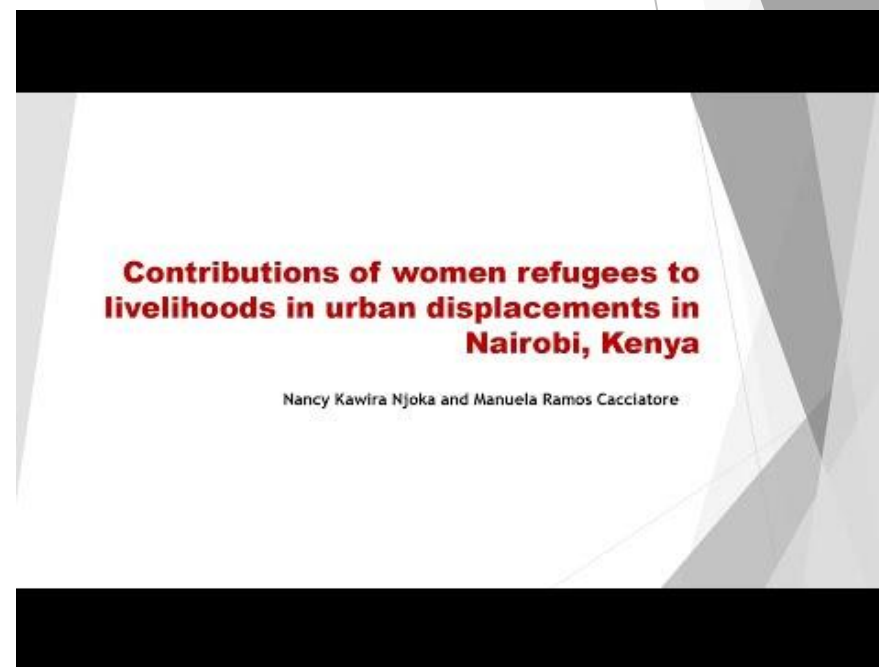


Contributions of women refugees to livelihoods in urban displacements in Nairobi, Kenya

Nancy Kawira Njoka and Manuela Ramos Cacciatore

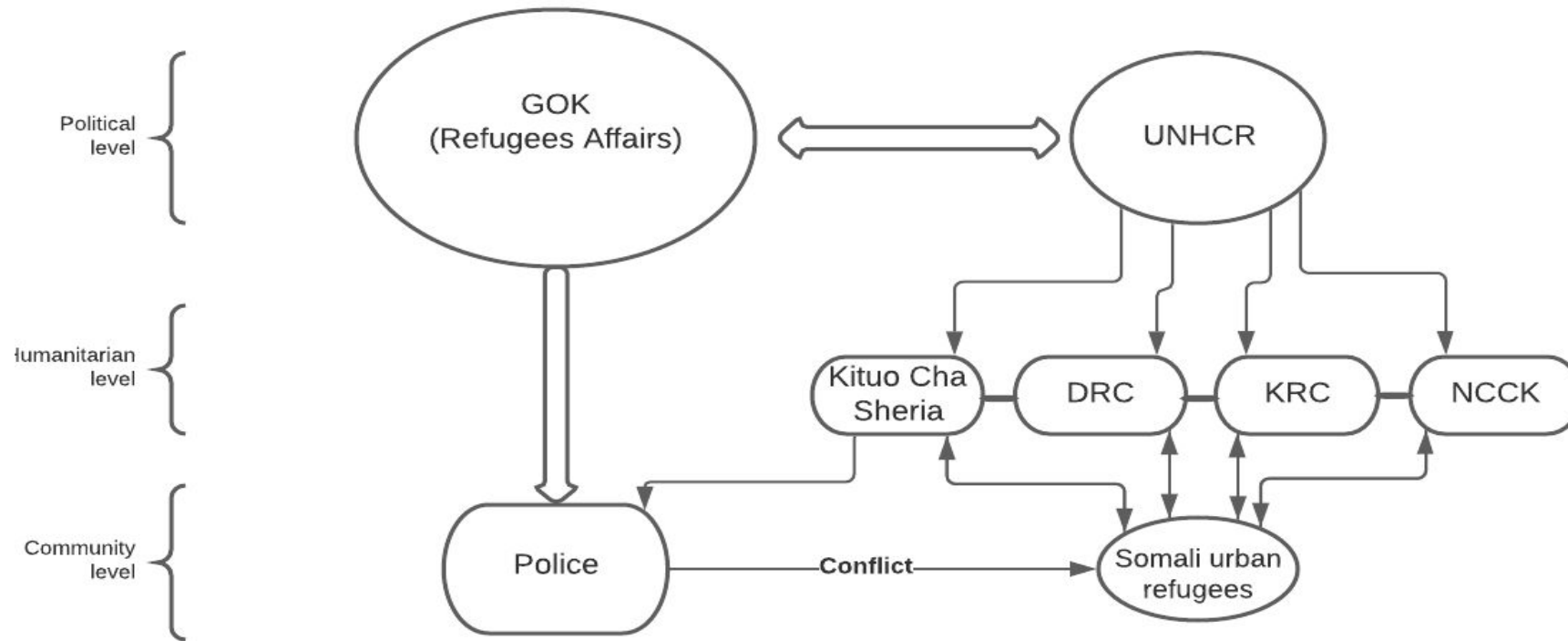
Refugee women account for the majority of refugees in Africa.

- ▶ **Somali urban refugee women** have been key in rebuilding and establishing livelihoods in Kenya and mostly in a social political context that is constantly against them.
- ▶ The politics of victimisation of refugee women and children have been challenged through the agency of Somali refugee women in Kenya through their various coping mechanisms and strategies to redefine their roles.



A complex map of actors

Livelihoods of protracted refugees in Kenya



... but where are the “women” actor here and what role do they play?

Scope of the research

- ▶ Why protracted migration in Kenya?
- ▶ Why Somali community in Easleight?
- ▶ Why women refugees?

Feminist approach guided by 4 themes:

- Mobility patterns from camps to urban areas
- Somali ethnicity
- Citizenship in Kenya
- Livelihoods



Understanding the role of women refugees in forging livelihoods

How do Somali urban women refugees create their avenues for livelihoods?

- ▶ Qualitative case study: Empirical data collected through fieldwork in Nairobi in 2020.
- ▶ Literature on gender and migration on agency of refugees in creating avenues to access livelihoods - victimhood and agency
- ▶ Policy frameworks and actions of the Kenyan government and humanitarian actors.

Feminist lenses: How to approach the target group?

How to notice and capture gender differences among the Somali community?



- ▶ Community leaders, women spaces and focus groups to collect qualitative data
- ▶ Feminist research ethics: take into account invisible power dynamics - feminists among the Somali women communities
- ▶ Review research's boundaries

Expected findings

- ▶ Why do women refugees move to urban areas?
- ▶ Challenges for Somali women refugees in urban areas
- ▶ How does Somali ethnicity affect livelihoods for women?
- ▶ How do Somali urban refugees women create conditions to access livelihoods under the Kenyan migration laws?



Further research

- Comparative study between refugees women in different urban setting in Horn of Africa
- Sustainable integration of refugees women.