KENYA ANALYTICAL PROGRAM ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Building evidence and fostering partnerships to enhance the welfare of refugees and host communities

The Kenya Analytical Program on Forced Displacement (KAP-FD) is a multi-year initiative to generate detailed socioeconomic panel data, evaluate interventions, and provide recommendations to enhance livelihoods for refugee and host communities. It comprises three main components: (i) filling data and evidence gaps to inform solutions, (ii) impact evaluation, and (iii) capacity building and collaboration. The insights gained from KAP-FD will contribute to evidence needs for policymaking and programs, including guiding private sector investment through targeted interventions.

Filling data and evidence gaps to inform solutions

KAP-FD aims to address data and evidence gaps by producing and analyzing comprehensive socioeconomic panel data for refugees and host communities, supplemented by qualitative research. The panel survey, known as the Kenya Longitudinal Socioeconomic Study of Refugees and Host Communities (K-LSRH), facilitates direct comparisons of socioeconomic conditions between refugees and host communities in both camp and urban areas. It allows for the measurement of rare events and tracks changes over time. The survey delves into less understood themes such as psychosocial wellbeing and trust, aiming to advance knowledge and programming in these areas. The first wave of the panel survey was completed in June 2023, and the second wave began in March 2024.

The survey interviews knowledgeable household members and systematically targets additional women, children, and a randomly selected household member. This approach provides a comprehensive understanding across gender and age profiles within households. Covering 6,000 refugee households and 3,500 national households, the survey is representative of both camp-based and urban refugees, as well as Kenyans living in major refugee-hosting areas. It will be complemented by qualitative research. A new psychometric scale will be piloted to assess factors that help refugees and hosts to overcome challenges and thrive in the face of adversity.

Impact evaluation of interventions to enhance socioeconomic opportunities and wellbeing

The first wave of panel data reveals that psychological distress is relatively common among refugee and host communities in Kenya. For example, 46% of adult refugees across Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement experienced symptoms of depression or anxiety in the two weeks prior to the survey. Household heads, women, and those over the age of 35 are particularly likely to be affected (52%, 49%, and 53% report symptoms, respectively). With these results in mind, the team designed a randomized control trial (RCT) on tailored livelihoods interventions integrating training on psychosocial and emotional health as well as financial literacy and a one-time unconditional cash grant of about US$520.

Capacity building and collaboration

KAP-FD aims to enhance capacity within the national statistical system (NSS) and among stakeholders. Capacity building focuses on institutions like the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), tailoring workshops and trainings to meet their specific needs. In addition, policy-relevant research and analysis will be fostered, with support to local early-career researchers through facilitated research projects using KAP-FD data. An integrated data and evidence ecosystem will facilitate sharing among stakeholders, including a public dashboard for governments and the global community to access and interact with forced displacement data in Kenya.

OVERVIEW: KENYA ANALYTICAL PROGRAM ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

01 A panel survey, along with complementary qualitative research, will provide insights into the evolving socioeconomic characteristics and needs of refugees and host communities over time.

Sample
- **6,000** refugee households
- **3,500** host community households

Locations
- Kakuma refugee camp
- Kalobeyei settlement
- Dadaab refugee camp
- Urban areas: Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa

Frequency
- Annual panel data
- Monthly cross-sectional data

Key themes
- Employment, livelihoods, and mental health.
- **Socioeconomic indicators:** Income, housing, WASH, food security, resilience to climate and other shocks, women's empowerment.
- **Education:** Attainment and transition from primary to secondary school.

Administration
- Three waves of face-to-face data collection
- Complementary qualitative surveys

02 An impact evaluation of a tailored mental health and livelihoods program will offer evidence on the effectiveness of interventions designed to improve socioeconomic opportunities.

Sample
- **1,037** refugee households

Locations
- Kakuma refugee camp
- Kalobeyei settlement

Intervention
Examines the interaction between the economic and psychological well-being and evaluates how both dimensions are impacted by a program bundle, including
- Psychoeducation program
- Financial literacy training,
- Cash transfer for a subset of the sample

03 Building capacity while fostering collaboration can contribute to sustainable production and use of displacement data.

Data and evidence dashboard
- Visualization of UNHCR-WB-sponsored survey data on various displacement themes
- Links to microdata, research papers, reports, policy briefs and methodological notes: Link to the dashboard: *https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2024/06/18/dashboard-kenya*

Research collaborations and stakeholder engagement
- Stakeholder meetings and consultations
- Policy research forums

Capacity building
- Capacity building and technical assistance towards inclusion of refugees and host populations in national surveys conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).
- Build capacity of early-career researchers to use displacement data to generate evidence to inform policy and programs in Kenya.