



PRESS RELEASE

Publication: Legislative and Policy Indexing Report on Refugee Inclusion in Health, Water and Education in Turkana County and National Linkages.

Nairobi, Kenya August 11, 2026 Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) is delighted to announce the publication of a Legislative and Policy Indexing Report on Refugee Inclusion in Health, Water and Education in Turkana County and National Linkages with the noble goal of strengthening refugee inclusion in Kenya by identifying legislative and policy gaps and providing evidence-based recommendations that promote equitable access to health, water, and education services for refugees and host communities.

The report assesses how national and county laws, policies, and regulations support refugee inclusion in essential public services. Using the internationally recognized Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability, and Quality (AAAQ) framework, the study combines policy analysis with evidence from key informant interviews and focus group discussions involving government institutions, service providers, refugee-led organizations, refugees, and host communities.

The findings reveal that while Kenya has established a progressive legal and policy framework for refugee protection, important implementation gaps remain. Challenges related to financing, coordination, documentation, and sector-specific legislation continue to hinder equitable access to healthcare, education, and water services for refugees and host communities alike.

For over three decades, Turkana County has hosted one of Africa's largest refugee populations, with refugees and host communities in Kakuma and Kalobeyei sharing essential services and opportunities. Since 2000, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) has worked alongside these communities to promote protection, justice, dignity, and equitable access to essential services.

Access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and sanitation is essential for the dignity, self-reliance, and well-being of refugees and host communities. Despite Kenya's progressive legal and policy frameworks particularly the Refugees Act (2021), many refugees and asylum seekers continue to face challenges in accessing public services. These include language barriers, lack of proper documentation, limited awareness of rights, and overstretched infrastructure within hosting counties.

Through the Inclusive Refugee Response Project (IRRP), implemented by the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) in partnership with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) in collaboration with key government actors, efforts are underway to promote inclusion and strengthen the integration of refugees into national and county service delivery systems. The project recognizes that inclusion is not only a legal obligation but also a catalyst for peaceful coexistence and shared development between refugees and host communities.

To achieve this noble goal, the report recommends;

National Government to amend sector-specific legislation to include refugees explicitly.

Stronger coordination between national and county governments, humanitarian actors, and development partners.

Turkana County to Integrate refugee catchment populations into Community Health Units.

Clear implementation and accountability frameworks to support the transition to government-led service delivery.

Donors and Development partners to invest in system strengthening rather than parallel humanitarian service delivery.

Research opportunity on Host-refugee social cohesion and service equity perception study.

Mitchel Ambasu - Project IRRP Manager

"The Legislative and Policy Indexing report highlights an important reality of having progressive laws and policies is only the first step. Refugees and host communities must be able to experience these commitments in their everyday lives through accessible, quality and equitable public services. By identifying the gaps in health, water and education, the report provides practical evidence that can inform stronger coordination, better implementation and more inclusive service delivery in Turkana County and in Kenya. "

Barlet Colly Jaji- RCK Executive Director

"This report funded by DANIDA is proof that when government, donors, and communities invest in evidence rather than assumptions, we find real, actionable pathways to inclusion. For over two decades, RCK has stood alongside refugees and host communities in Turkana, and what this study confirms is that Kenya's legal framework is strong, the gap is in financing and coordination. We call on government, bilateral partners, and academia to join us not as funders of a project, but as co-architects of a system where refugees and host communities access health, water, and education as a matter of right, not charity. RCK has the local trust, the thought leadership, convening and support, and the technical rigor to lead this work, and we invite our partners to walk this next mile with us."

Note to the Editor

The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) is a non-governmental organization established in 1998 and formally registered in 2004 to promote a safe environment where displaced and host populations access justice and protection, and are empowered to live a dignified life and achieve their full potential. Our mission is to protect and promote the well-being, voice, and dignity of the displaced and host population. Our Vision is to realize a just and inclusive society for all the displaced and host populations. We operate under five strategic pillars including the Legal Aid and Governance; Peace and Social Justice; Women and Girls' Empowerment; Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support and Organizational Development. Since inception, the organization has influenced government, partners, and donors to invest in changing social attitudes and norms, policies, laws, and public opinion with the aim of protecting and promoting the well-being, voice, and dignity of displaced and host populations.

For more Information about Refugee Consortium of Kenya, visit www.rckkenya.org

For media inquiries, please contact:

Grace Mwangi Communication Associate gmgwangi@rckkenya.org

Shadrack Kuyoh Research and Knowledge Management Manager Skuyoh@rckkenya.org