




# HERCITY

LET HER GUIDE YOU



UN-HABITAT

HER  
CITYA stylized illustration showing a group of people in a community meeting. A woman in a pink hijab is seated on the left, looking at a map or plan on the floor. A yellow hard hat sits on a stack of books in front of her. Other people are standing around, some looking at the map. A small black dog is standing on the right. The scene is set on a light blue background.

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

**Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**

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





"Plan a city for girls, and  
it will work for everyone."

**Her City creates the  
sustainable cities  
of tomorrow.**





Her City supports girls in vulnerable areas to improve their neighbourhoods, in cooperation with decision-makers and stakeholders.







Her City helps  
decision-makers to  
find smart solutions  
and making the right  
priorities through  
collaboration with  
girls in the  
neighbourhood.



Together with the UN,  
our digital toolbox is  
used all over the world.

**[hercity.unhabitat.org](https://hercity.unhabitat.org)**  
**[hercity@un.org](mailto:hercity@un.org)**



## Urban challenges

People increasingly live in cities. By 2050, over 70 percent of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas.

This brings **enormous challenges**, not least in terms of inequality. Unplanned urbanization is followed by widened gaps between the city and rural areas, urban centres and outskirts, as well as between different groups in society. A billion of the world's population live **informal settlements** and with rapid and unplanned urbanisation this will increase.

Among the most vulnerable are **young women** in socioeconomically vulnerable areas. Research shows that girls and women do not use a city's public places to the same extent as boys or men. A majority of girls express that they feel insecure and **excluded**.

New research shows that co-creative urban development with girls and young women, organisations and decisionmakers on a local, regional and national level creates an opportunity for more inclusive, equal and sustainable development. The problem is a **lack of knowhow** for facilitating participatory processes in **practise**.



Illustration by Lovisa Burfitt





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## Why Her City?

Involving girls in urban development will make the city better for everyone. When consulted, girls plan and design with diversity and different needs in mind. Research shows that **participatory** processes are **key** for planning a city that works for everyone. However, the practical knowledge is still lacking.

**Her City Toolbox** contributes with a cost-efficient solution. We provide municipal professionals, urban actors and local decision-makers with a solid **digital** toolbox for mainstreaming youth, gender and socioeconomic perspectives by strategically involving girls in urban planning and design.

Girls and young women participate throughout the process as **experts**, and their unique knowledge of their neighbourhoods becomes a great asset for the entire municipality. Long term, Her City creates tomorrows equal, fossil free and sustainable cities.

Her City is a joint initiative by **Shared City Foundation** and **UN-Habitat** (the United Nations Human Settlements Programme). The toolbox has been developed together with experts and urban stakeholders, funded by Swedish public funds (2017-2022) as well as contributions from private sector.



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## Global goals – local solutions

Cities play a crucial role in the implementation of the **2030 Agenda**, both nationally and globally. A majority of the targets in the 2030 Agenda are dependent on decisions made by municipal and regional decision-makers. How our cities develop is therefore vital or not our societies become equal, fossil-free and sustainable.

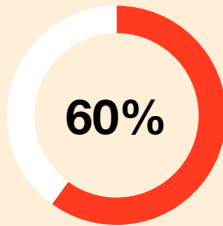
Already vulnerable groups in the cities' vulnerable areas are hit hardest by the increasing inequality and by climate-related challenges. Today, cities globally account for 75% of Co2-emissions, for 75% of energy use and consumption of natural resources. To reach the climate targets, **urban solutions** are required. Part of the solution is to create high quality public spaces that ensure well-being and limit climate impact.

Her City contributes to putting the Sustainable Development Goals into practice. We focus in particular on SDG3 on health and well-being, SDG5 on gender equality, SDG10 on reducing inequality, SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG17 on partnerships.

Previous projects have also shown that the approach contributes to the implementation of other SDGs as well as deliver on the **Paris Agreement** and the **New Urban Agenda** at the local level.

## Societal challenge

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



of women globally  
feel unsafe in public  
spaces

## Her City's solution

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

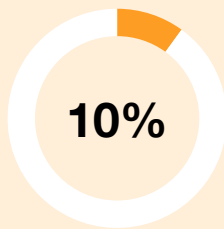
## 5 GENDER EQUALITY





## Societal challenge

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



of leading urban planners  
and architects are women.

## Her City's solution

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

# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## The toolbox



Support urban development from a girl's perspective



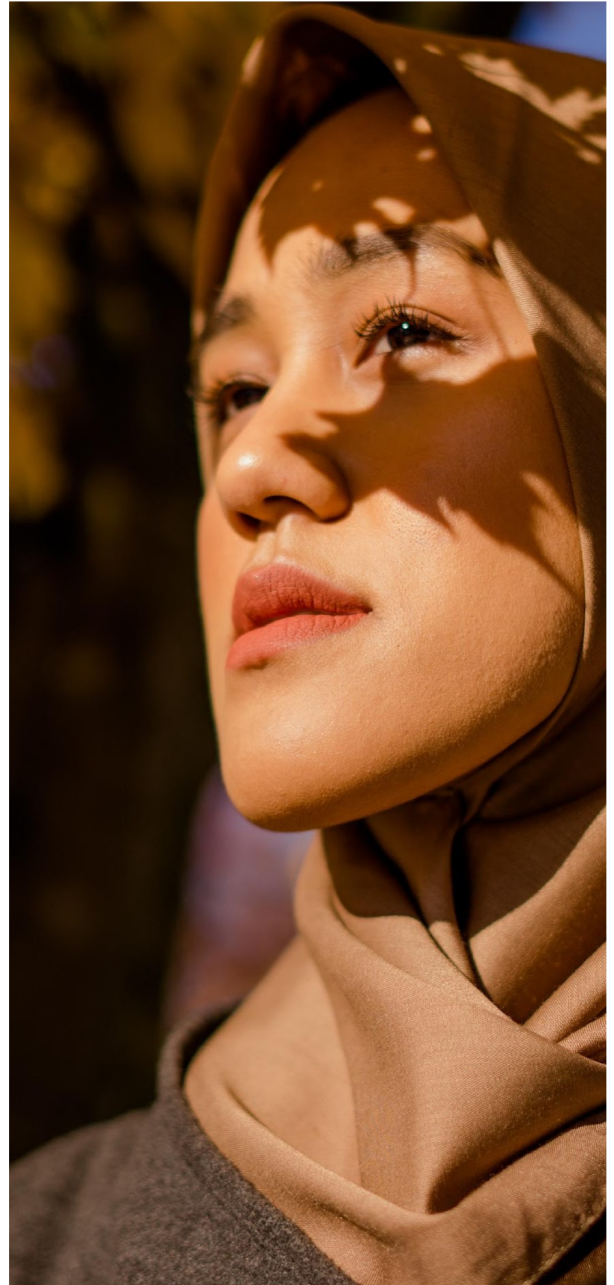
Guide urban actors to implement projects through a step-by-step methodology



Provide an open digital platform accessible for all



Facilitate an ongoing dialogue between professionals and citizens





## 9 flexible blocks

### ASSESSMENT



**Block 1**  
Stakeholder engagement



**Block 2**  
City wide assessment



**Block 3**  
Site specific assessment

### DESIGN



**Block 4**  
Analysing challenges



**Block 5**  
Designing ideas



**Block 6**  
Recommendations for action

### IMPLEMENTATION



**Block 7**  
Action plans



**Block 8**  
Sharing results



**Block 9**  
Implementation and follow-up

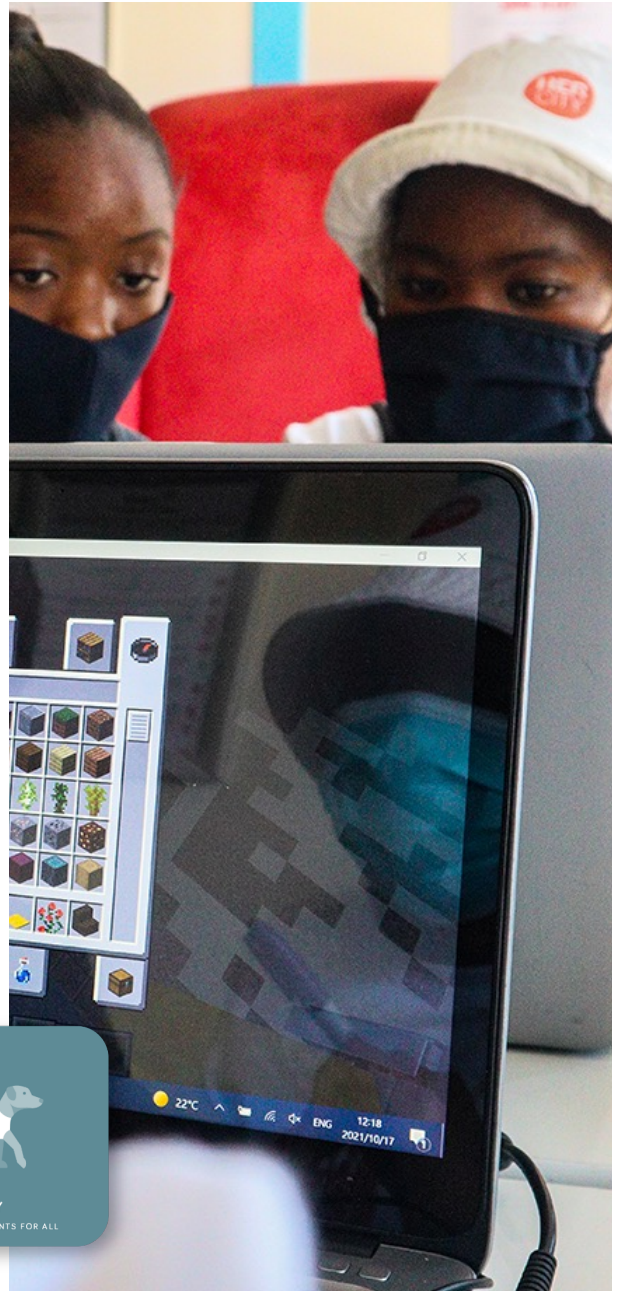


## Digital tools

The toolbox is a **digital guide** on how to co-plan and optimise cities from a girl's perspective.

The toolbox contains **several tools** such as checklists, calendars, agendas, manuals, forms, boards, apps, templates, surveys and visualization services. Many of which can be used both digitally and physically.

Her City integrates well **established** tools such as Jamboard, KoBo collect, MethodKit, Minecraft, SketchFab, SketchUp, interactive maps, among others.



# Timeline

**2017**

Support from Sida: mapping of methods and tools for inclusive urban development

**2018**

Support from Swedish innovation agency Vinnova: Launch of Urban Girls Movement

**2019**

Renewed funding from Vinnova: Piloting method in Botkyrka, Sweden

**2020**

Development of digital toolbox

**2021**

Launch of the Her City Toolbox, regional trainings, 13 partnership projects started

**2022**

4 full partnership projects completed, 10 developed public spaces, engaging 2800 people impacting 52,000, publication of "Cities for girls, cities for all"

**2023**

Publication of "Her City 5 years impact" report

**2024**

Developing Her City 2030 Capacity building programme

**HER  
CITY**

## Users

**1200**  
registered  
accounts

**100**  
countries

**300**  
independent  
initiatives

**25%**  
public  
sector

**350**  
cities



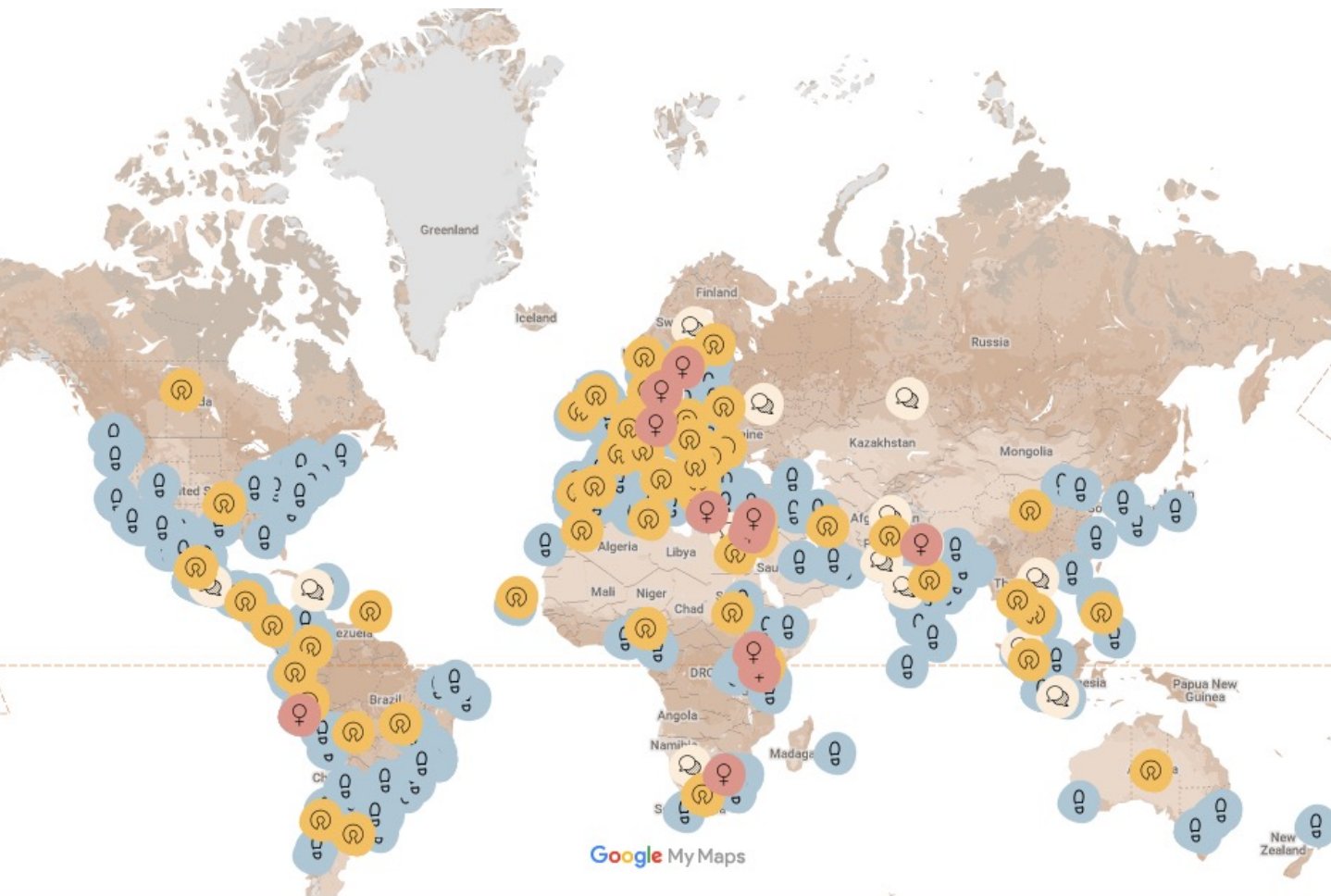


## Activities



## Reach





**Initiatives**

**300**

**Users**

**1070**

**Cities**

**350**

**Countries**

**100**

sidewalks economic activities  
digital competence air quality bikes cafe inclusion  
socializing art installation health & well-being  
shades orchard political participation  
basic services safety benches  
marketspace lighting games  
zebra crossing cctv  
fences bus public transport  
park beehives security toilets kiosks housing  
colours stairs books resilient ecosystems wifi  
water & sanitation  
united waste bins sport  
community stage



**Before**

**HER  
CITY**

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

Maryam Nazzal, UN-Habitat  
Lebanon

**After**

**Beirut**

After



Before

HER  
CITY

ENTRÉ

"We simply cannot  
afford to fail"

Ebba Östlin, Mayor of  
Botkyrka, Sweden

After

Botkyrka



**Before**

**HER  
CITY**

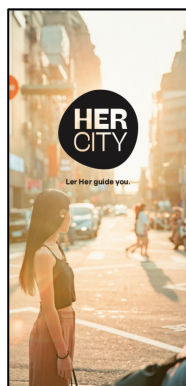
"It is a sign of change,  
with benefits for both  
boys and girls"

Flor and Patricia,  
neighbours in Lima, Peru

**After**

**Lima**

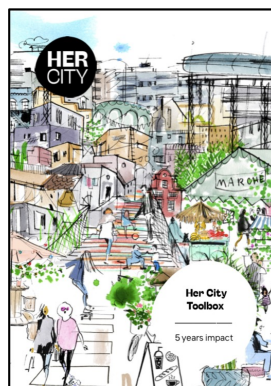
# Publications.



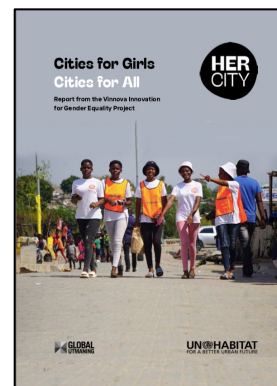
Brochure



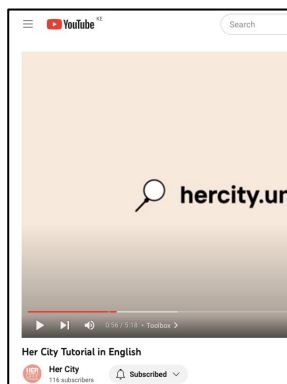
Guide



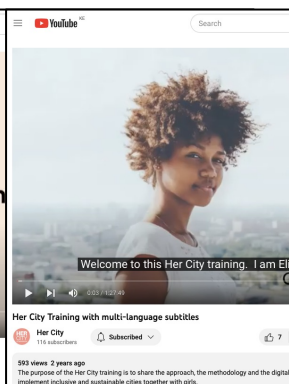
Impact story



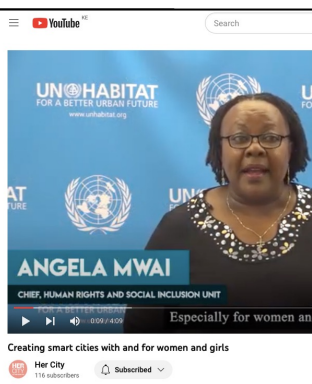
Report



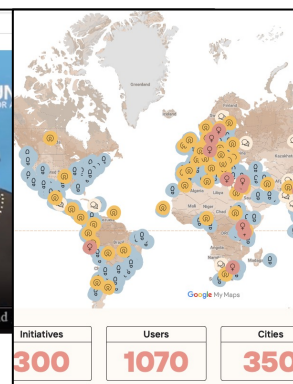
Tutorial



Training



Film



Interactive map



# Platforms.



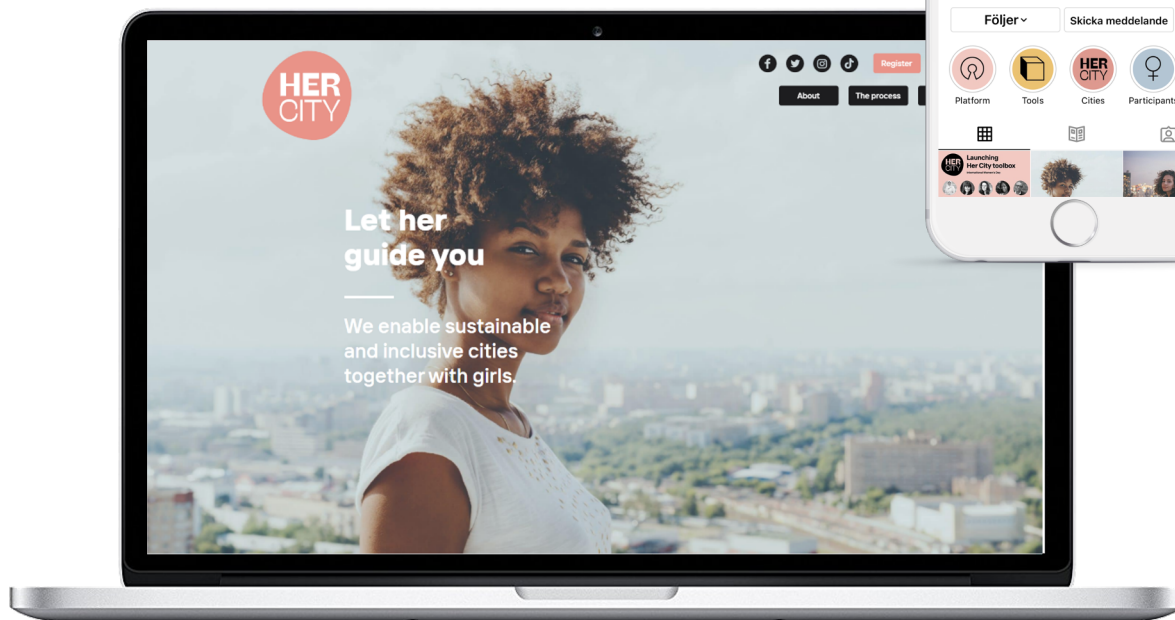
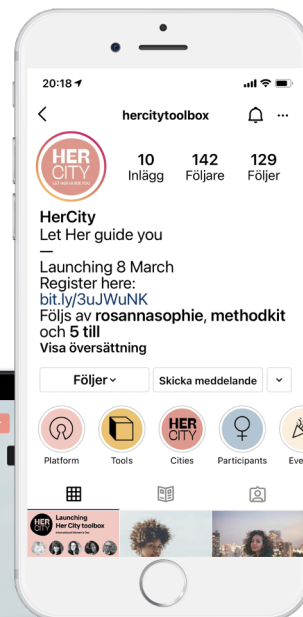
**Web** | [hercity.unhabitat.org](http://hercity.unhabitat.org)

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**Instagram, Twitter** | @HerCityToolbox

**Twitter, Facebook, Youtube** | @HerCity

**Hashtag** | #HerCity



The logo consists of the words "HER" and "CITY" stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a solid black circle.

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CITY**

## **Contact.**

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