



REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA



Annual Report and Financial Statements 2015

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Board Statement



The year 2015 was challenging for the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) in “Keeping hope alive” for refugees and other forced migrants. The challenges ranged from security concerns that impacted negatively on national refugee policies to donor fatigue and increased humanitarian crises globally.

National security particularly deteriorated following the Garissa University attack by Al-Shabaab militia where 147 university students were killed and scores injured. Following this attack, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya ordered the closure of Dadaab Refugee Camp perceived by Kenyans and the Government as a source of insecurity. Further, the National Assembly passed a law that effectively capped the number of refugees allowed into the country at 150,000. Although these provisions were successfully challenged in courts of law by civil society organisations like RCK, refugee management policy in Kenya was further “securitised”.

Donor fatigue continued to pose a challenge to RCK’s work during the year. The global financial crisis experienced by many donor countries as well as competing humanitarian priorities in the world led to a reduction in funding targeted at refugees globally and specifically for the Kenyan operations. To address this obstacle, RCK doubled its efforts to engage a wider pool of donor partners and reviewed its 2012-2016 Strategic Plan to guide its strategic focus. This cushioned RCK from the shocks resulting from reduced funding experienced globally.

The year 2015 also witnessed a migration crisis in Europe, with a huge influx of refugees from Syria, Somalia, Eritrea and Lebanon, resulting in the largest migration crisis since World War II. During this movement, many refugees lost their lives as a result of drowning in the Mediterranean Sea, starvation and diseases. At the same time, some states closed their borders to these refugees citing security concerns. We are hopeful that 2016 will see more humanitarian efforts and funds directed towards addressing the global refugee crisis.

Despite the above challenges, RCK made commendable progress in ensuring protection of the rights of refugees. Specifically, great strides were made in the review of the refugee policy. The refugee bill amendment working group developed a draft refugees’ bill which seeks to improve the balance between refugee protection and national security. The process will continue in the next year and the resultant bill tabled in Parliament for debate and adoption.

RCK is pleased to announce the change in management. We are pleased to bring on board Ms. Eunice Ndonga-Githinji as our new Executive Director.

As we embark on 2016, we wish to extend our appreciation to all our donors and partners and call upon them to continue supporting us in “Keeping Hope Alive” for refugees and other forced migrants.



Samuel Kabue
Board Chairman

Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I am happy to present to you the RCK's annual report 2015. As new and more refugee protection challenges emerge, RCK is continuously rising to this challenge, building upon a history of achievements in keeping hope alive for refugees and other forced migrants.

The year 2015 saw RCK grow in leaps and bounds. RCK opened an office in Buruburu to effectively reach refugees and persons of concern. RCK also employed additional staff and supported others to improve their capacity to deliver on our mandate. This led to an increase, by 16.8 percent, of clients assisted by RCK through the Legal and Social Justice Programme.

The Advocacy and Policy Development Programme continued to influence the review process of the Refugees Act, 2006 and its complementary national asylum policy. The process is still ongoing and hopefully, in 2016, the draft bill will be presented to Parliament for adoption. Moreover, through our advocacy efforts, RCK held its second Annual Regional Course on Forced Migration themed: *"Alternative to camps or solutions: What next?"* that was held from 3rd to 8th August 2015 in Nairobi. 55 participants drawn from the region, including government officials from Rwanda, Kenya and Somalia and representatives from different humanitarian organisations took part in the conference.

The Communication, Research and Monitoring programme established an information and technology (IT) unit with an additional IT staff. The programme continued to enhance RCK's visibility through the production of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and engaging with the public through social media on topical issues on migration. Further, the programme organised activities for internationally recognised days such as the Day of the African Child, International Women's Day and the World Refugee Day.

I wish to recognise the role of strong partnerships in achieving and sustaining success in this sector. I would like to thank all our partners and donors for the continued support and collaboration during the year that enabled us to grow and achieve our goals. I am optimistic that 2016 holds better opportunities as we endeavour to continue *'keeping hope alive'* for refugees and other forced migrants. Thank you all for your support.

Eunice Ndonga-Githinji
Executive Director

Key Achievements

In 2015, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya achieved key milestones in refugee protection. This report highlights the key achievements in its four focus areas, namely:

1. The Legal and Social Justice programme
2. Advocacy and Policy Development programme
3. The Communication, Research and Monitoring programme
4. The Institutional Support and Development programme.

Legal and Social Justice Programme

The goal of the programme is to ensure that asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and victims of trafficking in persons have access to their rights and live in dignity. The programme fulfils this mandate by providing legal aid and psychosocial services to these categories of forced migrants. It is guided by a broad strategic objective of enhancing access to justice and psychosocial support for refugees, the host community and other forced migrants.

Access to legal aid

In the period under review, 8,304 clients received legal aid through RCK support as shown in Table 1. below.

Area of Operation	Clients attended to			
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Dadaab	897	1917	60	96
Garissa	233	49	11	7
Kakuma	1190	1520	222	202
Nairobi	844	1032	15	9

Table 1: Number of clients that accessed legal aid at RCK

This represents a 16.8 percent increase in the number of clients assisted by Legal and Social Justice (LSJ) Programme compared to those assisted in 2014. This demonstrated RCK's improved capacity to respond to the increase in demand for legal aid services arising from threat of deportation of refugees by the Kenyan government as well as the political turmoil in South Sudan and Burundi that drove asylum seekers into Kenya. 2015 also witnessed an increase in first time clients compared to repeat clients who accounted for 53.6 percent of all the clients served by LSJ staff.

RCK also engaged refugees and asylum seekers through enhanced community sensitisation activities such as mobile legal clinics in refugee residential areas, legal awareness weeks, community forums and focus group discussions. In these forums, refugees were sensitised on their rights and duties, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) prevention and response and the voluntary repatriation process. In these forums, RCK learnt that through community leaders and law enforcement officers, they built refugees confidence in various ways,

including accessing legal justice, knowing how to handle sensitive issues especially in SGBV cases and making informed decisions.

Finally, enhanced partnership with the judiciary and law enforcement officers and other agencies helped to boost management of cases and making use of the referral system for asylum related cases. For example, RCK prevented the refoulement of three male persons of concern (PoCs) who were due for deportation having served their jail terms at Kamiti Maximum Prison after a referral from UNHCR. Further, RCK facilitated the provision of a medical cover and medical assistance for two Burundian Female minors who had been denied medical assistance for lack of a certificate of mandate.

Overall, a total of 2381 cases were handled by the LSJ team as presented in figure 1 below;

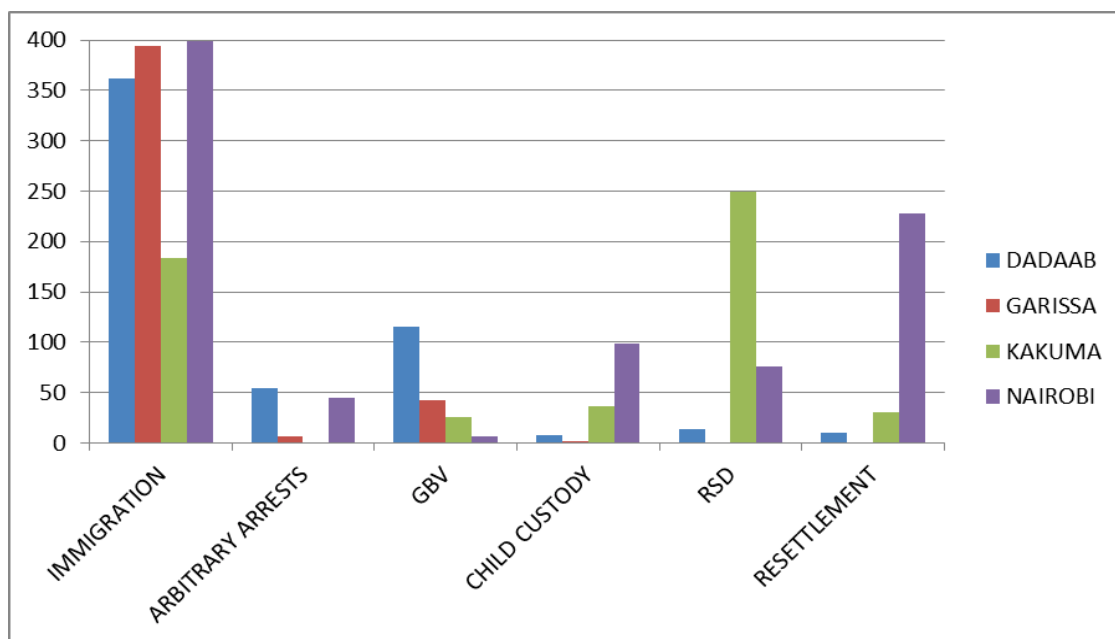


Figure1: Type of cases handled by legal Aid Staff

1606 of the cases were successfully concluded, representing 67.5 percent of all the cases handled by the programme. Among the cases concluded were those related to immigration, SGBV and child custody. However, no resettlement cases, which were referred to resettlement organisations for processing, were completed by the end of 2015. Some of the pending cases that will be followed up in 2016 include 31 immigration related cases, 175 GBV cases, 190 child protection cases and 317 RSD cases.

66.1% of all the clients attended to were identified and handled by a network of monitors, pro-bono lawyers and community-based counsellors managed by LSJ staff. Their interventions assisted many refugees in conflict with the law. For example, an RCK protection monitor in Mwingi County assisted a minor arrested for lack of a valid movement pass by providing legal advice to the minor on taking a plea in court and assisted him to reunite with his parents in Wajir.

Access to psychosocial support

The LSJ Programme assisted a total of 2,232 clients as shown in Table 2 below.

Area of Operation	Clients attended to			
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Dadaab	200	461	95	83
Garissa	47	207	24	83
Kakuma	44	66	54	42
Nairobi	278	480	31	37

Table 2: Number of clients provided with psychosocial support

3035 cases were presented to RCK and handled through four major interventions: one-on-one counselling, group therapies, family therapy and child counselling. Table 3 below shows the nature and number of interventions undertaken.

Intervention sessions	Area of Operation			
	Dadaab	Garissa	Kakuma	Nairobi
One-on-one counselling	1407	227	202	1252
Group therapies	34	30	20	45
Family therapies	6	6	0	6
Child counselling	214	122	121	179

Table 3: Number of cases handled by Psychosocial Staff

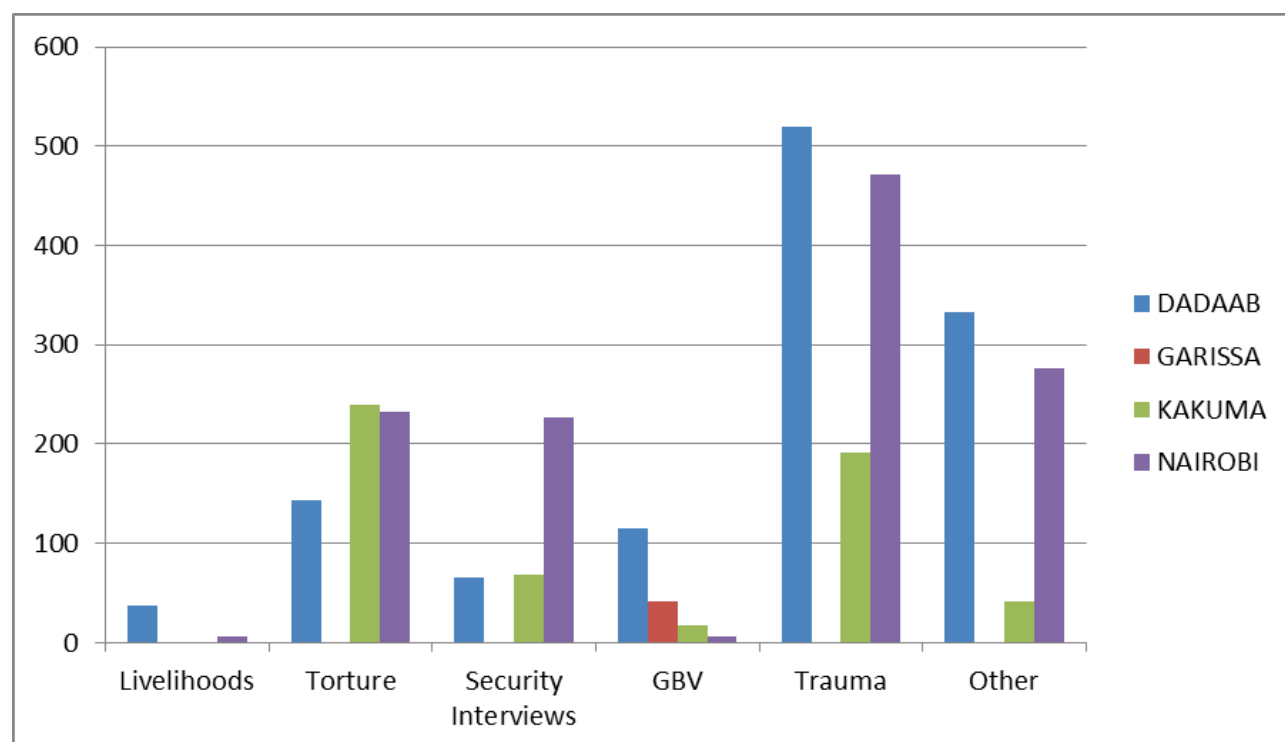


Figure 2: Number of Psychosocial cases handled in 2015

A majority of the cases (90%) were successfully concluded with clients developing healthy coping mechanisms. Particularly, clients that exhibited symptoms of trauma following traumatic events in their countries of asylum or origin were able to cope well following the support. Additionally, after the psychosocial interventions, the clients' perceptions of themselves improved and most of their relationships that had been affected by the trauma also improved.

Other interventions that were provided to refugees and asylum seekers by the Psychosocial Unit included home visits to ascertain their vulnerability, community-based counselling, referral for social assistance, joint case management with other partner agencies, case conference and protection working group meetings where protection cases were discussed and solutions proposed for the refugees with especially challenging needs such as insecurity and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) related cases.

The most notable success of the group counselling was the mobilisation of Ethiopian and Somali refugees with a common history of torture from their countries of origin for three sessions of group therapy with the objective of strengthening their coping mechanisms. As a result, group members identified economic empowerment as a key area of intervention that would help them improve their livelihoods. The outcome of this therapeutic interaction was the formation of a village savings and loaning scheme named "Qamar" meaning moon. The scheme is comprised of 15 women and they meet once a week for an hour and they contribute KES. 100 for saving and KES.10 as social fund. As at the first week of December 2015, the group had accumulated savings totaling KES. 5,025 and several members had already accessed loans amounting to KES. 800 that they were expected to start paying from January 2016.

Challenges

In the course of implementing interventions aimed at protecting the rights of refugees and other forced migrants, the Legal and Social Justice Programme encountered a number of challenges outlined below.

- Insufficient donor funds provided to cover transport cost for clients to attend group therapies. This resulted in some of clients missing sessions, others arriving late for sessions thus affecting the quality/efficiency of the therapies. To address this challenge, community-based group sessions conducted at the community levels as opposed to RCK offices should be considered.
- The inadequate child play materials inhibited child counselling. To circumvent this challenge, the counsellors improvised and found creative ways of engaging the children for counselling.

Lessons learnt

The programme learnt a number of lessons when implementing its interventions as highlighted below:

- With the over-stretched human resource, frequent supportive supervision is effective in alleviating fatigue and burn out among the counsellors.
- Child counselling was more effective at the community level and especially during home visits as opposed to children coming to the RCK office for the services. This is because parents/guardians found the community level arrangements convenient as they did not have to leave their commitments to accompany the children to the office.
- Family therapy was the best approach when dealing with stigma in survivors of SGBV. This is because the family became a good support system especially when stigma was from within the environment.
- Creating awareness on the legal justice system amongst the refugees builds their confidence to seek justice and appear in court.

¹ Taskforce on the review of the Refugees Act 2006 and development of the National Asylum Policy.

Advocacy and Policy Development Programme

The Advocacy and Policy Development (APD) Programme contributes towards RCK's specific objective of advocating for the development of rights-based policies, laws and practices for the protection of refugees and other forced migrants. During the period under review, the programme made progress as detailed below.

Legal and policy review

During the year, the programme lobbied members of the Kenyan National Assembly and engaged in the review of the Refugees Act 2006, development of the National Asylum Policy, the National Action Plan (NAP) to end statelessness, IDP policy and the National Identification and Registration Bill, 2015. This aimed to put in place a responsive and sound legal regime for the protection of refugees, stateless persons and Internally Displaced Persons. The National Identification and Registration Bill on the other hand will streamline registration of individuals and set up reliable data bases. Registration will also mitigate the risks of statelessness.

- (i) **The review of the refugee bill 2015:** In the process of developing the Refugees Bill, 2015 and its complementary policy, the APD programme participated in a number of strategic advocacy and planning meetings of the Taskforce¹, organised sensitisation workshops and bilateral meetings targeting Legislators (Members of Parliament and Senators). In conjunction with partners, the programme also facilitated a visit to the Dadaab Refugee Camp for Legislators and Taskforce members. The visit gave the group insight into the life of refugees in camps, including challenges they face. The visit was instrumental in informing the decision to lobby for repeal as opposed to the amendment of the Refugees Act, 2006.

A key outcome for the programme during the year was the development of a Refugee Bill, 2015 and its complementary national asylum policy. The Bill is aimed at repealing the Refugees Act, 2006 i.e. the Bill contains provisions addressing contemporary issues in refugee management, including the national security-asylum space nexus, the lack of a streamlined refugee status determination process in Kenya and protecting the interests of the host community, among others. As at December 2015, the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association (KEPHRA)², a key partner of the Taskforce in the review process of the Refugees Act, 2006 submitted the Refugees Bill, 2015 to the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for further action³ before its presentation on the floor of the House.

The programme attributes this success to the intense sensitisation and knowledge enhancement activities that targeted legislators. It is notable that a parallel bill spearheaded by the Administration and National Security Committee in the National Assembly was developed due to divergent views among Taskforce⁴ members on some of the provisions⁵ in the Bill drafted by KEPHRA with support from the Taskforce. Going into the year 2016, RCK as the lead in advocacy, will promote efforts aimed at harmonising the parallel review processes of the Refugees Act, 2006 so as to have a united front in advocating for the repeal of the Act. At the same time, the draft National Policy on Asylum Seekers and Refugees is due for dissemination to and review by other stakeholders such as the Urban Refugee Protection Network (URPN), the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and other civil society organisations (CSOs).

² Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association.

³ As per requirements of the Parliamentary Standing Orders.

⁴ Task force. It comprises of the following organisations; Kituo Cha Sheria, Heshima Kenya, International Rescue Committee, Refugee Consortium of Kenya, Hias Refugee Trust, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Department of Refugee Affairs and Danish Refugee Council.

⁵ Major issues of divergence in the two bills include: Establishment of a Commission to oversee policy work on refugees. DRA would be the Secretariat in charge of implementation of policy directions of the Commission; establishment of a Refugee Trust Fund and the placing of refugee matters within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs instead of the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

- (ii) **Advocacy on IDP policy:** RCK participated in four meetings of the Protection Working Group on IDPs (PWGID), which aimed at, among others, lobbying for the passing of the IDP policy and lobbying the Government of Kenya to ratify the Kampala Convention on the Protection of Internally displaced persons. As a result of the lobbying, RCK as the Chair of Advocacy sub-group under NPWID,⁶ led talks that yielded consensus on the need to change strategy in terms of monitoring and bringing the government to account for the implementation of the IDP Act, 2012. To this end, the NPWID agreed to lobby for amendments to the IDP Act, 2012 with a view to incorporate monitoring aspects to the governments' implementation of the Act. Further to this change of strategy, the programme, contributed to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process for Kenya. In addition, the programme contributed to development of the action plan for the implementation of UPR recommendations, particularly those concerning protection for refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and other forced migrants.
- (iii) **Advocacy on Statelessness Matters:** As part of Working Group on Statelessness, RCK took lead in the development of National Action Plan (NAP) to end statelessness. The programme also contributed to the drafting and reviewing of proposed National Identification and Registration Bill, 2015. In addition, the programme coordinated and steered the drafting of the National Action Plan (NAP) to end statelessness. The draft is set to be launched in the first quarter of 2016.

In numbers, the programme:

- Participated in 14 meetings of the Taskforce on Refugee Bill, 2015 and the asylum policy.
- Participated in 10 advocacy and lobbying meetings and workshops with National Assembly on the draft Refugee Bill, 2015.
- Participated in three UPR workshops in which the government was successfully lobbied to ratify

Kampala Convention on the protection of internally displaced persons.

- Participated in four PWGID Advocacy sub-group meetings on implementation of the IDP Act, 2012 and adoption of IDP Policy.
- Participated in seven meetings and one partners' retreat of the Working Group on Statelessness to discuss the National Action Plan to end statelessness.

Training and capacity enhancement sessions

In line with RCK efforts aimed at enhancing knowledge among state and non-state actors on relevant policies and legislations on refugees and forced migrants, the following capacity building activities were conducted during the year:

Type	Venue	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Trainings for Law enforcement officers on refugee protection and other forced migrants targeting Court User Committee (CUC) ⁷ Members, Maslaha officials, county administrators, police college instructors' and security officials	Nairobi, Isiolo, Moyale, Migori, Garissa, Dadaab, Wajir, Meru, Nakuru, Dadaab, Kisumu and Naivasha	1256	1202	2,458

⁶ National Protection Working Group on Internal Displacement.

⁷ The CuC is made up of judicial and law enforcement officers (immigration, police, wild life services, prisons, probation and children welfare officers) and civil society organisations

Type	Venue	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Lectures in Institutions of Higher Learning	Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA), Riara University, Kabarak University, Strathmore University	118	126	244
Annual Regional Course on Forced Migration	Nairobi	32	23	55
67 community sensitisation forums on refugee rights, SGBV, discrimination, the RCK mandate, trauma management, peace building	Nairobi, Garissa, Dadaab , Kakuma	1791	1371	3,162
Commemoration of the Day of the African Child	Nairobi			3000 children
Grand Total				8, 919

Table 4. Capacity building activities conducted during the year

Capacity building sessions focused on typologies of forced migrants, human rights, development of international, regional and national legal framework on refugees, management of refugees in Kenya (Refugees Act, 2006), the RSD process, solutions to the refugee and asylum seeker issues, the role of CUC members in protection of refugees and asylum seekers, refugee protection vis-a-vis national security, human trafficking and smuggling of persons (the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act) and the statelessness issue in Kenya.

Participants showed interest in critical issues in refugee management and forced migration in Kenya as evidenced by questions focusing on the reasons for high number of refugees in the country, the applicability of voluntary repatriation and the dynamics such as security and national interests in refugee protection discourse.

An analysis of the pre- and post- training evaluation forms from the trainings showed that initially, an average of 80% of participants in the trainings were not conversant with issues of forced migration, refugees and asylum seekers and had also not been trained on refugee matters prior to the trainings organised by RCK. At the end of all the trainings, participants, through the post- test evaluation forms, showed a better understanding of the typologies of forced migrants, the modalities of legal access to asylum in the country and the requisite policies, laws and practises in dealing with refugees and other forced migrants.



Participants of the second Annual Regional Course on Forced Migration held in Nairobi in August 2015



A training session in Kiganjo Police Station, Nyeri County

Forced Migration Compliance Monitoring

This entails monitoring compliance to national, regional and international instruments on the protection of refugees and forced migrants through protection monitoring missions along flight corridors frequented by refugees and other forced migrants. In 2015, RCK conducted a total of 24 monitoring missions through its various offices in Nairobi and Kakuma. These covered Narok- Kisii- Keroka -Migori- Isebania route; Isiolo - Laisamis -Marsabit – Moyale route and Lodwar-Kitale-Swam-Malaba-Busia-Kisumu-Nakuru-Eldoret (two missions) and 19 at the Nadapal border point.

The monitoring missions were instrumental in bringing out access to justice related challenges. The greatest challenge was language barrier as most asylum seekers and forced migrants found along the corridors often did not speak Kenyan national languages. This made it difficult to communicate with them to establish the reasons for their presence in the country, hence limiting their ability to access to available protection mechanisms. Additionally, lack of requisite knowledge on forced migration issues among government officers particularly on refugee documentation led to unnecessary arrests of persons of concern. The lack of resources by various government offices to deal with issues of forced migrants along the flight and transit corridors was a concern raised by government officers.

In the period under review, a needs assessment monitoring for returnee refugees from Uganda was conducted in various parts of the country, reaching a total of 475 returnees. A report of the returnees' assessment was submitted to UNHCR for action. A meeting is scheduled for January 2016 to discuss findings and chart a way forward on how to address some of the key lessons and recommendations from the report.

Following the findings of the monitoring activities during the year, the programme engaged in project proposal reviews mid-year with partners to incorporate capacity building activities to respond to the capacity and knowledge gaps. It is under these revisions that a Court Users Committee Training (CUC) for the Migori law Courts, along the Isebania – Migori transit route was carried out. Further, RCK at the end of the 2015, submitted proposals to donors aimed at increasing the pool of translators, conducting advocacy targeting government ministries regarding resources allocation and large scale capacity building activities.

Regional and International Advocacy

(i) The 56th and 57th African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) sessions in The Gambia

The programme was represented in the 56th and 57th ACHPR sessions which were held between 21st – 7th May 2015 and 4th – 18th November 2015 respectively in the Gambia. From 31st October to 6th November 2015, RCK was represented in the NGO forum preceding the opening of the 57th Ordinary Session during which Kenya was reviewed against its Periodic Report on the Human Rights situation presented by the Kenyan Government. Besides the government report, RCK in collaboration with other civil society organisations in Kenya developed and presented a parallel report to the Commission. Due to its observer status with the Commission, RCK presented statements to the Commission on both the Sessions highlighting the reduction of protection space of forced migrants in Kenya. The contents of the presentation will be used by the Commission to review the status of human rights implementation by the Government of Kenya.

During the 56th Session of ACHPR, the programme secured a side-meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants to update her on the situation in Kenya. At the end of the session, RCK contributed to the adoption of resolution 302 (LVI) which among others, calls on the government of Kenya to take all necessary measures to protect refugees in conformity with regional and international commitments that Kenya is party to. During the 56th ACPHR Session, RCK participated in a meeting with the Special Rapporteur for Refugees and IDPs to lobby for support in boosting protection for refugees and IDPs in Kenya. RCK also made contributions during plenary and special interest groups discussions besides delivering a statement. At the end of the 56th session, a resolution was adopted by the Commission urging the Kenyan Government to take all necessary measures to protect refugees in line with international and regional instruments that Kenya has acceded to.

During the 57th ACPHR Session, RCK, in partnership with Independent Medical Legal Unit (IMLU), Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and International Commission of Jurists-Kenya Chapter (ICJ) delivered two statements at the Commission, urging the Government of Kenya to uphold the Constitution, respect human rights, and enhance civil space. The issues raised, such as the shrinking asylum space in Kenya and the neglect of internally displaced persons (IDPs), were also reported by the media thereby increasing the reach of RCK messages.

(ii) The Summit on Migration in Valletta, Malta - 9th -11th November 2015

During the Summit, RCK participated in a forum for civil society actors on 10th and 11th November 2015 in Valletta, Malta. The forum included two round table discussions on the root causes of reactive migration, forced displacement and the European Union containment policy and a press conference on 10th and 11th November 2015.

Specifically, RCK contributed to the round table discussions on the root causes of migration by sharing information on the causes of displacement in Kenya and the East Africa region. The introduction then detailed the challenges that the Government of Kenya is facing in managing refugees due to the increased insecurity incidents in the country and the steps taken towards the repeal of the Refugees Act 2006. The presentation drew interest from participants who wanted to know more about the consequences of the encampment measures imposed on refugees and asylum seekers, the perception of host community towards refugees and asylum seekers, and the naturalisation provisions contained in the proposed Refugees Bill, 2015.

During the Valletta Conference, a political declaration and an action plan to address the migration to Europe were adopted and an Emergency Trust Fund for Africa established. The objective of the Summit in establishing the Fund was to ensure that the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement resulting from state fragility and insecurity, as well as from demographic, economic and environmental trends are addressed. This is by focusing on reducing poverty, promoting peace, good governance, rule of law and respect for human rights, supporting inclusive economic growth through investment opportunities and the creation of decent jobs, improving the delivery of basic services such as education, health and security. RCK is closely following up on the updates related to the Emergency Trust Fund to submit project proposals under various focus areas of the fund.

(iii) Debate on Protection and Prevention, the High Commissioner's Dialogue, 16th – 17th December 2015

During the High Commissioner's Dialogue in 2015 themed: "Understanding and addressing root causes of displacement," RCK was represented in the Debate on Protection and Prevention which took place on 16th December 2015, and which was co-chaired by Mr. António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

During the dialogue, RCK provided information on the differences between the root causes of displacements arising from natural disaster and conflict induced displacements. RCK also gave highlights on the responses to these different causes of displacements as well the role of local communities in preventing conflict and ensuring protection. It is better to say, that our presentation among others, contributed to the humanitarian priorities for the year 2016.

(iv) NANSSEN¹² Consultative Forum

RCK was represented in the NANSSEN intergovernmental consultation meetings held on 12th and 13th October 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (Protection Agenda) was endorsed by 109 governmental delegations. The purpose of the Protection Agenda is to enhance understanding, provide a conceptual framework, and identify effective practices for strengthening the protection of cross-border disaster-displaced persons.

Strategic Partnerships

(a) Kenya Comprehensive Refugee Programme (KCRP) meetings

RCK participated in seven KCRP meetings. The KCRP is a task force that coordinates comprehensive needs assessment for refugees and asylum seekers in Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab. RCK contributed to the drafting of the 2015 KCRP concept note and prioritisation of sectors. In addition, RCK took lead in the drafting of the KCRP 2016 document's segment on legal assistance and durable solutions.

(b) Inter- Agency Working Group (IAWG) meetings

RCK participated in five IAWG advocacy meetings. The core objective of IAWG is to create a forum for information sharing and to identify joint opportunities/ events to further regional advocacy towards improving humanitarian and legal protection for forced migrants in East and Horn of Africa. RCK contributed to the development of advocacy action plan for improved protection of forced migrants in the region. The RCK's specific contribution was on actions concerning improving policy and legislative frameworks.

(c) Urban Refugee Protection Network meetings

The programme participated in seven meetings of the urban refugee protection network (URPN), in which progress regarding the review of the Refugees Act, 2006 and the development of the national policy on asylum and refugees was shared. This platform also provided the programme with an opportunity to identify advocacy issues relating to the protection in the country based on challenges raised by partners participating in the meetings. RCK was also able to harmonise capacity building and community outreach activities with other partners, thus reducing duplication of efforts.

(d) Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDDS) meetings

RCK participated in six meetings of the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS). During these meetings, RCK updated the participants on the Refugee Act, 2006 review process and also contributed to the development of a study titled: “Devolution in Kenya: Opportunity for transitional solutions for refugees”. The aim of the study analysed the potential opportunities provided by devolution in Kenya which could be leveraged on to support interim solutions for refugees which can contribute to building their self-reliance and to local economies. This study has been published.

(e) International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) Meetings

RCK participated in four meetings of the Board of ICVA in which strategic and operations decisions on the international council of voluntary agencies were made. Through its membership to the ICVA Board, RCK was nominated to participate in the High Commissioner’s dialogue *(discussed under international conferences above)*.

Challenges

- Competing priorities for members of KEPHRA, Taskforce and other government officers led to delays in scheduling of project activities, especially workshops and fact finding mission activities related to the review process of the Refugees Act, 2006.
- Bureaucracy and lack of interest by some government officers and partners to address some concerns raised by RCK regarding the charging of Visa fees for refugees. This delayed access to Kenyan territory by especially South Sudanese asylum seekers.
- Inadequate resources and facilities among government offices hampered realisation of some rights of PoCs (lack of courts, prisons, banks, magistrate quarters and funding for NCCC). This meant that activities relating to the IDPs Bill had to be put on hold until when resources would be available. It also meant that for refugees and asylum seekers in Kakuma that didn’t have a permanent court would travel to Lodwar town to access justice. This caused unnecessary delays.
- Divisions within the Taskforce leading to drafting of two parallel Refugee Bills to be tabled in Parliament. This resulted in delay in conducting some activities related to Refugees Bill, 2015.

Communication, Research and Monitoring Programme

The goal of Communication, Research and Monitoring (CRM) programme is to enlighten the society on refugees and forced migration. This is achieved through informing and empowering targeted interest groups on rights and protection issues of refugees and other forced migrants.

Research

The programme conducted one research project supported by the Danish Refugee Council's Great Lakes Programme (DRC GLP). The research investigated the level of self-sufficiency and economic contribution among refugees residing in Nairobi. Although the research is to be launched within the first quarter of 2016, it has pointed out important gaps on refugees' access to work permits and other legal documents necessary in accessing economic opportunities in Kenya. It also challenged the myths surrounding refugee earnings, their economic contribution and lifestyle by reporting on their economic activity and the benefits of these activities. Recommendations from this research have formed part of a project on refugees' access to work permits that RCK will be working on in 2016.

Production and Dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials

The CRM Programme produced a total of 4,405 information, education and communication (IEC) material during the period under review. These ranged from posters, banners, brochures, booklets and t-shirts. They were disseminated during trainings and missions that RCK conducted during the year as well as in international celebrations such as The World Refugee Day, Day of the African Child and International Women's Day.

500 of the t-shirts were for The Day of the African Child, 250 for 16 Days of Activism and 400 t-shirts carried messages on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention. In addition, 700 brochures, 200 booklets and 900 posters with information on SGBV were printed and distributed in Dadaab, Garissa and Kakuma and five RCK banners were produced for the field offices. An additional 550 Child Friendly booklets and 900 Refugee Act information booklets were produced for both Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.

Government officials, refugees, partners and other stakeholders were able to access information on refugee law through these IEC materials. The production of the first ever Forced Migration Grey Book had a significant impact as it provided magistrates and asylum lawyers with a compilation of all the laws relating to asylum and thus making it easier to determine asylum related cases.

Public Information and Social Media Interaction

During the year, a total of five radio shows were held in Dadaab and Kakuma camps. The radio shows were held in BBC radio, Star FM and Atayaache FM. Star FM and Atavaeche are local radio stations that broadcast in Swahili and local languages. Through the call in interviews, important information on SGBV and refugee protection was shared and voices of refugees and IDPs given a platform to be heard.

The CRM programme also engaged refugees, partners, and the general public through the use of social media. This led to an increase in interaction on RCK Facebook and Twitter platforms by 58 percent, resulting in RCK messages reaching a wider audience. Through these platforms, RCK has communicated with its clients and partners on events and updates, discussed contentious and current issues, and allowed its clients to raise their concerns.

In the period under review, RCK in conjunction with UNHCR, Kituo Cha Sheria, Kenyatta University and other partners, organised a refugee law moot court competition. The moot court competition brought together students from 11 law schools in Kenya to compete. RCK provided three of the students that emerged the winners in the competition with an opportunity to work as interns in the Legal and Social Justice Programme. RCK also disseminated information on refugee law and three of RCK officers served as judges at the competition.

Information Technology Tools Usage

This year, RCK created a position for an Information Technology (IT) officer under the CRM programme. The officer has been working on the intranet system, developing an IT policy, working on the IT downtime and conducting weekly backup sessions. The IT policy is to be implemented in 2016. The policy will enable RCK to increase its efficiency in service delivery as well as effectively monitor the impact of its projects.

During the reporting period, RCK reviewed its asset management, particularly of IT tools. New procedures of laptop and other IT tools issuance and return were implemented. This new procedure improved the tracking of IT assets, thereby improving the level of accountability.

In the same breath, RCK reviewed its client data base system. The system is a useful tool that helps RCK to track the progress of refugees and other forced migrants' cases. RCK staff were trained on the features of this new system and data entry into this new system is expected to begin in 2016.

Monitoring and Evaluation

During the year, the programme conducted two programme and financial monitoring visits to the field offices, during which concerns were noted. Among the concerns noted were the inadequate resources to attend to all the offices and to conduct the required number of monitoring visits to the field offices as per our Strategic Plan. RCK, through the CRM programme, created a platform to receive feedback from our clients regarding our services. Clients were engaged during the year through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), the use of suggestion boxes and emails. Most of the feedback focused on follow-up on the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) cases, reporting of security threats, queries on how to reach RCK offices and how one can get an appointment with RCK. The feedback from these interactions was used to improve programming for RCK.

Challenges

- Lack of a reliable and steady internet service provider that fits RCK requirements reduced the level of staff interaction with IT tools such as the client database;
- Lack of funds limited the migration of data back-up from manual one to an online one.

Lessons learnt

- Twitter is the most popular social media platform. This calls for the need to channel most of our messages through it.

Institutional Support and Development Programme

Fundraising and resources

RCK's consolidated budget for 2015 stood at Kenya Shillings (KES). 125,499,790 against the figure of KES. 128,667,741 received in 2014 which represented a 2.5 percent decrease in funding. There was relative increase in funding for advocacy programmes but decrease in support for legal social justice initiatives. RCK has maintained cordial relationship with its donors and has acquired one new donor, Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), who supported legal work in Kakuma and Nairobi. UNHCR supported 40% of RCK programmes, representing the largest amount of funding.

RCK also participated in several international meetings that enhanced donor relations. Additionally, RCK management team and staff held monthly fundraising meetings and made funding proposals to UN Women, Danish Council for Refugees (DCR), Australian Embassy, and Finnish Embassy among other donors. Reports (quarterly and monthly), audits and verification exercises were carried out during the year. Also external audit was conducted by PKF auditors

Staff capacity and wellbeing

RCK had 45 permanent staff and 10 interns during the year. Three additional staff were recruited to fill positions that fell vacant over the year. RCK maintained the same staffing levels as in 2014. Eight staff debriefings were held where staff carried out team building activities, counselling services and shared challenges experienced over the year. Staff were paid on time and maintained on pension and GPA covers under ICEA.

Twelve key staff attended leadership and management skills training meetings. The managers who participated in this training have exhibited personal and professional development as their proposal writing skills have improved. Two staff attended overseas training on human rights-based approach to development.

Staff attended four debriefing sessions throughout the year. The debriefing provided an opportunity for RCK staff to relax, unwind and get rejuvenated to continue with programme work. This was especially important in enabling the LSJ staff deal with secondary trauma, burn out and feelings of helplessness following contact with clients. Further, staff were able to bond more outside work and this contributed to enhanced team work. Staff facing particular challenges were further supported through professional counselling and supervision sessions.



Challenges

- Delays in funds disbursements from our donors and partners caused delays in implementation of activities.
- Reduced funding to support capacity building programmes meant that staff had limited opportunities to sharpen their skills in the service of refugees.

The Year ahead

RCK anticipates that more people will be seeking asylum in Kenya and the region in the year ahead. This is because of the tensions in Burundi and South Sudan that are yet to dissipate. At the same time, tension has already started building up in the run up to the Ugandan elections. This will likely lead many to seek asylum in countries within the region, including Kenya.

The Voluntary return process for Somali Refugees projected for 2016 creates an opportunity for RCK to serve Somali refugees seeking to return to Somalia through protection monitoring and legal aid. However, the political climate in Somalia will have an impact on the repatriation process as clan rivalries are still evident. Further, Somalia will hold elections in 2016 that can possibly hinder the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees. RCK will leverage on various networks and partnerships to continue monitoring the implementation of the voluntary repatriation process to ensure that it is done appropriately

Kenya will also be holding its general election in 2017. RCK will strengthen its ground capacity in monitoring to ensure that the laws banning hate speech are fully implemented and that those individuals engaged in hate mongering are held accountable to prevent a repeat of 2007 post-election violence.

RCK looks forward to continue implementing its 2016 activities according to the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan. A review of the RCK 2012-2016 Strategic Plan will provide RCK with a road map for the next five years. The Legal Aid team in Nairobi, Dadaab, Garissa and Kakuma will also continue its approach of using mobile legal clinics to expand its reach.

We look forward to your continued support and partnership in the year ahead.

Financial Statement

PKF KENYA
Certified Public Accountants



Accountants &
business advisers

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA (RCK)

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) set out on pages 8 to 19 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015, statement income and expenditure and general fund and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management board's responsibility for the financial statements

The management board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium sized Entities and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entities preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) as at 31 December 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities.

PKF Kenya
Certified Public Accountants
NAIROBI

June 6, 2016

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this report of the independent auditor is
CPA Patrick Kuria - P/No. 2045.

501/16

Historical Information

Donor	2012 Receipts Shs	2013 Receipts Shs	2014 Receipts Shs	2015 Receipts Shs
Legal Aid - Nairobi project (UNHCR)	18,243,960	20,269,244	22,122,423	26,679,241
Legal Aid - Dadaab project (UNHCR)	15,514,209	14,105,194	11,660,870	16,191,764
Legal Aid - Kakumar project (UNHCR)	-	4,803,168	15,542,102	16,026,099
Legal Aid - Statelessness (UNHCR)	-	-	-	1,894,974
International Rescue Committee	2,334,529	11,392,720	14,154,711	12,334,064
American Friends Services Co.	1,843,285	2,436,675	3,533,491	3,245,834
Global Fund for Women	2,459,180	1,692,916	-	-
DCR - Kakuma	11,000,512	2,622,900	-	-
Danish Refugee Council	-	14,882,038	5,172,693	-
General support grant - The Sigrid Rausing Trust	13,205,586	13,153,285	13,926,164	14,768,838
General Psychosocial support grant - UNFVT	1,573,286	1,618,694	2,825,280	4,894,450
Tracing project - Refugee United and Extension	9,989,295	-	-	-
UN Women	-	-	3,870,060	-
Australian Embassy	-	-	-	1,952,055
MIVA - Project transport support	882,300	-	-	-
African Women Development Fund	413,151	-	-	-
Embassy of Finland	-	-	6,936,253	1,680,049
DRC - Great lakes	26,476,882	1,633,835	2,499,904	10,570,148
Swedish Development Corporation	-	10,323,933	11,626,442	8,655,305
Legal Aid - Dadaab project (UNICEF)	13,083,869	18,415,949	9,029,013	-
Bureau of Population for Refugees and migrants	-	-	-	3,194,916
	<u>117,020,044</u>	<u>117,350,551</u>	<u>122,899,406</u>	<u>127,187,737</u>

2015 DONATIONS



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

The organisation's auditor, PFK Kenya, has indicated willingness to continue in office.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

[Signature]

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

26/ MAY

2016

Statement of Income and Expenditure and General Fund

INCOME	Notes	2015 Shs	2014 Shs
Grant income	4	125,883,317	122,013,792
Other income	5	<u>3,904,642</u>	<u>8,133,913</u>
Total income		<u>129,787,959</u>	<u>130,147,705</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Project expenditure	6	(125,883,317)	(122,013,792)
Other expenses	7	<u>(9,204,963)</u>	<u>(8,307,652)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(135,088,280)</u>	<u>(130,321,444)</u>
(Deficit) for the year		(5,300,321)	(173,739)
General fund at start of year		<u>18,828,394</u>	<u>19,002,133</u>
General fund at end of year		<u><u>13,528,073</u></u>	<u><u>18,828,394</u></u>

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	2015 Shs	2014 Shs
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Equipment and vehicles	10	<u>13,639,060</u>	<u>10,857,321</u>
Current assets			
Receivables	11	1,061,197	10,996,330
Cash and cash equivalents	12	<u>27,733,874</u>	<u>36,102,678</u>
		<u>28,795,071</u>	<u>47,099,008</u>
Total assets		<u><u>42,434,131</u></u>	<u><u>57,956,329</u></u>
FUNDS			
General fund		<u>13,528,073</u>	<u>18,828,394</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Asset grants - deferred income	13	<u>8,539,060</u>	<u>10,857,321</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	14	374,700	6,004,562
Unexpended grants	15	<u>19,992,298</u>	<u>22,266,052</u>
		<u>20,366,998</u>	<u>28,270,614</u>
Total funds and liabilities		<u><u>42,434,131</u></u>	<u><u>57,956,329</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 19 were approved and authorised for issue by the Management Board on 27/11/16 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:

 **CHAIRMAN**

 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2015 Shs	2014 Shs
(Deficit) for the year		(5,300,321)	(173,739)
Adjustments for non-cash income and expenses:			
- Depreciation on equipment and vehicles	10	4,121,778	3,229,054
- Asset grant transferred to income		(2,421,778)	(3,229,054)
Changes in working capital:			
- Decrease in receivables		9,935,133	4,370,774
- (Decrease) in payables		(5,629,862)	(4,163,287)
- (Decrease) in unexpended grants		(2,273,754)	(1,258,803)
Net cash (used in)/from operations		<u>(1,568,804)</u>	<u>(1,225,055)</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Asset grant received		1,536,620	7,109,390
Purchase of equipment	10	<u>(8,336,620)</u>	<u>(7,109,390)</u>
Net cash (used in) investing activities		<u>(6,800,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(8,368,804)</u>	<u>(1,225,055)</u>
Movement in cash and cash equivalents			
At start of year		36,102,678	37,327,733
(Decrease)		<u>(8,368,804)</u>	<u>(1,225,055)</u>
At end of year	12	<u><u>27,733,874</u></u>	<u><u>36,102,678</u></u>

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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