

Supporting planning for INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES



**KALOBYEI NEW SITE
TURKANA COUNTY**

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

powered by
UNOPS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



From
the People of Japan

UN-Habitat helps unlock the hidden potential of Kenya's refugee camps through regeneration



Kakuma-Kalobeyei host and refugee community discuss the proposed vision for Kakuma-Kalobeyei in an engagement session. © UN-Habitat

To promote urban resilience, self-sufficiency, and communities' integration in one of Kenya's longest-standing and significant refugee camps, UN-Habitat is formulating a detailed Regeneration Strategy focusing on harnessing inclusion and socio-economic opportunities for host and refugees.

This regeneration project for the Kakuma-Kalobeyei refugee camps will combine different measures to promote self-sufficiency, economic growth, and environmental resilience for the host and refugee communities, laying the foundations for a sustainable future.

The project is implemented in collaboration with the Turkana County Government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), and with funding from the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), which supports UN-Habitat's [Humanitarian Development Programmes](#).

The Kakuma-Kalobeyei refugee camp, located in Turkana, is home to almost 200,000 refugees originating from many countries, including South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The regeneration project comes at a critical time in the camps' history. In March 2021, the Government of Kenya announced its intention to close all refugee camps by June 2022.

Over the decades, however, Turkana County Government has recognized Kakuma-Kalobeyei's importance as a potential case study for integrating refugees into host communities and transforming them socially, economically, and environmentally into an economic center of the region with adequate infrastructure.

To that end, the Turkana County Government has initiated steps to confer Kakuma-Kalobeyei its municipality, a move that is hoped to reach fruition in 2022.

Regeneration within a refugee camp context is unique because refugee camps are traditionally expected to be temporary settlements. When refugee camps have existed for over 30 years, however, as is the case for the Kakuma-Kalobeyei's Refugee camp, the settlements become inextricably tied to the immediate host community and the wider region and require more long-term and sustainable solutions.

Creating social inclusion, shared economic prosperity, physical functionality, and environmental sustainability are key goals of **UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme: Inclusive and Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities**. While regeneration encompasses different approaches and measures, in Kakuma-Kalobeyei, the settlement's regeneration initiative began by developing a comprehensive spatial profile of the existing conditions and a 10-15-year vision report reflecting the community's desires for the locality.

Stakeholder engagement has been crucial in reflecting the preferences of the host and refugee communities throughout the visioning process. While some differences emerged, the priorities of the host and refugee communities are largely aligned. Organizing and coordinating the virtual community planning group sessions was challenging, especially as this vision needed a solid spatial focus.

In response to this challenge, UN-Habitat used virtual whiteboards in the community planning group sessions to show maps of the different settlements so the host and refugee participants could spatially locate the challenges and opportunities they prioritized.

Consequently, the communities identified access to education and vocational training opportunities as key priorities to improve their employment prospects and the need for infrastructure improvements, such as extended electricity and internet coverage, as catalysts for economic growth.

UN-Habitat is formulating a detailed Kakuma-Kalobeyi Regeneration Strategy to achieve the community's sustainable infrastructure, accessibility and connectivity, entrepreneurship

and strong economy, resilient communities, efficient land management, and urban land governance.

The expected completion date of the regeneration strategy is early 2023, including financing and legal components and validation from government representatives and stakeholders. The projects recommended by the final regeneration strategy will be of short, medium, and long-term timeframes.

Achieving this vision means capitalizing on the current opportunities of the region, be they the strong host and refugee community relationships, the young workforce potential, the economically strategic location of the settlements, or the region's renewable energy potential.

Kakuma-Kalobeyi Spatial Profile can be accessed here: <https://unhabitat.org/kakuma-and-kalobeyi-spatial-profile>

UN-Habitat co-organizes Shelter and Settlements Forums for MENA and Africa regions

More than one hundred participants from more than two dozen countries exchanged ideas and experiences on global shelter and settlements response and challenges, which can benefit millions of residents in their respective countries.

The multi-dimensional subjects discussed were material, construction, repair, architecture focus, and country-wide programming.

The two virtual information-sharing sessions – Global Shelter Cluster's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Africa Shelter and Settlements – were co-organized by UN-Habitat and several regional and international partners in November and October, respectively.

Three-quarters of the infrastructure that will exist in 2050 has yet to be built. The building materials and construction sector accounts for 11 percent of annual carbon dioxide emissions. UN-Habitat has been at the forefront of promoting green and less carbon-consuming construction material worldwide.

In Zambia, for example, the agency has been supporting government efforts to resettle and integrate former refugees in the northwest and western part of the country. In those areas, UN-Habitat has assisted in opening access roads and constructing low-cost demonstration houses using green technology in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Refugee settlements.

A recent joint report by UN-Habitat and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the [Global Environment Outlook for Cities report: Towards Green and Just Cities](#), calls for urgent action to achieve net-zero circular cities that are resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and just.



Kakuma-Kalobeyi. © UN-Habitat

The Shelter and Settlements Forums have supported the creation of opportunities for sharing best practices, learning, and dialogue within the different regions towards improving shelter and settlement responses. Previous forums have supported discussions that included shifting towards more sustainable approaches in shelter programming and the integration of durable solutions in urban settlements.

UN-Habitat has been a participant and, more recently, a co-organizer in these regional forums. As custodians of SDG 11 to **Make Cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable**, UN-Habitat has championed efforts by local practitioners to adopt sustainable practices in shelter and settlement programming.

Through a series of tools and normative outputs such as guidelines, handbooks, and evaluative standards, the organization has also promoted methodologies that support programming in urban areas, seeing an increasing influx from refugees and internally displaced people globally.

The [Settlement Profiling Tool](#), published in 2020, can guide field personnel to create cross-sectoral analyses that can inform urban development planning in displacement contexts.

In the same year, the team also published the urban planning in post-crisis contexts [guidelines](#) that recommend ten strategies to support these responses.

The two-day forums were divided into three focus areas: sharing learnings from shelter and settlement programming in the specific region; spotlight on global and regional shelter and settlement initiatives; and networking and discussions.

On the second day of each forum, participants went into parallel breakout groups to further discuss themes of Greening Shelter and Settlements Programming, Local Response and Leadership; and Urban Displacement and Durable Solutions, to name a few.

Jia Cong Ang, UN-Habitat Programme Management Officer, facilitated the breakout group sessions in the Africa Forum and said, "UN-Habitat is delighted to support this endeavor and to promote solutions that bridge more temporary and long-term solutions."

Grace Lubaale, Programme Management Officer from the UN-Habitat Somalia Programme, led the breakout group on

urban systems and durable solutions. She highlighted the importance of "urban shelter and settlements interventions that look to ensure sustainable development trajectories are integrated into responses from the beginning."

Chiara Jasna, the Global Shelter and Settlements lead from the Democratic Republic of Congo, wrapped up the Africa forum by saying, "We hope you managed to connect with

new participants and to thank you for being a part of these two inspiring days. We would like to thank all the organizers who worked to prepare the event and hope that next year we can organize an in-person event and see everyone in person."

UN-Habitat hosts a session to understand the realities of daily life in Dadaab

UN-Habitat is working with local officials and the local refugee community to help develop a future development strategy for one of the world's largest refugee complexes.

The UN Human Settlement Programme's activity in North-Eastern Kenyan city gains particular timeliness and importance in light of the Kenyan government's announcement in March 2021 to close all refugee camps in the country.

Run by the UN refugee agency UNHCR and financed by multiple donors, Dabaab hosts the three camps of Dagahaley, Ifo, and Hagadera with an estimated 200,000 refugees from various African countries.

UN-Habitat's work in Dabaab is in line with the UN Human Settlement Programme's similar work with other [refugee communities](#) in Kenya.

The Dadaab Visioning program, funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), aims to create a consolidation strategy reflective of the residents' needs and priorities.

To achieve maximum results, UN-Habitat recently hosted a series of virtual community planning sessions to ensure that relevant stakeholders are consulted on their vision for the evolution of the Dadaab area.

Within this program, visioning refers to the process where the host and remaining refugee community of Dadaab, Garissa County Government, and development partners define their desired future.

The recent Refugee Community Planning Group session was conducted as follow-up to prior sessions with the Dadaab Town host community and aimed to gain insights into the challenges faced by the refugee camps residents and understand the current relationship with the host community. Education, health, security, and infrastructure shortages were discussed.

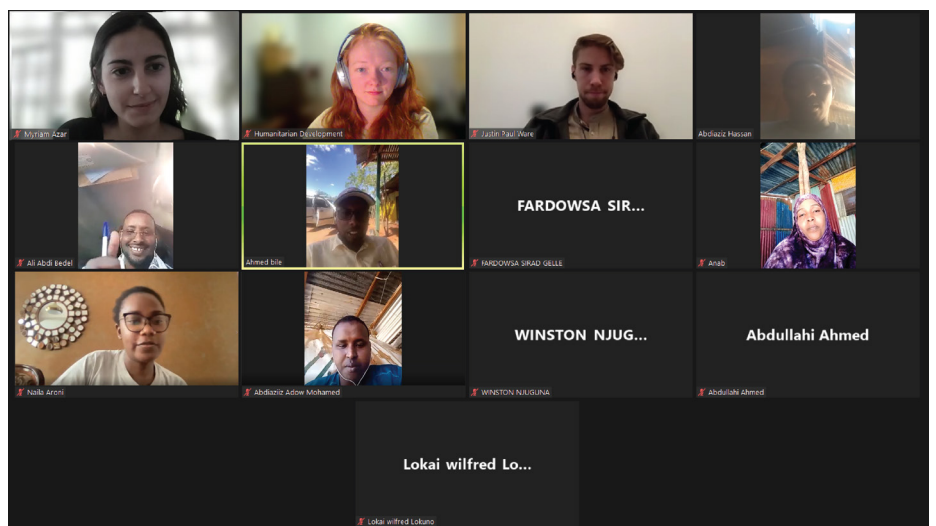


Market place in Dadaab utilised by both Host and Refugee Communities. © UN-Habitat

Two of the participants, Ali Ahmed and Ahmed Bile, elaborated on the different problems posed by the lack of access to education, particularly tertiary education.

In Hagadera refugee camp, Ahmed said, there is a shortage of trained teachers in primary schools, adding that students also face the disadvantage of poor-quality infrastructure. Due to the hot climate in the camps, learning in classrooms made of timber and iron sheets is not a conducive environment because they tend to overheat in the afternoon, he said.

Participants also spoke of troubles in accessing primary healthcare. One participant, Ahmed Bile, said health facilities in the Ifo refugee camp were less accessible than Dagahaley and Hagadera refugee camps. Another participant said refugees living in the Ifo camp have to travel long distances to the other camps to access medication and treatments due to resource and infrastructure shortages.



Virtual workshop with representatives from Dadaab Refugee Community. © UN-Habitat

The transport itself is expensive in Dadaab, and many of the roads become flooded and impassable throughout the year, making access to essential services even more difficult.

In addition to the daily challenges, Ali Abdi Bedel spoke about interconnected relationships between the refugee and host community in Dadaab and how the host and refugee communities had achieved a degree of coexistence over the years.

"The issue of lack of health infrastructure uniformly affects both hosts and refugees," Ali says. "Host communities have also become dependent on the health facilities in the camps because of services provided by NGOs."

Furthermore, Bedel spoke of the intermarriages between refugee and host communities and how both sides have developed business partnerships.

Nevertheless, the participants discussed potential opportunities to address the challenges in the camps. Some comments included the need for extracurricular activities

such as exchange programs with students from other schools to expand their worldview. Participants further stressed the need for enhanced business opportunities for the refugee community within the camps to achieve economic empowerment.

The program will utilize the lessons learned from past programming on integrating refugee and host community members and drive the discussions and agenda for sustainable urbanization, which UN-Habitat is supporting as custodian of SDG 11.

PROJECT TEAM

Technical Team (Nairobi):

Hirohisa Kondo, Ang Jia Cong, Baraka Mwau, 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:

Stephen Otieno, Joyce David

Implementation Partners:

Turkana County Government, Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), National Council of Churches Kenya (NCCK)

Other Partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Cities Alliance, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), DAIKEN Corporation, NEC Corporation, SPEC Company Limited, ARVET Developers

Donors:

Government of Japan, Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through Cities Alliance, EU Trust Fund for Africa

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Third Regional Multi-stakeholder forum
- Validation Workshop for Daadab Visioning Report.
- Validation Workshop for Kalobeyei Corridor Development Plan.
- Construction of Shelters for the People living with disability and People with Special needs in Kalobeyei.
- Construction of Underground Water tank in the Women Center in Village 3, Kalobeyei.