

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: LEARNING EXCHANGE AND MENTORSHIP VISITS TO MASENO UNIVERSITY 2024

Kenya Evidence Platform

Date: October 21st – 25th, 2024

Venue: Maseno University

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 learning exchange and mentorship program to be held at Maseno University from 21st to 25th 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 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; 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 learning and mentorship program will address this gap by providing tailored training and mentorship to junior scholars interested in forced displacement and refugee studies.

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**. Each participant will be assigned to a senior researcher with whom they will work for a period of 5 days. The mentorship will be based at the School of Graduate Studies in Maseno University.

The learning exchange and mentorship program 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

- 4 junior researchers will have enhanced academic writing skills and research capacity.
- Each participant will have conceptualized a research study by the end of the learning and mentoring session.
- The research projects developed during the learning and mentoring program will be part of a publication on forced displacement and refugee studies.
- Strengthened collaboration and exchange of knowledge among junior and senior scholars.

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 learning exchange and mentorship program will be catered for by the project.