

Stakeholder Engagement Session: Kalobeyei Corridor Planning and Spatial Assessment for Kakuma-Kalobeyei

Summary Report (28th and 29th September 2020)



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Acronyms

AAHI	Action Africa Help International
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
ECDC	Early Childhood Development Centre
EEZ	Enterprise Economic Zone
GCP	Ground Control Points
KISED	Kalobeyei Infrastructure Socio-Economic Development Plan
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ISUDP	Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan
LAPSSET Corridor	Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport Corridor
NEC	North-East Corridor
NOREB	Northern Rift Economic Bloc
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
ODK	Open Data Kit
OSR	Own-Source Revenue
SDG	Settlement Development Group
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP	World Food Programme

Table of Contents

1. Overview	1
1.1 Background	1
1.1.1 Turkana West	
1.1.2 Kakuma-Kalobeyei	
2. The Workshop Summary	2
2.1 Specific objectives	2
3. Workshop Day 1 (28th September)	3
3.1 Opening Session	3
3.2 Overview of Planning and Urban Development in Turkana County	3
3.3 Presentation of the Spatial Assessment of Kakuma-Kalobeyei	4
3.3.1 Introduction	
3.3.2 Presentation of Spatial Assessment - National and County Scale	
3.3.3 Discussions	
3.3.4 Presentation of Spatial Assessment - Settlement Scale	
3.3.5 Discussions	
3.4 SWOT analysis and group discussions on existing settlements	10
3.4.1 SWOT	
3.4.2 Next Steps and Closing Remarks	
4. Workshop Day 2 (29th September)	11
4.1 Opening Session	11
4.2 Sustainable Economic Development along Turkana West Corridor through Enhanced Connectivity	11
4.2.1 Socio-Economic Survey's findings	
4.2.2 Business and Local Economic Development Survey's findings	
4.2.3 Kalobeyei Infrastructure Corridor Development Plan	
4.2.4 Corridor Development	
4.3 Technical Group Discussions	33
4.3.1 Presentations from Group A: Davies Munialo (Director of Physical Planning)	
4.3.2 Discussions	
4.3.3 Presentations from Group B: Odera (Senior Planner from Ministry of Lands)	
4.3.4 Discussions	
4.4 Way forward	35
4.5 Closing remarks	35
5. Conclusion	36

Table of Figures

- Figure 1 Analysis of National Climate Vulnerability and Flood plain
- Figure 2 Analysis of National Major Growth and Infrastructure Priorities
- Figure 3 Analysis of Population density per sub-county in Turkana County
- Figure 4 Analysis of Land use in Turkana County
- Figure 5 Analysis of Kakuma-Kalobeyei area Opportunity index
- Figure 6 Analysis of Kakuma Town and Camp Population density
- Figure 7 Kakuma-Kalobeyei SWOT Analysis summary
- Figure 8 Mapping of the planning site at different scales
- Figure 9 List of activities carried out to date
- Figure 10 Kalobeyei Infrastructure Corridor Development Planning Process
- Figure 11 Topographical Survey Map
- Figure 12 Mapping of Slopes in planning site
- Figure 13 Mapping of Hydrology in planning site
- Figure 14 Mapping of Flood Risk in planning site
- Figure 15 Mapping of Vegetation in planning site
- Figure 16 Weighted Analysis of Slopes in planning site
- Figure 17 Weighted Analysis of Flood Risk in planning site
- Figure 18 Weighted Analysis of Euclidean Road Distance in planning site
- Figure 19 Weighted Analysis of Vegetation in planning site
- Figure 20 Weighted Analysis of Suitability in planning site
- Figure 21 Mapping of Educational Facilities in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 22 Mapping of Health Facilities in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 23 Accessibility Analysis of Educational Facilities in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 24 Accessibility Analysis of Health Facilities in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 25 Mapping of Public Facilities in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 26 Mapping of Electricity Power Distribution Line Network in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 27 Mapping of Water Facilities in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 28 Mapping of Sanitation Facilities in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 29 Mapping of Road Network in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 30 Mapping of Shelter Distribution in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 31 Settlement Pattern Analysis of Kakuma Town
- Figure 32 Settlement Pattern Analysis of Kakuma Camp
- Figure 33 Settlement Pattern Analysis of Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 34 Settlement Pattern Analysis of Kalobeyei Town
- Figure 35 Mapping of Markets in Kalobeyei Settlement
- Figure 36 Analysis of Potential Areas for Development in planning site
- Figure 37 Analysis of Potential Development Zones in planning site
- Figure 38 Emerging Planning Sectorial Issues
- Figure 39 Factors for successful Corridor Infrastructure Development Plan
- Figure 40 Key industries and sectors for a successful Infrastructure Corridor Development Plan
- Figure 41 Potential Development Path for Corridors in Kenya
- Figure 42 Key industries and sectors for a successful Corridor Infrastructure Development Plan from short-term to long-term (2025 -2035)
- Figure 43 Potential Development Zones in planning site



Pedestrians and vehicles frequently crosses a major lagga frequently, which is prone to rapid flooding.

1. Overview

On 28th and 29th September 2020, UN-Habitat and Turkana County Government hosted a two-day virtual workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to receive feedback and facilitate discussions with Turkana County officials on the potential land-use proposals based on the existing situational analysis as well as proposals provided by the community, private sector, National and County Government Ministries and agencies from previous multi-level and multi-sector meetings. This plan would also support the County Government for the conferment process of the proposed Kakuma-Kalobeyei Municipality.

1.1 Background

UN-Habitat has been supporting Turkana County Government as technical lead of the Spatial Planning and Infrastructural Development thematic working group of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISED P) - which is a multi-sectoral and multi-partner initiative that aims to promote the socio-economic integration of refugees and the host community by leveraging on the opportunities emanating from the refugee settlements.

In 2019, Turkana County Government in partnership with UN-Habitat initiated a series of stakeholder engagements for spatial planning in Kakuma-Kalobeyei. These included the organisation of consultations with county officials, community engagement workshops with local leaders, participatory planning process meetings with Settlement Development Group (SDG) members, and workshop with private sector stakeholders, UN agencies, and national and county officials.

1.1.1 Turkana West

Turkana West sub-county is one of the most impoverished and marginalized areas in the region and the obstacles facing the Turkana community, in terms of climate change, limited local resources and access to socio-economic opportunities are significant. These obstacles are often exacerbated due to the pressure of hosting refugees for almost three decades, which has led to integrated scale development programming targeting both hosts and refugees (such as KISED P) to help ease the pressures and support improved cohesion between the groups.

1.1.2 Kakuma-Kalobeyei

Kakuma-Kalobeyei hosts two refugee settlements: Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement.

In addition, there are two towns: Kakuma Town and Kalobeyei Town, with multiple host community villages in the region. The total population across these four settlements is estimated at around 244,527 host and refugees. The presence of refugees over the last decades has presented opportunities for businesses and livelihoods development, which has encouraged a growing influx of host community members such as Turkana pastoralist to settle in these areas and find alternate livelihood opportunities. For example, in the vicinity of Kalobeyei Settlement, informal developments can be observed and are reminiscent of the rapid urbanisation of Kakuma Town which was influenced by Kakuma Refugee Camp.

In addition, Kakuma-Kalobeyei has the advantage of being situated along the A1 Corridor, also known as the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, connecting Kenya, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. This geographical advantage can potentially link Kakuma-Kalobeyei and Turkana West to neighbouring regions in East Africa through these countries, providing access to their markets and economies. Leveraging this advantage can provide Turkana County Government an opportunity to accelerate the socio-economic development in the area – for both host and refugee communities.

Moreover, Turkana County Government is also preparing to attain municipality status for Kakuma-Kalobeyei; and therefore the planning of this Corridor, Kalobeyei Town and the eventual Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUDP) will be key to support sustainable urbanisation, safe and orderly migration as well as providing urban infrastructure, basic services and the growing business climate to support local economic development.

Hence, there is an urgent need to adequately address urbanisation (by the abovementioned factors) in the area. Given the experience of the informal development of Kakuma Refugee Camp, the county and partners have embraced spatial planning as one of the tools to manage developments in the area¹. Moreover, an uncontrolled rapid urbanisation can often lead to overcrowded conditions coupled with a lack of adequate housing, basic infrastructure, and basic services. This is especially critical considering the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic where overcrowding in low-quality housing increases the risk of rapid transmission².

1 Kalobeyei Infrastructure Corridor Development Plan, pg. 3

2 Policy Brief: COVID-19 in an Urban World, pg. 3

2. The Workshop Summary

Day One

The workshop began with an overview by UN-Habitat on current urban developments in Turkana County, followed by a presentation of the Spatial Profiling of Kakuma and Kalobeyei. The Spatial Profile is a multi-sectoral assessment of Kakuma and Kalobeyei, which collates and creates spatial data to help inform decision making, specifically regarding the proposed Kakuma-Kalobeyei Municipality. Discussions of the Spatial Profiling was guided by a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of Kakuma and Kalobeyei, with the aim of clarifying, verifying and identifying gaps in the research that has been conducted so far. This analysis was able to confirm some of the major findings of the profile while also adding new perspectives to existing topics such as the tourism potential of Kakuma-Kalobeyei, changing political dynamics, the green energy potential of Turkana County and environmental conservation.

Day Two

The workshop resumed with presentations of the Socio-economic Survey, the Business and Local Economic Development Survey, and the Kalobeyei Infrastructure Corridor Development Plan by UN-Habitat. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session to understand the perspectives of the local authorities. Topics that arose from these discussions included the institutional arrangements to support the local economy, environmental management of the invasive species *Prosopis Juliflora*, value chains such as retail and commercial charcoal and timber production and climate change. It also included proposals for potential industrial investments like the meat production and processing plants as well as logistics and transport planning which is key in stimulating local businesses and

2.1 Specific objectives

- Present the findings of UN-Habitat's Spatial Assessment of Kakuma-Kalobeyei and receive feedback;
- Undertake a 'Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threat' (SWOT) Analysis and Kakuma and Kalobeyei to understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of both settlements;
- Present the results of the mapping survey and social economic survey results for the Kalobeyei Infrastructure Corridor Development Plan;
- Hold technical discussions on the potential land use proposals for the Kalobeyei Infrastructure Corridor Development Plan.

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