



REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA

Celebrating
25 Years
OF IMPACT

The Journey of Impact a future of Promise



ANNUAL *Report* 2025

Keeping Hope alive

A JOURNEY OF *Impact*



A FUTURE OF *Promise*

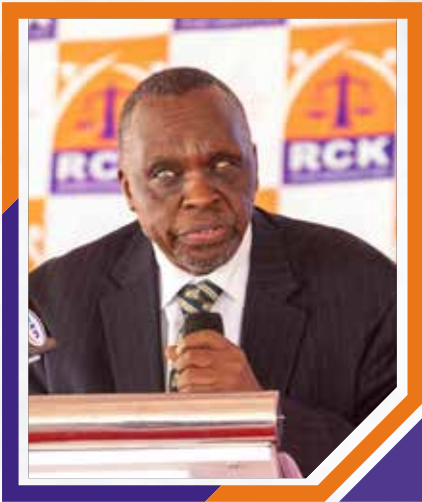


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Message from the Board Chairperson



I am honoured to present the Annual Report for 2025 of the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), a testament to our collective dedication to advancing the rights and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya. This edition being

special, marking RCK 25 years marks a profound milestone in the organizational growth. Looking back on our last year silver jubilee celebrations, we are reminded of how RCK began, as a spiritual seed, a shared idea that grew into a small initiative, and has now matured into a premier organization. Over the last quarter-century, this organization has transformed from a traditional charity model organization into an adaptive thought leader, convenor and supporter organization, directly impacting the lives of millions of forcibly displaced and host populations.

Our impact has reached and transformed the lives of more than 6 million targeted individuals, particularly those most in need, reflecting our strong commitment and success across various areas of intervention through social, institutional and systemic impact. From working on the ground across our regional offices, from expanding urban centers to our footprints in Kakuma and Dadaab established in 2008, our Garissa office established in 2013, and our newest presence in Mombasa launched in 2024, RCK has delivered on protecting human rights, building peace, and supporting displaced communities. Through global, regional, national and grassroots partners, RCK has taken the necessary steps to catalyze and support systemic, sustainable change in the legal, and social framework of refugee protection. This intentional expansion has been structurally anchored by our comprehensive Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027), which guides our vision for a just and inclusive society for all the displaced and host populations.

Our institutional commitment to governance and professional excellence has been consistently recognized by the wider legal fraternity. In 2023 and 2024, we won the award for the Best Civil Society Organization of the Year (Justice and Legal Affairs) from the Law Society of Kenya for the second consecutive year, in addition to the Humanitarian Diplomacy Award in 2025 from the International Relations Society of Kenya, in partnership with COMESA Secretariat and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. These accolades reflect our high-level legislative impact, including our role in co-chairing the national task forces that led to the drafting, validation, and enactment of the landmark Refugees Act, 2021, and the subsequent Refugees Regulations, 2024. They also highlight our contributions to the protection and advancement of refugee rights in Kenya and beyond.

As we forge forward from the past 25 years into the next chapter, we face the future with a clear institutional vision in the Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027. We are transitioning our strategies to align with the rollout of the national Shirika Plan, an evolution that will undoubtedly bring its own complexity in addressing refugee integration and socio-economic inclusion. However, our history proves that we possess the governance frameworks and adaptive capacity to transform these challenges into strategic opportunities.

Our 25th anniversary launched the next era, and ambitions to significantly scale our reach and impact for displaced populations and hosting communities. Our success will continue to be based not only on what we do, but on how we do it and our values. We embrace collaboration across sectors, we strive for professional excellence, we will promote and protect the voices of those we serve, and we remain passionately dedicated to our mission. This is the RCK way.

With compliments,

Dr Samuel Kabue

The Board Chairperson - Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)



Message from the Executive Director



This special edition celebrates the journey and impact that the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) has achieved in the past 25 years, *promoting a safe environment where displaced and host*

populations access justice and protection, and are empowered to achieve their full potential since our founding. Our silver jubilee was a momentous occasion, as an opportunity to retrospect and introspect with humility and strategic foresight.

Colleagues, you agree with me that the regional and global landscape in which RCK operates today is vastly different from a quarter-century ago - displaced populations are now profoundly affected by an interconnected mix of geopolitical conflict and shifts, climate displacement, economic instability, eroded funding landscape and rapidly evolving legal frameworks.

This shifting environment presents a critical opportunity to reshape refugee protection, forcing us to execute our mandates more effectively, more impactfully, and with greater agility in the years ahead. During our milestone celebrations, I reminded our stakeholders of a fundamental truth: in swahili, RCK is “shirika tajika” (a renowned), highly respected organization. Yet, RCK siyo shirika Tajiri (we are not a rich), our true riches are in our values of integrity, impartiality, fairness, respect for diversity and gender equality, characterized by the unwavering dedication of our current staff.

We appreciate RCK former staff and alumni, whose pioneering legacy laid our foundations, and we are guided daily by the unmatched resilience of the refugee communities who have trusted us with their stories, their struggles, and their hopes. To realize our long-term ambition for a future defined by inclusion, dignity, and opportunity, RCK is pivoting toward impactful outcomes for the communities we serve.

In addition, to our continuous learning and impact, our five offices in 2025, directly reached 50,136 community partners and project participants. This includes providing vital legal aid and governance interventions to 37,912 individuals, delivering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 7,433 people, and engaging 3,802 individuals through our peace and social justice programs. Beyond these direct services, our digital advocacy engaged over 250,000 individuals, while our broader media strategies reached an estimated 2.9 million people. Furthermore, we achieved a significant regional milestone by convening the inaugural East Africa Forum on Access to Labour Markets, bringing together over 100 high-level participants from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Sudan, alongside establishing three innovative business information hubs in Nairobi, Kakuma, and Dadaab.

As we move forward, we will champion and support authentic localization by prioritizing locally led, forcibly displaced -centered solutions, ensuring that the communities remain central to decision-making, ownership, and sustainable programming. Additionally, we will leverage strategic partnerships for systemic, social, and institutional level change as thought leaders, convenors and supporters, deepening our collaboration with Global, Regional, national and county governments, international non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, and donors. Finally, RCK remains resilient, agile, and fully equipped to anchor our mission for generations to come as we look toward our hundred-year milestone.

Our ambition for displaced populations and the host population is significant and will require RCK and our partners to work in entirely new ways with the pace, drive, and urgency that this global moment demands, and that the communities we serve truly deserve.

Together with our partners, we acted where we were needed the most ensuring the wellbeing, dignity and voice of the displaced and host population prioritized, and together, we will continue to transform challenges into opportunities, dreams into realities, and journeys into lasting legacies.

In Solidarity,

Barlet Colly Jaji

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barlet Colly Jaji'. The signature is stylized and fluid, written over a light blue background.

The Executive Director

Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)



Founder and Founding Member



Twenty-five years ago, the vision for the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) was born in faith and hope. It began when we noticed a critical, devastating gap in the refugee service ecosystem. While various organizations were doing commendable work providing education, welfare, and basic aid, the fundamental issue of refugee protection and human rights was entirely missing.

Vulnerable individuals were suffering from violence and assault across different sectors, yet there was no legal recourse, no resolve, and nowhere for them to turn. We could refer them to dispensaries or offer counseling, but their core rights remained unprotected. RCK was born out of the urgent need to bridge that gap.

As an indigenous organization, we knew we had the potential for a wider scope, deeper community inroads, and stronger advocacy. What began as an era of initial hostility toward our mission soon transformed into collaboration, as others realized that aligning with RCK's vision would strengthen the entire fraternity of refugee service providers.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. What started as a vision may have belonged to one person, in a manner of speaking, but its realization has been a collective triumph that could never have been achieved alone. Over the last 25 years, RCK has undergone a remarkable evolution. We have grown from a single-person initiative into a deeply institutionalized, resilient organization. By building robust governance structures and working hand in hand with management, we have established firm policies and strategic plans that respond dynamically to evolving refugee crises. Our mandate has expanded holistically, moving from foundational legal aid into mental health and psychosocial support, community empowerment, and influential national, regional, and global advocacy.

Today, RCK is a vibrant living entity. The proof of our impact lives on in the thousands of refugees who have found safety, dignity, and new beginnings, many of whom have resettled worldwide and continue to send their congratulations today.

We want to express our profound gratitude to our fellow founding members, our donors, our dedicated staff, the brilliant RCK alumni who carried the torch forward, our resilient beneficiaries, and our invaluable partners. You are the community that made this milestone possible. Thank you for buying into this vision, for your unwavering partnership, and for joining us on this vital, ongoing mission.

With gratitude,

Ms Abi Gitari

The Founder and Founding Member - Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)



Brief History

Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) is a non-governmental organization established in 1998 and formally registered in 2004 to address the refugee crisis and has continued to respond to an increasingly complex and deteriorating refugee situation in Kenya and the East African region with its initial office based in Nairobi.

In 2007, RCK established an office in Molo in partnership with DRC to respond to the IDP crisis following PEV. RCK also prepared GBV survivors to testify before the WAKI Commission

In 2008, RCK expanded its scope of reach by establishing offices in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps to respond to the glaring legal and advocacy gaps and became a UNHCR implementation partner around 2010 or thereabouts

In 2009, MHPSS in Molo brought women together around weaving baskets, knitting and other socio-economic activities, promoting dialogue and reconciliation among displaced communities. Also worked with Chiefs and other administrators to advocate for property rights (restorative justice).

In 2010, we made a major stride by developing a first-of-its-kind innovative project intervention in Kenya dubbed the Refugee Tracing Project. The project integrated technology to help refugees reconnect directly with missing loved ones through a safe, secure internet search tool that allowed full anonymity and was free of charge. The first phase of the project (June 2010-May 2011) saw a total of 32,146 refugees registering on the Refugee United (RU) platform.

In 2011, a Parliamentary Select Committee on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (PSC) was established in March to examine the Government's interventions regarding IDPs and to make recommendations on the same. One of these recommendations was to develop a legal framework for the protection of IDPs.

The PSC initiated the drafting of an IDP Bill to this effect, and RCK, together with the Protection

Working Group on Internal Displacement (PWGID), collaborated with the PSC to ensure that the draft bill substantively domesticated international instruments on internal displacement. The draft bill has since been passed into law (IDPs Act, 2012).

On 18th December 2012, the Government of Kenya, through the Department of Refugee Affairs, issued a directive on relocation of all urban refugees to the respective camps and that refugee agencies should stop providing assistance to refugees living in urban areas. As challenging and unprecedented as the directive was to the protection of needs for refugees, it provided RCK with an advocacy opportunity in ensuring that the rights of refugees and asylum seekers are safeguarded. RCK was instrumental in providing legal and technical assistance to Kituo Cha Sheria in successfully initiating a court proceeding against the Government regarding the relocation directive. The directive was quashed by the High Court, which declared it unconstitutional.

In 2013, we established the Garissa office as the UNHCR's implementing partner for legal protection and advocacy to refugees and asylum seekers arrested while in transit and charged at the Garissa Law Courts.

In 2014, we conducted the first-ever Annual Regional Course on Forced Migration. This was held at the Kenya School of Government, Nairobi. The course attracted high-level participation from Kenya and the region. A total of 63 practitioners in the forced migration sector in the region, including government officials, civil society organizations, academicians, among others, attended the course.

In 2018, we rolled out targeted and strategic engagement with the County Governments, beginning with the County Assembly of Turkana, through a letter of agreement.

This is to strengthen effective citizen participation, including the displaced populations, in Turkana County concerning legislation and policy - making.

In 2019, we took lead with support from the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) and the UNCHR in the



1998-2004



RCK was registered to address the refugee crisis in Kenya and the East African region. Office based in Nairobi.

2008



Established offices in Kakuma and Dadaab to address legal and advocacy gaps. Became a UNHCR partner around 2010.

2010



Launched the innovative Refugee Tracing Project - helping refugees reconnect with missing loved ones through technology.

2012



Challenged the government relocation directive; won the case in High Court which declared it unconstitutional.

2014



Conducted the first Annual Regional Course on Forced Migration at the Kenya School of Government.

2018



Began strategic engagement with County Governments, starting with Turkana County Assembly.

2021



Successfully advocated for the passage of the Refugees Act 2021 into law.

25 YEARS OF JUSTICE. 25 YEARS OF PROTECTION. 25 YEARS OF HOPE.



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development of the Kalobeyei integrated settlement Constitution and leadership structure. This has helped, among others, in establishing multifaceted committees to address key drivers of trade and business in the area, including peace committees, to promote inclusivity and social cohesion amongst refugees and host communities.

In 2021, we supported the County Assembly of Turkana in undertaking exhaustive public participatory approaches in legislation-making. Diverse views, including those of the displaced populations, were consolidated and formed as part of the reports discussed and approved by the Assembly. This resulted in several significant Bills passed into laws, including the Finance Act, Village Administration Act, and the Climate Change Act.

In 2021, we successfully advocated the passage of the Refugees Bill 2019, now the Refugees Act 2021, into law on 17th November 2021. The law, among others, proposes changes in the legal protection regime as well as the structure of accessing registration, and promotes socio-economic inclusion of forced migrants.

In 2021, we were a proud recipient of the Law Society of Kenya's award, recognizing the efforts of various institutions and organizations in enhancing the legal environment. We were ranked 1st Runner Up In-House Corporate Department of the year.

In 2022, with support from the UN Women, we set up a modern one-stop Gender Based Violence (GBV) response center at the Dadaab Sub-County Hospital to enable Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) survivors to acquire urgent assistance. The center offers multi-sectoral support in the form of medical, legal, and psychosocial support for SGBV survivors.

In 2022, we worked with the UNHCR Dadaab to develop a border monitoring data collection tool hosted on our border monitors office smartphones. The tool has helped improve timely, traceable, and effective data collection along the migration corridors, and provides first-rate analysis. It is hailed as a significant component of international protection for identifying the triggers and trends of migration, protection issues, and the number of arrivals and spontaneous returnees within

the camps. The data collection tool has been considered as a best practice to be adopted in other countries that have UNHCR operations.

In 2022, we received an award as the 1st Runner Up Civil Society (Justice and Legal Affairs) Organization of the year, from the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

In 2023, we were ranked as the best Civil Society Organization of the Year (Justice and Legal Affairs) by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

In 2023, The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) proudly unveils its Strategic Plan for 2023-2027, marking a pivotal moment in our commitment to refugee support and advocacy. This comprehensive plan outlines our vision and objectives for the next five years, focusing on empowering refugees, fostering integration, and promoting sustainable solutions.

In 2024, RCK, through HIAS support, launched an office, affirming our presence and expanding our reach to Mombasa, bringing vital support services closer to urban refugee communities in the coastal region. This strategic presence allows us to provide more localized assistance, improve access to legal aid, and enhance our advocacy efforts in the coastal part of Kenya.

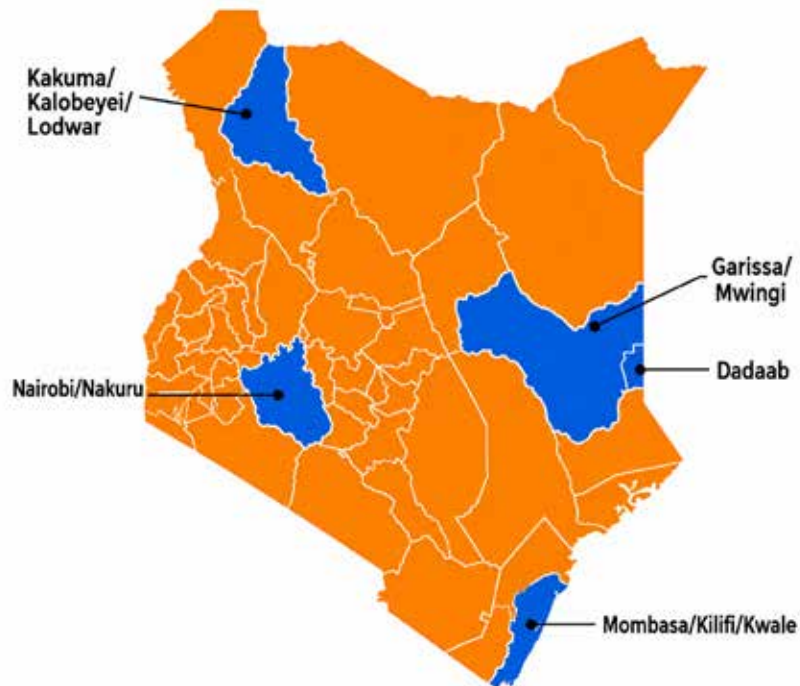
In 2024, Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) was honoured to receive the Civil Society Organization of the Year 2024 Award, presented by the Nairobi Legal Awards, for the 2nd year in a row.

In 2025, Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) was honoured to receive the Humanitarian Diplomacy Award from the International Relations Society of Kenya, in partnership with COMESA Secretariat and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. This prestigious recognition pays tribute to our outstanding contributions to the protection and advancement of refugee rights.

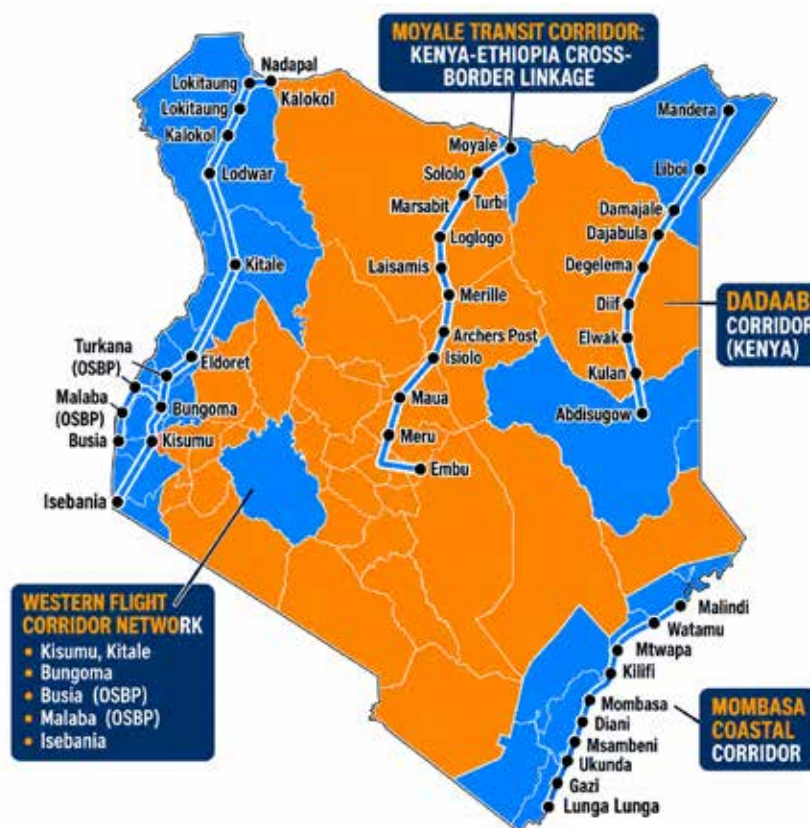
In 2025, RCK, in partnership with the IKEA Foundation, hosted an inaugural East African Regional Forum on Access to Labour Markets for Refugees, marking a pivotal moment for the region. The forum brought together a diverse cross-section of voices across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan.



Areas of Operation



RCK Border Monitoring Corridors in Kenya



Testimonials



Hon. Mr. Justice Isaac Lenaola

Supreme Court Judge and President of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ)

It is an honor to commemorate the silver jubilee of the Refugee Consortium of Kenya. Over the many years I have known RCK, it has proven itself to be a solid, enduring organization whose unwavering dedication to forcibly displaced and stateless persons is unmatched on our shores.

While many temporary agencies have come and gone, RCK has taught us a lesson that today's difficult world desperately needs: the unshakable belief that every person, no matter their station in life, possesses fundamental human dignity. RCK has shown us that justice must not be a privilege confined to courtrooms like mine, but a lived reality felt by the vulnerable at their exact point of need through legal aid, governance initiatives, and psychosocial support.

My close engagement with civil society began during my tenure as the presiding judge of the Constitutional and Human Rights Division at the High Court, where my team and I heard early cases interpreting the 2010 Constitution.

RCK continuously provided the professional, evidence-based engagement and jurisprudence we relied upon to establish a human rights-based approach for asylum seekers and refugee children. Just recently, RCK beautifully partnered with the International Association for Refugee and Migration Judges, bringing together legal minds from 40 countries to strengthen global cooperation.

Protecting the voice and dignity of displaced individuals is not just a legal responsibility; it is a sacred moral calling. Our Constitution explicitly states that every person has rights, and we cannot arbitrarily determine that those at the margins of society do not count as persons.

As RCK embarks on its next chapter under the Sharika Plan, I urge you to keep nurturing strong partnerships with state institutions and to continue challenging us in the judiciary by bringing crucial cases forward. We who hold the responsibility to enforce rights should never become stones; we need to maintain our core humanity and compassion. I recall the immense emotional weight of presiding over cases involving post-election violence survivors, proving that judges are human beings who feel the pain of the citizens and foreigners we serve. When we uphold human dignity, we strengthen the very soul of our nation. I offer my enduring support to RCK as you continue to be a beacon of fairness, compassion, and justice for the next 25 years and beyond.





Ms. Mercy Mwasaru, O.G.W.

Acting Commissioner for Refugee Affairs, Department of Refugee Services (DRS)

It is a profound honor to join you as we celebrate 25 remarkable years of the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), an organization that has been a stalwart pillar of protection, justice, and dignity for refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and vulnerable host communities in our country. Your chosen theme, “A Journey of Impact, a Future of Promise,” is deeply fitting for today’s Kenya. For a quarter of a century, RCK has stood courageously on the front lines of humanitarian and legal protection. Having been in my office for the last four months, I am a direct witness to RCK’s outstanding contributions, from providing vital legal aid and representation to strengthening community protection systems for survivors of gender-based violence.

Furthermore, balancing the aspirations of refugees and host communities in climatically harsh areas such as Dadaab and Kakuma, where refugee numbers heavily outweigh host populations, is an immense challenge. RCK has consistently stood out as a reliable partner in promoting peaceful coexistence and championing essential policy reforms. The Department of Refugee Services (DRS) has benefited immensely from RCK’s capacity-building programs for our staff, especially as we collaborate to plug into the implementation of the historic Sharika Plan.

This transition phase marks a new era where refugees are not just protected, but economically and socially empowered to contribute. Like a pilot recovering lost time after a delayed take-off, we are working diligently with RCK to ensure this transition seamlessly gives way to real, sustainable work on the ground.

As we advance, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugee Affairs reaffirms its unwavering commitment to working hand-in-hand with RCK, civil society, and the communities we serve to uphold Kenya’s proud tradition as a safe haven. At the same time, I wish to underscore that those accorded protection within our borders are bound to respect and comply with all applicable laws of the Republic of Kenya.

Ultimately, when I look out at this room, I do not see labels; I see dignified leaders, lawyers, medical practitioners, and technical experts. No one plans to be a refugee, and we are all potential candidates of displacement. Let us recognize the skills and qualifications our brothers and sisters bring, offering a hand to lift each other up so that every displaced person in Kenya has the opportunity to truly thrive.





Ms. Judy Wakahiu
Former Executive Director
2000-2006

When I stepped into the Refugee Consortium of Kenya back in 2003, taking over the mantle from our founding director, Abi, I entered a whirlwind of energy, determination, and profound purpose. I spent the next six to seven years watching this organization fight for the displaced. In those early days, we faced a recurring challenge: we would pour our hearts into training brilliant young lawyers, only to watch them leave after a year or two for larger international NGOs or the UN.

However, during a pivotal board meeting, Jane reframed our entire worldview by asking why we saw it as a challenge rather than RCK's greatest opportunity. That single insight shifted our DNA, and we proudly chose to become an institutional incubator that builds capacity and launches champions of justice into the world.

Beyond the strategic shifts, what truly stays with you when you leave RCK are the deeply human moments. The metrics of how many refugees we represented fade, but the faces never do.

I still carry the memory of Sam sensing the weight of leadership on my shoulders and gently asking what was stressing me; Abby's infectious energy and courage that inspired all of us; the grounding firmness of Jane, the light-hearted playful of Simon (Driver), the lifelong friendships forged with Eunice and Nyamuarara; and Naomi's warm presence at the reception keeping us going. Those are the memories that form the true soul of this organization.

“ Watching RCK evolve has been a beautiful journey, a testament to a board that fiercely believes in the mission, donors who trust the vision, partners who stand shoulder-to-shoulder, and the refugees who trust RCK with their lives. ”

They say that once you are part of the RCK family, you never truly leave. Seeing Eunice and Ann return makes me look around at the warmth in this room today and think, who knows? I just might find my own way back, too. Congratulations, RCK, on 25 years of impact, humanity, and courage.



Ms. Eunice Ndonga
Former Executive Director
2015 - 2019

As RCK celebrates 25 years of protecting and supporting forcibly displaced people, I choose to celebrate the refugees and migrants who have found hope- and indeed the strength to face another day- because of this support. ‘Keeping Hope alive’ is more than a motto: it’s a journey and a lived commitment to dignity, and humanity, in a world where humanity has too often been pushed aside. To colleagues and partners of RCK, thank you for making this dream possible and continuing to Keep Hope alive”.





Ms. Sudi Omar

Refugee and CEO, Girl Power Action Initiative, Kakuma

It is an honour to celebrate 25 years of RCK's unwavering commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of displaced people across Kenya. This milestone is a celebration of impact, resilience, and the countless lives transformed because RCK chose to stand on the side of justice. For grassroots, women-led initiatives such as the Girl Power Action Initiative in Kakuma, RCK has been our bridge to legitimacy. I want to specifically thank Mitchel, the field coordinator in Kakuma, and the entire team for directly navigating us through the complex legalities of registration, constitutions, governance training, and compliance so that our documents transition successfully into legally recognized entities.

RCK's unique approach to legal empowerment opens doors that once felt entirely out of reach. By securing our official recognition and compliance with the government, RCK has provided local initiatives with the credibility needed to get donors on board and expand critical protection frameworks.

Because of this transformative structural support, our community interventions can now operate with institutional confidence, allowing us to boldly address gender-based violence (GBV), provide education, and champion mentorship for vulnerable women and girls.

Sustainability begins with those closest to the challenges, and RCK sets the standard for how humanitarian stakeholders should empower local leaders. As we look forward to celebrating their next 30 years and beyond, I call upon all partners, donors, and institutions to continue investing in refugee-led organizations. We invite all stakeholders to join us and RCK in strengthening leadership opportunities for women and girls so that together we build a future where no one is left behind.



Mr. Muhammad Osman

Refugee and Founder, GALDO (Galool Development Organization), Dadaab

I speak today both from personal experience as a refugee and as a representative of refugee-led efforts. It is an honour to reflect on the impact of the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) as they celebrate 25 years of unwavering service to refugees and host communities. For a quarter of a century, RCK has been a powerful voice for protection, justice, and human dignity. For many of us navigating a complex asylum system, their legal aid, community sensitization, and targeted protection interventions have been a reliable partner, a guide, and a vital lifeline.

As a refugee-led organization and a member of the refugee community in Kenya, I deeply appreciate RCK's openness to genuine partnership. They have consistently demonstrated that meaningful inclusion is possible when refugees are treated not as passive spectators, but as active contributors. By walking alongside our communities, listening to our lived realities, and amplifying our voices, RCK has fundamentally strengthened the humanitarian and protection space in Kenya.

As RCK steps into the future, we look forward to an even stronger collaboration. With the growing capacity of RLOs and CBOs, we have a historic opportunity to build a future where refugee leadership and community-driven solutions are fully recognized and supported. On behalf of the broader refugee population and my own initiative, GALDO, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to RCK for 25 years of dedicated service, confident that the next chapter will bring even greater impact, inclusion, and empowerment.





Ms. Millicent Atieno Oloo,

Deputy Programme Coordinator - GIZ Civil Peace Service Kenya

I am absolutely delighted to be here today wearing two hats. First, as an alumnus of RCK, it brings me immense joy to come back home. RCK truly exemplifies what growth means, both externally and internally. Reflecting on my own journey as a staff member, the growth I experienced and the opportunities I was given provided the exact foundation that I ride on today. RCK has proven to be a masterful training ground; looking at where its alumni are scattered across the sector today, we can clearly see that the impact of RCK extends far beyond the organization itself.

Wearing my second hat with the GIZ Civil Peace Service, RCK has been a phenomenal partner for over eight years in the peacebuilding and conflict transformation space in Kenya. One of their most remarkable and proactive contributions has been the integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into peacebuilding frameworks. I highly commend the MHPSS team at RCK for the incredible work they have put in, particularly in Nakuru and other parts of the country, to shape conflict resolution and keep hope alive for both refugees and internally displaced persons.

I want to congratulate the RCK board and management for steering and holding this team together so beautifully for all these years. To the current and previous staff, thank you for your wonderful work. On this momentous 25th anniversary, I wish you a beautiful celebration and look forward to seeing RCK continue to act as a leader and pacesetter in protecting refugees across Kenya and the wider region.



Ms. Milka Chege

Program Manager, the Embassy of Denmark

I stand here today wearing two hats that beautifully connect my past and my present: first as a proud alumnus of RCK who worked under the leadership of Executive Directors Lucy Kiama and Eunice Ndonga, and now as a Program Manager at the Embassy of Denmark, currently partnering with RCK on various vital projects. Looking back at where we have come from, there is so much to celebrate for individual refugees assisted with resettlement to critical case law established through RCK's dedication. Most monumentally, the passing of the Refugee Act of 2021 stands out as a historic milestone that shaped my own career and continues to guide how we design protection frameworks today.

One of the questions asked during my interview by ED Lucy was, "Who is a prima facie refugee?" I froze in that moment, but that very question has guided my studies, my career, and the interventions I design today when discussing how best to support host countries and refugees. As we celebrate this silver jubilee, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the critical partnerships RCK has nurtured—including enforcement officers and the judiciary—who have walked this path and should feel entirely a part of this success.

As we look toward the next 50 years, the reality of forced migration and protracted regional conflict means our work is far from finished, and Kenya may continue to see high displacement numbers. Moving forward, the achievement of durable solutions will rely on deepening innovative partnerships across the private sector, the East African Community, and dedicated donors like Denmark and the Netherlands. Let us continue to work together, stand shoulder-to-shoulder, and Keep Hope alive for the next generation.





Ms. Naomi Kidusu

RCK Alumna and a Pioneer Staff Member

When I look at RCK today, my heart fills with immense pride. I am privileged to have been part of the very beginning as a pioneer staff member, starting out with a small, determined team of just ten staff and a visionary Board of Directors. In those early days, our resources were modest, but our mission was vast. Year after year, I watched our collective commitment bear fruit as we established vital lifelines in Dadaab and Kakuma, and eventually expanded our wings to the coastal region in Mombasa. Watching this small seedling grow into such a massive shelter for so many has been the honour of my professional life.

This journey was a tapestry woven by visionary leaders who beautifully steered the ship from our founding Executive Director, Abby Gitari, to Ms. Judy Wakahiu, Ms. Lucy Kiama, Ms. Eunice Ndonga, and now Mr. Barlet Colly Jaji.

But beyond the leadership and our generous donors, the true heartbeat of my time here was the people—our fellow refugee brothers and sisters with whom we worked side by side. RCK would not be what it is today without the resilience of the refugee communities who trusted us to walk with them.

My own chapter of active service came to a close in 2022 when I had to step down due to illness, but the true spirit of RCK shone through during my darkest health challenges. The solidarity, love, and unwavering support I received from the staff reminded me that RCK is not just an organization—it is a family. As we celebrate this historic silver jubilee, my prayer is that God keeps us all to witness RCK celebrate 50 years of anchoring justice, dignity, and hope for displaced populations across the region.



Ms. Mercy Wafula,

Business Development Manager, Inkomoko Kenya

At Inkomoko, we work closely with RCK to support refugees through financial assistance, training, and consulting, and they have proven to be an invaluable partner across our programs. Our collaboration goes far beyond standard operations; it is a partnership built on rapid response and mutual support. Recently, when a devastating fire broke out in Garissa and destroyed several businesses we support, RCK immediately stepped in to provide vital psychosocial support to those affected. Furthermore, whenever we encounter complex legal hurdles that fall outside our core expertise in financial inclusion, RCK has always opened its doors to offer expert guidance and advocacy support.

Earlier this year, when our sector was hit hard by severe funding cuts, RCK stood out as one of our steadiest, most resilient partners. At Inkomoko, we believe you truly discover who your partners are when times get tough. People always remember the ones who stuck behind when things were thick, and RCK is exactly that kind of partner—the one who stays.

As you celebrate 25 years of profound impact, we congratulate the entire RCK team. We are proud of everything we have achieved together, and we look forward to refining our goals, deepening our collaboration, and celebrating many more milestones together in the years to come.





Mr. Jamin Kusuania,

Former Country Manager, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) Kenya

On behalf of the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), we are incredibly honoured to join RCK in celebrating this monumental 25-year milestone. Over the past two and a half decades, RCK has truly been a champion of justice, empowering countless individuals and keeping hope alive for displaced communities across the region. As a secretariat of 14 organizations dedicated to pursuing durable solutions, ReDSS shares a deeply intertwined history with RCK. When ReDSS was established in 2015, RCK was there at the founding stage as a core member and remains our vital local partner organization, making their evolution an integral part of our own journey.

While we partner with many actors across this space, RCK has always stood out for its unwavering commitment to systemic change. My personal journey with RCK began nearly nine years ago during the early legislative advocacy efforts that began in 2017, which ultimately culminated in the landmark passage of the Refugee Act of 2021. Throughout years of shifting landscapes, RCK has remained fiercely true to the cause of finding lasting, structural solutions for the people we serve.

Beyond their policy and advocacy leadership, RCK serves as an essential institutional incubator for the entire humanitarian sector. In fact, many of the professionals currently steering our work at the ReDSS Secretariat are proud alumni of RCK. By nurturing these passionate champions of justice, RCK has continuously built the leadership workforce that drives the refugee protection space forward. ReDSS looks forward to many more years of deep engagement, strategic partnership, and shared impact alongside RCK.



Mr. Allan M. Mukuki,

Director, International Partnerships, Forced Migration and Displacement Research Hub, Strathmore University

My engagement with RCK began many years ago during Lucy Kiama's tenure as Director, when we first sent our students to Kakuma and Dadaab to understand the lived realities of displaced populations. Today, that early dream has come full circle: Strathmore is becoming only the second law school in the country to teach refugee law and host a dedicated hub on forced displacement. With a significant number of RCK's brilliant staff being proud alumni of my classrooms, our institutional and personal ties run incredibly deep. On behalf of the Forced Migration Hub and the wider academic community, I extend our deepest congratulations to RCK on its 25th anniversary.

Through sustained legal aid, policy advocacy, community empowerment, and strategic litigation, RCK has not only transformed individual lives but has fundamentally shaped the architecture of refugee protection in our nation. As a Research Hub that recently celebrated its one-year milestone since our founding last November, we are proud that RCK was the very first partner to sign an MOU with us. We regard RCK as our premier practice partner and a crucial discussor between evidence, policy, and lived experience—a collaboration that perfectly reflects our highest ideals of engaged scholarship, proving that research is an active tool for reform.

RCK's openness to evidence, critical inquiry, and institutional learning is a rare and commendable quality in civil society leadership, especially as Kenya advances bold policy shifts under the Sharika Plan and urban refugee integration frameworks. The coming years demand principal guidance, policy clarity, and moral courage, and we are confident RCK will continue to rise to this responsibility. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to working alongside RCK in research, advocacy, and training to champion the next generation of refugee protection.



Stories of change

"Before registration, it was very difficult for Generation Aid CBO to attract partners and funding because we were not formally recognized by the government. Through registration supported by RCK, we gained legal status, which unlocked our ability to engage with organizations and donors confidently."

We are now proud to say that we have received funding from three different partners, something that was not possible before. Registration also enabled us to open an official bank account in the name of the CBO. This has greatly increased the confidence of potential donors, as they can clearly see that funds are deposited into the organization's account and not into individual accounts, promoting transparency, accountability, and trust in our work."

— Hubert Senga,
Generation Aid CBO Chairperson.

"The project supported us to register and acquire our certificate. We were able to open an official bank account, which has strengthened our credibility and accountability. This also enabled us to submit a proposal to RefugePoint, something that was not possible before due to lack of formal documentation."

Since becoming registered, we have received requests from ten new individuals seeking to join our organization, and we are currently vetting them to ensure they meet our membership criteria."

Additionally, we were officially allocated a parcel of land by the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), where we have established our school and are conducting other organizational activities, strengthening our impact in the community."

— Kalobeyei Integrated Youth Progress.

“

"The organization appreciates RCKs support in establishing its constitution as previously."

It had no idea how to get there. The organization appreciates the support provided in linking it to other RLOs as well as sharing the organization's profile with other Organizations that could potentially want to partner."

— Dadaab Collective CBO.

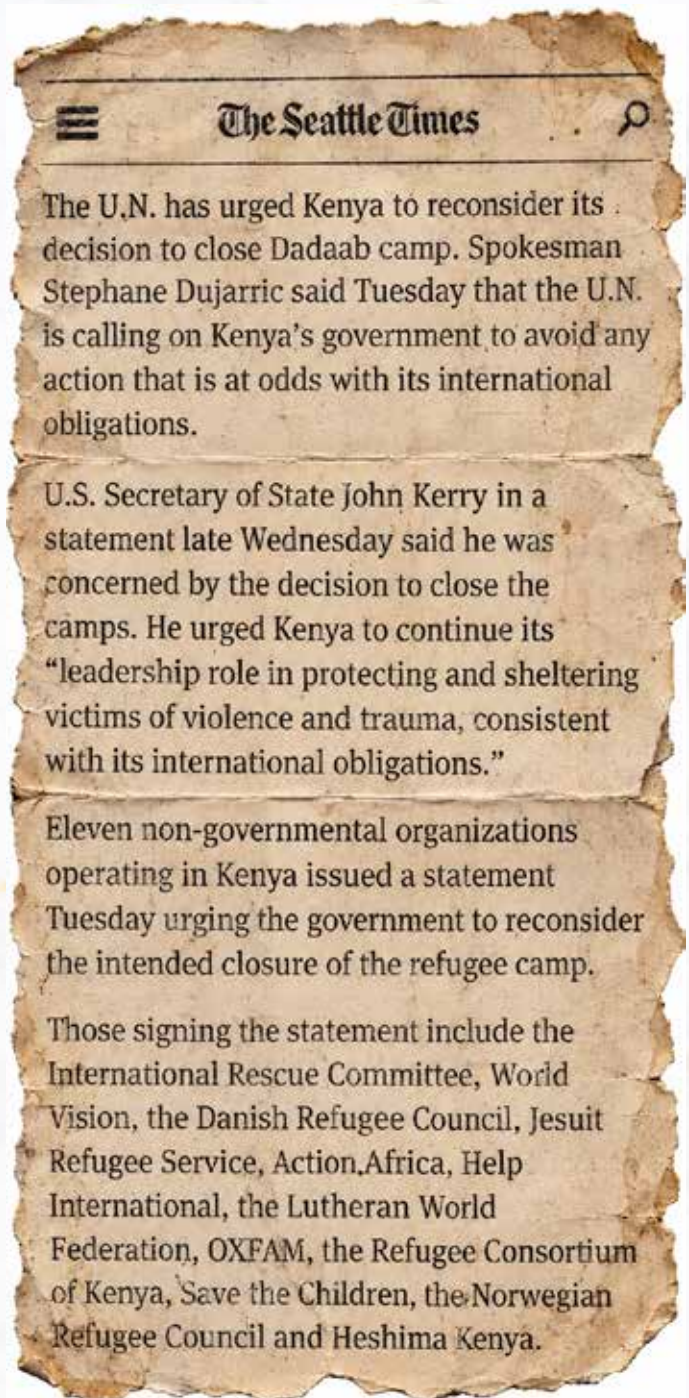
”



Key Media Mentions



<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyv2610n6qo>



<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/kenya-to-close-dadaab-worlds-biggest-refugee-camp/>





Key Media Appearances



25 years of impact



Ms. Catherine Njoroge

RCK Director of Programmes

When the Refugee Consortium of Kenya was founded 25 years ago, it began as a vision shared by a small group of passionate individuals determined to ensure that refugees in Kenya could access justice and live with dignity. In those early days, the hurdles

were immense, marked by limited public awareness, scarce resources, and the absence of a clear legal framework for refugee protection.

Yet, our founders held fast to a foundational belief: that every refugee and asylum seeker deserves protection, fairness, and a voice.

From those humble beginnings, RCK has grown into a trusted partner, a leading advocate, and a thought leader in refugee protection and policy. Today, our work extends beyond providing essential legal aid and psychosocial support; we advance peacebuilding and social justice initiatives within host and displaced communities, advocating for gender equality, and championing the rights, safety, and empowerment of refugee women and girls. We do not just respond to legal aid interventions; we actively shape national conversations, influence strategic policy, and pioneer innovative solutions that uphold fundamental human rights.

I will quote Amela Koluder, who said, “A refugee is someone who has survived the most unimaginable circumstances, holding on to hope for a better future.” That enduring resilience, especially among the women and young girls who rebuild peaceful communities against all odds, is what fuels and inspires our mission every single day.

As we reflect on 25 years of impact, we know our journey is far from over. I invite each of you, our partners, supporters, and communities, to stand with us as we write the next chapter. Together, let us continue to champion dignity, break down barriers, and build a future where every displaced person not only finds refuge, but thrives.



25- Years Cumulative Reach of RCK



Key Strategic Initiatives 2025



Through a formal technical partnership with the Turkana County Assembly, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) played a central legal and advocacy role in amending the County Assembly Standing Orders. The revised rules explicitly integrate refugee affairs into the assembly's mandate, encompassing constitutional matters, administration, ethics, human rights, local integration, and policy oversight. Crucially, this reform enables refugees to directly submit petitions and legislative memoranda to the County Assembly to address issues affecting their lives.

RCK Executive Director and the Speaker of Turkana County Assembly, launching the revised Standing Orders, a milestone for inclusive governance and refugee inclusion on November 13, 2025.



Devolution conference side event group photo on Strengthening Intergovernmental Partnerships for Inclusive Development for Refugees and Host Communities, on August 15, 2025

On August 15th, 2025, the 9th Devolution Conference, themed “For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice”, marked a historic milestone by integrating refugee issues into Kenya’s devolution agenda for the first time. The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) co-convened a side event on “Strengthening Intergovernmental Partnerships for Inclusive Development for Refugees and Host Communities in Kenya”, with VNG International, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Oxfam International, and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), in collaboration with the Council of Governors (CoG). The coalition building brought together national and county governments, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector, academia, development partners, and Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) to deliberate on inclusive refugee management within devolved governance structures. The devolution conference side event led to the development of a final communique generated by the COG, incorporating commitments from the two levels of government (national and county governments) to jointly review policy and legal framework, and clearly define the role of county governments in refugee management.





East African Regional Forum on Refugees' Access to Labour Markets delegate group photo at Strathmore University on December 2, 2025

At the regional level, RCK convened an inaugural East African Regional Forum on Refugees' Access to Labour Markets, bringing together member states to develop a roadmap on labour migration harmonization, documentation recognition and skills certification. The discussions highlighted comparative practices from across the region and identified priority reform areas captured in a shared action matrix to be shared in June 2026. Participating states committed to advancing and exchanging best practices with other member states, including ongoing alignment discussions in South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

RCK established three Business Information Hubs in Dadaab, Kakuma, and Nairobi, providing refugee and host youth with access to digital skills, business information, and e-government services (e-Citizen, KRA PIN, work permits, business registration).



Group photo during the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in The Gambia

At the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in The Gambia, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) participated in championing regional human rights policy by grounding continental frameworks in the lived realities of displaced populations. Leading the high-impact side event, "Borderless Justice:

Advancing Freedom of Movement for Forcibly Displaced Persons," RCK championed the dignity, mobility, and fundamental rights of refugees across the continent. Drawing on its frontline expertise in Kenya, RCK advocated for an urgent human rights-based approach that safeguards the safety and self-reliance of survivors of gender-based and targeted violence. By anchoring regional legal protections in progressive national instruments, specifically Kenya's Refugee Act 2021, we drove discussions to transform theoretical guarantees into enforceable, practical protections on the ground. The outcomes of the session generated crucial continental momentum to strengthen refugee management structures, advance inclusive policy reforms, and reinforce legal frameworks across Kenya and the wider region. Moving forward, RCK leverages these outcomes to ensure that freedom of movement transcends policy commitments to become a tangible, lived reality across Africa.





RCK's Kakuma Field Coordinator speaking during Bunge Mashinani Public participation session in Kakuma on June 26, 2025

County Assembly of Turkana (CAT) Engagement: The Speaker of the CAT, Mr. Charles Ewoi, partnered with RCK to coordinate the inaugural Bunge Mashinani (grassroots public participation) sessions in Kakuma. Designed to demystify legislative operations for both refugee and host communities, these sessions provided a public platform for refugees to directly contribute to discussions on the FY 2025/26 County Budget Estimates prior to assembly debate. This public participation is critical, as county budgets directly govern resource allocation for essential public services—including health, water, and education—and determine local administrative levies, such as single business permit fees, that impact displaced and host populations alike.



RCK staff and Nairobi City County Government Chief Officer during the launch of Nairobi Business Information Hub on October 30, 2025

Following high-level roundtable discussions with state and non-state actors, the Nairobi City County Government formally recognized RCK as a strategic partner in refugee protection and management. Consequently, RCK was appointed to the Secretariat tasked with developing the Nairobi County Refugee Integration Strategy and subsequently invited to oversee the framework's launch, advancing refugee inclusion in municipal service delivery and right-to-work policies. Demonstrating its commitment, the County further requested RCK to conduct capacity-building training for county officials on refugee law and protection policies to ensure seamless implementation of the strategy.





Group photo during the Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN) Members' Summit in Arusha, Tanzania, July 2025.

At the Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN) Members' Summit in Arusha, Tanzania, in July 2025, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) actively shaped the FHN Strategic Plan (2025–2030) by grounding global policy in the lived realities of displaced populations. Drawing on its specialized work with refugee women and girls across Kakuma, Dadaab, and urban settlements, RCK championed the inclusion of forcibly displaced women in humanitarian decision-making, advocated for direct, flexible funding to grassroots refugee-led organizations, and urged the integration of gender-based violence (GBV) protection, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and livelihoods into emergency responses. By anchoring global discussions in frontline forced-displacement contexts, we championed the strategy that prioritizes localized power shifts and intersectional accountability. Recognizing this expertise, the network tasked RCK with mobilizing national Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and refugee-led groups to establish the FHN Kenya Chapter, a mandate RCK has successfully delivered by launching the national chapter.



In 2025, a total of 106 participants received entrepreneurial training covering aspects such as business plan preparation, financial management, and business registration. In the previous year, RCK trained 120 individuals.

In total, the project has trained 226 people (53 men and 173 women), surpassing the projected target of 120 by 88%. This achievement was driven by a high demand for training and business capital, especially among female survivors of gender-based violence, allowing them to gain financial independence and confidently provide for their households.





Garissa Technical working Group photo

The County Director for Peace in Garissa tabled a Bill (Garissa Peace and Social Management Policy) in the Garissa County Assembly after receiving technical support from RCK. The Bill is currently undergoing public participation. This is a new policy with the objective of supporting processes and capacities for conflict prevention, resolution and programming, to foster gender and social inclusion, to promote conflict-sensitive programming, and advocating for peace dividend interventions in Garissa County and the larger frontier counties development council.



Project participants during entrepreneurial training in Kakuma on August 5, 2025





RCK staff delivering in-kind capital goods to a client in Dadaab





In the Chief Magistrate's Court at Kilifi, Sexual Offence Case No. 19 of 2022 (Republic v. Rashid Juma Sadkin), the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) provided steadfast legal aid and watched briefs on behalf of a nine-year-old Congolese refugee survivor, safeguarding the right to access justice and the rule of law.

RCK intervened following a legal aid clinic in Changamwe, where the survivor's father sought assistance after relocating his family from Kilifi due to safety concerns and prolonged procedural adjournments that risked derailing the case.

Working in close coordination with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to facilitate key expert medical testimony, RCK maintained vigilant oversight throughout the trial proceedings. Consequently, on May 7, 2025, the Kilifi Law Courts found the accused guilty of committing an indecent act contrary to Section 11(1) of the Sexual Offences Act (No. 3 of 2006). Giving due weight to the severe age asymmetry and the lasting trauma inflicted upon the minor, the Court sentenced the convict to twenty (20) years imprisonment, underlining the critical necessity of legal protection and judicial recourse for forcibly displaced children.



Organizational Development



Mr. Antony Wesonga

Director of Finance and Administration

Reflecting on 25 years of the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), our journey is defined by remarkable organizational evolution, steadfast resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the protection of people affected by forced migration. RCK's portfolio has grown a hundredfold, working with multiple donors to an annual budget of over KES 500 million.

From our humble beginnings with a core team of just 5 to 20 individuals, RCK has grown into a strong organization with at least 100 dedicated staff, hundreds of community incentive workers, and scores of interns. While many international and local organizations have come and gone within the protection sector, RCK has remained a constant beacon of support. Through our long-standing partnership with UNHCR since 2010, as well as crucial support from the international community, we have proved that local institutions can build the structural strength required to lead on the global stage.

Our growth is reflected not solely in our footprint, but in our internal maturity. We have transitioned from manual record-keeping to Excel and ultimately to fully automated operational and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems. This continuous learning culture has strengthened our governance, enhanced our reporting, upgraded our strategic branding, and ensured complete regulatory compliance with evolving frameworks, including the Public Benefit Organizations Act, 2013. Despite macro-level shifts, including the COVID-19 pandemic and changing donor landscapes, our agility and internal structures, guided by an active Board of Management and an exceptional team, have guaranteed our sustainability.

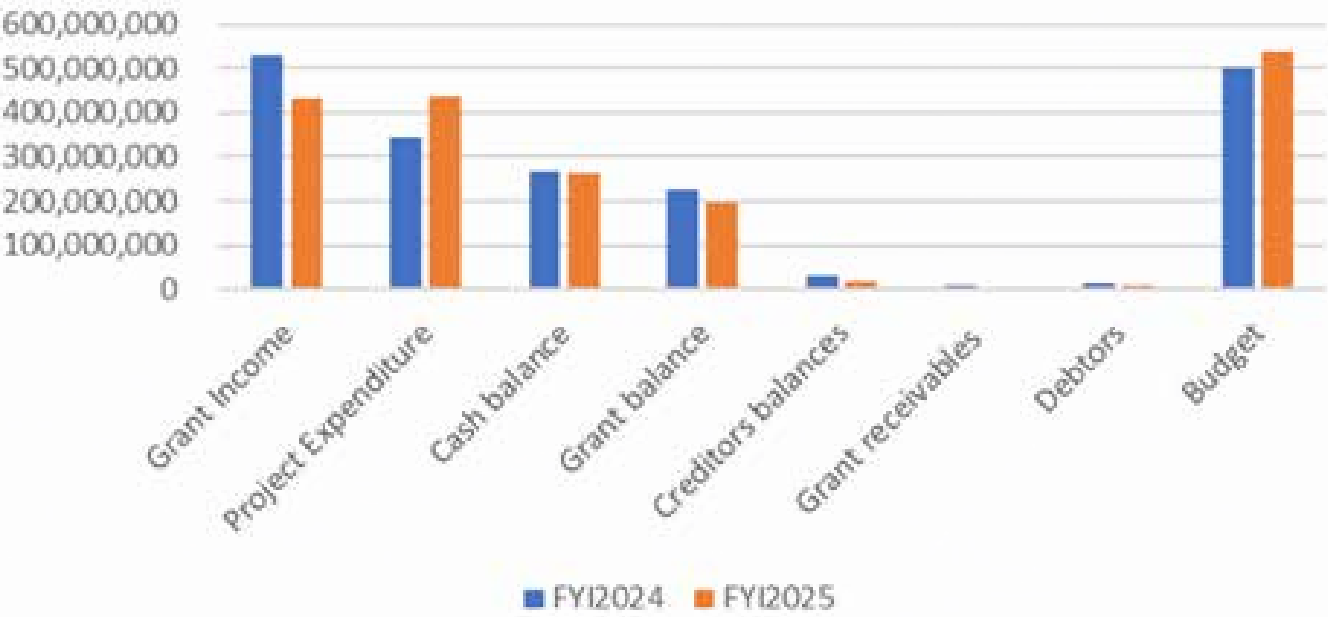
As a service-driven, human-centered organization, we consider our people our greatest asset. RCK's commitment to competitive compensation, institutional restructuring, and robust staff advocacy has made us an employer of choice, drawing thousands of talented applicants to our mission.

Survival in a dynamic field requires flexibility, relevance, and the ability to maximize available resources. As we look ahead to the next 25 years, RCK stands ready to adapt, innovate, and lead. We remain deeply grateful to our team, partners, and the communities we serve as we build an even stronger foundation for the future of refugee protection.

The Organizational Development (OD) Pillar is a deliberate process of aligning RCK's strategy, structure, systems, culture, and talent with its mandate to protect and promote the rights, dignity, and well-being of refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, and host communities. This alignment ensures that the organization can deliver its mandate with consistent, high quality across all locations (Kakuma, Dadaab, Garissa, Mombasa, Mwingi, and Nairobi) while remaining resilient to donor funding shocks, policy shifts, and the emotional toll of frontline protection work. Despite a challenging global funding environment characterized by severe budget cuts to local organizations such as RCK, the organization's 2025 budget reduced by 19%.

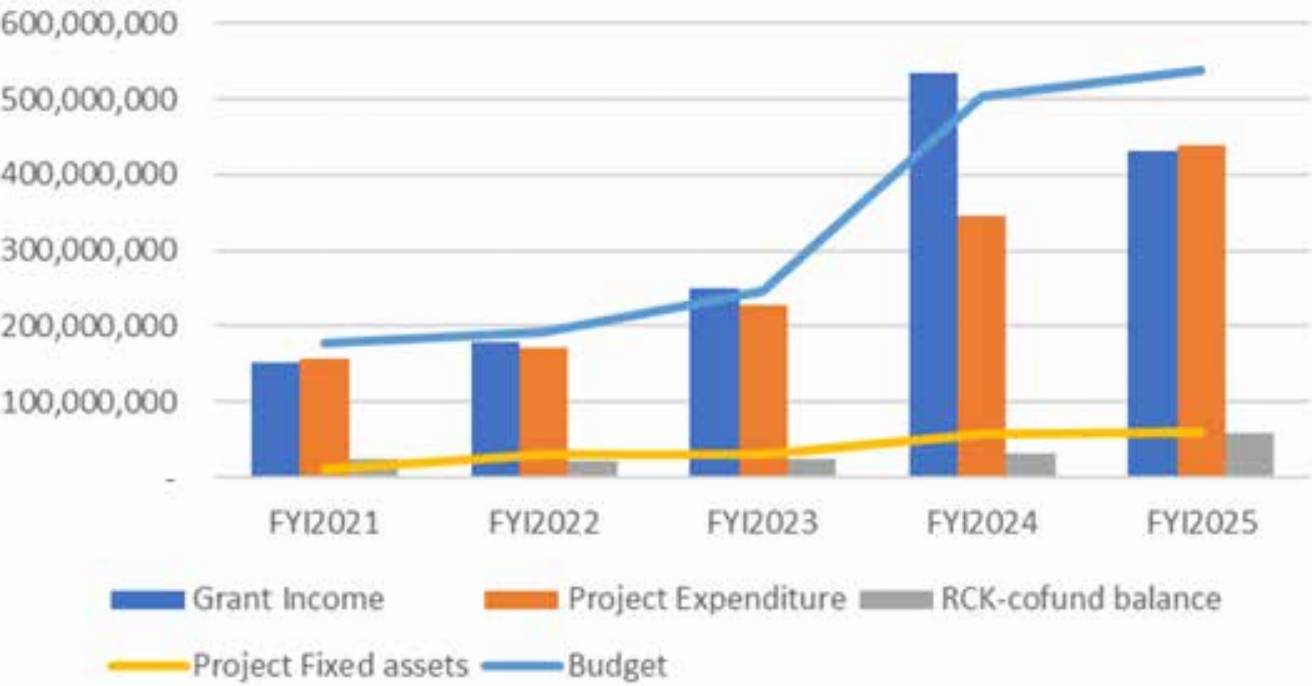


GRAPH 1. RCK 2025 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN COMPARISON TO 2024

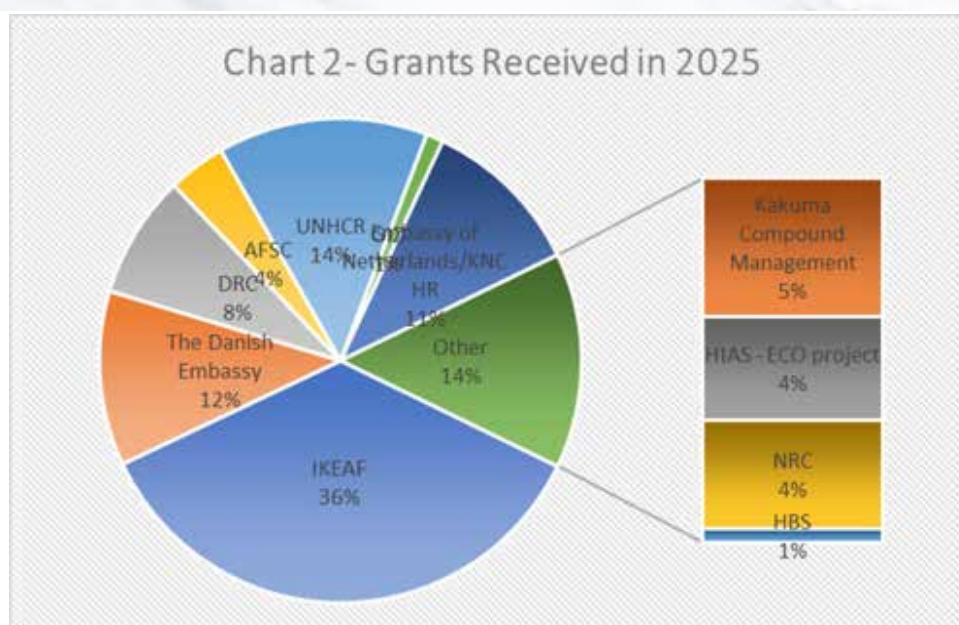


The table and graph below provide a summary of the annual performance for the operational year ending December 31, 2025.

Chart 1. RCK 2021-2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



The chart below reflects RCK's funding partners who provided the required resources for our 2025 operations. The organization gratefully recognizes the contributions made by IKEAF, UNHCR, DRC, the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands in Nairobi, the Danish Embassy in Nairobi (through KNHCR), AFSC, OSF, GIZ, HIAS-ECO, NRC-ECO, UNICEF, and HBS.



The organization's human resource operations remained at nearly the same level in 2025 as they were in 2024, despite the funding reductions indicated above. RCK management deeply appreciates the contributions made by its personnel, noting that as a service-oriented entity, our staff is our most vital resource. While the budget increased by 7% and the overall absorption rate rose by 13%, staff capacity remained identical to the previous year. This serves as a clear indication of improved operational efficiency over the year, confirming that RCK successfully stepped in to fill the gaps left by other humanitarian actors who reduced their funding for serving forcibly displaced persons (FDPs). To support our team, the organization provided the requisite duty of care and interventions such as wellness package, capacity building/strengthening opportunities, and Annual Staff Retreat. Consequently, RCK achieved a 79% staff retention rate (representing a 21% turnover rate). While this aligns almost perfectly with global averages within the non-profit sector, from an Organizational Development (OD) perspective, it demonstrates remarkable institutional resilience and stability during a challenging fiscal period.

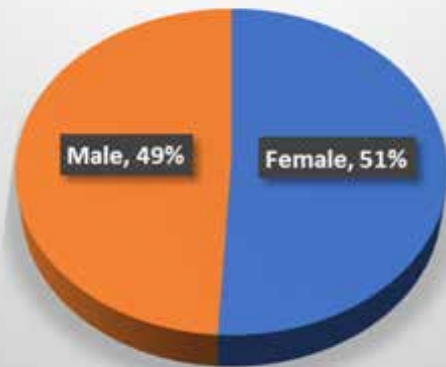
The tables and charts below summarise the RCK workforce in 2025;

Table 1. RCK WORKFORCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025 IN COMPARISON TO PAST YEARS

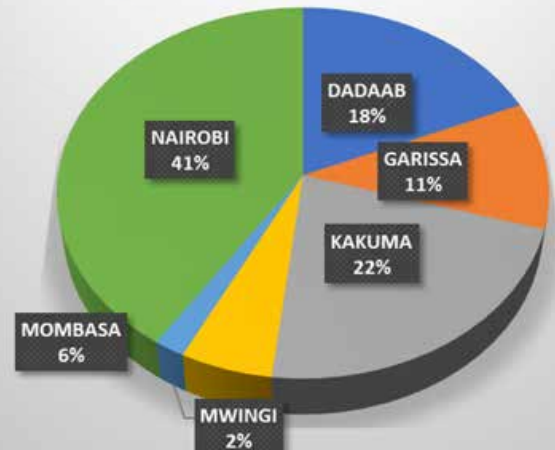
Nature of employment	FYI2010	FYI2020	FYI2021	FYI2022	FYI2023	FYI2024	FYI2025
CONSULTANTS		5	6	6	2	2	5
INTERN		11	12	7	14	21	26
STAFF	28	48	63	59	64	77	77
Volunteer(s).			1				
Total	28	64	82	72	80	100	108
Change total personnel (including interns)				-10	8	20	8
Change in staff work force				-4	1	13	3
Staff retention			77%	79%	76%	68%	79%



Graph1 - Personnel Segrated per Gender



Graph 3 - Number of HR Engaged Per Office



Graph 2- WorkForce Movement over the years



RCK staff debriefing in Nairobi, June 13, 2025





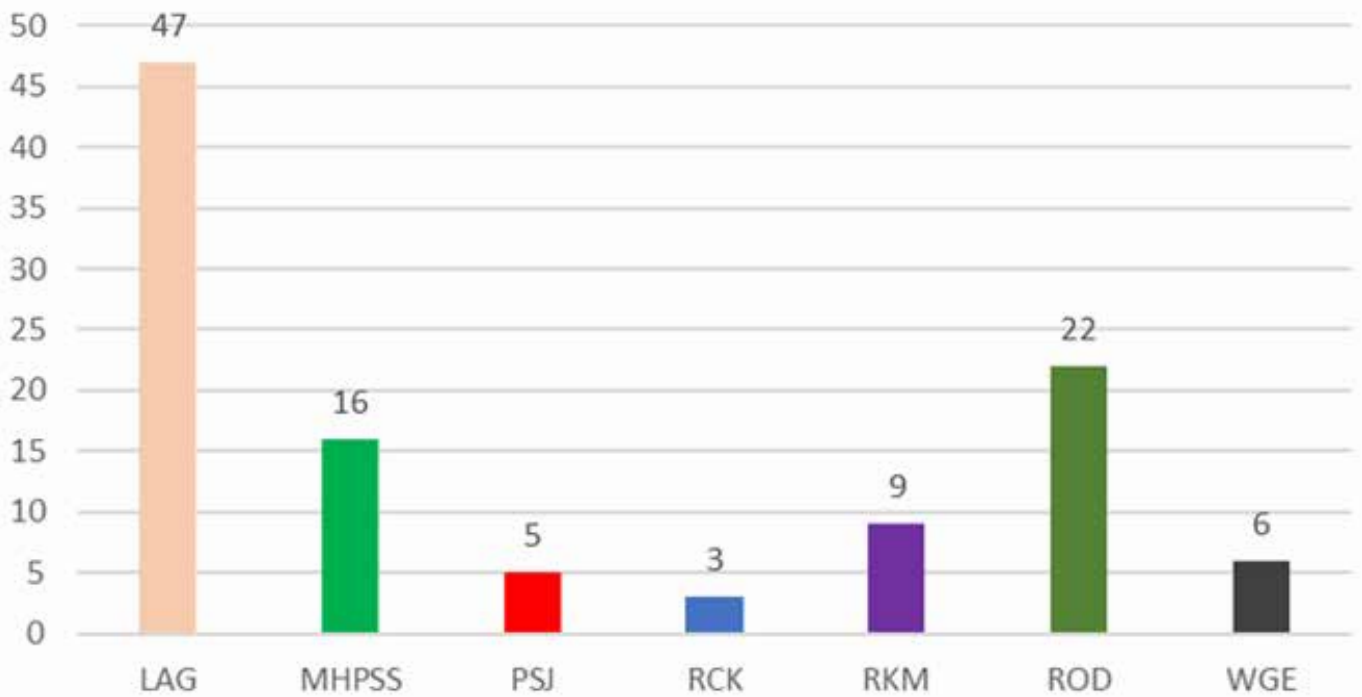
The positive results posted above were driven by the strategic oversight and individual contributions of the RCK Board and Senior Management Team (SMT) throughout the year. As part of these governance efforts, the Board convened an annual reflection meeting in Mombasa.

This session allowed members to review RCK's mandate and align its strategic positioning with the evolving structure and operations of Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) coordination in Kenya. These were;

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | Dr Samuel Kabue, Board Chair | The Chair to the Board |
| 2. | Madam Abi Gitari, | Founder and Board member |
| 3. | Justice (Rtd) Justice Mboghohi Msagha, | Patron and Board member |
| 4. | Mr Antony Hombe, | Board member Treasurer |
| 5. | Madam Jane Kiragu, | Board member |
| 6. | Mr Morris Maina, | Board member |
| 7. | Dr Mary Amuyunzu Nyamongo, | Board member |



Chart 1. 2025 hr PER RCK PILLAR



OD provided the requisite operations supporting, including procurement, travel and other logistics, for the organisation to achieve such results in a year that was quite unpredictable in humanitarian assistance. All the operations across RCK offices in Nairobi, Mombasa, Garissa, Kakuma and Dadaab went up. However, the organisation relocated the staff who were based in Mwingi back to Garissa during the year. Mwingi continues to be served from the Garissa office. RCK continued to work closely with DRS, KNHCR, County Government of Turkana, Nairobi and Garissa in operationalising the Shirika plan. The organisation leveraged on technology to improve its operating infrastructure, including ERP and MEAL. Thus, enhancing accountability, efficiency, staff wellness and reporting standards.



In 2025, the philanthropic ecosystem has absorbed its most severe structural disruption in decades and begun to construct what comes after. USAID ceased operations on 1 July 2025, with 83 percent of its programs canceled. US foreign aid spending fell from \$68 In 2024. High-net-worth individual assets and remittances to Sub-Saharan Africa surpassed both official development assistance and foreign direct investment for the first time. The International Non-Profit Accounting Standard, INPAS, launched globally in October 2025 after six years of development and consultation with stakeholders in more than 40 countries, with Kenya's Institute of Certified Public Accountants formally endorsing adoption.

RCK continues its mandate at this inflection point to anchor the institutional infrastructure the ecosystem now requires. Forward-looking, RCK will again move through governance frameworks, accountability standards, and collaborative infrastructure required to channel that capital with coherence, to the structural question that determines whether any of it holds: who controls the systems being built, and whose agency do they serve? Our Mid-Term Review of the 2023 - 2027 Strategic Plan will inform our alignment.





Pictorials



















Year Ahead

This 2026 Year-Ahead Message arrives at a unique moment of reflection and inflection for the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK). As Kenya advances the implementation of the landmark Shirika Plan, launched on March 28, 2025, the nation is actively transforming traditional refugee encampments into integrated, sustainable settlements. This pioneering shift sets a global standard for socio-economic inclusion, positioning Kenya as a model of progressive refugee governance within the Global Compact on Refugees.

Strengthened by the Refugees Act 2021, the Refugees Regulations 2024, the Nairobi City County Refugee Integration Strategy (NCRIS) 2025, and the Turkana County Assembly amendments, these frameworks officially embed refugee issues into local governance. Crucially, through Legal Notice No. 90 of 2025, refugees holding valid Identity Cards can now legally register SIM cards, unlocking unprecedented access to digital jobs, financial services, and mobility.

In 2026, RCK will lead implementation monitoring, advocating for the full rollout of the Shirika Plan's pillars through strategic engagement, technical advocacy, and operational resilience within an increasingly complex national, regional, and global context.

The promise of Kenya's progressive policy framework rests entirely on effective execution. With the Shirika Plan integrated into County Integrated Development Plans across Garissa, Turkana, and Nairobi, RCK holds a unique strategic window to embed refugee inclusion within local governance. Throughout 2026, RCK will intensify its role as a premier convenor and technical partner, facilitating structured dialogues between national and county governments. Through sustained advocacy targeting judicial officers, immigration officials, and county executives, we will ensure that these historic legal and administrative gains translate into consistent, equitable access to documentation, public services, and dignified livelihoods.

As we approach Kenya's 2027 general elections, the upcoming year introduces a period of heightened political activity that carries both institutional risks and strategic opportunities. As political attention shifts toward electoral priorities, there is a genuine

concern that the implementation of established refugee protection frameworks may slow. In refugee-hosting regions, election-related rhetoric risks exacerbating local community dynamics, threatening social cohesion.

The psychological toll of this uncertainty, amplified by historical memories of electoral violence, can easily worsen mental health vulnerabilities among displaced populations.

In response, RCK will leverage this period to engage political leaders, civil society, and community structures to advocate for the depoliticization of refugee issues, championing narratives of shared prosperity and peaceful coexistence. Simultaneously, we are scaling up our mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions to provide trauma-informed counseling and community-based support groups across our regional offices.

The regional environment demands exceptional institutional resilience throughout 2026. Persistent insecurity in neighbouring countries, including ongoing conflicts in Sudan, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, continues to generate forced displacement flows toward Kenya, stretching already strained border points. Compounding these shocks, restrictive international immigration policies and a reduction in traditional third-country resettlement pathways have left millions in a state of protracted limbo.

Throughout the year, RCK will reinforce its core commitment to protecting access to territory and upholding the absolute principle of non-refoulement. We will achieve this through robust legal aid provision, continuous protection monitoring at border points, and strategic engagement with immigration and security actors. Crucially, we are systematically scaling up our MHPSS programming, integrating trauma-informed care into all primary protection services to ensure that mental health support is accessible and deeply destigmatized.



The global humanitarian space is undergoing a structural transformation characterized by reduced donor funding, the Differentiated Assistance model, and an urgent shift toward localization. In Kenya, these funding constraints coincide with rising inflation and high youth unemployment, exposing vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, to heightened protection risks and gender-based violence (GBV). To prevent economic marginalization from driving exploitation, RCK is structurally integrating livelihoods to support directly into protection programming.

We are equipping women and girls with income-generating activities that enhance financial autonomy and provide reliable pathways to safety.

Concurrently, climate change continues to drive displacement and exacerbate acute resource scarcity across the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) of Kenya. In response, RCK will elevate its targeted advocacy for the inclusion of climate-displaced populations within the National Disaster Risk Management Bill and the Kenya National Action Plan, supporting community resilience through alternative green livelihoods and natural resource conflict-resolution mechanisms.

Access to justice remains the cornerstone of RCK's mandate, yet deep systemic and cultural barriers continue to undermine redress. In areas like Garissa and Dadaab, historical traditional mechanisms like Maslaha have frequently denied survivors true justice by prioritizing patriarchal compromise over individual accountability. RCK is tackling this barrier through an innovative approach, merging economic empowerment with GBV response programming.

A key focus for 2026 is the advancement of modernized, human-rights-compliant Alternative Dispute Resolution

(ADR) pathways. Following the landmark launch of the Al-Islah Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) Center at the Garissa Law Courts by the Chief Justice in September 2025, RCK will lead targeted dialogues and community sensitization to ensure that these ADR models align with formal constitutional standards, transforming structural barriers into equitable pathways for dignity and legal redress.

To realize our long-term ambition for a future defined by inclusion, dignity, and opportunity, RCK is prioritizing strategic directions for the year ahead, mirroring our core values including prioritizing locally-led, refugee-centered solutions to ensure displaced communities remain central to decision-making and sustainable programming, bridging traditional gaps between foundational legal aid, MHPSS, community empowerment, and socioeconomic integration, deepening collaboration with national and county governments, INGOs, UN agencies, and donors using rigorous research to drive policy reform and investing heavily in internal systems to ensure RCK remains structurally resilient, flexible, and fully equipped to anchor our mission for generations to come as we look toward our hundred-year milestone.

Our ambition for displaced populations is significant and requires RCK and our partners to work in entirely new and innovative ways, with the pace, drive, and urgency that this global moment demands. Together, we have made a tangible difference, and together, we will continue to transform challenges into opportunities, dreams into realities, and journeys into lasting legacies.



Recognition of Present and Past Donors and Partners



IKEA Foundation

THE SIGRID RAUSING TRUST



FORD
FOUNDATION



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



UMCOR

Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
HORN OF AFRICA
Ethiopia | Sudan | Somalia/Somaliland

Trócaire
Working for a just world.



American
Friends
Service
Committee

miva®
oneMen



PWRDF



GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN
Champions for Equality™



European Union
Humanitarian Aid



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN
Nairobi



EMBASSY OF FINLAND
NAIROBI



german
cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by

giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
Denmark in Kenya



Kingdom of the Netherlands



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



UN
WOMEN

unicef



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL



NORWEGIAN
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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our friends, partners, and donors. Your steadfast support and continued commitment have been the cornerstone of our journey. Because of your generosity, we are able to grow, serve, and create lasting impact



OUR LOCATIONS AND CONTACTS

Refugee Consortium of Kenya

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NAIROBI OFFICE

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Toll Free Line: 0800 720 868

DADAAB

UNHCR Dadaab, main office compound; Ifo 1, CARE compound; Dagahale, Peace Winds Japan Compound; Ifo 2, Peace Winds Japan Compound; and Hagadera near the UNHCR field compound.

Phone: +254 703 848 641, 0705 862 534
Address: P.O. Box 28, Dadaab, Kenya
Toll Free Line: 0800 721 692

KAKUMA OFFICE:

Compound 3, Kakuma town. Field offices are located at Kakuma 1, LWF compound, Kakuma 4 and the Kalobeyei reception camp.

Phone: +254 701 414 978
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GARISSA:

Lantern road, next to the World Food Programme's (WFP) office.

Phone: +254 700 865 559

MOMBASA:

Located along Links Road – Nyali, opposite the Epic Business Park, Gate No. 680.

Phone: +254 728 569 283

Reach us on

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<https://www.rckkenya.org/>