



WHY PUBLIC SPACE?

Research shows that there is a positive correlation between planned urbanization and development and that urban economies are more productive than rural economies. Well-planned urbanization can be a powerful tool for creating employment and livelihoods. This requires a mindset shift away from viewing urbanization as a problem towards viewing urbanization as a powerful tool for development. UN-Habitat supports countries to develop urban planning methods and systems to address current urbanization challenges such as population growth, urban sprawl, poverty, inequality, pollution, congestion, as well as urban biodiversity, urban mobility and energy, by promoting compact, better integrated and connected cities which are socially inclusive and resilient to climate change.

Public space is a vital component of a prosperous city. Well designed and managed public space is a key asset for a city's functioning and has a positive impact on its economy, environment, safety, health, integration and connectivity. The quality of life for people in cities is directly related to the state of its public spaces. Providing public spaces enhances community cohesion and civic identity and supports the levels of urban density required for environmentally and economically sustainable cities. Cities with sufficient public space make it possible to have well-maintained, safe and attractive places to live and work in. Public spaces and streets are multifunctional areas for social interaction, economic exchange and cultural expression among a wide diversity of participants. The role of urban planning is to organize public spaces and the role of urban design to encourage their use.

SDG 11.7: "by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities."