



CITY OF CHOICE

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE
CLIMATE ACTION



INTRODUCTION

The **Safer Nairobi Initiative** is a project coordinating office between the **UN HABITAT** and the **Nairobi City County Government**. The Initiative has been active in making a case for the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme approach to safety in Nairobi City and has popularised the concept of crime prevention in neighbourhoods and at the city level. The **City of Choice Project** is a project under the Initiative that **aims to provide migrant, refugee, and receiving communities with green jobs** and partner with them to make the city's waterways and public spaces greener and safer for everyone.

The purpose of the project is to **facilitate Nairobi's green and equitable transition by institutionalizing inclusive climate actions that provide access to employment and self-employment for migrants, refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) as well as marginalized receiving communities.**

BACKGROUND

In African cities, urban refugees, migrants and IDPs are continually being predisposed to socioeconomic challenges beyond their capacity to withstand using their own resources. Although classified as highly vulnerable to widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses, most cities in Africa do not have comprehensive management framework and strategies guided by appropriate policy and legislative provisions for tackling the problems facing the population.

The "Right to City" phenomenon is still a challenge with demolitions of structures taking place in most African cities and affecting the population. Needless to say, the lack of climate change phenomenon and often identified by the high level of congestion in informal settlements, widespread informal businesses and its related challenges of waste management together with inadequate, principles and values to guide interventions into the area of refugees, migrants and IDPs, has in many times exacerbated conflicts with the city governments. This list may not be exhausted but it briefly attests to the variety and grave consequences of challenges facing migrants, refugees and IDPs in African cities, which if harnessed, can revolutionize this untapped human capital. The potential of migrants, refugees and IDPs has not been consolidated to improve their livelihood as well as for vulnerable host communities. As such, the issue of migrants, refugees and IDPs in Nairobi City County remains a fundamentally ambiguous in which County-related programs to re-shape the public discourse and policies in their favour are not clearly spelt out.

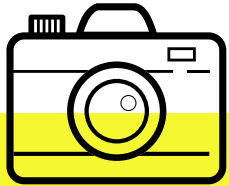
It is against this background that the City of Choice Project seeks to demonstrate the potential of urban migrants, refugees and IDPs and improving their quality of life, as well as the quality of life of the host communities.

ACTIVITIES

DRUM CIRCLE



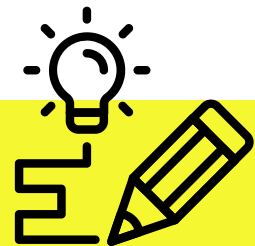
The Nairobi Drum Circle event is usually carried out on the first Friday of every month. The event is channelled to support community wellness and revitalization of public spaces through art, culture and community.



CHOICE INNOVATION HUB

The City of Choice project is set to establish a choice innovation centre which will provide a shared platform for migrants, refugees, IDPs and host communities for knowledge and skills development, peer-to-peer learning and consolidating people-centric development approaches to climate action plans. Emphasis is on the need for an engagement framework, strategies and plans for harnessing their talents and creativity.

NAIROBI RIVER DESIGN COMPETITION



The Nairobi River Regeneration Design Competition is a competition with an aim to include refugees, migrants and IDPs along the river corridor in the design of public spaces along the river. The competition, which will also serve as a platform for environmental conservation awareness and advocacy, will see various groups propose different low-cost and high-impact ideas to regenerate and revitalize the Nairobi River Corridor.



PLACEMAKING WEEK

Placemaking event is a people-centered process of planning, designing and managing public spaces. The exercise has long reaching effect ranging from improved public spaces, connected neighborhoods, improved community health and safety, nurtured social justice, catalyzed economic development to promotion of environmental sustainability. It is a week long of activities held in the month of the Urban October.



THEMATIC CONCERNS

The thematic concerns of The City of Choice Project are:

- **Urban Resilience** - To increase the resilience of city residents in the face of climate hazards and climate displacement, particularly addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of marginalized communities, including migrants, displaced people, and lower income groups.
- **Urban Inclusion** - To insure the protection and inclusion of people who move into cities, including those in the context of natural disasters and climate displacement.
- **Urban Transformation** - Deliver a green and just transition in partnership with migrants and displaced people, harnessing their key contributions to the economy and turning the Covid-19 recovery into an opportunity to forge more inclusive urban communities.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

The anticipated outcomes of The City of Choice Project are:

- Migrants, refugees, IDPs and receiving communities generate income and assets while participating in Nairobi's green economy through the establishment of the Choice Innovation Hub. The target is 70% of the 100 registrants report securing a job by the close of the project, at least half of whom are migrants, refugees or IDPs.
 - Stronger partnerships and collaborations with NCCG and other stakeholders around transformation of migrant refugees and host communities in Nairobi's informal settlements.
 - People have an increased awareness of the importance of open and public space in mitigating climate change and contribute to the improved conditions in Nairobi's public spaces, including the natural environment.
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