

Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity



Regional Stakeholder Workshop: Urbanization, Migration, and Economic Development in North Rift Kenya

Virtual Event **8 June 2021**

WORKSHOP REPORT

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Acknowledgements

Regional Stakeholder Workshop: Urbanization, Migration, and Economic Integration in the North Rift Economic Bloc

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Introduction

On 8 June 2021, a virtual Regional Stakeholder Workshop was held bringing together various stakeholders to discuss issues of refugees and migrants, urbanization and socio-economic development in North Rift Kenya and its neighbouring regions in South Sudan and Uganda. This workshop was held as a component of the UN-Habitat joint initiative with Cities Alliance and Turkana County Government termed as the “Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity”. The initiative partnered with the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) Secretariat in hosting the event. More than 70 participants from various countries (Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda), support programmes, counties, and urban centres along the A1 Road and LAPSET corridor and NOREB region (Annex 4) of Kenya participated. These included county and national government representatives, civil society, the private sector, international organisations, refugee and host communities, development partners, in addition to representatives from bordering secondary cities in South Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia. The workshop

aimed to provoke discussion and networking concerning the new regional opportunities and challenges that will likely arise following the increased regional connectivity delivered by the completion of strategic regional infrastructure projects, notably the Lamu Port-South Sudan Ethiopia (LAPPSET) Development Corridor and the A1 Road from Lodwar to Nadapal.

The report highlights the background, presentations, discussions, and issues emerging from the workshop, and is structured into three sections.

1. Section one will give an overview of the background to NOREB region, Turkana Refugee and Host Communities, and the UN-Habitat project.
2. The second section will present the workshop proceedings, including a summary of key presentations and discussions.
3. Section three will provide a synthesis of the recommendations made by the participants and will report on the overall evaluation of the workshop.

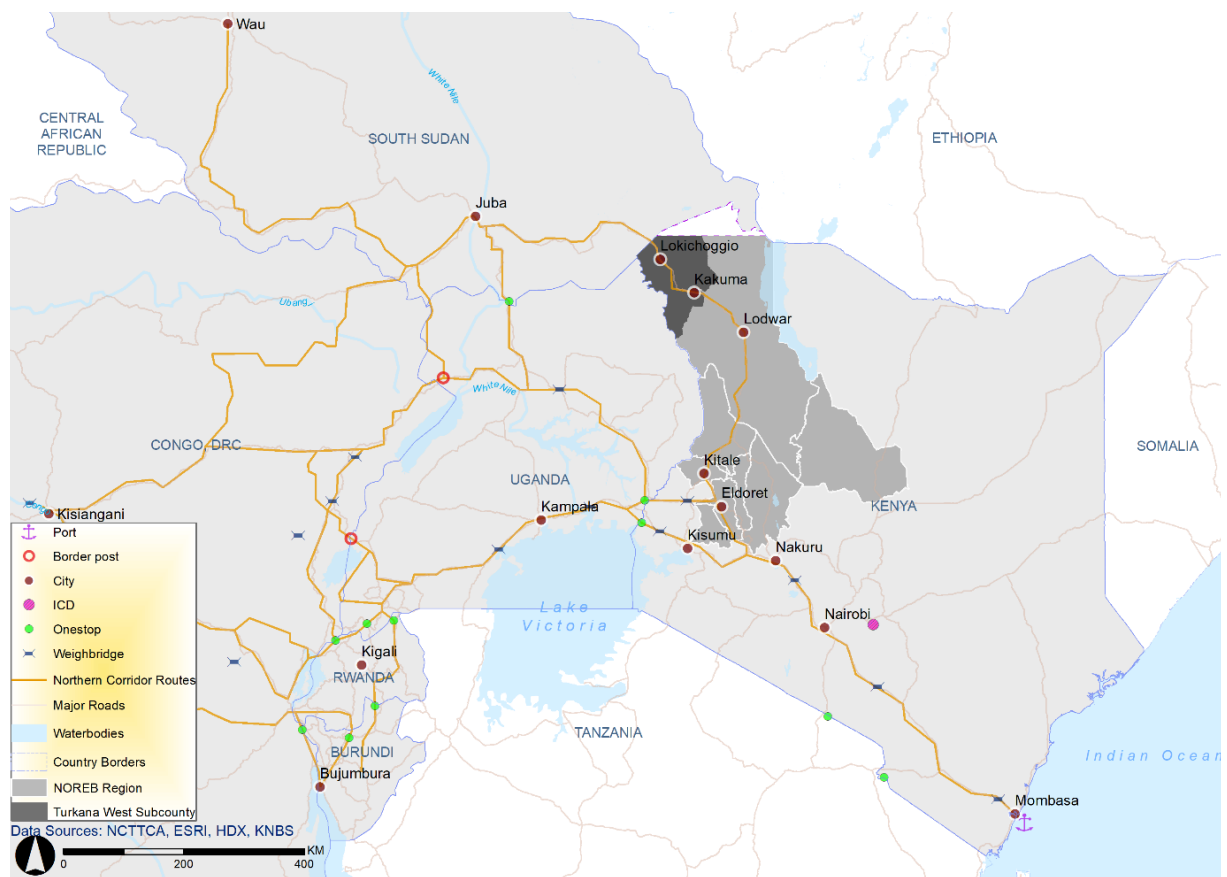
Section 1: Background and Context

Introduction

“Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity” is a joint initiative by UN-Habitat, Turkana County Government and Cities Alliance. Along with strategic partners including the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP), the project aims to build soft infrastructure that can support the local community leverage 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.

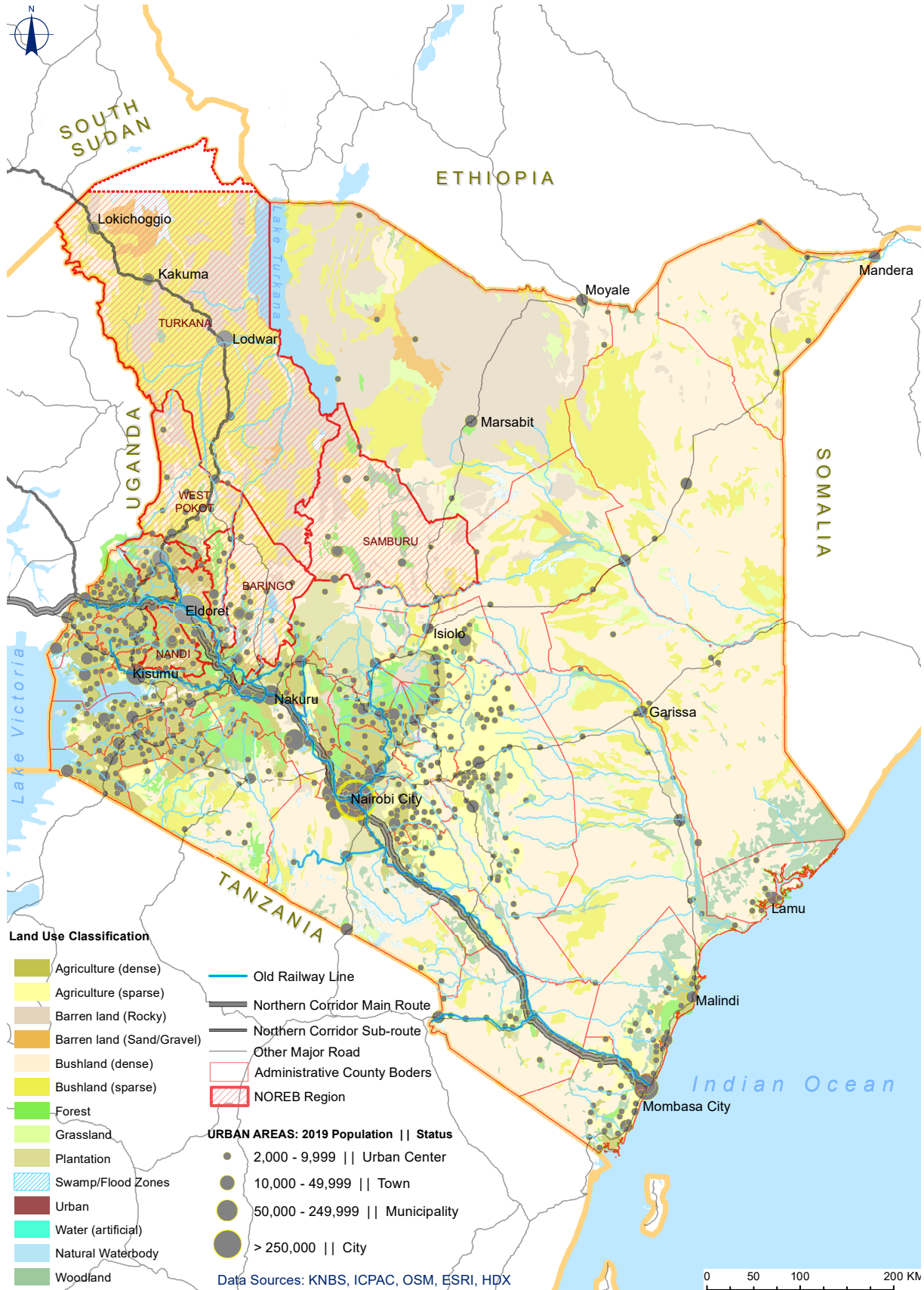
While likely to trigger increased migrations and urbanization, with sound integrated development planning, these large-scale strategic connectivity projects are expected to play a prominent role in enhancing socio-economic development, benefiting households and businesses in the towns and rural centres in the region. Against this backdrop, this section aims at drawing an analysis of Turkana urbanization trends and linkages to large scale infrastructure projects. The analysis will be presented by placing Turkana within its wider regional context, building on the opportunities and challenges faced by North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) region.

FIGURE 1 | MAP OF NOREB REGION AND ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT



Turkana County: A Regional Urban Perspective

FIGURE 2 | KENYA'S URBAN GEOGRAPHY



Map Drawn by UN-Habitat/ Population Data From KNBS (2019)

NOREB Geographical Context

Turkana County is part of the eight counties (Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Samburu, Trans Nzoia, Turkana, Uasin Gishu, and West Pokot Counties) that form NOREB. These counties make up some of the least urbanised parts of Kenya, particularly the locations (Baringo, Samburu, Turkana, and West Pokot) that fall under Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Areas (ASALs). The region is in the north-western part of the Rift Valley in

Kenya bordering Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Sudan through Turkana County, where Kenya's second-largest refugee settlement is located (Kakuma-Kalobeyei).

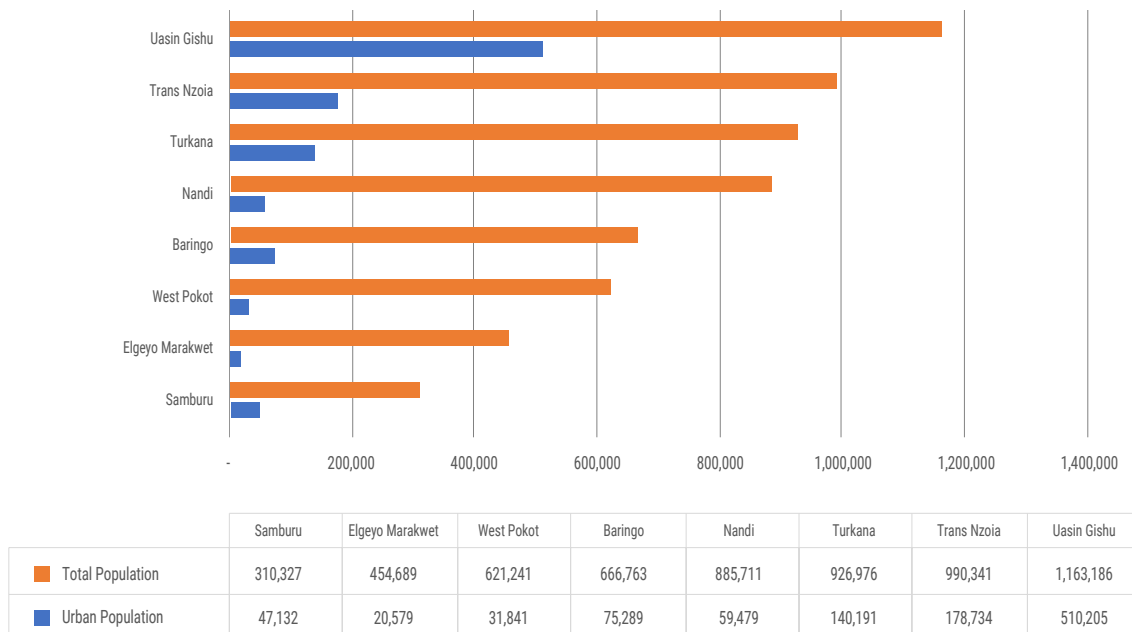
Despite their prominent role, secondary cities and towns in these regions are sparsely distributed, and poorly connected. To address this challenge, it is recommended to promote the integration of these cities and towns within the wider regional urban system.

Population Trends and Human Settlements

Like Kenya in general, the North Rift region has been experiencing a steady population increase. As seen in figure 1, both the highest populations and the sharpest rise in population are observed in the counties whose main economic activities are farming, such as Uasin Gishu, Nandi, and Trans Nzoia.

The population distribution reveals that the counties with the highest densities are those that rely on farming and have largest population. Turkana County, with 77,000 sq.km has the largest land size and lowest population density among the NOREB counties.

FIGURE 3 | SHARE OF URBAN POPULATION TO TOTAL IN NOREB COUNTIES



Source: UN-Habitat (2021), compiled with Population Data from KNBS (2019)

Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Samburu, and Turkana are part of regions considered to be under pastoral land systems. These areas are mainly inhabited by pastoral communities (about 16 per cent of Kenya's population),¹ whose settlements are a mix of temporary, seasonal, and permanent centres and small towns. The increasing population in the counties dominated by farming has a

significant impact on land fragmentation, as demand for subsistence production and space for new homes increases. This has implications for agricultural productivity but also implies transformation in the form of human settlements in those counties.

1 LAPSET Corridor Development Authority (2017). Strategic Environmental Assessment-SEA in the LAPSET Corridor Infrastructure Development Project (LCIDP) – Draft Report. LCDA, Nairobi

Urbanisation in North Rift Region

In the NOREB counties, the correlation between population density and the type of agricultural production is noteworthy. Counties that rely on crop and non-nomadic livestock production such as Nandi, Trans-Nzoia, and Uasin Gishu have relatively higher population densities than those relying on pastoral livestock.

Such higher-density counties also have greater connectivity to the Northern Economic Corridor, where urban concentration is highest in Kenya. However, the proportion of the urban population to the total population has no major variation among the NOREB counties except for West Pokot and Uasin Gishu, which are the least and most urbanised counties in the region.

TABLE 1 | MAJOR URBAN CENTRES IN NOREB REGION

Town	2019 Population	County
Baraton	2043	Nandi
Makutano	2147	Baringo
Kesses	2293	Uasin Gishu
Suguta Marmar	2328	Samburu
Turbo	2559	Uasin Gishu
Kapcherop	3240	Elgeyo-Marakwet
Ortum	3372	West Pokot
Baragoi	4254	Samburu
Wamba	4580	Samburu
Archer's Post	4620	Samburu
Kapkangani	4709	Nandi
Timboroa	4744	Uasin Gishu
Musoriot	4916	Uasin Gishu
Maji Mazuri	5138	Uasin Gishu
Nandi Hills	8032	Nandi
Marigat	9395	Baringo
Kainuk	10535	Turkana
Matunda	10807	Uasin Gishu
Iten	12630	Elgeyo-Marakwet
Lokichar	12676	Turkana

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