

# GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME

UN-Habitat's initiatives towards safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces for all

Annual Report 2023





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Cover photo: Tactical urbanism in San Nicolas de los Garza, Mexico © UN-Habitat Mexico / Luis Angel Flores Hernandez

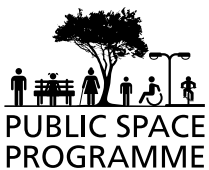
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# GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME

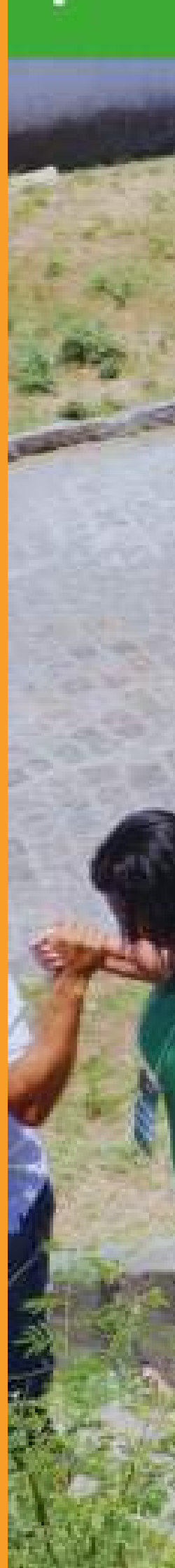
UN-Habitat's initiatives towards safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces for all

**Annual Report 2023**



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**“Public spaces are all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive.”**

Charter of Public Space (INU, 2015)



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR UN-HABITAT ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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

As we unveil the 2023 Global Public Space Programme annual report, I want to remark on the vital importance of public space in shaping sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant urban futures and the key milestones achieved this year.

Public spaces serve as platforms for social interaction, economic exchange, cultural expression, and environmental sustainability. As urbanisation intensifies, the significance of public spaces has only increased, emphasising the need for immediate and joint actions.

This year, our report reflects on public space initiatives not only from our Global Public Space Programme but also led by our Regional Offices and Country Offices. The intention is to share an agency-wide unified report to underscore our commitment to collaboration and integrated action. Across the globe, our teams and partners have worked diligently to implement innovative public space projects, engage communities, and advocate for better urban policies, prioritising equitable and inclusive public space development.

Public space visioning workshop in Neuquén, Argentina © UN-Habitat Argentina



**A  
milestone  
achievement**



This year, we celebrate a remarkable achievement – the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 11.7.1, pivotal in ensuring universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces by 2030, particularly for vulnerable groups, has been elevated to Tier I status.

This significant progress was officially announced at the SDG Summit in New York. The transition from Tier 2 to Tier 1 signifies that this indicator now has a clear conceptual framework and internationally established methodology and that over 50% of countries in relevant regions regularly produce data for it.

This advancement reflects UN-Habitat’s dedicated efforts in mobilising data production across countries, demonstrating global commitment and progress towards this goal by in-house colleagues and generous donors. This achievement recognises the centrality of public spaces in achieving the ambitious 2030 agenda and reinforces the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving global sustainability goals.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and dedicated staff for their invaluable contributions. Your support and collaboration are the cornerstones of our success. As we move forward, let us carry the momentum gained and continue championing the cause of public spaces. Together, we can create more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban environments that cater to the needs and aspirations of all, especially the most vulnerable.

**Michal Mlynár**  
Acting Executive Director  
UN-Habitat

[Read more](#)



# 2023 UN-HABITAT'S PUBLIC SPACE INITIATIVES



Since 2012, the Global Public Space Programme has supported the implementation of **151 safe and accessible public space** in over **102 cities**.





**7<sup>th</sup> Public Space Biennial**

Rome, Italy

**Scan the QR code and check all our 2023 impact stories**



This year, UN-Habitat focused on public spaces and urban health, migration, social inclusion, livelihoods, gender, nature-based solutions and climate resilience.

**2<sup>nd</sup> UN-Habitat Assembly**

Nairobi, Kenya

Three **inclusive and vibrant public spaces** implemented in Berbera, Hargeisa and Mogadishu, Somalia

**40**  
PUBLIC SPACES  
UPGRADED



**395,000+**  
BENEFICIARIES



**22,400+**  
PEOPLE  
ENGAGED



**6**  
MINECRAFT  
WORKSHOP



**2,800+**  
PEOPLE TRAINED





Tactical urbanism in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico © UN-Habitat

## PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGY: TACTICAL URBANISM SHAPES CIUDAD JUÁREZ'S FUTURE

**Location:** Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

**Partner:** Coordinación de Resiliencia del Municipio de Juárez

**Donor:** Juárez Municipality

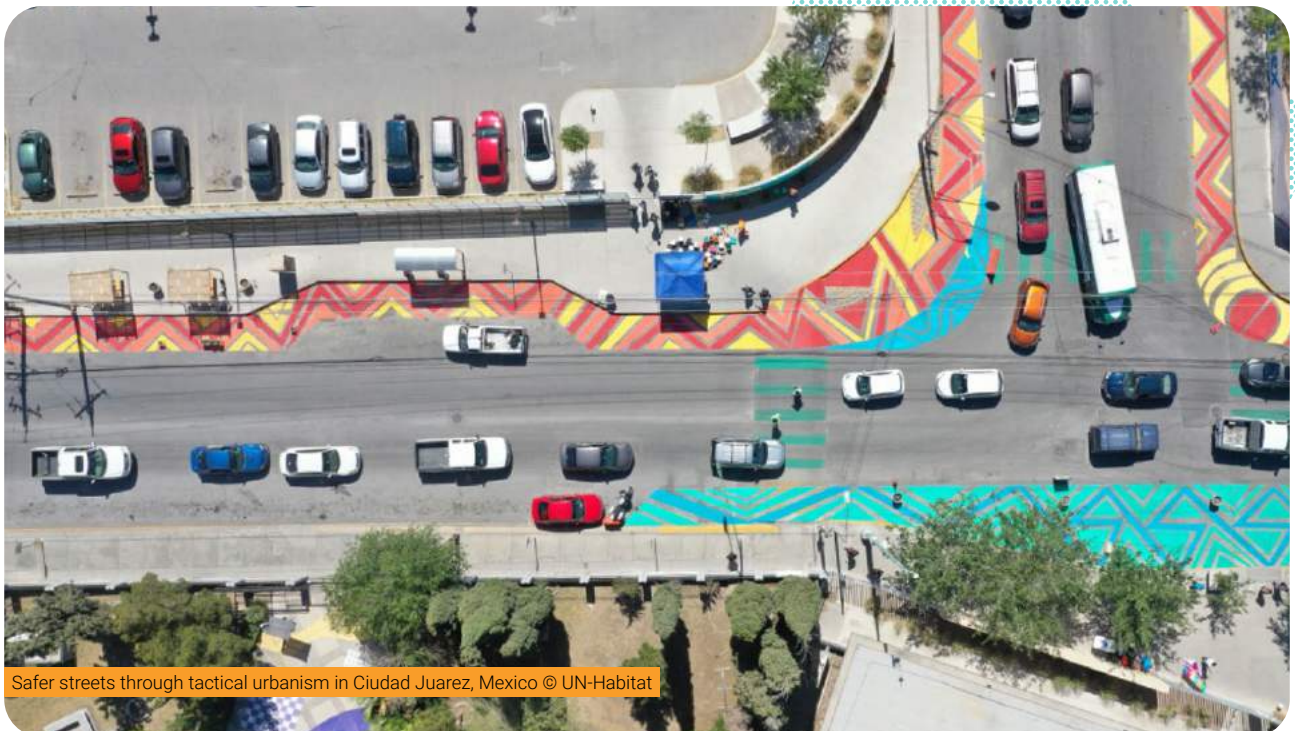
**Budget:** 180,000 USD

The Ciudad Juárez 2040 Vision comes to life with impactful tactical urbanism interventions, as around 200 community volunteers transform iconic sites into vibrant public spaces. Through collaborative art and urban design, the city blooms with identity and community engagement. People are at the heart of decision-making, aiming for the proposed interventions to trigger broader changes, reclaim the city's common character, and enhance the sense of urban life. This participatory approach reflects the city's commitment to the Global Agendas, propelling Ciudad Juárez towards a more connected and lively urban future.

[Read more](#)

Urban  
regeneration

Mexico



Safer streets through tactical urbanism in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico © UN-Habitat





Consultation meeting in Cairo, Egypt © BEC

*Livelihood and economy*

Egypt

20,000+ beneficiaries

56 engagement activities

## REVITALIZING AL-KHALIFA MARKET: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN TRANSFORMATION

**Location:** Cairo, Egypt

**Partner:** Megawra-Built Environment Collective

**Donor:** Block by Block Foundation

**Budget:** 68,650 USD

In the historic Cairo's Al-Khalifa, a community-driven project revitalized the market, enhancing its social and economic role. Over 300 residents, including youth, participated in redesigning the space using tools like Block by Block methodology (Minecraft for Participatory Urban Design). The initiative improved market accessibility, integrated waste management, and preserved cultural heritage, significantly boosting the area's vibrancy and sustainability while empowering residents to shape their neighbourhood's future.

[Read more](#)

*“Along with the market’s revitalization, I am deeply gratified today to know that our voices have been acknowledged and valued.”*

- Street vendor in Al-Khalifa market



Regeneration of Al-Khalifa Market in Cairo, Egypt © BEC



Implemented public space © BEC





Participatory workshop to assess public spaces in Neuquén, Argentina © UN-Habitat Argentina



## SUSTAINABLE CITIES: NEW URBAN AGENDA OF THE PROVINCE OF NEUQUÉN

**Location:** Villa El Chocón, Aluminé y Rincón de los Sauces, Neuquén, Argentina

**Partners:** Province of Neuquén: Secretariat of Planning and Action for Development (COPADEV), Undersecretariat of Public Works, the Ministry of Women and Diversity; and local municipalities

**Donor:** Argentina Federal Investment Council

**Budget:** 91,200 USD

The project analysed the quality of three public spaces and developed conceptual design proposals in three cities to make them socially inclusive, integrated, connected, environmentally sustainable and safe. These site-specific assessments are part of the “Sustainable Cities: New Urban Agenda of the Province of Neuquén” project, a joint initiative of UN-Habitat, UNOPS and UN Women, in collaboration with the provincial government. The public spaces were assessed according to tailored indicators linked to accessibility, sustainability, comfort and security, amenities, use and users. Three participatory workshops were held to evaluate and co-design the spaces, engaging with 45 women and 30 men aged between 18 to 85. Design elements that promote social integration, nature-based solutions and gender equality, including, were incorporated to address the challenges highlighted by the community, the local governments and the provincial government.

[Read more](#)

*“I live in front of this square that we are here today dreaming about. These participatory workshops are very constructive for everyone. What I want for this place is to be beautified, to be serviced and to be valued for us, the locals, and the visitors to Villa El Chocón.”*

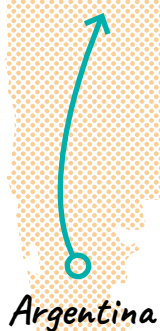
- Gustavo, 41 years, resident



Data collection in Neuquén, Argentina © UN-Habitat Argentina



Brainstorming in Neuquén, Argentina © UN-Habitat Argentina





# MAINSTREAMING THE gender PERSPECTIVE IN URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN



## About Her City Toolbox

Her City Toolbox is a joint initiative managed by UN-Habitat and Shared City Foundation. We aim to promote safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces, starting with girls. Through a 9-step methodology, Her City Toolbox guides local authorities, professionals and community members on including the female perspective in urban planning and design processes. From assessment to implementation, Her City provides a set of digital tools to engage and empower women and girls in the development of public spaces. Since the launch of the digital toolbox in 2021, we gathered:

**1,250+**  
*toolbox users*

**430+**  
*cities*

**350+**  
*independent initiatives*

**25**  
*project sites*

## Her City Projects 2023:



### Montego Bay, Jamaica

Transforming the image of Canterbury, from an unsafe to a vibrant and welcoming neighbourhood.

[Read more](#)



### Kampala, Uganda

Designing green rooftops boosts social inclusion and fosters income opportunities for women.

[Read more](#)



### Milan, Italy

Improving street design to increase urban safety of women and girls in the district of Corvetto.

[Watch video](#)







Lima, Peru © Mano a Mano



Lima, Peru © Ocupa tu calle

## WOMEN BUILDERS: URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS, DISASTER PREVENTION, AND FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

**Location:** Lima, Peru

**Partner:** Ocupa Tu Calle, Mano a Mano, AVINA Foundation

**Donor:** Block by Block Foundation

**Funding:** 98,100 USD (+ co-funding for construction)

**4** public spaces

**135+** women engaged

**40,000+** beneficiaries

The Women Builders Initiative has catalysed urban regeneration and promoted female financial independence in the districts of La Ensanada and Pamplona Alta. Over 135 women joined forces to improve the conditions of four public spaces, integrating green and urban agriculture areas and enhancing the accessibility of the neighbourhoods. The initiative has also launched the “Pact for Public Spaces” to create a committed network and advocate for better local urban policy for public space development.

[Read more](#)

*“I feel more independent now; it’s easier to move around or for my parents to help me. Before, they had to carry my chair up the stairs.”*

- Mariela, a resident with a physical disability



[Watch video](#)

### Her City Publications

In 2023, we released the first [Spanish edition: La Ciudad De Ellas](#), thanks to the precious support of Centro Urbano. We also finalised our [5 years impact report](#), showcasing our achievements since the launch of the initiative.





## GREEN RESILIENCE TO TACKLE FOOD SECURITY AMID UKRAINE-RUSSIA CONFLICT

**Location:** Tunis and Marsa, Tunisia  
**Partners:** UN-Habitat Tunisia, ECA office for North Africa, Municipality of Tunis, Municipality of Marsa, Cultural Club of Ali Belhouane (CCAB)  
**Donor:** Joint SDG Fund  
**Budget:** 180,000USD

Food security has been a rising concern in Tunisia as a consequence of the Ukraine-Russia war. UN-Habitat partnered with Tunis and La Marsa municipalities to create productive vegetable gardens in the green parks of the urban fabric. The initiative engaged and trained over 100 community members, particularly aiding vulnerable groups and migrants with food access through digital platforms and local NGOs. The project's positive impact can be witnessed by the community members' widespread adoption of urban agriculture principles, with participants extending sustainable gardening practices into their households, enhancing domestic food security.

[Read more](#)

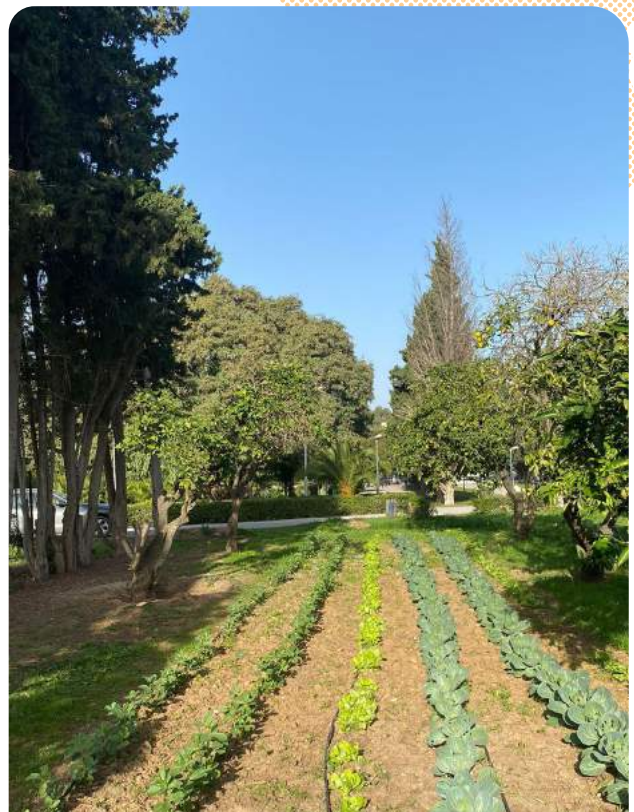


*"This project motivated young people to engage in establishing urban vegetable gardens, which are crucial for ensuring food security, particularly during these challenging times."*

- Siwar, a member of Cultural Club of Ali Belhouane

100+ people trained

1,000+ beneficiaries







Inauguration event of the new Kali Pepe Riverbank public space in Solo, Indonesia © Kota Kita

100+ people trained

Environment  
and climate

Indonesia

## FROM VACANT TO VIBRANT: CO-DESIGNING AN ACCESSIBLE RIVERFRONT

**Location:** Solo, Indonesia

**Partners:** Kota Kita, Surakarta City Government, Kota Kita, Urban+ Institute, and Ayo ke Taman

**Donor:** Block by Block Foundation

**Budget:** 60,000 USD

In the vibrant city of Solo, Indonesia, a groundbreaking initiative, Rivers as Inclusive Common Space, is reshaping public space development along the Kali Pepe Riverbank. The project focuses on transforming neglected riverbanks into inclusive and resilient public spaces. The Mangkubumen Harmony Park, emerging from this endeavour, is a testament to the power of community engagement, involving over 60 residents in every design stage through innovative tools like Minecraft. This park, a beacon of inclusivity, now benefits 320 residents, showcasing accessibility with ramps and handrails. Heartwarming stories from residents like Gancar and Fitri highlight the tangible impact, turning a once-vacant space into a haven for soccer, badminton, and community bonding. The success of this project ripples beyond, influencing national housing development and serving as a model for future inclusive public spaces in Surakarta.

[Read more](#)



Tactical placemaking in Solo, Indonesia © Kota Kita



## COMMUNITY AT THE CORE: URBAN TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TACTICAL URBANISM

**Location:** San Nicolas de los Garza, Monterrey, Mexico

**Partners:** UN-Habitat, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León

**Donor:** San Nicolás de los Garza Municipality

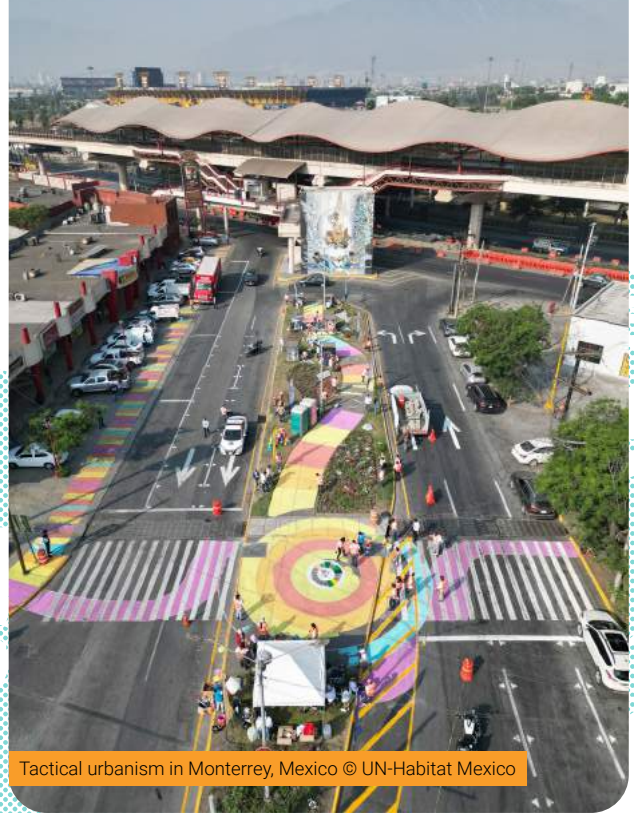
**Budget:** 200,000USD

San Nicolás de los Garza's transformation started with the Public Space Strategy, implemented by UN-Habitat and the local government. Tactical urbanism interventions have brought immediate changes and set the stage for long-term revitalization. 640 people, 455 women and 182 men, have joined together to generate lively, inclusive, and functional urban areas. The strategy also includes a Public Space Toolkit and a Tactical Urbanism Plan encompassing design guidelines and event programming that reflect the community's needs. This initiative exemplifies a new paradigm in urban transformation, where residents lead the planning and execution toward more inclusive, safe, and dynamic public spaces in Monterrey's metropolitan area.

[Read more](#)



San Nicolas de los Garza, Mexico © UN-Habitat Mexico



Tactical urbanism in Monterrey, Mexico © UN-Habitat Mexico

640+ participants  
100,000+ beneficiaries

Mexico

Urban  
regeneration

*"Aesthetic changes are indeed important because they attract citizens and generate curiosity. This is necessary to change urbanism, to have spaces that are closer and more comfortable."*

- Daniel Carillo, Mayor of San Nicolas de los Garza



[Watch video](#)





San Nicolas de los Garza, Mexico © UN-Habitat Mexico



# IMPROVING THE health AND WELL-BEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

## YOUNG GAMECHANGERS INITIATIVE



### About Young Gamechangers Initiative

Despite being one of the most active users of public spaces and having a significant stake in the future, young people often need to be adequately represented in urban governance processes. With 55% of the global population currently residing in urban areas and an expected increase to 68% by 2050, it is predicted that up to 60% of all city dwellers will be under 18 by 2030 (UN-Habitat, 2023). To address this issue, it is essential to create appropriate mechanisms and participatory tools, including digital technologies, that increase youth involvement in urban governance. The Young Gamechangers Initiative proposes to tackle these challenges by focusing on the following pillars:

#### *Youth governance*

Strengthening governance frameworks to advance the health and well-being of young people.

#### *Digital engagement*

Empower young people with voice and agency and equip them with the right digital skills to engage in governance.

#### *Inclusive public spaces*

Supporting local authorities to deliver public spaces that are youth-friendly, safe, accessible and inclusive

In 2023, we achieved several significant milestones. We elaborated a comprehensive participation plan, ensuring a structured and inclusive approach to our initiative. Additionally, we developed a robust communication strategy to disseminate information and engage with our target audience effectively. We outlined a framework for evidence-gathering and monitoring and designed a detailed project-specific Data management and privacy plan. We conducted productive meetings with implementing partners and engaged relevant stakeholders to enhance the project's success.



COLOMBIA

Armenia

SENEGAL

Bargny

Jatni

INDIA



Our partners, the [University of Quindío](#) and the youth council have led the city-wide public space assessment training with 30 young gamechangers.

[See Video](#)



Through collaborative efforts with the Bargny Municipality and young people, we are working to restore Bargny's coastal environment.

[Know more](#)



With the [Municipality of Jatni](#), we are working in 13 informal settlements with a cumulative population of 4,000 as the target group to improve youth's health and well-being.

[See Video](#)



**Valerhim Pérez Uribe**

Valerhim's exceptional leadership within the Young Gamechangers Initiative (YGI) led to her selection for the UN-Habitat Advisory Board. Her dedication to revitalizing green spaces, advocacy for youth inclusion, and research on public policies showcased her commitment to sustainable urban development and youth empowerment. [Know more](#)

### #Road2accessibility

We asked our #YoungGamechangers to interview persons with disabilities in their communities. [Here is the result!](#)

Join us on a #Road2Accessibility to achieve safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces for all.



## Global Research Challenge



We invited young individuals worldwide to be part of a transformative dialogue through the [Journal of Public Space's](#) special issue on "[Public Space and Placemaking: Evaluating the impact on Youth Health and Well-being](#)"



## VISION 2030 IN ACTION: CO-CREATING PUBLIC SPACES IN ALAGOAS

**Location:** Maceió, Maragogi, Penedo, Santana do Ipanema, and União dos Palmares, Brazil

**Partners:** Coordination of the 'Vida Nova nas Grotas' Program; State Secretariat for Transport and Urban Development; State Secretary for Early Childhood, State Secretariat for Public Safety; State Secretariat for Violence Prevention; Maragogi City Hall; Penedo City Hall; Santana do Ipanema City Hall; União dos Palmares City Hall

**Donor:** Government of the State of Alagoas

Two initiatives were carried out in Alagoas to promote inclusive public spaces as part of the umbrella project Alagoas Vision 2030, which intends to create innovative and integrated solutions for a better and more inclusive future of the State. First, a urban park was constructed in a low-income housing complex in the capital Maceió. Then, through the initiative Cidade 2030, UN-Habitat conducted a series of workshops in the four municipalities of Maragogi, Penedo, Santana do Ipanema e União dos Palmares, to define a vision and public space design solutions. Residents, public managers, and students actively participated, utilising innovative design methods.

[Read more](#)



Participatory workshop in Alagoas, Brazil © UN-Habitat Brazil

*"Taking part in this workshop was a very rewarding experience because I feel I'm contributing to a safer, more accessible, better-lit leisure space that can be used by everyone. When the park is finished, I'll know that I was the one who suggested that it should be there, in that exact place. We feel like we're taking part in other people's futures"*

- Lucas Silva, student, 16 years, workshop participant



Participatory workshop in Alagoas, Brazil © UN-Habitat Brazil



Brazil

**Social  
inclusion**

**295+** participants  
**16+** design workshops

## BATALAAL BEACHFRONT: AN INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE FOR ALL

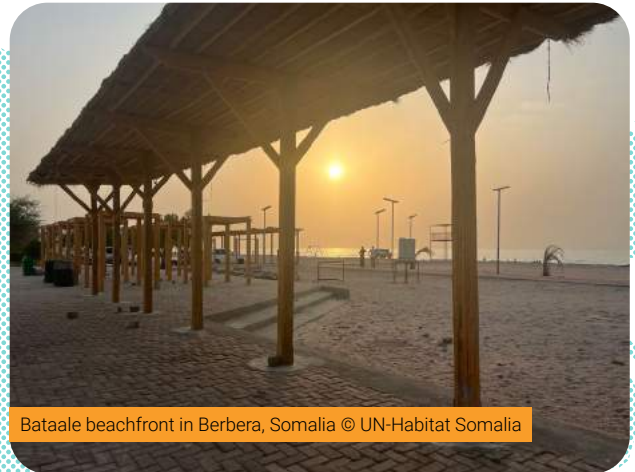
**Location:** Berbera, Somalia

**Partner:** UN-Habitat Somalia, Berbera Municipality

**Donor:** European Union

UN-Habitat implemented the Batalaale beachfront, a vibrant and inclusive public space for all. The public beach now integrates pedestrian pathways, shaded areas, benches, playgrounds and outdoor gym installations to ensure everyone feels welcome. Located three kilometers north of the city centre, the municipality improved the beach accessibility by rehabilitating the connecting road. The initiative intends to demonstrate the potential of the Berbera Strategic Development Plan through pilot projects.

[Read more](#)



Bataale beachfront in Berbera, Somalia © UN-Habitat Somalia



Inclusive public space in Berbera, Somalia © UN-Habitat Somalia

*Urban  
regeneration*

Somalia

*3 kms pedestrian sidewalks*

*203 solar-powered streetlights*



Cultural activities in well-lit streets of Berbera, Somalia © UN-Habitat Somalia





*"There is an economic value attached to our rivers. As young people without jobs, we have an opportunity to convert this waste into something meaningful."*

- Collince Onyango, Founder and CEO, ETCO



# INTEGRATING *Nature-based solutions* FOR URBAN RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN KENYA

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are crucial for addressing environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity and pollution. They often offer cost-effective alternatives to traditional infrastructure, fostering resilience and enhancing ecosystem services. Embracing nature-based approaches in policy-making and urban planning processes can lead to more resilient and equitable societies while safeguarding natural resources.

Kenya has become a pioneer in developing urban strategies to promote urban resilience and climate adaptation, focusing on blue solutions for coastal ecosystems and river regeneration. Various stakeholders are getting together through public-private partnerships to steer the future of Nairobi rivers' basins and coastal adaptation.



## Nairobi Rivers Basins

Promoting an interdisciplinary approach to recover Nairobi rivers and support their communities.

[Read more](#)



## Go Blue

Boosting the blue economy of six coastal counties in Kenya through urban regeneration interventions.

[Read more](#)



## 3EP

Regenerating Ngong River basin to promote climate adaptation measures of communities residing the basin.

[Read more](#)



On the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN-Habitat Assembly, the Member States adopted their **first resolution on biodiversity and resilient cities**, pushing toward the agency mandate on the adoption of nature-based solutions.

[Read more](#)



## RECLAIMING STREETS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS IN AFRICA

**Location:** Maputo and Quelimane (Mozambique), Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nakuru (Kenya), Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Bahir Dar (Ethiopia), Kigali (Rwanda), Conakry (Guinea)

**Partners:** UN-Habitat ROAF, ITDP, UNEP, UNECA, UNICEF

**Donor:** UN Road Safety Fund

**Budget:** 500,000 USD

The project enhanced road safety in 11 African cities by improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and promoting physical activities and soft mobility. The project's success is evident by the drop in road traffic-related deaths in selected countries to below the African annual average of 26.6 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. This was achieved through accelerated efforts of governments and financiers in policy development, local implementation action and investments to design safer streets and create livable public spaces. A series of trainings, engagement workshops and tactical placemaking activities were conducted to strengthen local authorities' awareness of road safety. Two documents reflecting on policy recommendations and design guidelines for Kenyan and Ethiopian cities were developed.

[Watch video](#)



© UN-Habitat



© UN-Habitat



*"Safety improvements were needed for all road users in Kenya because of the rising fatalities, sometime 3-5% every year. In Nairobi, 60-70% of these fatalities involve pedestrians. The Reclaiming Street project is helping us tackle this challenge"*

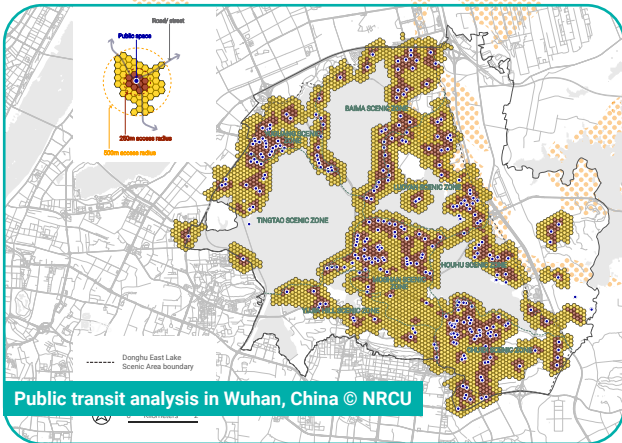
- Moises Ndiritu Kuyiki, Transport Director, Nairobi County Government

Environment  
and climate

China

282+ public space assessed

90+ people trained



## INTEGRATING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS ALONG DONGHU EAST LAKE

**Location:** Wuhan, China

**Partners:** UN-Habitat ROAP, Administrative Committee of Wuhan East Lake Scenic Area

**Donor:** Wuhan Natural Resources Conservation and Utilization Center (NRCU)

The project assessed the conditions of the Donghu East Lake scenic area to strengthen its social, ecological and connectivity functions and promote carbon neutrality for the enhanced well-being of its residents. Over 90 trained data collectors have assessed 282 public spaces along the lakeshore using the application Kobo toolbox. Overall, the public spaces along Donghu East Lake are well-equipped, with good comfort and safety levels. The area is a tourism epicentre in Wuhan and contributes to reducing the urban heat island effects. Improvements are required regarding connectivity with the surrounding residential areas and integration of nature-based solutions. Based on the findings, the project provides strategic recommendations targeting five key action areas: universal accessibility, greenways, thematic tourism, regeneration of critical public space, and ecological function of the scenic area.

[Read more](#)





## LIVING STREETS AT JARDIM FELICIDADE: STREETS AS VIBRANT AND ATTRACTIVE PUBLIC SPACES

**Location:** Belo Horizonte, Brazil

**Partners:** Nossa Belo Horizonte, Jardim Felicidade Municipal School, Belo Horizonte City Hall, Onça River Watershed Committee, Sanitation and Water Agency - COPASA

**Donor:** International Climate Initiative

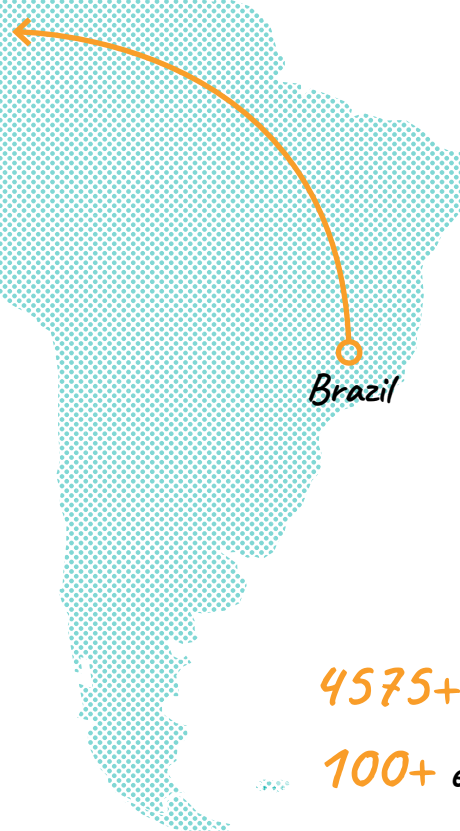
**Budget:** 20,000USD

Ruas de Estar project, in collaboration with Belo Horizonte Municipality, is part of the Urban Pathways programme. The initiative transformed a motorized avenue into a livable and vibrant pedestrian area located on the banks of the Tamboril stream, around the water spring "Nascente da Felicidade". The new promenade integrates accessible sidewalks, shaded seating areas, playgrounds, and safe zebra crossing, allowing residents, school students, and visitors to hang out and meet. The water stream running close by increases the attractiveness of the area, while the reduced motorized traffic has a positive impact on the water quality and pollution.

[Read more](#)



Environment and climate







On site consultation in informal settlement in Jatni, India © UN-Habitat India



# TOWARDS INCLUSIVE CITIES: PROMOTING *social inclusion* OF MIGRANTS COMMUNITIES

10,000+  
engaged  
people

26+  
upgraded  
public spaces

162,000+  
beneficiaries

### About Inclusive cities, communities of solidarity

Since 2015, more than 5 million refugees and migrants have fled Venezuela, seeking a new life in the surrounding countries and communities. The initiative is an inter-agency collaboration between UNHCR, IOM and UN-Habitat, supported by the European Union, that seeks to promote social and economic inclusion of refugees and migrants and increase the resilience of host communities in six Latin American and Caribbean countries. Among the project outcomes, the initiative leverages the opportunities of inclusive public spaces and participatory tactical urbanism interventions to build social cohesion between host communities and migrants while building platforms for cultural exchange and economic empowerment.

10 project locations within Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Dominican Republic and Tobago and Tobago:



*“The tactical urbanism project seems great to us, as it changes people’s mentality. Changing a space generates life, it changes our attitude and makes us think differently.”*

[Watch video](#)

- Professor Nelsón Pájaro, Bucaramanga, Colombia



Barranquilla, Colombia © UN-Habitat



Manta, Ecuador © UN-Habitat



### Urban Inclusion Marker

The initiative developed an Urban Inclusion Marker, which is a georeferenced index that allows the measurement of a city's aggregated level of inclusion and its potential contribution to the spatial, social, economic and cultural integration of its inhabitants.

[Read more](#)



### Territorial Scale Intervention Plan

9 Territorial Scale Intervention Plans were developed, comprising over 500 actions identified by the communities to enhance integration across topics like housing, education, health, public space, job opportunities and governance. Over 200 actions have been implemented.

[Read more](#)



### IntegrHa-bitat

The initiative developed a dynamic network of multipurpose centres open to the entire population that acts as a platform for multicultural dialogues and an incubator of initiatives promoting peaceful coexistence. The network counts 103 centres located worldwide.

[Read more](#)



### Integration toolbox

The initiative elaborated a Toolbox, gathering lessons learnt and resources to deliver an effective urban planning process for integrating refugees and migrants, including prevention of xenophobia, financial inclusion, employment, skills training, housing and social protection.

[Read more](#)

*“We have tried to promote interaction, to eliminate phenomena such as xenophobia and to let people know a bit more about their rights, about the spaces that can be found and that can be used together with the local communities.”*



- Community leader,  
Andreina Briceno,  
Changuanas,  
Trinidad and Tobago

[Watch video](#)





COOPERAÇÃO PERNAMBUCO  
Desenho, Educação e Territórios  
DESENHO DE ESPAÇOS PÚBLICOS  
PARTICIPANTE  
ERIC VITOR

Co-designing public spaces in Pernambuco, Brazil © UN-Habitat Brazil

# KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

Over the years, UN-Habitat has developed a series of normative and operational tools to support local and national governments and other partners in scaling up efforts to achieve SDG goal 11.7 and make public spaces more safe, inclusive, accessible and green. More recently, few guidelines have been tailored by our country offices, to address the specificities of regional contexts. Finally, we are now digitalising our tools and methods into e-learning self-paced modules that will be available online for open-access capacity building worldwide.



Visioning public spaces in Pernambuco, Brazil © UN-Habitat Brazil

## Regional guidelines and tools for delivering safe, accessible and inclusive public spaces

### The public space assessment, design and management methodology

**Language:** Arabic

UN-Habitat's HAYA Joint Programme worked on decreasing harmful practices and attitudes perpetuating and validating violence against women and girls. The "Public Space Assessment, Design, and Management Methodology" provides local government with a comprehensive roadmap towards the creation and maintenance of safe, accessible, and inclusive public spaces for all.

[Read more](#)

### Methodological notebook for public space design

**Language:** Portuguese

The "Methodological Notebook for Public Space Design" provides the user with step-by-step guidance to conduct participatory workshops for public space assessment and design. It has been refined following its application in Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

[Read more](#)



Scan the QR code to see our [Global Public Space Dashboard](#) and get access to our tools, guidelines and impact stories



# JOIN OUR GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK!

The Global Public Space Programme has engaged with a diverse group of partners during project implementation and networking initiatives. The Network currently comprises over 800 organisations, including local and national governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and United Nations Agencies.

Since 2016, the Programme has organised regular meetings to disseminate knowledge and lessons learnt with a broader global community while promoting peer-to-peer exchange on public space-related discussions.



**Watch this video** and hear more from our partners!

Join the UN-Habitat Global Public Space Networks at this [link](#).

Your involvement will expand our global reach and enrich the network with diverse perspectives and innovative solutions in advancing the public space agenda.

For more information, email us at: [unhabitat-publicspace@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-publicspace@un.org)

Thanks to our partners who allow us to implement our normative and operational mandate worldwide through their generous financial support and collaboration!



Logos featured above represent donors and partners of the Global Public Space Programmes initiatives highlighted in this 2023 report.



Training of trainers with youth in Armenia, Colombia © University of Quindio

## Regional Public Space Networks

### The Pact for Public Spaces

The Pact for Public Spaces is a network that aims to improve urban policies and overall public space quality and management while boosting citizens' engagement. The Regional Pact for Public Spaces was launched during the 8<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Urban Interventions and 5<sup>th</sup> Placemaking Latin America in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This announcement, attended by 185 representatives of regional organizations, laid the groundwork for the expansion of the pact across Latin America.

[Know more](#)

### Pacto por los espacios públicos

### CENTRE ON AFRICAN PUBLIC SPACES

### Centre on African Public Spaces

The Centre on African Public Spaces (CAPS), initiated by the City of Johannesburg and in collaboration with UN-Habitat and GIZ, is a unique hub for experts and activists dedicated to enhancing African public spaces. Established in response to the 2018 Africities Summit, CAPS is a pioneering, multidisciplinary platform fostering knowledge sharing and expertise growth in urban spaces. We invite African partners to join us in this vital mission to transform and enrich our continent's urban landscapes.

[Know more](#)



Meet  
the  
team

Healthy  
cities, healthy  
communities

Think global,  
act local!

Thanks to the Global Public Space Programme's staff for their passion and commitment toward UN-Habitat's public space mandate. Notably, a big thanks to Amr Elsayed, Chiara Martinuzzi, Christelle Lahoud, Elin Andersdotter Fabre, Eugenio Gastelum Pons, Jing Ren, Jose Chong, Joy Mutai, Joyce David, Maria Gonzalez, Nikolas Lajouw, Rizwan Kasmani, Saba Fazel, Sara Lalmi, Silas Owiti, Sharon Ogoti, Solomon Imujaro and Weikun Zhu.



*A green space is  
a better place!*

*I love  
public  
spaces!*

*Cities  
for girls,  
cities for  
all*







**For more information:  
visit our website or contact us via email:  
[unhabitat-publicspace@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-publicspace@un.org)**