

Breaking the Silos on Sectoral Investment in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei Settlement.

Options and recommendations for refugee engagement

Executive Summary

The protracted conflicts in the Horn of Africa region have continued to make Kenya a host destination for refugees. The role of several stakeholders in creating a better humanitarian space for the refugees is immense. This multi-sector needs assessment reviews the needs of the different sectors across the three camps, including Kakuma, Dadaab (refugee camps), and Kalobeyei settlement.

The assessment focused on eight sectors: WASH, Protection, Humanitarian Assistance, Education, Shelter, Food Security, Livelihoods, and Health, with data from the refugees and host communities collected through a household survey and qualitative data samples (Key informant interviews and Focus group discussions). Three reports document the study's findings, with each report covering a camp/settlement in detail. This comprehensive summary provides a comparative approach for the sectors across the camps. It also includes policy arguments based on the findings and best practices locally and internationally.

With the assessment sampling out a total of 1,368 households (528 households in Kakuma, 443 in Kalobeyei and 397 in Dadaab), the data shows the males dominating as the household heads in Kakuma and Dadaab at 68 and 58.7 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, Kalobeyei has females with the highest household heads at 50.1%. Refugees are an outcome of forced migration and movement. From the sampled households, Kalobeyei has an increased number of new arrivals at 33%. The new arrivals may point to the tipping scale of women as household heads in this settlement, compared to the other two camps. While there are diverse origin countries for the refugees across the three camps, Dadaab has one of the highest homogenous nationalities, with Somalia accounting for 94%. In contrast, other nationalities like Tanzania, Sudan, Eritrea, and Uganda account for only 1%.

In Kakuma, South Sudan has the highest nationality at 23%, Ethiopia and Sudan at 6.65% each, Somalia with 9%, Uganda at 7.24%, Rwanda at 6.68%, Tanzania and Eritrea with the least at 2.15% and 0.78%, respectively. On the other hand, in Kalobeyei, the Democratic Republic of Congo has the highest nationality with 23%, South Sudan with 22%, Burundi with 20%, Somalia with 7%, Sudan with 6%, Tanzania with 2%, and the other countries recording less than 1%. Kakuma and Kalobeyei, therefore, have very diverse and differentiated groups of nationalities as compared to Dadaab.

The significance of these numbers plays out in the acceptance of humanitarian assistance, adoption of a new culture, and response to interventions. The data also shows that the refugees in Dadaab have found means of resolving their issues using Maslaha and paying bridal fines in cases of gender-based violence. In contrast, as seen in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, a heterogeneous setting results in increased challenges when resolving conflict or accepting support.

At the time of data collection, Dadaab enjoyed an upper hand in most sectors because of the time it had taken to establish it compared with Kalobeyei, which was just recently launched. However, while time plays an essential role in settling and gaining a support system, Kalobeyei's significant investment in the settlement is being drained with the increased numbers of refugees coming in. In essence, the sectoral needs support is overwhelmed by a surge in refugee numbers, affecting humanitarian support satisfaction levels.

For example, the water associations and garbage management entities have contributed to a better situation in Dadaab sub-camps than the weak and corrupt waterpoints management in Kalobeyei and Kakuma. The successes in Dadaab result from understanding a support system elected at the local level, vis a vis the number of water points. However, the water points remain limited across the camps compared to the refugees' needs. A proposal would be to replicate the best practices from Dadaab on water management and hygiene (for example) to Kalobeyei, which still has cases of open defecation and conflicts over water points.

The assessment factored in the challenges borne by the implementing partners to advocate for a change in policy and programming. For example, the food security sector requires diversification of donors, food sources, and a resilience-oriented reserve to cushion against shortages. The comprehensive sector analysis gives a broad path for exploration by development agencies and potential intervenors, with the refugees getting the opportunity to drive change.

As a start, gender is not a stand-alone sectoral issue, but rather a cross cutting area that requires incorporation in all the activities and sectors. Responses across the camps show a gendered presentation based on the context and environmental expectation, across the sectors. For examples, the gender roles become softened when there is scarcity of water making it a responsibility for the boys to support water fetching from far distances in Dadaab. On the other hand, women appreciate local SACCOs as source of funding for their business than the men.

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However, most of the research has often only focused on the gendered concerns when investigating protection sector issues, resulting to an assumption on the impact to the male with the increased women led households, even in instances where the male counterparts are present. The same can be said to the impact from Covid – 19 pandemic, that has majorly affected the women and girls, but equally affected the men in the households. A gendered approach may provide the linkage required to break the siloed approach to sectoral investments currently witnessed in the two camps and Kalobeyi settlement.

Besides the stakeholder analysis, this study has inculcated the host community perspectives to understand the possible conflict flashpoints and desirable responses guided by modern conflict resolution mechanisms. Our hope is that the current humanitarian space will reflect the desired public area where the refugees aim to live. In addition, they will include the legal approaches to justice and empowerment programs that align with the practices outside the camps.

The presentation of the findings anticipates that program implementation will be coherent across all the sectors in the camps and settlement. For example, the donors can provide materials for toilet construction, and other donors offer funds without to support non-tangible requirements for a wholistic refugee engagement at the sub-camp level. When one done assumes that their support is enough and does not encourage an expansion cross pollination of humanitarian support, projects remain incomplete, and the negative ripple effect commences.

The inconsistencies in support, identified in the findings litter the camps with unfinished projects with the danger of creating additional costs for households already struggling with stress from debt. This document is part of many others, specifically focusing on the policy options for implementation within the two camps and Kalobeyi settlement. However, overall, these findings support a failure to address the humanitarian system's structural inability, to meet the needs of those in fragile contexts. Generally, the siloed sector-based responses, uneven power relations, corrosive competition and perverse incentives remain the source of criticism to the international community.¹ Unless there is reform to the existing systems to care for refugees, the challenges identified in the multi-sector needs assessment will persist.

Overall Recommendations:

- I. Encourage an increased awareness of the understanding of gender-based violence.
- II. Providing registration documents is a crucial priority for the refugees. The registration will impact all the other sectors and reduce the possibility of harassment by authorities.
- III. Improvement in the resolution of cases, can boost confidence and advance reporting. It is also to enhance the monitoring of reported cases, to strengthen accountability.
- IV. Beef up health systems to accommodate the increasing refugee numbers and be resilient enough to withstand an outbreak. Strengthening the existing facilities for health and education while availing the needed equipment and personnel will help improve the sectors.
- V. Provide extensive monitoring of interventions to reduce the chances of refugee self-pilferage of funds in critical sectors like WASH.
- VI. Diversification of food donors is essential. The role of the private sector and other stakeholders can improve nutritional standards and food availability.
- VII. In the age of climate change, reliance on firewood as the primary energy is not sustainable. Its negative impacts include resource-based conflict flare-ups, health issues, reduced school attendance, and Sexual & gender-based violence (SGBV).
- VIII. Increased awareness on sectors such as health and hygiene need the role of the communities to be conspicuous while at the same time considering some of the knowledge systems of the refugees.
- IX. Enforcement mechanisms against early marriages in the camps using community-led approaches will improve school retention across the camps.
- X. The business environment should accommodate the refugees' skills and abilities, so they can easily earn a decent living within and outside the camp.
- XI. Finally, include languages as one of the vital learning sets within the empowerment programs.

1. Dickinson, Elizabeth. Humanitarian system: Just broke, or also broken? Devex, May 24, 2016.

Introduction:

The 1961 U.N rights of refugees' convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees are the key instruments that govern refugee issues. In addition, additional Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement created in 1998 serve as the international standard for governments, international organizations, and other relevant actors to help and protect refugees.² Kenya is considered the hub of Eastern Africa and acts as a destination, origin, or transit country. Consequently, most of her refugee immigrants are from neighbouring African countries that have experienced political and governance instability over time, with over 90% being from the East and the Horn Region. As a nation, Kenya has provided asylum to the influx of refugees since the 1980s and is currently a host to three large refugee camps.

The Kenyan environment has a history that has seen it shift its policy environment concerning refugees. In the period between 1963 to 1991, Kenya pursued an integration policy. Scholars observe that during this period, the refugees were mainly from Uganda and could easily integrate into the Kenyan environment. However, the period after 1991 saw a radical shift in policy with the influx of refugees from Sudan and Somalia. A new policy favored encampment, with the end goal shifting from integration and inclusion to repatriation.³

As of May 31, 2022, the Kakuma refugee camp had a total population of 186,001, with an average of 26,000 households.⁴ With continued conflict, instability and food insecurity causing new displacement, and reduced humanitarian funding in Kakuma camps, the need to strengthen the available information on humanitarian needs and access to assistance and services, is massive. Kalobeyi is currently home to around 44,953 refugees⁵ the demographics show that young people below 18 years account for 68% of its total refugee population.⁶ According to a report by the World Bank, such a population increases the dependency ratio and the economic burden.

Its households have an estimated higher number of occupants, with 40% having seven to eight people. Besides the health challenges in crowded houses, financial problems are a significant risk to the refugees.⁷ Dadaab refugee complex, on the other hand, has a population of 218,873 registered refugees and asylum seekers at the end of July 2020. Dadaab refugee complex consists of three camps and has been in operation for over 25 years. It was initially built in 1991 to accommodate up to 90,000 refugees fleeing violence in Somalia. However, continued conflict, later compounded by drought, caused large numbers of Somalis to continue to cross into Kenya in search of international protection.

There are disparities in economic risks that vary among refugees⁸ who have settled for a longer time compared to those who settled recently. The household survey disaggregates the data and identifies that in Kalobeyi, for instance, the economic burden is higher among South Sudanese refugees than among the Sudanese refugees. The possible logic for this disparity could be on the interventions undertaken, which have had a long-term impact on refugees who have stayed longer. This disaggregation ensures targeting interventions based on differences, to even the inequalities.

A study undertaken in Kakuma by the World Bank indicates that refugees work and volunteer within and outside the camps. A gender comparison between men and women indicated that women run businesses could plough back earnings of Ksh. 3,300 while businesses run by men earned an average of Ksh. 6,200.⁹ A mismatch occurs where previously a huge number of the refugees mentioned agriculture as one of the economic activities, they practiced prior to displacement, but barely 2% practice it due to land restrictions. The refugees cannot be able to own land in Kenya and this affects their productivity. Any intervention on livelihoods need to understand the economic activity change since it could be leading to minimal productivity from the refugees.

The International Finance Corporation has identified some of the barriers to women full economic participation within the refugee camps in Kenya. An example is where married women must seek for permission to engage in any business or employment from their spouses. Secondly, the husbands still control the earnings that women accrue from the businesses. On the choice of investment, despite contributions from both genders, the husbands still make the decisions on large assets to be acquired and any other long-term investment to be made. The women, therefore, lack the motivation of economic participation, especially within married households.¹⁰ Economic independence is a crucial factor that can help reduce the gender inequalities within the camps.

The Refugee's Studies Centre has also attempted to create a model for measuring refugees' self-reliance. The model based on Kalobeyi, gives five indicators that interventions must consider when evaluating self-reliance. The first indicator is the environment, which in this case looks at the regulatory frameworks, natural resources, and refugee-host relations. The second indicator is assets, which encompasses human capital, physical capital, and identity. The third is on access to networks like financial credit and opportunities. The fourth is on access to markets for their goods, services, and skills. The fifth is on access to public goods like health, education, and necessary humanitarian assistance.¹¹ This model is very important since it sets some basics across the different sectors that studies.

The UNHCR has also complained of violence against a new vulnerable group, the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual). The group exists within Kakuma camp and has been facing discrimination. A report published by the Organization for Refugee, Asylum and Migration (ORAM) further confirms the UNHCR reports on the violence against the LGBTQ. The report observes that the cultural and religious backgrounds of the refugees are still 'non-accepting' of the LGBTQ and have perpetually discriminated against them.¹² This group may have been left out of the many studies undertaken within the refugee camps. This needs assessment identifies the presence of LGBTQ individuals within the camps, who are often ignored and a target.

2. CRS, Meeting the challenges of the world's refugee crisis: Policy Brief, 2016 found at: <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/advocate/public-policy/meeting-challenges-worlds-refugee-crisis-policy-brief>.

3. Nanima, R. (2017). An evaluation of Kenya's parallel legal regime on refugees and the court's guarantee of their rights. *Law, Democracy and Development*, 42-67.

4. World Bank. 2018. "Understanding the Socioeconomic Conditions of Refugees in Kenya."

5. *ibid*

6. World Bank. 2018. "Understanding the Socioeconomic Conditions of Refugees in Kenya."

7. *ibid*

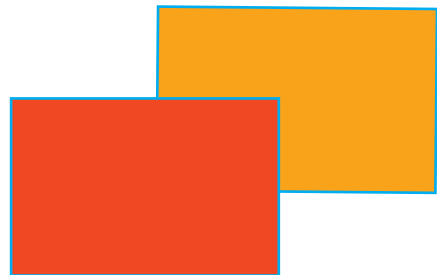
8. World Bank. 2018. "Understanding the Socioeconomic Conditions of Refugees in Kenya." Pg.47

9. World Bank. 2019. "Understanding the Socioeconomic Conditions of Refugees in Kenya Volume B: Kakuma Camp." Socio-economic survey.

10. International Finance Corporation. 2019. "Gender Assessment of Kakuma Refugee Camp and Town & Kalobeyi Settlement and Town."

11. Betts, Alexander et al. 2019. *The Kalobeyi Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees?* Refugees Studies Center.

12. World Bank. 2019. "Understanding the Socioeconomic Conditions of Refugees in Kenya Volume B: Kakuma Camp." Socio-economic survey.



CARE Internationals' Response:

There is ongoing research in the refugee sectoral space in the two camps and settlement in Kenya. Linking these sectors' functionality with the environment outside the camps has also been explored. Included in those studies is this multi-sector needs assessment supported by CARE International.

CARE International in Kenya (CIK) has been working in Kenya since 1968, and currently implements major programs in 20 out of the country's 47 counties, reaching and assisting approximately 2 million people per year. CIK's programs align with national and county level priorities, focusing on refugee assistance, health, water and sanitation, financial inclusion, adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction (DRR), agricultural value chains as well as humanitarian and emergency response.

In all of its interventions, CARE keeps gender equality and women voice at the center of all its core programming areas, which are as follows: Climate Justice, Humanitarian Actions, Agriculture & Market Systems, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Health, Equity & Rights (HER), and Women's Economic Justice (WEJ). CARE Kenya's approach is Kenyan-led, inclusive (in terms of promoting governance and key voices/advocacy efforts), market-based approaches, and works to strengthen existing institutions and systems.

CARE International in Kenya (CIK) is implementing projects in Dadaab refugee complex under the Refugee Assistance Program (RAP). CIK for over 20 years has been the lead partner of United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in the three camps within Dadaab: Dagahaley, Ifo and Hagadera. In addition, CIK is currently implementing a 24-months (2021 – 2023) DG ECHO funded project in Dadaab, specifically in the 3 camps, focusing on WASH programming.

With the enactment of the Refugee bill into law in 2021, opening possibilities for refugees to live and work in Kenya, CARE Kenya is determined to build more diverse areas of refugees' programming better suited to a rapidly changing world, including resilience and livelihoods building; creating a network of support for refugees using CARE's presence in the broader region through cross border programming; and advocating for refugees' rights and wellbeing.

These options are not mutually exclusive and will align with CARE's program focus areas that include gender transformative WASH, protection, livelihoods & resilience building, the work along the triple nexus for durable solutions and advocacy in humanitarian work. The changes are in line with CARE's Vision 2030 and will enable CARE International in Kenya to be more effective in working with partners and communities in the refugee setting to tackle the root causes that lead to the influx of refugees, help people to survive humanitarian crises and enhance inclusive and peaceful communities.

CARE will be shifting more decision-making power to host and refugees' communities and re-orientating its teams to work in ways and on issues that are more tailored to their specific local contexts.

These will align with the needs, realities and access context, preferences and capacities of the refugees and the host communities in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei. The significant linkage identified within the sectors shows that to achieve a ripple effect gain requires modalities that encourage a cross cutting engagement across many others. And our work will capture the intra-sectoral relationships to broaden the targets of our interventions in the following areas:

These will align with the needs, realities and access context, preferences and capacities of the refugees and the host communities in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei.



Protection

The findings on protection, for example, point to growing confidence in some of the institutions mandated to protect and ensure the safety of the refugees. Emerging patterns within such a sector will help plan the interventions. For example, legal aid has picked up within some of the camps and consequently attracted a positive uptake from the communities. Moreover, to dampen ancient traditions like revenge in violence, new studies within the protection and gender-based violence sector alone can explore the possibilities of piloting some transformative interventions. A significant focus of the study was figuring out the integration of refugees into the everyday lifestyles adopted globally. Respect for human rights, conflict resolution, modern health practices, and knowledge improvement are common study area but remain limited in the application at intervention stages.

Generally, security was rated as good across the three camps. Reporting to the police is at 37% in Dadaab, 12% in Kalobeyei and 8% in Kakuma. One of the outcomes is that the relationship between the security agencies tasked with safety is doing well. However, the safety within the camps does not translate to the spaces outside the camp. Some of the most unsafe spaces for women are areas they collect firewood which gathered 11.7% in Dadaab, 27.9% in Kakuma and 19.9% in Kalobeyei. In Dadaab, where some households have piped water, the waterpoints' safety is better compared to Kakuma and Kalobeyei, where women consider water points unsafe at 9.8% and 25%, respectively. This can directly be attributed to the infamous Laga river which was denoted as a risk area for women in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, as they fetch water, collect firewood, and even attempt to cross the river to access goods and services.

Conflicts with the host communities exist. The economic competition refugees bring to the environment stirs disputes in all the camps. Water and firewood access are common resource conflict areas for the refugees and host communities, especially in Kalobeyei, where instant flare-ups occur when these two resources become scarce. The firewood and water are entirely scarce within Turkana County, and the increase in the number of refugees coupled with a rising population of the host communities will likely strain the resources more. With the consequent increase in conflict intensity resulting from global warming and refugee numbers, specific genders may suffer. A binary lens provides the view of gender questions at the camps. However, their interplay in the camps and expectation varies depending on the context and need at the time.

The gender dynamic in the conflict is that it will possibly affect women and girls more. The study shows sex as a product of sale to access certain services, especially for new refugees with no support system and no registration. For example, firewood fetching in Kalobeyei and Kakuma has exposed women and girls to death, rape, and physical violence. But, on the other hand, fetching firewood has also often replaced education, with the households mentioning it as a factor that prevents them from accessing school. Dadaab has experienced better approaches to the handling of the conflicts between host communities and the refugees. The host community in Dadaab wrote a protest letter to UNHCR about some disputes with the refugees. There is a need to harness pacific means of settling the conflicts, and the awareness can be created and built on the practices in the Garissa-Dadaab case.

The reparation systems founded on Somali culture and religion are somewhat effective to the extent that, it provides an opportunity for the refugees to meet and discuss options. However, they remain repugnant, with most of the outcomes placing those affected at the mercy of the perpetrator. It happens through payment of the bride price as a form of a good pardon for their actions. At the same time, the traditional approaches used in Kakuma and Kalobeyei do not favour the victims of gender-based violence. For example, there is non-consideration of verbal abuse and other non-physical attacks as forms of violence within the camps. Overall, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies are the custodians of the peace processes. An intensified oversight by the agencies will reduce women and girls' challenges.

Legal aid can also be an essential policy approach. The use of legal aid to the victims attempts to integrate the refugees into the standard dispute resolution procedures that exist outside the camps. Moreover, legal aid is a long-term policy objective since the aim of integrating the refugees, is to get them back to their everyday lives. Creating awareness of the legal approaches to seeking justice, will easily aid them in the integration processes. In addition, it will root out problems like seeking revenge, as seen in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. As a broad policy and programmatic option, awareness cuts across all sectors. Some like GBV need awareness because of the lack of understanding of all the forms of violence. Strengthening the information system will enable the uptake of some of the interventions and monitor the uptake.



In 2016, two leaders' summits —one at the U.N. General Assembly and the second at a Leaders' Summit on Refugees co-hosted by President Obama and the leaders of Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Jordan, Mexico, and Sweden; were to discuss three pledges on refugee issues.¹³

The issues included: (1) increasing by at least 30% financing for global appeals and international humanitarian organizations; (2) doubling the global number of those resettled as refugees or those afforded other legal channels of admission; and (3) increasing the number of refugees in school worldwide by 1 million, and the number of refugees granted the legal right to work by 1 million.¹⁴ At least at the local level, what remains significant is the challenges in the education sector for the refugees in the three camps.



Education

The education facilities are available across all the camps, with minimal differences. In Kakuma, access to education and learning materials was at 35%, 28% in Kalobeyei and over 50% in Dadaab. An effective education system should be accessible, affordable, resilient, and complete on levels. The building of infrastructure that is the hardware of the education sector needs to be complemented with quality software that will guarantee quality assurance and improvement in performance.

In Kalobeyei, for instance, one of the needs that stood at 6% is the need for an alternative curriculum. The same scored 6.2% in Kalobeyei and 1.5% in Dadaab. The education sector can borrow a lot from interventions that depend on the education policies at the national level and possibly tailor them to the refugee context. The policy approach should therefore be two-fold; focused on quantity through infrastructure and quality through installing standard procedures to improve students' competency. It will make it possible to track enrollments, retention, and transition.

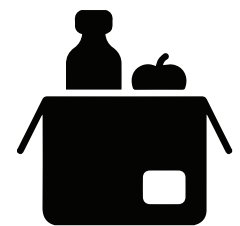
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While international aid organizations have provided significant assistance, with unprecedented funding from the development partners and donor governments, responses must be matched to the reality of needs on the ground.¹⁵

The humanitarian needs of the refugees in Kalobeyei are punctuated more by easing the registration processes. Food and water are the highest priorities in Kakuma, gathering 33% and 28%, respectively. The same preferences suffice in Kalobeyei at 23%. Resettlement, however, emerges as a more pressing issue in Kalobeyei at 22.8% in Village I. Food and water still retain the priority scale in Dadaab at 23% and 18%, respectively. Rather than resettlement being the other pressing need in Dadaab, information on the camp's closure is a top priority at 6.5%, especially in the Ifo sub-camp.

The Refugee's Act provides provisions like availing of convention travel documents for refugees on educational, business, medical and employment undertakings that have created an environment where some interventions like entrepreneurship are possible. Initially, these restrictions confined the refugees to the designated areas and denied them the opportunity to pursue ventures that could unlock their potential. However, the law has also outlined provisions for preferences for at-risk refugees like unaccompanied children, the elderly and those needing medical emergencies that make the humanitarian space more accessible to all the stakeholders.

The Refugees Act also provides opportunities for collaboration. Some provisions like availing of convention travel documents for refugees on educational, business, medical and employment undertakings have created an environment where some interventions like entrepreneurship are possible. However, one of the risks that the Act may not settle is the possibility of harassment by local authorities in the ventures the refugees will undertake. It is a perennial problem, especially with security agencies that may curb the benefits of the new law.



Humanitarian Assistance

13. CRS, Meeting the challenges of the world's refugee crisis: Policy Brief, 2016 found at: <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/advocate/public-policy/meeting-challenges-worlds-refugee-crisis-policy-brief>.

14. Ibid Pg. 6

15. CRS, Meeting the challenges of the world's refugee crisis: Policy Brief, 2016 found at: <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/advocate/public-policy/meeting-challenges-worlds-refugee-crisis-policy-brief>.





Food Security

The availability of food for household consumption, is consistent in all the camps. For example, in Dadaab, 34.73% of the households confirmed not to be sleeping hungry, with 27% in Kakuma and 36% in Kalobeyei. Similarly, the three camps show fluctuation in the quantities available. For example, 38% of respondents in Dadaab said that the amounts had reduced, 53% in Kalobeyei and 65% in Kakuma. The refugees stated a drastic reduction of food ratio from 6kg to 2kgs; during and post covid-19 pandemic.

Even at the donor level, it became evident that food provision was still not open to many players. The problem with the lack of diverse players is that the risks of shortages are not spread. Easing the food donation space, sometimes even bringing on board the private sector, will be strategic. The food consumption score in Dadaab had 7% terming it as poor while 15% termed it acceptable.

Building a resilient food sector requires the establishment of food reserves at each camp level. The computation of the required capacity of each food reserve will be from the current population size and the projection of the possible influx of new refugees. Additionally, drought and famine monitoring will create a comprehensive early warning system for the food reserve review. Such a policy direction will strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the food security systems.

The rigid rationing of the food affects the choices that the refugees can choose from and, in some sense, could affect their human dignity. Nevertheless, the availability of food for both registered and non-registered is a success that points to the effectiveness of the food distribution frameworks. In some other camps, the non-registered refugees face service access problems. Therefore, a clear delineation of service offerings for the registered and non-registered is required. However, a critical note on human rights and expectations should be considered when determining these services vis, a vis registration.

Water scarcity can cause competition for the resource, resulting in a conflict between the villages and local communities. Kalobeyei has more water challenges as compared to Dadaab and Kakuma. With its length of existence, Dadaab has had better infrastructure and associations to manage the water points. The result is that water costs in Dadaab, for example, are at an average of KS. 2.67, per 20-liter jerrican of water, Kakuma at Ks. 16.17, and Kalobeyei, at KS. 23.33.

The need for better infrastructure within WASH is necessary, and interventions should consider reducing refugees' cost burden. Distance determines the gender that will fetch water. Men take up the initiative where the distance is far, while women and girls do the fetching when closed. In some sense, the gender role differentiation could be pointing to the masculinity and femininity aspects that are rife within the camps.

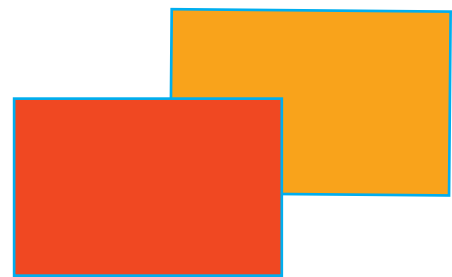
Kalobeyei has a poor sanitation system compared to the others since most toilets are not separated. 61% of the respondents in the Kalobeyei camp reportedly use open holes for latrines, while 58% use pit latrines with slabs in Dadaab and 28% in Kakuma. These facilities do not offer privacy since 10% of the respondents in Kakuma reported using latrines with no doors. Kalobeyei is, thus, a top priority for interventions on WASH compared to the other camps due to the cost implications that affect other need prioritization.



WASH

Handwashing in Dadaab is at an average of 20.7%, 16.8% in Kalobeyei and 24% in Kakuma. The messaging on hygiene, therefore, is averagely received across the camps. Information sharing across the three camps differs. Dadaab has a relatively good information system, with the availability of a radio station for information sharing. Although there are significant differences in refugee contributing nations within Kakuma and Kalobeyei than that of Dadaab, it is possible to set up a radio station with segmented programs that can cover the entire nationalities to improve awareness. While donor interventions remain unilateral, cooperative engagement is encouraged to avail advocacy needs to the refugees wholistically.

Waste management is poor as a sanitation area across the camps. While the established camps like Dadaab have better equipment and practices, a lot is desired. The mission should be to provide the information to relevant development partners to invest in cross cutting sectors.



The fundamental problem within all the camps is the resilience of the health systems. Their capacity is crucial. Dadaab, however, is unique. Most health facilities and services are within reach, but the problem is the intention to seek health services. The expectant women in this camp, for example, still opt to pursue midwife services from the community. Other than the financial implication, most of these practices are culturally influenced.

The problem with such an approach is the lack of data on health problems and the actual loss of lives. On the other hand, the response from the refugees shows that the Covid - 19 pandemic made it difficult for service access, with most of them highlighting longer lab processes or no service offering at all. The data also shows only one development partner offering health screening in one of the sub-camps. These responses point to a system that can collapse with another outbreak.

Sticking with the commitments from the 2016, humanitarian summit, a lot is desired from the government of Kenya on Health. As a start, the hospitals run by Non-Governmental Organizations have a presence in some camps like Kakuma, with 37% of the respondents confirming that. Private and government facilities are also present, with over 7% of the respondents confirming the same. In Kalobeyei, 34.7% of the respondents, mention the existence of NGO hospitals and consequently prefer them as the best service providers. Dadaab refugees, prefer the NGO healthcare providers at 48%. The best service providers, in this case, remained the NGOs across all the camps.

The prevalent illnesses in Dadaab, especially among new arrivals, are malaria, malnutrition, and tuberculosis. Among the settled refugees, diabetes, heart diseases, and stroke are the leading chronic illnesses. In Kalobeyei, diabetes, heart disease and asthma were most prevalent. While local policy provides the directions on a health system and align them to the best cultural practices for adoption, many loopholes expose the system to fail in the event of incapacity and outbreaks. We propose a detailed policy establishing a prevention-oriented system will reduce the chances of the health infrastructure collapse.

As a start, an immediate strengthening of surveillance systems at the entry point would be the first step to shielding the health system in the camps. Detection of pandemics, especially with new arrivals, is essential and is the port of call in troubleshooting the entire health system.

In Kalobeyei, concrete and bricks are the main components for housing, with an average of 18% of the respondents confirming, compared to less than 3% in Dadaab and Kakuma. The newness of the settlement space and the joined partnership may have provided the new improvements in housing. However, with the increased refugee entry, these structures will not be enough to cover the housing needs.

Most of the refugees in Dadaab live in thatched houses. For example, 16% of the respondents selected thatched houses in Dadaab, compared to 2.8% in Kalobeyei and 11.2% in Kakuma. Comparing the housing support from a development investment perspective, Kalobeyei would rank higher than the other two camps. The finding shows that providing essential humanitarian aid can be strengthened with livelihood support to enable the refugees to grow and expand through their own investments.

The impact from natural calamities thrush housing development within the camps to undue stress. For example, 23.7% of the households shared that the houses leak during the rainy season, 21% lacked ventilation and 17.3% lacked insulation from the cold. 52% in Dadaab confirmed experiencing leaks during rains, and 28% lacked ventilation. Standardizing housing frameworks for the refugees will improve equality and offer an opportunity for improved living. Therefore, there is a need to establish a framework that will guide the establishment of cheap, strong, and sustainable housing to reduce calamity influenced inequalities.

Firewood is the household's primary energy source at 76.95% in Kalobeyei and 98% in the Dadaab Refugee Complex. As an energy source, firewood search exposes the refugee women and girls to risk during fetching at an average of 11% in Dadaab, 27.9% in Kakuma and 19.9% in Kalobeyei. Additionally, it has health implications. Furthermore, this energy source has also affected the education sector, with students missing school in search of firewood for their households. A holistic approach to the housing problem will reduce the existing risks and affect the livelihoods, especially vulnerable groups like person living with a disability (PWDs), children under five, the elderly and expectant mothers.



Health

While donor interventions remain unilateral, we will encourage a cooperative engagement to avail advocacy needs to the refugees holistically.



Shelter





Livelihoods

The Refugee Act 2021 provide various opportunities. Some stakeholders welcome the new Act, especially where it grants refugees the opportunity to engage in meaningful employment. However, one of the emerging problems is the regulatory framework in Kenya, which is an added formulation to the policies. For example, the Kenya National Qualifications Authority handles the concern on qualifications. In addition, there are other regulating institutions for other professions like the Law Society of Kenya for lawyers and the Engineering Board of Kenya.¹⁶

Practitioners are concerned that these institutions are in-accessed at the camp level, like in Kalobeyei and Kakuma. The law may support refugees' interests, but the guidelines are still problematic. This area needs much consideration by development partners to create a favourable humanitarian environment to help refugees build resilience. The refugees across all the camps have skills and are ready to acquire more. The important variant across the camps is aligning these skills to the market needs. This approach of linking the market needs to the skills is continually being adopted by the government of Kenya.

Most refugees across the camps mentioned that the top-ranked skills available include hairdressing 35%, tailoring 16.7%, construction work/labour 16.6% in Kakuma, with computer skills accounting for 10%. In Kalobeyei, hairdressing was 41.6%, tailoring at 14% and computer skills attracting a zero score. In Dadaab, men's tailoring is 22.6%, while hairdressing for women at 31.9%. The critical computer skills have a percentage of 8.2.

While these skills remain relevant, the market and needs are changing, even at the camp level. Therefore, other than the need for housing which provides more opportunities to those with construction work skills, the different abilities will mostly remain redundant.

Hairdressing is a great skill. However, it may fetch minimal revenue to the refugees because of the context within the camps. Therefore, as a need, it is not a priority and matching the average response percentage on the skill type selection vs the refugee population puts it lower on the demand chain of market needs. For example, the livelihood sources in the Dadaab camp are mainly supported by family and friends at 30.5%, followed by remittances at 25.9%.

These sources of income are not sustainable and create dependence. In Kakuma, self-employment topped the list at 26%, as evidence of some interventions. In Kalobeyei, 87.6% of the respondents also mentioned that self-employment is their source of income. Therefore, the livelihoods of the camps with independent sources of income are likely to experience less dependency and improvement in their living standards. Consequently, the humanitarian programs will also be potentially sustainable in the long run.

These multi-sector needs assessments provide a top-level overview of skills and show no linkage to opportunities based on the other requirements and changing market. Therefore, while the results from the data show a summary, a market study is required. Such a study will provide more nuance on the nature of skills needed within the camps and outside. In addition, a market study will identify the gaps and guide the empowerment programs within the camps.

Job competition between the host communities and the refugees is a present concern. The competition has resulted in conflicts. The competition is also motivated by the limited environmental area where the refugees can practice and access better livelihood options. The impact of access to technology has been immense and a new area of concern. This study has used qualitative and quantitative data to assess the different sector's situations, successes, and existential challenges and explored some of the recommended policy and programming interventions in the Dadaab, Kalobeyei and Kakuma camps.

Registration is a policy problem that has primarily impacted livelihoods. Improving the registration process for the refugees will unlock their potential and give them the freedom to expand their environmental practice areas for livelihood access and skill utilization. In addition, as a response to the language barrier across the camps, it would be critical for development partners to invest in free language lessons for the refugee communities. Besides English, an investment in Swahili would go a long way in shaping cultural practices and resolving lesser conflict issues with the host communities through better communication.

Policies and programs on empowerment must therefore consider these factors and seek to integrate language training, skill development, improved registration, and service access to the refugees. In addition, as noted earlier, with their housing, livelihood improvement has shown an increased investment in housing, among other areas.

16. Leghtas, I & Kitenge, D. (2022). What does Kenya's new Refugee Act mean for economic inclusion? Refugees International.

Overall Recommendations:

I. Encourage an increased awareness of the understanding of gender-based violence. The vice continues to happen in different ways with minimal knowledge. The ways it manifests like verbal abuse and inappropriate touching could catalyse the physical abuse at the household and camp levels. Improved awareness will also integrate the abuse that vulnerable groups like the mentally challenged and PWDs face, which may go unreported. The process will dethrone cultural beliefs on the vice that have normalized absolution from the forms of violence that pose a greater risk to women and girls.

II. Providing registration documents is a crucial priority for the refugees. The registration will impact all the other sectors and reduce the possibility of harassment by authorities. Additionally, improving the registration process through equipping and enhancing human resource capacity will match the refugee inflow reality.

III. Improvement in the resolution of cases can boost confidence and advance reporting. It is also essential to enhance the monitoring of reported cases, to strengthen accountability. Documentation of reported cases and the resolution status increases the refugees' confidence. In addition, creating systems to handle conflicts between the host communities and refugees, such as protest letters to UNCHR rather than engaging in violence, can improve mediation and negotiation.

IV. Beef up health systems to accommodate the increasing refugee numbers and be resilient enough to withstand an outbreak. Strengthening the existing facilities for health and education while availing the needed equipment and personnel will help improve the sector. In its entirety, resource mobilization supports the human resource capacity and health facilities.

V. Provide extensive monitoring of interventions to reduce the chances of refugee self-pilferage of funds in critical sectors like WASH. For example, options that include water associations can reduce the cost while improving its management.

VI. Diversification of food donors is essential. The role of the private sector and other stakeholders can improve nutritional standards and food availability.

VII. In the age of climate change, reliance on firewood as the primary energy is not sustainable. Its negative impacts include resource-based conflict flare-ups, health issues, reduced school attendance, and SGBV. However, there is evidence that is using a market systems development approach, through private partner support, can offer energy alternatives to refugee households and promote financial resilience.¹⁷ The interventions should thus consider the alternatives for energy sources away from firewood.

VIII. Increased awareness on sectors such as health and hygiene need the role of the communities to be conspicuous while at the same time considering some of the knowledge systems of the refugees. They may have contributed to the slow uptake in some of the health and hygiene interventions. To address more long-term health issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers, a public health sector approach through an educational systems setup will help new arrivals to understand what services are available to them and health expectations, including food security.¹⁸ A similar application is a must to encourage behaviour change, smooth operation, and cleanliness.¹⁹

IX. Enforcement mechanisms against early marriages in the camps using community-led approaches will improve school retention within Kakuma camp. In addition, it dampens the role of traditions by increasing awareness of the importance of education. Other research aligns with our findings on household engagement, early literacy development, and after-school opportunities.²⁰

X. The business environment should accommodate the refugees' skills and abilities, so they can easily earn a decent living within and outside the camp. This can be done through investing in market-based assistance to the refugees. Such assistance will improve the opportunities for the refugees in the camp to sell their products outside the camps freely. An improvement in the livelihoods through the creation of income sources, for example, improves the ability of the refugees to purchase food, diversify its nutritional content and access the preferred health services.

XI. Finally, communication is essential for accessing employment and business transaction. While livelihoods may improve, registration and language go a long way in enabling the refugees to seek employment and run their businesses. Therefore, include languages as one of the vital learning sets within the empowerment programs.

17. Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4R), found at <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/article/renewable-energy-refugees-re4r>, and <https://www.rethinkingrefugee.org/articles/rethinking-energy-economies-for-refugees>

18. See Refugee Health: From the Public Health Perspective, February 20, 2020, found at: <https://mphdegree.usc.edu/blog/refugee-health-from-the-public-health-perspective/>.

19. Sara Fajardo, Refugee Camp Priority: Health and Sanitation, CRS: <https://www.crs.org/stories/refugee-camp-priority-health-and-sanitation>.

20. Jay Smink, D.Ed. and Mary S. Reimer, PhD, Fifteen Effective Strategies for Improving Student Attendance and Truancy Prevention. National Dropout Prevention Centre/Network (May 2005), <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED485683.pdf>

Conclusion:

While there are interventions in the camps and settlement, improvements with a measurement scale are required to ensure effectiveness, coherence, sustainability, and relevance to the refugees' needs.

Homogeneity between the host communities and the refugees in Dadaab supports the integration and delivery of services. However, it comes with security risks that require further exploration. On the other hand, the heterogeneity in Kakuma and Kalobeyei has created a struggle in the gelling processes but provides an opportunity for learning and growth. An investment in language learning will open these opportunities and encourage self-expression and conflict resolution.

The head-in-the-box mentality that development partners have while concentrating on specific sectors has resulted in gaps that touch on cross-cutting issues. This is where the refugees fall in the cracks. A narrow-focused objectives that ignore cross-cutting issues, delays success in all the sectors.

The good news is that a multi-stakeholder sector investment can resolve the lack of diversity that results in challenges and shortcomings in each sector. It is possible to build the resilience of each sector upon initiation of studies specific to each of the sectors, identifying the existing gaps and the possible remedies. A wholistic implementation of policies can improve the humanitarian spaces in Kakuma, Kalobeyei and Dadaab.

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