

# Kenya Fact Sheet

April 2024



Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

## Introduction

Kenya is host to nearly 714,000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and other countries in the region. Of this number, around 95,000 refugees and asylum seekers live in the capital, Nairobi.

## HIAS Programs and Focus

HIAS protects and supports refugees to build new lives and reunite with family members in safety and freedom. HIAS Kenya integrates best practices based on international standards with a focus on community-based protection and empowerment. We work to advocate and promote durable solutions for refugees, including local integration, safe and voluntary repatriation, and third-country resettlement.

### Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (CB-MHPSS)

HIAS' community-based mental health programs train community members to recognize acute emotional distress in children and adults and how to respond with empathy and respect. Our team of psychologists, social workers, and community outreach workers collaborate with refugees to implement culturally appropriate interventions, activities, and community-based support systems. HIAS Kenya provides multi-layered psychosocial services to support individuals and communities and enhance resilience and capacity to cope. It also facilitates trainings in psychological first aid.

### Legal Protection

HIAS works to create partnerships to protect the rights of refugees and promotes community-based protection by educating refugees and empowering them to speak

up for their rights. Additionally, HIAS advocates for favorable policies and legislation for refugees. HIAS engages in stakeholder coordination and capacity-building activities to advance refugee protection at the policy level. Partners include refugee community leaders, refugee organizations, civil society groups,



Refugees receive guidance on launching and expanding businesses through economic inclusion initiatives at Bethel Church, Kasarani, on July 8, 2022. (Jessica Masibo/HIAS Kenya)

government agencies, UNHCR, hospitals, schools, universities, lawyers, and other professionals. This coordination and capacity building allows HIAS to refer clients to needed services and trainings, build capacity in the sector on refugee rights, develop joint initiatives to advance policy change to increase refugee protection, and support strategic litigation by other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to advance refugee rights. As part of its legal protection work, HIAS also partners with local NGOs, resettlement country



### Gender-Based Violence

We provide an array of strategic interventions to enhance the quality of care for GBV survivors.



### Child Protection

We oversee case management for unaccompanied and separated children registered with UNHCR in Nairobi.



### CB-MHPSS

Our team collaborates with refugees for culturally appropriate interventions, activities, and support systems.

governments, and UNHCR to ensure the integrity of the refugee resettlement system and to advocate and promote durable solutions such as local integration, safe and voluntary repatriation, and resettlement.

### **Safe House and Transit Center**

HIAS maintains a safe house for at-risk urban refugees who have heightened security concerns. Residents are provided with meals and non-food items, and access to appropriate medical, legal, and psychosocial assistance. HIAS also offers temporary accommodation to new arrivals and refugees with heightened security concerns at a transit center, pending travel to the camps or integration in the community.

### **Child Protection**

HIAS is responsible for the case management of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) registered with UNHCR in Nairobi. We coordinate with other partners to identify children at risk, either UASC or children within family units. HIAS also convenes monthly Best Interest Determination panel meetings.

### **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response**

Women, girls, and LGBTQ+ individuals are disproportionately affected by forced displacement. HIAS' GBV services are driven by the needs and the voices of survivors, and our GBV programming helps forcibly displaced women, girls, and LGBTQ+ individuals pursue their potential free from violence and gender-related oppression. Our Gender and GBV program in Kenya focuses on building strong, responsive pathways for survivors to access medical, mental health, and legal services. It works to break the gendered cycle of vulnerability and violence for women and girls through strengthening community response and protection units, developing prevention models that seeks to transform men and boys to be allies, and empowering women and girls. Working closely with the local community, HIAS uses an array of strategic interventions to enhance the quality of care for survivors of GBV, including the provision of financial assistance, mental health and psychosocial counseling, therapy groups, and accessible and comprehensive health services. We coordinate the GBV working group co-chaired by UNHCR, a collaboration that includes data collection and data management of GBV cases.

### **Economic Inclusion**

HIAS Kenya has created programs that promote resilience using proven sustainable models, such as the scalable social economic support program, as well as household economic strengthening models, such as the Graduation Model Approach, which provides cash assistance, seed capital, access to savings, access to vocational and technical training, and intensive coaching. HIAS Kenya also works on capacity building of community-based organizations; savings matches for women entrepreneurs; promotion of savings groups in refugee communities; and the creation of safe community spaces for peer mentorship and networking for girls.

### **HIAS in Africa and Eurasia**

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, other displaced populations, and local host communities in Africa and Eurasia. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, HIAS' programming in the region is focused on protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and economic integration and community engagement.

HIAS currently has programs in three countries in Africa (Chad, Kenya, and South Africa) and six countries in Eurasia (Greece, Israel, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine). Across the region, HIAS partners with a wide range of government agencies (U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State Bureau for Populations, Refugees and Migration), UN entities (UNHCR, World Health Organization), the private sector (Moderna), and other non-governmental organizations and local partners.

### **Contact**

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