



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
THEMATIC AREA: MIGRATION, MOBILITY, AND URBANIZATION



Migration, Mobility, and Urbanization

Migration represents one of the most intricate dynamics of population studies. Unlike births and deaths, which occur only once in an individual's lifetime, migration is a recurring phenomenon, often driven by socioeconomic dynamics, political instability, global changes, violent conflicts, unsuitable living conditions, and persistent food insecurity. The increasing number of cross-border movements and refugees reflects these realities, making migration a central issue in population discourse.

Mobility encompasses a broad spectrum, including geographic, social, economic, and even cognitive forms. Its complex determinants and consequences are critical elements for sustainable development. While mobile societies demonstrate adaptability to change, this adaptability does not always align with beneficial or sustainable outcomes.

Urbanization has rapidly accelerated due to the migration of people from rural to urban areas, leading to significant growth in urban populations and economic activities. In Kenya, the process has been further propelled by the devolution and decentralization of governance, empowering county governments to manage local resources and foster development. This has spurred urban expansion, including peri-urbanization, suburbanization, and transformations in adjacent rural areas.

Although urbanization has contributed to economic growth, its success in addressing social development challenges, informal settlements, and environmental management remains limited. Urban areas often require subsidies for basic services such as water supply, sanitation, and access to clean, safe fuels. However, these areas also present opportunities for transforming hardships into avenues for economic, social, and environmental advancement.

The interplay between migration, mobility, and urbanization has profound implications for human and environmental health, underscoring its relevance to sustainable development. The Kenya Population and Development Conference (KPDC) 2025 offers a timely platform to explore the challenges and opportunities within this thematic area. Participants are encouraged to share their insights, experiences, and research through presentations, best practices, and posters, contributing to evidence-based policymaking and programming on migration, mobility, and urbanization.

We invite researchers, academicians, policymakers, and practitioners to submit abstracts and presentations aligned with the thematic focus. Submissions should provide actionable insights that contribute to the sustainable development discourse and should align to the following topical areas:

- i. Migration dynamics and drivers
- ii. Refugees, displaced populations and host communities
- iii. Migration and urbanization
- iv. International migration: Labour mobility and
remittances
- iv. Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking
- v. Migration
Data
- vii. Migration Policy