















Understanding the socioeconomic conditions of refugees in Kakuma Camp, Kenya

The Kakuma Socioeconomic Survey 2019 generates evidence to inform policy and targeted programming to support refugees and host communities. The survey is comparable to the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey 2015/16 and the Kenya Continuous Household Survey.

	 KAKUMA	 TURKANA COUNTY	 NATIONAL
 Poverty	68%	72%	37%
 Sex	Men (54%) Women (46%)	Men (47%) Women (53%)	Men (49%) Women (51%)
 Age	Below 18: 61% Above 64: 0.6%	Below 18: 57% Above 64: 4%	Below 18: 48% Above 64: 4%
 Dependency Ratio	1.2	1.4	0.9
 Women-headed Household	56%	52%	32%
 Employment	50% working-age 20% employed 2% unemployed 78% outside the labor force	46% working-age 62% employed 3% unemployed 35% outside the labor force	55% working-age 71% employed 2% unemployed 26% outside the labor force
 Education[#]	Primary: 82% Secondary: 14%	Primary: 48% Secondary: 9%	Primary: 82% Secondary: 38%
 Improved housing	3%	11%	44%
 Access to Electricity Grid/Generator	13%	12%	42%
 Access to Improved Drinking Water	99.7% though 84% face water shortages	63%	73%
 Access to Improved Sanitation	78% 37% share toilets	32% 54% share toilets	65% 63% share toilets

*US\$1.90 per day (2011 PPP).

[#]Net attendance for primary (6-13 years of age) and secondary (14-17 years of age).

Source: Kakuma Socioeconomic Survey 2019 & Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2015/16.

Notes on survey background, objectives and methodology

Background and rationale

Socioeconomic data of refugees and host communities are necessary to support the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, inform effective development policy, and provide timely response to shocks. Notwithstanding recent significant progress made in the generation of displacement statistics, data gaps persist. Limitations include variation across countries in terms of statistical capacities and lack of comparable socioeconomic data of refugees and hosts, which hinder efforts to design targeted interventions to support displaced populations and communities that host them.

Surveys conducted prior to the Kakuma Socioeconomic Survey provide useful information on the living conditions of refugees and hosts. However, these earlier surveys do not use national poverty measurement instruments, and thus are unable to yield analysis that is comparable for both communities. The Kakuma and Kalobeyei socioeconomic surveys provide comparable poverty profiles by using measurements that are comparable to the national poverty survey, the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey 2015/16. In doing so, the Kakuma and Kalobeyei surveys help fill data gaps and contribute to informing policy responses to mitigate the socioeconomic shocks induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objectives

Initiated jointly by the UNHCR and the World Bank, the Kakuma Socioeconomic Survey provides new data on the socioeconomic lives of refugees in Kakuma, North West Kenya, that is comparable with that of Kenyan host communities in Turkana County and nationally. The survey's report provides refugee-specific and cross-cutting policy recommendations, while offering options to help mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees.

Methodology

The Kakuma Socioeconomic Survey questionnaire produces data comparable with the Kalobeyei Socioeconomic Survey 2018 and with national household survey instruments. Topics covered include demographics, housing characteristics, access to services, livelihoods, poverty incidence, food security, social cohesion, trajectories of displacement, and intentions to move. It links its findings to the results of the COVID-19 Rapid Response Phone Survey on health, education, and livelihoods. Due to a gap of four to five years between the Kakuma Socioeconomic Survey data and the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey 2015/16 data, during which national averages may have changed considerably, comparability between refugee households and host community households in Turkana County can be limited.