TRANSFORMING CITIES: CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES, LINKING GLOBAL PRINCIPLES TO LOCAL PUBLIC SPACE
UN-HABITAT and PUBLIC SPACE

Knowledge Management, Advocacy and Tools

Technical Cooperation, Pilot Projects and Capacity Development

Partnerships and Networking
Since 2012, the Programme...

Worked in 35 COUNTRIES
Completed 82 PUBLIC SPACES UPGRAADING PROJECTS
Completed 12 PUBLIC SPACES ASSESSMENTS

Engaged +20,000 CITIZENS

The public space assessment
Civil society and partners
Public space upgrading
Technology
Policies

2 MILLION PEOPLE IMPACTED
UN-Habitat Public Space Process and Tools

**Process**
- City-wide assessment
- Strategy and Policy
- Action plan and management/main tenance plans
- Design principles
- Local Implementation and Pilot Projects
- Monitoring and Evaluation

**Tools**
- City wide public space assessment tool
- Global Public Space Toolkit
- Guide on City-wide Public Space Strategy
- Compendium of promising practices
- Legal and Financial Tools
- Guide on City-wide Public Space Strategy
- Global Public Space Toolkit
- Minecraft for community participation
- Place analysis tool
- Guide on City-wide Public Space Strategy
- Meta-data SDG 11.7.1 and training modules
CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT
HELPING CITIES TAKE STOCK AND PLAN

Main Objectives:
- Quantity
- Distribution
- Accessibility
- Quality
- Network
- Strategies

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1. Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA
2. Dhaka, BANGLADESH
3. West Nile, UGANDA
4. Durban, SOUTH AFRICA
5. Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA
6. Wuhan, CHINA
7. Kisumu, KENYA
8. Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
9. Jianghan - Wuhan, CHINA
Significance of the City-wide Public Space Assessment: Global Agenda

Target 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”

Indicator 11.7.1:
• “the average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space in public ownership and use”
Significance of the City-wide Public Space Assessment: Global Agenda

Mentioned 10 times in 8 discrete paragraphs and 2 times in the vision

With commitments to social, economic and environmental sustainability referenced to safe, inclusive, accessible green and quality public space for all
Two methods have been proposed for defining what is rural and what is urban, and for identifying the area of the city.

The NYU method relies primarily on an assessment of the density of built-up area, and applies various rules to create a unified urban boundary for cities. (NYU/UNH).

The EC method relies on population density and city size at a 1km grid level. (EC/UN-H).
Data Availability (SDG 11.7.1)

Global sample of 220 cities in 77 countries, which represents the 5% of the Universe of 4,231 cities over 100,000 inhabitants in 2010. Information can be disaggregated by regional classifications and by GDP per capita.
Method of computation

Indicator 11.7.1 is composed of three parts:

1. Spatial analysis to delimit the built-up area of the urban agglomeration
2. Computation of total area of open public space.
3. Estimation of land allocated to streets.

Share of the built up area of the city that is open space in public use %

\[
\left( \frac{\text{Total surface of open public space} + \text{Total surface of land allocated to streets}}{\text{Total surface of built up area of the urban agglomeration}} \right) \times 100
\]
**Definition of terms for indicator computation**

**Urban extent** is defined as the total area occupied by the built-up area and the urbanized open space. The built-up area is defined as the contiguous area occupied by buildings and other impervious surfaces.

**Open public spaces** are those areas within the urban environment that are freely accessible to the public for use, regardless of ownership, and are intended primarily for outdoor recreation and informal activities irrespective of size, design or physical feature.

**Streets** are defined thoroughfares that are based inside towns, cities and neighbourhoods most commonly lined with houses or buildings used by pedestrians or vehicles in order to go from one place to another in the city, interact and to earn a livelihood.

Photo: Prague Public space Strategy
1. Start with satellite imagery
2. Extract Urban extent
3. Extract open spaces and streets within urban extent
4. Correlate the extracted data with data from open source and local authority
5. Classify open spaces by 5 categories: Pocket spaces, Neighbourhood spaces, City spaces, Larger city space, and Metropolitan spaces
Share of Land that is Public Space (SDG 11.7.1): Addis Ababa Snapshot

Calculation of land allocated to open space for public use within the urban extent

\[
\left( \frac{\text{Total surface of open public space} + \text{Total surface of land allocated to streets}}{\text{Total surface of built up area of the urban agglomeration}} \right) \times 100
\]

\[
\left( \frac{14.63 \text{km}^2 + 65.22 \text{km}^2}{296.46 \text{km}^2} \right) \times 100 = 26.93\%
\]
Indicator 11.7.1: Balanced distribution of public spaces promotes social inclusion and equity

In some of these cities, a low percentage of population with access to public spaces does not necessarily mean that there is inadequate share of land that is open public spaces, but rather that their distribution across the city is not even.

Figure 1. Distribution of cities by share of land allocated to open spaces and population living within 400m walking distance to open public spaces
City-Wide Public Space Assessment: Towards data Driven Policy/Strategy

Evaluate and generate digital data:

1. Quantity
2. Distribution
3. Accessibility
4. Network
5. Quality (Accessibility, Use, Comfort, Facilities, Green coverage)

Cross-cutting: Human rights, gender, youth, climate change, etc.

Identify gaps:

- Accessibility
- Inclusivity
- Safety
- Monitor and Report on the SDG 11.7 and the NUA

Kobo Toolbox App
City-Wide Public Space Assessment: Nairobi Snapshot

Quick Facts

All points collected
4,085-37.25Km²

All points used after data cleaning
1,798-16.52Km²

2016 - 3.1 million
2030 - 6.3 million
Towards City-wide Strategy and Policy – International case studies

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES

- **7** Metropolitan level strategies
- **15** City level strategies
- **2** Neighbourhood level strategies
Towards a city-wide strategy: Key messages from the Future of Places

1. A citywide approach – connected public space
2. Human scale
3. Economic spillover
4. Culture and Context
5. Adequate space for all, particularly most vulnerable
6. People-centred approach and social mix
7. Sustainable and multi-functional
Towards a City-wide Strategy: Wuhan Snapshot

**Vision:** Public Spaces in Jianghan District to be of high quality, more accessible, unique and diverse

- **Pocket parks**
- **Inner city lakes and parks**
- **Linear parks**

**Near-term development strategy 2017-2022**

Key pilot projects for upgrading and development of green networks to achieve a per capita of 4.2m²

**Long-term development strategy 2023-2030**

A green network of 1 belt, 2 axes and 3 zones will development to attain a 40% green coverage and 5.2m² per capita
Towards a City-wide Strategy: Five – Pronged approach

- Form that **generates** value.
- Good rules and regulations and a financial plan that **manages** value and attracts investment.
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CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES
MINIMUM ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS, OUTPUT-BASED

From EGM
Element of art/culture
Promotion of social interaction
Proximity (?)
Fair distribution (?)
Legibility of design
Case studies
Budgetary (?)
Sourcing of local materials
Social programming/management
Typologies/building blocks
Governance strategies
Site plans, policies
Funding
Provision of services
Appropriate use of materials
Conflict resolution mechanism

Rules for use
Master plan of all public spaces
Spatial arrangement
Maintenance and management plans
CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGIES
OUTLINE OF GUIDEBOOK

1. Introduction
   1.1 Why Public Space?
   1.2 Why Strategies (v Plans)?
   1.3 Why City-wide? Benefits and Obstacles

2. Minimum Essential Components
   2.1 Process-based Components
   2.2 Output-based Components

3. Key Enablers and Complements
   3.1 Entry Points
   3.2 Enabling Conditions
   3.3 Evaluation Criteria

4. Further Considerations
Policy Tool 1: Knowing Where We Are to Know Where to Go – City-wide Public Space Surveys

Preparing city-wide survey of public spaces will inform how to improve a city’s supply, quality and distribution of public space.

2016- 500,000  8.6 m²/capita
2030-2.3 million  2.0 m²/capita
Policy Tool 2: Measuring the Quality of Public Space.

Criteria for assessing the quality of public space in cities is critical. This can be done using detailed indicators such as accessibility, comfort, use, facilities, green coverage.
Policy Tool 3: Securing Political Commitment

Political commitment is a fundamental anchor towards provision of public space. This can be done through;

1. The acquisition of land for public space and public use
2. City by-laws
3. Management and maintenance of public space
4. Design standards, guidelines and policies
5. Training of local authorities, documenting experiences and adoption of the Charter of Public Space
Securing the provision, vitality and utility of public space for long term requires the role of legislation, regulation and enforcement.

Three mechanisms are considered in order to strengthen and protect public space:
1. Securing public space
2. Regulate the use of the public space
3. Protect and maintain the public space from misuse
Policy Tool 5: Anchoring Public Space in National Urban Policies and Seeking Synergies within Government

- Synergies between local and central governments are key.
- Coordination mechanism between different departments in the administrative structure such as environment, roads, health etc. is paramount.
- Use of public space policy tools to bridge together various departments and local actors.
- National government should assume a positive and substantive role in the creation, management and enjoyment of public spaces at national scale.
Policy Tool 6: Planning Public Space as a System

“The urban public-space system requires an integrated approach. It is therefore advisable for local governments to adopt a specific strategy for public-space networks”

• Improve accessibility and social inclusion
• Provide connectivity for flora & fauna
• Provide green infrastructure & ecosystem services
• Provide areas for play and recreation
• Increase property value
• Help mitigate and adapt to climate change
Policy Tool 7: Using Public Space to Lead Urban Development

- City growth
- Urban extension
- Urban regeneration
- Streets and public spaces should be planned and built before buildings and other urban facilities which leads to urban development in a positive and orderly way.
- This promotes adequate urban density, connectivity and leads implementation and urban growth which prevents creation of unmanaged and unimproved public spaces and/or open public spaces.
Policy Tool 8: Leveraging Public Space as a Resource Multiplier

- Forms of taxation
- Revenue accrual from commercial activities
- Public-private partnership
- Community-based operation and management
- Publicly-owed land
- Revenue from occupation of public space
- Licensing of small commercial/cultural activities

Multiplier effects
More resources
Policy Tool 9: Participation as if it were a Public Space – Openness, Access, Sharing

- Adopt tools for public engagement
- Sharing of information and knowledge
- Ensure access and inclusion of marginalized groups
- No profit motives
- Stimulate collective action
- Campaign and advocacy
- Political voice of communities in ps
Policy tool 10: Integrated Local Implementation

• Local government leadership and stakeholders engagement
• Public space in integrated urban development: public space first
• Mainstreaming public space in local plans and policies
• Investment in public space through urban projects
• Guidance and assessment for:
  • Private sector investment
  • Community initiatives and their scaling up
• Financing through value capture: benefits from investment support public space
• Innovative frameworks for management and maintenance
• Indicators and monitoring: back to the plan
THANK YOU

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