

# Supporting planning for INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES

**X KALOBYEI NEW SITE  
TURKANA COUNTY**



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the People of Japan

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## “Turkana Houses” Publication captures Shigeru Ban and UN-Habitat’s Collaboration to design refugee houses in Kalobeyei Settlement, Kenya

In June 2015, Kalobeyei New Settlement was established in Turkana County, Kenya. UN-Habitat was tasked with designing an Advisory Development Plan for the settlement, to accommodate 60,000 people – both refugees and host community members. Between 2017 to 2019, a collaboration between UN-Habitat and the renowned Japanese Architect, [Shigeru Ban](#), and his NGO the Voluntary Architects Network (VAN), was formed to design sustainable shelter typologies for refugee and host members in the settlement.

A celebrated architect, both in his native country Japan and worldwide, Mr Ban was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize, understood to be the Nobel prize of architecture, in 2014. He is known for his innovative work with paper and has pioneered the use of recycled cardboard tubes to quickly and efficiently house disaster victims. By August 2019, 14 houses had been constructed in Kalobeyei Settlement, after testing seven housing types in the Settlement.

Today, UN-Habitat and Shigeru Ban Architects are excited to share the release of the book, [Turkana Houses](#) - The first part of the book is a journal by Philippe Monteil, Shigeru Ban’s partner for the mission. It describes successes and failures with building pilot houses, and the influence of the context in the process. The second part is his visual interpretation of that process, a detailed Manual which explains in a sequence of steps, how to build the final housing prototype. In summary, the book tells the story of an encounter between an architect, refugees and Turkana people, brought together through the act of building.



A child playing in front of the pilot shelter. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat and partners continue to acknowledge the need for a more sustainable developmental approach to refugee crises, knowing that on average many displaced persons spend more than a decade living as refugees in temporary shelters. UN-Habitat will continue to support the paradigm shift towards the integration of refugee and host communities in combined programming, and the development of sustainable and long-term solutions to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are promoted and protected.

- The link to the “Turkana Houses” book can be found here: <https://unhabitat.org/turkana-houses>
- The link to UN-Habitat’s Humanitarian-Development work stream and additional resources can be found here: <https://unhabitat.org/programme/planning-for-humanitarian-development-practice-connecting-normative-to-operations>

## UN-Habitat Conducts Socio-Economic Surveys in Turkana West, Kenya

Since 2015, UN-Habitat has been providing technical support to refugee-assistance programming in Turkana West, Kenya. Initially, the agency spearheaded the formulation of a spatial development plan for the new Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement, under the framework of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP). Subsequent resources have been directed towards supporting the development of this [new settlement](#) and the wider local area- Turkana West. Turkana West is the most populated sub-county in Turkana County, given the international role it has played since 1990s in promoting human security and peace, by hosting thousands of forced migrants i.e. refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements. This displaced population currently co-exist with the host community, forming the largest clustered settlement area in the county.



UN-Habitat conducts socio-economic surveys. © UN-Habitat

During October and November 2020, UN-Habitat in collaboration with the County Government of Turkana, undertook socio-economic surveys in Turkana West sub-county, Kenya. These surveys are part of the agency's on-going projects in 'Humanitarian-Development Nexus' work. The projects in Turkana County are currently funded by Cities Alliance, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF).

The projects aim to:

- Promote socio-economic development of Turkana West through recommending interventions for enhanced connectivity and integration along Kenya-South Sudan corridor and the North Rift region of region,

including an advisory plan proposal for the Kalobeyei Corridor Development Area.

- Propose a spatial strategy to advice on the regeneration Kakuma refugee camp and integrated development of the camp and Kakuma town, and
- Support towards implementation of the Kalobeyei New Integrated Settlement Plan under KISDEP.

The surveys were structured into two main sub-themes:

- Socio-economic conditions that focused on households, and
- Businesses and Local Economic Development that analysed businesses and the area's local economic development

factors of: infrastructure and services, resources and capacity, policies and governance, challenges and opportunities etc. The rapid spatial profiling of settlements collected data on the spatial development character of Kakuma-Kalobeyei area and the main public markets in the area. In doing so, a mixed method research was implemented which entails a combination of quantitative and qualitative techniques and rapid settlement profiling that entail Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications.

Fieldwork was conducted in the main settlement centres and towns (refugee and host community populations), across the sub-county wards: Kakuma, Kalobeyei, Letea, Lopur, Songot and Lokichoggio. This was extended to the major urban centres of the North Rift Region Economic Bloc (NOREB) i.e. Eldoret, Kitale and Lodwar, and incorporated national government agencies, specifically the LAPSET Corridor Development Authority (LCDA) and the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA).

The project will conduct data analysis and compile findings, which will then be used to engage stakeholders in Validation and Disseminations sessions. Thereafter, the findings will be used to inform proposals of the on-going collaborative planning work, and implementation of the various project activities in Turkana West. Thereafter, the outputs will be developed as knowledge products (technical report publications, research briefings and policy briefs).

## UN-Habitat and Turkana County hold workshop to look at the future for Kenya's Kakuma and Kalobeyei Refugee Camps and Host Communities

UN-Habitat and the Turkana County Government hosted a workshop looking at various surveys focused on Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement in north western Kenya.

The Kakuma-Kalobeyei Assessment, Survey and Corridor Planning Workshop included representatives from Turkana County Government, Cities Alliance, International Financial Corporation, Swiss Contact, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Refugee Affairs Secretariat, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Action Africa Help International.

At the workshop, UN-Habitat presented the findings of the Socio-Economic Survey which showed that host community suffered more from the effects of COVID-19 such as loss of income, low business revenue and price rises than refugees who continue to be supported by humanitarian organizations.



Participants attending the workshop both in-person and online. © UN-Habitat

It also found the host community saw the refugees as damaging the environment but appreciated the improved health care and education facilities resulting from their presence.

The Business and Local Economic Development Survey and Market Profile focused on types of businesses, products and value chain and ease of doing business.



The Market Profile presentation looked at the economic geography of Turkana-West Sub-county highlighting the characteristics of each market cluster, types of products sold, accessibility and connectivity. The discussions covered revenue enhancement, access to capital, the importance of livestock farming, and the opportunities for tourism provided by Lotikipi National Reserve.

Issues emerging from the surveys included the lack of skills, poor connectivity and accessibility to supply chains, insecurity, overdependence on humanitarian aid, poor public participation in development initiatives, environmental risks and lack of market integration.

Participants also discussed future development scenarios for Kakuma-Kalobeyi identifying areas to be strengthened and protected including host and refugee community integration, economic development, environmental sustainability and environmental growth.

The findings of the surveys and feedback from the future development scenarios discussion will help the visioning and regeneration strategy for Kakuma-Kalobeyi that UN-Habitat is undertaking.

Pius Ewoton, Chairman of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Turkana County concluded the meeting by saying 'Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chapter in Turkana County is looking forward to more collaboration with UN-Habitat to promote private sector initiatives in Turkana West'. Joseph Egiron, Turkana County Director for Urban Areas Management, also expressed the County's commitment to the conferment of Kakuma-Kalobeyi Municipality, which is currently underway.



Children playing in Kalobeyi Settlement. © UN-Habitat

## Kakuma-Kalobeyi Community Workshop on Socio-Economic and Local Economic Development Surveys

As part of the Kalobeyi Corridor Planning project, UN-Habitat and Turkana West sub county leaders organized a community meeting to present information collected from the Socio Economic and Local Economic Development Surveys. The meeting was attended by local leaders in Turkana West sub county, and host and refugee communities from Kakuma, Kalobeyi and Lokichoggio.

The meeting started with an introduction from the County ward administrator for Kalobeyi, who welcomed the participants and thanked UN-Habitat for convening the meeting to allow the community to provide their feedback on the research that was conducted to inform the planning of Kalobeyi Corridor.

Romanus Opiyo, a UN-Habitat consultant, began by sharing the socio-economic results of the survey, focusing on demographics, access to education, healthcare services, water and sanitation, livelihood activities as well as housing conditions. The study shows that there is an emerging trend of disparity in access to key basic socio-economic support systems such as health, education and water as shown in previous studies, which may lead to tension and conflict between host and refugee communities, hence threatening the sustainability of Turkana West economic development.

The consultant discussed the findings of the local economic development survey which were more focused on businesses and local

industries, and issues related to the various economic sectors of the area. Overall, the study results highlighted that pastoral livestock keeping remains a major economic activity for the host community, and the main economic sector in the rural areas of Turkana west sub county. In urban areas and refugee settlements, formal and informal businesses form a significant share of the economy, as well as formal and informal employment linked to private sector (businesses) and operations of humanitarian and development organizations. This survey established that the underdevelopment of infrastructure combined with inadequate utilities, financial access challenges, as well as policy and legal limitations, undermine sustainable economic development in the area.

The settlement profiles were presented, showcasing the analysis of the major market clusters, economic geography for Turkana west and existing connectivity of various systems for towns and municipalities across the North Rift Economic Bloc. The results elucidated the various linkages and relationships in different market clusters and sub-clusters for Kakuma town, Kakuma refugee camp, Kalobeyei refugee settlement and Lokichoggio. The survey also looked at the spatial characteristics and attributes for the market clusters, products sold, the institutional frameworks as well connectivity and accessibility issues.

Most of the community feedback were centered around the existing poor accessibility of the markets; few catalysts, clusters and business networks to support value-adding and import replacement investment activities; weak and inequitable access to jobs, labor markets, education, skills, knowledge and business competencies. The participants also mentioned that connectivity and accessibility to supply chains, services, knowledge, and logistics services was also a key challenge for enterprise development in the area.



Local leaders and host and refugee communities attending Community Workshop. © UN-Habitat

## PROJECT TEAM

**Project Coordinator:** Yuka Terada

### Technical Team (Nairobi):

Baraka Mwau, Ang Jia Cong, Yoichiro Kono, Jonathan Weaver, Risper Talai, Eric Muchunku, Winston Njuguna, Lucy Donnelly, in collaboration with colleagues from the Regional Office in Africa.

### Technical Team (Kakuma):

David Kaloki Kitenge, Wilfred Lokai, Wilson Karanja, Bernard Heng

### Administrative Support:

Maryann Kithome, Stephen Otieno

### Implementation Partners:

Turkana County Government, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR), Community Road Empowerment (CORE) Kenya, Lixil Group Corporation

### Other Partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Cities Alliance, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

### Donors:

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Kalobeyei Corridor Plan Validation Workshop with Government, UN and humanitarian-development partners
- Host and refugee Community Validation Workshop for Kalobeyei Corridor Plan
- Meeting with business associations from Turkana West to formalize Cross Sectoral Business Network
- Establishment of Community Planning Committees in Turkana West for Kakuma Urban Regeneration Planning