

# Bamba Kuni: Energy Support Cash Transfer Programming in Kakuma Camp and Kalobeyei Refugee Settlements, Kenya

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## Abstract

Turkana County, in Kenya's northwest, is home to one of the oldest refugee camps in Africa: Kakuma. It is also home to a host community that struggles to secure a viable livelihood through pastoralism, natural resources, and foraging. Refugees who need firewood often encroach on community land which creates conflict. Since 2015, efforts have been underway to promote better refugee-host relationships. Part of this effort is a cash-transfer payment for energy support. The goal is to stop chopping of community trees and provide livelihoods for the local community who can supply an invasive species (*prosopis juliflora*) for sale to refugees. This paper evaluates the program known as *Bamba Kuni* using survey data from wood fuel markets in the camp and interviews with local stakeholders. We find that while *Bamba Kuni* does provide refugees with choice over their energy sources, there are still significant shortcomings that need to be addressed.

Keywords: Refugees, Environment, Energy Support, Cash Transfer, Kenya, Kakuma, Kalobeyei.

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