Her City Toolbox

Our five years impact story
### Key message 1
Multi-level, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder cooperation is key for gender sensitive planning, design and implementation and is more likely to lead to long-term inclusive and sustainable urban development.

### Key message 2
In a predominantly urban world, with over a billion in unplanned informal settlements, young women and girls are the most vulnerable. They are rarely engaged nor heard, and we fail to meet their needs when we plan and design the cities of tomorrow.

### Key message 3
Gender is acknowledged as a part of all major global agendas and agreements and is a main pillar of human rights, hence a duty to be mainstreamed in all activities, every time, everywhere, without any exception.

### Key message 4
An intersectional gender sensitive perspective helps to understand, engage and give agency, by collecting disaggregated data to make well-informed decisions guiding urban governance, planning, design and management.

### Key message 5
A consolidated and global toolbox is needed to assist urban actors in efficiently mainstreaming gender and intersectional perspectives into current sustainable urban development practice, no matter where in the world, or at what stage of the process.

### Key message 6
Practical experience shows that mainstreaming gender and intersectional perspectives is applicable worldwide, in any urban context and that it is a most efficient way to produce inclusive and sustainable visions, plans and designs for sustainable cities.

### Key message 7
The growing body of knowledge on the application of gender and intersectional perspectives in practice, shows that the method improves green areas, urban agriculture and ecosystem services, public transport and mobility, social meeting and educational places, water and sanitation, market places, and safer spaces.

### Key message 8
There are a range of actions that urban actors can take to implement cities with and for girls. By simply integrating and mainstreaming it into their everyday work, it is not demanding nor requires considerable resources in terms of personnel or direct investments. It is above all a change in mindset among professionals.

### Key message 9
Any urban actor involved in urban decision-making, governance, assessment, planning, design, construction or management has a role to play and can integrate gender and intersectional perspectives by using our tools to contribute to a more inclusive, prosperous and sustainable urban environment.

### Key message 10
Cities for girls are cities for all, because they indirectly benefit a larger population than the primary target group. They are more likely to provide improved accessibility, mobility, air quality, well-being, social inclusion, conditions for economic activities, digital competence, resilient ecosystems, reduced distances and a strengthened local community.
The programme has resulted in 8 products, such as the digital Her City Toolbox, the Her City Guide, an academic syllabus, and the final Cities for Girls, Cities for All report. The results from the projects show that regardless of geographical context, the priorities and solutions are similar. In the short term, these processes result in for example new or improved green areas, libraries, public transport, meeting places, water and sanitation, marketplaces, urban orchards, playgrounds, ecosystem services and lighting. In the medium term, it leads to improved accessibility, mobility, air quality, well-being, socializing and social inclusion, conditions for economic activities, digital competence, resilient ecosystems, reduced distances and a strengthened local community. In the long run the programme is likely to have impact on basic services, environment & climate, economy, health & well-being, mobility, political participation, social inclusion and safety.
Her City is the result of the Urban Girls Movement launched in 2017 financed by Sida, with the purpose to map methods and tools for increased equality and inclusion in urban development. In a second phase 2018-2019, with support from the Swedish innovation agency Vinnova, the tools were tested in a pilot project in Sweden. Vinnova’s Innovations for Gender Equality, supported Global Utmaning and UN-Habitat in a third phase 2019-2021, to develop the digital toolbox and making it available globally. The programme has had a total budget of 812K USD over 5 years with only a yearly average budget of 162K USD. Funding is mainly from public sector but with some additional co-funding from private sector.

Our participatory and inclusive process targets particularly, but not only, girls, adolescents, and young women. Together with urban professionals and other multi-stakeholders they re-think and co-design their local environment through the use of digital and innovative tools. In a finalised Her City project, a place that previously didn’t work for girls, is redesigned to fit all members of the community.

In the light of the COVID pandemic, the team developed a digital toolbox for cities to accelerate the inclusion in sustainable urban planning and design despite the current crisis. The Her City Toolbox was launched on International Womens Day in 2021, together with over 2000 stakeholders. Through locally and regionally adapted online trainings, the team has built global capacity in the use of the toolbox.

Throughout the project period, Her City have been implemented in 13 partnership projects on all continents together with UN agencies, local governments, NGOs, private sector and universities. In the projects in Botkyrka, Beirut, Chania, Delhi, Gaza & West Bank, Helsingborg, Huddinge, Johannesburg, Kakuma & Kalobeyei, Lima, Nairobi, Thailand and Weimar, over 2800 participants has been engaged in 118 participatory activities. The finalised projects so far impact 45,000 beneficiaries if we calculate the population directly benefiting from the interventions living within 400 m from the site. However, the indirect impact of the wider population goes far beyond that.

---

**Her City Toolbox**

**Registered accounts**

| 1070 users | 350 cities | 100 countries | 300 initiatives | 25% public |
In the long run, Her City is likely to contribute to the local implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda through a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable societies. Projects particularly highlight the contribution to SDG 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 but also the local implementation of other SDGs and several principles in the New Urban Agenda:

**Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

**Target 11.3** Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

**Indicator 11.3.2** Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

**Target 11.7** Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

**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

**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

**Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

**Indicator 5.2.2** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

**Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries**

**Target 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

**Indicator 10.3.1** Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

**Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

**Target 16.1** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

**Indicator 16.1.4** Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark

**Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

**Indicator 16.7.2** Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

**Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

**Target 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships...

**Indicator 17.17.1** Amount in USD committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure

**Target 17.18** Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries ... to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location...

**Indicator 17.18.3** Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding

**New Urban Agenda**

Relevant paragraphs 29, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 53, 55, 56, 67, 92, 100, 109, 149, 155, 156, 157, 160 etc
Plan a city for girls, and it will work for everyone.

Let Her Guide You.

For more information on Her City contact:

Elin Andersdotter Fabre
UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme
Planning Finance and Economy Section, Urban Practices Branch
hercity@un.org

Regular updates on UN-Habitat’s work are available on
www.unhabitat.org

United Nations Human Settlements Programme
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
www.unhabitat.org

Follow us on social media: @HerCityToolbox  | @HerCity #HerCity