

# USING PUBLIC SPACE TO IMPROVE CITIZENS' QUALITY OF LIFE

The public space is city life. It's where social interaction happens, where informal traders sell their goods and where many cultural activities take place. Without quality public space, citizens are less likely to walk or cycle, worsening health and environmental outcomes. The public space is the living room of the urban poor across the world. Without adequate provision of public space and streets it is

difficult to ensure the fundamentals of good neighbourhood planning – adequate density, mixed-use developments and social mix.

Unfortunately, public space is sorely lacking in many parts of the world. To improve the situation, UN-Habitat works with partners all over the world to improve the quality of public spaces.

2011

**April**

Resolution 23/4 on Sustainable Urban Development through Access to Public Spaces

2012

**May**

Supported the development of a Charter on Public Space

**September**

Partnership between UN-habitat Global Programme on Public Space and Mojang

**November**

Launch of the Nairobi Public Space Programme

2013

**February - March**

First Block by Block workshops in Kenya Haiti and Nepal

**June**

First Future of Places Conference, Stockholm, Sweden  
Launch of the Charter on Public Spaces

**November**

Publishing of UN-habitat technical report, "Street as Public Spaces -Drivers of Prosperity" to address the importance of streets as public spaces

2014

**March**

First public space projects completed in Haiti, Kenya and Nepal

**April**

Crowd-sourcing Public Space design using Minecraft with over 7,500 youth in Mexico  
Six projects started in Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Somalia and Nigeria  
Four public space projects completed in Nepal, Haiti and Kenya