

Supporting planning for INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES



**KALOBYEI NEW SITE
TURKANA COUNTY**

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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UN-Habitat signs Memorandum of Understanding with Turkana County Government on supporting Sustainable Urban Development

UN-Habitat has been supporting Turkana County to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to deliver effective sustainable planning to better serve the hosts and refugees in the County. The agreement with Turkana County, will provide an opportunity for the localization of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, and resilient.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) comes as a follow up to previous cooperation with the county and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) to deliver similar planning recommendations for the Kalobeyi Settlement located in Turkana West sub-county. The planning of this settlement has become one of the best practices on how urban planning can support the integration of refugees and the host community as well enable the efficient provision of infrastructure and basic services.

The County Secretary, Peter Eripete, who led the signing ceremony on behalf of the Turkana County Governor, highlighted that "the collaboration with UN-Habitat will enhance the county's capacity to harness the benefits that come with urbanization with focus on the nine towns that the County Government has so far planned for."

The new MoU will focus on Urban Governance, Planning, Basic Services, Land, Housing and Property Rights, and Urban Economy and Finance in Turkana County. The main objectives and outcomes expected in this MoU include: Developing spatial plans for major settlements in Turkana West sub-county; Developing strategies for infrastructural development and provision of basic services;



Peter Eripete, County Secretary, and Charles Wagura, the Representative for UN-Habitat Regional Office of Africa, with UN-Habitat and Turkana County Government colleagues at the MoU signing Ceremony. © UN-Habitat



Official representatives from UN-Habitat and Turkana County during the MoU signing ceremony. © UN-Habitat



UN-Habitat is committed to working closely with Turkana County Government to develop sustainable urbanization for all in Turkana. © UN-Habitat

Conducting situational analysis to inform urban planning processed; Institutional capacity in relevant ministries in planning, administration, and governance to be enhanced; Strengthening land management through land governance, adjudication processes including housing land and property rights, and supporting of environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

"Drawing from experience during the planning of Kalobeyei Settlement and the ongoing process for getting a Joint municipality status for Kakuma and Kalobeyei (Which will include two refugee settlements and two towns) in Turkana west sub-county, UN-Habitat is committed in bringing their global and regional expertise and experience in urban planning and land governance to strengthen Turkana County Government's efforts towards promoting sustainable urbanisation," said Ivana Unluova, UN-Habitat's Senior Programme Advisor.

Charles Wagura, the representative for UN-Habitat Regional Office of Africa added that "Urban areas are engines of economic growth and centres of innovation, and, therefore, preparing and planning for urbanisation will bring a lot of transformation in the County's development."

UN-Habitats' Mandate

The United Nations Human Settlements Programmes (UN-Habitat) is assisting local governments in developing well-planned and efficient human settlements, with adequate housing, infrastructure, and universal access to employment and basic services such as water, energy, and sanitation.

That mission is performed through multilevel and multi-partner collaboration and partnership with national and local governments, the private sector, civil society, and communities to implantation of the New Urban Agenda and

the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient.

To achieve the vision, UN-Habitat follows a participatory approach that supports the government in planning, ownership, and management of human settlements, as well as giving incentives for further development by increasing the institutional capacity in sustainable development of human settlements.

For the last seven years, UN-Habitat has implemented several projects under the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP) framework in Turkana West Sub- County with support from several donors including Government of Japan, Cities Alliance, Swiss Agency for Development, and the European Union Trust Fund for Africa.

UN-Habitat Supports COVID-19 Recovery efforts in Kalobeyei Settlement by conducting vocational trainings and awarding business grants to Refugee and Host Community Businesses

22nd July 2022 - UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council organized a one-day meeting with the purpose of awarding grants to refugee business trainees, as part of a livelihood transformation and recovery scheme for hosts and refugees, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ceremony was attended by the Africa Entrepreneurship Collective and participants from the host and refugee community businesses.

The project which was funded by the Government of Japan was started in 2021 following the COVID-19 pandemic that disrupted business and logistics locally and which led to the reduced incomes for refugee's business and limited access to essential goods. The program was started as an initiative to build the capacity of refugee and hosts, within the business community, with skills that would promote an endogenous

growth - goods and services which are produced locally can be exported to other regions or can also be used to substitute imported goods from other regions. This COVID-19 recovery measure is also aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods, job creation and increased incomes to cushion them against similar natural shocks and disasters in the future.

Trainees were taught skills identified based on an initial market research conducted earlier - Pastry Making was the most popular choice, followed by Screen Printing, and Tie & Dye.

Out of the 70 applicants who applied, 60 applicants were selected to participate. 19 women participated in Tie & Dye, 31 women in Pastry Making, and 10 (2 women, 8 men) for Screen Printing. Out of the 60 businesses that were trained 30 of them qualified for short listing to receive grants to support their business initiation or growth.



Group photo after awarding the grants to the host and refugees. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat and Turkana County host a side event at World Urban Forum 11 on Area-based approaches and local development practices from Kakuma-Kalobeyei, Turkana County, Kenya

29th June 2022 - The World Urban Forum is a premier global event organised by UN-Habitat to bring together a wide spectrum of national and local governments, civil society, private sector, amongst other urban experts, to discuss, examine and share best practices on pressing urban development issues facing the world today including its impact on people, climate, and policy.

During WUF 11, the Turkana County Government hosted a side event with UN-Habitat, UNHCR and IFC and Cities Alliance. The side event addressed the WUF 11 theme and specifically, Dialogue 6: Building Urban Resilience. Highlighting the multi-actor collaboration efforts in Kakuma-Kalobeyei, the event aimed to promote the importance of ensuring a robust social and economic environment for host and refugees in the region, to support the transition towards achieving sustainable development and economic growth, supporting local government efforts towards attaining municipality status and achieving longer-term sustainability.

The Turkana County Government Minister of lands, Mr. Alexander Flemings Losikiria, presented on the rapid urbanisation in Kakuma and Kalobeyei driven mostly by refugees, touching on devolution and climate change induced displacement in the region. Given the protracted nature of the refugee situation in Kenya where refugees have been hosted in camps for over three decades, the county government emphasized on the current plan to have refugees included in urban development processes to promote local economic development and manage urban growth.



Turkana County Government Team participating during the WUF 11. © UN-Habitat

The presenter highlighted that the ongoing process of conferring a Municipality status for Kakuma Kalobeyei will bring a new paradigm which will see urban settlements in Kakuma and Kalobeyei integrated through urban planning within an urban set up. This includes an ongoing discussion on refugee inclusion planning and urban governance to ensure that their interest is considered the urban development strategy for the area.

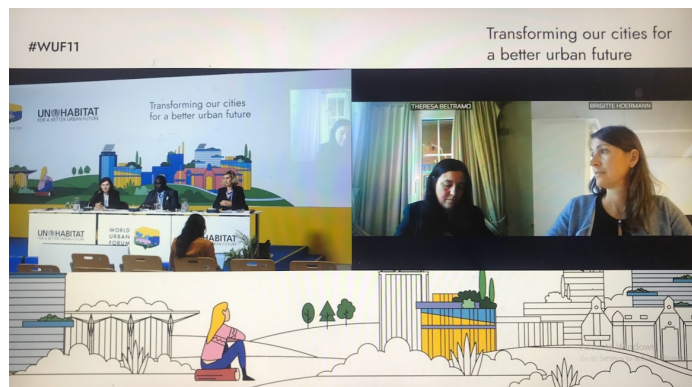
UNHCR representative Ms. Theresa Beltramo presented on the evidence-based planning in Kakuma and Kalobeyei which has given insights to the economic benefits for hosting refugees and the eventual inclusion of refugees in local plans. This was through contribution to the Gross County Product and directly providing employment opportunities to the hosting community.

The presenter also highlighted the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development programme (KISEDPP) which a government led, community based, and private sector-oriented development strategy aligned to local development plans. This is a 15-year initiative, which looks refugee inclusion through strengthening National solid Service delivery.

Ms. Luba Shara, Senior Operation Officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Kenya shared about the role of the organizations in the private sector thematic working group in Kakuma and Kalobeyei and discussed the dynamics of private sector investments in the humanitarian sector. Ms. Luba highlighted that Kakuma refugee camp has now been in establishment for 32 years which has transformed the area into more of an urban.



UN-Habitat, Turkana County Government and IFC participants attending WUF 11. © UN-Habitat



WUF 11 live session. © UN-Habitat

She highlighted that even though there are significant investments done by humanitarian and development partners, there is still a lot to be done in terms of access to water electricity, educational services, waste removal, and jobs creations. IFC is therefore addressing challenges by attracting the private sector to contribute to local solutions in an area-based approach. IFC is ensuring that these private firms can open businesses locally, start new operations, and employ refugees and host community on an equal basis with an objective is to transition from humanitarian to development through private sector Investments.

Cities Alliance, an organization with a mandate for fighting poverty in urban areas, presented their work with a broad constituency of partners including, government, the slum-dwellers federation, and UN-Habitat. Ms Brigitte Hoermann, a Senior Migration Specialist from Cities Alliance, highlighted that the key areas of work have been building capacity, infrastructure development and engagement of citizens. They are implementing a cities and migration program, together with other Cities and local organizations in the Horn of Africa. These projects include refugee inclusion in Uganda, building market infrastructure for refugees in Adama, Ethiopia, and the

programme focused on connecting systems of cities and secondary cities in the Northwestern corridor in Kenya. The Kenyan project which was implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat was targeted at building collaboration among cities in the northwestern region to take advantage of the LAPSET Corridor developing the area. This was done through provision of technical support, and financial support with a goal of promoting Local Economic Development and creating jobs for both refugees and hosting communities.

UN-Habitat in Collaboration with NCCK completes the Construction of Inclusive Shelter for Persons with Special Needs

July 2022, Kalobeyei Settlement, Turkana County - Early this year, UN-Habitat and National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) embarked on the process of construction of inclusive shelters for people with disabilities as well as those with special needs.

This process was initially triggered by the potential affects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the existing facilities and housing within the camp and the settlement setting. In the wake of COVID-19 outbreak a lot of direct or challenges and inequalities were anticipated because of the existing housing type and conditions. There was also a greater need to strengthen the need for involvement of persons with special needs in shelter planning, design and construction. This called for a need for a deeper understanding of the situation to effectively plan, respond and adapt amidst the existing challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Essentially, exposed and localized challenges and opportunities regarding shelter habitability and functionality within the settlement should be explored and addressed.



Shelter with metallic window grills. © UN-Habitat

After a critical preliminary assessment was conducted, it was revealed that there was a need for adaptations or modification of shelters particularly those occupied with persons disabilities and those with special needs. The communities and the partners engaged acknowledge the need to explore and trial an innovative design that suits the needs of people with disabilities as well as those with special needs.

To achieve this, collaborative community and partner engagements were done that culminated in a designed inclusive shelter model and the eventual construction and improvement the actual shelters across all the villages in Kalobeyei Settlement.



UN-Habitat and NCK Technical team inspecting a completed shelter. © UN-Habitat



UN-Habitat Team checking a near complete shelter. © UN-Habitat

This process was made possible as a result of a partnership between UN-Habitat and UNHCR who were key collaborators in the stages of beneficiaries' selection, site planning and identification, as well as shelter design. Other partners included NGOs working on protection and health issues in the settlement such as Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and AICHM.

The entire project was made possible due to concerted effort of our main implementing partner National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCK) and in the end, 20 shelters were constructed for both host and refugees' communities and the selected beneficiaries from both communities allocated the shelters.

The shelters constructed consists of internal partitions separating sleeping and living areas from the kitchen. The doors to the shelters are durable, strong and wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and equipped with ramps for ease of access. In addition, 15 shelters are constructed of locally sourced, natural Turkana solid blocks while 5 shelters were constructed of hollow blocks. The shelter design can be adopted by other partners and scaled up to more areas within the settlement too.



A mason finalising on shelter finishings. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat partners with SPEC Company from Japan to construct road in Kalobeyei Settlement using STEIN Technology

UN-Habitat partnered with a Japanese Company, SPEC Company Ltd, to rehabilitate

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