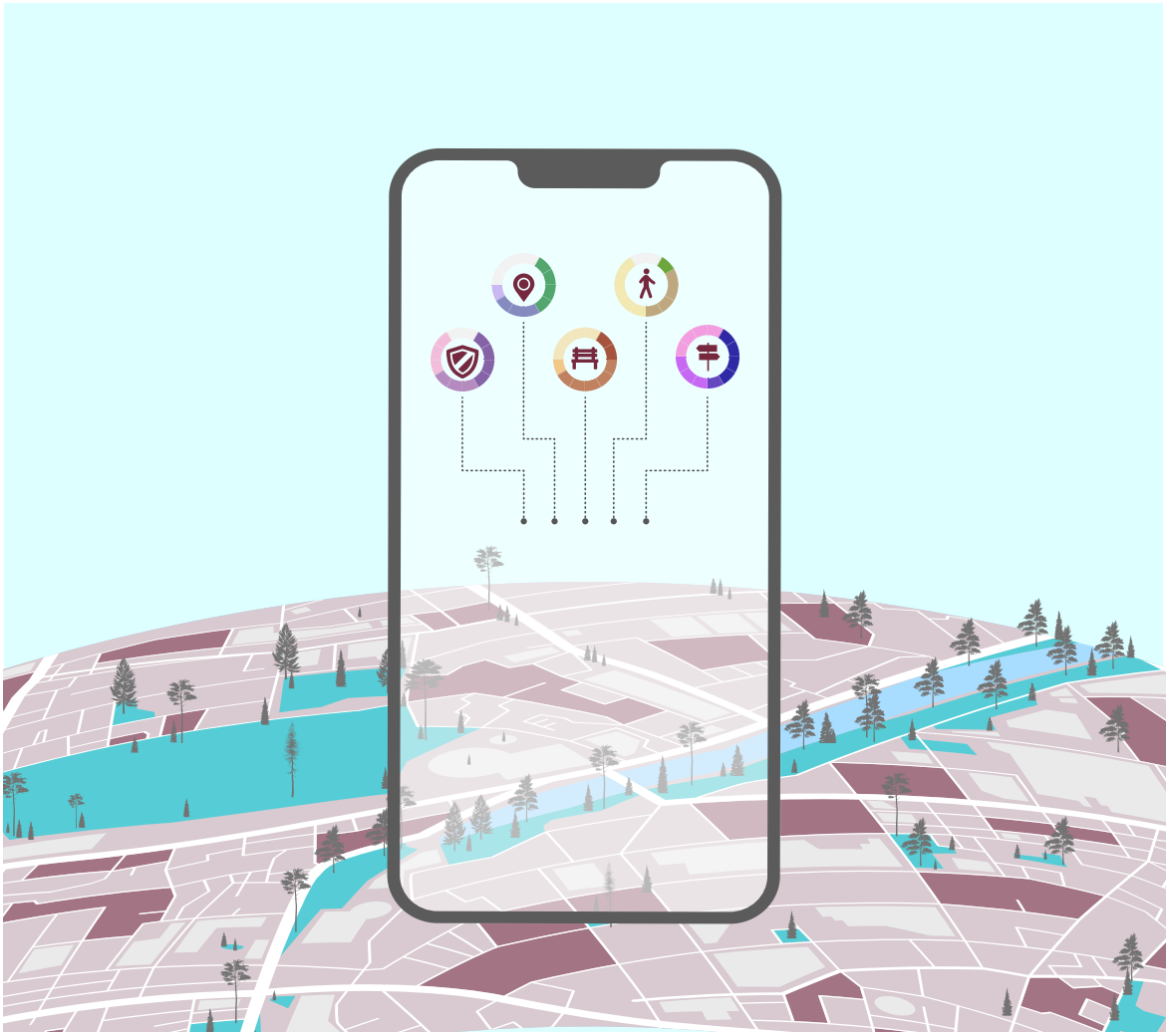

CITY-WIDE **PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT**

A guide to community-led digital inventory and assessment of public spaces.

PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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WHAT IS IT FOR?

The purpose of this document is to guide cities when conducting a city-wide public space assessment. It illustrates the steps that should be followed within the process to ensure that the public space assessment meets the objectives of the city. By applying this tool, cities are able to understand the state of their public spaces, specifically the network[1], distribution[2], accessibility[3], quantity[4] and quality[5] of their public spaces. This guide sets out the "hooks" that will support the development of a comprehensive evidence-based public space strategy or policy building on the results of the assessment.

Once a city has commissioned an assessment of public spaces, the following steps, which are grouped into four parts, can be followed: (i) Pre-field work, (ii) Data collection and quality check (iii) Reporting and (iv) Post city-wide assessment.

WHO IS IT FOR?

This guide is designed primarily for local governments including field staff and partners with responsibility for planning, establishing and implementing the programmatic, managerial and organizational aspects of public spaces. It will also be useful for policy makers and supervisors in understanding and promoting public spaces.

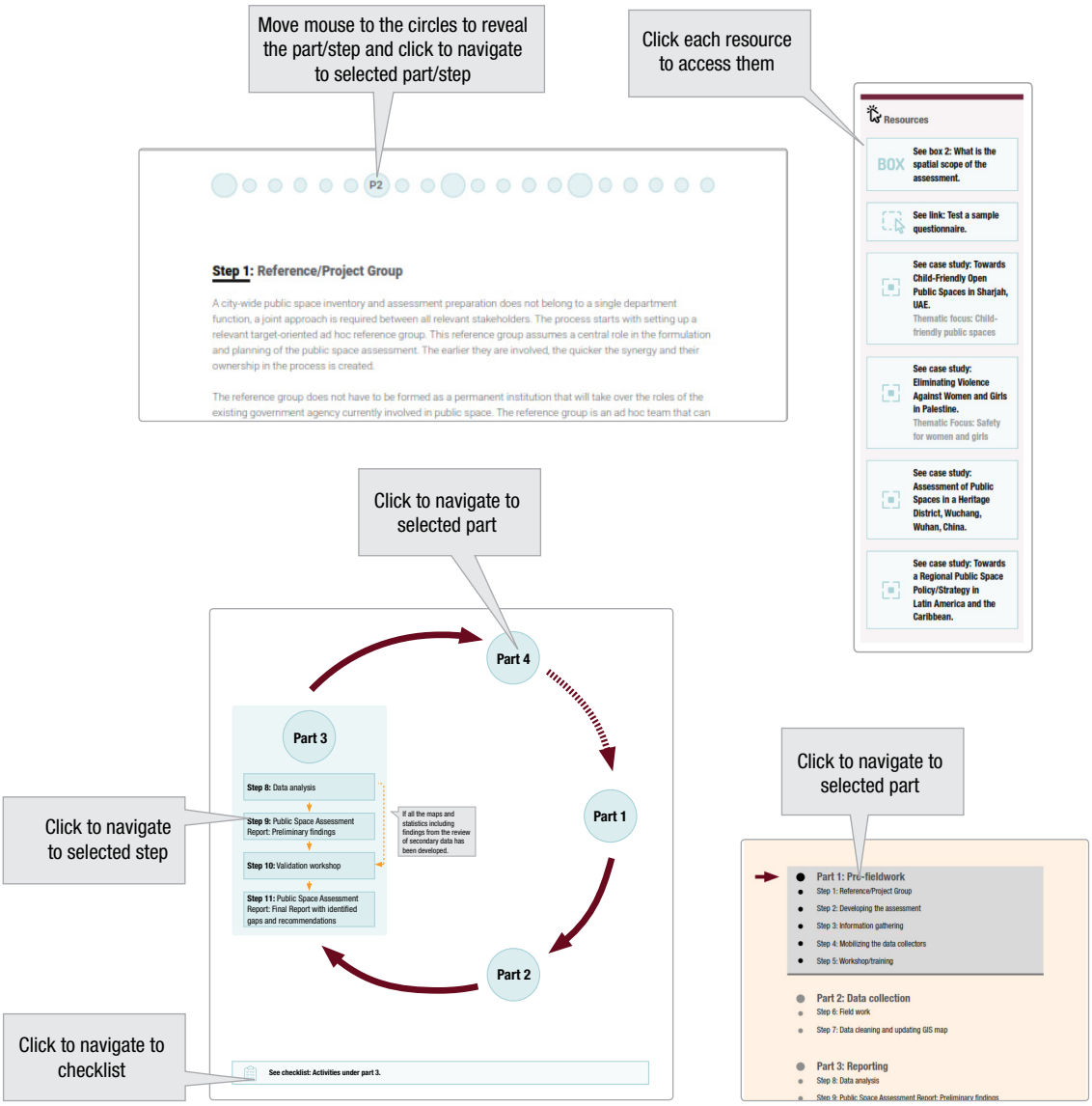
HOW DO I USE IT?

This guide is a living document that draws from learning and experiences. It builds on UN-Habitat's recent experience in several cities and contexts. It is intended to be regularly updated with feedback from its applications in a variety of urban contexts. Local governments and partners are therefore encouraged to apply this guide fully or in part.

1.A system of public spaces
2. Spatial balance of public spaces across the city
3 Spatial accessibility of public space to the population within walking distances
4. Main design features and management (comfort, universal access, use, users, amenities and green)
5. Proportion of urban surface devoted to public space

HOW DO I NAVIGATE THROUGH THIS GUIDE?

This guidebook has been designed in an interactive way with buttons and links to help navigate through it.



ACRONYMS

APP - Application
CSV - Comma-separated values file
DWG - Is a proprietary binary file format used for storing two- and three- dimensional design data and metadata
GIS - Geographic Information System
GPS - Global Positioning System
ICT - Information communication technology
KMZ - Zipped KML (Keyhole Markup Language)
NUA - New Urban Agenda
NUP - National Urban Policies
OPS - Open Public Spaces
OSM -Open Street Map
SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
USGS - United States Geological Survey

GLOSSARY

Accessibility - This is the ease to get to a place. Accessibility for public spaces can be measured as (i) the accessibility of the open public spaces within walking distances via the road network (ii) the management and maintenance of a public space, (iii) the amount of money that is charged to access the open public space (iv) the time which the open public space is open for use (v) and the infrastructure available to access the open public spaces including those for persons with disabilities.

Administrative boundary - the spatial extent of legislative jusriduiction and regulatory geographic area usually with a certain degree of sel-governance.

Assessment - An analysis/evaluation/research of the current status of public spaces.

Digital literacy - It is recognized that any person possesses many skills, and can be low-skilled in one area of life, for example, digital know-how, but highly skilled in a different domain. This is broadly used to refer to people who have limited amounts of the skills needed to participate in digital activities and those that cannot read and write.

Equal spatial distribution: The arrangement of a public spaces across the city's land. A well distributed and hierarchical system of open public spaces that can be accessed by all regardless of income, gender, race or disability status and a spatial representation of such an arrangement is an important tool in assessing inequality within the city.

Inventory - a database of all public spaces.

Public Space Strategies -A city-wide public space strategy is a comprehensive long-term plan which includes the vision, missions, and goals of public space development as well as strategies to meet these goals

Ownership: Ownership is defined as providing the landholder with a complete bundle of rights, including the right to possess, exclude, use and transfer land. However, in systems where land is owned by the state, the term refers to possession of the rights to ownership in a private property system; for instance, long-term leases, occupancy, tenancy or use rights granted by the state, often for several decades, and that are transferrable.

Urban extent - A range of accepted definitions of the "city" exist, from those based on population data and extent of the built-up area to those that are based solely on administrative boundaries. These definitions vary within and between nations. Definitions of cities, metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations also vary depending on legal, administrative, political, economic or cultural criteria in the respective countries and regions. In this guide, urban extent is adopted from the defition approved by the United Nations Statistical Division which is degree of urbanisation (DEGUBRA). This definition combines population size and population density thresholds to classify the entire territory of a country along the urban-rural continuum, and captures the full extent of a city, including the dense neighbourhoods beyond the boundary of the central municipality,

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