



Outcome 2: *Enhanced Rights Compliance*

- Advocacy for human rights principles and standards
- Promoting the observance of these standards by duty bearers

Outcome 3: *Improved Access to Justice*

- Establishing support mechanisms for victims of human rights violations
- Facilitating access to justice for refugees

Outcome 4: *Enhanced Mental Health Support*

- Implementing programs to provide psychosocial support and mental health services
- Addressing the mental health challenges faced by both refugees and duty bearers

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the project’s success, a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan will be implemented. This plan will involve:

- Identifying specific activities to monitor
- Establishing relevant indicators for progress
- Defining the frequency of monitoring
- Assigning responsibilities to key project stakeholders
- Collecting and analyzing data to measure progress and make informed decisions

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KENYA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS



Protecting and promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for Refugees and Host Communities

Project Fact Sheet

Advancing Human Rights and Well-being of Refugees and Host Communities in Kenya

This project fact sheet provides brief on the KNCHR & RCK project on promotion & protection of refugees and host communities in Kenya. It outlines the mandates and contributions of two key implementing institutions, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), in addressing the complex challenges faced by refugees and host communities.

Introduction

Kenya has a significant refugee population, and ensuring their human rights, well-being, and integration is a crucial national concern. This fact sheet explores the global, regional, and national contexts of refugees and host communities in Kenya.



Project Objectives

The project's primary objectives are to:

- 🎯 Promote and protect human rights in Kenya
- 🎯 Improve the well-being, dignity, and peaceful coexistence of displaced and host communities
- 🎯 Enhance access to justice and mental health support for refugees

Project Implementing Institutions

a. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)

KNCHR, established in 2003, is an independent body mandated to promote and protect human rights in Kenya. The KNCHR acts as a watchdog over the government's human rights practices and provides leadership in guiding Kenya towards becoming a human rights State.

b. Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)

RCK, a non-governmental organization founded in 1998, focuses on addressing the challenges faced by refugees in Kenya, the Great Lakes region, and the Horn of Africa. It advocates for policies and laws that protect and promote the well-being, voice, and dignity of displaced and host populations.



Situational Analysis

a. Global Status of Refugees

As of mid-2022, there were approximately 32.5 million refugees worldwide. The majority of refugees originate from five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and South Sudan. These refugees often face dire living conditions, limited access to basic necessities, and challenges related to access to justice.

b. Regional Situation

Africa hosts around 30 million internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum-seekers. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Nigeria have experienced significant displacements due to insecurity and human rights violations. Access to necessities, human rights, and territory poses challenges in the African context.

c. National Perspective

Kenya is one of the largest refugee-hosting nations in Africa, with a refugee population of 577,492. The legal framework in Kenya includes international instruments and the Refugees Act of 2021. Despite this, several challenges exist, such as limited awareness of rights, integration issues, and access to justice for refugees.

Challenges and Issues

Right Awareness and Integration

- Lack of awareness among refugees about their rights
- Challenges in the integration of refugees due to xenophobia, police misconduct, and limited legal recognition
- Exclusion of refugees from certain decision-making processes

Capacity Gaps and Legal Framework

- Capacity gaps among duty bearers in handling refugee affairs
- Inadequate training for government and non-governmental actors
- A securitized approach to refugee management
- Shortcomings in policies and regulations

Access to Justice and Redress

- Limited access to justice for refugees who experience human rights violations
- Delayed responses to violations
- Lack of coordination among relevant institutions
- Limited access to legal aid and representation
- Challenges in using Alternative Justice System forums

Psychosocial Support and Mental Health

- Escalating conflicts among refugees and host communities
- Increased exposure to trauma and mental health issues
- Challenges faced by duty bearers in maintaining their mental well-being

Project Interventions

The project addresses these challenges through four key outcomes:

Outcome 1: Improved Participation and Coexistence

- Awareness campaigns for refugees
- Training for duty bearers
- Initiatives to facilitate refugee participation in income-generating activities