1. **Title:** Integrated and Participatory Urban Plans and Public Space for Compact, Inclusive and Connected Cities

**Problem Statement:** The exclusion of large parts of the population from basic services, the proliferation of slums, the erosion of the public realm, and the vulnerability of cities to climate change are key features of unplanned urbanization. Where rapid population growth is not matched by adequate urban planning and management capacities, local development prospects are undermined and natural resources depleted, inducing a vicious cycle of poverty and loss of opportunities. In order to address this situation, urban planning is required. Awareness across urban actors on Sustainable Urban Planning principles, as well as relevant and accessible urban planning tools, enabling support mechanisms and technical partnerships are needed for cities to manage rapid expansion as well as to retrofit existing settlements towards more sustainable patterns. Adequate planning and design is required at city, neighborhood and site scale to respond to the different challenges and requirements of intra-city equity, for creation of mixed and inclusive neighborhoods, and for the accessibility of public spaces to all. Cities that strive towards social equity need, at all scales, to provide access to public spaces (streets, recreation facilities, etc.) so as to enhance community cohesion, gender equality and civic identity, ensure connectivity and support the levels of urban density required for environmentally and economically sustainable cities. A re-invigorated and fit-to-purpose planning approach which brings together design, regulation and financial dimensions, is being articulated in the SDG post-2015 and Habitat 3 process (issue papers).

**Objective:** This proposal is a consolidation of work supported by SIDA since 2012: Urban Planning and Public Space. The overall objective of this project is to improve local policies, plans and designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighborhoods in partner cities. The specific objective is to promote progressive and inclusive planning tools and instruments at city level, and the effective creation, protection, design and management of public spaces, particularly in cities in rapidly urbanizing low-income countries, as critical preconditions for poverty reduction and the fulfillment of human rights in urban areas

**Expected Outcomes & Indicators:** The project will foster more compact, integrated, socially inclusive, connected and resilient cities where the public realm becomes a common good and key enabler of the fulfillment of human rights, through the adoption of urban planning as a transparent and practical instrument for urban management and development which enables more equitable value sharing, provision of services and access to opportunities. Ultimately the quality of life in urban areas, especially for the poor, will be improved and urban benefits will be shared more equitably. The project will benefit directly at least 70,000 mainly low-income and underserviced residents.

*Indicators:* number of (1) cities adopting new urban planning instruments, both in in low-income countries and other countries, that foster more compact, inclusive and connected cities; (2) tools available for cities and national government in support of urban planning and design; (3) better designed and managed public spaces and number of women, youth and vulnerable residents benefitting from them; (4) partners involved in the promotion of new urban planning and design at global, national and local level.

**Planned Activities:**

1. Development and dissemination ofknowledge, policy and tools. This shall include: A global library of 200 experiences and policy lessons for city-wide plans, planned city extensions and urban renewal and transformation (including public space, block and private plotting); preparation of 7 illustrated policy briefs on gender equity and empowerment, youth engagement through participatory design, human rights, climate change/energy efficiency, safety and mobility as well as public space management and legislation; development of a ‘master plan assessment tool’ and a public space assessment tool; consolidated ‘community of practice’ or network of expertise to provide assistance and disseminate normative materials to cities and other partners. This component will result in planning documentation and policy briefs on key topics being made available; access to partners expertise enabled; principles and role of urban planning for sustainable development widely discussed.
2. Capacity building of urban stakeholders. This will include development of a training module on sustainable urban planning principles for leaders and local communities and the refinement of the Planning Studio methodology; a public space toolkit and accompanying training modules. 8 training activities will be conducted in Asia, Latin America and Africa with partners. This will also include developing public space indicators to monitor implementation on the city level to follow-up established action plans.
3. Technical and policy advisory services: The Urban Planning and Design Laboratory will act as key resource for projects, provide advice on existing plans and support the development of urban planning proposals that respond to local demand and are implementable, enabling adoption of sustainable planning principles and of plans that are supported by mechanisms for financial and regulatory implementation at local level. The Public Space Programme will act as a key resource for cities by providing support to planning, design and management in 20- sites (funded through other sources) and to the development of 4 city-wide public space strategies, ensuring that they are gender and age inclusive with a specific focus on the urban poor. This work at local level will also contribute to National Urban Polices formulation and Legislation reform.

**Collaborating Partners/Branches and Regions**: Internal UN-Habitat collaboration (PSUP, Safer Cities, Gender Unit, Urban Basic Services, Urban Economy, Legislation); strategic partnership with communities (especially the most vulnerable: slum dwellers, youth and women groups), associations of planners, research and capacity development institutions, and global and regional associations of Local Governments. The establishment of relations with existing Planning Labs and Planning Departments at city level will be undertaken. Partners such as Ax:son Jonsson have been supporting a series of conference (Future of Places) and we will continue to build on this global platform of partners. Partnership with other UN-agencies will be strengthened, in particular with UNESCO, UNHCR, UNEP, FAO and WHO.

**Main Focus Areas:** Focus Areas 2 Urban Planning & Design of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019

**Estimated Total Budget:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Donor | Year 1 (2016) | Year (2017) | Year (2018) | Year 4 (2019) |
| Other donors | USD$1,500,000 | USD$1,500,000 | USD$1,500,000 | USD$1,500,000 |
| Beneficiaries | USD$400,000 | USD$400,000 | USD$400,000 | USD$400,000 |
| SIDA | USD$ 320,000 | USD$ 320,000 | USD$ 320,000 | USD$ 320,000 |

In 2014-15 overall funding for the two now merged components was USD$1.230million from SIDA, USD$3.500 million from other donors (Norway, Spain, Mojang, Booyoung,) and USD$300,000 from beneficiary countries and partners (Johannesburg, Lima, Mumbai, Kirtipur, Avina). Projects at country level represented additional USD$20million per year.

**Evaluation:** As both the Planning Lab and the Public Space Programme are new long term areas of work, both established in or after 2012, evaluations are planned for 2016. In the meantime, a review of the participatory tools used in the public space work is being undertaken by Ericsson and preliminary results will be presented at the Future of Places Conference in Stockholm in June 2015.