



**HER  
CITY**

**Her City  
Toolbox**

---

5 years impact

# Her City Toolbox



**2017**

Support from Sida  
Mapping of methods and tools for inclusive urban development



**2018**

Support from Swedish innovation agency Vinnova  
Launch of Urban Girls Movement



**2019**

Piloting methodology in Botkyrka, Sweden  
Renewed funding from Vinnova



**2020**

Development of digital toolbox



**2021**

Launch of the Her City Toolbox  
7 regional trainings, with 600 trainees globally  
13 partnership projects started



**2022**

4 full pilot projects completed, engaging 2800 people  
10 public spaces implemented, impacting 52,000  
Publication of Cities for girls, cities for all report



**2023**

Publication of Her City 5 years impact report





"Her City is our way to make solutions and tools available for everyone, from activists to decision-makers and private sector. By working together our future will be her future."

**Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**

United Nations Under-Secretary  
General, Executive Director United  
Nations Human Settlements  
Programme



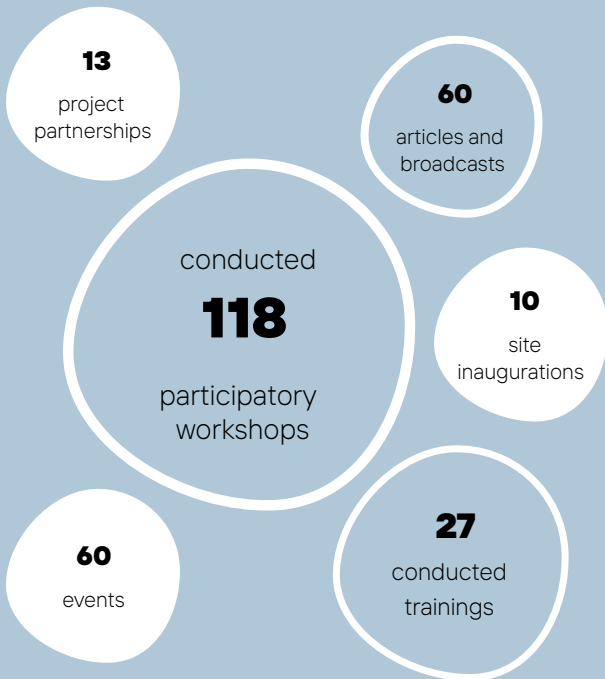
## Her City Toolbox users



Since the launch of the toolbox in 2021, Her City counts over and 300 independent initiatives and 1070 individual registered accounts. They come from 350 cities in 100 countries. 25% of the users are from the public sector, while 26% from civil society, 23% from private sector and 26% from academia.



## Her City activities



Her City Toolbox is a joint initiative by UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme and the independent think tank Global Utmaing, financed by the Swedish Innovation Agency, Vinnova. We have implemented 13 joint projects partnering with UN agencies, local administrations, civil society and researchers.

## Her City reach



Her City reached over 7,000,000 through social media, web, publications and broadcasts. We organized and participated in 60 events with 5000 participants. We built capacity of 600 participants in 27 trainings and engaged over 2800 people in the implementation of 13 partnership projects.

cleaning service theatre  
accessibility playground  
sidewalks economic activities  
digital competence  
air quality bikes cafe inclusion  
socializing art installation health & well-being  
shades orchard political participation  
basic services  
safety benches  
marketspace lighting games  
zebra crossing cctv  
fences bus public transport  
park beehives security toilets kiosks housing wifi  
colours stairs books resilient ecosystems  
water & sanitation  
united waste bins sport  
community meeting place sculpture library  
greenhouse cinema  
greenery entrance mobility  
renewable energy arts signage



## New Urban Agenda

“Girls and boys, young women and young men are key agents of change in creating a better future and when empowered they have great potential to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities. Ensuring more and better opportunities for their meaningful participation will be essential for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.” (NUA§72)

Her City also relates to the following transformative commitments for sustainable urban development of the New Urban Agenda: §36, 42 (marginalised groups), §32, 35, 92, 101, 114, 151, 113, 155 (gender equality), §28, 42, 48, 104, 31, 36, 113, 148, 156 (migrants, ethnic minorities, disabilities), §34, 39, 62, 113, 114, 148, 155 (age responsive), §29, 36, 37, 53, 67, 92, 99, 100, 109 (public space).

---



## 2030 Agenda

“Her City localizes a range of SDGs - besides 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 - depending on the solutions developed.”



## **SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries**

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

---

### **Key message 1**

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

### **Key message 2**

**Solution:** A intersectional gender sensitive perspective helps to understand, engage and give agency, by collecting disaggregated data to make well-informed decisions guiding urban governance, planning, design and management.



## **SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

**Target 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

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

**Target 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

---

### **Key message 3**

Problem: Gender is acknowledged as a part of all major global agendas and agreements and is a main pillar of human rights, hence a duty to be integrated in all activities, every time, everywhere, without any exception. However, gender mainstreaming is still highly overlooked in practice.

### **Key message 4**

Solution: There are a range of actions that urban actors can take to implement gender-sensitive cities. Simply integrating and mainstreaming it into everyday work, it is not difficult nor requiring considerable resources. It is above all a change in mindset among professionals.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



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

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

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

---

### **Key message 5**

Problem: A consolidated and global toolbox is still needed to assist urban actors in efficiently mainstreaming gender and intersectional perspectives into current sustainable urban development practice, no matter where in the world, or at what stage of the process. However, actors are constantly reinventing the wheel.

### **Key message 6**

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





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

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

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

---

### **Key message 7**

Problem: Any urban actor involved in urban decision-making, governance, assessment, planning, design, construction or management has a role to play and can integrate gender and intersectional perspectives by using our tools to contribute to a more inclusive, prosperous and sustainable urban environment. Still, this is far from being automatic and being considered an integrated necessity.

### **Key message 8**

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

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



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

**Target 17.16** Enhance ... multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs...

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

---

### **Key message 9**

Problem: Cities for girls are cities for all, because they indirectly benefit a larger population than the primary target group. They are more likely to provide improved accessibility, mobility, air quality, well-being, social inclusion, conditions for economic activities, digital competence, resilient ecosystems, reduced distances and a strengthened local community. Still, most believe that a gender perspective only benefits the female population

### **Key message 10**

Solution: Multi-level, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder cooperation is key for gender sensitive planning, design and implementation and is more likely to lead to long-term inclusive and sustainable local, regional, national and global environments and societies

4

full pilot  
projects



Before



After

"We simply cannot  
afford to fail"

Ebba Östlin, Mayor of  
Botkyrka, Sweden

**10**

completed  
public  
spaces



Before



After

“It is a sign of change,  
with benefits for both  
boys and girls”

Flor and Patricia,  
neighbours in Lima, Peru



**52,000**

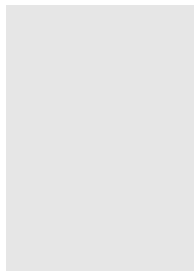
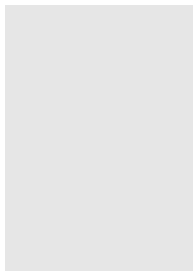
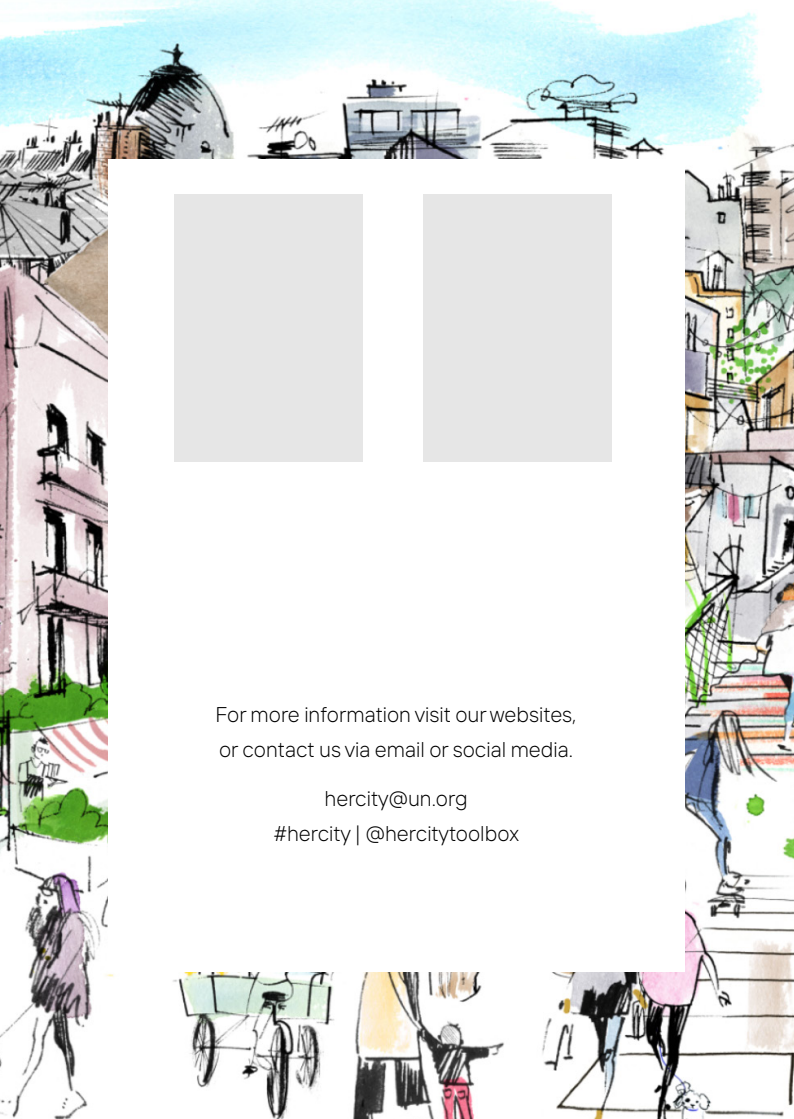
people  
impacted

Before

After

"These tools ensure  
engagement of  
everyone without  
leaving anyone behind"

Maryam Nazzal, UN-  
Habitat Lebanon



For more information visit our websites,  
or contact us via email or social media.

[hercity@un.org](mailto:hercity@un.org)

[#hercity](#) | [@hercitytoolbox](#)