







Being Settled



From the People of Japan



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FOREWORD

Just as in the rest of Africa and other parts of the world, cities in Kenya are fast increasing with new development, innovation and new markets. Urbanization is transforming place, economies, and lives. Small towns become big towns, big towns become cities, and cities become metropolises, a shift that we cannot ignore but must rather plan for. However rapid urbanization is often poorly planned, or totally spontaneous, with little or no planning at all. Well-planned urbanization contributes to development and safe streets, and unlocks the productive potential of cities and regions, but the contrary is also true, with poorplanning leading to congenital problems that communities must then endure for generations.

Some neighbourhoods are created wholly anew and often overnight due to war, climactic upheaval, or economic distress. The Japanese Government-funded programme in northern Kenya is just one such case, with communities built in the wake of catastrophe and resulting displacement. Yet these physical re-settlements face many of the same challenges that one might encounter in a post-industrial society such as Detroit. How should a settlement and its devastated community be planned to be inclusive? To take care of the safety needs of children and women? To create public space that serves the particular requirements of that community? To encourage economic activity, and the exchange of ideas and news? To ensure that water, food, sanitation, health and schooling can be woven into the the physical fabric of a settlement? A refugee camp has many of the issues of a city, and many of the same planning issues apply to both.

UN-Habitat's approach in planning for human settlements is highly participatory, taking special care to involve the young generation, who have the greatest interest in the longevity of a successful home and community, and therefore in the assessment and planning process. Urban youth all over the world are not only those who will most benefit from well-planned urbanization, but they are also the drivers of sustainable development far into the future. Working with youth groups adds value to urban planning by using their insights and their critical view of their urban lives, and adds practical planning considerations that account for the productivity potential of the young, and the quality of life for all those who live in a given community.

The book is an unusual, but important example of lessons on how urbanization is experienced by the young generation, in this case a refugee camp in one of the harshest environments of northern Kenya in which UN-Habitat is involved. It was an exercise that showcased the capacity of the young to adjust to and apply innovation and technology, and to learn how to be part of the development of their community using their skills and critical thinking. I hope that you will enjoy this snapshot, as we at UN-Habitat have enjoyed watching this unfold.

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Dr. Joan Clos Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Being Settled

Turkana County, Kenya, 2016. Turkana people have been nomads for generations, walking their cattle long distances and often across borders seeking for better grassland. Once the benefits of being settled have become more attractive to Turkana people, there has been a shift from a pastoralist community to a settled society. However, this change has been challenged by different issues, from water provision, to shelter and self-sustainability. The land of Turkana is very difficult for settlers, from water and food scarcity, to disasters such as flood and erosion. But this has not stopped Turkana people from building their own settlements and cope with the challenges of being settled. Today, Turkana is a very well governed county, with high ambition to achieve urbanization, despite the rough climatic conditions.

This book illustrates a settled community of Turkana people, already at the 3rd or 4th generation of lifestyle shift. Through a workshop with Turkana Youth, UN-Habitat has conducted a two folded exercise: on one hand a youth group was led to discover elements of being settled as a community, through exploring typologies of living space and livelihood, elements of sustainability and self-reliance but on the other hand, the workshop provided valuable skill training in the art of photography.

The workshop is a component of a UN-Habitat project funded by The People of Japan, exploring livelihoods of Turkana people and providing proper spatial planning for adequate service provision in a number of human settlements in Turkana County, Kenya. The selected images provided though the workshop have as authors Turkana Youth. The image series showcase what means being settled for a small Turkana community from the youth's perception, and the innovative way the people have been able to build a human settlement for themselves and for future generations.









PROJECT: Supporting Planning for Integrated Refugees and Host Communities (2016)

More than 60,000

refugees and host community members to be hosted in a new settlement that is planned to:

- Be a sustainable and self-reliant livelihood with integrated facilities accessible for refugees and host communities
- Provide humanitarian and development services while reducing the risk of conflict between the two communities
- Capacitate, train and encourage skill development for refugees to have an easy adaptation to their home country upon their return and for the host community to contribute to the further development of the settlement

Location: Kalobeyei, Turkana County, Kenya Status: ongoing



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