CHILD FRIENDLY PUBLIC SPACES

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME
UN-Habitat is the United Nations agency for sustainable towns and cities.

We promote the development of socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and strive for adequate shelter with better living standards for all.
SDG 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.
In 2050, it is projected that 70% of the world’s population will be under 18.

“World Population Ageing,” UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015.

Coupled with trends towards increased urbanization, this will bring the amount of urban children in 2050 to over 4.6 bn.

“2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects,” UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
Challenging urban environments for children

Environmental health concerns

Landfill in Dandora, Kenya © AP
Challenging urban environments for children

Spatial inequity

Primrose, South Africa © Johnny Miller / Millefoto
Challenging urban environments for children

Protection and safety concerns
Challenging urban environments for children

Participation concerns
Since 2012, the global public space programme worked in 36 COUNTRIES. Completed 85 Public spaces upgrading projects and 12 Public spaces assessments.

Engaged +20,000 CITIZENS, impacting +1.5 million people.
How do we work?

- City-wide public space assessment tool
- International guidelines on urban and territorial planning
- Global Public Space Toolkit
- Public space and NUP
- Guide on City-wide Public Space Strategy
- Urban planning for city leaders
- 5 principles of sustainable neighbourhood planning
- Global Public Space Toolkit
- Planned city extension tool
- Guide on City-wide Public Space Strategy
- Compendium of inspiring practices on city wide public space strategy
- Block by Block methodology for community participation
- Site-specific assessment
- Exploratory walks
- Guide on City-wide Public Space Strategy
- Compendium of inspiring practices on city wide public space strategy
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- SDG 11.7.1
- Planning and design principles
Site-specific assessment

**Access**
- Accessibility level
- Infrastructure condition
- Proximity to residential/commercial areas
- Bicycle parking
- Vehicular parking
- Safe Crossings

**Use**
- Number of users
- Type of activity

**Comfort**
- Air quality
- Noise level
- Cleanliness
- Visual amenity
- Safety

**Facilities**
- Lighting
- Seating
- Commercial facilities
- Leisure facilities
- Waterscape
- Garbage bins
- Toilet facilities
- Signage
- Drainage
- Artificial shading
- Design and edges

**Green coverage**
- Greenery
- Grass cover
- Flowers
- Trees
Exploratory walks
Digital surveys: Kobo Toolbox
Block by Block methodology: Minecraft
Building safer streets for girls in Hanoi

Girls Safety Walk (GSW)
Block by Block workshop
Towards a child-friendly Sharjah

Exploratory walks
Site-specific assessment
Block by Block workshop
Digital surveys
Public spaces for children in Mozambique

Mapping workshop
Block by Block workshop

15 children with special needs

Vukuhambe special school, South Africa © UN-Habitat
City-wide level: Strategies for Child-friendly public spaces

Open public spaces that require upgrading

- 6% Minimum improvement
- 59% Moderate improvement
- 35% Most improvement
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