

# Cities for Girls Cities for All

Report from the Vinnova Innovation  
for Gender Equality Project



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**Engage her, give her a voice,  
and the opportunity to  
change her environment.**

**Let Her guide you.**

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## Preface

# Partnership for our urban future

The health and climate emergency over the last years has had a particular impact on women and their wellbeing. The pandemic has revealed how women suffer great difficulties in our current cities. For example, how they are vulnerable to violence and unsafety in public spaces and in their homes. At the same time the current climate crisis requires a rapid transformation to reduce global warming and pollution and assure a safe environment for current youth and coming generations.

This is why we have developed a gender and youth sensitive approach to urban planning and design, captured within the Her City initiative. It has shown that urban areas developed together with girls tend to value and propose solutions that are of 'common good' with long-term sustainable consequences for both 'people' and 'planet'.

Above all, this approach shows the importance of cooperation and partnership, which has had a significant importance during the pandemic and in the fight against the climate crisis. When women from various sectors, levels and professions come together, it can have a substantial impact for the planning and design of sustainable cities.

The Her City process has shown the values of including under-represented perspectives in local decision-making processes in the design of urban spaces. The processes acknowledged girls' usage of public resources to address cross-cutting issues such as crime prevention, ecosystem solutions, sustainable mobility, access to education and healthcare.

Despite various geographical contexts, the implementation on the ground present similar positive results. As we evaluate the progress of the Her City initiatives worldwide, as well as their relevance to related SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, they give us a clear indication of a positive impact on improved basic services, environment and climate, economy, health and well-being, mobility, safety and social inclusion.

Our ambition is to provide guidance on how this approach can be implemented on the ground by urban multi-stakeholders in partnership. We wish to show how various actors can contribute by strategically involving gender and intersectional perspectives in urban planning and design at various steps of the process. Addressing systemic challenges in local settings by utilising the expertise of girls and minorities, can provide us with cross-cutting solutions for local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. To succeed, all implementing actors, public and private sector, academia civil society and grassroots need to play their part and contribute to the common objectives.

Applying a gender sensitive approach to urban planning and design in targeting contemporary and future challenges, contribute to the understanding of the needs on the ground as well as the legitimacy of priorities. To enhance social, economic and environmental sustainability in similar initiatives, we invite urban actors to discover a range of actions to support their everyday work in creating a sustainable urban future for all.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif

United Nations Under-Secretary General and  
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

A year ago we launched the Her City Toolbox. An initiative which aims to make methods and tools available to urban actors worldwide through an open and digitally accessible platform while supporting the process of involving girls' participation to build sustainable and inclusive cities and communities.

This year we have had a significant impact in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Europe developing 12 partnership projects. Her City Toolbox now has 950 registered users from 350 cities all over the world and a total of 250 independent initiatives across 100 countries.

The collaboration between UN-Habitat (the United Nations Human Settlements Programme) and the independent think tank Global Utmaning (Global Challenge) stems from a joint conviction that participatory, gender and youth sensitive urban planning and design can have a major impact on sustainable neighbourhoods, communities and cities.

Since the first steps in 2017 with the support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Swedish Innovation Agency (Vinnova) and contributing partners (Block by Block Foundation, MethodKit, White Architects and the Swedish Union of Tenants) have made the realisation of a global toolbox possible. However, without the tireless support of all multi-stakeholder partners from academia, civil society, grassroots, public and private sector, the quality of the results would not have been the same.

This project led by UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning aims to develop a strong partnership based on our common objective

to address the alarming inequality of adequate living standards that a growing proportion of the population is facing everyday with the aim to increase equality and inclusion in urban development.

The partnership projects that resulted from this collaboration highlight a variety of different initiatives from all over the world, in Botkyrka, Beirut, Chania, Delhi, Johannesburg, Flemingsberg, Gaza and the West Bank, Nairobi, Helsingborg, Kakuma and Kalobeyei, Lima, and Weimar.

In this report, we invite you to discover the Her City toolbox, the lessons learned from the projects implemented, their impact so far, and possible actions for you to take. We hope this will be beneficial for you in your everyday work, contributing to a more sustainable urban future for all.



Ms. Tove Ahlström  
CEO, Global Utmaning

## Introduction

# Cities for girls



**“A city is a structure of change even more than it is a model of planning. A city is a collective dream.”**

Jaime Lerner, Former Governor of Paraná and former Mayor of Curitiba<sup>1</sup>.

By 2050, 70% of the world’s population will live in cities, bringing opportunities but also enormous challenges, both in terms of equality and sustainability. Among the most vulnerable are young women in socio-economically disadvantaged urban areas. Research has shown that participatory processes create openings for more inclusive, equal and sustainable urban development. But there is a lack of knowledge in participatory urban planning and design, i.e. involving vulnerable groups in urban development processes.

Shared urban prosperity can be achieved when all residents are engaged and provided with appropriate infrastructure and opportunities to participate, work, care for families, access health, education, and

other basic services. Research shows that urban development, undertaken within a social inclusion framework involving all stakeholders and adopting inclusive urban planning approaches, provides the dynamics to deliver the pre-conditions for such shared urban prosperity: sustainability, equality, and improvements of human rights.<sup>2</sup>

Research also shows that urban development that integrates a gender equality lens as an entry point for analysis and as a guidance for interventions, is more likely to result in sustainable urbanisation. A focus on gender equality sets urban planning on course to become more inclusive and functional, and ultimately more relevant for all.<sup>3</sup>

Gender equality not only delivers improvements to the lives of women and girls, but because of its analytical framework and methods, often achieves broader social inclusion with benefits for many. While gendered categories of analysis refer to both women and men’s experiences, statistics



show that many women and girls are more likely to be systematically excluded and deprived of basic infrastructure, services, and opportunities in urban contexts across the globe.<sup>4</sup> As a result, a focus on the empowerment of women and girls is valid and important.<sup>5</sup>

Urban planning with a focus on the experiences and aspirations of women and girls provides a strong entry point to foster social inclusion for sustainable urbanisation. Additionally, urban planning responses that focus on the diverse range of experiences and identity categories that define women and girls' urban experiences, create not only a deeper understanding of women and girls and more appropriate nuanced responses, they also trigger a broader set of questions around other groups, thus potentially strengthening the construction of more inclusive and equitable cities for all.<sup>6</sup>

Within the context of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles of "leave no one behind", "end poverty" and "achieve equality", Goal 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and the New Urban Agenda's (NUA) call for sustainable

urbanisation; underpinning approaches to urbanisation with a strong gender responsive approach sets the broader social inclusion framework necessary for sustainable urbanisation.

This report not only underlines the role that gender responsive urban planning, with a specific focus on women and girls, plays in promoting social inclusion for sustainable urbanisation.<sup>7</sup> It also gathers the findings from the Her City Vinnova Innovation for Equality Project 2019-2022. This twofold purpose, both operational and normative, seek to provide clarity and guidance on: 1) Global evidence of the value of integrating gender into sustainable urban planning (main report), 2) Relevant practical examples and experiences (Annex 1), 3) The measurable impacts of gender responsive planning and design (Annex 2), 4) Practical steps and recommendations for using gender to promote social inclusion through urban planning (Annex 3).

**"If men travelled the same way as women, 31% of urban CO2 emissions would be reduced."**

The Swedish Government Agency for Transport Policy Analysis, 2016<sup>8</sup>



## Background

# Global policy trends



Gender has been a long-standing focus of development theory and practice. Urban planning has gained importance as a tool to promote gender equality and specifically improve the lives of women and girls in human settlements. Gender equality has also been integral to the UN system-wide approach to development and to UN-Habitat's work specifically with the United Nations Secretariat's mandate to lead sustainable urbanisation.

Many global entities and organisations are also actively addressing and engaging in the topic of gender equality within the context of sustainable urbanisation.<sup>9</sup> Local governments,<sup>10</sup> donors,<sup>11</sup> and local authorities are undertaking actions to strengthen gender equality. Some local authorities have specific gender equality units and have made detailed local plans to design their urban spaces in a gender sensitive manner to empower particularly women and girls.<sup>12</sup>

There are a range of intersecting global frameworks that set the value of gender equality and the responsibility of member states who have ratified the Charter of the United Nations to address gender equality:

### 1945: UN Charter

The United Nations Charter, states, in its very first paragraph, inter alia: "We the peoples of the United Nations determined [...] [t]o reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." For example, the UN Human Rights Council has repeatedly acknowledged the need to prevent and address discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

### 1979: CEDAW

Drawing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, equal rights and non-discrimination between men and women was

fully elaborated and established under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women stating: “Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields” (Preamble).

“For the purposes of the present Convention, the term “discrimination against women” shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field” (Article 1).

“Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men” (Article 3).

Many CEDAW provisions are highly relevant to UN-Habitat’s priorities, including in the areas of political and public life, representation, nationality; education; employment; health; and economic and social benefits. The CEDAW provisions are therefore among the principal global commitments to which any local authority needs to be aligned. Moreover, unlike other conventions, which address government responsibilities only, under the CEDAW provisions, national authorities are also required to hold subnational or private accountable for non-discrimination.

### 1995: Beijing Platform for Action

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing in 1995, Member States agreed unanimously that it was essential: “to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-responsive policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes at all levels, to foster the empowerment and advancement of women”. In order to ensure effective implementation of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, the United Nations system agreed to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all its policies and programmes, and support partners in the same endeavour, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively.<sup>13</sup>

### 2000: Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had two key goals which spoke to improving gender equality, including MDG 3 on Gender Equality and MDG 7 on Environmental Sustainability (including basic services and slum upgrading). While progress was made towards girls’ and women’s equality in education, employment, and political representation since 1990, many gaps remained to be filled especially in areas not targeted in the MDGs but that have significant implications for women and girls in urban settings such as violence against girls and women, men’s and women’s unequal opportunities in the labour market, gender-based discrimination in law and practice, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, women’s limited control over property and assets, and women’s unequal representation in public and private decision making.<sup>14</sup>

### 2015: Sustainable Development Goals

Within the framework of 'leave no-one behind', the SDGs have numerous targets aimed at improving gender equality including the main goal SDG 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." Other SDGs include targets with reference to women, girls and gender equality such as: 1.4, 4.5, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.a, 8.5, 8.8, 10.3. For all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender equality is both an enabler and accelerator. Despite SDG 5 (gender equality) specifically taking gender into account in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, women's empowerment and gender equality are prerequisites for each of the 17 goals listed above. As long as we fail to defend the rights of 'women and girls', we will never achieve justice and inclusiveness, let alone economies that work for everyone.

### 2016: UN Framework Convention for Climate Change

As a result of the Paris Agreement, parties to the UNFCCC acknowledged for the first time the necessity of including women as well as men equally in UNFCCC procedures and in the formulation and implementation of national climate policies that are gender responsive. The UNFCCC realised that in order to be effective, climate policy and action must consider the needs, views and ideas of all those who are affected by climate change.

### 2016: New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) envisages gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and emphasises the need for gender-responsiveness in all aspects of sustainable urban development. The NUA also strategically supports the 2030 Agenda, ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment are integrated into all social development goals. The NUA contributes to

mainstreaming a gender perspective on urban development and urbanisation by establishing women as important decision-making actors and by committing politically to address the gender specific difficulties encountered by women in the urban contexts.

By working alongside key partners, UN-Habitat has used its policy guides and tools on urban planning to promote inclusive and gender responsive cities, which have empowered and had a positive effect on women and girls.<sup>15</sup> However, gender responsive planning has not yet been used as an isolated entry point but rather a style of working that infuses all parts of the planning process. This guide is a reminder to urban managers, those working in policy and within the field of sustainable urbanisation, about the key components of gender responsive urban planning and design to achieve more inclusive and sustainable cities.

**"Inclusive urban planning seeks to address the various needs of all members of a community in the most equitable way possible. A gender perspective will give insight into the power disparities in society and enable them to better address issues of inequality and marginalisation, both in terms of the planning itself, as well as in the participation of the community in needs assessments and consultations. Using a gendered approach in planning will also improve the level of commitment from stakeholders, thus improving the overall success of the process."**

UN-Habitat and Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo.<sup>16</sup>



## Current state

# Women and girls in cities



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With the 2030 Agenda bringing a renewed focus on social inclusion, most notably in its aspirational statement to “leave no-one behind”, the role of gender equality and gender responsive planning as a tool to address challenges of sustainable urbanisation remains critical. Additionally, the integrated, inclusive, multi-sectoral and partnership focus of the SDGs makes gender responsive planning and budgeting an ongoing entry point for concretely improving the lives of women and girls and in doing so, promoting inclusive urbanisation and addressing key human rights issues in cities.

### The Diversity of Gender

Part of adopting such an approach is collecting a range of quantitative and qualitative gender and age disaggregated data to understand the beneficiaries, their challenges and aspirations. In order to achieve this there is a need for improved data collection, monitoring and evaluation

of policies and programmes to better assess their impacts. It also means having a ‘diversity mindset’, that is understanding that within the categories and experiences of women and men, there are also multiple differences.

A diversity mindset promotes the understanding that within the individual experiences of women and men, there are also unique and different identities. These considerations include but are not limited to physical capacity, appearances, beliefs, age influences and how they relate to the surrounding urban environment, etc. This can be achieved by integrating gender mainstreaming, budgeting and programming at a local level and enhancing public awareness. The table on the next spread outlines some examples of the social inclusion challenges experienced by women and girls in urban contexts and what the implications might be for urban planning.



## Social inclusion challenges and planning implications for different groups of women

Group	Social Inclusion Challenges	Implications for Inclusive Planning
<i>Young women</i>	Safe public and community spaces	Safety audits to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by women in public and community spaces. Using urban design, with inputs from women themselves, to mainstream gender issues, strengthen perceptions of fear and address inappropriate design features. This will help guarantee that men's and women's needs and experiences in their lived environment are considered equally throughout the planning, designing and implementing processes.
	Capacity to undertake livelihood generation activities	Integration of informal economy activities into formal plans, recognizing the particular challenges of work and juggling different roles for women in particular. Mapping the connectivity of work, services and housing in cities considering issues like proximity, time, distance, and cost. Reflecting on the roles of women and ensuring these are implemented in urban design (i.e. providing nursing mothers with safe, free, and comfortable places to breastfeed in public). These places might serve a variety of purposes, such as providing rest spots for walkers of all ages, including children, the elderly.
	Limited travel options and perceptions of safety	Effective, affordable, and safe transport options, including women specific services/spaces on transport to promote time efficiency and safety. Analysis of how well integrated transport options are for women and the safety of the spaces where women are required to wait for different transport options (train stations, bus stops etc), by ensuring that infrastructures are designed with inclusivity in mind (i.e. cycling infrastructures).
	Affordable training centres or schools for skill building	Access to formal institutions, public/community centres for other forms of training and skill building.
<i>Older women</i>	Limited flexibility to travel due to perceptions of safety and physical vulnerability	Safe transport options that provide a range of payment options and are accessible to those with physical disabilities.



Group	Social Inclusion Challenges	Implications for Inclusive Planning
<i>Women with disabilities</i>	Limited flexibility to travel due to availability, perceptions of safety and physical vulnerability	Transportation options that are accessible to those with physical or psychological disabilities.
	Capacity to feel accepted in public spaces	Ensuring early participation of women with disabilities in the process of developing public space. Early participation will guarantee increased accessibility.
	Capacity to undertake livelihood generation activities	Advocacy to ensure access to a fair and just market that does not discriminate or threaten working women.
<i>Women in vulnerable socio-economic positions</i>	Economically inclusive services	Encouraging a diversity of formal and informal opportunities (shops, kiosks, stands, etc) that can accommodate different needs.
	Affordable training centres or schools for skill building	Access to formal institutions, public/community centres for other forms of training and skill building.
<i>Women belonging to an ethnic or religious minority</i>	Capacity to feel safe and accepted in public spaces	Mainstream gender issues, strengthen perceptions of fear and address inappropriate design features.
	Culturally appropriate services	Mix of services across different scales that are culturally aware and sensitive or are group specific.
<i>People part of the LGBTQI+ community</i>	Safe public and community spaces	Urban design that promotes diversity through intersectional planning with a positive tone in public spaces around cultural diversity through inclusive community spaces etc.
<i>Migrant women</i>	Capacity to feel accepted in public spaces	Urban policies that consider and promote multiculturalism. Urban design that promotes cultural planning which sets a positive tone in public spaces around cultural diversity.
	Culturally appropriate services	Mix of services across different scales that are culturally aware and sensitive but at time also group specific.
	Limited flexibility to travel due to perceptions of safety and cultural norms	Range of transport options that provide multiple payment options and are accessible to persons with physical limitations.

## Access to the city

Despite the theory and practice of gender planning, as well as the demonstrated advantages of gender responsive development, profound gender disparities still exist today. Statistics show that women and girls in particular, alongside some groups such as those who identify as LGBTQI+, remain unable to benefit from the 'urban advantage' at large.<sup>17</sup>

Belonging to multiple discriminated groups increases the risk of social exclusion, harassment or general tensions, which severely restricts their socio-economic possibilities and access to public space and urban services. This is a stark reminder of the work still to be done to achieve truly sustainable cities and human settlements.

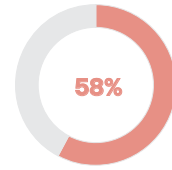
Here follows an overview of the current state of women and girls in cities prior to the pandemic. New statistics from the pandemic, can be found in the pink boxes.<sup>18</sup>

**Since the outbreak of the global pandemic, Covid-19 has further disrupted lives and economies around the world. Global poverty is expected to increase for the first time in three decades. The social and economic fallout is reversing development gains and is pushing back the possibility of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by as much as a decade. With over 90 per cent of Covid-19 cases coming from urban areas, cities are the epicentres of Covid-19.**

UN-Habitat Kosovo Programme<sup>19</sup>

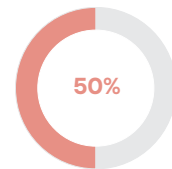
## Access to livelihoods

From street vendors and domestic workers to subsistence farmers and seasonal agricultural workers, women make up a disproportionate percentage of workers in the informal sector.<sup>20</sup> Women in the informal economy are more often found in the most vulnerable situations such as domestic workers, home-based workers or those contributing to unpaid care work, than their male counterparts.<sup>21</sup> 58% of informal workers are women and 80% of domestic workers



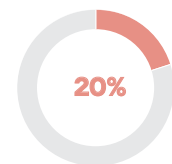
## Access to housing and basic services

Women are over-represented in informal settlements.<sup>22</sup> More than 50% of urban women and girls living in the Global South live without access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities, durable housing and sufficient living areas.<sup>23</sup>



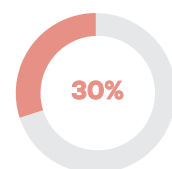
## Access to land

Less than 20% of the world's landholders are women and many experience tenure insecurity.<sup>24</sup> This makes women headed households particularly vulnerable, especially those living in slums and informal settlements in traditionally patriarchal societies.



## Access to safe public spaces

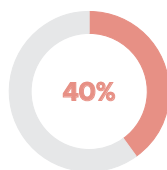
In many urban centres around the world, women and girls continue to experience inaccessibility, unsafety, and various forms of sexual harassment and violence in public spaces. This ranges from intimidation, unwanted sexual remarks and touching to rape and femicide. Such actions occur



in streets, in and around schools, public transportation, workplaces, public toilets, and parks in urban, rural, conflict, and post-conflict settings.<sup>25</sup> 9 out of 10 women state that they feel unsafe in public spaces.<sup>26</sup> 30% of women aged 15 and older have experienced violence or sexual violence at least once worldwide.<sup>27</sup>

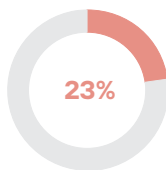
#### Access to digital technology

40% of women lack access to the internet in the world's least developed countries. 26% of women own a mobile phone in the world's least developed countries.



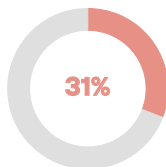
#### Access to decision-making

23% of governmental positions are held by women worldwide. Only 10% of leading urban planners and architects are women.<sup>28</sup>



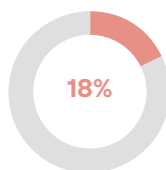
#### Access to transport

Research shows that women's and men's urban movement patterns differ greatly. While men in general move from a "point a" to a "point b", women's movement is characterised by multiple stops on the way between two main locations. At the same time only 5% of private auto mobilists are women. Thus, it takes in general a longer time for women to travel to key places. If men travelled the same way as women, 31% of urban CO2 emissions would be reduced.<sup>29</sup>



#### Access to leisure

Women spend 18% of their time on unpaid domestic and care work compared to 7% of men. In summary, combined with additional responsibilities in the household context, it



is simply difficult for women and girls to fulfil many daily tasks under fair conditions and in a reasonable timeframe. This goes as far as inflicting on or at the expense or ability to hold up a full-time employment.

The general consequence is that women and entire societies would benefit greatly from reduced travel times, proximity of amenities and easy access to necessary basic services. The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated underlying inequalities in cities and shown regression of women's situation. The fight for gender equality is losing momentum, despite the fact that women's rights are human rights.<sup>30</sup>

**The Covid-19 pandemic radically changed how people, particularly women, spend their time, often with a negative impact on their well-being:**

- A majority of household chores and care of children and family during the lockdown fell on women and girls<sup>31</sup>
- Women's labour force participation dropped further 2,5%
- Women's unemployment rate increased with 1,5%<sup>32</sup>
- 80 % of informal workers lost their income
- 72% of domestic workers have lost their jobs, globally
- 11 million girls are expected to not return to school
- 100 million children are expected to fall below the minimum proficiency level in reading.<sup>33</sup>

## Lessons learned

# Her City toolbox



Her City is a joint initiative by UN-Habitat and the independent think tank Global Utmaning. It has been financed by the Swedish Innovation Agency Vinnova as an Innovation for Equality Project with valuable contributions from Block by Block Foundation, White Architects, Swedish Union of Tenants and MethodKit. The Her City Toolbox has been developed in close collaboration with a range of multi-stakeholders from public sector, private sector, research, civil society and citizens.

### Mission

Her City's mission is to promote girls' and women's participation in urban planning and design processes, to create sustainable and inclusive cities. Involving girls in urban development will make the city better for everyone. Because girls plan and design with diversity and different needs in mind and participatory processes become key for planning a city that works for everyone. If we let citizens that are rarely heard be

the experts, our cities and communities will become more inclusive, equal and sustainable.

Her City is the result of the Urban Girls Movement launched in 2017 financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), with the purpose to map methods and tools for increased equality and inclusion in urban development. In a first phase financing from Vinnova, the Swedish innovation agency, those tools were tested in a pilot in Fittja, Botkyrka Sweden. Thanks to a second phase of financing from Vinnova, Global Utmaning and UN-Habitat could start to develop the HerCity toolbox, to make these tools available to all globally. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team started to develop a digital toolbox for cities to accelerate the inclusion in sustainable urban planning and design despite the current crisis. On the 2020 International Women's Day, the Her City Toolbox was launched together with 2000 stakeholders.

## Users

Approximately one year after the launch of Her City, the digital toolbox has over 950 registered user accounts from 350 cities in 100 countries. The Her City platform also gathers 250 registered independent initiatives worldwide. In addition, we are

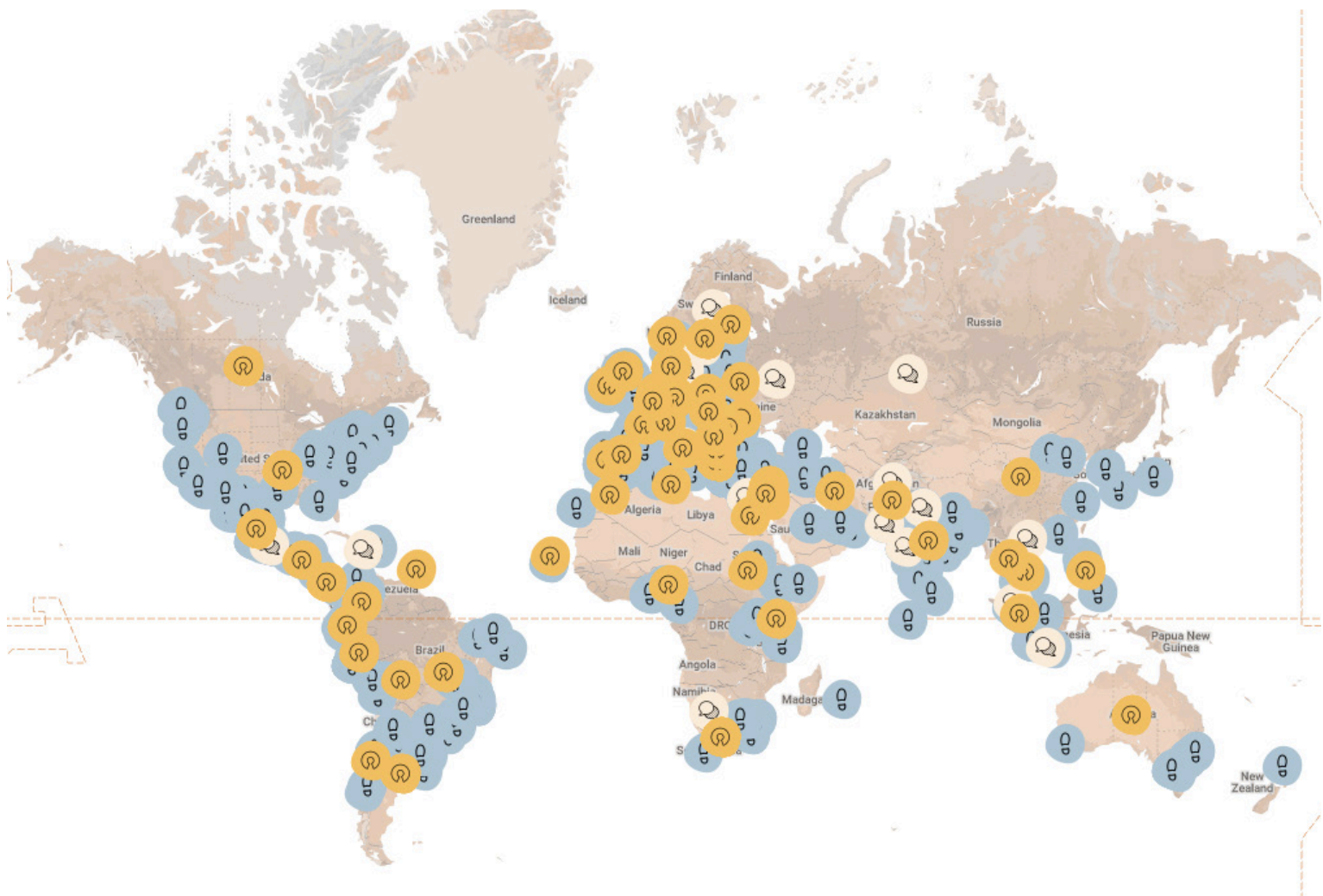
implementing 12 partnership projects in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Europe. Among the Her City users, 34% are from academia, 25% from the public sector, 19% from the private sector and 22% from civil society (with 6% from grassroots movements).

**950**  
USERS

**350**  
CITIES

**250**  
INITIATIVES

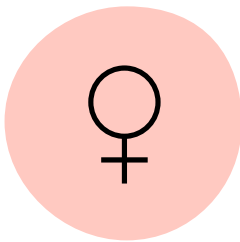
**100**  
COUNTRIES



## Digital toolbox

The toolbox supports urban development from a girl's perspective. It guides urban actors to implement projects through a step-by-step methodology. We facilitate an ongoing dialogue between professionals and citizens, through the provision of a digital platform that is open and accessible for all. The toolbox has

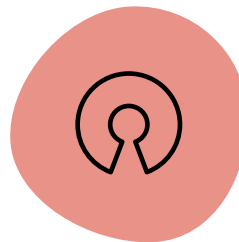
undergone updates since the launch thanks to dialogue with project teams providing knowledge on how the tool can be improved. This is a continuous process as different Her City projects are starting and ending which results in new recommendations.



Support urban development from a girl's perspective



Guide urban actors to implement projects through a step-by-step methodology



Provide an open and digitally accessible platform for all



Facilitate an ongoing dialogue between professionals and citizens

The toolbox is mainly intended for the project team even if girls, young women and other stakeholders are certainly crucial to execute the project successfully and guarantee that gender, age and vulnerability perspectives are mainstreamed throughout the process. With stakeholders we intend all necessary actors with links to the current area or project. They should include key professionals from the project owner (the project team), girls and young women (primary target group) and other

professionals that are key for implementation (secondary target group) such as public, private, research, civil society representatives, grassroots and other relevant urban actors including representatives from vulnerable groups and minorities and adopting an intersection approach. The toolbox considers the needs of a diverse group of users in addition to the female population.



Refugees & minorities



Children & elderly



Persons with disabilities



LGBTQI+ community

## The process

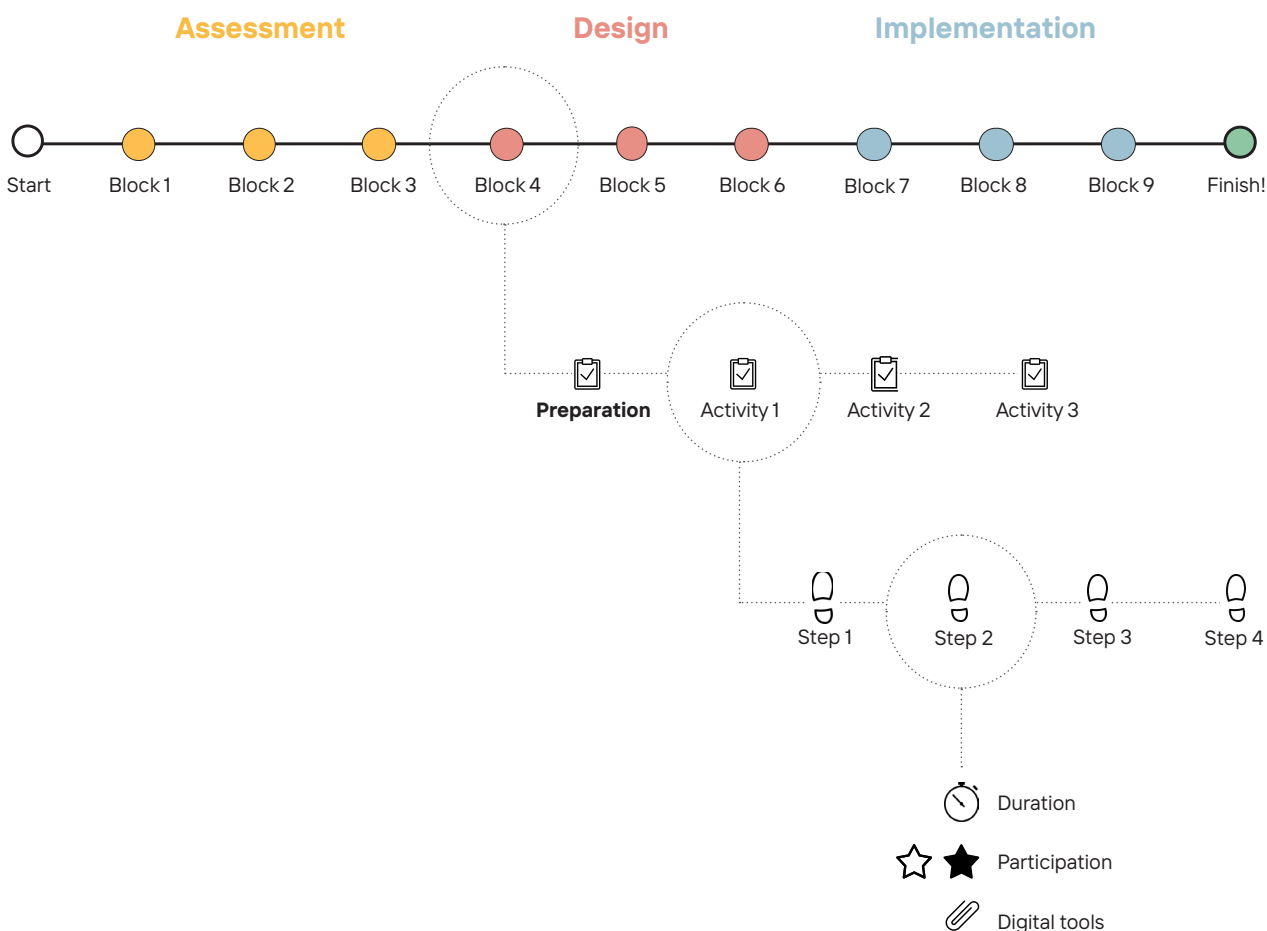
Her City offers a cost-efficient toolbox that follows a unique process of 9 blocks as a digital guideline on how to co-plan cities from a girl's perspective. The toolbox is divided in three phases to illustrate the urban development process: The assessment phase, the design phase and the implementation phase.

Each block leads you through a number of activities with detailed steps to follow in order to deliver on your Her City project.

Each step contains digital tools such as checklists, calendars, agendas, manuals, forms, boards, apps, templates, surveys and

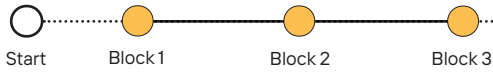
visualisation services. Her City integrates tools such as Jamboard, KoBo collect, MethodKit, Minecraft, SketchFab, SketchUp, interactive maps, among others that will help you on the way to reach the expected results.


As a guidance, the majority of the toolbox is intended for the project team. When girls and stakeholders are participating the activity is marked with a white star and when they are the main users of a tool it is marked with a black star. To discover the entire toolbox we refer to [Her City Guide](#) or the online platform [Her City Toolbox](#).



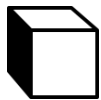
## Phase 1


## Assessment

**Block 1****Stakeholder engagement**

 Duration  
4 weeks


 Steps  
16


**Preparation** | Setting-up**Activity 1** | Desk research**Activity 2** | Desk review**Activity 3** | Stakeholder mapping**Activity 4** | Engaging participants**Block 2****City wide assessment**

 Duration  
7 weeks

 Steps  
5

**Preparation** | Setting-up**Activity 1** | Desk research**Activity 2** | Training**Activity 3** | Collecting data**Activity 4** | Analysing data**Block 3****Site specific assessment**

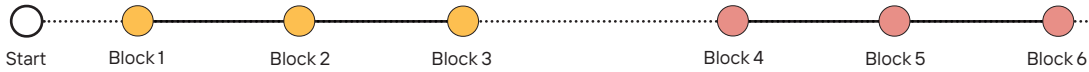
 Duration  
7 weeks


 Steps  
17


**Preparation** | Setting-up**Activity 1** | Data gathering**Activity 2** | Producing finding maps**Activity 3** | Quality scoring

## Phase 2

## Design

**Block 4****Analysing challenges**

 Duration  
1 week


 Steps  
17


**Preparation** | Setting-up**Activity 1** | Define current situation**Activity 2** | Understand challenges**Activity 3** | Define joint vision**Block 5****Designing ideas**

 Duration  
5 weeks

 Steps  
16

**Preparation** | Setting-up**Activity 1** | Installation and practice**Activity 2** | Block by block workshop**Activity 3** | Presentations**Block 6****Recommendations for action**

 Duration  
1 week

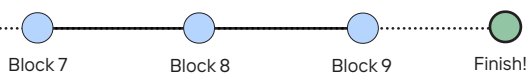
 Steps  
11

**Preparation** | Setting-up**Activity 1** | Prioritising**Activity 2** | Realising proposal**Activity 3** | Adopting action plans




## Phase 3


# Implementation



### Block 7

#### Action plans

 Duration  
4 weeks

 Steps  
16

**Preparation** | Setting-up

**Activity 1** | Expert design meeting


**Activity 2** | Finalising plans


**Activity 3** | Validation of the design



### Block 8

#### Sharing results

 Duration  
2 weeks

 Steps  
14

**Preparation** | Setting-up

**Activity 1** | Gathering results


**Activity 2** | Public presentation

**Activity 3** | Strategy and mainstreaming



### Block 9

#### Implementation and follow-up

 Duration  
3 weeks

 Steps  
14

**Preparation** | Setting-up

**Activity 1** | Participants' feedback

**Activity 2** | Quality control

**Activity 3** | Measuring impact



## Partnership projects

The toolbox has been implemented and tested in 12 partnership projects in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Europe throughout 2021. In this chapter, each project is described through an impact story. The stories highlight each project's challenges, good practices and solutions, outcomes and opportunities, impact, lessons learned and recommendations as well as its relevance for related SDG and targets. The various projects have implemented the entire process or have focused on specific blocks, activities and steps of the toolbox.

The Her City flagship projects described here are the UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning partnerships projects in Beirut, Chania, Delhi, Johannesburg, Flemingsberg, Gaza and the

West Bank, Nairobi, Helsingborg, Kakuma and Kalobeyei and Lima. In addition, we include the final results from the Botkyrka pilot project as well as an independent academic project in Weimar. Even if the projects vary in geography and character, there are many commonalities between these unique projects such as their focus on youth, on public space, on socio-economic vulnerable contexts. Browse the map to explore the detailed results from each project in the annex.

The results from the various projects (some already implemented, others ongoing) shows that, despite geographical context, similar priorities and solutions are proposed by the girls and the multi-stakeholder teams of professionals. One outstanding result is that girls indeed tend to make other priorities and design different solutions than boys. Without



having a substantial record to draw general conclusions from, we have seen that the girls tend to value and propose developments that are of a “common good” character with rather long term sustainable consequences for both “people” and “planet”. Due to COVID-19, the setup and implementation of the projects were delayed in general, which is why several projects can not showcase final results and impact at the end of 2021. However, as part of the process, each project’s long term impact will be evaluated approximately six months after construction is finalised. A new edition of this report will be issued to reflect those evolvments. Explore the joint results from the projects 2019-2021 below and visit the Annex 1 for further details. The Her City flagship projects described here are the UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning partnerships projects in:

#### 📍 **Beirut**

The Her City project in Beirut focuses on the two neighbourhoods Mar Mikhael and Gemmayzeh. The targeted public spaces have been affected by the blast in 2020 and the project aims to regenerate and upgrade the urban spaces. The main focus of the project is three public stairs: St Nicholas, Laziza and Vendome stairs. The project is a joint initiative with UN-Habitat Lebanon, Block by Block Foundation and Catalytic Action.

#### 📍 **Botkyrka**

The first pilot project “#UrbanGirlsMovement” was instrumental in developing the methodology and tools that now are digitalised, made accessible via the Her City platform and scaled to global contexts. It resulted in an outdoor living room that was developed together with young girls in Fittja, Botkyrka. A wider regeneration of the area has sprung out of the process and several actors are taking the designs and the girls’ experiences forward.

#### 📍 **Chania**

The Her City Chania project is a unique project in the sense that it is a partnership between UN-Habitat and an academic institution: the Chania Technical University of Crete. So far, the academic course “Planning the Smart and Virtual City”, has engaged 40 urban planning undergraduate students with support from the municipality of Chania. They focus on the following public spaces: Korai, N.Foka, 1866square, Daskalogianni, El. Venizelou, Markou Botsari park, Smirnis, PI Agoras market, Minwos and the Polychronis Polychronidis park.

#### 📍 **Delhi**

Under the name “Youth led, Nature - Culture Living Labs in India”, the Delhi projects are a continuation of previous projects carried out at four different sites; Badshahpur Forest Corridor, Wazirabad channel, entry area to Gurugram, Anath Road and Ghazipur settlement. The projects are utilising local culture and knowledge as a foundation for implementing nature-based solutions. The project is a joint partnership between Sida, Swedbio, Beyond Built, Care Earth Trust, UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning.

#### 📍 **Johannesburg**

UN-Habitat’s Global Public Space Programme and Global Utmaning first piloted the new digital Her City Toolbox in the Diepsloot township, Johannesburg. Together with the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) and the Block by Block Foundation the “Indlela Yabafazi - Women’s Way” project aims at creating safe routes connecting safe public spaces in the informal settlement. Through different tools and digital technologies for participatory planning and community engagement, multi-stakeholders have been working alongside marginalised young women and girls, to redesign the area with a focus on accessibility, affordability, safety and inclusivity of public spaces for all.

### 📍 **Flemingsberg**

The project in Flemingsberg “Urban Challenges” is a joint initiative together with a range of private partners (MTR Nordic, Fabege) and Huddinge municipality. The project was facilitated by the civil society organisations Impact Hub and Changers Hub, financed by the Swedish Institute. The project focuses on accessible urban mobility with a specific concentration on safety in public transportation and station areas.

### 📍 **Helsingborg**

The project in Fredriksdal in Helsingborg is a joint collaboration between Helsingborg municipality, UN-Habitat, Block by Block Foundation and Global Utmaning. The area of Fredriksdal is undergoing densification and the ambition is for it to become a child friendly area with accessibility to green spaces.

### 📍 **Gaza and the West Bank**

Through the Haya joint program, UN-Habitat in Palestine together with UN Women and partners have initiated interventions to address and contribute to preventing violence against women and girls in various public spaces in the targeted cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Local authorities, architects, property owners, constructors and other multi-stakeholders have been working alongside marginalised communities, including women and girls, to promote youth leadership and propose recommendations and redesigns for various areas.

### 📍 **Kakuma and Kalobeyei**

The Her City related activities in Kakuma and Kalobeyei in Turkana focus on four sites in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and “Kalobeyei Town” in the Kalobeyei Settlement. This is the first project in an informal settlement that makes use of parts of the methodology and thus provides important lessons and recommendations for a way forward to widen the toolbox to larger groups of vulnerable populations such as refugees and minorities. The project is a continuation of previous interventions in the area.

### 📍 **Lima**

Under the name “Female builders of an inclusive and resilient city-wide system of public spaces in Lima” the project aims to promote resilience, social cohesion and citywide public policy improvements.

### 📍 **Nairobi**

The “Her Streets” project in partnership with the GoDown Arts Centre aims to improve the Dunga and Dundori streets around the upcoming New GoDown Cultural Arts Complex in Nairobi. It aims to make them safer and more inclusive public spaces, accommodating a diversity of shared commercial, social, and cultural activities and inviting all Nairobians to become a part of the new cultural hub.

### 📍 **Weimar**

An independent academic project conducted as part of a master’s thesis by two students at the Bauhaus University Weimar. The project focused on various public spaces in Weimar particularly in the old parts of the town, such as the historic squares Frauenplan, Platz der Demokratie, and Herderplatz, but also Wielandplatz, Seifengasse and Posecksche Garten. The work consisted of a modified application of the Her City toolbox, movement and public life measurements, including a citizen survey with 250 participants. Extensive advocacy work is taking place to sensibilise both decision-makers and the wider public.

## List of priorities

	Design solution	Impact
<b>Environment and mobility</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. greenery, trees, flowers and parks</li> <li>2. ponds, pools and fountains</li> <li>3. greenhouses and urban agriculture</li> <li>4. beehives and ecosystem services</li> <li>5. energy generating pavements, renewables and solar panels</li> <li>6. street lighting</li> <li>7. signage</li> <li>8. traffic lights and zebra crossings</li> <li>9. public transport stops and waiting areas</li> <li>10. pedestrian streets and cycle path</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access</li> <li>• mobility</li> <li>• walkability</li> <li>• compact city</li> <li>• reduced travel</li> <li>• sustainable transportation</li> <li>• public transport</li> <li>• eco-system services</li> <li>• better air quality</li> <li>• reduced pollution</li> <li>• local urban agriculture</li> <li>• greenery and beautification</li> </ul>
<b>Social and economic</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. library, stages and outdoor theatres</li> <li>2. chill and recreational areas, meeting points and playgrounds</li> <li>3. street art</li> <li>4. interactive lights, signs and walls</li> <li>5. water drinking taps</li> <li>6. public toilets, waste and recycling</li> <li>7. free women's clinics</li> <li>8. spaces for vendors, cafés and food kiosks</li> <li>9. free WiFi charging areas and community phones</li> <li>10. AI and robots</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free access</li> <li>• basic services</li> <li>• water</li> <li>• sanitation</li> <li>• economic opportunities</li> <li>• social spaces</li> <li>• healthy recreation</li> <li>• digital connection</li> <li>• digital interaction</li> <li>• cultural values</li> </ul>

## Reach

Since the launch in March 2021, Her City has carried out six regional trainings in the Middle East, North African region, Europe, Africa, Latin America, North America and Asia. Throughout the sessions, more than 500 professionals have been trained in the Her City approach to urban planning. Over 80% of the participants have been female.

In line with the overall approach and objective of Her City, the training is available online on [YouTube](#). The video is in English, but subtitles in several languages are available to increase accessibility globally.

Her City also organised or participated in 25 events throughout the period. The launch on International Women's Day, Queen's University Belfast Make Space for Girls, the Public Space Biennial, presentation of the first project at Swedish Embassy in South Africa on World Habitat Day, World Cities Day celebrations in Nairobi and the Asian Development Bank Gender Forum, just to mention a few.

To spread awareness about the projects and the results, Her City is using several social media platforms. In less than a year the platforms reached the following numbers:

Platform	Followers	Reach / impressions
<a href="#">TikTok</a>	25	1 145
<a href="#">Instagram</a>	1219	3 666
<a href="#">Facebook</a>	792	10 486
<a href="#">YouTube</a>	90	2 133
<a href="#">Twitter</a>	716	167 150
<a href="#">Website</a>	-	3.2 M impressions / 76.9 K clicks

We are delighted that independent projects have created their own project specific social media accounts and hashtags that showcase the projects as they develop. In some cases the social media profiles have been key to reach and engage participants for the projects.


Furthermore, The Her City project has been featured in magazines, newspapers and podcasts. These features include [ArchDaily](#), [The Planner Magazine](#), [El Tiempo](#) or [Elle Deco Italia](#). Her City has also appeared in the [ArchDaily interviews](#) and the [Urbanistica podcast](#). Her City was mentioned on the [United Nations](#) main webpage [un.org](#) and featured as a good practice by UNDESA.

We participated in the Commission of Women and the Generation Equality Forum as an Action Coalitions Commitment Maker. On Sweden Innovation Day organised by Vinnova, Her City was again highlighted as a good innovation practice at the World Expo Dubai.

Her City organised or participated in 25 events throughout the year: The launch on International Women's Day, Queen's University Belfast Make Space for Girls, the Public Space Biennial, presentation of the first project at Swedish Embassy in South Africa on World Habitat Day, World Cities Day celebrations in Nairobi and the Asian Development Bank Gender Forum, just to mention a few.

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Avbryt




**HER CITY**  
LET HER GUIDE YOU

**148**  
Inlägg

**1 219**  
Följare

**174**  
Följer

**HerCity**  
Produkt/tjänst  
Sustainable and inclusive cities together with girls.  
Let her guide you!  
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Platform



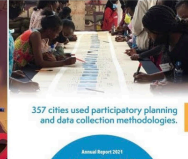
  
Participants

  
Events


  
Cities

  
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**Överst**    Konton    Ljud    Taggar    Platser




**hercityweimar**  
HerCity Weimar  
1 nytt inlägg




**hercity\_chania**  
HerCity Chania  
Följs av hercityweimar + 3 andra



**hercitytoolbox**  
HerCity  
Följs av gunilla\_f + 7 andra



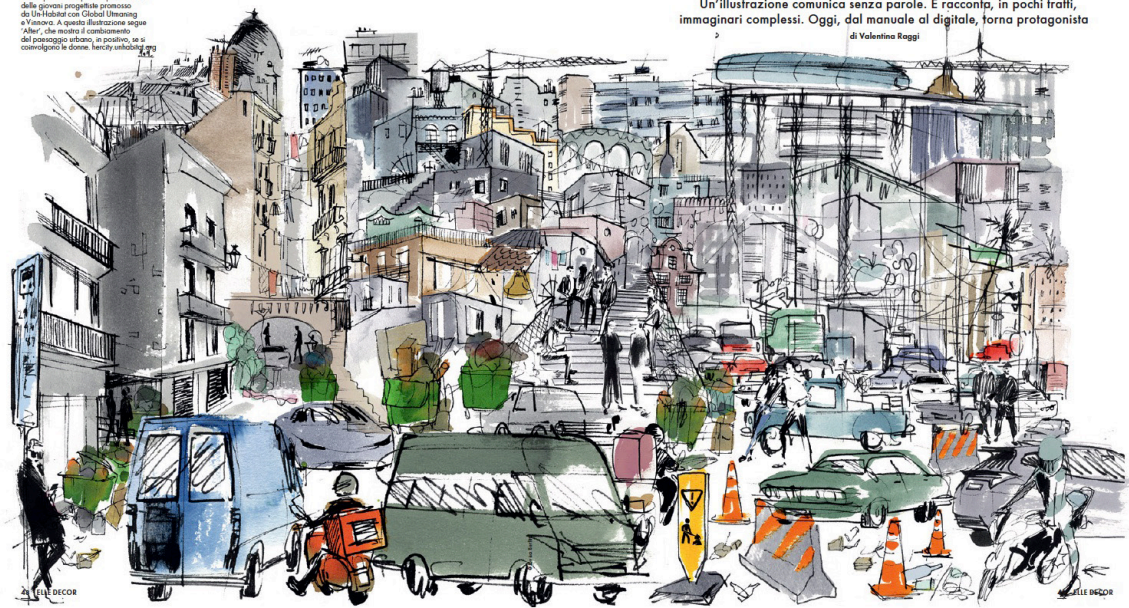
**her\_city\_diepsloot**  
Följs av hercity\_chania + 3 andra



**hercity\_localmarket**  
#HerCity\_LocalMarket

The account gained 1000 followers in 6 months and several project specific accounts have been launched by partners and multi-stakeholders in the independent initiatives © Her City Instagram

**HerCity** — Troppo spesso le città non funzionano per le ragazze. Sono luoghi non sicuri, sporchi, respingenti e inaccessibili. «Io sto con le Before», dice di Irena Butić, in quelle pagine, creato per il concetto di empowerment delle giovani protagoniste protagoniste del Un-Habitat con Global Utmaning e Visione. In questa illustrazione segue «After», che mostra il cambiamento del paesaggio urbano, in positivo, se si coinvolgono le donne. hercity.istatoolbox.org



## Ridisegnare il futuro

Un'illustrazione comunica senza parole. E racconta, in pochi tratti, immaginari complessi. Oggi, dal manuale al digitale, torna protagonista di Valentina Raggi

## In practice

# Gender responsive planning & design



Given the current knowledge about women and girls' experiences in various urban contexts, a key question is what a city that empowers and reflects the needs and aspirations of both women and girls would look like on a more general level? What is the possible impact? How can it be done? And who should do what?

However, based on general knowledge from public space design and extensive experience in participatory and inclusive planning, some lessons learned and indicative impacts stand out. These include mid-term policy impact on basic services, environment and climate, economy, health and well-being, mobility, safety and social inclusion. Read summaries below or explore further in Annex 2.

## Thematic entry points

Since the beginning of the first phase in 2017, the projects that are applying the Her City process have shown how spaces, buildings and physical infrastructure can become more gender inclusive and sustainable. By influencing and reformulating urban policies and programs this approach provides substantial possibilities for women's participation in defining urban governance and development. As already pointed out, generalisations based on the impacts of these designs are too early to be estimated, and the scope of the impact is difficult to grasp at this early stage.

### Basic services

In the long run, provision of better housing areas and shared basic services in public space, would have a general impact on the quality of life, health, employment and safety. In addition, particular provision of services such as access to clean and efficient sources of energy, have an important impact in public facilities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is also possible to minimise carbon emissions through greening of housing and public space by the choice of materials, construction technologies, and passive design which reduce energy consumption.<sup>35</sup>



### **Environment and climate change**

Public space can further help areas adapt to the effects of climate change by acting as a sustainable drainage system, moderate solar heating, act as cooling corridors, provide wind shelter and act as a wildlife habitat. Climate change adaptation has become a large cost for society, investment in ecologically sustainable public space oriented infrastructure can be a way to reduce spending. Women and minorities are unequally represented in decision-making processes, which in turn inhibits women's participation in climate-related planning and policy-making processes as well as women's possibilities to respond to the effects of the climate crisis.

### **Economy**

Well designed and managed public spaces add economic value to places which can positively influence the local economy, employment opportunities, business investments, tourism, etc. Moreover, public spaces can feature shared materials and facilities that are low emitters; from bicycles and electric cars, to public wireless or books.<sup>36</sup> In addition, building compact cities with a focus on public spaces for walking and cycling will reduce public service costs.<sup>37</sup>

### **Health and well-being**

Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation infrastructure such as public toilets and washing facilities do not only improve the lives and health of urban dwellers but also reduce emissions from open waste. Well-connected public spaces can reduce stress by providing a calm environment for people to better their physical and mental health. Child friendly public spaces are important in a child's cognitive, social and physical development.

### **Mobility**

Cities and neighbourhoods planned and designed based on principles of proximity, simultaneously reduce the need for travel and improve non-motorised collective mobility. This is at the core of the "15 minute city" concept gaining terrain in different cities around the world. Pollution levels are reduced by enhancing the transport possibilities for bicycles and pedestrians.

### **Political participation**

Public space per se, and inclusive and participatory public space planning and design as an instrument, presents a framework for social and cultural interaction which may lead to an increased sense of belonging, responsibility and pride. Applying an intersectional analysis on civic engagement and public space planning and design processes by challenging power structures, norms and excluding practises gives urban actors a better chance to make informed decisions about how to navigate and improve the complex structures that make a city.

### **Safety**

Dynamic and active public spaces that provide mixed use and design, while serving a mixture of users will reduce feelings of insecurity. Redesigning current public spaces and overseeing the management structure of the space can help to allay fears of crime and violence. Carefully planned public spaces that invite a large cross section of people at all times of the day play an important role in reducing the perceptions of insecurity.

### **Social inclusion**

Access to good service, public transport, recreational areas, meeting places and culture promotes urban health and well-being and provides good conditions for integration and social cohesion. Inclusive urban planning and a good living environment are therefore important tools for counteracting social exclusion and segregation.

By applying a gender sensitive approach to urban planning and design to target contemporary and future challenges, representation is enhanced at a structural level with greater social inclusion as a result. So far, we have witnessed a more diverse understanding of the needs, and increased legitimacy of the priorities. To enhance the level of social, economic and environmental sustainability in similar initiatives we propose a range of actions to support urban actors in their everyday programming and activities. Read the summaries below and then explore Appendix 3 to learn more about the various actions to take and how to operationalise these actions in your work daily.

## Implementing actors

The Her City process has shown the values of including underrepresented perspectives in local decision-making processes and physical planning and design of urban spaces. Girls and other disadvantaged groups prioritise the usage of public resources in a way that touches cross-cutting issues. When consulted, girls raise pressing urban planning issues such as issues like crime prevention measures, ecosystem solutions, transport, access to education and healthcare.

Approaching systemic challenges in a local setting, by fully utilising the expertise of girls and minorities, provides us with cross-cutting solutions for local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. To succeed with a co-creative process such as Her City, all implementing actors need to play their part and contribute to the common objectives. In the long run, participatory and co-creative processes can actually save much work, money and public friction.

Depending on the nature of the organisation, each actor plays a different role in implementing co-creative processes. How

can various actors contribute by strategically involving gender and interactional perspectives in urban planning and design?

### Civil society

Civil society provides experience driven expertise to the process and is also in a position to include and share with often overlooked societal groups. As a civil society organisation you can use the Her City platform to engage members of local communities to provide input to decision-making processes and the planning and design of public spaces.

### Public administration and civil servants

Public sector provides an understanding of local frame-works in use, and bridges the gap between the community, civil society, and local government. The Her City Toolbox guides civil servants and professionals in public administration in how to facilitate participatory development processes.

### Local government and politicians

Local governments and decision-makers are key in setting long-term visions and strategies for urban development. With the Her City framework, gender and intersectional perspectives are mainstreamed in long-term strategies for a more sustainable development of the space, neighbourhood and city.

### Private sector

Private sector provides an understanding of challenges and opportunities for the public space from a risk and business perspective. Private actors can use the Her City Toolbox to improve the local environment where they are active, and in turn creating a more profitable business environment with positive impact on property and land value, as well as business opportunities.

### Academia

Academia and researchers contribute with a research-based approach to the process. Researchers part of a Her City project get insight into a multitude of ongoing processes in planning and designing inclusive and functional urban spaces that can continue to build on the shared body of knowledge and provide a better understanding of the interplay between urban development efforts.

### Citizens and grassroots

Inhabitants, communities, citizens and grassroots are key for understanding the challenges and actual needs on the ground. With the Her City Toolbox, citizens that are rarely heard become the experts and are able to influence the function and form of their public spaces in a more sustainable direction.



## Suggested actions

1



Gender consideration across the urban space

2



Key infrastructure across different city scales

3



Principles for gender responsive cities

4



Guidelines for gender responsive urban planning

The section below outlines a range of actions (Action #1-8) to support urban actors in their everyday programming and activities. This section is integrating updated parts of the internal UN-Habitat paper “Using Gender Responsive Urban Planning to Promote Social Inclusion and Sustainable Urbanisation” (Urban Planning Policy Brief Series 2019).

### **Action #1: Gender considerations across the urban space**

Start with analysing key considerations in making city spaces gender responsive to the needs of women and girls. How do the different urban features impact women and men. Don't forget to adopt an intersectional perspective.

### **Action #2: Key infrastructure across different city scales**

While understanding gender and intersecting forms of discrimination in terms of urban development, it is important to highlight the different scales of its implication. Explore the different scales across which planning process and practice must operate in order to promote gender inclusive cities.

### **Action #3: Principles for gender responsive cities**

Based on the urban planning experience, knowledge and international practice gathered, a number of principles that underpin a 'gender responsive city' have been defined.<sup>38</sup> Use these principles to inform the participatory process, planning, design and implementation of your project.

### **Action #4: Guidelines for gender responsive urban planning**

We suggest that there are five dimensions of public space planning and design. These components also improve gender responsive planning and design. These five dimensions include: use and users, accessibility, amenities and furniture, comfort and safety and the green environment. Urban design can foster inclusive urban spaces as they address both the physical components as well as the perception aspect and can send a message or set an inclusive tone. A key part of building inclusive cities for all is ensuring a nuanced understanding of how different groups of people experience the current urban environment differently.<sup>39</sup>

5



Neighbourhood level design recommendations

6



Key actions to engage women and girls

7



Tools for gender responsive planning and design

8



Digital tools for gender responsive planning and design



### Action #5: Neighbourhood level design recommendations

UN-Habitat has developed a set of guiding principles to further support urban managers, urban planning practitioners and other stakeholders to promote integrated and inclusive planning at the neighbourhood level. Neighbourhood level planning approaches can help foster gender inclusive neighbourhoods which can be scaled up across the broader urban environment.



### Action #6: Key interventions to engage women and girls

There are a range of practical interventions that gender responsive urban planning can undertake to promote gender responsive cities including: Fostering an inclusive mind-set; Recognizing and understanding the diversity of cities and specifically women and girls differing urban experiences; Using certain technical urban planning interventions to promote gender responsive cities; and engaging women and girls in the urban planning process.



### Action #7: Tools for gender responsive planning and design

Women and girls should be invited to take part in the various components and steps of the urban planning process in order to achieve a gender responsive urban planning outcome. Achieving this demands multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement.



### Action #8: Digital tools for gender responsive planning and design

With Her City Toolbox we can now offer a comprehensive overview of digital tools to implement planning and design principles in order to engage women and girls across key stages of the planning and design process. Use it as a digital guide for the entire process to be used flexibly in any urban development project to ensure the inclusion of the diversity of women and girls to build cities for all. The entire methodology and all tools can be found in the second edition of the Her City Guide.

To come across this transformation it is essential to understand that the relations between public and private actors and citizens are changing. The business sector, academia and civil society play increasingly important roles in different urban development projects and in a growing range of areas. Increasingly, civil servants and politicians more often look outside of their own organisations for collaborations. It is in the organisational gaps of knowledge we often find the real innovation potential.

## Conclusion

# Transforming Her City



People increasingly live in cities. Urban areas are already home to 55% of the world's population, and that figure is expected to grow to 68% by 2050. Already today, cities account for 70% of CO2 emissions.

Urbanisation brings enormous challenges, not least in terms of inequality. When poorly or unplanned, it is often followed by widened gaps between the city and rural areas, urban centres and outskirts, and between different groups in society. A billion of the world's population live in informal urban settlements and with rapid and unplanned urbanisation there is a predominant risk that disadvantaged urban dwellers will drastically increase.

Among the most vulnerable are young women in socio-economically disadvantaged areas. Research shows that girls and women do not use city's public spaces to the same extent as boys or men. From the age of eight, 80% of the public spaces can be dominated by boys, and girls express that they feel significantly more insecure and excluded.

In general, women and girls benefit less from urbanization and urban spaces than men and boys. In fact, women and girls in cities will face a range of specific barriers and vulnerabilities in the form of gender-based discrimination: gender inequality, violence against women, poverty, unpaid care-work, limited control over assets, unequal participation in public and private decision-making; as well as, barriers to education, employment, housing and basic services.

In most urban contexts, the burden on women goes far beyond the unpaid care work within the household. Women are likely to hold up triple roles - productive, reproductive, and community roles. One of the greatest challenges expressed by many working women and parents in caring roles, is the capacity to undertake multiple key tasks in parallel such as livelihood generation, caring for family members, and undertaking household chores like cooking and cleaning, shopping, school drop off. Time and distance

greatly affect one's capacity to deliver on these tasks simultaneously.

This is only made possible when neighbourhoods are equipped with basic services, appropriate infrastructure and good options for public transport. Research shows that women's and men's movement patterns differ greatly, while men in general move between point a to point b, women's movement is characterised by multiple stops on the way between two main locations. Thus, the ability for livelihood generating activities as well as family obligations and unpaid care work is highly affected by the structure and design of neighbourhoods and cities.

In practice, by gathering knowledge about how the built environment affects most vulnerable and marginalised populations' access to the public space, the aim is to identify opportunities and provide useful tools for practitioners to improve the health, well-being and living conditions for these groups in particular, and society as a whole in general. A good city is balanced, where there is space for people to live, work and play in equal measure.

Research shows that participatory urban development with girls and young women, local actors, as well as multi-level decision-makers, creates opportunities for more inclusive, equal and sustainable urban development. But there is currently a lack of knowledge in participatory urban planning and design, particularly in involving vulnerable groups such as girls and women in urban development processes.

Thus, we aim to build capacity on a larger scale. This report in general, and the Her City Toolbox in particular, provides municipal professionals, urban actors and local decision-makers with a solid toolbox for mainstreaming youth, gender and socioeconomic perspectives by strategically involving girls and young women in urban planning and design.

The ambition is to contribute to a range of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Besides, SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities and the New Urban Agenda, also SDG3 on health and well-being, SDG5 on gender equality, SDG10 on reducing inequality, SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG17 on partnerships. However, this body of knowledge have shown that this approach also contributes to implementing other SDGs on the local level.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are since the 80's crosscutting issues and key priorities for us. We work to ensure that gender equality is systematically integrated into all activities, and to increase the number of cities formulating and implementing sustainable urbanization policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels.

But when a century long fight for women enjoying the same basic human rights, opportunities and place in society as men is losing momentum, we believe showcasing success and impact stories to be a most efficient tool to re-engage, re-think and re-activate gender equality in the decade of action.

A city can become gender inclusive, equitable, and prosperous only if everyone strives to improve everyone's rights, promote equal participation in decision-making, and develop services that benefit women and men equally. Women and men, boys and girls, all institutions and businesses, should be engaged in promoting every person's right to the city, irrespective of gender or age.

Mainstreaming gender equality in cities' everyday planning, design and implementation processes is therefore now more important than ever.

In addition, the global COVID-19 pandemic has for two years disrupted lives and economies

around the world. The social and economic fallout is reversing development gains, and global poverty is expected to increase for the first time in three decades. With over 90 per cent of confirmed cases coming from urban areas, cities remain the epi-centres of COVID-19. The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated underlying inequalities in cities. It has not only led to a halt but even a rollback of women's role in society, and is pushing back the possibility of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by at least a decade.

We have initiated the Her City Toolbox to respond to this challenge and assist urban actors in continuing advancing gender equality on the ground despite pandemics and pushbacks. Her City facilitates the integration of gender but also youth and socioeconomic perspectives throughout the urban development process. Her City will also

be a forum to highlight cities' challenges and to share their solutions in order to create more gender inclusive cities.

The World Cities Report 2020 convincingly affirms that well-planned, managed, and financed cities and towns create economic, social, environmental and other unquantifiable value that can vastly improve the quality of life of all. Urbanisation has become a global trend; an engine of development and a transformative force that can lead the world to overcome challenges related to sustainability, climate change, poverty, exclusion and gender inequality.

Equality for women in an urban world is progress for all. Mainstreaming gender in all urban development processes will be an efficient tool to make sure that no one and no place will be left behind.

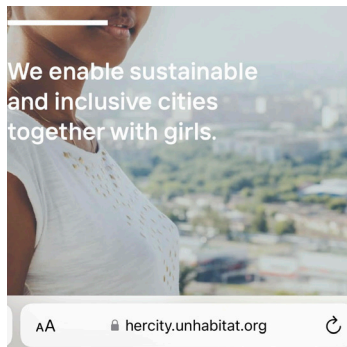


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# Resources

For anyone interested in engaging with us, understanding more about Her City or even partner to start up a new city project, here is some additional reading:

### Her City Toolbox



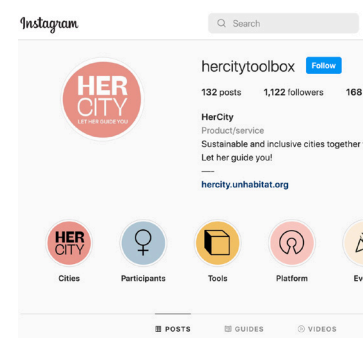
Explore and register [here](https://hercity.unhabitat.org).

### Her City Twitter



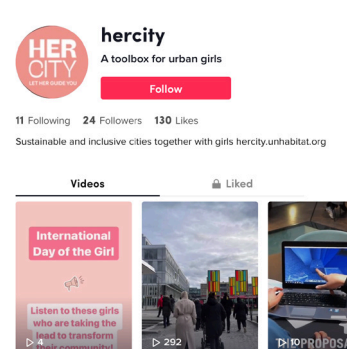
Explore and follow [here](https://twitter.com/HerCityToolbox).

### Her City Instagram



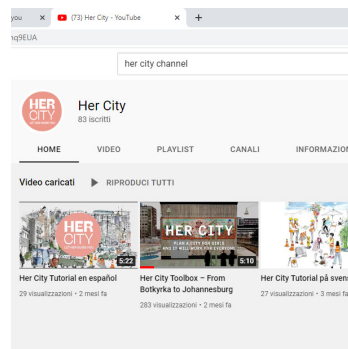
Explore and follow [here](https://www.instagram.com/hercitytoolbox).

### Her City TikTok



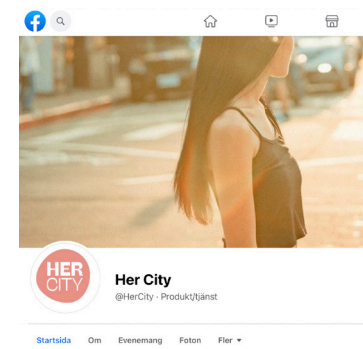
Explore and follow [here](https://www.tiktok.com/@hercity).

### Her City Youtube



Explore and follow [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq9EUA).

### Her City Facebook



Explore and follow [here](https://www.facebook.com/HerCity).

### Her City Guide



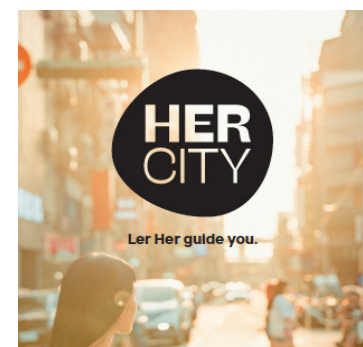
Explore and download [here](https://hercity.unhabitat.org/guide).

### Her City Project Proposal



Explore and download [here](https://hercity.unhabitat.org/project-proposal).

### Her City Brochure



Explore and download [here](https://hercity.unhabitat.org/brochure).

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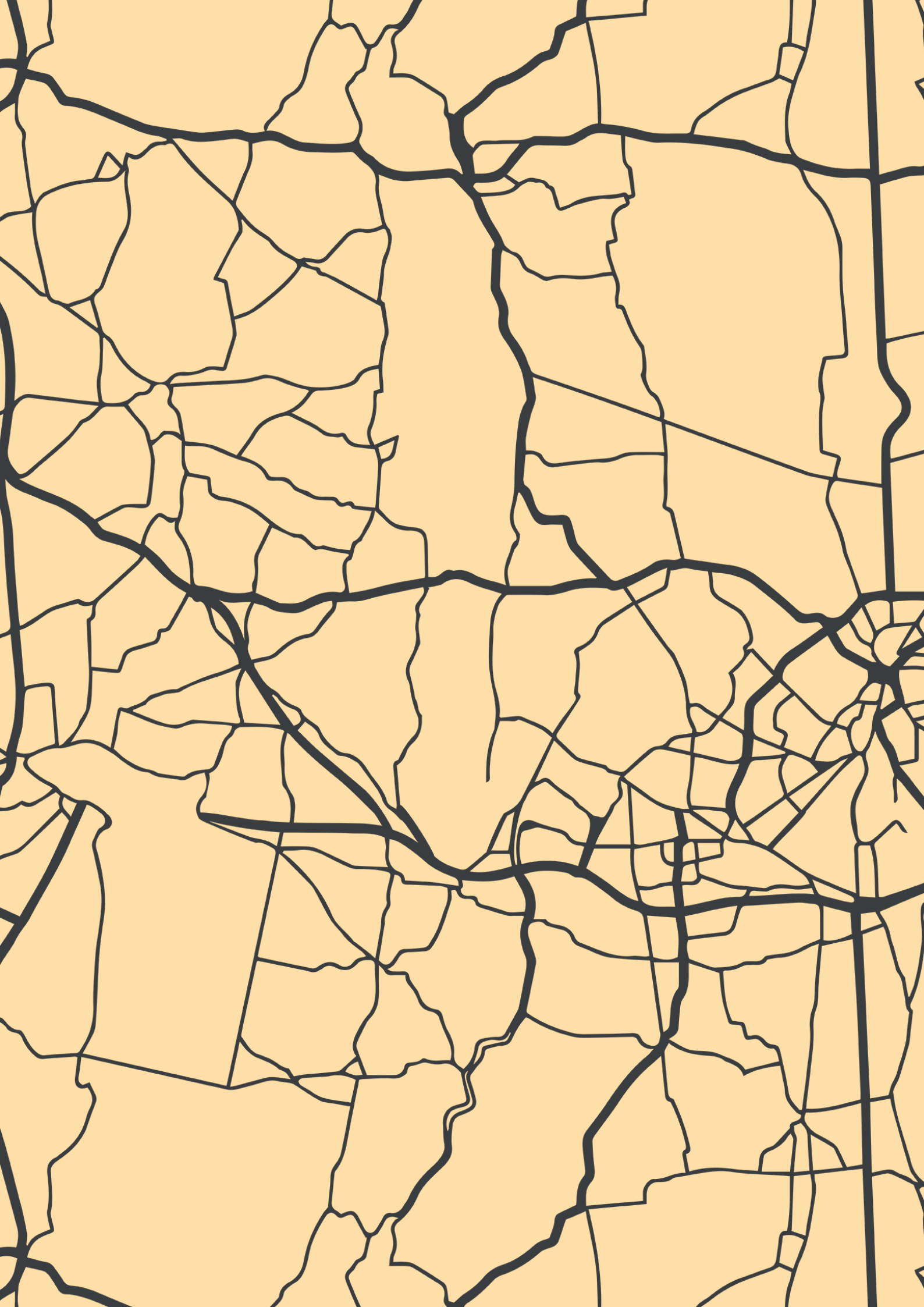
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# Her City Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon



<b>Category</b>	Public-private partnership
<b>Location</b>	Mar Mikhael and Gemmayzeh neighbourhoods and three public stairs in Beirut
<b>Time</b>	April 2017 - ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	Block by Block Foundation (donor), UN-Habitat Lebanon, Global Utmaning and Catalytic Action
<b>Participants</b>	Local girls from the neighbourhood
<b>Links</b>	<a href="http://www.catalyticaction.org">www.catalyticaction.org</a> <a href="http://www.blockbyblock.org">www.blockbyblock.org</a>
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## Localising SDGs



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## Impact story

The project in Beirut that applied some of the methods and tools from the Her City toolbox focuses on the two neighbourhoods Mar Mikhael and Gemmayzeh. The targeted public spaces have been affected by the blast in 2020 and the project aims to regenerate and upgrade the urban spaces. The main focus of the project is three public stairs: St Nicholas, Laziza and Vendome stairs. The project is a joint initiative with UN-Habitat Lebanon, Block by Block Foundation and Catalytic Action.

### Challenges

The public spaces in the neighbourhoods of Mar Mikhael and Gemmayzeh were affected by the Beirut blast in 2020 and the Her City project was initiated at the same time as many other projects and actors were mobilising to respond to the blast. The Beirut project aims at revitalising the stairs to make them more inclusive public spaces for all inhabitants at the same time as having a focus on space and memory.

### Good practices & solutions

The project started with a participatory site specific assessment together with 25 participants, a diverse group of youth from the neighbourhoods. After having made observations, collected data and having expressed what they liked and disliked in the public space the next activity consisted of redesigning the space in Minecraft. In addition, an open call was advertised to encourage a wider group of inhabitants to participate in revitalising the spaces by sending in their Minecraft designs for them to be considered in the project. Furthermore, the project in Beirut faced challenges in the sense that the Minecraft workshops had to be conducted safely during the coronavirus pandemic and during the electricity crisis.

## Outcome & opportunities

In the redesigning process in Minecraft the participants suggested adding seating areas for resting, lights, accessibility ramps for people with disabilities and older persons, colourful elements and signages on the stairs as well as shades and handrails. Furthermore, floor games for children and areas for cultural activities such as book corners and exhibitions.

### Impact

"Today I discovered I have a passion for design. When I grow up, I want to be an architect to design nice spaces in my neighbourhood," says a 15-year-old participant in the project. The Beirut project has empowered girls through learning how to create design suggestions for public spaces, which helped them realise their potential to contribute to their community. The Her City Project in Beirut targeted the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

### Lessons learned & recommendations

The initiative in Beirut shows that the toolbox works for regeneration projects in urban areas. In addition, the project shows that participation can bridge a gap between different people in neighbourhoods and empower the same inhabitants.



# Her City Botkyrka

Botkyrka, Sweden

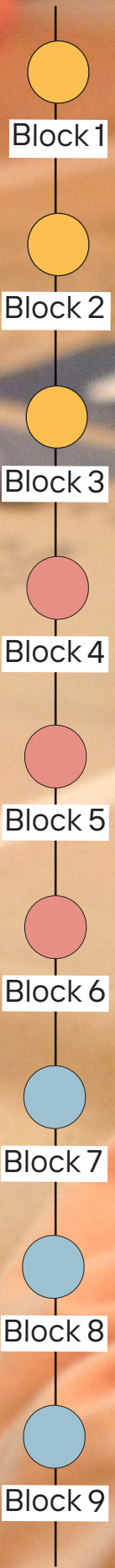


<b>Category</b>	Public-private partnership
<b>Location</b>	Fittja square, station and marketplace in Botkyrka municipality, Sweden
<b>Time</b>	December 2017 - November 2019
<b>Partners</b>	Block by Block Foundation (donor), Global Utmaning, Botkyrka municipality, UN-Habitat, Mistra Urban Futures, Iteam, Swedish Union of Tenants, White architects, Changers Hub
<b>Participants</b>	Girls and young women from Botkyrka and urban professionals from Botkyrka municipality, the Region of Stockholm, Kungsvåningen AB, Södertörn University, KTH
<b>Links</b>	<a href="http://www.urbangirlsmovement.org">www.urbangirlsmovement.org</a>
<b>Contact</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

During one year, girls and young women contributed with sustainable solutions to fight challenges in the public spaces in the Fittja area in the Her City pilot project – #UrbanGirlsMovement. Girls from the area were engaged girls in developing innovative solutions for the public spaces they are familiar with. The girls have influenced and designed visions for a more inclusive and equal city, which in the long term can create conditions for reduced segregation and inequality.

The starting point for #UrbanGirlsMovement was to test the hypothesis: “plan the city for girls, and it will work for everyone”. It was a joint initiative between the independent think tank Global Utmaning and Botkyrka Municipality, and developed in cooperation with a range of partners and participants from academia, civil society, municipalities, international organisations and private sector such as the Block by block Foundation, Changers Hub, Fryshuset, Iteam, Kounkuey Design Initiative, KTH, MethodKit, Mistra Urban Futures, Plan International, RISE, Sida, Swedish Union of Tenants, Stockholms University, Södertörn University, UN-Habitat, Uppsala University, White architects and WWF. The hypothesis was successfully tested in a pilot in Botkyrka municipality in the larger Stockholm region in Sweden, and has now developed in to the Her City Toolbox. Some of the ideas generated by the girls have been implemented after the project ended, for example a park.

### Challenges

The participants identified four focus areas in need of interventions during the first workshop, the “UrbanGirls Walk”: Fittja square, Fittja Centrum (the mall), the backside of the shopping centre and the underground station. The areas around the mall were described by the participants as dark and abandoned, while the square rather was described as taken

over by men and scary. During the proceeding workshop, the participants used Method-kit to discuss what privileges prevailed in the space and their vision for the future. The participants specifically pointed out the lack of greenery, bad lighting, exhaust emission, inadequate seating arrangements and uninspiring surroundings. This was then addressed in the joint vision and design solutions visualized in Minecraft.

### Good practices & solutions

The space was initially described as unwelcoming, unsafe and lacking activities. This was then reflected in the visualisations where the participants visioned a “public living room”, built seating, added greenery, and a pink guiding path lead the way through Fittja. One key takeaway from the #UrbanGirlsMovement was that both girls and professionals’ part of the project want Fittja to be a place to meet. The area should be welcoming and secure. To create that inclusive feeling, all the proposals focused on more lighting, greenery, places to hang out on and wider access to culture. The proposals ranged from skate park to a sound berm, from beehives to bean bags, and signs to bike lanes.

### Outcome & opportunities

In consultation with the girls, White Architects and the municipality of Botkyrka designed a temporary pop-up to test some of the elements from the project. The pop-up #UrbanGirlsCube was built on Fittja square in August 2019 by a group of young seasonal workers. The cube was a combination of several of the public space solutions from the #UrbanGirlsMovement workshop series. The purpose of the pop-up installation was to see how the local community would react to the innovative solutions that emerged from the project and show how the results in a simple way can be incorporated in the urban planning process. The pavilion was built entirely of wood and then reused at preschools in the

municipality. It was the first of two trail pop-ups on the square. The tests have resulted in plans by the municipality, for permanent solutions on the square and around the mall, based on the prioritized elements from the UrbanGirls. The municipality is also planning for further development in the area. In addition, the municipal housing company Botkyrkabyggen have continued the dialogues about the priorities and designs made in the #UrbanGirlsMovement with the residents and re-constructed an adjacent parking lot to a public park. The "rainbow park" contains several of the ideas generated by the girls such as movable furniture, eco-system plantations, floor paintings, murals, integrated playing and sports facilities. The vision of a Fittja as a place for community, rather than a transit, is present in the new park.

### Impact

The process led to improvement in the spatial distribution of public spaces. The #UrbanGirlsMovement also provided a great learning opportunity for every one participating. It has built capacity among municipal professionals and other participating on how to include girls and young women in urban planning and

design. The girls described the process as empowering and their understanding of the decision-making process deepened. The cooperation and partnerships between implementing actors in Botkyrka municipality have also improved by the experience. #UrbanGirlsMovement ensured the continued financing from the Swedish Innovation Agency Vinnova to continue developing the method and build the Her City Toolbox.

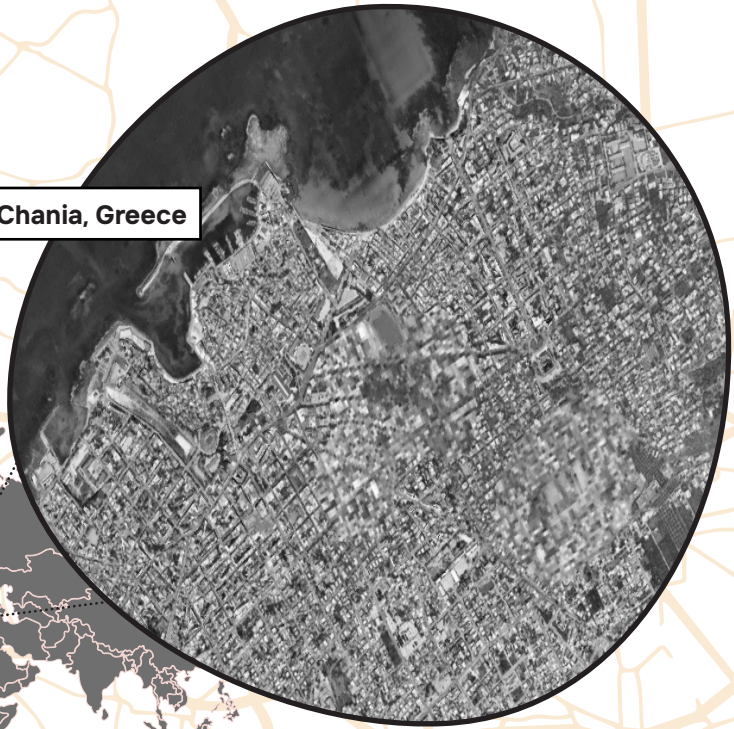
### Lessons learned & recommendations

#UrbanGirlsMovement was greatly influenced by the vast community knowledge provided by the girls and the local NGOs throughout the entire process. From the beginning, high-level officials in the municipality and implementing actors were included in the project development. This focus and level of co-creation made the #UrbanGirlsMovement successful. The primary learning and recommendation from the process is that co-design and co-creation not only make the process transparent, but it ensures longevity in both partnerships and designs solutions.



# Her City Chania

Chania, Greece



<b>Category</b>	Public-private partnership
<b>Location</b>	Chania, Greece
<b>Time</b>	July 2021 - ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	Chania TUC University, Municipality of Chania
<b>Participants</b>	Undergraduate students at Chania TUC University.
<b>Links</b>	<a href="http://www.tuc.gr/index.php?id=5397">www.tuc.gr/index.php?id=5397</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

The Her City Chania project is a unique project in the sense that it is a partnership between UN-Habitat and an academic institution: the Chania Technical University of Crete. So far, the academic course "Planning the Smart and Virtual City", has engaged 40 urban planning undergraduate students. The students are doing block 1-4 this semester and 5-9 next semester with financial support from the municipality of Chania in the following public spaces: Korai, N.Foka, 1866square, Daskalogianni, El. Venizelou, Markou Botsari park, Smirnis, Pl Agoras market, Minwos and Polychronis Polychronidis park.

### Challenges

The project utilised the toolbox as a part of a master programme, meaning it was the first time the toolbox was tested as a part of an academic syllabus to train students in public space planning and design. The main aim is to improve safety and accessibility across the different public spaces selected for the various student projects. Other areas of improvements were the cleanliness of spaces, the heat in spaces by the lack of trees or other structures for shade, inadequate seating and lighting. In addition, specific challenges were identified for each public space: in Korai, the Markou Botsari park, the Platia Agoras market and the Dikastiria square the participants stated that they would feel unsafe in the space specifically at night time. Furthermore, the participants stated that sidewalks are in poor condition and lack ramps and other accessible features in Korai, the Markou Botsari park, the Smirnis street as well as the Dikastiria square. Lastly, the students identified traffic related issues such as noise, cars violating traffic codes and double parking making the Markou Botsari park, the 1866 square and the Dikastiria square less accessible and more unsafe.

### Good practices & solutions

The course was organised into lectures and training sessions, to build capacities among the students on the different tools, while applying them immediately in a real scenario. Alternating theory and practice enabled the students to learn by doing and gain a practical understanding of the toolbox, while digesting principles of inclusive and accessible urban design. The students have been divided into groups working on different parts of the city creating opportunities to include many public spaces in the same project.

### Outcome & opportunities

The students have developed ten site-specific public space assessment report (one for each group), evaluating the current conditions of the public spaces and proposing few recommendations for the next steps, including strategies and design solutions. The students have developed technical skills for stakeholder engagement, public space assessment, co-design and project management. The outcomes of the workshop will be presented to the local government. The efforts of the students could be a starting point of a broader research project, assessing the overall public space network of Chania. The public space assessment reports provide inputs for evidence-based design guidelines on how to regenerate the public space network of Chania.

### Impact

40 students have tested the methodology of the toolbox and as professionals have engaged in urban planning utilising tools that are accessible and user friendly for non-professionals as well. The mayor has been supporting the initiative since the early start, seeing the potential of an Her City project in Chania. There is interest to implement the proposal developed by the students with

actions placemaking and tactical urbanism. The project has caught the attention of other municipalities in Greece and other universities, willing to replicate the process.

### Lessons learned & recommendation

The lessons learned during the project is that the toolbox works in academic settings, as well as in settings of non-profit organisations or private companies.

The University of Chania has established a good connection with the local government

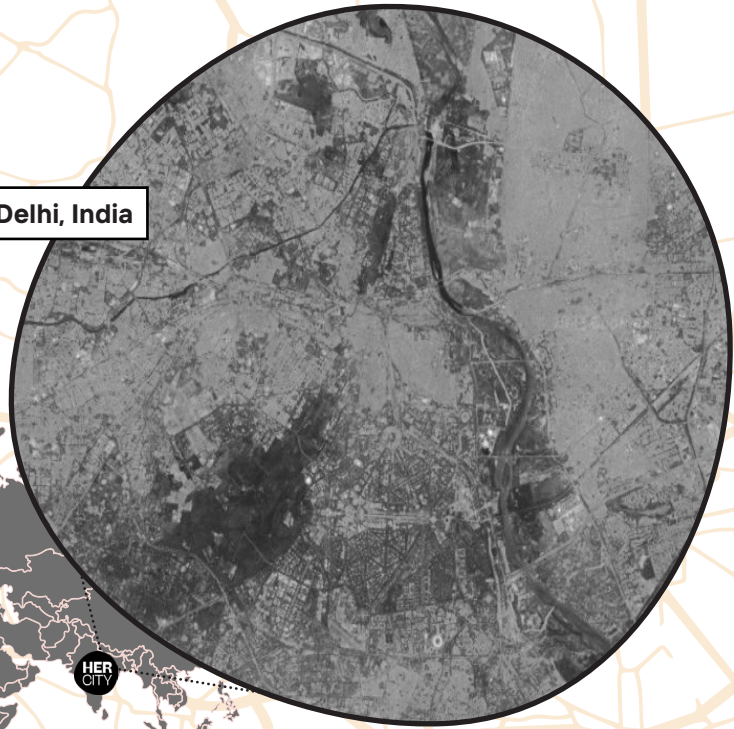
from the start of this collaboration, engaging them in workshops and sharing regular updates. This is a good practice to open opportunities for next step and implementation, turning an academic exercise into tangible action for the community.

The academic course could be replicated or run in parallel in different contexts and institutions, to improve peer to peer learning, reduce costs and increase opportunities for follow up actions.



# Her City Delhi

Delhi, India



<b>Category</b>	Public-civil society partnership
<b>Location</b>	Badshahpur Forest Corridor, Wazirabad channel, entry area to Gurugram, Anath Road and Ghazipur settlement.
<b>Time</b>	2021 - ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	Red Dot Foundation, Swedbio, Beyond Built, Care Earth Trust, UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning.
<b>Participants</b>	Local inhabitants, children aged 12-15 and professionals
<b>Links</b>	<a href="http://www.swedbio.se">www.swedbio.se</a> <a href="http://www.careearthtrust.org">www.careearthtrust.org</a> <a href="http://www.beyondbuilt.in">www.beyondbuilt.in</a>
<b>Contact</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

Under the name “Youth led, Nature - Culture Living Labs in India, the Delhi projects are a continuation of previous projects carried out at four different sites; Badshahpur Forest Corridor, Wazirabad channel, entry area to Gurugram, Anath Road and Ghazipur settlement. The projects are utilising local culture and knowledge as a foundation for implementing nature-based solutions. The Her City components of the project is a joint partnership between Sida, Swedbio, Beyond Built, Care Earth Trust, Red Dot Foundation/ Safe City, UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning.

The initial project focus on ecology for children through the collection of stories by children in their environment. It builds on previous child centered community projects and will in this phase move from assessments to physical change. It is capitalising on local culture and knowledge as a key to nature-based solutions. The aim for this second phase of the project is to make a difference on the ground and in the local environment.

### Challenges

The Badshahpur Forest Corridor was previously a water channel that helped absorb rainfall and direct it to wetlands. However, in the last decade it was turned into a box drain and became filled with waste because of nearby developments. The aim of the project was to turn Badshahpur Forest Corridor into a healthy place for children. The Gurugram Entry was characterised by a busy road resulting in a lack of sense of place. The Wazirabad channel is a natural stormwater drain, because of a lack of sewage network the raw sewage floods through the channel. With the monsoon the surrounding area to the channel floods with sewage due to lack of filtration. The Ananth Road Project centres around transforming the public space in a dense urban and modern built up area. Furthermore, the project aims at improving natural drainage systems that have

been leading to flooding during monsoons. Lastly, at the Khichripur village near Ghazipur landfill site. The aim is to create a sense of ownership of public space among the children, to have them engaged in the upkeep of the public space as well as them realising the importance of design of public spaces. The project is going to be carried out with a focus on ecology and children’s stories of the environment, using culture as a way to implement nature-based solutions.

### Good practices & solutions

The Badshahpur Forest Corridor has now been redesigned into a green corridor where locals can enjoy cycling and walking the trails going through it. It also features an accessible play area. The corridor has been transformed through nature-based solutions such as: only planting indigenous species of plants, ensuring that the space has water recharge capacity as well as the reuse of waste materials.

The Gurugram Entry has been transformed through the creation of panels and sculptures made by waste metal which adds colour and artistic elements to the space. The artistic elements refer to the stories of Gurugram and the relationship between nature and culture, the urban and the rural and the historic and contemporary aspects of the city. Furthermore, the site now features ecological solutions such as recharging of ground water from rainfall and natives plants.

### Outcome & opportunities

Currently, as part of the larger second stage of the four year project, the UN-Habitat, Global Utmaning and Red Dot Foundation team is assessing the state of the sites on the ground. With the assistance of digital aps such as Inhabit Place and Safe City qualitative stories and quantitative data are being gathered together with the users of the spaces to learn about the impacts of previous developments and inform future improvements. For example, the Badshahpur forest corridor has become a

safer and healthier space for children, women and older persons. In the Khichripur village near Ghazipur landfill site, the children are from an early age becoming aware of how to turn local challenges into opportunities, through innovative solutions to reuse waste materials.

### Lessons learned & recommendations

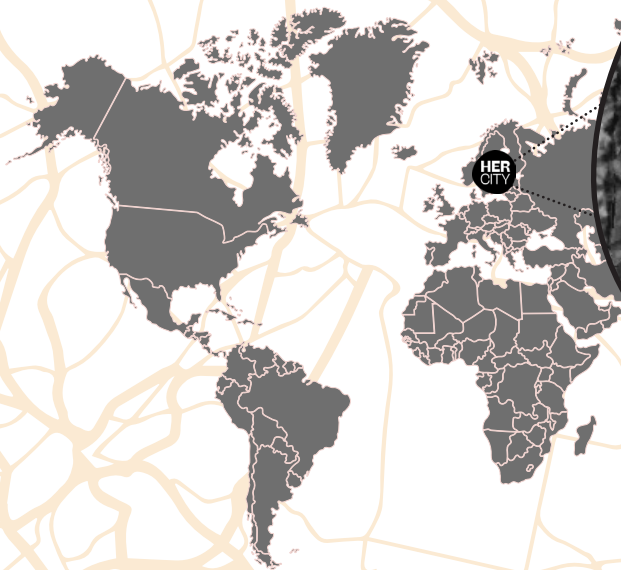
The developments in the various sites are still ongoing. However, by the end of the projects the aim is to have recommendations and data that can be shared with the local decision-

makers as good examples of projects focused on nature-based solutions and other ecological solutions. The project also has a strong component of sharing these best practices that have been co-created by the various multi-stakeholder teams to a wider audience in India and globally. A capacity building component consisting of raising awareness and training local municipal officials is also one important deliverable expected to have impact on future practices within local government to act as examples of projects focused on nature-based solutions and other ecological solutions.



# Her City Flemingsberg

Flemingsberg, Sweden



<b>Category</b>	Public-private partnership
<b>Location</b>	The street Hälsovägen located in Flemingsberg centrum, the Södertörn station area, a parking lot close to a supermarket and a parking lot close to the station.
<b>Time</b>	February 2021 - November 2021
<b>Partners</b>	UN-Habitat, Global Utmaning, private company MTR Nordic and Fabege, civil society organisations Impact Hub / Changers Hub and financed by the Swedish Institute.
<b>Participants</b>	Children from local school Annerstaskolan and women from the area.
<b>Links</b>	<a href="http://www.si.se">www.si.se</a>
<b>Contact</b>	hercity@un.org

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Block Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Block Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Block Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Block Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Block Features: \_\_\_\_\_

Block History: \_\_\_\_\_

Block Future: \_\_\_\_\_

HER CITY



## Impact story

The Her City project in Flemingsberg in Sweden "Urban Challenges" is a joint initiative together with a range of private partners (MTR Nordic, Fabege) and Huddinge municipality. The project was facilitated by the civil society organisations Impact Hub / Changers Hub and financed by the Swedish Institute. It included activities from Her City Block 1, 3, 4 and 5. The project focuses on accessible urban mobility with a specific concentration on safety in public transportation and station areas.

### Challenges

The Flemingsberg project focused on increasing the safety of public transport spaces, specifically for vulnerable groups such as: women, children, people with disabilities and elders. The project started off with an exploratory walk in Flemingsbergs centrum evaluating the safety and the state of the station area. Four sites were identified as particularly challenging and highlighted as prioritised areas: the street Hålsövägen located in Flemingsberg centrum, the Södertörn station area, a parking lot close to a supermarket and a parking lot close to the station. The project also identified challenges in Flemingsberg related to problems of unemployment and a general perception of Flemingsberg as an unattractive area.

### Good practises & solutions

The exploratory walk was the first activity of the project and was conducted together with local residents of different ages and mostly women. Following the exploratory walk the participants had a Method Kit brainstorming workshop where they identified the main challenges of Flemingsberg as a lack of community and promotion for the local business and restaurants in the area. A second group of participants, children from the local school Annerstaskolan, also evaluated the public spaces in Flemingsberg

that surrounded the station area. The Method Kit workshop was conducted in smaller groups of children, dividing participants into groups of boys and girls to observe any differences in the views of the two groups. In general, the groups consisting of girls paid more attention to activities for all groups in the area from children to elders, whereas the boys paid more attention to activities in the space that they would want themselves.

### Outcome & opportunities

In the Method Kit workshop the participants expressed a desire to change the narrative and perception of Flemingsberg, and the participants found it important to increase the attractiveness of the place. Following the Method Kit workshop, the children built their design suggestions for the station area in Minecraft. The suggestions' main focus was increased greenery in the area to ensure biodiversity and creation of work opportunities and meeting places for all. The suggestions ranged from greenhouses to beehives. The greenhouse would be managed by the municipality with the possibility of hiring residents to work with selling the produce grown there. In addition, there was an open call posted online where people were encouraged to share their design ideas in Minecraft, a call that enabled a dialogue between decision-makers and the residents.

### Impact

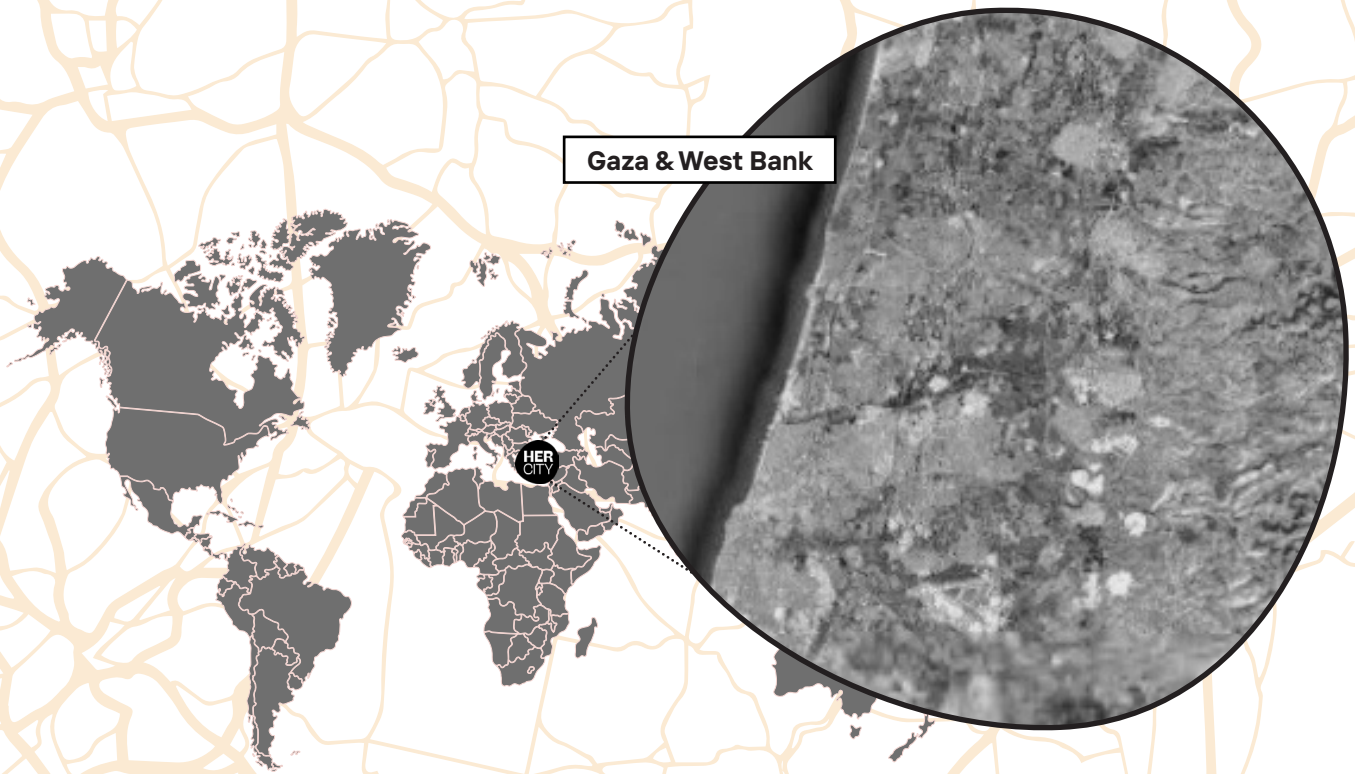
The Minecraft exercise of creating design suggestions bridged a gap between professionals and the children from the local school. The Her City project in Flemingsberg has directed the attention to the youth in the area and enabled them to raise their opinions on the present Flemingsberg and create their visions for the future of Flemingsberg. It also changed both private and public sector's perceptions around what should be the main priorities and focus for future development and regeneration.

### Lessons learned & recommendations

The participatory workshops highlighted a sense of questioning among the participants whether the interest and influence of the youth's own opinions on public space design was really being valued. The recommendation of the project is to ensure that resources are in place to guarantee the implementation of the suggestions within a relatively short time frame after the planning and design process has been finalised. This would convince participants that their voice matters to the urban planning process and that their priorities are taken into account as valid and democratically underbuilt solutions.



# Her City Gaza & West Bank



<b>Category</b>	Public partnership
<b>Location</b>	Jericho, Jenin, Nablus, Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Al Doha and Khan Younis
<b>Time</b>	April 2018 - ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	Government of Canada, UN Women, UNFPA, UNODC, Ministry of Local Government, Palestinian Housing Council, Municipalities of the targeted cities
<b>Participants</b>	Local girls and young women , practitioners, architects
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://unhabitat.org/un-habitat-helps-launch-exclusive-gaza-promenade-for-women-girls-and-families">https://unhabitat.org/un-habitat-helps-launch-exclusive-gaza-promenade-for-women-girls-and-families</a>
<b>Contact</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

Through the Haya joint programme, UN-Habitat in Palestine together with UN Women and partners have initiated interventions to address and contribute to preventing violence against women and girls in various public spaces in the targeted cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Through innovative tools and technologies for participatory planning and community engagement, it supports community led initiatives, and promotes youth leadership. Local authorities, architects, property owners, constructors and other multi-stakeholders have been working alongside marginalised communities, including women and girls, to propose recommendations and redesigns for various areas.

### Challenges

Lack of access to public spaces, whether due to conservative social and cultural norms or fears over safety, has a significant negative impact on women's, girls', and disabled's quality of life. Like other forms of gender-based violence, violence against women and girls in public spaces is also a significant public health threat and places a considerable burden on the mental health and wellbeing of Palestinian women. Women and girls are among the marginalised groups who are mostly deprived of basic necessities and face social and economic marginalisation, isolation and limited access to social and cultural facilities. Lack of places to meet, interact and play safely, or to cater for participation and engagement in developing their built-environment, means that their needs are not reflected. Information related to women's safety in public spaces and the status of public spaces in general in turn imposes other layers of challenges while addressing the quality of public spaces at the local, regional and national levels.

The overarching goal of the Haya project in Palestine is to improve the quality of

daily public life for women and children in the Palestinian communities of the West Bank and the Gaza strip. The Haya project highlights the lack of safe and inclusive public spaces for women and children and proposes participatory planning, community engagement and innovative technology as modes of intervention. Girls and young women face specific challenges in urban settings and must become key stakeholders in urban development projects.

### Good practises & solutions

UN-Habitat facilitated participatory city-wide public space assessments in five urban areas: Jenin, Nablus, Jericho, Bethlehem cluster in the West Bank, and Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip to analyse the state of open public spaces located in the targeted areas and to provide verifiable data on women's experiences in those spaces. The assessments have utilised the tools to be found in the Her City platform for city-wide public space assessments and adopted an active participatory approach with high engagement of the targeted municipalities, special focus was given to women's safety in public spaces which has been a vague concern due to the lack of related statistics and information at all levels including municipal and community levels.

Design and community participation is an efficient way to establish and address the needs and priorities of different groups in society. In the highly conflicted geography of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, children's playgrounds, community gardens, safe and resourceful pedestrian areas, easy access sidewalks, benches, roundabouts, and recreational spots garlanded with trees and leisure tools are being proposed throughout the territory to improve public spaces. The interventions in Jericho, Jenin, Nablus, Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Al Doha and Khan Younis also focussed on fostering youth leadership, community awareness and local government engagement in harnessing

existing resources and innovating new tools and techniques. The collaboration during the design process and the employment of female architects helped advance this mission even further, resulting in more safe opportunities for all.

In Khan Younis city, UN-Habitat invested in the capacity of 40 young girls and boys to use the popular computer game Minecraft as in the fifth block of the Her City approach, to design inclusive public spaces that are safe for women. Moreover, young people were given a space to discuss their proposals with decision-makers who endorsed the final actual design that integrates all elements and priorities raised throughout the participatory design workshop. Workshop participant 17-year-old Reem said: "Minecraft allowed us to think and design as engineers and to solve the physical and social challenges that were detected in the site."

### Outcome & opportunities

After city wide public space assessments in all mentioned cities, top priority public spaces to be developed have been identified. For example in Khan Younis, the assessment indicated which spaces in the city to focus on moving forward. Proposed interventions had a strong focus on improving safety and inclusion in public spaces. Awareness and advocacy campaigns to promote women's safety in public spaces have led to capacity building of the municipalities, gender responsive public space policy and design methodologies and a joint curriculum development with local universities on designing safe and inclusive public spaces. The intervention machinery has used several ideas, designs and inspiration tools that are to be found within the Her City toolbox to implement elements like biodiversity and ecosystem plantations, movable furniture, accessible public spaces, at the same time assuring the perseverance of culture, history and the initial character of the public spaces.

At the end of 2021, UN-Habitat in close cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, Khan Younis Municipality, and the Palestinian Housing Council, inaugurated a new safe, inclusive, and accessible public space entitled the "Haya Promenade" for women, girls, and families in Khan Younis. Located by the Mediterranean Sea, the most disadvantaged area in terms of infrastructure and public facilities, the new promenade provides a comfortable space where the city's more than 200,000 women and girls can easily and safely exercise their rights to the city.

In terms of institutional capacity building, Haya supported the development of strategies aimed at supporting local and national governments in developing legislation, policy, norms and practices, which support the Palestinian government and its institutions in adopting a holistic and integrated approach to the planning, design development, creation, protection and management of public spaces in Palestinian cities which are safe, inclusive and accessible for everyone especially women and girls.

### Impact

The interventions led to improvement in the spatial distribution of public spaces. There was an increase in quantity and equitable distribution of the public spaces, with creation of new neighbourhoods and conversion of abandoned and under-used public spaces. A considerable improvement in the management and governance of public spaces promoting inclusivity and diversity was also seen. The project also reinforced the importance of guidelines and standards on safety, greenery, accessibility and comfort of the public spaces for all and especially marginalised communities, including women and girls. Lastly, interventions, promoting celebration and promotion of the living culture of both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank by rehabilitated religious tourist routes and the celebration of the cultural heritage. The project has shown that prioritising girls

and young women in urban development is crucial to make cities and public spaces more inclusive and sustainable. In this sense, it has also proven to be an efficient tool to meet global sustainability agendas such as the 2030 Agenda SDGs 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

### Lessons learned & recommendations

Community participation was key in the development of the recommendations, guidelines and solutions as they better informed decisions and judgments based on the context of the users' own environment and circumstances, which in turn leads to responsive spaces for which the local government and communities can be held accountable. The beneficiaries, especially women and girls, could participate in deliberations, workshops and make wish-lists of how they imagine the space to look like in the future. Furthermore, the investigation of the accessibility, distribution, quality and network of the public spaces in the municipalities played a crucial role in designing the strategy of interventions while assuring an equitable use of the resources. The design and the implementation of the

different elements and urban furniture were done gradually, depending on the evolving needs of the inhabitants, especially in highly volatile geographies such as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The municipal capacities, knowledge and skills are very weak in mainstreaming gender inclusiveness and safety in public spaces. Despite the development of gender-responsive strategies for the selected urban areas throughout Haya, still more investment is urgently needed to operationalize and institutionalise those strategies. To ensure the effectiveness of those strategies and commitment of local authorities toward achieving them, national policies and regulations must be developed to serve as a regulative and legislative umbrella that fosters the commitment and endorsement at the local levels. The initiative also seeks to contribute to the development of new methods for local urban development and planning that promote safe and productive public spaces, especially for conflict ridden and affected countries and geographies.







# Her City Helsingborg

Helsingborg, Sweden



<b>Category</b>	Public-civil society partnership
<b>Location</b>	Fredriksdal, Helsingborg, Sweden
<b>Time</b>	December 2021 - ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	Helsingborg Municipality, Global Utmaning and Block by Block Foundation
<b>Participants</b>	Residents of Fredriksdal, particularly children and youth
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://innovation.helsingborg.se/en/initiative/block-by-block/">https://innovation.helsingborg.se/en/initiative/block-by-block/</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

The Her City project in Fredriksdal, Helsingborg, Sweden was a joint collaboration between Helsingborg municipality, UN-habitat, Block by Block Foundation and Global Utmaning, with focus on Block 1, 5 and 8. The process was carried out within the framework of the City of Helsingborg's work with school holiday internships and young people were engaged to influence the design of Fredriksdal. The ambition is to increase security and well-being in Fredriksdal. The neighbourhood is undergoing densification and the ambition is to make it a child friendly area with accessible green spaces. Fredriksdal is a low-income area compared to Helsingborg city at large and has a lower voter turnout.

### Challenges

The Fredriksdal project focuses on making the public space safer and more accessible for all. The Block by Block workshop gathered 22 adolescents between 12-15 years old. The park in Fredriksdal was the focus area identified by the municipality. Consistent for the participants was that they perceived the park as a poorly utilised and boring place. The public space is mainly perceived as transport route and for many of the participants from other districts the area was unknown. The seating arrangements in the park was perceived as awkwardly placed, not in line with the visitors natural movement patterns, creating a uneasy and unwelcoming feeling. During the workshop both the youth and professionals described the city as segregated. The workshop was held in the "Activity house", Tryckeriet, which arouse a lot of interest from the participants. However, even though the participants lived in adjacent areas and were welcome to attend the activities they had refrained from visiting the activity house or the area at large. The reasoning behind it was that they did not live in Fredriksdal and therefore did not go there even if it was practical or fun.

### Good practises & solutions

To answer to the challenges of an uninspiring park, the participants focused on creating inspiring meeting places and activities for all ages. Many designs were family centred and with the purpose of being attractive for several generations at once. The suggestions ranged from playgrounds, more seating areas, barbecue areas, greenery, lighting, and more trash cans to prevent littering.

The participants living in the area expressed a desire to change the narrative of Fredriksdal. Solutions in favour of the narrative shift was identity building landmarks such as addon's to improve the look and function of the water tower. The longing to put Fredriksdal on the map and be proud of their neighbourhood was prevalent among the adolescent and was reflected in their other ideas of building pools, minigolf courses, and tennis courts.

An accessibility perspective was included in several of the design developed, from adapted toilets to the choice of surfaces on walkways. Several participant groups incorporated a child and elderly perspective from the beginning and used the exploratory walk to discuss different perspectives.

### Outcome & opportunities

The workshop was a first step to build capacity for the municipal professionals on how to plan and design inclusive urban spaces. The workshop in Fredriksdal showed how young people reason when given the right tools to express their opinions on their neighbourhood. The municipality will proceed with training opportunities for their staff to independently facilitate Her City processes.

### Impact

The Fredriksdal project has empowered youth through learning how to create design suggestions for public spaces, which helped them realise their potential to contribute to their community.

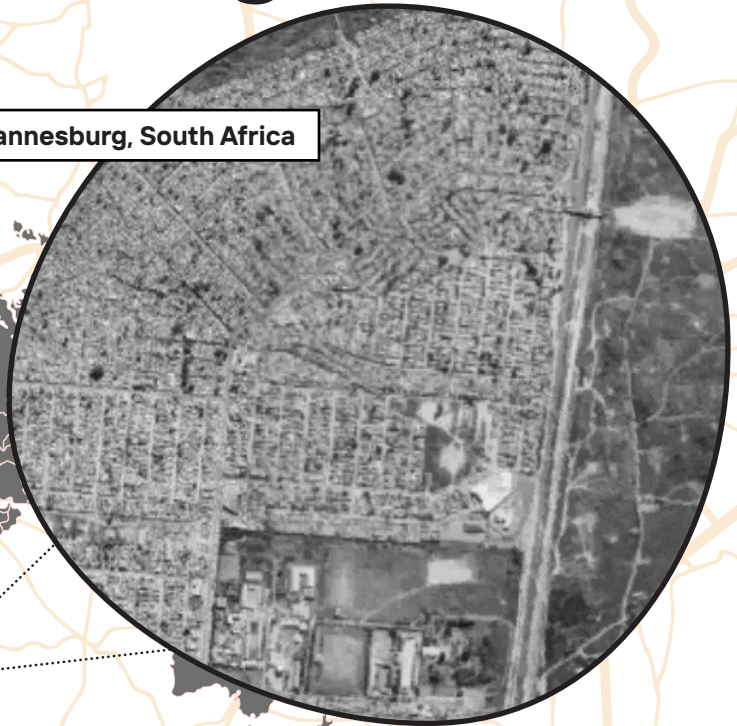
### Lessons learned & recommendations

The municipal professional's part of the process expressed interest in using the Her City Toolbox to reach and engage youth in risk of ending up crime. The dialogue and building of trust that the process provides adds direct value as well as long-term. The Fredriksdal project showcases the multi functions of inclusive urban planning.



# Her City Johannesburg

Johannesburg, South Africa

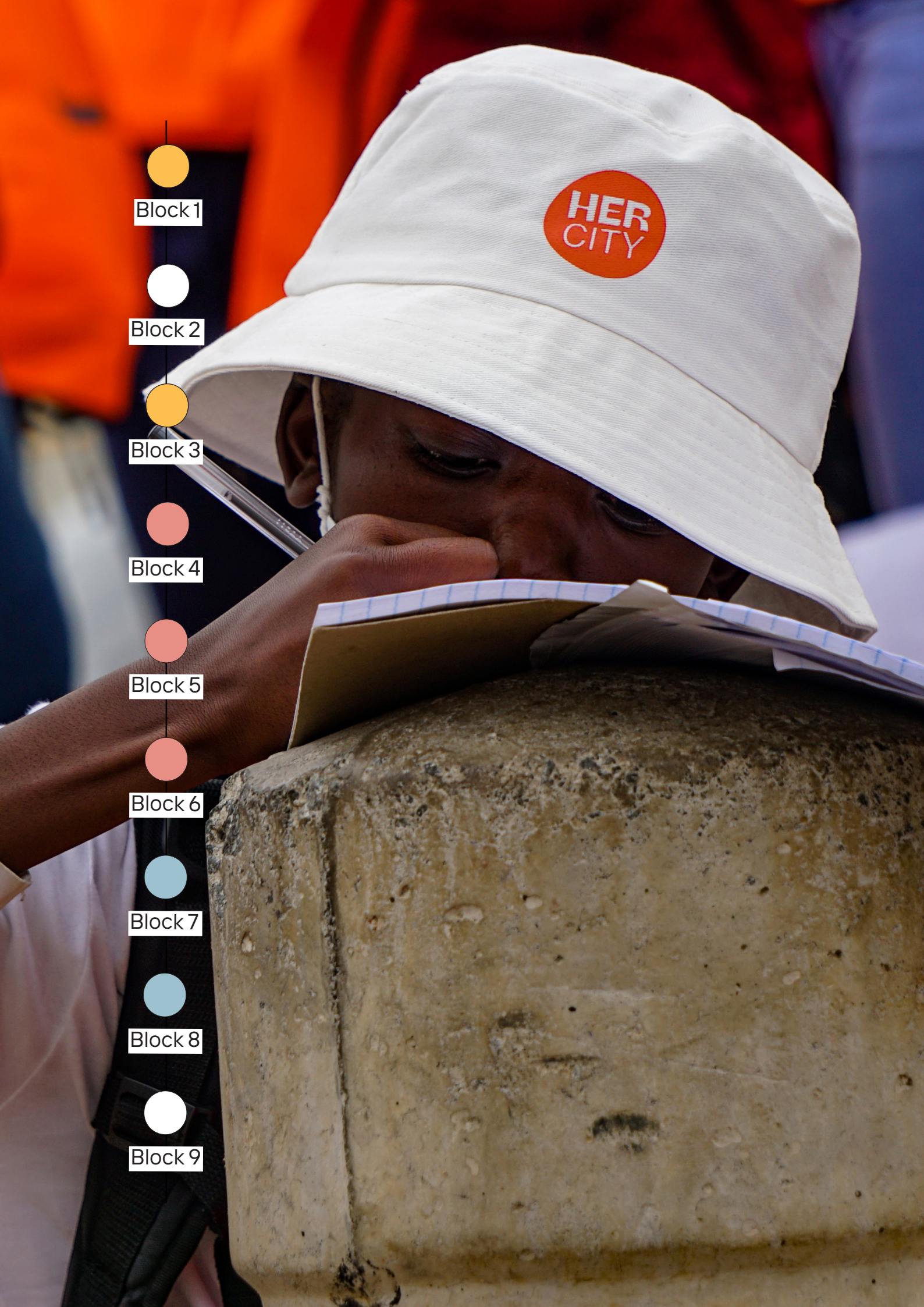


<b>Category</b>	Public-private partnership
<b>Location</b>	Diepsloot, Johannesburg, South Africa
<b>Time</b>	June 2020 - ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	Block by Block Foundation (donor), Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA), and Wot-if? Trust, Iyer, Sticky situations
<b>Participants</b>	Girls from the Diepsloot community and urban professionals
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://www.joburg.org.za/departments/Pages/MOEs/jda/Johannesburg-Development-Agency.aspx">https://www.joburg.org.za/departments/Pages/MOEs/jda/Johannesburg-Development-Agency.aspx</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme and Global Utmaning first piloted the new digital Her City Toolbox in Diepsloot, Johannesburg. Together with the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) and Block by Block Foundation the "Indlela Yabafazi - Women's Way" project aims at creating safe routes connecting safe public spaces in the Diepsloot informal settlement. Through different tools and digital technologies for participatory planning and community engagement, multi-stakeholders have been working alongside marginalised young women and girls, to redesign the area with a focus on accessibility, affordability, safety and inclusivity of public spaces for all.

### Challenges

The overarching goal is to improve the spatial inequality of the townships which will further improve the quality of daily public life for women and girls in the region. The Her City interventions highlight the lack of urban management in planning streets, sidewalks, recreational spots, safety nets and inclusive spaces for women and girls in Diepsloot. Furthermore, the project proposes participatory planning, community engagement and innovative technology as modes of intervention. Girls and young women face specific challenges in urban settings and must become key stakeholders in urban development projects.

### Good practises & solutions

Design and community participation is an efficient way to establish and address the needs and priorities of different groups in society. In the spatial inequality geography of Diepsloot, 38 girls participated in the Her City toolbox intervention program to assess the site and the city, collect data, analyse the challenges and suggest solutions. The interventions also focussed on fostering youth leadership, community awareness and

local government engagement in harnessing existing resources and innovating new tools and techniques. The design process and the employment of girls as participants helped advance this mission even further, resulting in more safe opportunities for all. One of the participants in the Minecraft workshop aged 14 stated: "I feel like the programme has taught me about working with others. I would like to be a social worker one day...".

### Outcome & opportunities

The assessment and analysis of Diepsloot was followed by recommendations to make the area a safe and inclusive public space for all. The recommendations for actions are: introduction of fencing to protect the neighbouring wetlands and provide a platform for sports activities, designing a bus stop, a treehouse, and a pedestrian bridge, introducing resources of leisure and recreational activities like library, tuck shop, swimming pool, community park, public art and sports facilities. There is also a recommendation to ensure awareness and advocacy campaigns to promote women's safety in public spaces have led to capacity building of the municipalities, gender responsive public space policy and design methodology. The intervention machinery has used ideas, designs and inspiration from Her City toolbox and Minecraft design to implement elements like greenery, biodiversity, movable furniture, eco-system plantations, awareness campaigns, accessible public spaces, and perseverance of culture, history and character of public spaces.

### Impact

The interventions led to improvement in spatial distribution of public spaces. There was an increase in the understanding of spatial inequality and quantity and equitable distribution of the public spaces, with creation of new neighbourhoods and conversion of abandoned and under-used public spaces. There was also increased understanding of the affirmative role played by the local



government and civil society in advocating for urban planning, management and administration. The project also reinforced the importance of guidelines and standards on safety, greenery, accessibility and comfort of the public spaces for all and especially marginalised communities, including women and girls. The project has shown that prioritising girls and young women in urban development is crucial to make cities and public spaces more inclusive and sustainable. In this sense, it has also proven to be an efficient tool to meet global sustainability agendas such as the 2030 Agenda SDGs 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

### Lessons learned & recommendations

Community participation was key in the development of the designs. The beneficiaries, especially girls, could participate in deliberations, workshops and make a wish-list of how they imagine the space to look like in the future. Furthermore,

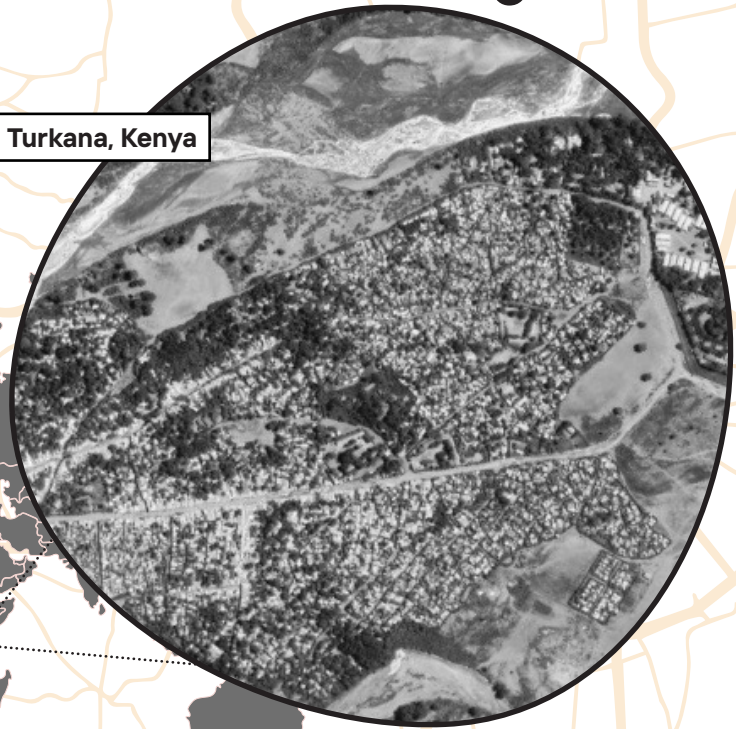
the investigation of the accessibility, distribution, quality and network of the public spaces in the Municipality played a crucial role in designing the strategy of intervention while equitable use of the resources. The lessons learnt were that by using different design methodologies (maps, physical models, blocking, Minecraft) allowed people with different spatial awareness an opportunity to understand the site and process in their own way. Furthermore, being able to move physical foam blocks around maps helped participants to orient spatially to the site and to understand how their ideas fitted the sites spatially, physically and socially. Also, either working in pairs or individually the girls were able to discuss ideas and means of modelling by working at the same table with the same site. The initiative also seeks to contribute to the development of new methods for local urban development and planning that promote safe and productive public spaces, especially for conflict ridden and affected countries and geographies.



Her City

# Kakuma & Kalobeyei

Turkana, Kenya



<b>Category</b>	Public - civil society partnership
<b>Location</b>	"Neighbourhood 1-3" in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and "Kalobeyei Town" in the Kalobeyei Settlement
<b>Time</b>	Ongoing
<b>Partners</b>	Konkouye Design Initiative, Block by Block Foundation
<b>Participants</b>	Inhabitants in the refugee and host communities including young women and girls
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://unhabitat.org/participatory-approaches-lessons-from-kakuma-kalobeyei-turkana-county-kenya">https://unhabitat.org/participatory-approaches-lessons-from-kakuma-kalobeyei-turkana-county-kenya</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

The Her City related activities in Kakuma and Kalobeyei in Turkana, Kenya focus on four sites "Neighbourhood 1-3" in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and "Kalobeyei Town" in the Kalobeyei Settlement. This is the first project in an informal settlement that makes use of the Her City methodology and thus provides important lessons and recommendations for a way forward to widen the toolbox to larger groups of vulnerable populations such as refugees and minorities. The Her City project in Kakuma Kalobeyei is a continuation of previous interventions in the area.

### Challenges

The settlement area is a result of short term emergency planning. In addition, the host community and the refugee community had a tense relationship and the project aimed at uniting the groups through collaboration. The Kakuma Refugee Camps and Kalobeyei Settlement, are both located alongside host communities. Public spaces are limited and the overall management of public spaces has been lacking in the Kalobeyei New Settlement. Earlier experiences involving the communities in participatory workshops have shown that as much as 87% of the participants were men. For the three remaining sites there should therefore be a strong focus on including more women and girls in the activities, particularly from the most vulnerable minorities.

### Good practises & solutions

Public spaces can increase the safety of an area and they also provide the opportunity to develop a sense of ownership among the residents of the settlement. Public space also presents opportunities for provision of basic services, particularly in refugee settlements, and is a natural meeting point in crowded communities lacking resources. The Her City approach of involving citizens directly in designing public spaces has an effect on the management of public spaces and the

sense of belonging to the same spaces. In addition, with the Her City initiatives the new settlement takes steps to become more permanent and integrated with the host community.

### Outcome & Opportunities

After visiting the sites, participants were involved in brainstorming workshops where they were divided into host community and refugee community groups. The brainstorming exercises showed that both communities had identified similar points for improvement. The exercise was followed by a Minecraft workshop where the participants got to visualise their design suggestions with the help of the computer game. The main focus of the designs were seating, streetlights and public toilets, followed by playgrounds, different types of greenery and paved walking paths.

### Impact

Almost 40% of the participants in the Minecraft workshop had never used a computer before, the workshop enabled the majority of participants to self-confidently design public space. The workshops were followed by implementation of the design suggestions into Neighbourhood 1. This created a sense of belonging among the participants, seeing their design suggestions being implemented in the space. The space now features colourful structures to provide shade, public space seating, more greenery and a walking path. Furthermore, the Her City activities in Kakuma and Kalobeyei shows that the toolbox can be implemented in refugee settlements and help the refugee communities interact more closely with the host communities. The project highlights that inhabitants and visitors of a specific public space identify the similar needs and visions for the space whether the person is a part of a host community or a refugee community.

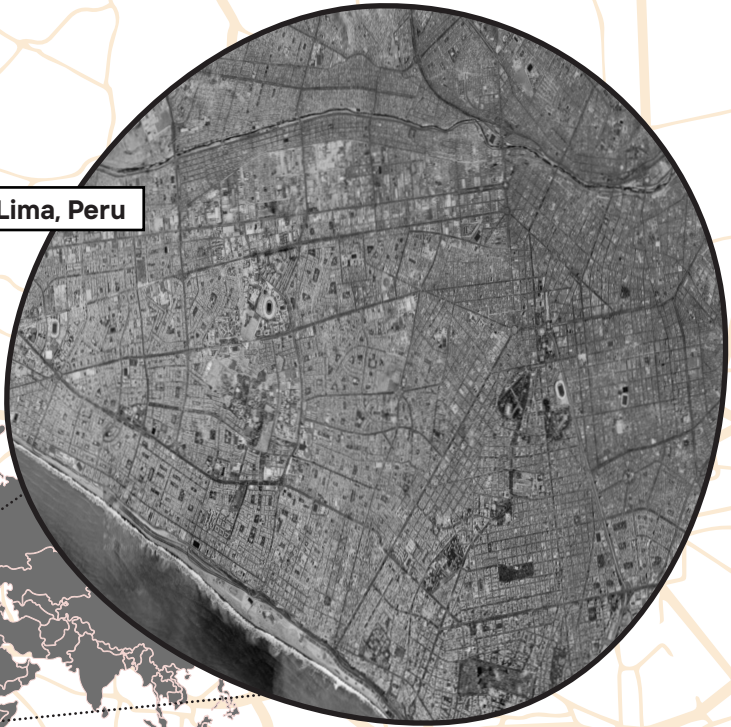
### Lessons learned & recommendations

The project shows that participation can bridge a gap between host communities and refugee communities in neighbourhoods and create a sense of ownership of the public space among the same inhabitants. The sense of ownership was also strengthened by the early involvement of stakeholders and participants in the planning process.



# Her City Lima

Lima, Peru

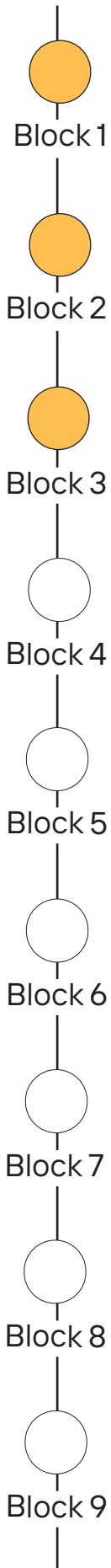


<b>Category</b>	Civil society partnership
<b>Location</b>	Four sites across Lima: "El Rosario" pedestrian pathway, "Las Palmeras" pedestrian pathway, Santa Madero public space, and paradero Progreso.
<b>Time</b>	January 2022 - November 2022
<b>Partners</b>	Block by Block Foundation (donor), Avina foundation, Ocupa tu calle, Mano a mano
<b>Participants</b>	Women from the local communities and urban professionals
<b>Links</b>	<a href="http://www.avina.net/en/home/">www.avina.net/en/home/</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	hercity@un.org

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## Impact story

Under the name “Female builders of an inclusive and resilient city-wide system of public spaces in Lima” the project aims to promote resilience, social cohesion and city-wide public policy improvements.

### Challenges

The two pedestrian pathways, “El Rosario” and “Las Palmas” are key for the mobility of local residents. They are located on hillsides and because of this they are vulnerable and dangerous. The aim is to make them more secure from landslides, create garden patches for locals to grow their own food and make the area safe from violence and crime. The public space of Santa Madero is not used by many locals because of its current use as an informal parking area and it is also a space where drug selling and consumption occurs. The aim is to increase the use of the space among women, children and older persons. With the fourth public space, Paradero Progreso, the aim is to improve pedestrian access to the space and implement children’s play equipment.

### Good practises & solutions

The project execution team of multi-stakeholders include UN-Habitat, Avina and the local implementation partners Ocupa Tu Calle and Mano A Mano.

The team is following the Her City methodology, with a particular focus on stakeholder mapping and engagement, public space analysis utilizing the Inhabit Place App for public space assessment, and Minecraft for participatory designing.

The use of tools for community engagement and stakeholder mapping and analysis showed an added value and widened the group of participants. Further, both teams and participants were trained in the use of the Inhabit Place App and conducted participatory data gathering

producing detailed assessment reports. Finally, virtual Minecraft servers were installed to allow for the 3D models of the four public spaces to be redesigned in Minecraft by the participants.

### Impact

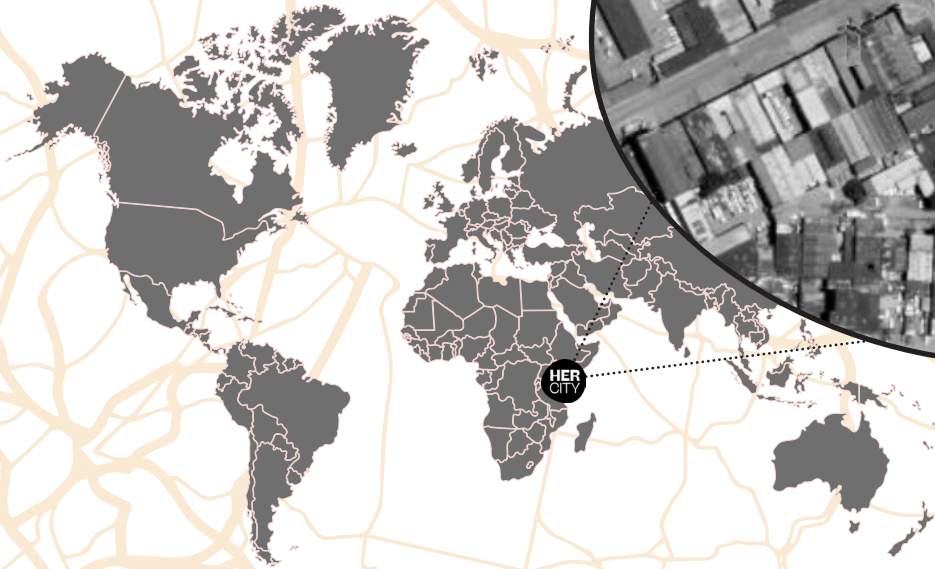
The Female Builders are local women, many of them single mothers who have become unemployed during the pandemic. Their knowledge of the local area and building techniques that are suitable for hillside areas are important to the development of safe and accessible public spaces. The Female Builders will pass on their knowledge to other groups of women through peer-to-peer workshops. In transforming the public spaces in the idea, the economy will be revived at the neighbourhood scale.

### Lessons learned & recommendations

The transformation of the sites can act as inspiration and evidence for developing further sites across Lima as well as affect public policy in Lima and wider Peru.

# Her City Nairobi

Nairobi, Kenya



<b>Category</b>	Public-private partnership
<b>Location</b>	Dunga road and Dundori road
<b>Time</b>	June 2021 - December 2023
<b>Partners</b>	GoDown Arts Centre, Planning Systems, White and Global Utmaning
<b>Participants</b>	Primary core of women & girls from the neighbourhood, street vendors and universities. Secondary group of business owners, residents, students from Mariakani primary school and Nairobi urbanist community.
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://godowntransforms.org/">https://godowntransforms.org/</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	hercity@un.org

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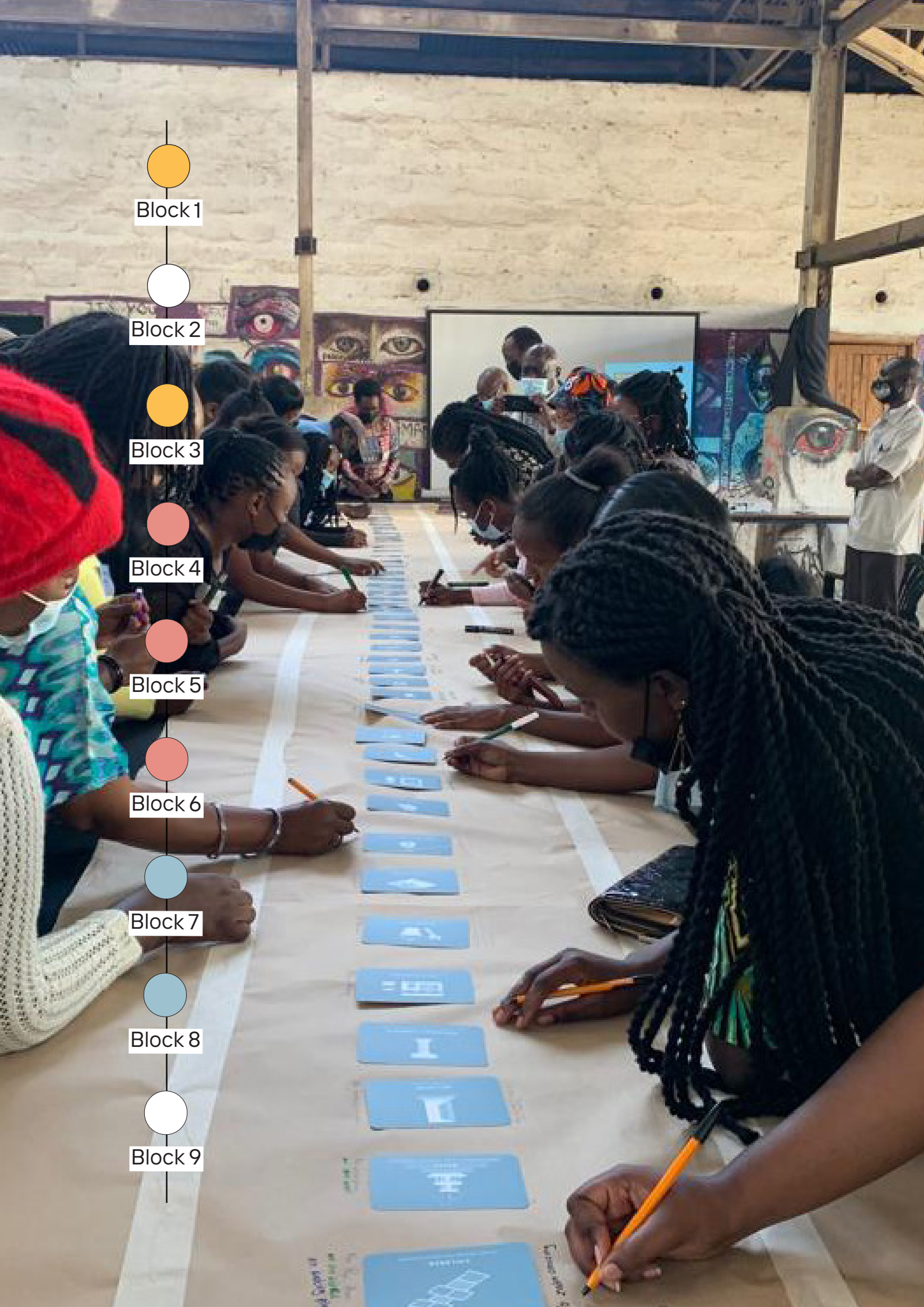
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## Impact story

The GoDown Arts Centre is a nonprofit public interest organisation incorporated in 2001, with a vision of a culturally confident, creative and prosperous Kenya. In 2003, The GoDown established itself in an old warehouse complex at the corner of Dunga and Dundori Roads, in the Industrial Area of Nairobi.

The GoDown grew from the need for Kenyan and East African artists to come together in a creative hub in order to grow the creative economy. The strength of The GoDown as Kenya's leading platform for cultural exchange lies in its multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach to programming. In the GoDown Her City project "#HerStreets", a part of the wider GoDown Transformation Project, focus is to make the the art centre a place for everyone.

The HerCity#HerStreets project aims to improve the streets around the upcoming New GoDown Cultural Arts Complex, to make them safer and more inclusive public spaces, accommodating a diversity of shared commercial, social, and cultural activities. These street improvements are a continuation of studies started in 2011, carried out in conjunction with UN-Habitat and The GoDown's partnering architects, White Arkitekter (Sweden) and Planning Systems (Kenya), exploring the possibility of creating a Cultural Axis in the Industrial Area of Nairobi.

### Challenges

In Nairobi more generally, the streets are currently dominated by two uses; vehicular traffic and different forms of private business activities such as street vending or customer parking. These private business activities are often done in an uncontrolled and haphazard manner, leaving little room for other uses. As a result, pedestrian movement is one of the most hazardous uses of streets in the city. Vulnerable pedestrian groups such as girls are particularly disadvantaged when trying to navigate the city, due to harassment, insecurity, lack of public washrooms, among

many other challenges. This is the case in the Industrial Area and the two streets of Dunga and Dundori Road are examples of the challenges facing the different competing interests in the streets. The GoDown is also committed to community-centred engagement and participatory processes for sustainable urban development. This is demonstrated in its on-going Transformation Project. The Transformation Project involves the re-development of The GoDowns 1.6 acre property in Industrial Area, from 7,000 Sq.M of adaptive reuse/renovated warehouses, to transform into a 25,000 Sq.M mixed-use public purpose development - a New GoDown Cultural Arts Complex that responds to the latent opportunities culture holds for Nairobi City. The GoDown's HerCity#HerStreets project aims to promote the idea of streets as safe and inclusive public spaces in the city, by showcasing the possibilities of the two streets of Dunga and Dundori Road to carry a diverse variety of uses, such as arts and culture programming, street vending and business parking, while at the same time ensuring safe mobility for all.

### Good practises & solutions

The GoDown's Her City #HerStreets project involves the deployment of the step-by-step inclusive methodology of UN Habitat's Her City toolbox. As such, activities have been conducted with a primary group of women and girls composed of residents, street vendors, students and recent university graduates in built environment studies. The participants conducted exploratory walks in the neighbourhood, observing the five dimensions of public space: use & users, accessibility, amenities & furniture, comfort & safety, and the green environment. Other stakeholders engaged in secondary activities include pupils from the local primary school, neighbourhood property owners and the Nairobi urbanist community. Following data gathering, a Method-Kit brainstorming workshop identified challenges in the space and created a joint vision forward. Following

data gathering, a Method-Kit brainstorming workshop identified challenges in the space and created a joint vision forward.

### Outcome & opportunities

With the help of the computer game Minecraft, the visions were taking shape through innovative design suggestions made by the participants. The user-friendly game enables people without previous experience in Minecraft or design of public spaces to visualise their design suggestions. Therefore, this Her City project enabled participants to develop their IT skills and design competence. The design suggestions ranged from public toilets, urban orchards and mazes, fountains and ponds, free libraries, cycle lanes, interactive pavements, spaces for exhibition and performance, fun parks and public seating. One proposal featured a grand entrance from Dunga Road in the form of a labyrinth of floral bushes that takes you into the New GoDown, through the open courtyard, the foyer and into the performance auditorium. Many of the design suggestions that were made by the primary group of girls during the Minecraft workshop incorporated art elements on streets and walls, for example graffiti walls, art exhibits on the outside of the walls of buildings and sculptures.

### Impact

The project shows that Her City toolbox can help shape resilient cities together with local communities. The girls have envisioned a more lively area around the New GoDown Arts Centre featuring more greenery, more art and public meeting places that can benefit all Nairobians. Furthermore, the project has enabled participants and experts, through the visualisations in Minecraft and other digital tools, to look at the same space and communicate with a common ground.

From about 20 scheduled Her City activities ranging from large community meetings, to data collection walks and small office meetings, 200 community members

have actively participated in the project. Furthermore, GoDown outreach activities have engaged more than 500 members of the general public via social media and other communication channels.

The project has laid the seeds for collective action in the neighbourhood. The Her City #HerStreets Project has been key to helping The GoDown to catalyse the development of the surrounding neighbourhood. An improvement of the streets to function as better public spaces would enable the further definition of the area as a Cultural Destination. The project has also allowed The GoDown to continue its community building efforts by bringing together different stakeholders in the neighbourhood.

This community-centred engagement has been a strategic aim of The GoDown to enhance the agency and engagement of diverse demographics in urban issues that impact their quality of life and socio-economic opportunities. Consequently, this aims to strengthen local ownership towards public spaces such as The New GoDown and its surrounding streets, as a crucial step towards a more sustainable urban environment for Nairobi.

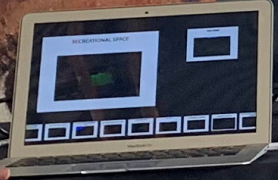
### Lessons learned & recommendations

Participatory processes require negotiations across the interests of different stakeholder groups. While they also offer the opportunity to include vulnerable groups, the process has shown that keen attention must be paid to the variety of voices and interests in the community. Digital tools such as the Kobo App and Minecraft have been key in ensuring active participation of stakeholders by allowing the direct capture of their observations and proposed solutions. The GoDown project particularly shows the possibility of combining arts and culture to empower young women. The Her City philosophy concludes that a city shaped by girls is a city that works for everyone.

The GoDown contributes to more than five SDGs: Through the inclusion of women; The consideration in design of the importance of diverse economic productivity from street businesses and formal businesses; Developing streets as public spaces that should be designed as sustainable and resilient infrastructure that support economic

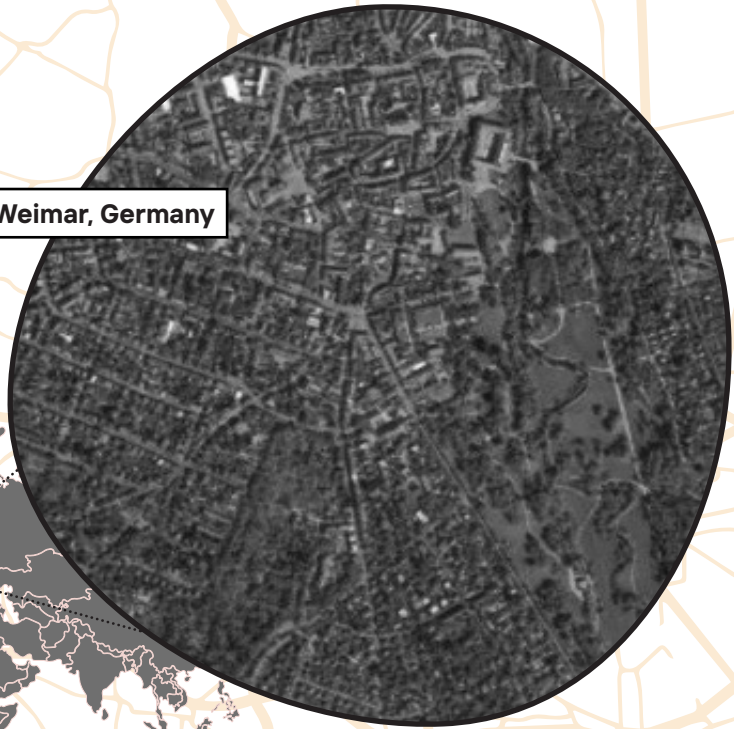
development and wellbeing through; The enhancement of inclusive participatory planning that enables universal access and promotes green public spaces and; Global partnerships for sustainable development, knowledge and expertise exchange.





# Her Cities Weimar

Weimar, Germany



<b>Category</b>	Private-academic partnership
<b>Location</b>	Various places throughout Weimar, Germany such as Herderplatz, Marktplatz, Platz der Demokratie, Seifengasse, Frauenplan, Wielandplatz and Poseckscher Garten.
<b>Time</b>	October 2021 - January 2022
<b>Partners</b>	Students at Bauhuas University Weimar
<b>Participants</b>	Local girls and young women in Weimar
<b>Links</b>	<a href="https://hercityweimar.eu">https://hercityweimar.eu</a>
<b>Contacts</b>	info@hercityweimar.eu

## Localising SDGs



IMPLEMENTING  
THE NEW  
URBAN AGENDA

Block 1

Block 2

Block 3

Block 4

Block 5

Block 6

Block 7

Block 8

Block 9



## Impact story

Her City Weimar is an independent project conducted as part of a master's thesis by two students at the Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany. The project focused on public spaces in Weimar. It examined the old parts of the town, such as the historic squares Frauenplan, Platz der Demokratie, and Herderplatz, but also Wielandplatz, Seifengasse and Posecksche Garten. The work consisted in a modified application of the HerCity toolbox, movement and public life measurements, and a citizen survey with 250 participants.

### Challenges

The assessments identified several problem areas. One was to determine how the movement patterns and behaviour of the residents change at night. Another was the lack of appropriation of the urban space by the residents, which played a significant role. Weimar is a major tourist hotspot in Germany. Therefore, the city puts particular emphasis on historicization to preserve its image. For this reason, gender-sensitive planning has not played a role in urban planning so far. Raising awareness among urban stakeholders has been an important task.

### Good practises & solutions

The city of Weimar hardly collects any data on public life. Therefore, the study relied on three different methods: The first method was a walking tour through the city. With the help of happy, neutral, or sad smileys, the participants rated the quality of public spaces. They analysed aspects in three categories: safety, comfort, and social life. In addition, the team used an app provided by Gehl Architects to measure the movement patterns and behaviour of residents in the public spaces. The third method was a citizen survey, in which all people who were familiar with Weimar could participate. After the comprehensive assessment, the

students conducted further workshops with the participants. The participants also had numerous occasions to discuss their findings and experiences. In this way, they categorised the collected facts into five fields of action: Representation and appreciation, security and social control, services and amenities, mobility, and accessibility, visibility and appropriation. They also discussed possible interventions in public space and the issue of equality in Weimar in general.

### Outcome & opportunities

Through workshops, four participants from the Her City Weimar team presented recommendations for actions to the planning professionals at the city of Weimar. Until then, gender-sensitive planning was not well known to them. Therefore, they decided on creating a website where they will publish their newly gained knowledge to create more awareness about this topic. To present the results and continue to influence decision-makers, a website was launched on International Women's Day. In addition, the team will continue organising activities in Weimar's public realm. That includes submitting a list of new street names to the mayor of Weimar, a poster campaign, and adding temporary panels to street signs with female pioneers' names that educate people about their lives and work.

### Impact

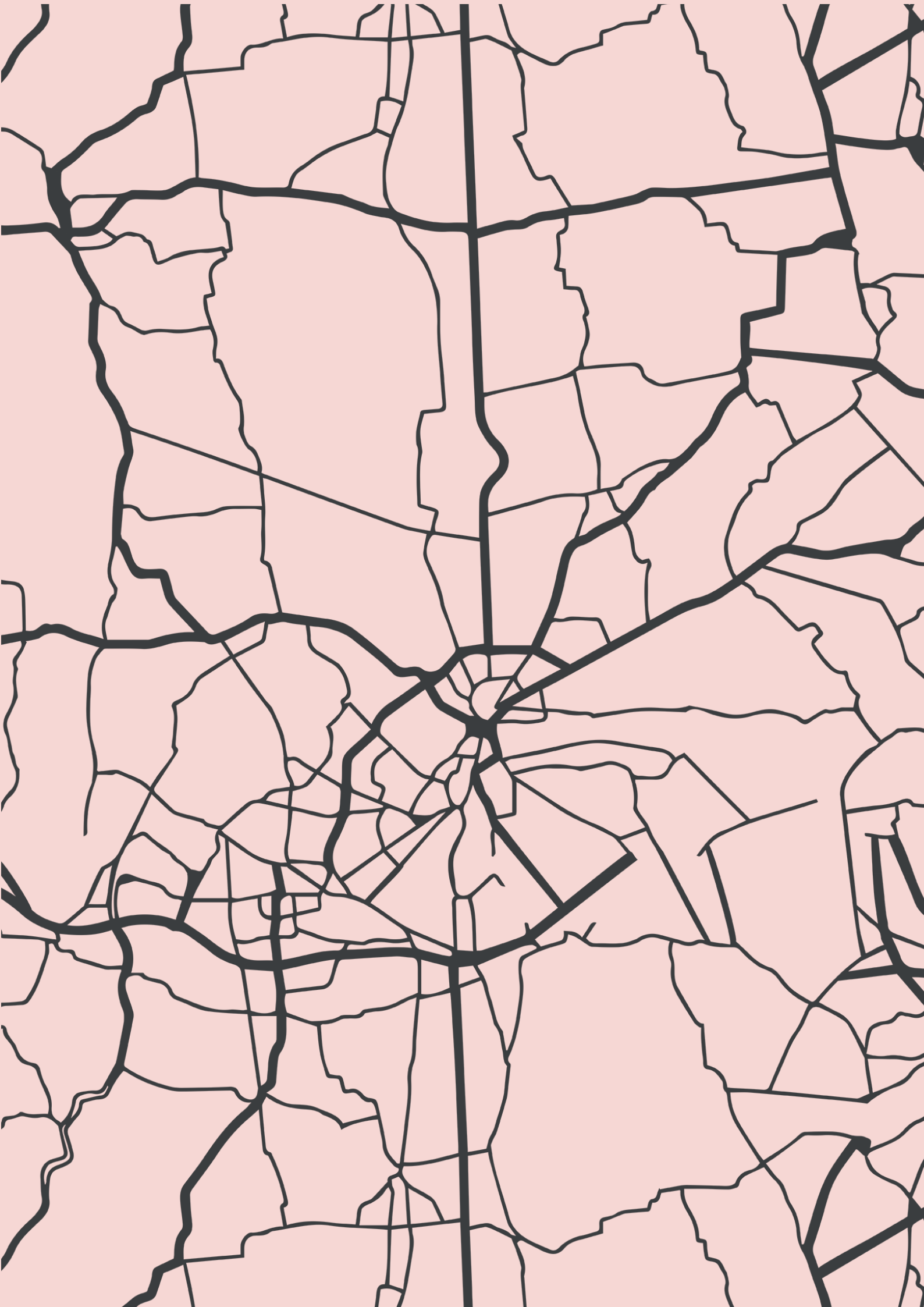
The project has influenced local girls and young women and involved them. It allowed them to engage in the assessment of public spaces and discussions with professionals where they have been expressing their opinions. Furthermore, the project has raised awareness among the city and its citizens to show the importance of gender-sensitive planning.



### Lessons learned & recommendation

The two students involved the local girls and community through social media platforms. The project shows how this can be a fruitful way to reach and include participants. Also, it creates transparency and informs the public about their work. The thesis was successfully defended and the International Women's Day event was well attended.





## Annex 2

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## Thematic entry points

# Environment & climate

The current climate crisis requires a rapid transformation to keep global warming and pollution at manageable levels to assure a safe environment for current youth and coming generations.

### Relation to urbanisation and gender

In terms of urban environmental and climate impact, the 2030 Agenda measures the total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal) (SDG indicator 11.4.1), proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated by cities (SDG indicator 11.6.1) and the number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (SDG indicator 11.5.1).<sup>40</sup> The risk of environmental disasters, leading to increased death tolls is predominant given current climate change rates and continued rapid and unplanned urbanisation. Mindful planning and active efforts to enhance the resilience of cities allows us to better anticipate disasters and reduce disaster losses.<sup>41</sup> Beside disaster risks, urban dwellers are also highly dependent on fossil fuels for transport, cooking and heating, making them particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Cities account for over two thirds of the world's energy usage and 70 % of the greenhouse. Cities emit 70% of greenhouse gases globally is emitted from cities, and those inland may experience temperatures 3–5° C higher than surrounding rural areas because of their large expanses of concrete and limited open green spaces.<sup>42</sup> Here, modes and behaviours of travel are key to reduce emissions and pollution. The behaviour

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: greenery and parks; ponds, pools and fountains; greenhouses and urban agriculture; beehives and ecosystem services; energy generating pavements, renewables and solar panels.

varies greatly between women and men. For example, if men travelled the same way as women, 31% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could be reduced.<sup>43</sup> On average, walking or cycling (like women and girls) saves 1kg CO<sub>2</sub> per 3,5 km. Moving to a compact urban area from a car-dependent suburb can decrease emissions by up to 80%.<sup>44</sup> In addition, it has been shown that including women in leadership at a local level has positive effects on outcomes of climate-related projects and policies.<sup>45</sup>

### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.6 reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management, SDG 11.5 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations and SDG 11.4.4 "Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage".<sup>46</sup> Green and open public space provide environmental benefits to urban areas, such as the cooling of air and the absorption of air pollutants. The expansion of hard surfaces and reduction of green spaces in cities result in higher temperatures. Vegetation in the public space can regulate the heating effect. Public space can further

reduce climate change by linking places together, making it more accessible and easier to move around by walking and cycling, improving the environment around public transport hubs, promoting use of public transport, and decreasing carbon emissions by carefully choosing materials and construction technologies. Studies indicate that compact infrastructure decreases per capita electricity demand: in an urban area with less than 25 p/ha, the energy consumed for transport needs may be an annual average of 55,000 megajoules per person. In an urban area with 110 p/ha, the energy consumed for transport needs may be about 300% less.<sup>47</sup> Public space can further help areas adapt

to the effects of climate change by acting as a sustainable drainage system, moderate solar heating, act as cooling corridors, provide wind shelter and act as a wildlife habitat. Climate change adaptation has become a large cost for society, investment in ecologically sustainable public space-oriented infrastructure can be a way to reduce spending. Women and minorities are unequally represented in decision-making processes, which in turn inhibits women’s participation in climate-related planning and policy-making processes as well as women’s possibilities to respond to the effects of the climate crisis.

SDG 11 TARGETS	LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS	NUA PARAGRAPHS
11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage		38, 63, 66, 121, 122
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations		65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management		65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123

## Thematic entry points

### Economy

Unplanned and inaccessible public spaces have economic implications on both individual and societal level. For the individual, unplanned spaces inhibit movement, flexibility and access to basic services that can affect one's ability to hold up formal employment. On a structural level it leads to a heightened risk of increased poverty, informal employment and precarity. On the other hand, well planned and inclusive public spaces increase local revenue and reduce health expenditure.

#### Relation to urbanisation and gender

In terms of urban economy, the 2030 Agenda measures the direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters (SDG indicator 11.5.2), and the number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that increase local fiscal space (SDG indicator 11.a.1).<sup>48</sup> Another relevant indicator is related to employment and individual incomes. For example, 58% of informal workers<sup>49</sup> and 80% of domestic workers are women.<sup>50</sup> Due to the pandemic and the insecure health situation in public space, women's labour force participation dropped further 4,2%, while women's unemployment rate increased with 1,9%.<sup>51</sup> Globally in 2020, 76% of the informal workers were significantly impacted by the pandemic and 55 million domestic workers, of whom 37 million are women, were estimated to be in significant risk of losing their job.<sup>52</sup>

#### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.5 "By 2030, substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations" but also "the positive economic, social and environmental

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: market places; spaces for vendors, cafés, kiosks and income generating possibilities; public transport stops and waiting areas; energy generating pavements, renewables and solar panels; pedestrian streets and cycle paths.

links between urban, pre-urban and rural areas" (SDG target 11.a).<sup>53</sup> Well-designed and managed public spaces add economic value to places which can positively influence the local economy, employment opportunities, business investments, tourism, etc. A well-planned public environment can have a considerable impact on the economic life of different sized urban centres, and is therefore an integral part of any successful regeneration strategy. With the increased competition between cities to attract investment, the presence of attractive features such as good streets, marketplaces, parks, squares, gardens, and other public facilities becomes crucial tools for business and marketing. Furthermore, well-planned, and well-managed public spaces can increase the land and property value of the adjacent properties. Entrepreneurs are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these in turn attract customers, employees, and services. Moreover, public spaces can feature shared materials and facilities that are low emitters; from bicycles and electric cars to public wireless or books.<sup>54</sup> In addition, building compact cities with a focus on public spaces for walking and cycling will reduce public service costs.

A higher population density reduces both capital and operating costs of for example waste collection, water supply, sanitation and police and fire services. Several studies indicate that compact infrastructure is up to 47% less expensive than conventional development patterns.<sup>55</sup>

THE SDG 11 TARGET	LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS	NUA PARAGRAPHS
<p>11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations</p>		<p>65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123</p>
<p>11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management</p>		<p>65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123</p>
<p>11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities</p>		<p>37, 53, 55, 56, 67, 100, 109</p>
<p>11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning</p>		<p>87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 158, 159</p>
<p>11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities ... adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and ... disaster risk management ...</p>		<p>77, 78, 86, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98</p>

## Thematic entry points

# Health & wellbeing

Urbanisation has a significant impact on health. A majority of urban dwellers suffer inadequate housing and transport, poor sanitation and waste management, and air quality that fails WHO guidelines.<sup>56</sup> Fast growing slums often lack safe water and sanitation, and 91% of people living in urban areas breathe polluted air. The car centricities in most urban areas have an effect on air quality but as well as the number of fatal accidents. In terms of nutrition and diets in an urban setting, the prolonged distance from farm to fork, drives demand for unhealthy, processed foods causing malnutrition and diabetes.<sup>57</sup> Additionally, a stressful environment and lifestyle can cause mental health issues.

### Relation to urbanisation and gender

In terms of urban health, the 2030 Agenda measures the annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted) (SDG indicator 11.6.1).<sup>58</sup> This indicator measures the population-weighted exposure to ambient PM2.5 pollution. That is, concentrations of suspended particles measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter.<sup>59</sup> The levels of fine particulates have increased by +3% between 1990 (44.26g) and 2017 (45.53g).<sup>60</sup> According to WHO a majority of the top 10 causes of death are closely related to rapid and unplanned urbanisation, and poor urban design and planning. Cities face the triple health burden of infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases; and violence and injuries.<sup>61</sup> Housing segregation and the fluctuation of living conditions between neighbourhoods within cities deepen health inequities. Clustering disadvantaged groups in environmentally degraded neighbourhoods with hindered mobility, less work and educational opportunities, and poor access

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: renewable energy; community spaces and free clinics; access to water and sanitation; improved sewage, waste and recycling management; spaces for vendors and income generating possibilities; libraries, recreational areas and playgrounds.

to health services leads to below average health outcomes. In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic these urban health inequalities have been exacerbated. As a consequence of the pandemic, 11 million girls are expected to not return to school<sup>62</sup>, 100 million children are expected to fall below the minimum proficiency level in reading<sup>63</sup> and the level of teenage pregnancies and child marriage has risen. Endangering the health and wellbeing of a whole generation than lower levels of education puts both girls at higher health risks later in life.








### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air pollution.<sup>64</sup> However, impact on health and well-being is related to a large range of other SDG11 targets as well such as SDG11.1 "Safe and affordable housing and basic services", SDG11.3 "Participatory, inclusive and sustainable urbanisation", SDG11.7 "Provide access to inclusive public spaces". Water and sanitation is a prerequisite for health. Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation infrastructure such as public toilets and washing facilities do not only improve the lives and health of urban dwellers but also reduce emissions from open waste. Conscious urban planning that considers WASH is especially important to curb the consequences of rapid unplanned urbanisation and expansion of



slums. Sustainable urban planning and design act as tools to target interplaying challenges that impact urban health. Well-connected public spaces can reduce stress by providing a calm environment for people to better their physical and mental health. Child-friendly public spaces are important in a child’s cognitive, social, and physical development.<sup>65</sup> Public spaces should provide activities that benefit the public health and mitigate public

health expenditure. Minor targeted efforts can have a great impact on public health, calculations show that 30 minutes of cycling per day reduces the risks of stroke and heart disease by 50% and regular walking decreases risk of dementia by 50%. This also has an economic aspect where if 10% of adults started walking regularly, it would lead to a public saving of \$120 million in heart disease expenditures annually.<sup>66</sup>

SDG 11 TARGETS	LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS	NUA PARAGRAPHS
<p>11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</p>		<p>31, 32, 33, 34, 46, 61, 70, 99, 107, 108, 110, 112</p>
<p>11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations</p>		<p>48, 50, 54, 113, 114, 115</p>
<p>11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries</p>		<p>29, 39, 40, 41, 42, 92, 149, 155, 156, 157, 160</p>
<p>11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage</p>		<p>38, 63, 66, 121, 122</p>
<p>11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations</p>		<p>65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123</p>
<p>11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management</p>		<p>65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123</p>
<p>11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities</p>		<p>37, 53, 55, 56, 67, 100, 109</p>

## Thematic entry points

# Mobility

Extensive motorised transport is one of the major sources of emissions and pollution. In addition, a planning model defined by sprawl creates unnecessary mobility which is both time and resource consuming.

### Relation to urbanisation and gender

In terms of urban mobility, the 2030 Agenda measures the proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (SDG indicator 11.2.1) and the average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (SDG indicator 11.7.1).<sup>67</sup> The possibility to increase access to public transport is dependent on several physical parameters in the urban environment such as distance, density and connectivity but it is also highly linked to behaviour based on culture and resources. Women's travel patterns differ from men. If men travelled like women, the reduction of CO2 emissions would be significant.<sup>68</sup> Investments in infrastructure for private motorised transport, as opposed to public space such as streets or public transportation, will affect women and men differently. Moving to a compact urban area from a car-dependent suburb can decrease emissions by up to 80%.<sup>69</sup> In addition cycling saves resources, as one mile on a bike is calculated to bring \$0.42 economic gain to society while one mile driving is \$0.20 loss to society. Cycling and walking is estimated to be up to \$11.80 return of investment per \$1 invested.<sup>70</sup> Extended sidewalk and bike lane networks also enable mobility for people with disabilities, children and poorer women.

### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.2 "Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: street lighting and signage; traffic lights and zebra crossings; public transport stops and waiting areas; pedestrian streets and cycle paths; access to free wifi and communications; AI and robots.

transport systems for all by 2030". The updated definition adds "improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons". It also contributes to the SDG 11.7 target "By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities." To meet these targets, cities and neighbourhoods have to be planned and designed based on principles of proximity, to simultaneously reduce the need for travel and improve non-motorised collective mobility. This is at the core of the "15 minute city" concept gaining terrain worldwide.<sup>71</sup> Efficient public space planning may have several positive outcomes. Through appropriate design and managing different transport modes as well as prioritising walking and cycling routes, congestion, travel time and road accidents can be reduced. To move around and get access, on foot or by bicycle as well as by car or public transport, is one of the fundamental functions of public spaces. Hence, coordinating the needs of these often conflicting ways of transporting is crucial in urban design.<sup>72</sup> It has been shown that pollution levels may be reduced by enhancing the transport possibilities for bicycles and pedestrians. This can be advanced through auto restrictions and improved conditions for public transport.<sup>73</sup>

SDG 11 TARGETS	LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS	NUA PARAGRAPHS
<p>11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations...</p>		<p>48, 50, 54, 113, 114, 115</p>

## Thematic entry points

# Political participation

Municipalities and regions are key in the implementation of Agenda 2030 globally. Over 65% of the targets of the 2030 Agenda are dependent on decisions made by municipal and regional decision-makers. It is also in our cities that the challenges and opportunities of the change we are facing become clear - how our cities develop is therefore absolutely crucial for how we can switch to fossil-free, equal and sustainable societies. Women and minorities are unequally represented in decision-making processes, which in turn inhibits women's participation in important processes such as climate-related urban planning and policy-development. Urban planning and design has a large impact on how societies function and organise. Inclusive urban planning is an opportunity to improve public spaces in vulnerable areas that are currently marginalised and largely neglected or perceived as unsafe. Now is the critical time to re-think, experiment and speed up the transition to sustainable urban areas. The quality of urban public spaces is a key tool to counteract the consequences of the covid-19 pandemic, as well as to reach the overarching SDGs in the 2030 Agenda.

### Relation to urbanisation and gender

In terms of local decision-making and empowerment, the 2030 Agenda measures the proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically (SDG indicator 11.3.2). It also measures the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate (SDG indicator 11.3.1). At the same time, only 23% of governmental positions are held by women worldwide and only 10% of leading urban planners and architects are women.<sup>74</sup> Our approach implies that when women and

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: libraries, stages and outdoor theatres; recreational areas and playgrounds; access to free wifi; charging stations and community phones; mainstreaming of inclusive and participatory processes in general.






girls are consulted in urban planning and design or local decision-making, it will be favourable for an urban model that is denser and more equitable. Intersectional gender perspectives are particularly important to bring a true and holistic view on the city as women use streets and public spaces differently and depend on them for a greater variety of purposes than men.<sup>75</sup> In addition, in a digital era, access to information, participation and empowerment depends on the access to ICT. 40% of women lack access to the internet in the world's least developed countries and 26% of women compared to men that own a mobile phone in the world's least developed countries.<sup>76</sup> This is why participation needs to be reinvented to fit everyone, also the most vulnerable, but also cater for capacity building in the use of new technologies.

### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.3 "By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries." Public space per se, and inclusive and participatory public space planning and design as an instrument, presents a framework for social and cultural interaction which may lead to an increased sense of belonging, responsibility and pride. Applying an intersectional analysis on civic engagement and public space planning

and design processes by challenging power structures, norms and excluding practises gives urban actors a better chance to make informed decisions about how to navigate and improve the complex structures that make a city. To include vulnerable groups from an early stage in urban planning and design processes is key to making informed decisions and to build inclusive and cost-efficient public spaces that work for everyone. Applying a gender analysis to the use of innovation and technology interventions is critical so that gender-related vulnerabilities and intersecting forms of discrimination are acknowledged and acted upon. Well-planned public spaces - or participatory processes -

open for all regardless of ethnic origin, ability, sexual orientation age or gender, have a community building effect as well as provides a democratic forum for citizens and society for all regardless of ethnic origin, ability, sexual orientation age or gender, have a community building effect as well as provides a democratic forum for citizens and society. In addition, public spaces are a valuable arena where to foster integration between different socio-economic groups. Improving access to quality public spaces for vulnerable urban dwellers can greatly enhance community cohesion, gender equality and civic identity, and in turns improve equity, promote inclusion and combat discrimination.<sup>77</sup>

SDG 11 TARGETS	LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS	NUA PARAGRAPHS
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries		29, 39, 40, 41, 42, 92, 149, 155, 156, 157, 160
11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage		38, 63, 66, 121, 122
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations		65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management		65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123
11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities		37, 53, 55, 56, 67, 100, 109
11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning		87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 158, 159
11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities ... adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and ... disaster risk management ...		77, 78, 86, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98

## Thematic entry points

### Social inclusion

Already before the Covid-19 pandemic the economic and social inequalities were growing in urban areas. The pandemic has magnified existing gaps by affecting societal groups differently. Virtually, all of the world's population growth will take place in cities over the next 30 years which will have huge effects on the already high levels of inequality within cities. For example, inequalities in areas such as access to health care and education affects the opportunities for people to get out of poverty.<sup>78</sup>

#### Relation to urbanisation and gender






In terms of urban social life, the 2030 Agenda measures the average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (SDG indicator 11.7.1), the total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage (SDG indicator 11.4.1) and the proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically (SDG 11.3.2). Poverty and inequality can be reduced through carefully planned and managed urbanisation. It can lead to an improved quality of life through better education and health as well as increased employment opportunities. Many public spaces are not designed or adapted to serve the needs of several groups at the same time. In many, only 20% of the users are women and girls.<sup>79</sup>

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: greenery and parks; ponds, pools and fountains; street lighting and signage; pedestrian streets and cycle paths; library, stages and outdoor theatres; chill, recreational areas and playgrounds; community spaces and free clinics; street art; free wifi, charging areas and community phones.

#### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.7 "By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities", SDG 11.4 to "Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage by 2030" and SDG 11.3 "By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries." Unplanned urban spaces and inaccessible public spaces may lead to oppression and social exclusion. Access to good service, public transport, recreational areas, meeting places and culture promotes urban health and well-being and provides good conditions for integration and social cohesion. Inclusive urban planning and a good living environment are therefore important tools for counteracting social exclusion and segregation, reducing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and achieving the overall goals of Agenda 2030.

SDG 11 TARGETS	LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS	NUA PARAGRAPHS
<p>11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries</p>		<p>29, 39, 40, 41, 42, 92, 149, 155, 156, 157, 160</p>
<p>11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage</p>		<p>38, 63, 66, 121, 122</p>
<p>11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations</p>		<p>65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123</p>
<p>11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management</p>		<p>65, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 119, 123</p>
<p>11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities</p>		<p>37, 53, 55, 56, 67, 100, 109</p>

## Thematic entry points

# Safety

Violence and unsafety greatly impacts vulnerable groups participation in society. For example, women world-wide express a feeling of unsafety in public spaces and 30% have been subjected to unwanted sexual behaviour.<sup>80</sup> 30% of women have experienced domestic violence at least once worldwide, and 18% have experienced sexual violence by a partner. Violence against women is not only expressed in physical violence but emotional and psychological. The risk of being exposed to gender-based violence significantly increases in an otherwise socially strained environment such as, low education levels, family violence or child maltreatment, harmful alcohol consumption, mental unhealth, patriarchal structures, gender inequality or unemployment.<sup>81</sup> Both social and economic costs of gender-based violence are enormous and have ripple effects throughout society. Consequences of gender-based violence can be experience of isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation, and limited mobility.

### Relation to urbanisation and gender

In terms of urban safety, the 2030 Agenda measures the proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months. (SDG indicator 11.7.2). 60% of women feel unsafe in public spaces worldwide and 30% have been subjected to unwanted sexual behaviour.<sup>82</sup> A feeling of unsafety inhibits women's use of public spaces.<sup>83</sup> At the same time, urban planning can be a tool to meet the needs of women and increase women's participation. Adding a gender dimension to concepts such as road safety,

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: street lighting; signage; traffic lights and zebra crossings; public transport stops and waiting areas; pedestrian streets and cycle paths; library, recreational areas and playgrounds; digital interactive lights, signs and walls; public toilets; free clinics; waste and recycling; free wifi, charging areas and community phones.

landscaping and transport can improve the conditions for women in the urban environment. Participatory and evidence-based planning where women and girls are consulted results in user-friendly public spaces and increases the feeling of safety among women. In addition, gender cautious housing policies that promote affordable housing in a variety of urban areas can break the cycle of domestic abuse.

### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.7 "By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities."<sup>84</sup> Dynamic and active public spaces provide mixed use and design, while serving a variety of users will reduce feelings of insecurity. Redesigning current public spaces and overseeing the management structure of the space can help to allay fears of crime and violence. Carefully planned public spaces that invite a large cross section of people at all times of the day, plays an important role in reducing the perceptions of insecurity.<sup>85</sup>

#### SDG 11 TARGETS

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

#### LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS



#### NUA PARAGRAPHS

37, 53, 55, 56, 67, 100, 109



## Thematic entry points

# Basic services

Despite improvements in living standards globally, a large proportion of people in the Global South live without access to clean water, adequate sanitation facilities, durable housing, and sufficient living areas. Economic gaps have also increased in the Global North in recent decades and a growing proportion is lacking safe and stable access to some of the features mentioned above. In particular, housing prices are becoming alarmingly high in many cities and tend to exclude a growing proportion of the population.

### Relation to urbanisation and gender

In terms of urban basic services, the 2030 Agenda measures the proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing (SDG indicator 11.1.1).<sup>86</sup> This indicates the proportion of the urban population living in slum households. A slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation, sufficient living area, and durability of housing. The proportion living in slums has seen a 26% decrease between 2000 (40%) and 2018 (29%).<sup>87</sup> However, despite this global decrease, another billion is expected to be added to the already 1 billion living in slums, and the majority will be in Sub-Saharan Africa due to rapid and unplanned urbanisation. Women are simply overrepresented in informal settlements. 50% of urban women in the Global South live without access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities, durable housing and a sufficient living area. Less than 20% of the

## Results of the Her City approach

The Her City projects show that the girls plan and design places that would have impact on this challenge as their solutions are characterised by: renewable energy and self-generating solutions; community spaces and free clinics; access to water and sanitation; improved sewage, waste and recycling management; free wifi and communications.

world’s landholders are women and many experience tenure insecurity.<sup>88</sup> In the global north these tendencies are reflected in unmanageable increases in housing costs, housing segregation and cramped housing accommodation. There is also an increase in informal migration settlements, in the EU, without access to basic services.

### Transformation

Progress in this field is contributing to meeting the target of SDG 11.1 “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.”<sup>89</sup> Community driven development and organisation of basic services are more likely to meet the needs of the inhabitants. In the long run, provision of better housing areas and shared basic services in public space, would have a general impact on the quality of life, health, employment, and safety. In addition, particular provision of services such as access to clean and efficient sources of energy, have important impact in public facilities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is also possible to minimise carbon emissions through greening of housing and public space by the choice of materials, construction technologies, and passive design which reduce energy consumption.<sup>90</sup>

SDG 11 TARGETS	LINKAGES TO OTHER SDGS	NUA PARAGRAPHS
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums		31, 32, 33, 34, 46, 61, 70, 99, 107, 108, 110, 112



### Annex 3

## Suggested actions

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## Suggested actions

# Gender responsive cities

Approaching systemic challenges in a local setting, by fully utilising the expertise of girls and minorities, provides us with cross-cutting solutions for local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. To succeed with a co-creative process such as Her City, all implementing actors need to play their part and contribute to the common objectives. In the long run, participatory and co-creative processes can actually save much work, money and public friction.

By applying a gender sensitive approach to urban planning and design to target contemporary and future challenges, representation is enhanced at a structural level with greater social inclusion as a result. So far, we have witnessed a more diverse understanding of the needs, and increased legitimacy of the priorities. To enhance the level of social, economic and environmental sustainability in similar initiatives we propose a range of actions to support urban actors in their everyday programming and activities. In this annex you will find 7 action points to ensure gender responsive cities.

### Action #1: Gender considerations across the urban space

Start with analysing key considerations in making city spaces gender responsive to the needs of women and girls. How does the different urban features impact women and men? Don't forget to adopt an intersectional perspective.

#### Key considerations in making city spaces gender responsive to the needs of women and girls



How about tenure security, especially for women in slums who are often household heads?

Does the urban space consider time, cost and distance to destinations (time-space geography)?

Does the urban space support for informal economy activities within safe spaces?

Does the urban space provide adequate housing options that cater for both women and men including for the internal design?

Are safe, affordable, child and disability friendly streets used for recreation as well as livelihood generation activities?

Are there public spaces that consider safety across night and day and foster a sense of security through design?

Is there safe, affordable, child and disability friendly transport options within close proximity to residential housing?

Are basic services and education facilities close to residential housing and are they gender responsive?

## Action #2: Key infrastructure across different city scales

While understanding gender and intersecting forms of discrimination in terms of urban development, it is important to highlight the different scales of its implication. Explore the different scales across which planning process and practice must operate in order to promote gender inclusive cities.

### Key infrastructure across different city scales

Urban scale	Street	Neighbourhood	City
Housing	Adequate and affordable housing designed for women and families	Childcare options	Skills-building and further education
Livelihood	Livelihood generation opportunities (especially if having a carers role)	Livelihood generation opportunities (especially if having a carers role)	Livelihood generation opportunities (especially if having a carers role)
Mobility	Mobility/capacity to physically move close to home (safe and smooth footpaths)	Affordable public transport including safe and smooth footpaths	Affordable public transport including safe and smooth footpaths
Food	Basic groceries	Market places providing basic and nutritious groceries	Provision of essential goods
Public space	Safe public spaces and streets for all including children playing safely	Safe public spaces and streets for all including children playing safely	Access to safe public spaces and greenery for all
Water & sanitation	Water, sanitation and sewage systems that are accessible, safe and effective sanitation that includes women only toilets	Health clinics that address women and children's health issues	Hospitals that address women and children's health issues
Minorities	Sense of inclusion for women from cultural, ethnical and sexual minorities	Sense of inclusion for women from cultural, ethnical and sexual minorities	Sense of inclusion for women from cultural, ethnical and sexual minorities

### Action #3: Principles for gender responsive cities

Based on the urban planning experience, knowledge and international practice gathered, a number of principles that underpin a 'gender responsive city' have been defined. Use these principles to inform the participatory process, planning, design and implementation of your project.

#### Principles for gender responsive cities

##### 1. Ability to express opinions and influence

Ability to express opinions and influence the planning decisions that affect them through appropriate processes and mechanisms.

##### 2. Access to a clean, unpolluted environment

Access to a clean, unpolluted environment that supports both physical and mental health and freedom of movement.

##### 3. Accessible and relevant essential services

Accessible and relevant essential services such as adequate housing, local water and sanitation facilities, accessible and within close proximity to home.

##### 4. Adequate infrastructure, water and sanitation

Adequate infrastructure, water and sanitation affect how women use a space. Women are more vulnerable than men when there is insufficient or lack of toilets and sanitation facilities.

##### 5. Capacity to participate

Capacity to participate in family, cultural and community life regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or ability.

##### 6. Eyes on the streets, protection and authorities

The presence of authorities and people moving around the public space encourages positive behaviour and adds to the conception of safety. The feeling that everyone can see all activities carried out in a public place encourages positive activity and behaviour.

##### 7. Flexibility, multi-purpose and multi-function

An element must meet several purposes and functions. It should attract different audiences at different times of the day. A place can at the same time cater for walking, including mobility for people with a variety of physical prerequisites, to sit, being a meeting place, a training venue, a playground, a stage for performances, etc.

##### 8. Good lighting and visibility

Good lighting and visibility make a place less threatening during dark hours of the day. A city where women cannot access the city at all hours of the day is not an equal city.

##### 9. Green spaces

Integrating greenery into the urban built up environment such as green walls and roofs, bushes, trees, plants, urban agriculture and bodies of wetlands and water have positive effects on both the environment and the physical and mental health.

### **10. Human scale design**

The human-scale is a well-adapted design and urban form to the user. A human-scale design automatically becomes an attractive meeting place as it imposes feelings of a public space being a living room merging a feeling of home to the public.

### **11. Integrated urban neighbourhoods**

Integrated urban neighbourhoods which are designed so all key services are within a short walk /proximity to promote productivity, time management and overall inclusion and that these urban microcosms are considered in the urban whole to ensure large ticket items like major hospitals, transport connections are accounted for.

### **12. Manifestation of local values**

Enhancing local values contribute to a sense of pride, belonging and well-being. A place that is beautiful and differs in design from the majority of the city is less likely to get vandalised and will help strengthen the conception of safety.

### **13. Open access**

Open access, semi-public or semi-private spaces, such as parks, libraries and museums without fees, in comparison to restaurant terraces that are exclusive to certain parts of the population. Places that are not open access for free, systematically exclude the poorer part of the population.

### **14. Places for women, children, and elderly to loiter**

Places accessible for women, children, and elderly to hang out increases the presence of these groups. Women are usually limited to having a purpose when using the urban public space, in comparison to men that loiter in a higher regard. For example, seating facing each other makes it easier to talk to one another.

### **15. Representation**

To attract girls and minorities to use a space, other girls need to already be present. Representation contributes to a feeling of safety, being welcomed and authority to utilise the space.

## Action #4: Guidelines for gender responsive urban planning

Urban design can foster inclusive urban spaces as they address both the physical components as well as the perception aspect and can send a message or set an inclusive tone. A key part of building inclusive cities for all is ensuring a nuanced understanding of how different groups of people experience the current urban environment differently.

### Key elements of inclusive urban design

General planning recommendations	Key actions
Understand, acknowledge and collect information on women and girls in the city	Collect gender and age disaggregated data to understand different challenges and aspirations of women and girls with intersecting identities. Use qualitative data gathered through in-depth discussions to compliment this data and find out about how other issues, such as age and cultural norms might be affecting women's engagement in the urban environment. Develop a set of practical and relevant indicators that can show how gender responsive planning interventions have had an impact over time.
Review key urban policies and assure that regulatory frameworks are gender responsive	Many planning and sector policies (housing and transport) are not gender responsive and thus do not set the inclusive framework to strengthen urban planning responses to the needs of women and girls for example. Gender responsive cities must be guided by gender responsive national urban policies and regulatory frameworks.
Consider the nexus between gender and scale, how women are engaged across the various scales of the urban context	Gender responsive planning has the nexus between scale and gender and understands how access to services and transport connections have a significant impact on different groups, especially those with caring roles which continue to be women.
Understand the diversity of women and girls	Women and girls are also defined by multiple identities and contexts which shape how they use and interact with the city and have a right to the city. This affects how urban planning can foster opportunities or mitigate impacts.
Create safe, welcoming and open urban environments – in particular, focus on making public spaces safe and engaging for women and girls	Many women and girls do not feel safe in public spaces in towns and cities which reduces their participation, opportunity and contribution to the urban advantage. Perceptions of safety is a precondition to sustainable urbanisation. Actively assess the safety of urban areas using safety audits and use public space planning and design to promote open and safe spaces. Plan for public spaces, parks, street squares with semi-organized activities, safe and engaging hang out spaces, walls for street art to create active and busy streets.
Make the city accessible and easy to get around	Review public transport options for women and girls people considering safety and affordability. Map the degree of adequate and safe trains, sidewalks, bike paths, across the city to ensure connectivity between transport options.
Legitimise, support and integrate the informal and formal economy activities within spatial and sectoral plans	In many developing countries, women form a significant proportion of the workers in the informal economy. Identify, map and support key informal economy activities undertaken by women.
Provide key services that empower women and girls	Map the location of basic services and infrastructure and ensure they link with safe and affordable transport options.
Undertake friendly planning processes that engage women	Ensure engagement processes are women and girl friendly, including at different times of the day, might be women only. Use of various technologies to engage women and girls such as virtual reality, mobile phone mapping and participatory enumeration, virtual planning using interactive computer programs.



## Action #5: Neighbourhood level design recommendations

UN-Habitat has developed a set of guiding principles to further support urban managers, urban planning practitioners and other stakeholders to promote integrated and inclusive planning at the neighbourhood level. Neighbourhood level planning approaches can help foster youth inclusive neighbourhoods which can be scaled up across the broader urban environment.

### Key recommendations for neighbourhood design

Neighbourhood design principles	Indicators	How do they promote a gender-inclusive city?
1. Adequate space for streets and public space in an efficient street network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 30-35 percent to the street 15-20 percent public space / 50 percent plots.</li> <li>– At least 18 km of street length.</li> <li>– At least 80 crossings per km<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promote safe and engaging spaces for youth including squares, parks, recreation, and leisure spaces.</li> <li>– Wide pavements for ease of mobility, especially with children or other dependents.</li> <li>– Public space is public facilities (open spaces, public libraries, social halls/community spaces, where relevant childcare) and public open spaces – all connected for women's mobility, tend to do shorter trips (parents)</li> <li>– Space for livelihoods connected to the home space to promote effectiveness and efficiency for families and carers.</li> <li>– Use the street and other urban spaces for youth led activities and street art to send important 'signals' around youth engagement (such as youth driven public art and cultural projects).</li> <li>– Crossings for access to other streets and neighbourhoods</li> </ul>
2. Mixed land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– At least 40 percent of floor space allocated to economic use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Understand the tenure security and land ownership arrangements underpinning the planning site recognizing the influence of traditional and customary norms and protocols. Within this, understand that women and girls usually have extremely limited tenure security and official rights to land making them particularly vulnerable, especially in slums where there is often a significant number of female headed households.</li> <li>– Prioritize integrated mixed land use cities from the neighbourhood to the city level for optimal inclusion outcomes. Mixed use is more likely to promote the spaces, cross sectoral mix of services and infrastructure that promotes the women and those men who are carers, benefit from mixed use buildings and land use when the role of caring, domestic work, can be more easily (within a reasonable geographical space, coordinated, proximity – to livelihood generation activities). This engagement of women and girls, particularly if safety and affordability are top of mind.</li> </ul>

Neighbourhood design principles	Indicators	How do they promote a gender-inclusive city?
2. Mixed land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Limited land-use specialization; single use blocks should cover less than 10 percent of any neighbourhood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A limitation of single use blocks also implies a greater likelihood of landuse for public services (such as child-care or health clinics) and infrastructure (variety or affordable safe transport option) which are gender responsive/ women and girls in particular. and ensure that residential areas also have a mix of economic development, transport options, public space to promote safe and functional work opportunities.</li> <li>– Mixed use must consider livelihood generation opportunities and how in many cities, the informal economy is integrated within the concept of mixed use rather than marginalised.</li> <li>– Women make up a significant proportion of informal economy workers and activities and therefore, much like public space, spaces for livelihood generation must be safe, accessible, affordable and clean.</li> </ul>
3. Social mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 20-50 percent of residential area should be low cost housing</li> <li>– Each tenure type should be not more than 50 percent of the total</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Use planning and design to promote social mix across different identity and economy groups as well as gender diversity increases social capital and cohesion. Mixed housing types, including the inclusion of social housing, prioritising community and public spaces and using cultural art and design, are important design tools that facilitate inclusion and can help foster the necessary interactions that reduce isolation. A broader social mix becomes a trigger for a diversity of services and infrastructure which can re-energize the value of mixed communities and societies.</li> </ul>
4. Adequate density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– At least 15.000 people per km2, that is 150 people/ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Adequate density within the framework of mixed land use, helps promote the concentration and distribution of services, resources and infrastructure that's more like to promote an effective and efficient urban form which support a gender responsive city.</li> <li>– Linked with the understanding of time space geography and proximity – a neighbourhood form and city based on density linked with adequate service and infrastructure provision integrates basic services, transport, livelihood activities, community and public spaces enables working parents, women and girls the capacity to move around safely and efficiently but also promotes social interaction and cohesion which can be particularly important for older women and those with caring responsibilities.</li> </ul>
5. Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Length of walking distances between services</li> <li>– Number of public transport options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Promote safe, accessible transport that includes women friendly modes of transport such as bikes, skateboards, scooters, walking. Women tend to have more restrictions on their time, often have caring responsibilities and have to undertake multiple trips in a day - so connectivity across different scales of the city are vital.</li> <li>– Perceptions of safety must also be integrated with connectivity planning as if there is a sense of no safety, this can also undermine capacity and use of any connection options such as under and overpasses and good street lighting.</li> <li>– Autonomous mobility must underpin connectivity planning - the concept that everyone should be free to move safely, efficiently and affordably around the city space.</li> </ul>

## Action #6: Key initiatives to engage women and girls

There are a range of practical initiatives that gender responsive urban planning can undertake to promote gender responsive cities including: Fostering an inclusive mind-set; Recognizing and understanding the diversity of cities and specifically women and girls differing urban experiences; Using certain technical urban planning interventions to promote gender responsive cities; and Engaging women and girls in the urban planning process.

### Key actions to engage women and girls across in the planning process.

Key planning processes	Key initiatives to engage women and girls
Planning vision and overall concept as well as the project elaboration, data collection and implementation process	Women and girls must be part of the planning, visioning and implementation teams. Women and girls can also be actively engaged in data collection processes such as participatory enumeration processes to understand tenure security. Consider what other key stakeholders, NGO's, professional bodies can be engaged that are also knowledgeable and are able to contribute and promote gender responsive planning.
Context and data analysis	Collect sex and age disaggregated data with a focus on women and girls. Gather qualitative data to understand key cultural issues, norms and social mores the influence how women and girls engage with the city, by Incorporating an intersectional analysis to better understand how various groups live and feel safety in the city.
Policy frameworks and sectoral plans	How do women and girls fit with broader policy initiatives? Do different sectoral plans support gender responsive urban development? Do the various levels of government guarantee that transformative policies reflect their commitment to gender equality from an intersectional perspective?
Planning regulations	How gender responsive are the planning regulations? Do they promote designs that consider and promote the necessary principles and technical considerations that reflect the needs and aspirations of women and girls, particularly across different scales and times?
Monitoring and evaluation	Ensure that women are part of any follow up, monitoring or evaluation framework. Ensure that your monitoring and evaluation process accesses both qualitative and quantitative data and enables culturally appropriate and time sensitive feedback processes that allow women and girls to be engaged.

## Action #7: Types of tools for gender responsive planning and design

Women and girls should be invited to take part in the various components and steps of the urban planning process in order to achieve a gender responsive urban planning outcome. Achieving this demands multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement.

### Overview of tools for planning and design principles

Neighborhood planning principles	Analysis tools	Participation tools	Design principles
Social Mix	Sex dis-aggregated data	Gender Budgeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Visibility</li> <li>– Fear free claimable space</li> </ul>
Adequate Density	Gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation	Women Community Development Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No public dark spaces or blind spots</li> </ul>
High quality of streets and public space	Gender Analysis	Women Group Consultations including focus groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Accessibility</li> <li>– Multiple entrance and exit routes</li> </ul>
Connectivity	Gender Equality Marker	One on one interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Safety</li> <li>– Well-being</li> </ul>
Mixed land use	Gender sensitive safety audit	Women led committees / women's representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Safety</li> <li>– Economic opportunities</li> </ul>

## Action #8: Digital tools for gender responsive planning and design

The Her City toolbox now offers a comprehensive overview of digital tools to implement planning and design principles in order to engage women and girls across key stages of the planning and design process. Use it as a digital guide for the entire process to be used flexibly in any urban development project to ensure the inclusion of the diversity of women and girls.

### Digital tools to engage women and girls in the assessment, design and implementation process

Her City Blocks	Setting up	Activity 1 tools	Activity 2 tools	Activity 3 tools	Output
<b>Phase 1. Assessment</b>					
<b>Block 1. Stakeholder engagement</b>	Preparation Setting up a project management framework	Desk review Gathering basic knowledge about the context	Stakeholder mapping Mapping relevant stakeholders, secondary and primary target groups	Engaging participants Inviting participants and defining terms of engagement	Results A multi-stakeholder team of girls and professionals
<b>Block 2. City-wide public space assessment</b>	Preparation Gathering information about the city-wide public space network and its quality	Training Training and supporting the participants to use Kobo Toolbox application to collect data	Collecting data Analysing the data collected and identifying key challenges of the public spaces	Analysing data Prioritising public spaces that are in need of great, moderate or smaller improvement	Results A city level analysis based on observations and a list of priority spaces to be improved
<b>Block 3. Site-specific assessment</b>	Results A city level analysis based on observations and a list of priority spaces to be improved	Gathering data Gathering qualitative and quantitative information about a selected public space	Producing maps Scoring quality of public space through the five spatial dimensions and twenty indicators	Quality scoring Informing the following phase related to visions and solutions	Results Detailed quantitative and qualitative data on the state of the space
<b>Phase 2. Design</b>					
<b>Block 4. Analysing challenges</b>	Preparation Exploring tools for facilitating dialogue between professionals and citizens	Define current situation Defining and understanding the place as it looks today	Understand challenges Understanding the main challenges in the place but also the potentials for change	Define joint vision Defining the functions of the place in the future and transforming them into concrete suggestions	Results A joint vision for the space based on a detailed analysis of the girls' needs and current privileges in the space

<b>Block 5. Designing ideas</b>	Preparation Exploring computer games for participatory planning and design	Practice Building capacity among girls through the use of digital and participatory tools	Block by Block Empowering non-professionals to design and communicate ideas	Presentations Identifying priorities to integrate in the final design proposal	Results A rough design of the new space made by the girls and professionals
<b>Block 6. Recommendations for actions</b>	Preparation Exploring tools to craft recommendations and action plans	Prioritising Overviewing project results, and making sure most alarming challenges are met while prioritising	Realising proposal Developing tailor-made action plans to address the prioritised challenges and solutions	Adopting action plan Overcoming conflicting interests and agreeing on ways forward	Results A joint action plan for the space where girls and professionals negotiate ways forward

### Phase 3. Implementation & follow up

<b>Block 7. Actions for plans</b>	Preparation Transforming challenges and opportunities into feasible design solutions	Expert design meeting Building capacity of young girls in urban planning and design skills	Finalising plans Cost estimation, participatory construction and maintenance plans	Validation Assuring approval for final plans by stakeholders	Results Detailed plans collaboratively developed by the girls and professionals for the construction phase
<b>Block 8. Sharing results</b>	Preparation Re-engaging participants, stakeholders, community and decision-makers	Gathering results Documenting the results on a good practices portal to be shared digitally	Public presentation Presenting to an extended group of decision-makers from the municipality, relevant stakeholders as well as the wider community	Strategy and mainstreaming Setting up a long-term strategy and mainstreaming results	Approval to move forward and start construction from decision-makers and community and spreading of knowledge gained throughout the project.
<b>Block 9. Implementation and follow up</b>	Preparation Certifying the city, participants and write up of final report	Feedback Understanding the participants experience of the process	Quality control Following up and controlling the quality of the implementation	Measuring impact Measuring the impact of the developments	Results Evaluation of the process, follow up on construction and a final report on the results with a mainstreaming strategy to scale up

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and the opportunity to change  
her environment.**

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