

Nairobi, Kenya

Briefing Paper

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Introduction

Nairobi, Kenya is a growing, vibrant, diverse, and successful city in eastern Africa. As the second fastest growing city in the world, it is a prosperous city with a bright future. But with this success comes challenges, especially, the growing problem of immigration. Nairobi houses thousands of immigrants and refugees. Many of these are fleeing from Somalia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, and are hoping to find safety and security in Nairobi. Nairobi is home to one of the largest slums in the world, housing over 700,000 people. This number continues to increase, and without the support of the government and proper leadership it can lead to overpopulation on a scale never before seen. But with the growing problems, the government has done little, and it is time for some action.

With such a large population of immigrants in the country, diversity is widespread, but this can lead to racial and religious discrimination that causes violence. With so many migrants flooding the country on a daily basis, many with different racial or religious backgrounds, we see that hate crimes are unfortunately common in the tense social climate. Most migrants entering the country are from Somalia and Ethiopia, which are currently in states of open, deadly warfare. The Dadaab camp is largest refugee camp in the world and is located near the Kenya-Somalia border. A lot of this tension is due to the Islamic-Christian divide. This divide is pronounced all over the world, but more so in areas in and around Kenya and the Middle East, where violence is

most prevalent. The massive amounts of incoming refugees need protection, housing, food, water, and education, and it is up to us to provide them with all of these basic needs.

In order to help the current status of the refugees in Nairobi, the government must be involved. The government needs to have the support of many powerful, influential organizations, specifically the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). With government action we can strengthen the legal status of those stranded in immigrant camps, and prevent hate violence, which is common in the camps today. Most of these Somali refugees are living in slums, specifically the Kibera slum and the Eastleigh community. Sexual abuse and gender-based violence has been found at higher rates in Eastleigh, and this can be stopped by enacting stricter laws regarding the police force and deploy more militant officers held accountable for their actions. Reliable government forces can be stationed in the camps to maintain peace, and a ration system can be put into place in times of famine or crisis. Alien ID's and refugee passes must be either bypassed or made easier to obtain for refugees, as without these they have little to no rights. With a moderate paced distribution of these documents, we can prevent overpopulation of the camp or city, and give the people in camps a chance of economic success, using relocation services or other methods of economic and social integration. In conclusion, Nairobi is a city flooded by immigrants with a government and legal system that does not seem to be actively trying to accommodate them into society. But with government funding and help from outside organizations, a brighter future can be achieved for all of the people that live in extreme poverty. Action must be taken to protect the liberty, livelihood, and health of all the people that enter the city, and Nairobi must continue to strive to achieve wealth and prosperity. Together we can improve the life of all of the people that have lived in

oppression and despair, by providing them with a chance to live in a peaceful, successful community.

The Demographics of Nairobi Kenya

Nairobi is the capital of Kenya. Nairobi is Kenya's largest city by population, with its last population count in 2019 coming up at 3.1 million. However, it is believed that the population has grown to 3.5 million within the city proper, and another 6.5 million living in rural areas around the city. Founded in 1899 by the British, Nairobi has experienced a large amount of growth in the last 120 years. It occupies a surface area of about 269 square miles. This brings the population to 12,600 people per square mile. The primary languages of Nairobi are Swahili and English. Approximately 22% of the city lives in poverty.

Nairobi is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa, quickly becoming the second largest city of the African Great Lakes. The city is growing at a rate of over 4% annually, primarily because of the high birth rates and immigrants that come to Nairobi searching for employment opportunities. It is estimated that the city will continue on its upward trajectory in terms of population, reaching 5 million in 2025.

Key Points

Leadership and government key points

- Allow migrants to gain citizenship after taking a test (like in the US)
- Give migrants the opportunity to run for high representation in government, after they have lived in the country for 10 years and made major contributions/gave support to the government
- National law enforcement looks over refugee camps in a political perspective whereas local law enforcement in a safety and econ. Perspective.
- We can place undocumented migrants into temporary camps until we can find a place to send them

Health Key Points

- The access to adequate hospitals for many immigrants is subpar, as they are chained to their hospital beds until they can pay for their visit
- Healthy food is scarce and immigrants often turn to unhealthy and cheap food instead
- The CDC and the UN send funding to Nairobi to support the health of immigrants and their families although these funders do not know where their money is going
- IOM is helping immigrants have decent healthcare and also conducting research to help stop sudden outbreaks

Resilience Key Points

- Problem : immigrants coming into Kenya dont have good visas
- Solution : Once the people arrive in their new country, they are issued a free temporary Visa that lasts 10 - 12 months. Once they get a job and make some money, they can buy a five-year renewable work Visa for \$150. This Visa is renewed by the employer every 5 years.

Urban Planning Key Points

- We, as Urban Planning Committee, would like to expand the Underground railway system to reach Immigrants who need to work for money with funding from the UN
- We, as Urban Planning Committee, would like to build large apartment complexes to Nairobi to bring immigrants closer to work with funding from the international community

Economic Integration Key points

- We, as economic integration committee, would like to make it easier to obtain access into the country through work permits.
- We, as economic integration committee, would like to receive funding in order to provide welfare and social security to immigrants.

Background of City

Nairobi is both the political and financial hub of Kenya. The largest city in the country, it hosts a variety of migrant populations, which is not surprising given its history as a destination for traders and itinerant peoples. Currently, the migration flows to Kenya, and more specifically

Nairobi, are a mixture of different groups, ranging from refugees, to economic migrants and those migrating for family reunification. In an effort to fight the growing phenomenon of urban refugees, since the early 1990s, Kenyan policy focuses on trying to restrict the housing of refugees to camps. One of these being Dadaab, near Kenya's border with Somalia is the largest refugee camp in the world.¹

Issues

Leadership and Governance Convening Questions

- Ensure representation of migrants in the political institutions in your city
- Allow migrants to gain citizenship after taking a test (like in the US)
- Give migrants the opportunity to run for high representation in government, after the have lived in the country for 10 years and made major contributions/gave support to the government
- Develop a common narrative that defines and redefines your city, its institutions and its people
 - Growing city with lots of people and a large Kikuyu population
 - Major flower industry in Kenya
 - Immigrants can help in this industry and also with agric and construction
 - Kenyan population is dependant upon the floriculture industry
 - Contributes 25.3% of Kenya's GDP

¹ <https://www.resettlement.eu/sites/icmc/files/NairobiTHP.pdf>

- How the national government, the local government, NGOs and civil society can work together to develop effective policies for migration -- what do cities need from national governments
 - Improve upon transportation, education, and public health
 - Create better, more efficient documentation for migrants
- Ensure security for all within the city limits, migrants, refugees, and the established population, and the role the police can and should play
 - All documented refugees and migrants are ensured security and safety within their city limits
- Distinguish between national and local law enforcement
 - National law enforcement looks over refugee camps in a political perspective whereas local law enforcement in a safety and econ. perspective.
- How to work with the undocumented and the challenges of many on the move who may have left without the formal paperwork that people need to access services
 - We can place them in temporary camps until we can find a place to send them
- What role technology can play in enhancing participation and representation of marginalized groups
 - Tech startups are all throughout Kenya
 - Provides more jobs for the people
- How cities can work together to achieve their goals
 - Work with the NGOs
 - Share each others plans that have succeeded and try those in other areas

- Also share failures to ensure that other parts of Nairobi know what NOT to do

We need more money and support from the IRC and the UNHCR in order to create an accurate and proper documentation system, provide them with initial support, and give them an education. If we can create this system, then we will be able to accurately identify the amount of migrants in the country. If Kenya cannot take in migrants, we will hold them in temporary camps, until we can support all of the families.

Structure of Government: The model of representation in Nairobi, Kenya tends towards the ethnic majorities. This means that the decisions that matter most are handled by the tribes, due to their ethnic diversity. Since their independence in 1963, the Kalenjin and the Kikuyu have “occupied the presidency.”² The Kikuyu is the largest ethnic group in Kenya, therefore having the biggest influence. The government is trying to represent the migrants, but the people don’t listen to the rules set in place. They are told to have the promise of good pay, but instead have to work long hours (like 18), deprived of food and wages, and sexually abused. However, the government is heading in the right direction by giving workers more protection and laws.³

Organizations and their Impact. The UNHCR, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and the IRC, International Rescue Committee, are two major NGOs that help provide support and comfort to the fleeing refugees and migrants. The IRC helps inform people of deadly diseases (AIDS/HIV) and provide education to young children.⁴ Over 80% of the refugees and migrants

² (<http://theconversation.com/how-kenya-can-make-its-ethnic-democracy-work-82765>)

³ (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kenya-labour-trafficking/fears-of-fresh-abuse-of-migrants-in-middle-east-as-kenya-set-to-lift-ban-idUSKBN1EZ0HS>)

⁴ (<https://www.rescue.org/country/kenya>)

going to Nairobi are coming from Sudan, Somalia, and other surrounding countries.⁵ Refugees fleeing to Nairobi, Kenya for safety are being placed into camps in Dadaab and Kakuma. Kenya is helping the refugees and immigrants rebuild and create successful lives.⁶

Documentation in Nairobi are very important for the government. The UNHCR and the Nairobi government provide documentation for fleeing refugees and immigrants from surrounding countries.⁷ This documentation is easily recognizable by the police and other authorities. Refugees and asylum seekers prefer to get government issued documents, but the government issued documents can be more expensive and harder to acquire. Undocumented immigrants are either deported or sent to jail by the government.⁸

Health

In Nairobi the citizens have very poor healthcare, but there is a lot being done to change that. The people also have very little access to good hospitals. Right now many citizens don't have access to healthy foods. They don't have enough money to afford healthy food, so they turn to cheap unhealthy food and eat that instead. The CDC is funds 1.5 million dollars yearly, but not knowing at all where its going. In Nairobi if you are unable to pay your hospital bill then you are locked in your room and tied up by chains until you can afford it.⁹ It now realizes this issue about being chained to your hospital bed, but they don't have enough money to pay off everyones bill. There is also an organization called IOM helping citizens to have access to

⁵ (<https://www.unhcr.org/ke/figures-at-a-glance>)

⁶ (<https://www.nrc.no/resources/reports/recognising-nairobis-refugees---the-challenges-and-significance-of-documentation-proving-identity-and-status/>)

⁷ (<https://www.unhcr.org/516d658c9.pdf>)

⁸ (<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/refugee-law/kenya.php>)

⁹ <http://kenya.iom.int/>

frequent healthcare. They are working to make things simpler and less expensive.¹⁰ IOM is also working to find more research for sudden outbreaks. In conclusion, Nairobi citizens have poor healthcare right now, but work is being done to help it.

Nairobi does not provide much aid to their citizens and they provide even less for the overflow of immigrants they are taking in. The hospitals refuse to provide substantial aid to patients that are too poor to afford a visit. Without much money, the citizens struggle to find enough food, clean water, and shelter to survive. Nairobi receives funding from the UN and the CDC yearly.¹¹ These funds are keeping the immigrants afloat although there is evidence that these companies have no idea where these funds are going.¹² The IOM is making an attempt to help these impoverished immigrants start a stable life in Nairobi. IOM is helping by decreasing the insurmountable prices for medicine, clean water, and frequent hospital visits. IOM is a temporary solution for an ongoing problem but for now, we need more companies like IOM to support these struggling immigrants to help them start a new life.

Resilience

Problem : Visas in Kenya only last for 90 days (which is a short amount of time) and the visas cost \$107 and refugees don't have enough money to buy a visa every 90 days.¹³

- The main problem with migration into Kenya is that the country can't really support all the immigrants.

¹⁰ ibid

¹¹ <http://kenya.iom.int/>

¹² ibid

<http://thenairobihosp.org/>

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/kenya>

¹³ <http://evisa.go.ke/single-entry-visa.html>

- Kenya is poor, the country is only worth about 74 billion USD as of 2017 according to World Bank, so a lot of organizations first problem is how to support migrants.
- Most of the organizations are try to help migrants get visas, but according to Kenya Electric Visa, the visas are only valid for 90, which isn't long.
- Also the visa cost \$107 American dollars, and most of the refugees don't have that type of money.
- Most of the immigrants in Kenya don't have a visa, because you have to have a visa prior to coming to Kenya so they are here illegally.
- CDC is helping improve health of refugees

Once the people arrive in their new country, they are issued a free temporary Visa that lasts 10 - 12 months. Once they get a job and make some money, they can buy a five-year renewable work Visa for \$150. This Visa is renewed by the employer every 5 years. This makes sure that the immigrants must get jobs to stay in the country. Also there should be a program that helps the migrants get jobs such as cabin crew, flight attendants, and bank clerks. This way they can get a job, a place to live, and other daily things. The main problem with migration into Kenya is that the country can't really support all the immigrants. Kenya is poor as is, only worth about 74 billion USD as of 2017 according to World Bank. But when a flow of poor migrants fleeing violence from countries like the DRC and Somalia. These people are coming without Visas illegally, and they are hurting the country. The Kenyan government supports the immigration when it is legal, since then they usually find jobs and start making a living according to The Government of Kenya's Youth Employment Scheme Abroad. Youth especially are more heavily affected by unemployment: as of 2009, 15.8 percent of youth aged

15 to 19 and 13.1 percent of youth ages 20 to 24 were unemployed, compared to the overall unemployment rate of 8.6 per cent. The most needed thing here would be associations to help these people and feed them. My partners will talk about some of these.

Nairobi has the third largest immigrant inflow in all of Africa, mainly coming from Uganda and Somalia(UNICEF), with that, it causes lots of problems. For example, droughts have been a critical problem for the immigrant camps . The IOM responds by coming up with intervening Shelter & Non-Food Items, and Health Support for displaced and other vulnerable populations. The IOM deal with human trafficking by funding government based capacities for catching traffickers . The IOM works very closely with the Kenyan government and kenya was the first country to be a member of the IOM . The has been the biggest help to kenya and in the future will solve kenya's problems¹⁴.

There is also another organization named HIAS ¹⁵(Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.) which serves between 500-900 people each month helping them to protect rights, giving them an education and helping them to speak for themselves.(HIAS Kenya focuses on the most at-risk refugee populations and cutting-edge service provision, integrating best practices based on international standards with a focus on community-based protection and empowerment. HIAS has been working with urban refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya since 2002. They have also gained technical expertise. They also help with livelihood, it seeks enhance opportunities for self-reliance and skills-building for refugees. This is done through skills training, and business startup kits. HIAS advocates for favorable policies and legislation for refugees. It works to create

¹⁴ <https://humanitariancompendium.iom.int/appeals/kenya-2018>

¹⁵ <https://www.hias.org/kenya>

partnerships to protect rights of refugees.legal protection work, HIAS also partners with local NGOs, resettlement country governments and UNHCR to ensure the integrity of the refugee resettlement system and to advocate and promote durable solutions. HIAS also provides a safe and dignified housing facility for the most at-risk refugees.

Urban Planning

The city of Nairobi is 268.7 square miles and holds a population of about three million people.¹⁶ The city is governed by a city council that consists of 175 representatives. Nairobi has trouble fitting its own citizens into the infrastructure, alone trying to handle the influx of migrants because of the city becoming a hotbed for migrants. The city has not been modernized in terms of infrastructure, most homes still do not have indoor plumbing.¹⁷ The constant influx of immigrants cause them to live in large camps such as Kakuma, which houses about 185,000 migrants and refugees. In these camps, the migrants are isolated from the rest of the city and denied rights that they would get if they were citizens. These migrants have little chances to find work to support their families by themselves.¹⁸ In order to properly receive these migrants, the infrastructure must be updated, so the city can house the thousands of migrants rushing into the country.

In Nairobi there is an organization called Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society which provides affordable housing to asylum seekers from all over the world. According to the UN Refugee

¹⁶ <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/kenya-population>

¹⁷ <https://www.cnn.com/2017/12/12/africa/africa-new-smart-cities/index.html>

¹⁸ <http://riftvalley.net/news/navigating-migration-survive-life-nairobi>

Agency, Kenya is host to approximately 300,000 refugees, the majority of whom are from Somalia. Some other countries where the refugees come from are South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Uganda, Yemen, Syria, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Central Africa Republic, Eritrea and Ethiopia. HIAS serves between 500 and 850 refugees every month.

In addition to its 3 field offices in Kayole, Kawangware and Eastleigh neighborhoods in Nairobi, HIAS also has weekly outreach clinics in Rongai, Kasarani and Kitengela to help more refugees and bring services closer to the refugee community in Nairobi. HIAS is highly recognized for its programming for LGBTQ refugees and has been a great service provider for Nairobi's refugees for nearly 10 years. Nairobi is facing a housing shortage problem due to a rising amount of farmers coming into the city to find better jobs to get more money so this is causing for a serious home shortage in the metro Nairobi area.

Due to the amount of refugees in Nairobi and other factors, the migrants don't have adequate access to social welfare programs based on where they live. (springer.link.com) While Nairobi has adequate access to public transportation, such as matatus, buses, trains, boda bodas, tuk-tuks, and taxis, migrants don't have access to these forms of public transportation.¹⁹ It's not likely that the Nairobi migrants are connected to the power grid, as only 10% of the people in Nairobi are connected to the power grid.²⁰ According to worldbank.org 86.3% of people in Nairobi have access to electricity. The people who have the most continue to be apartment of bought houses in the metro area. It is very difficult for Nairobi migrants to have access to clean

¹⁹ <https://safarijunkie.com>

²⁰ <http://www.afd.frd>

water and internet, as it is quite a harsh city to live in.²¹ Due to all of these factors, while part of Nairobi is arguably modern, is not a modern city.

The huge increase of migrants coming to Nairobi from parts of Kenya and other countries in Africa causes a huge housing problem. There is about 300,000 migrants in Nairobi currently trying to find housing for themselves and their families. There are programs that try to help these migrants find work and shelter, but at the end of the day there is little housing left in the city for that many people. The migrants are forced to live in large refugee camps with hundreds of thousands of migrants inside of them. These people have little opportunity to find work, food, or clean water to survive. Migrants do not have access to public transportation around the city to get to work. Migrants have a tough time trying to survive in the city of Nairobi because of the lack of shelter, water or jobs for refugees.

Economic Integration

Kenya/Population: The working-age population is expected to increase to **28.5 million** by 2020.

About **4.2 million** working-age Kenyans were either in college or secondary school, and **not active** in rolling the wheel of the economy.

Nairobi needs: Better education infrastructure, **more industries** to provide jobs to immigrants, and better access to work permits to prevent immigrants working untaxed or illegal jobs

Ideas: Create more secondary schools or colleges to **educate** the working class, **housing** and welfare for immigrants, impose **background checks** instead of work permits, reduce crime rate

²¹ <https://alumni.berkeley.edu>

The capital of Kenya is Nairobi. There are 6.5 million residents in Nairobi as well as 49.7 million people living in Kenya.²² Kenya has the most vibrant economy in East Africa, and Nairobi is the main commercial center of the country. Nairobi has a well-developed infrastructure, including modern financial and communications systems. Nairobi's economy is based off of agriculture, employing about eighty percent of the city's population as well as contributing to 29 percent of the GDP.²³ Agriculture accounts for over 50 percent of the country's export earnings. The principal products include processed food, beer, vehicles, soaps, construction material, engineering, textiles, and chemicals. There is also a thriving sector that provides employment to carpenters, metal workers, furniture makers, vehicle repairmen, and retailers.

Foreign nationals wishing to work in Kenya are required to obtain a working permit. However, work permits are only granted in instances where the employer can prove that entitling the permit to the employee would be beneficial to Nairobi and the position cannot be filled by any suitable Kenyan applicants. Historically, the agricultural sector of the economy has employed the majority of the immigrants that lack formal education extending past high school. Therefore, many immigrants are unemployed and are forced into prostitution. The vast majority of immigrants are poor, and work untaxed jobs under the table. They typically lack the funding to have entrepreneurial businesses, so they take available labor jobs instead.

Nairobi's government is very poor. It has trouble providing social services for citizens

²² <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/kenya>

²³ <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/kenya>

and it is unheard of for migrants to receive such benefits. Since January 2016, more than 20 companies have either folded and shipped out or simply downsized, leaving thousands unemployed. There is a lack of services to help migrants find jobs because the need for a work permit rules out many immigrants for employment.²⁴ Therefore, this law wastes lots of brain power. There are immigrants who have valuable skills, but the Kenyan government does not take advantage of them. Regarding the overall efficiency of Kenyan born workers, there is also a large amount of unemployed working age citizens. About 4.2 million working-age Kenyans were either in college or secondary school, and not active in rolling the wheel of the economy. A report from shows that 5.6 million working-age Kenyans were economically inactive.²⁵ To summarize, many immigrants lack the opportunity for employment hindering them unable to contributing to the economy, forcing them to work low-wage, under the table jobs.

Social Cohesion

Kenya is one of the most diverse countries in the world. It is full of culture, life, prosperity, and according to businessstech.co.za. Is one of the top ten fastest growing economies in the world. But with this bright future comes problems and one the most obvious of these is overpopulation due to migration. The capital Nairobi, is home to the largest slum in the world and religious tension between the Christian and Muslim followers has lead to hate killings in the area. As migrants flood the country from neighboring Somalia and Uganda, pressure is put on the economy to create enough jobs and the city to house enough people. However the Kenyan government continues to take the immigrants, and the overpopulation crisis continues. Discrimination is slightly apparent between opposite races but overall poses much less of a

²⁴ <https://www.internations.org/kenya-expats/guide/moving-to-kenya-15767/kenya-visa-requirements-2>

²⁵ <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/kenya>

threat then religious tension, as the terrorist group al-Shabaab operates in the area. In conclusion though Kenya is growing rapidly, it has glaring flaws that could lead to tension and violence.

In Nairobi, immigration has begun to cause a problem. With the rapid increase in population, the government has not been able to keep up. This has caused a problem with housing, leaving many people to live in slums and refugee camps. Along with this, the government is having trouble processing all the immigrants, allowing terrorists to enter the city and cause havoc. To try and prevent this, the Kenyan government has moved all immigrants and refugees into camps. This is an issue because many of these immigrants had homes and jobs in the city which they will now lose. Another problem that arises with this, is that the already overcrowded refugee camps have become even more overcrowded. The Kenyan government has been struggling to maintain these camps and has turned to other countries and organisations for aid. While these problems have begun to lessen, they are still one of many predominant issues facing immigration in Nairobi.

The Kenyan Government has recently taken actions with China to create and improve Kenyan infrastructure. In doing this, a new railway is being completed across Kenya. Reports of racial discrimination by the Chinese against the local Kenyan workforce have been numerous. We can see where this comes from, of course, the wealthy Chinese supervisors overseeing the Kenyan domestic workers have to breed feelings of superiority and contempt. The Conversation writes, “ A few weeks ago, an investigative journalist revealed that Kenyan workers at the Chinese-built railway were being subjected to repeated incidents of racial discrimination and abuse by their Chinese supervisors. The report also alleged that the China Road and Bridge

Corporation, the Chinese conglomerate that operates the 473 km Nairobi-Mombasa railway, was implementing a deliberate segregation policy.” Mission groups, committees, and meet and greets can be established for those of opposite race, ethnicity or religion to help with integration and get rid of the stereotypes that the native Kenyans harbor about migrants. With propaganda and equal representation in government for the migrants flooding the country, we can keep everyone happy while avoiding racial and political divide.

Integration: Integration in Nairobi severely lacks, with many reports of crimes targeted at immigrants. The Kenyan government has acknowledged these problems and has begun to take steps to fix them with the help of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration.

Religion: (In Kenya) Al Shabab shooters freed Muslims and targeted Christians in a majority Christian university that killed at least 147 people.

Gender: (In Kenya) Gender inequality is the disparity in power status and prestige between people who identify themselves as men and women. Gender inequality still exists in Kenya.

Kenyan wealthy women are taking over the man in the role of breadwinning. This seems to be good for everyone because the figures in the news are making gender inequality to be seen as a thing of the past. Most women today produce more than what their husbands make. Going back to school, college degrees and doctorates are earned by women. There are improved education and employment progress in numbers for women. Regardless of these changes and development, it could be wrong to claim that Kenya is free from gender inequality.

Discrimination-the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex. Chinese railway workers have reportedly been racially abusing the local Kenyan workforce- “A few weeks ago, an investigative journalist revealed that Kenyan workers at the Chinese-built railway were being subjected to repeated incidents of racial discrimination and abuse by their Chinese supervisors. The report also alleged that the China Road and Bridge Corporation, the Chinese conglomerate that operates the 473 km Nairobi-Mombasa railway, was implementing a deliberate segregation policy.”

Laws are in place to stop discrimination in the formal constitution of Kenya, but the enforcing of these laws is something else entirely.

Multiple cases of racial discrimination related to tourism have been reported.

The attacks by Al-Shabab represent the real

Human Rights: a right that is believed to belong justifiably to every person

Kenya is a democratic republic and has its president elected through a series of ballots.

In the 2017 general election, however, acts of violence over political disputes took place in Kenya. “The most significant human rights issues included: unlawful and politically motivated killings; forced disappearances; torture; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; impunity; arbitrary arrest and detention; an inefficient judiciary; arbitrary infringement of citizens’ privacy rights; restrictions on press freedom and freedom of assembly.”

Also, various acts against women took place. Freedom of the press is most apparent, but new covering up of deteriorating safety in Kenya has been covered up by the media. More recently the attack on a Christian university by terrorist group Al-Shabab shows the religious tension in Kenya. “Since 2002, politically motivated human rights violations have diminished, but other serious human rights abuses persist, a great many at the hands of security forces, particularly the police. The police force is widely viewed as the most corrupt entity in the country, given to extorting bribes, complicity in criminal activity, and using

excessive force against both criminal suspects and crowds. Most police who commit abuses still do so with impunity. Prison conditions remain life-threatening.”

Education and Youth

Overall, Nairobi schools don't work for poor families, and are poorly organized.

Although public schools are free, poor children often dropout because the price of uniforms and supplies are too much. They also dropout because poor families need children to work and bring in income.²⁶ In fact, the overall costs of attending secondary school is about 8 times that of the average monthly income of an employed parent(2). The teachers are often underpaid and not-qualified, and have to teach classes of forty or more.(1) Most of the time there aren't even enough supplies for the students in the classroom. For example, there are more students than desks, there aren't enough textbooks, and maps are hard to come by.(1) Sadly, girls have it even worse, parents aren't as willing to invest in their daughter's education, and even though universities have lowered their grade requirements for girls fewer attend college than men.²⁷

With government help public school systems are getting better. The net enrolment was at 51 percent in 2016 which is an increase from the 29 percent in 2008 before the government made public schools free, so the school system is getting better.²⁸ Organizations such as the Global Education fund are helping Nairobi schools. They have already raised \$331,000. The government has nearly doubled the amount of funding they give to secondary schools per student

²⁶

<https://theconversation.com/why-funding-alone-cant-shake-up-kenyas-school-transition-rate-95443>

²⁷ ibid

²⁸ ibid

from \$128 to \$221. Overall, the government sent 300 million dollars to the secondary schools at the beginning of 2018. There is a new plan in place to add 2 years of schooling to secondary schools increasing it from 4 to 6 years. This plan is scheduled to be put in place by 2027.²⁹

Kakuma, a Refugee Camp in Northern Kenya, contains a choking 185,000 refugees, 1/3 of which are under 18 and struggle in the State and UN funded primary schools. According to the Hechinger Report, “The UN aims to have a 40:1 student-to-teacher ratio in its refugee schools. In Kakuma, there are more than 95 students for each teacher.”³⁰The schools are horrendously understaffed with minimal textbooks and chairs, computers are unheard of as these brightminded students are forced to learn at an impossibly slow rate while crowded into classrooms like animals, this causes many to lose their drive to learn and consider quitting school altogether. The camps wouldn’t be so bad except for the grounds that only 1 percent of refugees leave to attend a higher education in the Kenyan country. To continue on lack of supplies, the classrooms are made of mud brick, so on the few days when it rains, the low lying schools are washed away, and while the blistering heat beats down on other days, many students fall unconscious, unable to get medical attention from a lack of a school nurse or basic medical supplies. The secondary school is so overfilled, at 3000 students that, ”because of space issues, one group of students comes in the morning and the other comes in the afternoon.”Other schools have a student to desk ratio of 5-3 and a textbook to student ratio of 8-1. The schools are under construction to receive more services soon, but with the tide of refugees that continue to spill in, new facilities will soon become overcrowded and obsolete once again.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel for some refugees in Nairobi. A UNHCR report from 2015 stated that under the Xavier Project, a program to provide East African refugees with an

²⁹ <https://africacheck.org/factsheets/factsheet-cost-providing-free-secondary-education-kenya/>

³⁰ <http://www.globaleducationfund.org/kenya>

education, Muerma primary school had begun to accept and teach up to 70 refugees within Nairobi. With more government funding, foster programs could be established to provide families and mentors to unaccompanied minors through homes or civil centers. Another project to help the refugees would be railway systems between places like Kakuma and Lake Naivasha which could provide access to job opportunities in the Kenyan flower industry. This would provide jobs for the adult refugees and eventual jobs for the future refugees.³¹ The main focus for the government though, should be the rigorous education and mentoring of the unaccompanied minors through better textbooks, supplies and even computers so they will be able to gain high level jobs such as programmers and eventually leave the camps to integrate refugee populations into the bigger cities like Nairobi.

³¹ <https://africacheck.org/factsheets/factsheet-cost-providing-free-secondary-education-kenya/>