

Understanding the Socioeconomic Conditions of Refugees in Kenya

Volume B: Kakuma Camp

Results from the 2019 Kakuma Socioeconomic Survey

March, 2021

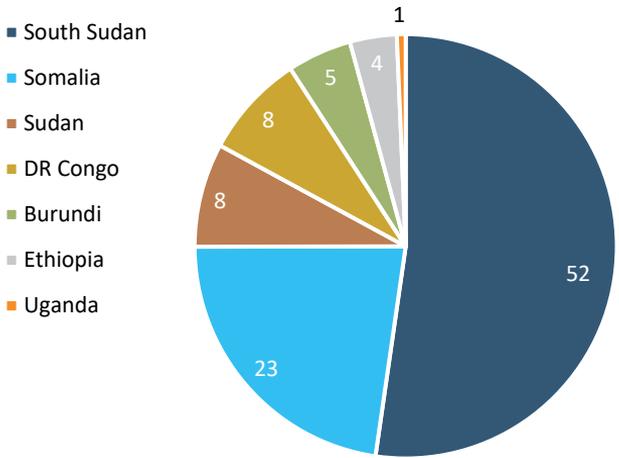


The Kakuma socioeconomic survey (SES) is part of ongoing UNHCR-WB efforts to fill data gaps to inform effective solutions to displacement

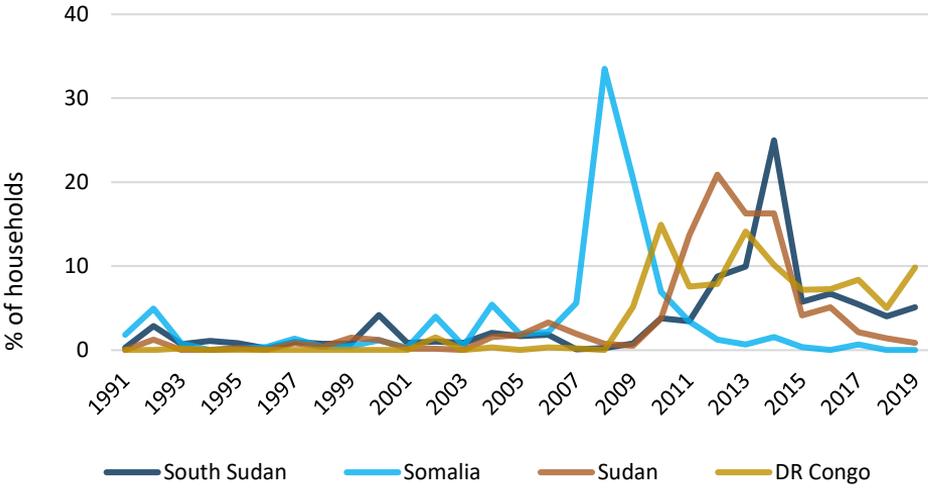


Since 1992, Kakuma refugee camp has hosted refugees mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and DR Congo with a population decline in 2015

Main countries of origin



Year of displacement by country of origin of household head



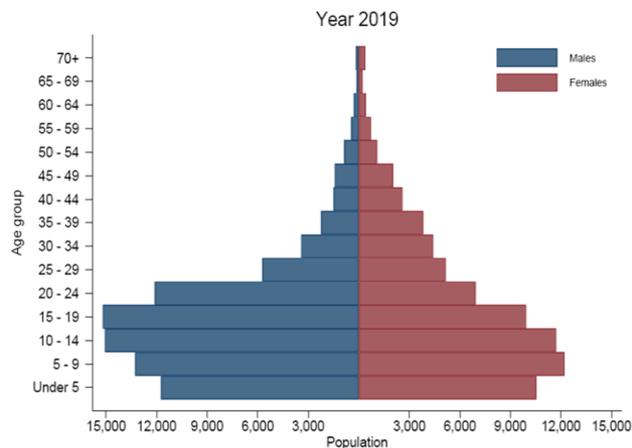
Most refugees were displaced after 2007



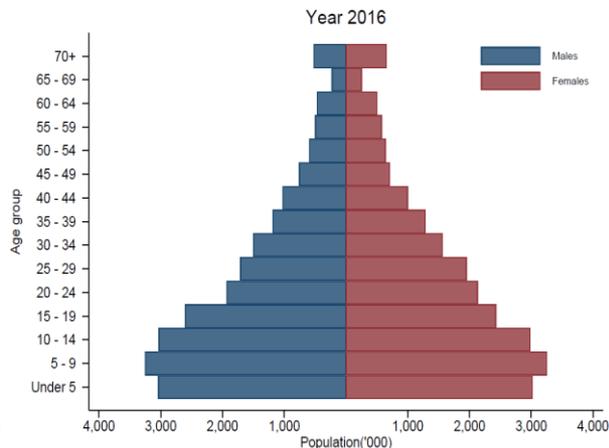
Population declined in 2015 when Kalobeyei was established

Kakuma refugees are young and are members of large households mostly headed by women with high dependency ratios

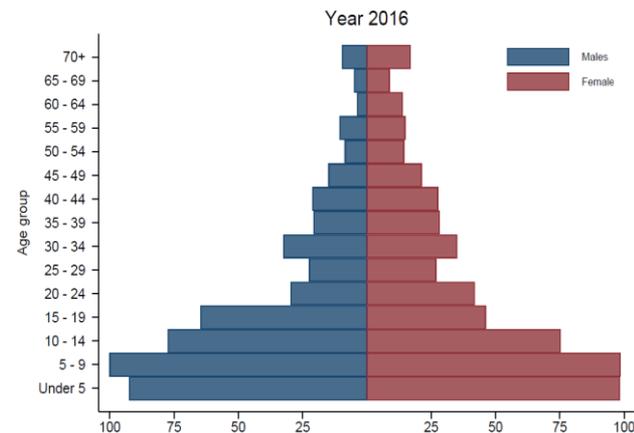
Population Pyramid Kakuma



Population Pyramid National



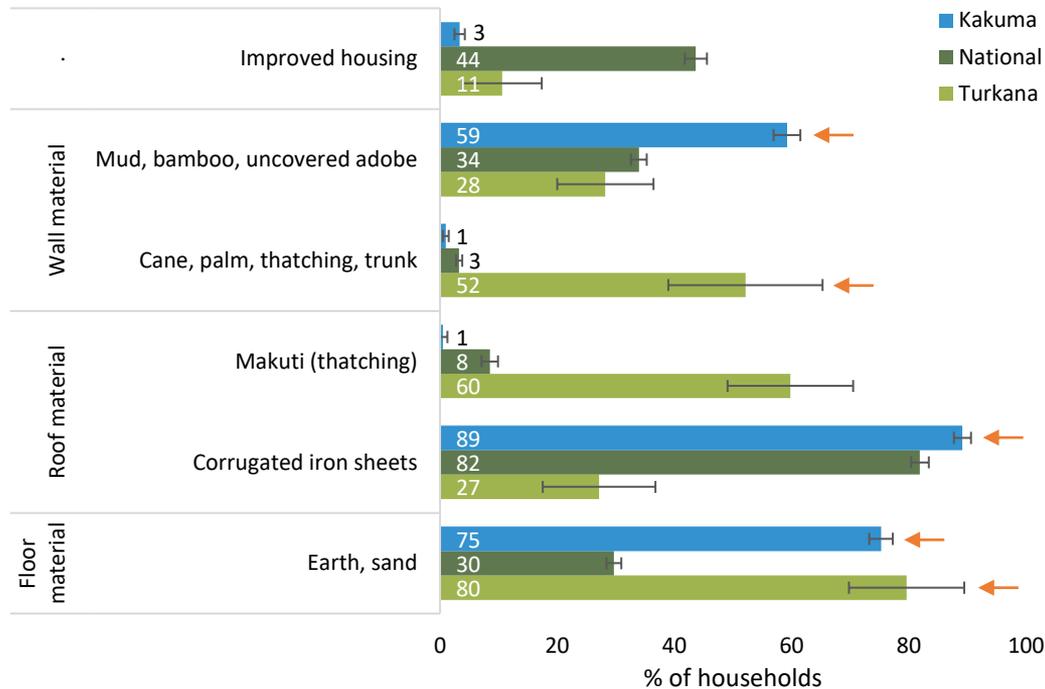
Population Pyramid Turkana



	Kakuma	National	Turkana
Large household sizes	6.3	4	4.4
High dependency ratios	1.2	0.9	1.4
Women headed households	56%	32%	52%

Refugees and hosts have low access to improved housing; most refugees use lamps or candles for lighting and firewood for cooking

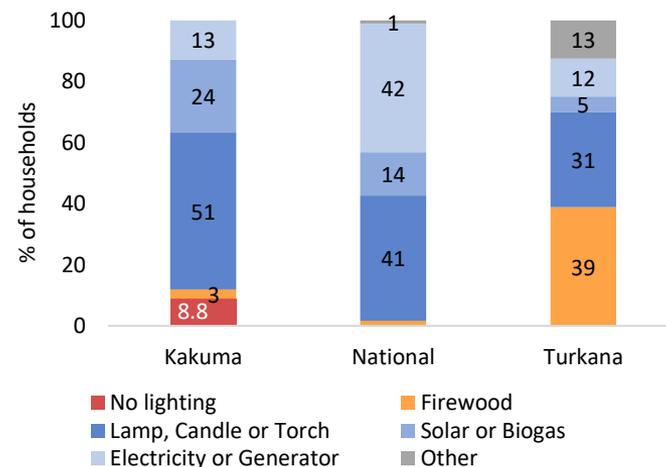
Most widely used housing materials



Corrugated iron sheets are delivered to refugees by UNHCR.



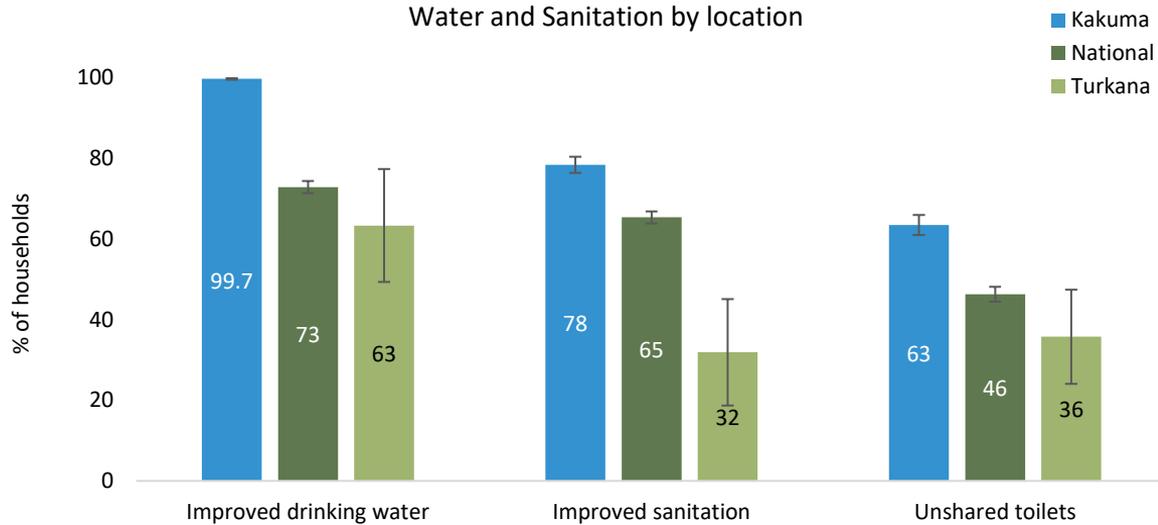
Main sources of lighting %



Fuel for cooking

Collected firewood 69%
 Purchased firewood 18%
 Charcoal 13%

Refugees' access to improved drinking water and sanitation is higher than for nationals and hosts, although water shortages are common

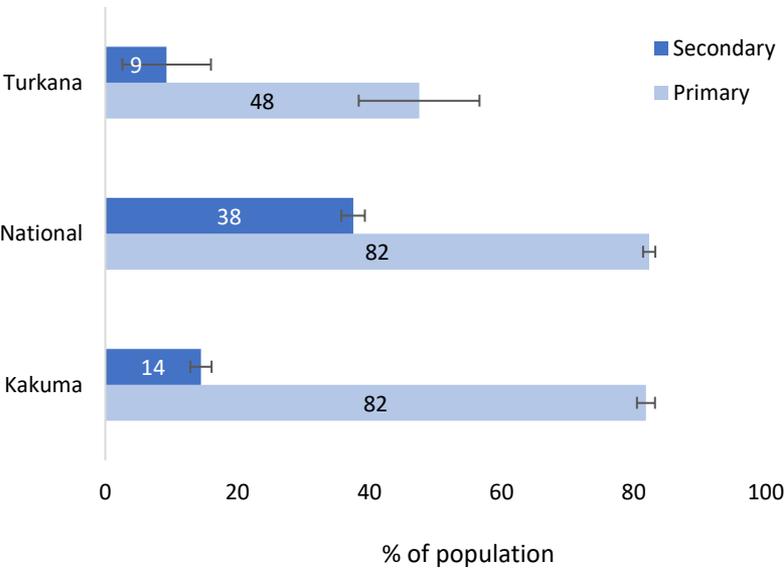


In Kakuma, **84% of households** reported insufficient water supply in the last month

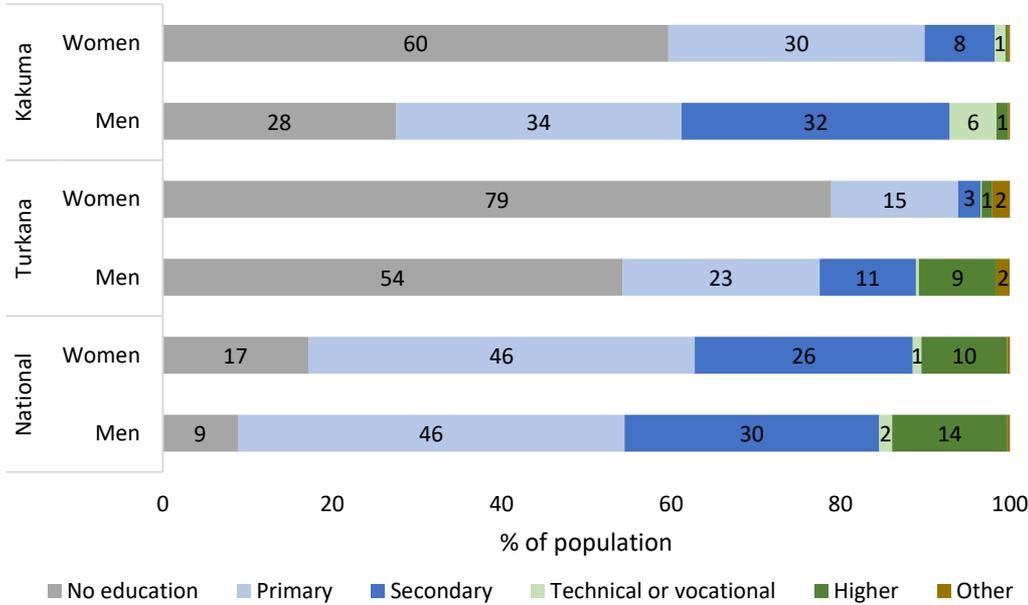
Although, the GoK and organizations implement programs to provide these services, the majority of the Turkana population continue to drink unsafe water, and use unimproved sanitation ([Oxfam](#), [Reach](#)).

While primary school attendance rates are high, attendance rates for secondary school and educational attainment are low especially for women

Primary and secondary school net attendance rates



Educational attainment (15+, not attending school)



- Most refugees in primary school age attend school although hosts have a lower attendance rate.
- Women are more likely to have no education compared to men.

Only 20 percent of refugees are employed, compared to 71 and 62 percent of nationals and hosts

ILO Labor force status (15-64 years)

Employed: Worked 1 hour + in the last 7 days

Unemployed: Jobless, available *and* searching

Outside the labor force (LF): Jobless, not available *or* not searching

Refugee context



Restrictions to the freedom of movement

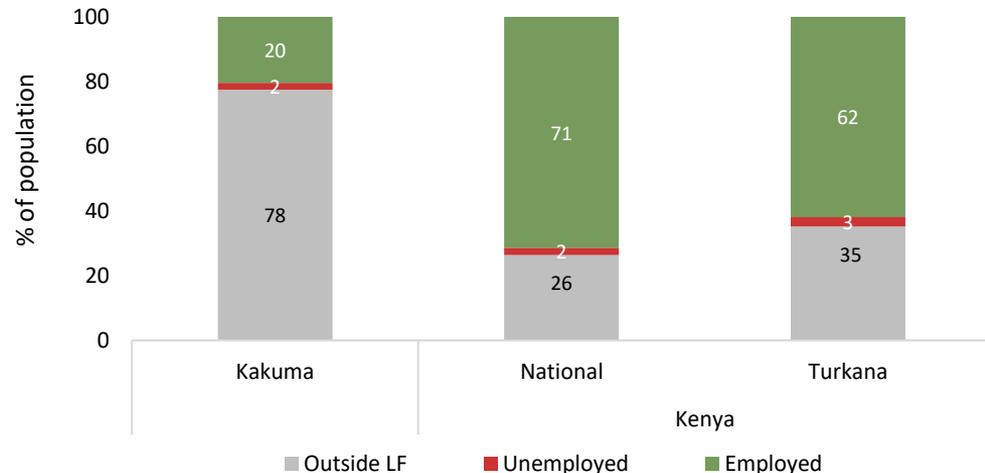


Difficulties to obtain work permits.

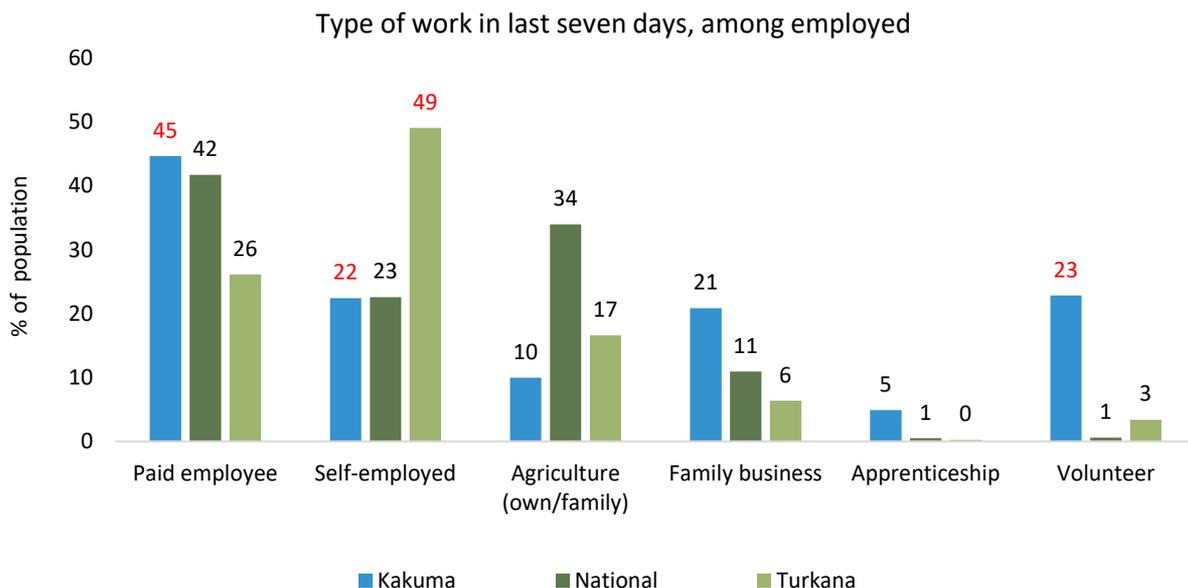


Inactivity, informal and low paid jobs

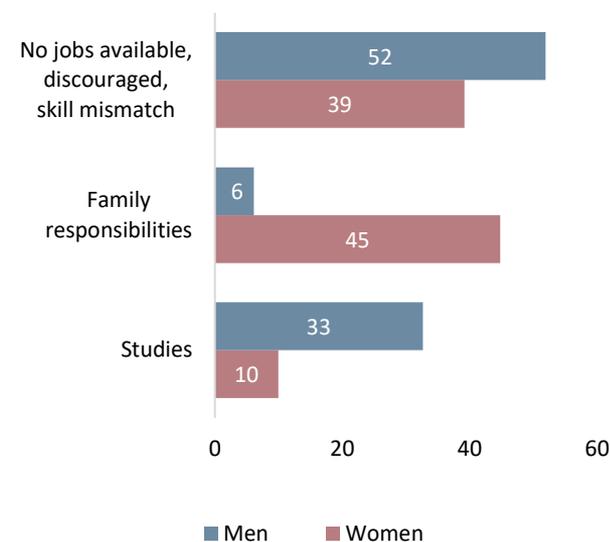
Labor force status



Nearly half of employed refugees work as wage employees while self-employment is the main activity among hosts

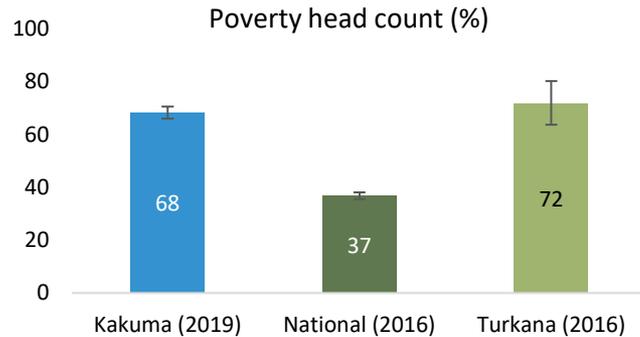


Reason for not looking for work among refugees



- Self-employment is undertaken by only two in ten refugees.
- Volunteering is nearly 8 times more common among refugees compared to Kenyans.

Poor refugee households are more likely to be South Sudanese, recently displaced, larger in size and headed by women



South Sudanese

8 in 10 of South Sudanese households are poor



Women headed households

More than 7 in 10 refugees who live in women-headed households are poor



Recent arrivals

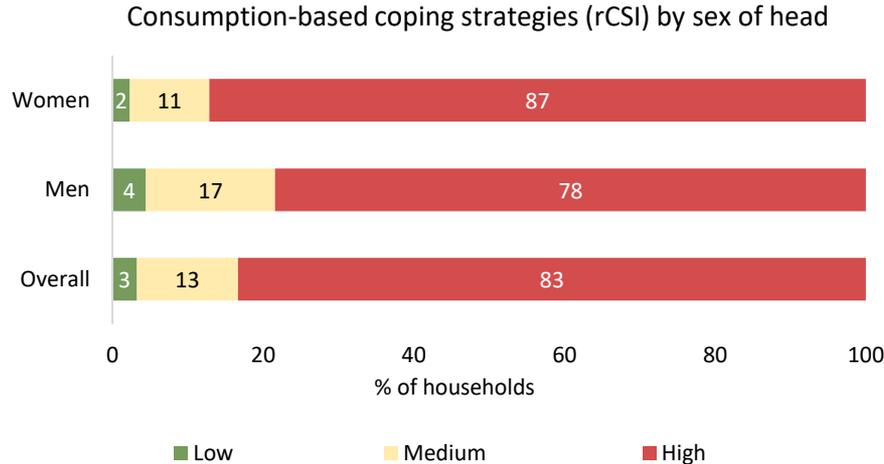
Those who have been displaced for longer (since 2008) are less likely to be poor than those more recently displaced (since 2012)



Large household sizes

Nearly 8 in 10 households with 7 or more members are poor. Only 11 percent of households with less than 3 members are poor

Eighty percent of refugee households are highly food insecure, while households headed by women are the most severely affected

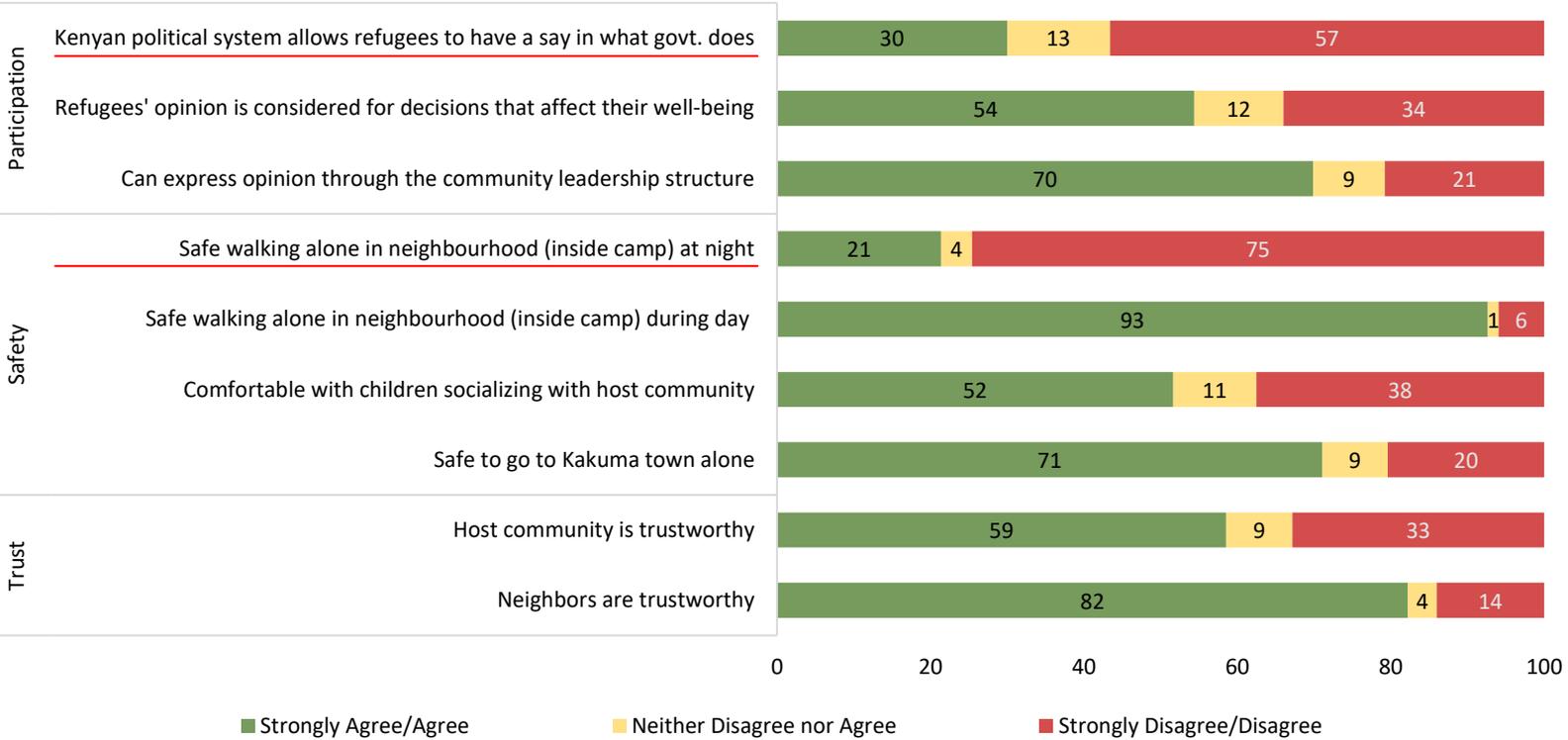


- rCSI measures households' level of stress due to food shortages. Strategies include reducing meals, eating less preferred foods, and limiting adult food intake for children to eat.
- The most used strategy is reducing the number of meals (77 percent), while 50 percent of households implement the most severe strategy of restricting adult consumption for children to eat.

Comparable data on food security are not available for nationals.

Perceptions of social cohesion are generally positive although negative regarding perceived consideration of refugees' opinions for decision making and safety at night

Perception of trust, safety, and participation



Most Kakuma refugees were displaced between 2008-2015, fled conflict, want to leave Kakuma, and need more information to inform their plans to move or stay



Most refugees fled in 2008-2015



Although most refugees wish to leave, they need information to guide their mobility plans



Lack of security in origin, is the main reason for having fled

Conflict, violence

Secondary reasons:



Droughts, floods and famine; lack of education and health services

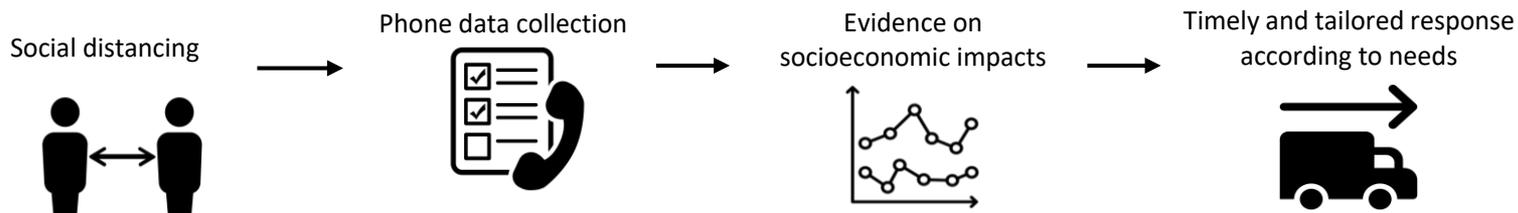


8 in 10 want to leave due to lack of food, employment opportunities and better security in desired destination (North America and Europe)

Socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19



The COVID-19 Rapid Response Phone Survey (RRPS) aims to fill socioeconomic data gaps while providing evidence to inform response



Coverage



• 100+ countries



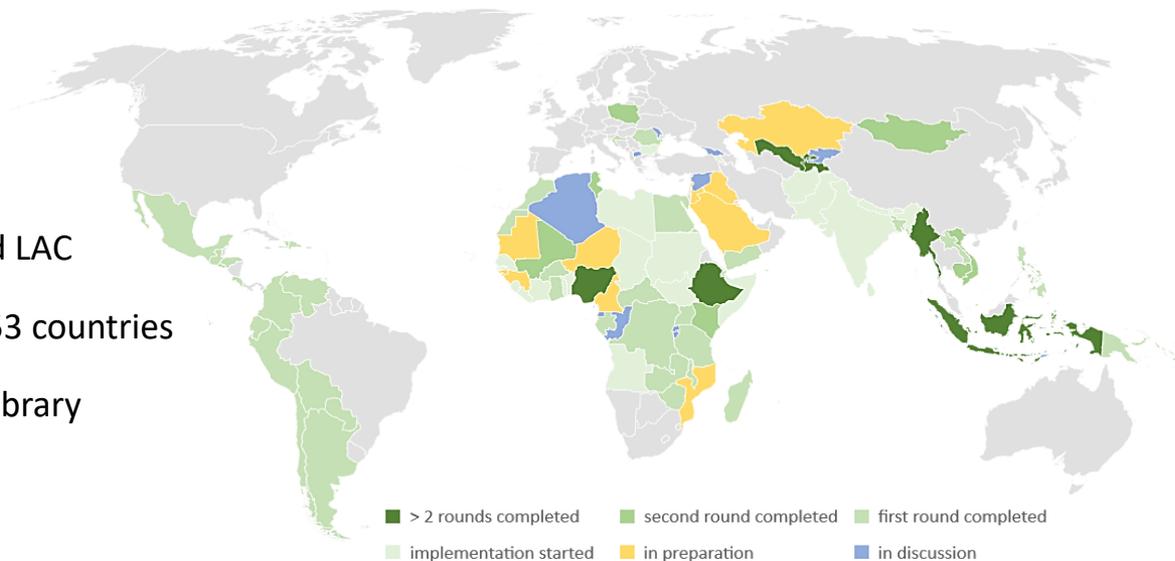
• 2 regional surveys: SAR and LAC



• Min 1 round completed in 53 countries



• 14 data sets in micro-data library



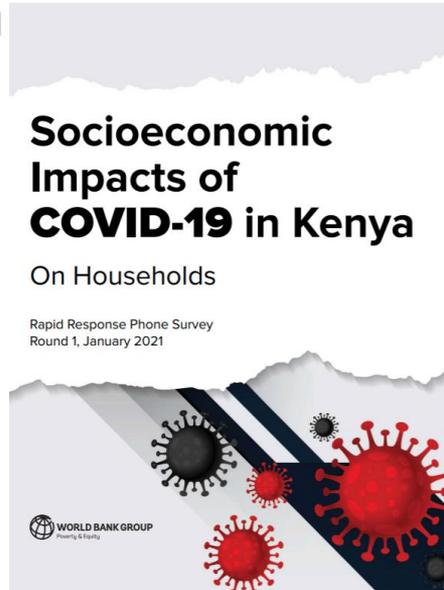
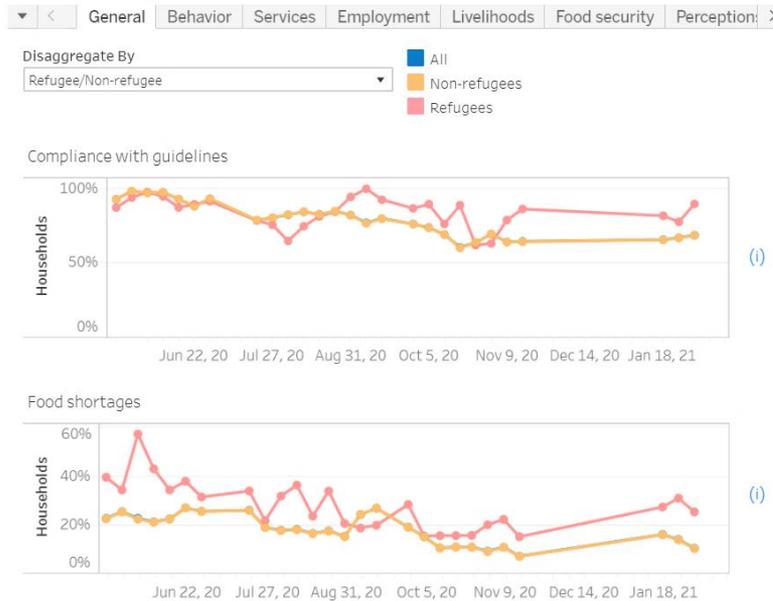
The Kakuma SES links its findings to the Kenya RRPS which collects bimonthly data from national, stateless, and refugee households

- 1,250 refugees and stateless people in Kalobeyei, Kakuma, Dadaab, and Nairobi
- Kakuma SES links its findings to the RRPS on education, health and livelihoods

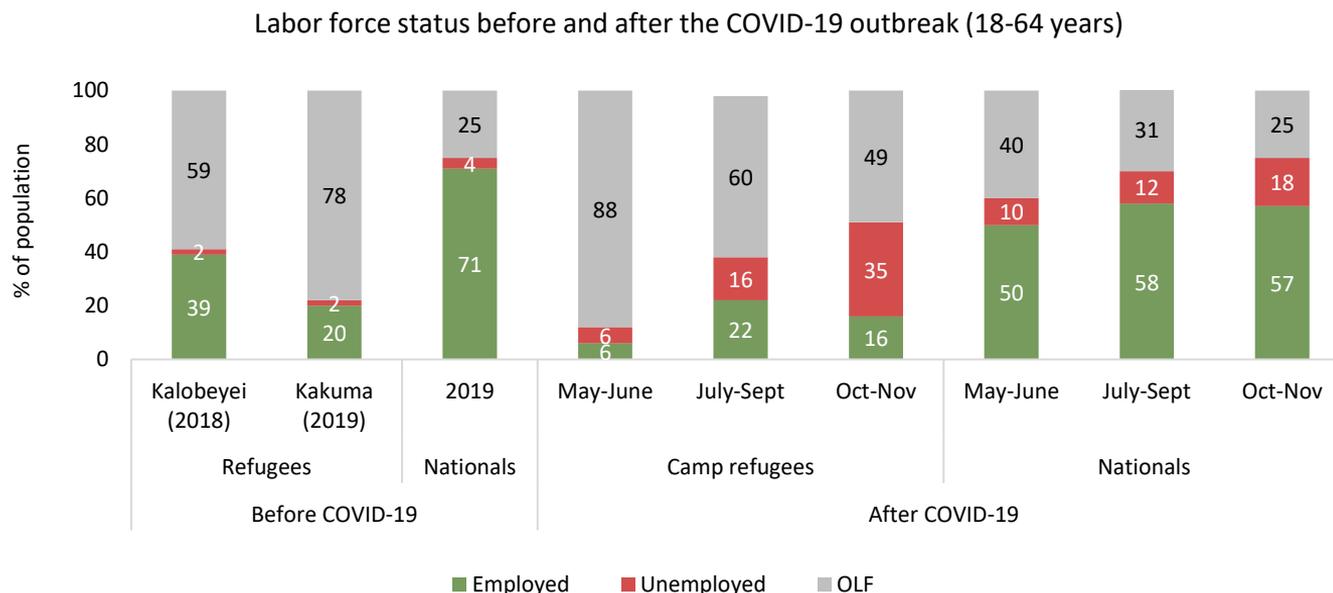


www.kenyacovidtracker.org/rrps

Dashboard



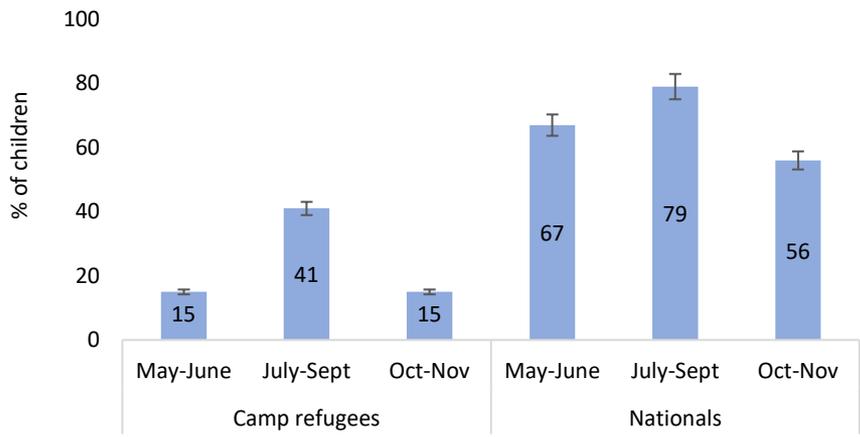
Refugees are disproportionately vulnerable to the COVID-19 shocks and are facing lower employment rates than nationals



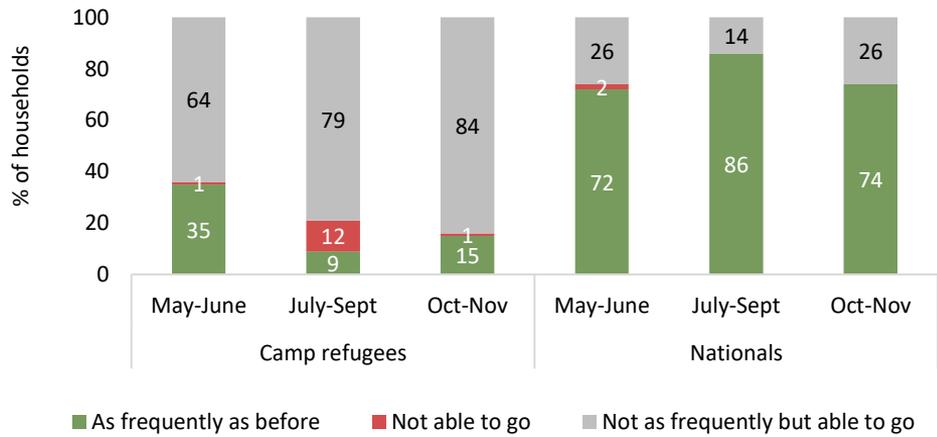
- Employment had declined sharply for the refugee population in the early months of the pandemic, but has since improved slightly.
- Women are more affected by unemployment as compared to men.

Engagement in learning activities and access to health services are lower for refugees compared with nationals

Children engaged in learning activities



Ability to go to routine health check-ups as frequently before the outbreak

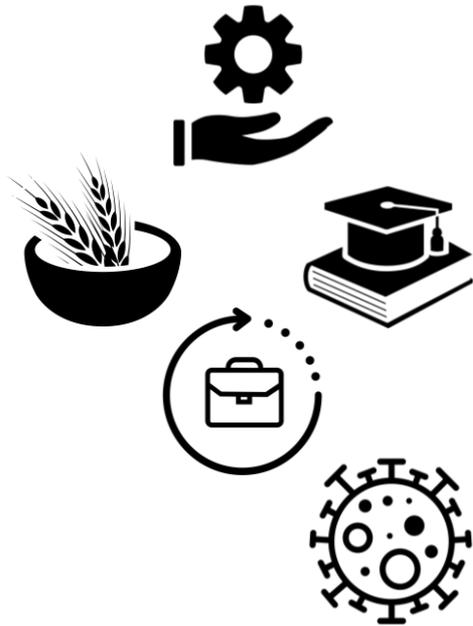


- Engagement in learning of children in refugee and national households increased in July-September before declining in the later months.
- In the early months of the pandemic, few refugee households were able to go to health check-ups as frequently as before the outbreak. This situation has worsened.



Recommendations

Recommendations



Improving access and quality of services is essential to lift living standards and build a physically and psychologically healthier population.

Supporting transition to secondary school especially among girls is necessary to build human capital.

Shifting from in-kind to cash assistance is critical to improve food security.

Identifying, strengthening and matching refugees and hosts' skills is key to enhance employment opportunities.

Investing in health, education, and livelihood is necessary to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

The Kakuma SES contributes to informing ongoing area-based planning efforts under KISED



The [Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan](#)

- 15-year comprehensive multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder initiative.
- Focused on self-reliance, livelihoods and inclusive service delivery.



- Structured within 8 components. 5 of which are covered by the Kakuma SES.

- ① Health
- ② Education
- ③ Wash
- ④ Protection
- ⑤ Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development
- ⑥ Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resource Management
- ⑦ Sustainable Energy Solutions
- ⑧ Private Sector and Entrepreneurship

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WORLD BANK GROUP
Poverty & Equity



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

