

GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



PUBLIC SPACE
PROGRAMME

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	6
THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SPACE FOR GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE	8
THE UN-HABITAT GOVERNING COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC SPACE	11
THE GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME	12
OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME	12
PROGRAMME FOCUS AREAS	13
TIMELINE 2012-2018: HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN-HABITAT'S WORK	14
THE PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME IN 2018	16
I. CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT: HELPING CITIES TAKE STOCK AND PLAN	19
PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT IN 2018	21
II. CIVIL SOCIETY AND PARTNERS	32
PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK	32
UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK	35
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS	35
NAIROBI PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK	37
WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SPACES	39
III. PUBLIC SPACE UPGRADING PROJECTS	41
IV. USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN PUBLIC SPACE MAPPING, PARTICIPATION AND REGENERATION	59
BLOCK BY BLOCK - USING MINECRAFT FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN	60
KOBO TOOLBOX - A DIGITAL, CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT AND INVENTORY TOOL	62
MIXED REALITY - TESTING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO DEMOCRATIZE URBAN DESIGN	63
V. POLICIES	64
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INDICATORS	64
THE GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE TOOLKIT	64
COMPENDIUM OF GLOBAL PRACTICES ON CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES	65
PREPARING CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE	65
LIST OF DONORS	68
MAIN DONORS	68
CO-FINANCIERS	69
GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME STAFF 2018	71

BACKGROUND

In 2012, UN-Habitat launched its Global Public Space Programme which is now active in more than 30 cities across the world with a focus on the Global South. The programme's objective is to promote public spaces as a keystone for sustainable cities in order to ensure good quality of life for all. This is done through policy guides, capacity building, knowledge sharing, carrying out advocacy work and actual implementation. The Programme assist cities to determine their needs for public space through mapping exercises and city-wide public space strategies as well as urban development frameworks. Together with local government and civil

society partners, the programme has to date implemented around seventy-five concrete public space upgrading projects selected through annual expressions of interests. Our work have been proven to be effective in achieving social, economic and environmental benefits. The good policy and practices that we have on a global level is shared through a network of more than hundred partner organizations.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SPACE FOR GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE



We commit ourselves to promoting safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces, including streets, sidewalks and cycling lanes, squares, waterfront areas, gardens and parks, that are multifunctional areas for social interaction and inclusion, human health and well-being, economic exchange and cultural expression and dialogue among a wide diversity of people and cultures, and that are designed and managed to ensure human development and build peaceful, inclusive and participatory societies, as well as to promote living together, connectivity and social inclusion.



*- Transformative commitments for sustainable urban development,
New Urban Agenda*

There is a correlation between planned urbanisation and positive social and economic development. Well-planned urbanisation is a powerful tool in creating employment opportunities and in boosting the economy. This means looking at urbanisation as a tool for development. UN-Habitat supports countries to develop urban planning methods and systems to address current urbanisation challenges such as population growth, urban sprawl, poverty and inequality. This is done by promoting compact, better integrated and connected cities that are socially inclusive and resilient to climate change.

Public spaces are all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. The importance of high-quality public space for sustainable development has increasingly been recognized by UN Member States, including in SDG11.7: *"by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible and green public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities"* and in the New Urban Agenda, for example paragraph 37: *"We commit ourselves to promoting safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces, including streets, sidewalks and cycling lanes, squares, waterfront areas, gardens and parks, that are multifunctional areas for social interaction and inclusion, human health and well-being, economic exchange, cultural expression and dialogue among a wide diversity of people and cultures, and that are designed and managed to ensure human development and build peaceful, inclusive and participatory societies as well as to promote living together, connectivity and social inclusion."*

Public space is a common good and a key enabler of human rights, empowering women and providing opportunities for youth. It is crucial for the urban poor and a powerful tool to improve equity and promote inclusion; public space is often considered 'the poor people's living room'. Public space contributes to building social cohesion and provides space for social and cultural interaction. Public spaces that are open to all can bring communities together, provide meeting

spaces and foster social ties. Gender-sensitive public space enhances women's safety and feelings of security, through lighting, clear lines of sight and access to public transportation. Mixed, diverse, vibrant and busy public spaces reduce insecurity and fear of crime. Well-designed and well-maintained streets and public spaces can contribute to improving mutual trust and safety.

Public space provides important benefits to all forms of business, both formal and informal. As cities increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, good streets, market places, parks, squares, gardens and other public facilities becomes a vital business and marketing tool. In addition, good public spaces can increase the land values of the adjacent properties. Entrepreneurs, large or small, are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these in turn attract customers, employees and services. Streets and marketplaces where informal business can be carried out provide poorer urban dwellers with precious livelihood opportunities.

High-quality, well-maintained networks of public spaces can help to improve our physical and mental health by encouraging physical activity and play, reducing stress and providing a calming environment. A well-designed connective matrix of streets and public spaces encourages walking and cycling, and has the power to create a safe environment by reducing vehicle speeds and use.

Adequately planned and designed public spaces play a critical role in mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change. Local and national governments are developing policies that promote more compact, connected and liveable cities, with adequate public space that facilitate public transport, encourages walking and cycling, thereby reducing carbon emissions. Green spaces can act as sustainable drainage system, solar temperature moderator, source of cooling corridors, wind shelter and wildlife habitat. The compact city is the only environmentally sustainable form for a city.



THE UN-HABITAT GOVERNING COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC SPACE

UN-Habitat has worked in the field of public space for over 25 years. In 2011, the United Nations Member States requested, during the 23rd Governing Council of UN-Habitat, to place more focus on public space and its role in achieving sustainable urban development. In *Resolution 23/4: Sustainable Urban Development through access to quality urban public spaces, Member States mandates UN-Habitat to:*

- 1 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 placemaking, public spaces and the quality of urban life, and facilitate and implement exchange, cooperation and research between partners working in this field;
- 2 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; and
- 3 Assist in coordinating UN-Habitat partners in disseminating knowledge to existing sustainable urban development processes at all government levels.

THE GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The objectives of the Global Programme on Public Space are:

1. 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
2. To consolidate knowledge, good approaches, tools and methodologies on public space and make these accessible, particularly to local government partners.
3. To engage the broader network of partners and public space practitioners in the global promotion of good policies and practice on public space.
4. 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.



Niamey, Niger © UN-Habitat / Christelle Lahoud

PROGRAMME FOCUS AREAS

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.

The programme is organized around five main areas:



THE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT

UN-Habitat provides guidance to local governments in developing city-wide strategies that provide the foundation for taking a strategic action-oriented approach to public space development and management and can help local governments map the current state of public spaces and set goals to improve them. This work can be translated into annual public space action plans which provide more detailed information on proposed projects as well as monitoring framework.



CIVIL SOCIETY AND PARTNERS

UN-Habitat brings 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.



PUBLIC SPACE UPGRADING

UN-Habitat selects each year, a number of public space upgrading projects through an annual call for expression of interest. The spaces are geographically distributed all over the world, but with a main focus on countries in the global south. The upgrading of the public spaces is done in a participatory manner engaging the community and the users in the process.



TECHNOLOGY

In recent years, the role of digital technologies has become increasingly important. UN-Habitat recognizes the role of ICT and the opportunities that it can offer for citizens, particularly children and youth, to take part in decision making and governance process. The Programme uses technologies such as Kobo Toolbox for mapping spaces and the Minecraft video game as a participatory tool for upgrading public spaces.

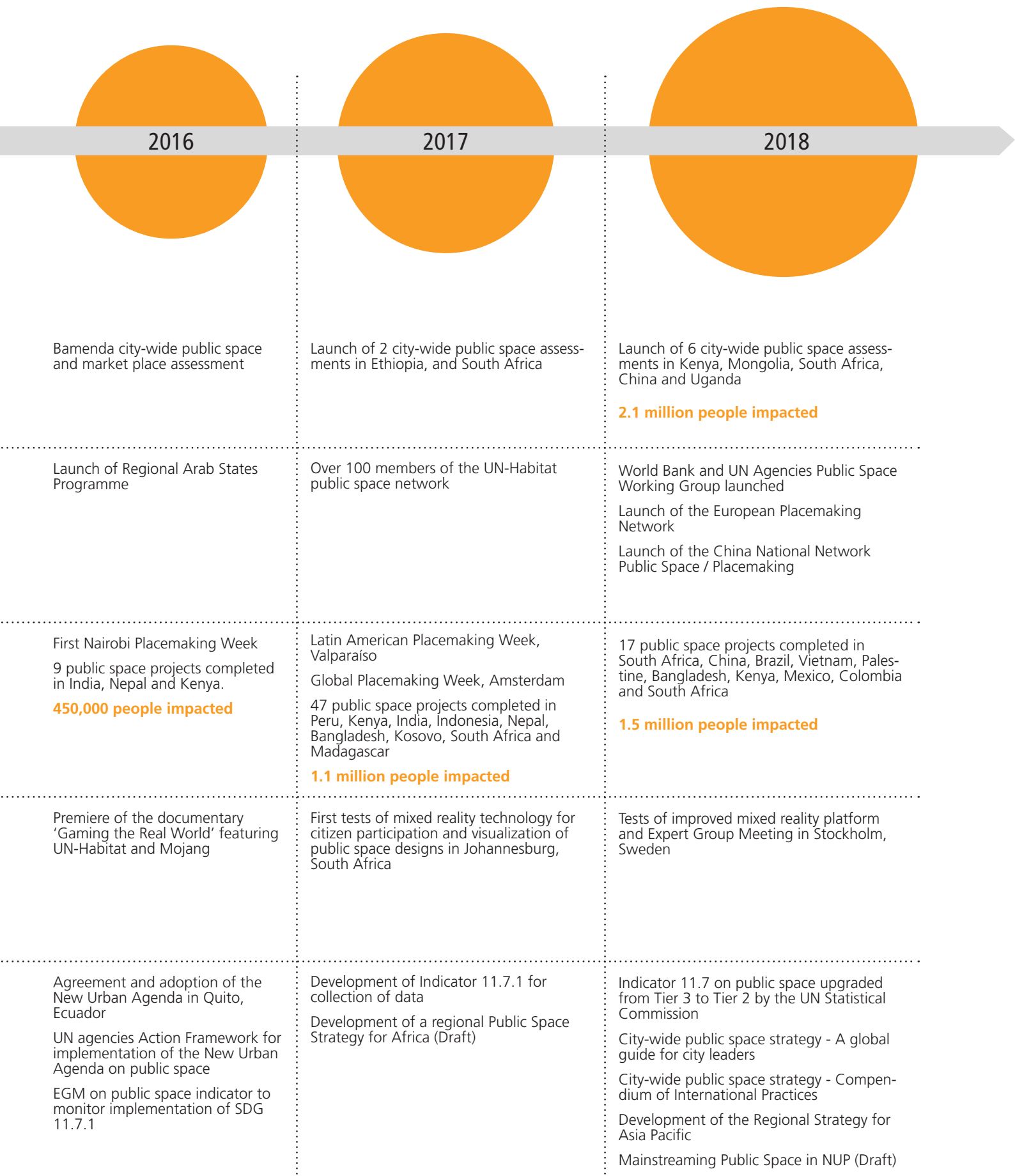


POLICIES

UN-Habitat supports national governments in mainstreaming public space in NUP as well as local governments in developing their own public space frameworks, policies and implementation strategies. The intention is to influence cities to recognize the importance of localized city-wide public space policies, to deepen the understanding of local governments' role and responsibilities in public space development, and to maximize public space areas at a city level. This is considered as a guiding strategy for local governments in which public space is a central axis.

TIMELINE 2012-2018: HIGHLIGHTS FROM UN-HABITAT'S WORK

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Public Space Assessment				Launch of the Nairobi City-wide public space assessment
Partnerships	Partnership between UN-Habitat and Mojang	First Future of Places Conference, Stockholm, Sweden	Second Future of Places Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina	International Public Markets Conference, Barcelona, Spain Public Space Biennale, Rome, Italy Establishment of the Block by Block Foundation
Public Space Upgrading		2 upgrading projects completed in Nairobi, Kenya	4 public space projects completed in Nepal, Haïti and Kenya 210,000 people impacted	9 public space projects completed in Nepal, Haïti, Kosovo, Bangladesh and Kenya 340,000 people impacted
Technology		First Block by Block workshops in Kenya, Haïti and Nepal	Crowdsourcing Public Space designs using Minecraft with over 7,500 youth in Mexico	Launch of the publication "Using Minecraft for Youth Participation in Urban Design and Governance"
Policies	Launch of the Nairobi Public Space Programme	Launch of the Charter on Public Spaces Publishing of UN-Habitat technical report, "Street as Public Spaces Drivers of Prosperity" to address the importance of streets as public spaces		Launch of the publication: "Public Space Toolkit: From Global Principles to Local Policies and Practice" Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals including a specific target on Public Space



THE PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME IN 2018



Worked in
22
COUNTRIES

Completed
17
PUBLIC SPACES
UPGRADING
PROJECTS

Completed
5
PUBLIC SPACES
ASSESSMENTS

ENGAGED
1,000
CITIZENS



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Impacted the lives of more than
3.5 million people



Mexico © Flickr / Robert Kleinfeld



I. CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT: HELPING CITIES TAKE STOCK AND PLAN

The lack of long-term and comprehensive approaches to public space planning has been deteriorating in many parts of the world. To help cities with this challenge, UN-Habitat has developed tools and approaches that help local governments to develop city-wide public space strategies. The production of city-wide public space strategies must be based on accurate data on the state of public spaces. UN-Habitat's "Community-led, City-wide Open Public Space Assessment Tool" helps local governments cost-effectively collect and analyze this kind of data.

To collect data for the assessments, UN-Habitat uses an open source mobile application called Kobo Toolbox. Kobo Toolbox enables communities to map their public spaces using a structured questionnaire and take part in the analysis as well as propose strategies on how to improve their public spaces at the city scale. The results of this city-wide inventory and assessment provides the basis for the development of a city-wide strategy/ action plan and defines the resources required for implementation and maintenance. The tool can be tailored to fit any context,

assess different typologies of public spaces and focus on several themes such as heritage, health, accessibility, safety and others.

The main objectives of the city-wide public space assessment are to support city leaders and local governments in:

1. Determining the **accessibility** of public spaces in their respective cities and human settlements.
2. Establishing the **quantity** of public spaces within their urban boundaries while providing a benchmark against which improvements can be measured. This is particularly important in meeting local targets, and monitoring the implementation of SDG 11.7.
3. Understanding the **network** of public spaces in their cities and identify enablers and barriers for connectivity and linkages.
4. Understanding the **distribution** of public spaces and identify disparities.
5. Assessing the **quality** of public spaces with a special focus on access, use, comfort, amenities, safety, and green coverage.
6. Developing comprehensive and implementable city-wide public space strategies and policies.



Ruiru, Kenya © UN-Habitat / Mark Ojal

PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT IN 2018

Public space assessment steps:



1 Ulaanbaatar; **MONGOLIA**

2 Dhaka; **BANGLADESH**

3 West Nile; **UGANDA**

4 Durban; **SOUTH AFRICA**

5 Johannesburg; **SOUTH AFRICA**

6 Wuchang - Wuhan; **CHINA**

7 Kisumu; **KENYA**

8 Addis Ababa; **ETHIOPIA**

9 Jiangnan - Wuhan; **CHINA**

ULAANBAATAR | MONGOLIA

Ulaanbaatar is the capital and the largest city in Mongolia with around 1.4 million inhabitants — almost half the population of the entire country. The city is the economic, political, cultural and industrial center of Mongolia. The continuous urban sprawl of the city results in a series of urban challenges such as the lack of public spaces, the increase of informal

settlements and the inefficient delivery of basic services. The city is taking steps to cope with the challenges, including tackling public spaces. Ulaanbaatar understands the importance of public spaces and is working with UN-Habitat to carry out a city-wide public space assessment through a participatory approach as a step towards reducing inequality and

enhancing the wellbeing of its residents. Over thirty trainers, of which 60 percent were women, were trained on UN-Habitat's public space assessment methodology, how to conduct the assessments and how to measure spaces taking into consideration quality, quantity, accessibility, inclusivity and safety.


DHAKA | BANGLADESH

Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, has a population of 9.7 million people in an area of approximately 307 Km² making it one of the largest and most densely populated cities in the world. Dhaka has not been able to keep up with the needs of the rapidly growing population and is often ranked the least livable city in the world, attributed to air pollution, severe traffic congestion, bad sewage system, hundreds of slums and regular river flooding. Public spaces - very much needed because of the high density - are scattered in amongst buildings and roads creating a fragmented network within the city's fabric.

UN-Habitat is supporting Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) to map open public spaces and understand whether a network of connected small open spaces can compensate for the lack of larger urban parks. Working in collaboration with local institutions such as Work

for a Better Bangladesh Trust and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, UN-Habitat collected data in two pilot sites: Ward 34 in the North of the city and Ward 21 in the South of the city. In Ward 21, 22 public spaces were found, accounting for 24 percent of the total land area. In Ward 34, only four open public spaces were found, accounting for only 3 percent of the total land. In Ward 21, safety in the public spaces was a major issue, with cases of mugging being reported in ten open public spaces and sexual abuse and social issues being reported in eight open public spaces. Only three open public spaces had street lighting and all public spaces lacked maintenance and security resulting in very few girls and women using them.

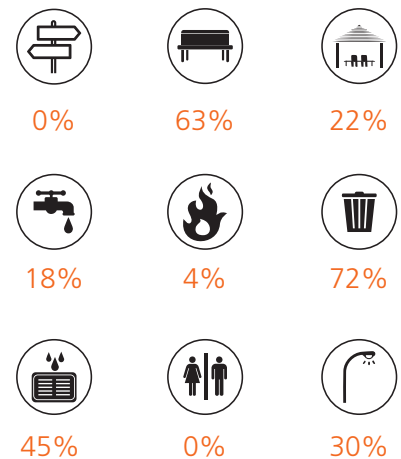
Dhaka in numbers (2018):

 9.76 million people

 117 person/acre

 Area: 307 Km²

Percentage of Public Spaces with different Public Infrastructure



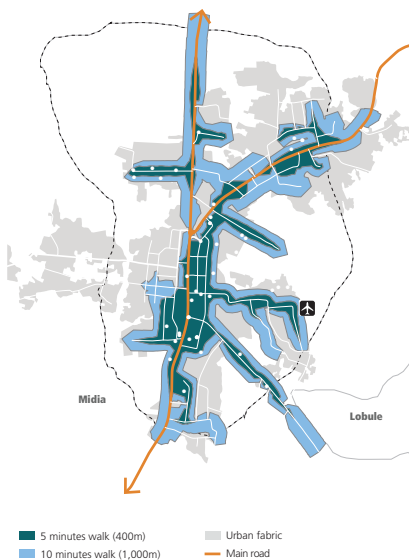
WEST NILE | UGANDA

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Politecnico de Milano and the municipalities of Koboko, Arua and Nebbi, is undertaking a multi-scalar advisory research project in the West Nile Region of Uganda. The aim is to support the integrated territorial development in the region with Arua as core “city” in a “system of cities” along the Nebbi-Koboko corridor. Since July 2016, Uganda has received over one million refugees from South Sudan with majority settling in the West Nile Region, adding to three previous humanitarian responses in the West Nile Region. This influx of refugees is one of the factors that leads to population increase in the region and puts pressure on land and basic service provision. Given this protracted displacement and the likelihood of future refugee responses, the Government of Uganda and UNHCR are calling for approaches to help refugees engage in sustainable livelihoods and become self-reliant by participating in the local economy.

As part of UN-Habitat’s response, a city-wide open public space and marketplace assessment was conducted in the three municipalities. UN-Habitat trained a total of 149 enumerators from the local community in Arua, Koboko and Nebbi on the importance of public space and data collection for evidence-based policy and strategy. The majority of public spaces data were collected in Arua Municipality which had 162 data entries, out of these, 126 were open public spaces and 36 were markets. Nebbi Municipality which had 156 data entries, 100 being open public spaces and 56 markets and Koboko had the least number of data entries having 93 in total with 48 classified as open public spaces and 26 as markets. It was found that even with a lack of data on urban refugees, they were present in the open public spaces and were also part of the vendors in the market places.

KOBOKO MUNICIPALITY

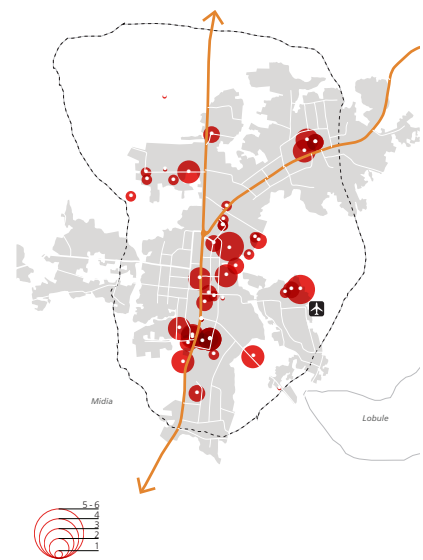
Proximity assessment



Accessibility and connectivity



Comfort assessment



JOHANNESBURG | SOUTH AFRICA

Open public space in Johannesburg has been systematically addressed over the last 15 years through a range of urban development policies and integrated development planning. The Johannesburg Metropolitan Open Space Policy constitutes the core policy framework which integrates open space planning into the Spatial Development Framework 2040 and Integrated Development Plan. In addition, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, the department responsible for public space in the city, has developed an Urban Space Framework in order to guide its specific operations. To support the practical implementation of these policies, UN-Habitat in collaboration with Johannesburg Parks and Zoo and the University of Witwatersrand organised a training for the city officials, representatives from academia and community members. The training was attended by 43 participants from different backgrounds which led to a city-wide public space inventory and assessment in two regions out of the seven regions of the City of Johannesburg. The main aim of the assessment was to provide a guidance and a roadmap on how to improve the city's supply, quality and distribution of public spaces to achieve the Spatial Development Framework.

According to the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), at least 2.4 ha of open public space per person should be the standard for service provision. Region F has a total area of 168 km² of which 18 km² is covered by open public space. The Region has a population of 446,210 inhabitants (based on the 2011 census), corresponding to an average of 40 m² per capita or 0.004 ha per person. Therefore, the standard service area for Region F is well below that of the city standards. In Region C, an administrative unit of total area 260 km² has 17 km² covered by open public space, representing approximately 6.64 percent of the total area. UN-Habitat recommends that the minimum standard for public space in urban areas should be 50 percent. This is broken down into 30 percent - 35 percent for streets and sidewalks and 15 percent - 20 percent for green space. Based on these standards, the percentage area covered by open public spaces in Region C is less than the acceptable threshold, pointing to the need for the creation of more open public spaces in Region C.



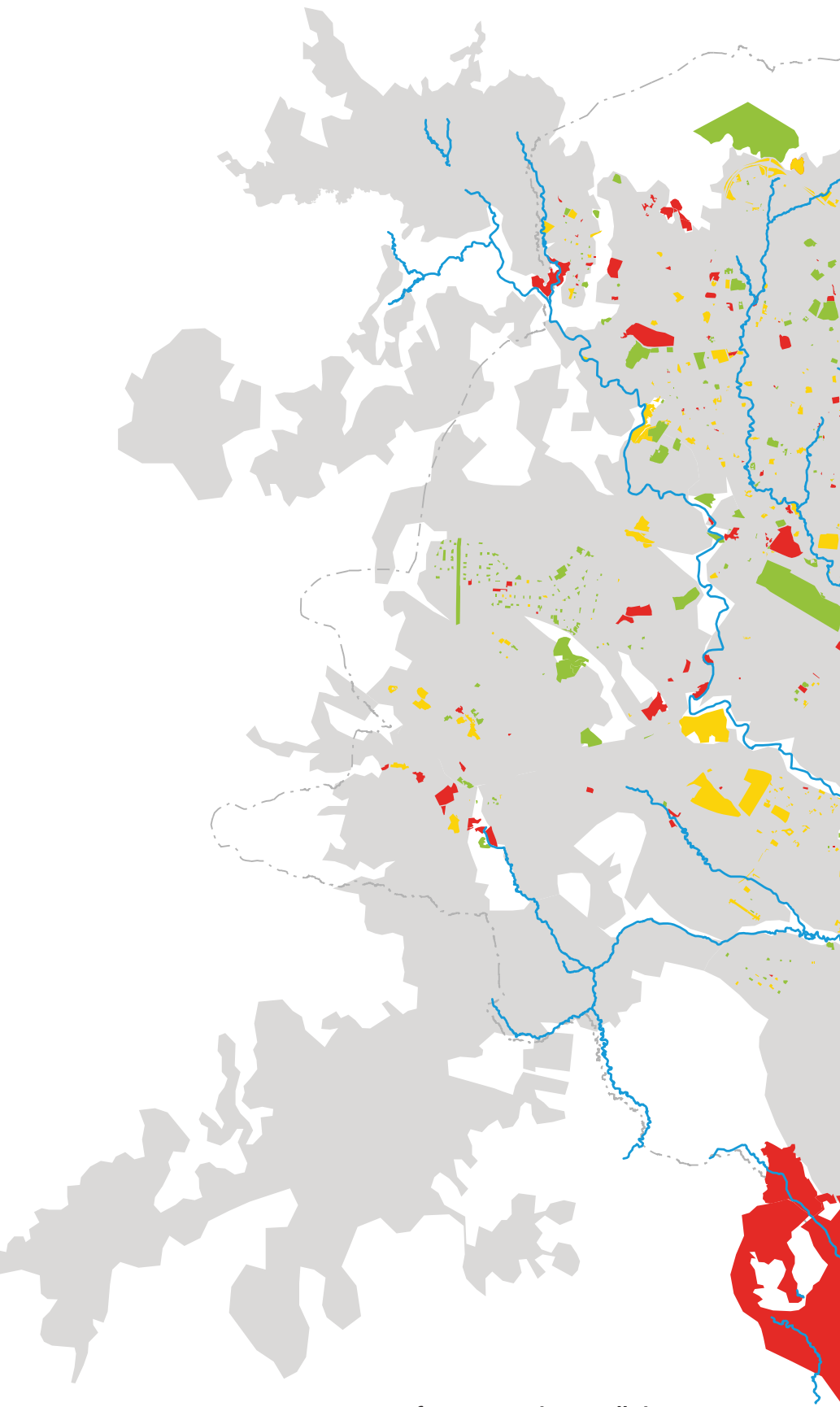


Mapping exercise, Johannesburg © UN-Habitat / Joy Mutai

ADDIS ABABA | ETHIOPIA

In 2017, UN-Habitat and the Addis Ababa city Administration Beautification, Parks and Cemetery Development and Administration Authority conducted a city-wide public space inventory and assessment in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. The analysis of the data indicated that there were gaps in data collection in 20 Woredas (the smallest administrative unit in Addis Ababa). Therefore, in July 2018, another data collection exercise was commissioned with the training of over 40 data collectors on the use of the city-wide public space assessment tool. Following this, data for an additional 668 open public spaces was added to the original set of 1,372. A total of 2,040 open public spaces have thus been identified within Addis Ababa.

At present, the data collected from the survey is being cleaned and analyzed and the report will be completed in January 2019. The next step will be an analysis of urban legislation, by-laws and plans to identify their impact on the provision and protection of public space in the city. This will lead to the preparation of a city-wide public space strategy and action plan which is expected to be done by the end of 2019. Notably, the city-wide public space assessment has been instrumental in mobilizing partners and communities in realizing the value and quality of their own public spaces. As a result, the city is preparing a system to issue out title deeds to public spaces to protect them from illegal encroachment.

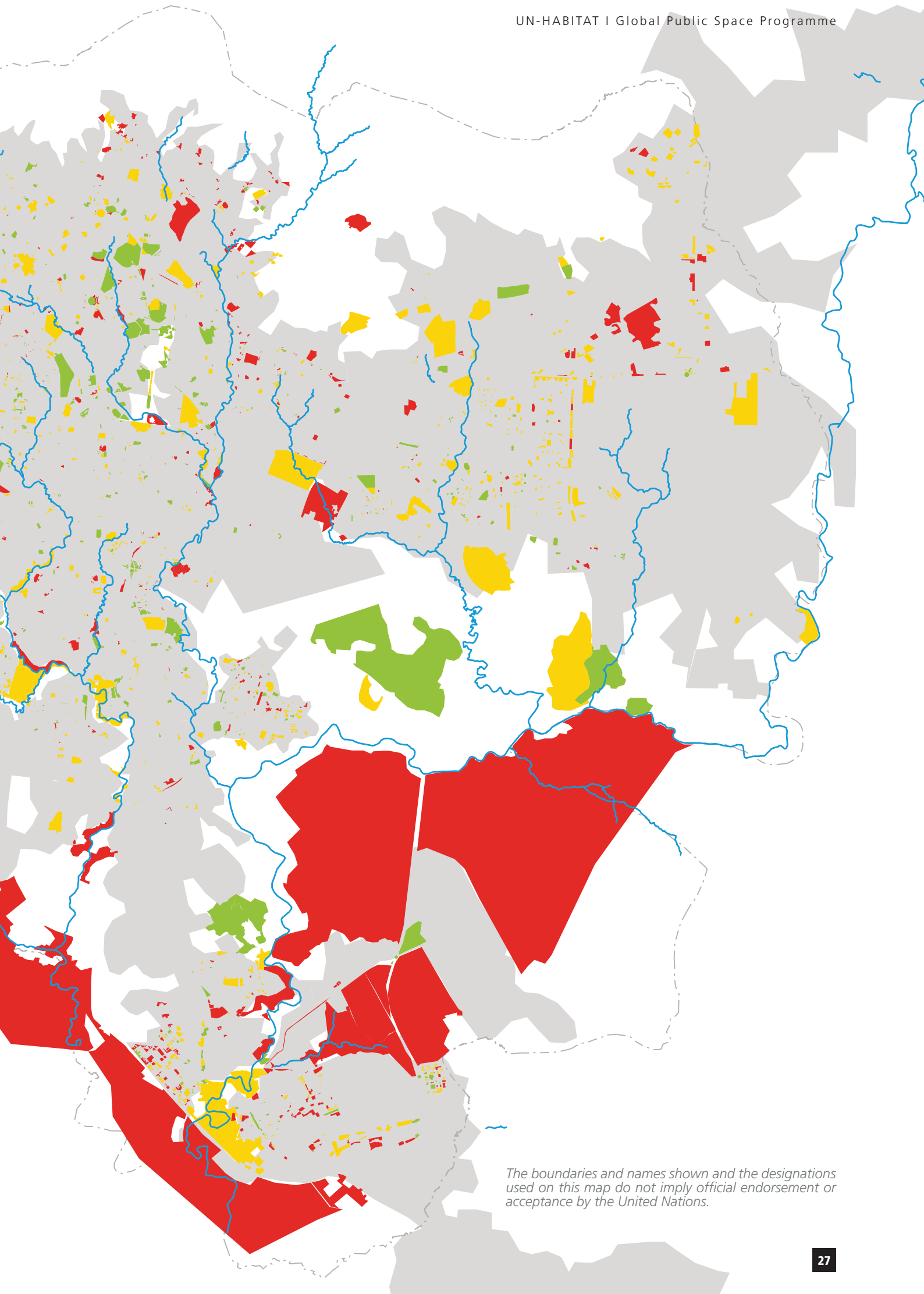


Safety perception at all time

Total of 2,039 public spaces

Not safe	■	19.7 %
Partially safe	■	39.9%
Very safe	■	40.4%

Urban fabric	■
Boundary	—
Partially safe	—
Buffer area	—



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KISUMU | KENYA

Kisumu City is the third largest city in Kenya and is located on the shores of Lake Victoria. With a population of 404,160 people, 38.61 percent of which live in informal settlements, there is a strong need for green and public spaces to improve the image of the city, manage flash floods, and most importantly, provide safe, inclusive and accessible 'third places' for enjoyment and play.

The inventory and assessment carried out in 2018 covered markets in the County and open public spaces in the city and found that within the city's urban boundary, there are only 44 open public spaces, representing a mere 0.63 percent of urban land and only 1.48 m² per capita. Compared to the UN-Habitat recommendation that cities allocate between 15-20 percent of urban land to public space, this is very low. The assessment further revealed huge disparities in the distribution of public spaces in different neighbourhoods, challenges on accessibility, inclusivity, safety as well as management of open public spaces. As the first document of its kind in the history of Kisumu, the County Government sees it as providing a way to take a more focused and strategic approach to public space improvement and management.

JIANGHAN DISTRICT | WUHAN, CHINA

In 2017, UN-Habitat supported Wuhan Lands Use and Spatial Planning Research Center to undertake a district-wide open public space inventory and assessment. This came at a time when public spaces in the district were being commercialised and threatened by the expanding city structures. The results showed that Jianghan district falls short of standards set by the National Ecological city of 11 m²/capita as well as the international standard of 9 m²/capita. Total green public space was just 2.2 m² per capita. Being the densest and least spacious district in Wuhan, Jianghan has to find innovative ways to counter this trend.

The city-wide public space inventory and assessment in Jianghan identified gaps in the safety, accessibility, inclusivity and spatial distribution of public spaces. Therefore, in 2018, UN-Habitat identified public spaces that require upgrading and the areas within the district that needed new public spaces to be created. Spaces that required upgrading were identified through an aggregate of indicators and UN-Habitat prepared a map of priority public space for improvement. It was noted that 21 percent (29) of all public spaces require the most improvement while 29 percent (41) require the least improvement measures. A spatial analysis of the distribution of public spaces in Jianghan was done and the areas that required new public spaces were identified to be at the periphery of the district accounting for 18 percent (4.9 km²) of the total area of the district.



ongxihu

Jiang'an



Goals of the public space strategies in Jiang'an



Protection



Network



Diversity

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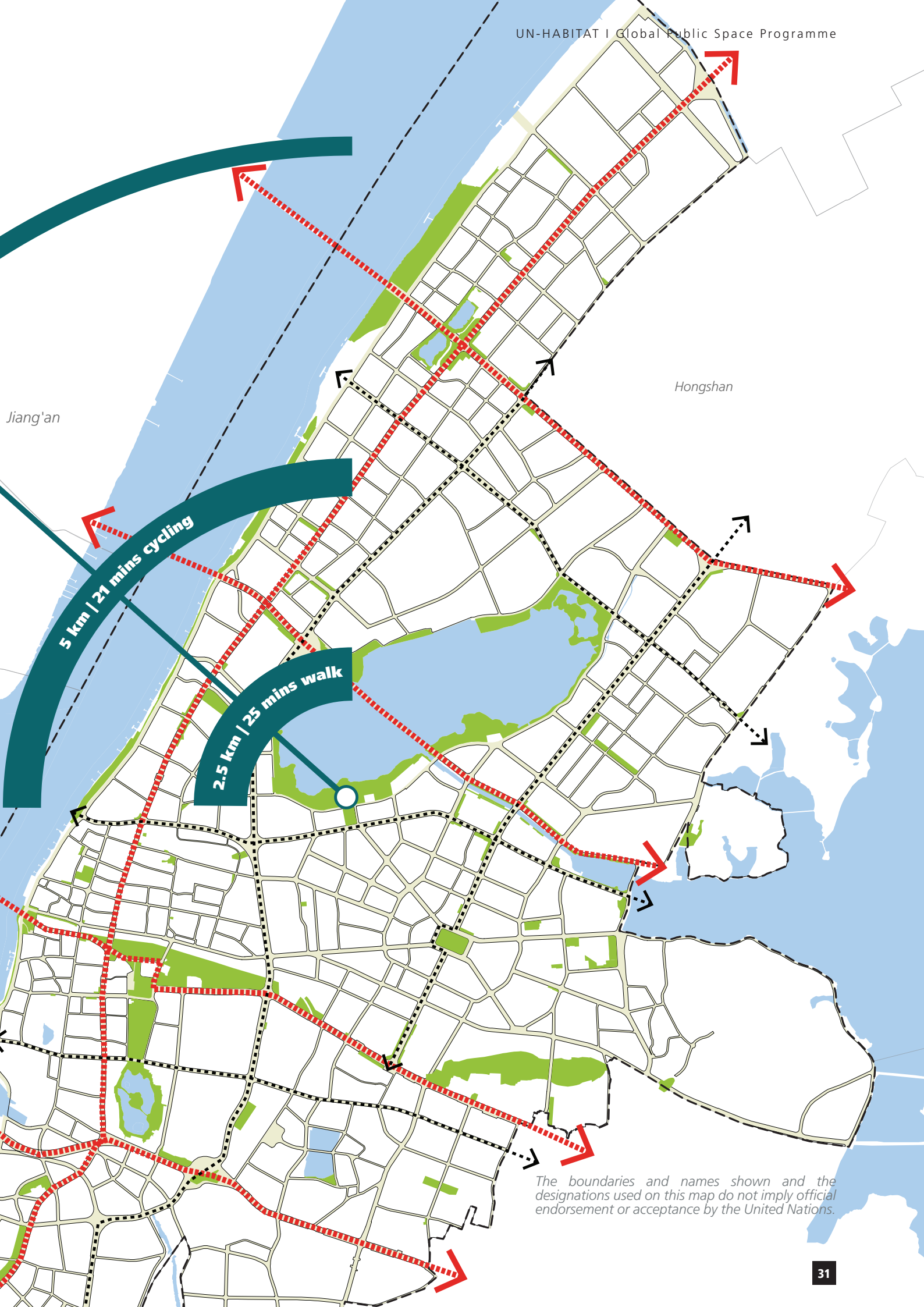
WUCHANG DISTRICT | WUHAN, CHINA

Since 2016, UN-Habitat has supported Wuhan with smart tools for mapping and assessing its public spaces. In 2018, as part of the ongoing collaboration with Wuhan Land Use and Spatial Planning Research Centre (WLSP) and the support from the local government, a city-wide open public space and heritage assessment was undertaken in Wuchang District, a heritage district within Wuhan. The district covers an area of 94 square kilometres and is located on the right bank of the Yangtze River, opposite the mouth of the Han River. It borders the districts of Qingshan to the northeast and Hongshan to the east and south; on the left bank it borders Jiang'an, Jianghan and Hanyang. Wuchang is the oldest of the three former cities of the Wuhan conurbation. According to the 2015 population and housing census, the district had a resident population of 1,199,000 and population density of 12,755 persons per square kilometre. The heritage district is rich in historical and cultural resources.

Currently, the district is undergoing transformation that is altering its historic and artistic value. Some historical buildings are being damaged and destroyed to make way for rapid urbanisation and there is an evident lack of public green space and squares for public activities and social interaction. The district's rich cultural and natural heritage resources need to be protected and conserved for future generations. The city-wide open public space and heritage assessment commissioned by UN-Habitat and WLSP was conducted to map the built heritage, the

natural heritage and to assess the people's lifestyles and culture in the district. This will form a basis for the districts strategy to maintain, reconstruct and renew the heritage areas as well as to formulate and enforce laws to protect these areas. Prior to the survey, an Expert Group Meeting was organized which highlighted some of the key issues and areas of focus in the heritage district. The data collected was presented during the Place-making week in Wuhan, December 2018.





Jiang'an

Hongshan

5 km | 21 mins cycling

2.5 km | 25 mins walk

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II. CIVIL SOCIETY AND PARTNERS

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

Since 2012, the Global Public Space Programme has worked with a wide range of partners from a variety of sectors. The partners do both normative work (developing tools, indicators, technical and policy guidelines, etc) and operational work (implementing public space projects in cities) as well as providing advice and support to the Programme.

AAR, Japan

Addis Ababa River Basins and Green Development and Administration Agency, Ethiopia

Addis Ababa Road Authority, Ethiopia

Advocates for Public Space, Uganda

Africa Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya

Architects without Borders, Sweden

Association of European Planning Schools (AESOP), Europe

Association TUNARUZ, Djerba, Tunisia

Ax:son Johnson Foundation, Sweden

Bantu Design, South Africa

Block by Block Foundation, USA

Building Cities with People, Kenya

CADASTA, USA

Centre for Integrated Urban Development, Nepal

City Space Architecture, Italy

City Streets, Lebanon/Slovenia

Civil Association for Equality and Justice, Argentina

COMISIDU, Cameroon

CORDAID, Netherlands

CreeperHost, UK

Dandora Transformation League, Kenya

Ericsson, Sweden

Espacio Ludico, Chile

Friends of Jeevanjee, Kenya

Fundacion Avina, Panama

Future of Places Centre, KTH, Sweden

Global Utmaning, Sweden

Go Down Arts Centre, Kenya

HealthBridge, Canada

HopeRaisers, Kenya

ICLEI Africa, South Africa

Institut pour la Ville en Mouvement, Argentina

ISOCARP

Jheronimus Academy of Data Science, Netherlands

Journal of Public Space, Australia

Khulna Municipal Corporation, Bangladesh

Koukuey Design Initiative, Kenya	Placemakers, Kenya	UNHCR
KUWA, Kenya Technical University, Kenya	Plan International, Global	United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Spain
League of Cities, Philippines	Project for Public Spaces (PPS), USA	United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific, Indonesia
Lima Como Vamos, Peru	Queensland University of Technology	University of Khulna, Bangladesh
Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Germany	Red Uruguay de Ciudades Sustentables, Uruguay	University of Notre-Dame, Lebanon
Lugares Publicos, Mexico	Safetipin, India	University of Technology, Jamaica
Microsoft, USA	Se Essa Rua Fosse Minha, Brazil	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Minecraft MX, Mexico	Sida, Sweden	Walk21, UK
Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Russia	Slum Dwellers International (SDI), India	Women in Informal Employment
Mojang, Sweden	Social Transformations Systems (STS), South Africa	Working and Organising, India
Movimento Boa Praça, Brazil	Solidarités International, Lebanon	World Bank
Mumbai Environmental and Social Network, India	Spacescape, Sweden	World Vision, Australia
Nairobi University, Kenya	Sticky Situations, South Africa	
National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), USA	Stipo, Netherlands	
National Planning Institute (INU), Italy	Svensk Byggtjänst, Sweden	
New York University, USA	SWaCh/KKPKP, India	
Ocupa tu Calle, Perú	The Centre for Future of Places, Sweden	
Peaceful Roads, Niger	TU Darmstadt, Germany	



The Old
Elephant House

UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

In 2018, UN-Habitat launched the United Nations Public Space Network. The Network, which met for the first time in New York in July, will foster discussion on the role of public space in the work of the United Nations, with a particular focus on implementing SDG 11.7 and the New Urban Agenda. The Network is developing a draft UN action framework for creating safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces for all and producing simple indicators for local governments to map, measure and assess public space.

The first meeting of the network was attended by the following UN agencies:

- FAO
- UNECA
- UNECLAC
- UN Environment
- UNICEF
- UN Women
- WHO
- World Bank

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

UN-Habitat works in collaboration with a wide range of local and regional government partners to implement public space projects, carry out assessments and produce public space strategies.

Belmopan City Council, Belize	Maputo, Mozambique
Bungamati, Nepal	Mitrovica, Kosovo
Cairo Governorate, Egypt	Mogadishu Municipal Planning Department, Somalia
Chengdu Planning and Management Bureau, China	Montevideo, Uruguay
Chiclayo, Peru	Municipal Corporation Greater Mumbai, India
Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina	Municipality of Midoun, Djerba, Tunisia
Dhaka North and South City Corporation, Bangladesh	Município de Pirituba, Brazil
Durban Municipality, South Africa	Nairobi City County, Kenya
East London, South Africa	Nebbi Municipality, Uganda
Garissa County Government, Kenya	Niamey, Niger
Hoan Kiem People's Committee, Vietnam	Pristina Municipality, Kosovo
Honiara City Council, Solomon Island	Provincial Government of Nariño, Colombia
Johannesburg Development Agency, South Africa	Pune Municipal Corporation, India
Kampala City Council, Uganda	Quelimane, Mozambique
Khulna Municipal Corporation, Bangladesh	Queretaro, Mexico
Kim Chung People's Committee, Vietnam	Quito, Ecuador
Kirtipur, Nepal	San Pedro Mixtepec, Mexico
Kisumu City and County, Kenya.	Sijoarjo Government, Indonesia
Koboko Municipality, Uganda	Stade Municipal de Manakara, Madagascar
Laboratorio Para la Ciudad, Mexico	Surabaya City, Indonesia
Lima, Peru	Turkana County, Kenya
Lokoja local government, Nigeria	Ulanbataar, Mongolia
Maceio, Brazil	Villa El Salvador, Peru
Mairie des Cayes, Haïti	Wuhan, China
Al-Shoka, Gaza	
Anaheim City Council, USA	
Arua Municipality, Uganda	
Bamenda City Council, Cameroon	



PSN networking event © UN-Habitat / Mark Ojal

NAIROBI PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

In recent years, Nairobi has experienced an increasing awareness and interest in public spaces and public life, with a number of new organizations focusing on public space as a way of making Nairobi a more inclusive city. Actors such as the Nairobi Design Week, Dandora Hip-Hop City, Hope Raisers Youth Initiative, Garden of Hope Foundation, Botanics Tech, Cave Architects, the Architectural Association of Kenya, Architects Without Borders (SE), Pawa 254 and Dandora Transformation League are working variously across the city to improve public spaces, urban safety and security, environmental quality and to provide livelihood opportunities for women and youth.

Recently, many of these organizations have come together in the Nairobi Public Space Network, a collective of civil society, public and private stakeholders and urban experts interested in creating a cleaner, greener, safer and inclusive Nairobi through the transformation of its public spaces.

The Network, whose idea was one of the key outcomes of the 'Making Cities Together' Urban Thinkers Campus co-organised by UN-Habitat, the International New Town Institute, Placemakers, Dandora Transformation League and Kuwa, was founded in 2017 by visionary community and public space champions. The Network structure evolved from a small three-member community based organization called Mustard Seed, which was initially established to reclaim shared spaces in Dandora. Mustard Seed teamed up with other local youth groups to form

an umbrella body — Dandora Transformation League - sparking a neighbourhood-wide transformation of public spaces

This transformation was catalyzed by the 'changing faces challenge'. Through this challenge, the courts became social catalysts for transformative change, where different groups in the neighborhood play different roles in the use and maintenance of community spaces: children play, teenagers and adults create jobs by carrying out maintenance, providing security, while some have even set-up small businesses inside the courts - providing basic household goods and services to residents. Through the Making Cities Together project, UN-Habitat played a critical role of scaling-up this successful process from a local-level movement to a city-wide one. This has been largely through nurturing the community champions, providing constant technical advice, motivation and trainings from design, to implementation, management and mainstreaming of gender issues.

Changing Faces Competition: From a neighbourhood catalyst to a Citywide accelerator

The Public Space Network employs a wide range of creative and innovative approaches to heighten awareness on the need and importance of public spaces, and the role of low-cost, high-impact approaches to mobilize communities and scale up impact. The Changing Faces Competition (CFC) is an interactive way to mobilize teams of citizens to "adopt" and transform neglected small public spaces such as streets, sidewalks, riverbanks, courtyards, and playgrounds that have been misappropriated and become no-go zones into clean, green, vibrant and safe community places using locally-available low-cost materials and local knowledge. The competition has proven to be an effective tool for community mobilization, and stakeholder engagement. It has brought people - women, children, youth and the elderly - together, and helped break barriers between the Government and corporates on one hand, and communities on the other.

From #CityShapers campaign to placemaking days

As part of heightening awareness on the role of the general public with regards to appropriation of public spaces, the Network runs a social media campaign dubbed #CityShapers. The campaign features Nairobians who have been transforming their urban environment across the city as well as people who are concerned about the current state of their public spaces and thinking about creating change. The campaign showcases interventions, the importance of high quality, safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces, and the role citizens can and should play in their management. As part of the campaign, the Network also organises bi-monthly placemaking days to showcase how negative dead-spaces have huge potential in becoming liveable, enjoyable spaces for citizens.

Trainings of community champions and networking events

Since its inception, the Network has facilitated trainings to diverse groups of people including community champions and students. Earlier this year, it facilitated an introductory training on placemaking to over 1,800 high school students - beneficiaries of the Wings to Fly Scholarship Programme of the Equity Foundation. Partners from UN-Habitat, Aga-Khan Foundation and Dandora Transformation League supported the training that seeks to scale up impact at the national level, and inspire students to be change agents in their communities. In addition to trainings, the Public Space Network organizes a series of networking events bringing together a wide range of urban enthusiasts including civil society and the private and public sectors to discuss the role of citizens in improving public spaces. This has been especially useful in heightening awareness on the need and importance of public spaces, and the role of the community in reclaiming these spaces. UN-Habitat continues to support this training of community champions by providing expertise and training materials.

Developing a placemaking toolkit and curriculum

As part of the up-scaling strategy, the Network and partners are developing a placemaking curriculum and toolkit to train community champions and anybody who would like to become a Place-maker. The curriculum and toolkit are currently in drafting process. As a first step to realize this, UN-Habitat supported the process by organizing a two days' workshop gathering urban experts (architects, urban planners), civil society organizations and community leaders, private and public sector representatives to develop content for the curriculum. Once completed, this curriculum will help train community champions and act as a guide to anyone who wants to engage in placemaking activities in Nairobi, and Kenya.

WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SPACES

We are pleased to be working with a variety of dedicated partner organizations to improve the quality of public space worldwide. Through working with partners, the Programme has been able to improve links with local implementing organizations, reach out to more marginalized communities and create a greater impact worldwide. We'd like to extend a special thanks to two committed partners - Healthbridge and Avina - who we have worked particularly closely with over the years.

HEALTHBRIDGE

HealthBridge is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization that has been working since 1982 in Asia, Africa and the Americas. Its mandate is to improve the health of vulnerable populations, including those at risk of malnutrition, infectious disease and emerging epidemics by bridging the gap between needs and technologies, evidence and policies, and policies and practice.

The HealthBridge Livable Cities program has been working with local partners on public spaces since 2004. HealthBridge and its local partners add a much-needed voice to ensure that cities develop public spaces that address the needs of all citizens, particularly women, children, the disabled, and the poor. Its local partners advocate for policies at both the national and local level to improve the livability of cities by ensuring access for the most vulnerable to streets, markets, and open public spaces.

UN-Habitat has been working closely with Healthbridge since 2017 and together we have completed 11 projects in 7 countries (Niger, Ghana, Uganda, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh and Brazil). Most of the completed projects are small scale public spaces that were identified as catalyst for the revitalization of the public realm in their respective cities and neighbourhoods. These projects have already, in their short time, achieved many important results including the increase of awareness about the importance of public spaces, the trust among the community and government officials, the engagement of the community in the design process and the ownership by the latter of their projects from the onset through constant dialogue and participation.

AVINA

Fundación Avina is a Latin American foundation focused on producing large-scale changes for sustainable development in the region, through collaborative processes among actors in different sectors. Avina promotes shared agendas and effective cooperation among entrepreneurs, companies, civil society organizations, academia and governmental institutions so that, together, they can tackle some of the toughest challenges facing Latin America and the world. Avina's Regional Public Space Programme is aimed at generating territorial intervention models for the participatory improvement of public space, as a vehicle for enhancing social cohesion, security, gender equality and living standards in marginalized urban areas.

UN-Habitat and Avina has collaborated in Latin America since 2014 contributing to the implementation of more than 50 public spaces, enjoyed by more than 600,000 citizens in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. In these locations, a wide variety of partners from all sectors have been articulated and have committed resources, including local governments, as a way to facilitate sustainability and the scaling up of the impact. As part of its strategic collaboration with UN-Habitat, Avina is currently implementing the project "Community-led (re)generation of small scale public spaces in Latin America", which is aimed at expanding the impact of the Block by Block methodology across the continent. As one of the first actions of the project, a Training of Trainers Minecraft workshop was held in Lima. Practitioners from six countries were trained and are currently replicating the methodology as a powerful tool to engage communities in the transformation of their public spaces.





III. PUBLIC SPACE UPGRADING PROJECTS

The Programme works with a wide range of partners from a variety of sectors to upgrade public spaces. In 2018, we started 26 new projects in 19 countries, engaging over 1,000 people in participatory design processes and completed 17 projects, improving public spaces for nearly 1.5 million people in 21 countries.

JANUARY

GAZA, PALESTINE

Utilizing digital tools to promote human rights and create inclusive public spaces

In 2018, UN-Habitat developed two public spaces in Beit Lahia and Al-Zawayada, two marginalized localities in the Gaza Strip characterized by lack of public services, inadequate infrastructure and absence of available public spaces. Around 70 members from the local communities, mainly youth and women, participated in participatory design workshops where they were taught how to use Minecraft to design public spaces based on their needs and visions. This is the first time in the Gaza Strip that digital tools have been used for community engagement and open opportunities for residents to participate in spatial planning and reconstruction processes and have their voices heard at management levels. The project contributes to fulfilling youth and women's human rights and to improve participation in post-conflict reconstruction and recovery in the Gaza Strip. The completed public spaces benefit around 100,000 people.

FEBRUARY

NEW DELHI, INDIA

Analysing the gender-transformative potential of the Block by Block Methodology for Safer Cities for Girls

Plan International and UN-Habitat have commissioned research on the gender transformative potential of implementing the Block by Block methodology in Safer Cities for Girls, a UN-Habitat, Plan International and Women in Cities International gender transformative programme. Plan International India and UN-Habitat organized a Block by Block project with 30 girls and boys between the ages of 17 and 30 in two neighbourhoods in New Delhi; Raj Nagar and Mongolpuri. The girls had already done a safety walk in the two sites with local Plan staff to observe their surroundings from the perspective of safety for girls and women, and models of the sites were created in Minecraft. The participants then used the game to visualize their ideas of how to improve their safety in the community. One of the most pressing issues was the lack of visibility during dark hours and installation of street lights came out as a high priority.

APRIL

KOCHI, INDIA

Developing a disabled-friendly beach to ensure access for all in Munambam

Munambam beach is located in Vypeenn island, just north of Cherai Beach, and is surrounded by the Arabian Sea on the west and the Periyar river on the east. The main activity in the area is fishing. Munambam is characterized by its natural green spaces, ideal for natural treks. UN-Habitat, together with HealthBridge and local partner Evangelical Social Action Forum (ESAF), conducted a Block by Block participatory process in April, engaging the community in the design of a public beach. A site visit with the participants was done prior the Minecraft work to understand the challenges of the space. The main takeaway from the site observation was the difficult access to the beachfront for disabled people. Following that, the participants translated their ideas into different interventions in the models. During the presentation to the wider stakeholders, it was reflected how important the issue of accessibility and inclusivity was to the community. The development of an eco-disabled-friendly beach was among the dominant ideas. Based on the list of priorities, an architect developed a beachfront design which included ramps and rails for disabled people.

EAST JERUSALEM, PALESTINE

Creating public space in a contested neighbourhood

Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem are characterized by a high level of informality, overcrowding, poor physical infrastructure and a lack of public spaces and public services. Public facilities such as parks are woefully inadequate (1 park per 8,800 citizens). In April, UN-Habitat in partnership with Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights, Al Enaya Community Center and the Green Mosques Youth Group, inaugurated the Wadi al Joz community garden, an inclusive public space in the Wadi Al Joz neighbourhood. More than 25,000 residents who suffer from a severe lack of public spaces will benefit from this garden. In July 2017, UN-Habitat organized a three day Minecraft workshop with the Wadi Al Joz local community, followed by several community consultations to reach a consensus on the garden's final design.

The lack of public services in general and public spaces and parks has a negative impact on the quality of daily life for Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem. Many children resort to playing in the streets or other unsafe areas. Creating public spaces that are safe and secure for community use helps improve the urban environment and the living conditions of the residents, in particular women, youth, and children and at the same time provide higher levels of safety and well-being inside these neighbourhoods.

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Making public open spaces in high density areas of Dhaka more inclusive

Dhaka's high population density and rapid urbanisation rates are putting pressure on open public spaces and access to public space in the city is now less than 1 sqm per resident. One of the remaining public spaces is Boishakhi Khelar Math playground in Ward 34 that serves 250,000 inhabitants. The main activity taking place in the playground was cricket, predominantly by male players. In collaboration with Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB Trust), UN-Habitat facilitated a participatory process with the aim to redesign the playground to provide a more welcoming environment for all users in the neighbourhood, including girls and women. The community were engaged from the beginning and contributed to project planning, design and implementation. With the technical and financial support of UN-Habitat, and regular supervisory support from Dhaka North City Corporation, WBB redeveloped the site to be more inclusive in October 2018. The participation of women and girls has increased significantly and the presence of children has been constant since the project was completed.



Dhaka, Bangladesh © UN-Habitat / Sohel Rana

HOI ANH, VIETNAM

Elaborating guidelines for public spaces design with focus on civic engagement

In 2015 the Hoi Anh city government, with the assistance of HealthBridge Vietnam, prepared a Public Spaces Master Plan that would see the city add 79 new parks by 2020. The Master Plan has proven to be an effective policy tool for ensuring that the spaces needed for parks, playgrounds, and plazas are saved from development pressures and the city has so far developed 30 of the 79 parks. However, the Master Plan has proven to be less successful in creating quality spaces that people use regularly for activity and recreation. As a result, the City, along with HealthBridge Vietnam, are preparing Park Design Guidelines that will provide more specific instructions for designing usable public spaces collaboratively with the community. This project will provide an opportunity for the city to pilot test this collaborative process and to develop more clear instructions for park design that can be used by both the city as well as local developers.

Trang Keo, a park of approximately 65,000 m², is one of the community parks developed as part of the Master Plan. The park serves the communities of Tan An ward and Cam Ha commune, with a population of more than 10,000 people. Being the biggest green public space in the north-western section of the city, the park plays an important role in balancing the environment in the area. It was designed to be attractive and tidy but unfortunately it is devoid of

anything that would be interesting and people rarely used it. A Block by Block participatory process facilitated by Think Playgrounds together with UN-Habitat was done in April 2018. The participants were guided to build low cost structures with high impact using recycled materials like local woods, tires and others to make the park an attractive place for the community. The place was completed in August 2018 and immediately attracted the attention and use of the local residents.

VUKUHAMBE, SOUTH AFRICA

Ensuring special schools in Eastern Cape are sensitively designed

Vukuhambe Special School is a government school in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape, South Africa, catering for students from preschool through grade twelve, with a range of physical disabilities. While almost 85 percent of the school property is open space, very little of it is accessible to learners, who are predominantly wheelchair users. The existing playgrounds and jungle gyms are standard pieces of equipment which are not designed to accommodate users with special physical needs. Despite an increasing awareness of the need for environmental accessibility for adults and children with disabilities, many facilities within the school do not respond to their needs. Some of Vukuhambe's 'accessible' infrastructure - such as ramps, walkways, and public bathrooms - are not suitable with walkways having

potholes, steep ramps, overgrown grass and no lighting. And while the under-resourced school is able to provide basic educational and physiotherapy facilities, there is an obvious lack of well-designed public spaces for recreation, social gathering, and facilities for extra-curricular activities.

The Block by Block participatory process which was organized by UN-Habitat in collaboration with Urbanist for Equity, and People's Environment Planning, was intended to be a catalyst for an on-going project and to explore how space can play a role in reframing the relationship between a school for people with disabilities and the surrounding communities. On another level, the project also intends to shift current urban planning and design practices in South Africa towards inclusive design. Urban projects in South Africa, including housing, public space, policies and by-laws, are mostly designed and implemented through a top down approach. This often results in unsustainable projects that do not respond to the users' needs, as well as projects that are sometimes rejected by the communities since they are perceived as an icon of an exclusionary system. Participatory design methods are a means to address the current situation by allowing communities to make designs responsive to their needs while creating a sense of ownership of the projects.



Brainstorming session at Vukuhambe special school © UN-Habitat / Joy Mutai

MAY

CALICUT, INDIA

Engaging local children with disabilities in designing an inclusive neighbourhood park

In 2016, Healthbridge and ESAF conducted a study on Calicut's public spaces which highlighted the scarcity of parks and recreational areas within the city and that there are no spaces within Calicut that can be safely used by children with disabilities. Following the study, Ansari Park in Calicut was chosen to be the first inclusive park in Kerala state. The park was in reasonably good condition, however it lacked basic amenities and park facilities and had no play equipment for children. In April 2018, a Block by Block participatory process was held with the residents and the users from around the selected site, including children with disabilities. The latter upgraded the northern part of the park, mostly closed to the public, and suggested different ideas to enhance the current degraded physical situation. Appropriate wheelchair interventions, green areas, dustbins, pavements and sign boards were among the highest priorities.

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Improving safety and mobility through public staircase design in a low-income neighbourhood

Mind the Step is an initiative by Cidade Ativa which improves awareness about public staircases in São Paulo, Brazil, and highlights them as public space opportunities and as important connections within the mobility system of the city. The large number of existing public staircases in the city are great opportunities to stimulate walking for mobility, incorporating physical activity into people's daily lives. At the same time, they can respond to the recreational demand of the community, especially in informal areas, where there is no available land opportunities for a square or a park.

A staircase was selected for upgrading in a low-income community called Jardim Nakamura, in the southern periphery of São Paulo, a neighbourhood known for its lack of basic services and high crime rates. The staircase connects the neighbourhood to a commercial street and to the bus stop at Avenida Agamenon Pereira da Silva. However, due to its neglected conditions, many inhabitants avoid using it. Following the participatory design process, the residents expressed the need to upgrade the physical conditions through small interventions. Six physical changes were made including mural paintings, slide, benches and a community library and board. Today the space has become safer and the number of users have drastically increased; especially the number of children.

PRISTINA, KOSOVO

Enhancing the right to the city for all through public space upgrading

UN-Habitat, jointly with UN Women, implemented a project in the municipality of Pristina as part of the project "Enhanced Right to City for All". A Women's Safety Audit was done prior to implementation to highlight security hot-spots in the city center where women particularly felt unsafe. A Block by Block participatory process was organized to bring the discussion further around urban safety and ways to mitigate security and safety risks and the participants produced concrete designs to solve the main challenges that resulted from the audits. The main objectives were to reduce inequalities, improve accessibility for women and girls, enhance connectivity of the space with its surrounding and increase recreational activities. Interventions included the removal of fences, the improvement of pedestrian paths and lightings, the installation of ramps for wheelchair users, the creation of a playground and an open gym area. The University of Pristina, together with the municipality, elaborated the design using the priorities of the community and implementation is expected to start in 2019.



JUNE

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Revitalizing an established public space through culture

Se Essa Rua Fosse Minha - SER, a non-profit organization based in Rio de Janeiro working with municipalities of Baixada Fluminense, is working on a project entitled Cultural Rights and the Right to the City – Strengthening of activities for urban public spaces occupation, exercise of rights and communitarian governance. SER seeks to mobilize the society and public power towards vulnerable youth and children, especially boys and girls living in street situations. The project will revitalize a established public space in São João de Meriti, with the support of the municipality through a new democratic and participatory approach towards its design and management, so that, the community (5000 children, adolescents and youth, 80 public school teachers, 900 families, 5 public schools, 6 social organizations, 1 community council) will have access to a multi-purpose public space.

MACEIO, BRAZIL

Improving urban and social policy in Brazil

Maceió is the capital of Alagoas, one of the poorest states in Brazil. The state government is planning to purchase a large vacant plot between the city's largest informal settlement and a more affluent community to build a public park that would serve both communities, creating an important link between formal and informal settlements and a landmark for all inhabitants of Maceió. To support this, UN-Habitat organized a Block by Block participatory process in collaboration with the state government's department for transport and urban development (Setrand), the community leadership and a local private university (UNIT). The public space project, when launched, will be part of a city-wide UN-Habitat project in Maceió that is collecting data on urban infrastructure in informal settlements, aiming to provide authorities with information to improve urban and social policy.

JULY

ACCRA, GHANA

Creating early childhood micro-playspaces in public markets

In Ghana and throughout West Africa, the public space and often informal market is a female dominated space where a large number of children under the age of five spend a significant part of their early childhood. Malata is one of the large, well-established markets in Accra, where young children spend up to 10 hours a day around their mothers' stalls. Whilst a few initiatives to develop child care facilities in vending spaces exist, in general, the markets are not at all child-friendly. Amongst the concerns for children are the hazards of heavy pedestrian traffic, movement of heavy loads, obstacles in the walking lanes, exposure to pollution, inadequate shelter nutrition and stimulation, and lack of attention. This project focuses on creating early childhood micro-playspaces in the market with the participation of the vendor community and the local authority. The participants shared their concerns and ideas to the wider stakeholders as part of a participatory process and an architect from Mmofra Foundation developed a series of designs. The micro-spaces have already been implemented using local materials that are found around the market. Some of the constructed interventions were a repurposed cable reels between stalls and colourful structures with local branding that consist of benches and a variety of early childhood development elements.



Malata Market, Ghana © Mmofra Foundation

KAMPALA, UGANDA

Revitalizing industrial urban areas through streetscape design

Advocates for Public Spaces (APS) carried out an assessment on public spaces in capital city, Kampala, which showed the lack of well-managed public and open spaces. The shortage affects mostly the urban poor, women, and children who find it hard to compete with adult males for the limited public spaces available. The Kampala City Capital Authority (KCCA) was keen to address this issue and pilot test a community engagement strategy on a variety of different parks in order to provide direction to city policy. Namuwongo 8th Street Open Space is about one kilometer from the city centre and is located in an industrial zone surrounded by a low-income residential area. It is currently bushy and unkept, although people still pass through it to access the city centre. The open space is in a prime location where hundreds of people who cannot afford public transport start to walk back to their homes after work.

Emphasis on reclaiming micro open and public spaces in Kampala has tended to focus on beautification rather than functionality and usage. The project focuses on the street as a public space with multiple recreation activities along the way to revitalize the dead strip. Architects from KCCA developed designs based on the outcomes from a participatory design process. The space is currently being constructed as a multi-functional street that caters different commercial and social activities.

KALOBYEI, KENYA

Achieving social cohesion between refugees and host community through participatory planning

In north-western Kenya, UN-Habitat in collaboration with UNHCR, developed a spatial plan for the New Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement with space for 45,000 refugees. The plan emphasizes a shift away from a traditional refugee camp design and instead proposes a formal and sustainable human settlement that integrates refugee and host communities. The plan has an efficient street hierarchy to encourage walkability and ensure connectivity of the villages in the settlement with the old Kalobeyei Town. In the plan, 12 hectares of land has been allocated for public spaces and parks. The well thought streets network provide access to public services, trading opportunities and a vibrant street life and integrates ecological concerns such as linking existing watersheds to a green infrastructure network to mitigate flood risks and provide opportunities for rainwater harvesting.

As part of the implementation of the plan, UN-Habitat used public space and participatory processes as a way to achieve social integration between refugees and the host community. Four public spaces - three in the refugee settlement and one in the host community neighborhood have been selected for upgrading and improvements. A community center was built to provide library and ICT services, space for public meetings, vocational training, cultural exhibitions and a platform for refugees to view designs and provide feed-

back on construction processes. Over 70 people – 40 from the refugee and about 30 from the host community – designed and co-created a network of public spaces using UN-Habitat's Block by Block participation methodology. The concepts emphasize the public space network and recommends a mobility strategy to guide transportation. Public transport stops for matatus and boda-bodas were created in the settlement. 30 women and youth were trained in construction and public space maintenance to be able to actively maintain the public spaces.



AUGUST

QUELIMANE AND MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

Using digital tools to create child-friendly cities in Mozambique

A safe neighbourhood is essential to raise a child. Cities and neighbourhoods built with children in mind can easily address everyone's needs in the urban settings. Such cities and neighbourhoods are easily accessible for everyone, free from segregation and are safe from environmental pollutions and free of insecurities. The involvement of children in the creation, reimagining and upgrading of cities to child-friendliness is essential. UN-Habitat and UNICEF worked with children in Maputo and Quelimane to use digital technologies to map and co-create public spaces in their neighbourhood. Using a mobile application, the children first mapped out play spaces, routes to and from school and different functions of the neighbourhood, marking favourite areas and areas they considered unsafe. The children then used Minecraft to transform their neighbourhoods by redesigning public spaces. Two public spaces in informal settlements are now being upgraded following the design proposals by the children.

SEPTEMBER

NIAMEY, NIGER

Anchoring public space in national urban policies

In 2016, Peaceful Roads, a Nigerian organization, conducted an audit on park availability and their quality within Niamey. The results showed that Niamey, with a population of 2 million people, has only seven parks, all of which are in poor condition. Following the implementation of a first pilot public space project in 2017, a process that was done together with federal and local government officials, the interest for development more public spaces has increased significantly. As a result, elected officials at the national level have formed a technical committee to work on a national public spaces policy. In 2018, UN-Habitat collaborated again with Peaceful Roads to implement another project in a low-residential area called Cité Fayçal. A participatory process was done with women and representatives from the community to identify needs and gaps. The implementation phase has started and expected to be finalized in early 2019. The inclusive process will be used to inform the policy work drafted by the national technical committee.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Integrating migrant communities in the generation of public space through participatory approaches

With UN-Habitat's support, The Uruguayan Network of Sustainable Cities has mapped public spaces in the informal settlement 'January 21' in Montevideo and found that many public spaces are of low quality and affected by solid waste problems. The project has supported participatory workshops, experience-exchange meetings with international public space experts and public space activation through urban art, traditional sports and cultural activities. A participatory Minecraft workshop was held during the first week of December, with public space upgrading starting in January 2019.

SAN PEDRO MIXTEPEC, MEXICO

Recovering Lagunita wetland in Puerto Escondido

Lagunita district is located in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, not far from the world known surf and beach spot that attracts thousands of tourist every year. Lagunita owes its name to the natural wetland that is located there, one of the last remaining in the area, which is unfortunately abandoned, degraded and polluted, with public and private investment mainly concentrated in the hotel-touristic zone. As way to tackle this situation, the project "Block by Block, Participate and Live your Park", supported by Avina and UN-Habitat, is engaging residents of all ages, including different indigenous groups and migrants, in the participatory design and improvement of their public space, using Minecraft as key tool. Inspired by the results of the process, the physical improvements are currently under implementation. The public space adjacent to the wetland was cleaned and a multi-sports court was built, along with children's games, sports equipment and furniture manufactured with abandoned waste from the same area. The project has convened actors from different sectors: Coca-Cola Foundation is providing financial resources and will potentially apply the learnings of this project in 2,000 other public spaces in Mexico. The Municipality of San Pedro de Mixtepec has also committed its logistical and financial support for the participatory processes.





Sao Paulo, Brazil © UN-Habitat / Eugenio Gastelum

OCTOBER

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Recovering green public spaces in São Paulo

The actions of this project focuses on two public parks located in the northern outskirts of São Paulo. Although their high potential to contribute to the urban green infrastructure, they are currently abandoned, degraded, accumulating solid waste and practically with no public space furniture. In this area, “Movimento Boa Praça” is using the Block by Block participatory design methodology to engage the community in the recovery of the surrounding green spaces. Mobilization activities began with community picnics, meetings and workshops, involving parents, educators, school children and the municipality. After a Minecraft workshop enthusiastically attended by the young members of the community, a revitalization project has started. With the support of volunteer architects and students of the local university (UNISANTANA), the project included the ideas and needs of the residents. Some improvements have already been implemented, using low cost, local materials, including the improvement of a soccer court and the construction of hanging bridges between trees. The construction of further facilities for the children to play and some pieces of urban furniture is being implemented in December 2018. Through this community mobilization, the project has committed the support of the local authorities, which have allocated budget in order to scale up the projected works.

NOVEMBER

NAIROBI, KENYA

Re-imagining Luthuli Avenue into a shared, safe, inclusive and healthy street

UN-Habitat is collaborating with the Stockholm Environment Institute, the University of York, Nairobi City County and Placemakers in a project to re-envision Luthuli Avenue in downtown Nairobi as a great shared street – a place-making effort to improve urban safety and security, air quality, health and wellbeing and road safety. Luthuli Avenue, like many streets in Nairobi, is congested, polluted and a contested space between pedestrians, public transport, trolley pushers and motorbike riders.

The project uses a mix of approaches including placemaking, Minecraft as a participatory design tool and on-location design to engage with users including pedestrians, public service vehicle operators and business owners. As part of the co-design process, and linked to Placemaking Week Nairobi, UN-Habitat supported the implementation of temporary interventions to provide the general public with a firsthand experience of what the street might look like when permanent interventions are in place, and an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed intervention. The feedback from the community is currently being considered, and fed into designs. The project is part of the Nairobi City County Government’s walkability project which seeks to measure the health, economic and wider benefits of walking and cycling.

LIMA AND CHICLAYO, PERU

Using Minecraft for accelerating hands-on learning and reducing violence in Lima and Chiclayo

The Project is applying the Block by Block participatory design methodology in the “Morro Solar”, an emblematic coastal mountain in Lima, and in the informal settlement Luis Alberto Sánchez, located in the outskirts of the City of Chiclayo. Both places face problems of lack of safety, degradation, absence of public space and solid waste dumping. UN-Habitat has trained the local team in order to effectively use Minecraft for participatory design processes with both communities. The project team has worked in the development of ties with the residents, the municipality, the local schools and universities. In the case of Lima, a strong sense of belonging has been developed by the children and adolescents through cultural, sports and community alternatives in order to mitigate safety risks. For the success of this strategy, the improvement of public space is considered fundamental. Jointly with the community, a park located on the hillside was identified as a priority to upgrade.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

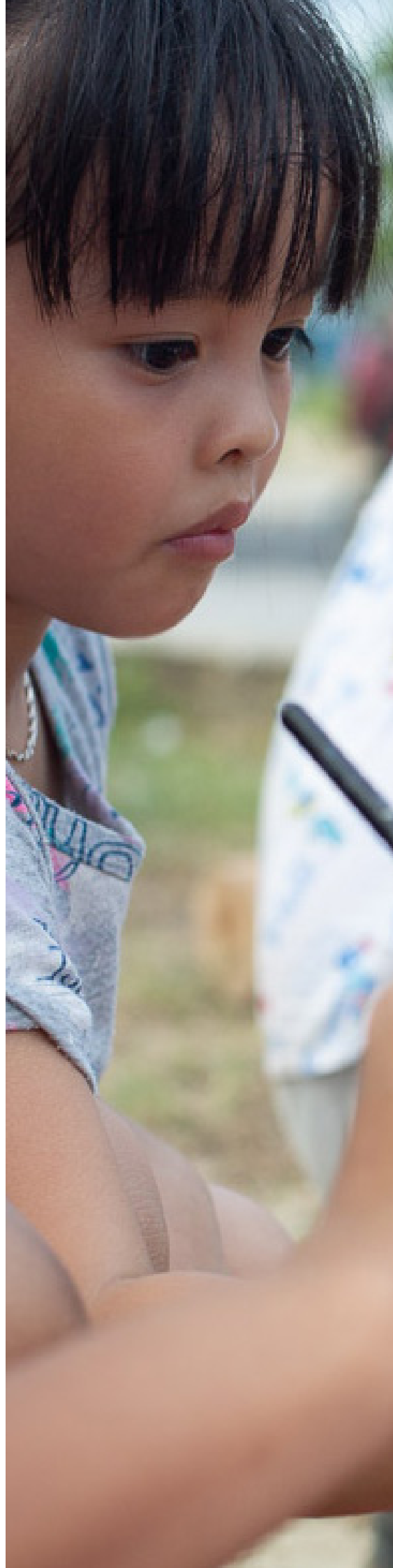
Empowering communities to advocate for their right to the city throughout the planning process

More than 15 percent of Buenos Aires' population lives in informal settlements, called "Villas". Although those settlements have been expanding for years, until recently, no major effort was made by the city government to integrate those communities into the formal urban system or to provide them with basic public services. However, today, a comprehensive urbanisation process of the Villas is finally being implemented. In this context, the Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ), supported by Avina and UN-Habitat, is working with the communities of Villas 15 and 20, in order to enhance their active participation in the assessment and design of public spaces. Minecraft workshops and different participatory approaches have been conducted on a weekly basis in both areas, working with community members and local schools in order to identify their priorities regarding the improvement of public spaces and make sure their needs are reflected in the formal urbanisation process. The priorities extracted from the participatory processes are being implemented in December 2018.

TUMACO AND MADRIGAL, COLOMBIA

Building peace in post-conflict scenarios through public space

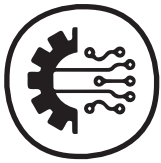
Nariño Department is one of the Colombian regions that has been deeply affected by the armed conflict. After decades of conflict, the peace process presents an opportunity and a challenge to integrate de-mobilized people into the regular life, as post-conflict areas remain militarized by the territorial dispute of drug trafficking groups. Under these circumstances, public space regeneration has proven to be an effective tool to build community tier and sense of belonging. The "Peace Actions" Program has worked with the Community Action Board of two of Nariño's neighbourhoods, facilitating initial community interventions (volleyball court, tree plantings, garbage containers). With the support of Avina and UN-Habitat, awareness-raising workshops with residents and community organizations have been held. Together with volunteers, a baseline measurement was made in order to better monitor impact of the public space recovery; including surveys, observation and a participatory workshop.







Al Zawayda, Gaza © UN-Habitat



IV. USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN PUBLIC SPACE MAPPING, PARTICIPATION AND REGENERATION

In recent years, the role of digital technologies has become increasingly important for cities. Digital participation tools, sensor networks, big data analytics as well as data accessibility, privacy and accountability are regularly used in urban management and urban planning and design. New technology is resulting in radical transformation of cities in many areas, and innovations such as autonomous vehicles and drones will soon have a great impact on the way cities need to be planned and designed. Increasingly, cities that make use of new technologies and digital data for urban planning and management are termed 'smart cities'.

In 2018, the United Nations Secretary-General launched a new strategy on new technologies. The strategy calls for the UN to seize the urgency of the moment and take a deliberate, organized, coherent and ambitious approach to the use of new technology in order to support Member States effectively. The strategy also calls for UN agencies to work in close partnerships with a range of government, industry, academic and civil society partners - especially the private sector as it is driving much of the current technological progress.

For UN-Habitat, the use of digital tools in cities must contribute to sustainable urban development, helping citizens make environmentally-friendly choices, promoting

inclusive economic growth and ensuring civic participation by all. However, in many parts of the world there are persistent digital divides across gender, geography, age, and income dimensions. The New Urban Agenda, while calling for digital platforms be used to improve long-term integrated urban and territorial planning and design, also requires efforts to be made to make ICT more accessible to everyone, including women and girls, children and youth, older persons and disabled people.

UN-Habitat believe that ICT can be a catalyst to improve governance in towns and cities and help increase levels of participation, efficiency and accountability in public urban policies, provided that the tools are appropriately used, accessible, inclusive and affordable. Research shows that ICT use by youth can have a direct impact on increasing civic engagement, giving them new avenues through which to become informed, shape opinions, get organized, collaborate and take action (Ben-Attar & Campbell, 2015). Digital technologies can be used to communicate technical information to enhance understanding, provide public access to information that was previously only available to experts and officials, to crowdsource information and feedback directly from citizens and make it publically available. Digital technology is also useful for visualizing ideas, thus promoting shared understanding and facilitating interaction between citizen

and governments. For example crowdsourcing data can provide opportunities for urban "citizen observatories" in which citizens crowdsource urban information which can be useful for policy makers.

The Public Space Programme was one of the early adopters of digital technologies in programme delivery at UN-Habitat and our innovative use of Minecraft has been widely praised as a fun and transformative way of using a video game to improve people's lives, including in the 2016 documentary film 'Gaming the Real World'. Our strong partnerships with Microsoft, Mojang and the Block by Block Foundation are crucial to ensure the continued delivery of the Programme.

BLOCK BY BLOCK - USING MINECRAFT FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN

Minecraft is a sandbox computer game originally launched in 2011 by the Swedish gaming studio Mojang, later bought by Microsoft. By late 2018, over 154 million copies had been sold across all platforms, making it the second best-selling video game of all time. The creative mode of Minecraft allows players to easily build structures out of textured cubes in a three-dimensional generated world, with the benefit of being able to construct together through the multiplayer setting. Minecraft can perhaps best be imagined as a sort of 'digital Lego' which the gaming community uses to build different structures and games, including cities. In Minecraft, players interact with the game world by placing various types of coloured blocks in a three-dimensional environment with the purpose of building creative structures, such as buildings and cities.

Starting in 2012, UN-Habitat developed the Block by Block methodology in which Minecraft is used as a simple sketching tool that enables anyone - even those with limited computer knowledge or low education - can design neighbourhoods or public spaces with limited training. Since 2013, UN-Habitat has used the Block by Block methodology in nearly 100 projects in 30 countries and territories, including Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Peru, Mexico, Haiti, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, China and Kosovo. Through five-day participatory

design workshops, UN-Habitat and partners bring people together to visualize their urban design ideas in Minecraft and present these to city authorities and local government officials. The Minecraft designs are then used as part of the process of implementing real public space improvement projects.

Observations carried out from the conducted projects indicates that using technology as a participatory tool for planning and design is a successful means to include non-traditional stakeholders in a bottom-up decision making processes. The lessons and experiences from using Minecraft showcase how inclusive the tool can be by making sure youth, women and girls are involved in the planning process from the onset. The game promotes creativity, innovation and visual learning, helps encourage dialogue between different groups and opinions and contributes to the development of important skills such as collaboration, public speaking and negotiation as well as giving vulnerable groups a voice. 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.

In 2016, the Block by Block Foundation was set up by Mojang and Microsoft to ensure sustainable funding for global public space implementation and advocacy.

The Foundation carries out a wide range of fundraising activities, mainly among the Minecraft community and is a generous supporter of the Global Public Space Programme.

The main outputs from the workshop using Minecraft are:

- Mobilize the residents and the users of the area in finding solutions for problems related to the public space;
- Assure social cohesion among different social groups;
- Ensure the participation of women and girls and children in the design process;
- Re-organize the space to become more accessible, safe and inclusive;
- Integrate the project into its surrounding; and
- Translate the needs of the community into design interventions.

More information about the Block by Block Foundation can be found on the official website.



www.blockbyblock.org

Check out some of the Minecraft models here:

<https://sketchfab.com/blockbyblock>



Minecraft Group work on Mongolpuri model

KOBO TOOLBOX - A DIGITAL, CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT AND INVENTORY TOOL

The UN-Habitat's Community-led, City-wide Public Space Assessment Tool has been developed as a cost-effective way to enable local governments to engage with citizens in a collaborative public space mapping and assessment exercises. The tool was first piloted in Nairobi, Kenya in 2015 and applied in various cities worldwide to enable them to establish baselines and monitor the progress of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11.7 - *"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"*.

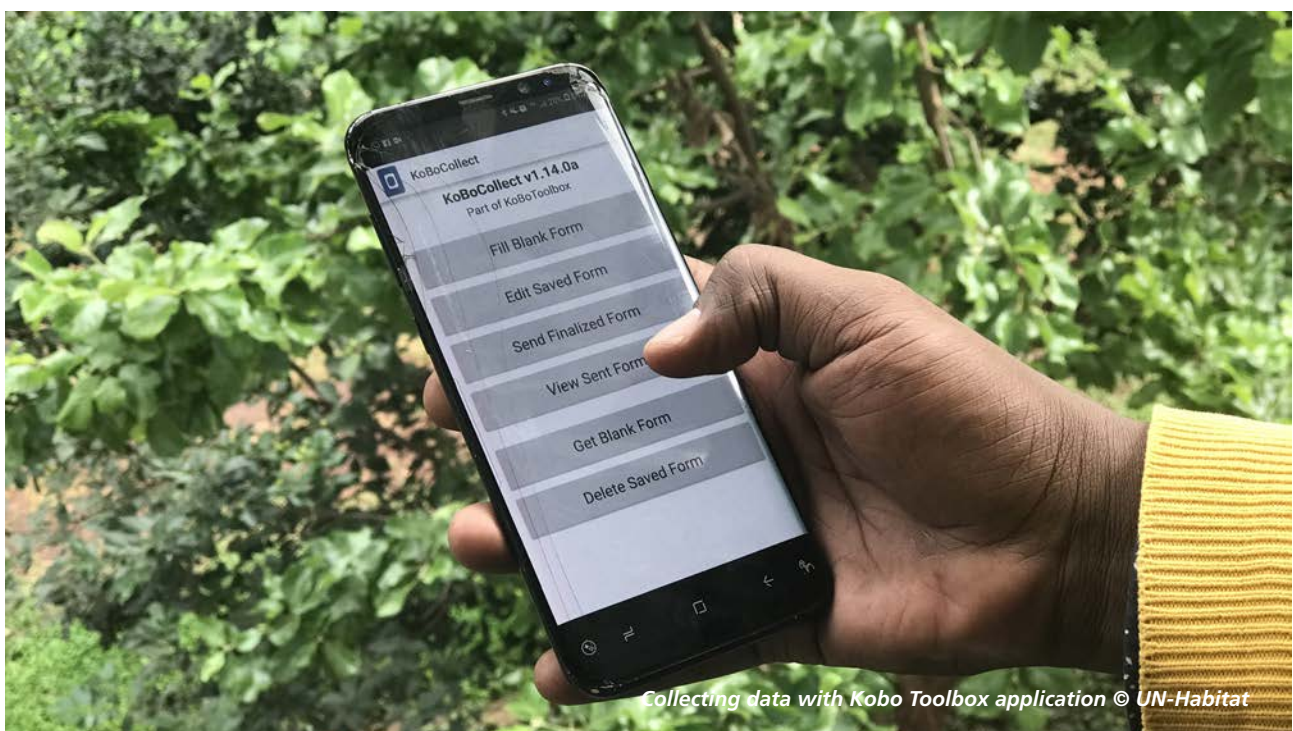
Kobo Toolbox, developed by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, is a suite of open source field data collection tools and is often used in challenging or low-bandwidth environments. An Android appli-

cation is linked to UN-Habitat's inventory database and provides a simple data collection infrastructure. The application allows the gathering of different kind of data ranging from quality of the space, availability, condition, accessibility, physical constraints, typologies, use, function and safety ratio. Once collected, the data is fed into a city-wide assessment analysis to highlight the needs and gaps in terms of upgrading and provision of public spaces.

UN-Habitat provides training and capacity building so that residents, communities, university students, youth and government officials can map and assess their own public spaces using the Kobo application. A printed base map divided into small sections is used to make sketches of the specific open spaces by the data collectors. The sources of the digital maps are either open street map

or a satellite image and the base map is provided by the city. Data collectors can draw a clear sketch on the base map while developing geospatial information files of the public spaces that are being mapped. This way, the public spaces in a city or neighbourhood can be relatively quickly mapped and assessed.

By 2018, UN-Habitat has used the Open Public Space Assessment Tool in seven cities: Kisumu, Addis Ababa, Durban, Johannesburg, Wuhan, Dhaka and West Nile. Kobo Toolbox has proven to be a useful citizen-centric digital tool for the collection, analysis and dissemination of geographically-based, community-collected, high-quality, timely and reliable data in subnational and local contexts, as called for by the New Urban Agenda.



Collecting data with Kobo Toolbox application © UN-Habitat

MIXED REALITY - TESTING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO DEMOCRATIZE URBAN DESIGN

In 2017, in collaboration with Ericsson, UN-Habitat began testing the use of mixed reality - a new technology which blends real and virtual environments to create new experiences where physical and digital objects coexist and interact in real time - to make the Block by Block participatory design process more inclusive and visual. Initial tests carried out as part of the Building the Public City project in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2017 indicated that this technology could be a useful tool to run participatory urban planning and design processes. In the Johannesburg project, UN-Habitat and Johannesburg Development Agency worked with residents and students to use Minecraft to crowdsource and co-create design ideas to improve a public space in Braamfontein. Once the

participants finished designing in Minecraft, the Ericsson team exported their creations to a mixed reality prototype application, building on a detailed 3D model of the public space. People could then go outside and, using special smartphones with 3D-sensors, view their Minecraft designs in real life, including walking around the digital objects out on the street as if they were physically present.

In 2018, building on the previous tests, UN-Habitat continued working in collaboration with Ericsson. The research team at Ericsson further developed the mixed reality platform to show more detailed 3D architectural models as well as introducing 'multiplayer' functionality - enabling several people with different devices to interact in the same digital model. A prototype

was built to visualize 3D building models from a new residential neighbourhood in Stockholm and an Expert Group Meeting with around 30 urban planners, architects, technologists and local government representatives was held in Stockholm in September 2018 to discuss the potential of this new technology for public space design, visualization and stakeholder engagement. In September 2018, UN-Habitat and Ericsson also exhibited the mixed reality platform at Gather Festival, a technology and innovation event in Stockholm. The outcomes of this Expert Group Meeting and the feedback from Gather participants are being summarized in a publication on using mixed reality to democratize urban design, to be published in early 2019.





V. POLICIES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INDICATORS

UN-Habitat and our partners have continued to refine and work on the global policies and norms that guide the work of global monitoring of public spaces. In 2018, UN-Habitat has focused on reviewing the metadata for gathering national data on SDG Indicator 11.7.1: *“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”* together with the European Joint Research Centre, New York University, the City Prosperity Initiative, World Bank and the KTH Future of Places Centre. This has led to methodological refinements, and subsequent computation of the indicator metrics in selected countries.

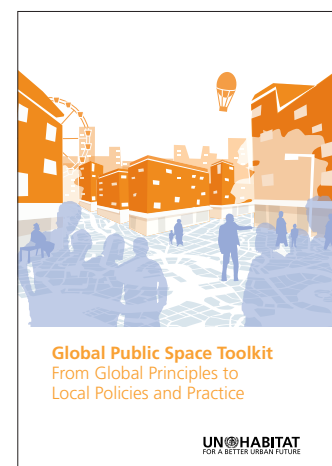
Many cities and countries are already collecting data on public spaces and UN-Habitat now has a database of public spaces in 289 cities in 94 countries. As a result, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators reclassified the indicator from Tier III to Tier II during their 8th general meeting on 5th-8th November 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden. This has secured our work on the SDG's related to public space until 2030 and UN-Habitat has now laid down a work plan for developing Member States capacities to collect data and monitor this indicator towards inclusive public spaces and achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.



THE GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE TOOLKIT

The Toolkit is a practical reference for local governments to frame and implement principles, policy recommendations and develop initiatives on public space and for central governments to aid their efforts with material support and enabling legislation. It also serve the purpose of demonstrating the value of the involvement of the citizenry and civil society in securing, developing and managing public space in the city. The Global Public Space

Toolkit was translated into Chinese, Russian and Spanish. A set of training modules were developed and used to train public space practitioners and local government representatives in Ethiopia, China, Cameroon and Italy.



COMPENDIUM OF GLOBAL PRACTICES ON CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES

Given the increasing urbanisation challenges and contemporary urban society dynamics, many local governments lack capacity to prepare implementable city-wide public space strategies. To support cities in the preparation of public space strategies, UN-Habitat in 2018 produced a compendium of inspiring global practices on city-wide public space strategies. The focus of this research was to understand the approach that cities across the world have taken when developing public space strategies, including spatial scales, financial mechanisms, governance, alignment with planning documents and monitoring approaches.

Based on a global sample of 26 inspiring practices, only a minority of public space strategies contain thorough baseline studies, public space inventories or assessments of existing public spaces. In a surprising number of strategy documents, the very definition of public space remains fluid and no clear typologies for the identification of different public spaces are established. Several notable exceptions exist, for instance the City of Zürich's strategy document includes a detailed SWOT analysis of existing public spaces, establishes a hierarchy of public spaces in the city and outlines criteria for determining the success and functionality of different public spaces in the city.

Overall, it is significant that private consultancies and private architecture practices are assuming an ever more important role in formulating strategic planning documents for cities around the world. The increasing tendency of cities to externalize tasks that were originally the responsibility of the administration poses important questions regarding accountability and responsibilities for implementation. While the strategies elaborated by private entities contain concrete recommendations for city governments, their realization remains uncertain and often outside the area of responsibility of the authors.

PREPARING CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Key findings and lessons drawn from the inspiring practices in the City-wide Public Space Compendium, were used to prepare a step-by-step guide for local governments on how to prepare city-wide public space strategies. The guide looks at the key dimensions and indicators that are necessary for a comprehensive city-wide public space strategy regardless of the thematic focus. It also highlights the necessary steps that should be followed to ensure that the process is transparent and inclusive. The recognition of the importance of

a city-wide public strategy has in some cases resulted in national policy decisions requiring local governments to have an approved city-wide public strategy before receiving implementation funds from the central government. As a result, UN-Habitat proposes that all programmes included in city-wide public strategies and annual public space action plans be synchronized into municipal work plans. This synchronization is critical to achieving the objectives and targets set out in the strategy.

An Expert Group Meeting was held to provide substantive inputs into the two publications on 24th-26th September 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden. The key recommendations from the meeting are currently being included to the documents and the publications will be ready in 2019 with the hope of having a training manual to support capacity development initiatives for both local and regional governments.





LIST OF DONORS

1. MAIN DONORS

The Global Public Space Programme is funded by an innovative mix of traditional development aid funding, foundation finance and contributions by the private sector. On the global level, Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency provides funding for policy and

tools development, the Block by Block Foundation for public space improvement projects, Microsoft and Mojang for community engagement and the Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Center for international normative activities and conferences.

In 2018, The Wuhan Land and Spatial Planning Institute, the Belgian Development Agency and Ericsson provided project-specific funding for projects in China, Gaza and Sweden.



2. CO-FINANCIERS

Most local implementation projects and many normative activities are also co-financed by development agencies, local governments and other partners. In 2018 these included:



UN-Habitat would like to extend the deepest gratitude to our funders and partners, who help us grow the global public space movement and improve the lives of millions of urban residents across the world.



Niamey, Niger © UN-Habitat / Christelle Lahoud

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