

## **Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Phenomenon in Africa: A Governance Perspective**

### **Abstract:**

Since the 1990s, political discourse in Kenya and indeed in other Sub-Saharan African countries has centred on issues of governance. This is because of the emerging consensus in the country, especially among scholars that the major social economic, political and human rights problems that Kenya is experiencing emanate from the nature of governance in the country (Kanyinga;2001;37). As a result, a number of initiatives to improve governance have been and continue to be undertaken in Kenya. These initiatives cover the four dimensions of governance, namely political, economic, administrative and legal. This chapter provides background material on the nature and trends of governance in Kenya. It highlights the major trends in governance since independence in 1963, pointing out their impact on society generally and socio-economic development and stability in particular. The approach adopted is historical and examines the mode of governance both during the presidency of Kenyatta and that of Moi. The final section of the chapter identifies areas of governance that require priority attention for improvement.