

## **Over 46,000 families live in the streets in Kenya, a Census report shows**

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**By Brenda Kalya**

There are over 46, 600 street families across the country, a census reports conducted by the government on street families shows.

The Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Mr Simon Chelugui said, the report by the National Census of Street Families shows that majority of the people living in the streets are aged between 10 and 34 years. The reports add that, the highest concentration of street persons are found in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Uasin Gishu.

Speaking at his NSSF office Boardroom when he received Ms Mary wambui, the newly appointed Chairperson of the Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund, the Cabinet Secretary said, the National census of street families report will be used to map out and inform interventions on social protection programs targeted at street families for inclusions.

Mr Chelugui said the report shows that children in Kenya are subjected to various forms of violence such as trafficking, child labour, child marriage and online abuse which eventually force some children to be in the streets.

He explained that a draft national policy on rehabilitation of street families was at an advance stage as it was only awaiting for national validation.

Mr Chelugui observed the objectives of national census of street families was to establish the magnitude and demographic characteristics of the families in the country, asses the socio-economic and political challenges and generate a data bank for street families for appropriate interventions.

He decried negative descriptions of street families which he observed causes stigmatization. He said it was important for the families to be loved and taken care of.

Although the government, NGOs and some individuals have put in place various socio-economic interventions over the years to minimize the presence of families in the streets, the Cabinet Secretary said, the problem has remained unresolved.

"There is need to bring on board and work together with different actors and multilateral agencies in a bid to address the issue of improving the living conditions of street families and develop preventive measures against the underlying factors forcing them onto the streets," said Chelugui.