

AUG / SEPT 2021

# Supporting planning for INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES


**KALOBYEI NEW SITE**  
**TURKANA COUNTY**
**UN HABITAT**  
 FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**Cities Alliance**  
 Cities Without Slums

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
 Confédération suisse  
 Confederazione Svizzera  
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## UN-Habitat hosts interactive community workshop to validate Kakuma-Kalobeyei Vision and discuss Kalobeyei Corridor Planning



Workshop participants discussing the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Vision. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Turkana County Government and Cities Alliance, hosted a collaborative workshop with leaders from the host and refugee communities in Kakuma-Kalobeyei for a project funded by the European Union Trust Fund and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The aim of the workshop was to present the community leaders with a spatial vision for Kakuma-Kalobeyei, which has been informed by the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Spatial Profile, a socio economic survey and extensive community consultation; and to examine the goals and strategies that comprise the vision and propose possible action areas for priority projects. In addition, the workshop also provided key updates on the progress on the Kalobeyei Corridor Planning Programme which is focusing on the planning of an economic enterprise zone (EEZ) adjacent to Kalobeyei Settlement and the proposed LAPSET Corridor.

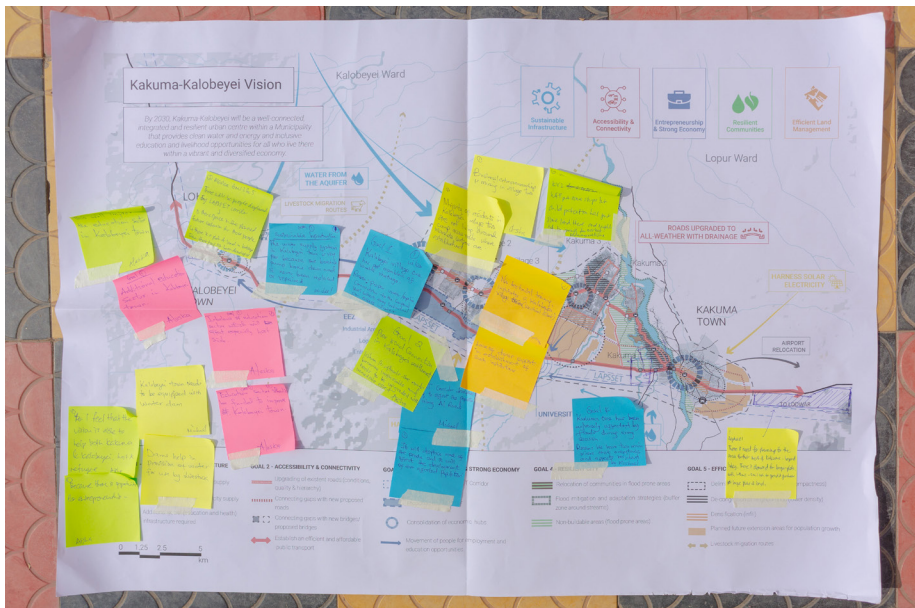
UN-Habitat delivered a presentation on the proposed Kakuma-Kalobeyei Vision which comprises an overarching Vision Map, 5 Vision Goals and Vision Statement. The overall vision for Kakuma-Kalobeyei is as a sustainable, accessible and resilient urban centre with a strong focus on equitable economic growth opportunities and efficient land management.

The workshop included an interactive break-out session where the participants were asked to provide feedback on each of the Kakuma-Kalobeyei Vision Goals and the strategies that would assist in achieving the goals. The community representatives were very positive about the sustainable infrastructure strategies including investing in alternative sustainable water sources and sustainable solar electricity. Investment in public transport, which could be accessed by both the host and refugee communities at an affordable rate, was another strategy indicated as a high priority.

The participants noted that in the vision, additional consideration should be given to strategies that would boost the pastoralist livelihoods of the host community. The community representatives showed particular interest in the economic aspects of the vision, emphasising the need for all communities to both have access to and benefit from the economic growth strategies that will form part of the Vision and subsequent Kakuma-Kalobeyei Regeneration Strategy.

UN-Habitat also updated the community representatives on the progress of the Kalobeyei Enterprise Economic Zone (EEZ) Corridor Development Programme. The participants were particularly updated on the planning processes, existing site conditions, site suitability and external spatial relation of the site. Besides, the participants were also informed that the final plan intends to provide enabling infrastructure that will support the area development potentials in order to promote local economic growth, the proposal will tap into the existing opportunities such as regional infrastructure investments i.e the expansion and upgrading of A1 Road and the proposed LAPSET Corridor to stimulate long term urban development in the area.

The plan will constantly endeavor to include the opinion of the existing local communities and other pertinent stakeholders and will employ a holistic planning approach that utilises and leverages on the existing efforts from both the National and County Government, UN agencies delivering humanitarian and development aid, local implementing partners and public and private individuals/firms. The participants were assured that the intervention to be proposed will aim at addressing the future of all the population.



Feedback from the host and refugee community on the Kakuma-Kalobeyi Vision. © UN-Habitat

The feedback from this community workshop will be integrated into the vision that UN-Habitat is preparing for Kakuma-Kalobeyi, which will be finalized and will lead to a regeneration strategy that identifies priority action areas and quick-win projects that will help create a sustainable future for Kakuma-Kalobeyi.

## UN-Habitat and ARVET Developers participate in Swedish Embassy Exhibition Launch "Woodlife Sweden"

Since 2016, UN-Habitat, in partnership with Turkana County Government and UNHCR, has developed and planned for an integrated settlement – the 'Kalobeyi Settlement' in the region, to support both host and refugee communities. Within the settlement, UN-Habitat and partners (Peace Winds Japan, GIZ Sports 4 Development, Block by Block Foundation), have over the years designed and expanded the public spaces to serve the needs of these beneficiaries better.



UN-Habitat joins as panelist in session Planning for Sustainability in Woodlife Sweden event. © UN-Habitat



ARVET Developers' present the Kalobeyi Community Hall at the Woodlife Sweden event. © UN-Habitat

In early 2021, ARVET developers, a Swedish company which has supported construction and design of several notable timber/wood designs internationally, donated a Community Hall module for the Kalobeyi Settlement Public Space 2. The Community Hall was installed by ARVET builders in September (captured in an article below), with the aim to provide a safe space for social cohesion, cultural exchange, and a platform for community activities.

Through this collaboration with ARVET, UN-Habitat also participated in a three-day event, "Woodlife Sweden", which consisted of an exhibition launch and a series of seminars in the Swedish Embassy Residence in Nairobi, which displayed photographs of pioneering construction and architecture projects around the world by Swedish companies.

The Kalobeyi Community Hall was displayed here. On the second day of the event, UN-Habitat participated in a panel "Planning for Sustainability" which aimed to address the question: "how can we put sustainability at the forefront for city planning and urban development", next to speakers from ARVET, the GoDown Arts Centre, Cave Bureau and Petra Gipp Studios.

The director of GoDown Arts Centre said in her reflections, "People become ambassadors of processes that happen informally- determining what the spaces in their neighbourhood look like. When we can think about who we are in the city, there is a shared space that all of us can lean on."



This resonates for the programmes that UN-Habitat has been supporting in Turkana County Kenya, which involve the strengthening of self-reliance for both host and refugees.

Sandra Frank from ARVET Developers, also spoke on the benefits of building in wood, including sharing the challenges and opportunities with wood as a building material, as well as debunk some popular myths.

The Kalobeyei Settlement Public Space 2 is currently being developed further through the funding from the Government of Japan, and in partnership with the Kounkuey Design Institute and other partners.

## UN-Habitat and ARVET Developers launch Community Hall in Kalobeyei Settlement Public Space



Construction team consisting of ARVET, UN-Habitat and community members. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat, ARVET Developers and partners came together to host an inauguration ceremony for the newly installed UN-Habitat ARVET Community Hall in Kalobeyei Settlement Public Space 2. On the site were the Turkana County Government, the Refugee Affairs Secretariat, ARVET Developers, Community representatives and the UN-Habitat field officers. The event was a great success, drawing the attention of onlookers. It was carried out with all protocols observed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and was also livestreamed virtually with participants joining online.

UN-Habitat, funded by the Government of Japan, and working with partners have been developing the public space in Kalobeyei Settlement Village 2 over the last years. In mid-2021, UN-Habitat received a donation from ARVET to install a Community Hall for the public space which will provide a safe space for building social cohesion, promoting cultural exchange, and a platform for community activities. On a wider scale, the Community Hall will complement the other components of the public space to support the integration of host and refugee communities and deliver more conducive spaces for recreation, social activities, and livelihoods.

The Hall has an iconic design, with a triangular shape and two levels. Both levels are equipped with solar lamps and charging ports that allow the use of the module even in the evenings. The lower level is equipped with seats and tables suitable for meetings and social gatherings while the upper level which is accessed through a timber staircase has been equipped with mats that provide comfortable

seating spaces. Even before its completion, the module had not only changed the skyline of the settlement but it had also become a landmark structure with residents already using it as a reference to other areas in the settlement, earning itself various nicknames from the residents including 'the triangle', 'the pyramid' as early as the second week of its construction. The installation of the Community Hall took 1 month to install in September 2021, and was conducted through the supervision and guidance of ARVET Developer experts, UN-Habitat field officers, and Peace Winds Japan and labourers from the local community.

The event began with opening remarks from in-person and online guests, which included RAS, the Turkana County Government, Swedish Embassy Deputy Head of Mission, ARVET Developers, and UN-Habitat. Arne Olsson, CEO of ARVET Developers shared, 'we thought this would be a christmas present for the residents in Kalobeyei last year, but due to the pandemic restrictions, we finally managed to implement the hall in this quarter of the year. We thank the many positive people in UN-Habitat and our partners in Sweden for this inauguration'. The Community Centre Management Representative, Ojulu Opiew, was also in attendance, and he shared, "you cannot differentiate which child belongs to the host or refugee community - and this is what we wanted to achieve with the public space community".



Joshua Napochko and Dennis Opudo cutting the ribbon at the Community Hall inauguration event. © UN-Habitat



The ARVET-UN-Habitat Community Hall erected in Kalobeyei Settlement Public Space 2. © UN-Habitat



A ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted before participants moved into the Community Hall to explore the interior. Ivan Segato, an expert from ARVET Developers who participated in the building and installation process, introduced the Hall and the design elements, taking the participants for a tour around the space. After that, participants were invited to share their feedback, comments, and hopes for the Community Hall. Ojulu Opiew said "this facility is very unique and everyone who is passing by appreciates it. We realised that this is a facility that can be used for women, children and those who wish to come. Thank you for this, and as a community

representative, we appreciate this gift from UN-Habitat and all other partners who are involved." The Chair Lady of Kalobeyi Village 2, Warki Ojulu, said "this is commendable work, we are so happy for the swings for the children and this structure. Thank you all for the projects that you have helped us with." Joining online, Katarina Levin, CEO of Setra shared that the hall is a milestone of renewal building techniques and materials for Kenya.

The event received support and congratulations by several partners. UN-Habitat and partners thanked all participants for joining the event in person or virtually. As

Cecilia Andersson, the OIC of the Planning Finance and Economy Section at UN-Habitat had shared, "we would like to share a big thank you from UN-Habitat to all our partners for the development of the public space - the Turkana County Government, RAS, Government of Japan, Peace Winds Japan, GIZ, and most importantly ARVET developers who have given this kind donation. It is great to see so many people enjoy the space and services outside, and also enjoy the space inside. We will work closely with all partners to determine the best use of the function of this hall".

## UN-Habitat and a refugee media company, Dream Magical Studio, conduct photography and filming exercise in Turkana West and the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB)

UN-Habitat through a collaboration with Dream Magical Studio, a local refugee media company from Kakuma Refugee Camp, conducted a filming and photography exercise as part of the project 'Sustainable Economic Development Along Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity' that is being implemented in collaboration with Cities Alliance and the Turkana County Government.

The project focuses on addressing the socio-economic development of the host and refugee populations residing in the region through building soft infrastructure that can support the local economy and to leverage on opportunities likely to emerge from the improved connectivity and networks associated with the recent construction of the A1 Road that links Kenya and South Sudan (through Turkana West), and

the planned the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPPSET) corridor. The transport infrastructure investments will also enhance linkages between Turkana West and the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB), especially the main urban centers of Eldoret and Kitale.



A herder looking after livestock in Natukabenyo village, Kakuma, Kenya. © Dream Magical Studio



A vegetable seller in Kalobeyi, Kalobeyi, Kenya. © Dream Magical Studio

The exercise documented UN-Habitat's surveying process which aimed to better understand the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the region. The filming and photography captured narratives from the county government, development agencies, local businesses, financial institutions, CBOs, hosts and the refugee communities. The narratives and photos illustrated the following thematic scopes:

- **Migration and Urbanization:** causes of migration, opportunities and challenges that the migrants bring to the areas, where they are hosted, and the forms of migration that exist in the region.



Aerial view of Eldoret town, Eldoret, Kenya. © Dream Magical Studio





Turkrikt Matatu, a line of Matatu that operates between Eldoret and Kakuma.  
© Dream Magical Studio

- **Infrastructure and Utilities:** state of infrastructure and development and conditions in the region with views on regional scale infrastructure, e.g., the A1 and the LAPSET Corridor. It captures discussions on local transportation, water supply, sanitation and drainage, and stormwater management, energy, and communication.

- **Shelter and Socio-Cultural Heritage:** types of shelter available for households, interventions to improve shelter, the social-cultural heritage of refugees and host community, social amenities and services, integration, and inclusion.
- **Economic activities and Livelihood Enterprises:** types of economic activities, challenges encountered by these economic activities, and significant spaces of economic activities concentration in the region (linkages and connectivity)
- **Regional Linkages and Economy:** key informant sessions on market systems (value chain, gender imperatives, marketing and the challenges and opportunities in the market systems), regional transportation, political governance, and regional economy in NOREB.

The analysis of the information generated in the exercise will be finalized in October 2021. The outputs will be presented in a short film according to these above mentioned thematic areas.

## UN-Habitat conducts workshops to create Self-Organised Groups and Industrial Associations in Turkana West



Participants from the Light Industry Association. © UN-Habitat

In partnership with Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat organised six workshops with Turkana County Government Ministry of Trade, Gender and Youth Affairs, Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and Action Africa Help International(AAHI) to support the formation of three self-organised groups and local industry associations in Turkana West, Kenya. These workshops were organised under the programme 'Sustainable Economic Development Along Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity, Kenya' which is funded by the Swiss Agency For Development and Cooperation (SDC) through Cities Alliance.

In each workshop, UN-Habitat shared the goal of the project to develop hard and soft infrastructures to support the development

of networks which support communities of interest and practice within the Turkana West corridor by creating enabling investment climates to encourage private sector investment, employment, and a greater diversification of local economic development activities.

For the self-organised groups, workshops were carried on the thematic job sectors: apparel, basketry and bead making cooperative, a savings and credit society, and a fresh produce dealers' group. Key emergent potentials raised during these workshops included the high level of connectivity for cities, municipalities and towns along the North Rift Region and Turkana West in terms of market systems. The groups also spoke on value chains, logistics and governance systems for various products

that are made in each self-organised group. The self-organised groups have faced great challenges in terms of developing sustainable networks locally, regionally, and nationally. They therefore proposed various other soft and hard infrastructure including capacity development to enable them to enhance their networks and collaboration, as well as stimulate economic activities that support value addition for small and medium sized enterprises businesses to enhance their productivity and create economic spinoffs for employment multipliers. For hard infrastructures, they proposed increased access to capital, warehousing facilities, and a leather tannery to utilise raw materials for their basketry and apparel industry.

For the industrial associations, the workshops focused mostly on public markets association, livestock market associations and the light industry associations. While there were diverse discussions one existing organisations for each association, including existing market networks, linkages and value chains, there exist inefficiencies in the supply chains in terms of infrastructure and services delivered. Key proposals by these associations were mainly centred around expansion of the markets, establishment of a common-user warehousing, investment in waste management and public health and safety in markets as well as training and capacity development to enhance their productivity, capacity for value addition and to create more jobs for both refugees and hosts in those communities.

The County Ministry of Trade, Gender and Youth Affairs officers - Business Legal Officer (Mike Kaisa) and Market officer (Samuel Ekuam) for Turkana West highlighted that the county "has a draft of laws and policies that support enterprise development in Turkana West. One of them is the Biashara fund bill which once enacted, traders will be able to get loans up to \$3000 with an

interest of 3%". They emphasized that this would ensure that there is increased access to capital for most businesses and industries through the expanded capital base. The Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chapter representative from Turkana West, Melissa Maimunah, also intimated that the organisation is also ready to support small and medium enterprises in Turkana County including Host

and the refugee community in Turkana West in terms of training, representation, sharing of information and advocacy. The representative emphasized that partnership between different UN organisations, the County Government of Turkana and the private sector is key for the success of these self-organised groups and the industrial associations.

## UN-Habitat hosts interactive workshop with Turkana County to validate Kakuma-Kalobeyi Vision and discuss Kalobeyi Corridor Planning and Local Economic Development



Turkana County representatives discussing proposed Kakuma-Kalobeyi Vision goals and map. © UN-Habitat



Turkana County representatives discussing proposed Kakuma-Kalobeyi Vision goals and map. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Turkana County Government and Cities Alliance, hosted a collaborative workshop to discuss ongoing projects within the region - to present the County Government representatives with a spatial vision for Kakuma-Kalobeyi which has been informed by the Kakuma-Kalobeyi Spatial Profile, socio economic surveys and extensive community consultation, and to examine the goals and strategies that comprise the vision and propose possible action areas for priority projects. In addition, the workshop also provided key updates on the



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