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Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including updates on the country programmes in Lao PDR and Kenya, on Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) and on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

AdHoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters
26 October 2026



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Updates on the Kenya Country Programme

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

Urban Context

- 32.2 % of the population is currently urban, project to be 50% by 2050
- Proportion of urban population living in informal settlements at 6.9%
- Urbanization rate of 4.3% annually

Key Challenges

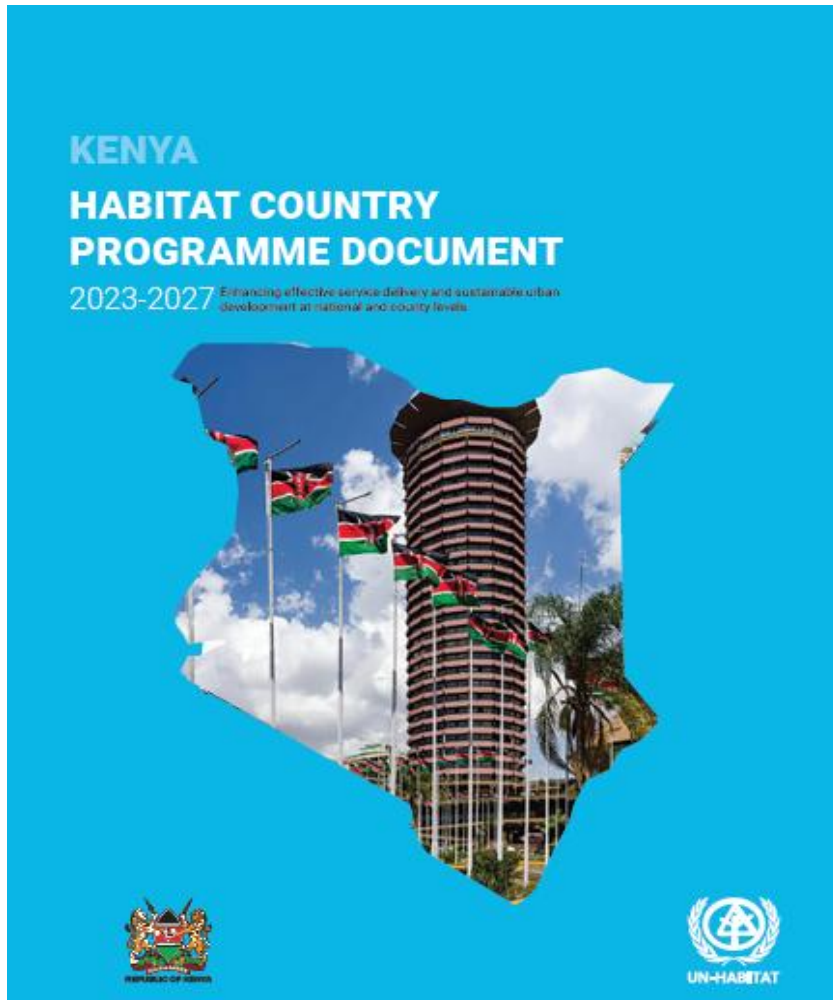
- Informal settlements
- Inadequate housing
- Inadequate urban basic services & infrastructure
- Vulnerability to climate change

Strategic alignment

- Vision 2030 / BETA
- NUA
- UNSDCF
- UNH SP 2025-2029
- HCPD 2023-2027



HCPD 2023-2027



Four strategic pillars:

01

Reducing spatial inequality and poverty in communities

02

Enhancing shared prosperity of cities and regions

03

Strengthening climate action and improving the urban environment

04

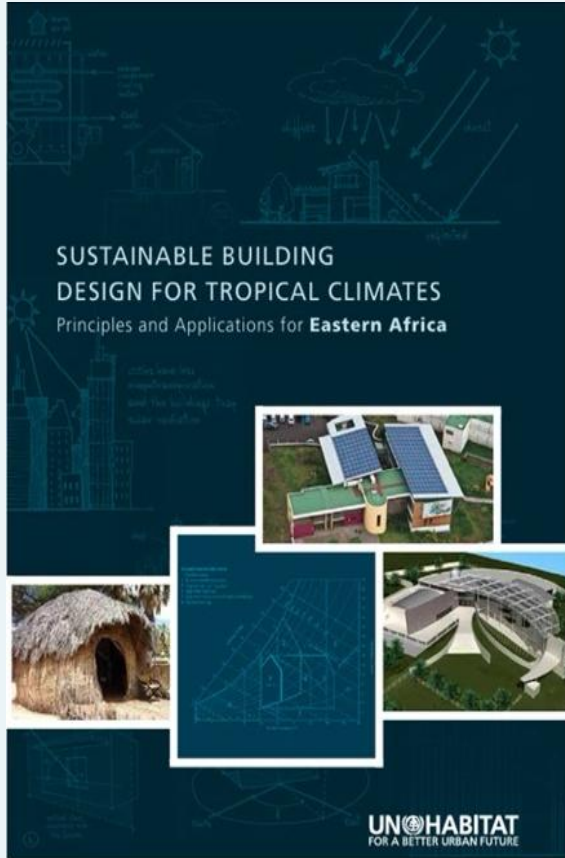
Effective urban crisis prevention and response



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Highlights of Normative and Operational Activities in Kenya

DEVELOPING NORMATIVE GUIDANCE FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

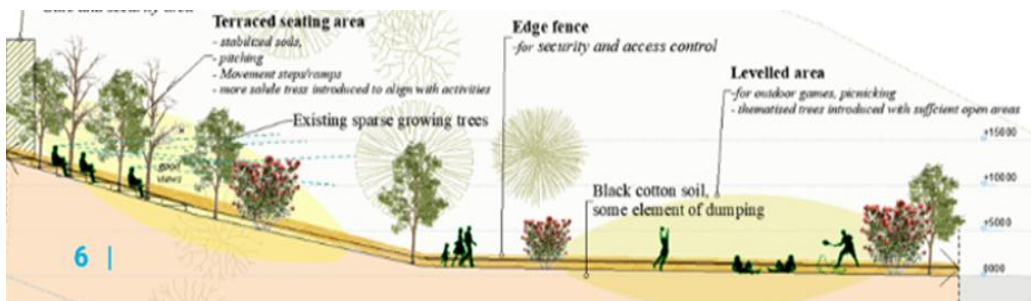


NORMATIVE GUIDANCE

- ❑ 5360 housing units in Mavoko Municipality informed by the Sustainable Building Design for Tropical Climates publication
- ❑ Cooperative Social Rental Housing model being applied in Nairobi & Kisumu
- ❑ Proposed Soweto Informal Settlements Integrated Climate Resilience & Livelihoods Development Initiative



- ❑ **Social rental housing** in Kibuye Estate & Kisumu
- ❑ **Green public spaces** in Muhoroni, Kilifi & Lamu
- ❑ **Incremental social housing** in Muhoroni.
- ❑ **Solid waste material recovery facilities** in Taita Taveta & Korogocho
- ❑ **Data stations** across 6 coastal counties with GIS equipment **for county land use planning**



1

Sustainable Waste Management (WaCT)

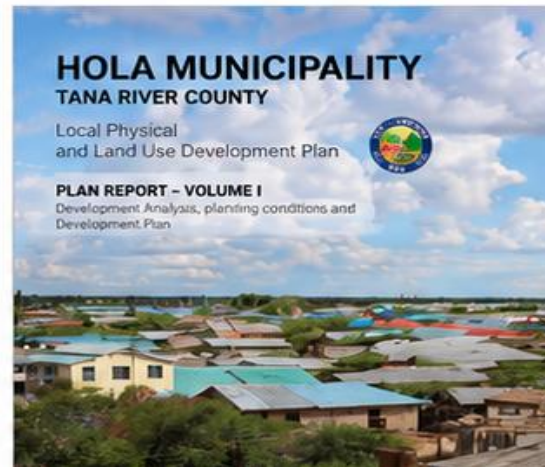


10+ cities

applying WaCT for data-driven, inclusive waste management.

2

Land Use Planning in Cities and Towns



Multiple cities and towns

supported to develop and implement land use plans.

3

Mobility & Street Design Guidelines



Guidelines

for safer, more inclusive and sustainable mobility in Nairobi, Kiambu, Garissa and other cities.

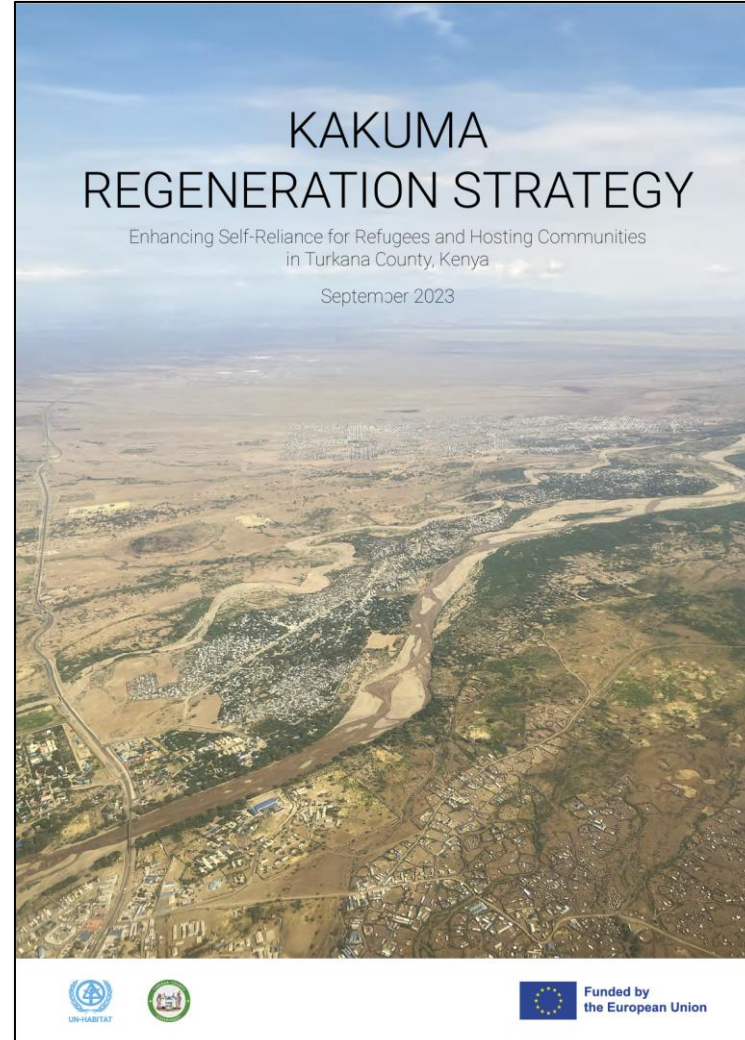
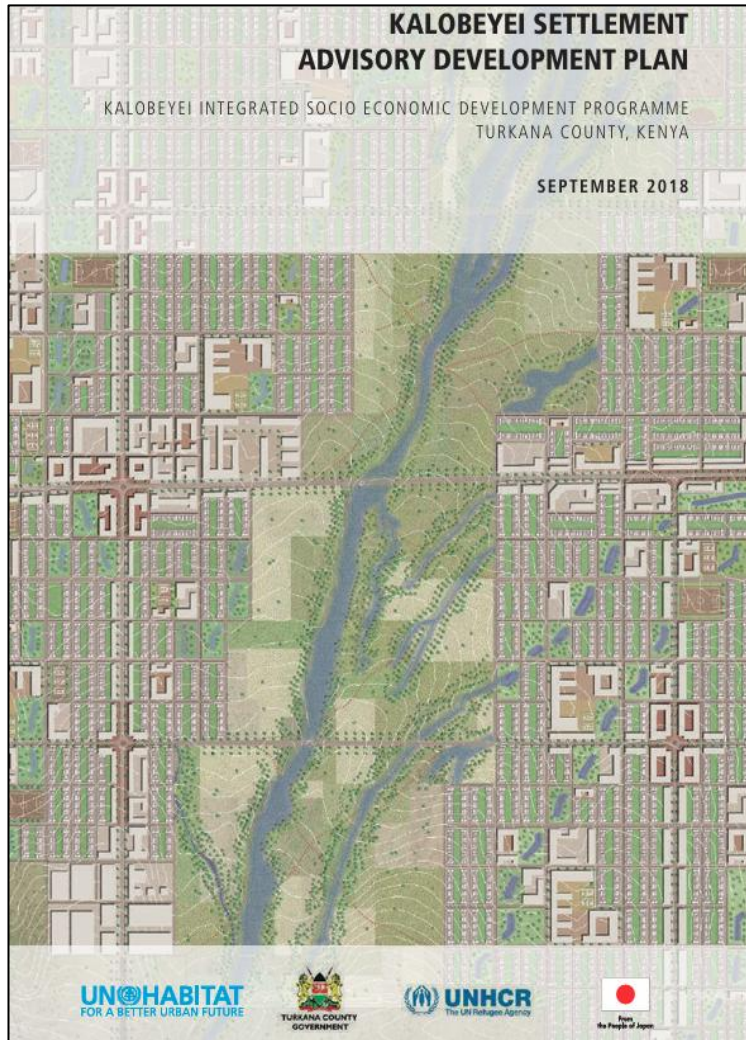
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Nairobi Rivers Basin Regeneration Programme



River basin regeneration

for a cleaner, greener and more resilient Nairobi.



- ❑ **800,000+ refugees and asylum seekers** targeted, alongside host communities
- ❑ **UN-Habitat supported the transition from refugee camps** to integrated, sustainable settlements in Kakuma, Kalobeyei and Dadaab
- ❑ **Focus areas:** Housing, basic services, livelihoods and economic inclusion



- ❑ Improved access to safe, reliable and sustainable water supply for refugee and host communities in Lodwar and Kakuma





Academia & Research

- ❑ UN-Habitat establishes Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa at the University of Nairobi



- ❑ UN-Habitat supports creation of Centre for Urban Studies at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology



Private Sector

- ❑ Equity Bank Group & Kenya Commercial Bank in Joint SDG Project led by UN-Habitat for Kenya's counties





- ❑ Officers from China's Guanzhou City visiting Nakuru County to learn from Kenya's Affordable Housing Programme.



- ❑ Officers from Berbera, Somalia, visiting Malindi Municipality to learn from Cities & Blue Economy Project funded by the European Union

TARGET 11.1



SAFE AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PROGRESSIVE FUNDING MODEL: Shifting from grants to leveraging commercial and catalytic capital

STRENGTHENING JOINT PROGRAMMING: RCO & UN Agencies at Country-Level for greater impact (UNEP, UNDP, FAO, UNDRR, WMO, ILO etc.)

INTERNAL STRUCTURES FOR PROGRAMME COORDINATION: Aligning Country-level structures and strengthening internal collaboration through the Kenya Coordination Task Force

AFRICA URBAN FORUMS & KENYA URBAN FORUMS: Platforms for implementing NUA



Thank you!

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