



# MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN KENYA

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# Migration Governance Reform in Kenya

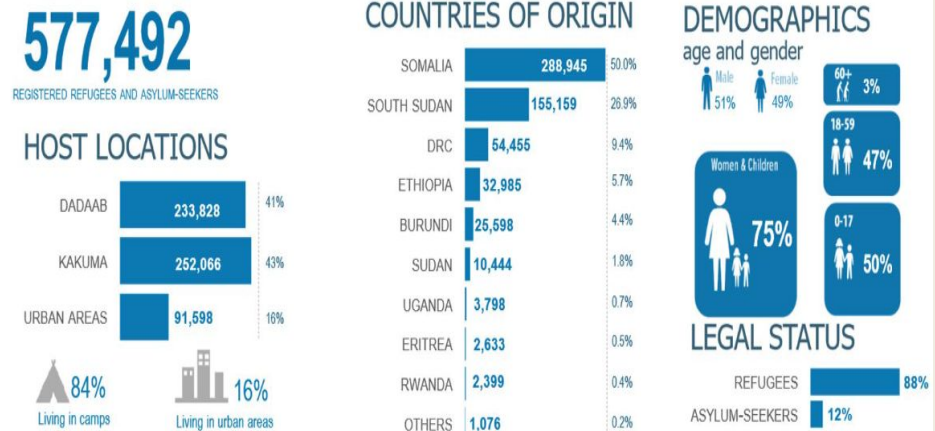
- Brief history of migration in Kenya covering the precolonial, colonial and post-colonial eras
- Migration trends and patterns in Kenya
- Migration policies in Kenya
- Reflections on policy and implementation
- Political Economy of Migration in Kenya

# Is Kenya A Friendly Nation?

Q87D. For each of the following types of people, please tell me whether you would like having people from this group as neighbours, dislike it, or not care: Immigrants or foreign workers?

	Urban	Rural	Men	Women	Total
Strongly dislike	8.6	13.0	11.8	11.2	11.5
Somewhat dislike	9.9	13.5	10.0	14.5	12.3
Would not care	30.9	20.2	23.9	23.8	23.9
Somewhat like	32.3	35.8	33.8	35.4	34.6
Strongly like	18.1	17.2	20.3	14.7	17.5
Refused		0.0		0.1	0.0
Don't know	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2

Figure 1: Registered Refugees and Asylum Seekers 2023



Source: UNHCR 2023

Gallup migration acceptance index for Kenya is 6.51, Global Average=5.3, Rwanda=8.16  
Tz=4.98, SA=4.82

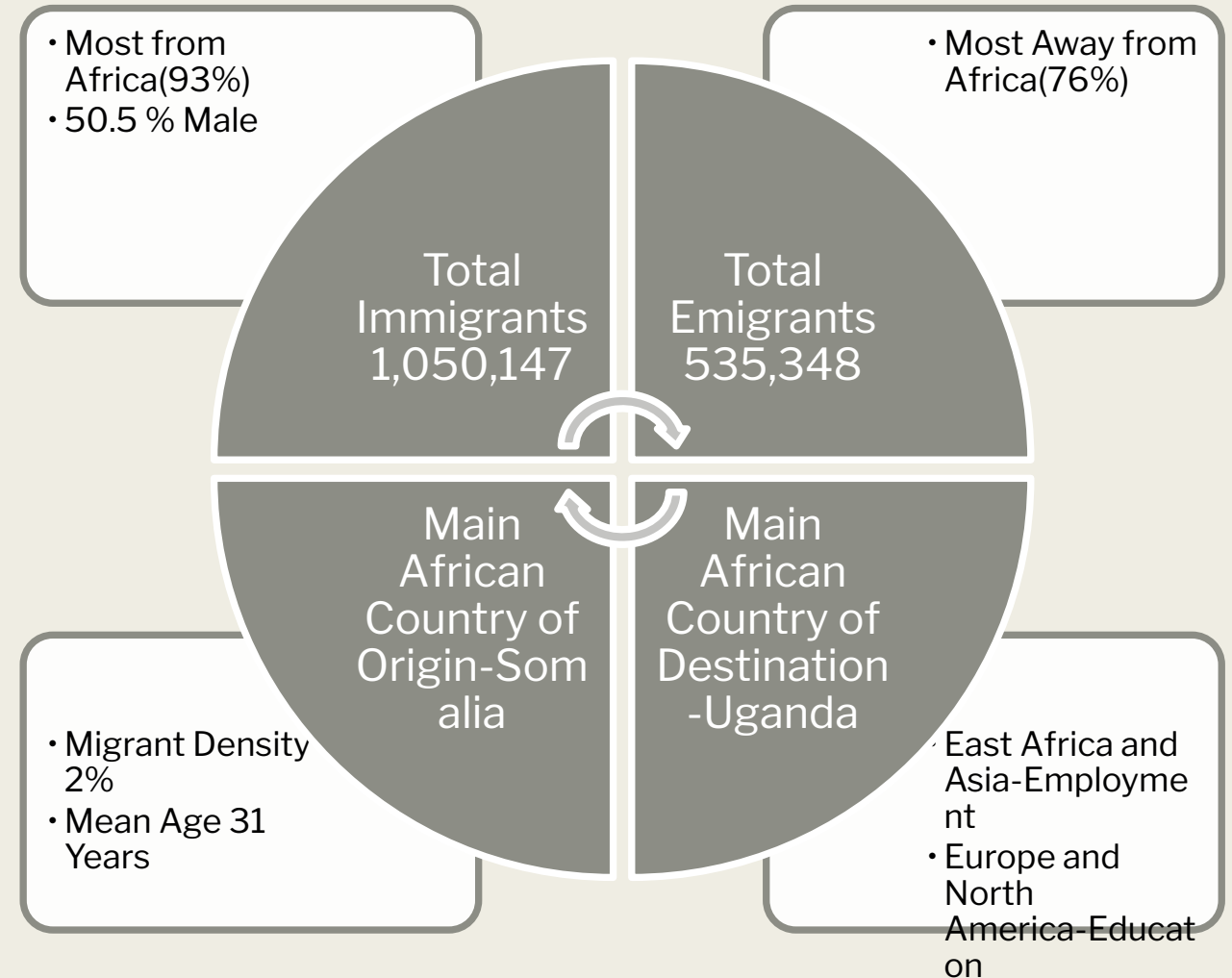
# Kenya migration patterns and trends

Most emigrants are from richer urban and suburban areas

Highly educated emigrants-More than 50% of emigrants have a bachelors degree

Diaspora remittances forming 4% of GDP- Rest of Africa has higher individual amounts remitted.

Outward Remittances amounting to \$ 589 million(Uganda and Somalia leading for Africa)



# Emigrant & Border Management Policies

- Kenya diaspora policy formulated in 2015, which has been implemented even before being codified into law. The revision hopes to make the diaspora community the 48<sup>th</sup> county.
- Bilateral Agreements between Kenya and Germany, the UK, and most gulf countries
- Predeparture training for certain vocations
- One border post, Information Sharing, cross border cooperation are some successful ways that Kenya is using to manage the borders e,g with SA.
- Failed border wall with Somalia after \$ 35 million.

# Immigrant Policies & Kenya's Leadership

- There was an elaborate system of visas and permits. Visas have since been replaced with Electronic Travel Authorisations for all countries of the world-requires pre authorisation and payment of reduced fees.
- Seychelles, Benin, Gambia and Rwanda have unencumbered pretravel and travel processes
- In 2021, Kenya became a member of the champion countries initiative for Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
- Was first to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy (roadmap)
- Kenya plays a crucial role in regional bodies such as IGAD, COMESA, EAC in furtherance of freer migration, in areas such as capacity building, policy formulation and in some cases financial.

# Why the Successes

- The posture and attitude of national government is friendly to migrants although the local posture for refugees is ambiguous.
- Local governments in migration prone areas are amenable to migration( no border militarization)
- Key stakeholders are involved in migration e.g the private sector such as banks and telcos. These provide crucial support that actually aids in integration of migrants and refugees.
- A vibrant civil society, standing up for migrant rights. In 2013 case of encampment of urban refugees and asylum seekers was thwarted, and in 2016, forced shut down of refugee camps was halted.
- A strong and independent judiciary.

# What matters need to be fixed?

- The Electronic Travel Authorisation process does not do justice to the AIMS of liberalising free movement on the continent.
- Refugee Management is preceded with excellent legislation but the implementation has been less than successful.
- Rampant corruption that sees undocumented migrants-mostly criminals gain access to the country to become a security risk. Recently most femicide cases have been traced to undocumented migrants or migrants that have procured documents illegally.
- Transferability of social security benefits for migrants working within the region.