

THE SITUATION OF ERITREAN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN KENYA

UNHCR Kenya

LOCATIONS AND STRUCTURE OF UNHCR KENYA



KENYA

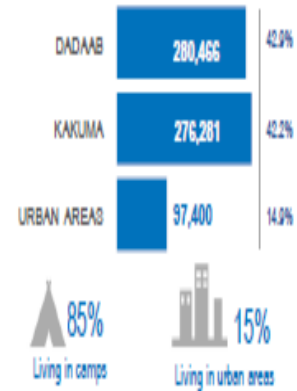
Registered refugees and asylum-seekers
as of 30 September 2023



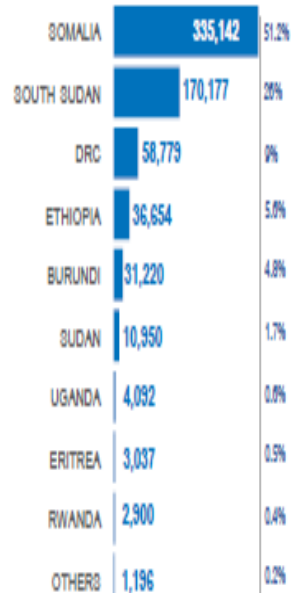
654,147

REGISTERED REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

HOST LOCATIONS

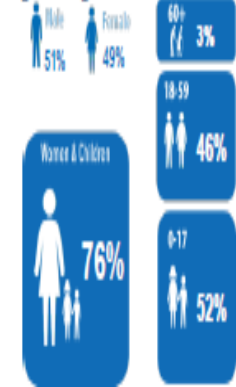


COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

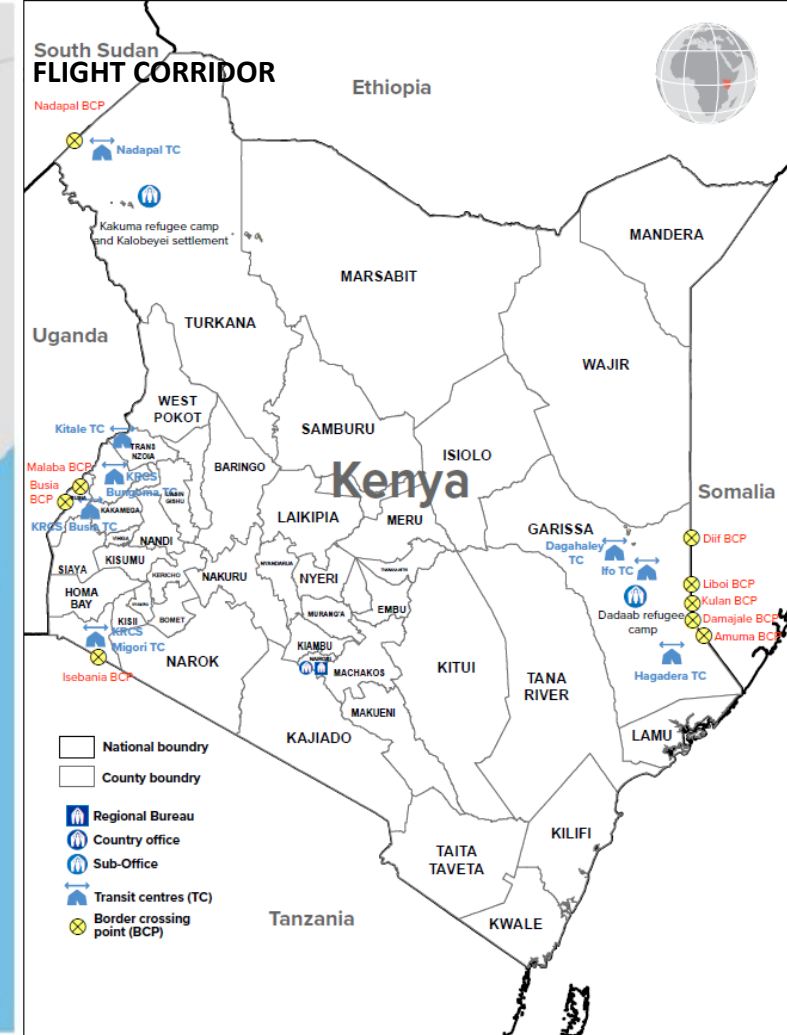
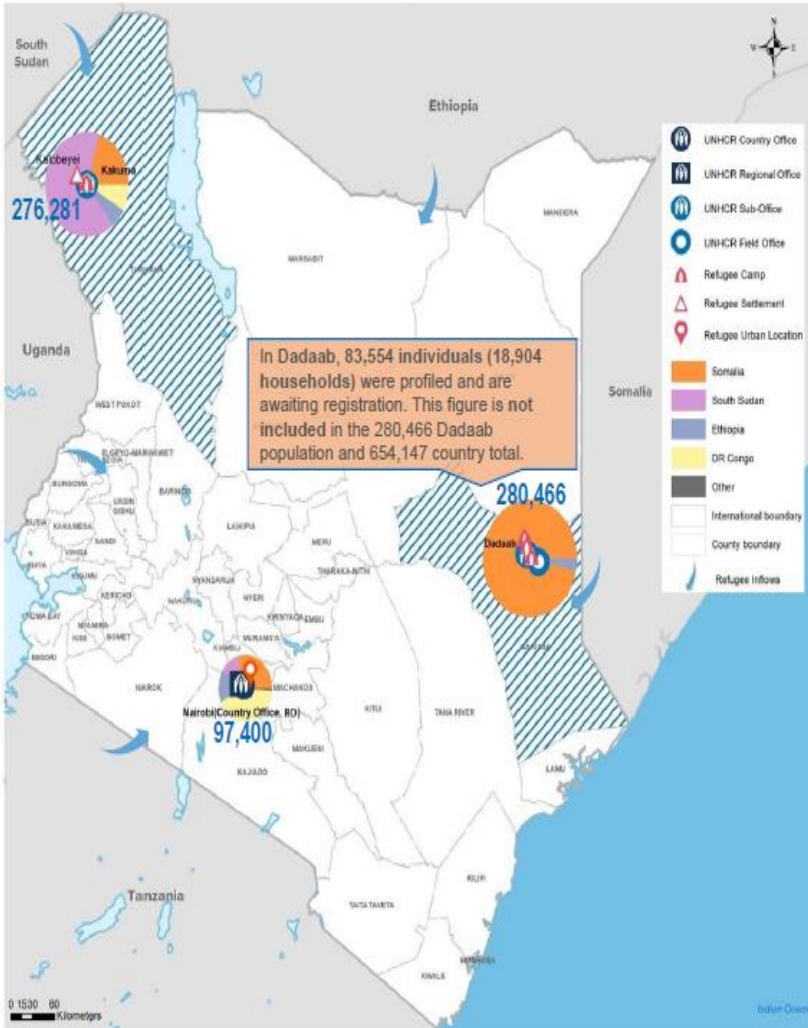


DEMOGRAPHICS

age and gender



LEGAL STATUS



UNHCR KENYA –URBAN OPERATION

- Population demographics
- Two offices: The main office in Gigiri and the Joint Refugee Service Centre (JRSC)
- JRSC- One-stop service center, UNHCR and DRS
- Appointments via the UNHCR toll-free helpline number **1517**
- Services offered include legal protection counselling (GBV, security incidents), documentation, registration, Refugee status Determination, Resettlement and Cash Based Interventions).

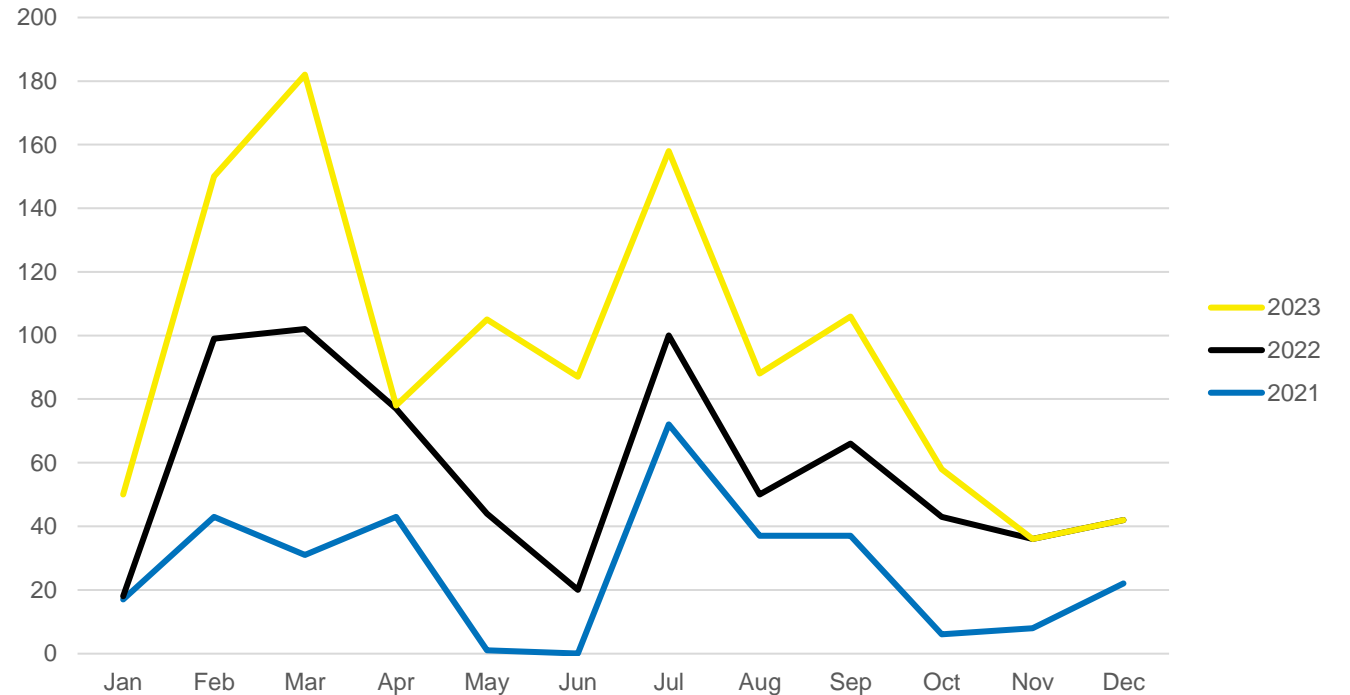
DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS OF THE ERITREAN POPULATION

- As of 30 Sep 2023

Age cohorts	Female	Male	Grand Total
00 - 04 years	68	88	156
05 - 11 years	128	175	303
12 - 17 years	127	137	264
18 - 59 years	1,187	1,041	2,228
60+ years	34	65	99
Grand Total	1,544	1,506	3,050

Legal status	Dadaab	Kakuma	Nairobi	Grand Total
Asylum Seeker	2	83	1,959	2,044
Refugee	2	17	987	1,006
Grand Total	4	100	2,946	3,050

2021-2023 Registration trend



ACCESS TO ASYLUM

- Unofficial routes / Victims of Smuggling / Trafficking
- Arrests and Detentions - for unlawful entry
- Court Orders for registration in the camps.
- Most Eritreans unwilling to reside in the camps
- Onward Movers- registration is suspended
- Many proceed to other countries (e.g Uganda) to join family members and others along the Southern Route
- UAMs- best interest procedures available



CHALLENGES

- Development of Refugee Regulations for the implementation of the Refugees Act 2021
- Encampment policy
- Police interaction/Lack of recognition of documentation
- Financial impediments impacting access to local schools
- Difficulty in accessing financial institutions, tools
- Poverty and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19
- Cross-border and secondary movement

DOCUMENTATION

- Issued by DRS
- Includes Refugee ID cards, movement passes, asylum seekers passes and CTDs
- Challenges: lack of formal recognition and lack of information on how to apply in the community.
- No direct link between the Refugees Act 2021 and the Citizenship and Immigration Act 2011.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Refugee family reunification may be achieved through one of the following channels:

- National procedures for family reunification
- Sponsorship pathways
- Resettlement

If family reunification is initiated through the national procedures in Germany UNHCR supports role verification/documentation.

If UNHCR identified a case for resettlement processing on the basis of family unity, then UNHCR is actively involved in the case processing until the case has been submitted to a resettlement country.

Family Reunification – Exit procedures

- IOM is in charge of all exit procedures of refugees who depart from Kenya.
- Government of Kenya (GoK) require the following documents:
 - Original registration documents (Refugee ID card or waiting slip) for those who are 18years & above. For those below 18years IOM submits the POR (Proof of registration).
 - Fingerprint forms for those 18 years and above.
 - Passenger Manifest with flight booking details.
 - Copies of the Travel documents.
- The German Embassy issues passports for recognised refugees. For asylum seekers, in the absence of a valid/recognized passport they issue a visa, but don't affix it on the passport.

Family Reunification – Local procedures

- Happens after refugee status is determined, and they also meet the reunification threshold.
- This reunion could arise from:
 1. Late arrival of immediate family members who meet reunion criteria age etc.,
 2. Marriage which assessment is carried out and determined,
 3. Newborn children with birth certificates provided,
 4. Persons with special needs and is confirmed during assessment,
 5. Minors recommended for foster care.
- After assessment and approval, their records are merged into a single entity under a focal person and documents bearing the identifier number of the focal person is completed are issued.

CHALLENGES

- Currently, the Government of Kenya is only issuing exit permits for recognized refugees departing on resettlement;
- Refugees who have in the past also registered in the national database (and likely obtained a Kenyan ID card) have to go through a vetting process of the GoK to determine their status which can be a lengthy process;
- Refugees with voluntary repatriation events in their records might experience delays in the exit permit process;

ACCESS TO SHELTER/HOUSING

- Refugees residing in the urban are required to support themselves and their families.
- Have access to housing on equal terms as Kenyans.
- Due to the rising cost of living most refugees reside in informal settlements.
- Reports of some landlords asking for higher deposits from refugees.
- CBI for very vulnerable cases
- Campers
- In the camps refugees are allocated plots of land and given shelter material.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Thank you!