



RIJ

国際難民支援会

Building a  
Future for  
Refugees

# The Republic of Kenya



## Reasons for Displacement:

Over the last few decades, with conflicts raging in Sudan and Somalia, many refugees fled to Kenya to seek asylum. More recently, the rise of the militant group Al Shabaab in Somalia has seen more refugees seeking protection in Kenya.

## Refugee Communities:

Through its open door policy, Kenya has accommodated many refugees with the help of the UNHCR. There are a number of refugee camps, most of which are located along its Eastern border with Somalia. The largest camp is Dadaab, which was originally built to hold 90,000 people, but currently houses 450,000 people due to the continuing crises in its near abroad.

## Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project to create a Stabilization Center for the treatment of malnourished children and pregnant women in the Hagadera refugee camp. RIJ also supports education and skills training for refugees in Nairobi
- UNICEF and WHO have developed Mother Baby Packs to prevent the transmission of HIV from pregnant women to their child. NGOs supporting refugees include the Danish Refugee Council, Islamic Relief Kenya and Peace Winds Japan

Due to rising numbers and overcrowding, competition over scarce resources between host communities and refugees is increasing, raising tensions amongst the two groups. In addition, continuing crises elsewhere and lack of donor support have strained UNHCR's ability to feed and provide basic services to refugees in the country. Furthermore, due to the camps close proximity to Somalia, there is a risk of groups such as Al Shabaab infiltrating the camps.

## IDP Communities:

Although not completely verified, there are an estimated 412,000 IDPs living in Kenya. Most of those displaced are due to ethnic, political and land related violence since the 1990s.



## Number of refugees:

551,352 residing in Kenya;  
8,556 originating from Kenya  
[source: UNHCR]

## Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

309,200  
[source: IDMC]

## History:

- 1963**—Kenya gains independence, Kenyatta is the first president and Oginga Odinga is vice president
- 1969**—Assassination of Tom Mboya further widens ethnic gap, Odinga is arrested
- 1971**—Odinga released from jail; a coup attempt is stopped
- 1975**—murder of Josiah Mwangi Kariuki, who challenged Kenyatta's new regulations, causes angry protests
- 1978**—Kenyatta dies and Daniel arap Moi becomes president
- 1982**—KANU designated as the only legal political party in the country
- 1991**—reinstated multiparty elections
- 1997**—Moi wins presidential elections
- 2002**—Kibaki wins presidential elections, bombing of Israeli owned hotel in Mombasa
- 2006**—Somali refugees escape to Kenya as conflicts escalate
- 2008**—Violent protesting due to election results, Kibaki and Odinga agree to power sharing plan
- 2010**—Adoption of new constitution and threats are made by militant group Al Shabaab against Kenyan sovereignty
- 2013**—Kenyatta wins presidential election to become Kenya's fourth president
- 2014**—Mass killing by Al Shabaab in the north-east
- 2015**—Al Shabaab attacks Garissa University College, killing more than 140 people