**Supporting planning for INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES**

**Strengthening Capacity on Mainstreaming Migration into Planning and Programming in Turkana West**

On 22 February 2022, UN-Habitat organised a capacity building workshop for the Turkana County Government technical persons as part of a programme designed to enhance the county’s capacity on mainstreaming migration in the urban development processes. This exercise looked at also addressing the key obstacles that hinder major urban centres from functioning optimally such as poor governance, lack of good urban planning and inadequate urban planning capacity, poor governance, and deficiency in basic infrastructure. The other components for the training included strengthening urban governance institutions, investments in Infrastructure and creating an enabling environment for the private sector investments.

The training was underpinned by the need to deepen their understanding of urban planning, equip them with techniques on mainstreaming refugees and migration, gender, youth and human rights issues in urban planning and development, broaden their understanding of challenges urban areas face in plan implementation, and familiarise them with various tools and techniques for addressing these barriers including enhancing private sector investments, revenues and accelerating infrastructure delivery.

Training also focused the need to Establish a coordinating team integrated planning and programming in Turkana West-cutting across sectors and partners to ensure equity and inclusivity. For the planning and implementation to be successful, it was empathized that all the plans needed to have broad public participation and access to necessary information to identify the institutional/organizations gaps & recommend a mechanism for addressing them as well as clarity on what kind of policy reforms and institutional arrangements will be needed especially in Kakuma-Kalobeyei where refugee settlements (under Refugees Act) co-exist with host community settlements.

Following the sessions, county planning officers committed to prioritising urbanisation and urban planning, engaging in formulating good policies and laws and governance institutions, and integrating migration imperatives and economic activities into the wider urban development to shape sustainable urban development in the region.

**UN-Habitat holds a virtual workshop for the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Regeneration and Capacity Enhancement Workshop**

On 22 February 2022, UN-Habitat in collaboration with Turkana County Government, undertook a virtual workshop entitled ‘Kakuma-Kalobeyei Regeneration and Capacity Enhancement Workshop’.

The objective of this workshop was twofold. The first was to provide Turkana County representatives with updates from the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Visioning and Regeneration programme and collect feedback on potential regeneration strategies. The second was to run a capacity enhancement session on strengthening planning and programming in Turkana West.
After providing updates on the progress of the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Regeneration Strategy, UN-Habitat led a break-out session to discuss which areas of Kakuma-Kalobeyei should be targeted for regeneration. Key feedback from the County included the need to use economic regeneration to bring both the host and refugee communities together, with the facilitation of private and foreign investment being an important consideration. The corridor along the A1 highway was also identified as important for regeneration, with the need to consider regeneration strategies such as truck stops and bus stops at strategic locations, to respond to additional traffic resulting from upgrading to the A1 Highway.

The capacity enhancement session explored the questions of how planning and implementation of NGO/INGO-supported plans be made effective, what currency institutional arrangements work well and what needs to be improved in order to promote effective planning and implementation strategies in Turkana West. Key take-aways from this session were the need to establish a coordinating team to integrate planning and programming in Turkana West and the need to identify and prioritize strategic investments that are necessary for the transformation of Turkana West.

This was a successful information sharing and capacity building workshop with engaging discussions and feedback from Turkana County representatives.

Promoting integrated solutions through capacity building on HLP in Kakuma-Kalobeyei Refugee settlement

In March 2022, UN-Habitat’s Kakuma Field Office facilitated a capacity building workshop on Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) with support from Global Land Tools Network (GLTN). The training focused on enhancing use of integrated tools and data for joint planning and monitoring among various agencies working in Kakuma-Kalobeyei area. This was a three-day training from the 22nd to 24th of March and was joined by about 12 experts from different agencies, including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and UN-Habitat colleagues who attended physically and virtually.
The need for improved data management approaches to support Housing, Land, and Property Rights (HLP) in humanitarian context is much informed by the experiences of COVID-19. UN-Habitat through the Action plan on COVID-19 interventions prioritised rapid and effective gathering of data to inform planning and decision making. In this context, the data is being used by UN-Habitat to support development of a regeneration strategy for Kakuma. This is also taking place in the context of a broader discussion to improve the status of Kakuma-Kalobeyei area to a Municipality. The transformation of the area is expected to start soon, and partners intervention is critical to ensure host and refugee communities are adequately accommodated in the planning phase.

In addition, over the week, UN-Habitat’s Kakuma Field Office joined UN-Habitat-GL TN to meet various partners including NRC, UNHCR, and National Land Commission (NLC) to discuss opportunities to collaborate in planning, capacity development, and awareness on land governance approaches. The partners were excited about the opportunities presented by STDM, especially in coordinating a sustainable model across Kakuma-Kalobeyei as the area sees a continued influx of hosts and refugees. Essentially, STDM was applauded for integrating wide array of data for diverse needs using a centralised database. In the long-term, this will enable easier resource sharing and ensure that partners continue to work with the latest information.

Going forward, STDM will play a significant role in supporting more evidence-based interventions. In a dynamic context such as Kakuma-Kalobeyei, with multiple actors and ever-changing demographics, STDM will provide insight into HLP needs and provide a platform for different partners to develop inter-sectoral interventions. This will be a critical component in supporting UN-Habitat’s efforts to bridge humanitarian aid with long-term development goals.

Regional Forum on Inclusive and Resilient Cities

On 29 and 30 March, UN-Habitat attended a Regional Forum on Inclusive and resilient cities event organized by Cities Alliance and the government of Uganda, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the European Union. The workshop focused on ministerial and city stakeholders from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and the host country, Uganda. The workshop acted as a knowledge sharing platform for experiences and best practices on how cities can enhance economic inclusion, planning and urban development programmes to ensure inclusion, resilience, and sustainability. The key thematic areas for the workshop included, urban expansion planning, incremental housing and services in informal settlements, job creation, investment in secondary cities, and migrants and refugees’ integration.

For the Cities and migration programme, UN-Habitat shared the ongoing programme geared towards enhancing connectivity in the Northwestern corridor in Kenya through creation of community of interest in various industries, organizing regional migration forums and establishing of spatial planning frameworks to support development of an economic enterprise zone in Turkana west.

During the presentations, UN-Habitat shared the results of this joint programme by highlighting the successful creation and capacity development of five industry associations and connecting them with local, national, and international value chains.

The second achievement presented was the creation of regional forums for cities across the northwestern region and NOREB to share with Governors and City leaders concerning the challenges that cities across the region face to create sustainable governance and economic systems and networks to promote private sector investments, create jobs and ensure efficient provision of basic services that are key for trade facilitation and ease of doing business.

The third achievement was the planning and the establishment of Kalobeyei Corridor plan which includes a spatial development framework for developing an economic enterprise zone. UN-Habitat noted that this would enhance regional economic integration, cross border trade, local economic development as well as creating employment for refugees and the local community in Turkana west where we have Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee settlement.
Finally, UN-Habitat concluded by sharing the sustainability approach for the project which includes the new refugee law which will potentially enhance refugees’ participation in the labor market and the plan to have the Kakuma Kalobeyei municipality which will enhance provision of basic services and infrastructure that is needed for enhancing private sector investments in the municipality. If funded, the proposals made by the communities of interest also will potentially transform the local economy especially the industries where majority of players are women who are less funded and working in the informal sector.