

From
the People of Japan

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Being Settled



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FOREWORD

Just as in the rest of Africa and other parts of the world, cities in Kenya are fast increasing with new development, innovation and new markets. Urbanization is transforming place, economies, and lives. Small towns become big towns, big towns become cities, and cities become metropolises, a shift that we cannot ignore but must rather plan for. However rapid urbanization is often poorly planned, or totally spontaneous, with little or no planning at all. Well-planned urbanization contributes to development and safe streets, and unlocks the productive potential of cities and regions, but the contrary is also true, with poor-planning leading to congenital problems that communities must then endure for generations.

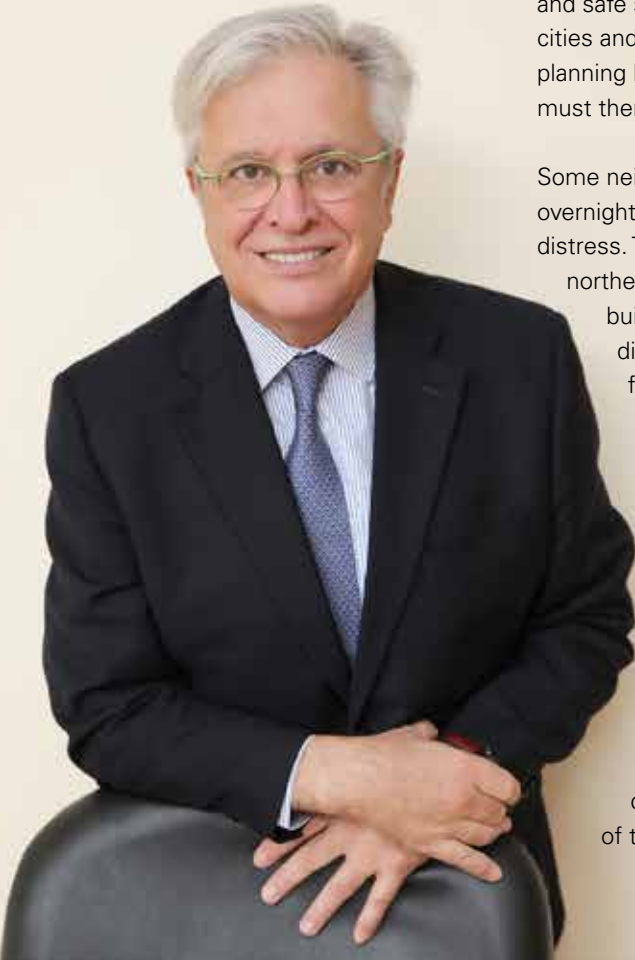
Some neighbourhoods are created wholly anew and often overnight due to war, climactic upheaval, or economic distress. The Japanese Government-funded programme in northern Kenya is just one such case, with communities built in the wake of catastrophe and resulting displacement. Yet these physical re-settlements face many of the same challenges that one might encounter in a post-industrial society such as Detroit. How should a settlement and its devastated community be planned to be inclusive? To take care of the safety needs of children and women? To create public space that serves the particular requirements of that community? To encourage economic activity, and the exchange of ideas and news? To ensure that water, food, sanitation, health and schooling can be woven into the the physical fabric of a settlement? A refugee camp has many of the issues of a city, and many of the same planning issues apply to both.

UN-Habitat's approach in planning for human settlements is highly participatory, taking special care to involve the young generation, who have the greatest interest in the longevity of a successful home and community, and therefore in the assessment and planning process. Urban youth all over the world are not only those who will most benefit from well-planned urbanization, but they are also the drivers of sustainable development far into the future. Working with youth groups adds value to urban planning by using their insights and their critical view of their urban lives, and adds practical planning considerations that account for the productivity potential of the young, and the quality of life for all those who live in a given community.

The book is an unusual, but important example of lessons on how urbanization is experienced by the young generation, in this case a refugee camp in one of the harshest environments of northern Kenya in which UN-Habitat is involved. It was an exercise that showcased the capacity of the young to adjust to and apply innovation and technology, and to learn how to be part of the development of their community using their skills and critical thinking. I hope that you will enjoy this snapshot, as we at UN-Habitat have enjoyed watching this unfold.



Dr. Joan Clos
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations
Executive Director, UN-Habitat



Being Settled

Turkana County, Kenya, 2016. Turkana people have been nomads for generations, walking their cattle long distances and often across borders seeking for better grassland. Once the benefits of being settled have become more attractive to Turkana people, there has been a shift from a pastoralist community to a settled society. However, this change has been challenged by different issues, from water provision, to shelter and self-sustainability. The land of Turkana is very difficult for settlers, from water and food scarcity, to disasters such as flood and erosion. But this has not stopped Turkana people from building their own settlements and cope with the challenges of being settled. Today, Turkana is a very well governed county, with high ambition to achieve urbanization, despite the rough climatic conditions.

This book illustrates a settled community of Turkana people, already at the 3rd or 4th generation of lifestyle shift. Through a workshop with Turkana Youth, UN-Habitat has conducted a two folded exercise: on one hand a youth group was led to discover elements of being settled as a

community, through exploring typologies of living space and livelihood, elements of sustainability and self-reliance but on the other hand, the workshop provided valuable skill training in the art of photography.

The workshop is a component of a UN-Habitat project funded by The People of Japan, exploring livelihoods of Turkana people and providing proper spatial planning for adequate service provision in a number of human settlements in Turkana County, Kenya. The selected images provided through the workshop have as authors Turkana Youth. The image series showcase what means being settled for a small Turkana community from the youth's perception, and the innovative way the people have been able to build a human settlement for themselves and for future generations.





PROJECT: Supporting Planning for Integrated
Refugees and Host Communities (2016)

More than

60,000

refugees and host community members to be hosted in a new settlement that is planned to:

- Be a sustainable and self-reliant livelihood with integrated facilities accessible for refugees and host communities
- Provide humanitarian and development services while reducing the risk of conflict between the two communities
- Capacitate, train and encourage skill development for refugees to have an easy adaptation to their home country upon their return and for the host community to contribute to the further development of the settlement

Location: Kalobeyi, Turkana County, Kenya

Status: ongoing





01.

Background

For close to forty years, UN-Habitat has been working in human settlements throughout the world, focusing on building a brighter future for villages, towns, and cities of all sizes., UN-Habitat has gained a unique and a universally acknowledged expertise in human settlements development from the highest levels of policy to a range of specific technical issues.

Turkana County is the largest in Kenya and home to thousands of refugees fleeing from civil strife in the neighboring republic of South Sudan, but also from Somalia, Congo, and Burundi. The lack of good refugee-host community relations has slowed down local integration due to the perception that host population has not meaningfully benefitted from hosting refugees.

In Turkana cities and towns, the change from nomadism to being settled has been challenged by different issues, from water provision, to shelter and self-sustainability. Once the



benefits of being settled have become more attractive for Turkana people, there has been a shift from a pastoralist community to a settled society. The land of Turkana is very difficult for settlers, from water and food scarcity, to disasters such as flood and erosion.

Kakuma Town has been developed in the past decades, being directly impacted by the activities around Kakuma Refugee Camp. For instance, the camp has brought a number of organizations, including UN Agencies and NGOs, but also need for market development, housing and transportation. Kalobeyei Town, in the proximity on Kalobeyei New Site, where development is prospected to take place under the same conditions as Kakuma Town due to the direct relation with the New Refugee Site.

The workshop was organized by UN-Habitat Kakuma with support from the implementation partner Peace Winds Japan and the Ward administration offices of Kauma and Kalobeyei towns. The chiefs of Kakuma and Kalobeyei have encouraged and supported the exercise and welcome such activities in their ceremony opening speech for the event in their respective town.



02.

Objectives

The workshops have two main objectives: on one hand the youth groups will be led to discover elements of being settled as a community, through exploring typologies of living space and livelihood, elements of sustainability and self-reliance but on the other hand, the workshop will provide valuable skill training in the art of photography.

Following the two objectives, the workshops are divided in two components: (i) discover the importance of planning and (ii) the technical training on photography. Through an urban exploration exercise, UN-Habitat seeks to understand the youth's view on the livelihoods of their towns. The Youth groups have been assigned to photograph their livelihoods following 5 aspects: shelter, water, transport, economy and public space. Kalobeyei Town group added a 6th element – environment.





03.

Being Settled





“ From the workshop, I learnt how to take photos, how to frame, distance between the camera and the object and the best position when you want to take a clear photo. I thank UN-Habitat and Peace Winds Japan for enabling me to acquire the above mentioned skills and benefits.

Ivy Emoiti, the only female student in the kalobeyei town photography workshop

WATER









“ I want to work as a professional journalist in order to expose myself to new places that I have never been. My dream will be achieved when I will attend various workshops in order to learn how to shoot and taking many photos to improve my ability for providing better quality services across the world. I wish one day my dream to become true.

Emuron Ngibenyoi Eliud, age 24 years





“ Geography as a discipline deals with what is in the space around us and same applies to photography. Through the training organized by UN-Habitat and Peace Winds Japan, I have learn a lot about several issues including environment, housing, water, transport, and social aspect of the community. I gained a lot in terms of practical skills, access to places and getting to understand the importance of planning and design especially for my county. I am looking forward to be a professional in photography and one day work with UN for the betterment of the Nation.

Kospir Lokaale Mercy aged 20 years and a student of Maseno University taking BSc in Geography And Natural Resource Management.

SHELTER









TRANSPORT









ECONOMY













“ I am now looking for opportunities to be taking pictures and writing news articles for some of the national newspapers based in Nairobi. All I need is the opportunity and from the training I gained at the workshop I am sure I will excel in the field of journalism which I have always had a soft spot for”

*Stephen Ekai, changing lives, one photo at a time
For the longest time ever, Richard Ekai had dreamt of being hot shot photojournalist, recording history as it takes place. However, growing up in the remote Turkana County in Kenya's border with Southern Sudan the chance of fulfilling his childhood desire grew remote by each passing day.*

PUBLIC SPACE







“ I am interested in studying journalism and photography to a higher level and that is why having joined a workshop initiated by UN-Habitat, on photography.

Cecilia Locham, from Turkana County aged 19 years old



“ I treasure photography course as it is a course that is widely applicable in most industries and it meets demand of people and government.

Ereng David, male Kenyan resident of Kakuma Division, Murungole Sub-Location in Turkana West Sub-County.

ENVIRONMENT









“ I was lucky enough to have the training in photography. We've had a five day workshop, entailing class sessions and piloting, moving around Kakuma and taking photos of how people operate to earn a living, where and how they get water and transportation systems.

Lomelu Dismas Lokol from Turkana County, student at Eldoret technical Training Institute for a diploma in Banking and Finance, but had a passion to pursue Journalism or Tourism Management.

THE PEOPLE















Conclusion

The youth groups have been informed on the project objectives and they have been step by step taken through the importance of planning with direct exemplification on their livelihoods. This has enabled them to understand the importance of expertise, and the role of public authorities and government in supporting livelihood in their towns. Some students have specified the will of becoming photojournalists, technicians, engineers and business men, professions that will allow them to help the development in their towns in support of the government efforts to urban development.

Elements such as public amenities, public space, economy and human activity seem to have a high importance in making people settled. However, the primary needs identified are water provision, shelter and transport.

The technical skill enabled students to learn photography and exercise photojournalism. The selection of images reflects important elements of Turkana towns, and proved a very fast learning from the students. The captions represent clear interpretation of what means being settled for the Turkana Youth.





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