Understanding socioeconomic conditions of refugees in Kalobeyei, Kenya

The 2018 Kaloyebei socioeconomic survey, a replica of the Kenyan national survey measuring poverty, generates comparable evidence to inform policy and programme targeting to support refugees and host communities.

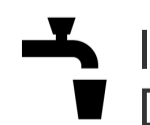|	REFUGEES	TURKANA COUNTY	NATIONAL
Poverty	58%	72%	37%
Sex	Population under 25: 43% men, 37% women Above 25: 7% men, 12% women	Population under 25: 34% men, 33% women Above 25: 14% men, 19% women	Population under 25: 31% men, 31% women Above 25: 19% men, 20% women
Age	Below 19: 71% Above 64: 0.4%	Below 19: 59% Above 64: 4%	Below 19: 50% Above 64: 4%
Dependency Ratio	1.9	1.2	0.8
Women Headed Household	66%	52%	32%
Employment	39% working-age 37% employed 59% inactive 4% unemployed	55% working-age 62% employed 35% inactive 3% unemployed	55% working-age 72% employed 23% inactive 4% unemployed
Education*	Primary: 77% Secondary: 5%	Primary: 48% Secondary: 9%	Primary: 80% Secondary: 38%
Electricity Grid/Generator	0%	12%	42%
Improved Drinking Water	100%	63%	73%
Improved Sanitation	52%	32%	65%

*Net enrolment for primary (6-13 years of age) and secondary (14-17 years of age).
Source: Kalobeyei Socioeconomic Survey 2018 & Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2015/16

Notes on survey background, objectives and methodology

Background and rationale

The Kalobeyei Settlement was established in 2015 in Turkana West, Kenya, to accommodate the growing population of the Kakuma Refugee Camps. The settlement was set up based on principles of refugee self-reliance, integrated delivery of services to refugees and host community members, and greater support for livelihood opportunities through evidence-based interventions. The Kalobeyei Integrated Socioeconomic Development Plan (KISEDP), an area-based development framework, aligns with the Global Compact on Refugees in recognizing the need for collecting and using socioeconomic data on refugees and hosts for targeted programming, linking humanitarian and development actions. The UNHCR-World Bank 2018 Kalobeyei Socioeconomic Profiling Survey (SEP) addresses the need for socioeconomic data by introducing an innovative approach to generate welfare data that is representative of the settlement's population and comparable to Turkana County and national residents.

Objectives

The SEP survey provides one of the first comparable poverty and welfare profiles for refugees and host community members, enhancing the evidence base for policymaking and targeted programming. Created jointly by the UNHCR and the World Bank, this survey was designed to support the KISEDP development framework as well as the wider global vision laid out by the Global Compact on Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In doing so, it provides lessons for how poverty and welfare information may be collected in similar settings, facilitating potential replication by the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center (JDC). Coupled with that, the SEP survey aims at promoting the inclusion of refugees into future national household surveys.

Methodology

The Kalobeyei SEP was conducted in parallel to an update of the UNHCR registration database, proGres. The SEP survey was designed to take place during the 2018/19 Kalobeyei registration verification exercise (VRX), during which the UNHCR registration teams conducted house-to-house visits across the settlement. Most households were administered a shorter basic questionnaire, while a systematic random sample of these households was selected for an extended SEP questionnaire. The extended questionnaire was used to generate poverty estimates for the overall population.

The SEP questionnaire was designed to produce data comparable to the national household survey and other standard instruments. Modules on education, employment, household characteristics, assets and consumption, and expenditure were aligned with the most recent national poverty survey, the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2015/16, and are therefore comparable to results reported locally and nationally. Questions were also aligned with the Kenya Continuous Household Survey (KCHS) which, beginning in end-2019, will collect comparable statistics on an annual basis for all counties in Kenya. Additional modules on access to services, vulnerabilities, social cohesion and the World Food Program Livelihoods Coping Index were administered to capture specific challenges facing refugees.

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