

SOCIAL URBANISM

Ideas from the 7th World Urban Forum for Israel

Written by Israeli Participants of WUF7



הקליניקה האורבנית THE URBAN CLINIC
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



משרד הבינוי והשיכון

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GREETINGS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Greetings,

As Israeli Ambassador to Nairobi and Ambassador of UN-HABITAT, I had the honor of representing Israel, for the second time, at the World Urban Forum (WUF) in Medellin, Colombia. At this conference, and at the conference two years prior in Naples, Italy, I was witness to an extremely professional and enthusiastic Israeli delegation. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of Israel's respectable and vast representation at these conferences. The interdisciplinary composition of the Israeli delegation, which brought together parties from all facets of urban-related work, allowed us to present Israel's true nature to tens of thousands of participants: the achievements, studies, and challenges that Israel addresses with professional, rather than political, solutions. It was fascinating to see people from all over the globe, including leaders of hostile countries, overcoming their prejudice toward Israel and allowing themselves to learn from our country's experiences. It was clear throughout the conference as it is throughout this report that Israel can be proud of its urban achievements. I hope that Israel will further expand its presence in future UN-HABITAT conferences.

Wishing you a pleasant read,

Gil Haskel

Israeli Ambassador to Nairobi and to UN-HABITAT

Shulamith Gertel

Born in Canada, Shulamith attained her BA at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. She worked for private consulting firms, the Association for Cooperative Housing, and Parcs Canada, with a focus on public gardening. Gertel has an MA in urban and regional planning from the Technion, and another in public policy from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. She was a lecturer in Ethics and Planning at University College Dublin, Ireland. She works at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs where she leads on social aspects of planning and building



GREETINGS FROM THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING

Greetings,

The Ministry of Construction and Housing (MOCH), an official government partner of UN-HABITAT in Israel, has sent representatives to World Urban Forums throughout the years. UN-HABITAT evaluates urban prosperity using five measures – production, infrastructure, quality of life, equity, and environmental sustainability – and encourages governments and cities worldwide to use these tools. The main topic of the conference, social urbanism and equitable cities, was especially satisfying for me. With my upcoming transfer to the Ministry of Welfare, I will be responsible for implementing social considerations in planning processes on national, regional and local levels. I will also represent the Ministry of Welfare vis-à-vis various planning institutions.

MOCH, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and together with the Urban Clinic at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Weitz Center for Development Studies, brought the largest number of Israeli participants thus far to the World Urban Forum. This delegation was as diverse as it was impressive; it included Knesset members, representatives of local authorities, government bodies, civil society and academia, and private planners. Despite the distance from home, over 20 Israelis made their way to Colombia, most of whom were self-financed.

At the conference, MOCH led a side event on urban resilience, and took part in organizing other events led by the Israeli delegation. The ministry financed, organized and managed the Israeli exhibition booth, which allowed Israeli participants to exhibit their work, served as a meeting point for the delegation, and attracted participants from different countries to learn about Israel's challenges and successes in urban planning.

On behalf of the ministry, I wish to thank the Weitz Center for their cooperation in organizing the side event and the exhibition booth. Furthermore, I wish to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and especially Gil Haskel, Israeli Ambassador to Nairobi, the outpost of UN-HABITAT, who attended the conference and treated the delegation

to a special feast. Many thanks, as well, to the Israeli Embassy in Colombia, which introduced the delegation to Medellin's local Jewish community who hosted the Israeli participants for a Shabbat meal. Many thanks to the Urban Clinic for organizing the delegation, for collaborating between the delegates, for making the conference materials accessible, and, of course, for this impressive report.

I am full of hope that we will encourage other government representatives – mayors and city engineers, Knesset members, chairmen and legal advisors to local authorities – to participate in future UN-HABITAT World Urban Forums. In 2016, HABITAT III will take place in Quito, Ecuador, where UN-HABITAT will present its updated agenda for sustainable and equitable urbanism. It is crucial for Israel to learn cities across the globe, to exchange information, and to implement higher standards for thriving urbanism. We hope for a large Israeli delegation, an extensive exhibition booth, and increased government involvement in the conference, which may in turn lead to the development and shaping of new urban policies. I wish much success to Netanel Lapidot, Director of the Strategic Planning and Policy Division and Commissioner of Foreign Relations at MOCH, who will continue the ministry's work in preparation for HABITAT III.

We are delighted with the participants' reports of a productive, thought-provoking and inspirational event. Upon return to Israel, MOCH, together with the Institute for Local Government and the Urban Clinic, organized a seminar at the Tel Aviv University where 150 attendees learned from insights and ideas proposed at the World Urban Forum.

This report constitutes a continuation of the conference. It is a major contribution to the learning process and to the lessons derived from Medellin. The report provides a platform for deeper knowledge through the links provided. This way, you, the reader, can delve into those topics that are most interesting to you.

Wishing you a pleasant read,

Shulamith Gertel

Tal Alster

Tal Alster is the Coordinator of Housing and Urban Renewal at the Urban Clinic, HUJI. He is writing his thesis on how municipalities can cultivate a feeling of community and belonging in their cities. Alster is interested in alternative economic models and questions of distributive justice on an urban level.



ABOUT THE REPORT

This report was written by Israelis who participated in the UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014. The Israeli participants were asked to suggest what to include in the report based on their interests, on the city Medellin, the conference, and especially the meeting point between their experiences in Medellin and their work in Israel. Each topic includes a short description, an explanation of why it is important, and its relevance to Israel. The many links dispersed throughout the report allow the reader to delve beyond what is written here.

The journey to Colombia was characterized by the excitement that the Israelis experienced from ideas and tools presented at the conference. The delegates were especially excited to see how other cities and countries have succeeded in channeling their urban planning to address complex issues, such as minimizing economic inequality or reducing environmental threats. As editor of this report, I enjoyed and learned quite a bit from the diverse, curious, and gracious group of delegates. Working with the various fields chosen for the report exposed me to a smorgasbord of fascinating issues, all of which are relevant to my aspiration to promote values of equity, community, and equality with the help of the city.

I hope that you, dear readers – planners, architects, professionals from local and central government, and stakeholders in issues of urbanism, sustainability or social justice – will find in this report new and relevant ideas, useful tools, and perhaps even inspiration.

A digital copy of the report can be downloaded from the [Urban Clinic website](#).

Tal Alster
Coordinator of Housing and Renewal at the Urban Clinic
Report Editor

CITIES GENERATING CHANGE — MEDELLIN AND THE FUTURE OF URBANISM

In Medellin, my hunch was endorsed. Cities are at the center of humanity's crucial challenges of the twenty-first century: the struggle for environmental sustainability, economic development, and social justice. The approach of social urbanism, according to which urban development must first and foremost address the city's poor, was recognized throughout the halls of the conference as well as throughout the city's streets.



Author
Tami Gavrieli

Tami Gavrieli, urban planner, received her MA from the Technion. She worked at the Tel Aviv municipality, where she founded and managed the Strategic Planning unit. Gavrieli led preparations for the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Strategic Plan and saw to its implementation, focusing on integration of various planning aspects. Today, she acts as advisor to the Planning Authority and director of the Center for Sustainability at the Jerusalem Institute, and is involved with various aspects of strategic planning on national and local levels.



UN-HABITAT AND THE WORLD URBAN FORUM

UN-HABITAT is the main branch of the UN for the promotion of housing and urbanism worldwide. The organization, founded in 1978, has undergone change in recent years. While the organization previously focused on issues of basic shelter and urbanization in developing countries, UN-HABITAT has expanded its domain to include thriving urbanism in wealthy and poor countries alike.

The **World Urban Forum** (WUF) is the organization's main event, taking place biennially since 2002.

THE SEVENTH WORLD URBAN FORUM IN MEDELLIN

WUF7 took place in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014. The title of the conference was 'The Equitable City', a fitting title for the host city. Medellin has developed an urban agenda it calls 'Social Urbanism', according to which good urban development is just urban development; in other words, investment in poor residents and neighborhoods is seen not only as an equitable gesture, but also as a necessary and basic element required for the development and prosperity of the entire city.

The conference attracted over 22,000 visitors from 142 countries, including 139 mayors and 142 ministers. Hundreds

of booths exhibited participating countries, cities, universities, and leading organizations in fields like urbanism, just development, and urban sustainability. Israel, too, was represented in the exhibition; its booth included posters and videos provided by participating Israeli organizations. The main events at the conference were lectures, debates and workshops led by experts from across the globe, including lectures by Richard Florida and Joseph Stiglitz, workshops with heads of strategic planning units in the municipalities of Singapore or Medellin, and panels with mayors and ministers of housing and urbanism. Over 20 participants from Israel attended the forum in Medellin: academics, planners, members of civil society, elected officials, and representatives of local government. The Israeli participants organized three events at the forum.

Medellin offered attendees a first-hand opportunity to learn about projects that have been promoted there during recent years. The open-house style tours that took place explored the public transport system, libraries, the green belt, and municipal public housing projects. The tours gave participants a chance to meet those professionals involved in planning, implementation, and upkeep of Medellin's projects. Local residents happily hosted visitors in their homes and in the many restaurants, pubs, markets, and parks that Medellin has to offer.

					
2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Nairobi, Kenya	Barcelona, Spain	Vancouver, Canada	Nanjing, China	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Naples, Italy
Sustainable Urbanization	Cities: Crossroads of cultures, inclusiveness and integration?	Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action	Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development	The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide	The Urban Future
Almost 1,200	Over 4,300	Over 10,400	Almost 8,000	Almost 13,800	Over 8,200

WHERE IS URBANISM HEADED? INSIGHTS FROM THE FORUM

Most of the world's population today lives in cities, and the world's urban population will double over the next 50 years. The role of cities is becoming increasingly central in solving global challenges such as poverty, inequality, global warming and pollution, cultural divides, women's and minority rights, the aging population and its health. Cities contribute to solving these problems through community organizations, inter-city networking, and other elements that make the city a better place.

Density seems to be the most elementary trait of urbanization and urbanism. The challenge of density has economic, environmental and social dimensions – density done properly can contribute to a

city's resilience, decrease its environmental footprint, and improve mobility and equality.

Inequality, too, was discussed in great depths at the forum. The increasing inequality among civilizations worldwide (although, in South America, the opposite trend is observed) is a crucial problem, seen especially in highly densified urban areas, where wealthy and poor alike share streets, services and public space. Inequality in the city is an expression of deeper political and social problems. The capabilities that cities have to cope with inequality were discussed throughout the forum; these often inspiring capabilities were illustrated by projects presented by various cities, including Medellín itself.

Urban resilience, another topic that received substantial attention, can be defined as how prepared cities and their residents are to respond to extreme environmental and social situations. A broad consensus has determined that resilience is reached

by investing in a combination of physical and economic infrastructure, alongside community and other social elements. Integrative planning, which sees the city as a complex, multidisciplinary system (comprised of economic activity, infrastructure, design and architecture, legal relations, social norms, arts and culture, environment, and education), seems to be the only solution for cities; it is no longer possible to relate independently to the different fields. A city must strive to connect various groups that operate within its boundaries, such as the municipality, central government, business sector, civil society, and residents, with professionals, such as architects, economists, urban and transportation planners, community workers, educators, park managers, and legal experts, in order to create coherent, long-term plans. This integral approach appears to be the most promising possibility for implementing UN-HABITAT's vision of thriving and accessible cities.



URBAN RENEWAL IN MEDELLIN

Medellin has become world-renowned in light of its approach of Social Urbanism, which focuses on urban renewal in poor neighborhoods.



Author
Dr. Zvi Weinstein

Dr. Zvi Weinstein has been working for the Department of Neighborhood Renewal at the Ministry of Construction and Housing since its foundation in 1978. He holds a PhD in urban renewal, MA in urban planning and another MA in public policy. He has been involved in numerous social welfare and housing projects including neighborhood renewal projects in Tel Aviv-Jaffa; programs for youth at risk, and public participation projects. Zvi writes frequently for Israeli and international media.



WHAT IS IT?

Medellin's **urban renewal** policy aims first and foremost to benefit its poor residents. This policy, called '**Social Urbanism**', includes five main fields: housing, transportation, economic opportunity, public buildings, and civic involvement. Medellin has implemented a plan to recognize informal housing, regularize the legal status of the buildings, and renovate them. The city has erected **several gondolas**, connecting the poorer exterior neighborhoods with the downtown valley, as well as an **outdoor escalator** in one of the slums, making the extremely steep hillside neighborhood accessible. Medellin creates economic opportunity by employing its own residents in its renewal projects, by offering professional training programs related to urban renewal, and by encouraging businesses near newly established centers. Many of Medellin's public buildings – dozens of libraries, sports fields, parks and universities – have been placed in poorer neighborhoods in order to encourage residents to make use of their facilities. By actively including residents in planning, implementation, and management of physical projects, civic involvement has become an integral part of Medellin's development. The combination of these five elements constitutes Medellin's approach to its poor, and to urban renewal in general.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Medellin's urban renewal has improved slums and **created physical and social assets** for its weaker population. Residents benefit from the new services and enjoy feelings of identity and pride associated with their city's success. The city's stronger population benefits from drastically reduced homicide rates and drug activity, from an expanded work force, from new cultural and entertainment hubs, and from an influx of tourism.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

There is no national plan to identify poor neighborhoods in Israel. There is no plan to provide holistic solutions for housing, transportation, economic opportunity, public buildings, and civic involvement as one entity. **Urban renewal plans** and TAMA 38 focus on adding housing units, but do not include any elements of civic empowerment. When Israeli municipalities contemplate transportation planning or new locations for public institutions, they do not necessarily consider regeneration of poorer neighborhoods as a factor in their decisions. Cities in Israel can learn much from Medellin about how to develop plans that improve poverty-stricken neighborhoods by considering the five fields mentioned here, and by ensuring that residents are involved in planning, implementation, and management of projects.

INTEGRAL PLANNING PROJECTS

Urban renewal and densification are the future of planning in Israel. It is crucial for Israel to expand its existing toolbox and to establish a framework that can relate to the many and diverse aspects of urban life.



Authors

Hagit Naali-Joseph
and
Liat Isakov Ben-Shitrit

Hagit Naali-Joseph is involved in social planning, acting as an advisor to planning authorities on the impacts of planning on society and community. Hagit advises the Jerusalem and Haifa municipalities regarding neighborhood planning and guides them in preparation for urban renewal projects. She is a member of the planning team for the Urban Renewal Master Plan in Rehovot.

Liat Isakov Ben-Shitrit is an advisor for urban empowerment, a new field that aims to steer densification processes to improve quality of life in cities. Liat has accompanied several renewal projects on various scales, focusing on alternatives for densification that will improve living standards.



WHAT IS IT?

Medellin's tremendous change over the past decade is rooted in the city's planning strategy. The planning strategy brings together interventions in housing, public space, mobility, employment, and education. Three municipal companies are involved in Medellin's projects: **EDU** coordinates urban development, **EPM** coordinates physical infrastructure, and **Inder** coordinates community development, sports and culture. The companies cooperate socially by ensuring that residents are actively involved in each phase of the project, from identifying problems and opportunities to developing and approving the project. They ensure extensive institutional coordination among municipal departments (welfare, education, infrastructure, economic development and community development), as well as members of the private sector, civil society, national and international agencies, community organizations and academia. They also coordinate (3) physical elements, including building and improving public space, housing, public buildings, and parks for the benefit of residents and the environment. Urban planning in Medellin has its roots in this cooperation since the 1970's, when the monthly forum 'Proantioquia' was established. Proantioquia is a think-tank for urban development for Medellin and its surrounding region, connecting representatives from regional and local government, academia and the private sector.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Integrated planning provided Medellin with the tools needed to initiate fundamental change in its complex urban tapestry, and to transform the city from Colombia's capital of crime and drug activity to a developing and creative city that now instills in its residents a feeling of belonging and pride. Creating change and renewal is a challenge for any city, especially for one with Medellin's levels of poverty, violent crime, and feelings of estrangement among its citizens. In response to this complex situation, frameworks were established to incorporate the 'hard' and 'soft' aspects of the city (infrastructure, public space, housing, personal security, and feelings of value and belonging) and to spark the cooperation and trust required for success. Medellin sees development a holistic, cooperative ideal, relating to the city and its citizens as one indivisible entity. This approach is highlighted by the **difference between place-design and place-making**. It directs all stakeholders to work together towards a common purpose: thriving and equitable urban development. [Click here to read more about the difference between the American and British models for urban community revitalization.](#)

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

In recent years, it has become clear that Israel is in need of a more extensive urban toolset. Medellin's integral planning framework offers a glimpse into a new paradigm. Medellin points to a shift from a real-estate and market-based approach to a holistic one, based on social urbanism and cooperation. Despite extremely high crime rates, Medellin managed to promote progressive planning. Israel could benefit from a similar platform. Community social workers, on behalf of the municipality, could help residents cope with implications of urban renewal projects, transportation projects, or the new neighborhood being built next door. Cooperation between municipal companies in Medellin throughout the planning, implementation, management and monitoring phases of each project ought to be a source of inspiration for us.

THE ESCALATOR OF COMUNA 13

The escalator project (cover photo), costing \$5.5 million, connects 12,000 residents living in the poorest and most violent neighborhood to public transportation for the first time. This project has transformed the neighborhood completely (click here for a selection of photographs). The escalator, built on a steep slope laden with informal housing, grants an effortless alternative to what would be 357 steps. This project exemplifies how integral planning can inject additional physical and social significance into what would initially seem to be a straightforward infrastructure project.



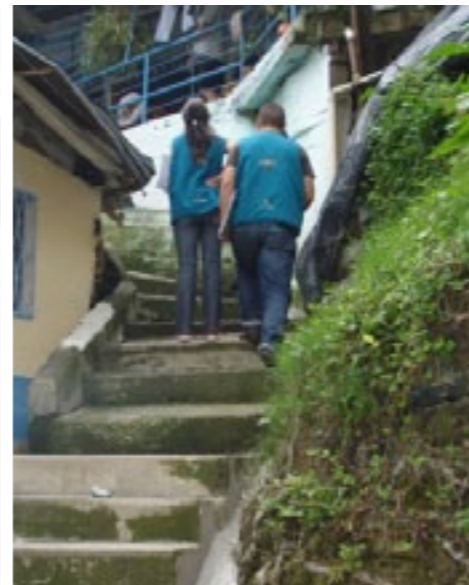
THE ESCALATOR AS PART OF A GRANDER SCHEME TO MAKE THE CITY ACCESSIBLE

The escalator in Comuna 13 is part of a grander urban strategy to provide accessibility for all its marginalized residents. The photograph above shows a gondola car that connects the mountainous areas to the subway located in the valley.



CREATING A NEW PUBLIC SPACE

The escalator provides substantially more than an accessible alternative to the steep concrete steps that they replaced (right); they created new and upgraded public space on multiple levels (left).



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGES

Local youth act as attendants and security guards around the escalator. The group of attendants also organizes activities for children. This group has become an attractive alternative for youth who would otherwise have been involved in gang activity.



PUBLIC SPACE THAT KNOWS HOW TO RESPOND TO LOCAL NEEDS

At the top of the escalator, there was once a narrow, winding and neglected concrete path; now, instead, there are public buildings, a wide promenade (cover photo), and play areas for children.

MEDELLIN'S LIBRARIES

Another example of integral planning in Medellin is the city's library parks. Approximately ten of these make information accessible to the weaker population living in the outskirts of the city. Just like the escalator, these libraries are much more than libraries; in accordance with the integral planning strategy, the libraries are sources of widespread physical and social impact.



AN ICON AND SOURCE OF PRIDE IN CONFLICT-RIDDEN AREAS

The library is situated between neighborhoods, creating a safe space and meeting place where gang activity once hindered movement and interaction between neighborhoods.



A CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LIFE AND A PLACE TO MEET

The library offers activities and classes, a computer room, a homework center, professional training courses, a safe place to hang out for girls and boys, music concerts, art exhibits, and sports activities organized by **Inder**.



THE LIBRARIES BRING THE CITY TO MARGINALIZED NEIGHBORHOODS

The libraries are part of Medellin's urban strategy to provide marginalized residents access to the city, both by enabling them to travel to the inner city and by providing services in outlying neighborhoods. The above photo shows locations of **UVAs** – centers for sport and culture.



A FOCAL POINT AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION

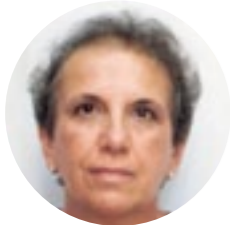
The libraries are physically impressive, and are located next to metro and gondola stations. This allows residents and tourists to arrive easily. Above: one of the libraries and its adjacent gondola line.

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

In Medellin, I was exposed to a successful and interesting model for municipal economic development companies. Medellin's infrastructure development company, EPM, directs its profits towards promoting social purposes.

Author
Varda Libman

Varda Libman attained her BA in architecture and urban planning and her MA in urban and regional planning at the Technion. Varda directs the City Planning Department at the Haifa municipality, leads statutory plans and planning implementation in Haifa, and represents the Haifa Local Council at the Regional Council for Planning and Building.



WHAT IS IT?

One of three municipal companies in Medellín, **EPM** is engaged in infrastructure development, raising funds from both public and private sectors. The company's profits are **invested in social projects** related to public space, education programs and cultural centers. EPM works as a **Public-Private Partnership**, aiming to involve the private business sector in urban development. This approach ensures that both the municipality and the developer profit from their collaborative projects, and that each side utilizes its advantages: the developer often builds and manages the project, while the public sector will supervise the development or be granted ownership of the project upon its completion. **Medellin's collaboration with international technological companies** has nurtured a team of technological experts among the city's locals, and supports the infrastructural work that EPM develops.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Having multiple sources of financing for urban projects requires multi-sectoral cooperation and the recruit of various parties that hold an interest in the success of a given project. Furthermore, cooperation with the private sector and establishment of municipal companies increases the available funding, allowing an array of social goals to be actualized. With that, these collaborations sometimes require reallocation of municipal funds in order for the city to fulfill its obligations vis-à-vis the private sector. **Click here** to access the Lincoln Institute's report on financing cities.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

Many of Israel's larger cities have municipal development companies, and some of these companies address economic development. These companies perform tasks that the municipality itself is unable or unwilling to perform. The profits that these municipal companies generate are usually channeled toward their future projects. In Medellín, on the other hand, profits are used to address the city's social issues; this ought to be an objective for local government in Israel, too.

PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACE

Planning and design of public space was one of the most prominent issues at WUF7. The lectures given by PPS (Project for Public Space) at the conference highlighted the importance of vibrant and inviting public spaces.



Author
Chana Moran

Chana Moran, urban and regional planner, is a graduate of the Technion. She is owner of "Moran – Town and Regional Planning". Her firm has over 20 years of experience in multidisciplinary planning, planning management and advocacy, and physical planning from a socially and environmentally sensitive perspective with a focus on public participation. The firm specializes in preparation of strategic plans, master plans, urban plans, surveys, and planning and environmental reviews in various fields.



WHAT IS IT?

The **Placemaking** approach sees public space as a meeting point – an opportunity to build community, urban resilience, and social capital by ensuring that the space is inviting and lively. Placemaking brings together stakeholders involved in transportation, environment, sport, music, culture, design, and maintenance. It induces collaboration in design, management, and maintenance of public spaces such as parks, beaches, and farmers' markets. The first step in Placemaking is to identify the ways by which different populations use a given space at different hours of the day, and at different points of time. The approach to **public space in Medellin** is a fascinating example of how to plan multi-use space that provides a platform for mobility, recess, cultural activities, youth or adult activities, concerts, sport, and more. In Medellin, these spaces also act as a physical expression of the mutual relationship between the municipality and the city's residents, exhibiting both the municipality's sense of responsibility toward its residents as well as a sense of belonging and responsibility among residents toward their neighborhoods and the entire city.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

MIT's collaborative work with PPS exhibits how quality public space provides a feeling of belonging and urban identity, contributes to economic growth and social empowerment, and minimizes harmful activities such as crime, pollution and alienation. UN-HABITAT and PPS have joined forces in order to promote the Placemaking approach in the developing and developed world.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

Placemaking is especially important for diverse Israeli cities, which are home to Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, a range of socioeconomic levels, and diverse cultures and communities. The Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem and the port in Jaffa are examples of how, in some Israeli cities, community has been incorporated in planning, management, and maintenance of public space. This involvement is crucial for the long-term success of such projects. The combination of multidisciplinary collaboration and functioning municipal companies will contribute to the instillation of Placemaking in Israel's approach to urbanism.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Participatory budgeting is an exciting way to empower neighborhoods and communities, and to give residents a real opportunity to impact their cities. Participatory budgeting builds trust between residents and the municipality, and leads to projects that are chosen directly by residents.



Author
**Tal Alster and
 Stav Shafir**

Tal Alster is the Coordinator of Housing and Urban Renewal at the Urban Clinic, HUJI. He is writing his thesis on how municipalities can cultivate a feeling of community and belonging in their cities. Alster is interested in alternative economic models and questions of distributive justice on an urban level.

Stav Shafir is a Member of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) for the Labour Party. She chairs the Knesset lobby on social justice and is one of the leaders of the 2011 Social Protest in Israel. She leads on issues of budget transparency, housing and urbanism - and ways to connect among these.



WHAT IS IT?

In **participatory budgeting**, residents are granted the authority to decide how to spend parts of the municipal budget. Over the course of several months, residents discuss development plans for their neighborhoods. Residents vote on development plans that are funded in part by the municipal budget. Development can be physical, as in the renovation of old folks' homes in Manhattan; social, as in the job training program for youth in London; or cultural, as in the **funding of local bands in Medellin**. The participatory process is repeated each year, so that the **trust built** among residents, and between residents and the municipality, is strengthened over time. In Medellin, approximately 6% of the municipal budget is transferred directly to the residents, who discuss how their neighborhoods will use the funds. Participatory budgeting has become popular across the globe over the past 15 years, and today it is implemented in over 1,500 cities – large and small, developed and developing, in Africa and in the United States – as a tool for democratic empowerment and distributive justice.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The **World Bank** considers participatory budgeting to be a central mechanism of just urban development in the developing world. In developed cities, participatory budgeting comes side by side with participatory democracy, and improves trust and transparency. In most places, participatory budgeting is progressive: poorer neighborhoods receive greater funds. This way, participatory budgeting is, indeed, a generator of distributive justice on a municipal level. **Click here** to see the UN-HABITAT guide to participatory budgeting.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

The Tel Aviv municipality has **implemented a project** that resembles participatory budgeting, which allows residents to choose from a selection of street furniture or park equipment for their neighborhoods. In Jerusalem, elected representatives at community councils decide how to allocate resources for the council's activities. During past urban renewal projects, local representatives have participated in relatively extensive funding decisions. But can Israeli cities become more daring? Can they allow residents to formulate their own lists of projects, and open these lists to a neighborhood vote? Participatory budgeting is not limited to big, strong cities; even crime-ridden cities with deep social rifts in Africa and South America have successfully adopted participatory budgeting as their approach.

EVALUATING THE NEEDS OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

The most interesting workshop in which I participated at WUF presented a tool called the 'Compass', which we used to evaluate one of Medellin's most disadvantaged neighborhoods. The tool brought us to ask questions that I did not consider while exploring the neighborhood, and helped us to understand what would be necessary to improve the situation.

Author
Emily Silverman

Dr. Emily Silverman is on the faculty of the Geography Department of the Hebrew University, and director of the Urban Clinic at the Faculty of Social Sciences. She specializes in housing policy, urban renewal, social aspects of spatial planning, and community development. Emily was among the founders of the Affordable Housing Coalition, where she led the advisory team for housing, planning, transportation, and land policy. She was co-chair of the War on Poverty Committee housing team.



WHAT IS IT?

The 'Compass' developed at the University of Buenos Aires and implemented in four continents, evaluates informal settlements through a system of four indices. The first and most complex index relates to social and civil rights. This index includes 20 subsets, including security of housing (tenant protection from eviction), water supply and Internet connection, cleanliness of streets, accessibility and maintenance of open spaces, pedestrian safety (functioning streets and sidewalks), and tolerance of various ethnic and social groups. The second index relates to levels of social organization, relating, among other things, to the number of community organizations and their strength, the level of public involvement in education, and whether financial incentives are offered to strengthen community organization. The third index measures the quality of public works and services, and their influence on the local community. The final index considers regulation, including the quality of building guidelines and their enforcement.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

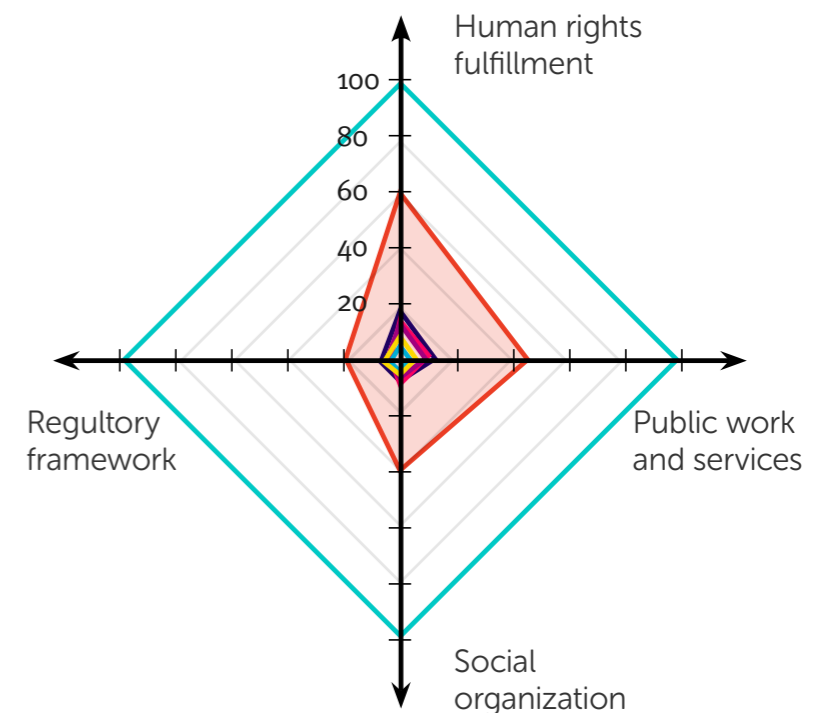
The 'Compass' is an effective and accurate tool in planning the improvement of informal built areas. Within two days, the 'Compass' can bring residents and officials to work together in order to assess the current state of their neighborhood, and to prioritize the various possibilities for intervention. The questions posed by the 'Compass' collect local knowledge from residents and professional knowledge from officials. Ranking each item clarifies what is lacking in a given neighborhood, and can pinpoint which existing institutions or laws most benefit residents.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

The 'Compass' can be used to map existing situations and to prioritize the needs of poor or unrecognized neighborhoods (such as in Lod or Acre), and of informal Bedouin settlements in the Negev and Galilee. As of yet, Israel does not have a national plan for the renewal of poor neighborhoods; therefore, this tool would be useful mainly on a local level, for municipalities, regional councils, and civil society organizations. The Urban Clinic hopes to invite the developer of the 'Compass', Dr. Fernando Mario, to present it in Israel.

THE COMPASS

- Right to Land and Housing
- Infrastructure
- Equipment
- Accessibility
- Sustainability
- Subtotal
- Total



LOCAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The visit to Medellín and the principles discussed at the forum stressed the importance of urban resilience and its role in community building. Visionary people are crucial for the success of this process, as are their abilities to transform vision into reality.



Author
**Itzhak (Kiki)
 Aharonovitz**

Dr. Itzhak (Kiki) Aharonovitz is a graduate of the program for Settlement Leadership in Ofakim. He works at the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev, where he directs programs for leadership training in various settlements in the Negev. He is involved in social aspects of planning; his work focuses on cities, urbanization and urbanism. Itzhak is also involved in developing the concept of sustainable local economy.



WHAT IS IT?

Programs for local leadership training, like those offered at the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev in Israel, are designed to generate change through people. These programs guide participants to formulate certain values in relation to space, and specifically in relation to their cities or regions. Leadership training grants tools for project management, working with decision makers, and cooperation with civil society organizations, academic institutes, local authorities and government ministries. This approach aims to promote effective local leadership that will initiate positive change in the Negev and Galilee.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

In 1997, UN-HABITAT created a network of local leadership in order to connect locals and local initiatives worldwide. In a number of its publications, UN-HABITAT stresses the importance of community leadership as a condition for the success of local initiatives. Indeed, the significance of social and economic local activity – small businesses, transportation initiatives, and community organizations – has been long recognized. Programs for leadership training help to foster involvement and concern among residents and to create projects that are more suited to community needs.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

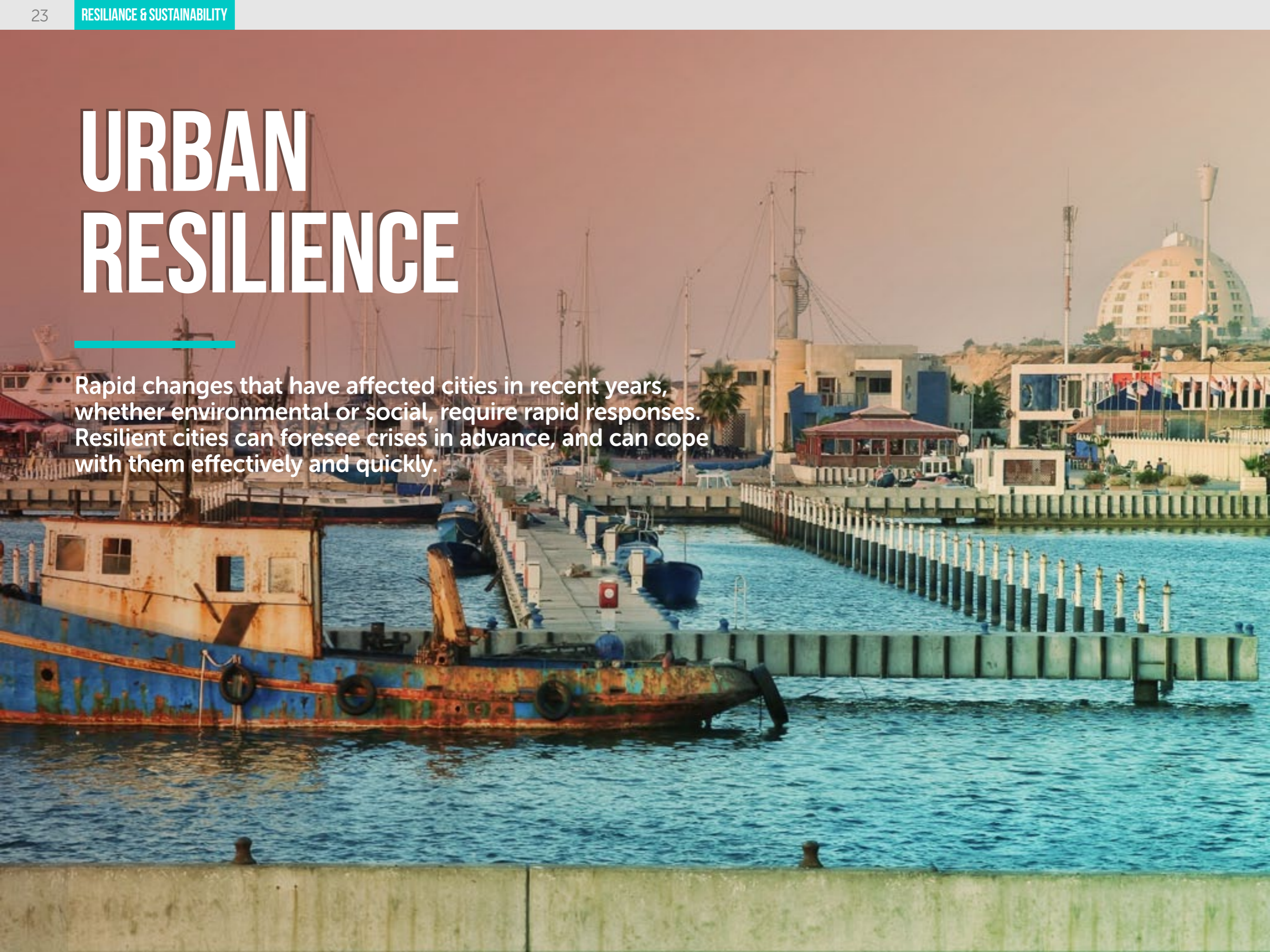
Bottom-Up movements are especially relevant for Israel, a society characterized by multiculturalism and social rifts. Local initiatives can encourage the public sector by offering additional resources and by better clarifying local needs, thus leading to long-term partnerships between local organizations and local government. The Mandel Center for Leadership offers programs for local leadership in a number of settlements in the Negev and, recently, in the north.



Gymboree in Ofakim, established by the Ofakima organization led by Daniel Uri, member of the city council

URBAN RESILIENCE

Rapid changes that have affected cities in recent years, whether environmental or social, require rapid responses. Resilient cities can foresee crises in advance, and can cope with them effectively and quickly.



Author
Udi Carmeli

Udi Carmeli, architect and urban planner, is the deputy director of the Urban Planning Department, and director of the East Tel Aviv-Jaffa Urban Planning Division at the Engineering Department, Municipality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa.



WHAT IS IT?

A resilient city knows how to respond to rapid changes, whether they stem from the composition of the city's population, from **the climate**, or from **external threats** on the city's economy or society. Urban resilience is measured by the ability of residents to cope with change, both as individuals and as communities. In evaluating community resilience, stable social formations are no less important than physical durability during times of crisis. Therefore, maintaining community resources is crucial in order for a city or community to become resilient. Cities can cultivate their resilience by expanding their energy sources, encouraging local production, using **Big Data**, strengthening social capital, and maintaining a knowledgeable and flexible planning system.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Urban resilience has recently become an urgent matter, discussed in great depths, especially due to global warming and its associated climatic challenges. Alongside the rising importance of environmental resilience, it has become clear that social phenomenon are at times no less challenging; therefore, the concept of resilience has been expanded to include an array of challenges. For example, in its **'100 Resilient Cities'** project, the Rockefeller Foundation appointed a 'resilience official' to each city, responsible for coordination between various stakeholders from various fields: transportation, education, environment, infrastructure, security and health. A resilient urban system is also able to respond to **less dramatic trends**; for example, a city might take advantage of a decreased birth rate and utilize empty kindergartens for other public uses, or respond to increasing gasoline prices by investing in local production. Cities that know how to adjust to a changing reality provide their residents with a higher quality of life and prepare them well for the future.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

Israel faces various dangers of climate change: rising sea levels, earthquakes, heat waves, and snowstorms in its mountainous areas. In addition, Israel is located in a geopolitically unstable region and faces frequent wars. Furthermore, economic and social rifts in Israeli society make the country more vulnerable to social crises. Resilience on an urban level could help build urban knowledge bases, and perhaps lead to an Israeli edition of the **'State of the Cities'** report that has been published thus far in a number of countries. An analysis of the state of Israeli cities would contribute to identifying vulnerable areas, and working towards their improvement. Therefore, this approach ought to be implemented on all levels of urban planning, from local plans to strategic planning visions.

URBAN RESILIENCE AND RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Issues of urban resilience and urban response to climate change were discussed in great depth at WUF7, and have been receiving increasing attention worldwide. Israel, too, has begun to build a network of beachside cities, in order to create mechanisms for them to cope with their common challenges.



Author
Ofir Pines-Paz

Ofir Pines-Paz is the head of the Institute for Research of Local Government and head of the program for local government studies at Tel Aviv University. Previously, Ofir was a Knesset member and Minister of Internal Affairs.



WHAT IS IT?

Global warming and glacial melting have caused a rise in sea levels ([click here](#) to see a graphic illustration of recent trends). This phenomenon endangers shoreline regions that find themselves increasingly vulnerable to flooding. Each city must develop a unique strategy according to local scenarios of rising water levels. There are two complimentary city-level strategies in response to rising water levels: the first is adaptation to rising levels by locally utilizing technological advancements and education; the second is a more broad approach, according to which all cities, including those located on the shoreline, reduce their impact on global warming. For example, C40 is a coalition of cities that cope with global warming together by investing in new technologies, such as electric busses, together. Global warming occurs mainly due to urban activity; therefore, cities have enormous potential to reduce carbon omissions.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Shoreline cities are prone to extreme economic damages as a result of rising sea levels. This demands shoreline cities to be leaders in the environmental agenda to reduce global warming by investing in green construction, public transport, public education campaigns for energy saving, and cooperation in improving roads.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

There are 20 local authorities on Israel's shoreline, 12 of which are cities. The potential damages of rising sea levels are severe, though expected to occur only in the distant future. Israeli cities must adopt technologies that reduce global warming and develop strategic planning approaches that consider rising sea levels. These cities can also consult with existing networks, or learn from projects such as Mare Nostrum, a European Union initiative for the protection of Mediterranean beach cities. By networking, more established cities, such as Tel Aviv and Herzliya, could transfer tools and information to less established local authorities. The Institute for Local Government plans to hold a conference for Israeli shoreline cities in order to create this crucial network.

THE CITY PROTOCOL

The Municipality of Barcelona showed us a vision of real urban sustainability. In Barcelona, sustainability is established in cooperation with other cities, academic institutions, businesses, and organizations worldwide. 'City Protocol' promotes a 'Smart City' approach, and provides municipalities with information that can help them better manage their cities and improve the lives of their residents.

Author
Guido Segal

Guido Segal, architect and urban planner, has been a partner in his firm, Hagai Dvir Guido Segal Architects and Urban Planners, since 1993. From 1994 to 2014, Guido worked in the Engineering Department at the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, in both the Urban Planning and Strategic Planning Divisions. Guido is involved in urban and regional planning, including strategic and statutory planning, and specializes in sustainable planning with a focus on urban renewal, sustainable transportation and conservation.



WHAT IS IT?

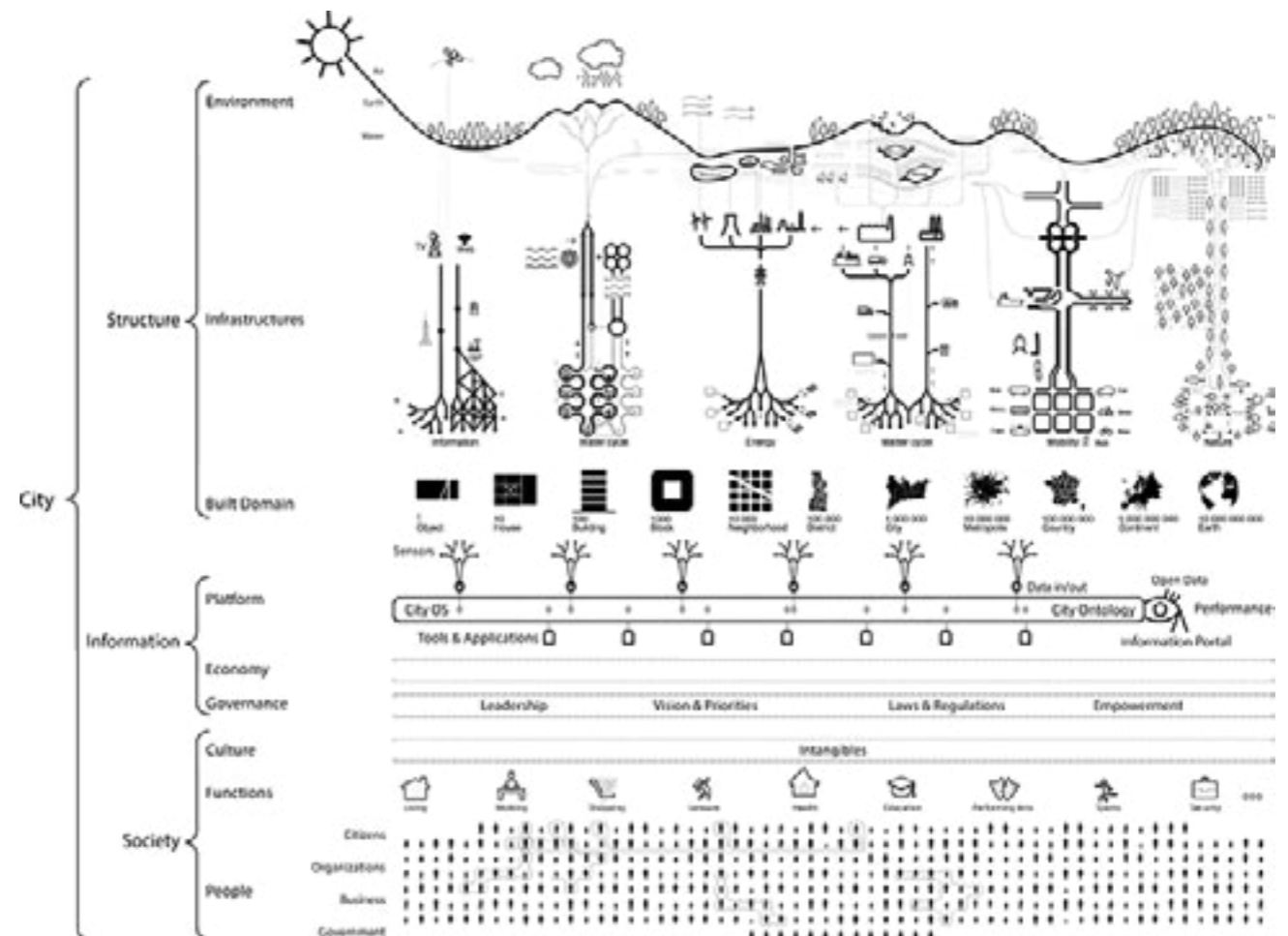
The **City Protocol** offers a standard scheme for cities to collect and present data. The Protocol defines itself as a global community of municipalities, private companies, social organizations and academia, including cities like Barcelona, Amsterdam, Paris, Buenos Aires, Quito, New York and San Francisco, companies such as Sisco, Citygroup, IPM and Microsoft, academic institutes such as MIT, LSE, and the University of Catalonia, and organizations like ICLEI, ICOMOS, Metropolis and the Barcelona Exhibition Center. One of the main tools utilized by the Urban Protocol is the flowchart, which explains how to compare cities according to three elements: structure, information, and society.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The City Protocol suggests how to analyze urban processes and propose informed solutions that will bring positive change. The Protocol is made to accelerate inter-city learning and to increase cooperation among parties involved in order to build better cities. The Protocol cultivates information about various projects and policies and offers learning opportunities from success stories.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

In Israel, there is no uniform approach to comparing or evaluating cities, whether locally or internationally. Such an approach, however, would allow municipalities and other stakeholders to learn from each other more effectively. Israeli cities could join the City Protocol community, contribute from their experiences, and benefit from the Protocol's output.



CITY PARKS

While exploring the city, we saw the making of Medellín's impressive green belt. The green belt exemplifies the potential that urban parks possess to create social mobility, community empowerment, and local economic development.



Author
Anat Gold

Anat Gold is the director of the Southern Region Planning Department at the Jewish National Fund. Anat has been with the JNF for 19 years. She holds a BA in urban geography and urban and regional planning, and MA in public policy from the Ben Gurion University of the Negev.



WHAT IS IT?

Medellin's Green Belt, an investment of billions, is a central element of the city's vision. The belt has a number of complimentary purposes. Firstly, in order to prevent urban sprawl, the parks surround areas of informal housing, which tend to expand haphazardly on steep, dangerous hillsides. In addition, the parks bring together communities and residents from different neighborhoods and backgrounds. Parks throughout the city, too, act as green belts, enveloping the city, acting as green lungs and maintaining biodiversity, heritage, and scenery, elements that are especially crucial for residents of the outskirts of Medellin. The parks are also a source of employment for hundreds of residents from adjacent neighborhoods, empowering the residents and improving their economic situations. Community gardens are dispersed throughout the green belt, acting as yet another source of income and community, as residents grow and sell produce. Finally, the parks incorporate employment training centers, environmental centers, and centers for local leadership training, and they instill a source of local identity and pride.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The green belt in Medellin is part of a greater effort to improve the city's poor neighborhoods (comunas), which are located in the outskirts of the city and contain a high percentage of informal housing. Residents were invited to take part of the planning, building, and management of the project, as part of the city's approach of public participation and community empowerment.

HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ISRAEL?

Metropolitan and regional parks and green belts are considered to be highly important in Israel, both in the prevention of sprawl and in creating meeting places for different communities. The Beer Sheba Valley Park is an excellent example; the park received funding from the government and from the JNF, and acts as a meeting place for Bedouin and Jewish populations from the city and its surrounding region. Medellin's model for city parks and green belts as generators of employment and education ought to inspire Israel to include similar elements when planning its metropolitan and regional parks.



Beer Sheba Valley Park

UN-HABITAT'S TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING URBANISM

Many countries, including Israel, are facing a growing scope and rate of urbanization. UN-HABITAT is continuously developing a variety of tools in order to help decision makers from central and local government, NGOs, academia, private sector and community organizations to analyze and improve their cities and their approach to urbanism. This section presents six of UN-HABITAT's proposals for strengthening the urban agenda.



Author
Emily Silverman

Dr. Emily Silverman is a professor in the Geography Department of the Hebrew University, and director of the Urban Clinic at the Faculty of Social Sciences. She specializes in housing policy, urban renewal, social aspects of spatial planning, and community development. Emily was among the founders of the Affordable Housing Coalition, where she led the advisory team for housing, planning, transportation, and land policy. She was co-chair of the War on Poverty Committee housing team.

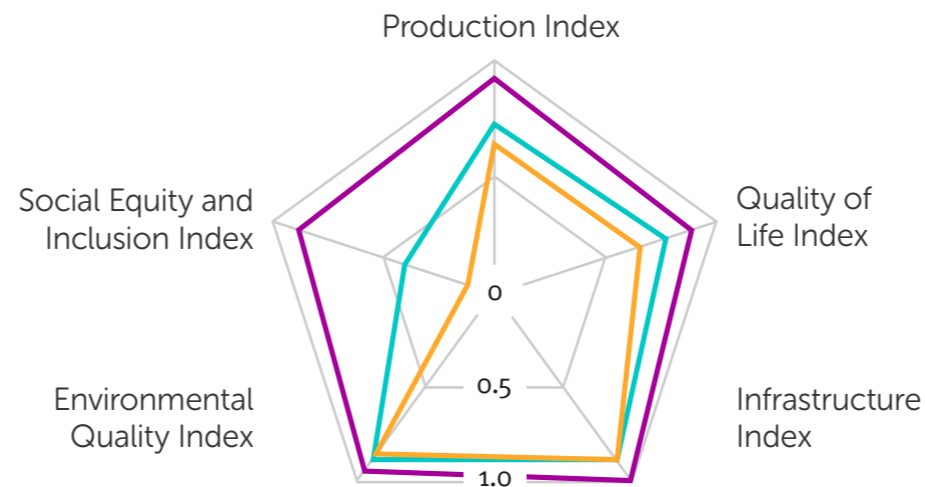


NATIONAL URBAN TASK FORCE

UN-HABITAT recommends that countries establish a National Urban Task Force to examine existing policies, trends, and tools, and to propose improved or additional policies and mechanisms for implementation. UN-HABITAT offers guidelines to establish this task force, which recommend that the group be comprised of representatives from national and local government, professionals, academics, members of civil society and the private sector. The British **Urban Task Force** is a successful model; the vision behind it was based on principles of excellent design, social resilience, and environmental responsibility, within a feasible legal and economic framework. (While the book is highly recommended, the follow-up report can be downloaded [here](#).) The British group formulated approximately 100 recommendations that were accepted by government, and led to widespread urban prosperity in England.

MANAGEMENT TOOLS: INDEXES AND MONITORING

— Vienna
— Mexico City
— Johannesburg



'STATE OF THE CITIES' REPORT

Every two years, and most recently in 2012, UN-Habitat publishes a report on the state of cities. These reports include international evaluations and Best Practices. Certain countries, such as **Australia**, evaluate their cities in their own independent national reports. The method proposed by UN-HABITAT ranks cities according to five indexes, which enable cities to examine their strengths and weaknesses. In preparation for **HABITAT III** in 2016, UN-HABITAT offers guidance to member countries to prepare periodical reports on the state of their cities. In Israel, the Ministry of Construction and Housing has been instated for this purpose.

DEVELOPING THE URBAN TOOLBOX AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Professional training is often field-specific, such as academic programs for civil engineers or **special training in urbanism** that UN-HABITAT offers decision makers in the public sector. However, training courses can also focus on a topic, such as **Placemaking**, and can be offered to participants from various sectors, including decision makers, professionals, members of civil society and academia, and representatives of the business sector. For example, **England** and **France** have developed national training programs for urbanism, while the **European Union research branch** offers a variety of tools for urban development. In Israel, there are a number of frameworks for group training in urban renewal – city engineers and elected officials ???, Merhav's Institute of Mayors together with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and courses for private entrepreneurs. It would be advisable to establish a national initiative that would lead multi-sector training programs and develop tools for urbanism and urban renewal in Israel.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR URBANISM

UN-HABITAT encourages countries to create their own local version of WUF, or, in other words, a national conference for urbanism. This type of conference would be an opportunity for cities and various organizations to present their experiences, Best Practices, challenges, and tools through exhibitions, lectures, and workshops. The conference would also include prizes for outstanding projects in urbanism, as well as tours and events throughout the host city. In addition, the conference would offer an opportunity to connect to similar initiatives worldwide, such as World City Day or the World Urban Forum. Existing conferences in Israel generally cater to a single sector, such as the one organized by the Institute of Local Government, or to one profession, such as conferences for architects or urban planners. A multidisciplinary, multi-sector conference has not yet been established in Israel; such a conference would represent all denominations of Israeli society by bringing together Knesset members, mayors, city engineers, directors of departments of welfare, private planners, community organizations, or community task forces.

PILOT PROJECTS

A successful pilot project can be a significant learning experience, embodying necessary changes in priorities, budgeting, and perspective. Pilot projects are characterized by strong cooperation between central government and local authorities, by a designated budget, and by flexible regulation. It is important to implement these projects in accessible areas in order to promote maximum exposure. Pilot projects should be accompanied by continuous examination and evaluation, and should be financed such that they can be utilized for professional training.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

In a country like Israel, where the ideal has been a private home with a yard and adjacent parking, a fundamental adjustment of awareness is necessary in order to promote urbanism and densification. Vancouver, for example, led a campaign called **EcoDensity**, which associated tall buildings and city living with quality open spaces and comfort. Some examples of public campaigns in Israel are those that have aimed to reduce injuries caused by traffic accidents, to prevent picking wild flowers, or to ensure that the elderly would be offered a seat on public transportation. The success of these can inspire and teach Israel to build a similar campaign for urbanism. As part of its campaign, **"I'm a City Changer"** UN-HABITAT has prepared a variety of materials, which can be utilized in Israel and adapted to local culture and conditions.

ABOUT

The Urban Clinic at the Hebrew University is an academic unit that works to integrate social considerations in urban planning, and to create thriving urban spaces in Israel. The Clinic acts to promote justice and equality, a stronger sense of community, and the multiculturalism that already exists in Israeli cities, while focusing especially on housing and urban renewal. The Clinic works in cooperation with decision makers in central and local government, with students and academics, and with community organizations in order to promote projects, training programs, research, and courses relating to planning and urbanism.

The Ministry of Construction and Housing is responsible for initiating and implementing government policy for providing and building shelter. According to the ministry's website, its activities aim to create the conditions that will ensure that the entire population has access to suitable housing solutions at affordable costs, by focusing especially on the country's weaker populations. The ministry is Israel's official representative to UN-HABITAT.

