

## PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT

# BETHLEHEM CLUSTER, WEST BANK | PALESTINE

[BETHLEHEM, BEIT SAHOUR, BEIT JALA AND AL DOHA]

ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP



Canada



UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)  
P.O. Box 30030 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA  
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)  
www.unhabitat.org

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Programme Managers:	Cecilia Andersson, Lubna Shaheen
Contributors:	Bayt Al Handasah Consultative Co.
Contributors UN-Habitat HQ:	Cecilia Andersson, Frans Elinder, Joy Mutai, Lucy Donnelly
Contributors UN-Habitat Palestine:	Lubna Shaheen, Haya Mani, Wafaa Butmeh
Analysis and GIS Support:	Joy Mutai
Report Design and Layout:	Joy Mutai



# PALESTINE • WEST BANK • BETHLEHEM CLUSTER

[BETHLEHEM, BEIT SAHOUR, BEIT JALA AND ALDOHA]

## PUBLIC SPACE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

Towards safety for women & girls in public spaces



Canada



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DEFINITIONS

Antisocial behaviour

Anti-social behaviours are acts that create community concern. These range from misuses of public space, such as fighting or drug use and dealing, to disregard for community safety, such as dangerous driving or drunk and disorderly behaviour. Other examples include acts that cause environmental damage, such as graffiti or litter. Anti-social behaviour can range from what is socially unacceptable through to acts that break the law.

Experiences of crime/harassment

To encounter/undergone a form of crime or harassment,

Gender equity

The process of being fair to both women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must be available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. Gender equity strategies are used to eventually attain gender equality. Equity is the means and equality is the result.

Harassment

Harassment is any improper and unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another person. Harassment may take the form of words, gestures or actions which tend to annoy, alarm, abuse, demean, intimidate, belittle, humiliate or embarrass another or which create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Infrastructural problems

Issues related to the physical state of public spaces.

Mono-functional spaces

Spaces that are limited to only one activity.

Multi-functional spaces

Spaces that are used for different types of activities at different times of the day.

Perception of safety

A generalized judgment about the chance of crime. Different times of day, and physical location may affect perception of safety.

Pluri-funtional spaces

Spaces with different kinds of activities at the same time.

Public space

All places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. UN-Habitat categorises public spaces into streets, open public spaces, and public facilities.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another.

Social problems

A social problem is any condition or behavior that has negative consequences for large numbers of people and that is generally recognized as a condition or behavior that needs to be addressed.

Urban Safety

Safety does not only mean lack of criminal behavior, fear or aggression. Safety points to the certainty of being respected as an individual at the physical, social and psychological levels. ‘Safety’ goes beyond the multiple ways of crime and violence. In fact, safety is firstly a foundation for the deployment of human abilities, freedom, solidarity, multiculturalism and creativity. Safety does not only cover the individual’s life, but embraces also society and the city. Safety is also a social value, since it is the foundation for the common good of societies that allows a fair and equitable development for all its members. Safety is one of the pillars of good governance and is the basis of freedom and equality for people’s full and equal

Walkability

Defines much more than just providing citizen with “the ability to walk”. Several characteristics result in optimal walkability such as physical access, places and proximity. Defining a walkable neighbourhood extends beyond pedestrian concerns, as the ability to walk in a neighborhood indicates not only a type of mobility and means of travel, but also a type of sociability between neighbors, which, together, likely affect the physical, mental, and health of people in the community.



Women enjoy the Al-Jazzar mosque © Flickr Eliyahu Mclean

# 1

## CHAPTER

## BACKGROUND

- Global Framework
- UN-Habitat's Public Space Programme
- UN-Habitat in Palestine
- HAYA Joint Programme



# GLOBAL FRAMEWORK ON SAFETY, GENDER AND PUBLIC SPACE

While cities are powerful engines of development and innovation, they are also home to slums and many millions of vulnerable women and girls. Sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces are present in cities as well rural areas, and even in online spaces. As a result, it is an impediment to the rights of women and girls to the city, and to enjoy the opportunities of urbanization. The outcome is often gender exclusion and the lack of participation of women and girls in development.

With the 2030 Agenda, governments will need to choose strategies and interventions that have the greatest impacts across a number of goals and targets. The 'safe cities' idea for women includes their equal right to the city and public places within it, which includes their right to be mobile in the city at any time of the day, as well as their right to idle in public spaces without any threats of harassment or sexual violence. The global community agreed that public space plays a key role in achieving inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. This means that interventions in public space can support achievement in several other targets within the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda together with the New Urban Agenda also recognizes gender equality and strategically supports women's empowerment across all social development goals.

Local level data is important to address challenges and achieve inclusive public spaces for women and girl's in cities. Some of the statistics of the state of women and girl's safety, conducted by UN-Habitat, Women and Cities International and Plan International, are represented in the graphic.



Gender equality in the Agenda 2030 adopted from UN-Women © UN-Habitat

**60%**

60% of all urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime



Globally, one in five people have been a victim of violence and crime



96% of adolescent girls don't feel safe in Delhi

**45%**

45% of girls reported sexual harassment when using public transport in Kampala

**2.2%**

Just 2.2% of girls say they feel safe in public spaces in Lima

**90%**

In Port Moresby, over 90% of women and girls have experienced some form of sexual violence when accessing public transportation.



In London, 43% of young women have experienced some form of harassment in the past year.



***"We will support the provision of well-designed networks of safe, accessible, green and quality streets and other public spaces that are accessible to all and free from crime and violence, including sexual harassment and gender-based violence, considering the human scale, and measures that allow for the best possible commercial use of street-level floors, fostering both formal and informal local markets and commerce, as well as not-for-profit community initiatives, bringing people into public spaces and promoting walkability and cycling with the goal of improving health and wellbeing."***

*New Urban Agenda: Para 100.*



## WOMEN IN PALESTINE

In Palestine, women use public spaces more frequently and for a greater variety of purposes than men. This reflects the multiple roles and responsibilities they assume both inside and outside of the home. The availability of safe public spaces and public transport allows women to access essential services, take advantage of employment opportunities and participate in cultural and recreational activities. It not only improves the quality of life available to them but is an essential component in strengthening women's civic engagement through access to institutional and political spaces.

According to the PCBS 2020 statistics, 11% of Palestinian households are women headed households. Despite the empowerment of women in certain areas as demonstrated through the PCBS report 2020, women's right in other sectors are still violated, including them being subjects to violence inside or outside the household and inside public spaces. Statistics show a noticeable decrease in early marriage rate and illiteracy among Palestinian women, nevertheless, a gap in women's

active participation in the workforce, and in decision making can still be detected, as only 21% of women who are in the employment age participated in the workforce in Palestine in the year 2018 according to PCBS. The situation is even worse for women with disabilities as only 3% of women with disabilities participated in the work force in 2019.

As in other countries, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in Palestine extends beyond the domestic sphere to also impact women's access to public spaces, such as parks, streets, public transport, workplaces and schools. In terms of violence in public spaces, the preliminary results of the national survey of violence in the Palestinian society in 2019, recorded that 5% of young females and 3% of married women have experienced violence in shopping places (inside markets or shopping stores). Moreover, 4% of women aged (18-64 years old) and 12% of young females (12-17 years old) have experienced violence in the streets.



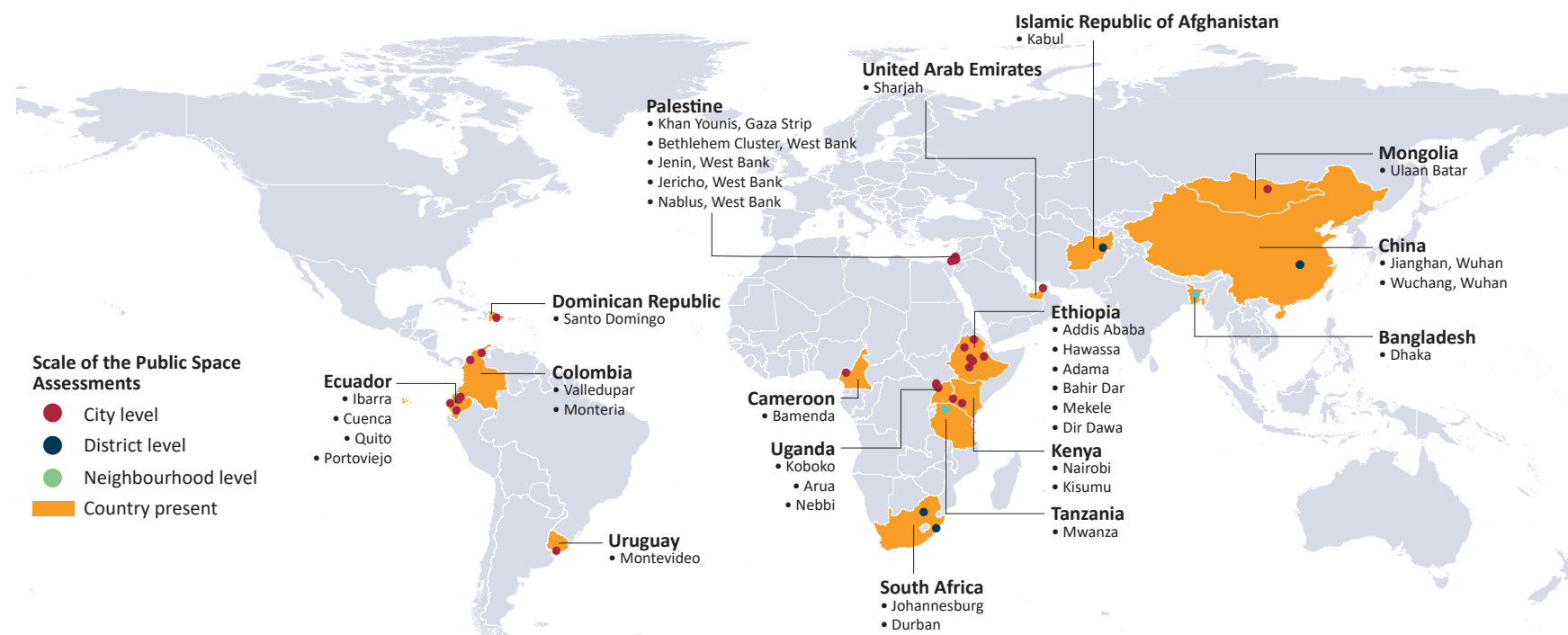
Children play in street, Bethlehem, Palestine © Flickr Ray in Manila



# UN-HABITAT'S GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME

Launched in 2011 and currently active in around 40 countries, UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme aims to improve the quality of public spaces worldwide. Despite a recent tendency to overlook and undervalue them, public spaces are again being recognised by cities as a key element of inclusion and sustainability. UN-Habitat adopts a definition of public spaces as sites that are accessible and enjoyable by all without a profit motive and take on various spatial forms, including parks, streets, sidewalks, markets and playgrounds. Good public

spaces enhance community cohesion and promote health, happiness and well-being for all citizens. The Programme helps cities become more sustainable by providing policy advice, capacity building, knowledge sharing and support for public space regeneration and improvement. More concretely, it maps public spaces and works with cities to develop city-wide public space strategies and urban development frameworks. Good policies and practices are shared through its global network of around 100 partner organizations.



## THE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT

UN-Habitat provides guidance to local governments in developing city-wide strategies that provide the foundation for taking a strategic action-oriented approach to public space development and management and can help local governments map the current state of public spaces and set goals to improve them. This work can be translated into annual public space action plans which provide more detailed information on proposed projects as well as monitoring framework. The strategy also supports local governments in allocating of resources in the management and maintenance of the spaces that exist and invest in creating new public space, especially for more marginalized communities.



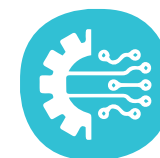
## CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS

UN-Habitat brings together a broad global network of partners has agreements and ongoing activities with various organizations. These partners are brought together annually at either the World Urban Forum and/or the Future of Places Conference.



## PUBLIC SPACE UPGRADING

UN-Habitat selects each year, a number of public spaces upgrading projects through an annual call for expression of interest. The spaces are geographically distributed all over the world, but with a main focus on countries in the global south. The upgrading of the public spaces is done in a participatory manner engaging the community and the users in the process.



## TECHNOLOGY

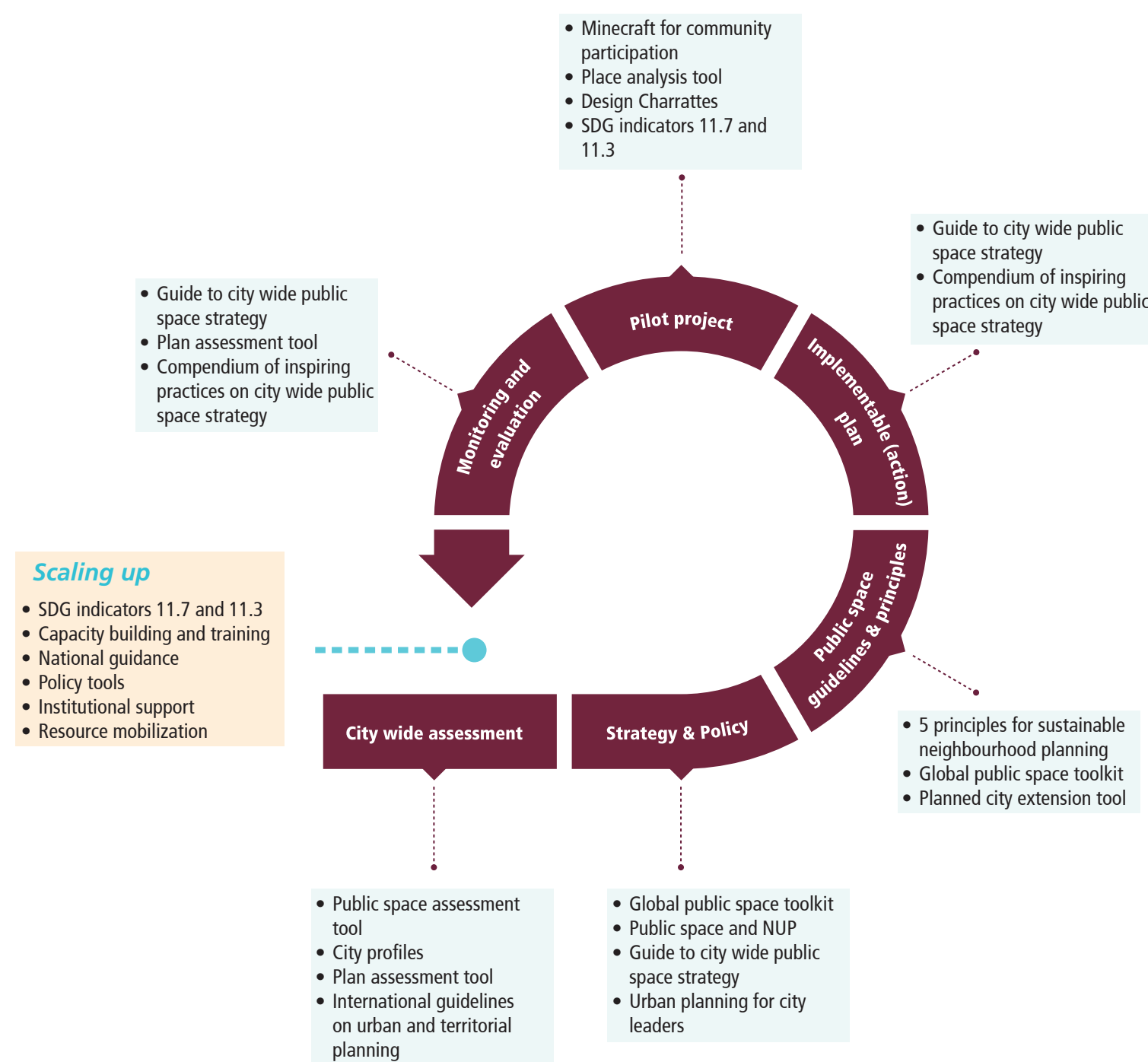
In recent years, the role of digital technologies has become increasingly important. UN-Habitat recognizes the role of ICT and the opportunities that it can offer for citizens, particularly children and youth, to take part in decision making and governance process. The Programme uses technologies such as Kobo Toolbox for mapping spaces and the Minecraft video game as a participatory tool for upgrading public spaces.



## POLICIES

UN-Habitat supports national governments in mainstreaming public space in National Urban Policy as well as local governments in developing their own public space frameworks, policies and implementation strategies. The intention is to influence cities to recognize the importance of localized city-wide public space policies, to deepen the understanding of local governments' role and responsibilities in public space development, and to increase the percentage of public space in a city as well as safety. This is considered as a guiding strategy for local governments in which public space is a central axis.

## UN-HABITAT'S PUBLIC SPACE PROGRAMME PROCESS AND TOOLS



## HOW WE WORK

UN-Habitat has developed an integrated approach to public space that covers cities, neighbourhoods and individual sites and applies a targeted approach to each scale. The iterative approach includes normative and operational tools, methodologies and practices to support governments and other organizations to make public spaces more safe, inclusive, accessible and green. The tools include city-wide and site-specific assessments, design principles, strategies and policies, digital participation and action planning and monitoring.

## CITY-WIDE PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT

The city-wide public space assessment is a digital tool that uses a structured questionnaire that can be modified to fit any context as well as assess the priorities for any city. It utilises the free open source app called Kobo Collect. It is a fast and effective tool for data collection as it minimises enumeration errors and is a holistic tool for data collection process from data collection, to analysis and design. This assessment helps in identifying needs or substantive areas to address in the city, but also how the process can align with other, already ongoing or planned processes. The objective of this alignment is to identify areas of possible synergies and the identification of institutions, organizations, agencies and other municipal departments as potential stakeholders or collaborating partners. In addition to identifying key strategies, steering documents, potential partners, etc., the key issues of the existing strategic plan (if any) should be mapped and analysed. This tool helps to answer the question “where are we?” in the realm of public space.

The baseline research will produce recommendations on public space interventions in the city. This is not limited to types of intervention, but also includes areas that should be prioritized in developing new public spaces.



# UN-HABITAT IN PALESTINE

Palestinian cities lack safe and inclusive public spaces. The complex geopolitical context and the fragmentation of the territory, in addition to the lack of proper planning and investment in public spaces, have impacted negatively the quality of the built environment. The severe shortage of public spaces, parks, playgrounds, as well as other public infrastructure and services led to the deterioration of the quality of daily life for the Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly for children and women. Many children resort to play in the streets, making the lack of playgrounds actually life threatening. Against this backdrop, The Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People has, since 2014, started supporting the local communities in East Jerusalem, Area C and in the Gaza Strip to develop safe and inclusive public spaces to improve the urban environment and the living conditions of the Palestinian people, provide higher levels of safety and well-being inside the Palestinian neighborhoods, and to strengthen social cohesion, cultural interaction and citizenship.

UN-Habitat has utilized different tools and methodologies to design and implement public spaces in Palestine, including participatory planning and community engagement, support community led initiatives, and using innovative technologies to promote youth leadership.

Meeting, relaxing and taking a break in clean green spaces that are open to all, is a basic need for all. Yet, in some parts of the world this fundamental need cannot be taken for granted. This is true in Gaza, which has been affected to its very core by years of war. Ten years of blockades and several cycles of violence have had a serious effect on the Gaza Strip, which still bears the material and human scars of the hostilities of summer 2014 and the regular attacks that followed. Thousands of houses, schools, universities and mosques were damaged in these bombings. But even though post-conflict reconstruction is now underway, women and young people are scarcely involved in urban planning, particularly in integrating the issue of safety in public places.

By involving marginalized communities in a marginalized region, these public space projects were able to promote women and youth positions in the society while creating community spaces and aiming to reduce gender-based violence. The collaboration during the design process and the employment of female architects helped advance this mission even further, resulting in more safe opportunities for all in the Gaza Strip. The participants believed that their experience in the design and implementation processes was unique and special. It represented their ideas and visions and enhanced their sense of ownership. They felt as this community garden belongs to all of them so that they have to look after it, maintain it, and keep it clean and well organized.



Al-Shaimaa Community Garden, Gaza Strip © UN-Habitat



## PUBLIC SPACES PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPECIAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Intervention	Description	Location	Implementing Partners	Donor	Year	No of Beneficiaries
Sur Baher Community Garden	This project supported a community led initiative to design a children playground in Sur Baher. The local community including the youth in cooperation with Sur Baher community Center played a major role in the design and implementation of the playground. This initiative was implemented as part of the “Scaling up and Deepening of Planning Support to Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem” project, which aimed to facilitate an immediate improvement of living conditions for Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem.	East Jerusalem	Bimkom- Planners for Planning Rights, Local Community Center of Sur Baher	Government of Kingdom of Belgium	2015	21,500
Wadi Al Joz Community Garden	This project aimed at creating a safe and inclusive community garden in Wadi Al Joz neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and has utilized the computer game MineCraft as a tool to engage the youth in the design process. This project was implemented as part of the “UN Habitat Global Public Space Programme”.	East Jerusalem	Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights, Al Enaya Community Center, Green Mosques Youth Group	Block by Block Foundation Global Public Space Programme	2017	17,000
Ras Al-Amoud Playground	Under UN-HABITAT “Supporting the Palestinians Right to Development in East Jerusalem” Project, the project aimed to support and implement tangible interventions that enhance the quality of the living environment for the residents, especially for women and girls. The project contributed to support a Palestinian women group initiative in Ras IlAmud neighborhood. The playground was designed, based on a participatory approach where women were engaged in focus design group sessions. In these sessions, the women explained how public spaces should respond to their and their children’s essential needs. The project succeeded in co-designing with the women group a new playground in Ras Il Amud that states and emphasis that women should be engaged more and consulted in the decision making of their built environment.	East Jerusalem	Bimkom - Planners for Planning Rights, Local women group	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation	2019	14,500
Al-Shoka Community Garden	Al Shoka, Al-Zawayda and Al Shaima community gardens were developed as part of the “Utilizing Digital Tools to Promote Human Rights and Create Inclusive Public Spaces in Gaza Strip” project. The main aim of the project was to promote youth leadership and participation, and to develop the skills and knowledge of the youth to make informed decisions about their lives and their built environment. The participants utilized the computer game MineCraft to design their community gardens. The three projects have successfully created safe and inclusive public spaces in Al-shoka, Al-Zawayda and Beit Lahia cities in Gaza Strip, and helped improving the urban environment and the living conditions of residents, in particular children and youth.	Al-shoka city/Gaza Strip	UN Women, Palestinian Housing Council, Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protections and Gateway	Government of Kingdom of Belgium	2017	16,000
Al-Shaimaa Community Garden		Beit Lahia city/ Gaza Strip	UN Women, Palestinian Housing Council, Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protections and Gateway	Government of Kingdom of Belgium	2017	100,000
Al-Zawayda Community Gardens		Al-Zawayda city/ Gaza Strip	UN Women, Palestinian Housing Council, Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protections and Gateway	Government of Kingdom of Belgium	2018	23,000
Ti’innik Placemaking Project	This project worked on creating a public space located between the two schools in Ti’innik’s. The main aim of the project was to create a space that is accessible, particularly for the school’s students, and for the wider community in general serving as a playground and a comfort and relaxing area. The project was implemented under the “Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C”.	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Ti’inneq Village Council, Al-I-Hamdeye Company for General Contracts	European Union	2018	1,300
Wadi Al Nis	The interventions are located at the center of the village, connecting the four main nodes; the village council building, the medical clinic, the main mosque and the main school. The project has formed and improved the the network and connections focusing on safe pedestrian movement throughout the site. Speed pumps and roundabouts were constructed to facilitate the movement of cars and calms down the traffic. The sidewalks contain benches, as relaxing points shaded by trees. The project was implemented under the “Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C”.	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Wadi Al Nis Village council, UN-Habitat	European Union	2018	1,000

Intervention	Description	Location	Implementing Partners	Donor	Year	No of Beneficiaries
Al Walaja	Developing the main entrance of Al Walajah Village by making it safe and comfortable for pedestrian movement. The main bus stop area was rehabilitated, tiled and shaded with trees. The intervention and detailed designs were designed to be inexpensive, focusing on using local skills and materials and well related to the local context. The project was implemented under the "Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Al Walaja Village council, UN-Habitat	European Union	2018	2,670
At Tuwani	The intervention, the design and its details were developed in collaboration process with the community and based on their needs, and financially inexpensive. The designs also focus on local resources and skills to get the best results with the lowest costs and ensure its maintenance in the present and the future. The public space in this intervention is a recreational area and playing yard for the children and people of At Tuwani village. The project was implemented under the "Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, At Tuwani Village council, UN-Habitat	United Nations	2019	330
Al Aqaba	The intervention, the design and its details were developed in collaboration process with the community and based on their needs, and financially inexpensive. The designs also focus on local resources and skills to get the best results with the lowest costs and ensure its maintenance in the present and the future. The public space in this intervention is a playing yard for the Kindergarten of Al Aqaba village. The project was implemented under the "Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Al Aqaba Village council, UN-Habitat	European Union	2019	350
Bruqin	The intervention is the yard located between the two schools, the village council and the soccer field. The space will be used as a sitting area, with a playing and recreational yard, for students and families. In addition to being used by the local community for different occasions and activities. The project was implemented under the "Creating friendly public spaces for children in Hares and Bruqin".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Bruqin Village council, UN-Habitat	Secours Islamique France	2018	4,050
Haris	The intervention is in the space connecting the school, the village council, and the mosque, to improve the village center and create a suitable and safe space for students and families. The local community mainly focused on the elements that support their needs (sitting chairs, pergolas, ...). The project was implemented under the "Creating friendly public spaces for children in Hares and Bruqin".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Haris Village council, UN-Habitat	Secours Islamique France	2018	4,140
Ras Al Wad	The project aimed to physically improve the condition by enhancing the quality of life through creating a public space, improve pedestrian's safety around the school and mosque in the main village spine, while also promoting participation by residents to encourage and raise awareness of the importance of maintaining their own communities. The project was implemented under "Spatial Planning Support Programme for Palestinian Communities in Area C, West Bank".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Ras Al Wad Village council, UN-Habitat	European Union	2015	900
Abdullah Al Yunis	The project aimed to physically improve the condition by creating pedestrian paths and creating a public place for people to sit and enjoy, while also promoting participation by residents to encourage and raise awareness of the importance of maintaining their own communities. The project was implemented under "Spatial Planning Support Programme for Palestinian Communities in Area C, West Bank".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Abdullah Al Yunis Village council, UN-Habitat	European Union	2015	170
Imneizel	The project aimed to physically improve the condition by creating the small playground for children in the park, enhancing the playground of the school and surroundings, improvement of access, while also promoting participation by residents to encourage and raise awareness of the importance of maintaining their own communities. Furthermore, the project aimed to bring together the community through encouraging citizens to participate in community development issues and gain knowledge on the sense of participation and ownership over their local area. The project was implemented under "Spatial Planning Support Programme for Palestinian Communities in Area C, West Bank".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Imneizel Village council, UN-Habitat	European Union	2015	280
Izbet Tabib	The project aimed to physically improve the condition by creating the improvement of access to school and improvement of streetscape in main village spine. Also promoting participation by residents to encourage and raise awareness of the importance of maintaining their own communities. The project was implemented under "Spatial Planning Support Programme for Palestinian Communities in Area C, West Bank".	Area C	Ministry of Local Government, Izbet Tabib Village council, UN-Habitat	European Union	2015	260

# HAYA JOINT PROGRAMME

Eliminating Violence Against Women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

The HAYA Joint Programme: Eliminating Violence Against Women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is funded by the Government of Canada and jointly implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development as well as other ministries and civil society organizations. The overall objective of building just and secure communities for women and girls in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be achieved through progress against three main outcomes focusing on: (1) Decreased

harmful practices and attitudes that perpetuate and validate violence against women and girls within targeted households and communities; (2) Increased access by women and girls of gender-responsive ERAW services (economic, medical, psychosocial, security, shelter) free of discrimination; (3) Strengthened institutional capacity to develop and implement legal and policy frameworks that promote and

protect women's and girls' rights with regards to VAW. Under outcome (1), there is a special focus on building an enabling policy environment to combat violence against women and increase the knowledge and capacity to undertake comprehensive local interventions for prevention and response on ERAW by local authorities and municipalities.

Through the HAYA Joint Programme,

UN-Habitat is working on increasing the knowledge and capacity of local authorities and municipalities to undertake comprehensive local interventions for prevention and response on ERAW, through achieving set of results: A) Safety Audits that assess women's safety in five cities (four cities in West Bank and one city in Gaza Strip); B) Awareness and advocacy campaign to promote

women's safety in public spaces; C) Capacity building for municipalities on how to design safe and inclusive public spaces; D) Development and regeneration of five safe and inclusive public spaces; E) Development of gender responsive public space policy and safe and inclusive public space design methodology; F) Curriculum development jointly with the local universities on how to design safe and inclusive public spaces.

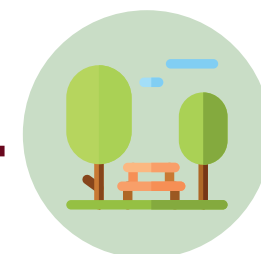
## DEVELOPING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL THROUGH:

Safety audits assessing women's safety in Khan Younis, Jericho, Nablus, Jenin, and the Bethlehem Cluster including Beit Jala, Beit Sa hour, and Al Doha and Bethlehem



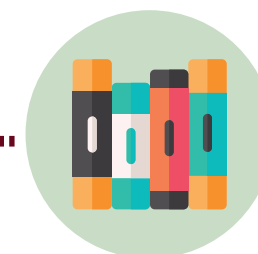
Awareness and advocacy campaigns to promote women's safety in public spaces

Capacity building for municipalities on how to design safe and inclusive public spaces



Development and regeneration of five safe and inclusive public spaces in targeted Palestinian communities

Development of gender responsive public space policy and design methodology for safe and inclusive public spaces



Joint curriculum development with local universities on designing safe and inclusive public spaces





Bethlehem City © Flickr Leo Li

# 2

## CHAPTER

## INTRODUCTION

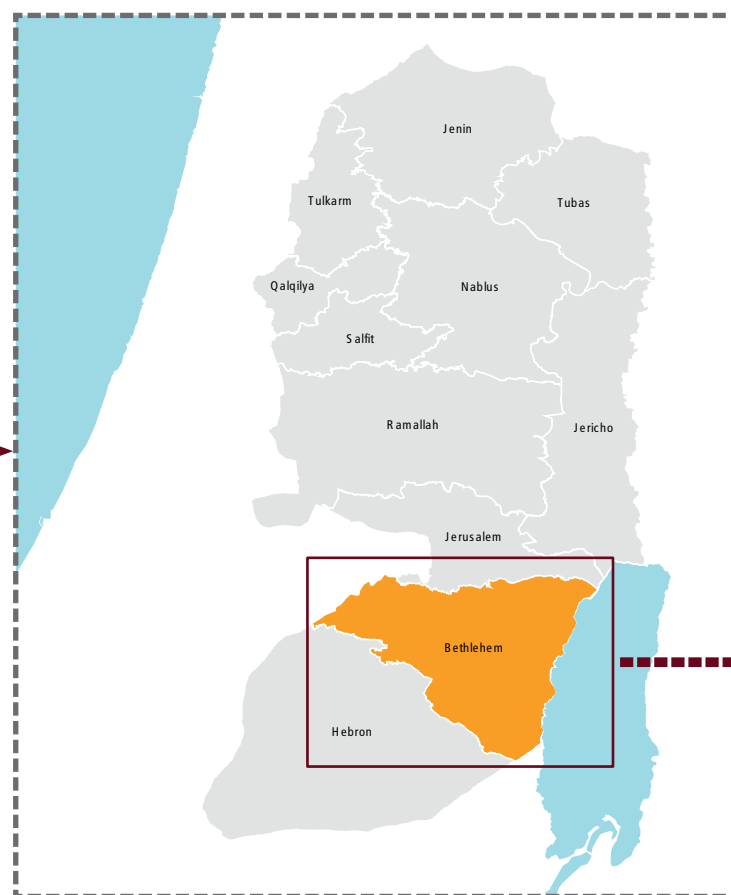
- About Bethlehem Governorate
- State of public spaces
- Scope and focus
- Objectives and methodology



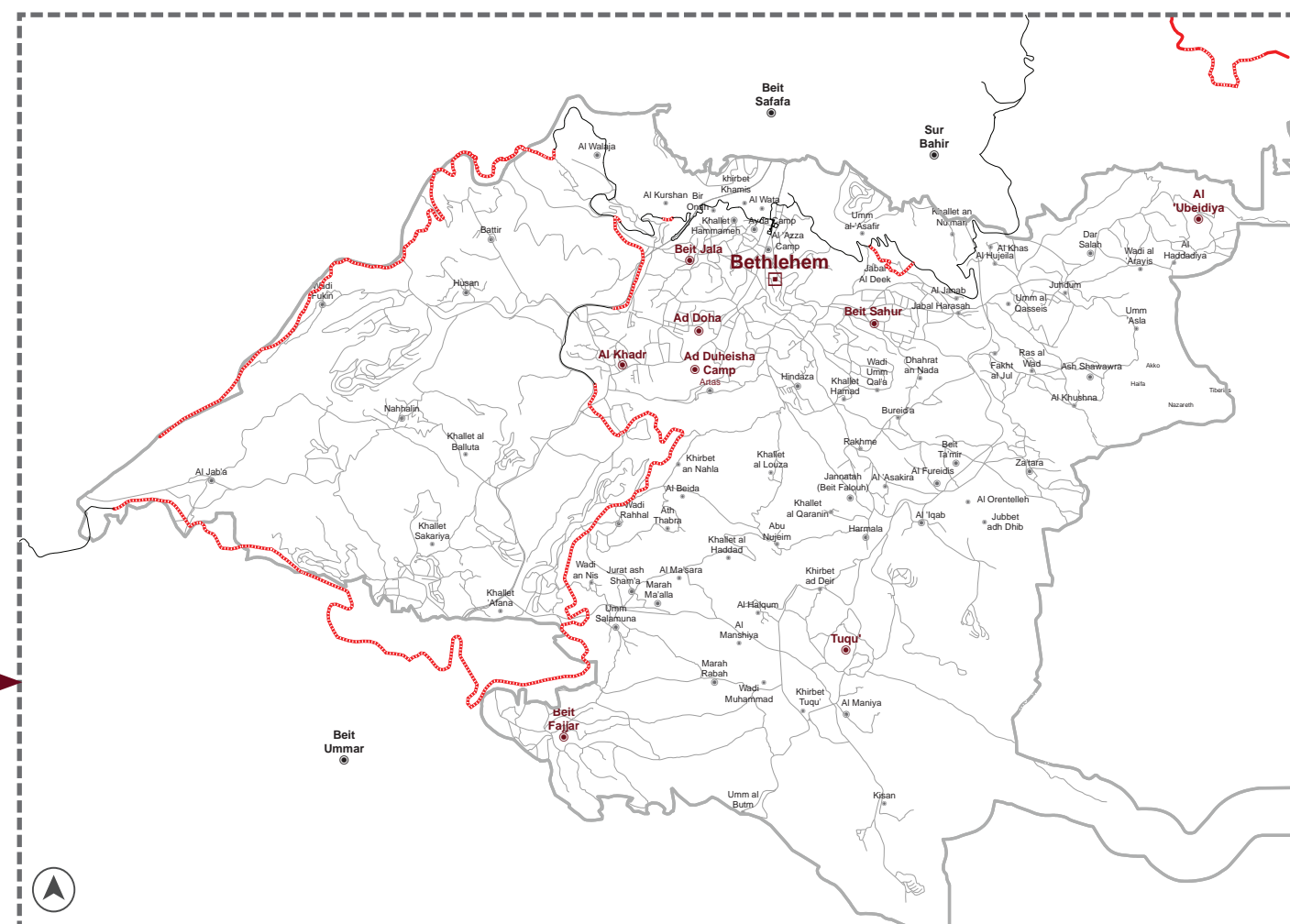
# LOCATION OF BETHLEHEM GOVERNORATE



Palestine showing West Bank © UN-Habitat



Bethlehem governorate © UN-Habitat



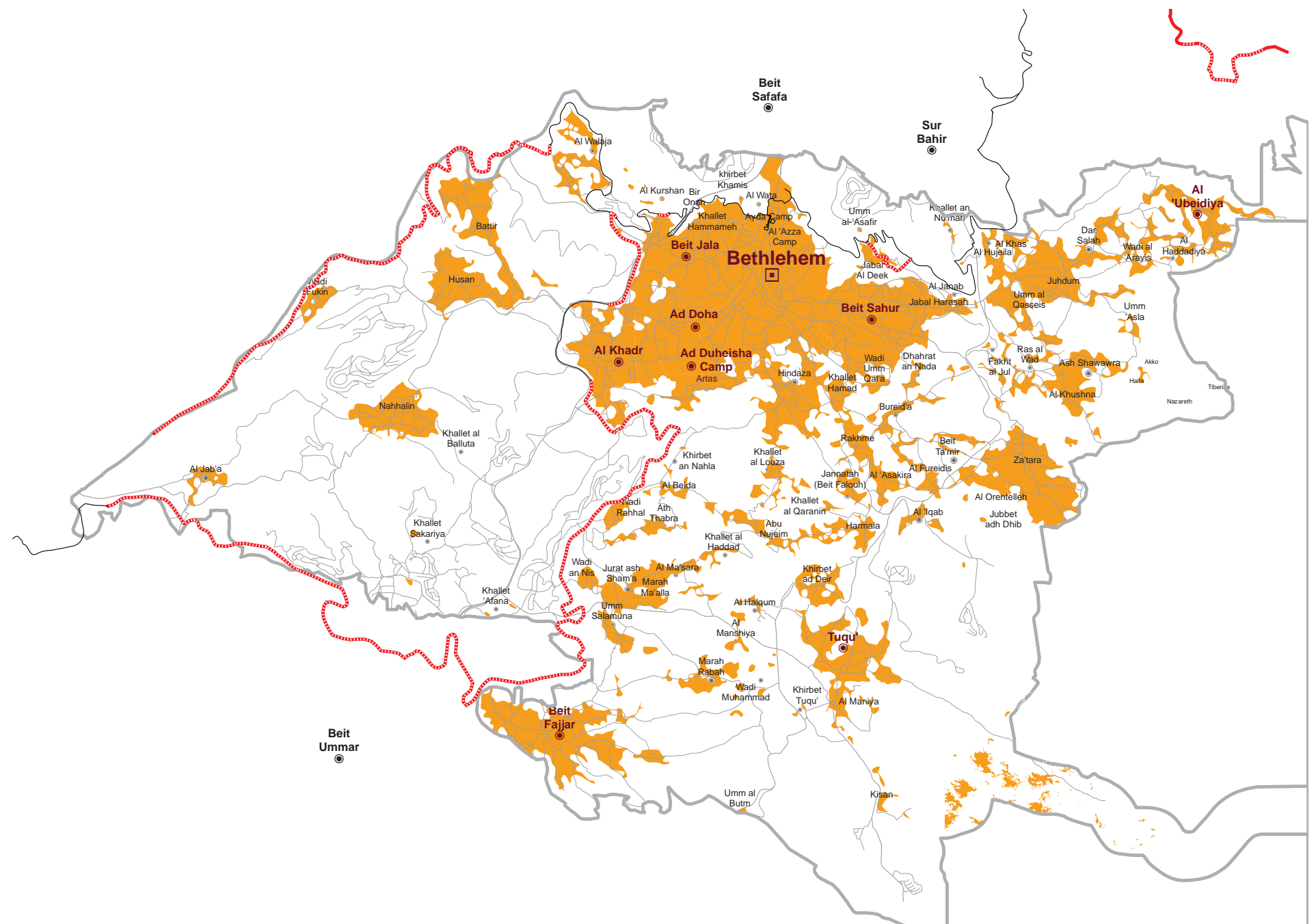
Bethlehem governorate major settlements © UN-Habitat

## URBANIZATION IN THE WEST BANK

Urbanization in Palestine is characterized by a rapidly growing pace, as the total urban population is estimated by 75% and the urban population growth rate stands at 3.2%, almost double the one of the global growth rate (1.7%). Since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA), and the emergence of jurisdictional land classifications according to the Oslo Accords (1993-1995), urbanization has been heavily constrained by geopolitics, which limits the urban expansion of Palestinian population within the West Bank within Areas A and B according to Oslo Accords which comprises only 39% of the total area of West Bank. This has led to imbalanced distribution of the urban population, creating highly dense urban centers and decreasing population densities as we move away from main Palestinian cities

in the West Bank. The imbalanced urban growth is coupled with poor planning solutions and unsatisfactory infrastructural networks, imposing pressure on the land and the environment, as well as comprising the overall livability of urban life, including the quality of open public spaces in Palestinian cities.

Post 2007, and the economic development plan and the institution building programme presented by the Palestinian government at that time, and the escalating attention by international aid agencies, Palestinian cities in the West Bank witnessed significant growth in economic and construction sectors. Nevertheless, this exerted more pressure on Palestinian cities, as the construction boom was not matched by proper planning and infrastructure to accommodate the rapidly growing cities.



■ Built-up area

Built-up areas in Bethlehem governorate © UN-Habitat



## URBAN GOVERNANCE IN THE WEST BANK

Urban planning and development in Palestine are governed by a multi-layered system of administrative and organizational structures. In terms of organizational setup, the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) is considered the main body mandated to monitor policy making and coordinating urban planning interventions implemented in Palestinian cities, supported by line ministries and with the Municipal Lending and Development Fund (MDLF), which is considered the executive body responsible for the implementation of urban improvement projects and infrastructure interventions within Palestinian Local Government Units (LGUs). Finally, there is the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities that represents the LGUs and supports their interest. However, the association has not been active for the past few years due to political reasons.

Administratively, the Palestinian Government, represented by the different line ministries, is in charge of issuing main policies and setting

the annual budgets at the national level. Whereas at the regional levels, there are eleven governorates across the West Bank that represent the national government, without being a distinct level by itself. At the local level, municipal and village councils are mandated to govern planning and development issues on the scale of individual communities, and managing the implementation of planning and building regulations, including the management of open public spaces.

In terms of the legal framework, the main laws that govern the work of the LGUs are:

- The Law for Local Authorities no. (1) for the year 1997 describing the rules of the law in forty articles focusing on the main responsibilities of the MoLG, the tasks of local authorities and the duties they have to undertake.
- The Planning and Building Law no. (79) for the year 1966 (Jordanian Planning Law) that continue to be applicable in the West Bank, especially Area C.
- The Law of Expropriation no. (2) for the year 1953.



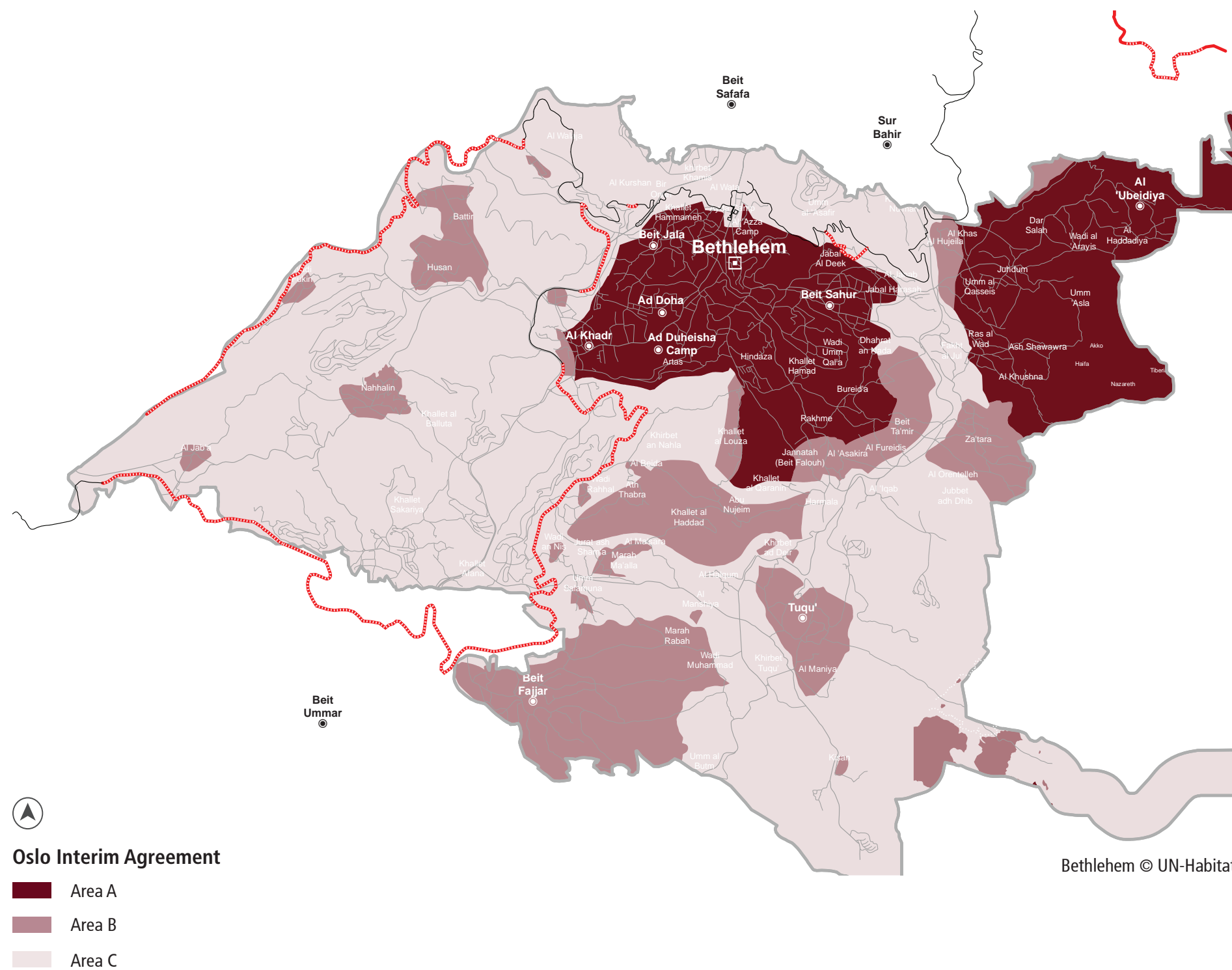
Bethlehem city © Flickr Jonathan Wolfson



## LAND AND HOUSING IN THE WEST BANK

In the West Bank, opportunities to adequate housing are limited, particularly in Area C and occupied East Jerusalem. The high demand on housing, especially in urban centers, coupled with the lack of proper planning and regulation solutions, in addition to high geopolitical constraints, and an outdated land management tools have all contributed to the emergence of random unregulated developments that are characterized by highly dense residential areas within the urban centers within Areas A and B, and particularly in occupied East Jerusalem.. Palestinians are forced to develop within a very limited, confined space due to the limited availability of land, where this scarcity of land creates expensive housing options that do not respond properly to the demand and capabilities of Palestinian families. Studies have indicated that 61 percent of Palestinian families will need new housing units in the next decade to replace old deteriorated units, in addition to the housing units needed for natural growth.

The housing typology in Palestine is characterized by either single, free-standing houses (ranging in height from one to three stories, usually occupied by one family) or multi-story apartment buildings occupied by several families. Housing typologies vary between Palestinian cities and depend on their densities, topography, growth rates, and socio-economic situation. Typologies are generally governed by the local master plans and land use regulations.



## LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE WEST BANK

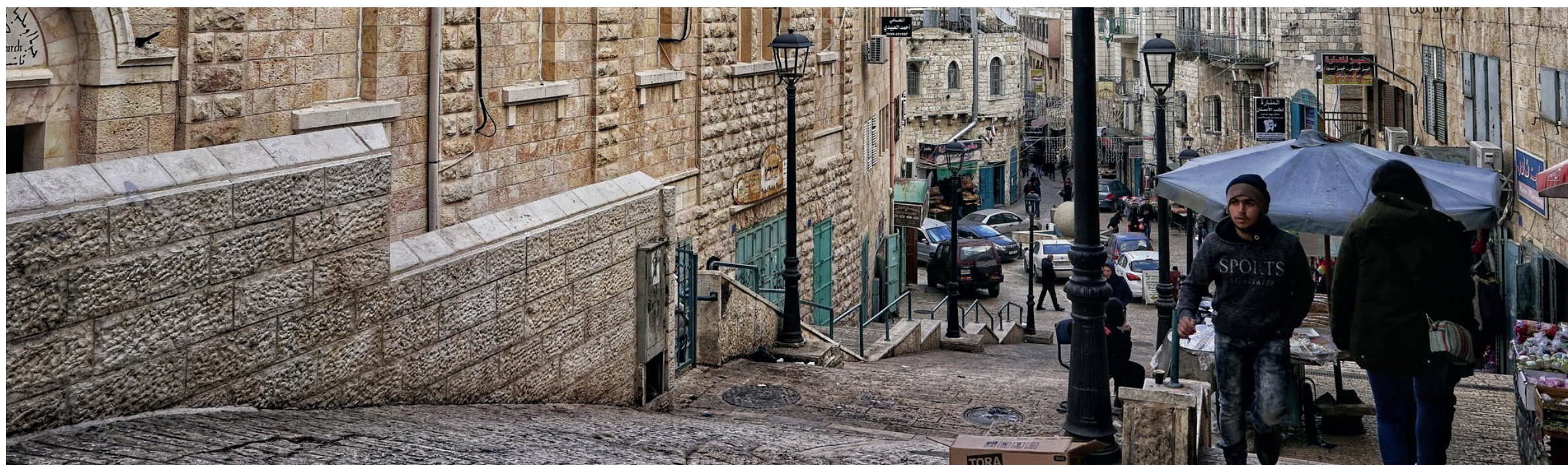
Land management in Palestine still a lagging behind sector, with various laws and by-laws inherited from different eras that ruled over the planning sector in Palestine, (namely, the Ottoman Period, British Mandate Period, Jordanian Administration Period, Israeli Military Occupation and the Palestinian National Authority). Among which, Ottoman Land Laws have extensively affected land regulations in Palestine. However, important to note that land laws in Palestine were manipulated by the Israeli military orders and used as tools to restrict Palestinian development and confiscate their lands, burdening the land management tools with more challenges. Land titling in urbanized areas of the West Bank is a slow process initiated by the Water and Land Settlement Agency, which operates under the Land Authority.



# STATE OF PUBLIC SPACES

## IMPACT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ON THE PUBLIC SPACE

The urbanization and growth patterns in the west Bank have negatively affected the development of good quality public spaces. Planning regulations and bylaws in Palestine were incapable of facilitating the provision of open public spaces, and mainly focused on the development of the built up areas. Hence open public spaces were treated negatively and were not integrated in master plans and their by-laws. Furthermore, no policies are currently mainstreamed within the Palestinian spatial planning system that guide the planning, designing, constructing, and managing the open public spaces in cities and towns.



Bethlehem city © Flickr Young Adventure



Bethlehem City © Flickr Leo Li



## SCOPE AND FOCUS: BETHLEHEM CLUSTER

### GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Bethlehem Cluster is comprised of four adjacent cities, namely: Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour and Al Doha. Despite that each of them have its own boundaries and municipal council., their urban fabric and urban growth patterns are connected composing one continuous urban area. The Cluster is located 9 km south of Jerusalem and is distinguished as a major religious center. According to the Christian tradition, the city of Bethlehem hosts the birthplace of Jesus inside the Nativity Church among many other locations that are considered destinations on the Christian pilgrimage route.

According to the PCBS, in 2019 the Cluster has a total population of 70,049 inhabitants, and it is projected to reach a total of 81,741 inhabitants in 2030 according to current growth rates. The geographical location of the Cluster, and the fact that it is close to the city of Jerusalem, which is another major religious attraction in the West Bank contributed to the development of tourism as one of the most prominent sectors in the Cluster.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

The Cluster has a unique social, cultural, religious and historical composition that contributed to its development as a touristic hub. According to the MoLG, 90% of tourists who entered Palestine in 2010 have visited Bethlehem. The Cluster offers accommodation and hosting options, it comes second after Jerusalem in terms of the highest concentration of hotels and rooms in the West Bank. The Cluster is surrounded by natural areas that attracts local and international tourism, especially in the city of Beit Jala. The cultural heritage in the old towns in the cities of Beit Sahour, Beit Jala and Bethlehem also considered attraction areas for tourists.

The city of Bethlehem is the administrative and commercial hub of the Cluster and also serves Bethlehem governorate as a whole. The Cluster hosts academic and cultural institutions that contribute to its national cultural status, including the University of Bethlehem.

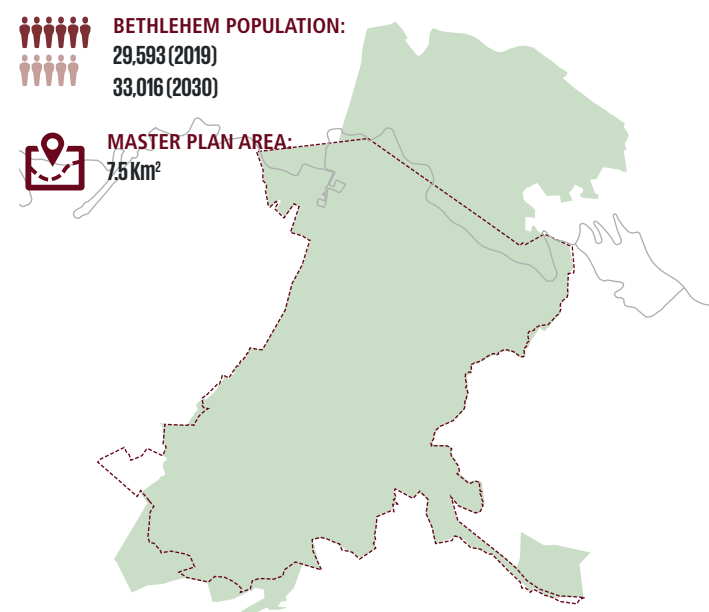


Bethlehem urban area © UN-Habitat

## BETHLEHEM CITY

The city had a population of 29,593 in 2019 according to PCBS (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics), the area of the current master plan is 7.5 square kilometers, it is surrounded by Beit Sahour from the east, Beit Jala from the west and Hindaza from the south, it is characterized by the religious importance, it was first inhabited by the Canaanites 2000 BC.

Bethlehem is the center of culture and tourism in Palestine, since it is identified by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus Christ. Bethlehem has many churches, most notably is the Church of Nativity, which is registered within the UNESCO World Heritage List, among many other rich Palestinian heritage sites.

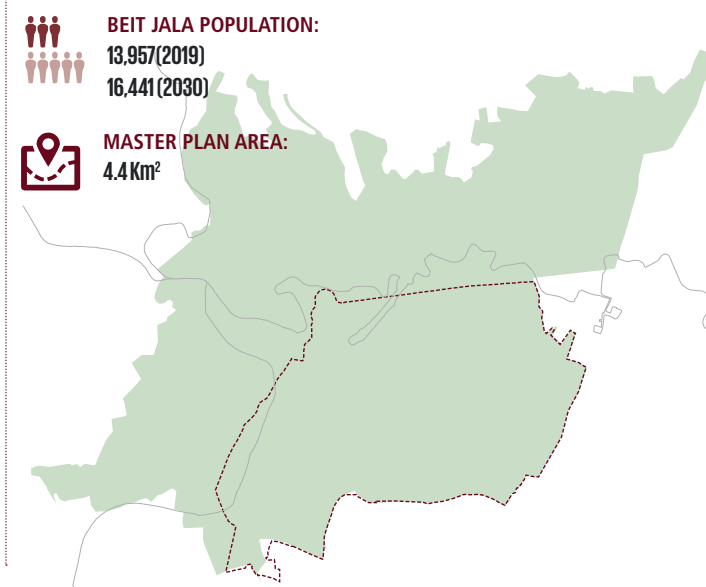


## BEIT JALA CITY

Beit Jala's population in 2019 is estimated to be 13,957 (PCBS, 2019). The total area of the city's master plan is 4.4 square kilometres. Beit Jala is surrounded by Bethlehem City from the east, Battir & Al walaja from the west, Shurfat and Beit Safafa Village from the north and Al Khadr & Ad Doha from the south.

Beit Jala city has long history, and its Christian community is one of the oldest in the world. The name 'Beit Jala' comes from Aramaic language and means "Grass Carpet". Anthropological evidence shows that the area was inhabited since pre-historical times.

The city's future vision according to Beit Jala's municipality Strategic Development and Investment Plan (SDIP) is seen as the center of cultural heritage, tourist city, green and safe.

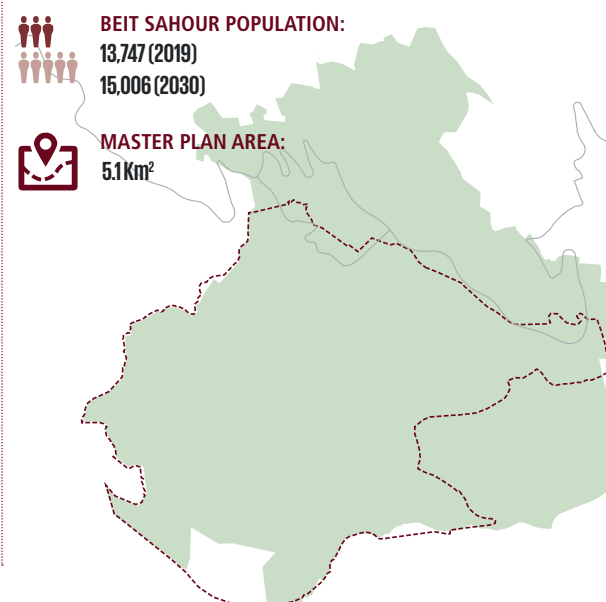


## BEIT SAHOUR CITY

Beit Sahour's population in 2019 is estimated by 13,747 people (PCBS, 2019). The total area of the city's master plan is 5126 Dunum. Beit Sahour is surrounded by Ashawawra & Dar Salah from the east, Bethlehem City from the west, Al Khas, Nu'man Village and Jabal Abu Ghnaïm from the north and Hindaza Village from the south.

The City's history goes back to the Bronze Age (3000 BC) when the Canaanites inhabited its numerous caves. Beit Sahour is surrounded by many historical and biblical sites, which are frequently visited by pilgrims and tourists.

The city's future vision according to Beit Sahour's municipality Strategic Development and Investment Plan (SDIP) is seen as a touristic, safe and prosperous city.

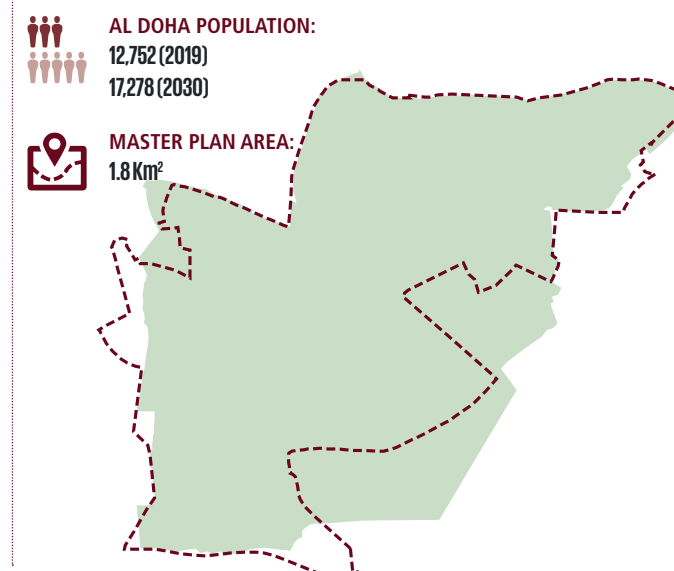


## AL DOHA CITY

According to the SDIP of Al Doha municipality visions the city as organized and commercial city.

Al Doha has a population of 2,752. Most of them are Palestinian refugees, The city of Al Doha is approximately 1.8 square kilometres according to the master plan. Al Doha is located between the cities of Bethlehem and Beit Jala. It shares the border with the north and east. It is bordered to the west by the town of al-Khader, to the south by the Dheisheh camp and the village of Artas.

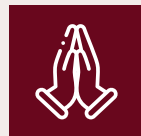
In 1996 Beit Jala Municipality named the Al Doha Area after the capital of Qatar as appreciation for the generous donation to construct the street to connect Beit Jala and Al Quds street passing by Adhisha refugee Camp. A decision made by the late President Yasser Arafat.



"A religious, historic, safe, green and tourist cities with fair, sustainable and quality services, preserving its authenticity and heritage."

Vision for Bethlehem Cluster Cities

## OPPORTUNITIES



### Religious importance

Bethlehem city has The Church of the Nativity where Jesus Christ was born which gives the city a religious importance to Christians all over the world



### Educational and cultural life centre

Bethlehem City has three academic institutions as well as two speciality health care centres, which makes it a major destination for West Bank people



### Natural resources

The cluster main forests and natural springs



### Cultural and natural heritage

In historic centre Beit Jala and Beit Sahour have many religious, cultural, buildings and facilities

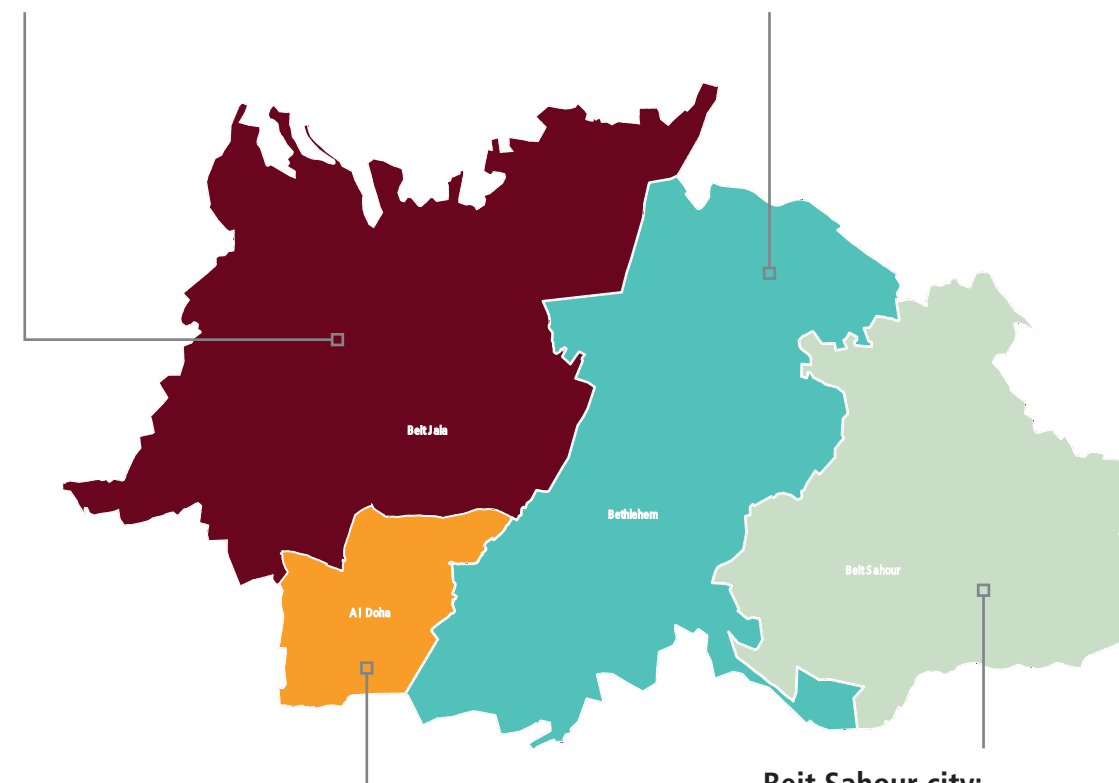
## CHALLENGES

### Beit Jala city:

- The sewerage network does not cover the master plan area
- Poor security and disaster management in the city

### Bethlehem city:

- Geopolitical land classifications
- High density and insufficient area for future expansion
- Existence of the segregation wall



### Al Doha city:

- Lack of water per capita and long periods of outage
- The sewerage network does not cover the master plan area
- Poor level and diversity of services
- Poor security and disaster management services in the city

### Beit Sahour city:

- Inadequate training institutes in the city
- Poor organisation and development of industry and trade programs
- Poor solid waste management

# OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THE PROJECT

## OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN PUBLIC SPACE ASSESSMENT

The inventory and assessment of Open Public Spaces in Bethlehem Cluster was carried out with an aim to:

The results of the assessment will inform strategic and policy recommendations, particularly to improve safety and security, accessibility and inclusion for women and girls.

**Investigate the Accessibility of the public spaces in the Municipality.**

**Understand the Distribution of the public spaces in the Municipality.**

**Understand the Network of the public spaces in the Municipality.**

**Assess the Quality of the public spaces in the Municipality (Accessibility, Use, Comfort, Facilities, Safety, and Green Coverage).**

**Establish the share of urban land that is used as open public spaces in Municipality.**

## PRE-FIELDWORK PREPARATION

1

### Creation of a reference group and Developing the Assessment Tool

UN-Habitat team in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) developed a structured questionnaire to guide the classification and analysis of the existing open public spaces. The questionnaire constituted from two main sections as follows:

#### Section A: Public space assessment

Part 1: Identification of the open public space

Part 2: Types of the public space assessment

Part 3: Physical facility assessment

Part 4: Accessibility assessment

Part 5: Use assessment

Part 6: Comfort assessment

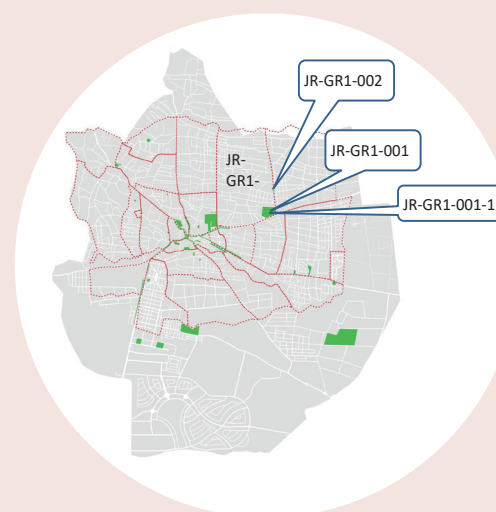
Part 7: Green coverage assessment

#### Section B: Safety assessment

Part 8: Safety Assessment

Part 9: Perception of Safety

The questionnaire was then uploaded into Kobo toolbox application that is an open source and digital and allow for validation on the ground, remote administration, and working under different conditions.



2

### Preparation of GIS Base Map

In collaboration with Municipalities the first version of GIS base map was prepared, including several GIS layers such as: administrative borders, existing open public spaces, main streets, public facilities, land use, and neighborhood boundaries.

Updating the base map was critical prior to commencing the data collection step, the main objective of this task was to validate the existing public space in terms of location, area, ownership, and use, and to identify any other available public spaces that were not reflected on the base map.

For further verification, the updated base map was presented to the municipality staff to validate and confirm the updated public spaces base map.



3

### Mobilizing the Assessment Team

Through a vigorous exercise, Bayt Al Handasah Consultative Company was hired to supported in conducting city-wide public space assessments, with a specific focus on providing safe, inclusive and accessible public space for women and girls, especially in the most disadvantaged communities. The Company was responsible to lead and facilitate the safety audit survey in Bethlehem Cluster to discuss and present the findings from the assessment to the key stakeholders.



4

### Training Sessions

Two sets of training events were held in January 2019 in Ramallah and Jericho and in September 2019 in Ramalla, Bethlehem and Nablus to provide better understanding of the task ahead, the trainings was divided into two main parts:

A) Theoretical Part: during this session the project's main objectives, scope, and intended results were highlighted. In addition, the trainees were introduced on how public spaces are identified globally and what criteria and measures that should be in place to ensure they are safe, inclusive, and gender responsive. The final section was introducing Kobo toolbox, how it works, and the content of each section in the developed questionnaire and how to respond to each question;

B) Practical part: this session focused on how to configure and set up Kobo toolbox on their mobile phones and how to fill, edit, validate, and send finalized forms. These steps were followed by practical testing of the application in the adjacent open public spaces, and open discussions on concerns and possible challenges that may arise throughout the fieldwork.



## DATA COLLECTION QUALITY CHECK AND DATA CLEANING

5

## Data Collection

The team conducted data collection in Bethlehem Cluster.

The questionnaire used included different methods to harness data required for reliable assessment of public spaces:

- A) Observations: data related to the physical components of public spaces, and number of users were injected based on the surveyor's observations in the field;
- B) Photos: minimum of three photos were mandatory to finalize the form, the photos were very helpful for assessing the nature of the public space and to verify its respective data as well;
- C) Sound Measurement: the surveyors were able to reflect the noise levels through voice recording tab that is an indication of comfort level of the public space;
- D) Semi-Structured Interviews: to assess the safety from the users' perspectives, the surveyors conducted a number of interviews for each entry, people living adjacent to the targeted public spaces were interviewed when the public spaces were vacant during the field visits. Children were also interviewed regarding their perception of safety

To facilitate the fieldwork and make sure that the generated data from the field are appropriately linked with spatial data (GIS base map), each team member received assigned public spaces ID and name. In addition, each team was given aerial map of the neighborhoods that include the targeted public spaces.

Most of the sites were visited over the weekdays, and during the peak hours.



6

## Data Cleaning Updating

The data was cleaned and verified to ensure precise data analysis and hence reliable findings. This included omitting duplicate entries for the same field visit, entries for privately-owned public spaces, entries that were uploaded during the training sessions.

After careful and precise verification, the total number of cleared and verified open public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster was 60.

The unique open public space ID provided to the surveyors was then used to link the data from the field to the individual open public space.

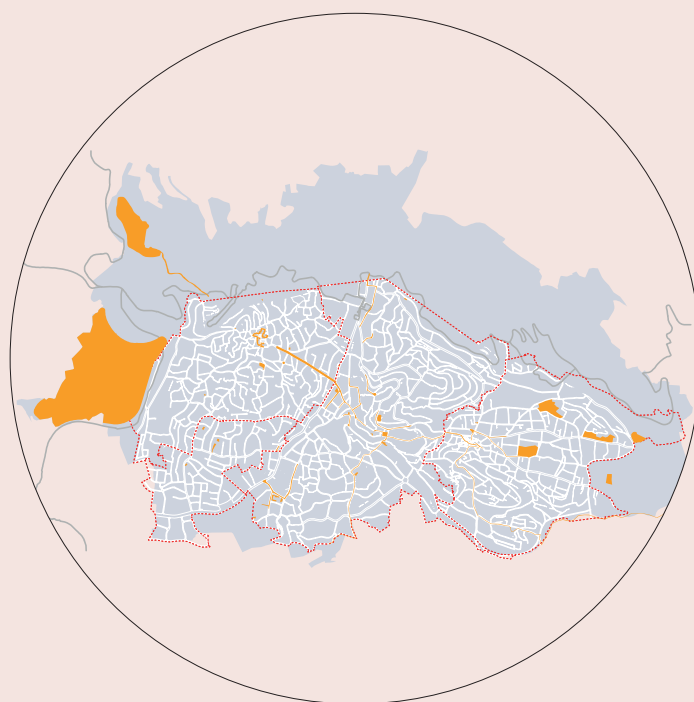
60

Number of open public space collected in Bethlehem Cluster

7

**GIS map**

GIS database was updated prior to data analysis, this included reshaping of number of public spaces and omitting the other open public spaces that were outside our scope of focus. The GIS database includes the open public space ID that is considered key cell that link the spatial data with the data generated from Kobo Toolbox.



8

**Data analysis and reporting**

The qualitative and quantitative data gathered during the field survey was analysed and categorized in themes. Data was analysed using Kobo Toolbox and GIS and Excel and any other statics software. The statistical treatments were means, percentages and factor analysis. Charts were used to present the results. Information gained by documents and maps analysis and observations were compared with the real situation and interviews. The following chapter provides an overview of the results.



# ASSESSED PUBLIC SPACES

No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
1	Municipal Playground	Government	Government	Neighborhood	16.8	9.7	75	22.2	37.5	20	0	25.9
2	Putin Street	Government	Government	City level	7.7	32.3	75	33.3	37.5	20	0	29.4
3	Municipal Park	Government	Government	City level	19.2	9.7	100	0	37.5	40	0	29.5
4	Dar Al Kalima Street and Al Ahlia Street	Government	Government	City level	20.1	16.1	75	33.3	37.5	20	18.2	31.5
5	YMCA Playground	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	3	19.4	100	44.4	50	20	0	33.8
6	Saliba Zidan Playground	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	Neighborhood	15.9	22.6	75	22.2	37.5	20	45.5	34.1
7	Al Bayyarah Park	Other	Non-Government	Neighborhood	9.6	22.6	83.3	0	37.5	40	45.5	34.1
8	Phoenix Garden	Non-Government	Non-Government	Neighborhood	6.6	38.7	75	0	37.5	45	36.4	34.2
9	The northern entrance to Bethlehem	Government	Government	City level	28.2	16.1	87.5	44.4	37.5	30	0	34.8
10	Doha Stair Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	11.7	32.3	55.6	55.6	37.5	35	18.2	35.1
11	Taxis station and Souq AlShaab market	Government	Government	City level	12.3	25.8	72.7	55.6	50	30	0	35.2
12	Mental Health Hospital Street	Government	Government	City level	23.8	22.6	100	11.1	62.5	30	0	35.7
13	Bethlehem University Street	Government	Government	City level	15.4	35.5	100	33.3	37.5	30	0	36
14	Al Doha Public Staircase	Government	Government	Pocket Park	22	22.6	62.5	77.8	37.5	30	0	36
15	Al 'Amal Street	Government	Government	City level	37.2	25.8	75	55.6	37.5	30	0	37.3
16	As Souq Al Markazi (Central Market)	Government	Government	Neighborhood	18	29	75	66.7	37.5	40	0	38
17	Abu Alia Playground	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	Neighborhood	19.2	12.9	100	33.3	37.5	30	36.4	38.5
18	The Catholic Work Square and Roundabout	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	75	66.7	50	35	0	38.5
19	The Antonine Assembly Street and the Infirmary	Government	Government	City level	23.4	16.1	100	55.6	37.5	20	18.2	38.7
20	Normandy Roundabout	Government	Government	Pocket Park	13.8	16.1	71.4	44.4	50	30	45.5	38.8
21	Al Manara Square	Government	Government	Pocket Park	9.8	32.3	60	88.9	50	35	0	39.4
22	As Souq Al Markazi (Central Market)	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	29	62.5	66.7	37.5	70	0	39.5
23	Ibrahim Touristic Trail	Government	Government	City level	5.7	29	100	44.4	37.5	60	0	39.5
24	Transportation Hub in Wadi Maali	Non-Government	Non-Government	Neighborhood	14.7	25.8	75	66.7	37.5	40	18.2	39.7
25	Al Sahel Roundabout	Government	Government	Neighborhood	18.6	16.1	100	77.8	37.5	30	0	40
26	Monastery Yard	Government	Government	Pocket Park	5.6	19.4	100	66.7	50	40	0	40.2
27	Al Bayyarah Garden	Government	Jointly-managed	Pocket Park	13.1	19.4	100	44.4	50	40	18.2	40.7
28	The Old Market	Government	Government	Neighborhood	14.9	25.8	69.2	88.9	37.5	50	0	40.9

Values are in percentages. Higher percentage means better performance

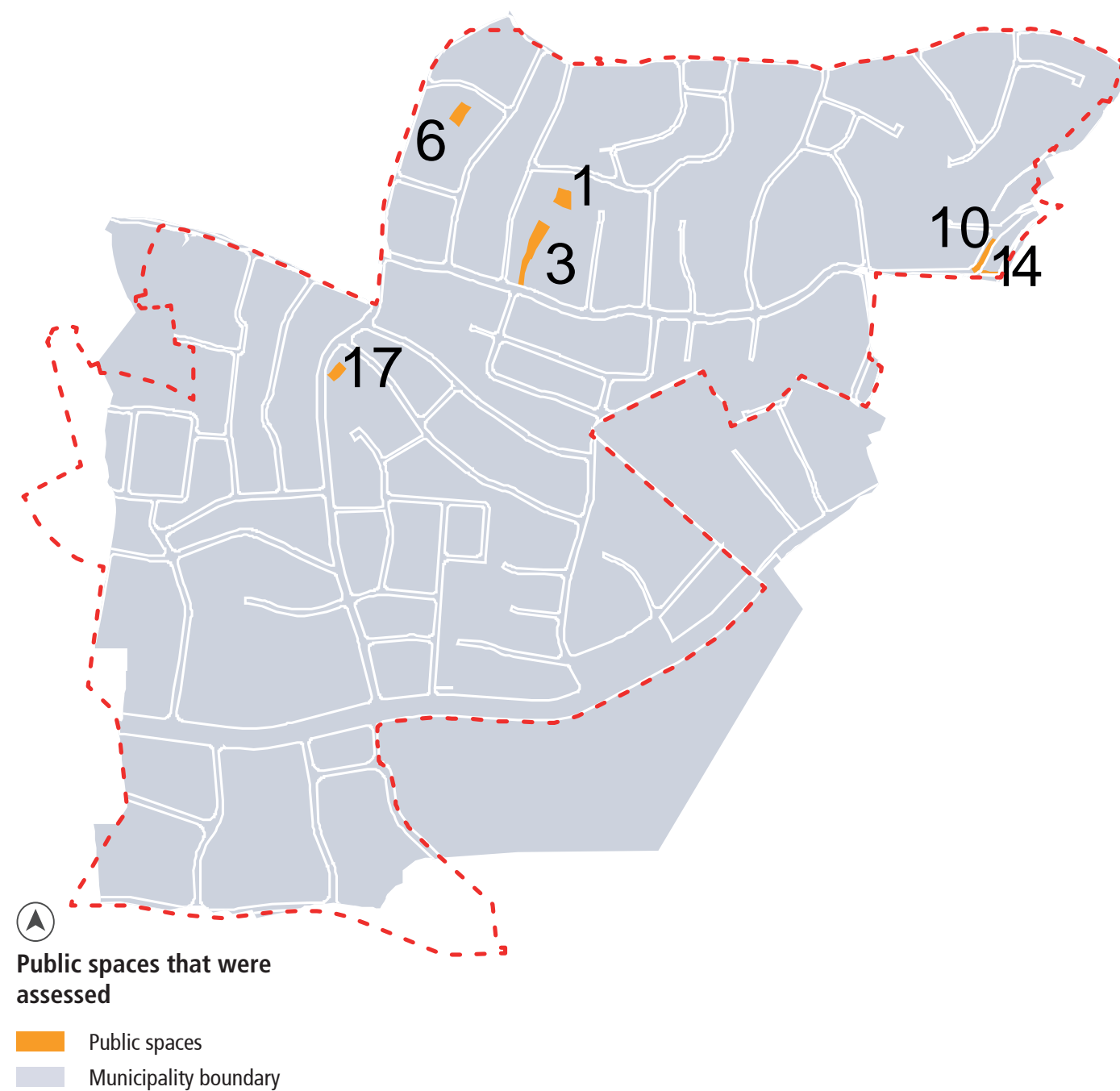


No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
29	Southern Transportation Hub, Al-Jarashi Land	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	City level	13.1	38.7	71.4	66.7	37.5	60	0	41.1
30	Saturday Market	Government	Government	Neighborhood	14.1	35.5	100	44.4	50	35	9.1	41.2
31	Beit Jala Taxi Station	Government	Government	Pocket Park	15.9	25.8	100	44.4	37.5	50	18.2	41.7
32	Municipal Playgroung	Government	Government	City level	25.9	25.8	100	33.3	50	40	18.2	41.9
33	Jerusalem Bus Station	Government	Government	Pocket Park	19.2	16.1	100	44.4	37.5	70	9.1	42.3
34	Nativity Street	Government	Government	City level	9.8	35.5	66.7	88.9	50	30	18.2	42.7
35	Transportation Hub in Jerashy Land	Government	Government	City level	18.3	29	77.8	55.6	62.5	30	27.3	42.9
36	St. Nicholas Trail	Government	Government	Neighborhood	7.5	29	100	88.9	50	25	0	42.9
37	Eastern Transportation Hub, Al'Een Station	Non-Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	12.9	100	88.9	37.5	50	0	42.9
38	Manshia	Government	Government	City level	16.8	32.3	75	66.7	37.5	55	18.2	43.1
39	Osh Al Ghorab Park	Government	Jointly-managed	City level	19.2	22.6	75	0	62.5	70	54.5	43.4
40	Al Sahel Street	Government	Government	City level	19.3	22.6	100	66.7	50	30	18.2	43.8
41	Shepherds Field	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	4.8	25.8	100	0	37.5	40	100	44
42	Commercial Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	87.5	77.8	50	35	18.2	44.5
43	Wadi Maali Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	17.7	25.8	77.8	88.9	37.5	40	27.3	45
44	Holy Saturday Trail	Government	Government	City level	12.2	25.8	100	88.9	50	50	0	46.7
45	Tchilei square	Government	Government	Pocket Park	14.1	19.4	100	88.9	37.5	50	18.2	46.9
46	Central Bus Station	Government	Government	City level	9.8	45.2	66.7	100	50	60	0	47.4
47	Commercial Street through the Cinema Roundabout	Government	Government	City level	31.2	29	44.4	100	62.5	40	27.3	47.8
48	Old Market Street	Government	Government	City level	28.8	32.3	55.6	88.9	62.5	40	27.3	47.9
49	Al Madbasih Square	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	66.7	88.9	50	35	54.5	48.3
50	Church of the Pastoral	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	5.7	19.4	100	33.3	50	30	100	48.3
51	Al Makhrouz Area	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	15.4	25.8	75	66.7	50	5	100	48.3
52	Beir Owneh	Government	Government	Pocket Park	21.1	22.6	100	77.8	62.5	40	18.2	48.9
53	The Candles Trail	Government	Government	City level	10.7	35.5	87.5	88.9	50	55	18.2	49.4
54	Cremisan Monastery Playground	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	15.4	32.3	100	66.7	37.5	0	100	50.3
55	Central Bus Station Street	Government	Government	City level	12.6	32.3	86.4	88.9	50	40	45.5	50.8
56	Nativity Square	Government	Government	City level	18.3	38.7	66.7	100	50	40	45.5	51.3
57	Mini Center Square	Government	Government	Neighborhood	11.7	41.9	100	44.4	87.5	70	18.2	53.4
58	Marie Doty Park	Non-Government	Government	Pocket Park	5.7	35.5	100	77.8	50	50	63.6	54.7
59	As Salam Park	Government	Jointly_managed	City level	15.9	25.8	100	77.8	37.5	50	81.8	55.5
60	Cremisan Monastery	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	11.7	38.7	75	88.9	87.5	40	100	63.1

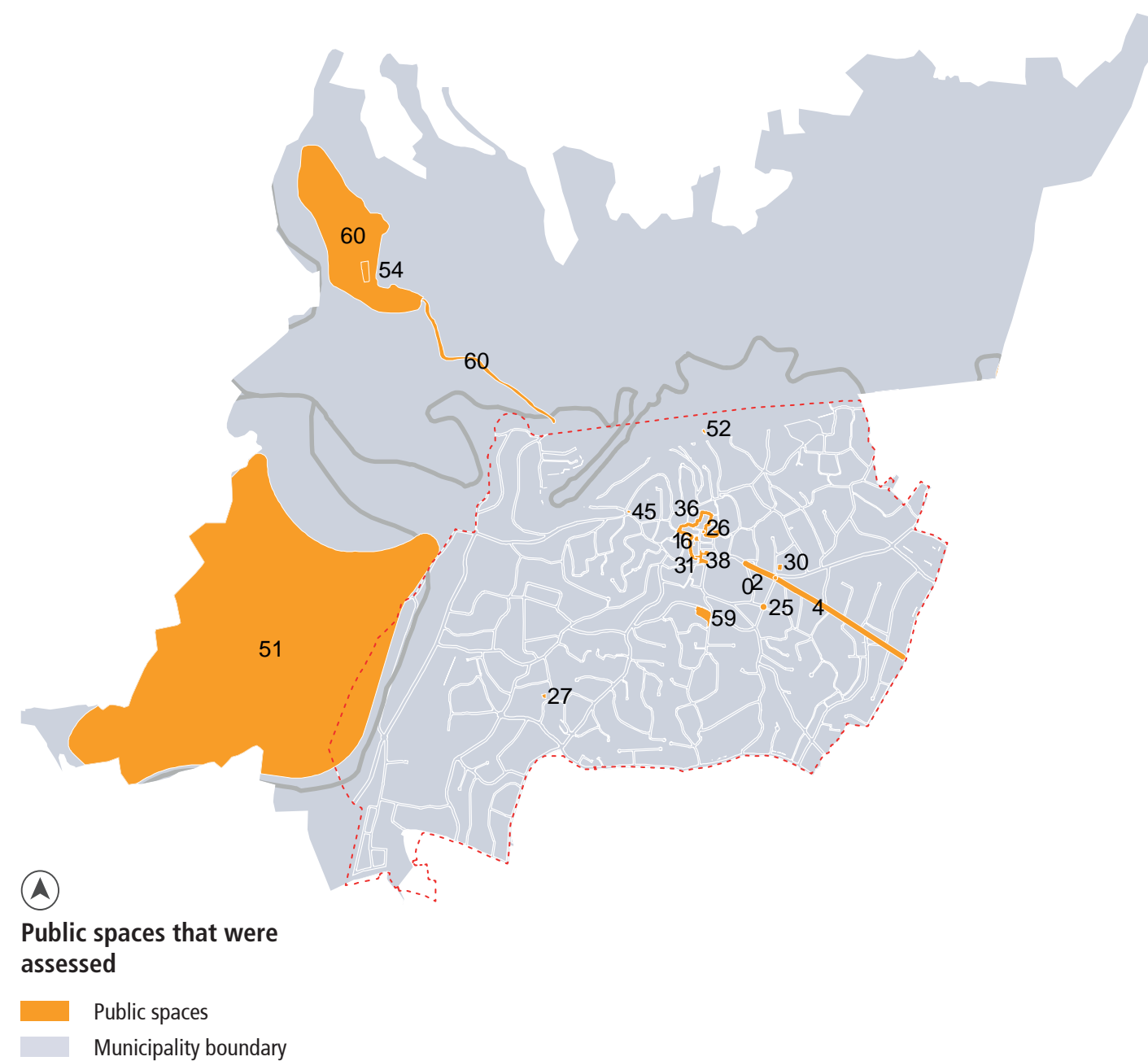
Values are in percentages. Higher percentage means better performance

# ASSESSED PUBLIC SPACES

## AL DOHA

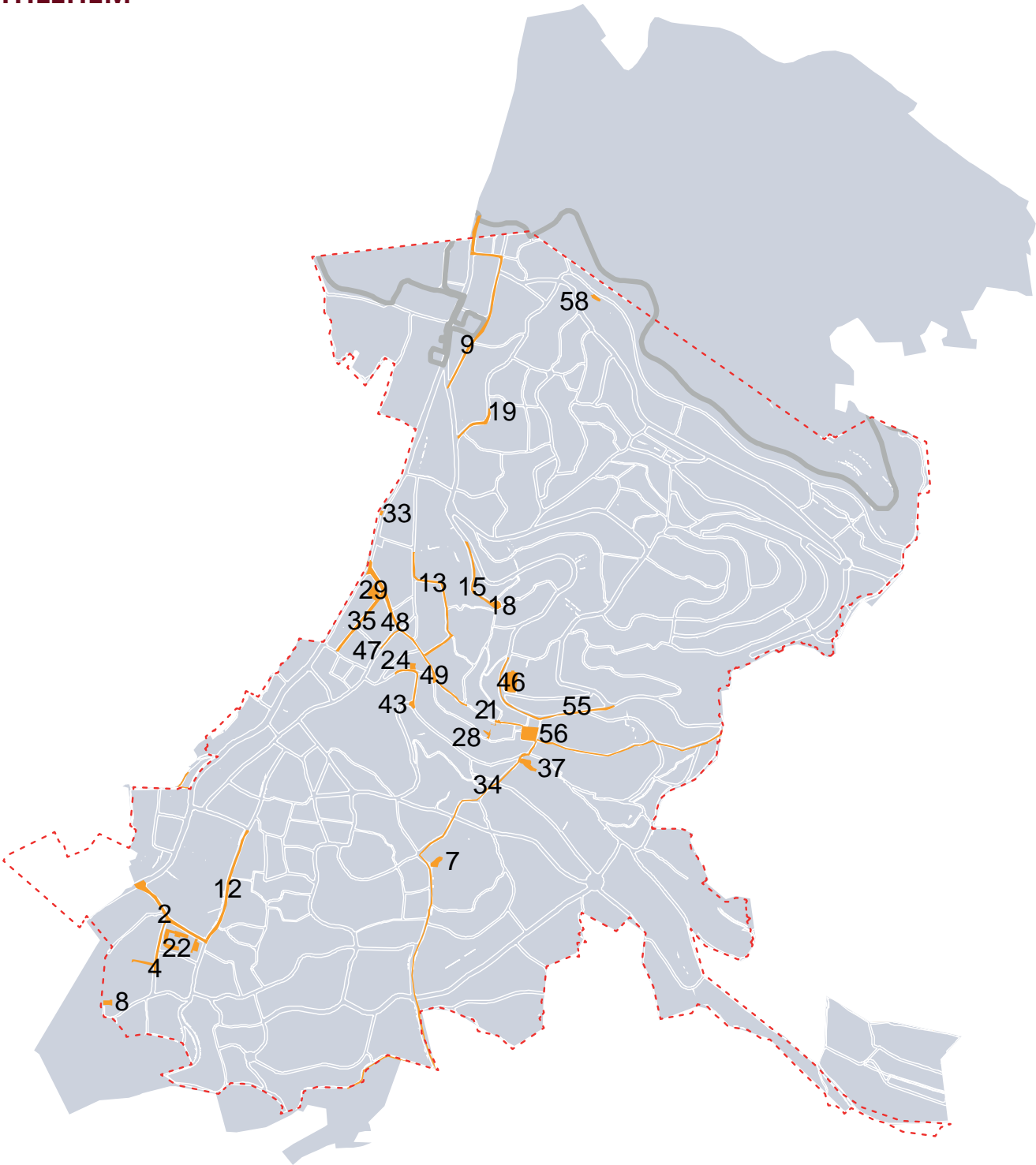


## BEIT JALA

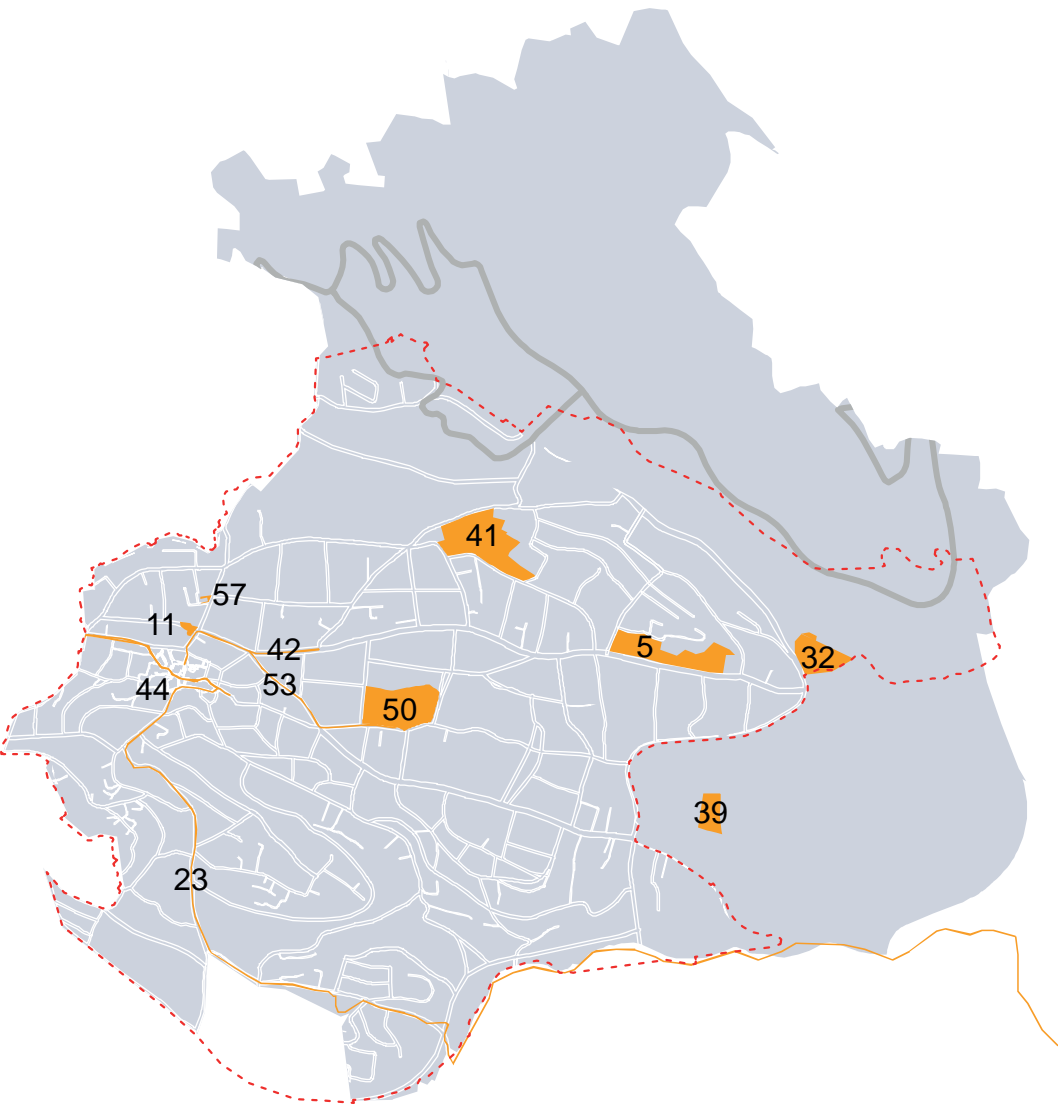




BETHLEHEM



BEIT SAHOUR



**Note:** Legends (least, moderate, most) – These are aggregated values of the indicators in that dimension. E.g. Harassment (few cases) meaning less than 33 per cent of the types of harassment (ogling, following, stalking...) were present in the public space. The values are 0-33%, 34-66%, 67-100% (where 100 could be better performing or worse depending on the dimension).





Children enjoying a park in Bethlehem © Flickr Danae Hudson

# 3

## CHAPTER



## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

- General state of public spaces
- What are the amenities present in public spaces?
- How are people using the public spaces?
- Who are the users of public spaces?
- What are the opportunities for 'stay' in public spaces?
- How accessible are the public spaces?
- What are the safety concerns in the public space?
- Which dimension are strong in the public spaces?

# GENERAL STATE OF OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

## SHARE OF LAND THAT IS OPEN PUBLIC SPACE

Public spaces are essential to inclusive, healthy, functional and productive cities. They provide opportunities for exercise, relaxation, recreation and socialising while contributing to a neighbourhood's character. By definition, public spaces are open to all people regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or socio-economic status and often accommodate a wide variety of activities. Public spaces, especially when gender has been taken

into consideration in the design, have been shown to build economies, civic pride, social connections, human contentment and a sense of belonging.

The total amount of open public space within Bethlehem Local Government Unit (LGU) measures 2.0 square kilometres, representing only 6 per cent of the LGU. This is well below the internationally recommended optimum of 15-20 per cent of land dedicated to

public space, a recommendation which is also supported by UN-Habitat. An additional 3 square kilometres of open public space will need to be created if Bethlehem Local Government Units is to achieve this recommendation.

According to the current population, the per capita public space provision in Bethlehem LGU is 28.6m<sup>2</sup> per person and for the Bethlehem Masterplan area it is 4.2m<sup>2</sup>.

LGU AREA: **32.2 Km<sup>2</sup>**

MASTERPLAN AREA: **18.6 Km<sup>2</sup>**



POPULATION:

**70,049** - 2019

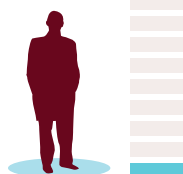
**81,741** - 2030

**4.2 m<sup>2</sup> / Person** - 2019- MASTERPLAN AREA

**3.7 m<sup>2</sup> / Person** - 2019- MASTERPLAN AREA

**28.6 m<sup>2</sup> / Person** - 2019- LGU AREA

**24.5 m<sup>2</sup> / Person** - 2030- LGU AREA



PER CAPITA OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

**0.3 Km<sup>2</sup>**

**2%**

SHARE OF LAND THAT IS OPEN PUBLIC SPACE WITHIN THE MASTERPLAN AREA

**2.0 Km<sup>2</sup>**

**6%**

SHARE OF LAND THAT IS OPEN PUBLIC SPACE WITHIN THE LGU AREA

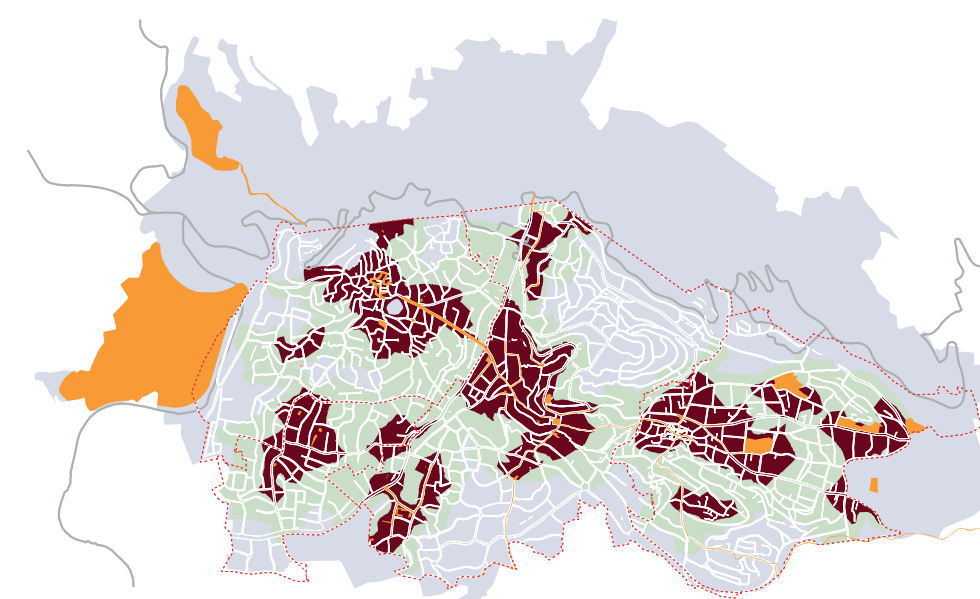
## LACK OF A NETWORK OF PUBLIC SPACES

Among their many functions, public spaces create a sense of order within a city. They give purpose to neighbourhoods, act as destinations and focal points and are used for wayfinding throughout a city. In addition, these spaces are able to foster economic growth and drive environmental sustainability. In addition, public space can be used to reconnect a fragmented city through fostering a collective identity, ensuring that no one and no place is left behind.

It should be noted that a city's network of public space includes both the individual public spaces (town squares, playgrounds, markets, etc.) and the links between these spaces. It is important to consider what proportion of the city is within 10 minutes walking distance (approximately 800 metres) of an area of public space, because this is commonly considered to be the furthest a person will walk to access a public space. In regards to women and girls, walking distance is especially important as access

to vehicular transport is often not available.

In Bethlehem Cluster, 26 per cent of land is within 5 minutes walking distance from a public space, and 67 per cent is within 10 minutes walking distance. While this is encouraging that over two thirds of Bethlehem Cluster is within 10 minutes walking distance of a form of a public space, this still leaves a significant portion of the city lacking in accessible public space, mostly around the edges of the city.



Walking distance to public spaces

Public spaces

5 minutes walk from public spaces

10 minutes walk from public spaces

**26%**

Share of land within 5 minutes walk

**67%**

Share of land within 10 minutes walk



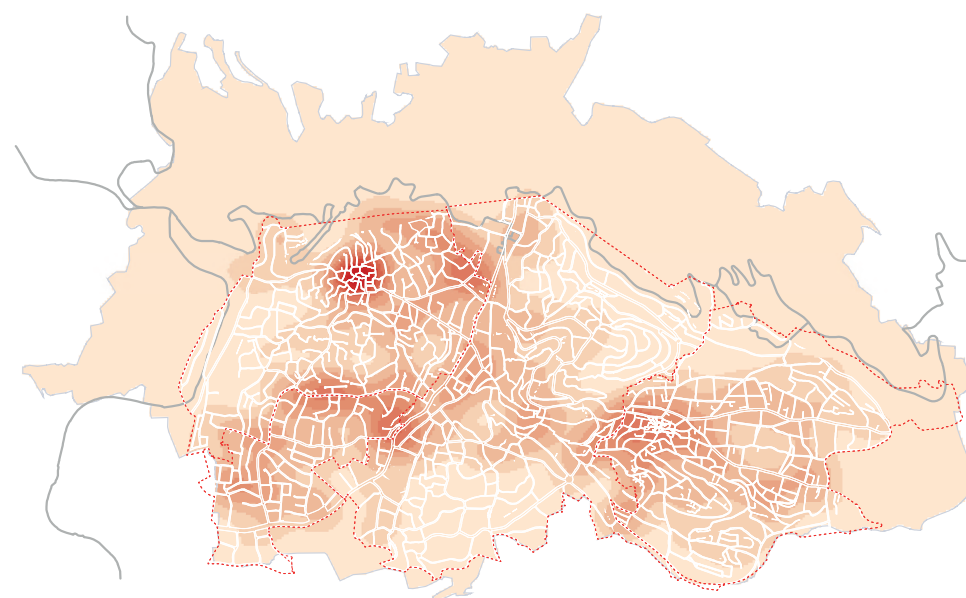
## WEAK STREET CONNECTIVITY

When referring to street connectivity, both the density of intersections and average street length must be considered. Higher levels of street connectivity are positively associated with active mobility (walking, cycling and public transport - essentially private vehicles) as more intersections leads to shorter overall distances between destinations. High levels of active mobility in turn leads to economic

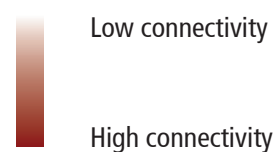
growth and more natural surveillance, improving overall feelings of safety. It also encourages more active lifestyles, which has been shown to improve both physical and mental health.

UN-Habitat recommends an optimum length of 18 kilometres of street length per square kilometre, with smaller blocks preferred. The survey found that Bethlehem Cluster has an average of 12 kilometres of street length per

square kilometre and that Bethlehem Cluster had 115 intersections per square kilometre, more than the 100 intersections per square kilometre is recommended by UN-Habitat. The map shows that overall, Bethlehem Cluster needs to strengthen street connectivity in order to ease congestion and improve walkability.



### Street connectivity



Street length per Sq. Km



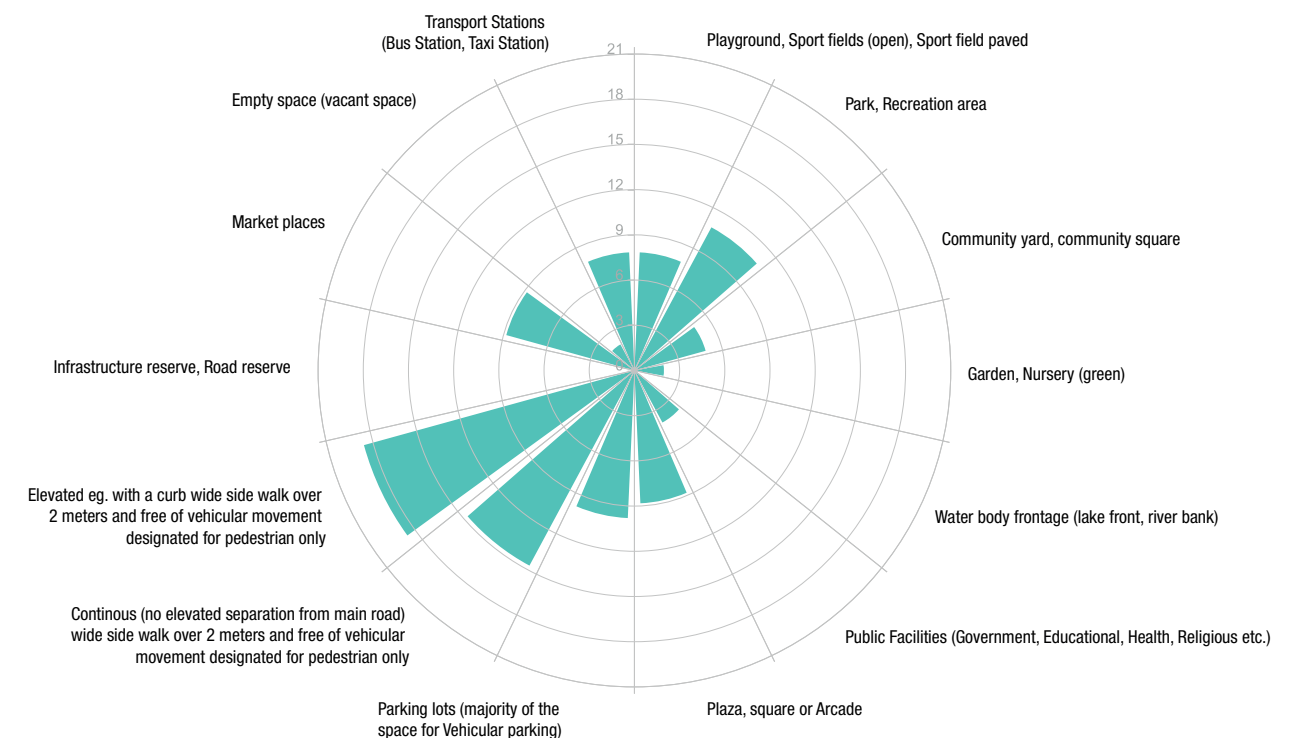
Street intersections per Sq. Km

## ELEVATED SIDEWALKS ARE FOUND IN MOST PUBLIC SPACES

Public spaces can take many forms. These include the typologies most commonly associated with public space, such as parks, gardens, playgrounds and community squares, and can also include less commonly considered typologies such as road reserves, parking lots, elevated sidewalks, and transport hubs and stations. One public space may also incorporate multiple different typologies within the one space.

In Bethlehem Cluster there are many typologies of public space present, the most common, in order of occurrence, being elevated sidewalks, continuous sidewalks, parks and then parking lots. The prevalence of both elevated and continuous sidewalks indicates their importance to the citizens of Bethlehem, as these spaces are likely used for markets or retail activities. The typologies least commonly found in Bethlehem Cluster are empty spaces and gardens/nurseries.

If women and girls are taken into consideration in the planning, designing and building of public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster, much thought must be given to not just the typologies of public space but what this means in terms of who uses these spaces, for what purpose and at what times. Lack of use of the various typologies of space is also important as abandoned spaces lead to issues of antisocial behaviour, feelings of insecurity and even incidents of crime and violence.



# GENERAL STATE OF OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

## WHO OWNS AND MANAGES PUBLIC SPACES?

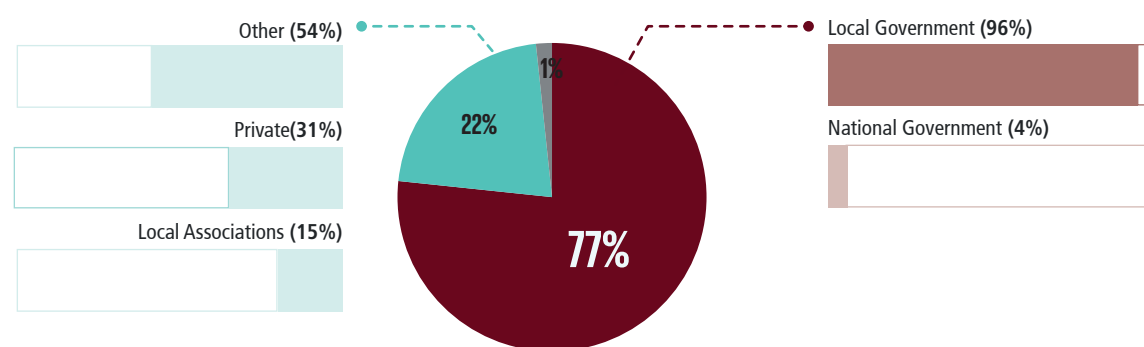
Public spaces require consistent management, such as garbage disposal, repair of amenities and removal of graffiti, if they are to not fall into disrepair. The appearance of public space being well maintained and managed can reduce the fear and incidence of crime and as it sends the message that someone has taken ownership of the space. At the same time, people are drawn to and tend to stay longer in public spaces that offer interest, stimulation and comfort. In

addition, they are more likely to linger if there is seating, weather protection, lighting and no evidence of garbage or the bad smells this can cause.

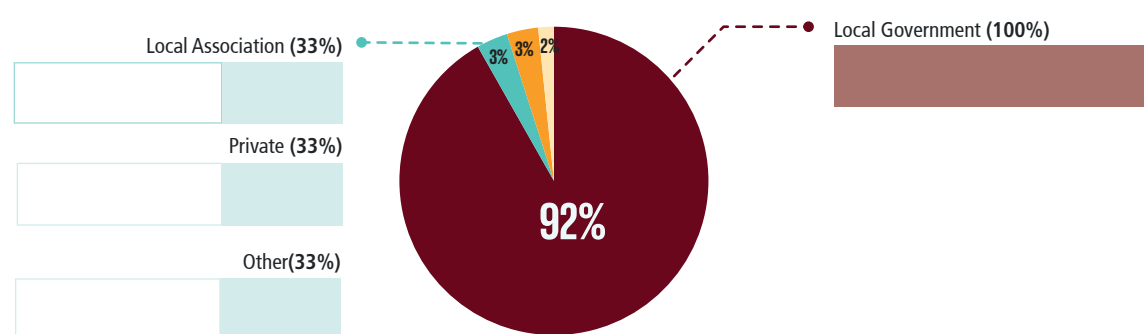
At the centre of high-quality public space is clear ownership and consistent management. The government is custodian of the majority (77 per cent) of public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster, with the remaining divided between non-government (22 per cent) and others. Of the 77 per cent of public spaces that are owned by the

government, 96 per cent are owned by Local Government and 4 per cent by the National Government. In addition, the government also manages 92 per cent of public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster, with the management of the remaining 8 per cent divided between non-government, joint management and those where no information was available. Of the 92 per cent of public spaces managed by the government, 100 per cent of these were by Local Government, with none being managed by the National Government

Ownership of public spaces



Management of public spaces



Government (77%) Non-Government (22%) Jointly managed (3%) No information (3%) Others (1%)

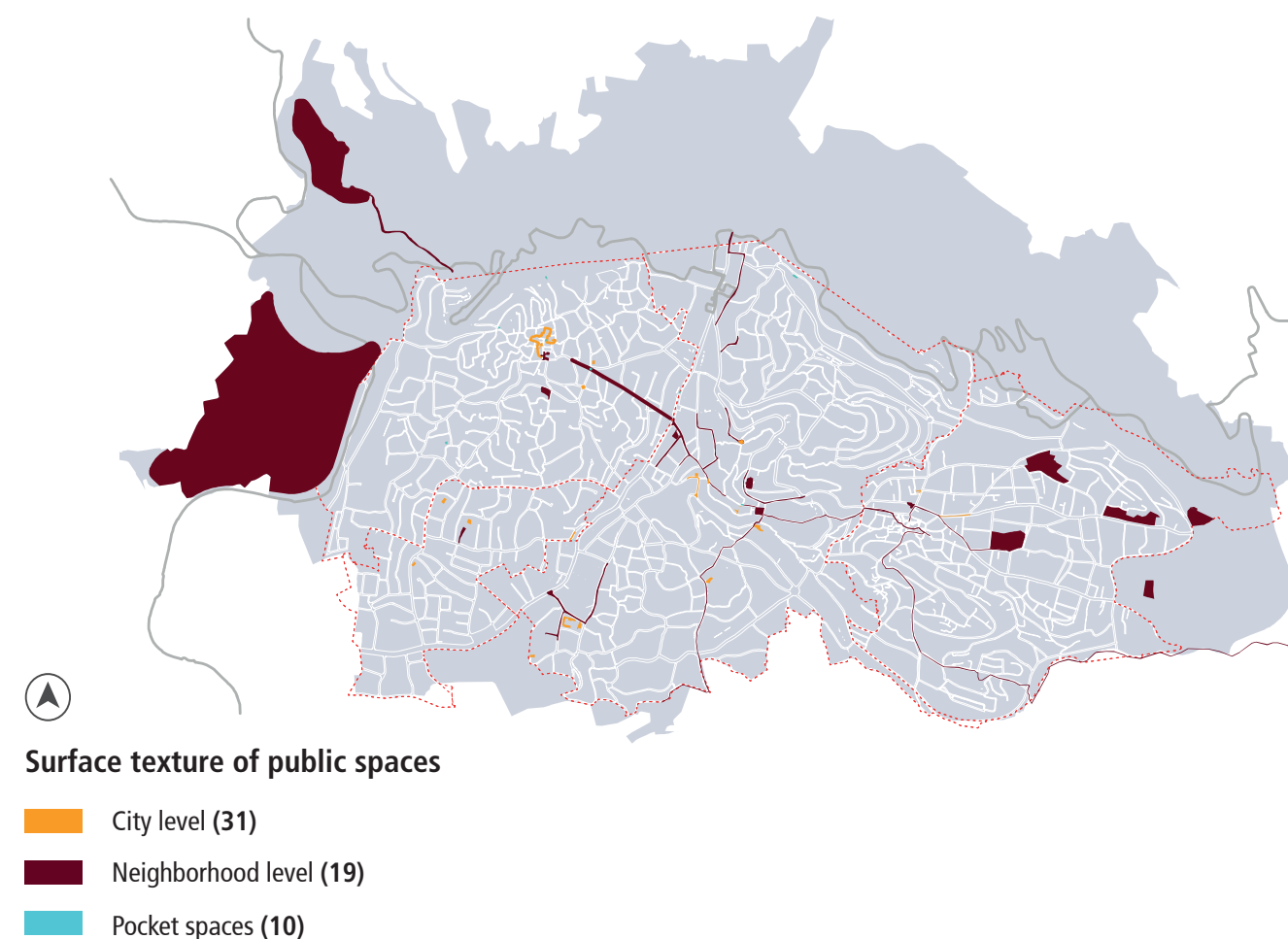
## SCALE AND DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC SPACES

The public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster are classified into three broad categories: city level spaces, neighbourhood level spaces and pocket parks. While city level and neighbourhood level public spaces are categorised based on their location and catchment area, pocket parks are predominantly defined by their sizes. Neighbourhood level public spaces are public spaces which are predominantly

used and experienced by people living within the neighbourhood in which the spaces are located while city level public spaces are public spaces which have a wider catchment area (used by people from different parts of the city). Pocket parks on the other hand are small public spaces measuring less than 400 square metres.

The survey found that of the 60

public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster, 31 are defined as city level, 19 are neighbourhood level and 10 are pocket parks. The different scales of public spaces are dispersed throughout the city, as seen in the map below. Providing a variety of public spaces of different scales offers residents a choice in regards to how they wish to experience and interact with their city and community.





MAJOR ADJOINING LAND-USE TO PUBLIC SPACES

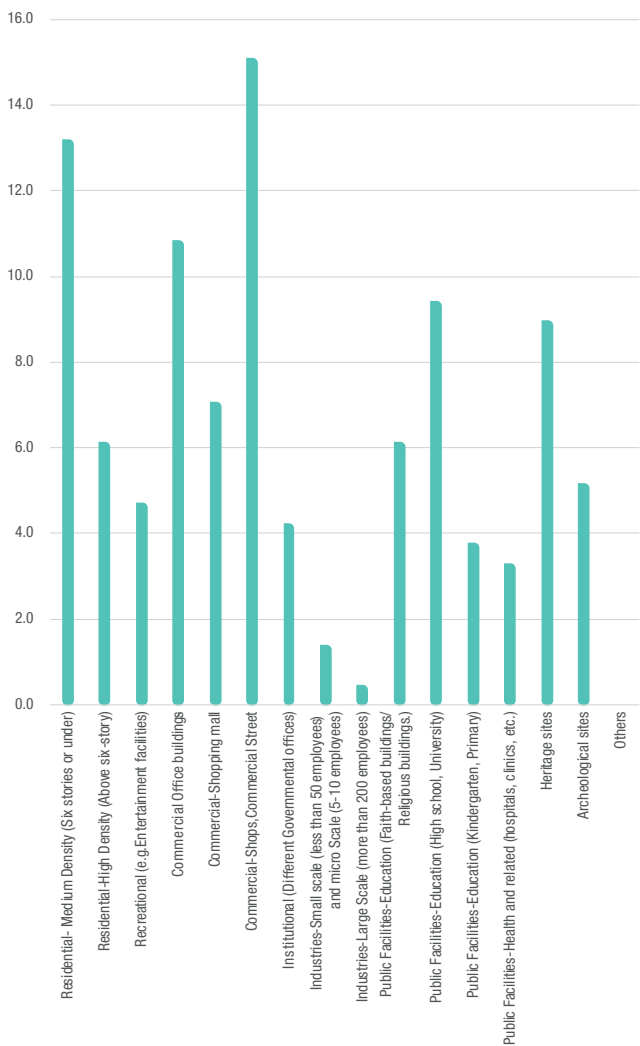
The land uses which adjoin a public space can have a major impact on those who utilize the spaces and the perceptions of safety within that space, especially for women and girls. Some land uses are compatible with public spaces, such as commercial (retail) and residential activities and they tend to promote a positive perception of safety in these public spaces. This is mostly because these compatible land uses lead to more people accessing the public space, creating a sense of vitality and natural surveillance. Conversely, some land uses can be considered

incompatible if they cause loud noises, bad smells or a sense of isolation.

According to the survey, 22 per cent of public spaces are located in high density residential neighborhoods and a further 47 per cent are located in medium density residential neighbourhoods. This means that 69 per cent of public spaces are located in neighborhoods where they can be utilised by the greatest number of people. This is important for the safety of women and girls, especially because they can have spaces in close proximity to their homes, and they can keep an

eye on their children while they are playing. At the same time, 53 per cent of public spaces are located adjacent to a commercial street or shops, which would likely increase foot traffic through the adjoining public space.

The study further found that only 13 per cent of public spaces are located adjoining kindergartens and primary schools. Locating public spaces in close proximity to kindergartens and primary schools is especially important for promoting an active lifestyle among school going children.

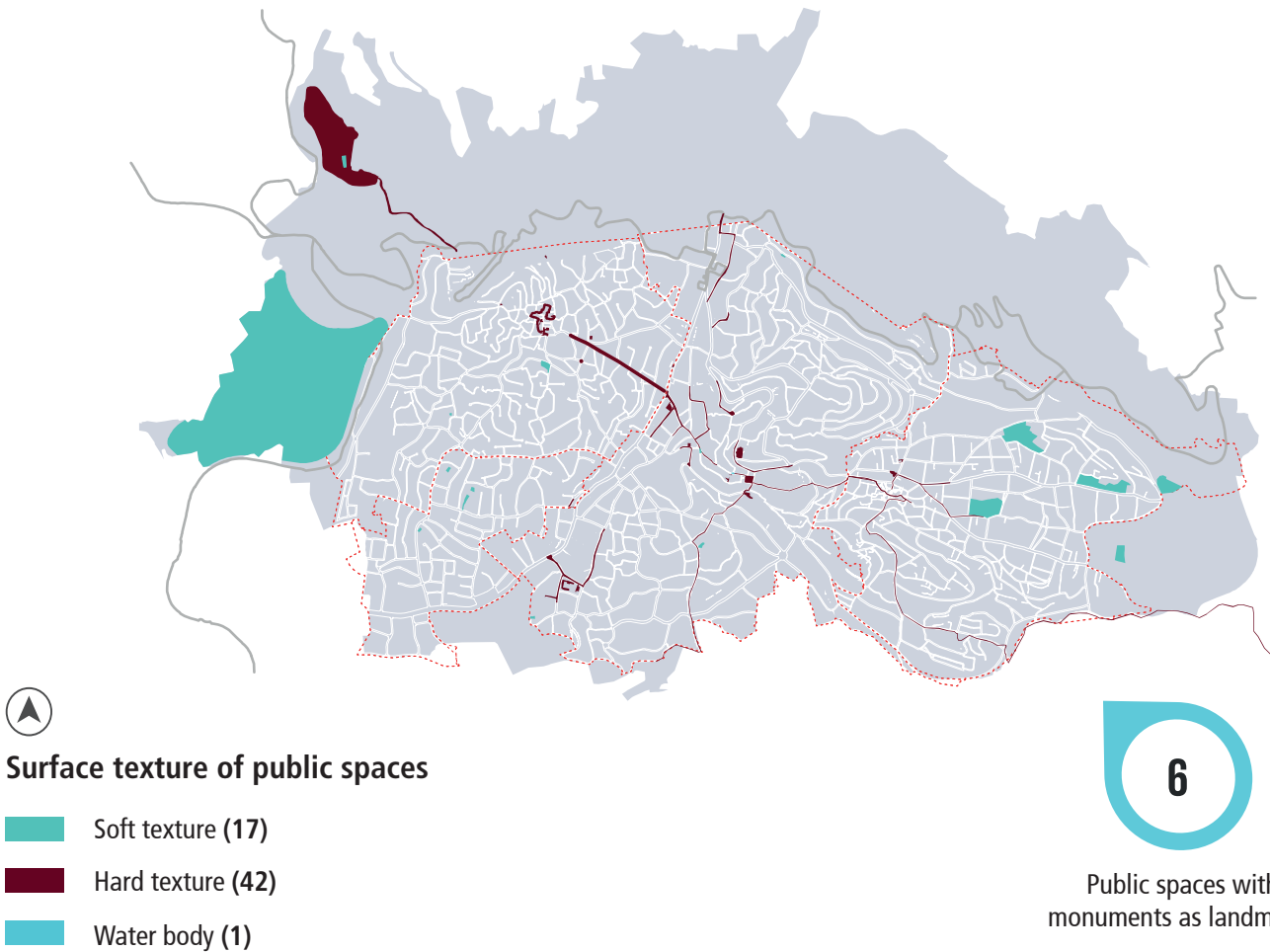


WHAT IS THE TEXTURE AND EXISTING LANDMARKS IN PUBLIC SPACES?

The texture of a public space refers to whether it has either a predominantly hard or soft texture. It is important to provide a variety of different textured public spaces, to fulfill different needs within the community. Public spaces with soft texture play a critical role in cooling cities and in the management of surface water runoff. As part of the green infrastructure in cities, public spaces with soft surfaces provide opportunities for urban water management and ground water

recharge. When planned well as part of a larger citywide network, green and public spaces (with soft texture) reduce risks to grey infrastructure from such hazards as flooding, facilitate sustainable land management and restoration, and build resilience to extreme weather. Of the 60 public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster, the vast majority (42) public spaces are found to have hard surfaces and only 17 to have soft surfaces. The remaining one public space is a water body.

Landmarks can give identity to, define the city and aid way-finding. They are also one of the defining elements of a public space. At a macro level, public spaces themselves can also serve as landmarks. They occur in various shapes, forms and sizes including significant trees and small padlocks. In Bethlehem Cluster, there are 6 public spaces with monuments as landmarks.



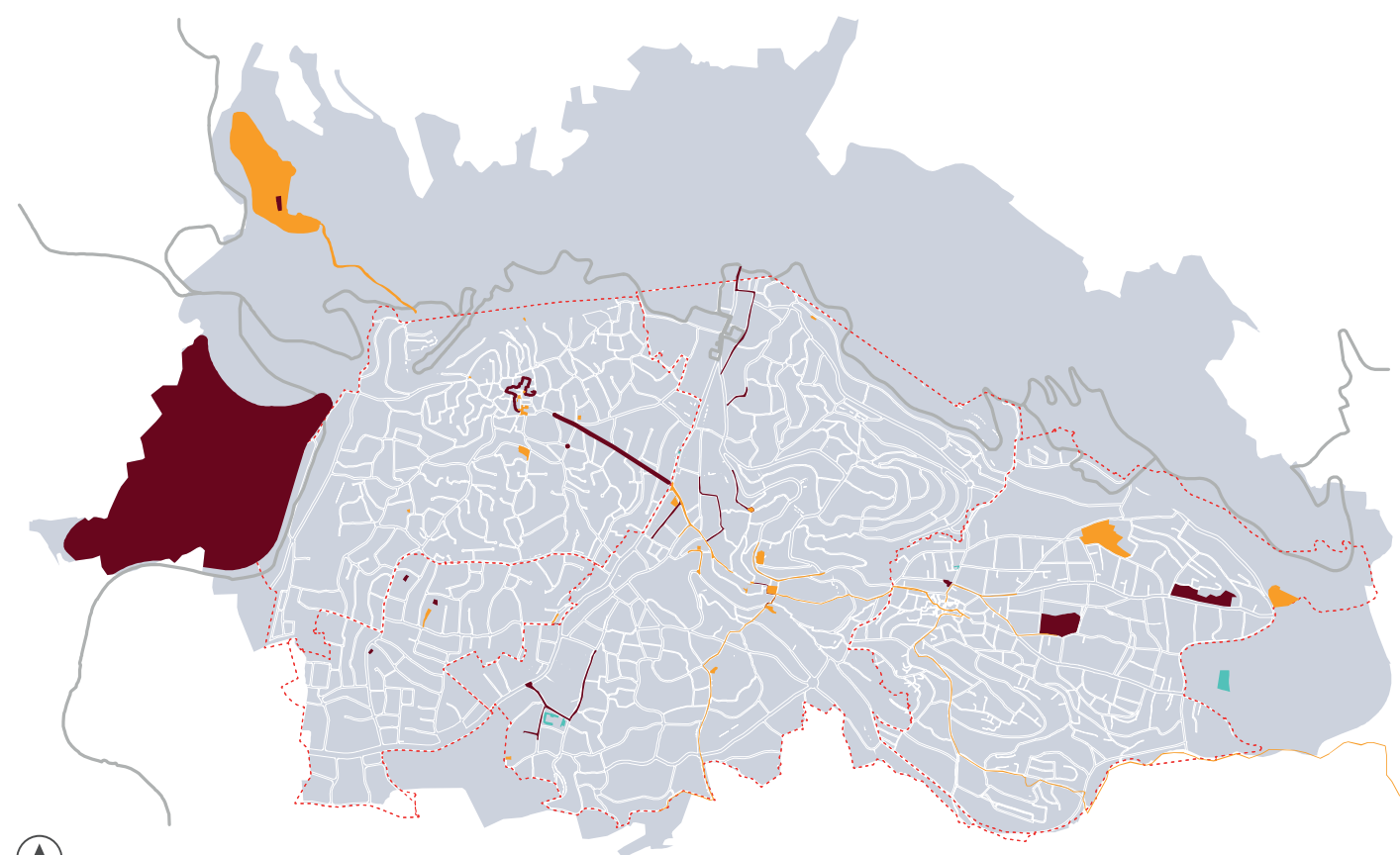
# HOW SAFE ARE PUBLIC SPACES?

## WHAT ARE THE AMENITIES PRESENT IN THE PUBLIC SPACE?

Amenities and landscape furniture embellish and give purpose to a public space. They draw people into these spaces and contribute to the experience of using the space. If well-designed and well-maintained, these amenities can make people feel safe, relaxed, welcome and included. On the other hand, poorly designed, poorly placed and poorly maintained landscape furniture and amenities in public spaces increases the feelings of insecurity and may make a space feel derelict, drawing

to it anti-social activities which may result in women and girls choosing not to use those spaces, in the end making them vulnerable to crime, harassment and violence. These situations can be caused by a lack of proper lighting, impermeable walls preventing sight lines or toilet blocks providing places of concealment for offenders. Poorly maintained facilities creates a perception of unsafety, leading to a space being disused or abandoned, providing opportunities for crime to occur.

Landscape furniture and amenities that are available in the open public spaces throughout Bethlehem Cluster include street lighting (covering 95 per cent of public spaces), garbage bins, (available in 82 per cent of spaces), kiosks (available in 77 per cent of spaces) and seating (offered in 46 per cent of spaces). Baby care facilities were only present in 10 per cent of spaces, indicating an overall lack of gender consideration.



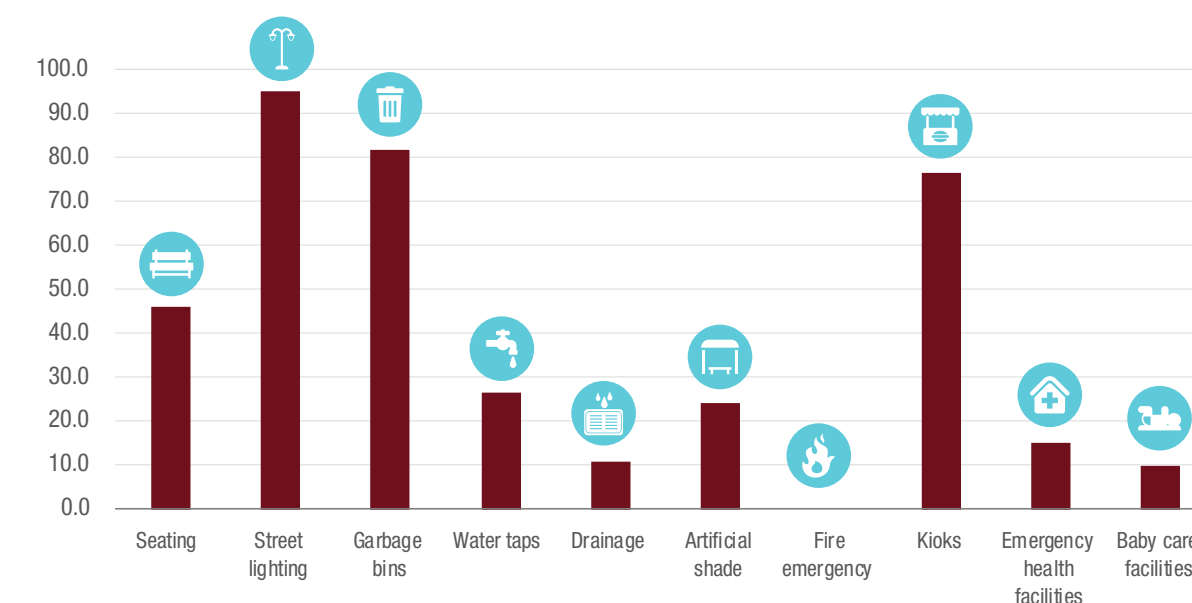
Presence of facilities in public spaces

Most amenities are present

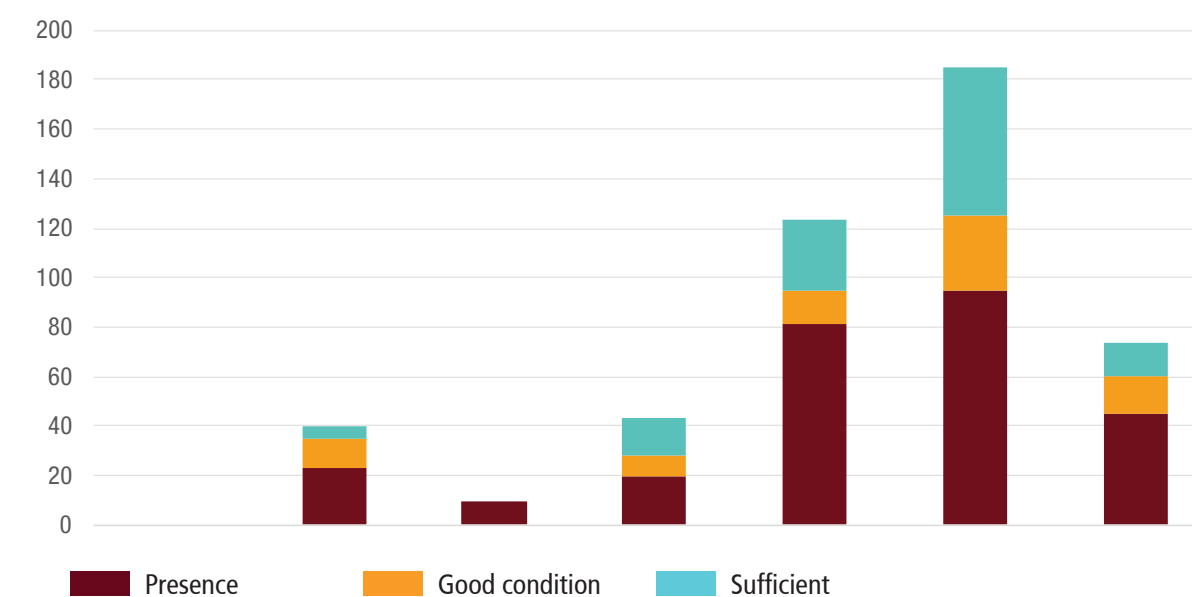
Some amenities are present

Few amenities are present

## PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SPACES WITH VARIOUS FACILITIES



## PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SPACES SHOWING PRESENCE AND CONDITION OF VARIOUS FACILITIES





## HOW ARE PEOPLE USING PUBLIC SPACES?

Public spaces are used for a wide range of activities, some influenced by the amenities provided in the space and some unique or spontaneous. It is these activities that make public spaces vibrant and full of life. Programming a diverse range of activities throughout different times of the day and night makes public spaces safer and more attractive to spend time in.

Public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster are defined as either mono, multi or pluri-functional. Mono-functional spaces only accommodate one activity, multi-functional spaces provide different activities at different times

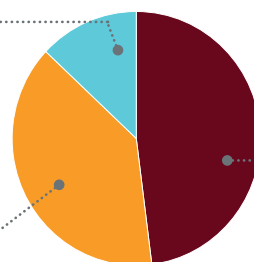
and pluri-functional spaces provide different activities at different times. In Bethlehem Cluster, the survey found that multi-functional public spaces account for 39 per cent of public spaces, while mono-functional spaces make up the majority at 48 per cent and only 13 per cent of public spaces are pluri-functional. Essentially, the results indicate that approximately half of the public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster only have single uses. This suggests that the spaces are deserted at given times of the day, potentially compromising the safety by women and girls during these times.

**13%**

Pluri-functional public spaces

**39%**

Multi-functional public spaces

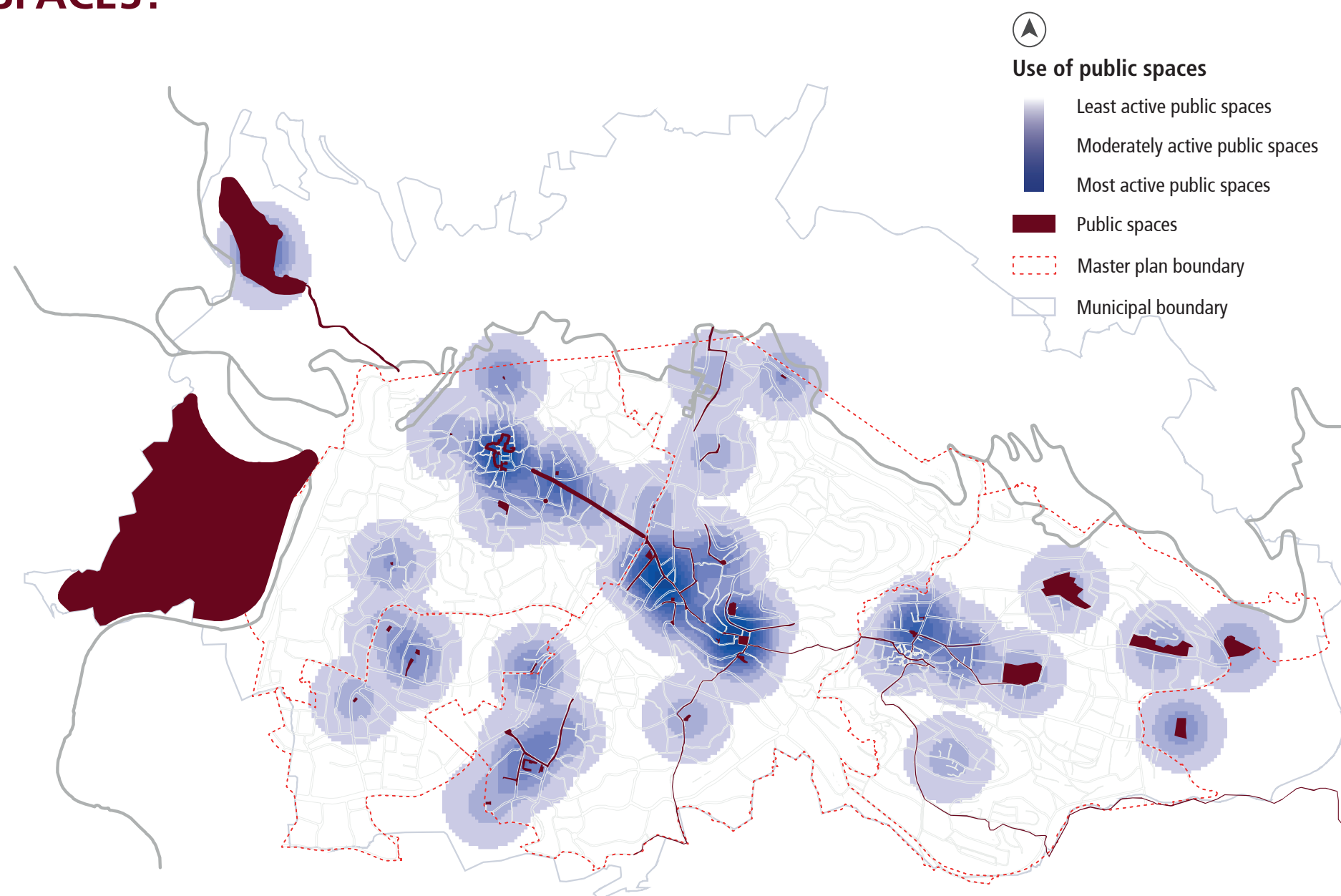


**48%**

Mono-functional public spaces



Manger Square © UN-Habitat



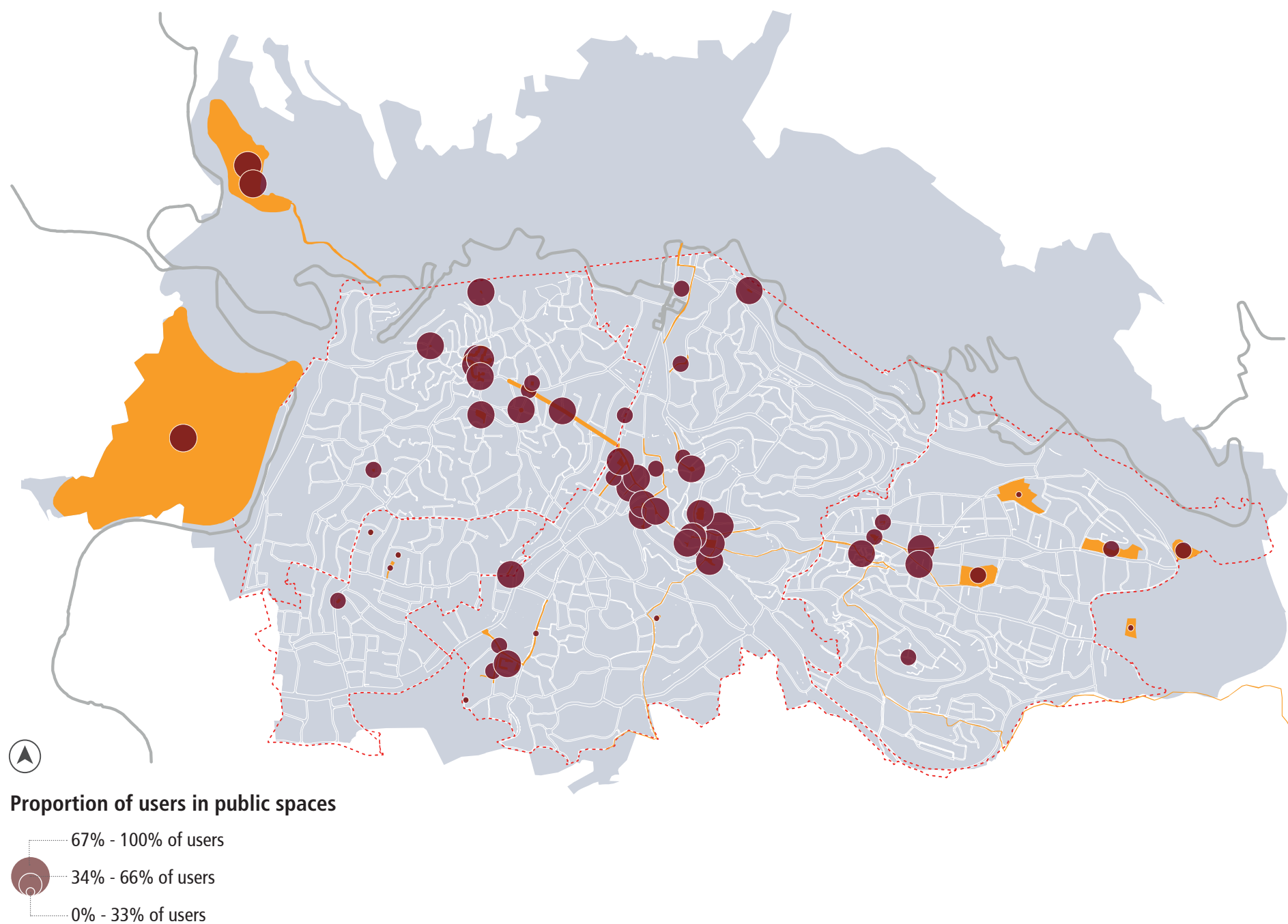
## WHO ARE THE USERS OF PUBLIC SPACES?

Public spaces are so versatile that they are able to provide residents with opportunities for socialising, relaxing and repose on one end of the spectrum while also providing platforms for political deliberations, demonstrations and agonistic struggle. They are civic equalizers, places where people go to see and be seen, and where people from all walks of life interact as civic equals. The survey found that young men (15-29 years) are the most common age group present in public spaces (87 per cent), followed by young females (15-29 years) at 78 per cent and women (30-59) also at 78 per cent.

In terms of grouping, the survey found that young men (15-29 years) and young females (15-29 years) were both most likely to be found in mixed groups, rather than in one group or alone, however young women at a higher rate than young men. Younger women preferring to be in mixed groups may be caused by cultural preferences or personal perceptions of safety ie. women feel safer in mixed groups rather than with only other women or alone. The survey indicates that the older the age group, the more likely they are to be alone.

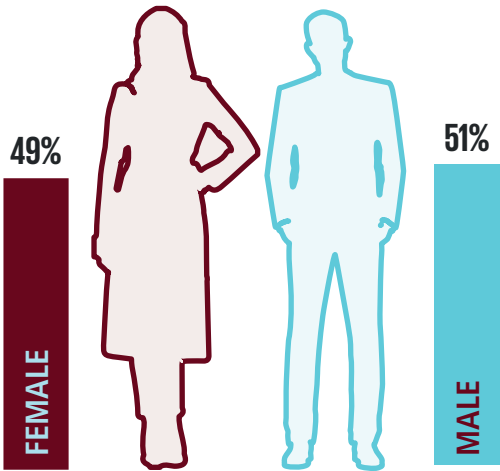


Pedestrians in commercial street © UN-Habitat

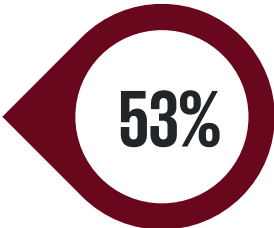
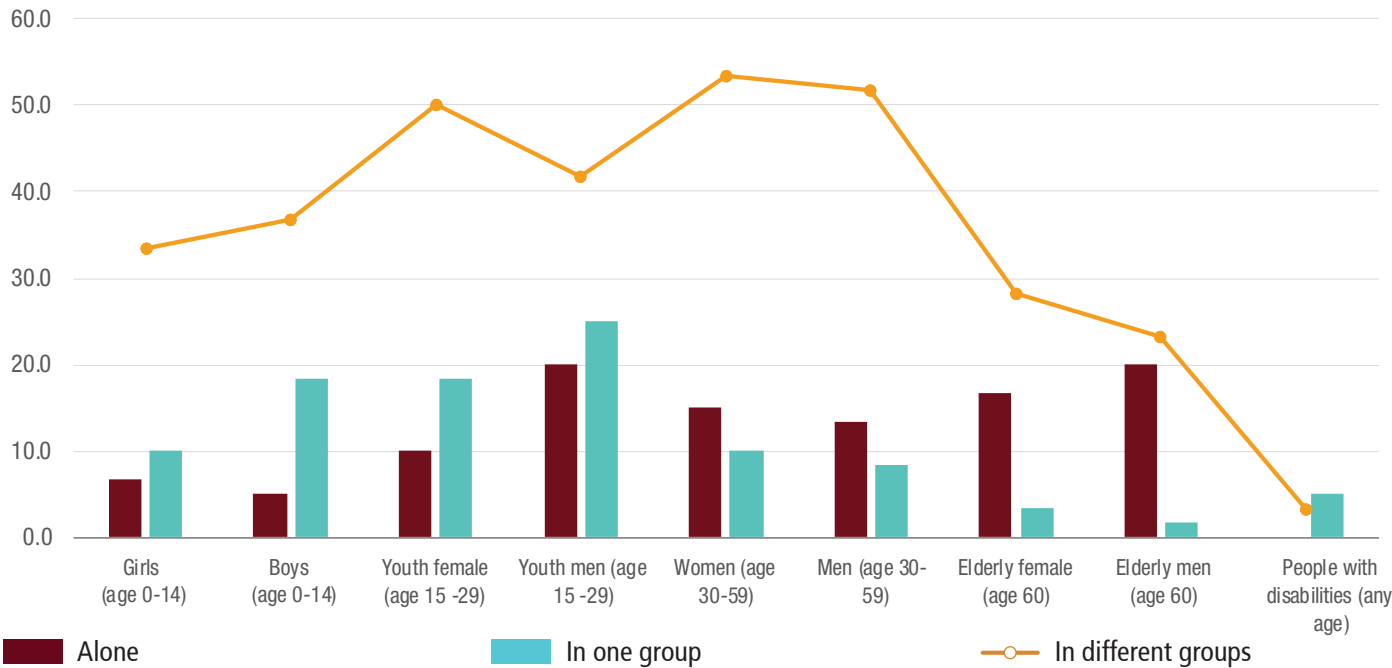




USERS OF PUBLIC SPACE BY GENDER

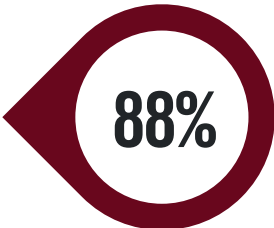
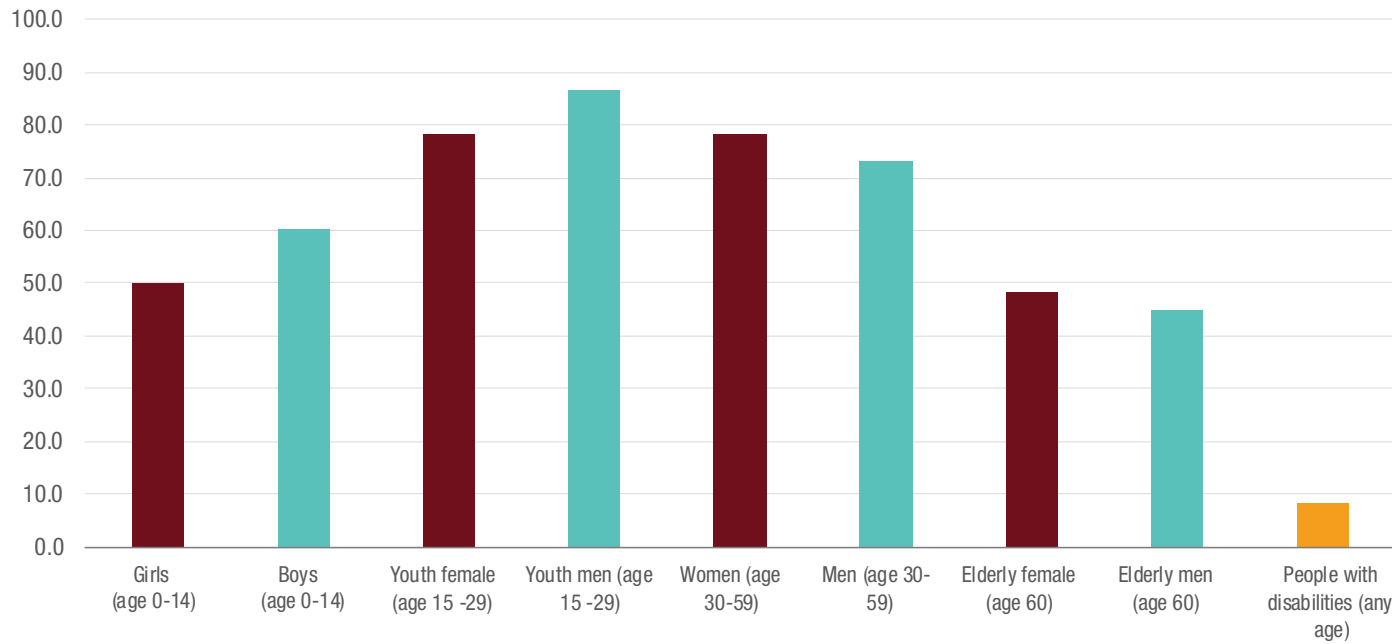
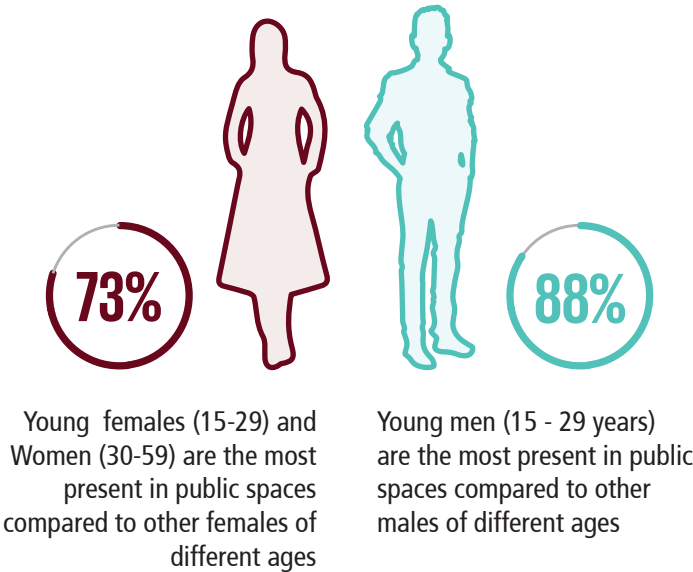


NUMBER OF PUBLIC SPACES SHOWING HOW USERS GROUP THEMSELVES



Of public spaces show that women between the age of 30-59 years were mostly found in different groups

PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SPACES WITH DIFFERENT USERS BY AGE

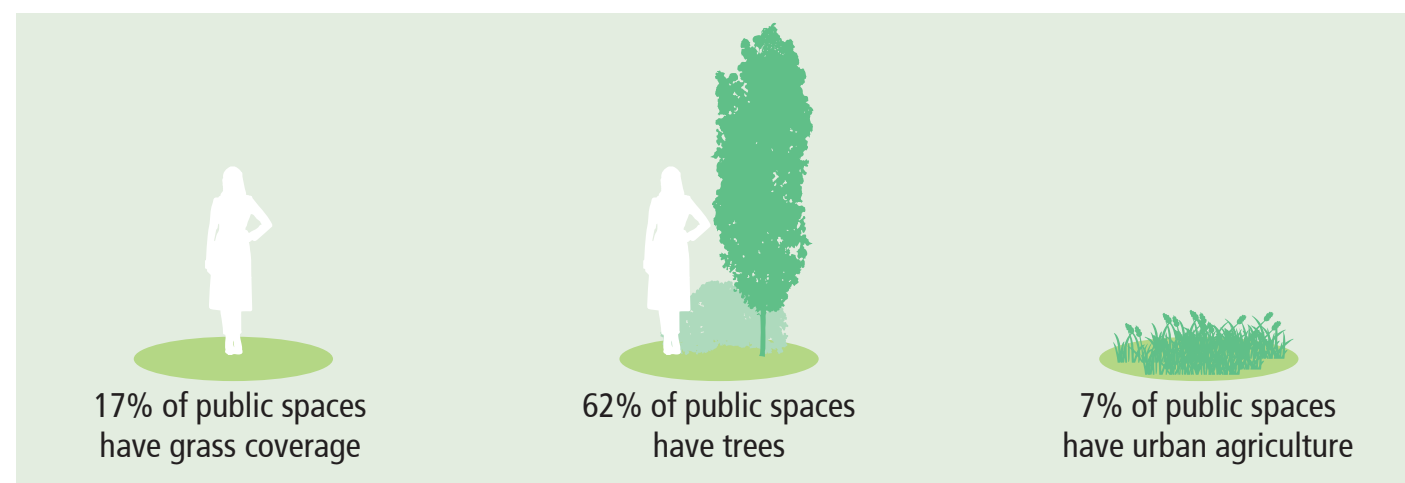
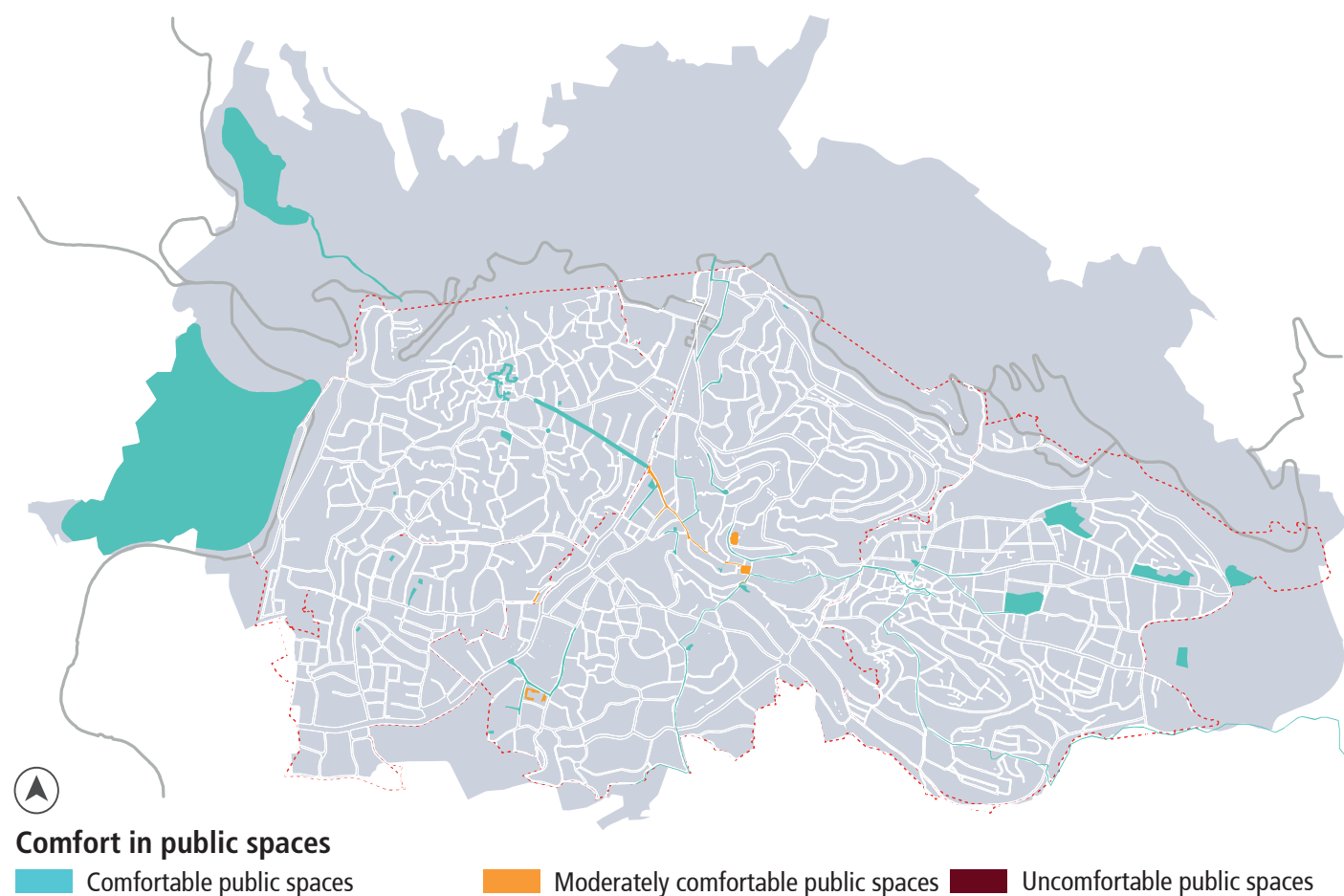


Of public spaces show that young male users between the age of 15-29 years were the most common.

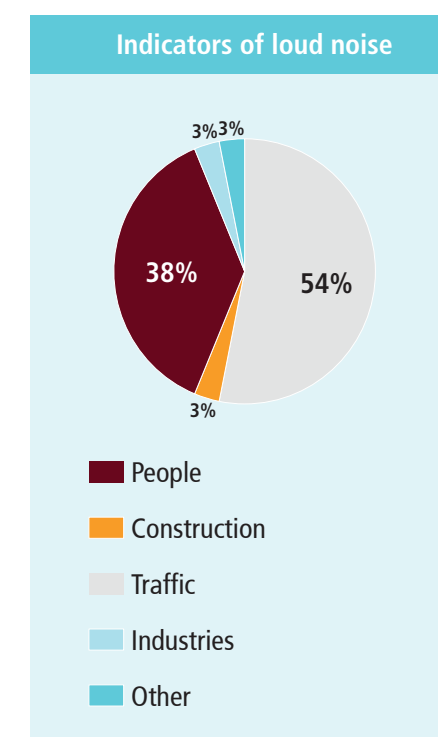
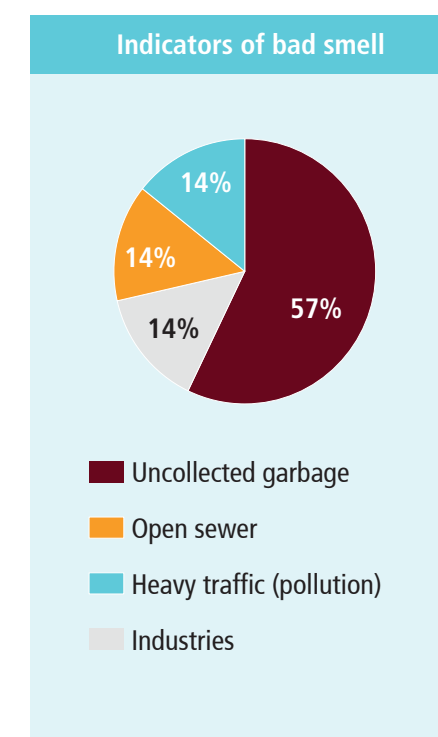
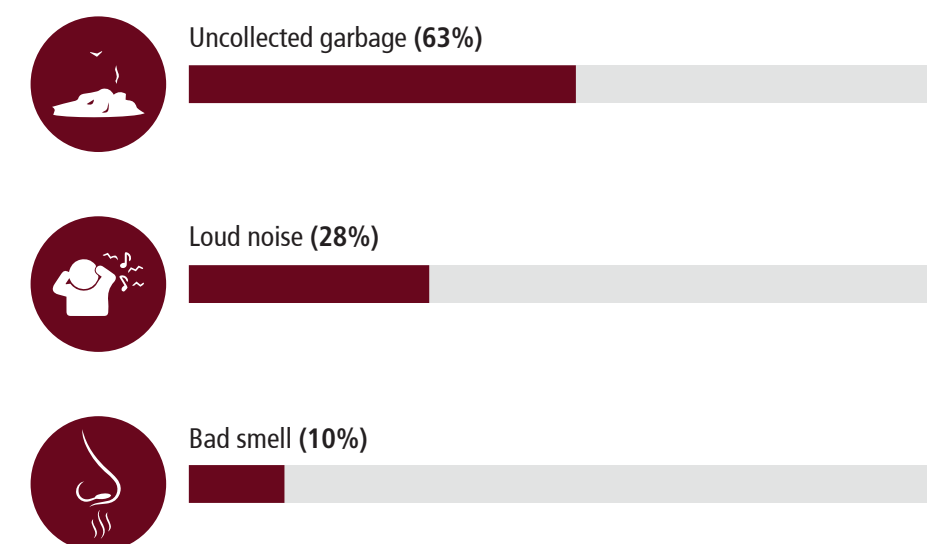
## WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 'STAY' IN THE PUBLIC SPACES?

A well-designed public space is welcoming and accommodating of the needs of all sections of society, regardless of gender, age or ability and they therefore become destinations. The level of comfort of a public space is determined by a range of factors including perceptions of safety, cleanliness, quality of smell, diversity of uses and users in the space, microclimate, soundscapes, and availability of amenities. In addition, design, social programming (the schedule of events that occur in a public space) and management of public spaces are directly linked to enjoyment and quality of stay in public spaces. Public spaces that are not properly designed, managed and maintained can become locations of crime, harassment and feelings of unsafety.

Some of the key factors that directly impact the quality of public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster include uncollected garbage (observed in 63 per cent of public spaces), loud noises (in 28 per cent of public spaces) and bad smells (in 10 per cent of public spaces). The survey indicates that the bad smells were linked to uncollected garbage, industrial pollution, open sewers and traffic pollution, and the loud noises were mainly attributed to traffic. These are key sensory elements that directly affect the quality of stay and cause it either to be a place to linger or one to avoid. In addition, over half (62%) of public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster have trees however only 17% of public spaces have grass coverage and only 7% have urban agriculture. There is an opportunity to increase the tree coverage and urban agriculture present in public spaces, which would give people reasons to utilize these spaces.



### INDICATORS AFFECTING COMFORT IN PUBLIC SPACES





# HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE THE PUBLIC SPACES?

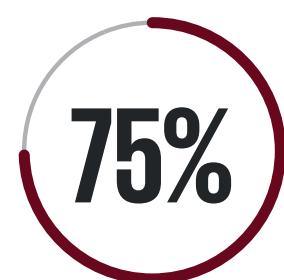
A public space should be accessible to all residents of a city, regardless of gender, age or ability. Public spaces that have clearly defined entrances that are easy to find are seen to be more welcoming, inclusive and accessible. The survey found that almost 60 per cent of public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster did not have clearly defined entrances and only 10 per cent of entrances to public spaces were easy to find.

Similarly, the lack of certain types

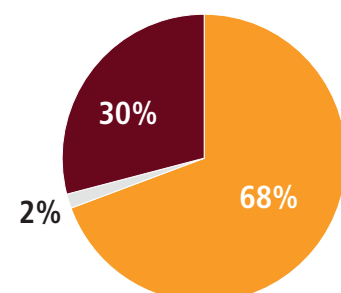
of infrastructure or design elements can prevent different groups from accessing a space. Universal design, for instance, design of walkways, entrances and amenities can promote access for the blind, the elderly, children and people in wheelchairs. Bethlehem's public spaces were shown to be quite accessible, with 68 per cent of public spaces having wheelchair access. However, only 2 per cent of public spaces have texture to assist with navigation of the visually impaired.

Unfortunately, none of Bethlehem Cluster's public spaces have bicycle parking, which is a dissensive for active transport throughout the city.

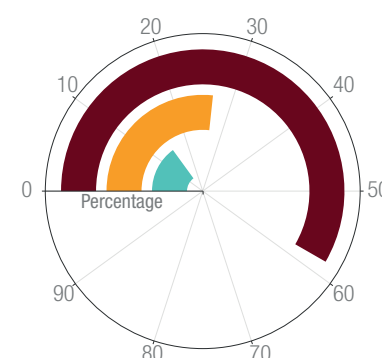
Design considerations should also take into account how women use spaces. For example, women may not use a space unless there are walkways wide enough for them to walk with their children. As such, it is important to provide walkways wide enough to encourage women to walk more, and feel safe doing so.



75% (45) of public spaces have unrestricted access. 15% (9) public spaces have controlled access while only 6 (10%) public space has limited access and none have restricted access.



Other  
Wheelchair access  
Texture change for the blind



Not clearly defined  
Not required  
Easy to find



Public spaces with facilities to restrict vehicular movement



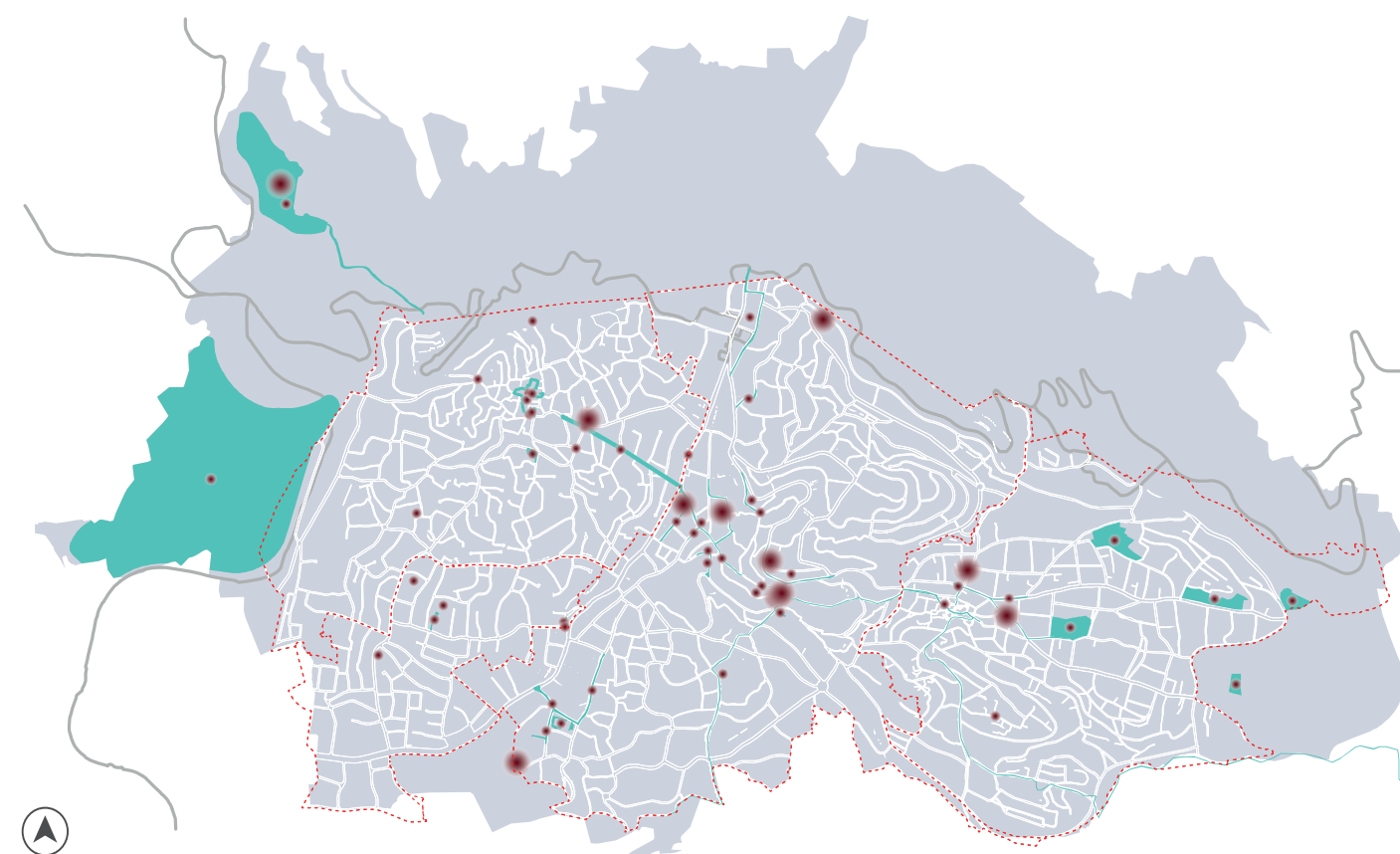
Public spaces with vehicular parking



Public spaces with bicycle parking

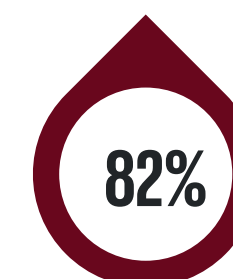


Parking lot in Bethlehem © UN-Habitat



## Accessibility of public spaces

- Most accessible public spaces
- Moderately accessible public spaces
- Least accessible public spaces
- Public spaces
- Master plan boundary
- Municipal boundary



Of public spaces are the least accessible public spaces.



## WHAT ARE THE SAFETY CONCERNS IN PUBLIC SPACES?

Every resident should be able to enjoy their city without fear of crime and harassment. An overall feeling of safety can be divided into several elements which include perceptions of safety, experiences of crime, infrastructural problems and levels of anti-social behaviour. These specific components are addressed in the following sections.

Women and girls are particularly fearful of becoming a victims of crime and harassment. Violence against women and girls is not only a threat to basic human rights, it also threatens the achievement of gender equality, and the gains associated with

empowering women and girls. Key factors contributing to harassment against women and girls include social factors, culture, and norms and traditions which often limit the power of women to make their own choices and decisions.

The survey found that in Bethlehem Cluster, almost 20 per cent of public spaces are associated with perceptions of unsafety. This means that these spaces are unwelcoming and unappealing to many women and girls, who could greatly benefit from the leisure, recreational and social opportunities that public spaces offer.

This reinforces the idea that many of Bethlehem Cluster's public spaces are spaces for men. The survey also found that Infrastructural problems are present in almost 35 per cent of public spaces and harassment directed to women occurred in over 10 per cent of public spaces.

Public spaces can not be considered inclusive if they exclude half of the population of a city. There is a need for concerted effort to promote public spaces as inclusive spaces, in particular towards women and girls.

### SAFETY CONCERNS IN OPEN PUBLIC SPACES



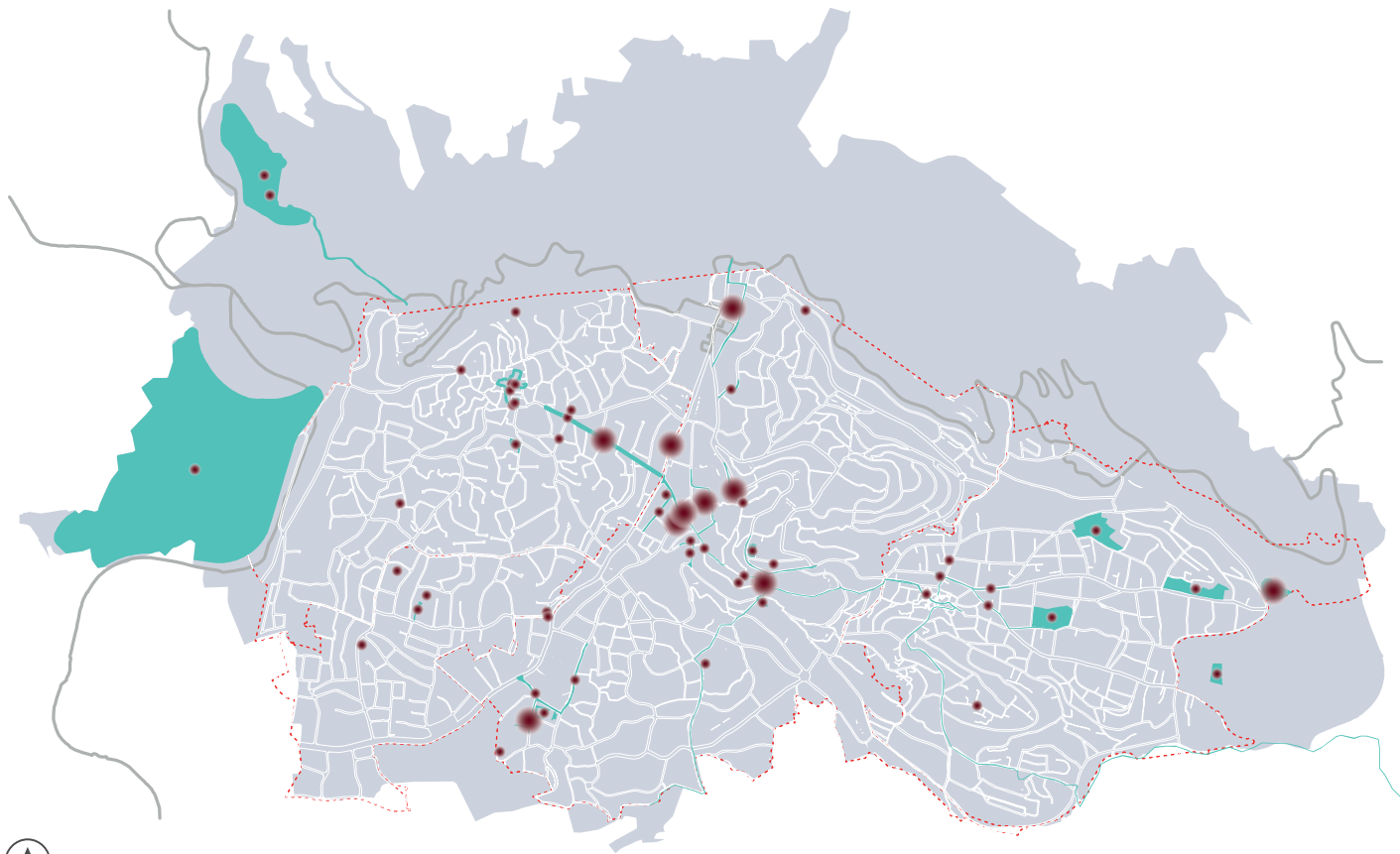
Percentages of public spaces



Child playing in playground © UN-Habitat

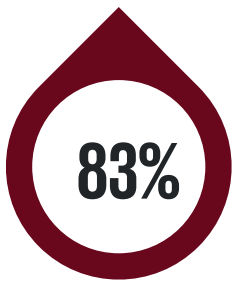


HARASSMENT



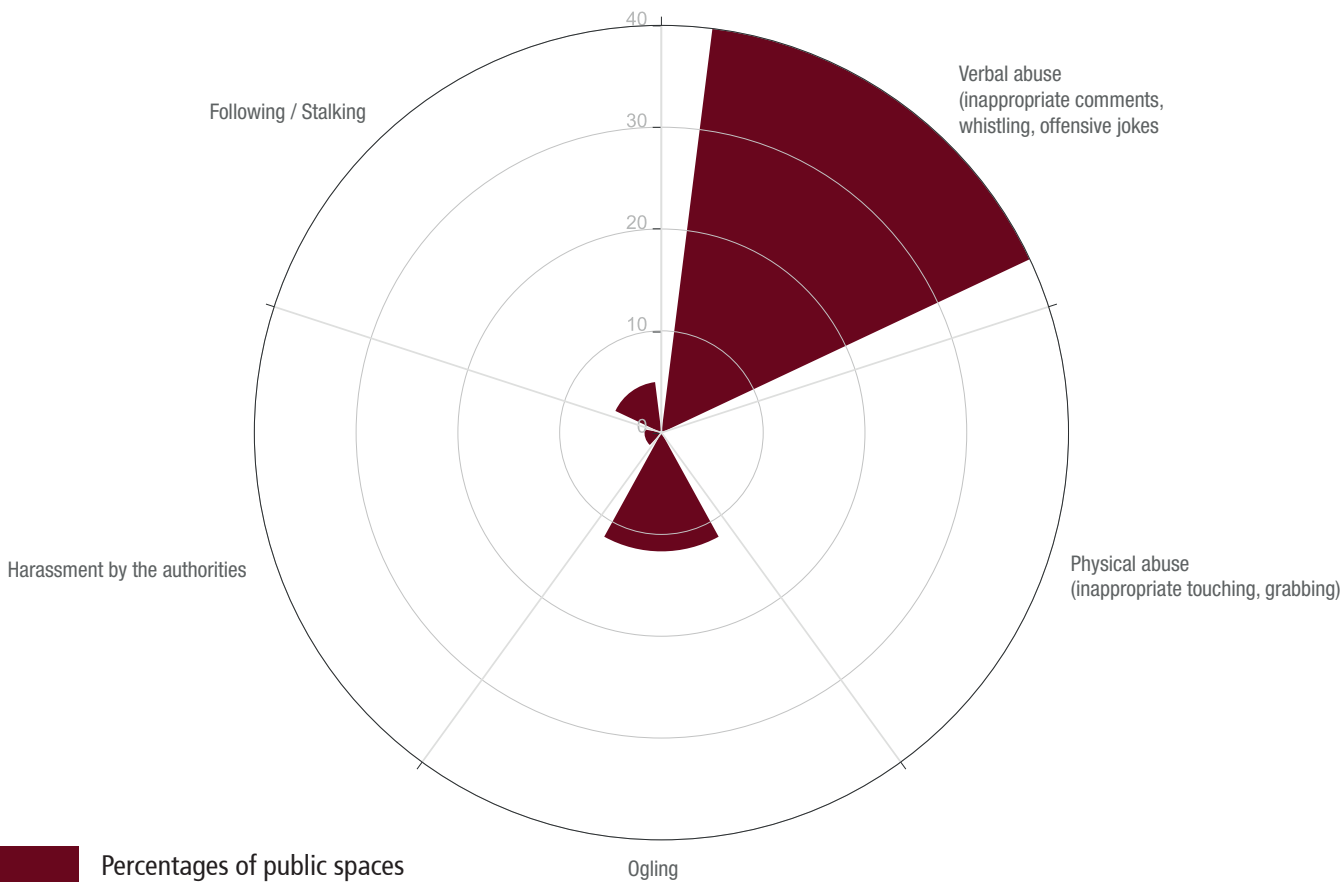
Harassment cases in public spaces

- 67% - 100% of harassment cases
- 34% - 66% of harassment cases
- 0% - 33% of harassment cases
- Public spaces
- Master plan boundary
- Municipal boundary



Of public spaces have 0-33% of all harassment cases

PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SPACES WITH PRESENCE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF HARASSMENT



Percentages of public spaces

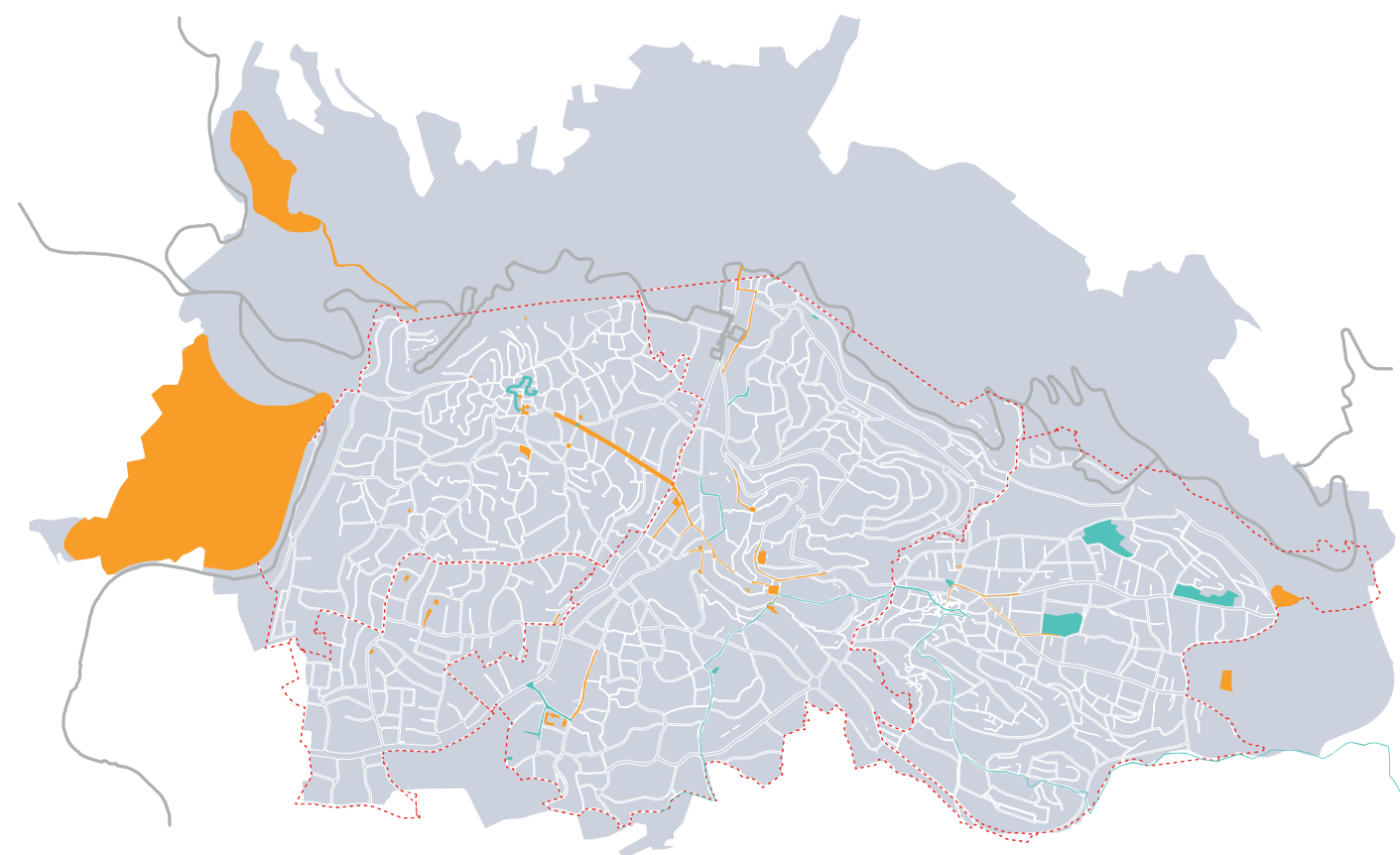
Throughout their lives, and starting from a young age, women and girls have to deal with targeted harassment, including verbal, physical and sexual harassment. They have to endure inappropriate comments and offensive jokes which can escalate into stalking and even into physical abuse. This raises a question about the place of women in the city and makes women

question if they are equal citizens, equally deserving to enjoy the benefits of their city's public spaces.

In Bethlehem Cluster, the survey revealed that verbal abuse (including inappropriate comments, whistling and offensive jokes) were observed in 40 per cent of public spaces, ogling was observed in over 10 per cent of spaces and following/stalking and harassment

by the authorities were observed in small amounts. The fact that women can expect to be verbally abused in 40 per cent of Bethlehem cluster's public space is worrying. The authorities need to take deliberate steps to promote the inclusion of women in public spaces and a culture that respects women and their right to use and enjoy public spaces as equal citizens.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS



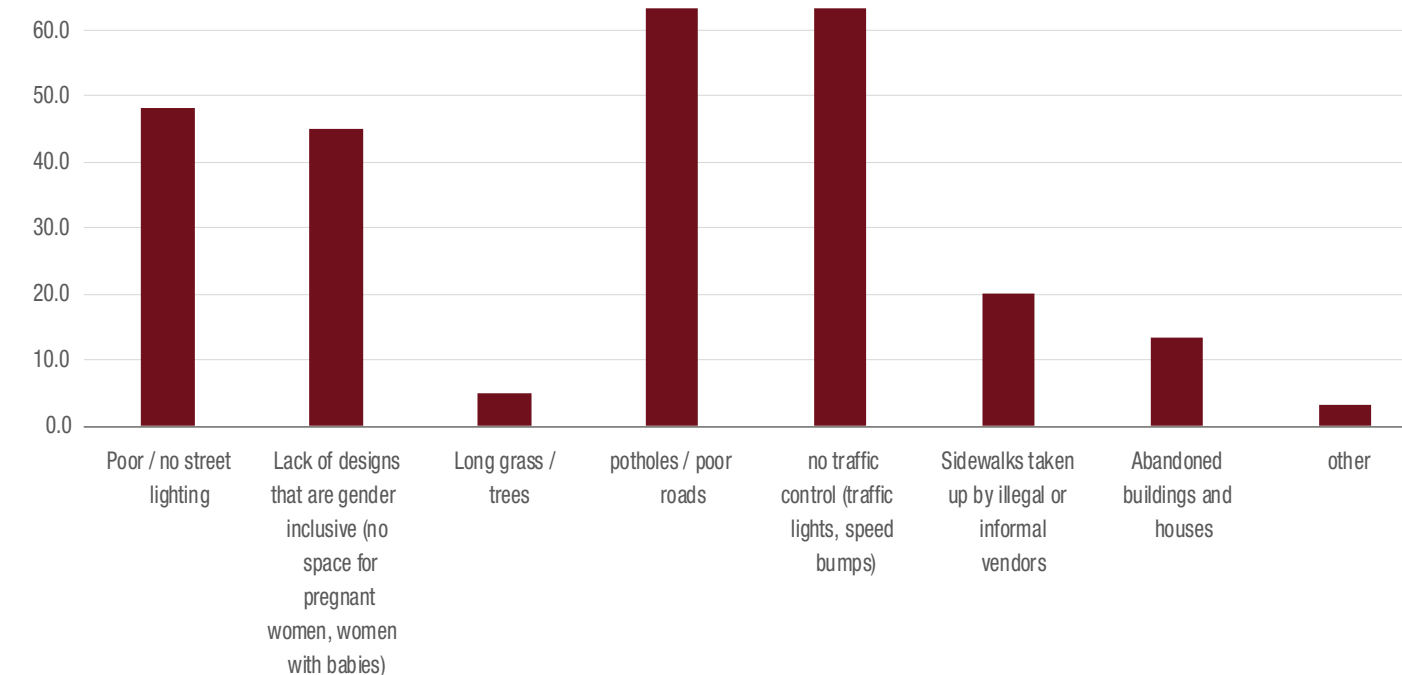
### Infrastructure problems in public spaces

- 0% - 33% of infrastructure problems
- 34% - 66% of infrastructure problems
- 67% - 100% of infrastructure problems
- Master plan boundary
- Municipal boundary

No	Name of Public Space	Infrastructure Problem Index
1	Cremisan Monastery Playground	0
2	Al Makhrouz Area	5
3	Municipal Playground	20
4	Putin Street	20
5	Dar Al Kalima Street and Al Ahlia Street	20
6	YMCA Playground	20
7	Saliba Zidan Playground	20
8	The Antonine Assembly Street and the Infirmary	20
9	St. Nicholas Trail	25
10	The northern entrance to Bethlehem	30

The higher the percentage the worse the performance

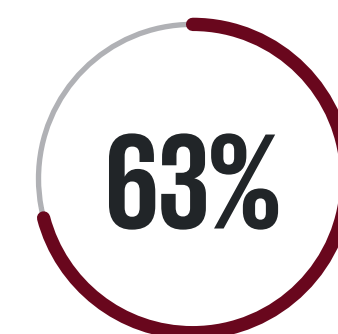
## POOR ROADS IS THE MAIN INFRASTRUCTURAL PROBLEM IN PUBLIC SPACES



Infrastructural problems do not affect everyone equally, usually it is women and girls who are disproportionately affected. Infrastructural problems, caused by lack of maintenance, can lead to dark and poorly lit streets, derelict public spaces, abandoned lots, poorly maintained public spaces and amenities, inadequate signage and lack of or poorly maintained toilets. The survey revealed that 48 per cent of public spaces in Bethlehem cluster's have poor or no street lighting, 63 per cent have potholes or poor roads and 63 per cent have no traffic controls. These spaces are unlikely to be utilised by women and girls due to concern of their own safety in addition to concern for the safety of their children.

In addition 20 per cent of public spaces have their adjacent sidewalks appropriated by street vendors, impacting movements and escape if need be. The survey also indicated that 45 per cent of public spaces lacked gender inclusive designs (such as spaces for pregnant women, women and babies).

Public spaces that are designed and used in such a way that prevents half of the city's population from using it requires urgent attention. Using the lens of women and girls when making decision about public spaces raises awareness of the issues, both large and small, that impede the mobility, safety and independence of women.

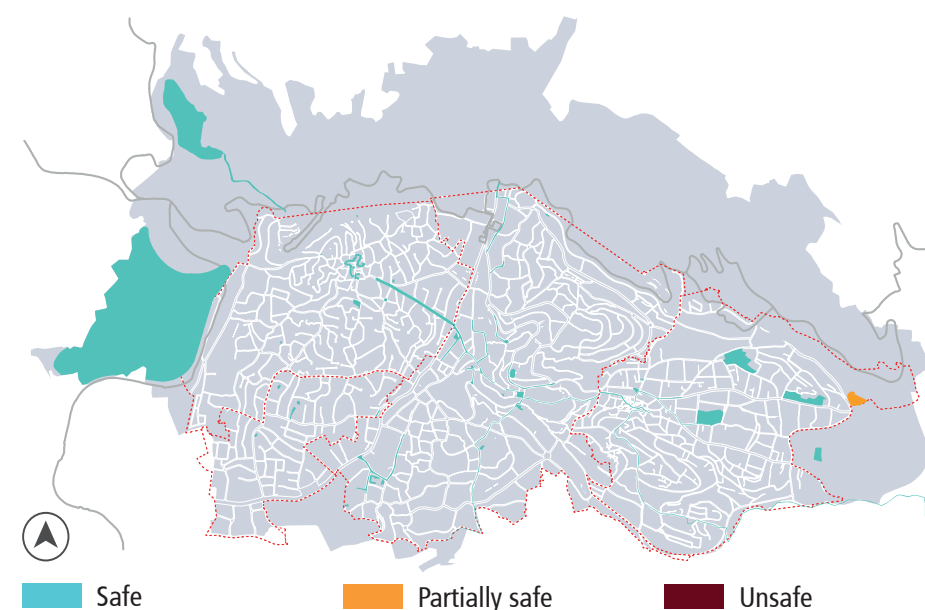


Public spaces with potholes / poor roads and lack of traffic control

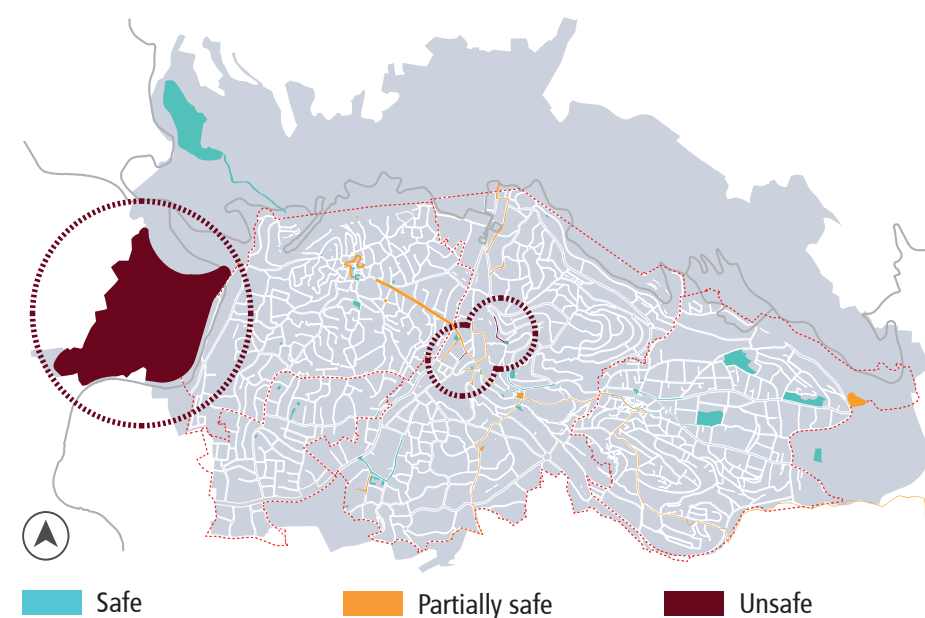


## FEELING OF SAFETY

### Perception of unsafety for male users



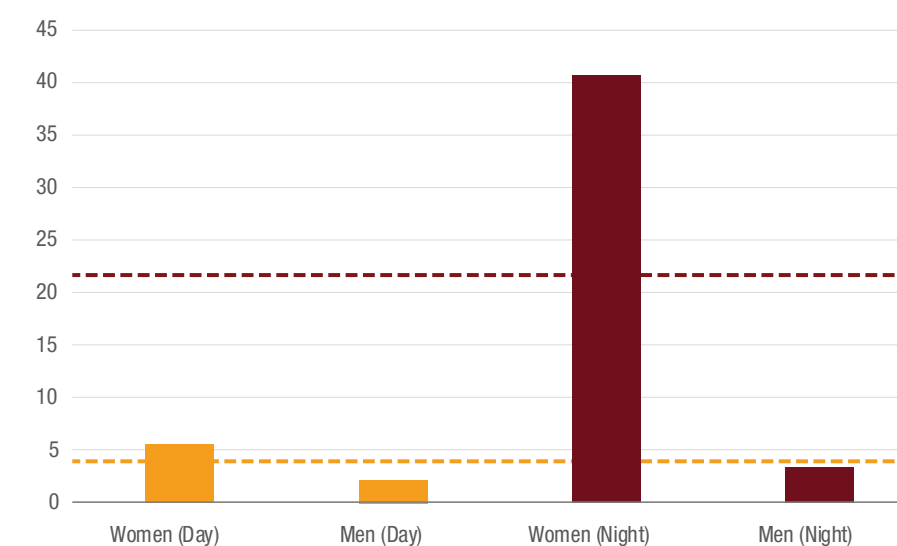
### Perception of unsafety for female users



An individual's perception of the safety of a public space is influenced by both experiences of crime and the physical attributes that may make crime more likely to occur. These feelings have a direct impact on how women and girls make decisions about their everyday life. It will likely cause women and girls to take precautions in the interest of their own safety. These precautions could include avoiding a space during certain times, always traveling with a companion, feeling the need to carry a weapon or avoiding certain spaces entirely. The reality reduces women's and girls' freedom of movement. It reduces their ability to participate in school, work and public life. It limits their access to essential services and their enjoyment of cultural and recreational opportunities. It also negatively impacts their health and well-being.

Some of the physical attributes that contribute to feelings of unsafety include impaired sightlines, especially from within and outside public spaces, presence security personnel, sufficiency of public lighting, and in some instances, the presence of CCTV cameras. Overall, women feel unsafe in 6 per cent of public spaces during the day and 41 per cent of public spaces during the night. This differs to men who felt unsafe in 2 per cent of public spaces during the day and only 3 per cent of spaces during the night. This illustrates the significant difference between how men and women perceive their own vulnerability depending on the time of day or night.

## FEELING OF UNSAFETY BY GENDER AND TIME



**41%** Women feel unsafe in 41% of public spaces during the night

**5%**

Public spaces without street lighting

**38%**

Public spaces without CCTV cameras installed

**5%**

Public spaces without clear sight-lines (low visibility)

**47%**

Public spaces without presence of security personnel



Pedestrian crossing street in Bethlehem © UN-Habitat



## SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC SPACES

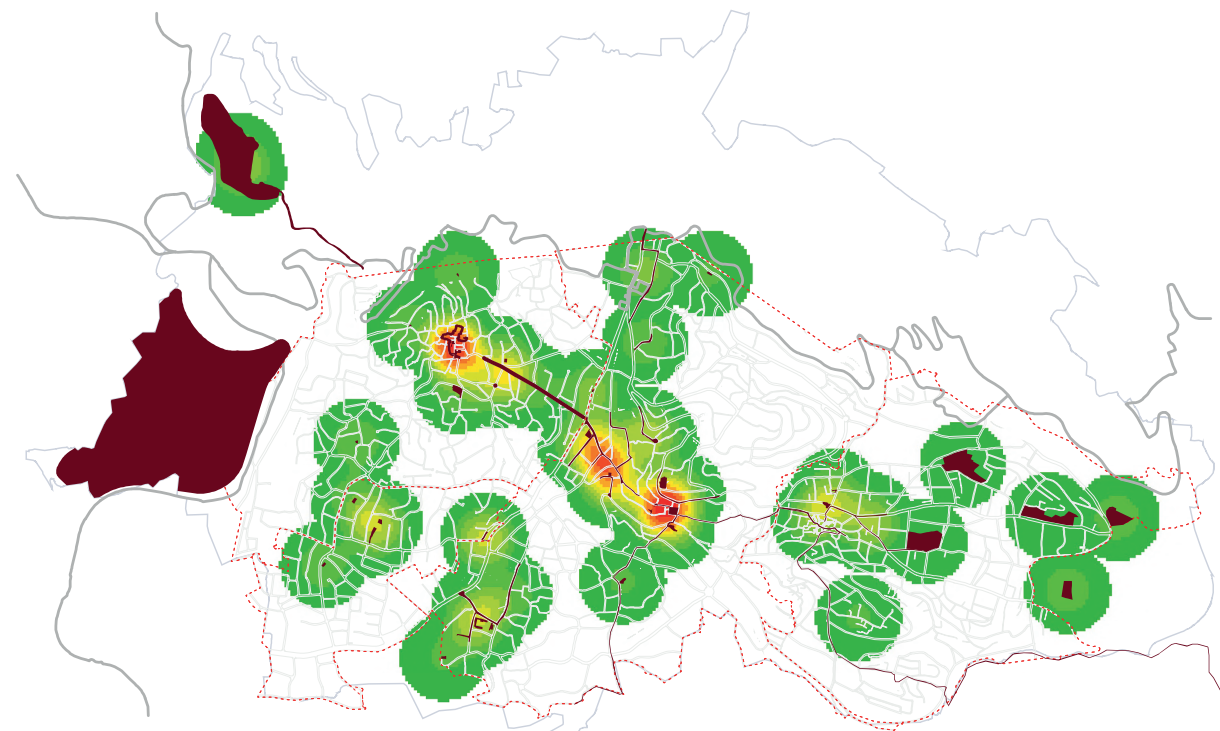
The concept of social problems covers a wide variety of often interrelated issues, ranging from concentrations of vandalism, drug abuse, prostitution, loud noises, domestic violence and sexual assault and harassment. The presence of social problems in a neighbourhood can be used as an indicator of how safe people will feel in public spaces in that area. The presence of some social problems can also often indicate that a gradual decline is set to occur if these issues are not adequately addressed.

Some of the main social problems

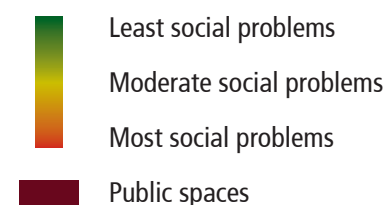
observed in Bethlehem Cluster, in order or prominence, include illegal dumping/littering, non-compliance to street rules and regulations, Israeli Occupation actions (tear gas harassment by authorities) and sexual assault/harassment in the public space. While some social problems may seem insignificant, such as non-compliance to street rules and regulations, if left unchecked this can spiral into other, more serious, crimes occurring.

Social crime prevention seeks to influence the factors affecting crime

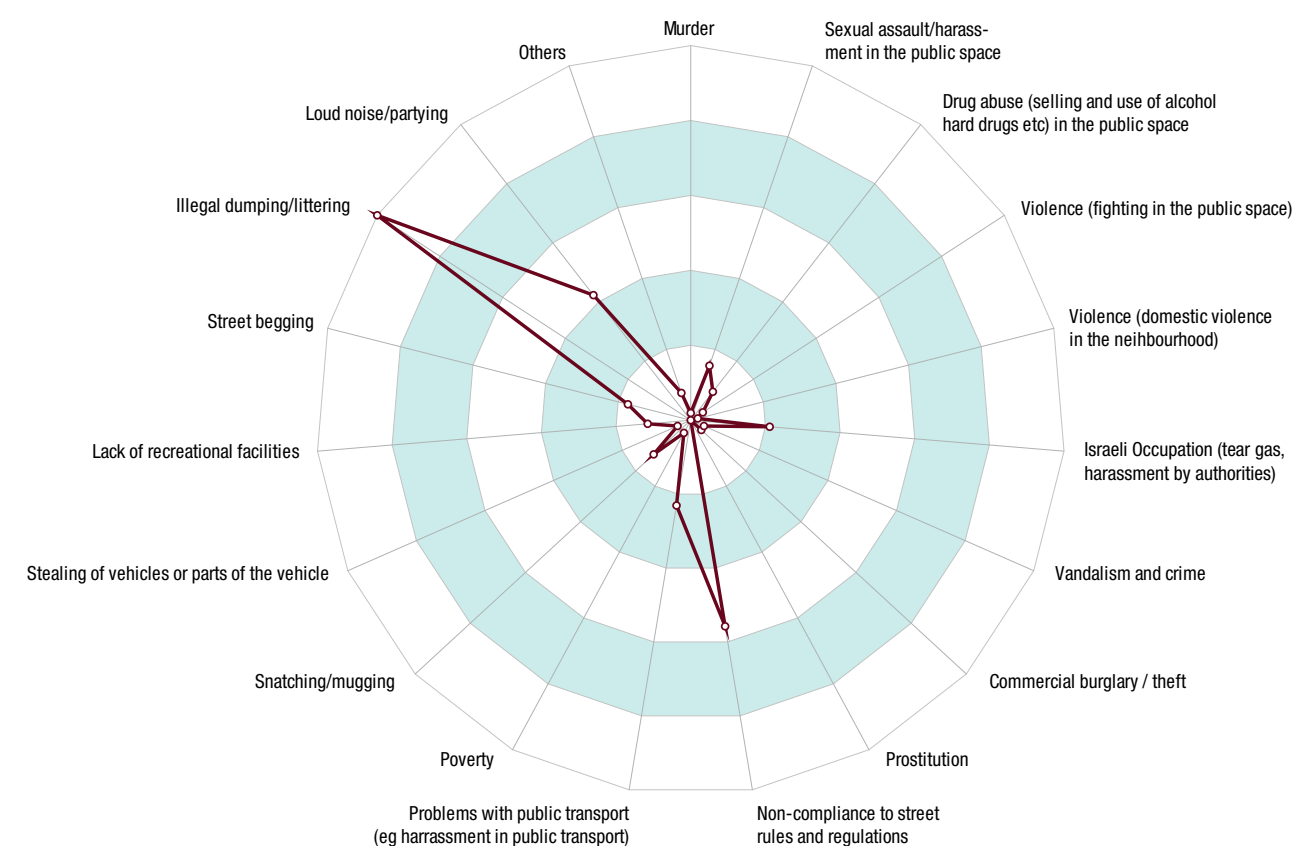
and criminal motivations and has been shown to be one of the most successful approaches for tackling the root causes of crime. Social crime prevention focuses on the social and economic conditions that contribute to violent and criminal behaviour in a community. It also places emphasis on groups at risk, which include women and youth. Social crime prevention solutions include activating public space for marginalised youth and children, open schools and safe spaces for abused women.



Proportion of public spaces with social problems

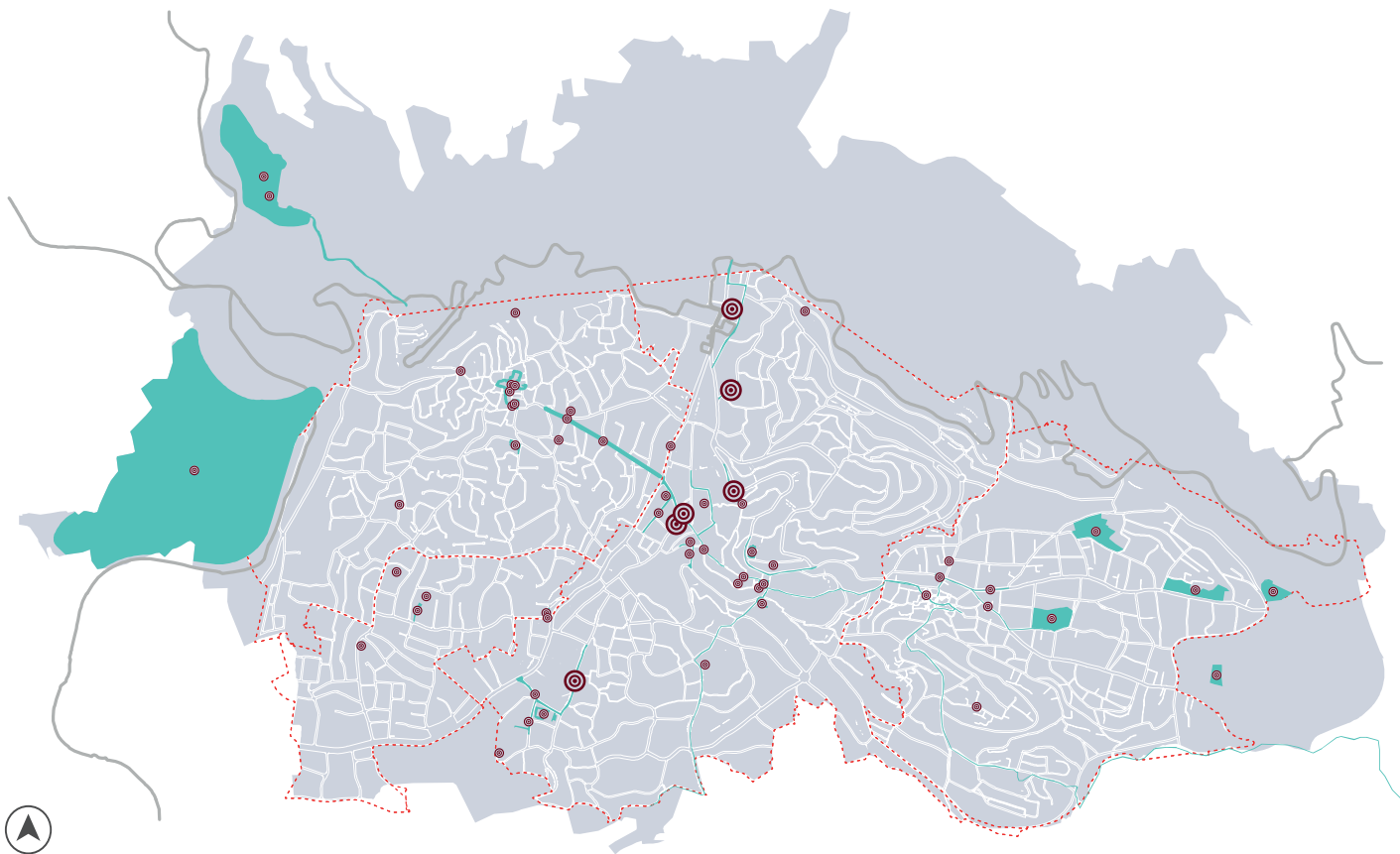


## ILLEGAL DUMPING IS THE HIGHEST RECORDED PROBLEM



Pedestrians and cars in public plaza, Bethlehem © UN-Habitat





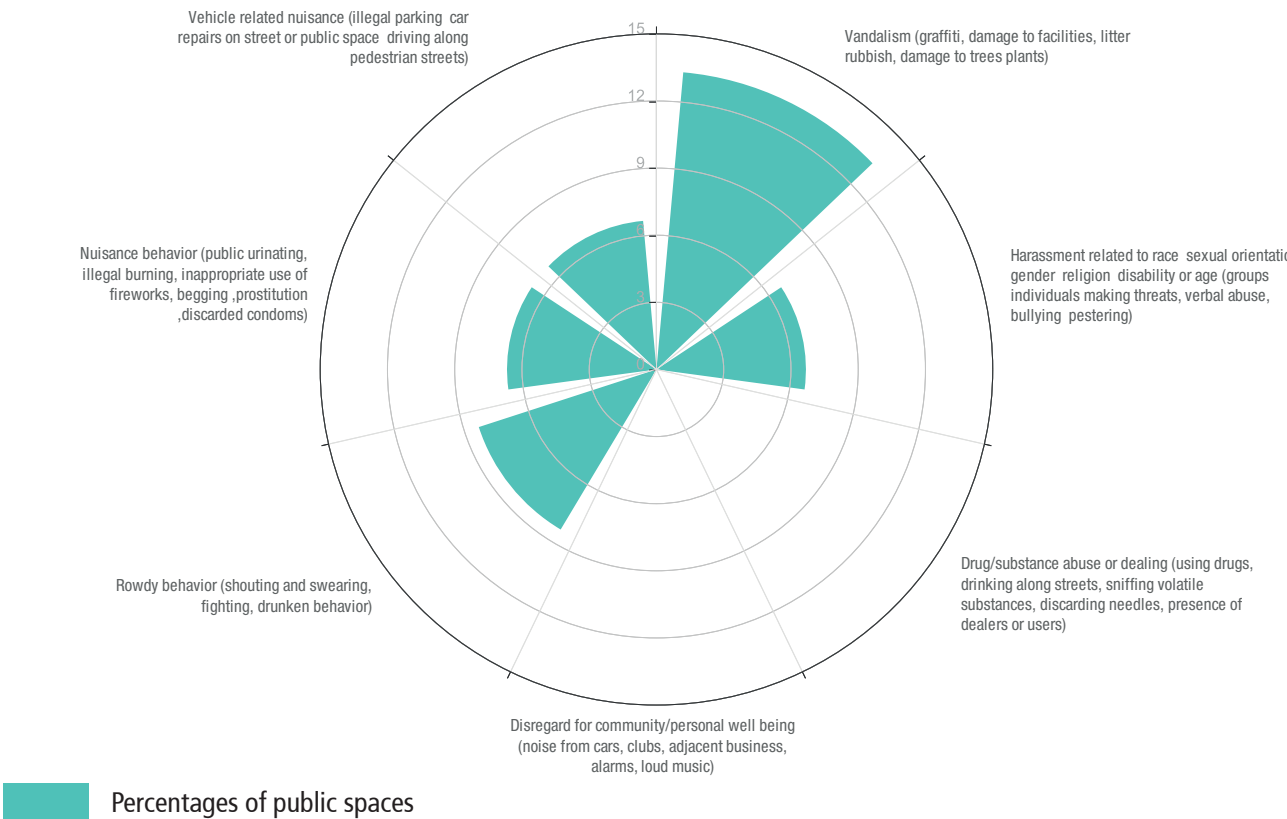
Cases of anti-social behaviour in public spaces

- 67% - 100% of cases
- 34% - 66% of cases
- 0% - 33% of cases
- Public spaces
- Master plan boundary
- Municipal boundary



Of public spaces have 34 - 66% of anti-social behaviour cases

PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SPACES WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROBLEMS IN PUBLIC SPACES



The term anti-social behaviour incorporates a range of behaviours from minor offences to more serious criminal activity. The spectrum of anti-social behaviour ranges from rowdy behaviour (shouting, swearing or drunken behaviour), to vandalism (graffiti, damage to facilities) to targeted harassment through threats or verbal abuse. These are often seen as 'soft' crimes as they are of a less serious nature compared to mugging, robbery, sexual abuse or murder.

Treating anti-social behaviour as 'soft' crimes and failing to address it is dangerous as it sets a precedent that

causing discomfort and fear, especially to women and girls, is not of serious concern. These 'soft' crimes can quickly develop into more serious crimes as a permissive environment has already been created. This common pattern demonstrates how public spaces gradually fall into a state of disrepair if there is no system of custodianship, management or law enforcement in place or feeling of ownership of the space by the community.

If a public space is poorly maintained (for example not repairing damaged amenities or removing graffiti), it sends the message that no-one takes

responsibility or cares for that space. It can encourage offenders to engage in more anti-social behaviour as they see there have been no consequences for past anti-social behaviour. In Bethlehem Cluster, the key anti-social behaviours identified in the survey are vandalism, rowdy behaviour, harassment related to race, sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability or age, nuisance behaviour and vehicle related nuisance. Consistent inaction by the custodians of the spaces may lead to increased incidences or even more serious crimes including robbery with violence and even rape.

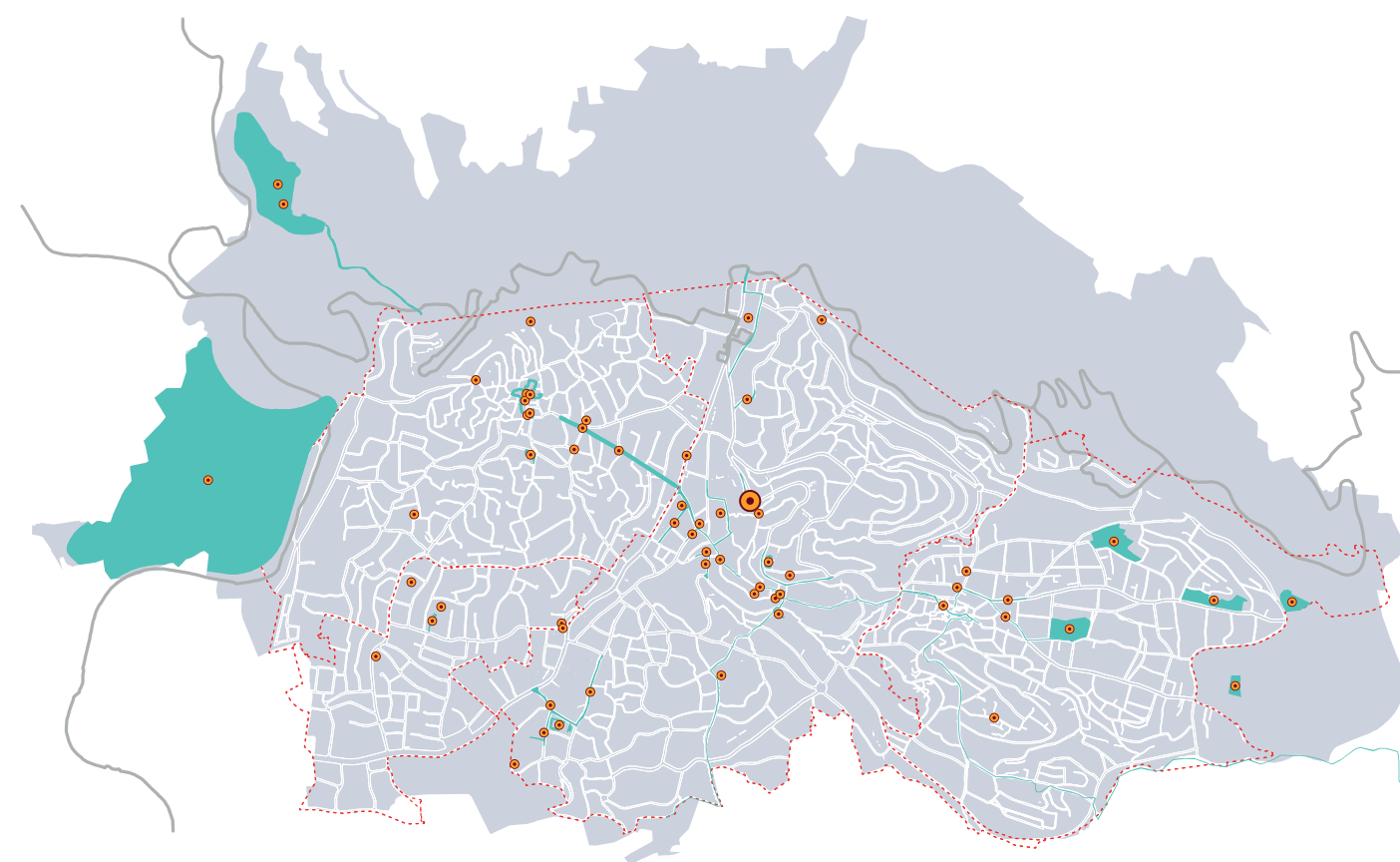
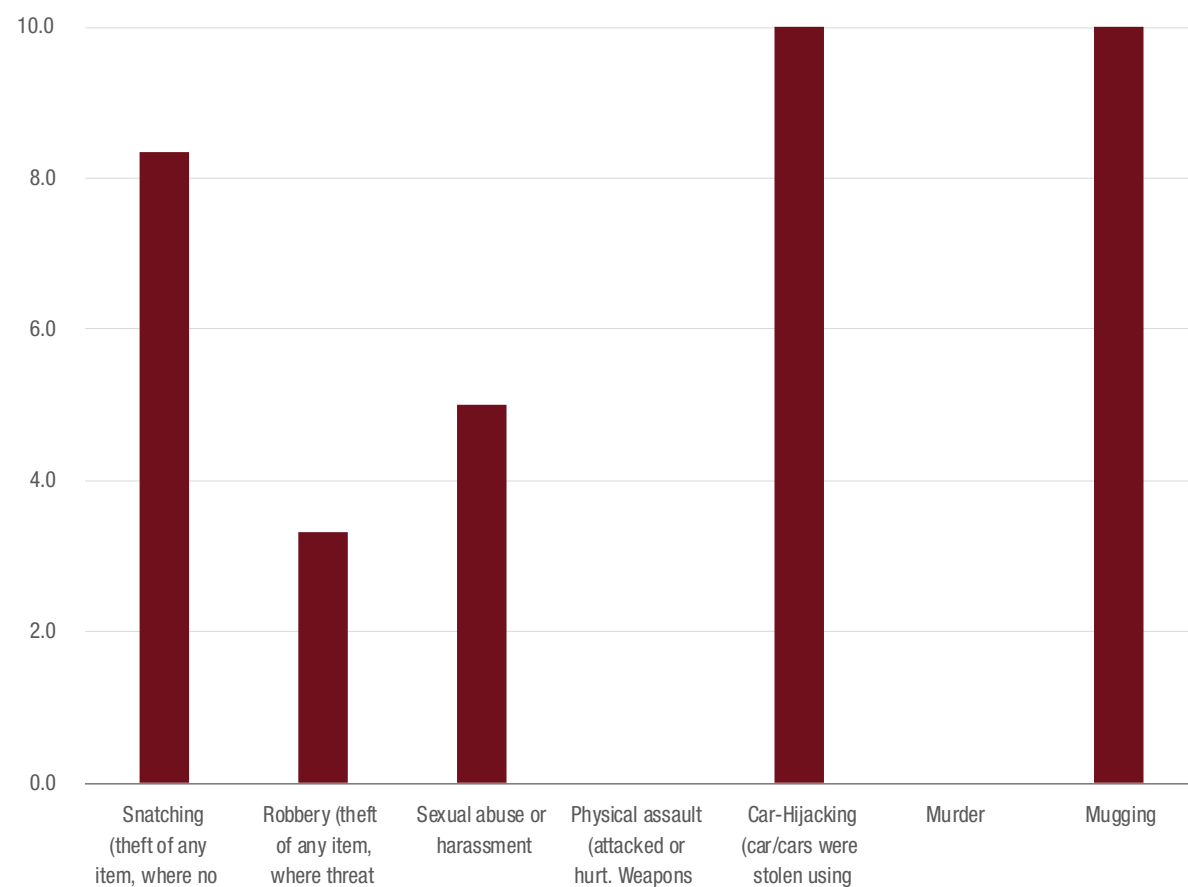
## EXPERIENCES OF CRIME / HARASSMENT

Women and girls are particularly fearful of becoming victims of crime and harassment. Experiences of and the fear of crime has a considerable impact on the daily lives of women and girls in cities as it forces them to make decisions to restrict their freedom in favour of their personal safety.

Derelict public spaces often become hotspots for crime because offenders see these spaces as an opportunity to come in contact with potential victims. Certain elements about the public space (such as lack of lighting or buildings or walls providing opportunities for concealment) can

have other advantages to offenders. In Bethlehem Cluster, the most frequent crimes are mugging, car-hijacking and snatching. Robbery and sexual abuse or harassment were also reported in some public space however to a lesser degree.

Although the incidents of crime in Bethlehem Cluster may be lower than other cities, crime prevention is still one area that the city needs to invest in in order to reclaim back public spaces. As long as any amount of crime is occurring in public spaces, these spaces will be perceived as unsafe and will not be utilised by women and girls.



### Experiences of harassment / crime in public spaces

- 67% - 100% of cases
- 34% - 66% of cases
- 0% - 33% of cases

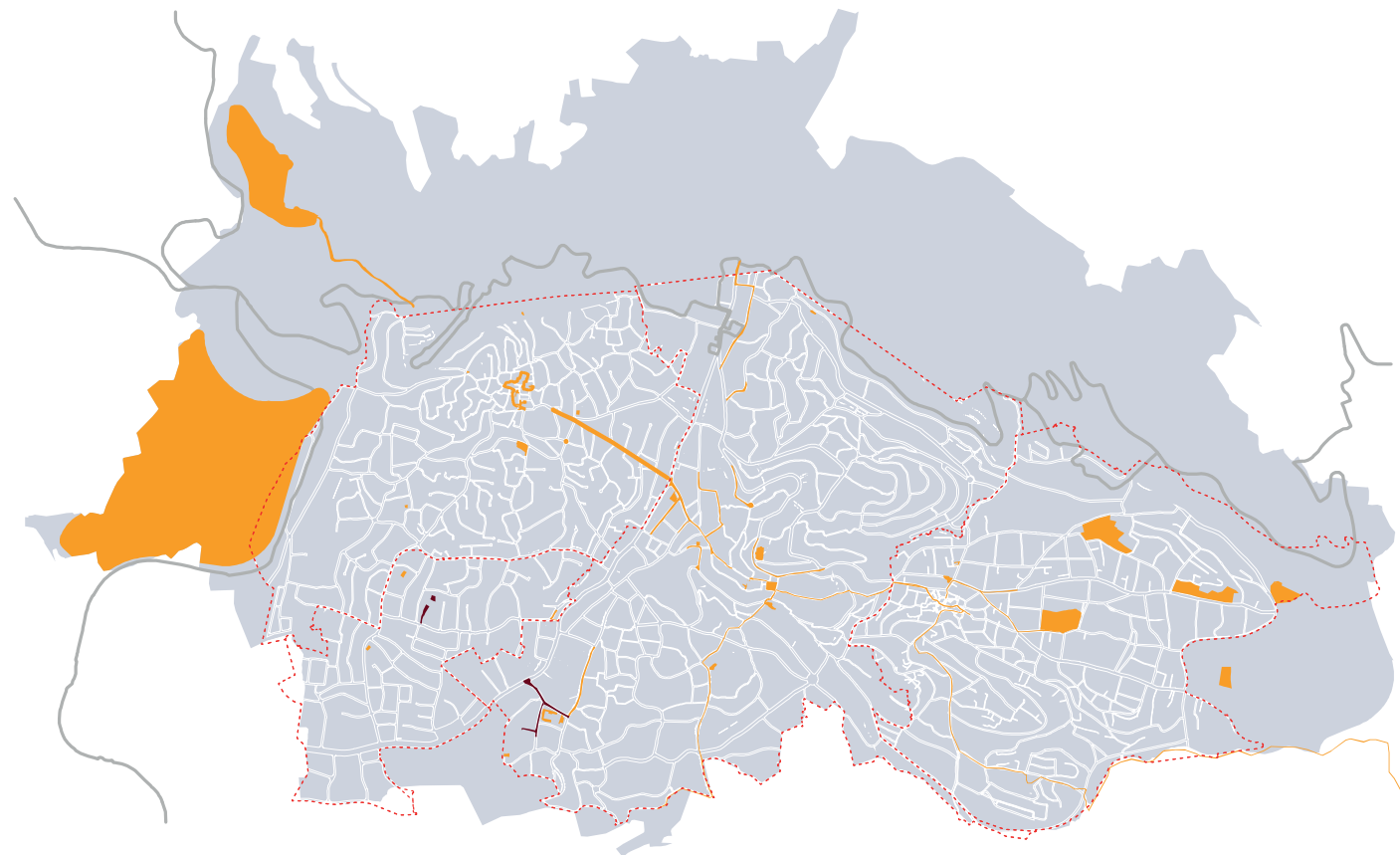
- Public spaces
- Master plan boundary
- Municipal boundary

**10%**

Car-jacking and mugging are the most frequent experiences of crime in public spaces.

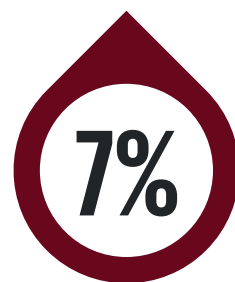


## WHICH DIMENSIONS ARE STRONG IN PUBLIC SPACES?

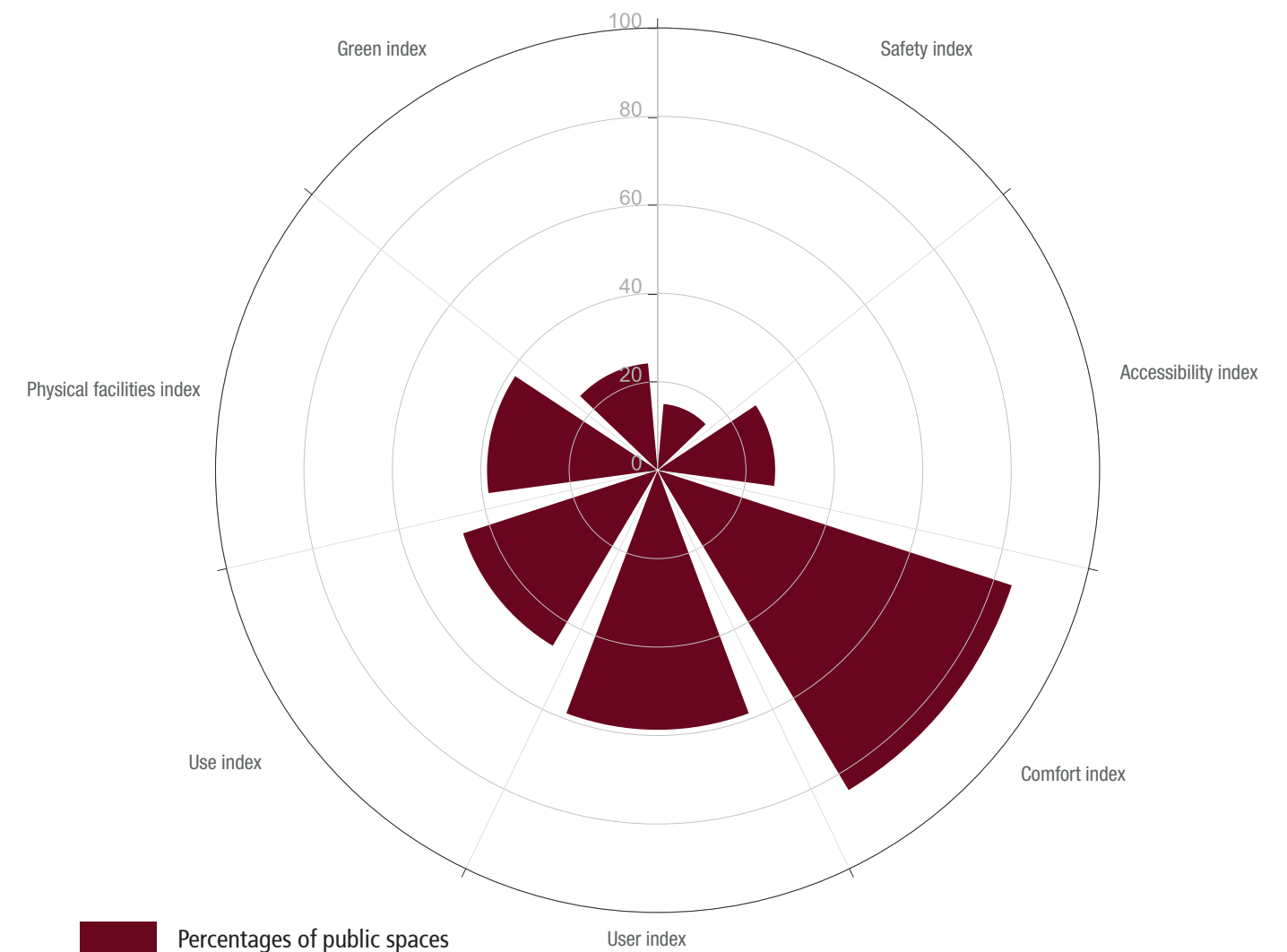


### Public spaces that require improvement

- Most improvement required
- Moderate improvement required
- Least improvement required
- Master plan boundary
- Municipal boundary



7% (4) of public spaces require the most improvement.



To determine the quality of public spaces in Bethlehem Cluster, a set of indices were developed to measure the broad categories of use, users, green index, comfort, accessibility, physical facilities and safety. These indices were then combined to produce a final score for the city.

Some of the strongest dimensions insofar as the quality of the public space is concerned are comfort, users and use. The three weakest dimensions of Bethlehem Cluster's public spaces are safety, accessibility and the green index. These are weighted out of a possible score of one hundred. The

results show that overall, Bethlehem Cluster is performing below average with a mean score of 42 out of 100. While the strengths of Bethlehem Cluster's public spaces are promising, there is still significant room for improvement.



A public staircase in Bethlehem © Bethlehem Municipality

# 4

## CHAPTER



## ENVISIONING BETHLEHEM CLUSTER

- Validation workshop
- Vision and Goals for Bethlehem Cluster
- Strategic recommendations and way forward

# VALIDATION WORKSHOP

To present the results of the city-wide public space assessment, an e-validation workshop was held with the participation of active members of the local community including women associations, journalists, local NGOs, International NGOs, handicapped related associations, Ministry of Education, and youth activists; in addition to UN-Habitat, the municipality of Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beith Sahour and Al Doha, and representatives of local universities

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP

- Improve physical infrastructure in public spaces, including the improvement of street lighting and sidewalks.
- Provide clear measures to enhance the safety of the public spaces, for example security guards and cameras, in addition to regenerating public spaces to host a wide variety of activities and user groups.
- Focus on developing urban design proposals that contributes to increase the safety index of the Bethlehem Cluster, since this is the lowest index as per the results of the safety audit survey.
- Working towards increasing the comfortability index in public spaces through improving the availability and conditions of facilities in public spaces , for example how to keep public spaces clean and how to improve public space for disabled people and make it more comfortable for them.
- Rehabilitate religious touristic routes as this will emphasize the unique religious and touristic character of the Cluster. Intersecting and continuous trails could be designed as safe and inclusive public spaces.
- Improve the green index in the Cluster by providing a layers of green infrastructure to the streets while taking into consideration visual permeability and making sure not to block the vision or comprise the safety street. Moreover, choosing plants so that they need the least maintenance and irrigation. This network of green infrastructure could be used as open public spaces integrated within touristic routes.



Bethlehem at night © Bethlehem Municipality

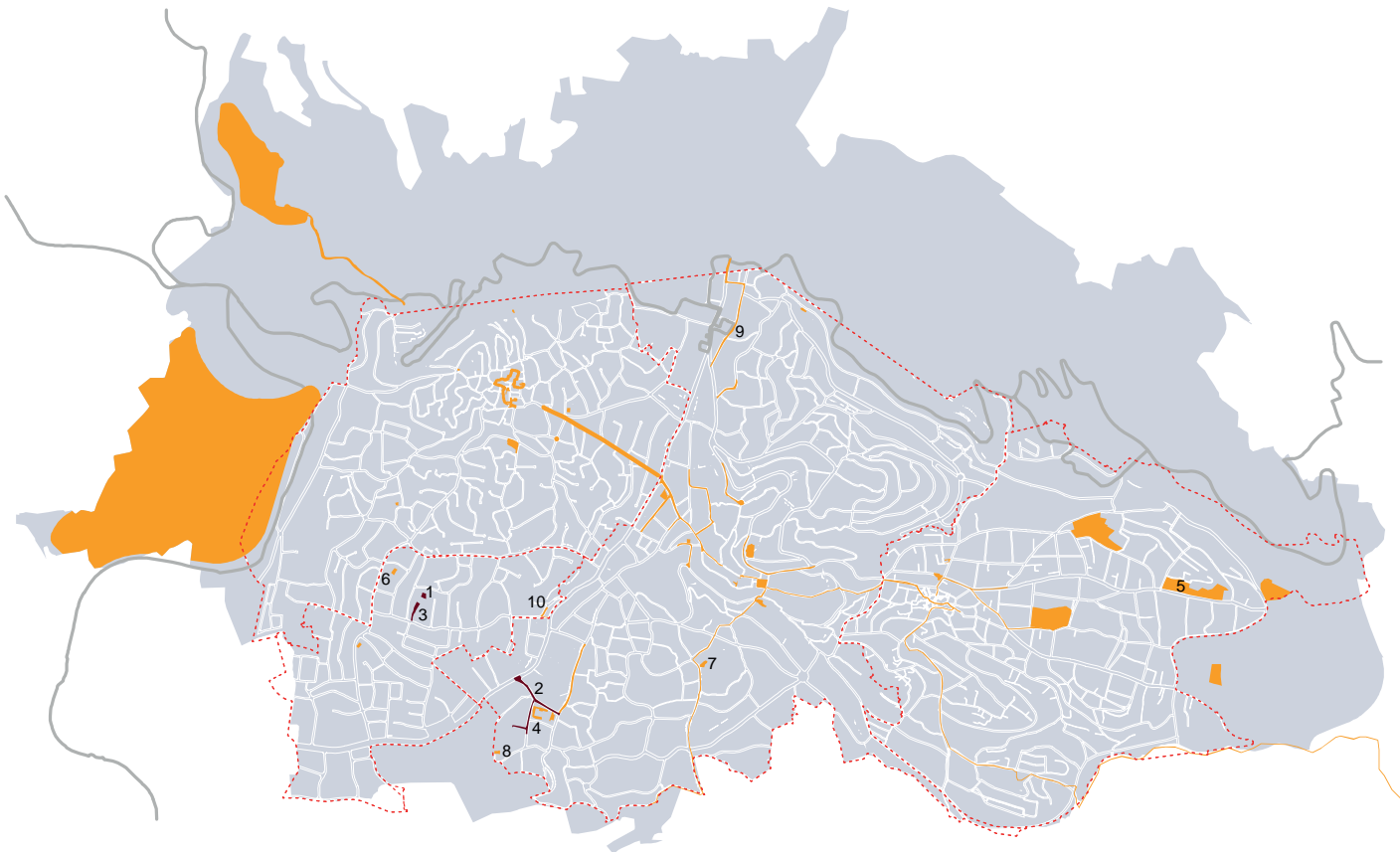


Table 4: Top 10 priority public spaces for improvement

No	Name of Public Space	Safety Index	Access- sibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Prior- ity for Improve- ment
1	Municipal Playground	16.8	9.7	75	22.2	37.5	20	0	25.9
2	Putin Street	7.7	32.3	75	33.3	37.5	20	0	29.4
3	Municipal Park	19.2	9.7	100	0	37.5	40	0	29.5
4	Dar Al Kalima Street and Al Ahlia Street	20.1	16.1	75	33.3	37.5	20	18.2	31.5
5	YMCA Playground	3	19.4	100	44.4	50	20	0	33.8
6	Saliba Zidan Playground	15.9	22.6	75	22.2	37.5	20	45.5	34.1
7	Al Bayyarah Park	9.6	22.6	83.3	0	37.5	40	45.5	34.1
8	Phoenix Garden	6.6	38.7	75	0	37.5	45	36.4	34.2
9	The northern entrance to Bethlehem	28.2	16.1	87.5	44.4	37.5	30	0	34.8
10	Doha Stair Street	11.7	32.3	55.6	55.6	37.5	35	18.2	35.1

Values are in percentages. Higher percentage means better performance

The map illustrates the public spaces in Bethlehem that require the most improvement, moderate improvement and least improvement. This has been determined by the score each public space has received in the categories of safety, accessibility, comfort, users, use, physical facilities and green coverage (refer to Table 4) . The lower the score, the more improvement is required.



Public spaces that require improvement

- Most improvement required
- Moderate improvement required
- Least improvement required
- Master plan boundary
- Municipality boundary



# VISION

BEITH JALA

BETHLEHEM

AD DOHA

BEIT SAHOUR

BEITH JALA IS A CITY OF  
CULTURAL HERITAGE, A  
TOURISTIC CITY, SAFE  
AND GREEN

BETHLEHEM IS A CITY  
RICH WITH PALESTINIAN  
HERITAGE, TOURISTIC,  
SAFE, GREEN, CLEAN,  
AND SUSTAINABLY  
DEVELOPING

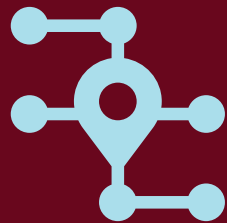
AL DOHA IS A PLANNED  
COMMERCIAL CITY

BEIT SAHOUR WILL BE  
A TOURISTIC, SAFE AND  
PROSPEROUS CITY



*The recommendations provided in this section cannot be considered as a comprehensive plan. They are to be further developed and designed by each municipality within the Bethlehem Cluster and their local community.*

## GOALS AND STRATEGIES



GOAL 1

### IMPROVE THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SPACES

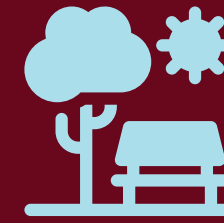
- Increase the quantity of public spaces
- Ensure equitable distribution of public space across the municipalities
- Create new neighbourhood public spaces in un-serviced areas of the city
- Temporarily convert under-used or abandoned land for public use in under-serviced neighbourhoods



GOAL 2

### IMPROVE GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SPACE PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY AND USE

- Engage and partner with communities, women and girls in the activation, management and maintenance of neighbourhood spaces
- Support better design for comfort, aesthetics and enjoyment of public spaces
- Promote varied activities and social programming around public space – management of Street vendors
- Adopt universal design principles and enhance access to public space by the elderly and people with disabilities
- Create an awareness campaign against all forms of harassment and violence against women in public spaces.



GOAL 3

### IMPROVE PUBLIC SPACE GREENERY AND COMFORT

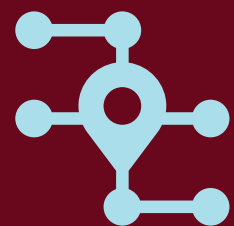
- Develop standards and guidelines around the design of safe streets and public spaces
- Enhance safety
- Improve quality of stay - the conditions and physical infrastructure in public spaces
- Leverage green infrastructure to create green corridors and promote biodiversity - Develop a greening and planting strategy



GOAL 4

### CREATE AND PROMOTE LIVING HERITAGE

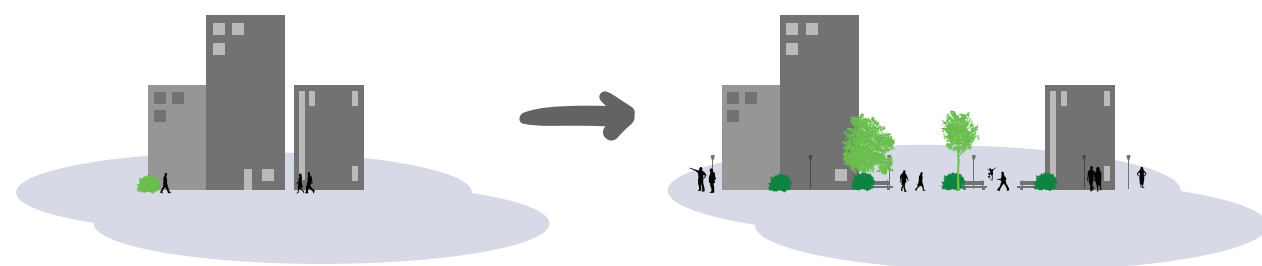
- Celebrate culture and heritage
- Rehabilitate the religious touristic routes.



## IMPROVE THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SPACES

### INCREASE THE QUANTITY OF PUBLIC SPACES

Only 6 per cent of land in the Bethlehem Local Government Unit (LGU) is dedicated to open public space. An additional 3 square kilometres of open public space will need to be created to achieve the recommended amount of 12-15 per cent of land allocated to open public space and public facilities. This can be done through various planning tools such as master planning, urban regeneration and redevelopment, sub-divisions and land readjustment. Increasing the quantity of public space will increase the per capita ratio of residents to public space which at the moment is 4.2m<sup>2</sup> per person and is expected to reduce to 3.7m<sup>2</sup> per person by 2030 if the city does not create new public spaces.



### ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SPACE

The share of land that a city allocates to streets and open public spaces is not only critical to its productivity, but also contributes significantly to the social dimensions and health and safety of its population. Ensuring a well distributed system of public spaces, promotes accessibility and encourages their use, contributing to a better quality of life for everyone across the city, especially in the poorer communities where public space is their “living room”. Ideally, all areas of the city should be within 5 minutes walking distance (400 metres) of safe and comfortable public space. Women and girls, especially from a safety perspective, may prefer to not have to walk too far to be able to enjoy meeting up with their friends or enjoying some exercise. Additional land should be dedicated as public space by the Municipal Council, with priority given to the neighbourhoods identified as requiring public space and establish a framework to work together with communities to co-create public space where it is not enough.





### CREATE NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD SPACES IN UN-SERVICED AREAS OF THE CITY

Smaller neighbourhood spaces and pocket parks are critical spaces for women and girls to socialize, exercise and play as they often may not make the effort to travel across the city due to various chores at home or other commitments with the family. The survey found that of the 60 public spaces in the Bethlehem Cluster, only 19 are neighbourhood level and 10 are pocket parks. To be able to cater for the women and girls there is a need to increase the number of smaller more intimate public spaces especially in the vicinity of their homes. This can be done through for example converting parking lots into public spaces, creating community gardens in residential inner courtyards, restrict vehicular traffic on certain streets in a neighbourhood to create blocks of walkable streets as done in Barcelona (super blocks) and giving back the streets to the citizens.



### TEMPORARILY CONVERT UNDER-USED OR ABANDONED LAND FOR PUBLIC USE IN UNDERSERVED NEIGHBOURHOODS

Many of the under-used or abandoned spaces become dump sites, contributing to insecurity and especially to women's unsafety. Upgrading or rehabilitating under-used or abandoned spaces is an efficient way of increasing the amount of quality public space within Bethlehem Cluster without having to wait for land to be rezoned, or re-appropriated which could take months or years to occur. If the land is not under public ownership, there could be an arrangement set up between the owner and the municipality to temporarily use the space as a public space for a certain amount of time.





## IMPROVE GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SPACE PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY AND USE

### ACTIVATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SPACES

In Bethlehem Cluster, the survey found that close to half of all the public spaces are mono-functional spaces, suggesting that the spaces may be deserted at given times of the day, potentially compromising the safety by women and girls during these times. Communities can be engaged in activation, management and maintenance of certain neighbourhood spaces and pocket parks, building ownership and identity and boosting women and girl's safety. The municipality can sign an agreement or establish a framework for engaging women and girls in the management and maintenance of these spaces, setting up the rules and regulations for the use of the space. A specific concern raised in the validation workshop was the need for the municipality to develop a strategy for managing street vendors who have a tendency to take over pavements and reinforcing the feelings of unsafety.



### DESIGN FOR COMFORT, AESTHETICS AND ENJOYMENT

Ensure public spaces are designed so that they are well-loved and well used by people of all walks of life, mix of ages, genders, religions, socio-economic classes and ethnicities. Ensure that there are diverse things to see and do in public spaces, diverse sitting opportunities, for groups, for couples and individuals. Both through design and social programming, ensure that all ages and genders can enjoy the public spaces. When designing play facilities for example, ensure that there are complementary uses such as eateries where parents can sit as they watch over their children playing. A design manual for creating safer, more inclusive and accessible public spaces, proposing low cost solutions and establishing frameworks for engaging communities in the design and co-creation of these spaces is key for developers, for communities and for local government as well.



### ADOPT UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Increasing the overall quality of public spaces can be achieved by adhering to universal principles of public space design such as comfort, safety and inclusivity. Not only should public spaces be inclusive of a diverse range of people, but they should support diverse uses at different times of the day, week and different seasons. An inclusive public space is one in which all people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, socio-economic level or ability can access and feel safe and comfortable in. Some of the basic minimums that the municipality can take-up for a gender sensitive public space include adequate visibility, diverse sitting opportunities, clean and separate toilets, adequate and legible signage, and access to public transportation. Importantly, involve women and girls in all stages of the design of public spaces.





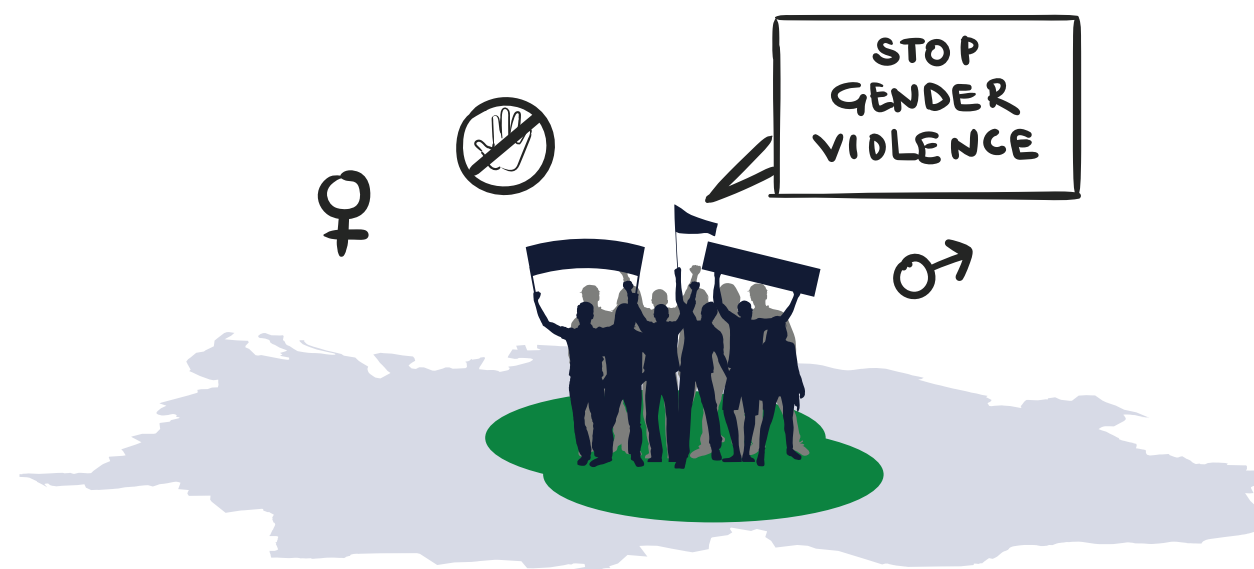
### PROMOTE SOCIAL PROGRAMMING AROUND PUBLIC SPACE

Public spaces that are used for a wide range of activities make the spaces safer, more vibrant and full of life and this calls for programming a diverse range of activities throughout different times of the day and night to make these spaces safer and more attractive to spend time in. Promoting social programming refers to the scheduling of activities in a public space to ensure its use. Maintaining a schedule of events, such as cultural, religious or recreational events, will encourage the public space to be activated throughout the year. A way to do this is through creative placemaking and tactical urbanism, which can engage women and girls and other members of the community in activating and transforming spaces that foster engagement and boost economic development.



### CREATE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In Bethlehem Cluster, the survey revealed that verbal abuse was observed in 40 per cent of public spaces. Due to the high levels of harassment and perception of unsafety in public spaces throughout Bethlehem Cluster, it is recommended that rules for the standards of acceptable behaviour in public spaces should be developed and enforced by the Municipal Council. In additions, the launching an awareness campaign that calls upon all: civil society, women's and men's organizations, young people, the private sector, government and the media to join forces in addressing harassment against women and girls in public space would be key. Raising awareness, engaging, convincing and inspiring change through various media events, through storytelling, art and cultural events and local theatre in public space and schools all advocating for change.





## IMPROVE PUBLIC SPACE SAFETY, GREENERY AND COMFORT

### DEVELOP STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES AROUND PUBLIC SPACE

A wide range of universal guidelines and standards for public space already exist, including UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Toolkit (2015) and NACTO's Street Design Guide, which can be reviewed to develop principles and guidelines specifically for Bethlehem Cluster, taking into consideration the building codes, the development control policies and integrated development plans of the city.



### ENHANCE SAFETY

A variety of mechanisms can be implemented to promote safety in public spaces. In particular there needs to be a heightened awareness of gender-specific safety issues in Bethlehem Cluster and this can be informed by conducting neighbourhood safety audits or exploratory walk with women in the community. The safety walk maps areas of concern such lighting, obstructions, cleanliness, signage, surveillance and use of the space. Clear sightlines along streets and in open public spaces can improve the perception of safety especially among women and girls as it encourages the notion of “see and be seen”. Rather than allocating security guards and installing CCTV, promoting activities such as street vending along streets increases natural surveillance by increasing the number of “eyes on the street”, enhancing feelings of safety. High fences and walls should be avoided to maintain lines of sight.





## IMPROVE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN PUBLIC SPACES

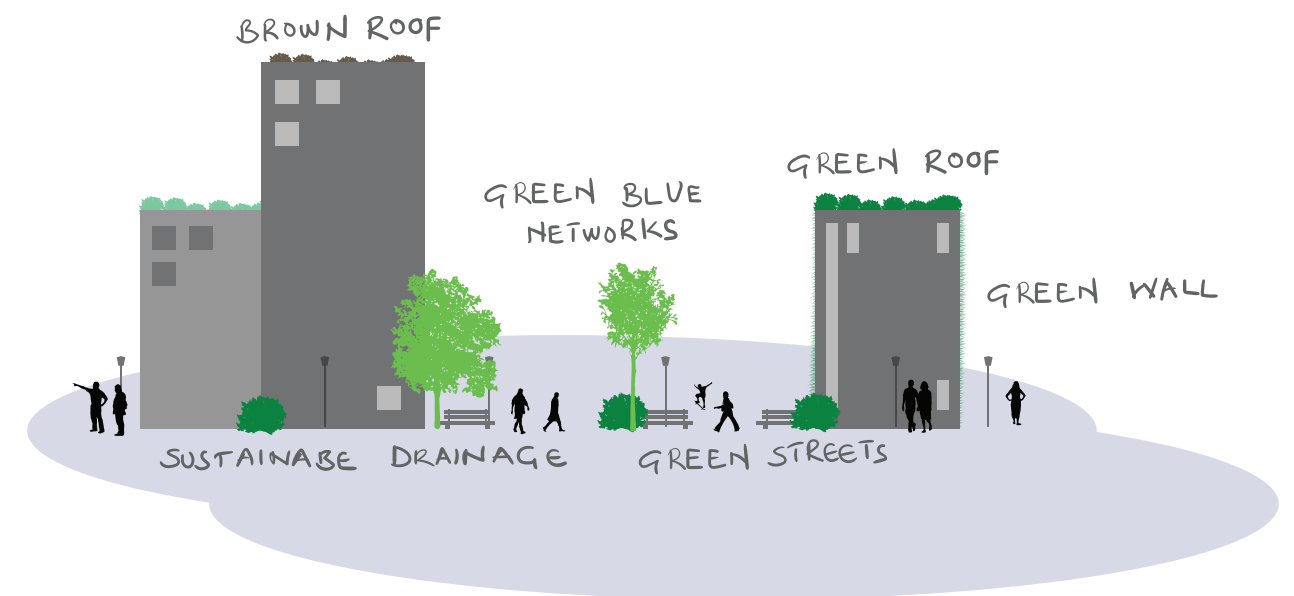
The presence of amenities is one of the major reasons why people use public spaces. Amenities can include seating, lighting, garbage bins, shading, café's, kiosks, public toilets, play areas, exercise equipment and baby care facilities. Improving the quality and quantity of amenities available in a public space can draw people to the space and make them stay longer. Existing amenities should be restored and maintained and new amenities should be determined according to the needs of local residents, to ensure utilization.

Sidewalks and bike lanes should be planned and built in a network throughout the city to increase connectivity and promoting more walking and cycling. Bethlehem Cluster Municipal Council can design and build sidewalks that are wide enough and with even surfaces and providing shade for walking through tree planting. Women and girls will walk if they live in neighborhoods where they feel it is safe and comfortable to do so. Places with tree-lined sidewalks that are wide enough for pushing strollers and or for children to walk hand-in-hand with adults, having surface texture that is appropriate, where there are curb ramps, with regular complete streets, street crossings and there is protection from motorized traffic can promote walking by women and girls. Bethlehem Cluster should adopt strategies and prepare action plans that are practical and implementable, for example to pick the top 5 priority public spaces for upgrading in the under-served areas and implement over the next 12 months. These actions should be synchronized with municipal workplans to ensure they are implemented.



## LEVERAGE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE TO CREATE GREEN CORRIDORS AND PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

Public spaces should also, ideally, be connected, forming a green network throughout the city. Bethlehem Municipal Council should establish a continuous network of green public spaces by connecting medians, transit streets, pedestrian-only and pedestrian-priority streets, bike and walking trails and other linear green spaces. These networks must be designed as part of the city's green infrastructure and as an alternative mobility network for active travel, connecting diverse destinations including public spaces, industrial districts and residential neighbourhoods. Improving the green index in the cluster by providing layers of green infrastructure to the streets while taking into consideration visual permeability and making sure not to block the vision or comprise the safety street is key. Moreover, the municipality should develop a greening/planting strategy choosing plants that need the least maintenance and irrigation. The green networks of public space play a critical role in reducing temperatures as well as reducing carbon emissions and contributing to urban resilience.





## CREATE AND PROMOTE LIVING HERITAGE

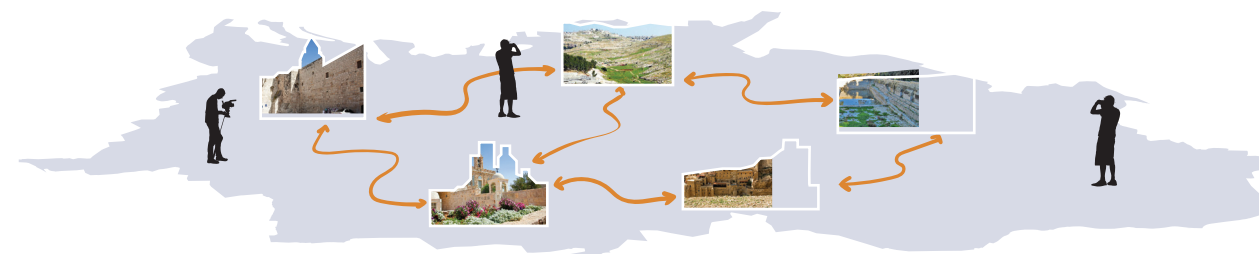
### CELEBRATE CULTURE AND HERITAGE

It is the diverse and rich culture stretching from the past into the present, built on heritage and common understanding, that can help Bethlehem Cluster build the future and innovate. Public spaces can preserve heritage (both material and immaterial), protect diversity, promote creativity and also contribute to safety and building identity. Culture and heritage brings communities together, but it also contributes towards strengthening the city's economy. Culture is intrinsically linked to public space and investing in them allows for better access to markets, jobs, information and public services. Bethlehem Cluster can develop a programme for culture and heritage in public space which can engage women and girls in participating in this celebration, attracting tourism, but also creating safer communities.



### PRESERVE THE CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF EXISTING HISTORICAL PUBLIC AREAS

There is a need to preserve the character and quality of existing historical public areas in order to promote local identity and to transmit heritage to the future generations. The rich heritage and culture of Bethlehem Cluster needs to be embraced as a “living” heritage, not like a museum, ensuring that public art and performances in historic public spaces can celebrate and validate a sense of community, identity, belonging and well-being. A strategy to rehabilitate the religious and touristic routes to complement a programme for culture and heritage in public space would create those important spaces where women and girls can be creative, feel empowered and participate in public life.







Street within Bethlehem Cluster © Bethlehem Municipality





Bethlehem skyline © Bethlehem Municipality

# 5

## CHAPTER



## ANNEXES AND REFERENCES

- Annexes
- References

## ANNEX

## PERFORMANCE OF EACH PUBLIC SPACE

No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
1	Municipal Playground	Government	Government	Neighborhood	16.8	9.7	75	22.2	37.5	20	0	25.9
2	Putin Street	Government	Government	City level	7.7	32.3	75	33.3	37.5	20	0	29.4
3	Municipal Park	Government	Government	City level	19.2	9.7	100	0	37.5	40	0	29.5
4	Dar Al Kalima Street and Al Ahlia Street	Government	Government	City level	20.1	16.1	75	33.3	37.5	20	18.2	31.5
5	YMCA Playground	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	3	19.4	100	44.4	50	20	0	33.8
6	Saliba Zidan Playground	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	Neighborhood	15.9	22.6	75	22.2	37.5	20	45.5	34.1
7	Al Bayyarah Park	Other	Non-Government	Neighborhood	9.6	22.6	83.3	0	37.5	40	45.5	34.1
8	Phoenix Garden	Non-Government	Non-Government	Neighborhood	6.6	38.7	75	0	37.5	45	36.4	34.2
9	The northern entrance to Bethlehem	Government	Government	City level	28.2	16.1	87.5	44.4	37.5	30	0	34.8
10	Doha Stair Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	11.7	32.3	55.6	55.6	37.5	35	18.2	35.1
11	Taxis station and Souq AlShaab market	Government	Government	City level	12.3	25.8	72.7	55.6	50	30	0	35.2
12	Mental Health Hospital Street	Government	Government	City level	23.8	22.6	100	11.1	62.5	30	0	35.7
13	Bethlehem University Street	Government	Government	City level	15.4	35.5	100	33.3	37.5	30	0	36
14	Al Doha Public Staircase	Government	Government	Pocket Park	22	22.6	62.5	77.8	37.5	30	0	36
15	Al 'Amal Street	Government	Government	City level	37.2	25.8	75	55.6	37.5	30	0	37.3
16	As Souq Al Markazi (Central Market)	Government	Government	Neighborhood	18	29	75	66.7	37.5	40	0	38
17	Abu Alia Playground	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	Neighborhood	19.2	12.9	100	33.3	37.5	30	36.4	38.5
18	The Catholic Work Square and Roundabout	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	75	66.7	50	35	0	38.5
19	The Antonine Assembly Street and the Infirmary	Government	Government	City level	23.4	16.1	100	55.6	37.5	20	18.2	38.7
20	Normandy Roundabout	Government	Government	Pocket Park	13.8	16.1	71.4	44.4	50	30	45.5	38.8
21	Al Manara Square	Government	Government	Pocket Park	9.8	32.3	60	88.9	50	35	0	39.4
22	As Souq Al Markazi (Central Market)	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	29	62.5	66.7	37.5	70	0	39.5
23	Ibrahim Touristic Trail	Government	Government	City level	5.7	29	100	44.4	37.5	60	0	39.5
24	Transportation Hub in Wadi Maali	Non-Government	Non-Government	Neighborhood	14.7	25.8	75	66.7	37.5	40	18.2	39.7
25	Al Sahel Roundabout	Government	Government	Neighborhood	18.6	16.1	100	77.8	37.5	30	0	40
26	Monastery Yard	Government	Government	Pocket Park	5.6	19.4	100	66.7	50	40	0	40.2
27	Al Bayyarah Garden	Government	Jointly-managed	Pocket Park	13.1	19.4	100	44.4	50	40	18.2	40.7
28	The Old Market	Government	Government	Neighborhood	14.9	25.8	69.2	88.9	37.5	50	0	40.9
29	Southern Transportation Hub, Al-Jarashi Land	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	City level	13.1	38.7	71.4	66.7	37.5	60	0	41.1

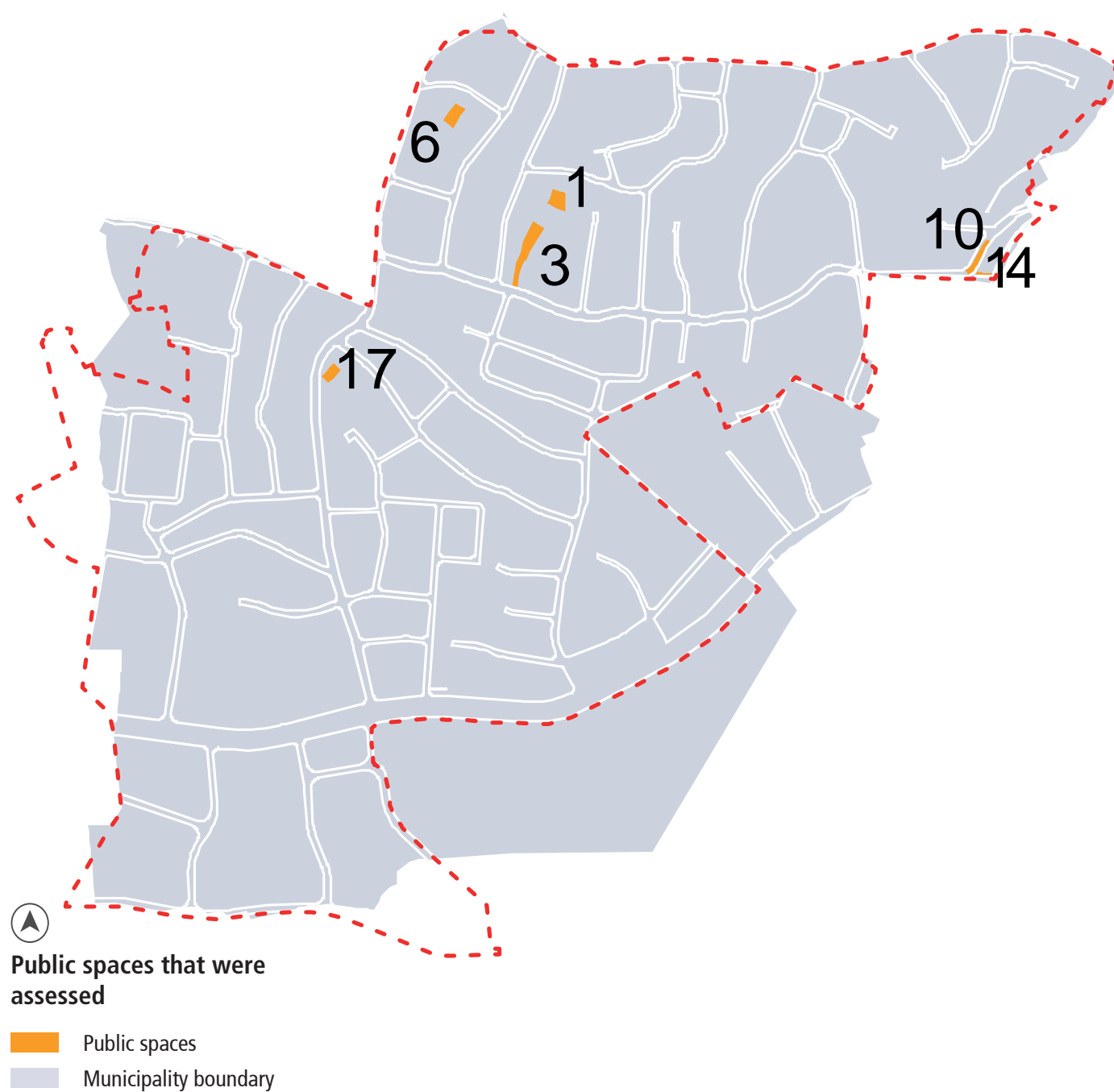
Values are in percentages. Higher percentage means better performance



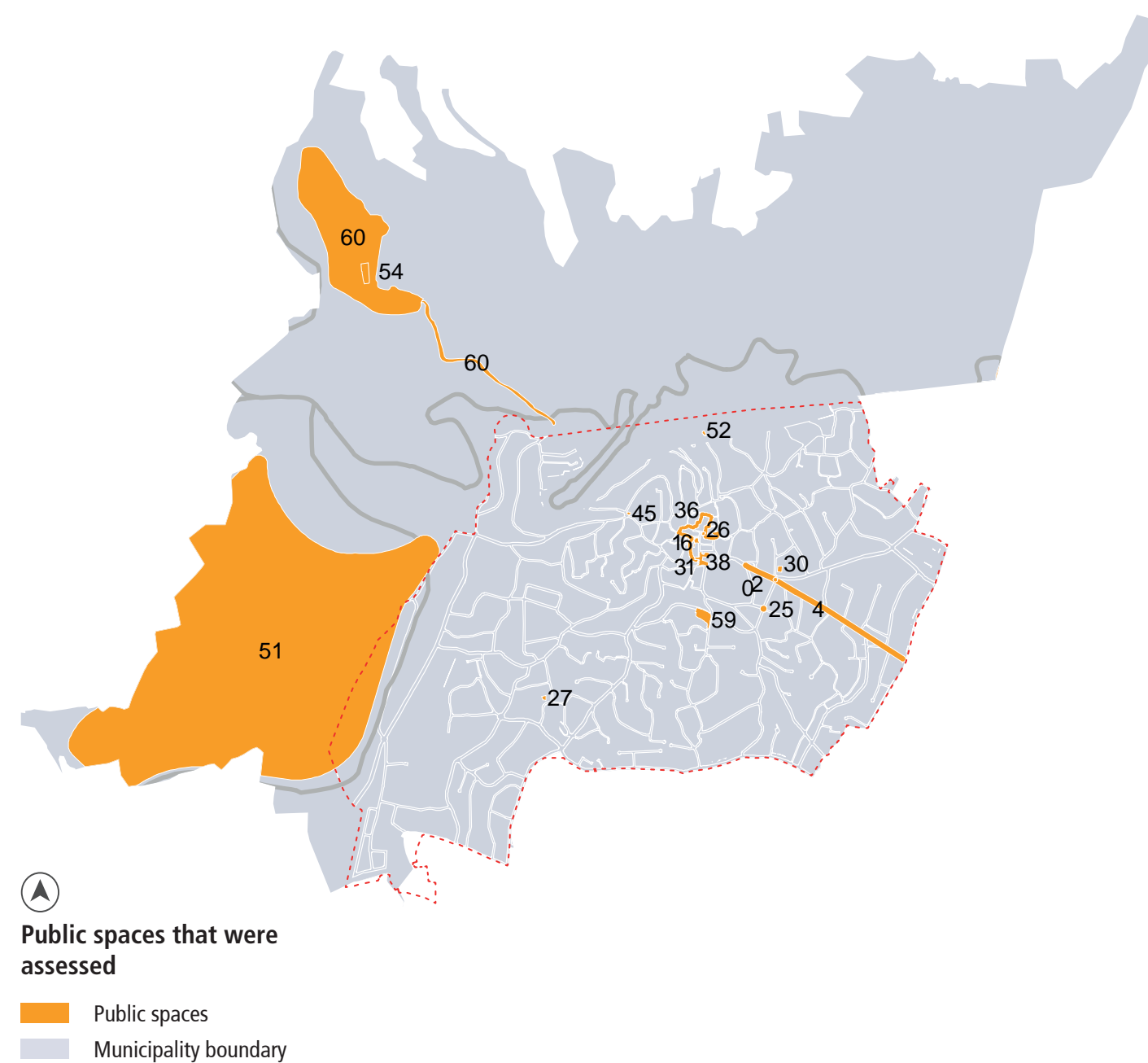
No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
30	Saturday Market	Government	Government	Neighborhood	14.1	35.5	100	44.4	50	35	9.1	41.2
31	Beit Jala Taxi Station	Government	Government	Pocket Park	15.9	25.8	100	44.4	37.5	50	18.2	41.7
32	Municipal Playgroung	Government	Government	City level	25.9	25.8	100	33.3	50	40	18.2	41.9
33	Jerusalem Bus Station	Government	Government	Pocket Park	19.2	16.1	100	44.4	37.5	70	9.1	42.3
34	Nativity Street	Government	Government	City level	9.8	35.5	66.7	88.9	50	30	18.2	42.7
35	Transportation Hub in Jerashy Land	Government	Government	City level	18.3	29	77.8	55.6	62.5	30	27.3	42.9
36	St. Nicholas Trail	Government	Government	Neighborhood	7.5	29	100	88.9	50	25	0	42.9
37	Eastern Transportation Hub, Al'Een Station	Non-Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	12.9	100	88.9	37.5	50	0	42.9
38	Manshia	Government	Government	City level	16.8	32.3	75	66.7	37.5	55	18.2	43.1
39	Osh Al Ghorab Park	Government	Jointly-managed	City level	19.2	22.6	75	0	62.5	70	54.5	43.4
40	Al Sahel Street	Government	Government	City level	19.3	22.6	100	66.7	50	30	18.2	43.8
41	Shepherds Field	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	4.8	25.8	100	0	37.5	40	100	44
42	Commercial Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	87.5	77.8	50	35	18.2	44.5
43	Wadi Maali Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	17.7	25.8	77.8	88.9	37.5	40	27.3	45
44	Holy Saturday Trail	Government	Government	City level	12.2	25.8	100	88.9	50	50	0	46.7
45	Tchilei square	Government	Government	Pocket Park	14.1	19.4	100	88.9	37.5	50	18.2	46.9
46	Central Bus Station	Government	Government	City level	9.8	45.2	66.7	100	50	60	0	47.4
47	Commercial Street through the Cinema Roundabout	Government	Government	City level	31.2	29	44.4	100	62.5	40	27.3	47.8
48	Old Market Street	Government	Government	City level	28.8	32.3	55.6	88.9	62.5	40	27.3	47.9
49	Al Madbasih Square	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	66.7	88.9	50	35	54.5	48.3
50	Church of the Pastoral	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	5.7	19.4	100	33.3	50	30	100	48.3
51	Al Makhrouz Area	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	15.4	25.8	75	66.7	50	5	100	48.3
52	Beir Owneh	Government	Government	Pocket Park	21.1	22.6	100	77.8	62.5	40	18.2	48.9
53	The Candles Trail	Government	Government	City level	10.7	35.5	87.5	88.9	50	55	18.2	49.4
54	Cremisan Monastery Playground	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	15.4	32.3	100	66.7	37.5	0	100	50.3
55	Central Bus Station Street	Government	Government	City level	12.6	32.3	86.4	88.9	50	40	45.5	50.8
56	Nativity Square	Government	Government	City level	18.3	38.7	66.7	100	50	40	45.5	51.3
57	Mini Center Square	Government	Government	Neighborhood	11.7	41.9	100	44.4	87.5	70	18.2	53.4
58	Marie Doty Park	Non-Government	Government	Pocket Park	5.7	35.5	100	77.8	50	50	63.6	54.7
59	As Salam Park	Government	Jointly_managed	City level	15.9	25.8	100	77.8	37.5	50	81.8	55.5
60	Cremisan Monastery	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	11.7	38.7	75	88.9	87.5	40	100	63.1

Values are in percentages. Higher percentage means better performance

## AL DOHA

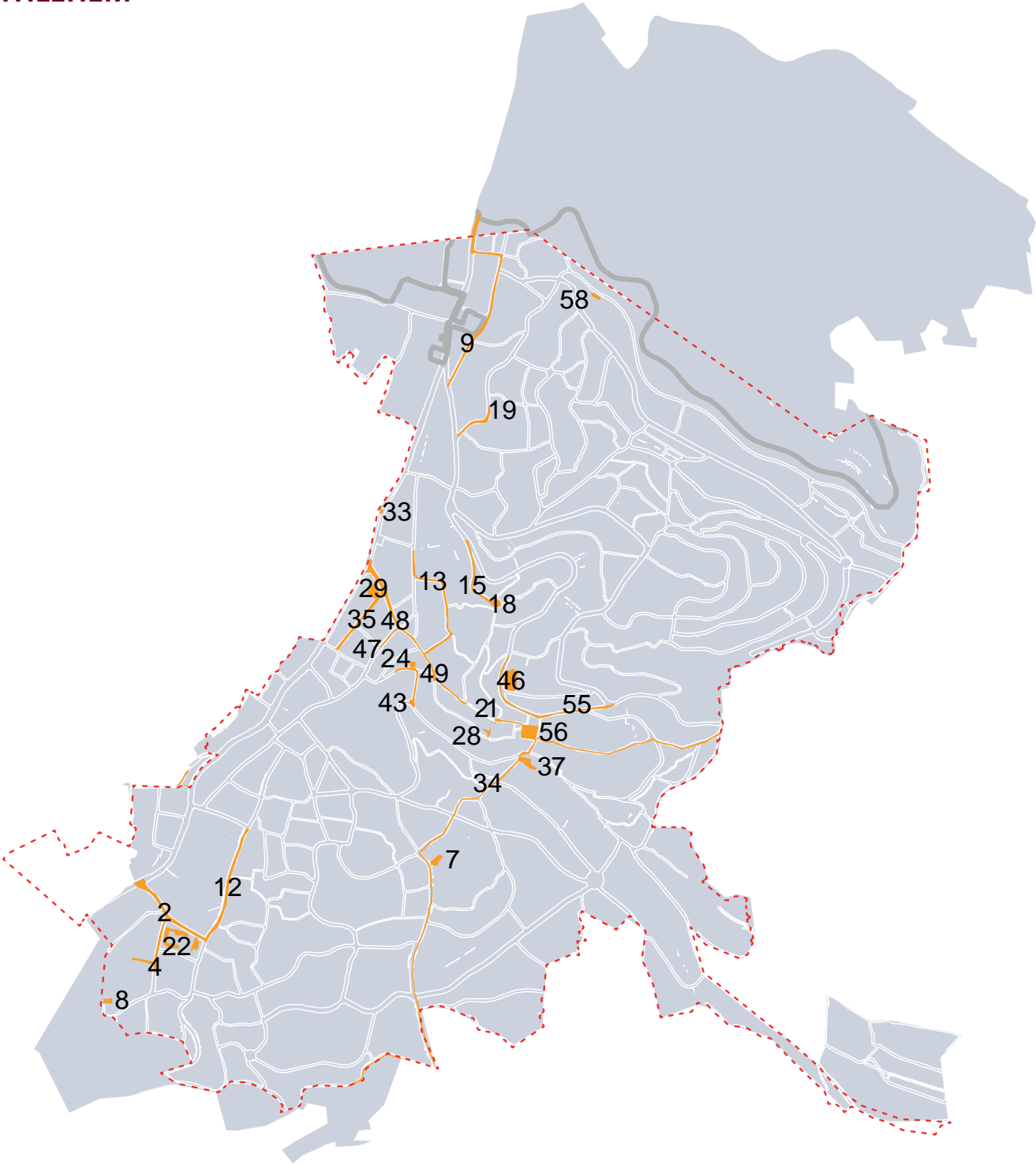


## BEIT JALA

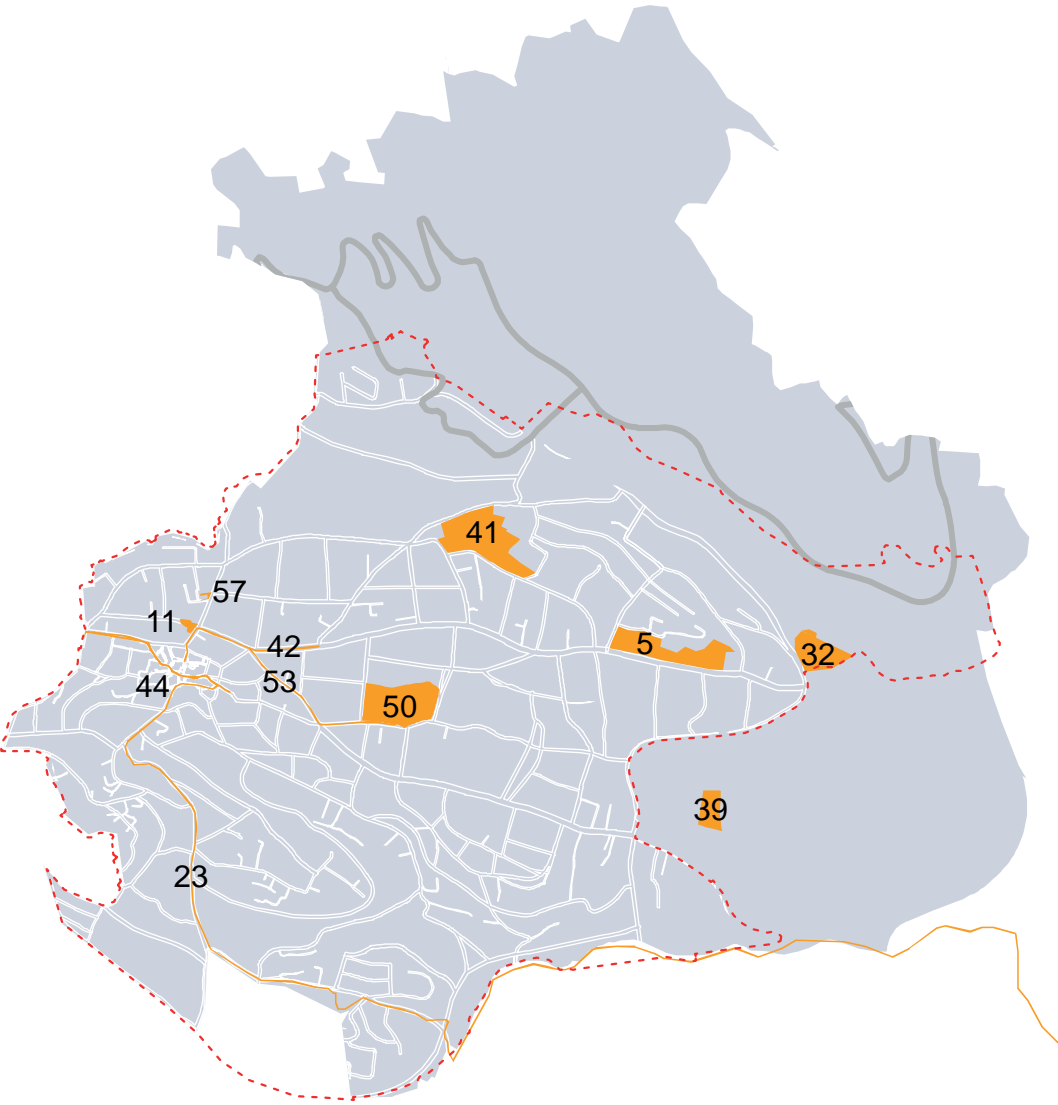




BETHLEHEM



BEIT SAHOUR



Public spaces that were assessed

- Public spaces
- Municipality boundary

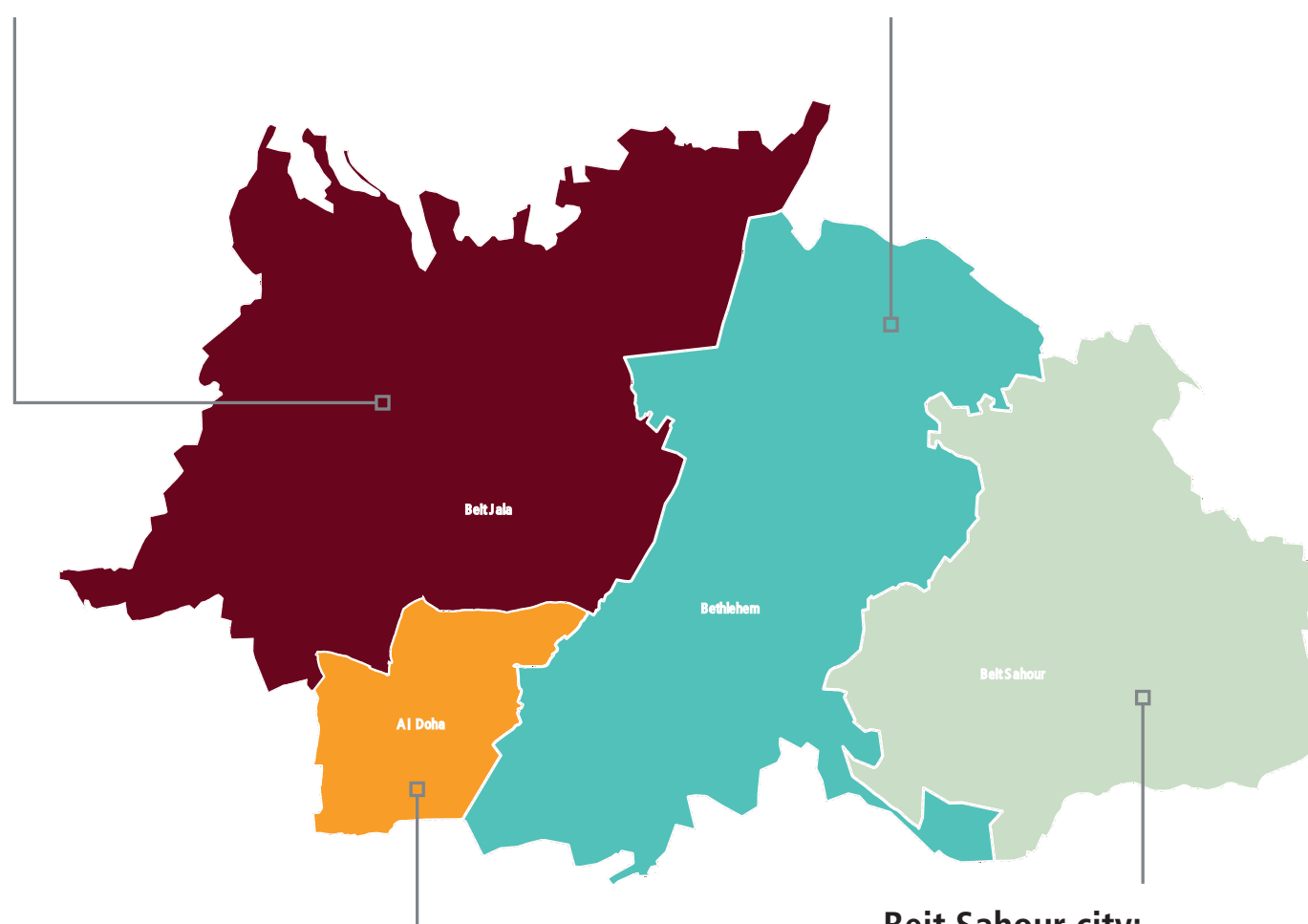
# SUMMARIES

## Beit Jala city:

- 16 Public spaces
- 6 City level public spaces
- 4 neighbourhood level
- 6 pocket space
- All require moderate improvement

## Bethlehem city:

- 27 Public spaces
- 15 City level public spaces
- 9 neighbourhood level
- 3 pocket space
- 2 require most improvement



## Al Doha city:

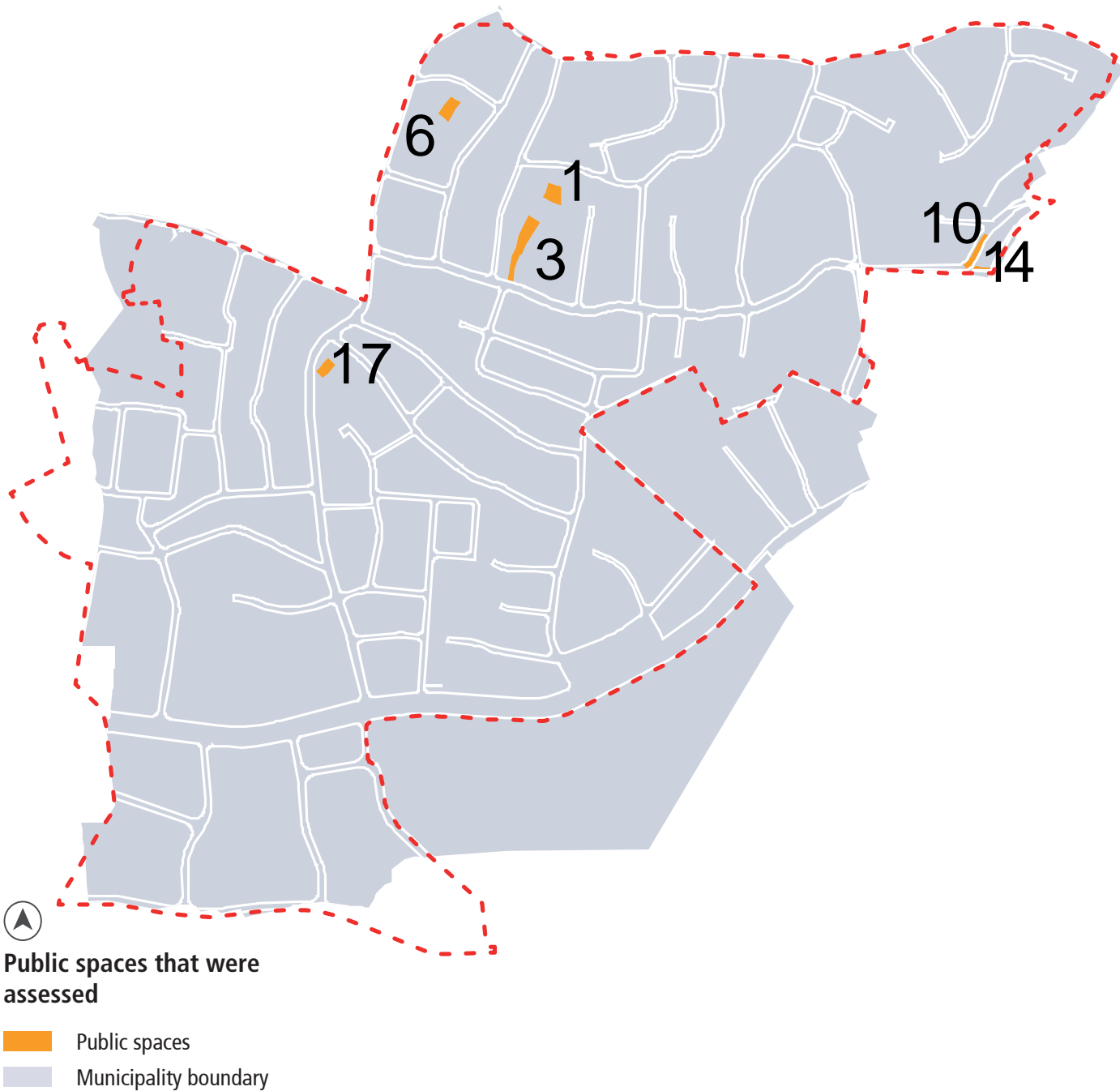
- 6 Public spaces
- 1 City level public spaces
- 4 neighbourhood level
- 1 pocket space
- 3 require most improvement

## Beit Sahour city:

- 11 Public spaces
- 9 City level public spaces
- 2 neighbourhood level
- 0 pocket space
- All require moderate improvement

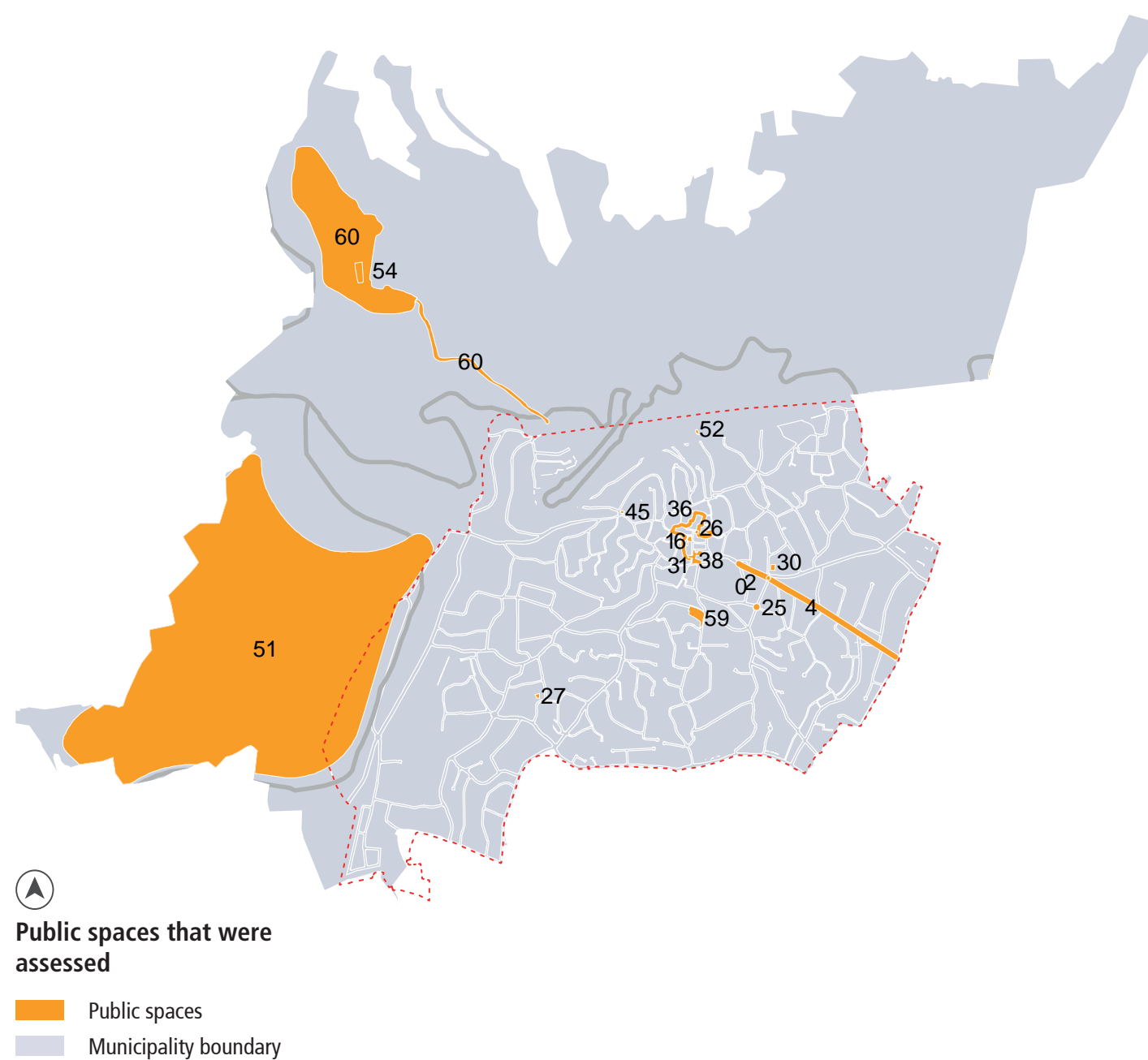


AL DOHA



No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
1	Municipal Playground	Government	Government	Neighborhood	16.8	9.7	75	22.2	37.5	20	0	25.9
3	Municipal Park	Government	Government	City level	19.2	9.7	100	0	37.5	40	0	29.5
6	Saliba Zidan Playground	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	Neighborhood	15.9	22.6	75	22.2	37.5	20	45.5	34.1
10	Doha Stair Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	11.7	32.3	55.6	55.6	37.5	35	18.2	35.1
14	Al Doha Public Staircase	Government	Government	Pocket Park	22	22.6	62.5	77.8	37.5	30	0	36
17	Abu Alia Playground	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	Neighborhood	19.2	12.9	100	33.3	37.5	30	36.4	38.5

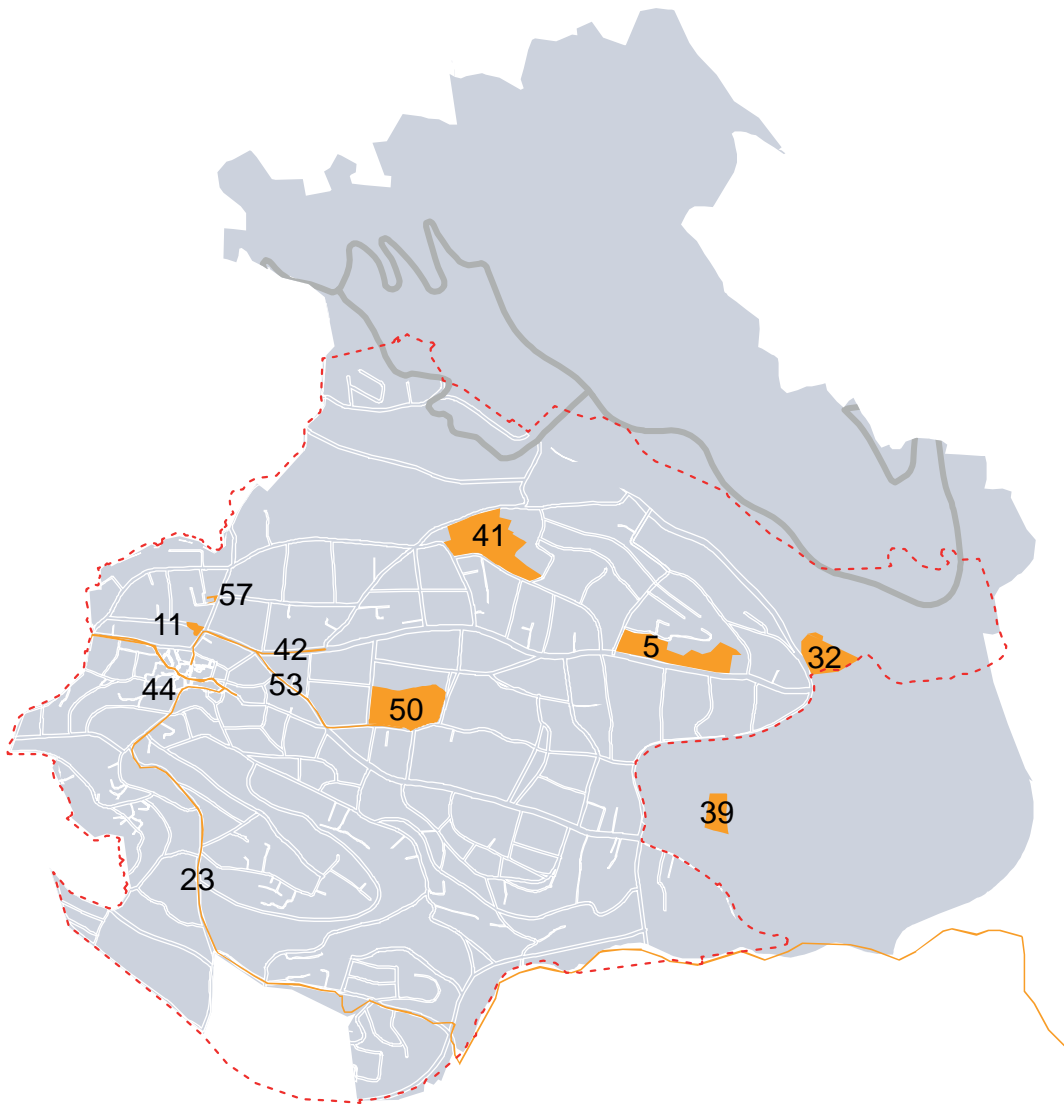
## BEIT JALA



No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
16	As Souq Al Markazi (Central Market)	Government	Government	Neighborhood	18	29	75	66.7	37.5	40	0	38
20	Normandy Roundabout	Government	Government	Pocket Park	13.8	16.1	71.4	44.4	50	30	45.5	38.8
25	Al Sahel Roundabout	Government	Government	Neighborhood	18.6	16.1	100	77.8	37.5	30	0	40
26	Monastery Yard	Government	Government	Pocket Park	5.6	19.4	100	66.7	50	40	0	40.2
27	Al Bayyarah Garden	Government	Jointly-managed	Pocket Park	13.1	19.4	100	44.4	50	40	18.2	40.7
30	Saturday Market	Government	Government	Neighborhood	14.1	35.5	100	44.4	50	35	9.1	41.2
31	Beit Jala Taxi Station	Government	Government	Pocket Park	15.9	25.8	100	44.4	37.5	50	18.2	41.7
36	St. Nicholas Trail	Government	Government	Neighborhood	7.5	29	100	88.9	50	25	0	42.9
38	Manshia	Government	Government	City level	16.8	32.3	75	66.7	37.5	55	18.2	43.1
40	Al Sahel Street	Government	Government	City level	19.3	22.6	100	66.7	50	30	18.2	43.8
45	Tchilei square	Government	Government	Pocket Park	14.1	19.4	100	88.9	37.5	50	18.2	46.9
51	Al Makhrouz Area	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	15.4	25.8	75	66.7	50	5	100	48.3
52	Beir Owneh	Government	Government	Pocket Park	21.1	22.6	100	77.8	62.5	40	18.2	48.9
54	Cremisan Monastery Playground	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	15.4	32.3	100	66.7	37.5	0	100	50.3
59	As Salam Park	Government	Jointly-managed	City level	15.9	25.8	100	77.8	37.5	50	81.8	55.5
60	Cremisan Monastery	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	11.7	38.7	75	88.9	87.5	40	100	63.1
5	YMCA Playground	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	3	19.4	100	44.4	50	20	0	33.8



BEIT SAHOUR



Public spaces that were assessed

Public spaces

Municipality boundary

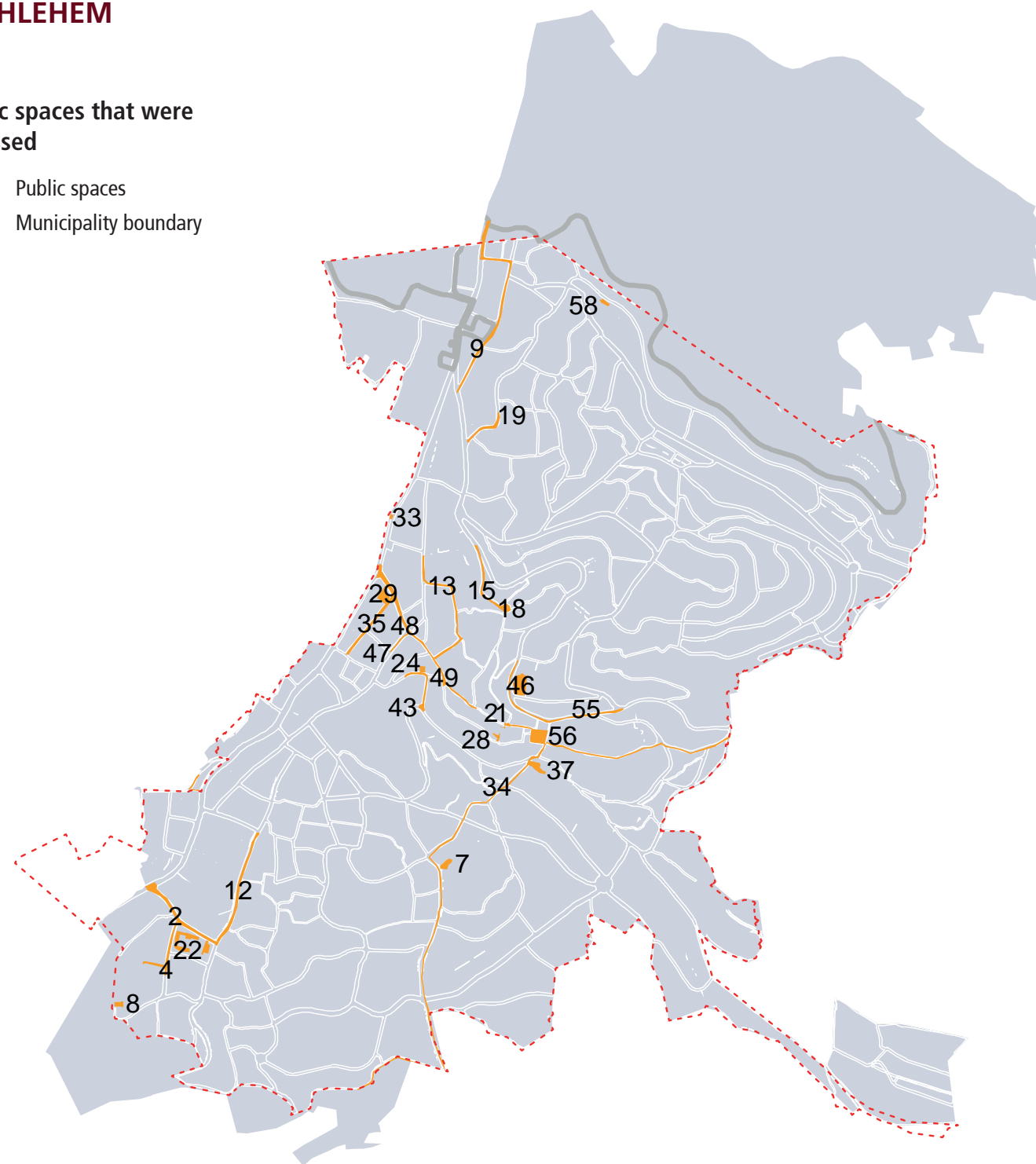
No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
11	Taxis station and Souq AlShaab market	Government	Government	City level	12.3	25.8	72.7	55.6	50	30	0	35.2
23	Ibrahim Touristic Trail	Government	Government	City level	5.7	29	100	44.4	37.5	60	0	39.5
32	Municipal Playground	Government	Government	City level	25.9	25.8	100	33.3	50	40	18.2	41.9
39	Osh Al Ghorab Park	Government	Jointly managed	City level	19.2	22.6	75	0	62.5	70	54.5	43.4
41	Shepherds Field	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	4.8	25.8	100	0	37.5	40	100	44
42	Commercial Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	87.5	77.8	50	35	18.2	44.5
44	Holy Saturday Trail	Government	Government	City level	12.2	25.8	100	88.9	50	50	0	46.7
50	Church of the Pastoral	Non-Government	Non-Government	City level	5.7	19.4	100	33.3	50	30	100	48.3
53	The Candles Trail	Government	Government	City level	10.7	35.5	87.5	88.9	50	55	18.2	49.4
57	Mini Center Square	Government	Government	Neighborhood	11.7	41.9	100	44.4	87.5	70	18.2	53.4
2	Putin Street	Government	Government	City level	7.7	32.3	75	33.3	37.5	20	0	29.4

## BETHLEHEM



Public spaces that were assessed

Public spaces  
Municipality boundary



No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
4	Dar Al Kalima Street and Al Ahlia Street	Government	Government	City level	20.1	16.1	75	33.3	37.5	20	18.2	31.5
7	Al Bayyarah Park	Other	Non-Government	Neighborhood	9.6	22.6	83.3	0	37.5	40	45.5	34.1
8	Phoenix Garden	Non-Government	Non-Government	Neighborhood	6.6	38.7	75	0	37.5	45	36.4	34.2
9	The northern entrance to Bethlehem	Government	Government	City level	28.2	16.1	87.5	44.4	37.5	30	0	34.8
12	Mental Health Hospital Street	Government	Government	City level	23.8	22.6	100	11.1	62.5	30	0	35.7
13	Bethlehem University Street	Government	Government	City level	15.4	35.5	100	33.3	37.5	30	0	36
15	Al 'Amal Street	Government	Government	City level	37.2	25.8	75	55.6	37.5	30	0	37.3
18	The Catholic Work Square and Roundabout	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	75	66.7	50	35	0	38.5
19	The Antonine Assembly Street and the Infirmary	Government	Government	City level	23.4	16.1	100	55.6	37.5	20	18.2	38.7
21	Al Manara Square	Government	Government	Pocket Park	9.8	32.3	60	88.9	50	35	0	39.4
22	As Souq Al Markazi (Central Market)	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	29	62.5	66.7	37.5	70	0	39.5
24	Transportation Hub in Wadi Maali	Non-Government	Non-Government	Neighborhood	14.7	25.8	75	66.7	37.5	40	18.2	39.7

No	Name of Public Space	Ownership	Management	Scale of public space	Safety Index	Accessibility Index	Comfort index	User Index	Use Index	Physical facilities index	Green cover Index	Priority for Improvement
28	The Old Market	Government	Government	Neighborhood	14.9	25.8	69.2	88.9	37.5	50	0	40.9
29	Southern Transportation Hub, Al-Jarashi Land	Non-Government	Jointly-managed	City level	13.1	38.7	71.4	66.7	37.5	60	0	41.1
33	Jerusalem Bus Station	Government	Government	Pocket Park	19.2	16.1	100	44.4	37.5	70	9.1	42.3
34	Nativity Street	Government	Government	City level	9.8	35.5	66.7	88.9	50	30	18.2	42.7
35	Transportation Hub in Jerashy Land	Government	Government	City level	18.3	29	77.8	55.6	62.5	30	27.3	42.9
37	Eastern Transportation Hub, Al'Een Station	Non-Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	12.9	100	88.9	37.5	50	0	42.9
43	Wadi Maali Street	Government	Government	Neighborhood	17.7	25.8	77.8	88.9	37.5	40	27.3	45
46	Central Bus Station	Government	Government	City level	9.8	45.2	66.7	100	50	60	0	47.4
47	Commercial Street through the Cinema Roundabout	Government	Government	City level	31.2	29	44.4	100	62.5	40	27.3	47.8
48	Old Market Street	Government	Government	City level	28.8	32.3	55.6	88.9	62.5	40	27.3	47.9
49	Al Madbasih Square	Government	Government	Neighborhood	10.7	32.3	66.7	88.9	50	35	54.5	48.3
55	Central Bus Station Street	Government	Government	City level	12.6	32.3	86.4	88.9	50	40	45.5	50.8
56	Nativity Square	Government	Government	City level	18.3	38.7	66.7	100	50	40	45.5	51.3
58	Marie Doty Park	Non-Government	Government	Pocket Park	5.7	35.5	100	77.8	50	50	63.6	54.7



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Cecilia Andersson** - Head, Global Public Space Programme, UN-Habitat

Tel: +254 20 762 4570

Email: [cecilia.andersson@un.org](mailto:cecilia.andersson@un.org) or [public.space@un.org](mailto:public.space@un.org)

**Lubna Shaheen** - UN-Habitat-Palestine

Tel: +970 599963950

Email: [lubna.shaheen@un.org](mailto:lubna.shaheen@un.org)

UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

Planning, Finance and Economy Section, Urban Practices Branch

P.O. Box 30030, GPO Nairobi 00100, Kenya

Website: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

