Girls were given a safe space without being condemned as ‘pfft, do you really think you can do this?’ I often feel suppressed because I’m a girl… #UrbanGirlsMovement has helped us show that we can.

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.

Women, children and girls in particular, are still navigating the inherited urban environments that were built without their input and consent.

You get to feel the power to be heard… It is something that I will bring with me for the rest of my life. That I was in #UrbanGirlsMovement and expressed my thoughts. So powerful!
## CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part I - Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls in urban public space</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls in urban development processes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#UrbanGirlsMovement</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related to global policy</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related SDG targets</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related NUA principles</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part II - Good Practices</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative cards for participatory decision-making</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productive public space, planning and design for inclusive ownership</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Women’s Assembly</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Oukasi Saving Scheme</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridging social gaps by transforming roads into Play Streets</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowdsourcing public space ideas through Minecraft</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Lots Angeles</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minecraft for youth participation in urban planning and design</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women entrepreneurs benefiting entire communities</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because I’m a girl</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s indicators becoming a formal planning tool</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public-Private-People-Partnerships</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pin the creep and raise awareness of sexual harassment</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-conflict urban reconstruction in informal settlements</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro-poor proactivity</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 1,5 billion women challenge</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The power of information and money</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning a main street into a cultural centre</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building a global forum for public space</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing cities with children</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowering youth through urban farming</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flickrum, a norm-creative approach to close the gender gap</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary network for safe public spaces</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The gender equality strategist</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 1,5 billion women challenge</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The microphone factory/cultural centre</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth redesigning city districts</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part III - Botkyrka Pilot</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 1 - Context</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 2 - Challenges</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 3 - Possibilities</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 4 - Solutions</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Input: Mid-term exhibition</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 5 - Plans</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 6 - Recommendations</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop-up test: #UrbanGirlsCube</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part IV - Lessons Learned</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional urban public spaces</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenging urban forms</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liveability is more than safety</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How cities for and by girls work for all</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation brings empowerment</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part V - Guidelines &amp; Recommendations</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines for inclusive urban development</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines for inclusive public spaces</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy recommendations</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for action to implementing actors</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusions</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GUIDELINES &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GUIDELINES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLICIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMPLEMENTATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
URBAN GIRLS CATALOGUE - HOW PLANNING THE CITY FOR AND BY GIRLS WILL MAKE IT WORK FOR EVERYONE

PREFACE

So far, modern practices and approaches in urban design and development have failed to meet the challenges of sustainability and environmental changes posed by the rapidly increasing urban population. The overall living conditions in contemporary cities have improved since the time of industrialisation, but acute problems remain, such as global warming, environmental degradation, segregation, poverty and shortages of good quality public space. Liveability, sustainability, and accessibility in urban public space are growing concerns in urban research and policy agendas. The professional field lacks perspectives for public space qualities and academic research about women and girls’ involvement in the re-design of public spaces is scarce.

“Cities” and “public space” are specifically targeted in the 2030 Agenda, recognizing “sustainable urban development” as one out of 17 overarching sustainability goals for nation-states around the world to attend to. International policies and targets urge us to create “cities for all” and to “leave no one behind”, but the implementation of the New Urban Agenda takes place on a local level and needs to be translated accordingly. Now is the critical time to re-think, experiment and speed up the transition to sustainable urban areas. Many scholars argue that attention to the quality of urban public spaces is a key tool to reach overarching sustainability goals.

Urban public space is not an easy topic to grasp, and behind the progress of its recognition to urban vitality and liveability, lie decades of intellectual and political battles between urban planners, researchers, practitioners, philosophers and decision-makers regarding what defines high quality public space, and, ultimately, desirable cities. Child-friendly urban public space design is currently gaining momentum around the world. Studies in Sweden have found that particularly girls are underrepresented in urban public spaces, and that projects do not target them as a user group even though the importance of including this group in urban public space design and development is clearly recognised in the 2030 Agenda target 11.7. Women and girls in vulnerable areas are often the most “left behind”. It is highly unlikely that we will meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) globally without special attention to this group.

In response to this, the Swedish sustainability think tank Global Utmaning, launched the initiative #UrbanGirlsMovement. By mapping good examples, stories, and lessons learned from multi-stakeholders globally, it highlights ongoing initiatives, as well as how to implement the SDGs at a local level with feminist urban planning techniques as core tools.
In collaboration with a variety of multi-stakeholders, the purpose is to highlight global pro-poor urban development initiatives targeting girls and young women in low-income areas in rapidly urbanizing cities, as well as develop methods for local and urban development that can be applied globally. In the long run, #UrbanGirlsMovement aims to contribute to improved living conditions for girls and young women in vulnerable urban areas through highlighting participatory design and public space planning. The vision is a more inclusive and sustainable city where all genders can participate in and use the city on equal terms.

This initiative wants to inspire other actors and increase knowledge of how feminist urban development can be applied in practice. The project #UrbanGirlsMovement in Botkyrka was introduced in the autumn of 2018 as an operationalisation of the hypothesis; “plan the city for girls, and it will work for everyone”, and has been tested in an actual city development project in Fittja, Botkyrka south of Stockholm in Sweden. The project is led by the think tank Global Utmaning in partnership with Botkyrka municipality, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Mistra Urban Futures and the tech company Iteam.

These are the results from #UrbanGirlsMovement where we have composed a catalogue featuring: Global good practices of feminist urban development (part II); the results from the pilot case #UrbanGirlsMovement Botkyrka (part III); lessons learned from the entire initiative (part IV), as well as guidelines and policy recommendations for implementing parties and local, regional, national and global policy-makers (part V). The aim of this catalogue is for you, the reader, to find the necessary arguments for challenging set norms in your specific urban development context. We wish for you to grasp how feminist urban development techniques indeed can be realised in practise, so that we can accelerate the sustainable urban transformation together.

We dare to dream of cities for all.
PART I
INTRODUCTION

The ongoing urbanisation is universal, but the specifics need to be contextualised. Stockholm is expanding by the minute. The city currently struggles with a housing crisis that scholars have compared to that which lead to the Million Dwellings Program (Swedish: “Miljonprogrammet”) initiative in the 1960s. The Million Dwellings Program is one of the world’s grandest public housing projects, and was built in Sweden between 1965-1975 based on the principle of providing housing for all and creating the ideal city. Unfortunately, the suburban Million Dwellings Program areas around the major cities are nowadays often characterised by unemployment, poverty and social welfare dependency. A dream of the ideal city eventuated to segregated areas with less access to societal resources than the rest of city centres. For decades, Scholars have researched how this came to be, wanting to understand how this may be prevented in the future. Fifty years later Sweden, and Stockholm in particular, is once again experiencing a housing crisis, not only in terms of housing shortage and failure to provide affordable housing, but with around 50% of the Million Dwellings Program housing units in dire need of refurbishment.

Planning practices have a responsibility for achieving socially sustainable cities. If not done right, rapid urbanisation may lead to a reproduction of existing challenges, leading to vulnerable areas becoming further stigmatised. Urban design has paradoxed to have a large impact on the way societies function and organise, hence, planners have a great responsibility to address these challenges and propose priorities. We have the possibility to improve public spaces in vulnerable areas that are currently marginalised and largely neglected or perceived as unsafe. We need to use this as an opportunity to create more equal cities and challenge our established urban development practices. Areas with similar challenges are indeed to be found also in other countries around the world. Now is the critical time to re-think, experiment and speed up the transition to sustainable urban areas. Many are those who argue that attention to the quality of urban public spaces is a key tool to reach overarching sustainability goals.14

Girls in urban public space

By 2030, 60% of all urban dwellers in the world will be under the age of 18. Urban environments subsequently need to adapt to what is to become their largest user group. Researchers have uncovered and highlighted the power relations enacted in place and space for decades. Feminist scholars have proved how women throughout time have been excluded from the public space in society.15 Youth, and girls specifically, form minority groups that have significantly different access to power compared to the professionals who plan and develop the public space of their neighbourhoods. Studies in Sweden have found that particularly girls are underrepresented in urban public spaces in cities and urban areas, and that development projects do not target them as a user group.15

The largest challenges for urban children today are unequal access to the city, isolation, crime, social fears and urban sprawl.14 The importance of including this group in urban public space design is clearly recognised in the 2030 Agenda target 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

UN General Assembly, 2015

Sweden has pledged to this target, and the Swedish Government has set national guidelines regarding the design of the built environment. Sweden can act as role model for other countries when it comes to gender equality and is currently operating “a feminist government” where resource allocation (such as to public space) and decision-making should derive from gender equal priorities.15 When it comes to the allocation of resources to implement urban public space policies and practises, they are far from being gender equal.15

Urban public spaces are largely dominated by men and have historically been designed without true understanding for women’s needs and interests. Even if the usual claim is that the city belongs to all its inhabitants, it is filled with barriers, both visible and invisible. The contemporary city in many ways mirror a society of oppression and exclusion, reminding us of past norms and values founded in boundaries between the sexes. Cities can be seen as spatial and organisational expressions of social relations, based as much on power and conflict as on cooperation and consensus, suggesting that women are marginalised to the periphery of urbanisation agency when their needs are ignored.15 Urban public space acts as an arena for gender expression, oppression and exclusion. By ignoring women’s perspectives, urban institutions have built in gender discrimination in the very streets and forms of our cities. Women, children and elderly are still navigating in the inherited urban environments that were built without their input and consent.
Girls in urban development processes

Comprehending the explicit power dimensions of space and spatial gender relations requires an intersectional analysis. Intersectionality is a theoretical concept that considers the power relations of e.g. gender, age, class, sexuality, and ethnicity to be interconnected. The hierarchical order within and between these social categorisations reproduces in processes of dominance, where identity assignment and social barriers are central to regulate the accessibility and entitlement to societal resources. Age, as gender, is a social categorization where societal expectations and demands construct behavior. #UrbanGirlsMovement has particularly targeted girls between 14 and 25 years old, meaning they fall under the UN’s definition of youth. The United Nations describe youth as the period when a person is transitioning from childhood to adulthood. This age period implies social expectations, just like gender categorisations are understood to be performed in relation to social and cultural discourses. Youths are often perceived as inexperienced and immature, and are rarely seen as active agents of society, which excludes them from many decision-making processes. Additionally, youth as a concept is gender biased towards young men, leaving young women less acknowledged. This means that young women are positioned in an age category where they are not accepted as neither children, nor authentic women, which excludes them from many opportunities to improve their quality of life. Hence, the inscribed norms within the social categories of gender and age submerge girls and young women to the periphery of society. This invisibility and disempowerment of girls and young women could be conceptualised in the term genderation – the invisible girls.

Consequently, by adopting an intersectional analytical framework with multiple identities, it is clear that youth and girls from minority groups in particular have different access to power than the professionals who plan and develop their neighbourhood. The importance of including girls and women in public space design is clearly recognised in SDG 11.7.

#UrbanGirlsMovement

#UrbanGirlsMovement is a feminist urban development initiative launched by the sustainability think tank Global Utmaning in 2017. The project highlights girls and young women in underprivileged areas as a societal group severely and adversely affected by unequal distribution of resources, oppression, and social exclusion. #UrbanGirlsMovement proposes that the participatory urban development methodology, feminist urban development, could be a tool to mitigate the struggles of girls and young women in rapidly urbanising, underprivileged areas. Feminist urban development is best understood as a toolbox for identifying and effectively dealing with issues of democracy, gender equality, equity, and justice in the planning process of urban areas.

The purpose of #UrbanGirlsMovement is to create more sustainable cities, and to make cities and urban areas equally accessible to all groups and genders. We do so by improving the living conditions for girls and young women in low-income urban areas. We use participatory design and public space planning. #UrbanGirlsMovement identifies girls and young women in vulnerable urban areas as the societal group most often ignored in urban development processes; a systematisation of oppression and exclusion from public space and therefore resources. The rationale behind the initiative has been to investigate how using feminist urban development techniques in vulnerable areas may improve living conditions for all societal groupings: “plan the city for girls, and it will work for everyone”.

The basis of involving local girls in urban development processes has been to promote urban development targeting larger societal services and opportunities, i.e. access to education and employment, sanitation, public health, and security. Consequently, the objective of the project is to advance new methods for urban development, with a focus on integrating feminist perspectives into urban development processes that can originate from one locality and create generalised and integrated knowledge in the contemporary planning discourse regionally, nationally and globally.

The main target group of the pilot project has been girls aged 14-25 from the locality of Fittja and adjacent places. Focusing on girls and young women as key stakeholders help gain distinctive insights into some of the specific challenges this societal group face, and how inextricably girls’ development is linked to a whole range of development issues.
Our method of community workshopping is designed to establish the needs and priorities of different groups in order to address those when programming physical spaces, as well as social and economic programs. Girls and young women often form specific stakeholder groups in urban development and face a number of distinct challenges that need to be addressed accordingly. In #UrbanGirlsMovement, the girls are titled experts.

By involving a wide range of stakeholders in the process, we have the opportunity to build capacity on a large scale, as well as educate. Our secondary target groups are stakeholders working directly or indirectly with public space development and management. In Botkyrka, these included landowners, politicians, planners, civil servants, civil society, citizens and more.

As the knowledge produced during the project is of vital importance for the local implementation of the global agendas, we have chosen to be transparent with all our results, and we aim to create an open source tool which is accessible to all in order to inspire actors globally to include girls and young women in urban development processes.

**Relating to global policy**

Some of the consistent urban challenges raised by young women, according to UN-Habitat, are lack of safe places, gender-based violence, access to education, sex education, adult interactions and role models, and environmental risks. In order to reach the targets of the 2030 Agenda, the interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance. For example, the integration of SDG 3 *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*, SDG 5 *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* and SDG 11 *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable* are thus a prerequisite for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda.

There are ways to work with the SDGs in an integrated and efficient way. Making girls and young women in low-income areas in rapidly urbanizing cities a priority, is a fruitful starting point for implementing the 2030 Agenda globally. Achieving the 2030 Agenda will also depend on whether local and national policies manage to build socially sustainable cities. Here SDG 10 *Reduce inequality within and among countries* is central. International policies and targets urge us to create “cities for all” and to “leave no one behind”, but the implementation of the New Urban Agenda takes place on a local level and needs to be translated accordingly. That is why SDG 17 *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development* is central to a successful implementation. However, even though many other SDGs can be related to #UrbanGirlsMovement, we argue that a particular focus on goal 3, 5, 10, 11 and 17 supports the implementation the 12 remaining goals.
Related SDG targets
Among the 169 SDG targets, 64% are to be implemented in cities and many are related to the global policy framework relevant for the #UrbanGirlsMovement:

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
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
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
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
11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
Related NUA principles

The New Urban Agenda, adopted by UN member states at Habitat III conference in October 2016, contains a range of relevant principles:

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

38. Leverage natural and cultural heritage in cities and human settlements.

49. Develop territorial systems that integrate urban and rural functions into the national and sub-national spatial frameworks and the systems of cities and human settlements.

50. Commit to encourage urban-rural interactions and connectivity by strengthening sustainable transport and mobility, technology and communication networks and infrastructure.

53. Recognise safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and quality public spaces as drivers of social and economic development.

54. Promote renewable and affordable energy and sustainable and efficient transport infrastructure and services where possible, achieving the benefits of connectivity and reducing financial, environmental, and public health costs.

55. Promoting access to adequate, inclusive, and quality public services, social infrastructure and facilities.

63. Acknowledge that cities and human settlements face unprecedented threats from unsustainable consumption and production patterns undermining the efforts to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and to achieve sustainable development.

65. Facilitate the sustainable management of natural resources in cities and human settlements in a manner that protects and improves the urban ecosystem and environmental services.

66. Adopt a smart city approach providing options for inhabitants to make more environmentally friendly choices.

67. Promote the creation and maintenance of well-connected and well-distributed networks of open, multi-purpose, safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and quality public spaces to improve the resilience of cities.

69. Promote the ecological and social function of land, promote sustainable land use, combining urban extensions with adequate densities and compactness preventing and containing urban sprawl.

71. Strengthen sustainable management of resources in a way that considers urban-rural linkages and strive to transition to a circular economy.

73. Promote conservation and sustainable use of water by rehabilitating water resources.

74. Promote environmentally sound waste management and to substantially reduce waste generation.

75. Develop sustainable, renewable, and affordable energy, energy-efficient buildings and construction modes.

76. Sustainable use of natural resources and to focus on the resource-efficiency of raw and construction materials.

77. Strengthen the resilience of cities and human settlements, by the development of infrastructure that is resilient, resource-efficient, and which will reduce the risks and the impact of disasters.

100. Provide well-designed networks of safe, inclusive for all inhabitants, accessible, green, and quality public spaces and streets.

109. Ensure that socio-economically vulnerable areas are integrated into the social, economic, cultural, and political dimensions of cities.

113. Improve road safety and integrate it into sustainable mobility and transport infrastructure planning and design.

114. Guarantee access for all to safe, age- and gender-responsive, affordable, accessible, and sustainable urban mobility, by integrating transport and mobility plans into overall urban and territorial plans.

115. Develop mechanisms and common frameworks at the national, sub-national, and local levels to evaluate the wider benefits of urban and metropolitan transport schemes.

119. Promote investments in sustainable infrastructure and service provision systems for water, sanitation, hygiene, sewage, solid waste management, urban drainage, reduction of air pollution, and storm water management.

121. Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by promoting energy efficiency and sustainable renewable energy, and supporting sub-national and local efforts; to apply them in public buildings, infrastructure and facilities.

122. Support decentralized decision-making on waste disposal to promote universal access to sustainable waste management systems and support the promotion of extended producer responsibility schemes.

123. Integrate food security and nutrition needs of urban residents in urban and territorial planning.

133. Call on businesses to apply their creativity and innovation toward solving sustainable development challenges in urban areas, acknowledging that private business activity, are essential elements of development efforts.

140. Support the development of affordable housing finance products; and encourage the participation of a diverse range of multilateral financial institutions to invest in affordable and incremental housing in all its forms.

149. Support local government associations as promoters and providers of capacity development by means of peer-to-peer learning, subject- matter related partnerships, and collaborative actions.

151. Promote capacity development programmes to help sub-national and local governments in financial planning and management with particular attention to age- and gender-responsive budgeting and the improvement and digitalization in order to promote result-based approaches, and to build medium- to long-term administrative and technical capacity.
The #UrbanGirlsMethod

In practice, gathering knowledge about how the built environment affects the most vulnerable and marginalised populations’ access to public space helps identify opportunities and provide useful tools for practitioners to improve the health, well-being and living conditions for these groups in urban areas. Our #UrbanGirlsMethod therefore consists of 9 steps where girls and young women participate with other multi-stakeholders and experts (i.e. researchers, architects, planners, civil rights activists, landowners, etc.). In general, each step consists of an innovation lab producing concrete results which will be the basis for taking on the following step. Each step contains a variety of tools, and together these tools comprise an entire toolbox:

**Context** In the first workshop the concept of feminist urban development is introduced, we examine the relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, good examples and study the space we will be working with throughout the project. Our Girls Urban Walk is inspired by the Plan International and UN-Habitat Safer Cities for Girls checklist.

**Challenges** In the second workshop we consider concrete tools available within urban development, identify challenges, highlight needs, and brainstorm around the potential of the space. We use MethodKit’s decks of cards as guidance in the discussion.

**Possibilities** In the third workshop we explore the existing potential of the space, with the goal of formulating a vision for the space, sketching concrete ideas and initiating the process of illustrating our ideas. Again, we use MethodKit.

**Illustrations** The fourth workshop focuses, based on the outcome of the three first participatory problem-solving workshops, on testing solutions, illustrating them in 3D and further developing the details. We work with the Block by Block tool developed by UN-Habitat and Mojang inspired by the computer game Minecraft.

**Input** The fifth step takes the form of a presentation of results or an exhibition with the aim of sharing the mid-term results and draft designs. We collect more knowledge about the local needs to be addressed through the valuable input from citizens and additional experts.

**Recommendations** In the sixth step we discuss what is required for the proposal to be implemented. The target group of girls and young women and experts work together to develop concrete policy recommendations for decision-makers at different levels as well as supporting guidelines for implementation.
**Plans** The seventh step takes the external input and recommendations into consideration and continues to work on the proposals together with the architects, starting to turn the draft solutions into sketches, models and plans for the area. We use Sketchup, 3D glasses and 3D prints and build models of the space.

**Sharing** The eighth step is about presenting the final outcome to local, regional and national decision-makers and stakeholders. Other national and international actors are invited to discuss and take part in the lessons learned in order to maximise outreach and up-scaling.

**Evaluation** In the last and ninth step we evaluate the process, report the project, relate to indicators, and make sure that the lessons learned are shared with others.

In short, the ultimate goal of this method is to offer capacity building, providing different solutions to relevant stakeholders with diverse needs. The method allows target groups, stakeholders and experts to work together successfully and produce solutions to jointly identified challenges. The tools in the toolbox are of such nature that they empower the least influential groups in society and simultaneously facilitate communication and collaboration between decision-makers and these vulnerable groups.

**The research network**
A research network is linked to #UrbanGirlsMovement where the researchers participate both in the innovation labs and gather in networking meetings to find synergies between various research projects in related areas. The main purpose of the research network has been to gather ongoing research in related areas to feminist urban development and participatory processes in urban development, and to understand how the outcome of #UrbanGirlsMovement has the opportunity to meet the actual need for new knowledge(s) that practitioners in the field demand.

The members of the network often participated in the workshops and met every two months to discuss the outcome and how the project may contribute to research in related areas. The documentation from the meetings has been used to support the continuation of the project with hands on feedback and advice.

This is a way to continuously evaluate the progress as it goes, provide participatory research, and support the growing research field of feminist urban development. The members of the network have had an important role in contributing up-to-date research in nearby areas for the opportunity to translate relevant academic knowledge into practical methods.

Additionally, two master’s degree students from Stockholm University have used #UrbanGirlsMovement as a case studies in their theses in Human Geography. The theses have provided in-depth analysis of how a participatory urban development process, such as the one used in #UrbanGirlsMovement, may affect the girls participating in the process, as well as how the girls’ urban designs correspond to national and international urban policies of what a sustainable city is and how it may look like based on their needs.

**Partners**
The work has been conducted together with a range of partners and participants from academia, civil society, municipalities, international organisations and private sector such as Botkyrka Municipality, the Block by block Foundation, Changers Hub, Fryshuset, Global Utmaning, Iteam, Kounkuey Design Initiative, KTH, MethodKit, Mistra Urban Futures, Plan International, RISE, Sida, Stockholms University, Södertörn University, UN-Habitat, Uppsala University, White architects and WWF.
PART II
GOOD PRACTICES

Based on the think tank’s long engagement in international development policy, working with a range of international institutions and local development initiatives, we knew that a range of local good examples existed globally, even if a consistent body of knowledge was lacking. A way to address the policy gap both in Sweden and globally would be to start collecting examples, lessons learned and recommendations from those that address the needs of girls and young women in disadvantaged urban areas on a daily basis. Actors possessing this know-how, even in the remotest of places, could help build capacity in Swedish municipalities and finally bridge the national policy gap. This is how the initiative #UrbanGirlsMovement was born.

Hence, the first step in #UrbanGirlsMovement was to take on this global mapping. Our focus was to highlight global initiatives promoting and improving public space in low-income areas in rapidly urbanizing cities, with a particular attention to informal settlements, “slums”, and other vulnerable urban areas. We mapped activities that targeted and empowered girls and young women, and that worked on improving girl’s living conditions in areas related to public health, sanitation, education, employment and security.

Key was to explore and develop how participatory, gender and age sensitive public space design and planning can work as a crucial stepping stone for youth to increase their chances of living a more fruitful life. The good examples of public space design for girls are found in a range of areas, all relating to various SDGs. Girls and young women are key stakeholders; hence we have gained unique insights into some of the specific challenges they face, and how inextricably linked girls’ progress is to different development aspects.

Summary of interview results

So, how could an organisation work in order to achieve a more inclusive and equal city? During the spring of 2017, Global Utmaning started the global mapping to learn from previous work and experiences. It was based on in-depth interviews with representatives from a range of organisations from, for example, New Dehli, Nairobi, Los Angeles and Stockholm. This is a short summary of the results from those interviews:

Everyone involved in the mapped initiatives stressed the importance of participatory methods. Women and girls need to be included in the planning, and throughout the whole process, in order to achieve a more equal city. There is a need for change in attitude from decision-makers and professionals when it comes to participation of marginalised groups in city planning. We need to go out and humbly ask children, girls and young women, what their needs are, because everyone’s an expert on their everyday reality and regardless of age we can all express these needs. In order to develop a sustainable city for everyone it is essential to understand how and when a girl feels secure in the public place, which is a lens that can only be provided from the girls themselves. Participatory methods that are used by the studied organisations are for example workshops, interviews, model building, reference groups etc.

Another aspect that was expressed by various representatives from the projects mapped, was the importance of multidisciplinary teams. According to both architects and urban planners, gathering more multidisciplinary teams is essential to collect and share a wider range of knowledge.
Different professions such as architects, designers, landscapers, planners, and engineers need to cooperate. Additionally, there is a social aspect to urban planning that needs to be taken into consideration:

“In the project Flickrum we had a multidisciplinary team with the young girls as experts, sustainability specialists, designers and architects, pedagogues. We used theatre as a means of communication which enabled us to target these questions to the ones concerned.”

Another vital part in urban developing is making the community feel involved and that they have the power to make a difference. Ownership was a word that appeared continuously throughout the interviews. One method in creating a feeling of ownership of a public space, is letting children and youth participate in the artistic expressions, such as painting buildings, walls or benches throughout the neighbourhood. The process of creating something together in a public space made the participants feel proud of both themselves and the area they lived in. Society often see youth as a burden to the public space, consequently excluding them from participation in the development of the city.

“A similar method was used for an initiative in Delhi, where they wanted to make the community aware of that sexual assault is a punishable crime. They let girls paint the walls outside of a girl’s college with eyes to raise awareness of staring as a sexual assault, and they even wrote paragraphs from the law on the wall. This initiative increased men’s awareness and the sexual assaults around the school significantly diminished.”

This process of including multidisciplinary teams and participatory methods can according to the interviewees be replicated anywhere in the world. Even if the process is adaptable, the local context and the needs of the community have to be taken into consideration in every project. Challenges faced by communities in Nairobi, Delhi, and Stockholm can be similar, but since they are set in different societies the details will be unique.

“It is especially important to note that the challenges girls and young women face in cities are highly dependent on both the social construct of society, i.e. norms, values and power relations, as well as the physical structure of a public space. Hence, feminist urban development needs to be context specific. All interviewees agreed that a combination of both result in girls and women’s vulnerability, and that urban planning absolutely has the possibility to widen perspectives and standards.”

Further, most people expressed that for a safer and more equal city, participatory public space planning and design need to especially target mobility solutions and services in relation to housing. From the beginning, one has to think about the relation between buildings and open spaces, how the shape of the buildings for example has an effect on the public environment; how the corners are designed, how the stairways are built, how inclusive the ground floors are, if they are transparent, how people move in and out of the buildings etc. In summary, it is important to plan for a human scale and to always consider the space between the buildings just as important as the buildings themselves. One interviewee working in Kibera expressed that architecture and urban planning can have an immense power for positive change, as long as it is honest:

“Urban and public design today don’t consider that 60% of the population don’t drive a car, or that if you build a park with a fee people won’t have the resources to access the park, or that motorcycles are the major motor transportation, or that people carry big carts from one side of the city to another. Nobody is designing for those people. If you design for the actual use of the place and the needs of the people, the power of architecture is endless.”

In conclusion, the mapping shows that a city is a living, dynamic creature; when the population is changing, the city cannot remain static. Hence, the following good practices are examples of how actors around the world contribute to that by their work on the ground.
1. Creative cards for participatory decision-making
MethodKit, Alexandria, Egypt

MethodKit is an innovative non-profit-driven company that has created analogue card-based tools (deck of cards), designed to help developing ideas, get an overview of global issues and working together to discuss solutions. The purpose of the cards is also to organise thoughts and ideas, prioritise and engage in discussions. The different card decks address everything from the SDGs, urban planning, public space, gender equality, public health, to app-development.

Challenges Challenges within the urban planning process is often lack participation, but there is also a knowledge gap among decision-makers about social norms, values, and how gender inequality influence urban policy and planning. One reason for this knowledge gap is that politicians, urban planners, boards, building companies, etc. seldom communicate with each other in the extent that is needed. MethodKit believes that some of the biggest underlying problems are that the different actors in a planning process speak “different languages” preventing them from understanding each other, and a lack of platforms to meet. What is needed is tools to create dialogues.

Good practices & solutions So, MethodKit created a tool to increase dialogue between different stakeholders by summarizing the urban planning discipline into visual language in the form of a deck of cards. The cards show the fundamentals that need to be discussed in order to get a project started, and to further develop ideas. MethodKit has developed two set of cards that are closely linked to sustainable urban planning, i.e. MethodKit for cities, and MethodKit for equal places. The MethodKit for cities is a tool that help actors explore the complex social nature of a city and develop an understanding of not just how the city is built, but also how it behaves. While some urban planning tools may impose certain solutions, MethodKit’s idea is to readjust the balance between professionalism and participation by creating a tool that can be used both by professionals in the planning business, as well as citizens. MethodKit for equal places is based on a framework of gender equal urban planning, created through interviews, workshops and citizen dialogues together with gender experts, activists and urban planners. In combination, these two kits have successfully been used in workshops with Egyptian female architects and planners at the Swedish Institute in Alexandria.

Outcome & opportunities MethodKit works as a frame for people’s line of thought, without deciding exactly what that frame should contain. It is meant to help people express their thoughts and feelings in the best possible way.

It can be seen as a tool to distribute knowledge through the room and shed
Lessons learned & recommendations

The cards from the urban theme can be used anywhere in the urban planning process, from the comprehensive plan to detailed design, which makes it flexible and easy to use. It is a workshop method that creates an understanding of where a project is at the moment and where it is headed, as well as help brainstorming new ideas. Additionally, using cards invites more people to speak their minds about a specific topic, allowing more voices to be heard both through speaking and writing. The strength in Methodkit is to make everyone participate.

Related SDG targets

1.7 Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

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

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

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

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

2. Productive public space planning and design for inclusive ownership

Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), Kibera, Kenya

Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) is a non-profit design and community development organization that partners with under-resourced communities to advance equity and activate the unrealized potential in their neighbourhoods and cities. KDI have taken experiences from working in informal settlements in the global south and applied it on other vulnerable areas globally, including middle and high-income countries where high levels of inequality persist.

Challenges

Like many cities in Africa, Nairobi faces rapid urbanization and growing inequities between the rich and the poor, which influences the accessibility and inclusivity of public spaces in the city. How people behave in public spaces is also greatly influenced by local traditions and cultural norms, which are reinforced by urban planning strategies. For example, the urban planning practice in Nairobi prioritize vehicular access to public spaces and city services, as well as tendencies of replicating colonial approaches. These practices limit the potential of especially girls, children, and women to participate in public life. As Kenya’s urban centres grow at an unprecedented rate, informal settlements continue to spring up on underutilized government land. As a result, women and girls face specific challenges in places such as Kibera, one of Nairobi’s largest concentrated area of inadequate housing. Here, safe access to sanitary utilities, spaces for education and public recreation are limited. In addition, challenges for women increase during the two seasonal rain periods, as insecurity and the occurrence of gender-based violence is linked to the rains and flooding.

Good practices & solutions

Throughout every stage of KDI’s public space projects, the organisation focuses on engaging the whole community during the whole planning process – from locating and conceptualizing a site to implementing and managing the project and programs. The first step focuses on capacity building in a way that helps the different community groups collaborate around programmes that benefit the community socially and environmentally while managing the physical space. The next step is design, where focus lies in what type of design that would be most beneficial for the community. The third step is modelling and thinking about how this new development will impact the space. When the urban planning is honest, it widens societal norms. In Kibera, KDI revitalises public spaces to make them accessible for a larger user group. They focus on what in other places might seem basal, e.g. levelling the ground to make it walkable, or create spaces for washing clothes or play with friends. They have created little nooks where most of the population can feel safe.
Outcome & opportunities
Each Kibera Public Space Project faces challenges through acknowledging and utilizing Kibera’s assets in place, e.g. community activism, informal economies and entrepreneurship. Each project has been carried out in cooperation and in coordination with the local community. For example, former trash dumping places have been transformed into local social spaces for meetings and gatherings, for children to play, and for providing improved access to home and work, while strengthening local economies. Similar public space projects have been completed at eight spaces across the Kibera neighbourhood. KDI believes that engaging communities around participatory planning and design is key to sustainable development. Working collaboratively with communities from throughout the whole process, from conception to implementation, enhances technical knowledge and design innovation while connecting residents to available resources and municipal services. When KDI engages the whole community in this way, the special needs of women and girls in public spaces emerge and can be translated into an inclusive place for the whole community.

Lessons learned & recommendations
Involving the community in the development of the Kibera Public Space Project automatically creates a sense of care for the local community, through local ownership and management. During this process, public spaces create opportunities for learning, employment, and activism for the community. That kind of contextual and human centred thinking is transferrable. The process that was developed in Kibera has now been replicated in other parts of the world, including in the USA.

Related SDG targets
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
3.6 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
3. Rural Women’s Assembly
Afrikagrupperna, Southern African Region

Afrikagrupperna is a non-profit, non-party-political and non-religiously-based solidarity organization with a vision of a just world. The organization originated in the solidarity movement in Sweden in the late 1960s. Afrikagrupperna works to strengthen the civil society that is already in place in a south African context. Together with partner organizations in southern Africa, the Afrikagrupperna has worked for over 40 years to ensure that people have access to their rights.

Challenges
The UN has predicted that the world population will increase to around 9.6 billion in 2050, and to a large extent, this will be on the African continent. In Africa, the population will double or more, and according to the prognosis the African population will increase to about 2.4 billion by 2050. When the population increases, the movement and settlement patterns change from rural to increasingly urban. In order to secure an inclusive and equal development, as well as sustainable and long term based, Afrikagrupperna focus on securing the rights of rural women through a feminist point of view.

Good practices & solutions
Since the organization has been established for so long it has gathered a great experience of development cooperation and use well tested methods based in a deeply rooted ideology. However, only recently has the organization adopted a strong feminist strategy. This in order to secure that the most vulnerable groups, women and children, are prioritized within their development work. Some projects specifically target women and children, but all development cooperation have a feminist perspective throughout. One example is the Rural Women’s Assembly, an initiative that organize rural women within the whole southern African region. The Rural Women’s Assembly is one of the most important ways to reach the groups that will be the future urban citizens.

Outcome & opportunities
If rural women get the possibility to mobilize and work together, they increase their possibilities to secure other many human rights, such as sexual and reproductive health rights. The sexual and reproductive health rights are threatened globally, that is a setback for all human rights, and it is the first sign of a threat. For women to have the possibility to have larger meetings, to mobilize, to feel secure enough to meet without a threat is a crucial building block for a sustainable society where women are an active part of the community both locally and globally. Involving women is key to reach a sustainable development all over the globe, especially in the fight against climate change, democratic setbacks,
Lessons learned & recommendations

Over the decades, Afrikagrupperna have found the only way to create sustainable development is to listen to those who’s rights are threatened. It should not be top down when it comes to development. The model of core support is one way the organisation work to realise this vision. By supporting local organisations with core funding it becomes possible to actively listen and navigate the landscape of civil society on a local level. In regard to this, Afrikagrupperna has also found that a feminist approach is a valuable tool in strengthening civil society and creating resilience.

Related SDG targets

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

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

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

4. The Oukasi Saving Scheme

Oukasi, South Africa

In 1992, Mrs Rose Molokoane founded the Oukasi Saving Scheme in South Africa. It later became the Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDUP), one of the federations under Slum Dwellers International (SDI).

Challenge Oukasi is a very small township of informal character, 35 km out of Pretoria in South Africa. With support from the government, the settlement could install water and sanitation facilities, as well as electricity. However, this infrastructural support did not match the number of people living in the community and the infrastructural systems in the town were constantly overloaded. Electricity shedding, toilets breaking, sewage leaking on the streets and water shortage were part of the everyday life.

Good practices & solutions In search for alternative ways of addressing Oukasis challenges, a team of delegates travelled to India to meet with a group of women in India that had organised a local collector/treasurer collective in their informal settlement. Inspired by these women the Oukasi saving scheme came to be. It sought to address four main challenges within the community: Stay-at-home women burdened with caring duties and without income or resources; General unemployment; A misconception of landownership and; Attention from the government.

Outcome & opportunities One outcome of the saving scheme has been a new found confidence in the women involved. It educated most of them in how to to the small amount of money they had and gave them the knowledge of managing bigger sums of money. The main reason for this newfound empowerment cannot be found in the money itself but the sense of community that occurred when the women got together to help each other out of poverty. After being successfully implemented in Oukasi, the saving scheme expanded to the whole of South Africa and lay ground for the Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDUP), an organisation now established in 9 provinces and a federation under Slum Dwellers International (SDI).

Lessons learned & recommendations In order to succeed with development, it is important for the people and the government to cooperate and create sustainable change. SDI is encouraging people to empower themselves and come together to talk with one voice. It is important, especially for the poor people, to organize themselves and shaw the government the change they want to create. That way it is possible to shape the policies that later defines the urban landscape.
Related SDG targets

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

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

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
5. Bridging social gaps by transforming roads into Play Streets
Kounkuey Design Initiative, Los Angeles, USA.

Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) is a non-profit design and community development organization that partners with under-resourced communities to advance equity and activate the unrealized potential in their neighborhoods and cities. KDI has been taking experiences from working in informal settlements in the global south to other vulnerable areas globally, including to middle and high-income countries where high levels of inequality persist.

Challenges
For generations the streets of Los Angeles served as informal play spaces for children. In recent decades cars have increasingly dominated the streets, with little accommodation for other needs such as safe and accessible spaces to play. Meanwhile research has shown that children’s’ play has a key role in their physical health and intellectual and social development. The possibility for everyday spontaneous play becomes particularly important for poorer children who lack access to many sports and recreation facilities.

Good practices & solutions
The largest public space available in Los Angeles is the 7,500 miles street network that links neighbourhoods and communities. The L.A. “Play Streets” Pilot Program helped residents temporarily transform Los Angeles City streets into places for play, learning, and fun for all ages. In 2015 and 2016 KDI hosted seven “play streets demonstration” events in five park-poor, under-resourced neighbourhoods across the city in partnership with the LA Department of Transport. Play streets can only be held for one day but are recurring more often – transforming streets into semi-permanent public spaces and creating new child-centered and child-driven spaces for recreation, learning, exercise, and culture.

Outcome & opportunities
Play Streets enhance community cohesion and improve community safety. They provide mechanisms for improving health and accessing resources. Play streets can also be integrated into permanent street infrastructure by adding play elements to sidewalks, parklets, plazas, or shared streets or permanently closing of a street for cars. In one instance, gang members who saw the play streets happening repeatedly in their neighbourhood, stopped doing graffiti there and by the third event they put out their basketball hoops onto the street for the kids to use.

Lessons learned & recommendations
Involving the community in the development of productive public spaces, whether temporary or permanent, creates a sense of care and management as well as creating learning and
employment opportunities for the community. It is shown here that this kind of context and human-based thinking is transferrable as long as it is adapted and grounded in the particular local context. Participation, listening, questioning and close involvement with the group or community you are trying to partner with should be universal. Being embedded in those communities is key when you work with vulnerable populations. It is possible to develop innovative projects, and a rigorous participatory process is the best way to build on the potential of residents and uncover that innovation.

Related SDG targets
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
6.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
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
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

6. Crowdsourcing public space ideas through Minecraft
Block by Block foundation works with UN-Habitat’s Global Public Space Programme, with the aim to improve the quality of public spaces worldwide. Through Block by Block, UN-Habitat uses Mojang’s computer game Minecraft to involve citizens, especially young people, in the design of public space. In connection with Aldea Digital, one of the world’s largest digital inclusion festivals held in Mexico City, Block by block arranged a competition in which youth attendants were asked to redesign the square Plaza Tlaxcoaque.

Challenges The aim of the competition was to improve this square in three different ways; in its security and safety perspective, its sociability and in its playfulness. The initiative especially tackles the challenges of power in urban development processes, where the power to change your surroundings often lies in the hands of very few people. It is common that men dominate fields as public planning, leaving little or no place for young women and girls to get involved. After the response from projects, as the one in Mexico City, it becomes obvious that more people want to get involved in the process of creating and improving the urban spaces. Involving youth through Minecraft is a way of amplifying the voices of people that usually go unheard and creating an opportunity for them to express their needs and influence the planning process.

Good practice & solutions In the Aldea Digital competition, the workshop was supported by student volunteers and gamers from the largest Minecraft community in Latin America, Minecraft Mexico. The Minecraft collective FyreUK, who were also involved in the project, used a Minecraft plugin called PlotHeld to set up thousands of identical versions – “plots” – of the square on a public server. The team allocated a plot to each participant, briefed them and gave them three hours to complete the challenge. A public link made it possible to follow the building process live online on the server.

Outcome & opportunities The result of the workshop was overwhelming with 7429 young people attending, 1438 submitted ideas and 431 completed projects. The ideas were later presented to the Mexico City Laboratoría, Para la Ciudad, as an inspiration for future public space improvements in the city. The urban design ideas included outdoor museums, libraries, roller coasters, boat rides, urban gardens and footbridges. The winning entry were submitted by the 12-year-old girl, Samantha Monroy Sanchez who came up with ideas like petting zoo, roller coaster, urban gardening, a medical centre and outdoor games. Because of the project’s popularity, UN-Habitat hired a person that is managing the server to keep the project going.
Lessons learned & recommendations

The project brings a high level of involvement and engagement from the community and this experience highlighted the power of Minecraft as a visualisation tool, promoting critical thinking and strong interest in urban design. The idea of being able to express yourself in a new way, be listened to and at the same time manage to be creative is very powerful. If people are given an easy tool and just a small introduction to the program, everyone can participate. They come up with good and reasonable suggestions. Working in a free public environment and with a minimal input, everyone can basically become urban designers.

Related SDG targets

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
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
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
7. Free Lots Angeles
Kounkuey Design Initiative, Los Angeles, USA

Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) is a non-profit design and community development organization that partners with under-resourced communities to advance equity and activate the unrealized potential in their neighborhoods and cities. KDI has been taking experiences from working in informal settlements in the global south to other vulnerable areas globally, including to middle and high-income countries where high levels of inequality persist.

**Challenges**
Residents in vulnerable areas in Los Angeles often lack access to many basic services. At the same time the city is struggling with an abundance of city-owned vacant lots. These lots are often located in vulnerable areas but instead of being managed by the city they are fenced off and instead used for illegal activities. In order to face these two challenges KDI started the Free Lots Angeles- coalition.

**Good practices & solutions**
Free Lots Angeles (FLA) is a coalition of six Los-Angeles-based organisations, with expertise in policy, planning, design, community outreach, arts and cultural production and education. Through meetings with local residents, community organisations, and public officials the vacant lots are identified. A community driven planning process is then put in place, where the residents are involved in identifying the community’s priorities and needs. The FLA collaborative then organises pop-up events to demonstrate a community led vision for how vacant and underutilised spaces can be transformed to meet the need for parks and other spaces within the community.

**Outcome & opportunities**
The aim of Free Lots Angeles is to allow residents of vulnerable areas to temporarily adopt the cities underutilized assets and create a much-needed space within the community. Using temporary pop-up solution is an affordable and immediate way to meet the needs of the residents, and potentially pave the way for long-term, permanent solution. The coalition is now working to pass a motion in the city to allow residents to directly adopt these vacant lots for 3-, 6- or 12-month increments.

**Lessons learned & recommendations**
The FLA program is not only beneficial to the local community but also the city at large. It may often cost less than to pay for the ongoing surveillance and trash clean-up of the vacant sites, as well as create positive and visible impact for politicians and residents alike to be proud of.

Involving the community in the development of productive public spaces, whether temporary or permanent, creates a sense of care and management as well as creating learning and employment opportunities for the community. It is shown here that this kind of context and human based thinking is transferrable as long as it is adapted and grounded in the particular local context. Participation, listening, questioning and close involvement with the group or community that is subject to the development should be universal.

**Related SDG targets**
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
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
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
8. Minecraft for youth participation in urban planning and design
UN-Habitat and Block by Block, Les Cayes, Haiti

Block by Block foundation works with UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme, with the aim to improve the quality of public spaces worldwide. Through Block by Block, UN-Habitat uses Mojang's computer game Minecraft to involve citizens, especially young people, in the design of public spaces. The tool is also being used in reconstruction after natural disasters.

Challenges
Les Cayes, a city located in Southwestern Haiti is host to one of the country's major ports. It's originally a well-planned city that experienced a rapid urban growth that in recent years has developed into informal settlements located between the city centre and the sea. Due to soil erosion and lack of basic services the living conditions are unsanitary and citizens suffer from recurrent earthquakes, major floods, and extremely stormy weather conditions. In 2010 a large part of the area was devastated and had still not recovered. Together with the local government and other partners in Les Cayes, UN-Habitat wanted to create an urban waterfront project that could protect the city from flooding and erosion. The project also aimed to provide a public space for the citizens.

Good practice & solutions
While working with two young Minecraft gamers from Sweden, UN-Habitat designed a two-week community participation process. The project began with a series of community meetings with the intent to recruit 20 participants from the Fort Islet slum. After this was done, there as a three-day community engagement workshop which included both representatives from the Les Cayes local authority, the Governor's office and other stakeholders in addition to the community participants. First, the participants were given Minecraft training and then they were divided into four groups consisting of older fishermen, teenage girls, older women and younger men. They then began to redesign an area of the Fort Islet waterfront with the Minecraft tool.

Outcome & opportunities
Within a few hours all participants, even those with very limited previous computer knowledge, were able to start visualising their ideas in Minecraft and concrete solutions came forth. For example, the fishermen needed jetties to help them dock their boats, a place in the shade to clean fish as well as streetlights and public toilets. The group of teenage girls proposed walkways, sports facilities, kiosks and restaurants, street lighting and public toilets. At the end of the process, the participants were given the opportunity to present their designs to representatives from the local authority, Governor's office and UN-Habitat.
The Minecraft model of Plage de la Touterelle, designed by the group of teenage girls, was selected as the first area of intervention.

**Lessons learned & recommendations**

Taking part in these kinds of processes can help build youth confidence, promote critical thinking and improve public speaking skills, important for further civic engagement. People also tend to work much better when they are together in groups as it helps people to identify the collaborative elements. A favourable mix of people in the group adds value to the collaboration but it is important to make sure that everyone in the group feel comfortable to express their opinion and be creative. A difference in societal influence or status can be an obstacle in creating such a group, for instance, older people usually have bigger influence in society compared to young people. A videogame tool, like Minecraft, can be one way of bridging this gap. Most of the time, children and young people have an easier time to understand and to use the tool than older people, putting them in a new position and making the gap smaller. When people are thinking together it creates a dialogue that is rare and can be hard to achieve in other situations.

**Related SDG targets**

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

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

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

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
9. Women entrepreneurs benefitting entire communities
Kounkuey Design Initiative, Coachella, USA

Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) is a non-profit design and community development organization that partners with under-resourced communities to advance equity and activate the unrealized potential in their neighbourhoods and cities. KDI has been taking experiences from working in informal settlements, or “slums”, in the global south to other vulnerable areas globally, including to middle and high-income countries where high levels of inequality persist.

Challenges
The Eastern Coachella Valley of California is a region with rich tourism and agricultural land that at the same time suffers from extreme income disparity and poverty. The lack of affordable housing has resulted in areas of mobile home parks with poor access to sanitation, water, nutritious food, public transportation and electricity. The lack of access to quality water and sanitations systems and an absence of safe and sheltered public spaces for community gatherings and outdoor recreation as well as extreme weather conditions are among the key challenges for this region.

Good practices & solutions
To address the challenges in the Eastern Coachella Valley, KDI applied a participatory “Productive Public Space” model, developed in Kenya. KDI organised a series of workshops in order to identify the most pressing needs of the community of North Shore and understand how a productive public space could be used to address them. In 2017 construction began of the first, resident-designed and culture-driven public space in the community, a 5-acre park that will host an adult fitness circuit, a football field, a sport-court, a family pavilion, a skate plaza, a playground and a bike repair shop. All physical and programmatic project components were envisioned, designed, and implemented by North Shore residents with facilitation and technical inputs from KDI’s team of architects, engineers, artists, and community organizers, and with counsel and direct support from the Desert Recreation District Department.

Outcome & opportunities
One ripple effect of the project has been the empowerment of women. When talking to the residents, KDI found that one of the main challenges for the community was the lack of possibility to start your own business. This led to the launch of a business training program for a group of women. After being trained in entrepreneurship, the women all started small food based businesses and then went on to form a food co-op where they vend traditional healthy street food at events all around their region, including the world famous Coachella music festival.
They are now planning a franchise in the community public space. The boost in income allows them to support themselves and their families. By benefitting women in projects, the positive outcomes ripple down and elevates the community at large.

**Lessons learned & recommendations** Creating a sustainable and successful community development project is hard and takes a lot of time. It is important to consider both the economic and social aspects of the project, which demands commitment from all involved parties, but is key in creating a positive impact and ripple effects both in and beyond the original community. The project in North Shore is not only an appreciated public space for the community but serves as a model of community-led change for the whole of Eastern Coachella Valley region replicate. Involving the community in the development of productive public spaces, whether temporary or permanent, creates a sense of care and management as well as creating learning and employment opportunities for the community. It is shown here that this kind of context and human based thinking is transferrable, from Kenya to California and beyond, as long it is adapted and grounded in the particular local context. Participation, listening, questioning and close involvement with the group or community you are trying to partner with should be universal. Being embedded in those communities is key when you work with vulnerable populations. It is possible to develop innovative projects, and a rigorous participatory process is the best way to build on the potential of residents and uncover that innovation.

**Related SDG targets**

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

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.

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

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of...
10. Because I'm a girl
Plan International and UN-Habitat, Hanoi, Vietnam

In the Block by Block initiative, UN-Habitat uses Mojang’s popular computer game Minecraft to involve citizens, especially young people, in the design and creation of public spaces. In cooperation with Plan International’s initiative Because I’m a Girl, a programme tackling negative social norms and attitudes around gender to achieve equality for girls, they started a project based in Kim Chung, in the outskirts of the Vietnamese capital Hanoi.

Challenges Around 500 girls between the ages of 13-16, all from Kim Chung, were invited to play Minecraft, in order to visualise their ideas of a safer city. Before the girls started playing, they did a walk around the area to identify safety issues in the ambient environment. During the walk, the girls identified a range of dangers in their community. For example, an unlit dark tunnel, a canal that had no barriers and sewers without any covers. When they walked past a restaurant they often got confronted by men and boys shouting mean and offensive things.

Good practice & solutions Analysing the girls’ Minecraft models, their creative designs included simple and crucial aspects of a safe environment. Some of the proposals included installing street lights, road signs, bins and fences, free emergency phones, a café for women and girls and shelters for women, girls and homeless people. They also included ideas of making the public space more enjoyable and beautiful by proposing more flowers, plants, benches, sports fields and tree houses.

Outcome & opportunities The girls presented their designs to influential people representing different branches of the local government. The city government publicly committed to implement some of the suggestions made by the girls, including installing more street lights and building a fence around a deep canal that runs through the city.

Lessons learned & recommendations The aim of the project was to develop a methodology that can be used to help girls and young women access the planning process and improve their urban safety. Working together in groups with a computer game made the girls very calm and creative. It created an atmosphere for the girls, who otherwise are rarely listened to, to express themselves in a new way. Hence, Minecraft is a great tool for involving people in urban design processes, especially people with little to no education as it does not involve reading text, maps or plans. Additionally, speaking about a city and how it may change to the better is difficult.
With Minecraft, everyone can become urban designers with a minimal input and education. Additionally, throughout the project, the confidence among the girls increased. The girls got impressed by their own ability. In the project, they were able to change and make a difference in questions of architecture and urban planning, something they before thought were only for boys and men.

Related SDG targets
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
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
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
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
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
11. Children’s indicators becoming an formal planning tool
World Vision International, Surabaya, Indonesia

World Vision International is an international child-focused organisation, with a federated network of more than 90 countries. The organisation has set a global strategy to advocate and influence the United Nations to refocus the global political discourse on children’s rights across the rural/urban continuum. For the last decade, World Vision launched several learning initiatives, one of them being about child vulnerabilities in diverse urban settings.

Challenges Once a city is friendly for children, both girls and boys, World Vision believes it is a city friendly for all its citizens. The organisation wants to ensure that children are involved in the planning of the city, hence, that urban development is not only being people-centred but also child-centred. Children are the critical citizens of today that will be the future leaders of tomorrow. The clear message from the children of a sub-district in Surabaya was “the underlying issue is that our voices are not being heard. We need to have our voices heard.”

Good practices & solutions The organisation established a Centre of Expertise for Urban Programming to become a knowledge asset to internal and external stakeholders. An action research program was launched to pilot projects in six countries, one of them being Indonesia. The pilot projects tested innovative and locally driven urban poverty eradication solutions, such as securing urban land rights, influencing municipal policy implementation, and creating livelihood opportunities – with children and youth leading change in their communities.

Throughout the pilot projects, children were given space to speak their mind, share their opinions and participate actively. As an agency that is focused on children’s well-being, World Vision was committed to create those formal platforms for dialogue with planners, decision-makers, community-based leaders and family members. In Surabaya, they detected that children have good observational skills. Children tend to look for places to play, which is an important activity for them in order to develop important knowledge about their neighbourhood and their city. One of the innovative methods used during the project was to give children cameras to photograph and film their neighbourhoods.
Through visual pictures, the critical social, cultural, political, economic, and physical issues in the neighbourhoods emerged. With this information, World Vision was able to sensitise the families and communities to understand these issues and advocate for change.

**Outcome & opportunities**

A child-friendly city is where every child is formally recognised as agents of change, and formally acknowledged to be able to contribute to the kind of life they want to live. That is why it is so important to include children in formal and informal decision-making. A child-friendly city starts with listening to the children. This type of project enables children to have a voice in their own development. The project team was, in close collaboration with the children, able to identify seven indicators of a child-friendly neighbourhood in the local context. The indicators evolved around themes such as children’s health, education, care and protection. These indicators were later on implemented in the official development plans of the city.

**Lessons learned & recommendations**

Many of the indicators can be applied globally, as they relate to the environmental issues or urban space design. There are for example indicators related to liveability. Liveable cities support access to mobility so that children can move freely, but also social conventions of expressing themselves, talk and disagree. Many planners, due of the way they have been trained, know fairly little about the social aspects of planning. Planning is inherently a technical profession, leaving many social aspects out of the equation. For example, wasted space is a wasted asset for a community of a city, so how can that space become a living environment? A key lesson learnt is the need to strengthen existing partnerships with multiple stakeholders and partners, such as civil society, universities and local government. Collaborative efforts support sharing of knowledge, resources and efforts to replicate and scale up locally tested solutions.

**Related SDG targets**

1.7 Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

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

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

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
12. Public-Private-People-Partnerships
Seberang Perai City Council, Malaysia

In 2012, Penang city was the first local authority to practice and implement a gender responsive participatory budgeting in Malaysia. At the time, the mayor in the municipal council of Seberang Perai in Penang was Mrs Maimunah Mohd Sharif. To solve the municipality's financial difficulties, she introduced the Public-Private-People-Partnerships (4P's).

Challenges
In 2012, Seberang Perai municipal council had a low municipal finance. The services offered by the city council and the ongoing project, were not meeting the demands or needs of the citizens or businesses active in the area. This led to a high level of unpaid property taxes and assessments, which in turn resulted in low finances for the municipality.

Good practices & solutions
To solve the financial troubles and regain the citizens’ trust, the municipality implemented two strategies: (1) gender responsible budgeting and (2) the “4 P’s”. The process started with asking city dwellers to rate the city council and identify areas that needed improvement. In 2012, the city was graded and achieved a satisfactory score of 64%. It was clear that implemented policies and public space solutions were not suitable for everyone residing in the city and something needed to be done. A gender perspective in both the city budgeting and planning was implemented.

However, the subject of gender was sensitive, so it was incorporated through the technical term universal design, meaning that the solutions were to benefit everyone. The thesis in practice meant that if it is good for a pregnant lady, it is good for everybody, or if it is good for an old woman, it is good for everybody. The city formed the Penang women development cooperation to look into gender perspectives of existing policies and in this way institutionalise a gender perspective in the governmental policies.

The second strategy the “4 P’s”- Public-Private-People-Partnerships. The city had a tremendous amount of public spaces, lighting systems, and streets to maintain and many public facilities to update but lacked the means for doing so. Trying to find a solution to this problem, the mayor turned to private communities in Penang for support. A majority of companies in the area usually focused their corporate social responsibility budget on the city’s community centres for the elderly or orphanages, making it hard for these centres to facilitate the amount of money. Instead the mayor proposed that the private sector take responsibility for one or some of the city’s public parks. The city council formulated a transparent strategy to deal with the cooperation, giving advertising rights to the company or private community but reserving the final say regarding both the advertisement and the design of the park.
All designs were submitted and approved by the full council and then the company or private community implemented them and took care of the public space on a five-year lease. Due to this many public spaces improved tremendously. However, it started without the involvement of the people, which inevitably resulted in many projects not meeting the actual needs of citizens. After reviewing the target projects, the city council added another P to the model, the people.

**Outcome & opportunities** The main outcome of the initiatives was the regained confidence and trust in the government, making city actors willing to pay their assessments again. This was only possible through good governance; with competency, accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of doing things. The 4 P’s create a balance between the different city stakeholders which strengthen all parties. The private sector started to help the city manage and maintain spaces that would not be prioritized otherwise. When preparing the 2018 city budget, after several years of gender responsive participatory budgeting, the city had reached a satisfactory level of 92%.

**Lessons learned & recommendations** First of all, it is of primary importance to analyse the challenges vital to the own city. Then, it is time look for the best practices elsewhere. Learn from the best practices globally and then apply them to the local context. This approach creates an integrated, holistic, sustainable development plan of policy, which have the opportunity to address the source of the problem rather than creating solutions ad hoc. This integrated, holistic, sustainable development plan of policy has to be translated to the local government and translated into an action plan. When creating the locally driven action plan, every sector has to be involved. The strength lies in a combination of a top down and bottom up approaches that creates a convergence of ideas. It is key not only create a good plan or a good policy but an implementable policy.

**Related SDG targets**

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place and girls everywhere 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
13. Pin the creep and raise awareness of sexual harassment
SafeCity, New Delhi, India

SafeCity is a platform that crowdsources personal stories of sexual harassment and abuse in public spaces. The aim is to make data available and useful for individuals, local communities, and local administration to identify factors and behaviours that lead to violence, and work on efficient strategies for solutions. SafeCity makes cities safer by promoting equal access to public spaces for everyone, especially women, through the use of crowdsourced data and technology.

Challenges Many public spaces are occupied by men in India. It is where men loiter and spend time with their friends. Women and girls are rarely seen doing the same. However, we expect a city to be able to provide spaces for all its citizens. A good city has transportation that is safe, clean, affordable, easily available, and provides multiple and flexible options. New Delhi for example, has a great metro system, but it often lacks “the last mile connectivity” which makes women vulnerable to attacks. SafeCity believes that “if you want an inclusive city that is safe for women and girls, their needs need to be taken into account. If it’s inclusive for young girls, it’s inclusive for everyone."

" UN Women state that 1 in 3 women face some kind of sexual assault at least once in their lifetime. Campaigns, such as #metoo, has brought attention to that the problem with sexual harassment might even be much greater than that. In India, a rape occurs approximately every 20 minutes. Yet, most women and girls do not talk about this type abuse due to cultural and social conventions, for example, victim blaming, police fear, and tedious formal procedures. As a consequence, data cannot be gathered, and perpetrators goes unpunished. Breaking the silence and documenting harassment and abuse in public spaces, will help to find the most effective solutions at a neighbourhood level.

Good practices & solutions On the SafeCity website women and witnesses can report cases of sexual harassments and abuse occurring both in private and public spheres. When women are encouraged to report and to break the silence, the organisations can map what has happened where. This information is used to improve interventions and take action against sexual violence. Areas that have emerged as high-risk for women in New Delhi are, for example, stations, station bridges or viaducts, bus stops, along the railway, and markets. What has been identified to decrease sexual harassment in public places are a combination of good lightning, police presence, and a built environment which design is unique in comparison to adjacent areas.

Outcome & opportunities When women read other people’s stories, it helps them understand what sexual violence is and that it should not be accepted. They also learn about the different types and levels of violence. Nonverbal and verbal harassment are often normalised culturally, which makes women ignore it or blame themselves. The increased solidarity between women creates an immense difference on a social and cultural level. When they hear each other’s stories, they understand that they are not alone.

Lessons learned & recommendations A city is a living, breathing thing. When the population is changing, the city cannot remain static. City planning need to be more open to listen to people’s issues, needs, demands, and make adjustments. A good city is balanced, where there is space for people for live, work and play in equal measures. A good city is inclusive, meaning for example providing good footpaths and cheap public transportation. Far too many cities lack good footpaths, making it hard to push baby strollers or wheelchairs. A good city has places for everyone to play, not just fields to play football or cricket, that mainly attract boys. A good city has places for women to loiter, to sit down without being stared at or being questioned why they are in a public space.

SafeCity believes that it is possible to generalise their methods, because they never go into a neighbourhood with a preconceived notion about the solution. They first examine reported data from the community in focus. Since they have worked across India, Nepal, Cameroon and Kenya the characteristics of the reports differs a lot. For example, in Kenya, incest is often reported, while there is much less public harassment. In Nepal, reports show non-perpetrated violence and child sex abuse, however authorities began to solve the issue of transportation because it is very inadequate to women. This shows the extreme importance of data and to locally adapt working methods to ensure women and girls feel safe.

Related SDG targets
3.1 Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
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
5.6 Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political
inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

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

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
14. Post-conflict urban reconstruction in informal settlements
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, Kabul, Afghanistan

In some cities in Asia and Africa, as well as parts Latin America, up to 60% of the population live in informal settlements on land that does not belong to them. The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights was founded in 1986 with the main goal to stop evictions from these settlements. Today, the organisation is a cooperation between Asian professionals, NGOs and community organisations committed to find long term solutions to underlying causes of the creation of informal settlements and forced evictions. Many of the projects involve slum-upgrading, creating safe and productive public spaces, stopping evictions and favouring equal rights.

Challenges In Kabul, 70% of the city's 5 million inhabitants live in informal settlements. However, as the settlements are considered illegal, they are not formally recognised, and the government refuses to provide services and basic infrastructure facilities. The qualities of the houses are poor and access to clean water or proper toilets are rare. There have been several efforts trying to improve the living condition, but only 10% of Kabul's informal population is estimated to have been affected.

Good practice and solutions Together with the Cooperation for Reconstruction Afghanistan (CRA), the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights started to analyse the environment of the informal settlements in order to identify what could be improved. The first step was to survey the settlements to identify shortages and prioritise services and infrastructure solutions. The second step was to plan and implement small upgrading projects. The work involved local actors and CRA took responsibility for training and facilitation while the communities themselves implemented the refurbishment, as well as started savings groups with support from the local authorities.

Outcome and opportunities The initiative spread to other cities in Afghanistan and different communities in Kabul. Some cities started acting as mentors and teachers to the new cities wanting to implement a similar process. In the past two years, visits and exchanges between communities in the same city – and between cities – have helped to start the building of a network of savings groups. After establishing eight savings groups in Kabul, containing both men and women, they could start to build roads and drains, walls to protect areas from flooding and water supply systems between communities and cities as well as within them.

Lessons learned A city has many agendas, and the poor population often become a problem and a barrier for achieving its development plans. So, solutions for the poor sometimes needs to come from a grassroot level. Grassroot level initiatives are especially great in joining local forces to be a part of a solution. It is only then a solution will suit everybody. Supporting these kinds of initiatives has the opportunity to transform the way cities engage with its communities, gaining from the citizens' feeling of being empowered. In order to do this, the locality needs to mobilise, which is especially hard for poor communities with little money to spare. Since, money and information are two things that will help the community to negotiate with the city. When the local communities manage to come together as a group, they are strong!

Related SDG targets
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate technology and financial services, including microfinance
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
15. Pro-poor proactivity
SPARC and SDI, Mumbai, India

The organization Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) was founded in 1984. They work in India as a part of an alliance with Mahila Milan and NSDF. SPARC works together with Slum Dweller International (SDI) in a Global Network.

**Challenges**
How do poor people, who are the main subjects of development interventions, become proactive and central to the solution?

When SPARC began their work in 1984, they were working with women who lived on the streets of Mumbai facing routine evictions. It was a vicious circle where pavement dwellers were seen as a threat to society and therefore evicted, but because of their social and economic position they had no choice but to remain on the street and face new evictions when their settlement was rebuilt.

**Good practices & solutions**
SPARC undertook a first enumeration of all the people who lived on the pavements to show the municipality that they were the country’s poorest people. It showed that the dwellers consisted of landless people from rural areas that had come into the city to find work and food for themselves and their children. The reason they lived on the pavements was because their earnings did not cover the cost of public housing.

Over a ten-year period, the organization continued to work with pavement dwellers and continued to collect data about informal settlements as well as work with women’s groups within these communities. The data was then presented to the municipality, the state government, the national government and international agencies. The organization wanted to apply pressure and demand accountability by pressing the central government to take responsibility of finding a solution for people residing in informal settlements. It is because of absent development investment in the dwellers’ home cities and districts that they have come to live on the pavement of Mumbai or in informal settlements.

To incorporate the community women, a house designing competition was held where the winning sketch was later built. This method has been used, in different parts of the country, by community women to build houses. It demonstrates that the people are capable to build houses that meet their needs when they are given the opportunity. The federation work together with the government to finance the building and possible relocation of informal settlements.
Outcome & opportunities It is now a local government policy to relocate and assign land to evicted slum of pavement dwellers. SPARC continues their work in other parts of the country, using the Mumbai experience as a blueprint. This has become an international precedent. In both India, South Africa and in many other countries, the local SDI federations have formed their own financial and construction company. This blends the money coming in from different actors and helps poor women to take up contracts to build their own houses.

Lessons learned & recommendations Everyone can use these strategies to help their local authorities to prioritize and invest in the projects that attends the needs of the poor people. It is however crucial to have great local knowledge to be able to approach and involve the informal settlement in the development process as well as in dialogues with local authorities. SPARC stresses that it is of vital importance that urban development needs to be in collaboration between the municipality and the people, as it helps build the much needed trust between the parties. Additionally, for a solution that is sustainable, women need to be at the centre of it.

All the federations within the SDI family, help the neighbourhoods to collect good quality comprehensive data about themselves. The point is to either help aggregate the data at the city level or disaggregate the data to a community or a neighbourhood level, because no city gathers data about informality. This kind of census does not have a classification. So, by poor people gathering data about themselves, they produce quantitative information that forces the municipality to look at these people as requiring acknowledgment. This is a perspective that has been ignored and should be elevated in order to truly commit to, and achieve, the SDGs.

Related SDG targets
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation...
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge
16. The 1.5 billion women challenge
Pedalista, Surakarta, Indonesia

Pedalista is an initiative within the larger programme Women on Wheels, supporting and teaching women to use one of the most sustainable transportation options, the bicycle. The project was founded in 2015 and is currently operating in Sweden and Indonesia. The aim of Pedalista is to improve women's mobility, increasing their freedom and independence. Hence, the bicycle works as a tool to reach positive social alternative values, especially to people living in poor areas or low-income countries.

Challenges In many parts of the world, bikes are used almost solely by men due to social conventions saying that women should not bicycle. This is for example the case in Surakarta, Indonesia. A common challenge that Pedalista faces here is the idea that the bicycle should not be used for transportation, but only as a leisure activity for men. As a consequence, places reachable by bicycling are often occupied by men. Generally, men enjoy the perks and freedom attained by biking while women avoid the risks that traffic can bring. Hence, another challenge is undeveloped infrastructure and lack of public transportation. Many streets in Surakarta are forbidden for bicycling since the car is prioritised.

Good practice & solutions Engagement and communication with the target group (women without access to bicycling) throughout the whole process is fundamental. Using the bicycle to increase empowerment and create societal change at the local level contribute to community development through an approach of increasing inclusion and gender equality. The project is developing a toolbox to be used in other social, cultural and geographical contexts. The toolbox contains methods, approaches and knowledge needed to increase women's ability to use a bike.

Outcome & opportunities One outcome from the project is raised community awareness of new ways of transportation. The project has highlighted infrastructural and social barriers preventing women's mobility and making the women themselves aware of these barriers. An overview of existing barriers is achieved by implementing a gender perspective, something that has been well received by decision makers and local governance in Surakarta. A bicycle is not only a tool to get from point A to point B. It could also provide an opportunity to move out of poverty, create an ability for a safe way to school, implement an independent and healthier lifestyle, favour better integration into society, as well as better access to public spaces.

Lessons learned Due to social and cultural norms women tend to carry a larger responsibility for household and childcare. This situation has an impact on their travel pattern. Their travel routes and mobility patterns are more complicated than men's. Women often make several stops when traveling to ensure their caring responsibilities, and they often travel with kids, other family members or goods. By applying a gender perspective to mobility, the bicycle becomes a solution to ease women's burdens when using the urban public space that meet many of their specific needs. However, bicycling needs to become more accessible to everyone, including men.

Related SDG targets
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
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
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
In some cities in Asia and Africa, as well as parts of Latin America, up to 60% of the population live in informal settlements on land that does not belong to them. The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights was founded in 1986 with the main goal to stop evictions from these settlements. Today, the organisation is a cooperation between Asian professionals, NGOs and community organisations committed to finding long-term solutions to underlying causes of the creation of informal settlements and forced evictions. Many of the projects involve slum-upgrading, creating safe and productive public spaces, stopping evictions and favouring equal rights.

Challenges In Pakistan, many urban problems must be addressed by the communities themselves. As 40% of the national budget goes into servicing the country’s debts, 40% to the military and 15% is used to run the government, only 5% of the budget is for the country’s physical and social development. In order to transform the situation, communities have to organise themselves. They have to raise money, gather information and share knowledge at a local level, and many local organisations, initiatives and projects have emerged to solve their city’s challenges.

Good practices & solutions In Karachi, initiatives like the Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) have helped poor communities to systematize self-sufficiency so successfully that their work has almost reached national policy. Over 2 million USD were raised, which permitted more than 150,000 households to build toilets, and underground sewers and water supply systems could be provided in the informal settlement. This was achieved through a self-help approach, and public-private partnership with the municipality. The OPP provided technical support and the government connected the community-built sewers to the city’s base sewer system.

Outcome & opportunities Sometimes local organisations cannot wait for the government to initiate the development needed in the community. In this case, the locality came together, shared information and experience, came up with a great solution and managed to influence the municipality. This was a grassroots initiative successfully collecting community savings to implement a solution vital for their community. It is clear that money and information are a community’s best assets to implement change.

Lessons learned & recommendations The most important lesson learned is that unless the locality is an organised community, no single NGO or government will help solve the local challenges. So, a first step is mobilising the community. Additionally, if grassroots initiatives work with the 10% of the most vulnerable in the city, is the urban poor, the work will benefit the whole city.

Related SDG targets
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
1.6 Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
1.7 Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
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
17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
18. Turning a main street into a cultural centre
Orchestra Design, Omsk, Siberia, Russia

Orchestra Design is an organisation of social entrepreneurs specialised in urban design & city development, based in Paris, France and St Petersburg, Russia. They work with placemaking as a tool to design good and inclusive public space capitalising on the human capital already existing in the locality. One of the largest and first projects they have worked with was the main street in Omsk, Siberia.

Challenges
Omsk is Russia’s seventh largest city with almost 1.2 million inhabitants. It is a major city in Siberia and is traditionally an important transport node with a station on the Trans-Siberian Railway. A large oil company funded a project to refurbish the main street in the city. However, the development plans for the new street did not respond to the needs of population living and working in the surrounding areas. The parking lots, transit roads, and eradication of public space quickly provoked large protests. People primarily protested because of the car based new environment, and instead proclaimed bringing back the traditional structure which was pedestrian-centred and been dominated by a large linear urban park.

Good practices & solutions
The protests were fruitful. The construction company turned to activists for help and the social entrepreneurs at Orchestra Design became involved in the process. Through a public consultation process they brought together stakeholders (house owners, cultural institutions, local associations, the student community). An initial clash between surrounding shop owners and the population had to be overcome. Shop owners, who initially wanted to transform the area into a luxury shopping street, feared that pedestrianisation would scare their customers away. They were won over to the “people’s side” by the argument “low prices attract many, high prices just attract few”. This created consensus of creating a pedestrian oriented concept. For three years, pocket parks were built, new youth activities planned, and the linear park was reconstructed.

Outcome & opportunities
A result of the intervention was that the director of the museum became responsible for culture in the local administration and launched the special programme “cultural street” with weekend street programmes, outdoors public lectures, theatres, and concerts. “The street has become the cultural centre of the city. Before they were concentrated to the shopping malls”. Even during the harsh winter months, the street became the central attraction of the city, and skiing and running marathons are frequently organised there.
This was the city’s first experience of participatory work, and it brought several long-term effects. When external experts let the process become participatory and include locals from many different societal groups, it guaranteed further management and sustainment of the public space. Even the oil company became interested in supporting more citizen initiatives. Together they launched project laboratories for bottom up activities and knowledge sharing. Additional positive side effects include increased safety, cleaner public space, and feelings of ownership from the community. For example, the quote “This was done by local people for local people” written on one of the new walls ended vandalism.

Lessons learned & recommendations
One lesson learned was that girls tended to be more active in the participatory process than boys. However, when the boys saw that the girls were gathering it also attracted the boys. They came to help the girls with creation of their new city centre “The girls became bosses, boys the workforce”. A recommendation to others is that even small grants from private sector or government is essential to launch activities. Larger support will come when businesses see positive results. Therefore, incubators, tests, and pilots can be a real catalyst. “Just test, if it works, you will get support”. Most important is to understand how knowledge is power and that data and numbers speak for themselves. Providing training for the business community and the city about urban development will easily solve unnecessary conflicts.

Related SDG targets
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
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
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
19. Building a global forum for public space

Biennale Spazio Pubblico, Rome, Italy

The Biennial of Public Space is an international forum for knowledge sharing, capacity building and advocacy for public space guidelines globally. Every two years it gathers urban experts from academia, civil society, private sector, local government and international organisations for the only existing summit entirely dedicated to public space.

Challenges

After the Millennium Development Goals, it was evident that many of the goals that had not been met within the timeframe were related to urban issues, such as sanitation and adequate housing. Therefore, in the negotiations that preceded the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, there was a growing global understanding for the need of a fully urban goal. At the same time, groups of researchers and planners, connected many of the current challenges to the provision and quality of public services and public spaces. However, advocates for a SDG particularly targeting public space would need to come together to highlight the importance of shedding significant global light on the commons in our cities. To do so, the Biennial of Public Space was born.

Good practices & solutions

A milestone for the Biennial of Public Space became the articulation of SDG 11 in the 2030 Agenda, and particularly the formulation of 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. Further, the adoption of the New Urban Agenda feature the importance of good quality urban public space to ensure sustainable urban planning, design and development.

However, global knowledge and guidelines were limited in this new field of international policy development. Building on the earlier work of the Biennale in drafting a global Charter of Public Space, together with UN-Habitat a Public Space Toolkit was developed to support the practice of public space planning, design, development, and management.

Outcome & opportunities

The principles in the charter have proved valuable with particular reference to: the prospect of public spaces to good quality lives of urban dwellers; the improvement of neglected spaces; the value of temporary interventions; and the importance of urban public art. The forum proceeded to produce international key messages and guidelines as support for implementing actors on the potential, provision, development and maintenance of public space that could be applied globally. Some of the key principles highlight that public space cuts across many sectoral issues and is a useful platform to address many development concerns, that
public space must be regarded as a basic service just like roads, water and electricity and that master planning should include public space as a key structuring element of the city. It also underlines that in order to provide “universal access for all” to the public space, will require a special focus on marginalized groups.

**Lessons learned & recommendations**

Together, the various actors and initiatives involved in the Biennial have provided lessons learned and recommendations to others such as: Each project and plan need to be a process, in which different actors, users and stakeholders are promoted to increase ownership, trust and identify qualities; Effective participatory approaches should become common practice in the formulation of planning instruments; To innovate public space interventions, we need to either forget references and norms, or introduce new ones based on the users of the particular space; Learning across national and regional contexts is important for innovation and discovery of new relevant tools and methods; Critical evaluation is important to validate approaches and build evidence such as comparative documentation and academic institutions (often public spaces in themselves) can be powerful agents of change if they engage in community development projects, as they are part of the community.

**Related SDG targets**

- **1.7** Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
- **5.5** Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- **10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- **11.3** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- **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
- **11.a** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- **16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- **17.16** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- **17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
20. Designing cities with children
Tengbom, Malmö, Sweden

Tengbom is an architectural firm based in Sweden and Finland. Their vision is to create innovative and timeless architecture, including ecological, social and economic sustainability. It is one of the oldest architectural firms in Europe and one of the largest in the industry. The activity ranges from urban design and landscape architecture, to interior design and project management.

Challenges
The development of our society is creating a shift in citizens’ perspective of ownership. A more shared economy, such as carpools, is one example of what creates opportunities for new types of environments. Beside incorporating new environments in the urban space, architects have a responsibility to include a range of perspectives in their planning process. A key factor for successful urban planning of public spaces and the built environment within these spaces, is that the target audience feel safe. By actively thinking about the users, many uncertain factors can be eliminated. However, when designing for the users, gender equality is key. The architects at Tengbom want to shape environments where girls and boys can meet, creating places to meet across the gender and generational boundaries, blurring them out.

Good practices & solutions
One of the methods Tengbom is working with is to broaden citizen dialogues. Tengbom tries to get more actors to participate in the processes. They listen to civil dialogues, but also promote participation from stakeholders not usually targeted in traditional dialogues. One such project is Framtidskalaset, where children was invited to a creative workshop where they got to use different materials in order to visualize their future homes. Both digital tools, e.g. Minecraft, and physical tools, e.g. cardboard, foil, cotton etc. were used. This type of work with children became an inspiration for further method development of the planning practice within the firm.

Outcome & opportunities
Results from the project point out certain key elements in public spaces where girls’ and children’s needs are met, and interaction over gender and generational boarders is possible. One important element is that users should be able to make the space their own, where people are allowed to take up space, this in turn creates a feeling of ownership. For this to be happen, the spaces need to be flexible, inviting, and have an element of being “unfinished”, meaning it possible for the user to and develop the site. Flexibility is important as it attracts many different audiences to the site, hence, making the space versatile.
A staircase is a good example, as a staircase can be a place to walk, sit, meet, play, watch performances, etc. The main take-away from Tengbom’s work is, henceforth, that one element must meet several purposes.

Lessons learned & recommendations Citizen dialogues and inclusive processes that make the community an active part of the public debate as well as the urban development, fill an important purpose for the society at large. It has become an important part of the democratic process. These methods are applicable everywhere, but one must keep in mind that the local prerequisites differs.

Related SDG targets
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
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
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
21. Empowering youth through city farming
Stora Skuggans 4H farm, Stockholm, Sweden

4H is an international youth organisation with activities in city farming, animal care, sports, cooking and theatre, amongst others. In Sweden, the organisation, and the local 4H-clubs, have worked with city farms since the 1970s, with focus on self-sufficient shopping centre-scale farming. One of the most important goals of the farm are inclusion and that all members are able to participate in farm activities. Stora Skuggan 4H farm is one of the largest cooperations of city farms in Sweden, with a total of 37 4H-farms spread all over the country.

Challenges The organisation wants to create inclusive meeting spaces and activities where all children and youths are welcome. The vision of the organisation is that all children and youths will develop a strong sense of commitment and responsibility to respect the surrounding environment. There is an extensive need for urban activities that reach children from all areas, including more economically challenged areas. For example, young girls in the suburbs lack affordable spaces to hang out and the organisation give them an opportunity to spend their leisure time in a welcoming environment. The organisation emphasise that their activities offer an important contribution to society, as few spaces and activities for children are both non-performance and non-commercial based. The aim of creating this space in this kind of the setting is to help children with an unstable social background develop a sense of belonging.

Good practices & solutions As a volunteer organisation, the local 4H-club at the city farm engages youths in farming, animal care, nature care and ecosystem knowledge. The 4H city-farms are open for all children and youth. Active members range between the age of 6-25 years. The members and visitors of the farms are girls, to a large majority. One method developed within the 4H-farm is called “mini-leaders”. Becoming a Mini-leader is the first part of the farms’ leadership program, where children from the age of 11 begin to help out in various ways, for example hosting visitors, and train younger members at farm activities. They also work with ecosystem awareness by engaging and informing other children. Another method applied is the “4H recycle visit program” where children in the ages of 4-8 can through actively follow the life cycle off eggs, from hen to egg and from eggshell to compost and from composted soil to growing crops, giving seeds to feed the hen that produces new eggs.

Outcome & opportunities These two methods are only two of many that has resulted in a warm, including, accepting and welcoming social environment at the 4H-farm. 4H is a safe place for visitors and members, especially for children with socio-economic burdens at home or in school.

The inclusive work of the organisation enables unique social contacts between children and youth of different ages. The members feel needed, which is different from only participating in “consuming activities” or performance focused sports. The engagement of children in the 4H farms has had great impact of the children’s life in general, both at home and at school. There are several examples where children with very poor school results and presence in school activities have changed in a positive direction after participating in 4H-farm activities and becoming part of their community-like environments. Children with a difficult or unstable home environment, have also found support in the Mini leaders, as well as the employed staff at the 4H-farms.

Lessons learned & recommendations Children and youths develop important life skills when needing to take responsibility from a young age. Through the methods used to engage children and youths, personal development is promoted through “learning by doing”. The physical activity and nature experience that 4H city-farms gives, are powerful and important for developing transferable skills to other contexts. The environment in these activities enables the young participants to discover their strengths, both physically and mentally, and learn about healthy life habits. The programmes run by the 4H-farms also give children and youths in urban contexts an opportunity to learn more about, and develop an interest for, agriculture, animal care and environmental issues.

Related SDG targets
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
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
13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
22. Flickrum, a norm-creative approach to close the gender gap
White Arkitekter, Stockholm, Sweden

White Arkitekter is one of Scandinavia’s leading architectural firms and the third largest in Europe. Their research and expertise encompass architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and interior design. They create people-centered architecture, inspiring a sustainable way of life. In 2017, they completed the project Flickrum i det offentliga (translated into Girls’ room in the public) where they worked with young women on how they want to take place in urban public spaces.

Challenges There is an obvious lack of public places for girls in contemporary cities. Norms and social structures shape how people’s needs are prioritized, hence reinforcing inequality. One example of this is the mobility factor as transport priorities and infrastructure are directly sprung from existing gender norms. We are often prioritising roads when planning cities, but when examining statistics on car use, it is a majority of men that are car owners in Sweden. Also, large parts of public funds are used for activities that are dominated by boys rather than activities that are equally accessible for both boys and girls.

Good practices & solutions In the project Flickrum, White architects gathered a multidisciplinary team with sustainability specialists, designers, architects, and pedagogues, as well as invited young girls to act as place experts in a reference group. This enabled them to target questions of gender and power with the ones concerned, creating an eye-opener for stakeholders within urban planning. They also built models of an actual urban space to explore urban form. However, in conversations with stakeholders about questions of equality, the firm experienced prejudices. Public officials questioned the girls’ abilities to express their needs and the relevance of exposing them to the planning process. The initiators of the project want to show that all are experts in being themselves here and now, and everyone’s subjective experiences of the public space is relevant, regardless of age or gender. Additionally, Flickrum used theatre as a tool to communicate the girls’ experiences of city spaces. Using art as a tool is a convenient and efficient way to raise awareness, understanding and empathy on the subject.

Outcome & opportunities The architecture firm realised when working with the project Flickrum that no major financial investments are required to meet the needs of these girls. They do not demand much, they only wish to be able to be outdoors with friends regardless of weather, they want to sit and talk, as if the public space was their living room. If you live in a small apartment far from school, you may not be able to bring home several friends.

If you have many siblings and parents at home, you may simply want to get away from home for a while. Compared to the costs of giant arenas, sports halls, and malls, this is not a financial issue at all.

Lessons learned & recommendations It is essential to work with capable and humble architects, urban planners and decision-makers that dare to listen to the various needs different social groups express. We need a more democratic process with a more heterogeneous working-force, so more people are heard. It is crucial to be inclusive from the beginning of every planning process. There are two essential fundamentals in building something so complex as a city; knowledge and representation. Every time someone new contribute to the process, the knowledge increases. In this perspective, co-creation gives a new impression of a site, which has a significantly positive effect. Hence, co-creation is a planning method applicable to every context globally. However, as city planning is market-driven, especially with regards to what can become public places, or rather what remains to be public places, the project economy determines the outcome of a city’s public spaces. If there is to be a change in that area, a strong political is needed.

Related SDG targets
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
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
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
23. Interdisciplinary network for safe public spaces
Säkra platser, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden

Säkra platser (Safe places) is an interdisciplinary research network that links local needs, knowledge in situational crime prevention, and relevant national and international experts and institutions. The network is connected to KTH, The Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. With support from the National Council of Crime Prevention (BRÅ), a number of initiatives have been created with a focus on information sharing and development of preventive solutions.

Challenges
Security is an inherent quality of cities. We expect from cities to provide secure places, but also places of vitality, attractiveness and diversity, often a result from a wide range of people coming together, for different purposes. These characteristics of a city is its qualities and are often the reason why more and more people live in urban areas. Yet, the world has witnessed growing threats to the essential nature of cities. Whether it is the ‘old’ threats, such as becoming a victim of crime or ‘newer’ ones such as terrorism, natural catastrophes or other types of harm, the contemporary order demands news ways to cope with and respond to risks and fears in everyday life. A complex and wide range of knowledge supply must be in place to tackle threats in society that disable communities and affect people’s lives.

Good practices & solutions
Much of the new knowledge in situational crime prevention remains limited to universities and research institutes. A key aim of this network is to engage academics, safety experts, police officers and practitioners of different fields in knowledge creation, exchange and diffusion by providing a one-stop information hub for situational crime prevention in Sweden. KTH provides an outstanding platform for in a methodologically strong research environment with professionals who work interdisciplinary.

Outcome & opportunities
The activities of the network have resulted in a gathered knowledge body around safety. Key messages include: (1) Safety is a human right, to feel free from risk and fear of danger is crucial for all human beings and is a pre-condition for modern societies. (2) A safe environment enables the fulfillment of the most basic individual needs, a safe dwelling and a secure urban environment that allow free movement. Understanding of the situational conditions of crime. (3) Crime does not occur in a vacuum. It happens in particular places and times. If the conditions in which crime occurs can be tackled, the overall safety conditions of a place will improve. This requires knowledge that is context-
based. (4) Urban and rural environments are not exposed to crime in the same way. New realities demand new methodological challenges. (5) Safety is intersectional. There is a need to investigate intersectional victimization and in poor perceived safety. Knowledge on how, when, and why gender intersects with age, class, and ethnic belonging, which together may result in multiple dimensions of disadvantage, victimization, and poor perceived safety.

Lessons learned & recommendations KTH provides an platform for a methodologically strong research environment with professionals who work interdisciplinary. Ensuring safety is not a task for a single discipline or stakeholder. Decreasing crime and improving safety conditions demands knowledge from a wide array of research disciplines: criminology, sociology, psychology but also geography, architecture and planning, statistics, engineering and computer science. Safety depends on the coordinated cooperation of multiple societal stakeholders working towards collaborative frameworks to prevent crime and promote perceived safety. Or, translational criminology – If we want to prevent, reduce and manage crime, we must be able to translate scientific findings into policy and practice. Practitioners in the field describe challenges they face in their jobs every day, but scientists also discover new tools and ideas to overcome these challenges and evaluate their impacts. This process recognizes that successful dissemination of research findings may require multiple strategies.

Related SDG targets

1.7 Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
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
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
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
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

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
24. The gender equality strategist
Umeå Municipality, Sweden

Umeå is one of Sweden’s fastest growing cities. The average age of the nearly 123 000 people who live in Umeå is 38 years old. For the city, the rapid urbanisation is seen as an asset and the goal is to reach 200 000 inhabitants before 2050. Umeå was the first Swedish municipality to appoint a gender equality strategist, perhaps even the first city in the world to do so.

Challenges Many Nordic cities are experiencing growing challenges, such as health and housing. Spatial and social segregation is increasing in many cities and is becoming an alarming problem in larger cities. Ethnic segregation is increasing in pace with the continuous widening of socio-economic gaps, primarily amongst low income groups (unlike high income groups where ethnic segregation is actually declining). There is therefore an urgent need of public spaces serving as public meeting places with a potential to bridge social and spatial segregation in society. This puts pressure on planning with reference to prioritising accessible public space.

Good practices & solutions With this background, Umeå Municipality has appointed a gender equality strategist, to operate at all levels, together with economists, analysts and development strategists in the planning office. Focus is currently on urban planning issues. A central task for the gender equality strategist is to analyse how power relations influence decision-making processes in general and public space in particular. One method the city uses in urban planning to target these questions is called “the gendered landscape”, where transformation of city districts is analysed from a human rights perspective on the basis of different groups’ perceptions and experiences of a public place. Central to the work on equal opportunities in the municipality has been the development of the Strategy for Work on Equal Opportunities. The municipal council provides goals and directives, where equality and an improved understanding of power relations create coherence throughout the planning process.

Outcome & opportunities Placing social sustainability and gender equality at the top of the agenda on a regional level is key to create a city for all on a local level. Following questions are always asked throughout planning processes to make sure that gender and power issues are a central part in the municipal planning: What do different city districts look like? Who lives there? How do they live? What is the status of public spaces, communications and services? How may flows between city districts be created to support connections and meetings between people in the city?
Lessons learned & recommendations
Success factors for Umeå to institutionalise gender equality has particularly been to learn from statistics and evidence-based knowledge and dare to move away from “business as usual”. Another lesson learned that can be duplicated elsewhere is the ability to see diversity as a strength, build on existing human capital, providing inclusive meeting places and understand how public space can be a tool to realise the ‘right to the city’ for everyone.

Related SDG targets
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
1.7 Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
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
5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
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
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
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

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
25. The 1,5 billion women challenge
Pedalista, Botkyrka, Sweden

Pedalista is an initiative lead by Living Cities, a non-profit corporation that offers a dynamic platform for urban development and innovation globally. Together with citizens, communities, entrepreneurs, and governments they work for inclusive, resilient and living cities to find new ways of managing cities and implementing change. Pedalista is an initiative within the project “Women on Wheels”, which aims to improve women's mobility and an initiative that seeks creative ways to provide women access to the cheapest and greenest means of transportation; the bicycle.

Challenges
Pedalista is trying to make cycling accessible to more women all over the world. Many cities are not planned for bikes, forcing bicyclists to share the roads with cars, trucks, buses and motorbikes, making the practice of riding a bike unsafe. This is a physical obstacle that the initiative Pedalista is trying to overcome. However, the hesitance for women to use bikes are not only physical. A common understanding is that mobility behaviour is gendered. Men and women often perceive themselves as mobile but through closer analysis there are both physical and social barriers that keep women from accessing the urban public space to the same extent as men. These barriers can only be highlighted if asking and talking to women themselves. If a gender perspective is not included in the planning process of public space, the needs of women are usually overlooked. When asking inhabitants in Botkyrka if they would like to use the bike, 70% answered positively, however only 4% answered that they actually do.

Good practices & solutions
The aim of Pedalista is to increase the number of women that uses a bike in Botkyrka. In this case, the bicycle is used both as a mobility tool, but also to increase women’s empowerment, as well as contribute to community development based on a gender equal and inclusive approach, creating a change at a local level. The majority of the people working on the project are using the bicycle in their every-day life which have created a broader understanding of the problem, since many of them also represent the target group. Engagement and communication with the target group (women that do not have access to biking) throughout the whole process are crucial. Just because something is not being used, does not mean that people do not want it.
Outcome & opportunities

Pedalista is an ongoing project with the aim to develop and complete the creation of a tool box that includes methods for carrying out analysis, as well as finding and implement solutions to making bicycling more accessible to women and marginalized groups. One insight from working with small scale projects on a local level is that the key factors for success are; involving the target group and think outside the box from a traditional mobility planning discipline.

Lessons learned

The women in Botkyrka do not refrain from using bicycles due to of lack of interest, but because of several social barriers preventing them from using it. Even in well-developed urban areas, women do not utilise mobility options to the same extent that men do. Women’s mobility, especially those living in the suburbs, is often ignored if a gender perspective is not included in the transportation planning. This is due to deeply rooted social and cultural norms, as well as gender-based stereotypes where women, even in developed countries, tend to carry a bigger responsibility for the household and child care. This situation has an impact on their travel patterns. The routes are often more complicated, they make several stops at different times during the day and they often travel with kids or goods. Making the bicycle more accessible supports integration and brings social benefits to areas that are more vulnerable since the possibility to access public spaces increases. The bike can also act as a powerful tool for empowerment, freedom and sustainability.

Related SDG targets

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
6.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
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
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
26. The microphone factory/cultural centre
Orchestra, Tula, Moscow, Russia

Orchestra Design is an organisation with social entrepreneurs specialised in urban design & city development, based in Paris, France, and St Petersburg, Russia. They work with placemaking as a tool to design good and inclusive public space, capitalising on the human and existing local capital.

Challenges Tula, with 500 000 inhabitants, is located in central Russia, quite close to Moscow. It is an industrial city, with one of the main industries in sound electronics. A major employer is the world famous Octava microphone factory. The Octava microphones factory, situated in the city centre of Tula, was planned to relocate to the outskirts of the city. The small devices that are put together in the factory require small and delicate fingers, hence, 75% of the work force are older women. However, working conditions were very poor, the environment was polluted, and the factory had difficulties to attract and hire younger women.

Good practices & solutions What is the best way to attract a new workforce? And could they continue making these small devices in the city centre? The factory makes top class microphones – used by musicians such as U2, Radiohead, Marilyn Manson and Sting. To save the factory from relocating and at the same time improve working conditions for the factory worker, Orchestra Design and other involved activists wanted to create a creative cluster surrounding the factory, by involving the factory workers. Public facilities, an auditorium and music studios were set up in the nearby buildings. Even a museum telling the history of the machines operating in the neighbouring industry. They opened a school for the workers to attain professional training in engineering and programming. Additionally, they launched an incubator for start-ups in electronics and production, with close links to the factory. The planning of this new cluster influenced the highly needed refurbishment of the factory.

Outcome & opportunities Out of a microphone factory, a cultural centre of sound and music was set up, presenting new technologies within sound production. As this was developed by the owner of the factory, a large state-owned company, and a private investor, it was a private public-partnership experience, which is relatively new in Russia. It was the idea of linking new start-ups and technologies to traditional, already existing, capacity and infrastructure that appealed to both actors.
Additionally, the improved working conditions for the women in the factory, together with the new recreation that facilities in the cultural centre, will hopefully attract a younger workforce. The elderly workforce can then retire, but still recreate in the cultural centre, keeping the generational connection and knowledge transferal intact.

**Lessons learned & recommendations** One important lesson learned was to start in one place that is easily influenced, then the neighbouring areas will follow. Additionally, the innovation needs to build on the existing qualities of the space. Local knowledge and competence are key factors. This can become a model for other cities where old industries are meeting similar challenges: “Build on the human capital in the city” and you cannot possibly fail.

**Related SDG targets**

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

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27. Youth redesigning city districts

Ungdomskommissionen, Stockholm City Hall, Sweden

Ungdomskommissionen (The Youth Commission) was an initiative by Stockholm Municipality to engage youths during their summer holidays, and at the same time get crucial input on the city’s challenges. The municipality hired 14 young people between the ages of 16-19 representing Stockholm’s 14 districts. The work was situated at the City Hall in Stockholm, Sweden. The aim was to create ideas and prototypes that would give the municipality a youth perspective on the city’s challenges, helping the development to proceed in a positive direction. The project was documented continuously and in the end of a three-week period they presented their solutions to responsible local politicians, officials and other stakeholders.

**Challenges** More than one sixth of Stockholm’s population are children between the ages of 0-15 years and almost 60 % of the population live in the suburbs. These people are often underrepresented in decision-making and the development of the city. Until now, good examples of city planners designing the city targeting youth, and specifically girls, are few.

**Good practice & solutions** Together with Methodkit, Global Utmaning arranged a workshop at the City Hall in Stockholm for the youths participating in The Youth Commission and various stakeholders. Hence, the workshop was conducted with a mix of youths and adults professionalized in urban development. First, the participants were briefed about urban planning targeting girls and young women. This was followed by a workshop in which the attendants discussed the questions: How do you experience the city? How do you wish the city would be like? What solutions can be implemented in order to improve the city? With these questions as a framework, they brainstormed randomly about different subjects regarding the city structure. The subjects could for example be; suburbs, health, green areas, street life, or safety and security.

**Outcome & opportunities** Together they highlighted many good ideas and practices. It was noticeable that the youths tended to take a wider perspective than the adults, thinking of the city as a whole instead of narrowing their ideas down to a specific area or a specific issue. The adults mostly focused on perceptions and solutions targeting the city centre. The participants were also more engaged with coming up with solutions rather than describing their perception of the city as it is today. The ideas were very reasonable, simple and solution oriented. Most of all, they showed a great interest and willingness to be more included in the city planning and developments of their own area.
Lessons learned & recommendations

Young people are extremely creative, analytic and tend to look at things from a broad perspective. During the workshop they also showed a vast interest to be included in the plans of the city. When adults interpret their voice and trying to recreate what they think youth want, it is significantly less effective than incorporating the young people into the process. This user group sees the city from a broader perspective and has many suggestions and solutions which must be seen as a force to improve the city, and not be treated as a group with a lack of ability to change.

Related SDG targets

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
4.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.e Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
#UrbanGirlsMovement seeks to improve the living conditions of girls and young women in socio-economically vulnerable urban areas through feminist urban planning techniques. The fundamental idea of the project is that urban planning is an underutilised tool for bringing about more equal and sustainable societies. This chapter explains the outcomes of each step and workshop in detail.

The goal of the #UrbanGirlsMovement innovation labs in Botkyrka was to create a hub for feminist urban planning in Botkyrka municipality by letting young girls from the area develop innovative solutions to commonly identified challenges in the public space.

The project had four objectives:
1. To include young girls in the dialogue together with other experts
2. To permit young girls to come up with solutions to challenges in the public space in their community
3. To support incorporation of the solutions in the municipality’s plans
4. To ensure dissemination and continued use of the knowledge

**Lab 1 – Context**
The main goal of the first workshop was for the participants to acquire an apprehension of the project and the purpose of developing more inclusive urban planning methods. The workshop included a public space assessment to provide qualitative data of girls’ experiences of their own area, as well as quantitatively define important factors of a girl’s sense of spatial inclusion.

**Introducing the participants and project** The workshop began with a quick digital survey completed by the participants in order for the group to learn about each other. To shortly summarize the results, 83% out of 30 participants were women. They were between 15 and 64 years old, however a majority were under 26. Most participants were either high school students, university students, or full-time employees. Additionally, most participants lived in Botkyrka municipality or in the Stockholm Region, however, birth places included Bangladesh, Paris, Dhaka, Rash, Kenya, and El Salvador.
The participants were also introduced to other organisations’ work with gender issues in urban planning. This was to give practical examples of how gender might be integrated in the urban planning process, and why it is important.

In addition, Plan International gave a global perspective on gender challenges in urban planning and how non-gender sensitive urban planning affects girls and young women negatively in urban public spaces. This introduction was important in order to give all participants, no matter what previous knowledge they had about urban planning and gender issues, a clear overview to the project’s purpose and goals.

**Girls’ Urban Walk** The Girls’ Urban Walk was inspired by Girl’s Safety Walk, a method initially developed by UN-Habitat, Plan International, and Women in Cities International for the Safer Cities for Girls Program, to be used globally in marginalized communities. To fit the context of Fittja, the method was customized by Global Utmaning.

The tool is useful for obtaining a rapid situational space assessment that provides crucial information about how girls perceive their city. It provides qualitative data on how the participants experience the space studied, as well as quantitative data on the factors that are most important in defining the girls’ senses of inclusion and what might hinder it. In Fittja, the tool provided detailed information about how the girls view specific parts of the study site.

Girls Urban Walk is designed as a set of evaluations done by the participants in groups of four to eight people. The participants were asked to evaluate the public spaces of Fittja by foot while using the checklist to record their observations of the space. The checklist is built on specific indicators relevant to creating a good public space and includes:

1. Good footpaths and public mobility
2. Places for women, children, and elderly to hang out
3. Good lightning and visibility
4. Safety and presence of authorities
5. Open access
6. Human scale design
7. Flexibility, multi-purpose and multi-functions
8. Well working infrastructure, water and sanitation
9. Mixed use and populations

**Individual assessment** When finished with the checklist, the participants filled out an individual evaluation that included a multiple-choice questionnaire as well as open ended questions. The reason for this was to give the participants the opportunity to share their individual impressions about the walk and make it easier to answers questions that might be perceived as sensitive. The individual questionnaire was made up of nineteen multiple choice questions divided into eight themes:

10. Overall Sense of Safety
11. See and Be Seen
12. Hear and Be Heard
13. Getting Away and Getting Help
14. Living in a Clean and Welcoming Environment
15. Know Where You Are and Where You Are Going
16. Working Together
17. Inclusion
Group assessment results Figure one provides a view from above of the area that was explored and discussed during the Girls’ Urban Walk and in the evaluations. The walk helped identify four spatialities, or places, around Fittja that were especially criticized in regards to the different themes, both in the group and the individual survey. These four areas were: (A) the main square, (B) inside the shopping centre, (C) the backside of the shopping centre, and (D) the underground station. These four spatialities then became the focal points of redesign throughout the rest of the workshop series. The presentation of the data will henceforth follow these four specific spatialities and describe in further detail how they were assessed throughout the walk.

Space A: Fittja Square
According to the participants, the biggest challenges of Fittja square is that it is perceived as unsafe and unwelcoming. The latter is mainly due to a lack of functional and aesthetically pleasing design. The girls describe the space as grey and dirty, with no greenery to make it livelier. Many mentioned this as a reason for not wanting to hang out on the square. The square is not a meeting point for spending time but a point of transit. As a consequence, most people in the area are in constant movement, making it difficult to ask for help or interact. People in transit are perceived less likely to stop, which makes the area feel less safe.

The consensus that emerged from the evaluations is that Fittja Square is not being used to its full potential, and that there are better ways to utilize the space. The built environment, if using a design that is pleasant, colourful and includes greenery, may encourage people to stay and spend time there. Additionally, the report from the surveys, alluded the need for designing a space that attracts many different kinds of societal groups. Having more, and different, people around would in turn make vulnerable social groups, such as girls and young women, feel safer.

Space B: Fittja Centrum
Fittja centrum is a shopping centre with its main entrance located towards Fittja main square. Its amenities include a supermarket, a library, a dental practice, some food places, various shops, and a few other services. The report shows that the participants feel neither welcomed nor safe walking into the shopping centre. This is mostly because a large group of boys and young men often stand right outside the entrance. Some were dealing drugs (this was directly observed by one of the participants), and some had almost entirely covered their faces. However, the relentlessness of these boys was to a great extent mentioned by the stakeholder groups, not necessarily by the girls.
Nevertheless, the result from the report shows that both girls and the stakeholder groups from the area often choose a different entrance due to these men loitering. Additionally, poor street lighting by the entrance increased the feeling of being unsafe when entering the centre. A suggestion made with regards to the former issues was to create more youth facilities that can cater to the needs of those boys and men who otherwise would end up hanging around the main square.

The interior of the Fittja shopping centre was described as bleak and stripped down, with harsh lighting that does not create a welcoming environment. The centre has few windows and the space feels confined and cramped. From a point of view of general safety, the inside of the centre is well lit and stores are open until 8pm, which guarantees visibility and presence, however, the fact that the outside area is not well lit in the evening makes it difficult to see who is by the entrance when exiting the centre.

The report highlights the lack of any kind of seating arrangements, meaning that the centre does not share the characteristic of many other commercial centres; non-commercial spaces to rest or socialise. This creates a feeling of it being just another point of transit, or for errands, rather than a place for spending a longer period of time. Multiple people (particularly from the target group) also noted in the survey that the stores of Fittja Centrum did not offer anything of interest to them.

Additionally, participants who frequently visit the centrum made comments about the library located inside the centrum (Fittja bibliotek). It was reported as failing to provide a good working environment and lacking adequate study spaces. The staircase leading up to the library as well as the health clinic was described as narrow, and a lack of windows made its services less visible. It is noteworthy that the toilets nearby the library had been closed due to vandalism and inappropriate use. Lacking access to sanitation facilities makes it far more difficult to stay in a place for a longer period of time, especially for women and girls.

Space C: Backside
Based on the group evaluations, there were mixed perceptions of the backside of the centre. It was perceived as dark and abandoned by some, who mentioned that it was scary to walk there at night, whilst others considered it more spacious, better lit, and calmer compared to the front entrance of the centre from the square. One reason for perceiving the area as calmer was partly due to the absence of the boys and young men who were usually standing by the front entrance.

Space D: Fittja Station
The participants observed both positive and negative elements while walking through Fittja underground station. Some pointed out that the best part of Fittja is that it is so well connected to the Stockholm city centre and adjacent areas both through buses and the underground.

There are also people constantly moving to and from the station making it feel secure. On the other hand, the area in general lacks activities that do not involve consumption. Several damaged or broken lightning sources were observed, and the noisy traffic in the area makes it an unpleasant space to stay in for a longer period of time. Some of the participants also reported feeling unsafe when coming home late at night.

Individual assessment results
The individual questionnaire completed by the participants was made up of nineteen multiple choice questions with five answer options available, ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”. Here are some of their answers:

- **The lighting in this area makes me feel safe**
  - Inadequate lighting as a factor of unsafety was most often mentioned in the group evaluations and this is supported once again in the individual questionnaire.

- **There are places where I can sit down but also hide if I feel at risk**
  - The lack of seating space was another issue consistently brought up in evaluations.

- **I have a sense of affinity with and feel safe around the people in this area**
  - The stakeholders mainly disagreed, while the target group was ambivalent.

- **The businesses in this area meet my needs**
  - The target group disagreed, as was echoed in the group reports, especially regarding the shops in Fittja Centrum.

- **Authorities are present enough in this area to ensure my safety**
  - A majority of the girls disagreed with the statement that authorities’ presence in this area was sufficient. This was also mentioned by several of the girls in their individual comments about the greatest challenges in the area.
There are people around to help me if I need them
This statement received mixed responses in the questionnaire. This may be due to subjective understandings of the statement, something that could be grounded in personal experience about the likelihood of people wanting to help, even in a crowded area.

The overall design of the place makes me feel safe
Both target and stakeholder group totally disagreed with the statement; whether the design of the place makes one feel safe. Whilst this is telling us something, it is important to bear in mind the influence that speakers’ emphasis on safety prior to the filling out of the questionnaires may have had on the participants’ perception of their own safety.

The overall design of the place meets my needs and makes me feel included
The statement was similarly worded as the previous, but with a focus on inclusion instead of safety, leading to a shift towards agreement from some of the girls.

The activities that take place in this area meet my needs
Most participants did not think the activities taking place in the area met their needs, which was discussed and developed further in the upcoming labs.

There is a sense of community that I can safely take part in
On feeling a sense of community in the area (7.2), the disagreement from the non-target group is likely to be explained by the fact that many of the participants in that group are not locals. Views from the target group in regard to this statement.

There are no places in this area that are off-limits to me simply because I am a girl
The answers suggest that there are in fact places that feel off-limits to girls. This warrants further discussion: Which places feel off-limits and why?

The results indicate that there is a lot of room for improvement of the urban space in Fittja. Results provided initial concrete pointers at what such improvements could be, such as better lighting and seating.
Lab 2 - Challenges
Building upon the data collected during the Girls’ Urban Walk, the main goal of the second lab was to identify challenges and opportunities. Through working with concrete tools for urban development, the participants identified specific challenges and needs in Fittja, as well as brainstormed how the potential of the space could be utilized. Additionally, the participants analysed and discussed what privileges prevail in the space today, and what the girls want to use it for. Hence, the second lab was exploratory and circled around the themes "Fittja today and Fittja tomorrow”.

This was addressed through four central questions:
1. What does the space look like today?
2. Whose needs are met?
3. On what basis are people included or excluded in this space?
4. What is your dream scenario for this space?

For this workshop, the girls and the adults were separated, in order to clarify the knowledge of the two groups. Based on the dichotomy of expert knowledge/lived experience inherent in the urban planning practice, this was an attempt to encourage the girls to speak their minds without the fear of being interrupted or silenced.

MethodKit
The tool used in this workshop was developed by MethodKit, who also ran this workshop. MethodKit is a set of analogue card-based tools, designed to help people develop and organise ideas together. The kit used in this workshop was MethodKit for Places, which consists of around 60 cards that break down the many dimensions of a given space. The advantage of using this kind of tool is that it lowers the barrier of speaking about something as complex as a city. The cards especially help inexperienced participants to understand and break down the city into its various functions and services, making it particularly useful when working with young girls.

Results
What does Fittja look like today, and what should it look like in the future? For the sake of simplification, the 60 cards were grouped into themes corresponding to the indicators of good quality public space used in the Girls’ Urban Walk during the first lab and are presented accordingly:

1. Footpaths and public mobility
Today, Fittja is a well-connected area with various bus routes passing through the town centre as well as the underground. However, the bus stops are poorly located in relation to the design of the square resulting in buses occupying a large part of the square.
In an ideal scenario, some of the bus stops would be slightly relocated, which would give the square a more welcoming impression. Reducing or restructuring the bus traffic in the area also makes it safer for children. The bus stops should be more integrated in order to blend into the rest of the space. This is one example of a larger wish to re-design Fittja with residents in mind as primary users of the space. In this scenario, transportation systems would be developed and improved further by using quieter, electrical buses, underground parking spots, a bike renting system and a bike parking spot. Public mobility could be enhanced by creating signs that clearly show street names and activities close by. This would increase the sense of belonging and knowing of the place for both outsiders and residents.

2. Places for women, children, and elderly to hang out
Today, the lack of seating has been identified as one of the main barriers preventing people from spending more time in Fittja Square and in Fittja Centrum as well as using them as meeting points. Another factor is a lack of child-friendly spaces, such as playgrounds. In its current form, neither Fittja Centrum nor Fittja Square provides by-passers much reason to stay.

In an ideal scenario, Fittja would be turned into a more child-friendly space by building a creative and well thought out playground, which would attract more families to spend time at the square. Fittja needs to offer more activities for children and young people, preferably that also attract youth from other parts of Stockholm. The space behind Fittja Centrum could turn into a place for children to play, and families to organise picnics or barbeques. To attract a broader range of people to the area, more and better seating opportunities need to be available both indoors and outdoors, e.g.; smart, inviting benches with tables and charging outlets, preferably weather protected; bean bags, hammocks, and armchairs; individual and group seating spaces; hybrid structures that for example simultaneously serve as art installations, or as a space for climbing and play. Consequently, this would provide new, non-consumption dependent spaces in Fittja.

3. Good lighting and visibility
Today, both the quality and the quantity of lighting in Fittja Square and Fittja Centrum are considered inadequate. During the dark hours of the day, the amount of lighting outdoors is insufficient, which decreases the perceived sense of safety in the area.

In an ideal scenario, the lighting design feels harsh and uninviting. Additionally, due to a lack of windows, there is no natural daylight reaching indoors, making the centrum feel enclosed. In the evenings and nighttime, when Fittja Centrum has closed, the place feels abandoned, dark, and unsafe.

In an ideal scenario, both outdoor and indoor lighting would be better and more thought through. For example, the centre needs a lighting design that feels soft and cozy, and perhaps more colourful. Additionally, increasing the number of windows in the centre would let more daylight in, as well as increase visibility. Bigger windows towards the main entrance would make it easier to see events happening outside. The lack of visibility has previously been described as a factor of unsafety. Outdoors there is first and foremost a need for more lighting overall, but the type of lighting also needs to be addressed. Initiatives such as interactive light installations that can be controlled by the citizens through an app were suggested during the workshop.

4. Safety and presence of authorities
A sub-category entitled ‘data and statistics’ was interpreted in differing but equally legitimate ways by the target and non-target groups. On the one hand, it led to some questions: What sort of data does the municipality gather about their residents and how could this be turned into a more participatory and inclusive process? On the other hand, some described a few statistical characteristics of the area and its residents: Life expectancy is slightly lower in Fittja than other areas nearby, although, the area is experiencing positive trends in terms of employment and income rates.

Today, there is a perceived absence of authorities and police in the area. However, the presence of police does not necessarily increase the sense of safety. The workshop participants had varying perspectives on the matter. Some felt judged and observed by a police presence. The target group highlighted that the police force need a greater social anchoring in the local community to increase validity and trust. Additionally, both the target and non-target group identified the group of young men hanging outside Fittja Centrum as a sort of de facto authority in the area. Many participants felt that this group contributes to a feeling of unsafety. Crimes occurring in the area include acts of vandalism and selling drugs.

Public services are available (library and healthcare for example) but could be made more visible and accessible. Since the centre is not seen as a particularly welcoming place, the library is perceived similarly as it is located inside.
In an ideal scenario, according to some participants, increased trust towards authorities could be achieved by changing how their work and presence in the community is portrayed by the municipality. An approach more engaging and inclusive of young people might lead to citizens feeling more included in these decision-making processes. One way for the municipality to do this could be by extending its reach through digital and tech tools. All public services should be available directly in Fittja so people would not need to go to other areas to access them. Ideally, there would be more security guards, hosts or police with a good understanding of the area, preferably from the area themselves. For increased safety, the focus of the work should be preventive rather than of corrective measures. Fittja’s public image and the way it is presented by mass media should be more nuanced, accurate, and representative of Fittja’s residents as a whole. This could be done in part through more diverse storytelling.

5. Open Access

Today, the local businesses in Fittja Centrum do not cater to the needs of girls and young women, although the price levels on foods are considered low in Fittja which makes it accessible to all socio-economic groups. Additionally, there is a need for welcoming spaces that are not consumption-based. Moreover, the non-target group highlighted that the de facto access to Fittja Square and Fittja Centrum is dominated by males. This opinion was not as noticeable amongst the target group.

In an ideal scenario, participants described Fittja as a place where visitors are not required to consume in order to socialise, although, many of the workshop participants requested more cafés with reasonable price levels. There would be a greater encouragement to engage in local entrepreneurship if there were more initiatives such as start-up incubators and marketplaces.

6. Human Scale Design

Today, Fittja Square is surrounded by a parking lot, a number of bus stations, and housing, most prevalently apartments in tower blocks that emerged during the Million Dwellings Programme. There is an absence of street signs in the area which makes it hard for visitors to know their way around. There are, for example, beautiful parks and lakes in absolute proximity to the square, but without any signs they are hard to find. Besides this, there is no greenery in the open space of the square. The material that dominates the space is grey concrete, which is possibly what contributes to the street atmosphere being described as dull. Some of these materials feel outdated, such as the floors inside Fittja Centrum.

The workshop participants, especially the target group, pointed out that surface-level art and design in the form of decoration, colours, and lights, are missing from the square and centre. There are aesthetic elements that could be utilised better. In terms of art, Fittja has an important musical history. Some of Sweden’s most influential hip hop groups and music labels were founded here in the 90s, but nothing in the square highlights this rich history.

In an ideal scenario, colourful buildings, that are more flexible and adaptable to different kinds of use would dominate the built environment. They also wished for a cleaner and greener environment with more trees, bushes, and flowers, as well as more trash bins. More parks and greenery were a recurring suggestion, including a better utilisation of the park that is currently in place behind Fittja Centrum (Fittjahöjden). A fairly simple and direct improvement of this could be better signs leading from the station to the park.

7. Flexibility, multi-purpose and multi-function

Today, the main activities in Fittja are transportation and running basic errands. Based on experiences from the workshop participants living in or around Fittja, few additional activities seem to take place in the area. It is perceived, as mentioned before, mostly as a place of transit. It lacks social and cultural activities open to the public. Similarly, few public events take place in the square. Some participants pointed out that more events take place on Fittja Äng, one of the green areas in proximity to the square, but Fittja Square has great potential for events such as concerts or festivals.

In an ideal scenario, Fittja would be refurbished with for example more colours, cleaner signs, new and different material use, thought through light design, seating arrangements, and better infrastructure. The new designs would also need to be more adaptable to weather changes, seasons, and daylight cycles. An ideal scenario would be a square that fosters engagement, especially for young people.

It was pointed out that for the square to accommodate more activities, such as festivals and concerts, a more flexible and modular infrastructure would be required. Such flexibility could create and encourage opportunities for local artists to showcase their work, as well as other pop-up initiatives showcasing activities and events in and around Fittja.

A modular or flexible infrastructure would also contribute to the space being more weather resistant, as it could provide shade in the summer or shelter against rain, wind and snow. In a dream scenario, Fittja Square feels welcoming and inviting independently of weather conditions. Renovations
would ideally include more colour, greenery, light, as well as functioning restrooms and modern floors in Fittja Centrum.

8. Working infrastructure, water, and sanitation

Today, littering is an issue. Participants pointed out that recycling systems in place are not used and that there are not enough trash bins. When it comes to water and sanitation, there are no water outlets around the area, neither decorative fountains nor functional, drinking fountains. Furthermore, sanitation access inside Fittja Centrum is minimal due to the toilets being closed down, at least at the time of the initial visit. In terms of transportation and infrastructure, buses take up a disproportionate part of the square.

In an ideal scenario, more bins would be provided, and they would be emptied regularly. Provision of clean water free of charge and clean, accessible toilets would be put in place. Maintenance of Fittja should be improved in order for the space to be preserved and respected by everyone.

9. Mixed use and populations

Today, residents of Fittja are a diverse and multicultural population. Some of which are in a socioeconomically vulnerable position. When asked to describe the ‘gatekeepers’, main actors, and main visitors of the space, participants listed the young men loitering in Fittja Square, but also the municipality, as well as real estate and business owners in the area. Men are the predominant users of the space, especially outside the centrum and outside Fittja underground station. The square and centrum are also used by the general population for errand purposes, such as food shopping, but there are norms and prejudices attached to the space that prevent people from utilising it to meet their needs.

In an ideal scenario, girls would be given a reason to stay in the square, which would increase safety and creates a greater sense of community among them. This would include events that foster a better understanding of young people’s differing needs and wishes, for example around gender and sexuality. A prerequisite for these changes is more cooperation and co-creation in local decision-making processes.

Lab 3 – Possibilities

The third lab focused solely on opportunities, and the participants got to brainstorm, in groups of two or three, possible changes that could be implemented in Fittja. All ideas were supposed to be connected to the four critical spatialities identified during the first lab. The ideas included both physical changes to the build environment as well as social interventions. Many of the girls really enjoyed this workshop:

“When we got to brainstorm, it was great fun! There were no limits, you could write what you wanted”

Belle

Here, as in the previous lab, girls and adults worked separately. The ideas were collected and compiled to be used as a foundation for the fourth workshop. The lab was divided into two main sections: a workshop, and a series of presentations from partners who shared their experiences from participatory public space design projects elsewhere in the world.

Workshop structure

The brainstorming session was divided into three stages. The first task was a session with post-it notes on which the participants were asked to write down their craziest ideas, quick fixes, and their most inclusive ideas for the specific site they were working on. The idea behind this was to get them thinking about possibilities of change from different perspectives.

The second task was to choose two of the ideas from the previous task and develop them further. Each group got a MethodKit form to fill out, forcing the groups to think about their ideas from different perspectives, for example the price range of the idea, time frame and what the community in Fittja would like or dislike about the idea. The final proposals formed the basis for the digital sketches and architectural designs that would be developed in the next lab.

“The participants were asked to write down their craziest ideas, quick fixes, and their most inclusive ideas”
**Results**

Some of the ideas developed during this session are showcased below.

### Fittja Centrum: Cosy Movie Corner
- **In a nutshell:** A corner inside the shopping centre with bean bags where people can watch movies.
- **Who would hate it, who would love it?** Everyone would love it!
- **Description:** Requires a smartboard with a projector, a number of bean bags and some free snacks.
- **Impact on the space:** Greater sense of community, opportunity for friendship and contacts
- **Time frame?** Days / Months / Years
- **How costly?** € / €€ / €€€

### Fittja Station: The Alternative Ticket Machine
- **In a nutshell:** Alternative ways of purchasing underground and bus tickets.
- **Who would hate it, who would love it?** People with time but little cash will like it, conservatives may not.
- **Description:** Underground and bus tickets are exchanged for socially beneficial tasks such as recycling, picking up cigarette butts, doing squats, doing night walks for public safety, etc.
- **Impact on the space:** Creates activity, makes public transportation accessible, makes the space safer.
- **Time frame?** Days / Months / 1 Year
- **How costly?** € / €€ / €€€
- **Next 3 steps:** Find sponsors, find technical solutions, inauguration party!

### Backside: Pink Street
- **In a nutshell:** Pink Street shows you the way, but is also a destination in itself.
- **Who would hate it, who would love it?** Those who do not like pink may not like it.
- **Description:** Pink Street encourages walking. Along the street are welcoming and innovative spaces for public use (e.g. arts stage, seating space, graffiti walls...).
- **Impact on the space:** Leads people away from Fittja Centrum, creates a lively space for more people, extends public mobility patterns
- **Time frame?** Days / Months / Years
- **How costly?** € / €€ / €€€
- **Next 3 steps (post-implementation):** Linking Pink Street to more suburbs all the way to Stockholm City.

### Fittja Square: Radio 145
- **In a nutshell:** Sounds of Fittja.
- **Who would hate it, who would love it?** It may bother those who prefer a quiet space.
- **Description:** A transparent glass box that works as a radio booth.
- **Impact on the space:** More life, movement, and sound. Provides a space and platform for new people. Community feeling!
- **Time frame?** Days / Months / Years
- **How costly?** € / €€ / €€€
- **Next 3 steps:** Set up a glass box, get in touch with Swedish Radio, strategic planning.

### Fittja Square: Greenspace
- **In a nutshell:** Digital greenhouse
- **Who would hate it, who would love it?** Anyone with a phone will love it.
- **Description:** Three small greenhouses placed on the square, that work as phone charging stations powered by solar cells.
- **Time frame?** Days / Months / Years
- **How costly?** € / €€ / €€€
- **Next 3 steps:** Set up greenhouse, buy plants, acquire solar cells
- **Impact on the space:** Cosier, safer, environmentally friendly and sustainable.
Lab 4 - Solutions

During a two-day workshop the participants visualized their ideas from the previous workshop with the use of the computer game Minecraft. Minecraft was launched by a company called Mojang in 2011 as an adventure and building game, and it has since become one of the most sold games in history with over 100 million players worldwide. It is an open-world game built on 1x1 blocks, a common analogy is “digital Lego bricks”, where the player has the possibility to create creative structures in a three-dimensional environment.

Together with UN-Habitat the concept of Minecraft has been developed to an urban development method for youth participation. The basis for the method is to use information and communication technology (ICT) to involve youth in urban design and governance without the obstacle of lacking expert knowledge from the field. Hence, one could argue that using Minecraft in urban development processes mitigates the dichotomies between both youth and adults, as well as between expert knowledge and lived experience. Minecraft, as a method for citizen participation, has been developed since 2012 by UN-Habitat in cooperation with the Block by Block Foundation:

The game has the potential to increase youth’s interest and engagement in urban planning and design, promote creativity, innovation and visual learning, help encourage dialogue between different groups and opinions and contribute to a development of important skills such as collaboration, public speaking and negotiation as well as giving young women a more powerful voice.

Westberg and von Heland

Minecraft workshop

Before the workshop, a team of Minecraft experts from UN-Habitat had modelled Fittja in Minecraft, and the images below depict what it looked like before and after the participants of #UrbanGirlsMovement redesigned it. The first day the participants were divided into eight groups, each consisting of four people. The girls and the non-target group worked separately. Every group got to redesign one of the four spatialities identified during the first workshop; the underground station, the main square, inside the shopping centre, or the backside of the shopping centre. Each group was also assigned two suggested design plans developed during the previous lab, which became the starting point. The workshop allowed for a lot of creativity, and in the end many of the previous suggestions were amended, developed further and improved.
Results  The most popular and recurrent ideas gathered from the eight groups, concerned cafés and food courts, seating and relaxation areas, and lighting. The pictures in the next section showcase some of the ideas from the workshop.
Fittja Square
On the square, the girls planned for a three-story glass building that would offer a range of activities as well as provide hang out spaces. The building would serve multiple purposes; a radio station where locals and local artists could broadcast, a greenhouse for urban gardening, and a café for locally grown food. Furthermore, they designed the rest of the square to include more greenery as well as art.

Fittja Centrum
Concerning the shopping centre, the girls and stakeholders proposed turning it into a meeting space instead of merely a point of transit. New entrances into the shopping centre and closing a long hallway would concentrate visitors to one spot. Their focus was to create open and light areas, such as skylight coming in from the roof, which would make it a place where people would like to spend time. A graffiti wall, coffee shop, seating, “cosy corners”, food court, interactive screens, aquarium and a multi-service citizen centre could make it a destination. Green areas such as trees and flowers would dampen the noise.

They also capitalized on the roof of the shopping centre where a staircase would lead up to a nice lawn, fountain and amphitheatre that could function as a dancefloor, outdoor cinema, skate park, gym, picnic spot or just a place to relax. On the highest roof top of the building, they would write Fittja = Home <3 in huge letters to be seen from the sky to change the perception of Fittja in the media, as helicopters can see this message when they fly over the area.
Backside

To create a more welcoming and safer environment, lighting and colour would be essential but also a cheap way to make change. Pink Street - colour markings inspired by the “red carpet” would run through the entire area to guide you through Fittja and its many services. On the backside seating, playgrounds, graffiti wall, barbeque, picnic spots, food trucks, market stands, and bicycle parking would create a lively pedestrian street.

Fittja Station

For the station, the girls and stakeholders suggested moving the current bus station to the other side of the square, as it is too noisy and dangerous in its current location. Instead, a pedestrian street with glass cubes proposing various activities such as local art, reading nooks or board games, would be the first thing you see when you come out from the underground. New entrances and exits to the underground would enhance a feeling of safety along with new coherent lighting and signs, such as interactive signs on the platform with information and news regarding Fittja. A combined graffiti and green wall would work as a beautiful and efficient noise barrier to the traffic crossing bellow. Creating a new landmark was essential, and an interactive “Fittja sign” on the roof of the station could project the inhabitants’ own art and creations. Surrounded with greenery and beehives the roof would host an entire eco-system. Inside the ticket hall, arcade games and new types of ticket machines could create a new meeting spot and create possibilities to perform services to the community in exchange for bus and underground tickets.
**External input - Midterm exhibition**

The improved proposals made in Minecraft during innovation lab 4 were presented in a unique exhibition that was hung at three locations in Fittja: the citizen service centre in Fittja Centrum; the youth recreation centre Fittja Pulsen; and in the Botkyrka municipal hall. The exhibition was also available in digital form, where visitors could go on a virtual tour of the model in virtual reality. The majority of the collected answers were positive and focused on greenery, light and colour the proposals added to the Fittja area.
Lab 5 – Plans

The fifth lab was housed by White architects, with the overall aim to modify and develop the proposals from the fourth workshop using different architectural techniques. By applying actual architectural techniques, the proposals could be seen through new perspectives, creating an opportunity of making them more realistic.

The participants were divided into three groups mixing girls and stakeholders. The three groups were assigned a thematic focus they would work with at three different workshop stations. Each station presented a set of design tools for the built environment used by urban developers:

**Sketchup** The Sketchup station started with a brief introduction to the tool. Then, the group had the opportunity to design their assigned area on the computer. Redesigning the proposals in Sketchup made it possible to see the designs in scale to the surrounding environment, and thereby detect what modifications were needed to realise the proposals. Discussions about where to place the proposals to create organic flows occurred during this session.

**Model creation** This station started with a white model of Fittja, but as the groups came along, the blank canvas was filled with new lighting and colour. It inspired to conversations about material use and the importance of greenery in public spaces to make people happy and feel at home in their city.

**Virtual reality** By using virtual reality as a tool, the participants increased their spatial understanding for the new designs. The participants could walk around in the Minecraft model giving them first-hand experience of the area. This made it possible to evaluate the functions, accessibility and the overall feeling of the space. A lot of constructive feedback about the proposals came out during this exercise, such as where more lighting is needed, what spaces felt cramped, and what could be done to improve the feeling of safety.
Lab 6 - Recommendations

In order to realise the proposals developed throughout labs 1-5, the girls and experts worked on policy recommendations that could be presented to decision-makers at different levels and developed guidelines to support the implementing actors.

The workshop evolved around the three different public and semi-public spaces, directed at the different recipients of the results:
1. Fittja Square - The municipality (local government)
2. Fittja Centrum & Backside - Kungsväringen (private sector)
3. Fittja Station - Stockholm Region/SL (regional government)

First, the different groups - citizens, landowners, municipality and region, needed to cooperatively prioritise among the many results from lab 1-3, in order to be able to develop joint priorities for implementation. A particular emphasis was put on challenges, existing opportunities, and principles that were considered the most important to address. Second, based on the joint priorities, the groups prioritized individually among the existing proposals developed in lab 4-5. Third, the groups addressed issues related to what could realistically be implemented. They addressed budget, time frames, responsibility issues, partnerships, and first steps for both individuals and organisations to be taken.

Policy recommendations and guidelines By the end of the workshop several action plans had emerged, and potential conflicting issues had been discussed. Based on the joint priorities, the workshop resulted both in policy recommendations for various political levels and guidelines for the implementing actors. The action plans respond to some of the following questions: What is needed from policy-makers at local, regional, national and international level? What is needed from landowners, managers, urban planners, architects, construction companies, associations, researchers?
Proposal 1: Greenhouse 145 & co

Site Fittja Square

Proposal recipient Botkyrka municipality (local actor)

Observations Today Fittja Square is a dark, unwelcoming, unsafe, drug dealing area. It is only a place for errands and a place to avoid as a girl.

Vision Fittja Square should be a light and bright space with lots of colour, encouraging commercial meeting places, with youth facilities that can cater to the needs of those who may otherwise end up loitering at the square. The facilities and services by the square need to be easily accessed to give all kinds of people a reason to stay and spend some time.

Possibilities Capitalise on the fact that Fittja Square is a pedestrian area, and further improve bike paths and public transportation. There is potential to build in flexibility, multi-purpose and multi-function, for mixed use and mixed populations, becoming a place for women, children and the elderly to occupy. There is already a good potential for visibility and good lighting.

Design priorities To meet the vision the prioritised designs should be greenhouses, green spaces, sport, games and play, new lighting, improved footpaths and public mobility.

Prioritised solution Greenhouse 145 is the main solution because it provides a complete solution. It has a radio station so one could have podcast courses there, a café to mingle in and a greenhouse for gardening. We think it is important because it will become both an entertainment centre, and a multicultural meeting place for young adults. It will encourage people to come and relax. It creates both life and movement in the square. It also becomes a meeting place for more people to meet and socialize on and will challenge the particular group that uses the place today. It is also ecologically sustainable because it is a greenhouse, and dressed in greenery.

Action Building a new building takes time and resources. A quick fix could be to find an empty locale, maybe inside the shopping centre, to start hosting activities such as a café service, a pod station, and gardening activities. Botkyrka municipality needs to set up a group that, together with the initiators, implement the activities as a first step.

Responsible actors The primary responsibility lies with the municipality as it is a solution needing high local competence.

Partnerships Private sector is needed for the actual building of a new building. Civil society and citizens will have to play an active role to fill the space with content, make people feel welcome and assure that the area is taken care of.

Financing Middle-High

Time frame Middle (6 months to 3 years)

Competence needed Construction actors, architects, community building committee, local knowledge, IT technicians, journalists, botanists, landscape architects, businesses, local engagement such as cultural associations and support from the municipality.

Possible obstacles The space may be too shopping centre to include all content proposed and all types of people, or the citizens might not use the space when finished. Additionally, investors or the municipality might not show interest in the project. A solution could be to test the proposal as a pop-up as a first step.

Ways forward Motivate civil society in the form of a working group. Pitch the idea to local actors, citizens and civil society. They can then raise interest among investors and the municipality.

Impact This proposal would have a positive impact on the following SDGs:

- Good Health and Well-being
- Gender Equality
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- Partnerships for the Goals
Proposal 2. Mall for all

Specific site Fittja Centrum

Proposal recipient Kungsvåningen (private actor)

Observations Today, Fittja Centrum is an unsafe, drug dealing area, where the stores do not offer interesting products to younger and female populations.

Vision Fittja Centrum should be a brighter space with good lighting and colour, that encourages both commercial and non-commercial meeting points, which gives all kinds of people a reason to stay and spend some time there.

Possibilities Fittja Centrum has the potential to provide places for women, children, and elderly to loiter, creating a space for more mixed use and more mixed populations, as well as good lighting and colour.

Design priorities The design priorities are cafés, food courts, lighting, and new entrances and exits.

Prioritised solution To create a welcoming and safe environment when visiting the shopping centre, the top priority is to improve and develop the existing entrances, rather than adding more.

Action To succeed, the main entrance must be rebuilt with new sliding door parts and a curtain heater (no lock); make it more spacious inside the shopping centre, especially at the entrance; analyse the use of side entrances to optimal their design; design a new shopping centre sign; and install new and different kinds of lightning.

Responsible actors Private sector partnership, Municipality, Civil society, Citizens

Financing Middle

Time frame Middle (between 6 months and 3 years)

Competences needed Architects, building permit, finances, planning and building
Proposal 3: New station

Specific site Fittja Station/ Fittja Square

Proposal recipient Region Stockholm/SL (regional level) and Botkyrka municipality (local level)

Observations Today Fittja station is merely a point of transit, characterised by noisy traffic. The maintenance of the place is inadequate, the lighting is damaged or broken, it lack activities that are free/non-consumption based, it is unwelcoming and unpleasant to hang out in, and many places in the area feel off-limits to girls. Today it is a high-risk area as people run from the subway exit to the bus stops on the other side of the road.

Vision Fittja station and main square could be a welcoming place with lots of colour, with good seating arrangements protected from the weather that gives all types of people a reason to stay and hang out. It should be a place with accessible public services, where it is easy to find one's way around, with people around to help if need, and youth facilities that can cater to the needs of those who may otherwise end up loitering.

Possibilities It has the potential to provide better and more accessible footpaths and public mobility, well working infrastructure, lighting and visibility, water and sanitation. It can be a flexible place with multiple purposes and multiple functions, providing places for women, children, and elderly to hang out.

Design priorities Changes to the station; footpaths and public mobility; redesigning entrances and exits; well-arranged non-consumption-based seating and relaxation areas; lighting; and green spaces.

Prioritised solution Changes to the bus stations should be prioritised. If the bus stops are moved the noise level decrease around the square. It is important to create a welcoming environment when you exit the station as this is where the first impression of Fittja is formed. Rerouting the buses and moving the current bus stops could make room for the activity cubes. There is also a need to rebuild the actual station building, changing both the interior and the front entrance. Public toilets are needed, and the waiting-room can be complemented with an arcade where passengers can play and earn their SL-tickets. The visibility in the waiting areas must be improved, lighting and better signage could make the space safer and usable even during dark hours. Modern technology enabling visitors to pick colour and lighting, makes it more inclusive for everyone. An new entrance from the backside would create more flexibility when moving around and through the station, increase the flow of people, and make the backside more accessible.

Action The first step would be to pitch the idea to citizens. After that it is important to talk to investors and the region in order to create the changes agreed upon. Additional work with the design of the square and bus stops is needed to create an integrated, vibrant and multifunctional public space with seating, good lighting, and simultaneously maintain accessibility to public transport. We must establish a cooperation between the municipality, the region (SL) and the shopping centre owner.

Responsible actors Stockholm Region together with Botkyrka municipality

Partnership Government, private sector, civil society and citizens.

Financing Expensive

Time Long (more than 3 years)

Competences needed Together the parties have all the competence needed, but it is important to keep the good connections with civil society and the citizens.

Possible obstacles The main obstacle is cost and political will. Negotiations with those who will bear the costs will be necessary as well as exploring national or international funding. There are also possible technical difficulties, possibilities to direct traffic, hindrance in use of public transport during construction etc.

Ways forward The municipality could act as project manager. Crucial is to add the project to the activity plan on the municipal side. There is a need for a political assignment including an allocated budget. A first step should be to pitch and summarize the idea in a more detailed manner. A second step would be to contact SL to explore possibilities. A third step could be to apply for grants (such as government or EU subsidies) linked to large infrastructure investments enhancing public health, gender, sustainable cities and security in particularly vulnerable areas.

Impact This proposal would have a positive impact on the following SDGs:
Pop-up test: #UrbanGirlsCube

In consultation with the girls, White architects and the municipality designed a pop-up and employed a group of young seasonal workers to build a temporary solution to test some of the elements. The pop-up #UrbanGirlsCube was built on Fittja Square during one week in August 2019.

The cube was a combination of several of the public space solutions developed throughout the #UrbanGirlsMovement workshop series. The purpose of the pop-up installation was to see how the local community would react to the innovative solutions that emerged from the project, and show how the results in a simple way can be incorporated into the urban planning process.

The cube was a simple pavilion with an idea of adding seating and spaciousness to the square, in a more human scale, among the otherwise large-scale built environment. In the cube you could be involved without being in the middle. You could see but choose if you wanted to be seen, something that mirrored many of the girls’ design ideas made in glass material.

The pavilion was built entirely of wood. The structure was semi-open with seating inside and outside. One of the walls was completely covered with a mural painting that the local community in Fittja created together under the direction of Botkyrka Konsthall.

The pop-up housed several activities such as wall painting during the week and created a spontaneous and non-demanding hang out space open for all Fittja residents. The week ended with a live podcast with Edu Orten, dart tournaments, soccer games, and a mini-café. All the activities were organized with and by the local youth organization Unga Fittja which is an organization driven by young adults living in Fittja with the ambition to drive social change within the area.

The cube is being reused at preschools in the municipality since it was dismantled from the square.
A central task of the project has been to examine what urban design can look like when structures of power are reallocated to girls and young women in a multi-stakeholder and co-creative setting. These are our lessons learned.

**Multifunctional urban space**

The re-designs of Fittja in Botkyrka, an outcome of multi-stakeholder’s combined knowledge with local girls taking the lead, showcase a compact, multifunctional and small scale urban form. It is accessible to, and used by all inhabitants through a variety of unprogrammed activity options, vibrant so called “hangout spaces” and “green beautification”. The girls have used contemporary urban features such as digital sharing-experiences and glass materials that emphasize the square as a meeting point, all of which cater to a “mixed use” of the space. Some of the designs are an explicit reaction towards the ambiguous public narrative about Fittja, provided by mass-media.

The designs developed by the girls in Minecraft support a multifunctionality of benefits, both social and ecological. The compactness of multifunctionality is not only space saving but resource efficient since many needs are met in one and the same instalment. How policy-makers and urban designers view and interpret concepts like multifunctionality, and liveability has concrete consequences in urban public space. Looking to the municipal design plan and the #UrbanGirlsMovement designs, there are signs of conflict and trade-offs in ideas of liveability. Not only does the greenery contribute to the girls’ sense of safety and appreciation, it also and perhaps more famously mitigates heat, soaks up water and contributes positively to the natural environment on which we depend. The results demonstrate that multifunctional designs are key to liveability: There is a wish to have social and ecological functions co-exist and even reinforce each other. The interplay between private and public functions can be considered yet another version of multifunctionality, namely between the economic functions and public functions, and how they can merge in a way that adds to placemaking values.

It is difficult to predict the future in complex and ever-changing systems such as cities and public space infrastructure instalments that lasts for generations. The multifunctionality in the #UrbanGirlsMovement designs are flexible and will therefore be able to adapt form and purpose throughout time. The content of the glass house or the usage of the rooftop can be easily re-furnished compared to constructions that are larger in scope.
Understanding the multifunctionalities and values prescribed to urban public space is an opportunity to make more informed planning decisions. A key to translating liveability is local context, girls and young women can provide the place-specific knowledge needed to grasp the bigger picture of contextual aspects, such as the social fabric in place. The #UrbanGirlsMovement designs are people centred, in line with encouragements from international policy bodies like the EU and the UN.33

**Challenging unsustainable and unjust urban forms**

Current public space forms in areas like Fittja, with inherited features of modernistic logic and design, has so far failed to encompass the activities and valuables needed for a more socially and environmentally sustainable society and everyday lives. Areas built during modernism are the outcomes of design processes where a homogenic group has interpreted liveability and desirable public space design for a heterogenic public, without enough perspective-widening efforts. It is in these inherited forms and structures that today’s inhabitants and visitors must navigate in and adapt to. The design outcomes of #UrbanGirlsMovement in Botkyrka display that these types of public spaces arguably can be discharged using specific design interventions.

The designs stand in contrast to the modernist functional form that implies control and steering human behaviour, which is how the Million Dwellings Program was built in the first place.34 This planning theory has relegated girls and young women to private spaces, from which they are now liberating themselves, partly by bringing elements of the home into the public.35 Analysing the data and outputs from the #UrbanGirlsMovement innovation labs, it becomes evident that the design unravels a patriarchal structure, physically and socially in Fittja. The innovation lab stakeholders react to this in multiple ways.

**Liveability is more than safety**

A key component to the girls’ sense of safety is that multiple groups are present. The girls prioritised density, multifunctionality and greenery for the sake of well-being, amusement and social loitering. Placemaking efforts that were evident as qualities in the built environment were enhanced further rather than reinvented. The girls provided knowledge about the visible and invisible barriers unlocking these values.

At large, it becomes clear that liveability in public space goes beyond basic needs such as safety. Imposed and assumed safety measures do not necessarily give access for girls to public space.

It seems as if global targets could benefit from being accompanied with “liveable” or “enjoyable”, not least as means or instruments to reach what has already been targeted (safe, inclusive, accessible and green). It is important to stress that the girls’ informal “hang-out” meeting-places will automatically create a sense of safety, referring to concepts such as more “eyes-on-the-street”.36

This is an important contribution in response to all the current discussions in Sweden (in media especially) about prioritising enhanced security measures in vulnerable areas in order to create safety, e.g. more cameras, police or security guards. Scholars have, however, instead argued that if there are more people and “eyes” in public places and on our streets, the housing areas will become nicer, more cohesive, and safer.37

The positive outcomes of informal socialising has been stressed in many studies in terms of social capital, such as emotional support, information, job contacts, health and wellbeing.38 This is confirmed in the pilot and interestingly, the final designs lack outdoor assigned sport facilities in their traditional form. Instead there are other physical and mental health aspects to their designs, as they encourage walkability, public dancefloors, large amounts of added greenery and local farming. It is generally argued that boys request outdoor sport facilities more often than girls,39 while girls tend to not want to exercise in public 40.

In the #UrbanGirlsMovement results and contemporary public space studies, safety can be a bonus and positive outcome of vibrant, green spaces with cross-generational features and possibilities to navigate well, walk around and linger. We encourage additional research on how girls’ perspectives, experiences and knowledge can be a catalyst to understand and improve liveability for not only girls, but the general public and the ecosystems we depend on.

**This planning theory has relegated girls and young women to private spaces, from which they are now liberating themselves**

**Safety can be a bonus and positive outcome of vibrant, green spaces**
How cities for and by girls work for all

A feminist approach to urban liveability shows the importance of understanding the diversity of perspectives in public space, and that these perspectives matter for how we understand planning principles.

Involving girls in urban design is an effective tool to bridge professionals with the community and can help counteract anti-social problematics and gender inequalities in public space, as well as in a constructive way challenge dominating views of what kinds of knowledge(es) and epistemologies that count. We argue that there is much to gain from turning to the effects of girls’ active and collaborative engagement in improving their communities for the sake of all.

Experimentation and science-policy cooperation is highlighted as a main requirement for addressing societal challenges in overarching research and innovation strategies. Adopting an experimental approach, daring to address situations with a “what if”, overthrowing established patterns of power, and making girls the place experts are corner stones in #UrbanGirlsMovement. Norms and values can vary depending on geographical and cultural context and are crucial to understand when developing the built environment. An enriched understanding of such norms and how they drive particular actions and behaviours, improve the chances of making more informed planning decisions in the complex environments that cities tend to be.

It is time to re-think and re-do the urban design process. The #UrbanGirlsMovement has exemplified a multitude of outcomes linked to multi-stakeholder co-creation processes in general, and across generational, professional and disciplinary borders in particular. Safety-oriented theories and efforts in isolation add to an over-simplified and objectifying narrative of women and girls’ needs as limited to protection and safety.

#UrbanGirlsMovement creates meaning and empowerment to the ones participating in the process and demonstrates that a planning process is more than the physical designs of the built environment. Interviews with the girls reveal that it has been an empowering experience to be part of an urban development process as it has enabled them to recognise their own abilities. By re-evaluating the role of the planner to take on a more facilitating role, the girls shouldered the role of experts. It legitimised the girls’ ideas and designs, enabling them to both recognise and practise agency. The process of redesigning a familiar place enabled the girls to regenerate the meaning of the public space around Fittja to mirror their spatial identities. If done right, a planning process can be a tool for enhanced democracy, equality, and justice in cities.

The girls turned Fittja square from a transit area to a destination. The community- and inter-generational space thinking by girls in urban settings is noticeable when listening to the girls’ discussions during the design phase:

“\[If we do this then the moms can come out with the kids, if we do this the older people can come here and teach us how to garden\]”

No one wanted to construct a fence nor create an exclusive space. We could therefore argue that the girls designed for more people in the community than just themselves, something that is confirmed by the experience from similar design process of UN-Habitat:

“\[Something I have seen is that the girls take into account the boys assumed needs more than the boys take into account the girls’ assumed needs. Boys emphasize sports more. If I speculate, I get the feeling that the girls are more creative and focused: especially teenagers. Girls think more about what’s good for society and the boys hurry more and then the fast answer is basketball court, and they go about creating it without further reflection\]”

It is time to alter perspectives to what urban public space should and could be. Through the so far unrecognised perspective of young girls, we gain perspective on, behalf of, and in harmony with, the whole community, including the living environment on which we all depend, but which has been subject to trade-off in urban policy-making. Involving girls and women in urban development has the opportunity to convert the city to a support system instead of a barrier, for more than just girls and young women.
Participation brings empowerment

The design proposals symbolise and enhance the spatial identity of Fittja as experienced by the girls. Therefore, these designs are contextual and are not universal forms for what places designed by girls could look like. However, these are aspects that can be generalised to other geographical and social contexts, even though the results from the process will likely differ depending on contextual settings. Being part of an urban development process generates certain sets of values and meanings, experienced by the participating girls. In the interviews with the girls, we conclude that being part of #UrbanGirlsMovement has empowered them:

“…We should inspire other places to do the same as we have done here. Even though 99% does not come true, they should really give it a try.”

Belle

“…Besides, you get to feel the power to be heard… you really feel it! It is something that I will bring with me for the rest of my life - that I was in urban girls and expressed my thoughts – so powerful!”

Lucy

Belle and Lucy believe #UrbanGirlsMovement could inspire other places to implement similar processes. Being part of an urban development process and being given the opportunity and platform to be heard has, according to Lucy, been inspiring and empowering. Allowing girls to take part in decision-making processes has societal values that go beyond the actual process. Another girl points to one of several positive externalities created from involving girls in an urban development process:

“I also think that there are other younger people who check this out and think that these are suburban girls who try to make a change - if that does not happen then they will not try. If they see that we are trying to change something and notice that it is working, others may follow and try to improve society.”

Princess

Princess also expresses a new dimension to citizen engagement and societal organization, i.e. being engaged in your locality encourages the next generation to develop societal organisational skills. Princess hopes that her participation in #UrbanGirlsMovement will make younger girls realize that it is possible to make a societal difference when and where it is needed and make citizens aware of their democratic rights and have the power to use them. This has socio-economic benefits for society as a whole in the long run.
The #UrbanGirlsMovement raises relevant questions linked to the challenges and opportunities embedded in contemporary public space design, policies and practices. It gives reason to argue for a new (embodied) perspective on how urban spaces are being researched and developed. The girls and young women in the innovation labs demonstrated knowledge in social and environmental sustainability thinking while correspondingly adding a place specific approach, using their everyday experiences and observations from the place they were re-designing. They repeatedly looked for ways to combine the ecological well-being with how different groups of inhabitants could enjoy the same space. Such knowledge is seemingly valuable capacity building factors for city authorities in space management, and in building vital relationships to its inhabitants. In turn, these factors can be key for combating issues such as governmental legitimacy and management of (unwanted) friction in processes and pathways towards improved sustainability.

Guidelines for inclusive urban development

Scholars have identified that key factors for development processes to have a positive impact on gender relations are; community knowledge by collaboration with local NGOs, presence of high-level officials throughout the process, advocacy for policy recommendations, and that a gender analysis is central throughout all stages. All these tendencies can be identified in #UrbanGirlsMovement. By gathering and improving knowledge about how the built environment affects the most marginalised populations’ access to the public space, we identify opportunities and provide useful tools for practitioners to improve the health, well-being and liveability for these groups but also society at large. These are the #UrbanGirlsMovement guidelines for achieving inclusive and sustainable urban development and design processes:

Facilitating multi-stakeholders A common failure in processes and projects that aim for co-creation is that each actor ends up guarding their own interests rather than serving for what is best for the process and project; or “trusting the process” so to speak. This is why a facilitator with as little self-interest as possible in the project is a good choice. Global Utmaning took initiative and facilitated #UrbanGirlsMovement to test a hypothesis and explain the outcome, providing a neutral platform for landowners, political interests, inhabitants and researchers in search of publications.
We have learned and confirmed the important role of civil servants to, as indicated, serve the public and being facilitators of different areas of work on a daily basis. In reality, civil servants work difficult tasks, often battling dilemmas between multiple interests. We found it very valuable to have them close onboard, even if the core facilitation was left to us.

**Supporting co-production** If you are the facilitator of multi-stakeholder urban design processes, you have one of the most important roles in the process. Careful facilitation and making sure the relationships between different stakeholders are functional and beneficial to the process, is key for the inclusiveness and creativeness of the project. Develop processes that help stakeholders understand the place specifics of each public space you will be working on. The girls’ needs and wishes are key, but in a process where young girls work together with adult professionals within the urban development sector, it is of great importance that the professionals take a step back and let the girls shoulder the role as experts during the whole process. Facilitating participatory processes with marginalized communities requires a special set of skills, most importantly active listening. Practicing active listening could namely shift power dimensions inherent in the hierarchical dichotomy of child vs. adult. Hence, active listening becomes a tool for professionals to address power asymmetries both within the planning practice itself, but also as a means to question spatial and societal power struggles.

**Making girls the experts** Involving marginalized actors and all relevant stakeholders early creates both legitimacy and quality. It helps understand the local context and build on, rather than reinvent, previous efforts and lessons learned. Separated consultation processes is a strategy to target specific societal groups in isolation from each other. It has been shown useful at times to support marginalised citizens. The girls explained that they probably would have been more reserved and less able to articulate their ideas in the same way if boys were part of the exercises. The feeling and recognition of being heard triggers empowerment and engagement amongst the girls. In this sense, empowerment does not mean giving power but recognizing power. Think of it this way: Without whose knowledge would this project fail? In our case, it was the girls and young women. They are the place experts.

**Co-creating a shared vision** Formulating a shared vision of the space is important in order to provide a joint platform before sketching on concrete ideas and initiating the process of illustrating solutions. Having local girls collaborate and co-create the re-designs with adults gave the girls a feeling of legitimacy and empowerment to pursue and develop their own thoughts and ideas. It created a space where they were treated as equals and where their experiences and opinions guided the development of the process.

For this collaboration to be successful, the adult participants together should make up for a wide range of knowledges, specialisations, and understandings.

**Adapting the tools** #UrbanGirlsMovement used various tools, including digital, to help map, assess, crowdsourse, and co-create public spaces which were proven very useful. We used tools from Block by Block Foundation, UN-Habitat, and Global Utmaning.

**Crowd sourcing extended input** Collecting input from a larger user group is key in order to maximise knowledge about local needs. #UrbanGirlsMovement exposed the Minecraft designs digitally on the web and physically in three different locations in Botkyrka for inhabitants and others to add their input.

**Developing concrete advise for action** We urge all actors to develop and share policy and strategic recommendations for decision-makers at different levels. To ensure the continuation of the movement, we developed supporting guidelines for implementing actors and representatives from various sectors.

**Guidelines for inclusive public spaces** A good city is balanced, with space for people to live, work and play in equal measure. The following guidelines are a result from the global mapping prior to the project #UrbanGirlsMovement. The list has been modified to include the experience from Fittja. This could be argued to be a global view of what is considered good, inclusive, and equal public space. We do emphasize that each of these recommendations should be made context specific and understood in close relation to girls and other local actors as described in previous chapters. Public space characteristics that meet the needs and wishes of girls and young women in Sweden and globally include:

**Good footpaths and public mobility** – provide connectivity to important sites in a city. Unequal mobility opportunities spring from norms limiting certain social groups when using the urban public space. For example, a majority of the population does not own a car, but a majority of public space is often taken up by roads. We need to widen sidewalks and make roads into walkable streets. It also reflects the state of the area; the ability to push a stroller or a wheelchair, as well as being able to walk without looking down to watch your steps. These are simple, but crucial, aspects of equal mobility opportunities. Additionally, good and accessible walking and biking opportunities increase well-being, health and life expectancy, which benefits society as a whole.
Places for women, children, and elderly to hang out – adapted seating can make a tremendous difference to a space. For example benches facing each other make it easier to talk to one another. Experiences from informal settlements show that if there are no benches women, due to gender norms of clothing and other forms of gender specific expectations, will not sit down. However, as squatting is common among men, the city becomes more accessible to them. Women are usually limited to having a purpose when using the urban public space, in comparison to men that take the opportunity to loiter to a larger extent.

Good lighting and visibility – makes a place less threatening during the dark hours of the day for everyone, but has a larger impact on women’s access to the city. This is because women, to a higher degree than men, feel unsafe when using the urban public space during the night. A city where women cannot access the city at all hours of the day is not an equal city.

“Eyes on the streets” and visible authorities – contribute to the conception of safety. The feeling that everyone can see all activities carried out in a public place has the potential of leading to an increased feeling of safety. It encourages positive activity and behaviour. A lively place therefore often becomes a safer place.

Open Access – semi-public or semi-private spaces, such as parks with fees, museums or restaurant terraces, are exclusive to certain parts of the population. Places that are not accessible for free, systematically exclude the poorer part of the population. A space becomes more accessible and useful to different groups if it is easy to get to, easy to orientate within, has a varied content, and can be customized by the user. A city needs to have a good balance between public and private spaces.

Human Scale Design – the human scale provides a well-adapted design and a user-friendly urban form. A human scale design automatically becomes an attractive meeting place as it imposes feelings of a public space being a living room, merging a feeling of home to the public.

Manifestation of local values – a place that is beautiful and differs in design from the majority of the city is less likely to get vandalized and will help strengthen the conception of safety. It is not only about human scale design but transcends to the local characteristics and identity of the place and its inhabitants. Enhancing local values can contribute to a sense of pride and belonging in people, which can lead to subjective well-being.

Flexibility, multi-purpose, and multi-function – an element must meet several purposes and functions. It should attract different audiences at different times of the day. A staircase is a good example, as it can be a place to walk, sit, meet, work out, play, put on performances, etc. The more flexible the elements, the more sustainable the place.

Well working infrastructure, water, and sanitation – women are more vulnerable than men when there is insufficient or lack of toilets and sanitation facilities. In informal settlements the communities often have sanitary infrastructure in shared spaces. These, as well as public toilets in high-income areas, must be well lit, clean, and secure.

Proximity to services – girls and women often need, to a larger extent than boys and men, a proximity to services. Regrouping of various services or elements with multi-functions and mixed use such as multi-service or community centres, predominantly benefit this population.

Mixed use and populations – girls benefit especially from areas with a mixed population as it enhances a sense of safety as well as the level of security. Open spaces that allow residents of a neighbourhood to mix with non-residents tend to decrease the crime rate within the area. This stands in stark contrast to neighbourhoods where public space only is used as a transit route, which has the opposite effect.

Green spaces – should be integrated into the urban form. Green walls, roofs, bushes, trees, and bodies of water that are embedded in the urban space have positive effects on our health; as just the sight of greenery can have a stress-reducing and restorative effect. For girls greenery adds beauty to a place and enhances feelings of safety in addition its invaluable positive environmental effects.

Representation – for girls to use a space, other girls need to be present already. Seeing your own kind increases the feeling of safety. For girls to be present in a space they need to feel welcomed, safe and have things to do in that space. To know what girls want from a particular space, you need to humbly ask the particular population in this area.
Policy recommendations
Integrating feminist perspectives in urban planning processes is one of many tools used in urban policy and planning. It is an apolitical tool and should be used as one. Contemporary planning policies is a matter of power, representation and democracy. Feminist urban planning methods could be, but are not necessarily time and resource consuming. It requires a multidisciplinary approach to the urban planning practice and must challenge planners’ expertise as the only valid knowledge. Facilitating the engagement and critical reflection of all actors, sectors and levels involved in an urban development project is therefore key. According to our experience this is what is most relevant for representatives at different political levels:

Local government The #UrbanGirlsMovement designs add the value of the local identity and the importance of being in line with both attractiveness and a sense of home, not just during consulting processes but also in the process of implementation. Otherwise (no matter whether the development plans were produced using citizen dialogue or participatory processes) the lived experiences and local knowledge cannot safeguard the implementation and final outcome. What at a first glance can be perceived as time consuming and complicated for time constrained urban planners and civil servants, can in the long run save much work and public friction. The #UrbanGirlsMethod provides you with tools. This is an opportunity for municipalities to incorporate local girls’ design proposals into their own planning schemes to assure long term and sustainable urban everyday life for all citizens. Commitment from the local government is vital for maintaining good quality public spaces.

Regional government Policy opportunities for regional governments lie in the cooperation between neighbouring municipalities, learning from failure and success, and together improving the aggregated social, environmental, and economic sustainability and attractiveness of the region. This calls for alignment of regional strategies with municipal plans and a shared vision for the region. Such a vision needs gender equality as a shared point of departure towards overarching sustainability and prosperity.

Central government Central governments have pledged to all sorts of international targets. In Sweden’s case, we can hold our government accountable for the uneven resource allocation (such as public space) and decision-making that should succumb to gender equal priorities. The findings from #UrbanGirlsMovement should be of interest nationally. Results from the most recent National Security Survey demonstrated women’s tendency to avoid places dominated by men and not make use of public space in the same way that men do.

An understanding for feminist approaches to liveability and design in urban public space could bring forward widened perspectives informing planning principles in new contexts. The strong emphasis on placemaking in the girls’ designs resonates with the new urbanism principles that are currently dominating the field, and the ability to “change and be changed” in public spaces. The girls’ designs matched national, regional and municipal guidelines already in place but extended the understanding, and therefore realisation, of them. The #UrbanGirlsMovement designs rather contain options for using these places, and co-create them on a daily basis rather than programming their functions.

International development cooperation Poverty prevention measures have much to gain from allocating attention and resources to the world’s urban girls. In line with the Swedish feminist foreign policy, gender equality and equal distribution of power and resources should also apply to the commonly owned but unevenly distributed places and infrastructures in our cities. The #UrbanGirlsMovement initiative and method is a concrete, hands-on translation tool between different citizen groups, as well as between citizen groups and professionals, in situations of conflict and distrust. It is a way to practice democracy and work conflict preventatively in a visible and empowering way. We encourage international development cooperation to practice and support feminist urban development as a measure for more sustainable cities in a broader sense.

Call for action to implementing actors
The boundaries between municipal organisations and the surrounding society are changing. The business sector, academia and civil society play increasingly important roles in different urban projects and areas. In Sweden, civil servants and politicians are becoming more keen on collaborating outside their own organisations. Such aspects of inclusion and participation can be viewed as an overall positive development, but also comes at the price of increased conflicts with regards to interests, resources, and values. Girl’s priorities for the usage of public resources touches cross-cutting issues. Is it a matter of crime preventing measures, urban planning, or education on gender equality and sustainability? The answer is: All of those. So, whose job is it? We can now present the following guidelines for each actor and role in co-creation processes such as the #UrbanGirlsMovement. Issues within these “organisational gaps” are often full of innovation potential. What can you do?
If you are a civil society actor…
… guard the voice and wishes of the community you represent. Bring in the accumulated local knowledge you have gathered and test solutions relevant to your place specific experience. If one idea sounds good in general, let your fellow project members know, and explain why. Consider yourself an educator and message carrier in the group.

If you are a civil servant…
… think about how you can “serve” in this context. How can your knowledge contribute to increased capacity and improved decision-making in your home organization? What story will you tell your co-workers and political representatives? What are you learning about your community? Which tools can you give the place experts so that they can help you make more successful decisions? Take the opportunity to build relationships and trust between the citizens and actors you serve. Do the solutions provided not fit your institutional framework? Work to change them.

If you are a politician…
… be visionary. Even if it seems costly in the short term, dare to plan ahead and think about the long-term gains in terms of sustainability. To do so, trust your civil servants. Provide space for them to execute and inform the agendas you have set for them. Think about how you can bridge the project’s local experiences to national government, civil society, businesses, and inhabitants in a way that supports the networks needed for increased value output. Take the opportunity to build relationships and trust to the citizens and actors you serve. Cherish this trust.

If you work in the private sector…
… learn the advantages of adopting a shared vision together with your project partners and discover how a thriving, equal, peaceful and sustainable urban neighborhood is good for business in the long run. Also, dare to engage in co-production even if you do not necessarily have to. You might learn that it enhances the quality of your offer and makes you an attractive business partner.

If you’re a researcher or work in academia…
… practice research in close collaboration with the change-makers of the society you are investigating. Team up with other researchers and decide how you can make the academic output from the projects more impactful together, both in academic circles and elsewhere. Remember that decision-makers will look to you as legitimisers of projects. Be aware of the power structures enacted in these settings; be observant and give space to the place experts.

If you’re an urban inhabitant or citizen…
… your own local #UrbanGirlsMovement innovation hub can become a space for you to meet, network, learn, grow, use your voice, and co-create your ambient environment. Involvement in the design and evolution of your neighborhood helps youth to prepare for active citizenship and accountability for oneself and others. Active citizens are responsible citizens; what we create, we take better care of. Practice seeing challenges in your neighborhood from diverse perspectives by listening in to not least your local “girl gang”.

If you’re somewhere in between…
… help bring the aggregated learnings to relevant platforms and bring critical feedback to the facilitators. Who should talk to whom about what? What is the meta reflection and synthesis of the project that should be disseminated in and across innovation gaps and landscapes?

Finally, to all of you: Dare to dream of cities for all. We do.
CONCLUSION

We live in a time where one has reason to argue that once again girls are the tipping points of culture. Greta Thunberg is the same age as Malala, Anne Frank or Jeanne d’Arc were when they stood up against injustice or the “wrong”, each in their own way. This is all but a coincidence: Young women drive societal change regardless of whether it is about fundamental rights, fighting poverty or climate change.

Prioritising girls and young women in low-income areas in rapidly urbanising cities will be shown vital for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda but also for other global agreements. The #UrbanGirlsMovement initiative has successfully mapped global good examples that make a difference in empowering girls and young women to improve their lives and contexts, with the purpose for others to learn, be inspired, and scale up similar ways of working in other contexts. In line with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, the project has directly or indirectly shown how the local application of particularly SDG 3, 5, 10, 11, and 17 can have a positive impact on the other 17 goals.

The initiative has contributed to the development of new methods and tools for local urban development and planning that promote sustainable urban public spaces, that can be applied in Swedish low-income areas, or in informal urban settlements in the global south. The ultimate goal is to propose a toolbox for feminist urban planning to local municipal leaders and actors that serve the local implementation of the SDGs.

The results highlight ways to discharge patriarchal structures in urban public spaces using a compact and multifunctional urban form, accessible to all citizens through a variety of unprogrammed activity options, vibrant hang spaces and green beautification. A feminist approach to urban liveability shows the importance of understanding the diversity of perspectives on liveability in a public space, and that these perspectives matter for how we understand planning principles.

We are now evaluating our process with the aim to create an open source interactive digital platform to gather all tools for the use of others, creating a digital easy-to-use #UrbanGirlsToolbox. We also intend to scale up the initiative, facilitating the process in other cities wishing to implement similar projects globally. All the while the movement spreads as discussion and dissemination continues further, into more rooms and between more people.

In the evaluation of the work conducted throughout #UrbanGirlsMovement, we have managed not only to confirm, but strengthen our belief that if you “plan the city for girls, it will work for everyone”. A sustainable city is a city for everyone, where girls, boys and all others can thrive and develop.

However, women, children and girls in particular, are still navigating in the inherited urban environments that were built without their input and consent. This comes to an end here and now. #UrbanGirlsMovement shows that feminist urban development is an integrated and effective way to tackle several sustainability challenges and global targets at once. Year 2030 is approaching; efforts have to be optimised.

Now we mobilise.
RESOURCES

Preface


Part IV: Lessons Learned


39. Interview with Pontus Westerberg (2019)

40. Interview with Victoria Kahla (2019)


Part V: Guidelines and Recommendations


Part II: Mapping of good practices

If you would like to know more about the different organisations showcased in this chapter, here is a list for further reading.

1. Creative cards for participatory decision-making
Methodkit, Alexandria, Egypt
https://methodkit.com/

2. Productive public space, planning and design for inclusive ownership
Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), Kibera, Kenya
https://www.kounkuey.org/

3. Rural Women’s Assembly
Afrikagrupperna, Southern Africa Region
https://afrikagrupperna.se/

4. The Oukasi Saving Scheme
Oukasi, South Africa
https://www.sasdialliance.org.za/about/fedup/

5. Bridging social gaps by transforming roads into Play Streets
Kounkuey Design Initiative, Los Angeles, USA
https://www.kounkuey.org/
6. Crowdsourcing public space ideas through Minecraft
UN-Habitat and Block by block, Mexico City
https://www.blockbyblock.org/

7. Free Lots Angeles
Kounkuey Design Initiative, Los Angeles, USA
https://www.kounkuey.org/

8. Minecraft for youth participation in urban planning and design
UN-Habitat and Block by Block, Les Cayes, Haiti
https://www.blockbyblock.org/

9. Women entrepreneurs benefitting entire communities
Kounkuey Design Initiative, Coachella, USA
https://www.kounkuey.org/

10. Because I’m a Girl
Plan International & UN-Habitat, Hanoi, Vietnam
https://plan-international.org/because-i-am-a-girl

11. Children’s indicators becoming a formal planning tool
World Vision International, Surabaya, Indonesia
https://www.wwi.org

12. Gender Responsive Participation & the 4P’s
Seberang Perai, Malaysia
https://unhabitat.org/books/gender-responsive-urban-planning-and-design/

13. Pin the creep and raise awareness of sexual harassment
SafeCity, New Delhi, India

14. Post-conflict urban reconstruction in informal settlements
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, Kabul, Afghanistan
http://www.achr.net/index.php

15. SPARC & Slum Dweller International
Mumbai, India
https://www.sparcindia.org/
http://skoll.org/organization/slum-dwellers-international/

16. The 1,5 billion women challenge
Pedalista, Surakarta, Indonesia
http://www.pedalista.org/

17. The power of information and money
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, Orangi, Karachi, Pakistan
http://www.achr.net/index.php

18. Turning a main street into a cultural centre
Orchestra Design, Omsk, Siberia, Russia

19. Building a global forum for public space
Biennale Spazio Pubblico, Rome, Italy
http://www.biennalespaziopubblico.it/

20. Designing cities with children
Tengbom, Malmö, Sweden
https://en.tengbom.se/

21. Empowering youth through urban farming
Stora Skuggans 4H farm, Stockholm, Sweden
https://storaskuggans4hgard.se/

22. Flickrrum, a norm-creative approach to close the gender gap
White Arkitekter, Stockholm, Sweden
https://whitearkitekter.com/

23. Interdisciplinary network for safe public spaces
Sakra platser, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden
https://www.sakraplatser.abe.kth.se/

24. The gender equality strategist
Umeå Municipality, Sweden
https://www.umea.se/umeakommun

25. The 1,5 billion women challenge
Pedalista, Botkyrka, Sweden
http://www.pedalista.org/

26. The microphone factory/cultural centre
Orchestra Design, Tula, Russia
https://www.facebook.com/orchestradesignstudio/
27. Youth redesigning city districts
Ungdomskommissionen, Stockholm City Hall, Sweden
https://www.stockholm.se/

#Women4Cities interview – Louise Lindfors

#Women4Cities interview – Maimunah Mohd Sharif

#Women4Cities interview – Rose Molokoane

#Women4Cities interview – Sheela Patel

Part III: Botkyrka pilot
Urban Girls Movement Botkyrka http://www.urbangirlsmovement.org/

Interviews
Queen (pseudonym), Urban Girl. Interviewed by: Anneroth, E. (1st of April 2019).
Innovation labs

What: Innovation Lab 1 – The context
When: Wednesday 26 September 2018
Where: Ungdomens Hus, Fittja Centrum, Botkyrka, Stockholm, Sweden
Objective: The main objectives of the first lab were to introduce the project and to explore/study the space through an urban walk.

What: Innovation Lab 2
When: Wednesday 24 October 2018
Where: Changers Hub, Alby, Botkyrka, Stockholm, Sweden
Objective: The main purpose of the second lab was to have a brainstorming session around the area’s challenges, its residents’ needs, its potential and possibilities for change.

What: Innovation Lab 3 – Possibilities
When: Thursday 22 November 2018
Where: Subtopia, Alby, Botkyrka, Stockholm, Sweden
Objective: The objective of the third lab was to explore digital tools for urban planning, as well as sketch and illustrate concrete solutions from previously formulated visions for the place.

What: Innovation Lab 4 - Solutions
When: 2-3 Februari 2019
Where: Norrsken House, Birger Jarlsgatan 57 c, Stockholm, Sweden
Objective: The objective of the fourth lab was to illustrate the 16 suggestions to improve Fittja, developed during the previous labs, using the computer game Minecraft.

What: Innovation Lab 5 – Input
When: Thursday 25 April 2019
Where: White Architects, Ostgötgatan, Stockholm, Sweden
Objective: The main objectives of the fifth lab were to work on the proposals from lab 4 together with the architects. Turning the proposals into sketches, models and plans for the area using Sketchup, Virtual Reality and models of the space.

What: Innovation Lab 6 – Recommendations
When: Tuesday 4 June 2019
Where: Botkyrka art gallery, Fittja
Objective: the main objective was to discuss what is required in order to realise the proposals developed throughout labs 1-5. Together, the girls and experts worked on policy recommendations to present to decision-makers at different levels and developed guidelines to support the implementing actors.

Images

Page 6
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Page 38
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Page 45
Kounkuey Design Initiative

Page 48
Tove Julin

Page 52
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Page 59
BlockByBlock

Page 60
Iwona Castiello D Antonio/Unsplash

Page 64
NN/Unsplash

Page 71
SafeCity

Page 74
Neosiam/Pexels

Page 82
Orchestra Siberia

Page 90
Tengbom

Page 93
NN/Unsplash

Page 98
Alexander Popov/Unsplash

Page 102
Johannes W/Unsplash

Page 106
Michal Parzuchowski/Unsplash

Page 110
NN/Unsplash

Page 115
Alessio Brown/Unsplash

Page 116
Elin Andersdotter Fabre

Page 119
urbangirlsmovement.org

Page 120
Mimmi Thorneus

Page 120
Mimmi Thorneus

Page 136
Mimmi Thorneus

Page 144
Tove Julin

Page 147
White arkitekter

Page 148
Elin Andersdotter Fabre

Page 157
Elin Andersdotter Fabre

Page 158
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Page 165
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Page 166
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