

< Macdonald G. Obudho >
< Robert C. B. Buluma >
< Renice A. Bunde >



<Efforts to Improve Statistics on the Forcefully Displaced Persons in Kenya>

<Macdonald G. Obudho¹>; < Robert Buluma²>; < Renice A. Bunde³>

¹ <Director General, KNBS, Nairobi, Kenya - mobudho@knbs.or.ke > . *

² < Manager, Governance, Peace and Security Statistics, KNBS, Nairobi, Kenya - rbuluma@knbs.or.ke > .

³ < Statistician, Governance, Peace and Security Statistics, KNBS, Nairobi, Kenya - rbunde@knbs.or.ke > .

Abstract :

In Kenya, refugees, asylum seekers and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are among the vulnerable populations. Refugees are protected by the Refugees Act 2012 while IDPs do not have any legal framework in place, apart from the international legal instruments. There exists data gaps for this group of forcefully displaced persons. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has made efforts to collect information on this group in line with the International Recommendations on Refugees and IDP Statistics (IRRS and IRIS) Frameworks through census and administrative sources. Kenya conducted the Population and Housing Census in 2019 where questions on nationality and reasons for migration were included. A statistical unit established within the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) also provides the Bureau with five year data series on the number of refugees and asylum seekers by sex, age, location and country of origin. This is published annually in the Economic Survey. Less than half of the refugees and asylum seekers were enumerated in the 2019 census compared to what is reported by RAS. As a result of this, the two datasets are being validated to understand the difference before publishing the census results. The Bureau, through the National Statistical System (NSS) formed a technical working committee on Governance Peace and Security Statistics where RAS and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) are members. KNBS and KNCHR signed a memorandum of understanding in 2017 to assist in improving data collection methods for the vulnerable populations, using the human rights based approach. Capacity building in terms of training of officers from KNCHR, KNBS and other key stakeholders has been initiated by KNCHR. RAS has so far indicated that the differences in population for refugees and asylum seekers may be a result of refugees hiding their identity during census enumeration due the fear of being repatriated back to their places of origin, language barriers and general low publicity and advocacy targeting this group before enumeration. Proper questions for enumerating this population and publicity

are therefore required. In addition, targeted surveys, improved administrative data and full implementation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics(NSDS) as well as Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) are key. Overall, reliable information on this group is important for informing policies and ensuring that they are not left behind in accordance with the carion call of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Keywords:

<Refugees>; <Asylum Seekers>; <IDPs>; <Economic Survey>; <Inclusive Data Charter>

References:

1. Economic Survey, 2020
2. 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

(387 words)