International Migration from Kenya (2016-2020)

Background

International migrants comprise of 3.5 per cent of the global population, compared to 3.3 per cent in 2015 and 2.8 per cent in 2000. In 2020, there were an estimated 280,598,000 international migrants worldwide, an increase of 32,640 since 2015. 535,000 of these international migrants were from Kenya from (2016 – 2020) 77,000 increase since 2015. 253,000 (47%) of these migrants were male while 282,000 (53%) were female.

Methodology

The UNDESA dataset International Migrant Stock 2020 contains estimates of the total number of international migrants by country or area by sex, age and origin. Estimates refer to 1 July of the reference year, and are presented for the years 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020. The estimates are based on official national statistics on the foreign-born or the foreign population obtained from population censuses, population registers or nationally representative surveys.

SDG Regions for Kenyan Migrants

The data examined migration flow to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) regions. The SDG region with the highest number of Kenyan migrants (374,000) was in Europe and Northern America.

1. This report is based on the dataset International Migrant Stock 2020 by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and focuses specifically on Kenya
Top 10 Countries for Kenyan Migrants Abroad (2016-2020)

A summary of migration flow from Kenya to different countries. United states of America has the highest number of Kenyan migrants (157,000) followed by United Kingdom (139,000).

1. United States of America: 157K
   - Male: 81K
   - Female: 76K
2. United Kingdom: 139K
   - Male: 65K
   - Female: 75K
3. Uganda: 34K
   - Male: 14K
   - Female: 20K
4. Canada: 29K
   - Male: 14K
   - Female: 15K
5. Mozambique: 25K
   - Male: 12K
   - Female: 13K
6. Australia: 25K
   - Male: 12K
   - Female: 13K
7. United Republic of Tanzania: 24K
   - Male: 10K
   - Female: 14K
8. South Africa: 20K
   - Male: 10K
   - Female: 10K
9. Germany: 17K
   - Male: 6K
   - Female: 4K
10. South Sudan: 10K
    - Male: 5K
    - Female: 2K

Kenyan Migrants in Other Countries

- **Northern Africa and Western Asia**
  - Sudan: 3,561
  - Libya: 357
  - Turkey: 236
  - Egypt: 137
  - Cyprus: 81

- **Central and Southern Asia**
  - India: 7,733

- **Eastern and South-Eastern Asia**
  - Philippines: 55

- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
  - Mexico: 73
  - Brazil: 56
  - Cayman Islands: 39
  - Bahamas: 21
  - Bolivia: 15
  - Costa Rica: 9
  - Argentina: 2

- **Australia and New Zealand**
  - Australia: 24,557
  - New Zealand: 1,955

- **Oceania**
  - Oceanic countries

- **Sub-Saharan Africa**
  - Uganda: 34,241
  - Mozambique: 24,779
  - United Republic of Tanzania: 24,274
  - South Sudan: 24,274
  - Rwanda: 2,575
  - Burundi: 1,226
  - Zambia: 660
  - Seychelles: 415
  - Eritrea: 305
  - Comoros: 74

- **Europe and Northern America**
  - United States of America: 156,960
  - United Kingdom: 139,352
  - Canada: 29,241
  - Germany: 16,678
  - Sweden: 4,616
  - Italy: 4,275
  - Switzerland: 3,800
  - Netherlands: 3,582
  - Norway: 2,309
  - Spain: 2,098
  - France: 1,999
  - Denmark: 1,900
  - Belgium: 1,692
  - Finland: 1,562
  - Austria: 1,254
  - Ireland: 551
  - Greece: 460
  - Russian Federation: 449
  - Hungary: 254
  - Czechia: 137
  - Portugal: 113
  - Luxembourg: 111
  - Iceland: 103
  - Malta: 96
  - Poland: 77
  - Romania: 55
  - Slovenia: 35
  - Slovakia: 28
  - Bulgaria: 28
  - Faroe Islands: 22
  - Estonia: 22
  - Lithuania: 8
  - Liechtenstein: 8
  - Latvia: 4
International Migrants in Kenya (2016-2020)

Background
In 2020, international migrants in Kenya comprised 2 per cent of the total Kenyan population. 47% of the migrants were refugees. This was a slight decrease compared to the 2.4 per cent registered in 2015. Age group 20 to 64 years registered the highest number of migrants at 64%, followed by those aged below 20 years at 31%, with the elderly (above 65 years) registering 5 per cent.

Number of International Migrants in Kenya by Top Countries of Origin, 2020

Top three countries with migrants were Somalia (44%), followed by Uganda (30%), while South Sudan had 13% of the migrants.

Demographics

The ratio of male to female migrants was almost equal at 50% each gender.