



UN-Habitat Support to Sustainable Urban Development in Kenya

International Design Collaboration for Kenya

Volume 3: Report on Student Design Competition for Kenya's Towns



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Summary

Kenya's urban population in 2050 is projected to reach over 42.6 million people, up from a current estimated urban population of just under 12 million. This transition is expected to have a significant impact and, thus, calls for increased preparedness on the part of policy makers and planners. Inadequate and underdeveloped infrastructure, severe shortages of affordable housing, dysfunctional land and housing markets, informal settlements, transportation and mobility challenges, socio-economic challenges, and environmental degradation, are some of the challenges that must be addressed.

To aid in this effort, UN-Habitat designed a programme, "Support to Sustainable Urban Development in Kenya", to support the Government of Kenya and stakeholders in planning sustainable urban development. Within the context of the Kenya Municipal Programme, UN-Habitat has conducted capacity development training sessions for county governments (technical officers, legislative officers,

The student design competition was framed as international design collaboration for Kenya and primarily featured students of urban planning, urban design, and architecture in multi-disciplinary teams that involved other disciplines, such as urban economy, geography, environmental management, and sociology. It sought to demonstrate the value of urban planning and design in guiding the transformation of urban centres through scaling down urban planning and design to the lowest level. It also aimed to develop the capacity of future urban planning and design professionals in Kenya.

Students were invited, globally, to team up and undertake design work in selected sites, selected from among the towns participating in the Integrated Strategic Urban Development Planning component of the Kenya Municipal Programme. Over 700 students expressed interest, from which 150 competition teams were formed and 97 (66%) of these teams submitted a proposal for evaluation. An independent jury of professionals, drawn from diverse institutions and expertise – urban planning and design, architecture, urban development, and urban policy – and having knowledge of Kenya's urbanization landscape,

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