

Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity




Regional Stakeholder Workshop: Urbanization, Migration, and Economic Development in North Rift Kenya

Virtual Event **8 June 2021**

WORKSHOP REPORT

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North Rift Economic Bloc
— Growing Together —

Acknowledgements

Regional Stakeholder Workshop: Urbanization, Migration, and Economic Integration in the North Rift Economic Bloc

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Introduction

On 8 June 2021, a virtual Regional Stakeholder Workshop was held bringing together various stakeholders to discuss issues of refugees and migrants, urbanization and socio-economic development in North Rift Kenya and its neighbouring regions in South Sudan and Uganda. This workshop was held as a component of the UN-Habitat joint initiative with Cities Alliance and Turkana County Government termed as the “Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity”. The initiative partnered with the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) Secretariat in hosting the event. More than 70 participants from various countries (Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda), support programmes, counties, and urban centres along the A1 Road and LAPPSET corridor and NOREB region (Annex 4) of Kenya participated. These included county and national government representatives, civil society, the private sector, international organisations, refugee and host communities, development partners, in addition to representatives from bordering secondary cities in South Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia. The workshop

aimed to provoke discussion and networking concerning the new regional opportunities and challenges that will likely arise following the increased regional connectivity delivered by the completion of strategic regional infrastructure projects, notably the Lamu Port-South Sudan Ethiopia (LAPPSET) Development Corridor and the A1 Road from Lodwar to Nadapal.

The report highlights the background, presentations, discussions, and issues emerging from the workshop, and is structured into three sections.

1. Section one will give an overview of the background to NOREB region, Turkana Refugee and Host Communities, and the UN-Habitat project.
2. The second section will present the workshop proceedings, including a summary of key presentations and discussions.
3. Section three will provide a synthesis of the recommendations made by the participants and will report on the overall evaluation of the workshop.

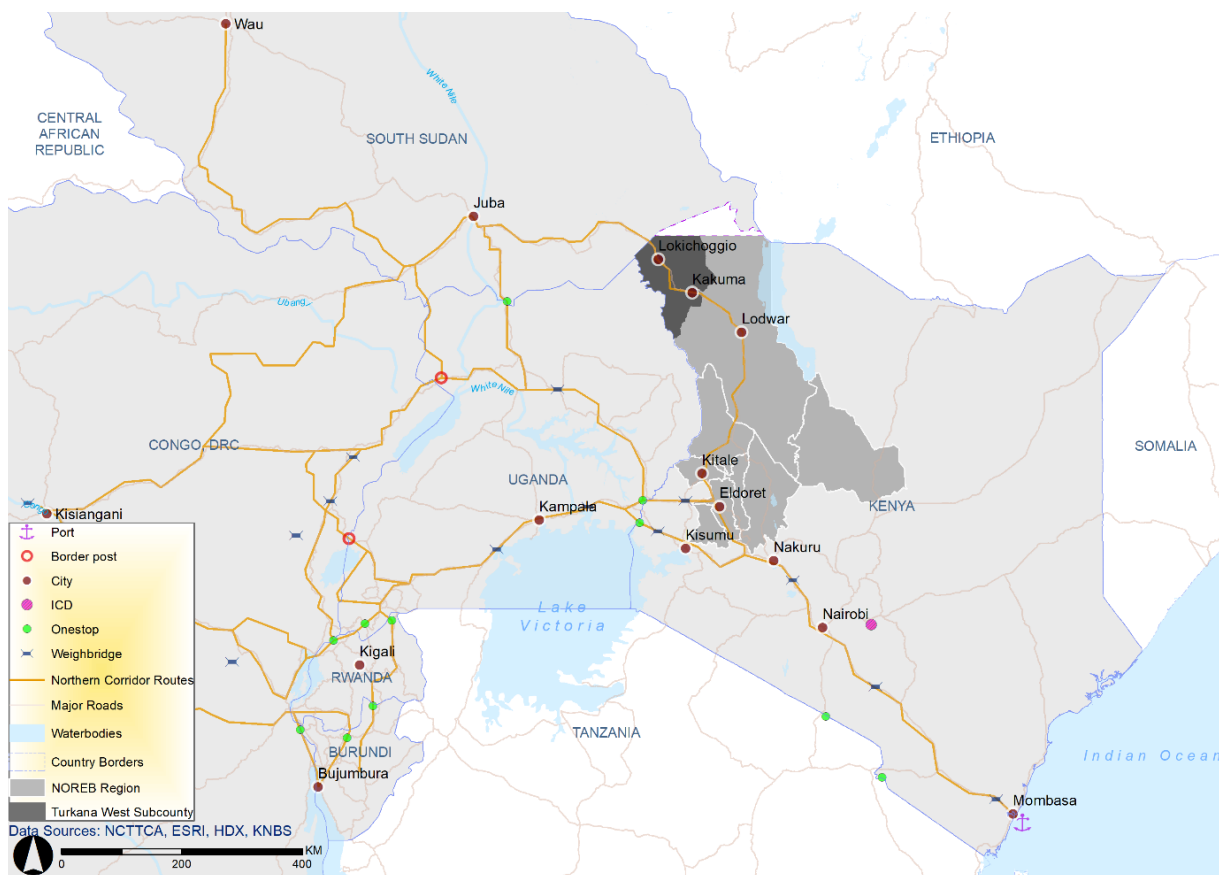
Section 1: Background and Context

Introduction

“Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity” is a joint initiative by UN-Habitat, Turkana County Government and Cities Alliance. Along with strategic partners including the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP), the project aims to build soft infrastructure that can support the local community leverage opportunities likely to emerge from the improved connectivity and networks associated with the recent construction of the A1 Road that links Kenya and South Sudan (through Turkana West) and the planned the Lamu Port-South Sudan- Ethiopia-Transport (LAPPSET) Corridor.

While likely to trigger increased migrations and urbanization, with sound integrated development planning, these large-scale strategic connectivity projects are expected to play a prominent role in enhancing socio-economic development, benefiting households and businesses in the towns and rural centres in the region. Against this backdrop, this section aims at drawing an analysis of Turkana urbanization trends and linkages to large scale infrastructure projects. The analysis will be presented by placing Turkana within its wider regional context, building on the opportunities and challenges faced by North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) region.

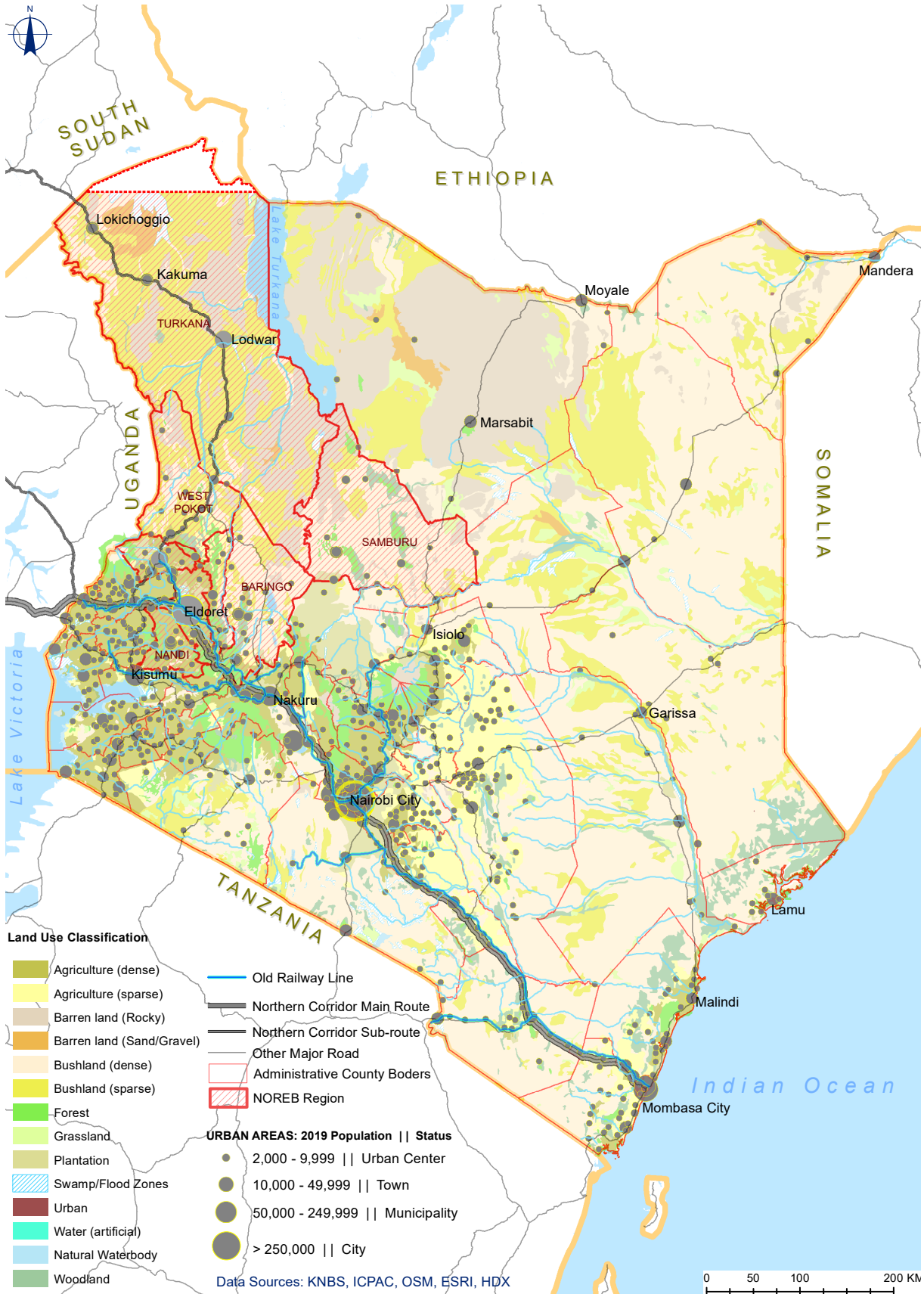
FIGURE 1 | MAP OF NOREB REGION AND ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT



Map Drawn by UN-Habitat/ Data Sources- Courtesy

Turkana County: A Regional Urban Perspective

FIGURE 2 | KENYA'S URBAN GEOGRAPHY



Map Drawn by UN-Habitat/ Population Data From KNBS (2019)

NOREB Geographical Context

Turkana County is part of the eight counties (Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Samburu, Trans Nzoia, Turkana, Uasin Gishu, and West Pokot Counties) that form NOREB. These counties make up some of the least urbanised parts of Kenya, particularly the locations (Baringo, Samburu, Turkana, and West Pokot) that fall under Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Areas (ASALs). The region is in the north-western part of the Rift Valley in

Kenya bordering Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Sudan through Turkana County, where Kenya's second-largest refugee settlement is located (Kakuma-Kalobeyei).

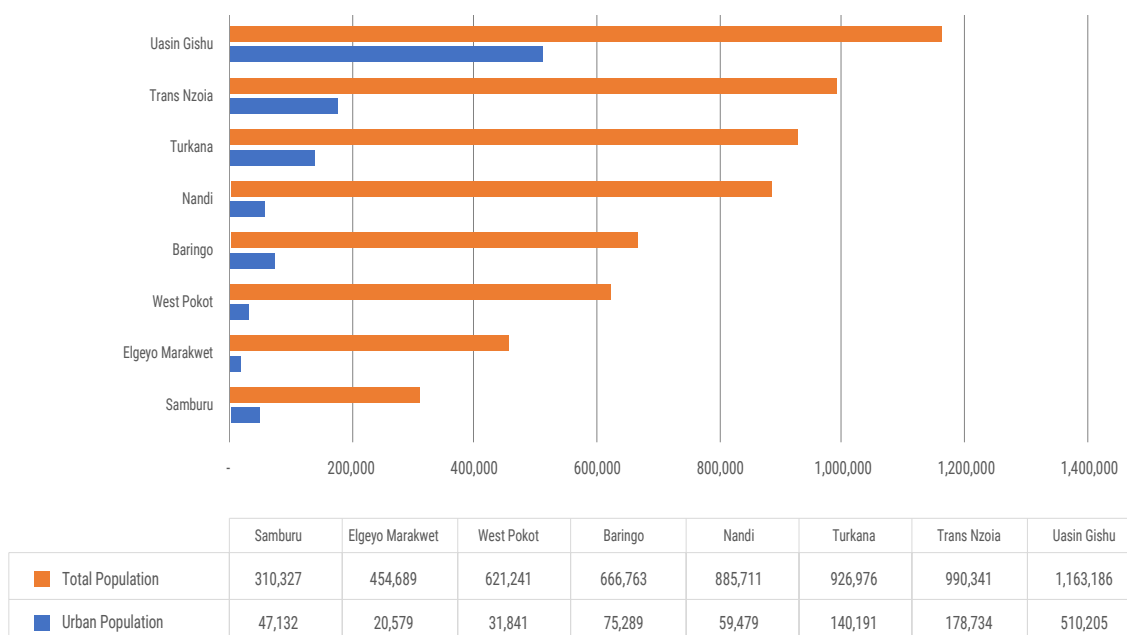
Despite their prominent role, secondary cities and towns in these regions are sparsely distributed, and poorly connected. To address this challenge, it is recommended to promote the integration of these cities and towns within the wider regional urban system.

Population Trends and Human Settlements

Like Kenya in general, the North Rift region has been experiencing a steady population increase. As seen in figure 1, both the highest populations and the sharpest rise in population are observed in the counties whose main economic activities are farming, such as Uasin Gishu, Nandi, and Trans Nzoia.

The population distribution reveals that the counties with the highest densities are those that rely on farming and have largest population. Turkana County, with 77,000 sq.km has the largest land size and lowest population density among the NOREB counties.

FIGURE 3 | SHARE OF URBAN POPULATION TO TOTAL IN NOREB COUNTIES



Source: UN-Habitat (2021), compiled with Population Data from KNBS (2019)

Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Samburu, and Turkana are part of regions considered to be under pastoral land systems. These areas are mainly inhabited by pastoral communities (about 16 per cent of Kenya's population),¹ whose settlements are a mix of temporary, seasonal, and permanent centres and small towns. The increasing population in the counties dominated by farming has a

significant impact on land fragmentation, as demand for subsistence production and space for new homes increases. This has implications for agricultural productivity but also implies transformation in the form of human settlements in those counties.

1 LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority (2017). Strategic Environmental Assessment-SEA in the LAPSSET Corridor Infrastructure Development Project (LCIDP) – Draft Report. LCDA, Nairobi

Urbanisation in North Rift Region

In the NOREB counties, the correlation between population density and the type of agricultural production is noteworthy. Counties that rely on crop and non-nomadic livestock production such as Nandi, Trans-Nzoia, and Uasin Gishu have relatively higher population densities than those relying on pastoral livestock.

Such higher-density counties also have greater connectivity to the Northern Economic Corridor, where urban concentration is highest in Kenya. However, the proportion of the urban population to the total population has no major variation among the NOREB counties except for West Pokot and Uasin Gishu, which are the least and most urbanised counties in the region.

TABLE 1 | MAJOR URBAN CENTRES IN NOREB REGION

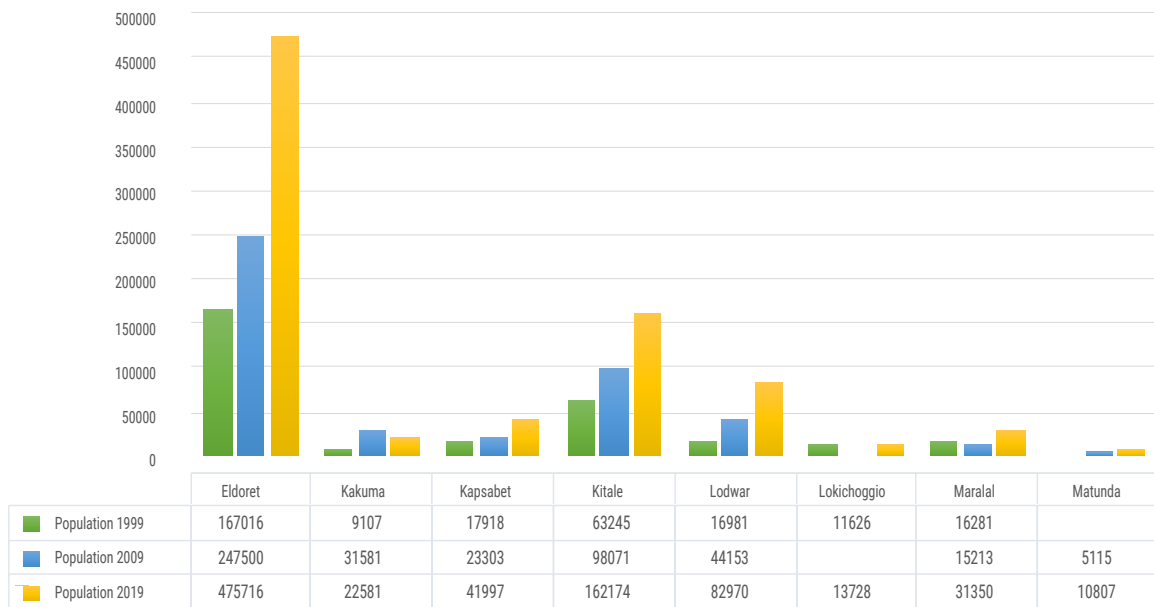
Town	2019 Population	County
Baraton	2043	Nandi
Makutano	2147	Baringo
Kesses	2293	Uasin Gishu
Suguta Marmar	2328	Samburu
Turbo	2559	Uasin Gishu
Kapcherop	3240	Elgeyo-Marakwet
Ortum	3372	West Pokot
Baragoi	4254	Samburu
Wamba	4580	Samburu
Archer's Post	4620	Samburu
Kapkangani	4709	Nandi
Timboroa	4744	Uasin Gishu
Musoriot	4916	Uasin Gishu
Maji Mazuri	5138	Uasin Gishu
Nandi Hills	8032	Nandi
Marigat	9395	Baringo
Kainuk	10535	Turkana
Matunda	10807	Uasin Gishu
Iten	12630	Elgeyo-Marakwet
Lokichar	12676	Turkana
Moi's Bridge	16355	Uasin Gishu
Kiminini	16560	Trans Nzoia
Eldama Ravine	21385	Baringo
Kabarnet	22474	Baringo
Kakuma	22984	Turkana
Makutano (Kapenguria)	28469	West Pokot
Maralal	31350	Samburu
Kapsabet	41997	Nandi
Lodwar	82970	Turkana
Kitale	162174	Trans Nzoia
Eldoret	475716	Uasin Gishu

Source: UN-Habitat (2021), compiled with Population Data from KNBS (2019)

Dominated by rural agricultural and pastoral settlements, most counties in NOREB have an urbanization level below the Kenyan national average. However, an urban system is emerging in the North Rift region. This hierarchy revolves around Eldoret, as the largest urban area and prime city in the region, with a population of 475,716 persons according to the Kenya 2019 census, an increase from the 247,500-population reported in the 2009 census. This is followed by Kitale, with 247,500, and Lodwar with 82,970. Within the counties, there is also a degree of primacy, with most of the counties having one major urban centre and the rest

being small and rural centres. Even so, many urban centres are seeing significant population growth. Between 2009-2019 the urban populations that recorded the highest growth were Eldoret, Kapsabet, Kiminini, Lodwar, Maralal, and Matunda, whose population almost doubled during the period. While the growth of Eldoret can be explained by its strategic position along the Northern Economic Corridor, Lodwar does not attract such advantages which implies that the doubling in population is fuelled by other factors such as an increasing influx of youth from rural areas and the impact of devolution are possible catalysts.

FIGURE 4 | POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS IN SELECT NOREB URBAN CENTRES



Source: UN-Habitat (2021), compiled with Population Data from KNBS (2019)

Urban Management in NOREB Cities and Towns

Urbanization in the region is predominantly unplanned, which has resulted in various urban development challenges. Most urban centres in the region have grown spontaneously without spatial development frameworks resulting in inadequate infrastructure and services, alongside other challenges related to social, economic, climate change risks and natural disasters, etc. For urban management in the North Rift region, the key challenges are to provide adequate housing and urban services to meet the demands of urbanising centres in the NOREB region. Traditional land management systems and planning by 'plotting' or land subdivisions have failed to consider the urban periphery resulting in a grid like urban centre surrounded by the proliferation of unplanned informal settlements, as seen

in the case of Eldoret. The need for low-cost housing solutions that are well integrated in the urban landscape will only grow as urbanization accelerates, the opportunity to avoid the proliferation of informal settlements depends on the timeliness of such investments.

Access to water and sanitation services have a major influence on socio-economic conditions and human settlement patterns in Northern Kenya. Most urban centres in the region lack reticulated clean water and sanitation system which significantly impacts town and rural settlements' economic activities and socio-economic conditions. In addition, access to water influences the movement patterns of nomadic households and the growth of small towns in ASAL counties. ASAL counties must invest immensely in water services, as most are water scarce.



A busy Street in Ethiopia Market in Kakuma 1. © UN-Habitat, Dream Magical Studio

In terms of sanitation, the urban centres in NOREB rely mainly on small scale/individual and decentralised systems of sewage management. Conventional, public sewer networks are non-existent in most of the towns. This implies that investments must be made in own solutions, such as septic tanks, bio-digesters and cess pits, pit latrines, small decentralised systems etc. Open defecation is also practiced in some of the urban centres. For instance, in Lodwar, a study established that 81% of the sampled households did not possess a latrine facility². Such poor hygienic conditions have been associated with frequent cholera outbreaks, with a recent outbreak reported in Turkana West on May 2020³. Consequently, water supply and sewerage management infrastructure, remain a major gap in the socio-economic development in NOREB region.

Given these trends, the NOREB region has the potential for greater economic integration, through creating an urban network and addressing the prevailing urban challenges, and leveraging the opportunities emerging from the A1 International Road that connects the region and South Sudan with the Northern Economic Corridor, and the planned LAPSSET Corridor, as strategic integration infrastructure.

The Economy in North Rift Region

With Eldoret being the largest urban centre in NOREB, Uasin Gishu has the largest economy followed by Elgeyo Marakwet. The Gross Country Product distilled down to economic activities for each county can be seen in the table below (see Table 1). In terms of financing, the national treasury transfers and prevailing own-source revenue still leave a significant budgetary gap for financing development in NOREB counties.

² Busienei, P; Ogendi, G & Mokua, M (2019). Open Defecation Practices in Lodwar, Kenya: A Mixed-Methods Research. *Environmental Health Insights*. Volume 13: 1–13

³ Sammy Lutta (2020). New wave of cholera cases hits Turkana West. <https://www.nation.co.ke/counties/turkana/New-cholera-wave-hits-Turkana-West/1183330-5563784-551w24/index.html>

TABLE 2 | GROSS COUNTY PRODUCT (GCP) BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, 2017 IN KSH. MILLIONS

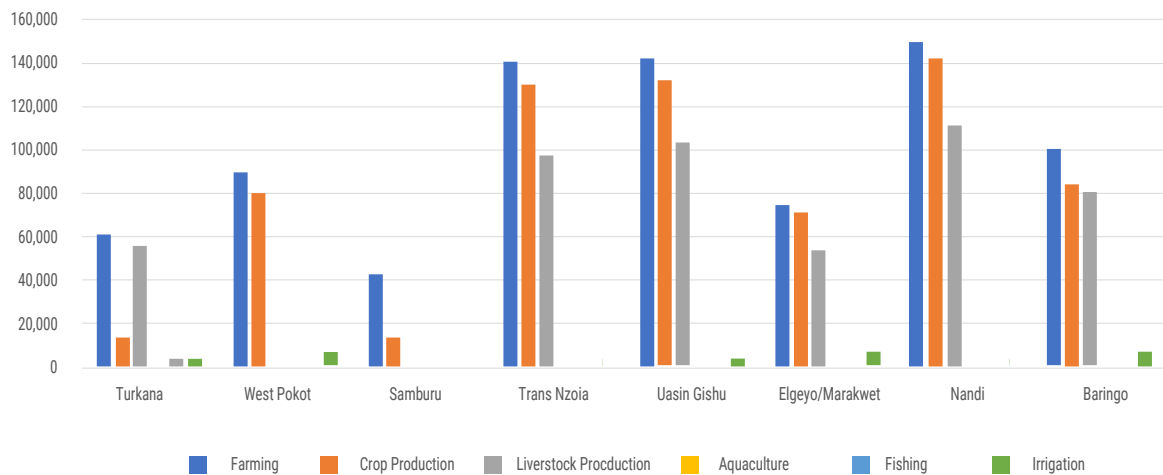
County	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity supply	Water supply; waste collection	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	Transport and storage	Accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, technical and support services	Public administration and defense	Education	Human health and social work activities	Other service activities	FSIMI	Total
Turkana	41,493	88	65	2,066	487	4,684	2,581	7,750	361	366	2,198	2,537	16	3,529	6,252	1,946	2,172	(290)	78,301
West Pokot	19,311	2,835	27	69	427	522	2,270	3,904	168	302	3,330	1,861	373	4,416	4,799	1,045	1,302	(176)	46,785
Samburu	10,847	47	29	123	180	661	4,354	1,234	132	143	1,386	1,236	11	3,403	1,703	587	569	(142)	26,503
Trans Nzoia	50,628	273	785	810	707	3,031	9,551	7,958	625	1,967	15,734	8,934	68	5,177	7,237	2,248	2,079	(1,129)	116,683
Uasin-Gishu	63,017	713	7,915	1,042	1,314	7,121	19,511	17,552	1,645	1,075	17,218	12,880	1,482	6,267	6,262	3,833	2,270	(8,843)	162,273
Elgeyo Marakwet	127,967	485	42	209	258	1,485	3,487	3,579	103	544	4,423	5,877	3	4,949	4,068	1,245	940	(131)	159,531
Nandi	71,213	593	4,116	489	719	1,301	4,264	3,300	203	801	11,955	5,013	5	4,990	7,603	1,924	1,912	(709)	119,691
Baringo	53,633	125	232	413	1,048	1,336	4,687	4,737	266	911	9,095	3,088	2	6,017	5,077	1,411	(488)	92,866	

Data Source: KNBS (2019)⁴

Economically, *livestock and agriculture production* are the main productive activities of the NOREB counties, with urban centres positioned as important hubs to support this economy and provide agro-based services, market access, transit points to further markets, and alternative economic sectors. As shown in Table 2., farming, crop, and livestock production are the main

sub-sectors in each county. The productivity and associated land-use vary across the counties, where agro-ecological zones play a major role in determining the type of agriculture and livestock production. For example, Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia, and parts of West Pokot rely on farming as the driver of their economies.

FIGURE 5 | HOUSEHOLD AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES IN NOREB



Source: KNBS 2019

Considered as a major economic sector of NOREB counties, livestock productivity relies on climatic conditions, production methods, safety issues, and the species of livestock. In the ASALs such as Turkana County, pastoralism dominates and the marketing of livestock is done through auction markets in small towns and rural centres, where the destination for the products are the large cities. Milk production is highest in farming areas such as Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Trans Nzoia, and Uasin Gishu, where climatic conditions favour high-yielding breeds.



Fishing in Lake Turkana. © Panos



Livestock Movement in Kakuma. © UN-Habitat/Dream Magical Studio

NOREB is a major *fish producer* in the East African community with the majority of the industry centering on Lake Turkana. Additional production comes from pond and small reservoir (dam) fish farming in Uasin Gishu, Nandi, West Pokot, Baringo, and Trans Nzoia. While this industry has the potential to expand, it has not been a driver of urbanisation in the region. For instance, despite the importance of the industry to Turkana County fishing has only developed small fishing villages.

With respect to *trade and commerce*, markets in NOREB play a crucial role and are located virtually in every urban centre and act as an important source of internal revenue. Agro-based industries are concentrated in farming counties. For instance, Nandi county has 15 tea factories, several milk cooling plants, and a coffee and tea factory being set up.⁴ Additionally, in early 2021 the opening of a modern abattoir in Nasukuta, West Pokot, positioned the county to be the livestock processing hub of NOREB.⁵ The location of the abattoir and the A1 road and LAPPSET corridors passing through the county, will contribute to the likely development of a small town due to demand for housing and related urban services as the area grows. This development opens the possibilities for nearby counties to make complementary investments to enhance the value chain and take advantage of the area's increased connectivity.

Eldoret acts as the main financial hub in the region, containing a branch of Central Bank of Kenya alongside most major commercial banks. Elsewhere in the region, commercial banks operate mostly in main towns. While previously limited by the need for physical offices, financial services to rural areas and small towns have increased with the growth of mobile banking.

To increase their own-source revenue, the counties in NOREB must seek economic development strategies that stimulate growth. This requires investment in basic infrastructure and amenities and support for local economic sectors in both urban and rural settlements.

Strategic Infrastructure and Spatial Connectivity

This section will provide a brief overview of the existing strategic infrastructure in the region and the planned and ongoing constructions which will impact the development of an urban system in the NOREB region.

At the national level, Kenya's major strategic infrastructure is the *Northern transport corridor* which connects Kenya's port city of Mombasa in the southeast to Malaba and Uganda to the west. The majority of Kenya's urban centres are along the Northern Corridor; a

⁴ Nandi County Government (2018). Nandi County CIDP 2018-2023. Nandi County Government, Kapsabet

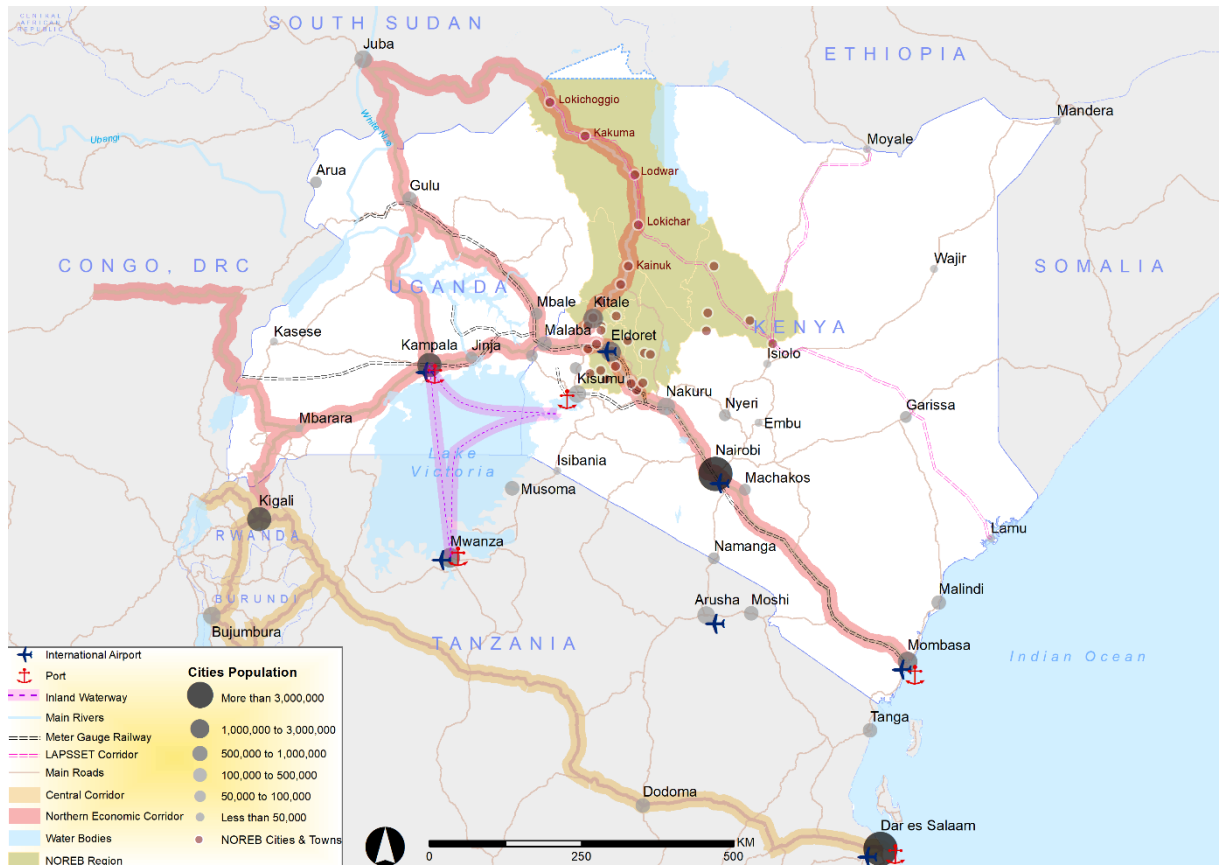
⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q89IFMjNohE>

recent report found that about 85 per cent of all urban dwellers in Kenya lived within 35 KM of the Northern Corridor.⁶ Road connectivity in the North Rift region is substantially lower when compared to the Northern Corridor and the rest of Kenya, particularly for Turkana County. This results in reduced traffic and lower connectivity, and hence, barriers to market integration due to higher transaction costs.

Concerning such challenges, the *Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport* (LAPSSET) corridor is anticipated to connect the northern region with the urban hubs along the Northern Corridor and to establish another major economic corridor.

LAPPSET is crucial for enhancing NOREB's connectivity regionally, nationally, and internationally. The already constructed highway sections link Nairobi to Moyale at the Ethiopian border to the north, while from Isiolo, the proposed LAPSSET corridor will connect Juba, South Sudan through Turkana County in the north-west (see Figure 3). It should be reiterated that if NOREB counties are to avail of this opportunity, they need to invest in connector infrastructure to link their counties with the corridor.

FIGURE 6 | LAPSSET, NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ECONOMIC CORRIDORS OF EAST AFRICA



Map Drawn by UN-Habitat/ Data Sources- Courtesy

6 World Bank (2016). Kenya Urbanization Review. World Bank, Washington D.C. Accessed on 10 July 2020 at: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/639231468043512906/pdf/AUS8099-WP-P148360-PUBLIC-KE-Urbanization-ACS.pdf>

The A1 Road runs along the Rift Valley from the Tanzanian border town of Isebania through Kisumu, Kitale, Lodwar, to Nadapal on the South Sudanese border. The Northern Corridor Master Plan established the connection to Juba through Lodwar (A1) as a critical route. Together the LAPPSET and the new section of the A1 Road (Lodwar-Nadook) will provide NOREB with increased connectivity through access to two major regional economic corridors and seaports alongside the anticipated trade between Kenya and South Sudan along the route.

Internally, the A1 Road plays a key role for NOREB. For instance, Turkana County relies significantly on Trans-Nzoia county for crop food and business flows, while Kitale acts as a link to the Northern Corridor (see figure 4 for the sub-route A1 Road connection between the LAPPSET and Northern Corridors). In addition to opening Turkana County and the northwest region to commodity markets, the A1 Road will also provide much-needed infrastructure for activities associated with recent developments such as the discovery of oil and water in Turkana County to connect to the national economy.



Ongoing construction of Loichangamatak - Lodwar - Nadapal/Nnakodok highway. © KENHA.

While some of NOREB's economic challenges are linked to historical marginalisation, especially the ASALs and the uneven distribution of classified road networks, there is reason to expect greater socio-economic development stemming from devolution and the recent infrastructure investments. Additional anticipated advantages resulting from these investments in NOREB include:

- Improved national connectivity and market integration for Turkana County and the NOREB region from the LAPPSET corridor and the A1 Road working in conjunction and linking with the already existing Northern corridor.
- With improved road connectivity and regional connectivity to international economic networks, the NOREB region will lie at a strategic new international corridor that intersects with the Northern Corridor to connect northern parts of Tanzania, through

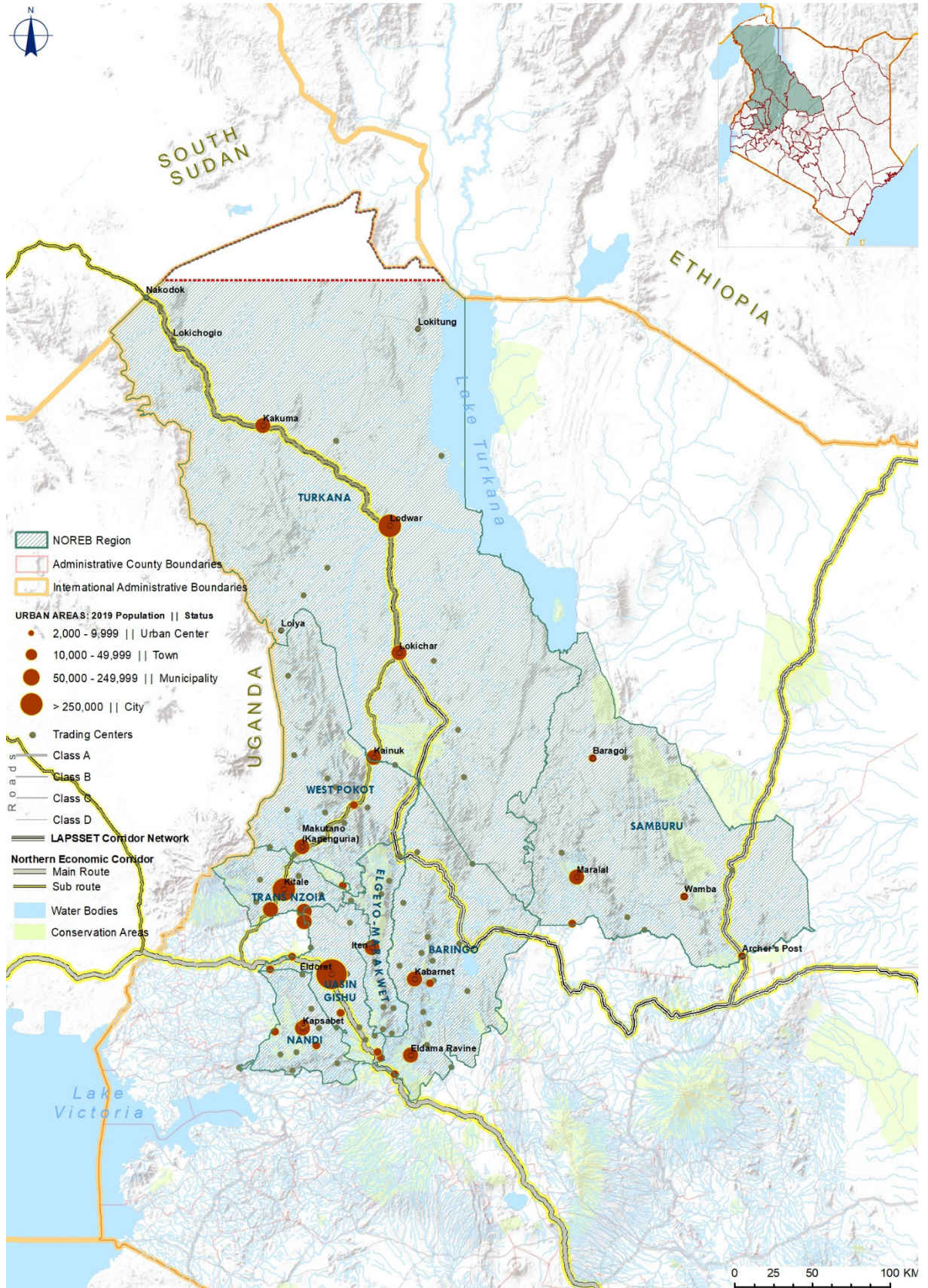
Western and North western Kenya, to link with Ethiopia and South Sudan.

- Enhanced connectivity especially for the towns situated along these transportation corridors, and at the same time, will be likely to attract increased migrations (rural-urban/economic). Such towns include Kakuma-Kalobeyei, where over 200,000 refugees are currently hosted.
- Established economic relations with other towns and regions in NOREB (e.g.: Kakuma-Kalobeyei) and across the international borders.

However, given such internal and cross-border migration, this greater economic connectivity will likely be partnered with accelerated urbanisation and population growth in regional urban centres, in addition to the potential for influxes of refugees moving beyond Turkana County into the wider region.

To tap into the opportunities arising from the enhanced linkage to the Northern Economic Corridor and the planned LAPPSET corridor, there is a need for regional and local action. This change provides an opportunity for the beginning of institutionalised urban development. The NOREB counties must ensure that urbanization unfolds through among other strategies, well-planned and managed urban centres, including developing sufficient capacities to accommodate the rapid influx of migrants and/or refugees.

FIGURE 7 | MAJOR URBAN CENTRES IN KENYA AND NOREB REGION



Map Drawn by UN-Habitat/ Population Data From KNBS (2019)

UN-Habitat Interventions in Turkana West

In Turkana County, urbanization is driven by increasing influxes of refugees (settled in Turkana West) and a gradual shift from pastoral to alternative urban-based livelihoods among a section of the community. While Lodwar is officially the largest urban centre in Turkana County, the combined refugee and host community population in Kakuma-Kalobeyi makes it the largest clustered settlement in the county, and indeed can be among the largest in the country. Recent (end of February 2021) statistics by UNHCR indicate that the Kakuma-Kalobeyi area hosted 206,548 refugees and asylum seekers, with the recent Kenya census (2019) reporting a host community of 22,984 persons in Kakuma town. It should also be noted that according to recent UNHCR data the city of Eldoret also hosts 2,138 refugees, but with such a small figure their impact on urbanization is minimal.⁷

In some areas, the presence of the refugee population adds strain on Turkana West's socio-economic challenges, such as poverty and marginalisation, and infrastructural challenges in access to health care, education, safe drinking water, transportation, etc. One result of the transportation challenges is that many enterprises in Turkana West struggle to access external markets and business supplies, resulting in high transaction costs and low-profit margins.

On the other hand, the presence of the refugee population in Turkana West has contributed to economic development. This growth chiefly derives from the financial aid that flows in to support refugee welfare and recently, with devolution, the government has increased investments in the local area. However, while the presence of refugees and with it, international organisations and NGOs have advanced economic growth in the region, population movements and unsustainable dependence on international aid have led to a vulnerable economy. Additionally, host communities can be disadvantaged in job competition, as education and skill levels still disadvantage the local labour force to access certain jobs.

In this context, the UN-Habitat project "Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity", through technical support and capacity building, comes to capitalise on emerging infrastructure connectivity opportunities and on-going comprehensive development programmes such as the joint initiative and multi-coordinated framework Kalobeyi Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISEDPP) that entails developing a new model for an integrated refugee-host community settlement.

Turkana County, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, and partners have embarked on developing interventions that aim to address the long-term development of the area. Part of this intervention is the planning of the area adjacent to the new Kalobeyi Settlement, with the intention to develop proposals for investments and land development such as an Enterprise Economic Zone (EEZ). Earlier, UN-Habitat led the planning of the new Kalobeyi Settlement which seeks to integrate refugees and the host community. Through this planning, the partners aim to provide a framework through which the local area can direct investments to leverage the opportunities anticipated from the enhanced connectivity gained through its strategic position along the A1 Road (Kenya-South Sudan) and the LAPSSET corridor. These investments are crucial in supporting Kakuma-Kalobeyi local economy's gradual shift from the current foreign aid-dependent economy that has emerged from the financial assistance directed to refugees, towards long-term Local Economic Development with diversified livelihood strategies and self-sustenance. Through surveys, spatial and socio-economic analysis, and stakeholder engagements, the project aims to recommend a development plan that not only focuses on the local area, but also on how the local area and the other urban centres in the region can enhance reinforcing linkages for socio-economic development. Transportation routes and socio-economic networks are key opportunities this project aims to leverage, besides the need for transformative investments in the local infrastructure sector-notably water supply, sanitation, energy, and local mobility networks.

⁷ UNHCR (2021), KENYA STATISTICS PACKAGE, <https://www.unhcr.org/ke/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/02/Kenya-Statistics-Package-31-January-2021.pdf>

Workshop Overview

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Cities Alliance, the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) and Turkana County Government, organised on 8 June 2021, a one-day virtual stakeholder workshop.

This workshop comes in the context of the UN-Habitat project ‘Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development’ implemented jointly with Turkana County and Cities Alliance.

Rather than addressing Turkana West and its refugee and host communities in isolation, the stakeholder workshop aimed to take a broader dimension focusing on economic connectivity, integration, migration, and urbanization in the wider region. Accordingly, the meeting brought together more than 70 participants (Annex 4) representing various counties and urban centres along the A1 Road and LAPSSET corridor and the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB), including: county and national government representatives, civil society, the private sector, international organisations, refugee and host communities, development partners, in addition to representatives from bordering secondary cities in South Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

The workshop was designed as a multi-stakeholder forum that aimed to facilitate critical discussion and networking among stakeholders concerning the experiences, challenges, successful practices, and new economic opportunities relating to migration, urbanization, and socio-economic development in the region. This involved identifying economic opportunities and barriers and tackling some ongoing issues concerning urban development, economic growth, and inclusivity.

In line with the workshop expected outcomes, the agenda of the one-day meeting was divided into two sessions. The first session engaged in a broader discussion on current migration and urbanization debates and explored the impacts of increased regional and cross-border migration and urbanization that is already taking place and that will likely accompany increased connectivity. The second session addressed avenues for achieving increased regional economic connectivity and inter-linkages within the region.

WORKSHOP EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Strengthened awareness and knowledge of the region’s urbanization challenges and opportunities, including those linked to migration and population movements.
- Awareness of the potential impacts of increased regional connectivity for regional economic development and urbanisation due to internal and cross-border migration.
- Awareness of the policy implications of the currently existing economic connections within the region and specifically with Turkana County, and areas in which new opportunities exist for partnership.
- Opportunities to build alliances and networks to promote regional economic linkages and reduce the costs and barriers to trade are improved, and to promote sustainable urbanisation and urban development.

Section 2: Workshop Proceedings

The following section will report on the proceedings from the workshop.

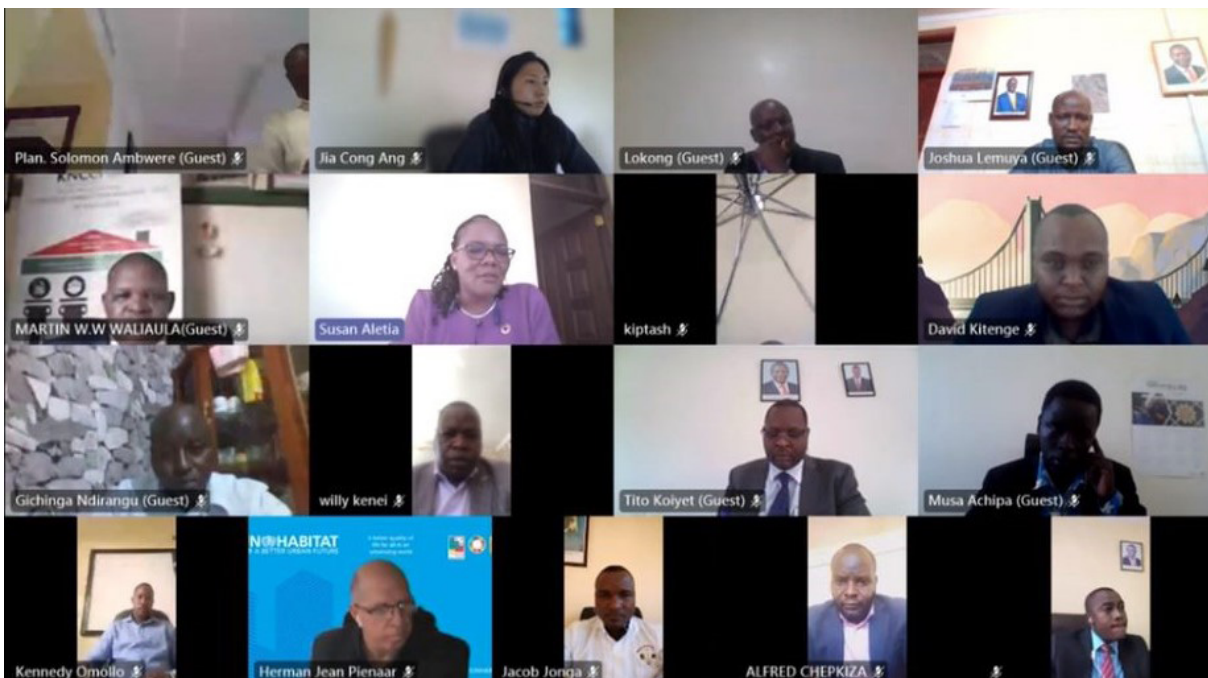
Setting the Stage

The Regional Stakeholder Workshop began with welcoming remarks from UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, the Turkana County government, and the leadership of the North Rift Economic Bloc. Acting as moderator for the first session, *Ms. Susan Aletia (UN-Habitat program coordinator in Turkana County)* began the session by stressing the importance of realizing how interlinked and connected we are with each other and how the movement of people impacts our societies.

The Governor of Uasin Gishu County, the Honourable Jackson Mandago, welcomed all stakeholders to the meeting and referred to the timeliness and relevance of this workshop due to the pressing need to look towards NOREB's urban future and address the needs of refugees in Turkana County.

“With the realisation that this greater economic connectivity will likely be accompanied by accelerated urbanisation and population growth in regional urban centres, I call upon our partners represented here today, to partner with NOREB in institutionalizing and implementing contemporary urban planning which meets the aspects of sustainability and addresses the dynamics of present-day and future cities.”

In his opening remarks *Mr. Herman Pienaar (Human Settlements Officer at UN-Habitat)* gave an overview of the various complex factors of the current UN-Habitat project and that we should avoid seeking one-size-fits all solutions to multi-layered urban development issues.



Screenshot of 18 Participants During the Opening Session. © UN-Habitat

Session One: Migration and Urbanization in the North Rift Economic Bloc

The first session focused on the processes of migration and urbanisation and their impacts on the region. It included five presentations and nine speakers across UN agencies, development partners, and NOREB county governments representatives.

Presentation 1: **Overview of Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED P) in Turkana West:**

The objective of the first presentation was to give a brief introduction to the overarching KISED P programme that all UN Agencies and partners are using to implement projects in Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

For the first presentation, *Kahin Ismail (Head of Kakuma Sub Office for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR))*, gave an overview of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED P). KISED P is an area-based development framework, aligning with the Global Compact on Refugees. The framework acts as the focal point of development interventions within the Kakuma-Kalobeyei refugee cluster, and it is the banner under which this UN-Habitat project is operating.

Mr. Ismail noted that the main objective of KISED P is to create an enabling environment for both refugee and host communities to build their skills and capacities and to promote socio-economic integration. He stressed the importance of KISED P being a government-led initiative and that the programme's strength lies in its area-based, community-centric, market-driven, and sustainability-focused approach to planning. Mr. Ismail gave a brief overview of the eight KISED P components: health, education, water and sanitation, protection, infrastructure and planning, agriculture and livestock, sustainable energy, and private sector and entrepreneurship.

Presentation 2: **Regional Urban Context and Overview of the Project: "Sustainable economic development along Turkana West Development Corridor through enhanced connectivity":**

The second presentation aimed to give a brief orientation of the main towns, cities, hierarchies, and routes in the NOREB region and also to provide stakeholders with an overview of the UN-Habitat project, 'Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity'.

A representative from the implementing partner *Cities Alliance*, *Ms. Florence Lozet (Programme Analyst at Cities Alliance)*, began the presentation by calling for a new dynamic in migration policy:

"Most policy responses to migration are typically developed at the national level, however there is a changing dynamic to migration and a new approach is needed for cities and municipalities at the centre of the discussion. We need initiatives and policies and governments that can foster mobility by providing refugees, migrants with the right and capacity to fully benefit from services and opportunities."

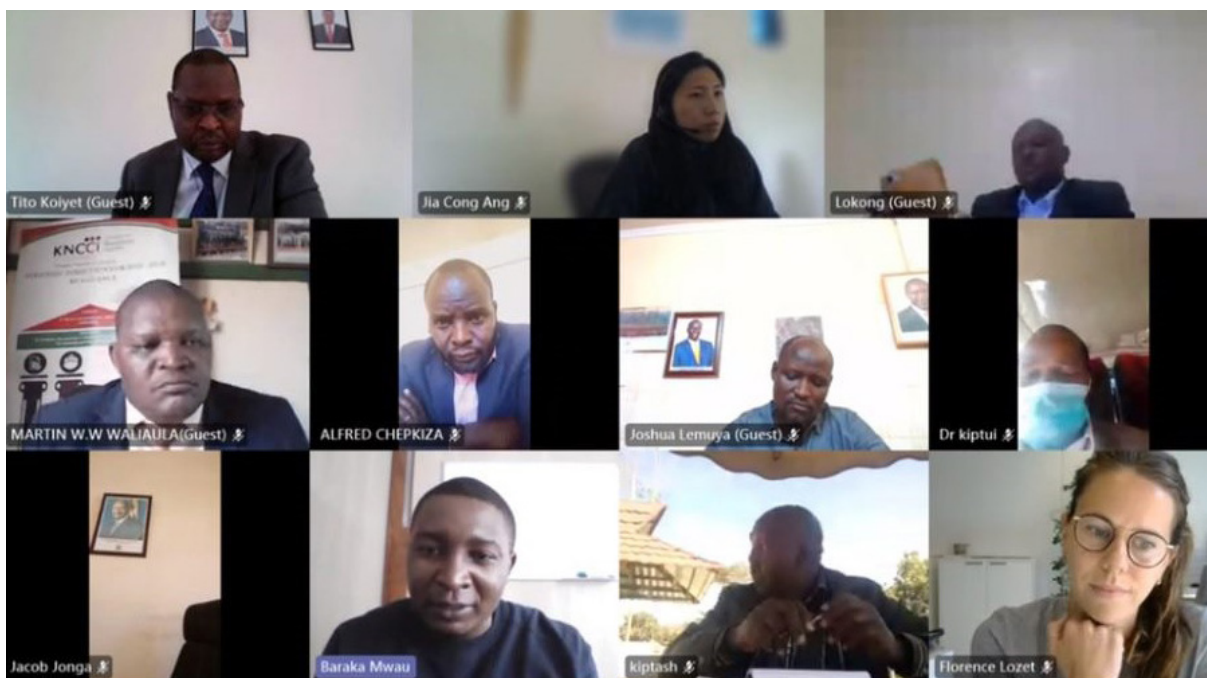
Following this, *UN-Habitat project lead, Mr. Baraka Mwau*, gave a presentation to orientate stakeholders with the urban landscape of the NOREB region in the international and national context. He highlighted the connectivity challenges of Turkana West with specific attention drawn to how the LAPPSET corridor will connect with the Northern Corridor at Lokichar, Turkana County, and the new A1 Road as the missing link between Juba, Southern Sudan, and West Pokot County in terms of connectivity.

Among other points, Mr. Mwau reflected on the increasing urban demographics of the NOREB bloc. The importance of Eldoret and Kitale, in supplying goods and services to the wider region and linking NOREB to the Kenyan urban economic system was conveyed. Through UN-Habitat's recent socioeconomic surveys in Turkana County, it was reported that businesses as far as Lokichoggio and even into South Sudan rely significantly on supplies from businesses in Eldoret. Reference was also made to the predominantly dispersed small towns found within the northern part of NOREB and across the border regions of Uganda and South Sudan. These towns act as supply markets and agro-service centres for farmers and pastoralists and link them to the urban economy. Such towns have seen their population increase significantly in the last 10 years as some pastoralists seek alternative livelihoods and it was noted that such small towns stand to gain the most from increased connectivity.

Presentation 3: Kenya's National Urban Context and Urban Support Initiatives

The fourth presentation was designed with the objective of conveying the national government's urban and migration priorities alongside on-going national interventions to promote sustainable urban development.

Mr. Solomon Ambwere from the State Department of Housing and Urban Development made the third presentation. Mr. Ambwere opened his presentation by noting that the national government considers the LAPPSET corridor as a potential urbanization corridor similar to the Northern Economic Corridor. With the lessons learnt from the Northern Corridor, Mr. Ambwere outlined how he hopes that instances of significant informal housing or 'slum' situations could be avoided along the LAPPSET corridor. To do so, he underlined the need for communities along the new corridor to be prepared for the influx of new arrivals.



Stakeholders during Session One. © UN-Habitat

“... urban centres have been found to drive local economic growth and offer economies of scale in production and public investments. We have an opportunity to ensure that the growth of towns along the corridor is well planned and managed... they can become centres of socio-economic transformation, centres of innovation, and drivers of economic growth in the region.”

Mr. Ambwere presented an overview of the Kenyan urban governance policy context with the new urban policy of 2016 and the Kenyan Urban Support Program (KUSP) and how they complement Vision 2030. Under the KUSP, it was reported that the national government is focusing on urban areas that qualify for the status of

city, municipality, town, and market, and for these areas to prepare and implement spatial plans.

Presentation 4: Migration and Urbanization in Regional Cities (NOREB): Impacts on Housing, Urban Services, Social Cohesion, and Livelihood Patterns

The objective of fourth presentation was to allow representatives of county governments to present their perspectives of the current migration and urbanization challenges and opportunities and what actions and investment must be taken to allow connectivity to deliver urban development.

- To begin the county presentations, Mr. Daniel Kibet Koech, an urban planner representing Uasin Gishu, conveyed his county's urban challenges, opportunities, and ways forward. Uasin Gishu is

becoming increasingly urban with the urban population now constituting 44% (1,163,186), up from 38.6% in the 2009 census. This has created opportunities, such as increased economic growth, while also leading to challenges. The counties' agricultural production has been reduced due to the splitting and division of land and the encroachment on the hinterland by the expansion of urban centres. Urban sprawl, particularly along the major corridors, has resulted in informal housing on Eldoret's periphery. Facilities, infrastructure, and utilities are reaching their maximum capacities due to the increased urban population. Traffic, congestion, and crime are becoming larger issues. And finally, the county is experiencing a reduced vibrancy of rural areas due to urban migration.

- Representing *Trans-Nzoia County Government*, Mr. John K. Sitienei also began by focusing on the positive impacts of urbanization on his county. Urbanization is bringing labour, increased demand for goods and services, and improved access to basic services for peri-urban areas. However, similar to Eldoret, the demand for housing in Kitale has increased, with many low-income families moving to informal settlements. Urban services such as health facilities and services, learning institutions, water facilities, transport facilities, energy, recreational facilities, employment opportunities, and markets are becoming over capacitated and cannot match the rate of migration, resulting in poor living conditions and contaminated water and air leading to diseases. Rates of conflict and crime are increasing as tensions rise over unequal opportunities and access to services. Urban governance challenges are surfacing in terms of land grabbing and encroachment, urban sprawl, the uncontrolled subdivision of plots, changes in land use, and inflated property prices.
- On behalf of the *Turkana County government*, Mr. Joshua Lemuya opened his presentation with a focus on the rapid expansion of Kakuma town following the influx of people in search of opportunities and casual labour, alongside the growth of the refugee population. It was reported that increased migration has led to various challenges. Serious congestion issues are affecting the major towns along the A1 Road such as Lodwar and Lokichogio, but Kakuma is particularly affected

due to the refugee and migrant populations. In Turkana West, particularly for Kakuma, there has been a significant water shortage. To alleviate the burden on urban centres such as Kakuma, Mr. Lemuya focused on the need to grow smaller towns around Kakuma such as Lopue, Kalob, Lokore and Letea, whose residents come to Kakuma to get essential commodities. The importance of other towns, such as Lodwar and Lokichar, were also highlighted as key business nodes for strategically connecting trade from Kitale and Eldoret with Uganda, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

Mr. Lemuya noted that despite an element of labour competition between host and refugee communities, the increased demand for services in addition to the humanitarian aid flows that have accompanied the refugee community to Turkana West, has allowed some of the benefits of their presence and urbanization to spread to the host community. Turkana County is making spatial plans and it hopes to create a combined Kakuma-Kalobeyei spatial plan. A recent assessment by the County Department of Urban Areas Management has found that Kakuma-Kalobeyei meets the threshold for municipal status. In preparation for this, the County is procuring waste management firms and a dumpsite while also supporting the private sector development of energy infrastructure through issuing permits and reducing regulations.

Presentation 5: Regional connectivity: The Significance of LAPPSET:

Representing the *LAPPSET Corridor Development Authority*, Mr. Raymond Ogalo opened his presentation with a brief overview of the LAPPSET plan and objectives. The corridors' regional connections were highlighted, with Lamu as the port city bringing ocean access to the corridor and the city of Isiolo acting as the corridor's key junction splitting the route towards Ethiopia and South Sudan. Mr. Ogalo referred to the growing regional market, the substantial growth in port volumes foreseen due to future consumption growth exceeding production growth, and the estimated LAPPSET corridor's regional market size of 315 million people. The seven key components of the LAPPSET project were put forward, alongside additional components including electricity, transmission, fiber optic connectivity, and water supply⁸. Components such as the highways, the Lamu port, SEZ, and resort city, the

8 LAPPSET Seven Components: (1) Lamu Port and SEZ, (2) Highways, (3) Oil Pipelines, (4) Railway, (5) International Airports, (6) Resort Cities, (7) High Grand Falls Dam

standard gauge railway, and the oil pipeline will provide opportunities in industries such as equipment leasing, labour, tourism, construction, (boreholes, materials etc), operations, heavy industry, cargo, security, and many more. To prepare for these developments, a master plan has been advanced which will ensure the various components are effectively linked to leverage the cities' opportunities for industrial and economic development.

To highlight some of the currently existing impacts of the LAPSSET project, *Ms. Suleyman Garawa, in her capacity as a representative of the town of Marsabit*, made some remarks about the improved connectivity of the region following the completion of the Moyale-Isiolo section of the LAPPSET corridor. Overall, the corridor has improved connectivity of regional towns to smaller urban centres resulting in reduced transport costs and cheaper access to goods and services. She focused on the gains made in access to schools, health care and the speed of ambulance services, and the improved mobile network.

Summary of Emerging Issues:

During the first session, 'Migration and Urbanization in the North Rift Economic Bloc', the need for a new approach to migration was clear with a focus on preparing urban areas to accommodate new populations. Issues such as rapid urbanization, over capacitated urban services, the growth of informal settlements and inflated property prices, rising traffic

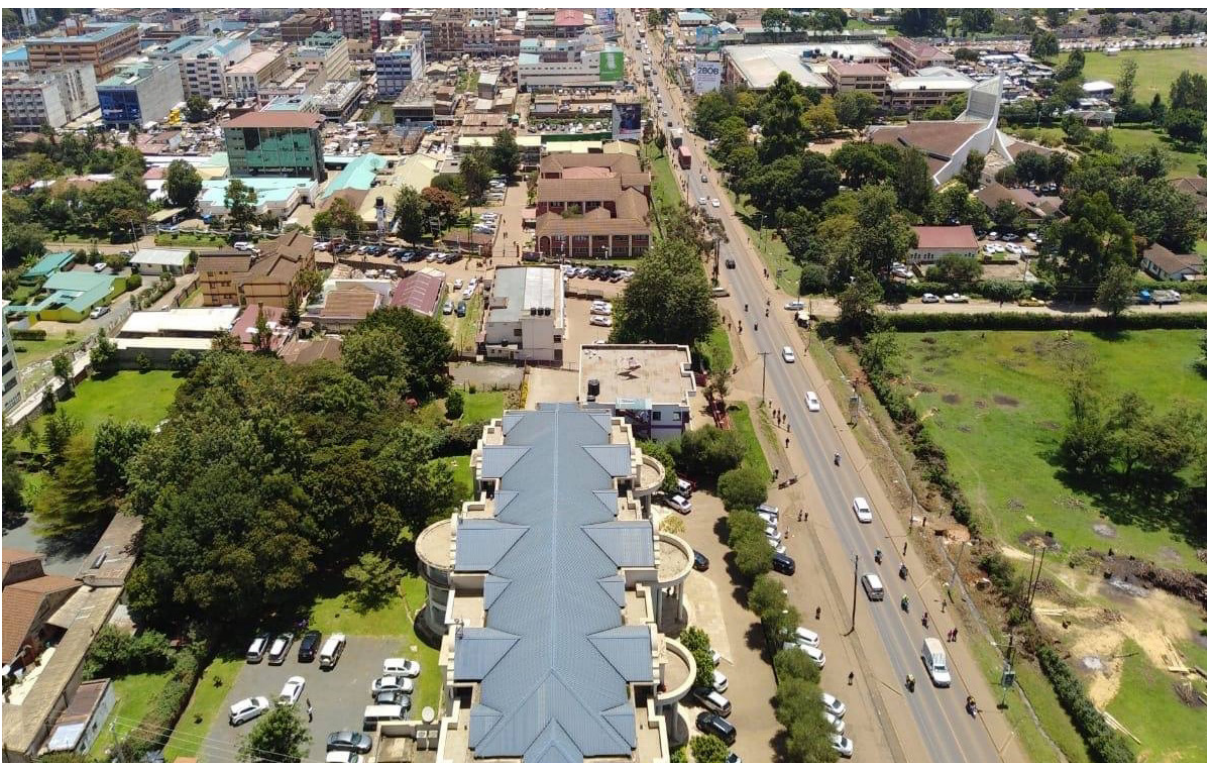
and crime, urban encroachment were among the key themes raised. The need for municipalities to develop spatial plans and for counties to focus on the growth of small towns was in focus.

Session Two: Regional Economic Connectivity within the North Rift Economic Bloc

This second session was designed to focus on regional economic integration in the context of enhanced connectivity. It included two presentations and seven speakers from the North Rift region as well as representatives from Uganda and South Sudan. Acting as a representative from NOREB, the afternoon session was moderated by Mr. Tito Koiyet, Eldoret Municipal Manager.

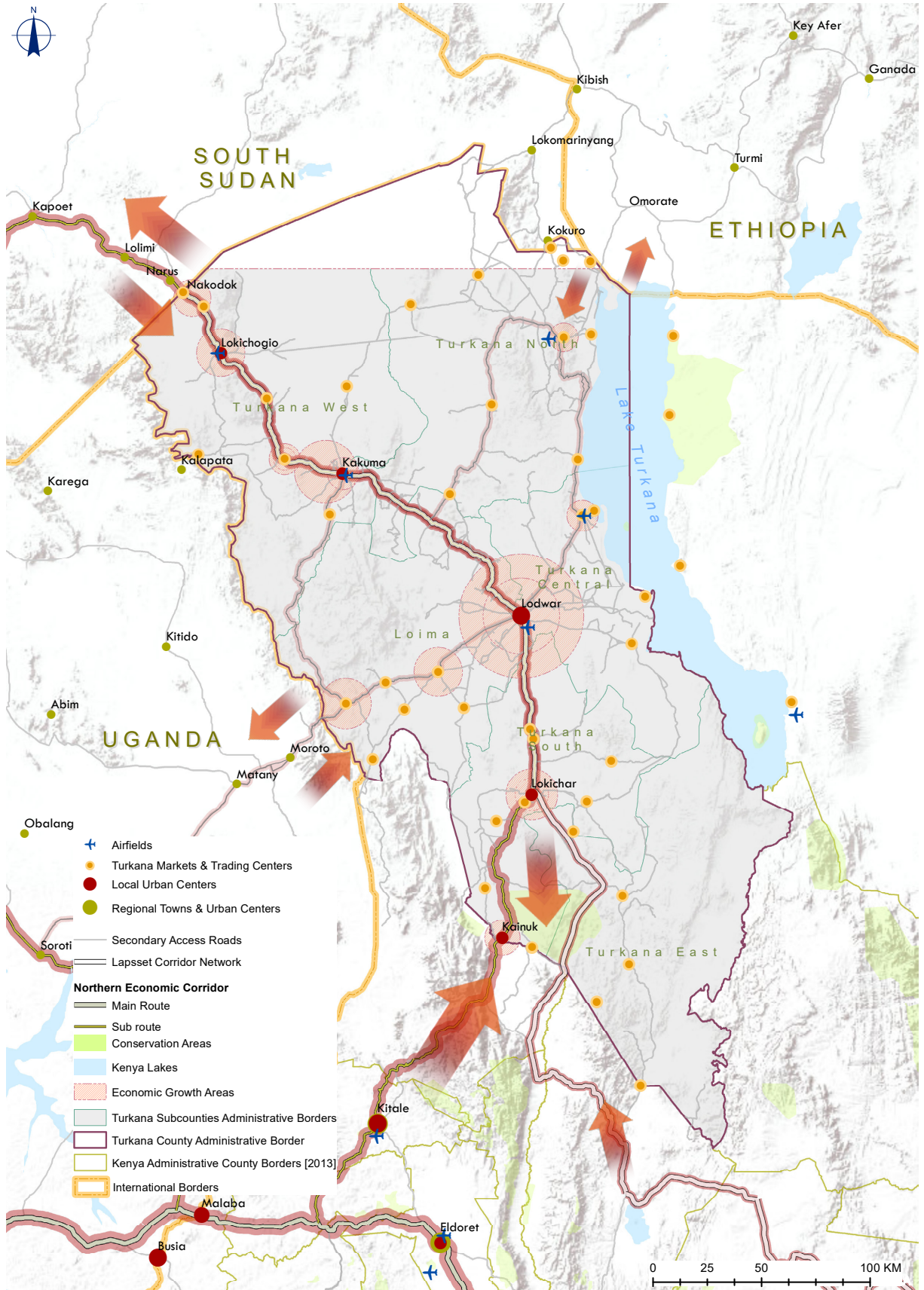
Presentation 6: Economic Connectivity and Trade in the North Rift Economic Bloc

The objective of the sixth presentation was to discuss the current economic relations between NOREB counties and more importantly the sectoral opportunities presented by enhanced connectivity and what policy interventions are needed to facilitate this. This session involved speakers representing the Kenyan National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) in the three counties of Trans Nzoia, West Pokot and Uasin Gishu.



Aerial view of Eldoret town. © Shutterstock

FIGURE 8 | TRADE FLOWS BETWEEN TURKANA COUNTY AND THE NEIGHBOURING REGION



Source: UN-Habitat/ Turkana West Socio-Economic Survey (2020)

To begin, Dominic Biwott (NOREB Chief Executive Officer) provided an overview about NOREB and emphasised the critical priority of developing regional infrastructure that would contribute to the regional socio-economic development.

- Notwithstanding the numerous economic opportunities that the region presents, the speaker listed some of the main challenges including uneven distribution of classified roads, unplanned urbanization resulting in inadequate infrastructure, historical marginalisation of the region, insecurity and complex migration patterns: rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to rural. While NOREB and its eight key urban areas [1] play a fundamental role as economic hubs, commodity centres, bulking hubs, or administrative headquarters (with Eldoret being the largest urban area and an industrial hub), the region faces barriers to economic connectivity. Those as listed by Biwott include: the vastness of the region, past urban development policy failures, poor and inadequate infrastructure, poor access to services, natural disasters and social challenges e.g., security.

The on-going implementation of A1 and LAPSSET infrastructure projects were considered key opportunities to develop NOREB, emphasising that these projects will enhance economic activity with regional cities (in Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia), linking the region to more domestic and international markets and would provoke more cross border migration leading to enhanced East African Integration. Mr. Biwott added that these connectivity opportunities will come to complement several regional economic initiatives undertaken by NOREB, such as: boosting manufacturing, enhancing disaster preparedness prioritizing human capital development for the region's youthful population, export development and promotion Strategy, and the harmonisation of tariffs to support the business community in the flow of goods and transactions, etc.

- After a quick overview of KNCCI and the geography, demography and agricultural assets of Trans-Nzoia County, *Martin Waliaula (County Chairman KNCCI – Trans Nzoia County)* outlined the county's investment opportunities in the areas of agriculture, tourism, construction and real estate, tourism and hospitality, healthcare, cultural, education and scientific cooperation, and infrastructure.

“North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB) is born of the realisation that we are faced with similar challenges as a region, whose solutions lie in unity of purpose in harnessing of our joint economic power, potentials and resources. Our challenges and opportunities transcend physical and administrative boundaries”.

After listing the NOREB region strengths (enormous resources, climatic conditions, and agricultural assets), Mr. Waliaula re-affirmed that NOREB aims to build on the competitive advantages of each county 's unique economy through fostering intra-regional trade and taking advantage of economies of scale. He added that while investment opportunities in the region are enormous in various sectors, a number of development challenges have to be addressed, mainly: low technology for irrigation farming (especially Turkana West), poor connectivity of roads, non-commitment of leaders to support the NOREB region, lack of sufficient electricity to power industrial development, unsustainable access to Africa market and huge loss for post-harvest due to inadequate agro-processing capacity.

Mr. Waliaula listed potential areas of collaboration for NOREB counties, such as: eco-tourism and hospitality; Special Economic Zones (SEZ); Cultural diplomacy in arts, crafts and fabric entertainment; agro-produce marketing; MSMEs partnerships, capacity building and knowledge sharing; strengthening urban governance on service delivery; and sustainable access of county products to the African market.

- In his presentation, *Mr. Seth Matamba (KNCCI CEO – West Pokot County)* started by giving an overview about West Pokot. LAPSSET corridor represents an advantage to West Pokot, as it is expected to strengthen role of the county as a business hub, such as in the town of Makutano, and hence, promote socio-economic development. Being rich in various agricultural products (fruits, onion and honey production), the two infrastructure projects will contribute to opening access to markets in NOREB and beyond. Mining and horticulture have been emphasised as two key sectors that could attract investors.

Issues and challenges listed by Mr. Matemba related to, among others, governance issues, multiple licencing barriers and a lack of inter-county trade information. He pointed out that the county has collaborated with other countries as an attempt to harmonise the livestock market and maximise economies of scale. The speaker concluded that the completion of the corridor would bring many gains, such as: improved security, enhanced connectivity, market harmonisation between different counties including other counties along the LAPSSSET corridor and promoting regional socio-economic development.

- *Mr. Antony Otwane* in his capacity as a representative of the *Uasin Gishu KNCCI* emphasised the various opportunities that the LAPSSSET corridor presents for the growth of local trade, attracting investment, and infrastructural development that will promote connectivity and market integration between counties and across borders (Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia). He noted that the corridor will support Eldoret in accessing additional markets in Turkana for value-added crops such as mango and manufacturing industries. Once completed, the corridor will also contribute to the development of the tourism sector. He reiterated the challenges mentioned during the previous presentation and emphasised the importance of tax harmonisation, easing bureaucracy, facilitating access to information and business promotion through a governmental led policy.

Presentation 7: Cross Border Economic Connectivity and Migration

The final presentation focused on cross-border relations and involved three speakers from regions on the borders of Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan. The aim of this presentation was for stakeholders to leave with a greater understanding of the current cross-border economic and migration related flows and to establish the opportunities and challenges presented by increased connectivity.

- *Mr. Kennedy Omollo (Assistant County Commissioner, Lokichoggio division, Kenya)* opened by noting that Kenya, as a host of a large number of refugees from South Sudan, is committed to keeping strong ties with neighbouring countries and stands at the forefront in advancing peace and stability at the border region. He emphasised that the conflict in South Sudan is affecting the border region in terms of trade, investment in infrastructure projects and influx of refugees. South Sudan, as

explained by Mr. Omollo, is an export destination for Kenyans, who have made significant investments in sectors such as banking, insurance, construction, hospitality, ICT, transportation etc. Due to its strategic location along the LAPSSSET corridor, Lokichoggio town is a business hub presenting enormous potentials in the border region. The presence of government structures along Kenya and the border of South Sudan presents an opportunity to further negotiate business synergies.

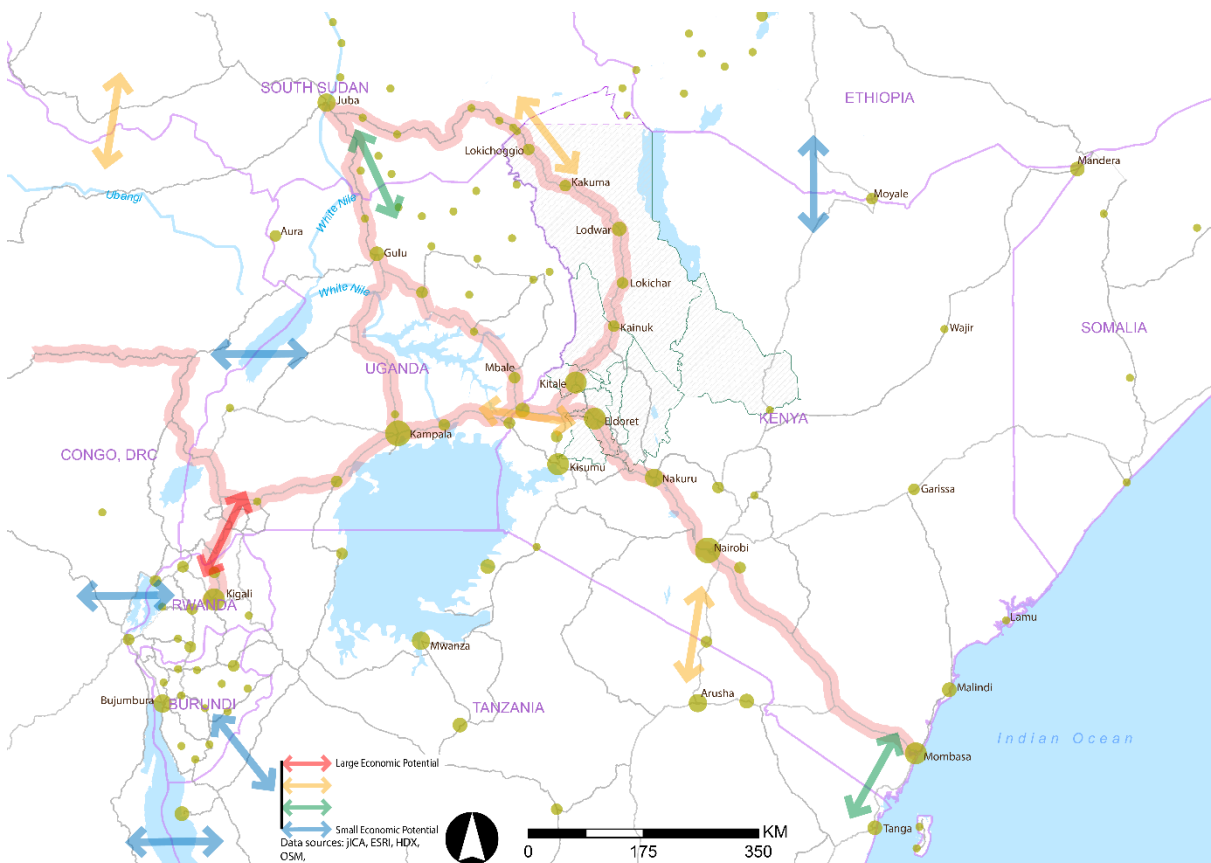
Mr. Omollo overviewed the likely impacts of the A1 Road and LAPSSSET Corridor Projects, stressing that that once completed they will likely trigger increased cross-border migrations (asylum seekers, economic, education migrants and healthcare). Additionally, Mr. Omollo enumerated the various gains to be made from the increased cross-border market access in terms of livestock trading and export to border regions, reduced costs for transportation and business activities, the revival of Lokichoggio airport (currently under rehabilitation), increased land value, the emergence of new trade centres, real estate development. All these gains shall contribute to creating sustainable employment opportunities.

- In his presentation, *Mr. Jonga Jacob (Regional District Commissioner, Moroto, Uganda)* outlined the strong cultural and socio-economic ties linking Uganda to Kenya and South Sudan and noted most of the population in Moroto originate from these countries. Mr. Jacob described the socio-economic relationships between Moroto and Kenya such as the dynamic movements of people and goods that come from Kenya, particularly, Turkana County, to Moroto and vice-versa. He listed the various shared issues and challenges, notably peace and stability across the borders. In this context, Jonga stressed on the importance of the two projects of A1 Road and the LAPSSSET corridor to enhance border security. He noted that socio-economic development cannot be realised unless stability and peace are secured. Other important relevant challenges highlighted by Mr. Jacob related to the issue of drought in the region, the poor access to business information, and addressing opportunities for investment in neighbouring countries. To conclude, Mr. Jacob listed the expected benefits that can be shared among the cross-border region from the A1 Road and LAPSSSET relating to tourism, hotels, marble mining, and food security.

- Mr. Abdalla Lokeno Apas (County Commissioner, Kapoeta region, South Sudan) reiterated the importance of the two infrastructural projects on economic development and movement of people, goods and services. He emphasised the importance of transforming discourses and plans into actions

and targeting sound socio-economic projects benefiting communities in Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda. To achieve this, Mr. Apas stressed the need for cooperation and partnership between the three countries to identify shared issues and find common solutions.

FIGURE 9 | REGIONAL CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC POTENTIALS



Map redrawn by UN-Habitat/ Data Sources- Courtesy

Summary of Key Issues Emerging from the Presentations:

During the second session, ‘Regional Economic Connectivity within the North Rift Economic Bloc’, many themes emerged as priorities. The various avenues for economic collaboration among NOREB counties was a

clear issue. Enhanced connectivity will provide many opportunities to boost manufacturing and industry and to create extended agricultural value chains through NOREB counties and across borders. Following from this, the need to ease the bureaucratic barriers to trade and to harmonise trade policy among NOREB counties was also a common theme.

Section 3: Closing Session & Workshop Recommendations

Introduction

As part of the final session, the workshop was concluded with reflections and conclusions from UN-Habitat project lead, Mr. Mwau and NOREB CEO Mr. Biwott.

Mr. Mwau looked forward to further engagement with the gathered stakeholders and to the project's next stakeholder workshop. He touched on the key messages highlighted throughout both sessions. He emphasised the importance of appreciating the geographic position and strategic comparative advantages of NOREB counties and the need for partnerships both in the region and across borders, echoing the sentiments earlier noted by the Uganda and South Sudanese representatives. Attention was drawn to the point made by Mr. Pienaar, Human Settlements Officer at UN-Habitat, who noted that in order to support the economic integration of refugees in Turkana West, we must have a broader perspective and intervention on the sustainable economic and urban development in the NOREB and East Africa region.

Mr. Mwau also raised some common threads from the workshop such as: the repeated issues the rapid growth of towns and its spatial and socioeconomic impacts on urban services, adequate jobs, and facilities, in addition to the businesses and enterprises now finding both connectivity and administrative challenges despite the opportunities of urbanization. Reiterating the point made throughout the workshop, he emphasised the potential for the NOREB towns and counties along the corridor to create a strategic alliance to grow urban areas more sustainably and to address such urban development challenges and opportunities. Following this, Mr. Mwau reasserted the necessity of investing in secondary and small towns, and it was reiterated that all towns have strategic roles and that regardless of size, they need to work together in linking economies through human settlements.

Mr. Biwott gave thanks to all the attendees and organising partners, UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and extended an invitation to future partnerships. He expressed the hope that from the workshop report the NOREB counties can extract a work plan to address the specific interventions and challenges that are needed to take full advantage of the recent infrastructural developments.

"To advance the socio-economic agenda for the eight counties. We must focus particularly on trade and investments. These forums make economic cooperation make sense to all of us. There is no way that we can discuss economic cooperation and integration without considering trade and other facilitative infrastructures that allows trade among ourselves or our neighbours",

The following points are a synthesis of the recommendations given by stakeholders in presentations and in the discussions that followed throughout both sessions of the workshop. The set of recommendations are categorised under the four following themes:

- Enhanced municipal governance for sustainable urban development,
- Sound Urban Planning Systems and Practices,
- Promoting Investments for improved access to services and housing and,
- Economic integration and development.



Satellite Image of Lodwar. © Google Earth, 2021

Enhance Municipal Governance for Sustainable Urban Development

Recommendations:

With devolution, there is an opportunity for local urban governance to address emerging needs and challenges the necessity to strengthen municipal governance to both manage migration and urbanization and facilitate economic growth was a common focus of the recommendations shared. The following points represent the most salient elements.:

Capacity development for municipal urban boards: The point was raised that while all counties have formally established urban boards for the management of urban areas in line with the provisions of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, these urban boards have insufficient capacity to effectively manage urban areas and lack adequate professional and technical staff. As many municipalities are new and have new board members, it was recommended that the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) and other partners build the capacity of urban board members. Through building their capacity, and imparting them with the necessary skills, they will have greater technical skills, awareness of their role and mandate, and knowledge of urban planning and knowledge to deal with urbanisation.

Increased autonomy and resources for municipal urban boards:

The point was also made that such urban boards are lacking in operational and functional autonomy from county governments. It was noted that they are not empowered with substantial authority to manage significant municipal services and that they operate as sections within the county government, rather than as semi-autonomous agencies with delegated authority. In addition, few urban boards have been provided with sufficient budgetary resources to fulfil their mandate. The aforementioned capacity building will give urban boards greater awareness of their role and how they relate to other departments within the County Government and the County Assembly, which holds the mandate of allocating resources for the board's management. However, county governments must take the autonomy of urban boards seriously and do this by providing adequate funds so such boards can be empowered to tackle anticipated urbanisation and migration challenges.

Building a strategic alliance for improved urban management:

The potential of a strategic alliance of towns in the NOREB region was put forward on many occasions as a next step to tackle some of the issues discussed in the workshop. Such discussions focused on working collaboratively and supporting each other in building capacity in urban management to grow towns

more sustainably and address urban development challenges and opportunities. Specifically, during his presentation, Mr. Koech, made the point that Uasin Gishu County can contribute to such alliances with other municipalities through the provision of technical expertise and monetary assistance. The prospect of using the findings of this report as the basis for a future strategic alliance among NOREB towns was also raised as a possible path forward.

Nurture Sound Urban Planning Practices

Multiple speakers highlighted that municipalities and county governments need to place a greater emphasis and importance on land use and spatial planning at both the county and town level as a tool for anticipating and mitigating the negative effects of migration and urbanization, while also taking full advantage of their opportunities.

Recommendations:

Land Usage and Subdivision: Guarding against the uncontrolled subdivision of land and standards of plot sizes were also raised as important issues for the effective urban management of rapid urbanization. It was recommended to safeguard community interests with sub-divisions that ensure land uses meet minimum local standards for health, safety, and convenience and that as a minimum the standard subdivision of land should be a quarter acre (1011.7m²). Among other benefits, this minimum division will accommodate health and safety needs, the importance of which has been clear through the necessity of adequate space during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Facilitate the swift or fast-tracked approval of municipal spatial development plans: More than one municipality asserted that while they had created a spatial development plan, its implementation was delayed due to the slow approval process of the county assemblies. The reduction in such procedural barriers would allow the faster implementation of municipal plans that can timely tackle issues of urbanisation and facilitate economic development.

Mainstreaming Forced Displacement and Migrations in Urban Planning: The National and County governments and local municipalities must bring forward initiatives and policies that can foster mobility by providing refugees, migrants with the right and capacity to fully benefit from services and opportunities. This includes ensuring that spatial plans and the

development of services are designed with a consideration for the current and projected needs and impacts of refugee and migrant populations in urban centres.

Promoting Investments for Improved Access to Services and Housing

Recommendations:

Integrated infrastructural and service investments: A common theme was the call for sustained investment in infrastructure and basic services in an equitable manner. To leverage the opportunities of the A1 Road and LAPPSET corridor, NOREB counties must invest in infrastructure such as secondary and local links to the connect their counties and towns with the new corridors.

It was also noted that while there is health, education, waste management, and business-related infrastructure in place, it is inadequate to meet the modern demands of goods, services, and people. Such investments are not just imperative to managing rapid urbanization, they are essential to the establishment of an enabling economic environment through the creation of services that promote business development, the growth of local investments, and local economies. In particular, investment in energy infrastructure for a reliable electricity grid was often raised as an essential intervention to foster economic development in the region. The integration of such infrastructural development was highlighted as key component for the sustainable management of urban environments.

Affordable and Safe Housing Solutions: Many speakers mentioned the increased demand for housing in urban centres following migration and population increases. Such dynamics have resulted in inflated and unaffordable housing costs in towns such as Kitale and Eldoret, pushing many low-income households towards informal and structurally unsafe settlements on the urban periphery. County governments must act quickly to prevent the significant growth of such informal housing areas through research and investment in safe, affordable, and well-planned housing units that are well-integrated into their urban environments.

Developing and investing in small and secondary towns: Often surfacing as a recommendation was the importance and necessity of investing in secondary and small towns as a means of developing rural-urban linkages in the region, reducing and managing urbanization to larger cities, providing accessible agro-

processing facilities, and creating market access for farmers, fishermen and pastoralists, and. For example, towns such as Kakuma can become hubs that can grow secondary urban centres around it such as Lopur, Kalobeyei, Lokore, and Letea, since these towns access essential commodities or pass through to connect to other counties and regions.

Economic integration and development

Recommendations:

Comparative advantage mapping and value chain development for increased and economic growth: it was noted that counties should reflect on and map their comparative advantage factors and exploit them accordingly. Certain counties have advantages in specific products, such as the case of Uasin Gishu and Trans-Nzoia with maize farming, or West Pokot with the newly opened abattoir. Other towns have advantages in their position as transit zones and final destinations. For example, West Pokot County stands to gain significantly from the LAPPSET corridor as flows of goods and people will need to pass through the county to access the infrastructure. Lodwar is also positioned to connect the towns of Kitale and Eldoret to three countries. Such comparative advantage mapping can help counties and municipalities to explore their opportunities to add more value chains to these products and create more opportunities for county and regional economies. Municipalities should identify how their towns can strategically leverage such new connections to create economic development.

Policy interventions to reduce trade barriers: Many policy interventions were put forward that aimed to ease the process of doing business and therefore enable businesses to take advantage of increased connectivity. Some of the following policies were suggested by stakeholders:

- An inter-county uniform policy on product standards that inhibit the ease of transactions and trade.
- A policy on the mutual recognition of counties' licences, fees, and charges among NOREB counties to minimise multiple licensing and to reduce the duplication fees received by transporters moving goods across the region.
- To cease the exacting of multiple taxation systems across NOREB counties with the harmonisation of taxes and the creation of a single business permit to make a more fluid business environment.

Training and capacity building of MSMEs and the establishment of MSMEs Development Centres: The establishment of development centres for MSMEs in addition to offering business training was mooted as a potential avenue to fostering business development and creating economic growth and in particular for marketing agro-products in the region and beyond its boundaries.

Allow greater access to administrative processes surrounding inter-county trade: It was noted that administrative processes and criteria have acted as a barrier and delayed goods in transit on highways, resulting in the loss of perishable goods such as flowers, fruits, and vegetables. As there is a lack of accessible inter-county trade information, one recommendation was for NOREB to create an open-access portal for entrepreneurs and traders. that will share and deliver easy access to information surrounding what licences or requirements are needed for inter-county trade.

Equitable access to trade information and labour opportunities for host and refugee communities: In response to competition for labour between the host and refugee communities in Turkana County, it was suggested that as the County Government realises that both communities are engaged in this business, the county government should ensure information surrounding such opportunities is equally shared with both communities. Given the likelihood that refugees and migrants will be penetrating further into the interior of Kenya due to the increased infrastructure connectivity, this is a lesson worth considering for all NOREB counties.

Negotiating economic deals the bloc: To increase the harmonisation of trade within the region, the possibility was mooted that NOREB counties develop MoUs that will allow them to work collaboratively in negotiating economic deals with other regions.

Establishment of cross-border economic partnerships with border regions: To facilitate cross-border trade and value chain development, stakeholders from Uganda, South Sudan, and Kenya drew attention to the opportunities to be gained from creating economic partnerships between NOREB and bordering counties in Uganda and South Sudan.

Annex 1: Workshop Evaluation

To assess the success of the workshop, all stakeholders received an evaluation survey (Annex 2). Out of 73 attendees, 31 stakeholders completed the questionnaire completely. The following section will highlight their responses on the content and organisation of the workshop in addition to suggestions for future events of a similar nature.

1. Content of presentations

Overall, most stakeholders that completed the questionnaire viewed the overall content of the seven presentations to be informative and engaging. The following statements refer to only views of those completed the questionnaire.

- All stakeholders stated they were more informed about the project “Sustainable Economic Development along Turkana West Development Corridor”.
- Majority of the stakeholders (96.7%) agreed that they have more knowledge of the LAPSET Corridor plan, including its significance to issues of urbanization, enhanced connectivity, increased migration, and socio-economic development in Northern Kenya region and the Eastern African region.
- Most stakeholders (96.7 per cent) also asserted that they have an increased awareness of the preparedness of existing urban management systems for rapid urbanization and how regional connectivity and integration can be enhanced in the NOREB region.
- All stakeholders stated that they have increased their understanding of the opportunities and challenges for the promotion of economic connections between the NOREB counties and Turkana County.
- Most stakeholders (96.8 per cent) agreed that they have a greater understanding of the existing trade systems in NOREB and the opportunities and challenges relating to the promotion/enhancement of economic connections in the NOREB region.

2. Organisation:

- Many stakeholders agreed that both the first (100%) and second session (96.7 per cent) of the workshop was well organised.
- All stakeholders asserted that the content was well structured.
- Most stakeholders stated that in both session one (100%) and session two (93.3per cent) participants were given the needed time to take part in the discussions.

3. Workshop outcomes:

Against the previously stated workshop intended outcomes, stakeholders responded accordingly:

Outcome 1: All stakeholders (100 per cent) attested that they had a stronger awareness and knowledge of the region’s urbanisation challenges and opportunities, including those linked to migration.

Outcome 2: Every stakeholder (100 per cent) answered that they have more awareness on the potential impacts of increased regional connectivity for regional economic development and urbanisation due to internal and cross border migration.

Outcome 3: All stakeholders (100 per cent) stated they have a better understanding of the policy implications of the currently existing economic connections within the region and specifically with Turkana County, and areas in which new opportunities exist for partnership.

Outcome 4: Each stakeholder (100 per cent) agreed that they have a better understanding about the opportunities to build alliances and networks to promote regional economic linkages and reduce the costs and barriers to trade.

4. Additional Comments and Recommendations

Stakeholders requested that:

- More emphasis be placed on time management by presenters and time enforcement by facilitators.
- In the future, the papers and presentations are shared in advance.
- More specific groups (agriculture, industry, etc) are represented rather than business agglomerations (e.g., Chambers of commerce).

Workshop Evaluation Sheet

Please mark with a (x) your answer to the relevant statement

Statement	Yes	No	Don't know
Workshop Expected Outcomes			
I have a stronger awareness and knowledge of the region's urbanisation challenges and opportunities, including those linked to migration.			
I have more awareness on the potential impacts of increased regional connectivity for regional economic development and urbanisation due to internal and cross border migration			
I have more awareness and better understanding of policy implications of the currently existing economic connections within the region and specifically with Turkana County, and areas in which new opportunities exist for partnership.			
I have a better understanding about the opportunities to build alliances and networks to promote regional economic linkages and reduce the costs and barriers to trade			
Workshop Presentations			
I am more informed about the project "Sustainable Economic Development along Turkana West Development Corridor"			
I have more knowledge on LAPSSET Corridor including its significance to issues of urbanisation and socio-economic development in Northern Kenya region and the Eastern African region.			
I have an increased awareness of the preparedness of existing urban management systems for rapid urbanisation and how regional connectivity and integration can be enhanced in NOREB region			
I have increased my understanding of the LAPPSET plan and its significance for enhanced connectivity and increased migration within the NOREB region			
I have increased my understanding of the opportunities and threats to promote economic connections between the four counties and Turkana County			
I have an increased understanding of the existing trade systems in NOREB and the opportunities and challenges relating to the promotion/enhancement of economic connections in the NOREB region			
Workshop Organisation			
The workshop was well orged			
The workshop content was well structured			
Participants were given the needed time to take part in the discussions			

Additional Comments and Suggestions (e.g., future engagements or features)

Annex 2: Participation

Speakers & Facilitators

1. **Susan Aletia**, UN-Habitat program coordinator in Turkana County (Facilitator)
2. **Tito Koiyet**, Eldoret Municipal Manager (Facilitator)
3. **Hon. Jackson Mandago**, Governor of Uasin Gishu County
4. **Hernan Pienaar**, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat
5. **Kahin Ismail**, Head of Kakuma Sub Office, UNHCR
6. **Florence Lozet**, Urban Analyst, Cities Alliance
7. **Baraka Mwau**, Urban Planner and Project Lead, UN-Habitat
8. **Solomon Ambwere**, Director of Urban Planning, State Department of Housing and Urban Development
9. **Daniel Kibet Koech**, Urban planner, County Government of Uasin Gishu
10. **John K. Sitienei**, County Government of Trans-Nzoia
11. **Joshua Lemuya**, Chief Officer, County Government of Turkana
12. **Raymond Ogalo**, LAPPSET Corridor Development Authority
13. **Suleyman Garawa**, County Government of Marsabit
14. **Dominic Biwott**, Chief Executive Officer, North Rift Economic Bloc
15. **Martin W.W. Waliaula**, County Chairman of the Kenyan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KNCCI),
Trans-Nzoia Chapter
16. **Isoka M. Seth**, CEO KNCCI – West Pokot County Chapter
17. **Mark Antony Otwane**, CEO KNCCI –Uasin Gishu County Chapter
18. **Keneddy Omollo**, **Assistant County Commissioner**, Lokichoggio division, County Government of Turkana
19. **Jonga Jacob**, Regional District Commissioner, Moroto, Uganda
20. **Abdalla Lokeno Apas**, County Commissioner, Kapoeta County, South Sudan
21. **Ibrahim Kasso**, Regional Programme Manager, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Workshop Participants

NAME	COUNTY	DEPARTMENT
Kirwa Kurgat	Nandi	Economic Planning
Clifton Kurgat	Nandi	Trade
Alfred Chepkiza	Nandi	Agriculture
David Busienei	Nandi	Municipal Board Member
Veronicah Kioko musee	Nandi	Physical Planner
Stephen Tabosei	UG	Trader
Daniel Kiptoo Melly	UG	Trader
Antony Otwane	UG	Chamber of Commerce
Brenda Rono	UG	Industrialisation
Titus Tirop	UG	Livestock
Jackton Kiprop	UG	Physical Planner
Silas Kiplagat	EMC	Trade
John Maritim	EMC	Economic Planning
Joseph Kiptai	EMC	Trader
Emanuel Mutange	Trans-Nzoia	Surveyor
Kenneth K Langat	Trans-Nzoia	Physical Planner
Edith Nasimiyu Barasa	Trans-Nzoia	Planner municipality
Patrick Mukamo Nyongesa	Trans-Nzoia	Municipal Manager
Anita Wakoli	Trans-Nzoia	Urban Development
Antony Malovi	Trans-Nzoia	Chamber of Commerce
Antony Masika	Trans-Nzoia	Chamber of Commerce
Wakapisi Christine	Trans Nzoia	Housing
Alphonse Rotich	Baringo	Physical Planning
Henry Nalipan	Baringo	Land Surveyor
Julius Bolei	Baringo	Municipal Manager
David Kiptui	Baringo	Board Member
Catherine Changwony	Baringo	CO, Lands, housing & Urban devt
Lokidor Moses	Baringo	Trade
William Kurere	Baringo	Planning
Winnie A Bore	Baringo	Chief Officer-Livestock
Abuje Vincent	Baringo	Agriculture
Richard Bundotich	Baringo	Livestock
Wilfred Kiplagat	Baringo	Agriculture
Frank Leshoomo	Samburu	Trade
Philip Nzangi	Tranzoia	Trader
Nancy Murda Lesuruan	Samburu	Municipal Manager
Moses Omondi	Samburu	Director, Lands
Reuben Katina	West Pokot	Trade

NAME	COUNTY	DEPARTMENT
Geoffrey Lokong	West Pokot	Urban Development
Dr. Samwel Chelimo	West Pokot	Agriculture
Lucy Lobo	West Pokot	Municipal Manager
Augustine Loile	West Pokot	CEC Urban development
Francis Kitelauyan	West Pokot	CEC Trade
Wilson Ngoroko	West Pokot	CO Housing and Urban development
Musa Achipa	West Pokot	Physical Planning
Ibrahim Pyakich Longolol	West Pokot	CO Trade and industrialisation
Rev.Mark Lotee	West Pokot	Chair, Chamber of Commerce
Davies Munyalo	Turkana County	Director, Physical Planning
Joseph Egiron	Turkana County	Director, Survey
Lynus Ebenyo	Turkana County	County Chief of Staff
Michael Lodeya	Turkana County	Trader
Daniel Echor Lokiriama	Turkana County	Trader
Hussein Abdilatiff	LAPSSET Corridor Authority	Programme Manager
Mercy Chepchirchir	NOREB	Secretariat
Seth Matemba	West Pokot	CEO KNCCI
Willy Kenei	Uasin-Gishu	Chair KNCCI
Martin Waliaula	Trans-Nzoia	Chair KNCCI
Tito Koiyet	Uasin-Gishu	Municipal Manager/Facilitator
Daniel Koech	Uasin-Gishu	County Director Physical Planning
John Sitienei	Trans nzoia	Physical Planner
Suleyman Gawarah	Marsabit	Planner
Kennedy Omollo	Turkana	Assistant County Commissioner
Jonga Jacob	Uganda, Moroto	Regional District Commissioner
Raymond Ogalo	LAPSSET Corridor Authority	Planner
Joshua Lemuya	Turkana County	Chief Officer
Solomon Ambwere	State department of Housing and Urban Development	Director
Susan Aletia	Turkana County	Facilitator
Dominic Biwott	NOREB	CO
Zebby Kirui (Liaison to Hon. Jackson Mandago)	Uasin- Gishu county	Liaison to the Governor
Joyce Mutai	NOREB	Secretariat
Zebby Kirui	NOREB	Secretariat
Barnabas Limo	NOREB	Secretariat
Cornelius Kendagor Kiprop	NOREB	Secretariat

Annex 3: Workshop Agenda

ACTIVITY	LEAD	DURATION
SESSION ONE		
Introduction and Opening Remarks	UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, and Turkana and Uasin Gishu County Governors	09:00-09:20
Presentation 1: Overview of Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-economic Development Plan (KISEDIP) in Turkana West	UNHCR- KISEDIP Coordinator	09:20-09:30
Presentation 2: Regional Urban Context and Overview of the Project: 'Sustainable economic development along Turkana West Development Corridor through enhanced connectivity'	Turkana County Officer UN-Habitat Project Team	09:30-09:45
Presentation & Discussion 3: Kenya's National Urban Context and Urban Support Initiatives	The State Department of Housing and Urban Development	09:45-09:55
Short Break/ Further Questions or Comments		09:55-10:05
Presentation & Discussion 4: Migration and Urbanisation in Regional Cities (NOREB): Impacts on Housing, Urban Services, Social Cohesion, and Livelihood Patterns	Urban Development Departments of Turkana, Uasin Gishu, and Trans Nzoia County Governments	10:05- 11:05
Short Break/ Further Questions or Comments		11:05-11:15
Presentation & Discussion 5: Regional connectivity: The Significance of LAPSET	LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority Local government representative from Marsabit, Kenya	11:15- 11:55
Wrap Up and Q&A Session		11:55-12:05
Lunch Break		12:05-13:05
SESSION TWO:		
Session Introduction	UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance, and a NOREB Facilitator	13:05-13:15
Presentation and Discussion 6: Economic Connectivity with Regional Cities (NOREB)	NOREB CEO Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce from Turkana, Trans-Nzoia, West Pokot, and Uasin Gishu	13:15-14:40
Short Break/ Further Questions or Comments		14:40-14:50
Presentation & Discussion 7: Cross Border Economic Connectivity and Migration	Representatives from Lokichogio, Kenya, Moroto, Uganda, and Kapoeta, South Sudan	14:50-15:45
Wrap Up and Way Forward	UN-Habitat	15:45-16:00
Closing words	NOREB Leadership, UN-Habitat & Cities Alliance	16:00-16:15

Sustainable Economic Development along the Turkana West Development Corridor Through Enhanced Connectivity



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Turkana West Infrastructure Challenges. © UN-Habitat/Dream Magical Studio

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