



### ***Refugee Consortium of Kenya announces partnership with Turkana County Assembly***

Today, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Refugee Consortium of Kenya has formalized a partnership agreement with the Turkana County Assembly. An official signing ceremony held today at the Turkana County Assembly grounds in Lodwar between the County Assembly Speaker, Honourable Ekitela Lokaale and the Executive Director of RCK, Ms. Eunice Ndonga Githinji is a culmination of a series of consultations in 2017 between the two agencies on how to how to sensitize Members of County Assembly (MCAs) on forced displacement issues and on human rights based legislation. Ultimately this partnership will strengthen effective citizen participation in Turkana County with regard to legislation and/or policy making.

This agreement is part of a project that RCK is implementing through the Amkeni Wakenya initiative funded by the United Nations Development Programme. The project aims to increase



*Eunice Ndonga, RCK ED and Hon. Ekitela (Turkana County Assembly Speaker) sign a cooperation agreement*

participation of the local community through capacity building and awareness creation activities. Through this initiative, some 48 members of the Turkana County Assembly and other technical staff will receive training on legal and practical

means of citizen engagement. “MCAs need to understand crucial elements of public

participation in order for them to fully realize the promise of article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010,” said Ms. Ndonga.

The agreement comes at a time when new entrants to the Assembly, elected in 2017, account for 50 percent of the membership. They will form the biggest beneficiaries of this initiative. This initiative also builds confidence between the County Government of Turkana and other stakeholders, especially civil society organizations.