

JUN / JUL 2021

Supporting planning for INTEGRATED REFUGEE & HOST COMMUNITIES

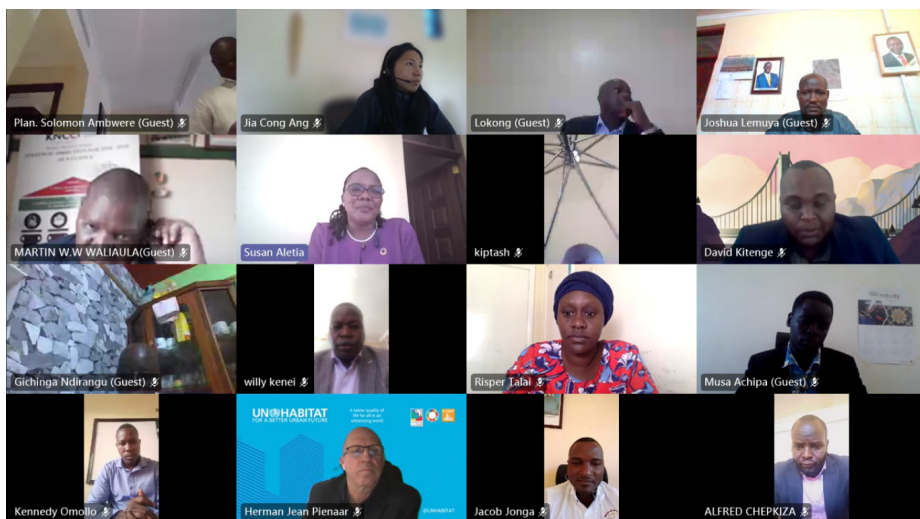
**X KALOBEYEI NEW SITE
TURKANA COUNTY**



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the People of Japan

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UN-Habitat organizes a Discussion on the Theme of Economic connectivity, refugees and migrations, and urbanization along East Africa's Regional Economic Corridors



Screenshot of virtual regional forum. © UN-Habitat

In collaboration with Kenya's North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB), Turkana County and Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat organized on 8th June 2021 a regional virtual workshop on *"Sustainable Economic Development Along Turkana West Development Corridor through Enhanced Connectivity."*

The workshop brought together around sixty participants representing three countries (Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda), regional governments, NOREB counties and Secretariat, urban centers along the A1 Road, the LAPSET Corridor Development Authority (LCDA), and UN agencies working in North Rift Kenya in addition to representatives from National Governments, development and humanitarian partners, business representatives, and local organizations. The LAPSET corridor links Kenya (from the port of Lamu) and South Sudan through the Kakuma-Kalobeyei refugee settlement area in Turkana West (Turkana County). The A1 road links Kenya to South Sudan (this section of the Northern Economic Corridor links the port of Mombasa in Kenya,

with Eastern and Central Africa regions). Through the partnership of Cities Alliance, Turkana County, and UN-Habitat, spatial and development planning is ongoing to position the Kakuma-Kalobeyei area along this corridor strategically.

By focusing on the two ongoing regional infrastructure projects of A1 Road and the planned Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) economic corridor, the meeting aimed to facilitate critical policy discussions among the stakeholders concerning the emerging opportunities and challenges that migrations and rapid urbanization present to socio-economic development in the region.

In his statement during the opening session, Uasin Gishu County Governor and NOREB chairman, H.E Jackson Mandago-Egh stressed the importance of "implementing contemporary urban planning which meets the aspects of sustainability and addresses the dynamics of present-day and future cities." Acknowledging

the fundamental role that counties will play in light of the rapid urbanization, Solomon Ambwere from Kenya's State Department of Housing and Urban Development stated that the Corridor is "becoming a magnet for investment, ...counties should have proper plans and strategies to avoid past failures in managing growing cities and towns". He also emphasized that the LAPSET corridor has the potential to configure another urbanization and economic corridor in the region, as witnessed with the Northern economic corridor.

Herman Pienaar from UN-Habitat reiterated the importance of urban planning in a region facing many opportunities and challenges, emphasizing the people-centered approach in promoting investments that resulted in inclusive development. Florence Lozet from Cities Alliance highlighted the importance of the joint programme with UN-Habitat, designed to "strengthen the local economy, explore how cities can be connected to promote regional development and promote the integration of migrants and refugees" along the corridor.

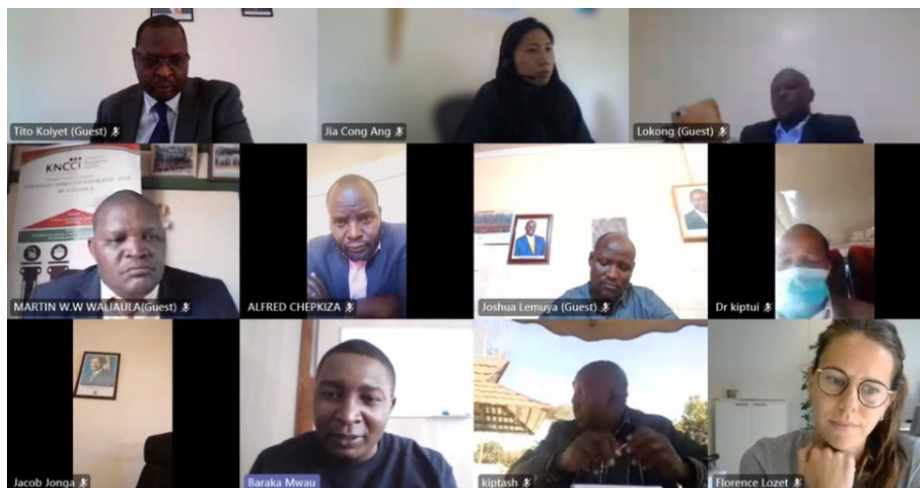
UNHCR representative Kahin Ismail presented an overview of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP). He stressed the importance of "taking the programme to the next level" by partnering with municipalities to lead the planning processes, providing financial autonomy to refugees who are now receiving cash, and promoting the economic integration (of refugees and host community) by collaborating with the private sector.

The first session focused on current migration and urbanization debates. It discussed the impacts of increased regional and cross-border migration and urbanization that will likely accompany increased connectivity. Contributions included speakers representing Uasin Gishu, Trans-Nzoia and Turkana counties, NOREB representatives, the Kenya

government, and UN-Habitat. The afternoon session addressed avenues for achieving increased regional economic connectivity and inter-linkages within the region. The speakers included representatives from LCDA, local governments, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce regional branches, and government representatives from South Sudan and Uganda.

Participants acknowledged the importance of the workshop content, which was considered fundamental in information and experience sharing. They expressed interest in creating a regional alliance of cities and towns that address sustainable urbanization and development along the corridor and the NOREB region. UN-Habitat announced that a second forum is foreseen in the coming months. The ongoing spatial and development planning work in Turkana West and policy issues emerging from the project activities will be shared, and a conversation of longer-time engagement will be discussed.

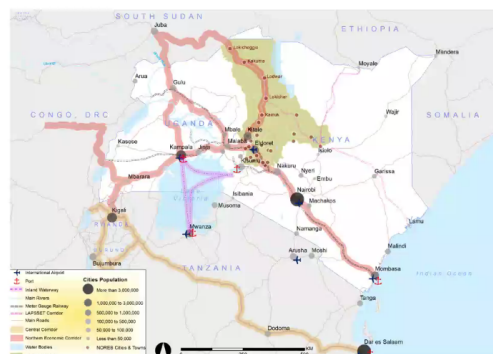
This meeting falls in the context of the UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance project "Sustainable Economic Development Along Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity." Turkana, as explained by Baraka Mwau from UN-Habitat, "plays a strategic role considering the two major corridors that are converging in the county." The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation finances the project.



Screenshot of virtual regional forum. © UN-Habitat

REGIONAL ECONOMIC CORRIDORS CONTEXT

- Turkana County and NOREB region are geographically positioned as Kenya's frontiers with Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda
- The existing Northern and the Planned LAPSET corridors transverse NOREB.
- This frontier region has an urban population distributed primarily in small towns and few secondary cities (e.g. Lodwar)
- The completion of the A1 road will connect Juba to the Northern Economic Corridor through NOREB



Screenshot of the Regional Context Presentation. © UN-Habitat

Post World Refugee Day Celebrations: Planning Sustainable and Inclusive Settlements for All



UN-Habitat conducts a socio-economic survey and stakeholder meeting with host and refugee members in Kalobeyei. © UN-Habitat

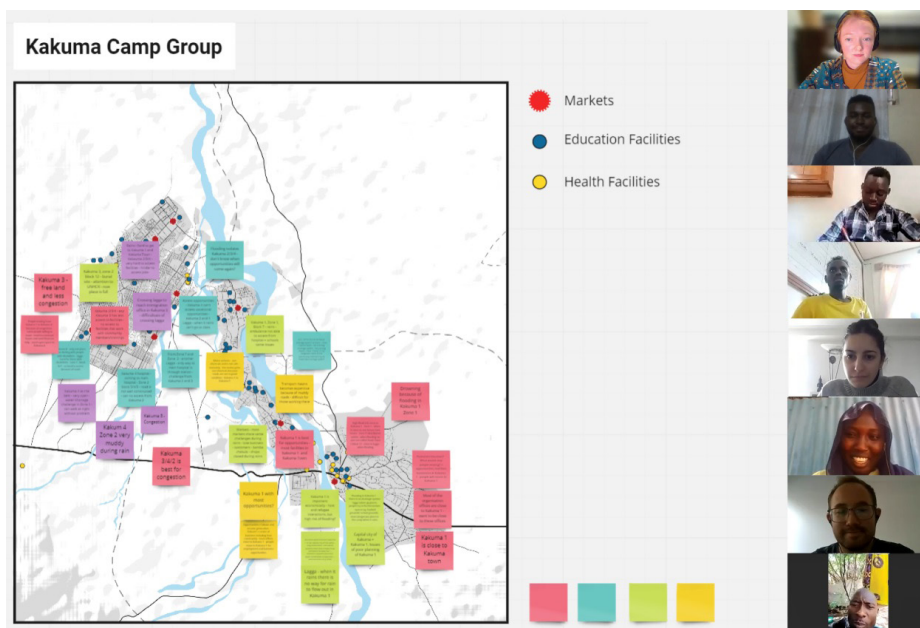
More than a year has passed since COVID-19 was first reported in Kenya in early 2020. Last year, instead of singing and dancing, refugees from Kenya had joined in a virtual celebration with host communities that included participants from around the country. Over the last weekend, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the celebrations will again be held virtually.

Since 2016, in support of the Turkana County Government and the host and refugee communities UN-Habitat, has been actively involved in urban planning processes as part of the innovative and integrated Kalobeyei settlement piloting. When COVID-19 was first reported in Kakuma in early 2020, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, and partners supported over 200,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement.

UN-Habitat's initial support was rendered through providing technical expertise to plan and map quarantine centers and temporary hospital facilities to increase the preparedness of the refugee settlements. In these exercises, urban data was collected, analyzed, and provided recommendations to UNHCR and partners.

From the start of the year, UN-Habitat has continued to provide technical expertise to support the planning of the Kalobeyei Settlement, the regeneration of Kakuma, and broader regional development through various activities. As in-person meetings were banned, UN-Habitat has had to think outside of the box to cater to virtual meetings or to ensure social distancing measures are implemented where possible. The latest activities include:

- June 2021 - UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, and Kenya's North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) organized a regional virtual workshop on "Sustainable Economic Development Along Turkana West Development Corridor through Enhanced Connectivity."



Discussing challenges and opportunities during virtual workshop with the Kakuma Camp Community Planning Group. © UN-Habitat

- April 2021 - The Government of Japan has donated USD 1,481,263 to UN-Habitat for the project '[Ensuring Accessibility and A Strengthened Conflict-Resolution Strategy For Refugee-Host Community Integration](#).'
- Mar 2021 - UN-Habitat, NEC XON, and Peace Winds Japan [installed a thermography camera at Kalobeyei Settlement Community Centre](#).
- Feb 2021 - UN-Habitat and Turkana County Government hosted a Kakuma-Kalobeyei [Assessment, Survey, and Corridor Planning Workshop](#) to present and validate the findings of the surveys
- Feb 2021 - UN-Habitat undertook [Socio-economic surveys in Turkana West](#). Stakeholders will validate the data analysis and findings before informing proposals and implementing project activities under the [program partnership with Cities Alliance](#).

- Jan 2021 - UN-Habitat and Shigeru Ban Architects [published a journal of the design process of seven housing typologies in Kalobeyei Settlement](#).



Nimbona Isaac outside one of the Shelters he helped build as part of the collaboration with Shigeru Ban. © UN-Habitat

This year, the focus of World Refugee Day is on the power of inclusion - the shared experience of COVID-19 has shown that communities can only succeed if they stand together.

UN-Habitat is proud to stand with partners to address the gaps for a more inclusive and equal world, one where no one is left behind. One such project is the design of the shelter typologies with Shigeru Ban, which had left an impact on a refugee-builder who engaged in the program:

"I have passed through several refugee camps, and I have never witnessed an organization that is willing to construct refugee homes that are strong and attractive, and that if someone had come, they would feel at home." Said Nimbona Isaac, a refugee from Burundi who is currently living in Kalobeyei Settlement, Village 2. "We built the houses with a big group of people, a mixture of refugees and Turkana people who collaborated in constructing the houses. Earlier on, we used to fear living with other people as their cultures were different from ours, but we have started to integrate as we now see that our lives are similar. Thanks to UN-Habitat, we feel we are not displaced but have a home. Thank you."

Since 2016, UN-Habitat, initially through the support from the Government of Japan, has implemented and advocated for sustainable infrastructure solutions such as the design and construction of public spaces, a community center, rain-water harvesting technologies, road rehabilitation, shelter design, renewable energy, and livelihood skills development. These projects have leveraged the opportunities and benefits to support local economic growth, making Kalobeyei an example that strengthens the triple nexus and commitment to the global agendas.

UN-Habitat has been supporting the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP) through coordination with Turkana County Government and UNHCR. [UN-Habitat's Humanitarian-Development workstream](#) Programmes are supported by the Government of Japan, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through Cities Alliance, and the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

UN-Habitat and UNHCR lead discussions during CCCM Practitioners Day 2021

UN-Habitat joined global practitioners in the [Camp Coordination and Camp Management's \(CCCM\) Practitioners Day 2021](#) was an open forum for an informal exchange of ideas, sharing initiatives and best practices on camp coordination and management, encouraging cross-pollination of ideas and collective learning. UN-Habitat presented the Settlement Profiling Tool co-developed with UNHCR and engaged in discussions on participatory approaches in settlement planning in a 'new normal'. The session focus for UN-Habitat was

to share our approaches and hear feedback from experienced practitioners around the world to further improve upon the agency's methodologies – as part of the commitment to ensuring sustainable settlements from the host and refugee communities in Kakuma-Kalobeyei, as well as in other refugee affected areas globally.

The first presentation was on Settlement Profiling, led by Jonathan Weaver from UN-Habitat's Planning, Finance, and Economy Section and John Wain from UNHCR's Division

of Resilient Solutions. A key takeaway in the post-presentation discussion was the need for spatial planning and analysis to become a platform for collective, cross-sectoral collaboration between stakeholders to encourage action on critical issues to support long-term sustainable development. The settlement profiling approach is fundamentally a process of consultation with different sectors to collect information to crystallize the key points from each sector and highlight areas that are hampering long-term development.

The presentation focused on the evaluations and recommendations of participatory approaches in planning processes. Chiefly, in the past five years of conducting participatory activities in Kakuma-Kalobeyei, UN-Habitat saw the opportunity to elevate community participation further and provide both host and refugee communities more control over decision-making processes.



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A key recommendation from the discussions was to include the community at the project proposal stage to define the problem statement. Another critical approach could be to focus on lowering the barriers to participation for all stakeholders in the community. One of the means to achieve this is to understand the needs of a different group in the community and develop multiple participatory approaches and (as necessary) outputs suited to all. At the end of the presentation, Bruce Spires shared

that as CCCM shares similar mechanisms in the processes UN-Habitat explored, camp managers will be able to identify with UN-Habitat's findings and help inform their implementation.

The presentations and feedback were important for UN-Habitat to continue improving their strategies and methodologies to ensure that spatial planning supports sustainable development on various fronts: from participation to spatial data collection.

This is especially critical in Kakuma-Kalobeyi, as the settlement moves towards another new turning point. This municipality governs not only the growing host community but also the refugee communities settled in the area. Through these strategies, UN-Habitat will build upon its commitment to integrated, sustainable development through spatial planning – ensuring that both host and refugee communities continue to benefit from UN-Habitat's efforts in bridging the humanitarian development nexus.

UN-Habitat participates in quarterly KISED P Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Thematic Working Group Meeting



UN-Habitat presents to partners on UN-Habitat's ongoing contributions under the KISED P framework. © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat joined UNHCR, NCCK, and other partners on the KISED P Spatial Planning, Infrastructure Development and Shelter quarterly Thematic Group Coordination meeting with Turkana County Government. The meeting was chaired by County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Lands, Energy, Housing and Urban Areas Management, Esther Lokwei, and held in strict observance of COVID-19 protocols.

significantly been supportive and has closely assisted Turkana County Government in the approval process of the Kalobeyi Advisory Development Plan. CECM Esther Lokwei further shared that she will work with the County Chief Officer for Lands, Energy, Housing, and Urban Areas Management, Dr. Joshua Lemuya, to support the Kalobeyi Advisory Development Plan's approval process. She explained that the approved spatial plans would help guide the

Led by Jonathan Weaver, the presentation framed the contributions under two key scales: Turkana-wide and Kakuma-Kalobeyi-wide. One of the key contributions in 2020 – 2021 was the development of the Turkana Baseline Socio-Economic Survey and Kakuma-Kalobeyi Spatial Profiling, which will serve as key references to inform UN-Habitat's evidence-based approaches in spatial planning and infrastructure development. The CEC and Chief Officer will also work to have the County Assembly approve the plans – "The approved spatial plans will guide our officers." Joseph Egiron explained that once the plans are approved, implementation can proceed. There is goodwill from Turkana County Government's Governor, and the municipality status is also one of the key deliverables in this financial year.

In the meeting, Turkana County Government shared that a concerted effort from all the stakeholders is necessary to ensure that implementation follows the spatial plans. UN-Habitat remains committed to working closely with all stakeholders in an inclusive manner, including with Turkana County Government, host, and refugee communities, to ensure that planning remains relevant and sustainable in the long term. This will, in turn, support for stronger ownership necessary to advocate

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