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This guide is an adaptation of "Her City – A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design together with Girls", developed by UN-Habitat and the Shared City Foundation at the global level. The present version was developed based on projects implemented in Northern Mozambique, within the context of internal displacement, and draws on the methodologies of Her City and Urban Durable Solutions. It incorporates local experiences, case studies, and good practices that reflect Mozambique's efforts to link internal displacement, gender-responsive planning, and sustainable urban development.

Gender-Inclusive Urban Transformation in Mozambique

Participatory Planning Guide for the Sustainable Integration of Internally Displaced Persons







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This is what many cities around the world look like: Too often cities do not work for girls, they are unsafe, dirty unwelcoming and inaccessible.

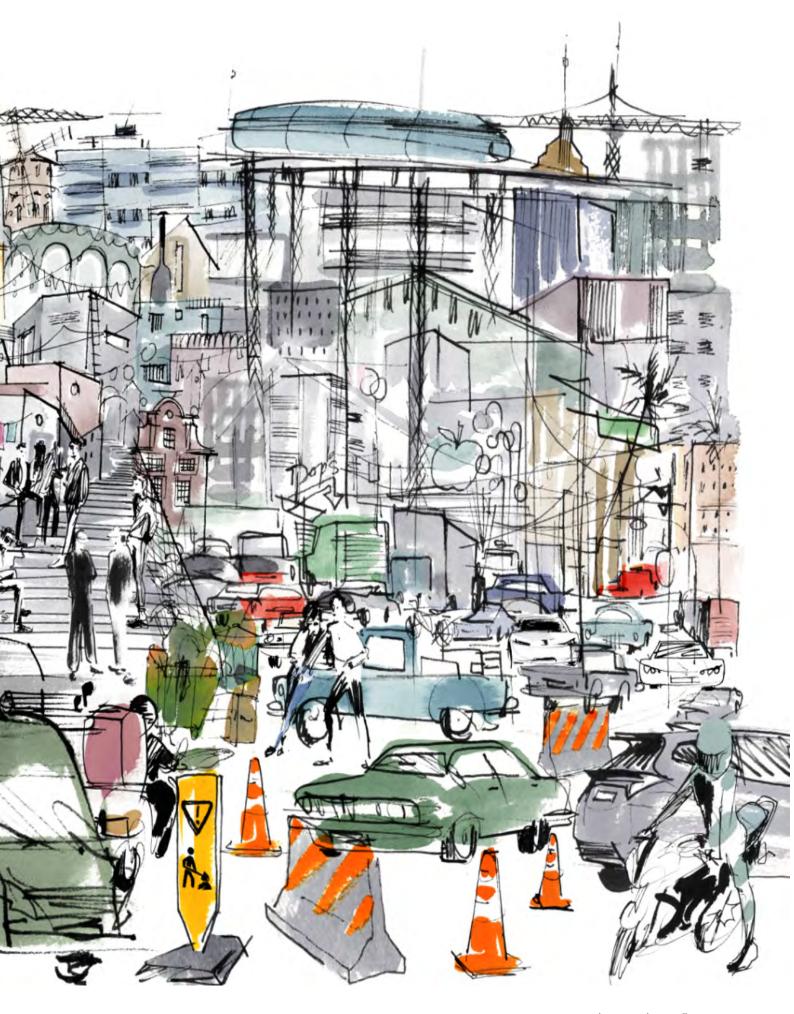


Illustration @ Lovisa Burfitt

Foreword

UN-Habitat Mozambique Country Office

Mozambique is undergoing rapid urbanisation, driven by natural growth, migration, internal displacement, and economic transformation. The rapid expansion of cities such as Pemba, Nampula, and Beira calls for approaches to urban development that are inclusive, participatory, and gender-transformative. Urbanisation brings both opportunities and challenges - it offers great potential for growth and innovation, but this potential can only be realised if guided by the principles of equity, sustainability, and resilience, ensuring that no one and no place are left behind.

The Gender-Inclusive Urban Transformation in Mozambique - Participatory Planning Guide for the Sustainable Integration of Displaced Persons represents a significant step forward in translating these principles into practice. Initially developed by UN-Habitat at the global level under the Her City initiative, a flagship methodology promoting inclusive and gender-transformative urban development, the tool has been adapted to Mozambique's national and local realities through close collaboration with the cities and government counterparts and partners.

The Guide provides a comprehensive methodological framework to support local authorities, urban planners, communities, and practitioners in co-creating people-centered, resilient, and equitable urban spaces. It draws lessons learned from ongoing work in Pemba City, where internal displacement, climate vulnerability, and urban growth intersect.

Gender equality stands at the core of this Guide. Not only does it promote social justice, but it is also a strategic enabler of urban transformation. When women and girls are meaningfully involved in urban decision-making, cities become safer, more innovative, and more responsive to community needs. By embedding gender-transformative principles into every stage of the planning process, from assessment to design, implementation, and

monitoring, the Guide fosters more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable outcomes.

This tool contributes directly to the implementation of Mozambique's National Urban Policy and supports the country's commitments under the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

It is our sincere hope that this Guide will inspire practitioners, policymakers, and communities to advance sustainable urbanisation that truly serves everyone, ensuring that Mozambique's cities continue to grow as spaces of opportunity, safety, and dignity for all residents.



Sandra Roque
Head of office
UN-Habitat Mozambique

Foreword

National Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction

Mozambique continues to face recurrent challenges associated with climate change, conflicts, and the consequent forced displacement of people across the country, which significantly influence both the pace and nature of urban growth. Strengthening resilience, improving territorial planning, and promoting the sustainable integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in urban areas are therefore key priorities on the national development agenda.

The Policy and Strategy for Internal Displacement Management (PEGDI) is a fundamental guiding framework for promoting risk-informed and resilient urban development in Mozambique. Among its guiding principles is the need to integrate disaster risk reduction into territorial and urban planning, ensuring participatory and inclusive processes that actively involve affected communities. The PEGDI also prioritises gender equality and the full participation of women and girls in decision-making related to planning and recovery, recognising their essential role in strengthening social cohesion, promoting sustainable responses, and achieving durable solutions for people in situations of internal displacement.

The Gender-Inclusive Urban Transformation in Mozambique - Participatory Planning Guide for the Sustainable Integration of Displaced Persons thus emerges as a strategic tool that reinforces the operationalisation of the PEGDI. It strengthens multi-sectoral coordination to ensure that the response to internal displacement in Mozambique is systematically integrated into national development processes. Developed by UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with the Government of Mozambique and key partners, the Guide provides a practical and structured methodology to guide inclusive urban planning processes, ensuring that the voices of communities - especially women and youth -

are heard and considered at all stages.

Inspired by the principles of the Her City methodology, the Guide recognises that the active participation and empowerment of women and girls are indispensable for creating resilient, safe, and inclusive cities. By intentionally integrating the dimensions of gender and displacement, this tool contributes to advancing durable solutions in urban contexts, fostering social cohesion, equitable access to opportunities, and sustainable development. The Guide represents a decisive step toward ensuring that urban growth and resilience advance hand in hand, turning recovery into transformation and dignity for all.

The National Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (INGD) welcomes this collaborative initiative led by UN-Habitat and partners, which reinforces Mozambique's commitment to building safer, more resilient, and more inclusive cities.



Luísa Meque

President of the National Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (INGD)

Introduction

Mainstreaming inclusion through gender equality

Gender equality and women's empowerment are long-standing crosscutting issues and key priorities for UN-Habitat. We work to ensure that gender equality is systematically integrated into all activities, and that cities increasingly formulate and implement sustainable urbanisation policies that promote gender equality at all levels.

Based on our work across different countries and cities, we know that mainstreaming human rights, gender equality and social inclusion in cities' everyday planning, design and implementation processes is more important than ever. A city can only thrive when everyone in the city thrives.

This is why guiding cities to make a difference on the ground is a key part of our mandate at UN-Habitat. Together with our partners, we support urban actors in advancing gender equality at the local level regardless of push backs and political trends. Her City facilitates the mainstreaming of gender and intersectional dimensions at different scales of the urban development process, influencing the planning, design, management and long-term policymaking of cities.

We launch an updated Her City guide, including tailored guidelines, we hope it will equip cities with the tools required to embed community perspectives across different scales of the urban process. Urban development is a transformative force, including for women's empowerment. It can create more equitable, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable societies. Allowing cities to harness this potential is vital if we are to make sure that no one and no place is left behind.

Her City provides an opportunity to build capacity on a larger scale as it provides municipal professionals, urban actors and local decision-makers with a solid toolbox for mainstreaming youth, gender and socioeconomic perspectives by strategically involving girls and young women in urban planning and design.

In Her City Pemba, UN-Habitat's country office in Mozambique is fostering inclusion and

cohesion among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in the Mahate neighborhood in Pemba. The upcoming Mahate Action Plan will transform this neighborhood, with a special focus on women and girls fostering locally-owned infrastructure, by empowering local communities, IDPs and host communities. 100 stakeholders contributed to the rebuilding of one site, set to impact 5,000 people.

Displacement in Mozambique

Over the past ten years, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide has doubled, with displacement in Mozambique resulting mainly from conflict and natural disasters. The World Bank estimates that by 2050, 216 million people could be forcibly displaced internally due to climate change. Mozambique, with its vulnerable geography, especially due to its extensive coastline and low-lying areas, faces serious challenges. The country was considered the most vulnerable in Africa to climate change in the 2021 Global Climate Index.

Moreover, since 2017, the province of Cabo Delgado, in Northern Mozambique, has suffered from an armed conflict that has generated many displaced persons. As of July 2024, there were more than 800,000 internally displaced persons in the country, with 139,582 displaced by natural disasters and 735,736 due to conflict and violence in the North. Large-scale displacement can generate several challenges to ensure and provide protection to the affected population. Although some people have returned to their regions, many remain vulnerable and in need of support.

Internal displacement has driven urbanization in Mozambique, with many people moving to urban areas in search of safety, which has put pressure on urban resources and services. This includes the growth of informal, self-built settlements in cities. Local authorities, often unprepared, face difficulties in managing this expansion and the resulting socio-economic challenges.

Mozambique's legal framework, including the Kampala Convention, the Urbanisation Policy (PU), and the Policy for the Management of Internally Displaced Persons (PEGDI), provide important foundations for a rights-based approach and guarantees equal rights to IDPs, ensuring they enjoy the same rights as other citizens, as provided by the Constitution of the Republic.

These frameworks assign the State the responsibility to protect (R2P) and assist IDPs, reaffirming their rights to safety, dignity, and access to essential services. However, operational gaps persist in integrating displacement into urban, development strategies.

Methodological approach

This Guide builds on UN-Habitat's experience in Pemba under the Umbrella Programme for Northern Mozambique, which applies a multi-level, multi-sectoral, and participatory approach to address displacement-driven urbanisation, including:

Community assessment: Jointly analysing the neighborhood's challenges and assets through community dialogues, focus groups, and observation walks.

Co-design of solutions: Facilitating participatory workshops where displaced and host communities collaborate with municipal authorities and partners to propose practical, gender-transformative interventions.

Action planning: Developing a shared roadmap with clear roles, responsibilities, and priorities for improving public spaces, housing, and livelihoods.

The methodology combines tools from the Her City Toolbox, with adaptations from the Child-Friendly Cities Framework, to create inclusive, gender-transformative, and resilient urban environments.



Key concepts

Gender A set of socially constituted characteristics that define the behavioural patterns, norms, beliefs, and expectations about the actions of women and men.

Sex Set of biological characteristics of men and women related to the female and male reproductive system.

Gender equality Refers to the absence of discrimination based on sex, in which men and women are treated equally, enjoy the same rights and opportunities. Gender equality is based on the understanding that all human beings have the freedom to develop their personal skills and make choices without being limited by stereotypes, prejudices, or socially established gender roles.

Gender equity Fair treatment based on respective needs to eliminate systemic disadvantages.

Gender mainstreaming Focus on the systems, processes, and norms that generate inequalities. Gender mainstreaming is a strategy based on the idea that all spheres, systems, institutions and norms are reviewed to ensure that the principles of gender equality are reflected in it, regardless of the people involved in the institutions.

Internal displacement Involuntary movement (due to disasters, insecurity due to armed actions, or other extreme events) of people from their usual place of residence for a fixed period or permanently.

Internally displaced persons Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or sheltered to flee or abandon their dwellings or places of habitual residence, in particular to avoide the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalised violence, human rights violations, natural or man-made disasters, that occurs within the borders of an internationally recognised State.

Women on the move Displaced women who face heightened risks of violence, exploitation, and exclusion, requiring specific protections

and support mechanisms. The State and its agents have an obligation to protect the rights of women and girls at all stages of displacement, to ensure their dignified treatment and the pathways necessary for them to achieve lasting solutions, whether through local integration, resettlement or return.

Right to the city The right of inhabitants to enjoy, without discrimination, the benefits in terms of safety, services, infrastructure, employment, leisure, justice and the environment that urban areas offer.

Social inclusion The process of improving the conditions for participation in society of the most vulnerable people - based on age, gender, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status - through the expansion of opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights. Their perspectives and experiences are essential for the creation of inclusive urban environments that meet the needs of all residents, especially those who have been repeatedly neglected, and it is critical to prioritise their inclusion in the planning process of cities, according to their specific needs and capabilities.

Urban resilience is the ability of an urban system to maintain its continuity in the face of shocks and stresses, adapting and transforming itself towards sustainability. A resilient city evaluates, plans, and acts to face both sudden and gradual threats, allowing it to protect and improve the quality of life, promote development, and create an environment conducive to investment.

Community participation and

empowerment The active engagement of displaced and host communities in decision-making processes that affect their lives and those of their families. This ensures that their capacities are recognised and used in the development of interventions that support local authorities in the design and implementation of urban development policies and activities.

Social cohesion The degree of trust in government and within society, as well as the willingness to participate collectively for a shared vision of sustainable peace and common development goals.

Participatory planning An inclusive process where residents - especially marginalised groups - co-design solutions that meet their needs. Girls' participation in urban planning improves the city for all, as they consider diversity and varied needs. Focus on supporting IDP integration, strengthens policies and infrastructure at both national and local levels, improves access to services and creates conditions for social inclusion with host communities.

Durable solutions Conditions were displaced persons no longer have specific needs for assistance and protection related to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination due to their displacement. Lasting solutions can be achieved in different ways: Through reintegration to the place of origin (or "return"); local integration (in areas where internally displaced persons have been welcomed); and

integration in another part of the country (or "resettlement").

Urbanisation is the increase in the proportion of people who are living in towns and cities. It occurs because people move from rural areas (countryside) to urban areas (towns and cities). In recent decades, there has been a phenomenal shift towards urbanisation, with 6 out of 10 people in the world expected to reside in urban areas by 2030. In this scenario, cities have faced unprecedented demographic, environmental, economic, social and spatial challenges, which, in the absence of effective urban planning, may have consequences for cities and their populations.

Public space All places of public use, accessible by all and comprises streets and public open spaces. Public spaces are social places that are open to the public and accessible, such as roads, squares, beaches, and parks, whether in rural or urban areas. Some government buildings may also be considered public spaces when they are freely accessible to the public without restriction.





Welcome to the city on the hill, this is what her city could look like!



Illustration @ Lovisa Burfitt

Users guide

The process

What is this tool?

This guide provides a practical framework to support inclusive and sustainable integration of internally displaced persons in urban areas, particularly in Mozambique, where displacement arises from both armed conflict and natural disasters. It aims to:

Strengthen the capacity of local governments, particularly municipalities, to lead inclusive urban planning processes.

Guide participatory and gendertransformative practices, ensuring that the voices of women, girls, and marginalised groups are fully integrated into decisionmaking.

Promote locally owned, sustainable solutions that foster social cohesion between displaced and host communities.

Why is this tool important?

The displacement crisis in Mozambique has accelerated urbanisation, placing additional pressure on local infrastructure and services. Displaced persons, particularly women and girls, face unique challenges in accessing housing, services, and opportunities. This guide responds to these challenges by:

Offering a step-by-step participatory approach that centers on the experiences of displaced populations.

Supporting the creation of gender-transformative, inclusive, and resilient neighborhoods.

Facilitating collaborative planning that builds stronger relationships between displaced persons, host communities, and local authorities.

Who will use this tool?

Municipal governments, urban planners, and technicians responsible for land, housing, and social development.

Development agencies and NGOs working on displacement, urban resilience, or community development.

Community-based groups, including displaced persons, host communities, women's associations, and local leaders.

How to use the tool

The Guide is structured to facilitate practical use in everyday planning.

Phases A clear sequence from diagnosis to implementation and monitoring.

Blocks Thematic content within each phase.

Actions Organised sets of tasks that operationalise each phase.

Steps Specific participatory tools, either offline or digital.

Recommendations Practical advice for effective implementation.

Examples Local case studies from Mahate and Muxara neighborhoods in Pemba.

What this tool is not

Prescriptive It does not impose solutions but supports locally driven processes; the process must be collaborative, prioritising the voices of those directly affected.

A complement Gender and inclusion are embedded in every step, not treated as separate components. It should not separate the needs of women and minorities from the overall goals of the project.

Exclusive It recognises the intersection of gender with other identities, including age, disability, and migration status.



Support urban development from a girl's perspective



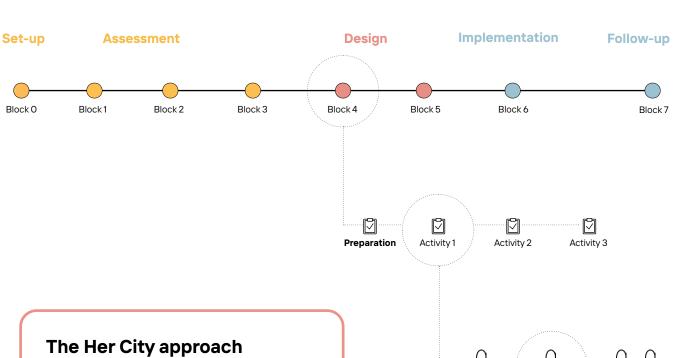
Guide urban actors to implement projects trough a step-by-step methodology



Provide an open and digitally accessible platform for all



Facilitate an ongoing dialogue between professionals and citizens

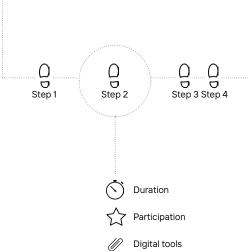


This diagram illustrates the complete Her City process, which typically consists of eleven blocks guiding urban actors from the initial setup to the final follow-up stage.

In the project in Mozambique, the Guide has been tailored to serve the specific context. It specifically draws on the following seven Her City blocks used in the Mozambique process:

Stakeholder Engagement (Block 1); Site-Specific Assessment (Block 2); Data Analysis (Block 3), Building Priorities (Block 4); Recommendations for Action (Block 5); Project Design and Construction (Block 6); and Monitoring & Evaluation (Block 7).

These selected blocks reflect the practical steps carried out in Mahate and Muxara to co-create gender-sensitive and communitydriven urban solutions.



Set-up



Block O



Block O

Mainstreaming inclusion

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Duration 2 week Preparation | Setting-up
Activity 1 | Desk Review

Steps 10

Activity 2 | M&E framework



Assessment





Block 1

Stakeholder engagement

Duration
4 week
Activity 1 | Stakeholder mapping

Steps
Activity 2 | Engaging participants



Block 2

Site-specific assessment

Activity 4 | Focus groups discussion

Duration 4 weeks
Activity 1 | Data collection training

Steps Activity 2 | Neighbourhood Assessment
Activity 3 | Data gathering



Block 3

Data analysis and report

Duration 6 weeks

Activity 1 | Results analysis and reporting

Activity 2 | Community feedbackl

Design





Block 4





Block 4

Building priorities

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Duration 2 week Preparation | Setting-up
Activity 1 | Plan Actions

Ö

Steps



Block 5

Recommendation for action

Duration 2 weeks

Preparation | Setting-up **Activity 1 |** Action Plan

O Steps

Implementation



Block 6



Block 6

Project design and construction

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Duration 12 week Preparation | Setting-up

Activity 1 | Participatory construction

O Steps

Activity 2 | Coordination and oversight

Follow up



Block 7



Block 7

Monitoring and evaluation

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Duration 2 week Preparation | Setting-up

Activity 1 | Monitor and measure impact

O Steps

Activity 2 | Evaluate and share impact

SUSTAINABLE AND GENDER-SENSITIVE INTEGRATION OF IDPs IN PEMBA, MOZAMBIQUE

Project Sustainable and Gender-Sensitive Integration of IDPs in Pemba through the Implementation of Urban Durable Solutions

Donor: Global Affairs Canada and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Implementing Agency: UN-Habitat Mozambique, IOM

Implementation Period: 2022-2026

Location: Mahate and Muxara Neighborhoods, Pemba City

Key outcomes: Strengthened community participation and local governance, enhanced gender equality and women's leadership, improved access to essential services, safer public spaces, locally owned action plan guiding Mahate and Muxara's resilient development.

Due to the crisis in Cabo Delgado, the Mahate and Muxara neighborhoods in Pemba have hosted a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and rapid population growth created urgent pressures on housing, basic services, and infrastructure, while also heightening social tensions between host and displaced communities.

To address these challenges, the projects adopted a bottom-up, participatory approach, engaging over 500 residents in mapping, consultation, and decision-making processes, with women representing approximately 60% of participants.

It resulted in the Mahate and Muxara Resilient and Gender-Sensitive Neighborhood Action Plans, integrating infrastructure improvements, such as drainage upgrades, safer pathways, and rehabilitated public spaces (Mahate headquarters and pediatric care ward), with social interventions supporting livelihoods, safety, and inclusion.

Special attention was given to gender mainstreaming: women participated in leadership roles within neighborhood, and gender analysis informed all stages of planning.

The project strengthened collaboration between municipal authorities and community members, increased trust between IDPs and host populations, and positioned Mahate as a model for inclusive urban governance.

Links: Mahate Resilient Neighborhood Action Plan

















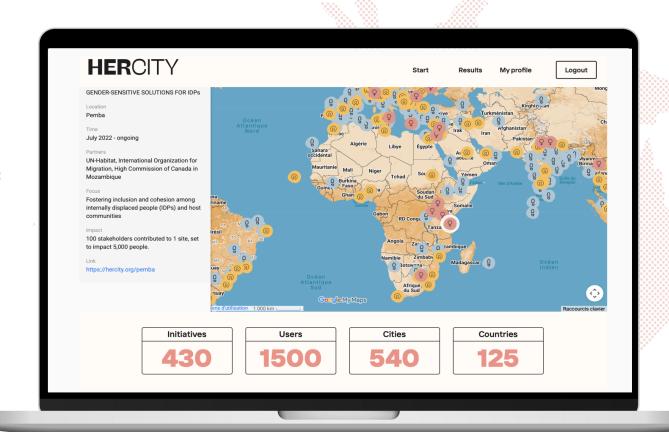




"We are capable and we make a difference, we always respect everyone, and it works."

Participant in the Mahate Her City project in Mozambique















The purpose of this block is to introduce the project to the relevant actors in the areas of intervention (municipalities, communities, neighbourhood leaders, technical partners, etc.), explain the objectives, prepare the tools and form the team. It also includes surveying the necessary materials, setting up the necessary infrastructure, and planning communication throughout the process.



It is used for:

Presenting the participatory process, expected results, approach and methodology to the main institutional and technical counterparts.

Building a diverse, gender-balanced team, including displaced persons, host communities, and municipal actors.

Preparing the operational environment, including tools, communication strategies, and data collection systems.



The result:

A diverse and integrated project team is formed, communication and visibility strategies are in place and initial social, spatial, and statistical data is collected, providing a baseline for planning.



The activities:

Preparation | Setting-up

Activity 1 | Stakeholder mapping

Activity 2 | Participant Engagement/Community Mobilization



Materials:

- Maps (PDF, JPEG, printed).
- · Data collection equipment (tablets, smartphones, GPS devices, or paper forms).
- Communication materials (flyers, posters, banners).
- Templates for Terms of References, Theory of Change, and M&E framework.

It is particularly important in contexts like Mozambique, where displacement due to conflict and climate disasters demands sensitive, inclusive, and locally adapted planning processes.



Preparation

Setting up

In order to run a successful project, it has to be carefully planned. As a project owner you need to identify the project team members and their roles, discuss objectives and plan the work ahead in detail. You also need to set up the necessary infrastructure to roll out the project, including funding and budget, documentation and communication.

Step 1 | Project Team

Identify key team members, their roles, and contact information:

- Ensure diversity that all the necessary actors are represented in the group. The project will be led by a project team of professionals usually represented by the project owner. Identify the members of the project team, their roles and gather their contact details.
- Appoint a team leader, ideally a woman with experience in community engagement or intersectional background. Make sure that the team is as diverse as possible, ensuring gender parity, but also representing marginalised groups (for example persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, older persons, youth, etc.)

Step 2 | Project Overview

Organise a first meeting with the full team and key stakeholders to clarify:

- · Objectives and expected outcomes.
- Principles of participation, gender equality, and social inclusion.
- Roles and responsibilities.
- · Communication plans and stakeholder engagement.
- Budget and resource planning.
- Discuss forms of recognition or compensation for community participants (e.g., transportation, refreshments, if possible).

\bigcap_{\square} Step 3 | Creation of a working committee

Establish a working committee composed of municipal staff, neighborhood secretariats, community leaders, women from displaced and host communities, and technical partners:

- Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the committee, defining roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes.
- Validate the ToR in a consultative meeting.
- ToRs: Working Committee

Step 4 | Communication and Visibility Strategy

Develop a clear communication strategy tailored to the local context.

- Define channels for information sharing: community meetings, posters, WhatsApp groups, radio, or social media.
- Create branding for the project (e.g. #HerCity", #HerCityPemba, #InclusiveUrbanPlanning).
- Plan visibility materials that are accessible (using local languages and visual aids).
- Communication and Visibility Strategy



esk review

This activity will provide the necessary background knowledge. It will help you to review the existing planning frameworks and urban policies in place. It will also guide you through the gathering of basic spatial and statistical data about the local context.

Step 1 | Literature review

Conduct a literature review of key transdisciplinary and cross-cutting topics related to gender and social inclusion in sustainable urban development. Key concepts include gender equality, inclusion, mainstreaming, innovation, acceleration, sustainable urban development, Sustainable development goals, localization, cities for all, etc. Contextualise global frameworks (Her City, Child-Friendly Cities, SDG 11) into the Mozambican displacement context.

Step 2 | Policy and legal framework review

Review the urban policies and planning frameworks currently in place for the integration of internally displaced persons. Find out how the planning system is structured, which level of government is responsible for planning and the existing participatory mechanisms in place. Analyse local, national, and international policies relevant to displacement and urban development. Research and summarise the current place and role of women and youth in these practices. This information could be consulted through official public channels (municipal statistics, provincial and local administration etc.):

- PEGDI (Policy and Strategy for the Management of IDPs) and its Action Plan.
- Urbanisation Policy (PU).
- Municipal regulations, INGD disaster management policies, and relevant gender policies.



Step 3 | Statistical and spatial data

Gather any available open data related to spatial and statistical information about the site. Make sure to use disaggregated data where applicable:

- Maps: historical and up-to-date maps at the scale of the city and neighborhood (PDF, jpeg, etc).
- Census: recent censuses or household surveys (INE, DTM, etc.).
- Urban and social studies: recent studies on specific urban issues (floods, internal displacements, resettlement centers, crime, socio-cultural aspects, etc.).



Activity 2

M&E framework

This activity will support you in establishing the framework to follow up on programme outcomes and impacts. It will guide you through the process of establishing intended objectives, mapping the route to achieve them and setting indicators to measure progress. It will also provide you with a set a baseline from which to monitor changes.

Revisit the project overview to develop a Theory of Change and connect the project aim, objectives and activities with SDG indicators. Use the template to map change pathways by working backwards from the desired change and asking what needs to change for the desired outcome to occur and align with national priorities and SDGs, particularly SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

Select or develop a framework for monitoring and evaluation, in addition to local indicators. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) can be a useful system for cities to officially track local progress related to the SDGs. It is a way to align project outcomes and activities with global sustainability agendas and feed into the city's broader sustainability reporting.

SDG Localization: Planning for change with SDGs

Action-oriented Voluntary Local Reviews

Voluntary Local Reviews Course

Specific indicators set up for the project helps to monitor progress of the project at a granular level, and gender and other disaggregated data are specifically relevant to track inclusion. In addition to local project indicators, we encourage you to select relevant SDG indicators that your project will contribute to. This is a great way of keeping track of how your project relates to the SDGs. The SDG indicator selection, baseline data, and eventually the progress of your project, can be shared with your city to feed into their VLR reporting contributing to your country's national SDG reporting to the United Nations.

@ Gender-transformative VLRs

Gender-transformative SDG indicators







Stakeholder engagement



Duration 4 week



Steps 10

Engaging girls, young women, and other stakeholders is essential to successfully execute the project and to ensure that gender, age, and vulnerability perspectives are integrated throughout. A stakeholder mapping exercise will help identify relevant actors, their relationships, mandates, and ties to the project.



It is used for:

Setting up a project management framework.

Gathering basic knowledge about the context.

Mapping relevant stakeholders, secondary and primary target groups.

Inviting participants and define terms of engagement.

The result:



A multi-stakeholder team made up of girls, young women and professionals to integrate the necessary perspectives into the process.

The activities:



Preparation | Setting-up

Activity 1 | Stakeholder mapping

Activity 2 | Engaging participants



Materials:

- Computer
- Maps
- Photos and flipchart used at community

It is important to ensure that this engagement with different stakeholders includes groups of women representing IDPs and host families so that they can participate in all phases of the project.



Preparation

Participation

Setting Up

This activity sets the foundation for stakeholder mapping, ensuring the right people are identified to capture local networks, partnerships, and dynamics.

O Step 1 | List stakeholders

Create a preliminary list of stakeholders related to the project. This ensures the participation of key actors from different sectors and vulnerable groups:

- Include the project team, girls and young women (primary target group), and essential professionals (secondary target group), such as technicians from the Municipality, INGD, civil society, and representatives of vulnerable populations.
- Engage representatives from organised constituencies of girls and women whenever possible.
- If the project involves construction, identify and involve a contractor early preferably a local one.

Step 2 | Start-up meeting

Organise a meeting with the project team and ensure participants understand the project goals, community dynamics, and relevant documentation.

Step 3 | Start-up meeting

Arrange a workshop for activity 1, at which the whole project team can be present. Ensure that the members of the team have knowledge of the local area and community dynamics. Review the project overview and relevant documentation together.



Activity 1



Stakeholder mapping

The diversity of stakeholders will be crucial to execute the project successfully and particularly guaranteeing that gender, age and perspectives of those marginalized are mainstreamed throughout the process. A stakeholder mapping exercise should be conducted to identify who the relevant stakeholders are, their power, relations, interests, mandates and links to the project.

Step 1 | Social network

When you have a draft list of stakeholders, map their relations to each other, the space and the project:

- · List women representatives where possible.
- · Position each stakeholder considering their level of power and affinity.
- If useful, draw lines and arrows between stakeholders to represent their relations, using
 different colors for each type of relation (e.g. a green line to identify collaborative relations, a
 red line for conflict relations etc.). The term "power" refers to the institutional, financial and/or
 social influence of an actor on the decision-making process of the project. The term "affinity"
 refers to the political, financial and/or social interest and commitment of an actor to the
 project.
 - Stakeholder mapping

Step 2 | Target groups

Identify the target groups based on their level of expertise, ensuring gender balance, and include displaced families, host families, and municipal technicians relevant to the context:

- The primary target group is a selection of at least 20 girls and young women (internally displaced persons and host families) who will activity participate in the project and work collaboratively with the secondary target group.
- The secondary target group: grassroots organizations representing girls and community leaders can help with recruitment.

Step 3 | Shortlist participants

Prepare a final list of the selected stakeholders and their roles in the project. Collect their details and prepare a contact list. Ensure criteria such as:

- · Participation of at least 30 people.
- · Majority presence of young women.





Engaging participants

This activity helps to invite participants (girls, young women and other stakeholders) and to define their level of participation in each activity. As an indication, the whole group is expected to actively participate in block 2-5. For simplicity, the steps in which participants are the main users of the toolbox are marked with black and white stars.

Step 1 | Draft invitation

Prepare an invitation letter detailing:

- · Objective of the project.
- Importance of participation.
- Overview of planned activities.

Step 2 | Send invitation

Send an official invitation early including all activities of the project:

- To reach and engage a more diverse group of participants, consider using alternative information formats such as sign language, closed captioning, or tactile models.
- Engage grassroots organisations representing girls to help facilitate the recruitment.
- Depending on the context and target group, consider which communication platform would be most effective.

Step 3 | Agreements

To clarify what is expected, it is important to prepare an agreement between the participants and the project team. It formalises the different roles and clearly states the responsibilities throughout the project. Define the terms of engagement and roles for the primary and secondary target groups. Use the established terms of service with engaged stakeholders. The agreement should cover the following:

- Duration and time of engagement.
- Expected responsibilities for both parties.
- Norms and ethics principles of the project, such as identifying confidentiality and formal procedures.
- Expected remuneration or reward (we recommend at least producing a letter of recommendation and the availability of refreshments and transport during the activities).
- · Insurance if required

Participants may sign a consent form for participating in the project, giving you and your team permission to document the process. For minors, parents need to sign the form. Distribute the consent form to all participants to make sure that you can use the documentation gathered throughout the process.



\bigcap_{\square} Step 4 | Preparation of the target group

Prepare the basic profile of the neighborhood (# of total population and displaced persons, socio-demographic profile, level of service coverage, main challenges):

- Create a walking group, with the support of the committee, including displaced women and host families, and social activists.
- Ensure at least one group member has experience using smart phones or tablet and have access to the sample profile.
- Explain the entire process of community mobilisation, with the neighborhood secretariat, the IDPs, focus groups, etc.
- Neighbourhood mapping

Step 5 | Project socialisation at community and government level

- Organise meetings with the neighbourhood secretariat and other local actors.
- Conduct focus groups with displaced women to discuss challenges and solutions.
- Do a visit to the site location in the neighbourhood.







Block 2

Site-specific assessment



Duration 4 weeks



Steps 16

To assess the condition of public spaces, identifying challenges and opportunities related to accessibility, safety, and inclusiveness from a gendered perspective.



It is used for:

Mapping public spaces and assess their quality. **Capturing** users' perceptions about the spaces. **Identifying** challenges such as accessibility, safety and comfort, etc.



The result:

Geo-referenced data is collected and analysed in qualitative reports that reflect the users' experience, including photographic and textual documentation of the conditions of spaces.



The activities:

Preparation | Setting Up

Activity 1 | Data collection training

Activity 2 | Neighbourhood Assessment

Activity 3 | Data gathering

Activity 4 | Focus groups discussion



Materials:

- Tablets or mobile phones with the KoBo Toolbox app.
- Printed maps and guides for the location of spaces.
- Resources for visual documentation (cameras or mobile phones).

It is important to ensure that there are enough participants to cover the entire neighborhood and that they are residents or people who know the existing public spaces best, in order to guarantee greater accuracy regarding the challenges (especially those that affect women differently) and potential solutions for public spaces.



Preparation



etting-up

Before starting the site-specific assessment, take some time to learn about the five dimensions of public space quality, define the walkable radius, organise the activities and prepare the materials required during the sessions.

Step 1 | Review the questionnaire

Information about the public spaces in the research area is collected with the help of the KoBo collect tool. Since a tested and standardised questionnaire is used, it can be implemented in a matter of minutes or adapted in a participatory process. This can be adapted or adjusted with other existing tools. Use the basic questionnaire provided in public spaces, which is available in the following formats:



You might also want to conduct a specific safety audit or a more gender and youth specific exploratory walk. You can use questionnaires such as Plan's safety walk, #UrbanGirlsMovement's Girls Urban walk for groups or individuals, or apps like InhabitPlace, Safetipin or Safecity.

Paper Model

ToRs of active observation walks

Step 2 | Adapt the questionnaire

Adapt it to the specific characteristics of the site, ensuring that it accurately reflects the dimensions of the public space. This may require knowledge of excel or of the questionnaire editor available on the KoBo platform. In an introduction called "base information", all the primary information necessary for the contextualisation of the collection is collected:

- Location of the public space: administrative areas and coordinates.
- Mapping group information: group composition according to the registration form; group gender (female, male, mixed); group community (IDP, host community); group age - can be replaced by password received in a separate questionnaire for group registration.
- Other relevant information: climatic condition at the beginning of the questionnaire.
- Autofill information: time and date of collection, type of device, and/or account information.

KoBo Collect is an open source tool used for data collection in the field, especially in development, humanitarian assistance and research contexts. It is part of the KoBoToolbox platform, which allows you to create digital forms, collect data offline via mobile devices and synchronize it for later analysis. The application is widely used due to its flexibility, support for different types of questions (such as text, numbers, images and GPS) and ease of use in remote areas without an internet connection.

Step 3 | Explore the 5 dimensions

The questionnaire is separated into thematic dimensions. This information is of immense importance for understanding spaces, as different groups can choose different spaces to map and react differently to the mapped spaces. Then, questions are answered about the characteristics of the space itself.

- Dimension 1: People and use of space describes the actors and uses present in the space.
- Dimension 2: Accessibility describes how the space is reached, but also under what conditions it can be used.
- Dimension 3: Amenities and furniture describes specific equipment such as lighting, toilets, fountains and others.
- Dimension 4: Comfort and safety describes the feeling of comfort and security in relation to space, focusing on the group experience.
- Dimension 5: Environment focuses on environmental issues related to space, with the presence of plants, trees, bodies of water, among others.





In general, the questionnaire is multi-faceted and its use in its entirety allows comparability with other locations that have mapped their spaces in the same way. It is possible to add or remove questions from the original questionnaire, for example, if there is a particular topic that should be included in this research area (e.g., availability of public Wi-Fi in spaces or habits of young attendees). Or if there is not enough time for the questionnaire as a whole and there is a focus on a specific thematic dimension, for example safety or environmental issues. Here it is important to remember that questions can also be crossed with each other. So even if the focus is on security, it can still be interesting to understand what type of spaces are considered safer or what infrastructure is missing in spaces considered unsafe. In this way, if all other issues are excluded, it will not be possible to make crossovers like these.

Step 4 | Deployment of KoBo questionnaire

In order for the questionnaire to be accessible to collectors, it is necessary to distribute it through the KoBo Collect platform. During this process, attention must be paid to the protection of the data collected, both related against information leaks and to ensure the integrity of the data.

☐ Step 5 | Create an account structure

Consider the creation of a new account for the project or use an existing account. Reflect on who manages the data, who can view and access the data, and who will collect the data. In the case of collectors external to the project consider most relevant option:

- Alternative 1: The collector group receives individual accounts, which is recommended
 in the case of extensive collections. Collectors can create their own accounts with their
 email and send the identifier to the project team, which adds them as collectors.
- Alternative 2: The group receives a collective account with only access to upload data, without edit or view access. This facilitates the process of preparing mobile phones for collection, as they will only use a credential that can be summarized in a QR Code. It is recommended in the case of one-off collections.

Step 6 | Deployment within the KoBo platform

The questionnaire is published using the XLS questionnaire template or the adapted questionnaire:

- On the Kobo platform, select the "New" button and then "Upload XLSForm" by adding the file.
- From here, the created questionnaire can be adapted.
- When you're ready, select "Make Available" in the "Form" tab.
- From there, you can copy the link to the web filling.

Step 7 | Upload the form on mobile

To upload the form, it is necessary to download the application (https://kc.kobotoolbox).

org) and add an account with username and password. This step can be replaced by the reading of a QR code, which can be passed on to collectors. From there, click on "Upload New Form", selecting the correct form. Then, you can start filling in the form by clicking "Fill in blank form".

Step 8 | Preparation of materials

In addition to the online questionnaire, the preparation of support material may be necessary. Part of this process involves the restructuring and printing of geo-referenced data already collected or produced, the possible subdivision of the neighbourhood into quadrants and the production of scripts and maps that guide the collection – ensuring that the collectors are following the proposed methodology:

- Prepare the detailed maps that will serve as visual support during the active observation walks.
- Gather aerial images of the neighbourhood area and mark strategic points, such as public spaces, main streets, and areas of interest to help people who are less familiar with this type of tool.
- Decide if you need to further subdivide the study area so that you can orient yourself
 when discussing spaces and planning mapping efforts. In this case, it is possible to do this
 by a system of simple quadrants numbered with letters for columns and numbers for rows.
 Another alternative is to make this subdivision based on infrastructure such as structuring
 streets, but also around other infrastructures or looking at the characteristics of the terrain,
 among others.
- Print the maps and KobB questionnaire for use in the field, remembering to print at least one copy of the set of documents per group – bearing in mind that it may be useful to have at least one larger copy of the map for the planning of the collections and their subsequent discussion. These digital versions should be accessible on mobile devices for easy access while walking.
- Meighbourhood maps

O Step 9 | Mapping planning

Discuss with the project team the objectives of the public space study and other parameters that affect collection. In particular, the objectives should guide the mapping process, including any necessary adaptations to the methodology. This may influence the geographic extent of the mapping, the the division of groups, or the adaptation of the main questionnaire.

It is worth remembering that it is possible to have more than one goal, and their interactions are equally important. See in the table (annex 3) some questions and objectives. The team involved in outlining these objectives and discussing the methodological aspect should be multi-disciplinary and may also include members of the community. These objectives can affect the way in which the mappings are made, remembering that methodological choices will invariably affect the results of the mapping and that questions can be answered with the data. For instance, even if we have the same geographical boundaries, there is a big difference between defining a route on which to map, or pre-defining spaces to be mapped by all groups, or allowing groups to freely choose the spaces they want to map or according to their daily uses. The first method can make it possible to know what different groups think of the same space. The second method allows you to find spaces with alternative uses or in nature that would not be normally mapped. Dividing the groups so that there are mixed IDP & host community groups can merge two perspectives that we want to know distinctly to balance equity issues or cultural habits differences between the two groups. However, making mixed groups can have the advantage of the process being an activity that deepens relationships between the two groups. Try to weigh the pros and cons of a methodological choice or focus on a specific question or objective.







Data gathering

The purpose of this activity is to observe and analyse daily life, to get an understanding of users' activities and behaviors. It uses different tools such as mapping, note taking, photography, digital measuring, etc. to collect a variety of qualitative data considering the five dimensions of the public space quality.



Step 1 | Observation

Focus on perception and map emotion in the public space:

- Note down main activities, key features and peoples' movements in the space.
- Describe sensorial experience (sound, smell, view, taste).
- Interact with users and ask them to map their routine movements and their perceptions.
- Be mindful of who is using the space men, women, old, young, people with disabilities, etc.
- Write down short quotes and keywords heard in the space.

☐ Step 2 | Photography

These visuals will be useful to compare the current situation with the design proposal and final implementation. Focus on the following when you take photos:

- Ask for permission to take pictures of people.
- Use a camera or smartphone with good resolution.
- Take landscape pictures without up close obstacles.
- Pin the pictures on a map and give them a number.
- Video may also be useful to record specific activities and sounds
- Take a few pictures from an elevated point.
- Consent form template



Participation

Data collection training

This activity aims to introduce participants to the KoBo tool and provide training on public spaces and how to use the tool. It also serves as a space for testing and clarifying doubts for activists and internally displaced and host women.

Step 1 | Use of tool for data collection

Organise training sessions:

- Introduction to the concept of public space and its importance.
- Installation and Introduction of the KoBo Collect mobile app and other technical questions focusing on three basic aspects how to add a questionnaire to the mobile phone; how to fill out the questionnaire, how to send the completed questionnaire to the server.
- Detailed explanation of the KoBo form, including structures and information about its thematic dimensions.
- Presentation and reading of aerial maps.
- Training presentation template
- Aerial maps example

Conduct practical simulations and reinforce technical issues such as the correct reading of GPS coordinates by the KoBo app:

- Perform simulation exercises to fill out the questionnaire.
- Reinforce attention to detail, such as geographic location and the quality of spaces.





Participation

Neighborhood assessment

Step 1 | Field data collection via active observation walks

Compose the groups that include internally displaced women, host families, and trained social activists:

- Group management: Each group should be accompanied by at least one trained social activist or research team member who is familiar with using KoBo to ensure the smooth running of the activity.
- Central actors in the research: Groups of 3-5 people follow the methodology chosen based on the research objectives. If you opt for a mixed group methodology, each group should include both internally displaced women and women from the host community in a balanced way. If the methodology prescribes separation of homogeneous groups, avoid any mixed groups.

Execution of the walks:

- · Conduct a questionnaire for group registration if necessary.
- If included in the chosen methodology, follow the itineraries previously defined on the maps. If necessary, also record the route using a GPS Tracker.
- For each point of interest identified by the participants, fill out a complete questionnaire
 considering the general opinion of the group, recording information in real time in Kobo
 Collect.
- Document additional visual observations, such as photos and notes.
- Check the data collected at the end of each hike to ensure that it has all been filled in accurately.







Focus groups discussion

This activity aims to deepen gender dynamics in the community, exploring situations of gender-based violence, cultural aspects, and available case management services.

Step 1 | Draft Terms of References

Clearly define the objectives, methodology, and composition of the focus groups:

- Write the ToRs based on the objectives of the diagnosis and the thematic dimensions of the questionnaire.
- Specify the criteria for the composition of the groups, such as age, gender, and affiliation to the neighborhood.
- Share the ToRs with the facilitators, neighborhood secretaries/local authorities and adjust them as needed.

Step 2 | Present findings

Present key information and maps to focus group participants to stimulate informed discussions:

- Prepare an introductory presentation with maps, statistical data, and practical examples of challenges in public spaces.
- Facilitate guided discussions based on the maps and thematic dimensions of the questionaire.
- Document participants' insights and suggestions for integration into the final report.

Step 3 | Discuss and identify contextual challenges

Analysis of the social and cultural situation of the neighborhood:

- Conduct a survey of the social and cultural characteristics of the neighborhood to understand community dynamics.
- Identify patterns of behavior and beliefs related to gender and violence.
- Map the vulnerable groups and the main challenges faced.

Preparatory meetings with local authorities:

- Meet with community leaders, traditional authorities, and politicians to gain detailed information on cases of gender-based violence.
- Evaluate existing mechanisms and services for preventing and resolving cases of violence.
- Identify gaps in existing responses and opportunities for improvement.

Meetings with communities:

- Promote separate and joint debates with men and women to discuss issues related to gender-based violence.
- Collect local suggestions and solutions to mitigate the identified problems.
- Encourage active participation and inclusion of all voices to create a comprehensive action plan.

Note: This debate can be incorporated into activity 3, divided into groups to facilitate discussion and deepening of the topics covered.



Block 3

Data analysis and report





To analyse the data collected during the assessment phase, identify key challenges and priorities for intervention, and produce a clear and comprehensive report that reflects the voices of girls, young women, and the community.



It is used for:

Consolidating quantitative and qualitative data on public space conditions **Developing** visual tools such as maps and charts to support analysis. **Identifying** priority areas for improvement based on community input. **Producing** a final report validated with community and stakeholders.



The result:

A detailed assessment report including maps, photos, graphs, and clear recommendations for improving public spaces, with a strong gender lens.



The activities:

Preparation | Setting Up

Activity 1 | Results analysis and reporting

Activity 2 | Community feedback



Materials:

- Computer
- Maps
- Photos and flipchart

Illustrating the graphs and ensuring their correct interpretation is essential for a clearer understanding of the findings. Pulling the report through Power BI, using the Excel data extracted from KoboToolbox, may help present the results more effectively. However, it remains important to cross-reference the visual outputs with the raw data, photos, and insights gathered during the focus group discussions.



Results analysis and reporting



Step 1 | Data analysis and maps

Check the data for consistency, remove duplicates, and ensure completeness — this can be done through the KoBo platform or exported to excel for detailed review. Combine quantitative data (from KoBo forms) with qualitative inputs (from focus groups, observations, and photos). Use the following tools for analysis:

- Excel for tabulation and cross-referencing data.
- Power BI or similar for creating dashboards, charts, and interactive maps.

Outputs may include:

- Accessibility maps showing frequently used routes and physical barriers.
- Amenities maps with locations where urban furniture or basic services are missing.
- Comfort and safety heatmaps highlighting areas perceived as unsafe or uncomfortable by participants.
- Photo mapping linking photos to specific GPS points for visual reference.

Step 2 | Structuring the final report

Create a concise, organised report that summarises findings, externalities, and recommendations. You can use the following structure:



Structure of the report

1. Introduction:

Contextualisation of the diagnosis and its objectives.

Brief explanation of the methodologies used (e.g. participatory mapping, gender-focused walks, KoBo data collection).

2. Findings:

Presentation of data collected:

- · Graphs, charts, and thematic maps.
- Analysis by key indicators (e.g., accessibility, safety, comfort).
- · Highlight differences in perception and usage by gender, age, and displacement status.

3. Externalities:

Identification of external factors that influence the quality of public spaces (e.g., climatic conditions, disorderly urbanisation).

4. Recommendations:

Categorized by urgency and scale:

- Major interventions requiring infrastructure work.
- Moderate improvements such as adding benches, lighting, or signage.
- Minor adjustments maintenance, cleaning, or vegetation trimming.

5. Conclusion and next steps

6. Annexes:

- · Questionnaire form used.
- · Original photos of the public spaces evaluated.
- · Interactive maps.

Step 3 | Review and validation

Share the draft report with the internal project team and stakeholders, including the community committee. Organise review meetings to check for accuracy, clarity, and whether the findings reflect the lived experiences of participants.

Rapid Participatory Urban Assessment Focused on Gender in the Muxara Neighborhood





Community eedback

To ensure that the results are shared and validated by the community, promoting transparency and inclusion in the process.

Step 1 | Prepare the meeting

Develop presentation material:

- Printing of posters in large format with consolidated maps and graphs.
- Visual summary of key findings and recommendations.

Organise the meeting:

- Choice of accessible and suitable location for the meeting (neighborhood headquarters,
- Engage the working committee and community leaders to mobilise participants.

Presentation of the results:

- Use a visual and interactive approach, explaining each map, graph and finding.
- Facilitate discussions to validate whether the data resonates with the lived experience.
- Encourage questions, suggestions, and feedback.

Step 2 | Data consolidation and validation

Collect participants feedback on:

- · Accuracy of the data.
- Record the observations and suggestions made by the participants during the meeting.
- Identify points that need revision or clarification.
- Include topics about gender-based violence to go deeper with the community.
- Make adjustments to the report based on the feedback received and reinforce the clarity and representativeness of the data presented.
- Share the adjusted version of the report with community leaders and the working committee for final validation.

Tip: Consider aligning this feedback session with broader advocacy activities, such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, to strengthen community ownership and awareness on gender issues.







Block 4

Building priorities



Duration 2 week



Steps

To define strategic and priority actions, organised in integrated dimensions, which will guide the action plan for the neighbourhood.



It is used for:

Systematising observations in the neighbourhood. **Collecting** recommendations with the primary target group. **Prioritising** interventions from the point of view of communities and municipalities.



The result:

Systematized observations and recommendations, consolidated and prioritised interventions reflecting community and municipal perspectives and an agreement on a shared vision and priority actions.



The activities:

Preparation | Setting-up Activity 1 | Plan actions



Materials:

- Markers (various colours)
- Sticky notes (post-its)
- · Dot stickers (for voting and prioritisation)
- · Large printed maps of the neighborhood
- · Flipchart paper or kraft paper rolls

Explore as much as possible the priorities that may apply to women, children, men, and boys, keeping in mind that these can vary according to their needs. Conducting focus groups discussions disagregated by sex and age, although it may seem like a longer process, can yield better results.



Preparation

Participation

Setting-up

Step 1 | Initial organisation of interventions

Organize the data collected during the assessment phase and categorise the proposed interventions according to the 5 Dimensions of Public Space Quality: People and Use of Space, Accessibility, Amenities and Furniture, Comfort and Safety, and Environment. Identify cross-cutting strategic actions that touch multiple dimensions. Draft an initial version of the action plan, listing each intervention and corresponding timeline (short, medium, long term) Prepare a visual presentation summarizing the identified priorities for discussion. All shortterm activities should in principle be the highest priority.





Participation

lan actions

To define and agree on the priority actions for the neighborhood through collaborative work with community members, the municipality, and other stakeholders.



Step 1 | Prioritisation with the community

Organise a community meeting with representation from diverse groups (women, girls, men, youth, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and host communities). Explain the prioritisation criteria:

- Impact: How much the action will improve public space quality.
- Urgency: How quickly the issue needs to be addressed.
- Feasibility: Whether the action is achievable with available resources.

Facilitate participatory ranking activities (e.g., voting, placing stickers, or group discussions. Each group presents their action plan to the other participants. The details are discussed, overlaps and conflicting features are handled, necessary adjustments are made. Record community preferences for each dimension and type of intervention.



Terms of reference of for prioritization with the community

Step 2 | Technical meeting with the municipality

Present the community's priorities to the municipality. Cross-check and align priorities with municipal plans, policies, and technical constraints. Gather the municipality's feedback, including technical insights and resources available. Adjust the list of actions as needed based on this input.

Step 3 | Multi-sectoral workshop with stakeholders

Convene a broader workshop involving municipal officials, community leaders, relevant NGOs, international partners, committee members and technical experts. Present the assessment findings, community priorities and the results from the municipality meeting. Facilitate group discussions to refine and finalise the priority interventions

Multi-sectoral workshop with stakeholders





Block 5

Recommendations for action



Duration 2 week



Steps 6

To collect the main findings from a project and outline ways forward in terms of implementation. Participants develop recommendations for local decision-makers and guidelines for implementing actors..



It is used for:

Overviewing project results.

Ensuring that most alarming challenges are met while prioritising among designs. **Developing** a tailor-made action plan that outlines actors, partnerships, timeframes and resources needed in order to address the prioritised challenges. **Overcoming** conflicting interests and agreeing on ways forward.



The result:

A joint action plan for the space where participants and negotiate ways forward for implementation and potential impact of the project.



The activities:

Preparation | Setting up Activity 1 | Action plan



Materials:

- · Markers (various colors)
- Sticky notes (post-its)
- · Dot stickers (for voting and prioritisation)
- · Large printed maps of the neighborhood
- · Flipchart paper or kraft paper rolls

In many cases, intervention actions are almost all priorities; however, it is important to explore with the community at least 5 to 10 priority actions that can be addressed within the scope of a project, and others that could be covered by different partners.



Preparation

Participation _____

Setting-up

Before starting the design workshop, it is important to organise the session and prepare all the materials required.

☐ Step 1 | Send reminder

Don't forget to send a reminder for the next workshop to all participants.

Step 2 | Prepare material

Prepare the forms, presentation and technical equipment you will be using during the workshop. Make sure you have computers, markers, flipschart available for participants.

Step 3 | Prepare agenda

Prepare a detailed agenda for the workshop:

Agenda template

List participants







Action plan

To consolidate all prioritised actions into a detailed and validated action plan, ensuring it reflects the shared vision of the community and stakeholders.

Step 1 | Consolidate prioritised actions

Gather outcomes from the meetings with the community, municipality, and the multi-sectoral workshop. Organise the actions in a table format that includes:

- · Strategic action
- · Specific activities
- · Timeline short, medium, long-term
- Responsible parties (e.g., municipality, community committee, NGOs)
- · Estimated costs and resource requirements

☐ Step 2 | Draft the action plan

Develop a user-friendly document that includes:

- · Introduction: Context, objectives, and methodology.
- · Vision and Priorities: Based on community input.
- Action tables: Organised by dimension and timeframe.
- Maps and visual aids: To illustrate locations and interventions.
- · Annexes: Meeting notes, attendance lists, photos.
- Note: This document is dynamic and may evolve further during implementation.
- Mahate Neighbourhood Action Plan (DRAFT)

☐ Step 3 | Technical meeting for validation

Conduct a meeting review workshop with work committee, composed by community representatives, technical experts (architects, engineers, sociologists), and local authorities as well as municipal staff. Present the consolidated plan in detail, discuss and validate the accuracy of proposed activities and the feasibility of timelines and responsibilities. Incorporate any adjustments. Finally, validate and approve the action plan as the guiding document for implementation.

Mahate Neighbourhood Action Plan (FINAL)











Duration 12 week



Steps

Ensure the implementation of one or more priority actions identified in the action plan, promoting concrete and visible impacts, especially for the lives of women and girls.



It is used for:

Ensuring the viability of interventions, respecting coherence with pre-existing projects and funds.

Prioritising interventions from the point of view of communities and municipalities **Empowering** women and girls economically and socially through their active participation.



The result:

Implementation of at least one priority action with a direct impact on improving the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Strengthened engagement between the community and stakeholders during the project's implementation. A consolidated foundation for future interventions and fundraising efforts.



The activities:

Preparation | Setting Up
Activity 1 | Participatory construction
Activity 2 | Coordination and oversight



Materials:

- Construction plans and designs
- Budget and resource allocation sheets
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Posters and briefings on Health & Safety and PEAS prevention
- Monitoring tools (observation forms, quote sheets, photo documentation logs)

It is important to ensure the participation of women in the capacity building and construction process as it provides economic empowerment and guarantees project alignment with the principles of equity and gender equality. Organise awareness raising sessions with the construction company and with women in the community to highlight the importance of women's participation and shift of social norms within the construction sector.



Preparation

Participation

Setting-up

Step 1 | From priority action to project

- Develop project proposals detailing costs, construction, and maintenance.
- Identify roles for women in execution and maintenance to ensure gender empowerment.
- Define roles and responsibilities with stakeholders, including women's engagement.
- Use Mahate and Muxara as case studies for local adaptation and inspiration.

As a result of Mahate's action plan, several concrete initiatives have been implemented, including the rehabilitation of the neighbourhood headquarters, the expansion of the local health center with the construction of a building for paediatric services, the construction of laundry tanks, the installation of speed bumps to prevent accidents, especially to protect pregnant women and children during the crossing, street lighting in some streets. These interventions were carried out in a participatory manner, with significant participation of women, both in the conception and execution of the works. In some cases, women participated in training sessions in civil construction, which contributed to the development of skills and job creation. In the case of Muxara, the women who participated in the diagnostic walks also were involved in the neighbourhood's physical improvement activities.

Step 2 | Engaging contractors

- Collaborate with contractors to ensure timely, rights-based delivery.
- Ensure provision of safe working conditions and fair wages.
- Advise to integrate women at constructors' team.







Participatory construction

Explore possibilities of involving community members in the construction of small-scale or pop-up interventions, enhancing ownership and empowerment.

☐ Step 1 | Assess suitability

Evaluate if participatory construction is appropriate for the context, weigh benefits (ownership, employment, skills) vs. risks (safety, compliance), and use the tools below to determine whether participatory construction is appropriate for your context.

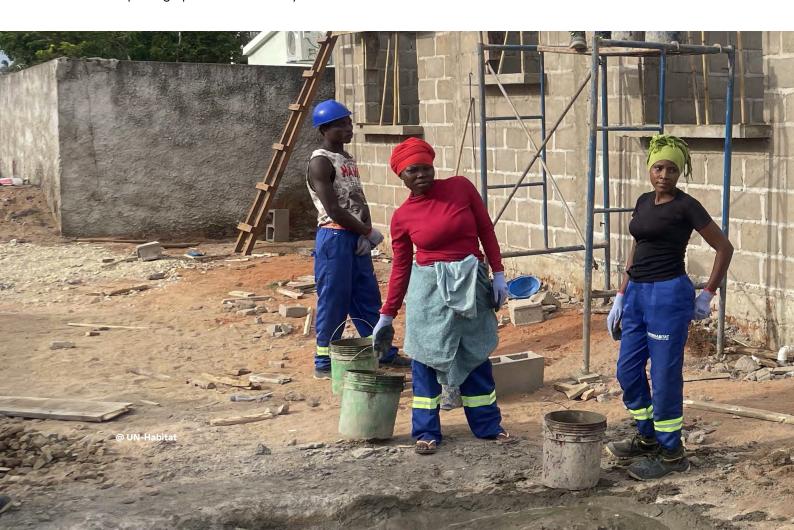
☐ Step 2 | Health and safety

Develop a comprehensive health and safety plan including:

- · PPE provision (gloves, helmets, goggles)
- · Safety briefings and PEAS prevention sessions
- · First-aid supplies and rest protocols
- Supervision by skilled workers
- · Role assignment based on age and skill

\bigcap_{\square} Step 3 | Technical meeting for validation

Oversee the safe and inclusive execution of construction and document the process with photographs and community builder testimonials.







Coordination and oversight

Ensure the participation of women in the capacity building and construction process as it provides economic empowerment and guarantees project alignment with the principles of equity and gender equality.

Step 1 | On-site supervision

Ensure consistent on-site supervision by the implementing organisation and monitor compliance with the action plan timeline and quality standards.

Step 2 | Community engagement in implementation

Maintain community involvement by providing updates and organising regular site walkthroughs with local leaders. Collect real-time feedback and adjust as needed.

Step 3 | Documentation and handover

Prepare final implementation report and handover note. Organise a public inauguration involving stakeholders, especially women and youth participants.

Project final report example



FOLLOW-UP

phase

Block 7 | Monitoring and evaluation











The last block aims to understand the impact of the project, gathering feedback on the process, monitoring changes in use and feeling of the space and evaluating the overall impact the project has created six months after the activation of the site.



It is used for:

Monitoring how the space is used post-intervention.

Evaluating the programme's socio-spatial impact.

Capturing participant feedback on the entire process.

Producing a final report for stakeholders and future scaling.



The result:

A comprehensive final report evaluating impact and guiding future action, including consolidated learnings and visibility for replication.



The activities:

Preparation | Setting Up
Activity 1 | Monitor and measure impact
Activity 2 | Evaluate and share impact



Materials:

- Good practice form and Theory of Change
- Final action plan summary posters
- · Cameras, interview forms, observation sheets
- Dissemination strategy materials (radio scripts, press releases, social media templates)

Monitoring and learning is a crucial element in demonstrating project results. Ensure that this process involves continuous engagement with the community and project stakeholders. This is also an important step in measuring sustainability, following participatory engagement and planning.



Preparation

Participation

Setting-up

To evaluate the process and the impact on the space and the community, the project team will have to allocate some time to a range of tasks.

Step 1 | Gather results

- · Collect all documentation from previous phases and consolidated reports.
- · Organise structured data via the Her City toolbox's "Results" page.

\bigcap_{\square} Step 2 | Review sustainability framework

- · Revisit the sustainability indicators established in Block O.
- Integrate new SDG-relevant indicators discovered during implementation.

☐ Step 3 | Review ToC

- Review the project's Theory of Change to ensure it accurately reflects the expected outcomes and impact pathways.
- Identify any areas where stakeholder feedback or programme circumstances have changed the project scope.
- Her City Stories of Change





Activity 1



Monitor and measure impact

It is important to understand the impact of spatial improvement both from a social, economic and environmental perspective. This is easiest done by observations and interviews with the community in the public space. Approximately six months after construction, revisit the site to monitor and measure the impact of the spatial improvement.

Step 1 | Creation of outreach strategy

- Develop a plan to disseminate the action plan in the community and among partners.
- Print abstracts and posters for local distribution.
- Perform at the neighborhood headquarters, with the support of local radio and TV.
- Publish the plan in digital formats for easy access for partners (put example of Mahate's plan).

Step 1 | Dissemination of action plan

Implement the local outreach strategy:

- Posters and community exhibitions
- Local media (radio, TV) dissemination
- · Online publication of the plan (e.g., Mahate's action plan as a model)

O Step 3 | Monitor community impact

Observe and conduct interviews with the community during your field visit. Make sure to cover the following:

- Observe changes in terms of number and variety of users, and types of activities.
- Conduct some unstructured interviews in the public space to gather users' perspective on the new space (functionality, housing quality and affordability, aesthetics, greenery, safety etc).
- Note down some representatives quotes.
- Take some pictures to compare changes before and after the intervention.



Participation

Activity 2 Evaluate and share impact

The aim of this section is to provide a point for reflection and learning. By taking the opportunity to review programme learnings, key findings can be synthesised and shared. This provides the opportunity to inspire broader impact and allow the project to have influence more widely.

Step 1 | Lessons learnt

Review the challenges and successes across the project, in particular those regarding stakeholder engagement, ease of implementation and sustainability of the project. Document insights and explore effective strategies and areas for improvement.

☐ Step 2 | Final report

- Analyse and categorise collected data.
- Present findings thematically with clear takeaways for scaling.
- Include recommendations for policy or future phases.

Step 3 | Communications

- Share the Her City certificate and final images on social media.
- Disseminate the final report to decision-makers and partners.
- Engage media outlets for broader visibility. Use @hercitytoolbox and #hercity.



You have successfully built Her City!

By letting Her guide you, you have improved the participatory urban planning and design processes and helped build a city that includes and works for everyone.





References

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Annex 1

UN-Habitat Strategic Framework in Mozambique

The UN Framework for Sustainable Development Cooperation (UNSDCF) supports the implementation of the Government's Five-Year Programme 2020-2024, the National Development Strategy 2015-2035, the African Union's Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. In line with national priorities, the UNSDCF defines the UN System's contribution to the SDGs, with a focus on inclusion, human rights, gender equality and international standards. It is an instrument of accountability between the UN and the Government, guiding strategies of UN Entities. In partnership with the Government, the UN prioritizes strategic areas to accelerate the SDGs by 2030, promoting inclusive and equitable sustainable development.

UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2020–2025)

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 seeks to accelerate sustainable urban development and implement the New Urban Agenda, promoting the SDGs. It reaffirms its role as a leader in sustainable urbanization, with a focus on benefiting marginalized groups such as women and youth. Its vision is to improve the quality of life in an urbanized world through innovation, knowledge, policy, and collaborative action, leaving no one behind.

New Urban Agenda (2016-2036)

The New Urban Agenda was created to support governments, civil society, the private sector, and urban dwellers, promoting sustainable urbanization, job creation, and improved quality of life. It defines a new paradigm for urban planning and management, with a focus on policy, legislation, planning, local economics and implementation. The Agenda accelerates the SDGs, especially SDG 11, which seeks inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, prioritizing growth in developing countries.

Mozambique - Country Programme (HCPD) 20222026

UN-Habitat works in more than 90 countries, promoting transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, public policy, technical assistance and collaboration, with the aim of leaving no one behind. In Mozambique, it has 20 years of commitment to sustainable urbanization and climate resilience, with a Country Program focused on Climate Resilience and Improved Reconstruction Inclusive area-based socio-economic development and stability; and Urban policies and sustainable human settlements. These pillars are interconnected and reinforce the implementation of UN-Habitat in the country.

UN-Habitat Global Institutional Plan on Solutions for Internal Displacement

UN-Habitat's Global Institutional Plan on solutions to internal displacement, aligned with its Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and the 2022 Executive Board decision, aims to strengthen UN-Habitat's contribution to sustainable solutions to internal displacement. The focus is on supporting UN country teams and intensifying UN-Habitat's expertise in finding solutions to internal displacement, especially in urban contexts.

Annex 2

The Legislative Framework

Global and Regional Le	Global and Regional Level		
African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (October 2009)	A continental instrument that commits governments to provide legal protection for the rights and well-being of people forced to flee their countries of origin due to conflict, violence, natural disasters or development projects.		
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 (CEDAW)	It establishes a framework for national action to ensure that women enjoy, equally with men, their rights in all fields, including employment, education, and property management, and to ensure the protection of women, especially from threats to their physical safety, rape, and sexual exploitation.		
Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 (UDHR)	A global instrument that establishes the basic human rights of all people based on equality and non-discrimination.		
International humanitarian law (IHL) – August 1949	A set of norms that seeks, on humanitarian grounds, to limit the effects of armed conflicts. It protects people who do not or no longer participate, directly or actively, in hostilities and imposes limits on the means and methods of warfare. IHL is also known as "the Law of War" or "the Law of Armed Conflict".		
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1967 (ICESCR)	It sets out economic, social and cultural guarantees, including the rights to adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, an adequate standard of living and guarantees relating to work, social welfare, education and participation in cultural life.		
Guiding Principles of 1998 United Nations on Internal Displacement	They reaffirm and compile existing International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law appropriate to Internal Displacement and attempt to clarify the grey areas as well as the gaps in the various instruments relating to situations of particular interest to Internally Displaced Persons. The Guiding Principles are 30 standards that define the protections available to IDPs. These principles describe in detail the rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of IDPs, from forced displacement, through their protection and assistance during displacement, to the achievement of durable solutions.		
Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (2015– 2030), March 2015	It emphasizes risk reduction, resilience, and disaster response. In addition, it covers various displacement preparedness and response activities, so the UNDRR Roadmap has been developed to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework ['Words in Action' Guidelines on Disaster Displacement and its Checklist].		
IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for the Displaced. December 2009	It addresses the fundamental principles and criteria for seeking and achieving durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons following conflicts or natural disasters.		

National Level		
Disaster Risk Management and Reduction Law (Law No. 10/2020, of 24 August)	Based on the corresponding challenges imposed by disaster risk and the need to build resilience to extreme events, the Law establishes the Legal Regime for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction, which includes risk reduction, disaster management, sustainable recovery for the construction of human, infrastructural and ecosystem resilience, as well as adaptation to climate change.	
Territorial Planning (Law No. 19/2007, of 18 July). Housing Policy and Strategy (Resolution No. 19/2011, of 8 March).	In accordance with the Spatial Planning Policy, among other aspects, it promotes the improvement of housing conditions, infrastructures and urban systems, the safety of populations vulnerable to natural or induced disasters.	
Land Law (Law No. 19/97, of 1 October)	Establishes the terms under which the constitution, exercise, modification and extinction of the Right to Use and Benefit of Land (DUAT) operate. In addition, it recognizes the partial and/or total protection of areas important for biodiversity, the role of communities in resource management, among other aspects. The new Land Law is being heard	
Environment Law (Law No. 20/1997 of 1 October)	It establishes the legal bases for the correct use and management of the environment and its components, aiming at the materialization of a sustainable development system in the country. It includes the general bases of the biodiversity protection regime, and promotes participatory management that allows local involvement, as well as national and international cooperation.	
Spatial Planning Law – LOT (Law No. 19/2007, of 18 July)	It establishes the guidelines for spatial planning with a view to the rational and sustainable use of natural resources, the preservation of environmental balance, the promotion of national cohesion, the enhancement of the various potentials of each region, the promotion of the quality of life of citizens, the safety of populations vulnerable to calamities, among others.	
Regulation of the Land Law (Decree No. 16/87, of 15 July)	It regulates several situations, including the acquisition of the DUAT by customary occupation, in good faith or through official channels, the regime of protection areas, the relations between the public and the Cadastre Services, the rights and duties of the holders, among others.	
Northern Integrated Development Agency – Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Nampula (ADIN) (Decree No. 9/2020, of 18 March)	Approves the Internal Regulation of the Northern Integrated Development Agency, created by Decree No. 9/2020, of March 18, for the promotion of multiform actions aimed at the socio-economic development of the Provinces of Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Nampula.	

Regulation of the Disaster Risk Management and Reduction Law (Decree No. 76/2020, of 1 September)	It establishes the rules for the application of the law, including duties of cooperation between public and private organizations in the management and reduction of disaster risks. It also deals with Early Warning Systems and activation of alerts by the Government.	
Office for Post-Cyclone Idai Reconstruction (GREPOC) – (Decree No. 26/2019, of 11 April)	Creates the Office of Post-Cyclone Idea Reconstruction (GREPOC), to Oversee Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Recovery and Reconstruction in the Affected Provinces. GREPOC's mandate was extended through Decree No. 45/2019, of 22 May, to include the Recovery and Reconstruction of areas affected by Cyclone Kenneth in Northern Mozambique.	
National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, 2013–2025	It includes the strategic and priority lines to be adopted and implemented, as well as the Action Plan for 2013–2014. The National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change (ENAMMC) is composed of five (5) Chapters: 1. Introduction and Rationale of the Strategy; 2. Methodology Used for the Preparation of the Document; 3. Assessment of the Vulnerability of Climate Change (CA) Impacts, Opportunities and the Current State of CA Integration into National Development Policies; 4. Vision of the Strategy, Mission, Principles, General and Specific Objectives and Strategic Actions grouped into two (2) major pillars: adaptation and mitigation of climate risks and low carbon mitigation and development.	
Disaster Management Fund (Decree No. 53/2017, 18 October)	Hereinafter referred to as FGC, it is a bank account dedicated and managed by INGD, to support the costs of the various bodies and agencies involved in disaster management: financing of preparedness reinforcement, response, recovery and post-disaster reconstruction activities.	
Organic Statute of the National Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (Resolution No. 3/2021, of 15 January)	Defines the restructuring of the (new) coordinating entity for disaster risk management and reduction, INGD, and confers powers to manage Internal Displacements.	
National Territorial Development Plan (Resolution No. 7/2021, of 28 December).	Establishes the terms of respect for the rights arising from the Use and Exploitation of Land, by authorization and occupation in good faith by citizens and local communities. In addition, it reaffirms the legal duty and obligation to implement the National Territorial Development Plan, when it implies the concession, in part or in full, of spaces occupied by families or local communities that result in resettlement.	

Housing Policy and Strategy (Resolution No. 19/2011, of 8 March)	It defines the guidelines to boost the dynamics of the Housing Sector, aiming at the progressive improvement of the quality of life of citizens, based on the coordinated involvement of various efforts in the financing and construction of housing for various social strata, under the provisions of the CRM.
Social Action Policy and Strategy for its Implementation (Resolution No. 46/2017, of 2 November)	Under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS), responsible for implementing policies aimed at women's development and assistance to vulnerable groups, the Social Action Policy (PAS) was approved as a normative instrument of the Mozambican State. PAS identifies challenges such as: high poverty, difficulties in accessing basic health and education services, low literacy rates, high unemployment, recurrent natural disasters, and insufficient infrastructure, often affected by armed conflict, requiring assistance to vulnerable families.
Land Policy and the Strategy for its Implementation	It ensures and guarantees the access, use, exploitation and possession of land by local communities, national and foreign citizens, in their capacity as users and investors, as well as promotes its rational and sustainable use, contributing to socio-economic development, creation of well-being for current and future generations of Mozambicans.
National Urbanization Policy and Implementation Strategy	A set of decisions that establishes a common vision of productive, inclusive and resilient urban development based on the potential of urbanization dynamics, through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in a perspective of empowerment and cooperation.
Master Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017-2030	It has five (5) Strategic Objectives: 1. Understanding of Risk; 2. Strengthening Governance and Public and Private Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction; 3. Consolidation of Territorial Planning and Financial Protection; 4. Capacity Building for Resilient Preparedness, Response, and Rapid Recovery and Reconstruction; and 5. Establishment of Partnerships.
Financial Protection Plan against Disasters (Created the Insurance for the Transfer of Parametric Risk of Tropical Cyclones and Precipitation) (Resolution No. 35/22, of 11 August)	Presented by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and INGD, it is a coordination instrument to strengthen the State's financial response capacity in the face of disasters. Financial protection against disasters consists of mobilizing financial resources for post-disaster interventions in an effective and efficient way, that is, minimizing costs for the Public Sector while enabling the timely care of affected populations and assets and promoting the construction of resilience.
Policy and Strategy for the Management of Internally Displaced Persons – PEGDI (Resolution No. 42/2021, of 08 September 2021)	PEGDI aims to define guiding principles and procedures regarding the management of internally displaced persons in Mozambique, whether resulting from socio-economic, natural and/or human factors, in order to ensure a coordinated and efficient response between government actors and operational partners.

Annex 3

Table of objectives and questions

Objective	Question
Mapping the geographical distribution of spaces	 Are there spaces considered quality public in all the neighborhoods/quadrants analyzed? Are the spaces concentrated around specific infrastructures or access routes?
Mapping of the physical integrity of public infrastructures, spaces and objects for public use	 What are the types of damage or defects most present in spaces? How can they be remedied? The physical integrity of spaces is affecting other
Mapping equity in the use and appropriation of spaces	 Are there differences in use and appropriation between the core groups of the study (in this case, IDPs and the host community)? Do the groups use the same spaces, or do they look for different spaces? Are there differences that explain it? Is there difficulty in accessing these spaces for people from vulnerable groups or with some mobility difficulty? How can access or safety be improved for these people and create more inclusive spaces?
Mapping of the feeling of comfort and security by group of users	 Which spaces are considered dangerous day/ night? How are these spaces distributed? What kind of infrastructural measures can change this perception? Which public spaces are marked by sensations of calm and solitude and which spaces by sensations linked to community belonging and interaction with other members of it?
Mapping of environmental degradation caused by the misuse of spaces or by lack of damage reduction infrastructure	 In which spaces can environmental degradation be noticed? What spaces have infrastructure for waste collection or anti-erosion measures?



