ANNUAL REPORT
2016

Global PUBLIC SPACE Programme

"by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities"

UN@HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Global Public Space Programme: **ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

Global Public Space Programme
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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Introduction

WORLD CITIES POPULATION

20million
5million
1million

1950
1990
2015
2030

Data: United Nations World Urbanization Prospects.2014

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
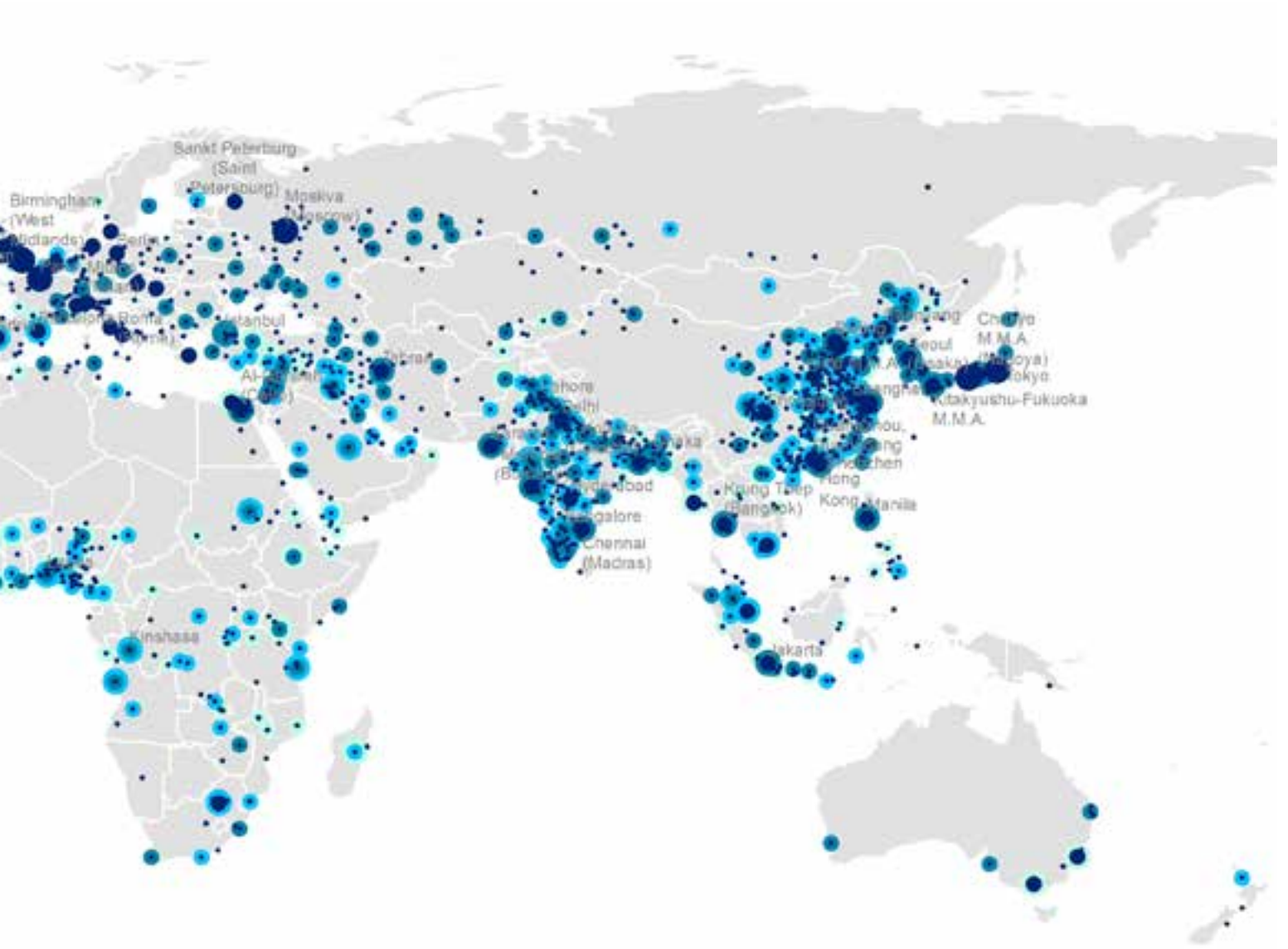
World cities population
© UN-Habitat

Background

Research shows that there is a positive correlation between planned urbanization and development and that urban economies are more productive than rural economies. Well-planned urbanization can be a powerful tool for creating employment and livelihoods. This requires a mindset shift away from viewing urbanization as a problem towards viewing urbanization as a powerful tool for development. UN-Habitat supports countries to develop urban planning methods and systems to address current urbanization challenges such as population growth, urban sprawl, poverty, inequality, pollution, congestion, as well as urban biodiversity, urban mobility and energy, by promoting compact, better integrated and connected cities which are socially inclusive and resilient to climate change.

The importance of public space

The character of a city is defined by its streets and public spaces. When we think of great cities, we invariably think of their iconic public spaces: Times Square in New York, Piccadilly Circus in London, Avenida Atlantica in Rio de Janeiro, Azad Maidan in Mumbai and Uhuru Park in Nairobi. From squares and boulevards to neighbourhood gardens and children playgrounds, public spaces frame the city. The connection of streets and public spaces forms the skeleton of the city upon which all else rests.

Public space is a vital component of a prosperous city. Well designed and managed public space is a key asset for a city's functioning and has a positive impact on its economy, environment, safety, health, integration and connectivity. The quality of life for people in cities is directly related to the state of its public spaces. Providing public spaces enhances community cohesion and civic identity and supports the levels of urban density required for environmentally and economically sustainable cities. Cities with sufficient public space make it possible to have well-maintained, safe and attractive places to live and work in. Public spaces and streets are multifunctional areas for social interaction, economic exchange and cultural expression among a wide diversity of participants. The role of urban planning is to organize public spaces and the role of urban design to encourage their use.

Productive city Andreas, Hong Kong, China
© foter

The UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme

UN-Habitat has worked in the field of public space for nearly 20 years. However, at the 23rd Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2011, United Nations Member States asked UN-Habitat to place a larger focus on public space and how it can contribute to sustainable urban development. This Governing Council Resolution mandated UN-Habitat:

- To advance the agenda on placemaking and public spaces in a way that will consolidate local and international approaches to creating inclusive cities, enhance the knowledge of UN-Habitat partners and local authorities of place-making, public spaces and the quality of urban life, and facilitate and implement exchange, cooperation and research between partners working in this field;

- To develop a policy approach on the role that public spaces can play in meeting the challenges of our rapidly urbanizing world, to disseminate that policy and its results widely and to develop a plan for ensuring its application internationally;

- To assist in coordinating UN-Habitat partners in disseminating knowledge to existing sustainable urban development processes at all government levels.

In 2012, UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme was born. Since then the Programme has grown to be active in a range of operational and normative activities in more than 20 countries.

2011

Resolution 23/4 on Sustainable Urban Development through Access to Public Spaces

2012

Partnership between UN-habitat Global Programme on Public Space and Mojang

2013

First BlockbyBlock workshops in Kenya Haiti and Nepal

Global Programme on Public Space progress

2011

Apr:	*Resolution 23/4 on Sustainable Urban Development through Access to Public Spaces*

2012

May:	*Supported the development of a Charter on Public Space*
Sept:	*Partnership between UN-habitat Global Programme on Public Space and Mojang*
Sept:	*World Urban Forum*
Nov:	*Launch of the Nairobi Public Space Programme*

2013

Feb-Mar:	*First BlockbyBlock workshops in Kenya Haiti and Nepal*
Jun:	*First Future of Places Conference, Stockholm, Sweden*
Jun:	*Launch of the Charter on Public Spaces*
Nov:	*UN-habitat published a technical report entitled, "Street as Public Spaces -Drivers of Prosperity" to address the importance of streets as public spaces*

2014

Mar:	*First public space projects completed in Haiti, Kenya and Nepal*
Apr:	*World Urban Forum, Medellin, Colombia*
Apr:	*Crowd-sourcing Public Space design using Minecraft with over 7,500 youth in Mexico*

2014	2015	2016

First public space projects completed in Haiti, Kenya and Nepal	Establishment of the BlockbyBlock Foundation	Agreement and adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito, Ecuador

Oct:	*An advanced draft of the publication: "Public Space Principles, Policies and Practices: Towards a Global Toolkit" was developed in partnership with the National Planning Institute (INU) in Rome, building on the Charter of Public Space.*

2015

Mar:	*International Public Markets Conference, Barcelona, Spain*
Apr:	*Launch of the publication: "Public Space Toolkit: From Global Principles to Local Policies and Practice"*
May:	*Public Space Biennale, Rome, Italy*
Jun:	*Final Future of Places Conference, Stockholm, Sweden*
Aug:	*Launch of the Nairobi City-wide Public Space Assessment*
Sept:	*Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals including a specific target on Public Space*
Nov:	*Establishment of the BlockbyBlock Foundation*

2016

Apr:	*Thematic Meeting on Public Space, Barcelona, Spain*
Aug:	*Launch of Regional Arab States Programme*
Aug:	*Premiere of the documentary on Gaming the Real World featuring UN-habitat and Mojang*
Oct:	*Launch of the Journal on Public Space*
Oct:	*Agreement and adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito, Ecuador*
Oct:	*UN agencies Action Framework for implementation of the NUA on public space*
Nov:	*First Nairobi Placemaking Week*
Dec:	*EGM on public space indicator to monitor implementation of SDG 11.7.1*

Objectives of the programme

The objectives of the Global Programme on Public Space are:

- To promote public space as an important element for creating sustainable cities, for improving the quality of life of urban citizens, and as a key lever in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, continuing the dialogue following Habitat III and for monitoring the implementation of the SDG 11.7.[1]

- To consolidate knowledge, good approaches, tools and methodologies on public space and make these accessible, particularly to local government partners;

- To engage the broader network of partners and public space practitioners in the global promotion of good policies and practice on public space;

- To demonstrate, through pilot projects and in partnership with cities, the importance of public spaces in achieving social, economic, environmental and other benefits to cities.

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1   Habitat III is the United Nations Conference, held in 2016, which agreed on a new global agenda on sustainable human settlements and urban development.

Programme focus

The programme is organized around three main areas:

Partnerships and networking – An important part of the Programme is to bring together a broad global network of partners working on the issue of public space, and UN-Habitat has agreements and ongoing activities with various organizations. These partners are brought together annually at either the World Urban Forum and/or the Future of Places Conference.

Knowledge management, advocacy and tools – To institutionalize public space in the normative work of partner organizations and cities, UN-Habitat promotes a policy approach, develops tools and indicators and runs capacity building programmes.

Public space demonstration projects and city-wide strategies – To show the importance of public space on the ground, UN-Habitat supports cities in implementing public space demonstration projects, city-wide strategies and sectoral development plans. These activities are strategic entry points for public space as well as for demonstrating participatory approaches to public space design, implementation, and management, allowing UN-Habitat to demonstrate the challenges encountered by cities in public space implementation.

Since the launch of the Programme in 2012, public space has gained traction as an important theme throughout UN-Habitat, among external partners and in cities on all continents. This is the fourth annual progress report, covering the period from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

Children dancing capoeira in favela public space
© Anneke Jong

Pedestrian, bicycle and metro interchange, Barcelona, Spain
© UN-Habitat

Seattle

New York

Mexico City

Kingston

Panama City

Quito

Lima

Buenos Aires

Cope

London

Barcelona

02
Partnerships and networking

Stockholm

nhagen

Berlin

Amsterdam

Rome

Delhi

Wuhan

Kulna

Manila

Kigali

Nairobi

Surabaya

Brisbane

Cape Town

Location of Global Public Space Programme partners
© UN-Habitat

The network on public space

The partners of the Global Public Space Programme are involved in both normative work (developing tools, indicators, technical and policy guidelines, etc.) and operational work (implementing public space projects in cities).

Mojang, Stockholm: the gaming company behind the popular computer game Minecraft is the main funder of the Global Public Space Programme. To date it has mobilised about USD $5 million from the Minecraft community for public space implementation.

Block by Block Foundation, Seattle: New Foundation launched by Microsoft and Mojang to mobilize additional funds for public space implementation and civic participation.

Project for Public Spaces (PPS), New York: has been working on developing the place-making methodology, compiling good practices and supporting the public space initiatives in Nairobi, Kenya. PPS is also leading the preparations of the 9th International Public Markets Conference in partnership with the Barcelona Markets Association and UN-Habitat. Gehl Architects, Copenhagen: has provided pro-bono expertise and access to tools, methodologies and the publications of the founder, Jan Gehl.

Ax:son Johnson Foundation, Stockholm: funded Future of Places, a series of global conferences convening the leading global thinkers on public space.

National Planning Institute (INU), Rome: has developed the Public Space Charter (a set of principles to guide the design, creation, implementation and management of public spaces). INU organises the Public Space Biennale, an event that facilitates the exchange of experiences in public space planning and design.

Institute pour la Ville en Movement, Buenos Aires: specialises in innovative mobility solutions and research around public space in Latin America.

Fundacion Avina, Panama: is co-financing public space work in Latin America, specifically in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Mexico City, Mexico, Lima, Peru, Quito, Ecuador and Medellin, Colombia and also in developing a regional strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Svensk Byggtjanst, Stockholm: Providing technical support on the use of Minecraft as a participation tool and recruiting Minecraft gamers for projects.

Go Down Arts Centre, Kounkuey Design Initiative, Placemakers, KUWA – Building Cities with People, Dandora Transformation League, Architects without Borders (Sweden), HopeRaisers, Friends of Jeevanjee are all working on public space projects in Nairobi.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, UK: and their network of local partners (SWaCh/KKPKP and Asiye eTafuleni) are promoting gender issues and legal aspects of access to public space for informal sector workers, such as street traders and waste-pickers.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Barcelona: A global umbrella organisation of local governments will establish regional networks on public space.

Telmex, Mexico City: Mexico's largest mobile operator provided funding and technical support to the Block by Block competition at Aldea Digital in Mexico City.

Minecraft MX, Mexico City: The largest Minecraft community in Latin America builds Minecraft models used all over the world.

League of Cities, Philippines: is engaging their membership of cities and local governments to emphasize public space in rapidly expanding cities.

Slum Dwellers International (SDI), India: supporting public space in informal settlements.

Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Germany: a network of over 1,000 cities, towns and metropolises committed to building a sustainable future by helping their members make their cities and regions sustainable, low-carbon, resilient, eco-mobile, bio-diverse, resource-efficient and productive, healthy and happy, with a green economy and smart infrastructure.

World Vision, Australia: their "Cities for Children" urban programme promotes the inclusion of children's voices in planning processes to design cities that are safe, resilient, prosperous and healthy, especially for the most vulnerable children.

CORDAID, Netherlands: works with a network of 617 partner organizations in 38 countries providing help to disadvantaged groups. CORDAID has developed two games: The Urban Collaboration Game and the Urban Planning Game which are tools for the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes in cities.

Stipo, Netherlands: Stipo is a multi-disciplinary team that works in urban strategy and city development. Stipo focus on spatial planning and the development of strategy that encompasses economy, culture, urban anthropology, community planning and Place-making.

Safetipin, India: is a social enterprise providing technology solutions to make cities safer for women and others, by collecting information and working with governments, NGOs, city planners, international agencies and corporates, to provide and use safety data for change.

Walk21, UK: a global network supporting and promoting walking.

Africa Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya: a research institution that conducts policy-relevant research on population, health, education, urbanization and related development issues across Africa.

Social Transformations Systems (STS), South Africa: provides tools for systemic transformation through collaborative actions to benchmark, develop and manage action plans. STS works with young people with disabilities

Universities such as Darmstadt (Germany), Technical University (Kenya), Nairobi University (Kenya). KTH (Sweden), Khulna (Bangladesh), University of Technology (Jamaica), University of Rwanda

Sketchfab, New York: Online platform proc hosting and displaying UN-Habitat's Minecraft models.

Creeperhost, Server company providing free storage of UN-Habitat's Minecraft models.

Blockworks, Cambridge: Minecraft collective which built Minecraft models for use in Surabaya, Indonesia and Quito, Ecuador.

Digital Civix, Mexico City: NGO implementing public space and Block by Block activities in relation to Aldea Digital, Mexico.

Geoboxers, Copenhagen: Consultancy working with geospatial data and Minecraft.

Occupa tu Calle, Lima: Group working to improve Lima through public space micro-interventions.

National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), New York: Association that represents US cities on transportation issues of local, regional and national significance

Journal of Public Space, Brisbane: New public space journal launched by City Space Architecture and the Queensland University of Technology.

Wuhan Land Resources and Planning Bureau (Wuhan): localizing the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) with public space as the entry point as well as establishing a national network of cities in China working on public space.

Partnerships with other UN agencies

In the lead-up to the Habitat III Conference and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat continued engaging with other UN agencies on the issue of public space. This resulted in a widely attended UN roundtable titled *Public Space for More Inclusive, Accessible and Liveable Cities.* The objective of this roundtable was to identify key areas of action and connect public space to each of the UN agencies' mandate in order to jointly support national and local governments in public space planning and implementation. The roundtable produced a draft action framework which identified key areas of partnership around public space and can help support national and local governments in achieving the SDG 11.7 target on public space and implementing the New Urban Agenda.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is working on public space from a public health perspective. Non-communicable diseases caused by air pollution and lack of physical exercise account for 68% of global mortality. Inclusive, green and accessible public spaces can reduce mortality by improving people's physical and mental health and reducing pollution from cars by encouraging walking, playing and cycling. UN-Habitat and WHO will collaborate in the area of public space and health, with a special focus on slums as well as other areas including streets, green spaces, food markets, food security, adopting and implementing climate change mitigation strategies.

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) focuses mainly on rapidly growing secondary cities, in which public space is disappearing rapidly in many parts of the world. UNCDF can provide a framework for financing development of these cities with public space as an entry point.

The World Bank provides lending programs for cities on issues such as city expansion and lack of public space, linked to walkability, traffic, sewerage and basic service delivery. The World Bank is integrating placemaking approaches to improve public space and supporting a people-centric city life. Significant pipeline projects with a potential to include public space are being developed for example in Karachi, Pakistan, Lima, Peru, Mexico and Fortaleza, Brazil. The World Bank has launched an online community of people working on planning and public space related issues called "Urbanscapes" with 200 members to date.

UNESCO works with preserving people's identity and culture. Placing culture at the heart of the urban agenda and the planning process. Public space is an important component of cultural heritage preservation which can place culture at the heart of the urban agenda and the planning process. Management of public space also makes cities creative and sustainable.

UN Women are focusing on women's and girls' safety in cities. Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces are an everyday occurrence for women and girls, reducing their freedom of movement and limiting their access to essential services and cultural and recreational opportunities. It also negatively impacts their health and well-being and access to services and livelihoods, especially in the informal sector. UN Women are working on gathering data and evidence which is crucial for defining policy and standards.

UN-Agemcies roundtable event during HII conference inQuito, Equador
© UN-Habitat/ Jose Chong

Partnership with the Block by Block Foundation

Mojang, the company behind Minecraft and UN-Habitat's main public space implementation funding partner since 2012, was acquired by Microsoft in 2014. To strengthen the relationship between UN-Habitat, Mojang and Microsoft, and to continue financially supporting public space implementation and the use of Minecraft as a civic participation technology, Microsoft and Mojang in 2016 launched the Block by Block Foundation. Block by Block has as its main objectives to support UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme and to identify opportunities in which Minecraft can be applied as a technical tool in public space implementation projects. The Block by Block board meets three times a year to approve public space projects which will be funded by the Foundation. UN-Habitat signed a long-term Agreement with the Foundation in August 2016, ensuring sustainable funding for public space implementation in the years to come.

The Block by Block board meeting at Habitat III
© Block by Block/Vu Bui

The Block by Block board members
© Block by Block/Vu Bui

03

Knowledge management, advocacy and tools

Minecraft workshop
© UN-Habitat

Crowdsourcing public space tools

Despite its importance in promoting sustainable urban development, public space has not always been given the attention it deserves in the literature and, more importantly, in the global policy arena. Yet there is a growing body of principles and sound policies for improving access to good public space in our cities, as well as a growing patrimony of good practices from different urban settings around the world. What was missing was a compendium of some of the most relevant principles, policies and practices.

For this reason, UN-Habitat in 2015, in collaboration with the Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica (INU) and other partners put together a toolkit – a user-friendly guide to provide cities, and particularly those with high rates of demographic growth and limited financial resources, with actionable ideas on how to improve the availability, quality and distribution of good public spaces. The toolkit is a reference for local governments to frame and implement principles, policy recommendations and development initiatives on public space and for central governments to aid their efforts with material support and enabling legislation. The toolkit was launched by the UN-Habitat Executive Director at the Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Public Space which took place in Barcelona in April 2016.

Building on the success of the original toolkit, UN-Habitat in 2016 started working on an second toolkit. In order to ensure wide coverage of available tools and methodologies related to public space, a public space tool crowdsourcing exercise was launched in December 2016. The crowdsourced tools will form the basis for the production of an updated public space toolkit in 2017.

Block by Block – using Minecraft for community participation

Since the start of the Global Public Space Programme in 2012, UN-Habitat has been collaborating closely with the Swedish company Mojang, the makers of Minecraft, on Block by Block, an innovative private-public partnership in which Minecraft is used as a community participation tool in the design of urban public spaces. Minecraft is one of the world's most popular computer games, with over 100 million paying users, best imagined as a 'digital Lego', in which players build complex structures or compete against each other in community-designed competitions. Creative mode enables gamers to construct buildings like those produced by complex 3D modelling software, with the additional benefit of being able to work together through the multiplayer setting.

Experience from projects all over the world show that Minecraft is a useful tool for engaging communities, particularly youth, women and slum dwellers in urban design processes. Working with Minecraft collectives Minecraft MX Builders and Blockworks, UN-Habitat builds Minecraft models of the spaces as they currently exist. The models are then used in week-long workshops in which participants are trained in the use of Minecraft and then asked to redesign the public space models in groups. On the final day of the workshop, the groups come together with other stakeholders to prioritize the public space work in a joint collaborative exercise. The community-developed Minecraft models are then used to inspire the final designs of the public spaces and ultimately the construction work.

Using Minecraft in this way greatly increases people's interest in urban design and planning, enables them to express themselves in a visual way, provides new ways to influence the policy agenda and helps them develop

Redesign of Plaza Tlaxcoaque in Minecraft
© UN-Habitat

skills and network with other people from the community. Designing in Minecraft allows people to explore the merits of various design alternatives and visualize their ideas, providing a way to explore and question new perspectives.

The deliberative process also encourages people to develop a broader understanding of the urban environment, speak in public with greater confidence and improve social relations. For many participants, this is the first time they have publicly expressed opinions about public issues and many say that the Block by Block process makes it easier to communicate their interests and ideas.

Our experiences show that Minecraft is a useful tool for increasing community engagement in public space projects by enabling participants to express themselves in a visual way, develop skills and network with other people from the community, and provide new ways to influence the policy agenda. Designing in Minecraft allows participants to explore the merits of various design alternatives and visualize their ideas, providing a way to explore and question new perspectives. The deliberative process also encourages people to develop a broader understanding of the urban environment, speak in public with greater confidence and improve social relations.

In 2016, UN-Habitat held community participation workshops using Minecraft in Indonesia, Madagascar, Palestine, India, Kosovo, Mexico, Nepal, USA, Ecuador and Lebanon.

Manual – using Minecraft for community participation

In 2016 UN-Habitat published a manual on using Minecraft for community participation. The hope is that local authorities and other partners will be able to use this manual to organize their own Minecraft workshops in the future. The manual can be found on the UN-Habitat website *http://unhabitat.org/books/manual-using-minecraft-for-community-participation.*

Methodology

1. Based on images, plans, Google Maps and other available materials, a base Minecraft model of the public space is produced by UN-Habitat.

2. UN-Habitat arranges for a Minecraft expert to provide Minecraft training and support.

3. Community participation workshops are held with youth, project staff and partners in order to:
   - Train participants in the basics of Minecraft modelling
   - Facilitate a dialogue on issues regarding the public space
   - Produce Minecraft models incorporating the proposed design ideas
   - Collate the ideas that are included in the models

4. The participants are briefed and divided into groups of 2-4 people, with one computer provided for each group.

5. The participants are given sufficient time to develop their ideas in Minecraft. Depending on the level of prior IT and Minecraft knowledge, two to four days is recommended.

Youth during the Minecraft workshop in Lima
© UN-Habitat

6. The participants present their Minecraft models to stakeholders – including urban professionals, policy makers, government officials and UN-Habitat staff. The designs are discussed through a deliberation process and final designs agreed among stakeholders.

7. The Minecraft proposals are used to feed into professional design work and budget processes

Minecraft as a GIS and urban planning tool

In 2016, UN-Habitat started testing the possibility of using Minecraft for city-wide public space and urban planning. To date, UN-Habitat, FyreUK, Minecraft MX Builders and Blockworks have been manually constructing Minecraft models using images and maps, but new Minecraft plugins present opportunities to automatically generate Minecraft maps using geographical information system (GIS) and geospatial data. This may enable the creation of whole cities or neighbourhoods in Minecraft relatively easy.

Discussions with organisations in this field such as Geoboxers and Sweco started in 2016. Geoboxers tested Minecraft as a tool for visualizing GIS and geospatial data in Quito and Nairobi and were able to generate decent Minecraft maps of the two cities. More testing will be done in 2017.

The neighbourhood of La Mariscal, Quito built in Minecraft
© UN-Habitat

Public space assessment tool

Public spaces contribute to defining the cultural, social, economic and political functions of cities. The value of public spaces is often overlooked or underestimated by policy makers,leaders and developers. There are a number of reasons for this, such as the lack of resources, understanding or capacity to use the possibilities of public space as a complete,multi-functional urban system. Often the lack of appropriate enabling frameworks, weak political will and the absence of the means for public engagement compound the situation. In recent years, however, we have observed a remarkable rise in the number of cities, particularly in the Global South, that have managed to use public space as a key lever for urban development. Cities have used public space to improve mobility and access to basic services, making their environment safer and crime-free, stimulating economic activity and investment, preserving historical and cultural assets or facilitating urban renewal and inclusiveness.

However, without a clear strategy or policy, it is difficult for local governments to prioritise, spend and plan resources and show how much public space is valued. To help cities produce public space strategies based on accurate research, UN-Habitat has developed a public space assessment tool. The assessment tool helps cities assess the amount of land and per capita distribution of open public space as well as answer questions related to quality, accessibility and safety of public spaces. It also provides information on public space location, management and amenity availability.

After carrying out a public space assessment with the help of UN-Habitat, cities will have access to accurate data, enabling them to prepare public space strategies.

A public space assessment starts with a literature review of available policy documents, academic reports and other publications. It is then followed by the preparation of structured questionnaires and maps which are uploaded into a mobile application called Kobo Toolbox. Data collection is then carried out by a team made up of local authority staff and urban planning and architecture university students, supported at neighbourhood level by citizens from local community groups, who provide local knowledge and safety for field workers. A series of training and data validation workshops are held with field workers during the whole process.

The assessment tool was initially developed to support the strategy for Nairobi's selection of the 60 public spaces programme, but there is interest from many other cities to use it for their own city-wide public space strategy work. In November and December 2016 UN-Habitat carried out a public space assessment in Bamenda, Cameroon and in 2017 additional assessments are expected to be carried out in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Kisumu (Kenya), Kigali (Rwanda), Cuenca (Ecuador) and Lima (Peru).
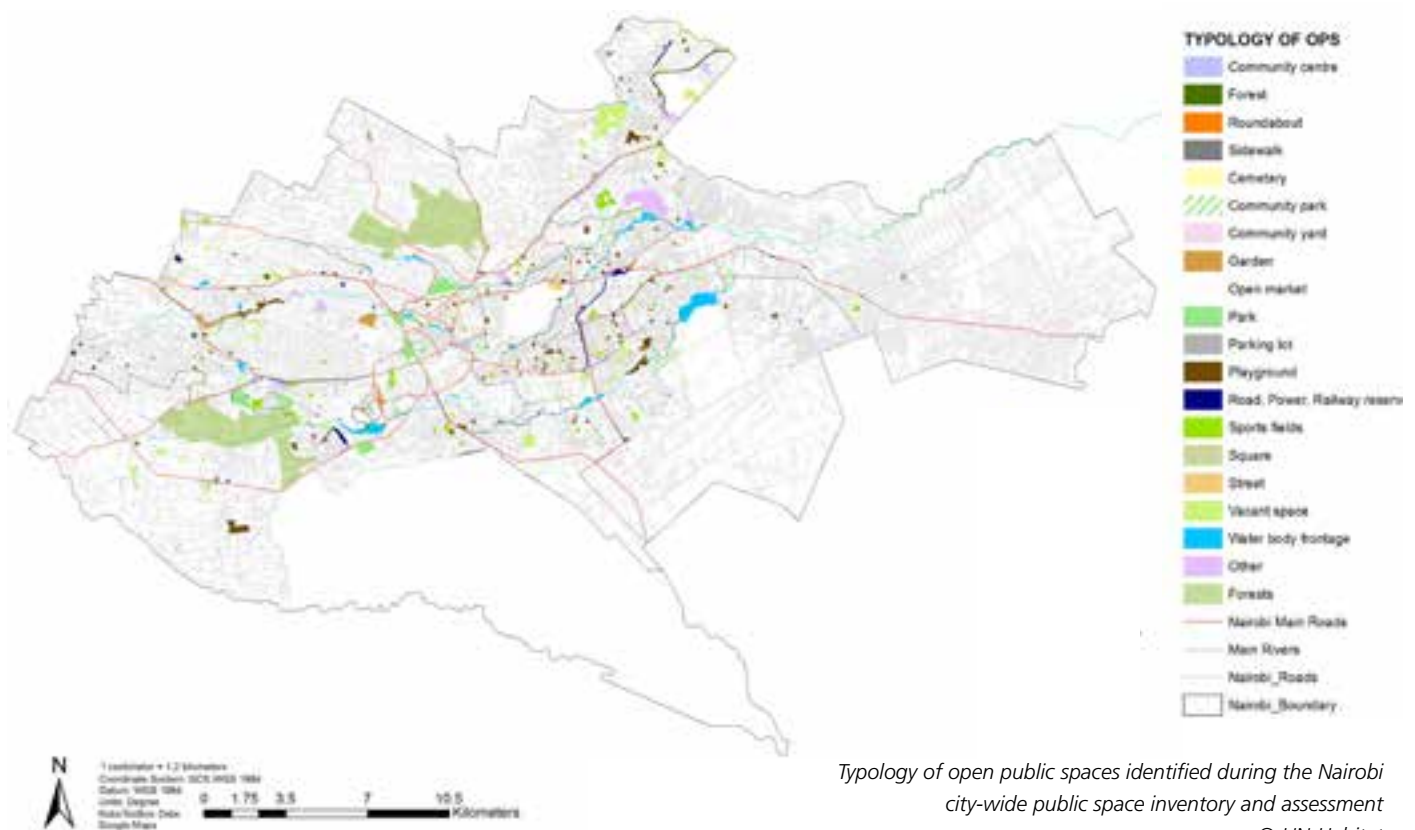
Typology of open public spaces identified during the Nairobi city-wide public space inventory and assessment
© UN-Habitat

City-Wide approach to public space

Building on its operational and normative work on public spaces, UN-Habitat in 2016 initiated a process of developing an approach that will help produce city-wide strategies on public space. The aim of this initiative is to help local governments and other stakeholders better understand the importance of the value of ensuring sufficient public space provision across the whole city.

In 2015, UN-Habitat completed city wide inventories of public space in Nairobi and Mogadishu. In Nairobi, this work continued in 2016, with strong focus on data validation and analysis, providing the base for the formulation of a city wide strategy covering the entire administrative area of the city. This work is expected to continue under 2017 and will become an integral part of the implementation of the Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Plan. With the city-wide strategy as a base, Nairobi City County can ensure short and long-term adequate provision of public space, through the development of new public spaces, as well as ensuring that there is sufficient resources allocated to the upgrading and improvement of existing public spaces.

The Nairobi context will provide a pilot example on how city-wide strategies can be developed. Building on this, UN-Habitat in 2016 initiated a process to develop a more normative approach for the development of city-wide strategies on public space. Through inventory and mapping of global best practices, informed by the Global Toolkit on Public Space and the public space assessment tool, the city-wide strategy approach will provide a framework for the formulation of a guide on how to develop city-wide strategies on public space, addressing urban planning and design, implementation as well as value capture for operation/maintenance of public spaces.

Media

The previously large news media interest in Block by Block disappeared in 2016, with no major media stories produced. Instead several media institutions, including the BBC and Vice, expressed interest in doing longer stories about Block by Block. The full-length documentary *Gaming the Real World* was released in September 2016 and shown on Swedish national television under the name "Dataspel som Arkitekt" (Computer games for architecture). The documentary follows three stories, UN-Habitat and Block by Block, Svensk Byggtjänst and an architect from Los Angeles, who are all using video games for urban planning and design in different ways. It can be downloaded from Steam on *http://store.steampowered.com/app/528590/.*

However, media interest in public space as a topic was strengthened, mainly due to the Habitat III conference and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. High-profile mentions in the Guardian, the Huffington Post, El Pais and the launch of the Journal of Public Space.

Selected media articles:

Five ways to plan the cities of the future, the Guardian, *https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/dec/22/five-ways-to-plan-the-cities-of-the-future*

Right to the city: Can this growing movement win over city officials?, the Guardian, *https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/apr/19/right-city-social-movement-transforming-urban-space*

Placemaking and the promise of the New Urban Agenda, Citiscope, *http://citiscope.org/habitatIII/commentary/2016/10/placemaking-and-promise-new-urban-agenda*

Inclusive cities critical to the New Urban Agenda, Huffington Post, *http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hung-vo/inclusive-cities-critical_b_9969972.html*

La ONU alerta de la reducción del espacio público en las ciudades, El Pais, *http://elpais.com/elpais/2016/04/05/planeta_futuro/1459845186_422414.html*

Un disfrute democrático y equitativo de la ciudad, El Pais, *http://elpais.com/elpais/2016/12/19/planeta_*

futuro/1482146649_534798.html

Public Space and the New Urban Agenda, Journal of Public Space, *https://www.journalpublicspace.org/article/view/4*

04

Public space at the
Habitat III Conference

Habitat III Conference official participants
© Habitat III

Habitat III

The highlight of 2016 was the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which took place in Quito, Ecuador on 17-21 October. It was the third conference in a series held every 20 years, the first in Vancouver in 1976 and the second in Istanbul in 1996. During the time since the first Habitat conference, the population of the world has shifted from being mostly rural to mostly urban, with an estimated 54% of the world now living in cities. By 2050 this is estimated to rise to 66%.

Habitat III was the first time in 20 years that the international community, led by national governments, collectively took stock of fast-changing urban trends and the ways in which these patterns are impacting on human development, environmental well-being, and civic and governance systems worldwide. The conference was attended by 35,000 participants from all over the world, including ministers, mayors, urban professionals, policy makers, NGOs, academia and the private sector; making it one of the largest in the UN's history.

As a formal United Nations conference, Habitat III and its outcomes were requested by the UN General Assembly, the United Nations' most representative body. It was the nation states of the General Assembly, that defined the conference's parameters, scope and intended results, making it a UN-wide initiative. The organisers, the Habitat III Secretariat, operated autonomously from UN-Habitat and were based in New York in order to engage other UN agencies, as well as the permanent representatives to the UN.

New Urban Agenda and public space

At the center of the conference was the outcome document, the New Urban Agenda, a 23-page document that sets the groundwork for policies and initiatives that will shape cities over the next 20 years. It lists 175 commitments and principles that reflect an ambitious vision in which cities drive sustainable development around the world and where "all persons are able to enjoy equal rights and opportunities". The agenda, signed by representatives from 167 countries, calls for sustainable consumption to address climate change and to make cities work better for people. There is also a commitment to end extreme poverty and discrimination against underserved groups including women, children, and refugees. It places emphasis on international cooperation to ensure the safety of migrants, and on creating policies that ensure adequate housing and standards of living for all.

Public space plays an important part of the New Urban Agenda, with reference to *"safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces"* appearing in four discrete paragraphs. The document highlights designed and managed public spaces as key to ensuring social inclusion and ending poverty by helping cities to generate social and economic value, including property value and to facilitate public and private investment. Well-connected and distributed networks of public spaces are also seen as important to improving the resilience of cities to disasters and climate change and improving air quality, health and wellbeing and food security and to making cities more livable and attractive.

UN-Habitat Public Space Activities at Habitat III

Special session: Public Space

UN-Habitat, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Women organised a special session on public space on 20th October at the Cine Alfredo Pareja. The session began with a discussion on the importance of public space in cities, emphasizing that cities are not made up of buildings and streets but of people and places. Without public spaces, there are no cities. Public space is one of the key elements to organise the structure of the city. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a legal platform for work on public spaces. The role of the central government as a responsible party for giving public spaces a multi-sectoral approach by linking it to mobility choices, security and safety, accessibility, and urban renewal and revitalisation initiatives among others was discussed. In addition, national government can set up standards, guidelines and norms for the provision of public space.

#BlockbyBlock Pop-up Public Space

To complement the Block by Block and public space activities at the main Habitat III Conference, the UN-Habitat public space team decided early on to submit a proposal for the "Habitat III Village" – a series of urban interventions taking place around Quito during Habitat III. The idea was to create a "pop-up" public space, a micro-intervention showing how small funds can go far when it comes to activating existing unused public spaces. The pop-up public space would also function as a meeting place for conference attendees, particularly UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme and Block by Block partners.

Working with the Quito-based architecture firm C3V Acquitectura, UN-Habitat came up with a temporary architecture project located in the El Ejido Park, just outside the main Habitat III venue in Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana. The Pop-up Public Space hosted a range of activities, including talks, workshops and meetings organized by city and public space experts from 9am to 8pm every day. It contained both an indoor space where participants could interact with technology – Minecraft and digital fabrication – and an open square with recycled urban street furniture where participants could relax, have a drink from the pop-up café and engage in relaxed conversation.

Activity at the pop-up public space
© Block by Block/Vu Bui

Global Toolkit for Safe, Inclusive and Accessible public spaces for all Training Event

UN-Habitat organised a training event on 19th October with Italy's National Institute of Urbanism (INU) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as partners. Approximately 70 people attended this event. The event demonstrated tools to support analysis, design, implementation and monitoring of public spaces in cities. The main sources of information was the UN-Habitat publication "Global Toolkit on Public Spaces" and the "UCLG Public Space Policy Framework" which focuses on local government role in the development and maintenance of public spaces.

Block by Block Side Event

The Block by Block Foundation organized an official Side Event in Room 10 of the Conference Venue on 20 October 2016. Side Events are recorded in the official conference report and therefore provide an important opportunity to reach a broader audience than the event itself. Although the Block by Block side event - Using Minecraft For Community Participation in Public Space Design – was scheduled at 8am on the final day of the conference, the room was completely full with an estimate of around 70 participants. The event outlined the innovative collaboration between UN-Habitat and Mojang and presented three case studies from Kosovo, India and Peru.

Popup public space closing event

The pop-up public space was formally closed with three events in the afternoon and evening of Thursday 20 October. First, a panel discussion on Block by Block with Vu Bui, Deirdre Quarnstrom, Lucina Terrazas Lujan, Klodeta Krosniqi, Eugenio Gastelum, Pontus Westerberg, Jose Chong and Trupti Amritwar was held. A relaxed audience of about 20 people took the opportunity to ask questions on the Block by Block approach, Minecraft and the innovative collaboration between UN-Habitat and Mojang. Questions ranged from "what is Minecraft?" to "how do I get a project in my city?".

Following the Block by Block panel discussion, a closing and handover ceremony was held with the city government of Quito and the La Mariscal community. The modular pop-up space had been designed to be reused and in different locations in the La Mariscal neighbourhood and Laura Petrella, Acting Head of Urban Planning and Design at UN-Habitat handed over the structure to the community, represented by Natalia Duran and to the city, represented by Alfredo Leon, the Director of the Administración Zonal La Mariscal. The global discussions on public space started at Habitat III will now continue at the neighbourhood level in La Mariscal.

The handing over ceremony was followed by a closing party. Around 110 participants enjoyed cocktails, Ecuadorian ceviche and local craft beers.

The Block by Block side event at Habitat III
© Block by Block/Vu Bui

Screening of Gaming the Real World

Gaming the Real World, the recent documentary following Block by Block along with two other initiatives using gaming for urban development, was screened in the Future of Places exhibition booth in the main exhibition space on Tuesday 18 October and Thursday 20 October 2016. An audience of up to 50 people watched the film and then asked questions to Vu Bui, Deirdre Quarnstrom and Kyle Farrell. The film, originally shown on Swedish national television SVT, follows Block by Block from the start in 2012 to implementation of projects in Nepal and Kenya.

Other public space events at Habitat III

A range of other public space events were organized by UN-Habitat partner organisations such as Future of Places, the Project for Public Spaces, Placemakers, Kounkuey Design Initiative, the Public Space Journal and Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Centre, China.

Participants watching Gaming the Real World in the Future of Places exhibition
© Block by Block/Kyle Farrell

VANCOUVER, CANADA

Vancouver Placemaking Week,
September

QUITO, EQUADOR

Habitat III Conference, October

TOLUCA DE LERDO, MEXICO

Habitat III Latin America
Regional Meeting, April

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Launch of Public Space Policy
Framework at UCLG Congress,
October

Vancouver

Toluca
de Lerdo

Quito
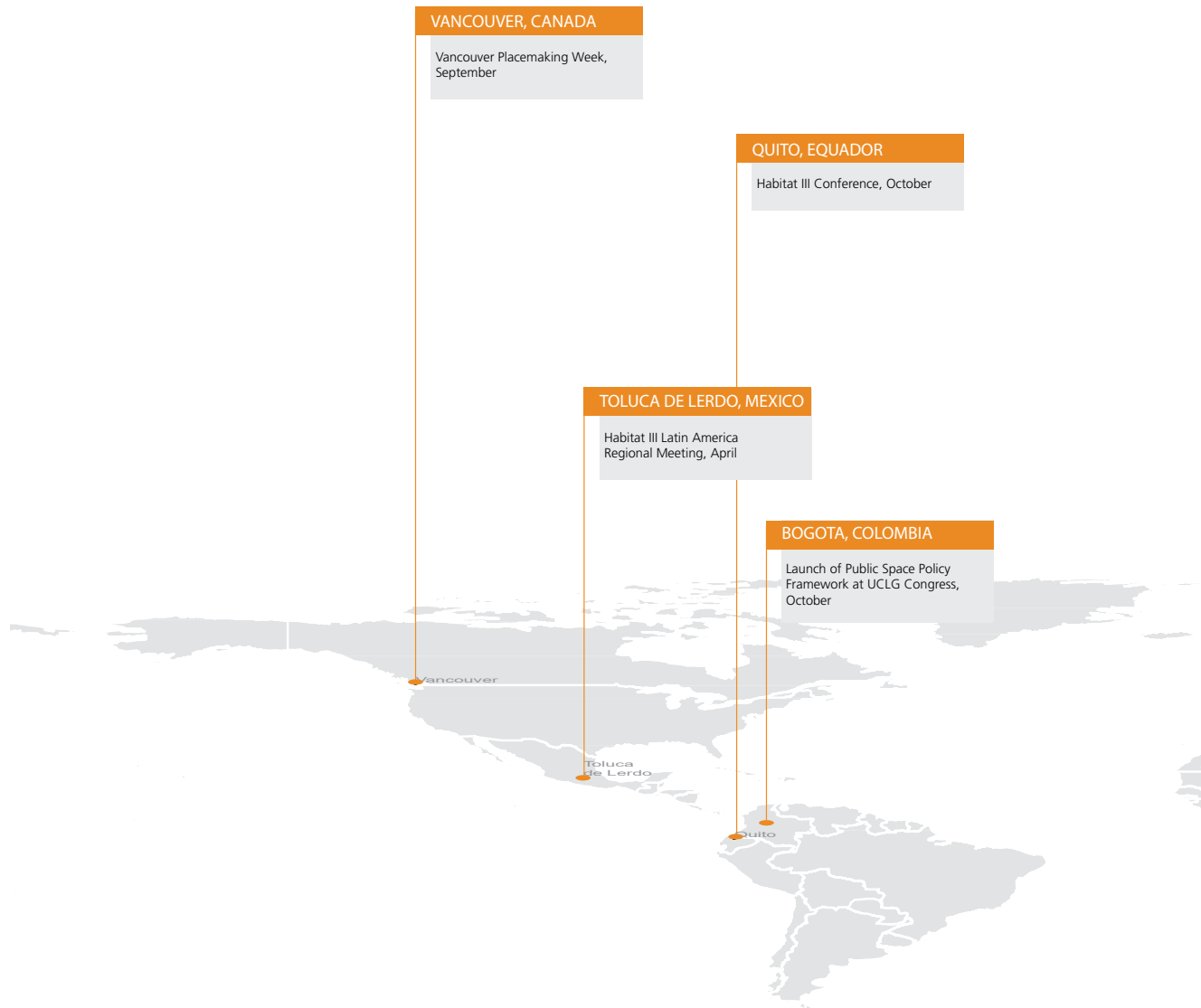
05

Normative activities

BARCELONA, SPAIN

Thematic Meeting on Public Space, April

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

Technology for Development Conference, May

BELLAGIO, ITALY

Bellagio Accord on Public Spaces, June

KUALA LUMPAR, MALAYSIA

Creating Safe, Inclusive, and Accessible Public Spaces for All, August

WUHAN, CHINA

Public Space and the International Guidelines on Urban Territorial Planning, September

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Habitat III Europe Regional Meeting, March

CAIRO, EGYPT

Expert Group Meeting on Public Space in the Arab States, September

SURABAYA, INDONESIA

Third Habitat III Preparatory Committee Meeting, July

ABUJA, NIGERIA

Habitat III Africa Regional Meeting, February

NAIROBI, KENYA

Urbanization and Street Vendors conference, November
Nairobi Placemaking Week, December
Virtual Expert Group Meeting on the methodology for monitoring the implementation of SDG 11.7 , December

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Habitat III Africa Regional Meeting, February

Praha Prague)

Wuhan

Abuja

Surabaya
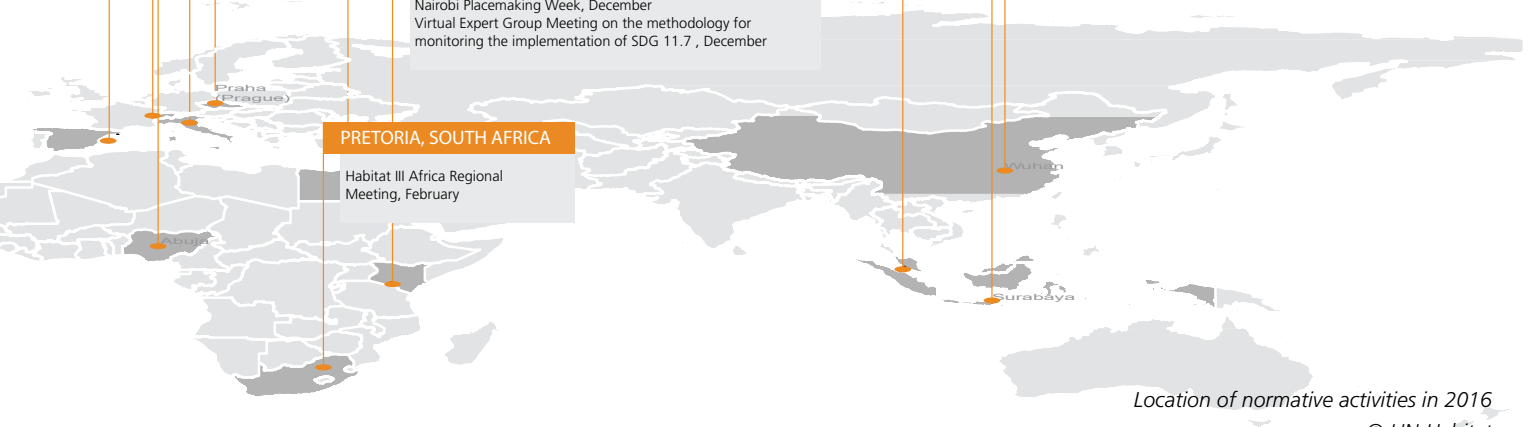
Location of normative activities in 2016
© UN-Habitat

The New Urban Agenda

An important focus of 2016 was the Habitat III process which resulted in the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito in October. The Public Space Programme was active and involved in a range of activities related to this, including:

1. Producing the Habitat Public Space Issue paper, summary document, highlighting trends, knowledge, partnerships, policy and key drivers for action.
2. Contributing to the policy units which conducted research and analysis on the issue of spatial planning where public space was a component; identified good practice and lessons learned; and developed policy recommendations on public space.
3. Drafting papers and lobbying with partners and governments to include public space in the New Urban Agenda.
4. Ensuring that public space events are held at the thematic and regional consultations contributing to the New Urban Agenda.
5. Organizing a special session on public space during Habitat 3.

The New Urban Agenda includes several references to the importance of promoting socially inclusive, integrated, connected, accessible, gender-responsive, environmentally sustainable and safe public spaces. Public space can lead the implementation of the new urban agenda and urban growth. Public space offers an integrated and holistic approach to sustainable urban development. In the New Urban Agenda, governments have committed to:

1. Promoting safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and quality public spaces.
2. Facilitating social mix with access to public spaces for all.
3. Providing well-designed network of safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces and streets, free from violence, promoting walkability and improving health.
4. Increasing the allocation of financial and human resources to ensure that slums are integrated into the cities and...include access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces.

Dr. Joan Clos giving a speech during the Habitat III Conference closing plenary
© Habitat III

Development of SDG indicators on public space

The adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and particularly Goal 11 and target 7 with the ambition to: "by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities", provides significant recognition of the importance of public space in sustainable development. Until 2030, all countries in the world will be required to take public space into consideration by developing legislation, policy, norms and practices, towards a holistic and integrated approach to the planning, design, development, creation, protection and management of public space.

This year UN-Habitat has focused on establishing the indicators to monitor the implementation of the indicators for the public space target, SDG 11.7.1,

"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".

An initial virtual Expert Group Meeting (EGM) took place in December 2016 in order to gather key partners to begin to discuss the proposed indicator and work to further develop the metadata. This EGM aimed to concretize the institutional partnership of organizations and individuals involved in the development of the metadata and methodology for this indicator.

The city-wide public space inventory and assessment of Nairobi has been finalized and the tool is now also being adapted and assessments being conducted in Kisumu, Kigali Bamenda and Addis Ababa. The results of the Nairobi assessment was presented and validated at a workshop which took place in March 2016, inviting key stakeholders and community members to provide feedback on the results. From the inventory and assessment recommendations are now contributing to the development of a city-wide strategy for public space which will spearhead the implementation of the Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Plan (NIUPLAN).

City at Eye Level

The Public Space Programme contributed with examples and case studies from the developing country cities to the *City at Eye Level* publication developed by STIPO in the Netherlands. The publication helps create great streets, places where you intuitively want to stay longer, human scale interaction between buildings and streets, ownership by users, placemaking and good plinths (active ground floors) and a people-centred approach based on the user's experience.

Adoption of the sustainable development goals with a specific indicator on public space
© UN-Habitat

Selected events from 2016

Habitat III and regional meetings

The Public Space Programme has been engaged in the Habitat 3 process leading up to the conference in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016. This included lobbying governments and key partners in ensuring that public space was included in the New Urban Agenda as well as organizing events and discussions at all regional and thematic meetings organized in preparation for Habitat III: the Africa regional meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, the Latin America regional meeting in Toluca, Mexico the informal settlements thematic meeting in Pretoria, South Africa and the Second Preparatory Committee meeting in Surabaya, Indonesia. A thematic event on public space was held in Barcelona, Spain in April 2016, which resulted in the Barcelona Declaration that also contributed to the discourse and content of the New Urban Agenda. The declaration can be accessed at *https://habitat3.org/ documents*. Habitat III is covered in more detail in Chapter 4 of this report.

The Bellagio Accord

In Africa, streets and public spaces are used for public life, commerce and interaction. However, lack of funds, planning, and maintenance, as well as priority for motorized vehicles, has turned them into unsafe, unforgiving and unconnected places that are difficult to access. In June 2016 a group of researchers, policy makers and civil society met at the Bellagio Centre in Italy to generate innovative strategies for providing public spaces in African cities and begin preparing a roadmap for how to address streets and public spaces as an essential service. During Habitat III in Quito the Bellagio Accord on Public Spaces was launched: *http://healthbridge.ca/images/uploads/library/Bellagio_ Accord_Final_reduced.pdf*

Tech4Dev

In May, UN-Habitat presented the Block by Block approach to public space co-creation at the Tech4Dev conference organised by UNESCO in Lausanne, Switzerland. Conference participants were given the opportunity to explore Minecraft models, test the building process and contribute critical thoughts to the process.

Public space and Urban and Territorial Planning

In collaboration with the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit and the Regional Office in Asia Pacific the Public Space Programme organised a workshop in Wuhan, China, exploring how the International Guidelines on Urban Territorial Planning can be used as a tool for securing adequate public space in national and sub-national policies and strategies. A demonstration project in Donghu Lake park in Wuhan will be scaled-up and is contributing to the development of a national public space programme in China.

Creating Safe, Inclusive, and Accessible Public Spaces for All

A training workshop on Creating Safe, Inclusive, and Accessible Public Spaces for All was jointly organized by the city of Kuala Lumpur, CITYNET and UN-Habitat at The Kuala Lumpur Regional Training Center (KLRTC) in August 2016. The training workshop brought together 30 participants from 10 cities all over the Asia Pacific region.

Vancouver Placemaking Week

In September 2016, UN-Habitat joined the Project for Public Space, Future of Places and other key partners at the placemaking week in Vancouver Canada. The Placemaking leadership forum gathered 500 "change agents" for a series of tours, workshops, talks and side events and to map the future of the placemaking movement and contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, putting theory into practice through placemaking and place-led development. One day was dedicated to the Future of Places Summit, which was the culmination of the Future of Places conference series.

EGM on Public Space in the Arab States

In September 2016, an Expert Group Meeting on Public Space in the Arab States was held in partnership with UN Women in Cairo, Egypt. The EGM was a starting point for the establishment of a joint UN-Habitat and UN Women Regional Programme on Public Space in the Arab Region. It brought together academics, experts, and social development and urban practitioners from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Tunisia in order to develop a shared definition of public space for the region and layout the conceptual basis for a regional programme that responds to the challenges and priority issues regarding equitable and safe access to the public space in the Arab States.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Summit

Once every three years, local and regional leaders come together for the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and UCLG Congress. The 2016 edition was held in Bogotá, Colombia from 12-15 October. The Summit saw the launch of the Public Space Policy Framework by and for Local Governments. A training event on public space was coordinated by the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning and supported by UN-Habitat. The Public Space Programme also joined DADEP from Bogota and facilitated a working group during the Bogota 2nd International Workshop "Streets on 2050" with the aim to develop guidelines on the elements and activities that will be part of the public space programme in the future.

Cuenca Improvement Plan

A capacity building workshop for local officials in Cuenca, Ecuador, was held on 14-16 September 2016. International experts provided information about innovative practices on slum upgrading, urban planning, legal instruments and public spaces. The public space programme also participated at a conference organized by the Cuenca local government through the "Fundación el Barranco" on 18-19 October 2016. The New Urban Agenda was one of the central topics discussed during the conference gathering experts from different Latin American countries

Sweden@Kenya

A public space workshop was held in Nairobi as part of the Sweden@Kenya cultural exchange week, organised by the Swedish Institute and the Swedish Embassy of Nairobi. Creative experts from Sweden and Kenya discussed the future of public space in Nairobi and came up with ideas for public space improvement works.

Street Vending and Urbanization

UN-Habitat participated and presented experiences from Cairo and Durban at the International Conference on Street Vending and Urbanization organized by organized by the French Research Institute for Africa (IFRA). The conference brought together academics from multiple disciplines, approaches and regions, with an aim to address informal vending as an individual and a collective resource. The recommendations from the research and conference were presented to the City County of Nairobi.

Launch of the Journal of Public Space

UN-Habitat has partnered with City Space Architecture and the Queensland University of Technology, in developing the first "Journal of Public Space" which was launched at Habitat III in Quito. It is a dedicated open access journal leading on the current discourse on public space, providing a platform for researchers, showcasing promising practices and informing discussion about issue related to public space. It speaks different languages and is open to embrace diversity, inconvenient dialogue and untold stories, from multidisciplinary fields and all countries, especially from those that usually do not have voice, overcoming the Western-oriented approach that is leading the current discourse. The Journal has already attracted a number of international distinguished scholars all over the world, whose aim is to contribute to the discussion and expand current scholarship on public space. The Journal is available on *https://journalpublicspace.org*

06

Operational Activities

The completed Lotus Garden in Mumbai, India
© UN-Habitat

United States of America

Mexico

Haiti

Columbia

Peru

Argentina

Nigeri

Can

Global Programme on Public Space demonstration projects

Africa

	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	COMPLETED PROJECTS
Kenya:	4	2
South Africa:	1	0
Madagascar	1	0
Nigeria:	1	0
Cameroon:	1	0
Somalia:	1	0

23 %
Complete
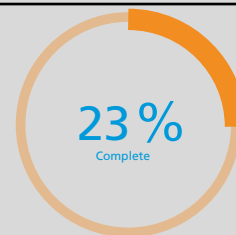
Asia and the Pacific

	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	COMPLETED PROJECTS
Philippines	1	0
Nepal	3	1
Solomon Island	1	0
Bangladesh:	1	0
Indonesia:	4	2
India:	3	1

30 %
Complete

Kosovo

Lebanon
Palestine

Nepal

Bangladesh

India

Philippines

Somalia

Kenya

Indonesia

Solomon Islands

heroon

Madagascar

South Africa

Location of demonstration the Global Proogramme on Public Space projects
© UN-Habitat

Latin America and the Caribbean

	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	COMPLETED PROJECTS	
Argentina:	1	1	
Peru:	2	1	
Colombia:	1	1	56% Complete
Mexico:	2	0	
Haiti:	3	2	

Arab States

	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	COMPLETED PROJECTS	
Palestine:	1	0	0% Complete
Lebanon:	1	0	

Europe and North America

	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	COMPLETED PROJECTS	
Kosovo:	2	0	0% Complete
USA:	1	0	

Public space demonstration projects

01	**02**	**03**	**04**
SITE IDENTIFICATION	**OWNERSHIP RIGHTS**	**PROJECT OWNERSHIP**	**COMMITMENT**
Suitable public space pilot sites have been identified by the local government	Ownership and rights over the proposed site is clear	The local authority or relevant government agency is the project owner and cooperation partner of UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat can provide financing resources for technical services and one or two pilot/demonstration projects, but the government/local authority counterpart has to be committed to deliver other public space sites as a means of scaling up

An important part of the Global Programme on Public Space is the implementation of public space demonstration projects, with a focus on cities in developing countries with large informal settlements. The Programme mainly works in collaboration with local governments, as the responsible bodies for the construction, management and protection of public spaces. The intention is to improve public space across the whole city and to raise the capacity of local institutions and communities to implement public space projects and work towards UN-Habitat's target of 50% of cities' surface area being dedicated to public space.

The following criteria are considered before starting any project:

1. Suitable public space pilot sites have been identified by the local government;

2. Ownership and rights over the proposed site is clear;

3. The local authority or relevant government agency is the project owner and cooperation partner of UN-Habitat;

4. UN-Habitat can provide financing resources for technical services and one or two pilot/demonstration projects, but the government/local au-

thority counterpart has to be committed to deliver other public space sites as a means of scaling up;

5. The public space project has to take a city-wide approach and have a city-wide impact, for example through a policy or strategy input; technical inputs to the master or structural plan for the city; through production of public space design, planning, implementation and management guidelines; through capacity building of local institutions.

6. The opportunity to consolidate with a recent or ongoing UN-Habitat programme in the same city will be prioritized as a means for ensuring city-wide impact;

7. UN-Habitat uses participatory approaches and relevant capacity building activities, which includes utilizing collaborative tools for participatory planning and design of public spaces (for example, Minecraft), taking the opportunity to collaborate with various stakeholders.

05

CITY-WIDE STRATEGY

The public space project has to take a city-wide approach and have a city-wide impact

06

CITY-WIDE IMPACT

The opportunity to consolidate with a recent or ongoing UN-Habitat programme in the same city will be prioritized as a means for ensuring city-wide impact

07

CAPACITY BUILDING

UN-Habitat uses participatory approaches and relevant capacity building activities, which includes utilizing collaborative tools for participatory planning and design of public spaces with various stakeholders.

CRITERIA BEFORE STARTING ANY PROJECT

Stakeholder Charrette, 2015
© UN-Habitat /Rogier van den Berg

Nairobi CBD Kenya
© UN-Habitat /Julius Mwelu

AFRICA

Location of demonstration projects in Africa
© UN-Habitat

Nigeria
Cameroon
Somalia
Kenya
Madagascar
South Africa

2
Number of completed projects

7
Number of ongoing projects

9
Number of projects
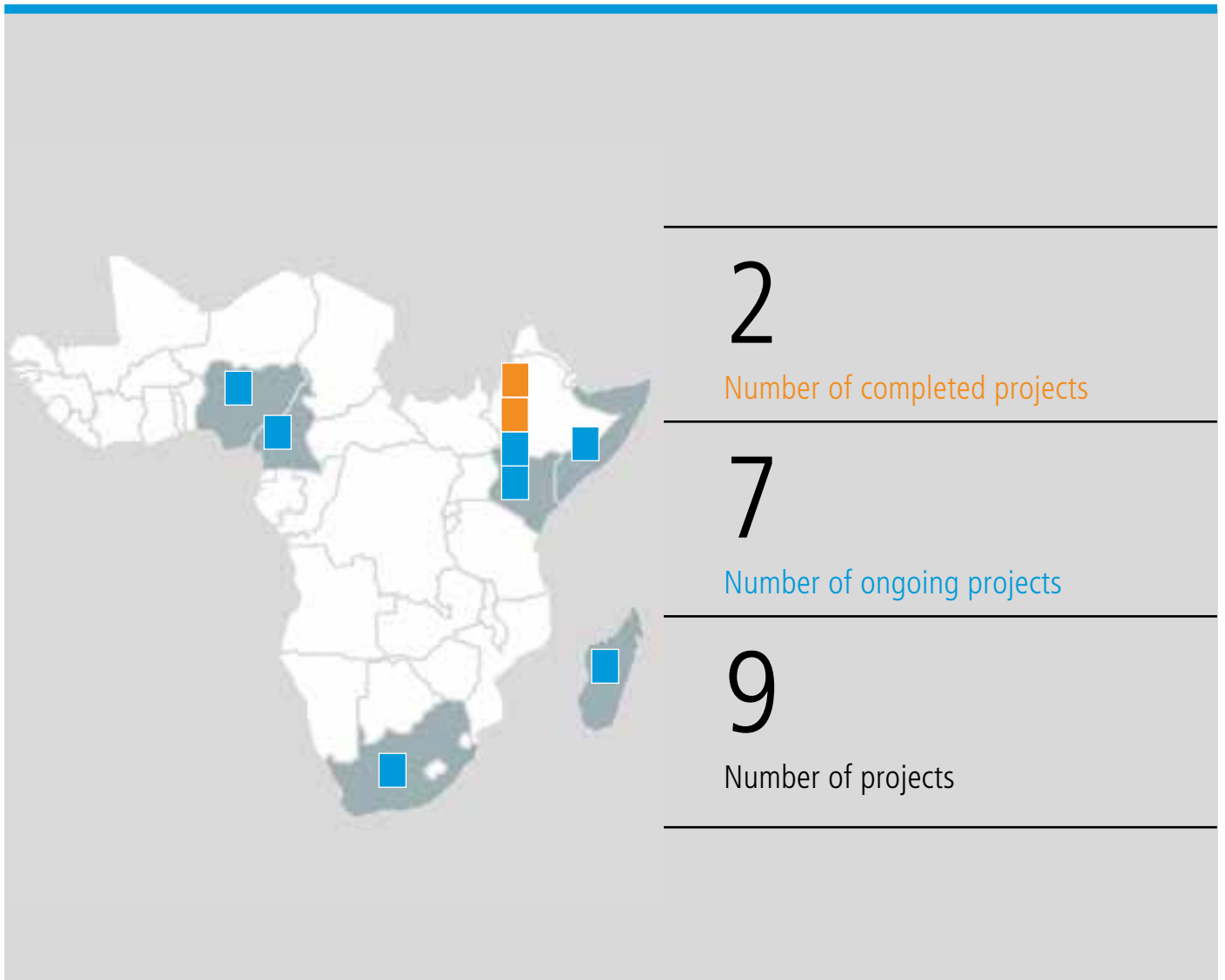
■ Jeevanjee Gardens and Silanga Community Complex, Nairobi, Kenya

Nairobi is the first partner city of the Global Public Space Programme. Starting in 2012, UN-Habitat and Nairobi City Council agreed to develop a city-wide public space strategy, provide capacity building for both City Council staff and civil society partners, and to do at least two pilot project sites in order to demonstrate participatory and integrated public space development approaches. By February 2013, two public space sites had been selected. Jeevanjee Gardens, which is the only green space in the Central Business District of Nairobi and Silanga, a multi-purpose complex in Kibera, Nairobi's largest slum. A series of participatory design workshops with City Council staff and local communities were held. Minecraft was tested as a community participation tool for the first time in February 2013.

The first phase of upgrading Jeevanjee Gardens has been completed. New pathways, street furniture, waste bins and entrances. have been put in place and the Planning Department of the City County has requested the allocation of additional resources in the municipal budget for the garden. In Silanga, Kibera, the issue of land ownership stalled the proposed public space intervention. A local partner, an NGO that holds the rights to run the school and building facilities adjacent to the project site was supportive of the upgrading of the Silanga site, but were not amendable to allow joint management with the community. The issue is still waiting to be resolved. In the meantime, UN-Habitat has decided to withhold the funds intended for project implementation until the legal instrument governing actions of the parties on the ground is established.

Despite the challenges, the project has had some significant successes. Through the long engagement with the Nairobi City County leadership, the County has embraced public space as an important political agenda. For example, it has approved the establishment of an Office for Urban Safety and Public Space within the Department of Urban Planning and committed to the upgrading and revitalization of 60 public spaces in the city. As a first step in this regard, UN-Habitat has worked with the city to conduct a city-wide open public space inventory looking at location and distribution, quantity, accessibility, quality and safety of public spaces. The results of the inventory will lay the foundation for the development of the city-wide strategy on public space.

Placemaking week in the completed Jeevanjee Gardens, Nairobi, Kenya
© UN-Habitat

Placemaking week in the completed Jeevanjee Gardens, Nairobi, Kenya
© UN-Habitat

Model street, Dandora, Nairobi, Kenya

Dandora is a low-income residential neighbourhood in Nairobi. This initially well-planned neighborhood has gradually degenerated to almost slum status and is infamously known for its high rate of crime and as the location of the largest dump site in East Africa.

In October 2015, UN-Habitat and the 'Making Cities Together' project team, led by Placemakers in collaboration with KUWA and Dandora Transformation League (DTL), teamed up to revitalize Dandora's public spaces, initially focusing on the implementation of a 'model street'. The street was selected as an essential part of the 'Must Seed' strategy, a step by step process of making small interventions that can have large impact in the community.

This strategy was first used to upgrade 33 court yards through the initial construction of a 'model court' and engaging youth groups through a competition.

The model street is in Dandora Phase 2 and has four entrances to the street block. In October 2015, a participatory design process involving Minecraft and participants from Dandora Phase 2 was carried out. Based on the proposals from the community, a detailed design was developed for costing and construction and presented to the community for their inputs and comments. The street has been upgraded, the ditches have been cleared, a tree-planting strategy developed and completed in August 2016 and the next steps is to finalise the gateways.

Dandora model street before intervention
© UN-Habitat

Design of the Dandora model street built in Minecraft
© UN-Habitat

Children skating in the completed Dandora model street
© Making Cities Together

Industrial Area revitalization, Nairobi, Kenya

Over the last few years the Industrial Area of Nairobi has seen major changes. There has been a tendency for light industry to move out and to be replaced by recreational, shopping, leisure and office enterprises, presenting an opportunity for redevelopment of the area. UN-Habitat, its local partner the GoDown Arts Centre and urban planners White Architects see a possibility to create a more sustainable development of the area which takes into consideration public space and participatory people-centered design. Participatory urban design and planning is a new way of working in the City of Nairobi.

During the current stage of this project, UN-Habitat and the implementing partners have produced an integrated development plan for the industrial area which includes potential and new public spaces for development. The plan has strongly emphasised strengthening the connectivity between the central business district and the industrial area and ensuring that Nairobians can move freely in-between. Investment proposals to facilitate public-private partnerships for development of the area are being prepared. The activities have engaged diverse stakeholders in meaningful discussions around railway development, stakeholder collaboration and mobilization of Nairobi residents which have resulted in public space identity based culture and heritage festivals. The dialogues and exchanges have facilitated a close co-operation with the Kenya Railway Authority and the City County of Nairobi

Nai Ni Who? Festival
© UN-habitat

Human chess at the GoDown Arts Centre
© UN-habitat

Pedestrianisation project, Ruiru, Kenya

Ruiru, one of the fast-growing towns in the Metropolitan Region of Nairobi, is facing challenges related to rapid urbanisation. Public spaces and transport systems are under pressure from increasing population and private cars have determined how the town has developed. Traffic inefficiencies and underused public spaces are common. Along Ruiru Road (a major road passing through the city center), there are no safe non-motorized transport facilities. People are walking randomly on the side of the road - fighting for space with motorists, parked vehicles, car workshops and street vendors.

Working with the Ruiru County Government and the Institute for Transport and Development Policy, UN-Habitat is reclaiming space for pedestrians by redesigning streets, intersections and parking spaces in central Ruiru. A series of design workshops held in 2016 have developed proposals on the transformation of two streets into pedestrianized zones. Designs propose removing cars to allow the appropriation of the streets by pedestrians, a larger green canopy, designated spaces for street vendors, well-designed pavements to create a signature look for the street, as well as street furniture. The designs are currently being revised by key officials while investments required for the transformation are being sourced by the local government through an on-going World Bank supported project.

A street in Ruiru before design proposal
© UN-habitat

Proposed street design in Ruiru
© UN-habitat

Preparanda Square, Lokoja, Nigeria

In 2014, upon the request of the State Government, UN-Habitat selected Preparanda Square, in Lokoja for public space upgrading. Preparanda Square is a recreational park with a protective fence, two gates, a restaurant, children's playground and a sculpture of a fisherman in a canoe. Over time, the park has become dilapidated; it was used as a temporary centre for street traders to prevent further misuse, but the street traders have now been moved out in preparation for the implementation of the site designs.

A participatory planning and design workshop using Minecraft, was held in Lokoja in August 2014. In 2015, the designs of the square were finalised and it was decided that the up-grading and revitalisation project should focus on four main topics: improving access to public space and quality urban life, securing the recreational aspect of the facilities and providing a space for youth to meet and engage whilst also creating job opportunities through public space rehabilitation. The proposed site changes included converting the restaurant into a youth centre, creating a children's play area, vending stalls, food court, exhibitions space, an area for playing traditional Nigerian games and an amphitheatre.

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The proposed site changes included converting the restaurant into a youth centre, creating a children's play area, vending stalls, food court, exhibitions space, an area for playing traditional Nigerian games and an amphitheatre. The final design of the center has been completed by the consultant architect and the next stage of implementation is the construction of the first phase.

Preparanda Square, Lokoja
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Picture of the proposed design-Preparanda Square Lokoja
© UN-habitat

■ End Street North Park, Johannesburg, South Africa

Since the end of the apartheid regime in 1994, the Inner City of Johannesburg has undergone tremendous rates of transformation. Despite the image of being one of the most segregated and fragmented cities, Johannesburg has a rich legacy of parks and public spaces in the city and its various neighbourhoods, but many are dilapidated, unsafe and poorly maintained. End Street North Park is part of a system of parks located in the Inner City. It has many challenges such as homelessness, illegal dumping, poorly maintained play equipment, prostitution, high levels of crime including armed robbery of pedestrians and other anti-social behaviour.

A participatory design workshop using Minecraft was held in December 2015 as part of a longer term process to recover the public space that involves various government institutions led by the Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo Department. The workshop highlighted a series of necessary interventions, including upgrading of street furniture, toilets, playgrounds and sports equipment. The design process includes a series of community participation events to engage the local population on the design and maintenance of the public space

The contributions of the multiple city stakeholder departments will also continue to feed into the implementation of the park upgrade, particularly in implementing the post-handover (collaborative) management structure, between various city departments and the community that has been proposed for the park. The project team will continue to engage other relevant government stakeholders to feed into the

implementation of the physical upgrade and management of the park. This also includes continued support to the community in using and conducting activities in the park, to ensure that the park continues to be an actively used and liveable space in the Doornfontein area.

Whilst the park's upgrade and management model is hoped to considerably improve the neighbourhood and its public spaces, there are various challenges that come to the fore when engaging with park users and surrounding communities. These challenges include, amongst others: conflicting views/desires regarding the park; limited cooperation from communities and city stakeholers; and limited funds/resources for implementation of all desired facilities in park.

The task of park design and management is a difficult one to carry out in the inner-city of Johannesburg. It has become clear that to plan and implement the recommended participation processes for inner-city park improvements will require increased resources within JCPZ and all the stakeholders involved in the design and management of the park. Though the availability of these resources is scarce it is beneficial to invest in the collaborative park design or upgrade process, as it creates a sense of ownership amongst park users, reducing vandalism, theft and other illicit activities in the park.

Minecraft participatory design workshop in Johannesburg
© UN-habitat

End Street North Park
© UN-habitat

■ Parkway Manakarois, Manakara, Madagascar

Located on the southeast coast of Madagascar, Manakara is a town of 37,000 inhabitants which houses all major regional administrative buildings for the region. The decline in world coffee prices in the 1980s had a negative effect on the city and eventually led to the closure of the port. Public spaces are now poorly managed and maintained and not accessible to all. Many are used for commercial purposes. In addition, they are insufficient in number and in terms of spatial distributions, and no longer meet the needs of city dwellers. The sidewalks are invaded by informal traders. Enclosed public spaces are dilapidated and abandoned. The coastline (the beach) is strongly affected by climate change. The streets are covered with potholes.

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Urban Commune of Manakara and other partners, is creating a public space "Parkway Manakarois" along the public beach, developing the waterfront into a recreational public space which is accessible to everyone and contributes to improving the living conditions of local people. A Block by Block community participation workshop with around 40 Manakara residents was held in July 2016. Architectural designs for the work are being developed, and work expected to start after the monsoon season is over.

Site visit of the parkway along the beach in Manakara
© UN-habitat

■ Public space planning, Bamenda, Cameroon

Bamenda is the capital of the Northern West region of Cameroon and the country's third largest city, with a current estimated population of 500,000. The city is expected to grow to about 2.1 million inhabitants in the next ten years. In August 2016, UN-Habitat and Bamenda City Council, launched the Bamenda Public Space and Marketplace Programme, which will improve public spaces and marketplaces in Bamenda over the coming years.

The Programme started with a two-day training workshop in which residents, students and local government officials learnt how to use UN-Habitat's public space assessment tool. Using this tool, participants then mapped out 86 public spaces and market places in the city, including developing profiles, including location, use and quality, for each space. One public space, the Botanical Gardens has been selected for upgrading in 2017 and the Minecraft participatory design workshop is planned for February 2017 after having secured the land ownership.

Students undertaking a field survey in Bamenda, Camerron
© UN-habitat

■ Sinay Market, Mogadishu, Somalia

Following 20 years of civil war, much of Mogadishu's economic infrastructure has been either destroyed or severely damaged. On top of this physical destruction, rapid urbanisation and displacement have led to the development of multiple and densely populated internally displaced persons' (IDP) camps and informal settlements all over the city. Public space is both limited and contested; land ownership is a controversial issue and continues to hinder the development of basic urban services and infrastructure.

Sinay market is an informal marketplace established on public land during the time of heavy conflict and consists of iron sheet stalls. Access is difficult, hygiene and sanitation poor and security problematic. The Benadir Regional Administration and UN-Habitat have developed a vision for the future, including design proposals for the upgrading of

the market which have been approved by the Mogadishu Municipality Planning Department. In Phase 1 of the renewal project, a market hall was built at the location of a former waste heap. The hall accommodates 58 market stalls and vendors are moving in. The public space next to the market hall is currently being upgraded with the construction of a playground, café and toilet block.

However, the construction has slowed due to insecurity. Four tax collectors were assassinated in the market and conflicts have emerged around the proposed youth centre being constructed in close proximity to the market. Sadly, this led to a young boy being killed when caught in the crossfire during one dispute. Consequently, to understand the challenges and resistance to the project as well as try to build a more trusting relationship between the community and Benadir Regional Authority, UN-Habitat organised a dialogue on conflict dynamics with stakeholders.

The Sinay Market space in Mogadishu
© UN-Habitat

Proposed design of the Sinay market in Minecraft
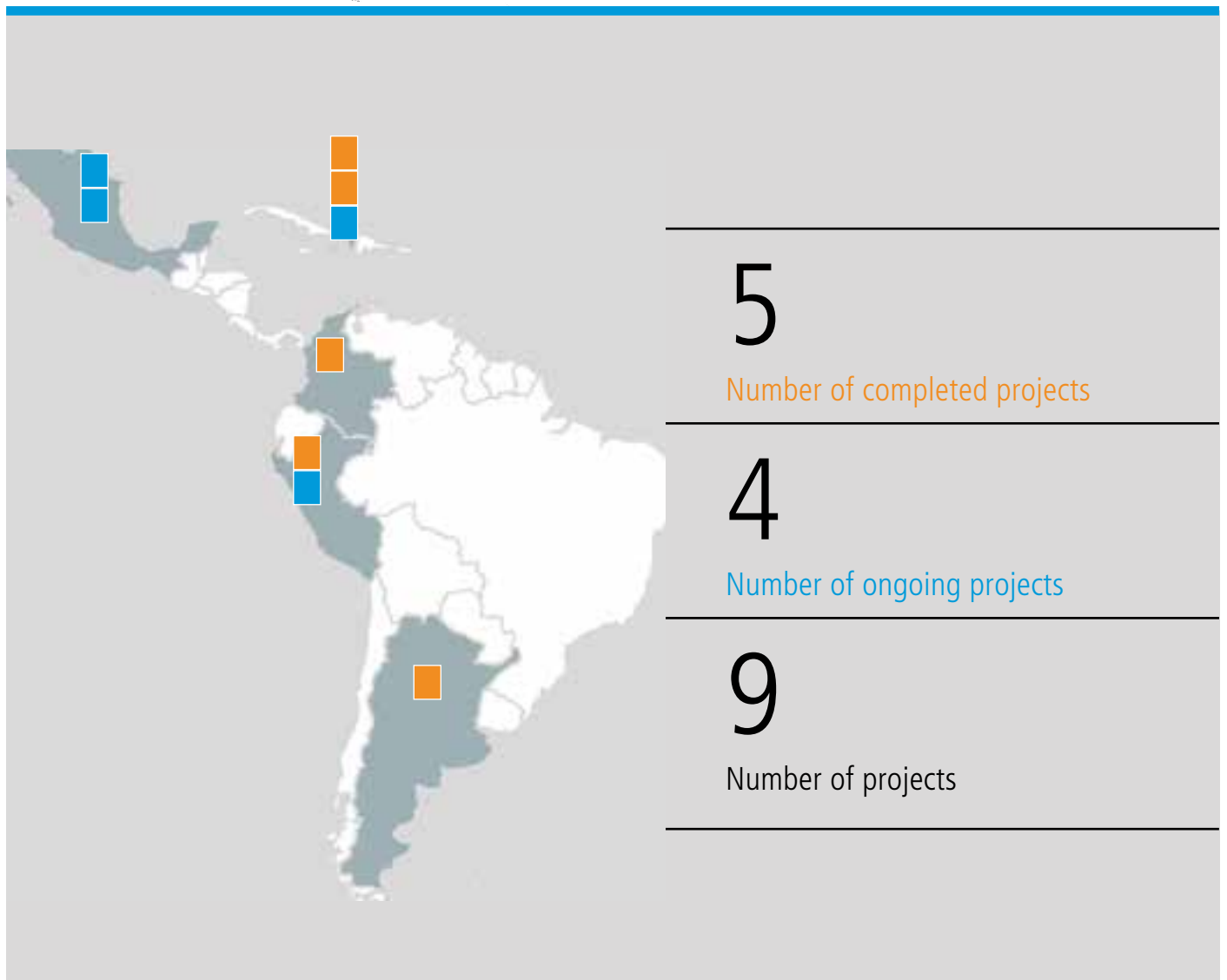*© UN-Habitat*

Birds eye view of Luanda, Angola
© flickr/UltraPanavision

Copacabana beach, Rio de Janeiro
© flickr/ Brian Snelson

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mexico
Haiti
Columbia
Peru
Argentina

Location of demonstration projects in Latin America and the Caribbean
© UN-Habitat

5
Number of completed projects

4
Number of ongoing projects

9
Number of projects

■ Place de la Paix, Les Cayes, Haiti

Urban public space is rare in Haiti. Since the fall of the Duvalier regime in 1986, urban extensions have been unplanned and informal with individuals subdividing land and building houses and other structures, usually without the required basic urban infrastructure and services. This has resulted in numerous densely built, over-populated slum neighbourhoods all around the historic (and mostly well laid-out) city centres. The absence of adequate public urban space has had adverse effects on city dwellers' quality of life in general and their economic and social well-being in particular.

Les Cayes is Haiti's fourth largest city and main urban centre of the southern peninsula. This completed project involved rehabilitating and upgrading Place de la Paix, a play and multi-purpose park located in Tikok, the poorest slum in Les Cayes. The site is also the only existing public space in the area, commonly used by children, youth, and local vendors, as well as for community gatherings. UN-Habitat worked closely with the municipality and community groups that run the place to upgrade the park by adding trees and bins, new light spots, fixing broken play equipment, and constructing a sports pitch as well as improving water and sanitation with drainage and a latrine block.

Place de la Paix park before design implementation
© UN-Habitat

The completed Place de la Paix park
© UN-Habitat

The completed Place de la Paix park
© UN-Habitat

■ Plage la Touterelle, Les Cayes, Haiti

Les Cayes is Haiti's fourth largest city and main urban centre of the southern peninsula. Originally well-planned, many areas of the city near the sea have experienced rapid urban growth and the establishment of informal settlements. These settlements suffer from flooding and poor sanitation as a result of lack of protection from the sea. UN-Habitat is working on a larger proposal to develop the Les Cayes waterfront to protect the city from flooding and provide public spaces for citizens.

Plage la Touterelle forms part of Les Cayes waterfront. A Minecraft participatory design workshop was held in March 2014, engaging the citizens living, particularly young people from the neighbouring informal community. During the workshop participants noted that the area suffers from a lack of sanitary facilities, electricity and lighting, street furniture such as tables and benches, garbage cans, parking and shaded areas. In addition, the construction of beach soccer and volleyball pitches was desired. UN-Habitat and the municipality have protected the beach from erosion with large rocks,developed a small parking area and restored beach front restaurants and kiosks have been restored in partnership with the women who are managing them.

View of the existing shade area and the proposed Minecraft model
© UN-Habitat

A minecraft model of the proposed design of the waterfront in Haiti
© UN-Habitat

A minecraft model of the proposed public space design in Haiti
© UN-Habitat

Rapid placemaking, Medellin, Colombia

In Colombia, UN-Habitat works with Fundacion Avina which supports urban programmes in the Latin American region. During the World Urban Forum in Medellin in 2014, UN-Habitat and Avina organised two activities. The first, a "rapid place-making" activity, was held around the Casa Amarilla community cultural centre in Comuna 2, northwest Medellin. This was a rapid, community-led physical intervention in public spaces to improve the conditions of the nearby streets. The second activity, una celebración a cielo abierto – "an open air celebration" – brought together neighbours and community organizations to redesign and improve the neighbourhood.

The rapid placemaking activities also included a theatre play called Cuando llegamos éramos otros – "When we arrived we were the others". This interactive play was hosted by a community theatre and held in a public street, allowing residents and visitors to interact with local actors and musicians and learn more about the importance of street life and how small interventions can improve its usage by the community. More than 100 people attended. In addition to the creation of cultural spaces, the Comuna 2 neighbourhood was improved through the design and painting of the facades of buildings, new community gardens, and a new open-air theatre stage. Through this work, community organisations imagined how each cultural neighbourhood could relate to garden and street design.

Rapid place-making, Medellin, April 2014
© Casa Amarilla

◼ Avenida Brasil and Scalabrini Ortiz Bridge, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Working with Fundacion Avina, UN-Habitat completed two interventions in Buenos Aires – Avenida Brasil and the Scalabrini Ortiz Bridge. A design workshop with urban experts and community leaders was held to analyse how Avenida Brasil, located in La Boca in central Buenos Aires, could be improved to promote closer interaction between Catalinas Sur, a modest 1960s social housing complex, and Puerto Madero, an affluent new redevelopment of the old Buenos Aires waterfront.

A proposal consisting of a series of interventions was then prepared as part of an academic exercise in urbanism by the Palermo University School of Architecture. The second activity in Buenos Aires was a national "idea contest" for architecture students in Argentina – Un paisaje, una ciudad. It consisted of a series of proposals for an improvement of the public spaces around the Scalabrini Ortiz Bridge, with the proposals exhibited at the opening of the Future of Places conference in September 2014.

◼ Ocupa tu Calle (Take back your street), Lima, Peru

UN-Habitat, Fundación Avina and the urban observatory "Lima Como Vamos" are working to improve public space in Lima through the "Occupa tu Calle" public space micro-intervention programme. 11 parklets, pop up public spaces and street furniture projects have been completed in six districts of Lima. Positive effects have already been shown, for example through increases in the number of pedestrians, increased business sales and strengthening of relations between citizens, the local authority and the private sector.

One of the interventions, a mini pop up park in the Miraflores district, has had such a positive impact on the area that it has been turned into a permanent space. In total, the micro-interventions have been enjoyed by over 100,000 people and have resulted in positive changes in public policies and corporate practices related to public space. For example, San Isidro is the first municipality in Peru to adopt regulations that allow citizens to appropriate unused municipal spaces and turn them into terraces, and the Municipality of San Borja incorporated the implementation of pop-up public spaces into the design of its public spaces and new bicycle lanes.

Public space 'Occupy Your Street' intervention in Lima, Peru
© UN-Habitat

Villa El Salvador, Lima, Peru

In Lima, Peru, UN-Habitat is partnering with Avina to revitalize a public park in the neighbourhood of Villa El Salvador. The park is 7,200 m² and contains facilities such as retaining walls, a sports slab, damaged children´s games and a small chapel. Some recreational, sport, cultural and social activities take place with minimal, limited and inadequate facilities.

A participatory design workshop using Minecraft was held in August 2014. The workshop highlighted a series of interventions necessary, including upgrading of sports facilities, sanitation facilities, community gardens and street lighting. The project involves the community in the design, construction and maintenance of the public space. In 2016, new partners joined the project. A local university, Universidad Científica del Sur, is developing topographical maps and supporting the technical design. GLS through its Corporate Social Responsibility department will provide a water treatment plant to guarantee the maintenance of green areas. One of the community leaders, Lucinda Terrazas, was invited to share her experience of using Minecraft to engage the community in participatory design at Habitat III in Quito.

The public park in Villa El Salvador, Lima
© UN-Habitat

Participatory design workshop in Lima, Peru
© UN-Habitat

Participatory design workshop in Lima, Peru
© UN-Habitat

◼ La Merced, Mexico City

Guided by the framework of Fundación Avina and UN-Habitat, the Comprehensive Network for the Social Inclusion of the Historic Center began a transformative process in the Plaza de la Soledad, a square located within Mexico City's La Merced district. The project improved a public square by repurposing it as a place for social interaction, implementing sociocultural strategies to encourage people to make this space their own. Over 100 women participated in workshops focusing on violence awareness and prevention as well as a range of other subjects, including craft-making, recycling, music, and alternative medicine. More than 120 children took part in workshops aimed at forging a connection with the square as a safe place for social interaction, fostering a cultural, playful, and enjoyable use of the space.

Photo gallery in the " My Multicultural Neighbourhood" public space
© RAIIS

Cultural public space activities in La Merced
© RAIIS

◼ Transport hub, Bon Repos, Haiti

After the earthquake that struckHaiti in 2010, a large number of internally displaced people started to move to Canaan, a barren area located in the northern outskirts of Port-Au-Prince. Canaan has developed informally with almost no infrastructure networks, but now has a population of 200,000 people. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Haiti national reconstruction agency and the Red Cross have developed a plan for the development and upgrading of Canaan. Based on discussions with various stakeholders, a number of 'catalytic projects' were selected.

One such project, a bus station and public market with 15 transport routes and over 200 merchants, in Bon Repos, an area with a strategic location connecting Canaan to the Port-au-Prince, can stimulate economic development for the greater area if developed properly. However, currently, the bus station is chaotic and unorganized, the market is informal and the space suffers from traffic congestion, poor sanitation, flooding and lack of waste collection. In July 2016, UN-Habitat brought together residents, bus drivers and vendors in a Block by Block community workshop to promote social cohesion by enabling participants to agree a common solution for the informal market and bus station. The main design ideas included a waiting area with benches and shades against rain and sun, the removal of vendors on the junction to reduce congestion, road upgrading and the introduction of green spaces.

Block by Block workshop in Canaan, Haiti, July 2016
© UN-Habitat

Construye tu Ciudad, Mexico

In July 2016, UN-Habitat, DigitalCivix, Telmex and Fundación Hogares organized "Construye tu Ciudad", a public space crowdsourcing exercise using Minecraft at Aldea Digital, the world's largest digital inclusion festival, and at 15 other locations throughout Mexico. Over 6,000 youth used Minecraft to redesign Parque "Valle de Puebla", a public space in a derelict housing development owned by INFONAVIT (the National Housing Trust of Mexico) in Mexicali, at the border of Mexico and the USA. A participatory evaluation process selected 999 relevant designs, out of which 217 projects were broadcasted through social media for a popular vote, which together with an evaluation by a technical jury selected the winners of two categories: children, 8 to 12 years old, and teenagers, 13 to 17 years old.

Fundación Hogares is sponsoring the construction of the winning ideas at Parque "Valle de Puebla". For this purpose a participatory design Workshop process to realize the projects and to engage neighbors with a team of urban design professionals in charge of bidding and construction documents.
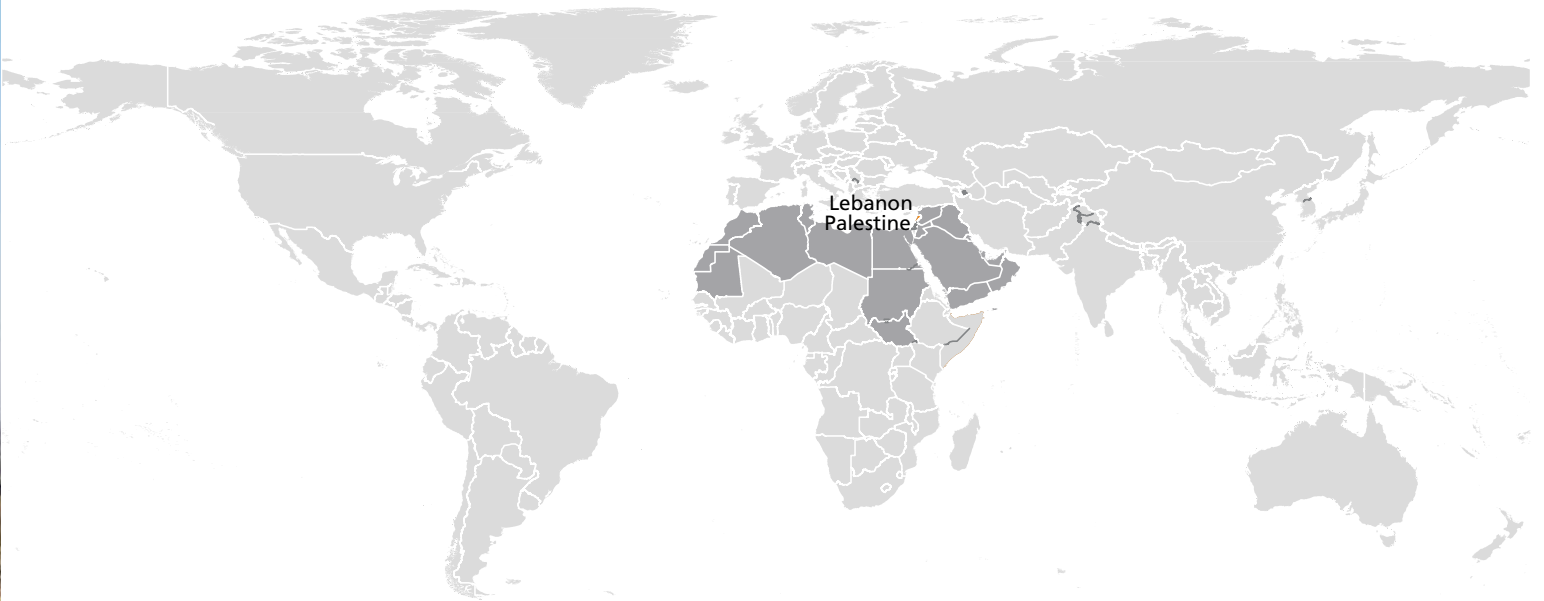

Children designing public space in Minecraft, Aldea Digital 2016
© UN-Habitat

Havan Cuba
© *flickr/Aaron Gedes*

ARAB STATES

Location of demonstration projects in Arab States
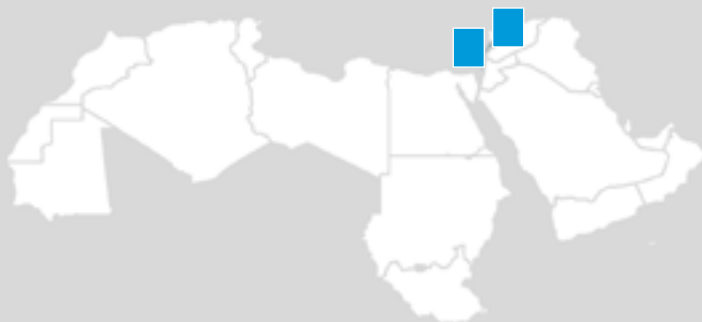*© UN-Habitat*

Lebanon
Palestine

0

Number of completed projects

2

Number of ongoing projects

2

Number of projects

Wadi al Joz, East Jerusalem, Palestine

Since the 1967 occupation of East Jerusalem, Israeli authorities have restricted Palestinian development through general outline plans at neighbourhood level. Currently the Palestinian areas of Jerusalem are characterized by high levels of informality, over-crowding, poor physical infrastructure and lack of public space. There are only nine playgrounds serving more than 370,000 people. A survey by UN-Habitat showed that there are hundreds of spaces in East Jerusalem that have not been developed by the municipality of Jerusalem. Out of these 15 have been identified as high-priority.

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights, Al Enaya Community Center and the Green Mosque Group, selected one of these, a space in Wadi al-Joz, for immediate development into a playground. The development of the space is hoped to have a positive impact on the urban environment and improve the living conditions of the residents, especially children, youth and women. In July 2016, a three-day Block by Block workshop using Minecraft for community participation with around 50 youth was held at the Al Enaya community centre. Youth were divided into teams and built their visions of the public space within the virtual environment of Minecraft. A landscape architect has produced designs which were presented to the community for feedback in August and November 2016.

Naba'a, Beirut, Lebanon

Since its start in 2011, the conflict in Syria has been heavily affecting Lebanon. In 2016 there were around 1 million Syrian refugees in the country, around one fifth of the total population. With 270.000 Palestininan refugees already resident in the country for decades, this has made Lebanon the country with the highest number of refugees per capita in the world. The influx of refugees has added enormous strain on host communities, especially those within urban areas. Clashes and violent actions have been reported, mainly in poor urban neighbourhoods and slums.

Naba'a is a low-income neighbourhood located within the municipality of Bourj Hammoud in eastern Beirut which has been accommodating large numbers of Syrian refugees. Bourj Hammoud has been overloaded with service and maintenance demand due to the increasing number of inhabitants and lacks sufficient public space. According to an assessment, 57% of interviewed women prefer to stay home to avoid sexual harassment. In 2016, UN-Habitat started a community engagement process which included the establishment of a local community committee and meetings with local residents, youth groups, Syrian refugees and people with disabilities. A Block by Block community participation workshop with Lebanese and Syrian residents were held in July. A UN-Habitat Engineer produced technical designs based which were validated by the community and the municipality.

Palestinian youth using Minecraft to design public space in East Jerusalem
© UN-Habitat

Jounieh, Lebanon
© flickr/Paul Saad

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Nepal
Bangladesh
India
Philippines
Indonesia
Solomon Islands
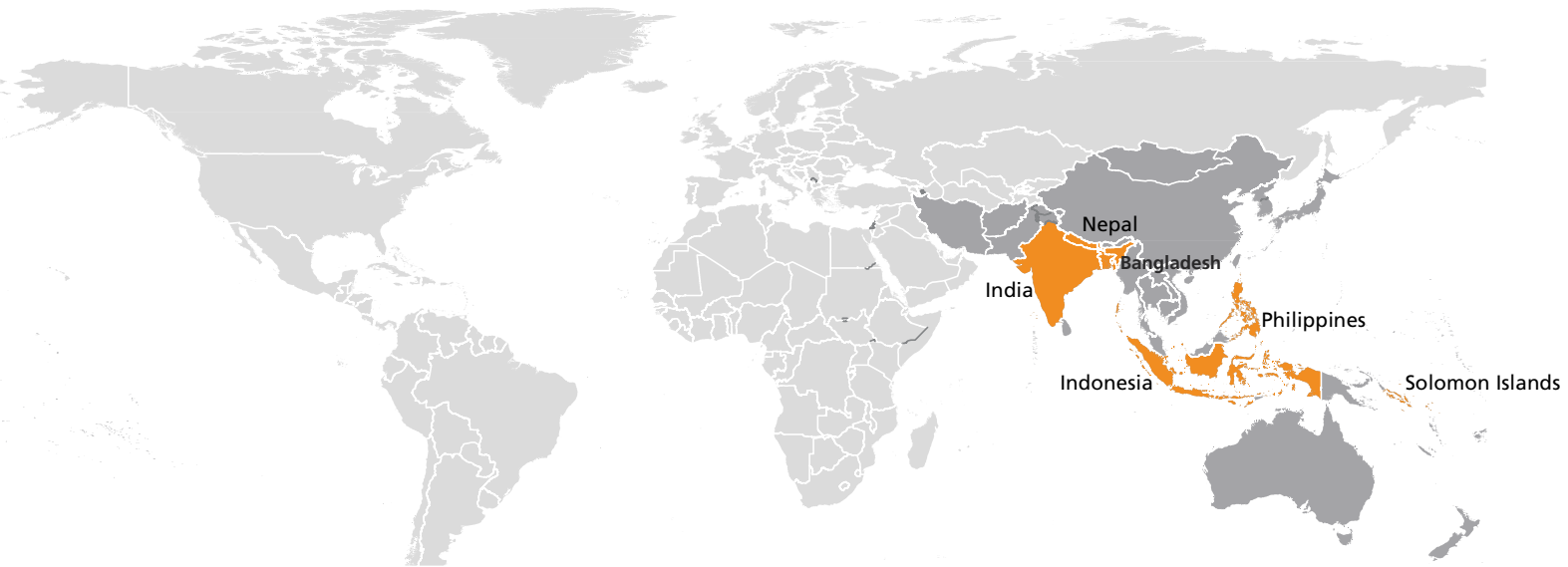
Location of demonstration projects in Asia and the Pacific
© UN-Habitat

4
Number of completed projects

9
Number of ongoing projects

13 Number of projects
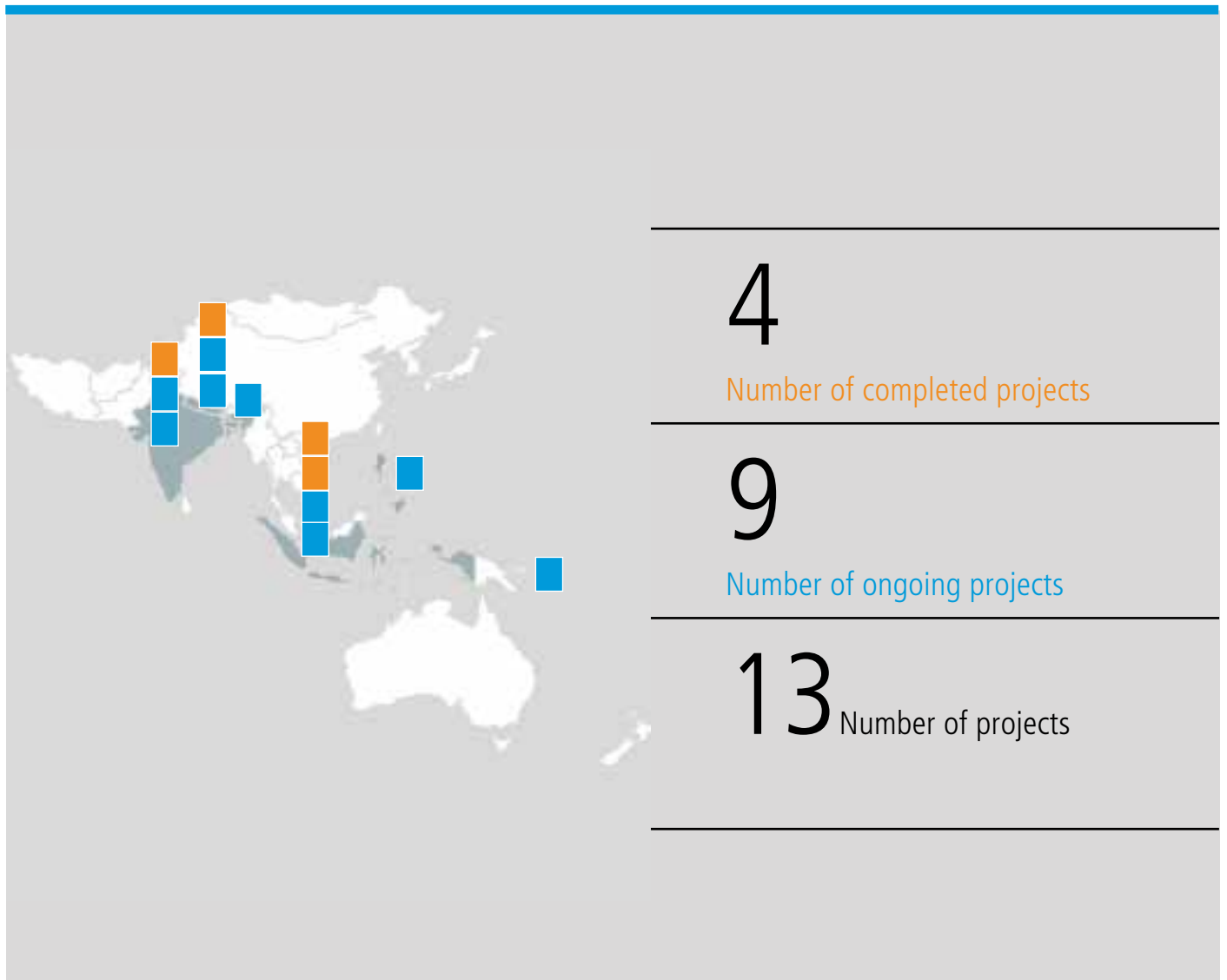
Lotus Garden, Mumbai, India

The condition of public spaces in Mumbai is generally poor, with lack of maintenance and low community engagement. M ward is one of the most neglected and poorest areas of Mumbai. This is a very densely populated area with almost no public spaces. It is located near the city dumping ground and suffers from major solid waste management issues and the few public spaces that exist are abused, not maintained and under constant threat of encroachment. UN-Habitat and its implementing partner, the Mumbai Environmental Social Network (MESN), worked to upgrade Lotus Garden, a playground and garden site which and serves a population of more than 200,000 people. The participatory design phase was conducted during 2013, with the community engaging through public workshops and design charrettes.

The space was completed in 2014 and there is such pressure from the community living around the space that at one time they had to limit the number of people using it. The garden up-grading has included levelling, construction of a walkway, flower beds and seating. Play equipment for children and fitness equipment for adults have also been installed, as well as a water tank with the necessary plumbing and water pump. Painting of all the equipment as well as the fencing of the garden has been completed. There residents demanded a high mast in the garden and hiring of security guards to ensure that the space was adequately lighted, safe and thus accessible to all.

The completed Lotus Graden in Mumbai, India
© UN-Habitat

Lotus Garden before rehabilitation
© UN-Habitat

■ Dey Pukhu, Kirtipur, Nepal

Kirtipur is an old settlement in Kathmandu Valley which has maintained its traditional lifestyle and culture. Kirtipur originally developed excellent systems for water and urban space management. Public water bodies like ponds, stone spouts and wells are surrounded by public spaces used for relaxation, recreation and rituals. However, in the recent past, these spaces have been encroached for inappropriate and inconsistent uses. Thus the space for the elderly to sunbathe, women to socialize, and children to play is shrinking due to the pressures of rapid urbanization.

During 2013 and 2014, UN-Habitat and local implementing partner the Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD), worked to conserve and enhance Dey Pukhu, an important central square and pond in Kirtipur. The project also resulted in the development of a plan for revitalizing Kirtipur's open spaces with the active participation of the municipality and local people. The experience from Dey Pukhu will be utilized in other sites within Kirtipur and the broader Kathmandu Metropolitan area.

The completed Dey Pukhu public space
© UN-Habitat

Dey Pukhu in use during a festival
© UN-Habitat

Gautam Nagar, Mumbai, India

Gautam Nagar is a major Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) colony in North Govandi, Mumbai. Like other R&R colonies, Gautam Nagar houses people who have been displaced by major infrastructure development projects in Mumbai. The open areas between and around the buildings, including the main streets lined with shops, are considered public space and have been earmarked to serve as recreational grounds for the colony. Currently, these serve as household garbage dumps. As a result, the entire Gautam Nagar has a worn out, depressed look, with piles of garbage in the open spaces.

UN-Habitat, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and Mumbai Environmental and Social Network are working together to establish a joint public-private accountability system for management and maintenance of public spaces and public infrastructure in R&R colonies, including Gautam Nagar. A survey was conducted in Gautam Nagar to understand and prioritise the areas to be cleaned. Several community meetings were held to engage the community in the clean-ups. A community participation workshop using Minecraft was held in Gautam Nagar in April 2016. 32 residents participated in the workshop and co-created public space designs that included new street furniture, sports facilities, greenery and playgrounds. Upgrading of the site has started and will be finalised in the first quarter of 2017.

Before an dafter design intervention in Gautam Nagar
© UN-Habitat

Dilapidated public space in Gautam Nagar, Mumbai
© UN-Habitat
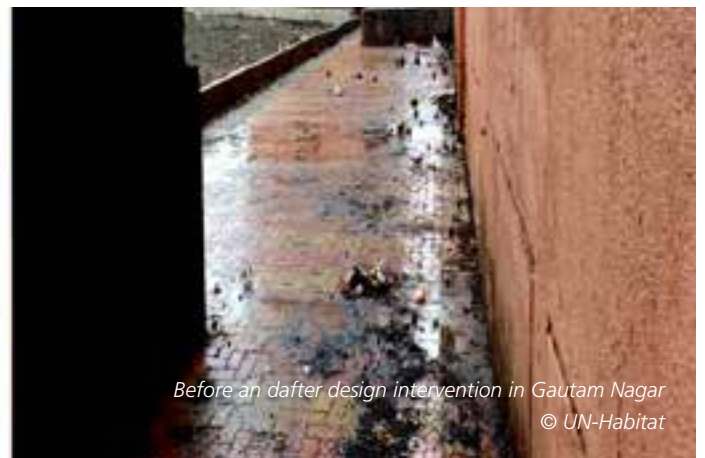
Before an dafter design intervention in Gautam Nagar
© UN-Habitat

Public park, Kirtipur, Nepal

Phase II of the Kirtipur project identified a large green open space which includes a school, a temple and important water points. A Minecraft workshop was held in February 2015 and UN-Habitat was to embark on the up-grading of the site in partnership with the Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD), Kirtipur Municipality and the surrounding community when the devastating earthquake struck on 25 April 2015. Therefore, the project was put on hold until the earthquake recovery was completed.

However, UN-Habitat was able to allocate $50,000 from the public space budget towards the earthquake response, providing 42 emergency water tanks and 150 emergency shelters in the immediate aftermath and then constructing temporary shelters for 600 people in different locations in the Kathmandu Valley. The funds were also able to support the repairing of a secondary school in the Sindhupalchowk district and establish an emergency information centre.

The immediate support was timely and has helped to provide relief to the most affected people in the aftermath earthquake. Based on the foundation laid under this project UN-Habitat was able to bring in additional larger resources from Japan and expand the support.

In June 2016, the public space project in Kirtipur could be restarted through a process of community mobilization, the establishment of a Green Spaces Management Committee and the agreement of new solid waste management procedures. In July, the District Development Committee of Kathmandu gave the go ahead for the project and in November 2016, a social mapping exercise to identify and prioritise implementation work and develop a detailed topographic map was carried out. Final designs and budgets for the implementation work are now being produced. However, further delays may be expected as most of Nepal's architects, planners and engineers are still involved in reconstruction work following the earthquake.

The community park
© UN-Habitat

Community water point
© UN-Habitat

Public space used for social gathering
© UN-Habitat

◼ Multi-purpose space, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, suffers from poor physical planning due to lack of political will, funds and skilled physical planners. The little public space available in this rapidly growing and densifying city is generally in a degraded state as a result of poor maintenance. Working with UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, the selected site is a green area adjacent to the City Council multi-purpose hall. The space has a number of elements which could transform it into a very busy multi-purpose, multi-generation space. It has a large fenced sports field, two netball pitches, the remaining structures of a former playground, the remaining parts of a former swimming pool, a building foundation, a large relaxation area and an unused terrace. The space is currently maintained and managed by Honiara City Council in collaboration with Honiara Youth Council.

In September, 2015 the Honiara City Council invited UN-Habitat to facilitate a participatory Block by Block workshop at Multipurpose Hall, a public space near the Mataniko River in Honiara. The workshop attracted 30 participants from local high schools, nearby residential areas, the city government, and the nearby universities. A model of a multipurpose hall was developed based on the proposals of the workshop's participants. The model was presented to the city authority in the presence of the community people who developed the design. In this design key priorities were identified and incorporated for improvement of the site, including dustbins, toilet facilities, fencing, street lighting, parking facilities and a swimming pool.


Multi-purpose public space in Honiara, Solomon Islands
© UN-Habitat

◼ Solar Park, Khulna, Bangladesh

Khulna is the third largest industrial city of Bangladesh. With the rapid growth of population in the Khulna Metropolis, the importance of outdoor recreational spaces and facilities is becoming more acute. There is an increasing demand for recreation in the city, whilst the neighbourhoods are being built up with a very limited scope for outdoor. The Khulna City Corporation has started several open space and green projects to support the creation of adequate recreational facilities and a better environment for the people of Khulna. However, although there is political will, implementation has been slow to date. This is generally due to lack of awareness among citizens and community organisations of the need for public and open spaces; the scarcity of financial resources; and an inadequate institutional set up in the Khulna City Corporation.

UN-Habitat is collaborating with Khulna University and Khulna City Corporation to work on public spaces in Khulna City, including upgrading the centrally located Solar Park and developing a city-wide public space strategy. As a first step, a facilitated a Block by Block workshop was held in Khulna in March 2015. A participatory model was produced based on the proposals from the community, and approved by the Khulna City Corporation. In September, 2015 a community consultation workshop was conducted to share the final detailed design with all relevant stakeholders for their comments and approval. During the first half of 2016 technical designs were produced by the City Corporation and initial construction work, including installation of street lights, upgrading of toilet facilities, preparation of children's play area and street furniture, started in November 2016. Further construction works will be completed in 2017.
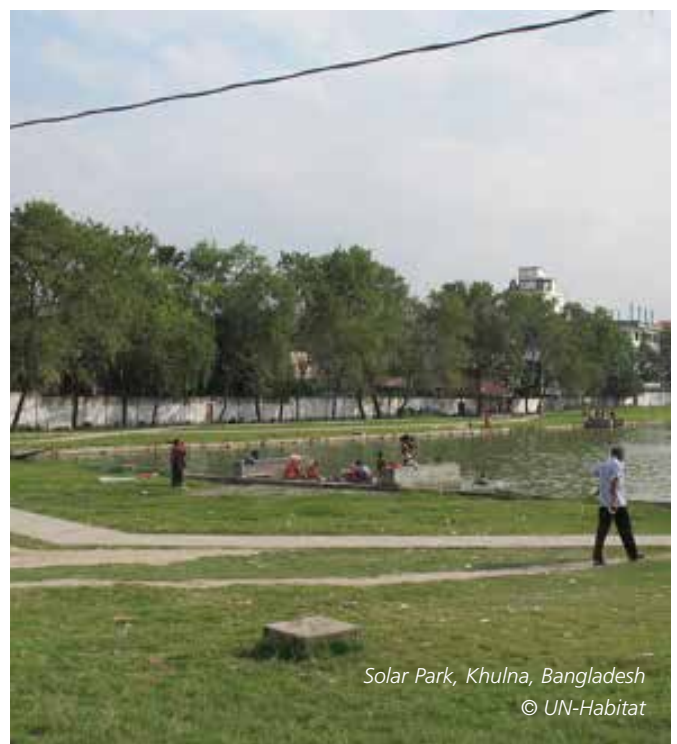
Solar Park, Khulna, Bangladesh
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Pune, India

Pune, the ninth largest city in India, has experienced extremely rapid industrial and economic growth and a large migration-led population increase during the past decade. This has put enormous pressure on basic services such as solid waste collection, water and sanitation. Due to a lack of adequate spaces to carry out their work, waste collectors often sort the waste in public spaces such as streets, sidewalks and squares. This causes the public spaces to be inaccessible, unhygienic or unsafe and contribute s to the waste pickers' negative image in the city.

The Pune Municipal Corporation has provided the informal waste pickers with some sorting spaces, but the management and design of the spaces has been disregarded. For effective use, these spaces should be integrated with the rest of the city but remain accessible and profitable for both waste pickers and other city dwellers. UN-Habitat, together with Pune Municipal Corporation, KKPKP and, Seva Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit (SWaCH), a grassroots waste picker organisation, are in the process of developing high quality public spaces around the waste sorting centres and collection points as well as formalizing procedures for public space maintenance.

The project has several different components including documentation, research, design, construction, stakeholder consultations, legal work and advocacy. An architect has been recruited to design sorting sheds and three different sites have been proposed for implementation. KKPKP have provided inputs to the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) on the draft by-laws for Public Health and Sanitation where the Municipal Corporation will be mandated to establish, operate and maintain sorting sheds across the city and promote handing over of such sorting sheds to waste-pickers. The draft is being translated and thereafter will be placed before the elected house for approval.

On national level, KKPKP/Swach have been instrumental in the drafting to the Government of India's draft Solid Waste Management Rules, and once passed by the Parliament, the rules will be published and become the law governing solid waste management in the country. If the provisions relating to integration of waste-pickers and decentralized dry waste management are accepted by the cabinet and the parliament, every local self-government in India will be required to incorporate material recovery facilities as a part of their formal waste management systems and provide waste-pickers with free and safe access to the same.

Misuse of public space for recycled waste storage, Pune, India
© UN-Habitat

One proposed sorting area design
© UN-Habitat

Public space declaration, Philippines

UN-Habitat invited the Chairman of the League of Cities of the Philippines to the Future of Places Conference in Stockholm and Buenos Aires. As a result, the League submitted a proposal for cooperation with UN-Habitat on public space. The request for partnership resulted in the organisation of a National Public Space in the New Urban Agenda conference in the Philippines which took place on 27-28 February 2015 and included a Minecraft participatory design competition with youth from the 16 cities of Metro-Manila. The conference resulted in a declaration expressing the clear and strong commitment of political leaders of cities in the Philippines to strengthen and champion action on partnerships for green, safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces. The representatives from cities also committed to the establishment of a network of cities in the Philippines working towards good quality public spaces embracing the principles and values related to equity, inclusiveness, partnership, solidarity and sustainable development.

Mayors of Philippines have committed to partnerships for green, safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces
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Public spaces, Surabaya, Indonesia

Surabaya is the second most populated city in Indonesia. Since Ms. Rismawati, Mayor of Surabaya took office, her policy has been to make empty land and open spaces accessible and enjoyed by all. There are still many empty spaces that are not being used to their full potential, particularly in poorer areas with dense population. To affirm its commitment in improving open spaces, Surabaya city has endorsed a Local Regulation (Perda) that stipulates that of the total land area of the city 20% should be allocated to green open space.

This project is being implemented in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments - Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC). Three sites have been selected. The first, in Kedinding is an open space in a medium to high density populated area with housing and small businesses. There is a good social mix with children, elderly people, women and men from all ages that are actively using the space. The land belongs to Surabaya City government with good accessibility. There are small paved roads surrounding the site and it has direct access to the main street. This space was selected for the creation of a recreational area for children and the elderly. A Minecraft participatory design workshop which was conducted in July 2016 and the designs are in the process of being costed.

Minecraft design of the public space site in Kedinding
© UN-Habitat

The second site is a neighbourhood located close to the Kenjeran beach and mainly populated with fisherman. The site is located in a high density area close to the new bridge which connects eastern to northern part of the city and near the tourism area and has a good social mix population. With the growing community of fishermen in the neighbourhood, the need for recreational area for children and other people has increased. An agreement has been signed with the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry has allocated a budget to build a new road which will connect the area to a main street. Aa newly built public space in this area will prove to have a high additional value as it is in line with future plans of national government.

The third site is a community meeting space and small amphitheatre located in Ketandan, a neighbourhood classified as a heritage part of the town. This site is a high density, built up area connected to a main street. The university was engaged to work with the community in finalising the meeting space/amphitheatre and the community was also engaged to paint the walls with mural paintings. The space was launched by Mayor Risma, Ministry of Public Works, UCLG ASPAC and UN-Habitat during the Habitat III PrepCom 2 at the end of July 2016.

The third site is a community meeting in Kedingding
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Sidoarjo, Indonesia

UCLG-ASPAC and UN-Habitat were invited to support the local government of Sidoarjo to provide technical inputs and advice on redesigning a street and intersection, reclaiming the sidewalks for pedestrians which had been taken over by small businesses spilling out onto the pavement and pushing the pedestrians into the busy street. A design for sidewalk has been completed and the underground construction is on-going, while the above ground construction start in December 2016.

The Government of Sijoarjo is interested in using Minecraft as a participatory design tool and to simplify the design proposals and reducing the dependency on foreign experts and to ensure a maximum local participation without language barriers.

Pedestrian street design in Sidoarjo
© UN-Habitat

Pedestrian street design in Sidoarjo
© UN-Habitat

■ Machindra Bahal, Bungamati, Nepal

Bungamati, a city in the Lalitpur District in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal, was massively affected by the 2015 earthquake, with many historical buildings and temples destroyed. UN-Habitat has been working with Karyabinayak Municipality, Bungamati Reconstruction Committee, ARCADIS and KU Leuven to develop a rebuilding plan. An important part of this rebuilding plan is to restore and upgrade public spaces. UN-Habitat, with the Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD), carried out an open public space assessment in Bungamati in early 2016. Based on this assessment, two public spaces, Machindra Bahal and Dey Pukhu, were selected as a as a symbol of important aspects of the city, that can give an entry point into improve the living standard of urban life of Bungamati's residents.

In September 2016, a Block by Block community participation workshop was held with 30 young citizens of Bungamati. Using Minecraft as a tool, they developed a range of public space ideas, including water and sanitation services, green spaces, street lights, sports facilities and waste management. The designs were presented to the older members of the community. UN-Habitat and CIUD are now working to develop final designs that can be used for implementation at the two sites.
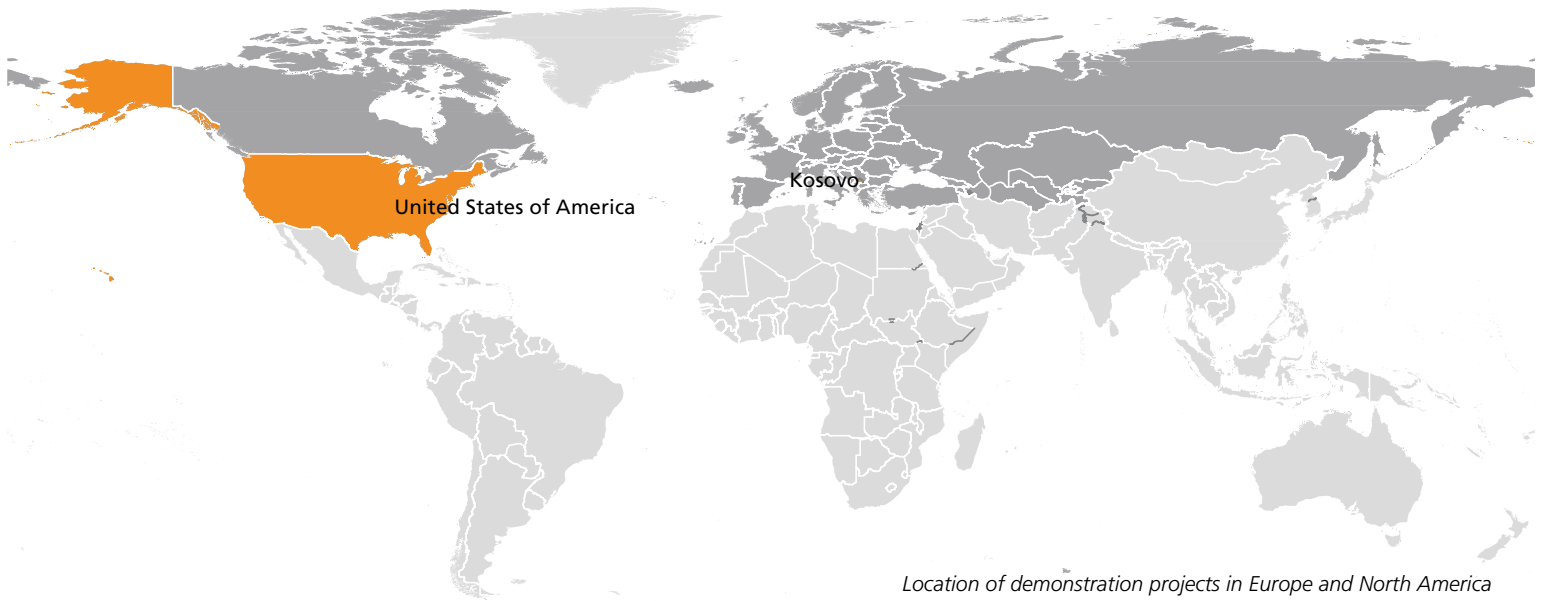

The Machindra Bahal public square in Bungamati
© UN-Habitat

Kathmandu, Nepal
© flickr/ Arka 76

Brigde in Sremska Mitrovica
© *flickr/Thomas Lampert*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

United States of America

Kosovo

Location of demonstration projects in Europe and North America
© UN-Habitat

0
Number of completed projects

3
Number of ongoing projects

3
Number of projects
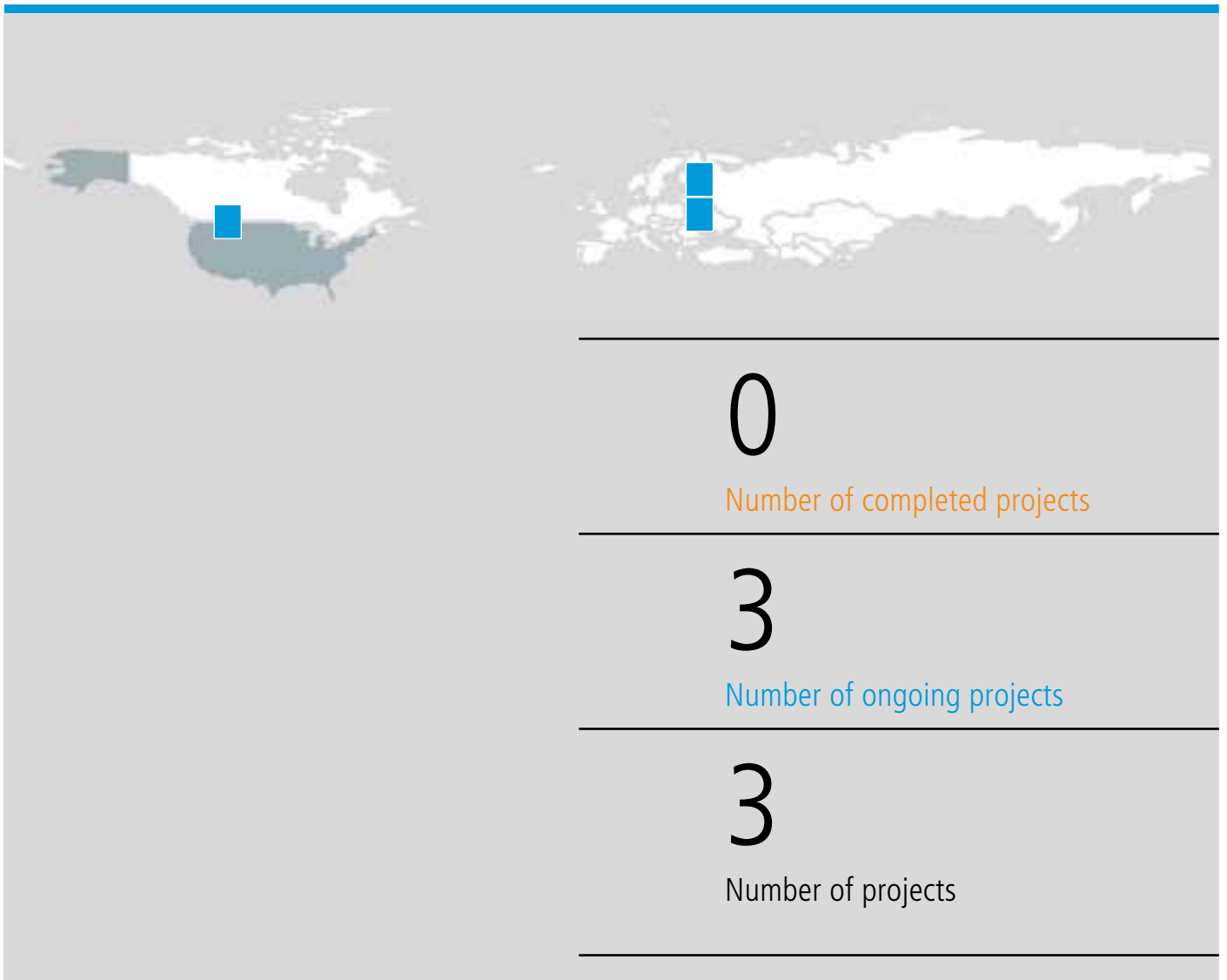
■ Public market, Mitrovica, Kosovo

The bridge over the river in Mitrovica in Northern Kosovo remains a symbol of urban and ethnic division between the Serbian and Albanian communities. The aim of the project is to revitalize the city market neighbourhoods around the bridge, one of few areas in the city where the two communities meet. The project includes an assessment of urban markets as a tool for urban regeneration and social cohesion between the residents of both Mitrovica North and South. A technical exploratory mission was conducted in June 2016 by UN-Habitat and a group of experts from Barcelona Municipal Market Institute and Barcelona City Council, providing preliminary analysis and recommendations for the development of the market area with a focus on enhancement of public space condition and connectivity. The findings show that the two markets have the potential to work in synergy for the benefit further exchange between Albanian, Serbian and Roma communities.

In this spirit and with the aim of revitalising the city market neighbourhood, a Minecraft "charrette" workshop was held in October 2016. This charrette was the first time that public participation had been tested in public space upgrading decision-making process in Mitrovica and brought together different ethnic communities living and working in Mitrovica North and South. Using Minecraft to devise urban design scenarios for the city market neighbourhood and both river banks helped stakeholders and citizens to understand and think of Mitrovica North and South as one city. Solutions and amenities proposed in the Minecraft environment will pave the way for an architectural concept design combining social and functional mixes, interaction and urban regeneration. City-to-city cooperation mechanisms will be also further explored to boost progress on market management and development, urban revitalisation and socio-economic development.

The Machindra Bahal public square in Bungamati
© UN-Habitat

Sunny Hill, Prishtina, Kosovo

Recent years have witnessed a rapid growth in Kosovo's towns and cities. Changes in society, the need for greater sustainability and people's increased expectations enhanced the demand for public spaces that meet higher standards of design, are sustainable and create opportunities for all citizens to enjoy social and economic life outside their own households. In 2015, UN-Habitat and the Municipality of Prishtina teamed-up to pilot a Block by Block – Minecraft participatory process to improve and revitalize a public space (a former green market) located in Sunny Hill, which represents one of the largest and most populated neighbourhoods of Prishtina. The area is broadly covered by social housing and private blocks, as well as some small businesses and facilities. The area has a population of around 4,000 inhabitants. Initially the project site was destined for trading, but the green market was hardly ever functional. After the removal of the temporary market structures, an unused, abandoned and concrete covered space was all that was left.

For the very first time, the Municipality of Prishtina undertook a comprehensive participatory process for designing a public space. Minecraft was used by a group of citizens to co-create a public space concept. The concept features a range of facilities addressing the needs of various groups, such as green areas, comfortable resting places, playground and a skatepark. The detailed design was the drafter by technical experts a the Municipality with support of UN-Habitat. Public procurement processes were carried out in 2016 and construction of the public space will commence in early 2017.

More information about "Block by Block – Prishtina" is available at:
https://www.facebook.com/BllokpasBlloku/

Participatory design workshop in Prishtina, Kosovo
© UN-Habitat

Santa Ana, Anaheim, USA

In August 2016 UN-Habitat and the Community Services Department of the City of Anaheim decided to cooperate to improve community participation workshops in Anaheim using the Block by Block methodology. Anaheim Community Services wanted to adopt the methodology as an innovative tool to engage youth in community participation workshops and public space planning. In September, UN-Habitat provided training to Anaheim City staff in the Block by Block methodology. Anaheim then ran their own Block by Block community participation process in which local schoolchildren were able to use Minecraft to redesign a derelict space on the riverbank next to the Santa Ana River. The results of the process were presented at the 2016 Minecon held at the Anaheim Convention Centre at the end of September. The construction of the Santa Ana Public Space is expected to be finalised in early 2017.

Participatory design workshop in Anaheim, USA
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Moscow, Russia
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07

Conclusion and way forward

CITGO

Takeaways and lessons learnt

Some key takeaways and lessons learnt include:

1. It is important that the local government is the main counterpart and primary partner from the beginning of the project. The intention of the programme is to have a long term sustainable impact on the development of the city and to contribute to long-term change. Therefore, commitment from local government is key for success.

2. There is a need to support cities to develop city-wide strategies on public space or to incorporate public space elements in other local policies and strategies e.g. the safety strategy, the climate change strategy, the participatory slum-upgrading strategy, etc. to ensure that local authorities have tools to engage with other key stakeholders and to ensure that they allocate resources towards the protection, the management and the revitalisation of public space. At regional and city level, city-wide strategies need to focus not only on places and spaces but on the form, function and connectivity of the city as a whole.

3. Local authorities should include the design of the network of public space as part of their local development plans.

4. As cities expand, the necessary land for streets and public spaces as well as public infrastructure networks must be secured. Urban projects need to ensure adequate public space in planned city extensions, planned city in-fills and participatory slum upgrading projects. Instruments to enable the creation of public space from private owned land are of critical importance.

5. At neighbourhood level, urban design should work with communities to foster social inclusion, celebrate multiculturalism, and enable urban livelihoods, thus creating rich, vibrant spaces in the urban commons.

6. Laws and regulations need to be reviewed to establish enabling systems to create, revitalise, manage, and protect public space, including participatory processes to define their use and manage access to public spaces.

7. Land value sharing/capture is a tool which needs to be widely adopted and promoted for municipalities to capture private values generated by better public spaces to sustain investment in public space.

8. Need to explore innovative ways that can leverage resources from, for example, private sector to fund public space projects.

9. Investing in public space needs to be harnessed as a driver for economic and social development, taking into consideration urban-rural linkages.

10. It is important to pay attention not only to the space itself, but the form, function and connectivity of the city as a whole, promoting a network of streets and public spaces.

11. Need to develop indicators to measure the distribution, quantity, quality and accessibility of public space.

12. Pilot projects take time to be prepared, negotiated and set up. Political, regulatory and technical capacity have to be taken into consideration when engaging with local government

13. Connecting the public space interventions with on-going UN-Habitat programmes and projects where public space becomes a component of a larger process with government improves the quality and impact of public space interventions and ensures sustainability.

Conclusions and next steps

In conclusion, 2016 has been a year focusing on global advocacy and international dialogue around the importance of public space. The adoption of the New Urban Agenda and the preparatory work leading up to Habitat 3 in Quito, Ecuador was key in ensuring that public space is at the heart for the sustainable urbanisation agenda.

UN-Habitat and UCLG seek to establish a Global Platform for Public Space with accompanying regional and thematic hubs to continue to promote the relevance of public spaces in the global arena. The proposed establishment of a Global Platform for Public Space is a crucial piece of the puzzle to be able to up-scale and continue to support national and local governments in their public space work. The Platform will act as a catalyst for research, provide legal and policy advice, develop networks of partners, develop tools and document good and promising practices, monitor the implementation of public space projects/programmes at city level and support cities and towns in monitoring the achievement of SDG Goal 11 target 7 and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

2016 has reinforced public space as an issue that brings different UN agencies together to collaborate and partner on ensuring that public spaces are safe, inclusive and accessible for all. This year was instrumental in starting to establish regional strategies and networks on public space with UN-Habitat regional offices and UCLG regional associations. A regional strategy has been developed for Latin America and the Arab States has started to define what public space means for the region and a network of partners is starting to form. Africa and Asia/Pacific have also started to define their regional strategies, and 2017 will focus on consolidating this.

The work around the development of the methodology for measuring the share of land allocated to open public space (SDG 11.7 indicator) has also started and 2017 will be key for being able to have the methodology adopted by the UN statistical commission and have national and local governments start gathering all the data.

Next steps for 2017 include:

- Establishing the Global Platform for Public Space and accompanying regional and thematic hubs.
- Support the establishment of national public space programmes, including China.
- Consolidate regional programmes and networks on public space, in partnership with UCLG and other UN agencies.
- Develop, in partnership with other UN agencies, a public space action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- Compilation of public space tools and development of a set of training modules.
- Continue rolling-out the public space assessment tool to assess the quality of public spaces in other cities (Durban, Addis Ababa, Kisumu, Johannesburg CBD, amongst others).
- Develop methodology for gathering data on public space (monitoring SDG 11.7).
- Solicit and gather articles for the Journal for Public Space.
- Finalise the guide on city-wide public space strategies.
- Develop a framework for the management and maintenance of public space - includes land value sharing/capture as a tool for municipalities to capture private values generated by better public spaces.
- Conduct an external evaluation of the public space programme and review of Minecraft as a participatory design tool.

*Some UN-Habitat Public Space Programme team members
and partners at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador
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