bees and rabbits.

VOCATIONAL SKILLS PROGRAM

Training on vocational skills such as tailoring, electrician, food production, etc.

BUSINESS GRANTS & LOANS

Business training and non-interest loans or grants to develop functional business.

EDUCATION

Focused on ensuring refugees are granted their right to access formal education.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships for refugees with special needs, who can not access our inclusive education centers.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Education and rehabilitation services for kids with special needs. For adults, vocational and motor skills training.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships for secondary and tertiary education around Nairobi.

ONLINE PROGRAM – PATHFINDER

Online university degree offered by the Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Based on skills training and master of competences.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND PROTECTION

Support on their first access to basic needs at arrival and monitoring their psychological wellbeing

COUNSELING SERVICES & PASTORAL

Specially sensitive cases referred to specialized organizations.

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SAFE HAVEN

Safe space for refugee women and children at risk of SGBV and in need of protection.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: RENT, FOOD & NFI

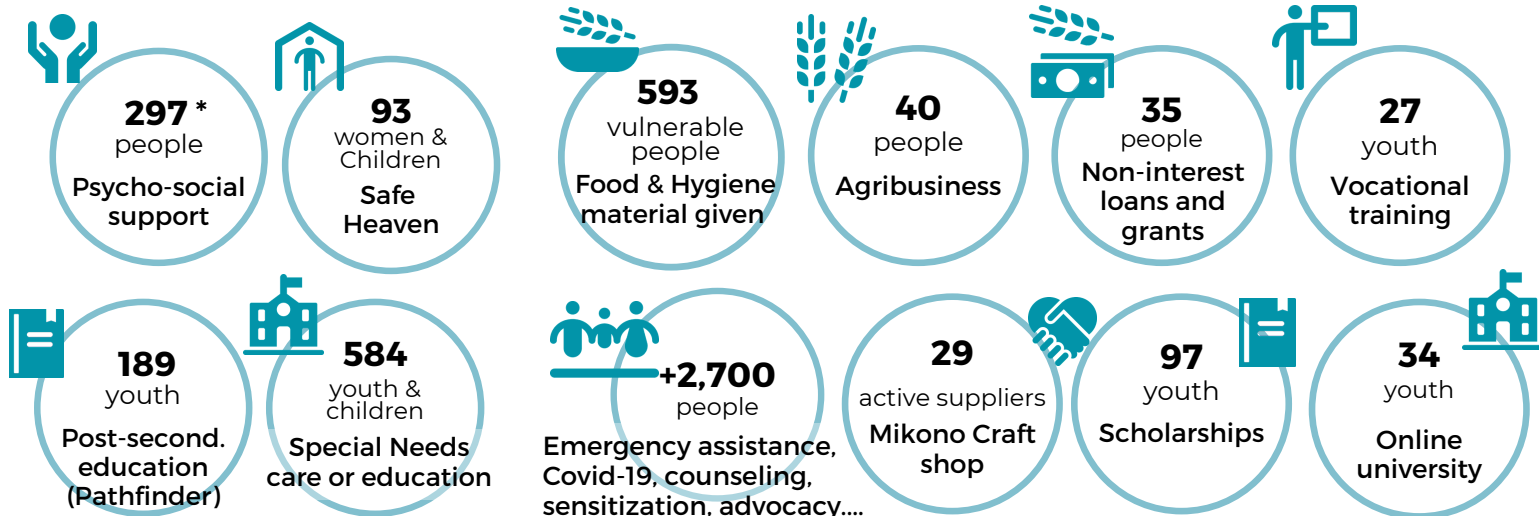
Providing emergency means such as rent, food, pads... for the most vulnerable.

JRS Programs in numbers

+4,600 Served directly in 2020
Beneficiaries by JRS KENYA

Kakuma Refugee Camp

Nairobi-based Urban



* the amount of beneficiaries attended in PSS has been significantly reduced in 2020 compared to previous years due to the closure of activities from March to October in face of COVID-19 restrictions.

A 56.8% of our direct beneficiaries are women

56.8%



44.2%



Human Story

This is Daud Hanita, a refugee mother of 2 children from the DR Congo, who fled political violence in which she lost her husband, child and father in-law and arrived in Kenya in 2016. She started her business specializing in West African cuisine in Dagoreti, which has been helping her and her children meet her basic sustenance. Just like many other businesses, her business was affected due to COVID-19 as supplies were cut off, sales plummeted and her capital eroded. In July, after partial reopening of the economy, JRS invited her for business training followed with a grant of Ksh20,000 given to a total of 10 refugee women. Following up with her, she had a very interesting testimony on the impact the training had on her:

'The skills I got from the training have really helped me. I shared the same knowledge with my children and these days, after closing every day, we analyse the day's performance, establish the profit for the day and put aside money for the business and our use at home. My business is growing well now thanks to the financial management skills I got in the training with daily profit of Ksh500-1000. I wish JRS can be doing this more often because the learning of skills can really help someone overcome many challenges'

Scan the QR code or click on it to access Anita's testimony.



Photo: Daud Anita at her West African food shop

Photo by: Paula C Aguirregabiria

