

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: WORKSHOP FOR JUNIOR RESEARCHERS IN FORCED REFUGEES AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT STUDIES 2024

Kenya Evidence Platform

Date: October 14th – 18th, 2024 |

Venue: Eldoret City

Introduction:

Maseno University (MU) in collaboration with the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS) and the Refugee-Led Research Hub (RLRH), with financial support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands is implementing a three-year project titled: “Kenya Evidence Platform” that seeks to promote the localization of research on forced displacement in Kenya. We are inviting academic institutions, think-tanks and research organizations to nominate junior scholars to attend a week-long junior researchers’ academic workshop from 14th -18th October, 2024.

The Kenya Evidence Platform is anchored along the following pillars:

Pillar 1: Refugee governance structures and frameworks. The pillar focuses on the role of national authorities and the central frameworks (including the Refugees Act of 2021, KISED, GISED, Shirika Plan) and the adaptation to local contexts.

Pillar 2: Integration of services focusing on the humanitarian-development nexus including area-based approaches to assistance, encompassing support for basic needs (such as water, food, shelter and clothing), financial assistance, training, education, healthcare, infrastructure (including electricity), information services and social protection.

Pillar 3: Socio-economic inclusion in refugee-hosting areas. Focusing on marginalization/inclusion of different groups, and social dynamics (social cohesion, community relationships, and cultural integration) within the refugee communities. It also focuses on evidence around vulnerability, including the risk and exposure to harm that refugees face due factors such as displacement, lack of legal status, poverty, trauma and limited access to resources and services.

Pillar 4: Environmental sustainability. Focusing on environmental degradation, mitigation practices (such as resilient agriculture, waste management, renewable energy adoption, and water conservation) and their impacts within refugee contexts.

Pillar 5: Durable solutions. Focusing on voluntary repatriation; resettlement and local integration (de jure); complementary pathways.

Background:

The refugee response architecture in Kenya is a complex and evolving system, with critical roles played by different stakeholders including the local and refugee academic researchers in shaping policy and practice. However, there is a need to enhance the academic writing skills of the young local and refugee researchers, who are relatively new to the field of forced displacement. Maseno University, with its experience in building research capacity, identified academic writing as a crucial area for development. The proposed 5-day writing workshop will address this gap by providing tailored training in research conceptualization, design, data analysis, and dissemination with an emphasis on forced displacement contexts.

The workshop is part of a broader project aimed at **Strengthening the capacity of refugee and local academic researchers to influence the refugee management architecture in Kenya**. The key objective is to equip young researchers with the necessary academic writing skills, fostering their ability to conceptualize and execute high-quality research in forced displacement settings. By the end of the training, participants will be better equipped to produce high-quality research and contribute to shaping the refugee aid architecture in Kenya.

The workshop aims to:

- support the development of the best or most promising highly qualified junior researchers with professional skills;
- support the best and most promising junior researchers to publish;
- support the best or most promising junior researchers in gaining exposure to conduct research; and
- mobilize knowledge that has the potential to lead to intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact in the forced displacement and refugee studies space.

Expected Outcomes

- 20 junior researchers will have enhanced academic writing skills and research capacity.
- Each participant will have conceptualized a research study by the end of the workshop.
- The research projects developed during the workshop will contribute to publication or a journal on forced displacement and refugee studies.
- Strengthened collaboration and exchange of knowledge between researchers.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply:

- You must be affiliated to an academic institution, think-tank or research institution
- You must submit a concept paper addressing any of the above pillars
- You must obtain a letter of nomination from relevant head of department indicating support for your application
- You must commit to work with assigned mentors to develop your concept into a full academic paper
- You must consent to publish your paper in a selected journal/book selected by the project
- Your application must reach the undersigned by October 1, 2024

For further details and submission contact: mowiso@maseno.ac.ke

Selected participants will be notified by October 5, 2024. Travel and stay during the workshop will be catered for by the project.