



Our

City

Plans

by UN-Habitat

An incremental and participatory
toolbox for urban planning



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Our
City
Plans

by UN-Habitat

What is Our City Plans?

Our City Plans is a **step-by-step guide** to support local governments and urban actors to better understand and develop **urban planning processes** using a **participatory** and **incremental** methodology.



City leaders

Oversee strategic steps of planning process



City planners

(private sector, civil society, academia)

Implement the planning process and be part of Our City Plans Community



Other urban stakeholders

(donors, investors and cooperation)

Disseminate the **methodology**

Who is it for?

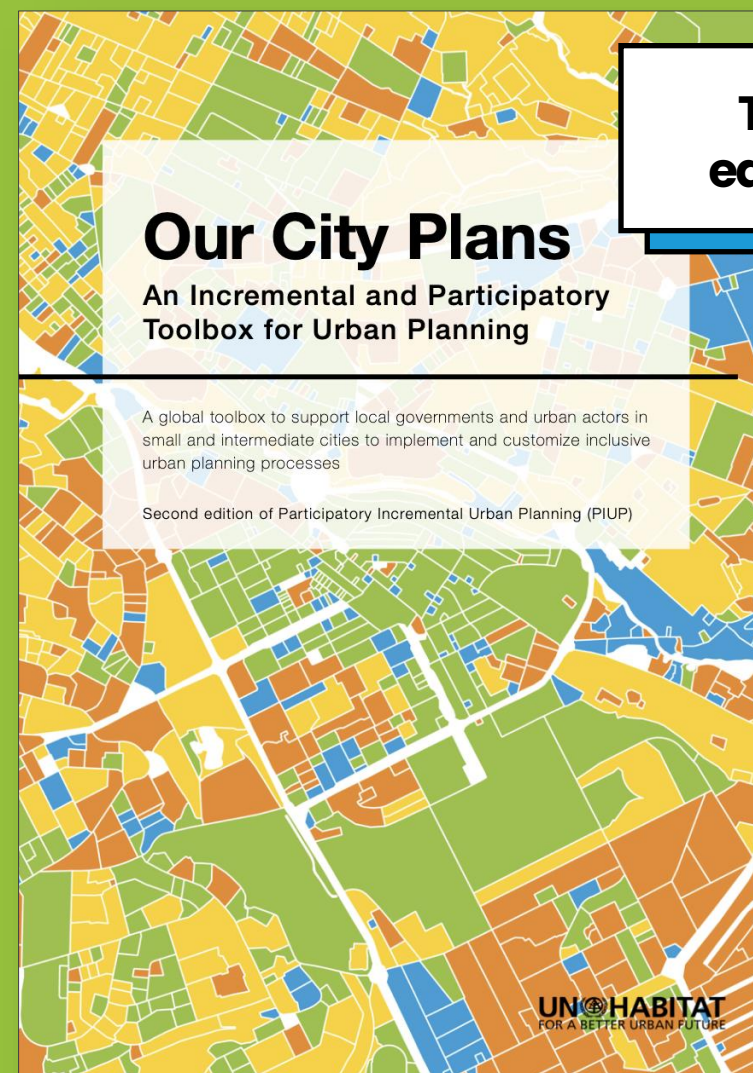
Local governments in small and intermediate cities

Our
City
Plans

by UN-Habitat

Our City Plans consolidates the most relevant planning **tools, best practices and methodologies** of UN-Habitat and partners for the development of strategic, city-wide and neighbourhood planning processes.

Background



**Third
edition!**

The first version of Our City Plans was launched at WUF10 in February 2020, formerly called PIUP – Participatory Incremental Urban Planning toolbox. A second version was published in 2021.

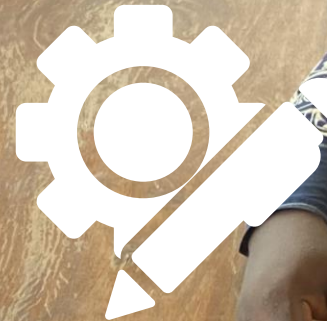
**Our
City
Plans**



Step-by-step
participatory
incremental
methodology



Customised
support from
UN-Habitat



Repository of
adaptable tools
(templates)



Global planning
experiences and
best practices

What do we offer?

Our

City

Plans

by UN-Habitat

Cross-cutting components of the planning process

Cities can customise the planning process and include key components according to their objectives and needs



Stakeholder
participation



Climate
action



Spatial
Inclusion



Alignment to
international agendas



Urban
finance



Mobility

Our

City

Plans

The Toolbox

4 Phases | **14** Blocks

54 Activities | **40** Tools

Phases

The methodology describes the urban planning process in four main phases: Assessment, Plan, Operationalisation and implementation. Each phase is divided into *blocks*.

1. Assessment

2. Plan

3. Operationalisation

4. Implementation

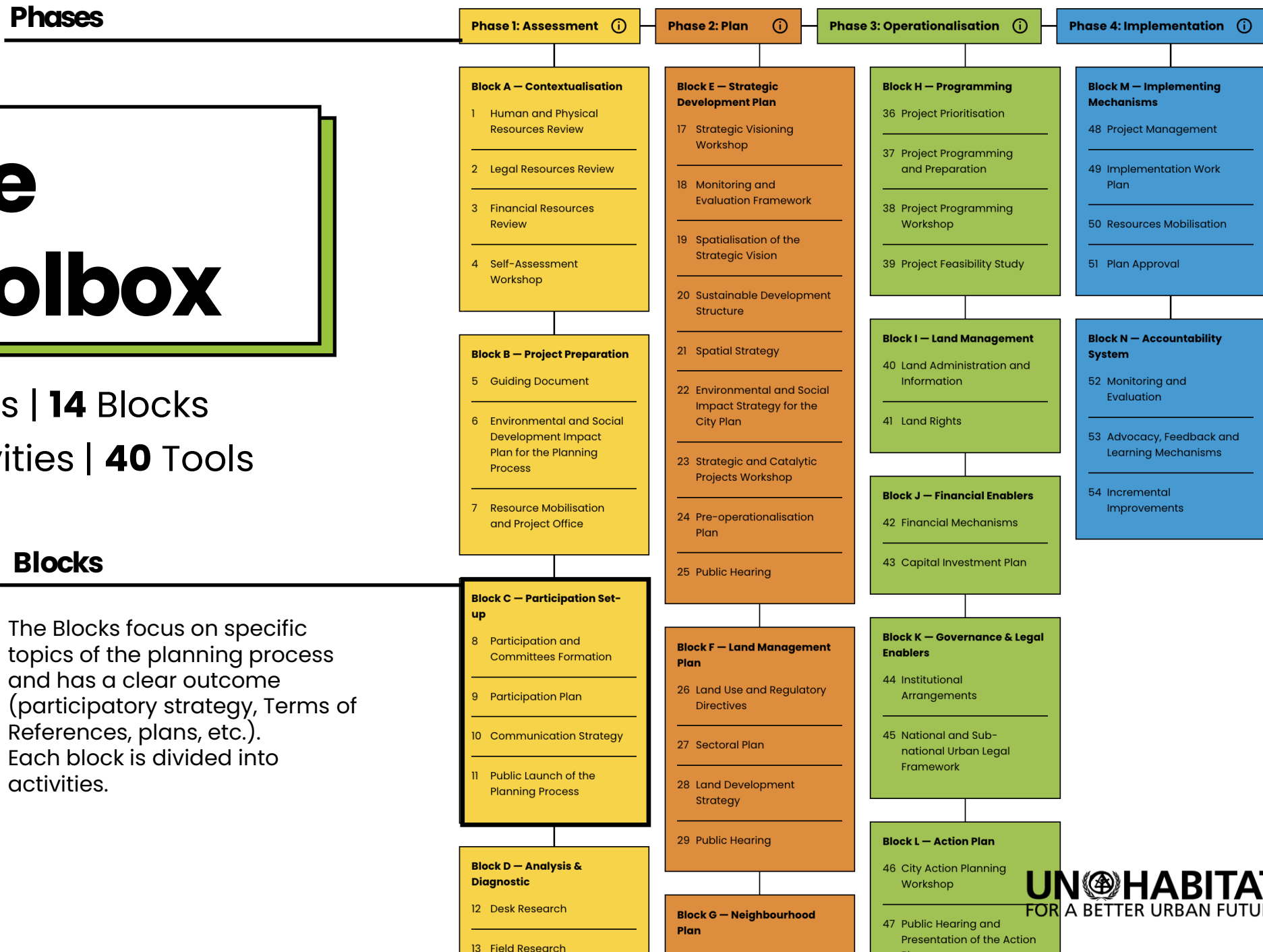
The Toolbox

4 Phases | 14 Blocks

54 Activities | 40 Tools

Blocks

The Blocks focus on specific topics of the planning process and has a clear outcome (participatory strategy, Terms of References, plans, etc.). Each block is divided into activities.



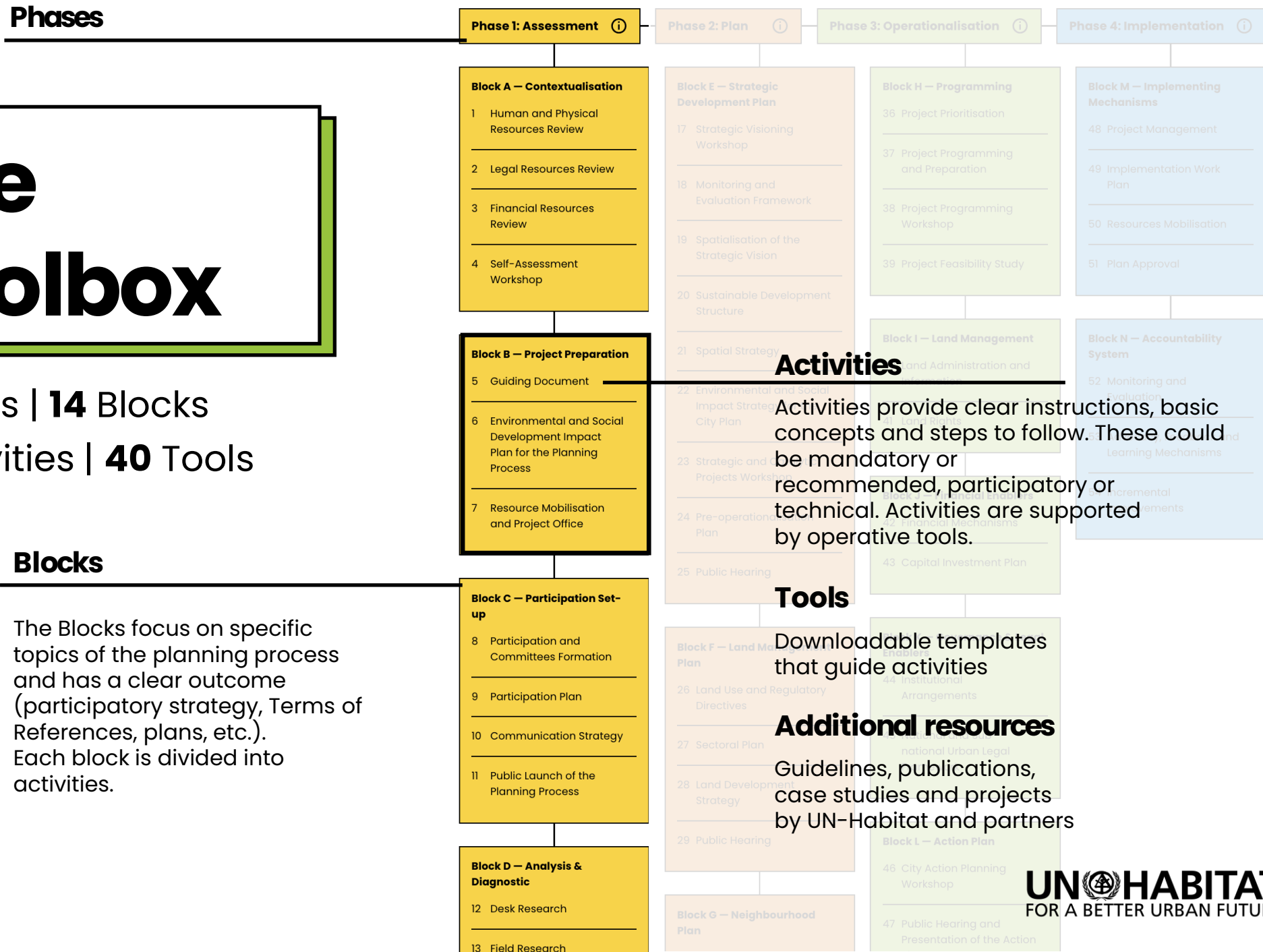
The Toolbox

4 Phases | 14 Blocks

54 Activities | 40 Tools

Blocks

The Blocks focus on specific topics of the planning process and has a clear outcome (participatory strategy, Terms of References, plans, etc.). Each block is divided into activities.



Activities

Activities provide clear instructions, basic concepts and steps to follow. These could be mandatory or recommended, participatory or technical. Activities are supported by operative tools.

Tools

Downloadable templates that guide activities

Additional resources

Guidelines, publications, case studies and projects by UN-Habitat and partners

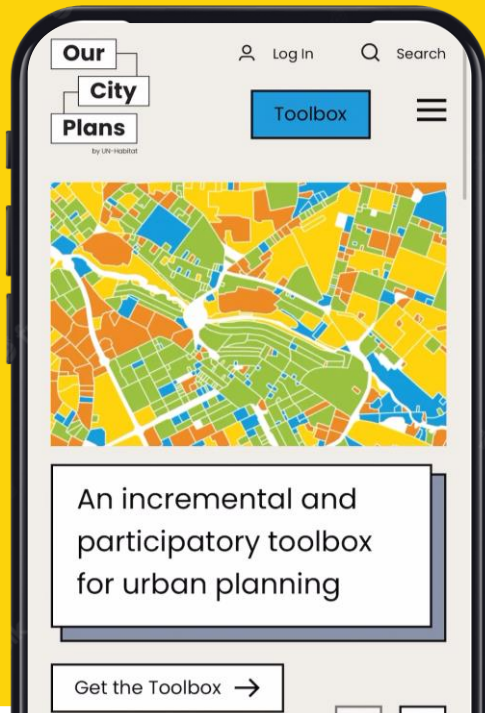
The Digital Platform



- Visualise phases, blocks and activities
- Access to tools and resources
- Customise of your own planning process
- Knowledge sharing and support
- Community building and exchange of experiences



<https://ourcityplans.unhabitat.org/>



Phase 1

Assessment

Block A — Contextualisation



Block B — Project Preparation



Block C — Participation Set-up



Block D — Analysis & Diagnosis



- Understanding the **current planning context and framework**
- Tailor the **most appropriate plan** to develop and the objectives of the urban planning process
- **Assess local capacities and constraints** in terms of time, budget, expertise, land tenure, and stakeholder participation.

Phase 1: Assessment



Block A — Contextualization



- 1 Human and Physical Resources Review
- 2 Legal Resources Review
- 3 Financial Resources Review
- 4 Self-assessment Workshop

Self-assessment of current conditions and available internal and external resources. The outcome of this block is a **planning process roadmap** that identifies which Our City Plans activities should be carried out.

Block B — Project Preparation



- 5 Guiding Document
- 6 Environmental and Social Development Impact Plan for the Planning Process
- 7 Resource Mobilisation and Project Office

Objectives of the planning process and responsibilities of each stakeholder. Develops a guiding document that sets out the terms of the collaboration.

Block C — Participation Set-up



- 8 Participation and Committees Formation
- 9 Participation Plan
- 10 Communication Strategy
- 11 Public Launch of the Project

It defines **stakeholders, institutional mechanisms and committees**; establishes the **participatory process** and activities related to technical consultations and community participation.

Block D — Analysis & Diagnosis



- 12 Desk Research
- 13 Field Research
- 14 Analysis
- 15 Analysis Validation and Diagnostic Workshop
- 16 Diagnostic

Key **data and information** is collected to guide stakeholder decisions. The **diagnosis** focuses on the development of a "**spatial profile**" at different geographical scales. This profile represents a **collective understanding of the territorial challenges and opportunities** in the defined area.

Phase 2

Plan

Block E — Strategic
Development Plan



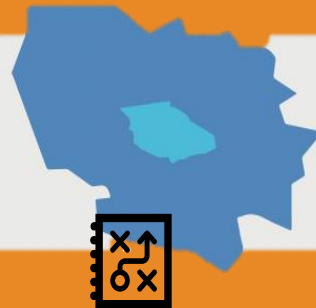
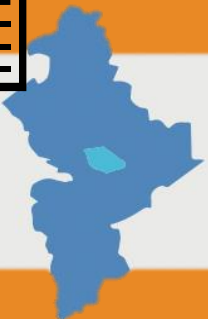
Block F — Land management Plan



Block G — Neighbourhood Plan



- Develop a **common vision**, a set of strategic strategies and projects that give **spatial and technical support** to the future planning of the city.
- **Three levels of spatial plans:** the strategic development plan, the land management plan and the neighbourhood plan.



Our
City
Plans

by UN-Habitat

Phase 2: Plan



Block E — Strategic Development Plan

- 17 Strategic Visioning Workshop
- 18 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- 19 Spatialisation of the Strategic Vision
- 20 Sustainable Development Structure
- 21 Spatial Strategy
- 22 Environmental and Social Impact Strategy for the City Plan
- 23 Strategic and Catalytic Projects Workshop
- 24 Pre-operationalization
- 25 Public Hearing

It defines a **shared vision of the city** for a given time frame and identifies **strategic projects** to bring the vision into reality. This block also proposes a **spatial structure of development and strategies** to identify the future structure of the city.

Block F — Land Management Plan

- 26 Land Use and Regulatory Directives
- 27 Sectoral Planning
- 28 Land Development Strategy
- 29 Public Hearing

Spatial normative document with legal value that translates spatial strategies into a detailed land use plan. that provides the land uses, developments and potentials, as well as the restrictions and responsibilities linked to it.

Block G — Neighbourhood Plan

- 30 Neighbourhood Plan Preparation
- 31 Detailed Data Gathering and Analysis
- 32 Neighbourhood Planning Workshop
- 33 Neighbourhood Planning and Design
- 34 Neighbourhood Projects and Interventions
- 35 Neighbourhood Public Hearing

Neighbourhood plans are **localised urban plans** that are elaborated within the framework of the strategic land management or structural plan. The result is a detailed and implementable plan aligned with the strategic development and land management plans.

Phase 3

Operationalisation

Block H — Project Programming ∨

Block I — Instruments ∨

Block J — Monitoring and Evaluation ∨

- Establish a **set of actions and enabling mechanisms** to facilitate implementation.
- The **territorial, financial, institutional and legal aspects of the plan** are reviewed in depth to define a clear and effective policy framework for the implementation of the plan.

Phase 3: Operationalisation



Block H — Project Programming ✓

- 36. Project Preparation and Pre-feasibility Studies
- 37. Participatory Prioritisation Workshop
- 38. Prioritisation of Projects
- 39. Development of Strategic Project Sheet
- 40. Presentation and Validation of Results (Project Programming)

Aims to consolidate the most relevant information for all strategic projects and **determine the best order of project execution taking into account approach, technical development, objectives, benefits, budget, financing mechanisms and feasibility studies.**

Block I — Instruments ✓

- 41. Land Management Instruments
- 42. Financial Instruments
- 43. Policy Instruments
- 44. Governance and Management Instruments
- 45. Action Plan
- 46. Presentation and Validation of Results (Action Plan)

Proposes an action plan for the portfolio of strategic projects and guidelines. This plan is built from the **selection of land management, regulatory, financial and governance instruments determined by the team, considering the institutional capacities of local governments and metropolitan governance bodies to operate and manage them.**

Block J – Monitoring and Evaluation

- 47. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- 48. Public Launch of the Action Plan

Aims to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework based on a **matrix of indicators and a monitoring strategy**, which also includes the bodies responsible for data collection, monitoring period, methodology, etc.

Phase 4

Implementation

Block K — Implementing
Mechanisms



Block L — Monitoring
Strategy



- Once the urban plan is **adopted as a legal document**, the implementation phase aims to **develop and execute the strategic actions and catalytic projects** of the plan.

Phase 4: Implementation

Block K — Implementing Mechanisms

- 49. Plan Approval
- 50. Project Management
- 51. Work Plan
- 52. Resource Mobilisation
- 53. Execution of the Plan's Projects and Actions

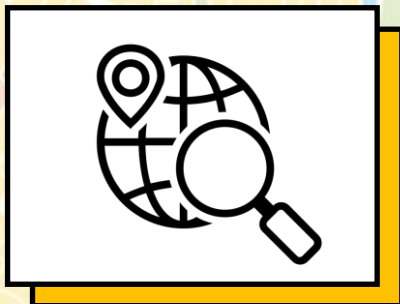
The objective of the block is for the responsible government authorities to **approve the plan and ensure that there is a clear and coordinated process and work plan** for the implementation of the plan, including **investments and resource mobilization**.

Block L — Monitoring Strategy

- 54. Evaluation of the Plan's Projects and Actions
- 55. Socialisation, Feedback and Learning Mechanisms
- 56. Incremental Improvements to the Planning Process

Develop and establish mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the planning process and the implementation of the plan, as well as mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress of the plan and projects.

Local context



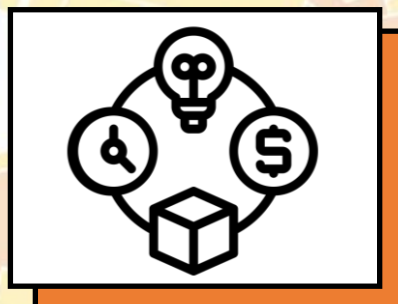
Adapt it to the local planning frameworks, challenges, and needs

Objectives



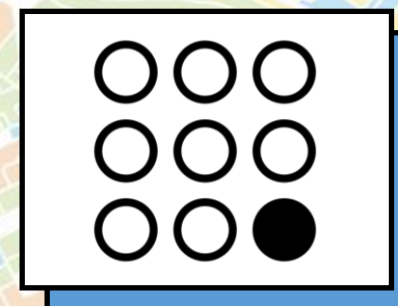
Objectives and types of plans

Available resources



Planning capacities, budget, team members, time constraints, etc.

Cross-cutting areas



Focus on specific components and topics

Adapt your planning process

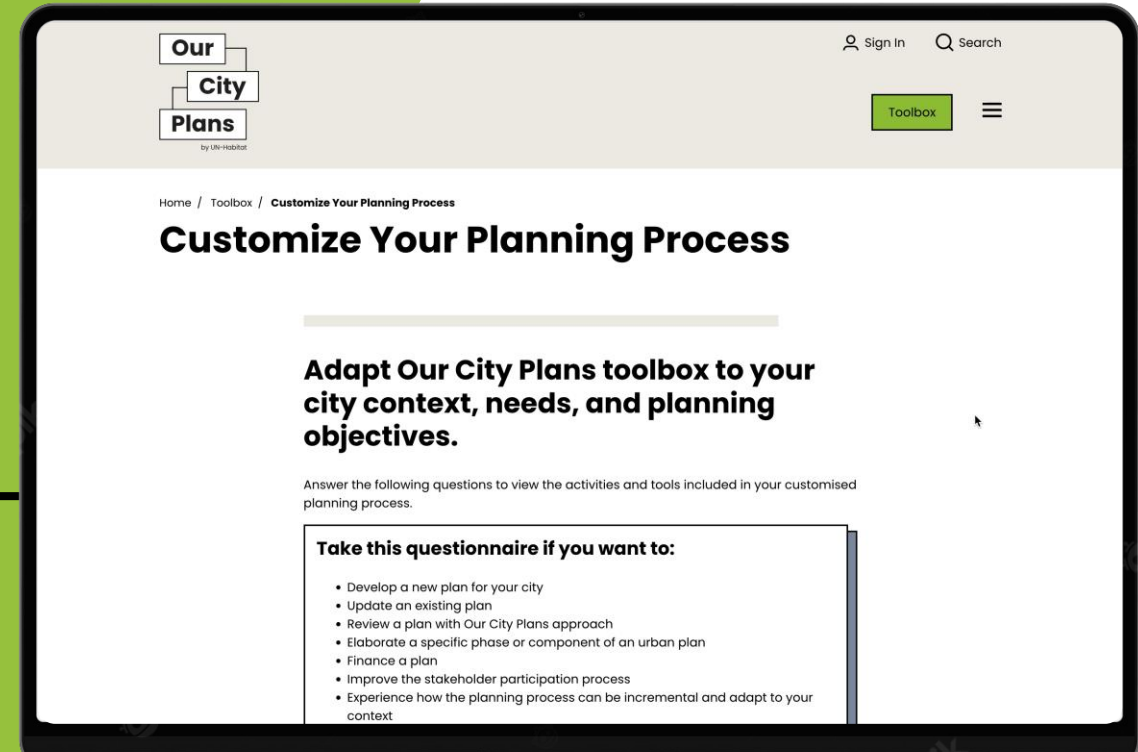
- Develop a new plan
- Update an existing plan
- Elaborate a specific phase
- Improve specific focus areas

**Our
City
Plans**

Customisation process

Questionnaire

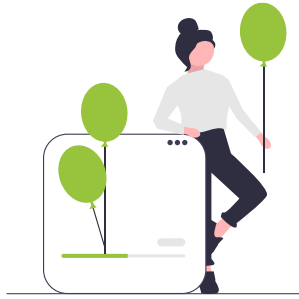
Guided questions to help you customise your process.



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Our
City
Plans
by UN-Habitat

Engage with us!



**Share and contribute
with planning
process experiences**



**Receive
customized
support**



**Translate Our
City Plans**

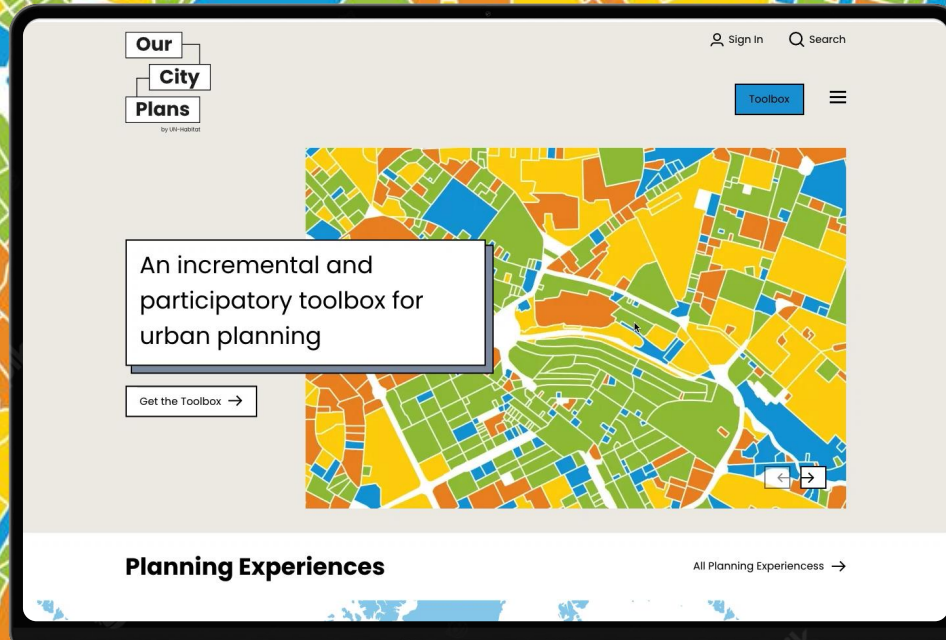


**Donate and
invest**

Visit our digital platform!

**Our
City
Plans**

by UN-Habitat



<https://ourcityplans.unhabitat.org/>