



Disability-Inclusive  
and Accessible  
Urban Development Network



# How to make cities accessible and inclusive



easy  
read







# Why cities need to be inclusive and accessible



The World Health Organisation says that 15% of the world's population lives with an impairment or disability.



As the world's population increases more people will live in cities. This means more people with disabilities will be living in cities.



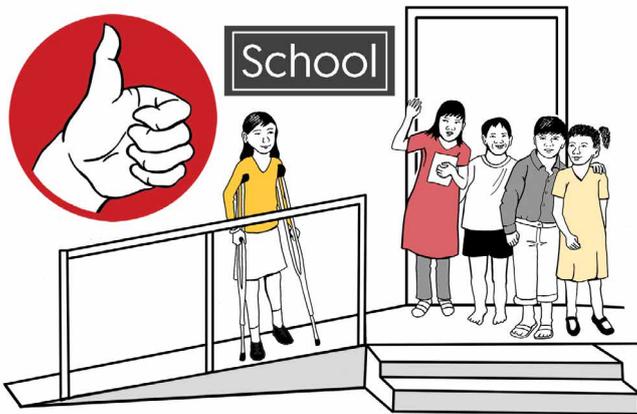
As cities grow in size we need to think about how they are built and who they are for.



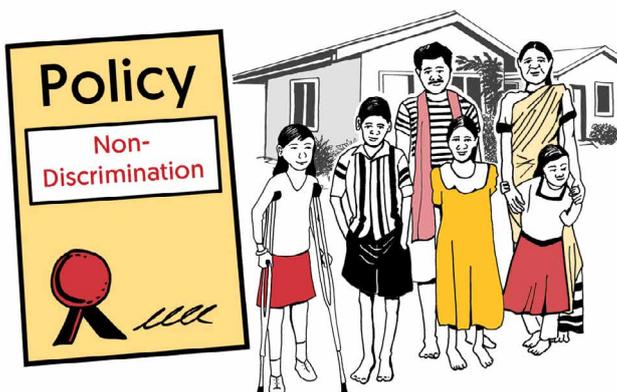
People with disabilities are young, old, women, men, and of every race and ethnicity.



For too long cities have been built without thinking about how physical and social barriers affect people with disabilities.



If cities are built with accessibility in mind people with disabilities will feel included socially.



Non-discrimination policies will also help to protect housing rights for people with disabilities.



This easy read document gives advice on how to make cities of the future accessible, inclusive and barrier free for people with disabilities.



Important projects are happening to make sure that when cities are built they are inclusive and accessible.



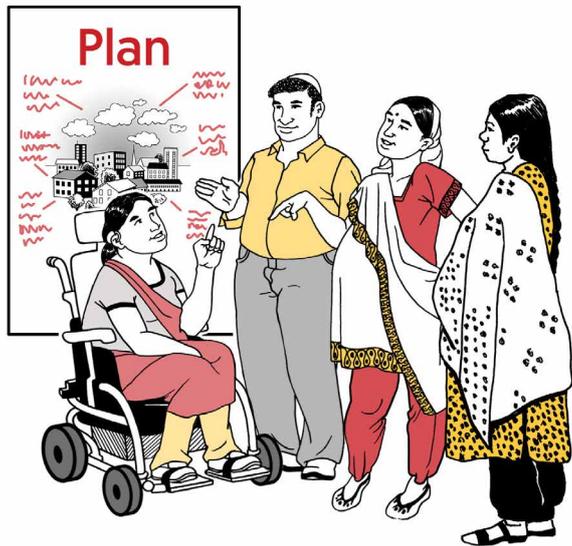
People with disabilities are involved in these projects. The projects are called Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda.

# 2

## Why accessibility is important in building cities



Not having enough people with disabilities involved in the planning of cities is a problem.



Having more people with disabilities involved helps planners think about the different types of exclusions and barriers that people face in their everyday lives.



Accessibility is the key to inclusive cities.



Global agreements on rights for people with disabilities will be successful if accessible and inclusive cities are built.



People with disabilities are excluded further if cities are planned and designed poorly.



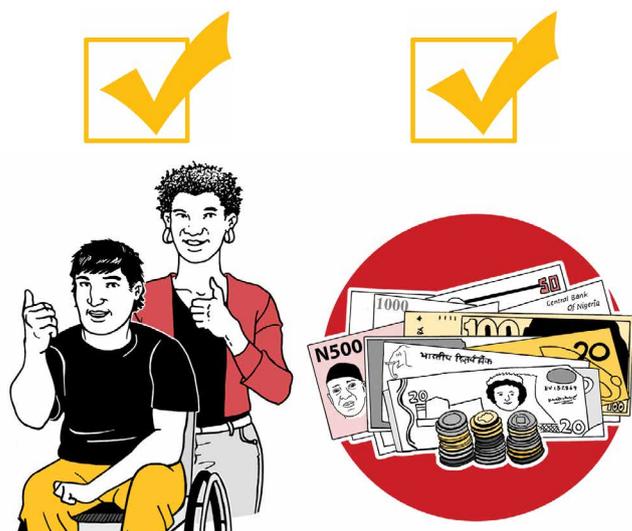
Planners are under a lot of pressure to make sure cities are inclusive and accessible.



People with disabilities face discrimination if housing, transport, education, employment, health services, and information technology are not accessible.



This exclusion means fewer opportunities for education, employment and involvement in policies and politics.



Well planned cities mean people with disabilities, their families and communities are happier socially and are better off financially.

# 3

## Building cities for human diversity, social inclusion and equality



Building cities for diversity, inclusion and equality is becoming more important.



These types of cities mean that people are included socially and have equal access to services and employment.



Designing cities in this way shows that planners are thinking about all of the population's needs.



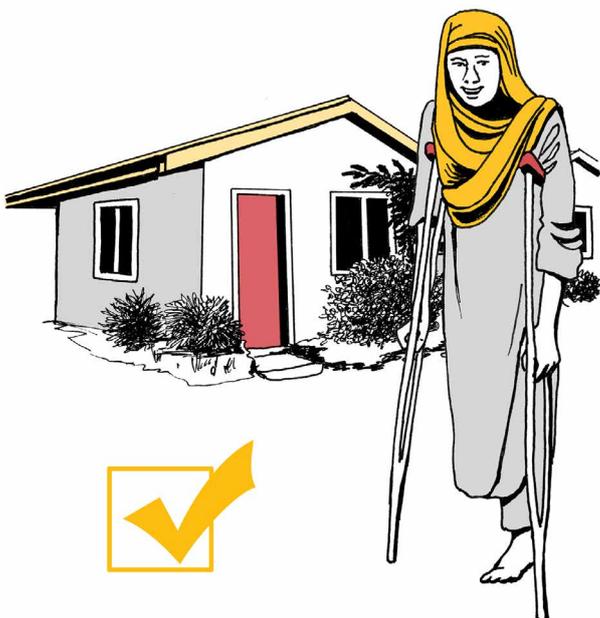
An inclusive city is a place where everyone can access everything and feel empowered to do so.



Inclusive cities think about people's diversity and break down barriers.



This means that people with all levels of ability have a better chance of living independently.



## 4

## How to make sure cities are accessible



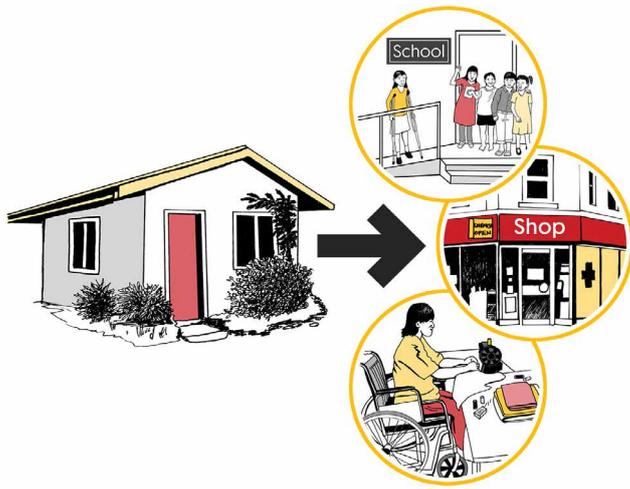
- Allow people to move around how they want e.g. walking, biking, and wheelchairs



- Reduce the use of cars and promote public transport



- Design cities with all users in mind – all ages and abilities



- Provide houses close to every day destinations e.g. shops, schools, and work places
- Provide public spaces and facilities that are safe and accessible to users of all ages and abilities e.g. libraries and sports centres
- Make sure older and new buildings are made accessible and easy to evacuate in the event of an emergency
- Provide green accessible public building and spaces

# 5

## How to make sure cities are built in a fair way



- Improve health and safety for at-risk population e.g. children and older people

- Provide a range of housing including accessible housing

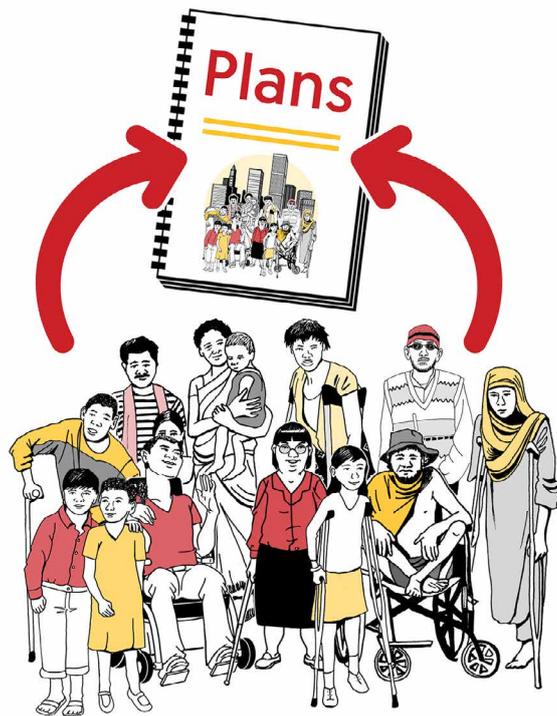
- Provide accessible public services, facilities and health care to low income neighbourhoods

- Protect at-risk populations from natural disasters



# 6

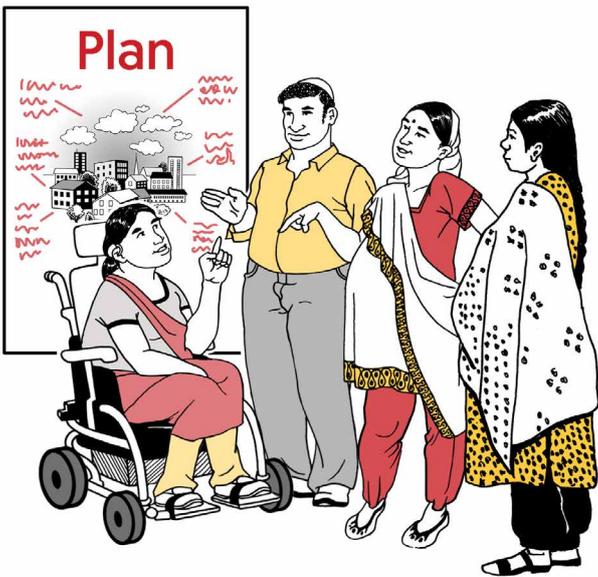
## How to make sure people can take part in the development of city plans



- Engage everyone in the planning process, including local authorities, community members, planners and developers
- Make sure the planning process engages a wide range of people across generations, age, ethnicity, gender and disability
- Engage with leaders and respected people from disadvantaged communities



- Provide information in multiple, easily accessible formats and languages



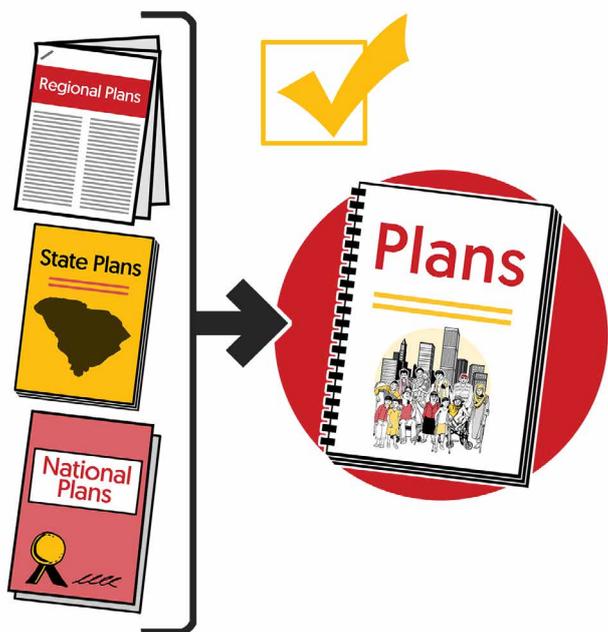
- Engage participants at all stages of the process

# 7

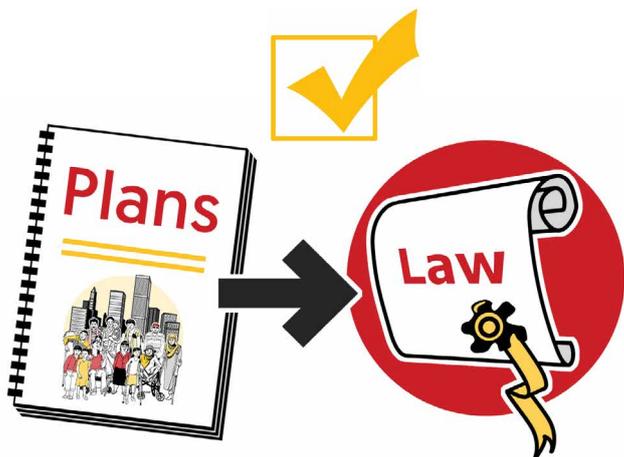
## How to make sure city plans are accessible and obey the rules



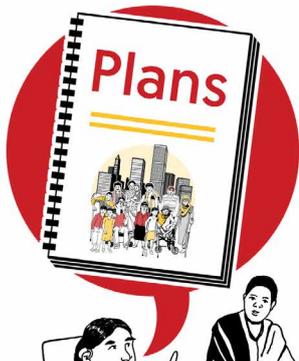
- Up to date visual images to support the accessible city plans



- Make sure the accessible city plans meet with regional, state and national plans



- Make sure the plans meet anti-discrimination laws



- Make sure the plans are explained fully at each stage



- Use formats other than paper





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