

Annual Results Report

2025

Kenya

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2025, Kenya's operating context for refugee protection evolved positively in legal and policy dimensions. The country remained politically stable despite episodic civil unrest and demonstrations seen as lingering effects from the 2024 Finance Bill protests. The Government continued to admit people seeking asylum and operationalizing the Refugees Act, 2021 through the Refugee (General) Regulations, 2024. A landmark development was the launch of the Shirika Plan in March 2025 by President William Ruto, aiming to transition camps like Dadaab and Kakuma into integrated settlements aligned with county development frameworks, promoting socioeconomic inclusion via initiatives such as the Garissa Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (GISED) and Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED). Security and social cohesion in hosting counties (Garissa and Turkana respectively) remained generally stable through peacebuilding and inclusive services, though mixed migration flows posed ongoing challenges. Ongoing funding shortfalls constrained operations, with WFP food rations reduced drastically to 40% of minimum requirements exacerbating vulnerabilities, negative coping mechanisms, malnutrition, and occasional community tensions. Extreme climate shocks such as drought and flooding further strained resources and infrastructure.

The demographics of forcibly displaced and stateless people shifted markedly, with the refugee and asylum-seeker population growing from around 824,000 at end-2024 to 854,876 in mid-2025 before stabilizing to 835,836 as of 31 December 2025. The new arrivals originated from Somalia (55%), South Sudan (24.3%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (8%), Ethiopia (5%), Burundi (4%), and Sudan (2%). The decrease reflects the records and case closure of approximately 38,000 individual records during continuous registration and data verification exercises conducted by the government's Department of Refugee Services (DRS) in December 2025. Refugees and asylum-seekers remained concentrated in Dadaab (44 per cent Garissa), Kakuma/Kalobeyei (40 per cent, Turkana), and urban areas (16 per cent, mainly Nairobi). The population remained essentially youthful with balanced gender ratios in many groups, though high influxes intensified priority needs in food security, nutrition/health (worsened by ration cuts), livelihoods/self-reliance, protection amid mixed migration, and climate resilience. Movements included ongoing inflows, limited voluntary returns repatriations (mainly Burundians), and internal urban shifts for opportunities.

Positive developments in National law and policies bolstered UNHCR's strategy for inclusion and sustainable responses and enabled better alignment with national systems, expanded service access (health, education, social protection), and advocacy for self-reliance (employment, financial inclusion). However, population growth and acute funding constraints severely impacted operations. The Government continued efforts to improve the quality of national asylum procedures by strengthening registration, refugee status determination (RSD), and certification processes. Revised Standard Operating Procedures for Reception and Registration were endorsed in September 2025. Despite this progress, delays in the issuance and renewal of refugee ID cards persist, and the RSD backlog stood at 218,255 cases at the end of 2025. Heightened vulnerabilities from food cuts (leading to malnutrition, child labor risks, and tensions), and funding shortfalls risked undermining protection gains, underscoring the need for continued international support to sustained progress toward inclusion.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

All refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons can enter Kenya and enjoy protection in line with national legislation and regional and international standards

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.00%	97.05%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14.00%	14.39%

Access to territory is a fundamental right for forcibly displaced and stateless persons. In 2025, refugees and asylum-seekers continued to enjoy access to territory and protection from refoulement as guaranteed under the Refugees Act, 2021. 53 incidents of refoulement were reported, and one case of denied entry involving three Afghan asylum-seekers at the airport was recorded. In a separate incident, a request for Mutual Legal Assistance from Türkiye that could have led to the refoulement of a registered Turkish refugee was successfully overturned by the courts, reinforcing adherence to due process and international protection standards. Throughout the year, UNHCR engaged closely with the Department of Refugee Services, the Directorate of Immigration Services, and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to ensure compliance with Kenya's non-refoulement obligations and to strengthen government capacity to identify and respond to protection risks at points of entry.

UNHCR actively advocates for and safeguards this right at border entry points from Nadapal, on the Kenya-South Sudan border, through to the Western corridor, including Kitale, Bungoma, Malaba, Busia, Eldoret, Kehancha, Sirare, and Migori, working closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure access territory and asylum is guaranteed. In 2025, progress toward expected protection outcomes showed varying levels of advancement with notable gains in access to international protection alongside persistent structural and protection constraints. During the reporting period, 15,698 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered in Kakuma with 9,805 individuals recognized on a prima facie basis and 3,803 registered as asylum-seekers and granted access to asylum procedures, reflecting the continued functionality of protection systems. Freedom of movement remained restricted, with refugees and asylum-seekers required to obtain movement passes from the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), limiting mobility and self-reliance. Throughout 2025, no individuals were reported to have unrestricted freedom of movement, indicating that administrative and policy limitations continued. UNHCR, jointly with the Government, DRS and the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) responded through sustained advocacy, capacity building, and two border monitoring missions along the Western corridor further cementing UNHCR's cordial working engagement with government and stakeholders along the border entry points. UNHCR further enhanced border monitoring through the rollout of a real-time data collection tool and the distribution of tablets to 5 protection monitors to strengthen reporting, timely referrals and protection response at border points. The protection monitors are managed under DRS and the RCK. Onward movers continued to face challenges accessing territory and asylum procedures since the enactment of the Refugees Act 2021.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons are able to safely realize their basic rights, obligations and satisfy their needs

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86.42%	1.63%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

Refugees continue to face both monetary and multidimensional poverty due to the limited inclusion and participation in economic activities. Towards supporting accelerated self-reliance and ensuring that support is aligned with the needs and capacities of refugees, the Government of Kenya, in collaboration with UNHCR and WFP, has introduced a targeted approach to humanitarian and development assistance. This shift comes at a time when global demand for aid is rising while donor resources and humanitarian budgets are increasingly constrained. Through the new Differentiated Assistance (DA) model, support is tailored to different levels of refugee vulnerability, marking a transition from the current blanket assistance system to a more equitable, needs-based approach. However, the reduced funding resulted in reduced food rations in the better part of 2025 but improved from October as more resources were realized after the roll-out of the DA. The data-driven and evidence-based categorization using the Enhanced Social Registry (ESR) household socio-economic indicators, provided a baseline for the measurement of graduation at household level. With no individualized socio-economic surveys, poverty measurement for refugees remained a challenge, with dependency on data and evidence generated through joint and collaborative programmes such as the Kenya Longitudinal Socioeconomic Study of Refugees and Host Communities (K-LSRH) by the World Bank, UNHCR and the Center for Effective Global Action. The K-LSRH study (2024) reported that 84.0%, 85.0%, and 87.0% of refugee households in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei faced severe multidimensional poverty rates respectively. In 2024, deprivation was more widespread compared to 2023, particularly in employment which showed increased deprivation in all locations. A similar trend was observed in access to energy, where deprivation levels -rose slightly in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. However, a modest improvement was noted in Dadaab.

The Government of Kenya through the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) with the support of the World Bank rolled out the 2025/26 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS), a national survey undertaken every 10 years, for the first time, KIHBS has included refugees living the Dadaab and Kakuma municipalities. Inclusion of refugee households in the national statistical survey will provide more insights on their poverty levels and socio-economic characteristics. In addition, the government rolled out Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) supported K-WASH, and labor market interventions, the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) programme. Further, the government led the rollout of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiative for skills recognition and certification, and refugee integration into Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) through UNHCR support.

Due to environmental effects of perennial flooding, some sections of Dadaab and Kakuma municipalities are considered unsafe. 18 per cent of the refugee population is accommodated in locations designated as agricultural lands. UNHCR has been advocating for additional space to relocate those living in flood-prone areas and agricultural space with the DRS taking lead in the discussion with relevant government agencies. The office also started a pilot project for cash-based interventions (CBI) for shelter which targeted 250 households to support the construction of permanent shelter. The move from transitional shelters to permanent shelter has ensured there is more sustainability in provision of longer-term durable shelters thereby reducing repeated investments. Implementation through CBI also enables the community to participate in the construction of their shelters to enhance ownership of shelters and promote the local economy by ensuring supply of materials and labour from the host and refugee community.

During the reporting period, all refugees and asylum-seekers in Kakuma/Kalobeyei, Dadaab, and urban areas were able to access services within the national health system. Across the settlements, more than

1.15 million outpatient consultations were delivered (718,817 in Kakuma/Kalobeyei and 435,501 in Dadaab), alongside 44,605 mental health and psychosocial support consultations (20,245 and 24,360 respectively). This reflects both strong service utilization and growing attention to psychosocial needs. Measles vaccination coverage reached 100 per cent in Kakuma/Kalobeyei and 92 per cent in Dadaab, while skilled birth attendance remained high at 94.1 per cent and 94 per cent respectively, due to sustained attention to critical maternal and child health indicators. Access to higher-level care was ensured through functioning referral systems: in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, 226 successful secondary and tertiary referrals were supported by a UNHCR-funded 24-hour ambulance and referral mechanism, while in Dadaab, referrals to county and national hospitals enabled timely emergency response and continuity of care within national pathways. In the context of declining humanitarian funding, UNHCR strengthened system-level sustainability and financial protection in both locations by advancing the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers into Kenya's national social health insurance scheme under the Social Health Authority (SHA), registering camp health facilities as public entities and operationalizing an integrated level 5 hospital in Dadaab under the Garissa County Government. All services were accessed without out-of-pocket payments, in line with universal health coverage principles, and by year-end over 7,000 refugees and asylum-seekers had been enrolled in the national health insurance scheme, establishing a pathway for longer-term, nationally embedded health financing, with ongoing efforts to address documentation barriers and expand coverage.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons and communities are empowered through access to education, livelihoods, social protection and community development

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.00%	73.84%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.02%	72.03%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.81%	53.47%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.71%	26.18%

The Refugee Act of 2021 and its regulations provides for the right to decent work for refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya. The Act details the right of refugees to participate in economic and social development of Kenya, facilitation to access to and issuance of documentation and the right to engage in gainful employment or enterprise. Forcibly displaced persons in Kenya (municipalities and the urban locations) continue to pursue various economic opportunities through formal and informal trade, informal wage employment (with a majority serving under humanitarian agencies). With limited economic opportunities, inadequate infrastructure (road, energy and water) and access to services in Kakuma and Dadaab, refugee and host community participation in the economy is minimal, compared to urban areas. However, the rapid urbanization of Kakuma and Dadaab as municipalities is hoped to elevate their economic profile to ensure more socio-economic inclusion. The core need is to build the basic infrastructure and strengthen the enabling environment to attract investments in Kakuma and Dadaab, to allow larger access to socioeconomic opportunities and the realization of the right to decent work. Engagement with employment agencies (government and non-governmental) deepened awareness of refugee work rights, inclusion in social protection and recognition of refugees' qualifications.

In 2025, the situation of forcibly displaced and stateless children in Kenya showed measurable progress toward improved access, retention, and inclusion within the national education system. Across Dadaab,

Kakuma and urban locations, 187,154 learners accessed formal education, with girls representing 42.7 per cent of total enrollment, reflecting sustained scale despite operational constraints. Participation in nationally certified pathways strengthened, with 5,059 learners in Dadaab and 16,333 in Kakuma registered for national examinations. Access indicators reflect mixed but important shifts. At primary level, enrollment among refugee and asylum-seeker children stood at 72 per cent against a baseline of 87.23 per cent due to transitioning grades that were previously in primary school to secondary school level under the current curriculum. At secondary level, however, enrollment reached 53.5 per cent compared to a baseline of 46.78 per cent, marking notable progress in post-primary access. This improvement was supported by expanded secondary opportunities, strengthened transition support, and scholarships. Approximately 8,000 learners benefited from the Ministry of Education's Elimu Scholarship Programme in the 2024 cohort, a flagship initiative that extends critical support to the most vulnerable students, including refugee learners in camps such as Kakuma and Dadaab. Funded by the World Bank through the KPEEL and SEQIP projects, the programme facilitates the integration of forcibly displaced children into the national education system by covering tuition, school kits, and transport costs. Additionally, school meals and school grants with World Bank support, reinforced retention and progression for vulnerable learners in Kakuma and Dadaab. In Kakuma, learning outcomes were also encouraging, with over half of Junior School candidates scoring above average and 130 Kenya Certificate for Secondary Education (KCSE) candidates qualifying for university entry.

Ministry of Education engagement and ongoing development of a national strategy for refugee inclusion further strengthened government ownership and system integration. While primary education access requires renewed focus, gains in secondary participation, examination uptake, and policy integration demonstrate concrete movement toward more equitable and nationally anchored education outcomes for forcibly displaced learners.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

More refugees and other persons of concern benefit from a wider range of durable solutions

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,499	1,194
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,458	1,838
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	814
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed		
Stateless Persons	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51	0

In 2025, the operation made meaningful progress in expanding access to durable solutions and safe pathways for refugees and asylum-seekers, despite significant global and operational constraints, including reduced resettlement quotas, funding limitations, and logistical disruptions. A total of 1,194 individuals were voluntarily repatriated to Burundi, primarily from Kakuma with a smaller number from urban locations. This figure reflects a slight decrease compared to the previous year's baseline of 1,695, which fell short of the annual target of 1,400. Voluntary repatriation from Dadaab remained unfeasible because conditions in Somalia and Ethiopia were not conducive for safe return.

In parallel, resettlement continued to serve as a critical protection tool. A total of 1,838 refugees departed for resettlement to seven countries, with approximately 60 per cent originating from Kakuma and the remaining from Dadaab and urban areas. Additionally, at least 814 individuals were able to access complementary pathways, including labour mobility programs, private sponsorship, educational

opportunities, and other safe admission channels to third countries from the two field locations, including urban areas. These pathways helped diversify solutions beyond traditional resettlement and enabled refugees to pursue opportunities that enhance their economic mobility, self-reliance, and long-term stability. Overall, 2025 saw more than 3,800 refugees and asylum seekers access a durable solution through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or complementary pathways. Despite the year's constraints, these achievements strengthened protection, promoted dignity, and improved long-term stability for displaced populations in Kenya. Continued collaboration with resettlement states, host-government counterparts, and operational partners will be essential to sustain progress in 2026, expand solution opportunities, and enhance the efficiency and predictability of voluntary return and third-country options.

In 2025, no stateless individuals were granted Kenyan nationality. Despite the absence of new naturalizations, significant progress was made in identifying and documenting stateless populations. The Government of Kenya's focal point on statelessness, supported by the NGO Haki Centre, continued systematic efforts to map stateless communities and assist affected individuals through community-led self-identification processes. As a result, 3,134 stateless persons were recorded in community registers, including 1,876 Rwandese, 1,006 Rundi, and 252 Pemba individuals.

Alongside identification efforts, advocacy for legal reform remained a key priority. UNHCR provided technical support to the Government and engaged Parliament representatives on proposed amendments to the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, aimed at establishing a legal pathway for the registration and recognition of stateless people. With a draft Bill already prepared, the amendment expected to be completed in 2026 is intended to resolve the long-standing legal gaps that have hindered durable solutions for stateless communities in Kenya.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya face deeply entrenched challenges in accessing decent work, driven by a combination of structural, legal, and economic barriers that sharply limit their ability to secure stable livelihoods. Despite the right to work under the Refugee Act 2021, less than 1 per cent of refugees had a work permit, reflecting persistent bureaucratic hurdles, which restrict access to formal jobs and business opportunities. These constraints contribute to extremely low labour force participation. According to the Kenya Longitudinal Socio-economic Study for Refugee and Host community, employment among refugees in camps sits at 6% per cent and 37 per cent in the urban areas, 89 per cent of the unemployed in the Kakuma/Dadaab municipalities and 58 per cent in the urban areas were not actively seeking work due to a widespread lack of job opportunities as the primary reason. The situation is particularly severe for women, with only 5 per cent of refugee women in camps reporting any economic activity, with caregiving responsibilities and immobility further reinforcing exclusion. Even when refugees do find jobs, these are overwhelmingly short-term "incentive work" roles in the humanitarian sector, nearly 90 per cent of wage workers in settlements depending on these low-paid, unstable positions that offer little room for advancement and are highly vulnerable to funding cuts. Compounding these challenges, 79 per cent of refugees in Kakuma and 70 per cent in Kalobeyei and Dadaab lost their jobs between 2022/23 and 2024, coinciding with sharp declines in humanitarian assistance and rising economic pressures, which eroded market demand and led to widespread contraction of refugee-run micro-enterprises. Altogether, these factors create a labour market environment where decent work remains largely out of reach for most refugees, entrenching dependency, and significantly constraining pathways to self-reliance.

The operation's durable solutions space faced operational, political, and procedural constraints that affected voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and complementary pathways across all three processing locations. Voluntary repatriation movements were repeatedly delayed due to prolonged challenges in securing overflight clearances for departures from the Kakuma airstrip; although Lokichoggio was briefly cleared, the runway did not meet airline requirements, leaving Nairobi's main international airport as the only viable departure point and resulting in costly rerouting, weather-related cancellations, and considerable frustration among refugees. Limited funding and reduced staffing further slowed processing, particularly in urban areas, while instability in countries of origin restricted return options for many nationalities, despite continued self-organized returns to South Sudan from Kakuma. Resettlement efforts were constrained by reduced global quotas, funding shortfalls, inconsistent availability of government personnel managing the

Live Image Processing Software (LIPS) verification process, and indefinite suspensions of resettlement by key resettlement states such as the United States and Germany, despite the increased resettlement needs identified among the refugee population. Additionally, cases flagged for possible double registration, particularly among populations with prior movement histories or mixed-identity documentation, created further delays as resettlement states required additional verification before final decisions could be issued, slowing overall processing timelines. Complementary pathways also faced obstacles, as many eligible individuals lacked formal refugee status or required travel documentation, with slow issuance of Convention Travel Documents compounding existing backlogs and preventing timely departures. While mitigation options remain limited, closer coordination with the Government of Kenya, particularly to expedite documentation, address double-registration queries, ensure adequate staffing during movement days, and accelerate status recognition, remains critical to improving the efficiency and reliability of all durable solutions pathways

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR continued to strengthen and expand its strategic partnerships across the operation. PROSPECTS Partnership bringing together UNHCR, ILO, UNICEF, World Bank, and IFC worked closely with the Government of Kenya at both national and county levels, and local stakeholders towards system strengthening for enabling sustainable solutions. Collaboration with the counties of Turkana and Garissa, together with national ministries, departments and agencies, remained central in enhancing the protection environment and advancing policy and legal reforms. This included active support to the rollout of the Shirika Plan, which promotes a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to socioeconomic integration of refugees, as well as continued progress in operationalizing the Differentiated Assistance (DA) model. UNHCR strengthened collaboration with government and UN agencies in strengthening complementary sectoral frameworks such as social protection, financial inclusion, protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Health and other integrated approaches to protection and solutions for both refugees and host communities, to ensure consistency and alignment with national systems.

UNHCR worked closely with the Resident Coordinator's Office, significantly contributing to advocating for refugee inclusion in Kenya's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF). This ensured refugees and host communities were embedded in broader UN joint programs, aligning humanitarian responses with national development goals and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Under the UNSDCF, UNHCR collaborated with various UN agencies through joint programmes and initiatives that enhanced refugee inclusion in national systems. Their advocacy supported coordinated efforts, data-sharing, and programming that reinforced the Shirika Plan's rollout after its March 2025 launch, promoting sustainable access to essential services such as health, education, and livelihoods.

International Financial Institutions, particularly the World Bank, strengthened partnerships through the Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) portfolio, which included allocations like \$215 million for primary healthcare and institutional capacity-building in refugee-hosting regions. This provided vital technical and financial support for the Shirika Plan, complemented by collaborative research through the Kenya Analytical Program on Forced Displacement (KAP-FD) to generate evidence on socioeconomic realities and inform inclusive policies.

UNHCR strengthened partnership with the academia via the Refugee Resource Centre at the University of Nairobi for research and capacity development; the private sector through the World Economic Forum's Humanitarian Resilience Investment Initiative (HRII), which mobilized investments in Garissa and Turkana counties; and targeted initiatives such as the Kenya Longitudinal Socioeconomic Study (via KAP-FD) and refugee integration into national surveys like the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHS) with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). Collectively, these multi-stakeholder collaborations advanced refugee self-reliance, social cohesion, and durable integration within Kenya's evolving framework of integrated settlements.

UNHCR deepened development engagement, working more deliberately with national and county governments, private sector actors, development partners, and UN agencies to advance the strategic

directions and contribute to the objectives of the GCR with an aim to embed refugee inclusion within broader development agendas, enhance access to essential services, and promote sustainable, long-term solutions for refugees and host communities.

Through area-based development plans – KISEDPA, a building block of the Shirika Plan, UNHCR continued to collaborate and partner with the Turkana County on inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in county development plans and service delivery mechanisms. With renewed focus, a transition committee was established to consider and provide strategic pathways towards systems-building and integrated service delivery in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Health sectors for refugee and host communities in Kakuma Municipality. A total of 12 implementing and more than 40 operational partners including WFP, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT and IOM in Kakuma continued to provide protection services and solutions to refugees and host communities amidst funding shortfalls, re-prioritization and burden-sharing to ensure sustained and uninterrupted life-saving assistance and services. UNHCR continued to provide critical field expertise, community engagement, coordination and mobilization support to facilitate effective outreach and ensure refugee participation in these interventions.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Access to civil registration services and issuance of legally recognized civil status documentation is strengthened.

Access to the territory of Kenya is guaranteed, national reception procedures are effective and refugees and asylum-seekers are issued with legally recognized identity documents by national refugee management authorities.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	97.05%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28.73%	100.00%	64.00%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	99.81%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	52,407	
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10,117	
Stateless Persons	2,660	

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As of 31 December 2025, the registered population in Kenya was 835,793 individuals comprising 617,134 (74%) refugees and 218,659 (26%) asylum-seekers, with 52,407 registered in 2025. Dadaab population stood at 406,725 individuals, Kakuma 310,755 with 225,701 in Kakuma Camp 82,629 in Kalobeyei settlement and 2,425 in Eldoret, urban population stood at 118,313 covering Nairobi, Mombasa and Nakuru town areas.

New arrivals continued to access Kenyan asylum territory through the border entry points mostly at Nadapal on the Kenya-South Sudan border and Busia and Malaba in the western corridor and were able to access registration services and asylum procedures provided by the Department of Refugee Services (DRS). However, a small number of individuals (around 3 per cent) experienced challenges in accessing

registration due to the government of Kenya policy to suspend/restrict registration for onward movers already registered in other countries and new arrivals from certain nationalities perceived to be economic migrants transiting through Kenya.

There were 53 individuals reported to have been refouled in Kakuma and 3 asylum seekers from Afghanistan were refused entry through the main airport. UNHCR and partners responded through advocacy, capacity building, border monitoring missions, and deployment of real-time data tools for protection monitoring to ensure access to territory. UNHCR and partners also sought legal recourse by monitoring court processes during a potential case of refoulement. The case was resolved and the individual resettled to Canada in February 2026.

UNHCR continued to support DRS Registration and RSD staff with training and technical assistance to build their capacity and enhance efficient processing of asylum application and access to the relevant documentation.

While refugees living in the urban areas were allowed free movement, freedom of movement remained restricted for camp-based refugees and asylum-seekers due to the government's encampment policy in designated areas. Movement passes issued by DRS permitted travel outside the camps for a limited period. UNHCR's collaboration with key government departments, including the DRS, the Civil Registration Services (CRS) and the Directorate of Immigration Services (DIS) significantly strengthened access to vital documentation for refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people. Through joint planning, capacity-building, and streamlined referral mechanisms, these partnerships enabled individuals of concern to obtain essential documents such as birth certificates, refugee identity cards, and Convention Travel Documents (CTDs). These efforts were further complemented by NGO partners the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Haki Centre Organization, whose legal aid services, community outreach supported enhanced awareness and helped overcome procedural related barriers. This coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach improved the efficiency and integrity of documentation processes while reinforcing protection outcomes by ensuring timely access to legal identity and related services.

Refugees and asylum-seekers were able to access identity documentation in accordance with the Refugees Act, 2021 and the Refugee Regulations, 2024. DRS issued 9,983 decision letters and facilitated issuance of 15,149 refugee ID cards and 186 Convention Travel Documents (CTDs).

In Kakuma and Dadaab, UNHCR supported missions by the county civil registrars to issue birth certificates to refugee children in the camps while in the urban areas, refugees were able to apply for birth certificates from the civil registration offices. In total, CRS issued 18,495 birth certificates to refugees, and 2,660 stateless people were supported to access birth certificates.

UNHCR continued to collaborate with CRS to strengthen civil registration systems and expand access to birth registration for forcibly displaced and stateless populations. UNHCR provided technical guidance, training, and operational support to improve the inclusivity and efficiency of registration procedures. Advocacy focused on simplifying requirements, enhancing interoperability between refugee and civil registration systems, and ensuring that national legal identity strategies explicitly include refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless communities. Through community outreach and collaboration with partners such as Haki Centre, UNHCR also helped address practical barriers and increase awareness of the importance of birth notification and certification as a safeguard against statelessness.

Access to birth registration and certification for stateless persons improved through targeted community-based interventions led by Haki Centre, UNHCR's NGO partner in coastal Kenya. Working closely with local civil registration offices and community leaders, Haki Centre supported stateless families, particularly from the Pemba, Rundi, and Rwandese communities—to navigate the civil registration system, understand documentary requirements, and complete late birth registration processes. Through mobile outreach, legal awareness sessions, and individualized case support, the organization helped previously undocumented children and adults obtain or apply for birth certificates, a critical first step toward recognition, access to essential services, and future pathways to nationality.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

The efficiency, fairness and adaptability of national refugee status determination procedures is strengthened

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,757.00	1,200.00	1,267.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Kenya through the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) by providing technical support, capacity building, promoting data sharing, individualized coaching of staff and reinforcing quality assurance mechanisms to enhance the efficiency and quality of the asylum processes. In 2025, DRS finalized a total of 15,616 RSD decisions which is largely consistent with the decisions in 2024 and exceeding the annual target of 13,960. This also reflects increased efficiency within the national asylum system and a positive performance for the first time in the past five years.

In 2025, UNHCR supported DRS to finalize and validate the RSD and Refugee Status Eligibility Panel standard operating procedures (SOPS), facilitated ProGres migration to the new ProGres for Government interface and provided training for 82 DRS RSD staff and, coordinated with DRS to clear a backlog of uncollected decision letters and the letters that were pending printing and issuance from prior reporting periods. DRS, with support from UNHCR through peer-to-peer reviews of complex caseloads, finalized 12 cases recommended for rejection, addressing a long-standing concern as no rejections had been completed in previous years.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) supported targeted capacity building for DRS RSD reviewers with UNHCR facilitating the sessions. This contributed to enhanced capacity and promoting a harmonized approach to case reviews across the country.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

The national protection framework is amended to enable enjoyment of fundamental rights and access to protection services by the affected populations, in line with international standards and obligations.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Not yet aligned	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
Stateless Persons	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The enactment of the Refugee Act 2021 and the Refugees (General) Regulations 2024 marked a significant milestone in Kenya's efforts to advance refugee inclusion in national and county development plans and expand access to the labour market. During the reporting year, sector-specific policy advocacy supported the adoption of refugee-inclusive frameworks, including the Social Protection Act 2025, the Subscriber Regulations, and the National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2025–2028. UNHCR provided technical expertise through targeted stakeholder engagements and training on the provisions of the Act and Regulations. In Kakuma, 30 Border Management Authority staff and 22 Department of Refugee Services (DRS) staff were trained, alongside refugee-led organizations (RLOs), with emphasis on refugee rights and access to employment. UNHCR also worked with the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) to advocate before the Turkana County Assembly Justice, Human Rights, Legal and Refugee Affairs Committee, resulting in amendments to standing orders that now allow refugees to petition the County Assembly and submit memoranda.

In 2025, the Government launched the Shirika Plan, a long-term strategy to transform refugee camps into integrated settlements where refugees and host communities can access national systems for health, education, business opportunities, financial services, and other public services. Additional policy gains included the integration of refugees into the National Education Management Information System (NEMIS), enabling access to formal education, and the introduction of Accreditation of Prior Learning through the Kenya National Qualifications Authority, enhancing recognition of refugee skills and employability. Refugees can now access key national systems including the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), and Kenya Revenue Authority Personal Identification Number (PIN)

strengthening access to health care, social protection, and economic participation. Refugee inclusion was further mainstreamed into County Integrated Development Plans in Garissa, Turkana, and Nairobi, reinforcing a whole-of-government approach. In addition, the Kenya Information and Communications (Registration of Telecommunications Service Subscribers) Regulations, Legal Notice No. 90 of 2025, formally recognized the refugee identity card, enabling access to mobile money services and significantly improving financial inclusion.

In Dadaab, UNHCR, in collaboration with RCK and DRS, strengthened protection and inclusion by facilitating capacity-building and awareness sessions for 840 stakeholders, including Court Users Committees, refugee-led organizations, community groups, the Social Development Office, law enforcement, and county government officials. The sessions focused on the Refugees Act (2021) and Refugee Regulations, improving understanding of refugee rights particularly socio-economic inclusion and equipping duty-bearers and community actors to support compliance with the legal framework. These efforts contributed to a more enabling and accountable protection environment in the host community.

UNHCR continued to support the Government of Kenya in advancing legislative reform on statelessness through the proposed amendment of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act (KCIA) via the 2025 Bill. UNHCR liaised closely with the Bill sponsor and provided technical input to parliamentary counsel to ensure alignment with international standards and the establishment of a viable legal pathway for the identification and registration of stateless people. The KCIA Bill 2025 progressed through internal government consultations and was submitted to the Government Printer in November 2025, with parliamentary engagement ongoing to support its tabling in the National Assembly. Complementary efforts by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Haki Centre, civil society coalitions, and community leaders strengthened evidence generation, public participation, and political advocacy, sustaining momentum toward reform.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Safer environments are in place for women, girls and others most-at-risk and access to GBV prevention and response is strengthened including through national services

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.10%	100.00%	80.48%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	72.99%	90.00%	73.79%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.31%	100.00%	82.07%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15,910

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners ensured access to specialized Gender Based Violence (GBV) services for survivors, despite funding constraints and rising needs. 529 new GBV incidents were reported across operations, with the majority recorded in Kakuma, followed by Dadaab and Nairobi. The reporting trends continue to highlight the heightened vulnerability of women, who accounted for 87% of all survivors, while LGBTIQ+ individuals represented 9% of those affected. These patterns underscore persistent protection gaps across the operational areas and reinforce the need for strengthened, inclusive GBV interventions.

All survivors received safe, confidential, multi-sectoral support, including case management, medical care, psychosocial, legal, and referrals services. Prevention and risk mitigation were strengthened by training 1,135 frontline and community members on GBV, PSEA, protection mainstreaming, and gender equality, while over 350 men participated in Engaging Men through Accountable Practices sessions in Kakuma and Nairobi. Interagency coordination improved through monthly GBV Working Group meetings co-chaired by DRS and partners, enhancing referral pathways, joint analysis, and harmonized approaches. UNHCR promoted inclusion by supporting national and community commemorations such as International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism. As a core PSEA Network member, UNHCR led strategy development and community consultations. Additionally, support to 22 Refugee-Led Organizations for formal registration, training strengthened community ownership and expanded localized GBV response capacity.

As a core member of the PSEA Network, UNHCR led strategy development and conducted comprehensive community consultations, informing future PSEA programming. RLOs received technical guidance, targeted training, and staffing support, enhancing their roles in GBV case management support, community mobilization and awareness, and early risk identification and safe referrals. This investment strengthened community ownership and expanded localized GBV response capacity. UNHCR leveraged other agencies', partners' and RLOs' expertise and comparative advantages in GBV programming. DRC led protection monitoring informed evidence-based messaging and programming. GBV programming was affected by budget cuts in 2025. However, joint efforts and stakeholder contributions ensured that survivors and vulnerable individuals received essential services. Additionally, over 11,000 people accessed GBV prevention and response information through coordinated community outreach. Other operational partners and government partners played a crucial supportive role by participating in joint analysis, planning, and coordination platforms. They enabled cross-agency referrals, so survivors could access comprehensive services. Partners also directly delivered key services that strengthened the overall GBV response system supporting DRC Led joint capacity-building initiatives for women-led organizations, community volunteers, and government officials, expanding the number of trained stakeholders involved in GBV prevention and response. UNHCR's participation in the National Technical Working Group on GBV strengthened the inclusion of refugees in national GBV systems. Through engagement in national strategic planning, service structures, and GBV data-management processes, UNHCR helped reinforce government ownership and support the development of sustainable, integrated GBV data systems that include refugees.

In conclusion, multi-sectoral GBV services remained functional and accessible, and survivors centered. Local capacities improved, with RLOs increasingly integrated into GBV programming. GBV coordination systems were strengthened across the operation. Thousands of refugees and host community members were reached through prevention, training, and awareness efforts. Survivor access to critical services was maintained, despite a constrained funding environment.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Children of concern have access to strengthened child protection mechanisms, including national child protection systems and services

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48.59%	65.00%	16.23%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.08%	30.00%	8.49%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.04%	80.00%	44.68%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	111,482

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Across the operation substantial progress was made toward ensuring children of concern access strengthened child protection systems. The operation showed improvements in prevention, response, inclusion, and accountability. However, as the results illustrated, the achievements towards the baseline were severely affected by the 2025 funding cuts. Across the operation, the most vulnerable cases and critical interventions were prioritized.

In Kakuma, implementation of Child Protection Regulations improved the protection environment. Services included Best Interest Assessments/Determination (BIAs/BIDs), specialized case interventions, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions.

In Dadaab, the operation delivered a continuum of care covering case management, MHPSS, child friendly spaces (CFS), and community-based protection. Case management targets were exceeded despite cuts, through Best Interest Procedures and support for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Other activities included identification of children at heightened risk, participation by children in accountability forums, radio broadcasts about child protection, and CFS activities.

In urban areas, the operation focused on systems strengthening, coordination, case management, and capacity-building. UNHCR co-chaired the Child Protection Working Group – aimed at better partner coordination. UNHCR supported BIA/BIDs, food voucher distribution, and cash-based intervention (CBI) referrals.

Together, these achievements reflect more accessible and coordinated child protection systems across the operation.

UNHCR provided technical leadership, coordination, financing, and quality assurance across all locations, through leading inter-agency coordination and ensuring harmonized approaches and referral pathways. UNHCR strengthened Best Interests Procedures by reviewing and endorsing BIA/BIDs, chairing BID panels, and ensuring child-centered decision-making. Capacity-building was central, with training for case workers and government officers, and strengthening the capacity of community structures. Despite funding reductions, UNHCR maintained core services such as MHPSS, UASC support, CFS programming, and community-based protection. Accountability mechanisms, safe reporting pathways, and PSEA safeguards were also strengthened.

Government actors including Department of Refugee Services (DRS), State Department for Children Services (SDCS), and the Police co-chaired coordination forums, verified UASC, led rescues, facilitated foster care and court processes, and supported documentation and legal pathways.

NGOs and partners deliver case management, GBV services, legal aid, disability inclusion, foster care, therapeutic care, and community engagement.

Community structures like Child Protection committees, volunteers, block leaders, youth groups played a critical role in early identification, referrals, sensitization, and feedback. Caregivers contributed through participation in counselling and positive parenting, strengthening household-level protection.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention on account of irregular entry, stay or legal status are reduced and access to legal remedies is enhanced.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,934

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR, in close collaboration with the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) and NGO legal partner the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), made significant progress in minimizing the detention of refugees and asylum-seekers while promoting access to effective legal remedies. Continuous capacity-building initiatives on the Refugees Act, 2021 and broader refugee protection principles targeted a diverse range of stakeholders, including police officers, border officials, Court Users Committees (CuC), and magistrates. These efforts contributed to improved awareness, strengthened protection-sensitive practices, and facilitated rapid information sharing between government authorities and UNHCR, resulting in the efficient resolution of most detention cases.

UNHCR continued to advocate for access to territory for new arrivals through the various border entry points. Through RCK, 5 border monitors monitored border entry points and towns in the flight corridor including Nadapal, Lodwar, Kitale, Bungoma, Malaba, Busia, Eldoret, Kehancha, Sirare and Migori. Border monitoring was enhanced through the role out of a real-time data collection tool and the distribution of tablets to 5 border monitors to strengthen reporting, timely referrals and protection response at border points along the Western flight corridor. With support of other actors UNHCR coordinated, followed up and provided required support related to asylum/immigration/smuggling involving Eritreans and Ethiopians arrested in different areas around Turkana County.

Regular monitoring of detention facilities at police stations and prisons and timely coordination enabled the early identification of persons at risk, particularly those detained on grounds of illegal entry, stay, or unclear legal status. UNHCR collaborated with the Department of Refugee Services and RCK to support 879 refugees and asylum-seekers in migration-related detention cases to ensure they received legal support that promoted early release. In total, 715 refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from legal counselling, court representation, or legal aid services, including through legal aid clinics.

UNHCR worked with the Department of Refugees services and RCK to strengthen access to justice and reduce protection risks for refugees and asylum seekers, including arbitrary arrests on immigration-related grounds. Refugees and asylum-seekers were able to access the Kenyan legal system with UNHCR, and the legal partners provided legal assistance to 2,940 individuals across Kakuma, Dadaab and the urban areas, enhancing their access to legal remedies, strengthened lawful stay, and reduced vulnerability to arbitrary arrest.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons and their host communities increase their meaningful engagement and participation in policy decisions and programme activities affecting their lives.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
Stateless Persons	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48.75%	50.00%	28.57%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	309
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	360,235
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	540,285

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR Kenya strengthened Accountability to Affected Populations despite funding pressures, ensuring refugees and host communities meaningfully engaged nationwide. Feedback and response mechanisms remained active across Kakuma, Dadaab, and urban areas, enabling communities to raise concerns. UNHCR reinforced refugee leadership, expanded community engagement, supported Persons with Special Needs (PSNs), empowered youth, and advanced national inclusion through government engagement.

The AGD approach remains central to programming. Although no Participatory Assessment (PA) was conducted due to funding constraints, over 400,000 individuals were engaged, complemented a PA review workshop with 14 agencies to gather partner feedback and inform 2026 planning.

UNHCR-supported feedback mechanisms enabled over 344,000 people to share concerns through hotlines, help desks, digital platforms, and community forums. Kakuma expanded real-time communication through community forums, outreach, radio, and digital channels, especially to counter protests and misinformation. More than 3,000 individuals participated in urban outreach, supported by strengthened WhatsApp groups. In Dadaab, 4 community structures supported localized messaging. Targeted sessions, workshops and radio events reached over 4,200 people, and mass-awareness efforts (caravans, radio shows, bulk SMS) reached 346,582 individuals.

Refugee leadership were strengthened through capacity building and coordinated elections. Kakuma achieved 50% gender parity in leadership roles. A workshop for 60 Refugee-led Organizations (RLOs) and a targeted training for Women-Led Organizations were conducted. UNHCR trained over 70 RLOs, including Women-Led Organizations, established an urban RLO leadership board, and provided direct funding to support community initiatives. UNHCR also facilitated registration and vetting of RLOs with government departments.

220,882 PSNs, including older persons, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ individuals, received specialized services (997 urban, 16951 Kakuma, 2934 Dadaab). Urban assistance focused on capacity building and protection through training, information sessions, disability assessments, assistive devices, caregiver support, and case management for LGBTIQ+ GBV survivors. Partners also marked the International Day for Persons with Disabilities to promote rights and inclusion. In Dadaab, services were delivered mainly through HI rehabilitation centers, providing rehabilitation, assistive devices, prosthetics and orthotics, and referrals.

Youth engagement remained strong with 137404 adolescents and youth involved in peacebuilding, advocacy, sports, and community activities. The Urban Youth Technical Working Group improved coordination, and 1,135 youth participated in peacebuilding and advocacy platforms. In Dadaab, 96,403 youth (70% of youth population) and 39,866 in Kakuma were reached by regular coordination forums, meetings, games, and tournaments.

UNHCR advanced national inclusion through CBP by working with DRS, child protection and social protection authorities, disability bodies, and county governments to strengthen refugee access to national systems. Refugee voices were elevated through national observance and advocacy events. UNHCR enhanced refugee engagement in policy platforms, eg. Nairobi County Refugee Inclusion Strategy. Coordination and partnerships were reinforced through technical working group meetings and expanded collaboration with government.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

The well-being of the refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons is improved and the gap in basic needs is bridged, including through enhanced use of cash-based interventions.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19.61%	100.00%	20.49%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.49%	100.00%	17.74%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Host Community	423
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88,758
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	49,025
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24,881

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting period, UNHCR Kenya supported a total of 89,181 individuals through cash-based interventions across Kakuma, Dadaab and Nairobi. Cash assistance covered a broad spectrum of interventions, including permanent shelter support, basic and tertiary education, voluntary repatriation, medical training, hygiene support for women of reproductive age, cash for work initiatives, and social protection programmes – aligned with the Government Programmes.

In 2025, progress toward the defined outcomes was realized through the timely and effective delivery of CBIs to forcibly displaced populations, addressing immediate humanitarian needs while simultaneously strengthening resilience, supporting durable solutions, and investing in long-term human capital development, delivered through direct implementation and partnerships. To enhance financial inclusion and ensure secure payment modalities, UNHCR facilitated the opening of bank accounts for all households receiving basic needs assistance. Multi-purpose cash assistance reached 82,696 individuals, addressing basic needs and protection while enhancing resilience and wellbeing, including hygiene support for 73,550 women.

Social protection reached 228 individuals, aligned with Government systems, while cash-based interventions improved wellbeing and inclusion. Education support enabled 758 children to access basic education and 367 to pursue tertiary studies, alongside 491 individuals trained in healthcare. Cash-for-work engaged 394 individuals, strengthening livelihoods, and 1,170 individuals were supported to voluntarily repatriate to Burundi. Additionally, 3,077 individuals transitioned to permanent shelters meeting minimum protection standards, improving living conditions, and reducing environmental risks.

During the reporting period, a total of 82,076 individuals were supported with non-food items (NFIs), including assorted core relief supplies, to address immediate basic needs and enhance household safety, dignity, and overall wellbeing. This total includes targeted support provided in response to flooding in Dadaab, where 1,153 affected households received critical relief items such as blankets, sleeping mats, and soap to help stabilize living conditions and reduce exposure to health and protection risks, as well as 246 vulnerable households identified through referrals who were assisted with essential items to address urgent protection concerns and strengthen their resilience.

UNHCR and partners estimate that 94% of refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab rely on firewood and charcoal as their primary cooking energy sources. Alternative energy solutions, such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and electric cooking, are gradually being introduced in the camps, driven by private sector actors and a few international NGOs, including SNV in the case of Kakuma.

Improved cookstoves are also increasingly being adopted in both Kakuma and Dadaab through initiatives led by UNHCR and partners, as well as other associations and private sector actors.

This intervention was strategically designed to enhance household energy efficiency, reduce reliance on firewood, and lower fuel-related costs for refugee and host community households. In addition, the initiative contributed to environmental conservation efforts by reducing pressure on natural resources, while improving cooking safety and overall household resilience.

During the reporting year, Relief Reconstruction & Development Organization (RRDO) successfully fabricated and distributed 4,000 energy-saving stoves across the Dadaab complex as part of its broader clean energy and environmental protection strategy. All required production materials were sourced and procured in a timely manner to ensure uninterrupted fabrication and adherence to quality standards. Beneficiary identification was conducted in close coordination with UNHCR and DRS field offices, with priority given to the most vulnerable households and those with large family sizes to ensure equitable and high-impact distribution.

The stoves were distributed as follows: (i) Dagahaley – 900 stoves; (ii) Hagadera – 900 stoves (distributed by FAIDA in Hagadera Camp); (iii) Ifo 1 – 900 stoves; (iv) Ifo 2 – 800 stoves; and (v) Dadaab – 500 stoves. During the same period, LOKADO fabricated 2,441 improved cookstoves and distributed 2,391 in Kakuma Refugee Camp (municipality) and Kalobeyei Settlement.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Forcibly displaced, stateless and their host communities in Kenya, have improved physical and economic means to prepare, withstand recover and be protected from the impacts of climate change.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.20%	100.00%	4.73%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34.35%	32.00%	59.40%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24,881

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Kakuma presents the most advanced dynamic of the two operations. The 2022-2025 Strategy provided a structured framework for transitioning to renewable energy, notably by mobilizing the private sector through the government-coordinated KISED P platform. This approach enabled private companies to offer lighting solutions to households through flexible models such as pay-as-you-go, post-pay, and consumer credit, making energy access more affordable. In 2025, the multi-stakeholder partnership reached 55,938 people. The flagship project remains the expansion of Renewvia's solar mini grid in Kalobeyei, whose capacity will increase from 640 kWp to 2.1 MWp. This expansion is expected to extend clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to areas of Kakuma that historically depended on costly and polluting diesel generators for basic lighting and productive activities.

Dadaab presents a more precarious situation. Household lighting relies primarily on two solutions: solar panels for comprehensive domestic use and solar lanterns distributed by UNHCR and partners for basic lighting needs. These lanterns, being relatively affordable, represent the most widespread solution across the camps. Despite this, only 20% of households — approximately 15,714 households representing 78,567 forcibly displaced persons use solar energy for domestic lighting, meaning that 80% of households still lack adequate access to lighting, which represents a considerable deficit.

Looking ahead, Kakuma's foundations are promising. The KISED P platform continues to structure private sector engagement, and the Renewvia grid expansion represents a concrete step toward broader electrification. The priority will be to sustain these public-private partnerships and extend their reach to households still without coverage. In Dadaab, sustained advocacy efforts will be essential to mobilize the resources and financial guarantees needed to attract private sector involvement. The implementation of the Shirika Plan and the GISED P will be key to embedding electrification within a framework of integration and durable solutions, moving beyond a purely humanitarian response.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Health and nutrition status of the refugees and stateless persons is maintained or improved.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	106.39%	100.00%	97.94%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.19%	100.00%	94.39%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		1,154,318
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		44,605

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Across Kakuma/Kalobeyi and Dadaab, the operation-maintained interventions towards preserving and improving the health and nutrition status of refugees and asylum seekers, with high coverage on core primary health care (PHC) and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services.

In Kakuma, 100% of children 5-59 months received measles vaccination, while 94.1% of births were attended by skilled personnel, demonstrating sustained performance on critical preventive and maternal health indicators in line with universal health coverage (UHC) objectives. Service utilization remained high, with 718,817 total consultations, alongside 20,245 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations, signaling improved access to care and increasing recognition of psychosocial needs.

In Dadaab, PHC delivery was maintained despite significant resource constraints and population growth. Measles vaccination coverage was 92% and skilled birth attendance 94%. A total of 435,501 consultations were conducted, with an average of 98 consultations per clinician per day against an acceptable standard of fewer than 50, underscoring both high demand and the strain on available human resources. MHPSS services reached 24,360 consultations, accompanied by community and family support systems where formal services are insufficient.

Overall, UNHCR's contribution reinforced integrated service delivery within the county and national health system. This included financing and coordinating essential health services, maintaining skilled personnel, provision of essential medicines, supporting referral and ambulance systems, and advancing refugee inclusion in national health financing reforms. County health authorities and the Ministry of Health provided leadership on policy, norms, standards, medicines (for malaria, Tuberculosis and ARV), vaccines and human resources, while NGO partners managed day-to-day clinical care, community health outreach, demand generation and follow-up. These complementary roles enabled continuity of services and high coverage, even under worsening budget situations.

The operation advanced integration of refugee health system into Kenya's UHC framework. All camps/settlements health facilities were registered as public health entities and accredited with the Social Health Authority (SHA), laying groundwork for expanded use of social health insurance for refugees and host communities. UNHCR completed the construction, equipping and handover of an integrated level 5 hospital, which the Garissa County now operates under the national social health insurance scheme. This will reduce

the cost of secondary and tertiary care previously borne through costly referrals to Garissa and Nairobi. These investments in systems, infrastructure, and financing mechanisms in Kakuma/Kalobeyei and Dadaab contribute to a more sustainable, nationally aligned model of service delivery for forcibly displaced and host populations.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Access of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons to quality formal and non-formal education and training at all levels is enhanced.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2.22%	7.00%	1.82%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.35%	10.00%	12.23%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	172,108

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Across Kakuma and Dadaab, a combined total of 172,108 learners accessed inclusive and quality education during the reporting period, with girls representing approximately 43% of total enrolment. More than 21,000 learners were supported to register for and sit national examinations, contributing to improved learning outcomes, with over 500 Kenya Certificate for Secondary Education (KCSE) candidates attaining university-entry grades and more than half of Junior School graduates scoring above average in national assessments. A total of 2,035 teachers and education personnel were supported to sustain continuity of learning. Investments in infrastructure and digital connectivity including new classrooms, gender-segregated latrines, solar installations, and internet connectivity across schools strengthened learning environments, while scholarships and alternative pathways expanded access and retention, particularly for vulnerable learners.

In Kakuma, 120,035 learners (42% girls) were supported across pre-primary, primary, junior, and secondary levels, including over 6,000 learners retained under the Government-led Elimu Scholarship Programme which is funded under the Window for Host communities and refugees from the World Bank. UNHCR supported 1,214 teachers, constructed 20 classrooms and 76 latrines, and provided education kits, dignity kits, and uniforms to enhance retention, particularly for girls. Through localization, UNHCR partnered with a refugee-led organization for advanced digital learning initiatives. Sustained advocacy strengthened Ministry of Education (MoE) engagement in quality assurance, examinations management, teacher training, school meals, school improvement grants, and scholarships. In Dadaab, 47,539 learners (44.5% girls) were enrolled across 54 schools, with 5,059 learners supported to sit national assessments. A total of 821 teachers and education personnel were supported. UNHCR enhanced digital access through installation of

Starlink internet in all schools and solar systems in secondary schools and one Integrated Network Solutions (INS) Centre.

UNHCR's contribution focused on financing and coordinating teacher support, infrastructure development, learning materials, examination registration, digital connectivity, and gender-responsive retention interventions. UNHCR also played a strategic convening and advocacy role, strengthening policy alignment, data harmonization, and integration of refugee schools into Kenya's national education framework. The Government of Kenya, through the MoE and county authorities, provided oversight, curriculum standardization, and inclusion of refugee schools in national programmes. Education partners and refugee-led organizations supported implementation and innovation.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons have equitable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	99.04%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	61.19%	100.00%	81.87%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	715,036

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR and partners significantly expanded and maintained water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services across both Kakuma/Kalobeyei and Dadaab, contributing to more equitable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities. In Kakuma and Kalobeyei, the operation optimized available resources to operate and maintain a system comprising 22 boreholes, 45 storage reservoirs, and an extensive water reticulation network. As a result, 310,581 refugees and asylum-seekers accessed clean and safe water for personal and domestic use. The operation extended 325 metres of new pipelines to newly settled communities together with rehabilitation of 1,246 metres of damaged pipes to restore functionality. Water safety was strengthened through systematic testing and chlorination - 18,144 kilograms of chlorine were used for treatment, complemented by community sensitization on safe water storage and handling.

In Dadaab, 408,235 refugees and 1,510 members of the host community had access to WASH services by year end. Water from 27 boreholes was pumped to 42 elevated tanks (4,250 m³ total capacity) and distributed through a 278 km pipeline to 992 tap stands, with 2,214,324 m³ (67.7 per cent) produced using diesel and 1,056,168 m³ (32.3 per cent) from solar power. This ratio of solar energy could be improved through upgrading aging solar system with current more efficient technology. The formalization of the Market Water Committees as registered Water and Sanitation Societies further strengthened community-based management and generated US\$ 265,731 in revenue to support system operations. During the year,

13 perimeter fences for boreholes and elevated tanks were repaired, 15 borehole breakdowns were resolved, 2,911 metres of pipeline were rehabilitated, and 800 metres of new pipeline were laid to new settlements. Six new tap stands were constructed, and 17 existing stands (including nine in schools) were repaired, while 27 borehole generators, solar systems, and pumps were regularly maintained. Water quality monitoring was scaled up, while inline chlorination continued to ensure water safety.

Sanitation and hygiene services were also strengthened in both operations. In Kakuma/Kalobeyei, 16,588 people (some new arrivals) at reception centres received hygiene promotion on solid waste management, cleaning of water containers, food hygiene, handwashing and appropriate latrine use. 35 sanitation facilities at reception centres were repaired, 26 decommissioned and 13 doors replaced, while 109 family shared latrines were constructed for newly settled households and 170 households received slabs and poles under a community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach. Twelve inclusive latrines were constructed for households with persons with specific needs; 93 old latrines were decommissioned and backfilled, and recovered slabs were reused, maximizing scarce resources. In addition, 5,072 girls and boys participated in menstrual health and hygiene and teenage pregnancy prevention sessions. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in institutions was improved through the construction of 20 handwashing facilities, five placenta pits, six incinerators with ash pits, eight staff flush toilets and 17 blocks of pit latrines in health facilities, as well as 19 blocks of latrines in schools serving both refugees and host communities.

In Dadaab, sanitation coverage and hygiene promotion were expanded. Construction of 330 household latrines in Ifo 2 and Hagadera increased the total number of latrines to 43,668 (communal and household) for 78,567 households, resulting in 55.6 per cent latrine coverage. In schools, 36 bio-digester latrine stalls (across nine blocks) were built, supporting both education and WASH outcomes. A total of 99,626.75 kilograms of soap and 3,161 jerrycans were distributed to targeted displaced persons, including new arrivals and flood-affected households. Hygiene promotion was conducted by 46 hygiene promoters who reached 57,220 households (approximately 73 per cent of all households) with key messages, while 10,564 households and latrines were disinfected and 40 dumping pits and 54 mass cleanup campaigns helped to improve environmental sanitation. 30 schools received chemicals for soap making, enhancing school-level hygiene initiatives.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Refugees, asylum seekers and host communities become self-reliant through strengthened livelihood support and economic inclusion.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.39%	51.70%	62.39%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Data not available	3.00%	6.42%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,261

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR led coordination, strategic guidance, and foundational investments in livelihoods and economic inclusion, resulting in a strengthened ecosystem supported through diverse partnerships. These efforts included trade fairs and exhibitions, development of a transition model within differentiated assistance, expansion of tailored financial products, and continued advocacy for an enabling environment. Investments in vocational training, skills recognition, certification, and expanded access to credit positioned participants for income gains. The scaleup of market driven Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) reached 3,261 youth (1,126 women and 2,105 men), while 6,000 individuals were registered for skills recognition, increasing a pipeline of qualified candidates for wage and self-employment. Digital freelancers also benefited from structured training, mentorship, and online job readiness support, enabling them to transition from skills acquisition into active participation on digital platforms.

Significant progress was made in financial inclusion through policy advocacy and coordinated implementation that expanded refugees' access to mobile money and banking services. UNHCR advocacy contributed to Government reforms under the Refugee Act (2021), the Shirika Plan, and the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) commitments. The 2025 amendments to the Kenya Information and Communications (Subscriber) Regulations, granting refugees with valid documents the right to register SIM cards in their own names, were a transformative shift that enabled direct access to mobile based financial services, digital wallets, and electronic payment systems. To operationalize these reforms, UNHCR, Safaricom, DRS, and WFP conducted mass SIM registration exercises across refugee sites, expanding participation in digital financial ecosystems and strengthening autonomy and security in financial transactions.

UNHCR and stakeholders also deepened collaboration with the Central Bank of Kenya, securing the inclusion of refugees in the new National Financial Inclusion Strategy (2025–2028). This milestone commits stakeholders to addressing long-standing legal barriers in formal financial markets. At the community level, livelihoods programming expanded Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and financial literacy efforts, supporting incremental growth in savings, investment, and participation in local markets.

Despite the legal challenges, through partnerships with Equity Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Inkomoko, and Kenya Bankers SACCO, refugees and asylum seekers access to financial services hold bank grew, with 57% of them having bank accounts labelled as social accounts, which are increasingly used for savings, transfers, and everyday transactions. 62.3% of them are held by women, which reflects strengthened women's economic agency and decision-making power.

Economic empowerment gains continued, with 5% of the population self-reporting positive changes in 2025, driven by engagement across different livelihood pathways. However, unemployment remains extremely high at 93% (K-LSRH 2024), reflecting broader economic challenges; weak market systems, aid dependency, limited private-sector investment, underdeveloped value chains, restricted access to productive financial services, documentation constraints, and slow urbanization. Employment opportunities remained predominantly informal, low-paying, and characterized by weak social protection access. Funding reductions in 2025 further weakened market systems through job losses, including among incentive workers.

Despite these challenges, progress in the sector was made possible through strong, deliberate partnerships supporting a shift to a market systems approach. Collaboration with government actors, including DRS, the Central Bank, the State Department for Social Protection, National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), county departments and municipalities, advanced policy reform, group registration, skills certification, standards development, and technical training for refugees and asylum-seekers. Partnerships with UN agencies, development partners, Private sector and NGOs remained critical for strengthening market visibility and shaping strategic directions for inclusive market ecosystems, entrepreneurship, and household graduation models.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Refugees who wish to return to their countries of origin do so voluntary, in safety and with dignity.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,674

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Throughout 2025, UNHCR, together with DRS and DRC, supported voluntary repatriation processing through help desks in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyei Settlement and the Joint Refugee Service Centre in Nairobi. Refugees and asylum-seekers received counselling and information on conditions in their areas of return to support informed decision-making, with additional guidance provided by UNHCR in line with applicable Position on Return guidance. During the year, more than 2,000 individuals of various nationalities registered their intention to return, and 1,194 were assisted to voluntarily repatriate, mainly to Burundi. UNHCR, in coordination with DRS, DRC, the Burundi operation, Burundian authorities and development partners, ensured that returns were voluntary, safe and dignified, while strengthened verification, pre-departure support and reintegration assistance contributed to improved efficiency and protection-sensitive delivery of this durable solution.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

More refugees benefit from third country solutions through resettlement and complementary pathways.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,761	4,000	710

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR Kenya submitted 710 Resettlement Registration Forms (RRFs) to Australia, Canada, and other States through both allocated and unallocated quotas. Submissions prioritized refugees facing heightened protection risks, serious medical needs, and other urgent solution needs. The operation also reviewed cases already in the United States pipeline, including urgent and long-pending cases, to confirm the continued validity of protection needs and processing readiness, while identifying emerging risks where resettlement remained the most appropriate protection response.

At the same time, UNHCR managed a post-submission caseload exceeding 23,000 refugees under active consideration by resettlement countries. Case identification across Kakuma, Dadaab, and urban areas followed established SOPs and integrity standards. However, submissions declined compared to previous years due to the limited allocated quota and the suspension of resettlement to the USA and Germany. To reinforce programme credibility, UNHCR enhanced biometric identity verification, strengthened interview procedures, expanded communication with refugee communities, introduced Live Image Processing before interviews and submissions, and centralized RRF review and submission to improve oversight, compliance, and quality assurance, supported by systematic use of proGres data.

These measures helped safeguard the integrity and responsiveness of the resettlement programme, ensuring that limited submission opportunities in 2025 remained strategically focused on refugees with the most acute protection risks and urgent durable solution needs.

In 2025, Machine-Readable Travel Documents were issued to 802 recognized refugees to facilitate lawful cross-border movement, particularly for those accessing complementary pathways. These included labour mobility opportunities, education programmes, medical treatment, and other authorized purposes outside Kenya. Applications were processed through the Department of Refugee Affairs.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons benefit from enhanced local solutions, including through acquisition of residency status and work permits.

Stateless persons are able to obtain citizenship and relevant documents in a timely manner

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%	6.62%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.29%	40.00%	9.35%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially
Stateless Persons	Not at all
16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0
Stateless Persons	489

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR's sustained advocacy, catalytic engagement, and close collaboration with national and county authorities enabled the Government of Kenya to achieve substantial progress in expanding local integration and strengthening access to social protection for forcibly displaced and stateless persons. A landmark achievement during the reporting period was the enactment of the Social Protection Act 2025, which established a rights-based and refugee-inclusive framework for non-contributory social protection, created a centralized Social Protection Registry, and mandated improved coordination between national and county systems. Building on this foundation, Garissa and Turkana counties operationalized area-based social protection policies, anchoring refugee inclusion within county planning, targeting, and service delivery mechanisms.

Significant advancements were also realized in the extension of access to social health protection and contributory social security schemes, including the Social Health Authority (SHA) and Haba Haba. These reforms, supported by enhanced clarity under the Social Protection Act and strengthened institutional coordination, broadened refugees' access to sustainable safety nets and pathways to socio-economic inclusion.

A major systems-strengthening milestone was the registration of more than 110,000 refugee households into the national Social Protection Registry, achieving approximately 95% coverage in Kakuma and Dadaab. This unprecedented level of integration reflects a strong government commitment to inclusive social protection and significantly improves refugees' eligibility for social transfers, shock-responsive assistance, and complementary social services.

Additionally, children reported integration gains in access to social protection programmes. While refugee children continued to be integrated into county child protection and social service systems, refugee learners in primary schools benefited from the government's complementary school feeding programme, while 8,000 vulnerable refugee secondary learners received fee waivers and scholarships, reducing dropout rates and supporting improved learning outcomes.

To ensure reduced youth vulnerability, the Government integrated 10,000 refugee youths into labour market opportunities through National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) labour market intervention, linking them to internships, skills development, and employment opportunities while ensuring their registration into social security systems. This intervention aims to strengthen pathways to self-reliance and formal labour market participation for young refugees, hence reduced vulnerabilities.

The ecosystem of refugee-led organizations (RLOs) further continued to expand, supported by the Directorate of Social Development, as several RLOs were formally registered and capacitated to participate in service delivery, community outreach, and social interventions, reinforcing government-led inclusion efforts and improving community engagement.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In relation to legal and policy design and formulation, refugees and host communities—including women, men, youth, older persons, children, and persons with disabilities—were meaningfully involved throughout the Shirika Plan development and Differentiated Assistance (DA) consultations. Engagements included participatory community dialogues, multi-stakeholder workshops, focused feedback sessions, validation forums, and townhall meetings. These ensured that diverse voices shaped policy and programme design in a way that reflects community aspirations.

Although no formal participatory assessment was conducted, continuous community engagement ensured that feedback from diverse groups was systematically captured. Multiple communication channels—emails, WhatsApp groups, Facebook, SMS, mobile outreach, radio, and townhall meetings—provided platforms for

different age and gender groups to raise concerns and receive timely information. A total of 248,810 people were reached, including through the Julisha “Story Matters” platform and bulk SMS, which engaged 208,841 individuals.

To address protection risks and community concerns, engagements deliberately targeted misinformation, anxiety, and criminal activities affecting social cohesion, particularly among youth and other vulnerable groups. Transparent communication helped explain financial constraints and their impact on food assistance, addressing disproportionate concerns among affected households, including female-headed households and persons with specific needs.

To enhance women leadership and representation, UNHCR supported DRS and partners in organizing refugee leadership elections. A key Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)aligned achievement was 50% gender parity in refugee leadership and management structures. Leadership processes were inclusive of persons of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Despite budget cuts, rehabilitation services reached over 4,000 persons, surpassing targets and demonstrating demand for AGD-sensitive, facility-based support. Services benefitted persons with acute and chronic conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy, post-stroke), as well as individuals with disabilities requiring assistive devices or prosthetics. 175 people received assistive devices which included prosthetics/orthotics to restore mobility and enhance independence.

Over 2,000 Youth and adolescents across the operation participated in 16 coordination meetings, ensuring their perspectives influenced camp and urban level decision-making. Youth activities promoted inclusion and social cohesion through sports, cultural events, International Youth Day celebrations, and camp-wide tournaments. Volleyball pitches and football tournaments were supported, providing safe spaces for young women and men.

Dialogue efforts targeted all age groups and genders, promoting accurate information flow and reducing tensions during DA-related disruptions. The engagement strategy strengthened community resilience and reinforced trust between refugees, host communities, and humanitarian actors.

Other sectors such as health, education, social protection mainstreamed Age, Gender and Diversity in their programmes, enhancing equal participation of women, men, boys and girls.

Section 3: Resources

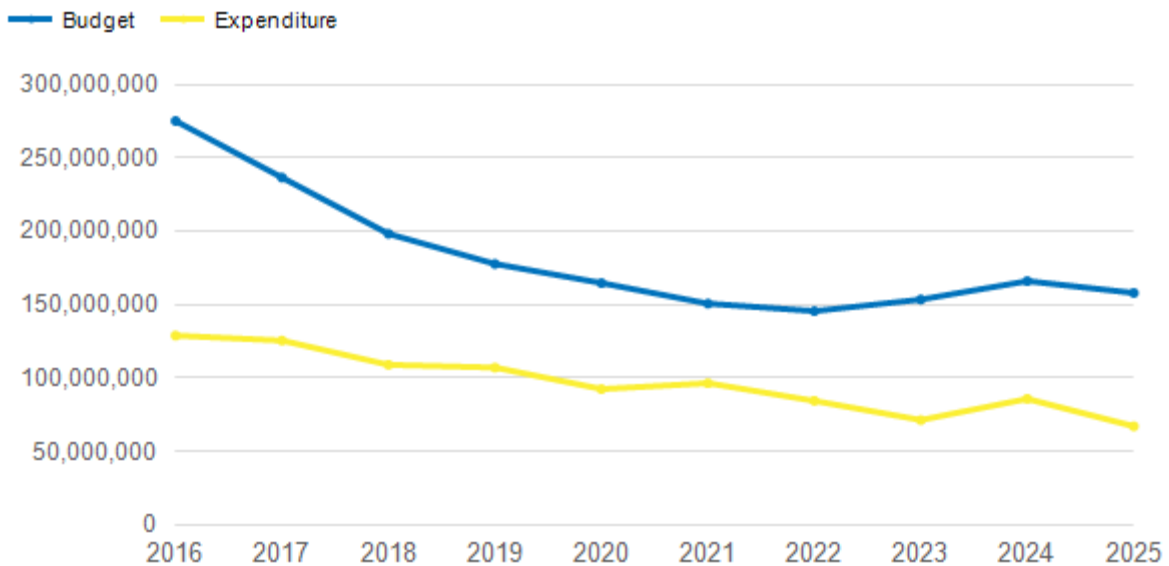
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

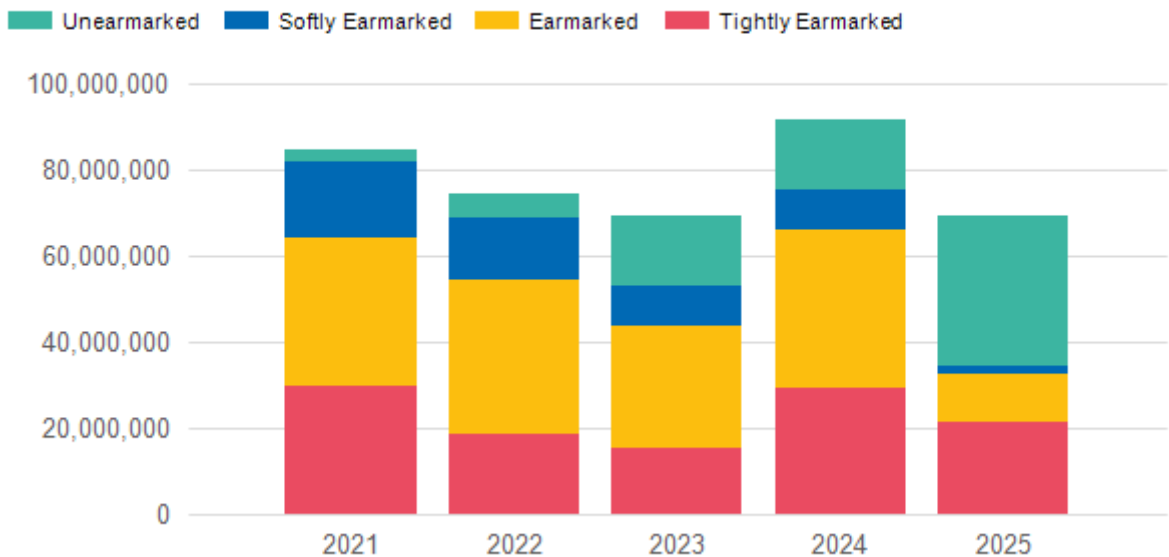
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	20,364,250	11,893,168	58.40%	11,893,168	100.00%
IA2: Respond	79,640,116	32,168,040	40.39%	30,896,137	96.05%
IA3: Empower	33,485,283	16,195,179	48.37%	16,076,594	99.27%
IA4: Solve	24,418,019	8,217,208	33.65%	8,217,208	100.00%
All Impact Areas		86,290			
Total	157,907,668	68,559,885	43.42%	67,083,107	97.85%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	10,700,005	5,514,944	51.54%	5,514,944	100.00%
OA2: Status	3,622,241	2,272,734	62.74%	2,272,735	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	2,572,148	1,407,515	54.72%	1,407,515	100.00%
OA4: GBV	3,637,121	3,249,853	89.35%	3,249,853	100.00%
OA5: Children	2,577,262	1,810,536	70.25%	1,810,536	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,052,820	1,556,209	75.81%	1,556,209	100.00%
OA7: Community	6,383,767	6,895,124	108.01%	6,895,124	100.00%
OA8: Wellbeing	13,586,829	5,623,492	41.39%	5,623,492	100.00%
OA9: Housing	11,456,701	2,463,334	21.50%	2,042,679	82.92%
OA10: Health	24,334,725	7,342,371	30.17%	6,469,633	88.11%
OA11: Education	16,699,402	6,384,248	38.23%	6,367,620	99.74%
OA12: WASH	13,796,871	3,578,897	25.94%	3,578,897	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	10,402,114	2,915,808	28.03%	2,813,850	96.50%
OA14: Return	10,241,778	2,935,864	28.67%	2,935,864	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	7,797,196	2,167,383	27.80%	2,167,383	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	6,379,046	3,113,960	48.82%	3,113,960	100.00%
EA17: Systems	9,096,997	7,196,076	79.10%	7,196,076	100.00%
EA19: People	1,417,035	1,141,765	80.57%	1,141,765	100.00%
EA20: External	1,153,610	924,970	80.18%	924,970	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		64,800			
Total	157,907,668	68,559,885	43.42%	67,083,107	97.85%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

Over the past year, UNHCR Kenya adapted its operational presence in response to increased refugee arrivals, funding constraints, and the Government’s transition toward integrated settlement approaches under the Shirika Plan. The operation maintained a strong field presence in Dadaab and Kakuma, including Kalobeyei, while reinforcing engagement in Nairobi to support implementation of the Refugees Act, 2021 and the Refugee (General) Regulations, 2024. In response to new influxes, particularly from Sudan and Somalia, UNHCR scaled up registration, protection monitoring, and emergency response capacities in

reception areas. At the same time, collaboration with county governments in Garissa and Turkana was strengthened to advance the inclusion of refugees in national systems, especially in health, education, and social protection, in line with GISED and KISED frameworks. Operational modalities were streamlined to improve efficiency, accountability to affected populations, and focus on high-risk groups.

Resource prioritization was driven by protection risk analysis, vulnerability data, operational demands, and available funding levels. Severe financial shortfalls, including food assistance reductions to 40 per cent of minimum requirements, required prioritization of life-saving protection services, emergency shelter, primary healthcare, and nutrition support. Continued influxes necessitated sustained investment in reception facilities, registration, documentation, and case management. Particular attention was given to children at risk, survivors of gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, older persons, and stateless individuals. Climate-related shocks, including flooding in Dadaab and Kakuma, required reprioritization of resources toward emergency shelter, infrastructure rehabilitation, and disaster risk reduction. Preparations for the rollout of the Differentiated Assistance Model in 2025 also informed prioritization decisions, ensuring that assistance levels are better aligned with vulnerability profiles and protection risks, thereby enhancing equity, efficiency, and sustainability. Strategic investments further supported the policy shift toward socioeconomic inclusion and reduced long-term dependency on humanitarian aid.

In a constrained global funding environment, UNHCR Kenya diversified partnerships and strengthened resource mobilization efforts. Alignment with area-based development frameworks facilitated engagement with development actors, including collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support infrastructure, resilience, and socioeconomic inclusion initiatives in refugee-hosting counties. Expanded bilateral cooperation, including with Sweden, provided more predictable and flexible multi-year funding for protection and inclusion programming. Continued engagement with the European Union and other partners sustained support for systems strengthening and durable solutions. Joint programming under One-UN frameworks enhanced integrated proposals in livelihoods, climate resilience, and social protection, reinforcing the humanitarian-development nexus. At the same time, expanded partnerships with financial service providers supported refugee financial inclusion and more efficient delivery of cash-based assistance. The introduction of the Differentiated Assistance Model and other efficiency measures were also leveraged as value-for-money reforms to strengthen donor confidence and maximize impact amid limited resources

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The 2025 implementation period underscored the importance of sustained government leadership, strong inter-agency coordination, and data-driven targeting in maintaining protection and basic service delivery amid severe funding constraints. Enhanced collaboration among the Government of Kenya, UNHCR, World Food Programme and the Department of Refugee Services enabled continued access to asylum, health, and education services despite reduced humanitarian resources and growing needs. However, the year also demonstrated that gains in protection and self-reliance remain fragile when food assistance, livelihoods opportunities, and infrastructure investments decline simultaneously. Going forward, the operation will prioritize strengthening national system inclusion, expanding differentiated and evidence-based assistance, and mobilizing diversified financing to protect core services while advancing sustainable solutions under the Shirika approach.



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