

NEWSLETTERS 2016 - 2022

SUPPORTING PLANNING FOR INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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Cities Without Slums



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Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Cities Alliance,
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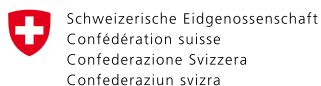


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Introduction

The last half century has seen a rise in global conflict, which has translated to an evergrowing refugee crisis. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of refugees grew from 985,145 people in 1970 to 4,472,440 people in 2015. Kenya, which is centrally located in the East and Horn of Africa high conflict zone (bordering two of the top 10 major sources of refugees globally) has enjoyed relatively stable political and economic environment over the decades, and has continued to receive a high number of refugees. As a result, by the end of 2015, Kenya hosted 553,900 refugees making it the 7th largest refugee hosting nation globally, the second largest of any African country after Ethiopia. Refugees in Kenya are hosted in three major settlements, with several thousand unaccounted refugees also estimated to be spread settled throughout the country -

- a. Dadaab refugee complex which has five camps;
Dagahaley, Hagadera, Ifo, Ifo 2 and Kambioos;
- b. Kakuma camp; and
- c. Urban refugees in the country's capital Nairobi.

Initially, Kakuma camp was established in 1992 owing to the plight of 30,000 to 40,000 Sudanese boys, who had walked through the desert after forcefully returned to Sudan from Ethiopia. The camp experienced rapid expansion through the 1990s and 1997, owing to a large influx of refugees coming from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and

a further influx when the Barawan refugee camp in Mombasa was closed - resulting in the creation of Kakuma II and III. Further conflict in the horn of Africa region through the 1990s and 2000s led to further expansion of Kakuma III and construction of Kakuma IV starting in 2012.

In line with this need, in June 2015, the county government of Turkana allocated 1500 hectares of land to UNHCR and the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) in Kalobeyei ward (approximately 15km to the West of Kakuma refugee camp) to act as a new refugee settlement. One of the conditions given by the county government and the citizens of Turkana was that development in the new site would consider a 50:50 investment sharing between the refugees and host communities.

The new settlement, which development has shifted from encamped refugee settlement structures to an integrated planning approach, has been designed to accommodate 60,000 refugees, and members of the host community into a functional settlement, complete with social and physical infrastructure and a diversity of economic opportunities.

UN-Habitat's Role

UN-Habitat is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development. As outlined in the New Urban Agenda, this encourages governments (both at national and local level) and

other actors to invest in strategies that will harness the potential of sustainable urban development, to address the challenges facing cities such as informal settlements, growing inequalities and environmental degradation, spatial segregation and economic exclusion, as well as the growing challenge of migration.

With today's global challenge of forcibly displaced, the current form of humanitarian aid is neither tailored to the long term situation and needs of refugees and host communities nor that of the local and national governments. This further emphasizes the need for actors to seek to bridge gap between the humanitarian and development sectors.

UN-Habitat is currently the only existing link between Humanitarian and Staged-Development nexus addressing these numerous challenges.

Newsletter

This newsletter collection seeks to showcase UN-Habitat's numerous projects for the Kalobeyei New Settlement project through stages of surveying, planning, and implementation through mid 2015 to the start of 2018.



Youth Photography Workshop: Exploring Urban Livelihoods

Turkana people have been nomads for generations, but over time the benefits of being permanently settled have become more attractive to them, leading to a shift from their traditional nomadic pastoralism to a settled lifestyle.

This transition has led to several challenges to Turkana people's water provision, shelter and self-reliance. Turkana build their own settlements, and derive little or no benefit from hosting refugees. With the support of PWJ, UN-Habitat conducted a workshop to train Turkana Youth in the art

of photography, with the support of the awarded Kenyan photojournalist Julius Mwelu. The UN-Habitat team is leading the students to discover elements of being settled in a town, by exploring typologies of living space and livelihoods, elements of sustainability and self-reliance.

The resulting photographs will be exhibited at TICAD 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya. The exhibition portrays the settled community of Turkana people in Kakuma Town and Kalobeyi Town, three to four generations after their lifestyle shift.

UN-Habitat to Support Planning for Refugees and Host Communities: Towards an Integrated Settlement

UN-Habitat has committed to support and strengthen the integration of refugees and host communities in a properly planned human settlement in Kalobeyei New Site, Turkana County, a project funded by the government of Japan. The aim of the project is to plan a self-reliant settlement which benefits both refugees and host communities, reducing the risk of conflict between the two groups, and increasing their resilience. The initiative is part of a larger scale project directed by UNHCR in Kalobeyei – Kakuma area, where UN-Habitat is leading the infrastructure and planning component.

UN-Habitat is working closely with the County government to increase their spatial planning capacity and devise urban management strategies, to ensure adequate urban planning at the county level, with a particular focus on growing cities. With proper planning and design, the cities and towns in Turkana will become more productive, and be better able to contribute to the economic development of the county.

UN-Habitat Technical Team Visit Kalobeyei New Site

The UN-Habitat Technical Team recently visited the Kalobeyei New Site, accompanied by UNHCR and PWJ. UN-Habitat held technical discussions for coordination with UNHCR and partners for the Kalobeyei New Site. With the support of UNHCR, the UN-Habitat technical team conducted a series of scoping missions in Kalobeyei New Site and Kakuma Refugee Camp.

As part of the project, UN-Habitat's will provide recommendations for development of Kalobeyei area as a sustainable urban center under an integrated urban management framework for the County. This will be done in collaboration with the County government. UN-Habitat hopes to build capacity of local and county leaders and policy makers in urban planning and design, urban legislation, economy, resilience and risk reduction.



UNHCR project team, UN-Habitat technical team and the County Planner Mr. Mark Ewoi Ewesit (representing the Ministry of Lands, Shelter and Urban Development), discussing priorities for the planning component of the Kalobeyei New Site. © UN-Habitat.



Kalobeyei Host Community Settlement Development Group Established

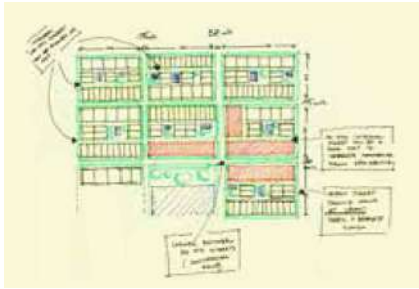
The second community meeting convened in Kalobeyei Town was attended by 40 participants from different ages, social groups and locations within the town's administrative area. The UN-Habitat team led the formation of a Settlement Development Group, with members from different social groups in Kalobeyei Town to ensure a well-balanced representation of gender, age groups, ethnicity, religions, and tribal groups.

Nominations came from the community members during the meeting, and ten members were selected to represent local administration, grassroots organizations,

Community Based Organizations, youth and women's 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, through participatory planning workshops on the integration of refugee and host community in Kalobeyei area. Members will learn about the importance of land use and town planning, and support the project team in research activities, giving spatial planning insights and supporting community mobilization for implementing project activities on the ground.

Spatial Planning for Kalobeyei New Site



Based on UN-Habitat's expertise and experience, a team of experts is currently working on the spatial planning assignment for the Kalobeyei New Site.

Strategies such as resilience, housing, urban economy, transport, water and sanitation and other urban services will add to the spatial planning for an integrated approach to planning for a durable settlement.

The UN-Habitat technical team meets every month to develop comprehensive, integrated planning and support strategies.

The project will supplement the Turkana County Government's efforts to plan a settlement that integrates refugees and host communities while promoting sustainability and building community resilience in the County.

The UN-Habitat planning process aims to develop strategies for Kalobeyei New Site, leading to a paradigm shift in planning for refugees.

The approach centres on involvement of the host community and support for both communities to address physical and social development challenges.

UN-Habitat opens field office in Kakuma, Turka- na County

The UN-Habitat office in Kakuma supports livelihood analysis and research on human settlement patterns. The office liaises with local authorities, non-governmental organisations and community leaders for resource mobilisation and knowledge management, and provides a valuable source of information to support the UN-Habitat Design LAB, which is developing the 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 support UN-Habitat in organising Settlement Development groups, Stakeholders meetings and conducting a series of participatory meetings for research purposes. The organisation will also deliver capacity development and skill training for host communities and refugees.

UN-Habitat Working with Community Leaders in Kalobeyei Town

UN-Habitat is conducting monthly or bi-monthly 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 create awareness of the UN-Habitat's plan for a sustainable refugee settlement, to integrate the refugee population with host communities, and to keep the community continuously involved in the project through a participatory process.

Representatives of UN-Habitat and PWJ discussed with the interests, needs and priorities of community members in Kalobeyei Town with the community representatives. The community stressed the need to develop resilient infrastructure, water and sanitation, businesses and provision of employment to the host community in particular women and youth in Kalobeyei Town.

UN-Habitat is preparing to make planning recommendations to the County Government. For Kalobeyei Town to develop, planning will be vital in addressing infrastructure, shelter and water challenges, including resilience to drought and floods. UN-Habitat is exploring solutions that can be implemented together with the community members.

Below: A monthly meeting with community representatives from Kalobeyei Town.

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