Youth Photography Workshop exploring urban livelihood

Turkana people have been nomads for generations, but once the benefits of being settled have become more attractive to Turkmens, there has been a shift from pastoralism community to a settled lifestyle. This change has been challenged by different issues, from water provision, to shelter and self-sustainability. Turkana build their own settlements and cope with the challenges of being settled by themselves, having very little or no benefit from hosting refugees.

With the support of PVJ, UN-Habitat is conducting a workshop with Turkana Youth. The workshop will provide valuable skill training in the art of photography with the support of the awarded Kenyan photojournalist Julius Mwela. UN-Habitat team is leading the students to discover elements of being settled in a town, by exploring typologies of living space and livelihood, elements of sustainability and self-reliance. The workshop’s outcome will be part an exhibition at TICAD 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya. The exhibition portrays a settled community of Turkana people in Kakuma Town and Kalobeyi Town, already at the 3rd or 4th generation of lifestyle shift.
UN-Habitat committed to support strengthening the integration of refugees and host communities in a properly planned human settlement in Kalobeyei New Site, Turkana County in Kenya, a project funded by the Government of Japan. The aim of the project is planning for a settlement that will be more self-reliant and bring benefits to both refugees and the host community, reducing the risk of conflict and increasing the resilience of the target communities. The project is part of a larger scale project directed by UNHCR in Kalobeyei – Turkana area, where UN-Habitat is leading the infrastructure and planning component.

UN-Habitat is working closely with the County Government for increasing the capacity in spatial planning and urban management strategies, ensuring the durability of an adequate urban planning at the county level, in particular focusing on the growing cities in the county. Furthermore, it is expected that with a proper planning and design, the cities and towns in Turkana will be able to be more productive in terms of contribution to the economic development of the county.

**UN-Habitat opens an office in Kakuma, Turkana County**

The UN-Habitat office in Kakuma, Turkana County is supporting livelihood analysis and research on human settlements patterns, as part of the spatial planning and infrastructure component of the project. The office is liaising with the local authorities, non-governmental organisations and community leaders for resource mobilisation and knowledge management, as well as support to UN-Habitat Design Lab in developing a sound spatial planning and design for Kalobeyei New Settlement.

UN-Habitat is working together with Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), a Kakuma based NGO with experience in working with refugee and host communities. PWJ will not only support UN-Habitat in organising Settlement Development Groups, Stakeholders meetings and conducting a series of participatory meetings for research purposes, but also capacity development and skill training for both host communities and refugees.

**UN-Habitat technical team work in Kalobeyei New Site**

The primary project activities are ground research in the context of human settlements, looking not only at the refugee camps but at Turkana cities and towns. UN-Habitat has initiated the research regarding livelihoods and human settlement patterns, proceeding with technical discussions for the coordination with UNHCR and partners for the Kalobeyei New Site. With the support of UNHCR, UN-Habitat technical team has conducted a series of scoping missions in Kalobeyei New Site and Kakuma Refugee Camp necessary for providing technical advice for the spatial planning of Kalobeyei New Settlement.

As part of the project, UN-Habitat’s expected accomplishments are provision of recommendations for the development of Kalobeyei area as a sustainable urban center under an integrated urban management framework for the County, defined together with the County Government. Furthermore, UN-Habitat hopes to contribute to increasing the capacity of the local and county leaders and policy makers in aspects related to urban planning and design, but also on urban legislation, economy, resilience and risk reduction.

**UN-Habitat working with the community leaders in Kalobeyei Town**

UN-Habitat is conducting monthly or bimonthly meetings with the Kalobeyei Town community, including the Kalobeyei Member of County Assembly, the local representative of the Ministry of Lands, Planning and Urban Development, community leaders, elders as well as youth and women representatives. The meetings are convened to increase awareness of the UN-Habitat plan for a sustainable refugee settlement as well as integrating the refugee population with the host communities and to keep the community continuously involved in the project through a participatory process.

Representatives of UN-Habitat and PWJ discuss with the community representatives the interests, needs and priorities of the community members.

**Establishment of host community Settlement Development Group in Kalobeyei**

The second community meeting convened in Kalobeyei Town was attended by 40 participants from different ages, social groups and locations within the town’s administrative area. UN-Habitat team led the formation of a Settlement Development Group, with members from different social groups in Kalobeyei Town to ensure a well-balanced representation of gender, age groups, ethnicity, religions, and tribal groups. The nominations came from the community members during the meeting and 10 members were selected to represent local administration, grassroots organizations, Community Based Organizations, youth and women groups, opinion leaders, other types of communal organizations and vulnerable groups in the project.

The Settlement Development Group will work with UN-Habitat throughout the planning process, including participatory planning workshops concerning the integration of refugee and host community in Kalobeyei area. The members will acquire knowledge on the importance of land use and town planning, supporting the project team in research activities, giving spatial planning insights and supporting community mobilization for implementing project activities on the ground.