

# Economic Inclusion Working Group



Generating comparable socio-economic data on forcibly displaced and hosts in the Eastern Horn

Presentation by UNHCR



# Summary of Ongoing Collaboration

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- Inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless populations in socio-economic assessments and phone surveys;
- Some key findings;
- Key workstreams moving forward



Collecting, disseminating and internalizing key socio-economic characteristics of persons of concern (PoC) and their hosts in program policy, and advocacy.

- How to improve utility of UNHCR registration data for external use.
- Collaboration with data saavy partners in inclusion of PoC in generating socio-economic data, COVID phone impact surveys
- Rapid Monitoring Survey (pilot Ethiopia)-ultimate aim (flagship reports, GCR indicators, SDGs).

What have we learned?

- Comparable, representative, accessible, frequent and timely information on PoC and hosts is key to achieving UNHCR's Protection and Solutions Agenda.
- Generating data jointly with national statistics office and data saavy actors (such as the WB) is essential to generating usable data across the humanitarian development nexus.

Where are going?

- Continue to innovate on how to use evidence to inform our protection and solutions agenda and UNHCR programming, policy and advocacy.
- Continue collaboration with humanitarian and development partners, national governments, private sector and civil society.
- Put Persons of Concern at the center of protection, programming and durable solutions strategy



# Key Findings from Socio-economic surveys:

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*Across the region, refugees are likely to be poorer, more food-insecure, have lower employment rates as compared to nationals and are disproportionately hit by COVID.*

## Kenya

- **Poverty:** 68 percent of refugees in Kakuma are poor, compared to 37 percent of Kenyans. Poor refugee households are mostly headed by women.
- **Employment:** Refugees in Kenya face higher restrictions to work and move outside camps which severely impacts their ability to participate in the labor market. Only 20 percent of refugees in Kakuma and 39 percent in Kalobeyei were employed, compared to 42 percent of urban refugees. Employment is higher (62 and 71 percent of hosts at the Turkana County and national level, correspondingly).
- **Food Insecurity:** Cutting food intake is a common response reported by both refugees and nationals alike to cope with the loss of income. The share of refugees reporting going an entire day without food is higher than nationals and suggests severe food insecurity among refugee households.
- **COVID impact:** Refugee employment declined sharply in the early months of the pandemic. Though it has improved, the recovery lags that of nationals and the gender employment gap among refugees has widened.

## Uganda

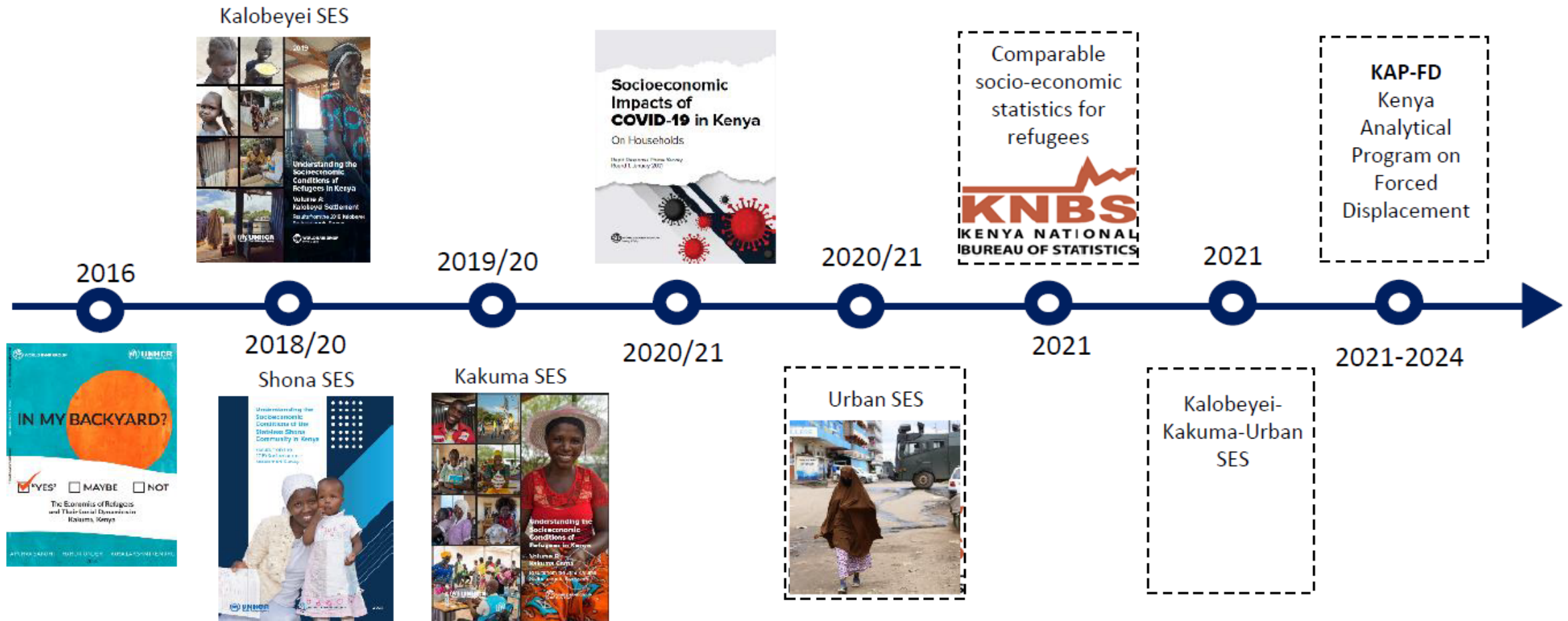
- **Poverty:** In 2018, around 46 percent of the refugee population were poor, compared to 16 percent of host population.
- **Employment:** in 2018, 24 percent of refugees were employed, compared to 64 percent of hosts.
- **Food insecurity:** 7 in 10 refugee households experienced severe food insecurity compares to 5 in 10 for host communities.
- **COVID impact:** Since the COVID outbreak, poverty among refugees increased by eight percentage points; from 44 to 52 percent. Share of refugee households that ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources increased from 61 to 85 percent.

## Ethiopia

- **COVID impact:** Since the outbreak, refugees have lost many jobs. About 28 percent of refugee respondents had a job before the pandemic. Yet, 7 months into the pandemic, employment dropped 10 percentage points further! ([World Bank, UNHCR, JDC, March 2021](#)).



# The KAP-FD builds on successful UNHCR-WB efforts to fill data gaps to inform effective solutions to displacement



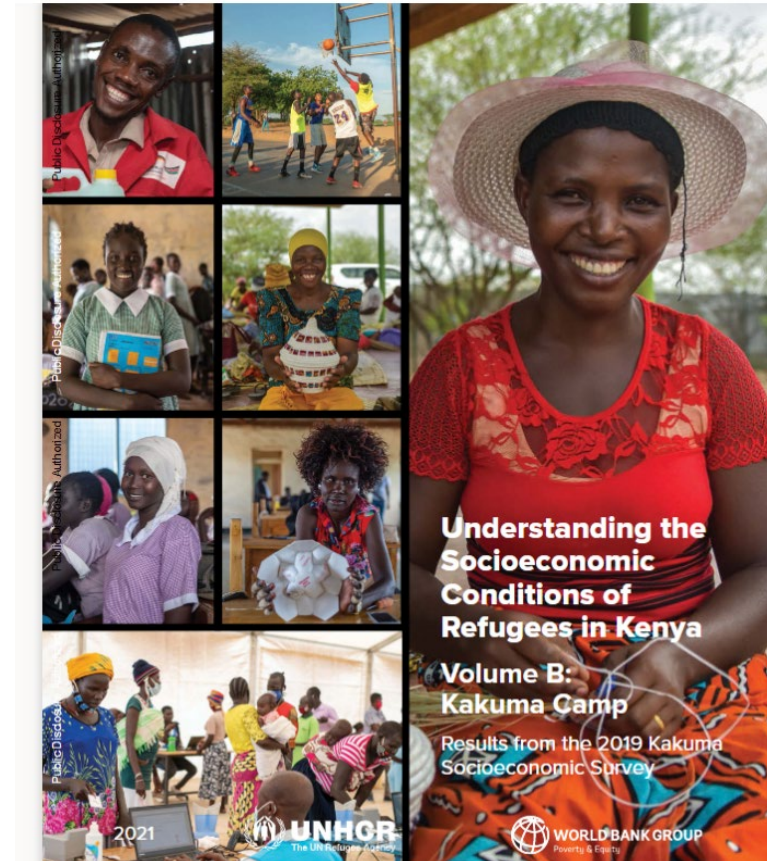
## Understanding the socioeconomic conditions of refugees in Kalobeyei, Kenya

The 2018 Kalobeyei socioeconomic survey, a replica of the Kenyan national survey measuring poverty, generates comparable evidence to inform policy and programme targeting to support refugees and host communities.

	 <b>REFUGEES</b>	 <b>TURKANA COUNTY</b>	 <b>NATIONAL</b>
Poverty	65%	72%	37%
Sex	Population under 25: 43% men, 37% women	Population under 25: 34% men, 33% women	Population under 25: 31% men, 31% women
	Above 25: 7% men, 12% women	Above 25: 14% men, 19% women	Above 25: 19% men, 20% women
Age	Below 18: 68%	Below 18: 57%	Below 18: 48%
	Above 64: 0.4%	Above 64: 4%	Above 64: 4%
Dependency Ratio	1.9	1.2	0.8
Women Headed Household	66%	52%	32%
Employment	39% working-age	46% working-age	55% working-age
	39% employed 59% outside the labor force 2% unemployed	62% employed 35% outside the labor force 3% unemployed	71% employed 26% outside the labor force 2% unemployed
Education*	Primary: 77% Secondary: 5%	Primary: 48% Secondary: 9%	Primary: 80% Secondary: 38%
Electricity Grid/Generator	0%	12%	42%
Improved Drinking Water	100%	63%	73%
Improved Sanitation	52%	32%	65%

\*Net enrolment for primary (6-13 years of age) and secondary (14-17 years of age).  
Source: Kalobeyei Socioeconomic Survey 2018 & Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2015/16

## What can we learn from the SE Assessments?





# A more granular understanding on how to achieve sustainable livelihoods will require more in-depth and frequent data over time

Better understanding of refugees and county level hosts' living conditions



Comparable data of refugees and hosts in camp and urban areas

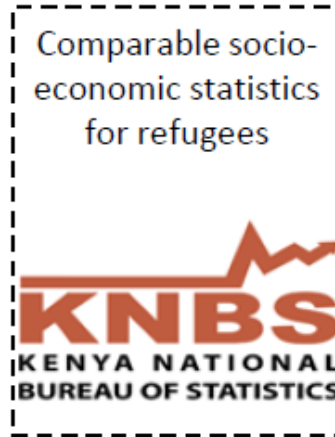


Granular understanding of livelihoods and mental health of to expand socioeconomic opportunities

Kalobyei SES



Kakuma SES



Lack of displacement module

Urban SES



Kalobyei-Kakuma-Urban SES

## KAP-FD

Panel survey

RCT: livelihoods and mental health  
Capacity building and data eco-system





# 1 A panel survey and complementary qualitative work will help understand the socioeconomic characteristics and needs of refugees and hosts over time



## Sample

- ✓ 6,000 refugee households
- ✓ 3,500 host community households



## Locations

- ✓ Kakuma refugee camp
- ✓ Kalobeyei settlement
- ✓ Dadaab refugee camp\*
- ✓ Urban areas: Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa



## Frequency

- ✓ Bi-annual panel data
- ✓ Monthly cross-sectional data

\* If feasible

## Key themes

Employment, livelihoods, and mental health.

Socioeconomic indicators: Income, housing, WASH, food security, resilience to climate and other shocks, women empowerment.

Education: Attainment and transition from primary to secondary school

## Administration



Two face-to-face interviews



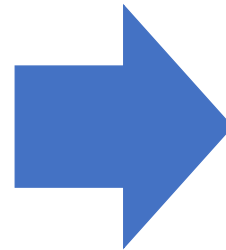
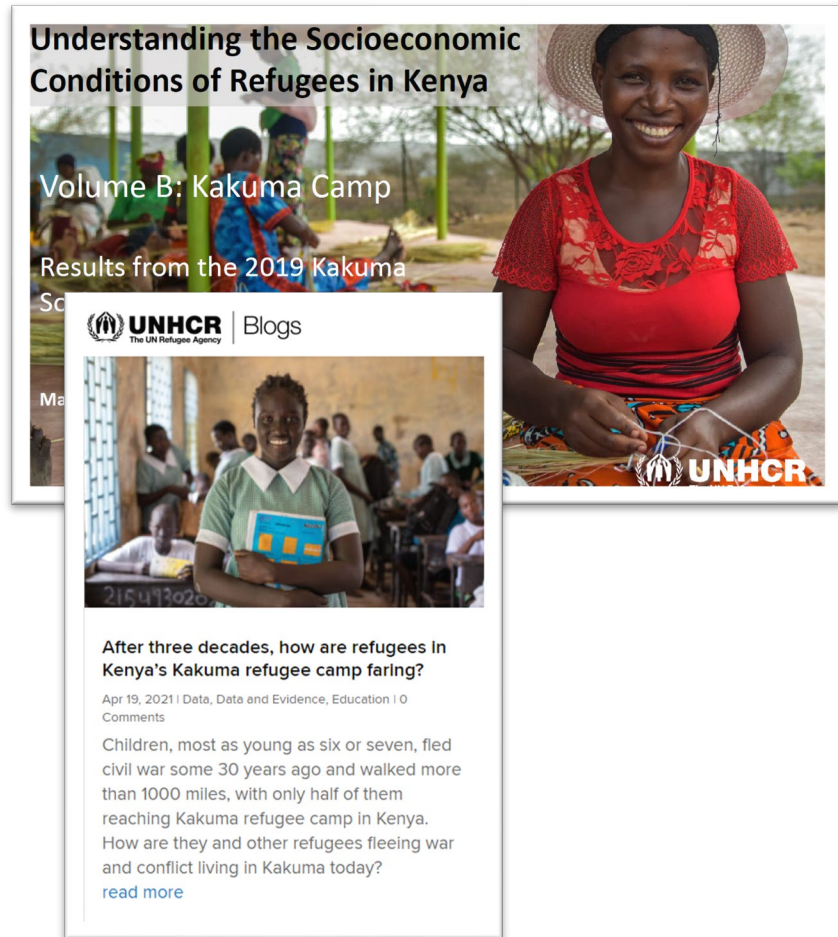
Two phone surveys



Focus group discussions


In-depth interviews

# KENYA HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS INFORM GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT



- Surveys in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei camps provide input to decisions by the local government's area-based development programme.
- The Kakuma survey served as important background information for the International Finance Corporation's work on private sector development in Kakuma.

# PARTNERS REVERSED DECISION ON ASSISTANCE CUTS AFTER REVIEWING EVIDENCE IN UGANDA

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

APRIL 20:

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## UGANDA POLICY BRIEF

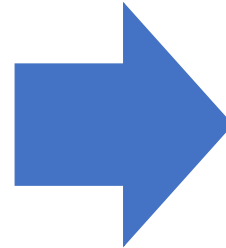
### TARGETING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES TO PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

USING SOCIOECONOMIC EVIDENCE TO DESIGN SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES IN UGANDAN SETTLEMENTS

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#### SUMMARY

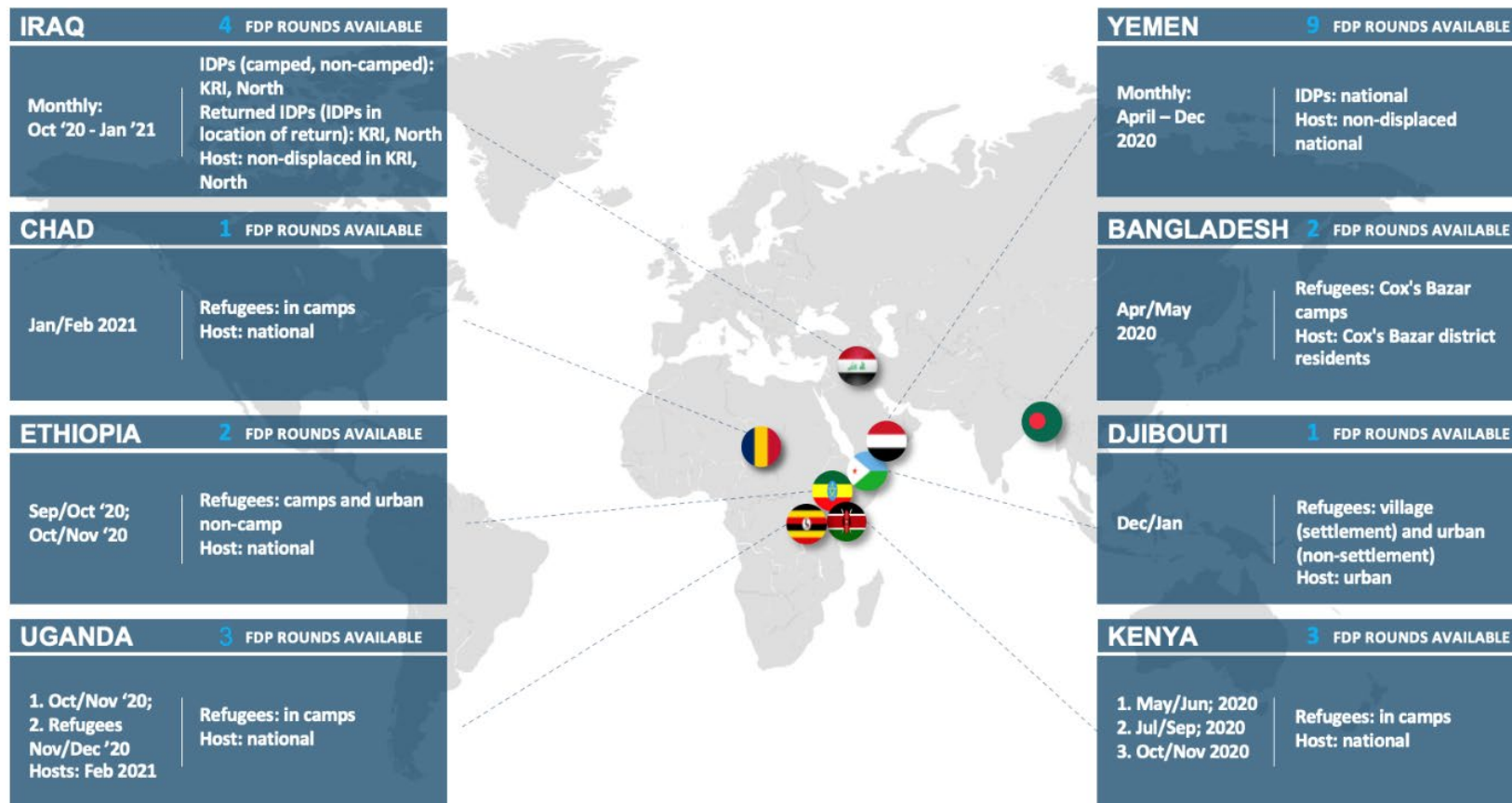
- Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities require specialized support and interventions to boost their resilience. Referred to as Persons with Specific Needs, these refugees include survivors of violence, older and disabled persons, and unaccompanied minors, to name a few categories.
- Using vulnerability assessment and household data of refugees in Uganda, researchers examined whether refugee households with persons with specific needs are more economically vulnerable, and consequently, need greater financial and employment-related assistance.
- We find that refugee households with persons with specific needs spent on average 23 percent less on food and 18 percent less on non-food items. Overall, their household spending is 22 percent less than households without persons with of specific needs.
- Further, when disaggregated by the main categories of specific needs, single-parent households as well as households with members who have health-related problems are the two groups that face the highest economic vulnerability.
- Households with persons with specific needs are also more likely to have a higher dependency ratio than other households, providing one possible explanation of their pronounced vulnerability.



- Data analysis persuaded partners to hold of targeted assistance that would have reduced food provisions to some refugees
- Instead, UNHCR changed the minds of partners and successfully maintained same level of food assistance to all refugees



# WB and UNHCR High Frequency Phone Surveys (HFPS)



# Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion-Key findings from COVID surveys

## Across Refugees

- Majority of refugees (Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya) work in the informal sector, and do unskilled jobs.
- Pandemic-related movement restrictions may have been particularly detrimental to such workers as their labour market positions are especially vulnerable: they do short-term and often unspecialized work which frequently requires travel, and they are largely replaceable. ([JDC, 2021](#)).
- **Refugee employment rates remain slow to change and lower than pre-lockdown levels despite host employment levels recovering.**

## Within Refugees

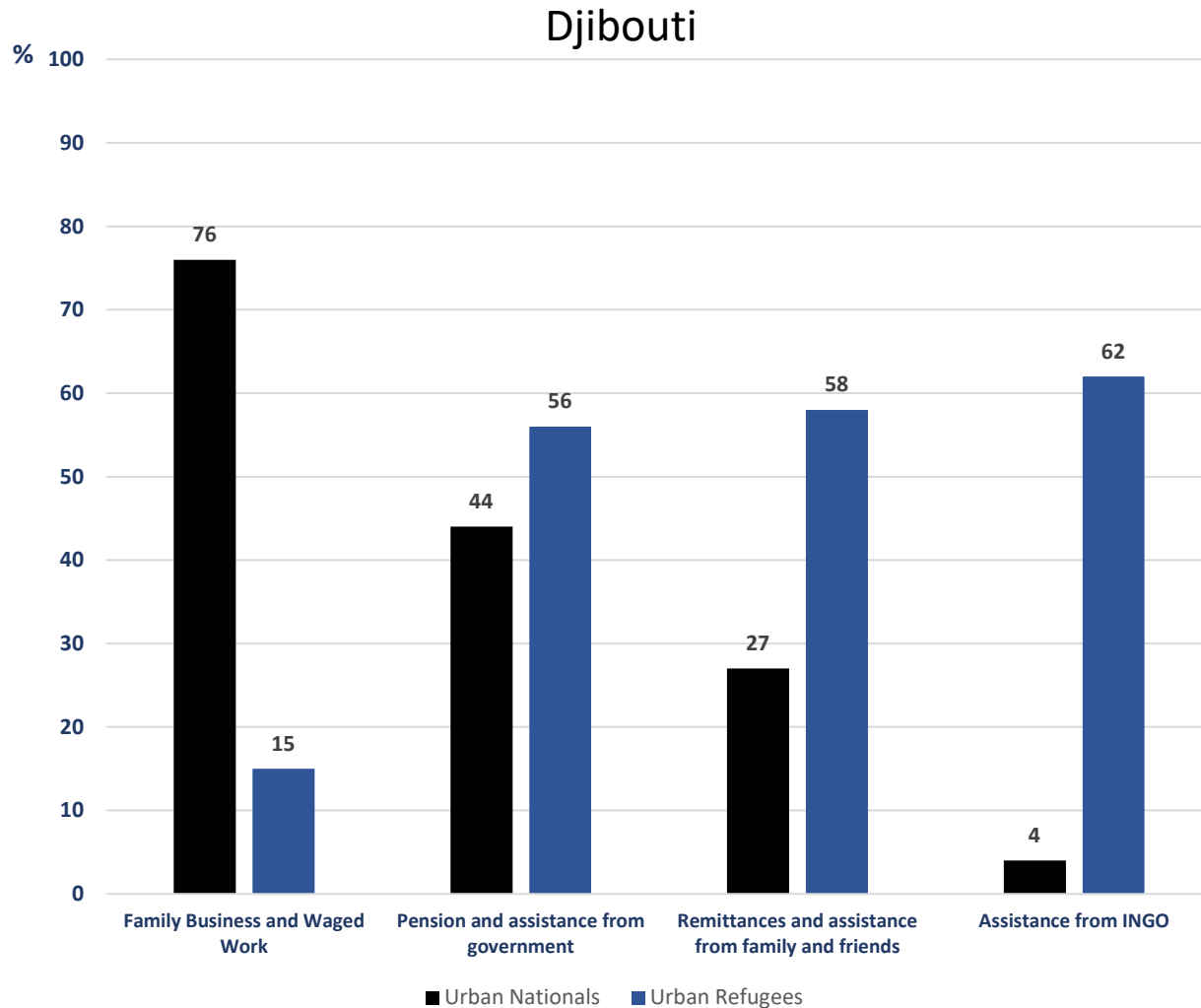
### Djibouti:

- Refugees based in refugee villages face worse employment conditions than those living in urban areas or urban nationals.
- They were less likely to be employed prior to COVID-19, more likely to lose their job during pandemic, and do not exhibit similar signs of recovery ([World Bank, INSD, UNHCR, May 2021](#)).
- Around 68 percent of urban refugee breadwinners were working compared to less than half (49 percent) in refugee villages.
- Women refugees are disproportionately negatively affected by the employment shock associated with COVID-19- female breadwinners are significantly less likely to be working than males.

### Ethiopia:

- Somali refugee children were more likely to be enrolled in primary school but were harder hit by the pandemic in terms of inaccessibility to any distance learning activities post-COVID. In contrast, refugees in Addis Ababa were more likely to access distance learning post-COVID. Effects on human capital.

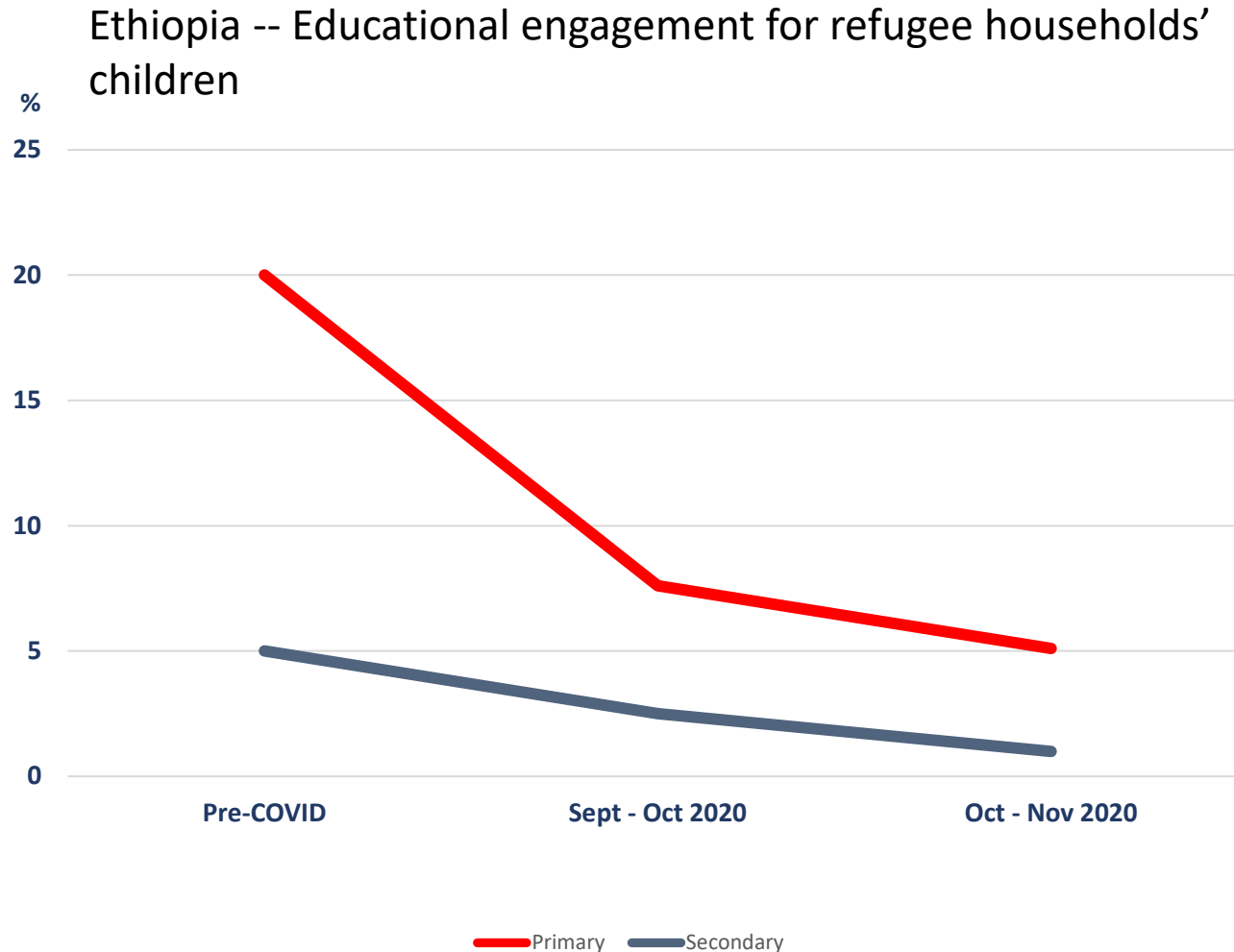
# HFPS – Labour market and sources of income



- Remittances and humanitarian assistance were most prominent sources of non-labor income
- Displaced populations were often far more likely to rely on non-labor income than hosts.



# HFPS – Access to education



- For most countries, displaced children’s low school enrollment before the pandemic was followed by even lower educational engagement during the pandemic.
- Generally, “educational engagement” during pandemic included any form of education beyond attending in-person classes in a school, such as online engagement, completing assignments from teachers, or listening to educational programs on radio or television.

# Outputs from high frequency phone surveys in Uganda

- Wave 1: [Monitoring Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Refugees in Uganda](#)
- Wave 2: [One Year in the Pandemic Results from the High Frequency Phone Surveys for Refugees in Uganda](#)
- [UNHCR](#) and [World Bank](#) blog posts



## Refugees work mainly in the informal sector and employment rates are lower than pre-lockdown, despite recovery for hosts

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- Results from three rounds of the phone survey in Uganda for refugees and hosts show that one year after the start of the pandemic, employment rates among refugees have not returned to the pre-lockdown March 2020 levels.
- This contrasted with a full recovery of employment among Ugandans during the same period. These developments have widened the existing employment gap between refugees and Ugandans to more than 50 percentage points (refugees 32% and Ugandans 86% employment rate).





## Refugee food insecurity remain higher than nationals, despite humanitarian food assistance for refugees

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- One year after the start of the pandemic, food insecurity remains much higher among refugees than Ugandans.
- Ration cuts coupled with COVID-19 impacts deteriorated food security among refugees substantially.
- Among refugees, female headed households experienced lower access to food.



The loss of employment negatively impacts the mental health of refugees and other persons of concern disproportionately more than surrounding host community members

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- Patient Health Questionnaire-8 (PHQ-8) was administered to observe the severity of depression. About 54% of refugee respondents reported depression, with refugee women and those in the West Nile having the highest incidence.
- More than half of refugee respondents reported depression compared to only 5% of Ugandans
- For more than half of refugee respondents who had at least one depression symptom, it made life (work, taking care of things at home and getting along with other people) extremely or very hard.



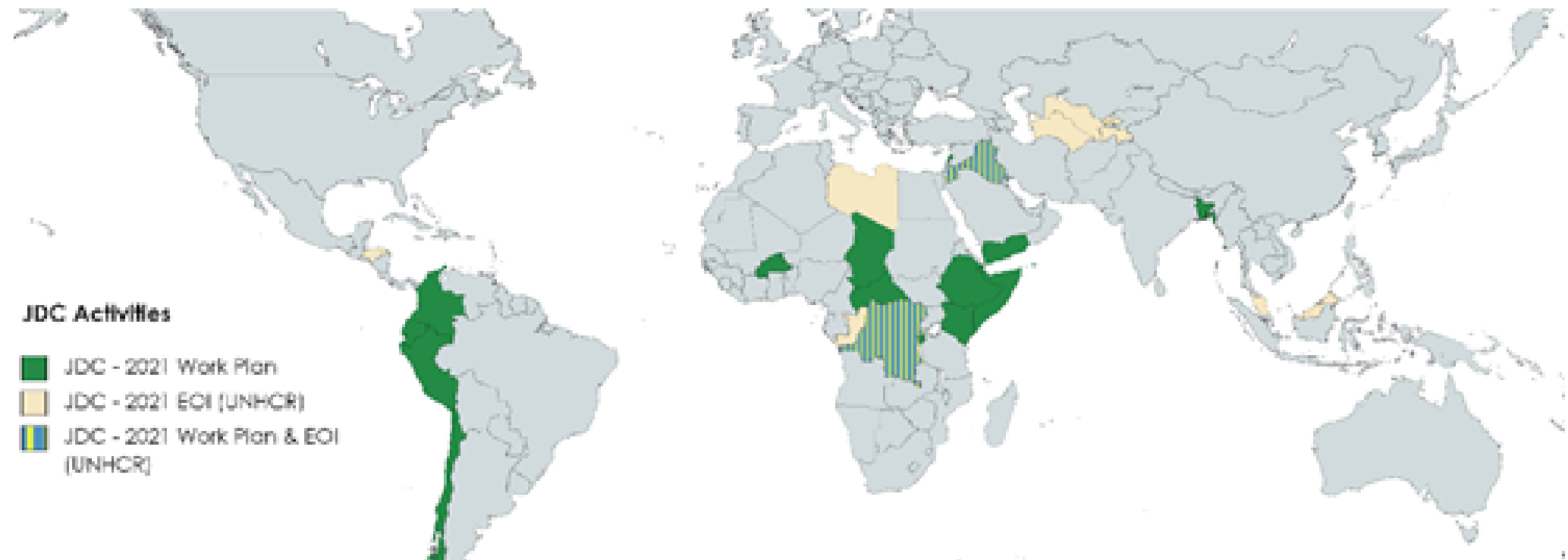
# JDC activities

## 4. JDC – 2021 Work Plan

- Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Peru, Yemen, Rwanda, Somalia, Turkey

## 5. JDC – 2021 EOI (UNHCR)

- Honduras, Mashreq Region, Jordan, Libya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Malaysia, Central Asia





# Future Collaboration

- Extend this effort to include persons of concern in MICS and DHS surveys-possibility in Sudan and Somalia.
- Collaborate with National Statistical Offices at the country level to include refugees and IDPs in their surveys
- WB Host and Refugee IDA Sub-Window
- South Sudan/Sudan Solutions Initiative
- WB UNHCR Joint Data Center (JDC) improving socio-economic data in the region includes: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia
  - Emphasis on wherever possible working with National Statistics Offices to ensure statistics on forcibly displaced are comparable;
- Continued effort to share results with partners across the humanitarian development nexus (including populate [UNHCR Microdata Library](#))

**Thank you!**

# Appendix

# Past, on-going and proposed activities

## Socio-economic Surveys.

Kenya: cross-sectional data (2018,[2019](#),2020-various locations), Panel Survey (2020-2023; 4 waves; 2 phone, 2 in-person)

Uganda: cross-sectional data (2018)- nationally representative of refugees and hosts-[World Bank](#)

Burundi: cross-sectional data (2019/2020)- nationally representative of refugees-[JDC](#)

Ethiopia: cross-sectional (2017)- nationally representative of refugees; [2021-inclusion in the national poverty survey](#)

Rwanda: cross-sectional (2022) include refugees in household survey; Self-reliance survey on household wealth (2022). [WB and JDC](#)

South Sudan: possibility of collaboration with NSO and World Bank

## Rapid phone surveys

Kenya: 5 waves (from May 2020 to June 2021)- nationally representative of refugees and Kenyans

Uganda: 3 waves (from Oct 20 to Feb 21)- nationally representative of refugees and Ugandans

Ethiopia: 2 waves (from Oct 20 to Dec 20)-nationally representative of refugees and Ethiopians-[JDC](#)

Djibouti: 1 Wave (Nov 2021)-[JDC](#)

Rwanda: Survey to assess food insecurity post COVID (with WFP); COVID impact phone surveys 2022 (refugees to be added)

Somalia : Rapid Response Survey planned for Oct 2021-[JDC](#)

## Results Monitoring Survey

Ethiopia: meet the survey-based RBM data needs of operations using a scaled-down version of the standardized survey modules in the Flagship Survey Programme.

# Socio-economic Assessments

## [KENYA \(Joint WB/UNHCR in collaboration with KNBS\)](#)

- [Kalobeyei SES](#)
  - [Summary](#); [Infographic](#); [Microdata](#)
- Shona SES
  - [Full Report](#); [Summary](#); [Blog Post](#); [Microdata](#)
- Kakuma SES
  - [Full Report](#); [Summary](#); [Infographic](#); [Microdata](#)
- Urban SES
  - Publication Q4 2021