

# Supporting planning for INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES



**KALOBYEI NEW SITE  
TURKANA COUNTY**

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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## UN-Habitat organised a workshop to discuss plan preparations for the proposed Kakuma-Kalobeyei Economic Enterprise Zone



Participants sharing and discussing during the workshop. © UN-Habitat

In partnership with Kenya's North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB), Turkana County Government and Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat organised a one-day collaborative workshop to discuss and deliberate on the progress made in support of the development of an Economic Enterprise Zone in Turkana West. This workshop was organised as part a project that is aimed at supporting "Sustainable Economic Development Along Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity, Kenya," which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and as part of strengthening the established working relationship within the region through content and information sharing as well as ensuring collaborative planning for sustainable urbanization and development along the corridor and the NOREB region.

During the workshops, UN-Habitat highlighted the planning process, the conceptualisation of an EEZ (Economic Enterprise Zone) draft spatial development plan, and the progress made so far.

Moreover, UN-Habitat highlighted the various factors considered in the formulation of the spatial plan framework and the needs for the EEZ. The key concept factors include population, availability of land, development constraints and opportunities, linkage to the existing urban structure, local communities, refugees' integration, Kakuma municipality conferment as well as economic and industrial factors. The purpose of the EEZ development is to spur local economic growth, expand industrial development potentiality and generate significant social-economic benefits. This will go along to achieve the stated goal of "entrepreneurship and strong economics," under which Kakuma-Kalobeyei areas will be promoted to create a core attraction hub within Turkana West Sub County for private/foreign investors and a skill hub that will entrench entrepreneurship and business-oriented skills and knowledge focusing on young people and women.

In achieving the goal and objective of the EEZ plan, UN-Habitat informed participants that the Spatial Economic Assessment report has already been drafted to help inform the proposed EEZ plan.

The plan proposals aim at providing an enabling, conducive environment for infrastructural investment to encourage private sector investment, employment, and a greater diversification of local economic development activities.

In the workshop and during the break-out session, participants were invited to provide feedback on the plan and key stakeholders present reiterated the importance of community engagement throughout the planning process as well as a commitment to the existing planning standards, legal and policies guidelines and coordination between the National Government, the County Government and the local leadership in planning matters. It was also noted that there are greater opportunities in leveraging on the existing infrastructural development that provide a great level of connectivity within the larger North Rift Region and in particular Turkana West, which has been earmarked for the establishment of an EEZ through this project.

In advancing sound planning, it was noted that several challenges and opportunities must be encountered and overcome or embraced in order to structure practical and implementable plan proposals. For the proposed plans it was emphasized that all planned land uses should be compatible and well harmonized to ease development. Linkages and connectivity should be defined clearly to keep track of the entire system of circulation, be it physical or economic – whether infrastructural connectivity, movement, exchange of goods, human resources, or Government engagement and capacity. Stakeholders' interests and aspirations should be prioritized, and areas dedicated to public utilities should be properly allocated in accessible areas and proportionate to the planned area residents' population.

In conclusion, on the proposed plans the stakeholders highlighted the importance of providing areas dedicated to value addition industries, logistics centers, services areas, commercial as well as warehouses and markets.

The participants also outlined the need to integrate spatial plans to the wider county plans to ensure that the conceptualized priorities and strategies aligned with larger county goals and objectives.

In addition, for sustainable human settlement it's paramount to harness efficient development control tools and practical implementation frameworks.

## UN-Habitat engages with Turkana County to discuss the Kakuma-Kalobeyei regeneration strategy

In collaboration with Turkana County Government, and as part of the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) Programme, "Enhancing Self Reliance for host community and the refugee Communities in Turkana West," UN-Habitat hosted a one-day semi-virtual workshop to discuss the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Visioning and Regeneration Strategy.

The objectives of the workshop were to provide updates to the Turkana County Government on the progress of the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Vision, to discuss upcoming projects planned throughout Kakuma-Kalobeyei and to undertake a break-out session to identify potential projects to be included within the regeneration strategy.



Participants sharing and discussing proposed regeneration strategies. © UN-Habitat



Participants brainstorming regeneration projects during the break-out session. © UN-Habitat



Break-out session to propose potential regeneration strategies. © UN-Habitat

Throughout 2021, UN-Habitat has been undertaking a process of visioning for Kakuma-Kalobeyei in order to understand the needs and aspirations of the host and refugee communities. The next stage of the EUTF-funded programme is to prepare a comprehensive regeneration strategy that identifies specific projects that will work towards achieving the collectively determined vision.

After providing a summary of the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Vision, which includes goals of economic growth, resilience, equitable access to infrastructure and efficient land management, UN-Habitat identified the objectives of the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Strategy.

These objectives include the need to unlock potential and create new opportunities, attract external investment, restore degraded environments, and utilize abandoned or underutilized infrastructure and facilities. It was also noted that it is essential for the regeneration strategy to align with the Kalobeyei Integrated Socioeconomic Development Plan (KISED) and Turkana County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and for it to directly benefit both the host and refugee communities.

Following this, UN-Habitat facilitated a break-out session with Turkana County Government representatives to discuss priority areas for regeneration and priority projects.

The projects discussed were diverse, ranging from the establishing of value addition industries that could complement the existing local livestock economy, implementation of drainage infrastructure in key high-use locations and the preparation of a sustainable waste management strategy.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Turkana County Government Chief Physical Planner, Mr. Odera, reiterated the need to move forward with this project as a team, with the underlying objective of planning for the people. UN-Habitat will continue working closely with Turkana County Government as the programme continues.

## UN-Habitat and Garissa County hold a workshop to discuss the future vision of the Dadaab area refugee camps and host communities



Breakout Session with Garissa County Representatives on the Vision of Dadaab. © UN-Habitat



Participants sharing and Discussing during the workshop.jpg. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat and the Garissa County Government hosted a workshop to discuss the desired vision for the future development of the Dadaab area and possible scenarios for long-term and sustainable solutions for the area.

The Dadaab Visioning Workshop included representatives from the Garissa County Government and other partners active in the area such as UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), MSF, DRC (Danish Refugee Council).

UN-Habitat's work in Dadaab utilizes the urban and spatial planning approach to provide a platform for inclusive and sustainable development for all within a refugee hosting context. The visioning process aims at defining a sustainable vision for the future of the area by identifying key goals. The vision and goals can then inform and anchor the strategy of Dadaab's potential consolidation fully within the needs and priorities of the area.

During the workshop, UN-Habitat presented a brief overview of completed activities such as the Dadaab Spatial Profile and key findings from the Socio-Economic Survey, including how the host community was struggling more in accessing services and facilities when compared to the refugee community. The survey also showed a heavy reliance on the refugee camps with respect to business operations, livelihood support and access to facilities.

Following the presentation, breakout sessions facilitated by UN-Habitat focused on the future of Dadaab and how to respond to key challenges. The discussions raised many uncertainties, especially regarding population fluctuation. Nevertheless, participants discussed various future development scenarios for Dadaab and identified key objectives for future development such as environmental sustainability, economic development, integration of host and refugee community, social inclusion and accessibility.

Through these key goals, which align with UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme, "Inclusive and Vibrant Neighborhoods and Communities," the project will aim at providing key consolidation strategies addressing the needs and challenges faced by host and refugee communities in the Dadaab area. The strategies will aim not only to target current challenges but also to mitigate the possible challenges that could be exacerbated by population fluctuations in the area.

The County Secretary from the Ministry of Lands concluded the meeting by highlighting the importance of good planning and land management across all scenarios, adding they were eager to continue collaborating with UN-Habitat on this project.

Stakeholder engagement and the participatory community driven approach have been key in reflecting the needs and priorities of the county representatives as well as the host and refugee communities and will remain a platform for discussion as the programme progresses.

## UN-Habitat conducts community participatory workshop to develop future vision for Dadaab region

Inclusive participation of stakeholders and communities in planning for development is critical to developing a sustainable, resilient, and integrated region. To ensure this element in developing the future vision of the Dadaab region, UN-Habitat conducted a stakeholder workshop with the host and refugee communities of the Dadaab region on the 27th of January 2022, as part of a process to capture the community's growth expectation for Dadaab area in the next five to ten years. This vision will encapsulate the positive aspects of Dadaab that should be preserved and protected while identifying and addressing the major challenges that current and future residents will face.



Breakout Session on the Vision with Host and Refugee community. © UN-Habitat

The workshop marked the onset of the visioning process that aims at defining how Dadaab could look – spatially, socially, economically, and environmentally. During the workshop, UN-Habitat presented findings from the Dadaab Spatial Profile and the Socio-Economic Survey that were conducted between 2020-2021 and set the context and basis of the current activities. The presentations highlighted the challenges and opportunities that were identified and spatialized during the profile exercise and findings on the socio-economic conditions of the region touching on different themes such as demographics, access to infrastructure and services, livelihood, and income.

Presentations were followed by breakout sessions that defined a vision for the future of Dadaab and key goals to achieve it. Participants were also able to spatialize this by manually drawing on maps provided. Several concerns were pinpointed, including the unbalanced and unequal distribution of infrastructure, few livelihood opportunities, insecurity, environmental challenges, and uncertainty arising from the announcement of possible camp closures.

The breakout session also facilitated the discussion and development of three scenarios for the future of the area. This scenario building exercise took into consideration the population changes in the region, which guided the development of objectives and how to achieve them. Integration, environmental conservation, a vibrant economy, and inclusive access to facilities were raised as objectives for the future of Dadaab. The participatory workshop provided a platform to understand the refugees’ and host communities’ situations and challenges they face in their daily living while at the same time identifying priorities and opportunities that exist which will be useful in developing strategies and interventions for local economic development and improved integration.

The workshop concluded with UN-Habitat indicating the next steps for the visioning process, which consist of refining and compiling all outputs from the workshops. Furthermore, UN-Habitat will conduct bilateral meetings and follow-up with key stakeholders prior to the validation workshop which is to be done in the coming months.



Breakout session on Scenario building session with Refugee and Host community. © UN-Habitat



Breakout Session on Scenario Building with the Refugee and Host communities. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat continues to promote participatory planning in its implementation of projects by adopting and promoting participatory methods in policy development and planning exercises. This ensures critical problems are identified and joint priorities are developed, giving the public a chance to have a say in the development decisions that affect them.

This is also important in ensuring that development interventions are appropriate to the needs and preferences of the population that they are intended to benefit.

## UN-Habitat supports response to implementing flood-resilient infrastructure in Kalobeyi through construction of a community road

Improving road infrastructure is a key pillar in all efforts to increase accessibility within a settlement, and it greatly influences how communities in a settlement interact not only with each other but also with the neighborhood. Whereas the Kalobeyi Settlement Advisory Plan, a blueprint that guides development in the Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement, provided adequate road connections, only a meager proportion of these have been opened or developed to motorable standards. Moreover, most of these roads are in deplorable conditions, having withstood the impact of rainfall, flooding, and erosion over the last 5 years. As such, vehicle movement is constrained, with drivers opting to use alternative informal routes. The rocky surfaces of the developed roads make them non-conducive for walking, and they are occasionally avoided by road users who opt to use the space on their edges.



The technical team conducting transect walks on the proposed site. © UN-Habitat

This project was preceded by a settlement-wide assessment of road conditions carried out by UNH, UNHCR, and RAS (Refugee Affairs Secretariat). The assessment considered various factors including populations using the roads, key infrastructure like schools and hospitals served, road class, and the current condition of the road. This culminated in a road priority report that lists all priority roads and that will guide the order of rehabilitation of these roads in the coming financial cycles.

existing services that might be affected by the works, identifying diversion routes and engaging key stakeholders in the Kalobeyi Settlement. This information was used to develop detailed designs, materials, equipment, and labour schedules that will be used during implementation. The actual implementation works are expected to start in mid-February and will be carried out over a period of one week.

The road earmarked for development by UN-Habitat is not only top of the priority list, but also provides a key linkage between the largest public space in Kalobeyi settlement and the Kalobeyi Settlement community centre. The 500m road section also connects to a key route linking village two and the A1 Lodwar to Lokichoggio road.

Given that the road lies on a flood basin, a novel technology using Stein, a product developed by SPEC Ltd, will be used to pave the road. The Stein material will be mixed with locally available soil, creating an impervious layer that will allow easy and safe flow of water on its surface and side drainage channels that will also be implemented as part of the project. The project intends to use local labor and equipment in order to promote the local economy of Turkana West. The local labour teams used will also be imparted with technical skills to enable them to carry out routine maintenance and build their livelihoods.

In the month of January 2022, a team of Engineers, Surveyors and Planners visited the site for a reconnaissance survey. The team collected important site information including measuring spot heights, assessing existing drainage infrastructure, assessing



The technical team collecting spot heights during the site visit. © UN-Habitat

In a response to community needs and building on its record on implementing flood-resilient infrastructure, UN-Habitat – in partnership with Peace Winds Japan and SPEC Ltd – plans to implement a road project, upgrading it to a paved standard.



The technical team collecting spot heights during the site visit. © UN-Habitat

## PROJECT TEAM

### Technical Team (Nairobi):

Hirohisa Kondo, Ang Jia Cong, Baraka Mwau, Risper Talai, Eric Muchunku, Winston Njuguna, Lucy Donnelly, Myriam Azar, Nelson Reed, in collaboration with colleagues from the Regional Office in Africa.

### Technical Team (Kakuma):

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

### Administrative Support:

Stephen Otieno, Joyce David, Maryann Kithome, Desmond Tutu

### 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

- Construction of Shelters for the People living with disability and People with Special needs in Kalobeyei.
- Community engagement for Public space design recommendation validation, development, and prioritization in Village 1 and 2 Kalobeyei
- Stein Road Construction in Kalobeyei
- Stakeholder engagement and Capacity building exercise for the Kalobeyei-Kakuma visioning and The Corridor Plan.