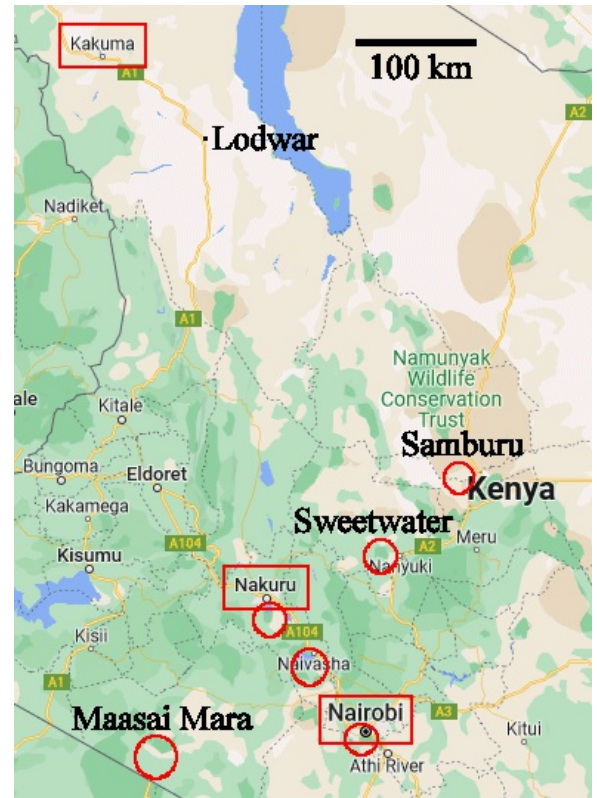


Kakuma Refugee Camp, by Dr. Ed Holroyd, 12 October 2022

Our time in Kenya was from 30 August to 22 September 2022 mainly in support of Seeds of South Sudan. Those activities took place in Kakuma, Nakuru, and Nairobi, shown by the boxed names on this map. In the middle was about a week of safari visits to locations at the red circles. The location names are those adjacent on the original map or added in larger black letters. A couple of us initially had a trip from Nairobi to Eldoret (west central on map) to Lodwar (top of map) and then a drive to Kakuma.

There are two major airports serving people at the capital, Nairobi: The Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for most foreign visitors, and the Wilson Airport for an abundance of regional air traffic. Using Internet access we booked a flight from Nairobi to Lodwar and return, on apparently the only service serving that route. It was on the 540 Airlines for 1 and 3 September. When we (Byron, Arok and I) arrived at the International Airport, Terminal 2, for that flight we found that it would start with a bus trip to the Wilson Airport. As we waited we eventually found out that the flight was cancelled because the aircraft, coming from the coast, would not be arriving in time to do the flight. We asked for a refund, but have not yet seen our money returned.

While waiting we had lunch outside Terminal 2. Eventually we were joined by a young woman, Alex, who was on that same flight. For a few months she would be serving a group called Digital Lions, training nomads and refugees in a desert region near Lake Turkana to operate on the Internet and create web development and graphic design. Her contacts were able to find the same flight route served by Skyward Express from the Wilson Airport. Byron and Alex booked the flight for the next day for us. It happens that the Tamarind Tree Hotel at which Byron, I, and other team members were staying is at the southwest corner of the Wilson Airport. We invited Alex, who had no arrangement for overnight, to stay with Jeri Lou of our team, and go to the airport with us early the next morning. So Alex and our team helped each other through that difficulty. Since then Byron and Alex are exploring a possibility of our Seeds students getting training and work with Learning Lions and Digital Lions. (A crew representing 540 Airlines gave us a free van trip that afternoon to the Wilson Airport to book the Skyward Express flight and then took us to the nearby Tamarind Tree Hotel.)

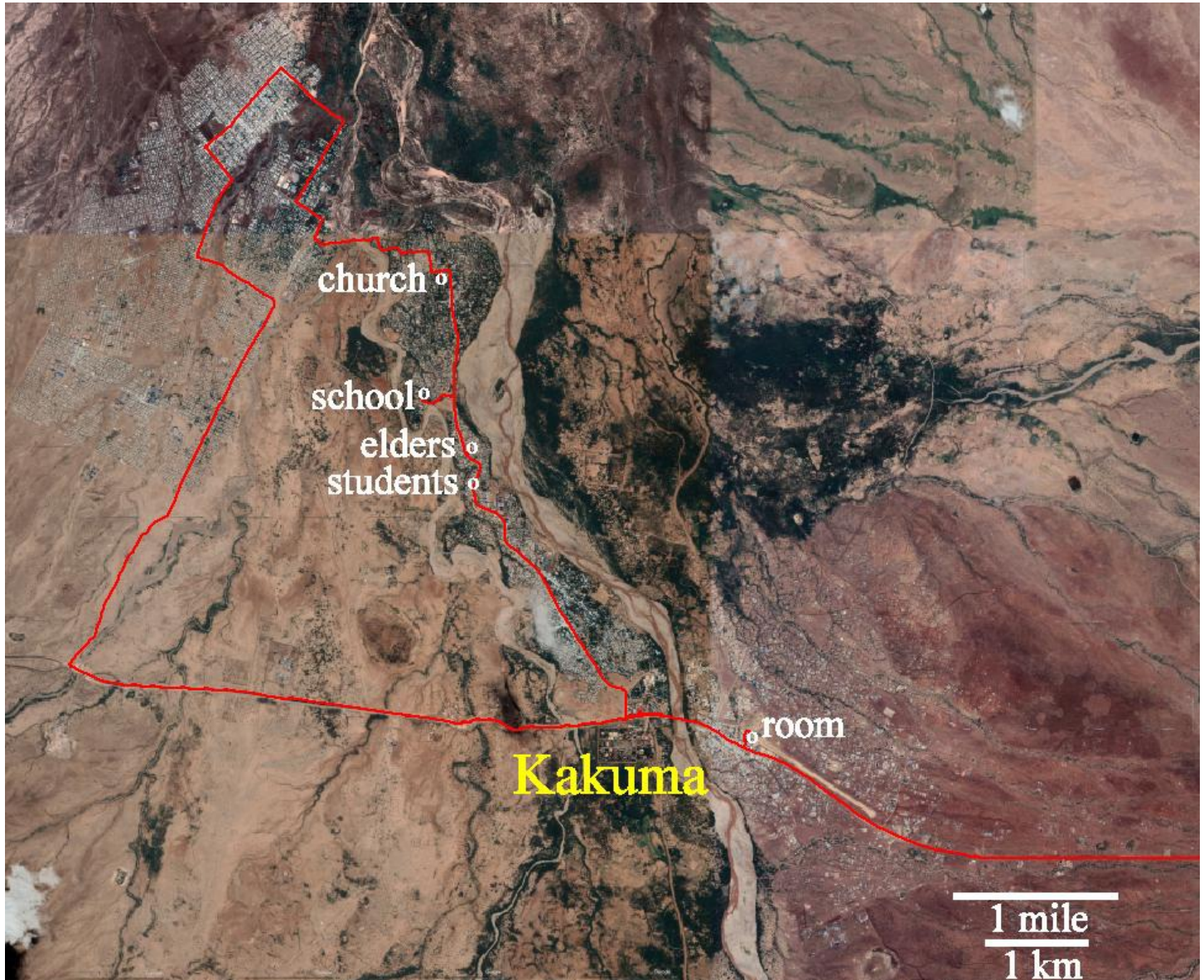


Byron, Arok, and Alex at Terminal 2.



The orange 540 plane at Wilson airport. Our Skyward Express plane at Lodwar.

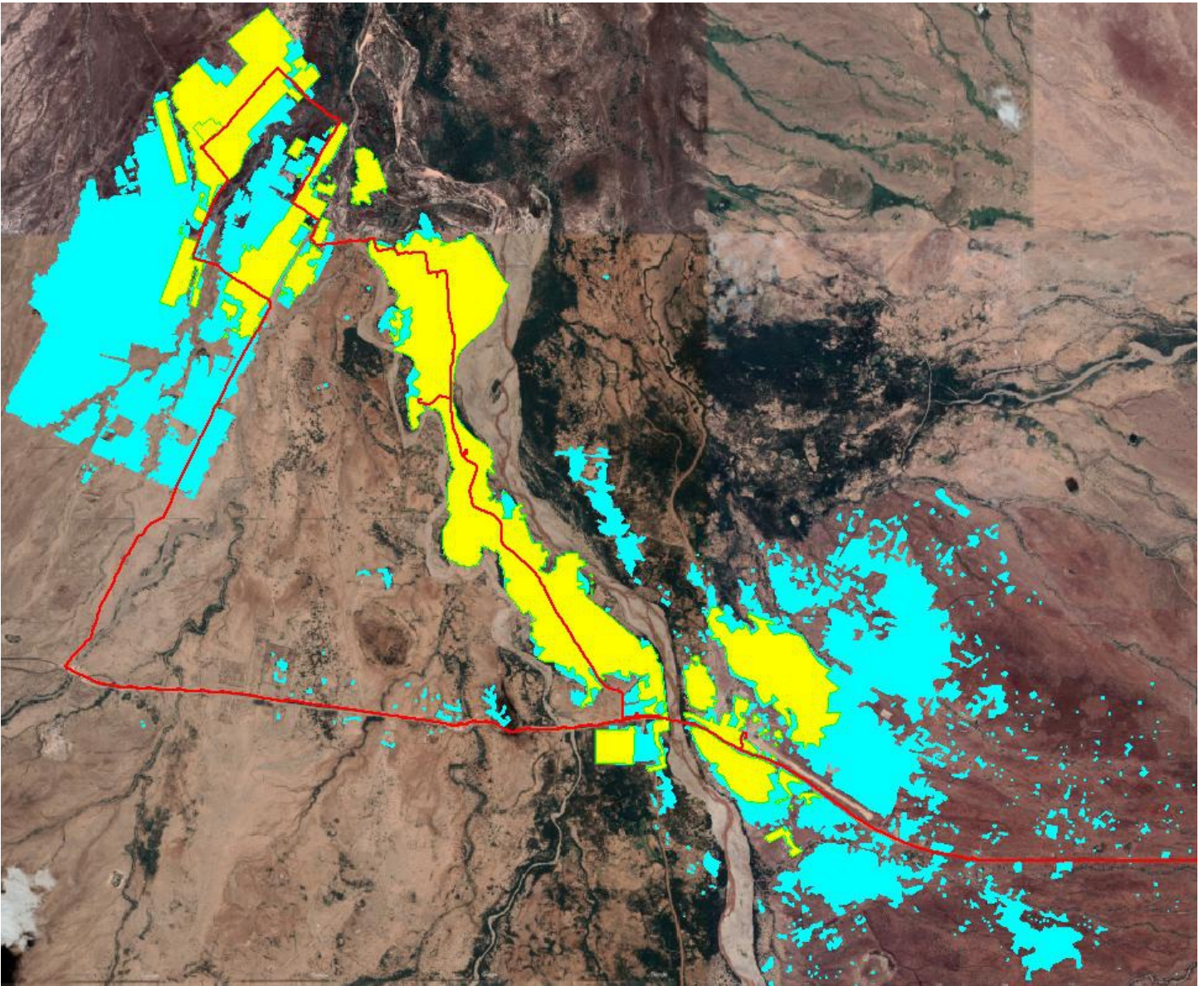
Below and on the next page is a Google Earth view of Kakuma in far northwest Kenya. Most of the imagery is from 16 August 2021. The older parts of Kakuma are near the center. The newer refugee camps are in the upper left, with a dense packing of dwellings and stores. In the lower right are a new low density mix of rectangular buildings and small circular Turkana dwellings. The paved main highway crosses the bottom of the view. The red line shows the streets on which we traveled. Apart from the main highway, all the rest are of rutted dirt and mud. We stayed in small cheap rooms near the end of the dirt strip runway. The other locations marked in white are where we met with the refugees from South Sudan. Tan river channels run from bottom to top of this view.



Some Turkana homes and goat corrals.



A Turkana village along the road from Lodwar to Kakuma.



This image has the same Google Earth satellite image mostly from 2021 and our red travel route. A similar image was captured for 26 December 2003. Inhabited areas in 2003 are colored yellow. Those in 2021 are colored cyan. Some of the 2003 areas were destroyed by later river relocations during floods. The yellow and cyan colors show the growth of the refugee camps in the upper left, and the likely increase of local Turkana and other Kenyan residents across the bottom. I recall hearing that there are about two hundred thousand refugees in the camps in Kakuma. Most are from South Sudan and Somalia, with some from other countries. In the Somali refugee areas there are mosques in several locations giving loudspeaker calls for Muslim prayer at appointed times of the day.



Turkana vendors, bags of charcoal.



Charcoal for sale.



Veggies for sale.



Truck dispensing cabbages.



Street scene.



Street-side fence and shops.



Future Seeds students, rear dwellings.



Many refugee structures are metal-clad.



Some refugee homes of UN materials.



Passing out simple gifts from Colorado.



A video interview with a future student.



This Seeds graduate is now a teacher.

Our main mission in Kakuma was to document aspects of the program of Seeds of South Sudan there and to interview both graduates of the Seeds program and potential future Seeds students. They are orphans and will need to be housed, fed, and educated in Nakuru and beyond for many years. After graduation they are strongly encouraged to return to Kakuma and South Sudan to serve the needs there. Students are recommended by South Sudanese community leaders and become students only if financial sponsors can be found in America.



We listened to community leaders.

