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A CARIBBEAN MODEL FOR RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE, SMART AND SAFE (RISS) CITIES



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

UN Women is the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

About the EnGenDER Project

The Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean Project (EnGenDER) Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCD0). Led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the EnGenDER Project is jointly implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Food Programme (WFP) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Nine Caribbean countries are beneficiaries of the EnGenDER Project – Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

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“Urbanization is a transformative force that can overcome many challenges. Mainstreaming human rights, gender and social inclusion in all urban development processes will be integral to making sure that no one and no place will be left behind.”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif,

Executive Director of UN-Habitat,
Foreword to Her City Guide 2021

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
EnGenDER	Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex +
MCO	Multi-Country Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USD	United States dollar

Executive Summary

This Caribbean Resilient, Inclusive, Smart and Safe (RISS) Cities Model for the planning and development of public space in urban and other settlements addresses the integrated nature of urban planning and looks at what is required to enable better regional physical growth with the input of vulnerable populations, including women and girls. It employs a methodology of examining global best practices in urban planning, examines specific gender and Caribbean-focused development activities, and considers the application of these practices to determine a way forward. The process of developing the Model began in March 2022. One of its key activities was conducting a series of national and regional consultations, whose input informed this final version of the Model. The countries included for consultation were **The Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.**

The Model was influenced by a review of the key contexts in which it is being developed, namely:

- 1. The global context:** The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda, and other global urban planning concepts.
- 2. The gender-responsive context:** The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative and the Her City Guide and Toolbox by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Global Urbanism. This context also considers all other vulnerable groups including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons, persons with disabilities, persons with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), youth, indigenous persons and migrants.
- 3. The Caribbean context:** The shared or similar elements of geography, history and economic outlook, and the cultural use of public space across the region as well as specific climate, disaster, and gender-responsive issues in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean RISS Cities Model for the development of public space is therefore based on the lessons learned and inputs from the contexts reviewed as well as the feedback from national and regional consultations with related groups. The outcomes of the four key areas of focus are as follows:

- **Resilience** is achieved through a climate-responsive design and construction, an economic model for urban development and management, and the use of durable materials and landscaping.
- **Inclusivity** is achieved through participatory and inclusive planning procedures, prioritization of accessibility, and community engagement in operations.
- **Smart** standards are achieved through the use of technology, cross-sector collaborations and a long-term vision.
- **Safety and security** standards are achieved through a design for safety, facilitated mixed use of urban spaces by all, and good management and maintenance.

Furthermore, the Caribbean RISS Cities Model can be used at different levels in developing and funding public spaces projects, including:

- by legislators and administrators in the assessment of communities and allocation of resources for focused interventions;
- by urban planners and other designers to inform and maximize the use of resilient, inclusive, smart and safe considerations in the development of public space;
- by managers and operators to ensure the long-term effectiveness of public spaces through ongoing engagement and upgrades.

Introduction

The World Cities Report 2022¹ confirms that well-planned, managed and financed cities and towns create value that can be harnessed to build resilient cities that can bounce back from the devastating impacts of pandemics and improve the quality of life of all residents. This value can be leveraged in the fight against poverty, inequality, unemployment, climate change and other pressing global challenges. It acknowledges that building substantive urban resilience must be multisectoral, multidimensional and multi-stakeholder; i.e. the process of making cities more resilient only works if it is forward-looking, inclusive of all stakeholders (including the marginalized and the poor) and proactive. As with sustainability, resilience concerns increasing equity while reducing poverty and injustice.

In the Caribbean region, more than half of the population currently live in urban centres, and this proportion continues to grow. It is in this context that UN Women Multi-Country Office (MCO) – Caribbean developed the Resilient, Inclusive, Smart and Safe (RISS) Cities Model in order to advance the development, promotion and adoption of inclusive, gender-sensitive planning standards for the region. The aim of the Model is to develop a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) standard for safe, inclusive cities, including assessment and monitoring tools, by adapting the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Her City Toolbox and UN Women Safe Cities model. The RISS Model will guide Caribbean programme implementation aligning with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Recognizing that the concept of inclusive cities involves multiple spatial, social and economic factors, the Model goes beyond the public in general to consider all vulnerable groups, including women, girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons, persons with disabilities (PWDs), persons with HIV, youth, indigenous persons and migrants, as well as to women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The aim is to promote Caribbean urban spaces and infrastructure that are barrier-free through an inclusive and participatory planning process.

Project context

The following is a summary of the key stakeholders, activities and definitions that have contributed to the development of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model.

¹ UN-Habitat (2022). World Cities Report 2022, <https://unhabitat.org/wcr>

UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works towards eliminating discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action, and peace and security. The UN Women Multi-Country Office (MCO) – Caribbean covers 22 countries and territories in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. Efforts towards gender equality in the countries covered by the MCO have resulted in gains for women and girls in the Caribbean, primarily in the form of high education rates and increases in employment rates; however, critical gaps remain. These gaps have been further exploited during environmental and health crises, such as COVID-19.

Building on the **UN Women Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls Global Programme**, the ongoing **Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER)**, **Build Back Equal**, and the **Spotlight Initiative** projects, the Caribbean RISS Model creates an enabling environment for introducing inclusive, smart and safe urban, peri-urban and rural spaces that are resilient to climate change impacts and natural hazards. The RISS Model aims to improve climate-resilient, economic opportunities for women and other vulnerable groups, and to develop the capacities of urban planners, development organizations and government agencies in inclusive and empowering urban planning in order to create public spaces free from violence and harassment.

The Her City initiative

Her City is a joint urban development initiative by UN-Habitat and the independent think tank Global Utmaning. Her City is the result of the Urban Girls Movement launched in 2017 and financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); its aim is to map efficient methods and tools that contribute to increased equality and inclusion in urban development. The initiative and its related Toolbox are based on the principle, 'let her guide you', through the urban development process. This supports improving participatory urban planning, design and implementation, which are key for building a city that works for girls and young women, and ultimately for everyone, including all vulnerable groups. The process, tools and guidelines will be used in the detailed assessments to be undertaken in the application of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model.

Methodology

The Caribbean RISS Cities Model has adopted a methodology that involves four main phases of activity, with each stage feeding into the next and supporting the final outcomes. The key steps in the process are as follows:

1. Research and drafting of documents
2. Consultations and assessments
3. Delivery of a training programme
4. Analysis and final reporting.

The initial research was a desk-based study, which drew largely on publicly available documents and reports, government websites, academic articles and other resources such as the Her City Toolbox. A working paper was drafted to be further informed and developed through consultations with urban and gender development specialists from the public and private sectors, non-government organizations, academia and other sources. The core premise of the Model is the intersection of three contexts: the global goals and related urban agenda; improved social inclusion related to gender and other vulnerable groups; and the realities of Caribbean SIDS, as illustrated in Figure 1. This initial draft of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model was then reviewed in five national consultations and one regional one; the Model will be updated based on this feedback for further validation in a regional consultation prior to the finalization. The detailed country notes for each of the five countries consulted will be included in the final report. The countries included for consultation at this stage are The Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Figure 1. The intersecting contexts of the RISS Cities Model



Definition of key terms

A critical baseline for the activities in the Caribbean RISS Cities Model is the clarification and definition of the main terms used. The key words that compose the name of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model may be defined in this context as follows:

Caribbean: The term 'Caribbean' refers to the region in and around the Caribbean Sea. There are more than 7,000 islands as well as continental territories included in the definition of the region. The area is bound to the west by Belize in Central America, to the north by the islands of the Bahamas, and to the south by Guyana and Suriname in South America.

Resilient: The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) defines resilience as:

[t]he ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

Inclusive: The United Nations defines social inclusion as:

[t]he process of improving the terms of participation in society for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status, through enhanced opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights. Thus, social inclusion is both a process and a goal.

Smart: The United Nations defines a smart, sustainable city as:

an innovative city that uses information and communications technology (ICT) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects. Key areas are urban mobility, sustainable housing, clean energy, waste management and ICT.

Safe: UN-Habitat focuses on three major threats to the safety and security of cities: crime and violence; insecurity of tenure and forced eviction; and natural and human-made disasters. It considers these concerns and issues that can be addressed from a human settlements perspective through appropriate urban policy, planning, design and governance. In addition, UN Women focuses on ending violence against women, including gender-based violence such as sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces.

It is also important to note that although the term 'city' is in the very name of the RISS Cities Model, in the Caribbean context, the term also includes urban centres of varied sizes, populations and amenities since the size of many regional settlements in the region would not meet the global definition of a city.

In the RISS Cities Model, the following important terms are used:

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of 38 United Nations Member States and 20 non-United Nations Members/Associate Members of United Nations Regional Commissions that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. The three geographical regions in which SIDS are located are the Caribbean; the Pacific; and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female, and the relationships between women and men, and girls and boys, as well as the relationships between women and between men.

Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men.

Social cohesion is the extent of trust in the government and within society, and the willingness to participate collectively toward a shared vision of sustainable peace and common development goals.

Intersectionality is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy development that addresses intersecting inequalities. It helps us understand how different sets of identities impact on access to rights and opportunities.

Citizen security is defined by international development agency Chemonics as “the process of establishing, strengthening and protecting democratic civic order, eliminating threats of violence in a population and allowing for safe and peaceful coexistence”.

Public space

In its specific analysis of public space, UN-Habitat defines it as taking many spatial forms, including parks, streets, sidewalks and footpaths, playgrounds, marketplaces, as well as edge space between buildings or roadsides.² The connective matrix of streets and public spaces forms the backbone of the city upon which all else rests.

The network of open public space not only improves the quality of life, but also mobility and the functioning of the city. Well-designed and maintained streets, and open public spaces can help lower rates of crime and violence, provide space for formal and informal economic activities, and provide services and opportunities to diverse users, particularly for the most marginalized, where public space is ‘the poor man’s living room’. They are also important for recreation, social, cultural and economic development. Public space as a common good is the key enabler for fulfilling human rights, empowering women and providing opportunities for youth.

To ensure an adequate foundation for a well-functioning and prosperous city, UN-Habitat recommends that an average of 45–50 percent of urban land be allocated to streets and open public spaces, breaking down to 30–35 percent for streets and sidewalks, and 15–20 percent for open public spaces. These are important statistics to consider in the implementation of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model.

² UN-Habitat (2018). SDG Indicator 11.7.1 Training Module: Public Space. United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), Nairobi. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/indicator_11.7.1_training_module_public_space.pdf

The global context of the RISS City Model

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Rooted in the 1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³ is the culmination of over 40 years of multilateral deliberations addressing the environmental, social and economic challenges faced by the world. The Agenda is traditionally viewed through the lens of three core elements – social inclusion, economic growth, and environmental protection.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals⁴ (SDGs), which are an urgent call to action for all countries in a global partnership. Adopted further following extensive negotiations among Member States, the accountability for the implementation of the Agenda primarily rests with national governments. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are five critical dimensions: people, prosperity, planet, partnership and peace, also known as **the 5Ps**. Also, at the centre of both the Agenda and the SDGs is the simple promise to 'leave no one behind' in this global transformation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its related 17 SDGs were agreed on in September 2015. Other relevant initiatives at that time also included:

- The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**⁵ (March 2015), which provides Member States with a framework and concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster. It is relevant to the Caribbean region because it is among the most vulnerable to disasters.
- The **Paris Agreement on Climate Change**⁶ (December 2015), a legally binding international treaty on climate change, which was adopted by 196 Parties at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 in Paris. It is particularly relevant to the Caribbean region since its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

3 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

4 The Sustainable Development Goals. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

5 The Sendai Framework. www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework

6 The Paris Agreement. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

The Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 SDGs are all relevant and applicable to all forms of development. For the advancement of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model; however, the programme focuses primarily on two of the SDGs: SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

SDG 5: Gender Equality – SDG 5 aims to end all discrimination against women and girls. This is not only a basic human right, but also crucial for sustainable future since it has been proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development. Although there have been improvements in the roles and rights of women, there are still significant inequalities in some regions, with women systematically denied the same opportunities and rights as men. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and discrimination in public office are all significant barriers. Climate change and disasters continue to have a disproportionate effect on women and children, as do conflict and migration.

Key SDG 5 target relevant to the RISS Cities Model (Target 5.2): *Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.*

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities – By 2050, it is projected that two-thirds of the global population – 6.5 billion people – will live in urban centres. It is clear, therefore, that sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way cities are designed, built and managed. Career and business opportunities, and safe and affordable housing must be created, and resilient societies and economies must be built to ensure that cities are sustainable. This involves investing in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways.

Key SDG 11 Target relevant to RISS Cities Model (Target 11.7): *By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.*

The New Urban Agenda

As a result of the work of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. It provides guidance on how well-planned and well-managed urbanization can be a transformative force for the sustainable development of developing and developed countries in order to accelerate towards achieving the SDGs. The Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All envisages cities and human settlements that:⁷

⁷ New Urban Agenda (English). <https://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

- a. *fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, as well as equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security and nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality and livelihoods;*
- b. *are participatory, promote civic engagement, engender a sense of belonging and ownership among all their inhabitants, prioritize safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces that are friendly for families, enhance social and intergenerational interactions, cultural expressions and political participation, as appropriate, and foster social cohesion, inclusion and safety in peaceful and pluralistic societies, where the needs of all inhabitants are met, recognizing the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations;*
- c. *achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision making, by ensuring decent work and equal pay for equal work, or work of equal value, for all women and by preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls in private and public spaces.*

The Caribbean RISS Cities Model aims to: (i) promote safe, accessible and green public spaces. Human interaction should be facilitated by urban planning, which explains why the agenda calls for an increase in public spaces such as sidewalks, cycling lanes, gardens, squares and parks; and (ii) achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, as well as prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment against women and girls in private and public spaces. Sustainable urban design plays a key role in ensuring the liveability and prosperity of a city.

Global best practices in urban planning

Urban planning has long been recognized as one of the key foundations for achieving sustainable and resilient development, and it is seen as a key element for reducing disaster risks in urban areas. More recently, it has developed more nuanced processes that consider inputs beyond the core physical requirements. These improvements in approach to planning are especially important for managing urban growth and increasing resilience in already built-up urban areas as well as emerging ones. Two key global best practices relevant to the development of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model are placemaking and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), since they relate directly to the key terms in the definition of the project. Both practices first emerged from the critiques of American urban planning in the 1960s, such as in the works of journalist Jane Jacobs and sociologist William H. Whyte. The former introduced urban design concepts such as locating people onto public streets in order to be “eyes on the street”⁸ and to deter offenders through public scrutiny. They also promoted mixed land use

8 Primer in CPTED – What is CPTED? <https://cpted.net/Primer-in-CPTED>

and community participation in planning in order to create a sense of ownership and to enhance the deterrence of crime and violence.

Placemaking

In the 1995 book, *Placemaking: The art and practice of building communities* by Lynda Schneekloth and Robert Shibley, placemaking is defined as, “[t]he way in which all human beings transform the places they find themselves into the places where they live”. These ideas, which were introduced as far back as the 1960s with the review of urban planning in the United States, became the basis for the development of placemaking as a concept, even though it was consolidated many years later.

The Project for Public Spaces (PPS),⁹ an organization that promotes placemaking initiatives across the world, started promoting the concept in the 1990s. PPS has created guidelines for developing good public spaces and provides recommendations on how to improve living in the cities. In evaluating thousands of public spaces around the world, PPS has developed a tool to assist in identifying their key qualities. The four key qualities are as follows:

- 1. Access and Linkages:** *A successful public space is easy to get to and get through; it is visible both from a distance and up close. The edges of a space are also important; for instance, a row of shops along a street is more interesting and generally safer to walk by than a blank wall or empty lot. Accessible spaces have a high parking turnover and, ideally, are convenient to public transit.*
- 2. Comfort and Image:** *Whether a space is comfortable and presents itself well, i.e. has a good image, is key to its success. Comfort includes perceptions about safety, cleanliness, and the availability of places to sit – the importance of giving people the choice to sit where they want is generally underestimated.*
- 3. Uses and Activities:** *Activities are the basic building blocks of a place. Having something to do gives people a reason to come to a place – and return. When there is nothing to do, a space will be empty, which generally means that something is wrong.*
- 4. Sociability:** *When people see friends, meet and greet their neighbours, and feel comfortable interacting with strangers, they tend to feel a stronger sense of place or attachment to their community and to the place that fosters these types of social activities.*

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

The International CPTED Association defines CPTED as “a crime prevention theory focusing on tactical design and the effective use of the built environment, which when applied, reduces both crime and the fear of crime”. CPTED, which is pronounced ‘sep-ted’, is also referred to as ‘designing out crime’, ‘defensible space’, and other similar terms. The main objective of CPTED is to reduce or remove the opportunity for crime to occur in public spaces, and to promote positive interaction within the space by legitimate users.

⁹ Project for Public Spaces. www.pps.org

The benefits of CPED are best realized when the principles are applied in the earliest possible stages of planning, but it is not expected to be the sole crime prevention method for public spaces, and should work in conjunction with other social, environmental and community-based strategies. CPTED comprises five key principles:

1. **Physical security:** *the measures used on individual properties to ensure that they can resist attack such as locks, grilles and other installations.*
2. **Surveillance:** *the measures that facilitate residents' ability to observe the areas surrounding their home. Surveillance can be facilitated by ensuring that front doors face the street, that semi-public areas are well illuminated, and that blank walls to the street are avoided.*
3. **Movement control:** *the restriction of access, egress and through movement. High levels of through movement allow offenders to access and egress an area, and to identify targets and increases anonymity.*
4. **Management and maintenance:** *the processes in place to ensure that a development is free from signs of disorder. This signals that the area is cared for and 'owned'.*
5. **Defensible space:** *the implied ownership of public space by its surrounding neighbourhood, which should be demonstrated by clear boundaries, good upkeep and maximizing the ability of residents and passers-by to casually observe activity.*

Key inputs for the Caribbean RISS Cities Model

The four qualities of placemaking and the five principles of CPTED are all highly relevant to the development of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model. They provide guidance on preventive, pro-active steps for the development of the resilience, inclusion and safety goals. The two key objectives are: (i) **make places 'sociable'**, because people feel a strong sense of place or attachment to their community and to places that foster these types of social activities; and (ii) **promote 'defensible' spaces** in the development of public urban spaces under the Model.

The gender-responsive context of the RISS Cities Model

The **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**¹⁰ (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a Preamble and 30 Articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end it.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹¹ (September 1995) is a visionary agenda for the empowerment of women, the most comprehensive global policy framework and blueprint for action, and a continued source of guidance and inspiration to realize gender equality and the human rights of women and girls, everywhere. This landmark text was the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, in September 1995.

The development of a Caribbean RISS Cities Model draws on international best practices but with a specific focus on how urban planning can be sensitive to the needs of women, girls and other vulnerable groups in the Caribbean context. The model is informed by the methodology and lessons learned from UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative, UN-Habitat's 'Her City' Toolbox, and the EnGenDER project, as applicable for the regional context.

The Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative

UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative was launched in 2011 as the first global initiative that aims to:

prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence that women and girls often experience and fear in public spaces. Each city or town that participates in the Initiative commits to create safe and empowering public spaces for women and girls free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (SVAWG).

10 The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw

11 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/01/beijing-declaration

A 2019 compendium¹² documents the key practices, strategies and tools from women's safety partnerships in cities, including those that have developed safe city and safe public space programmes that form part of the Global Initiative. The practices selected are relevant to the crafting of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model because they have led to positive outcomes, involve collaborative partnerships and innovative action, and address women's safety in public spaces through an intersectional approach.

These solutions from the compendium have been categorized into the following four main action areas:

- 1. Ensuring that locally relevant and owned solutions are identified:** As a first step, cities conduct a scoping study, which provides specific data to ensure a deep understanding of the nature of sexual harassment and other forms of SVAWG. It also reviews available data on the extent of the issue and identifies key partners who may be working to prevent and respond to this form of violence, or SVAWG-related areas to draw on their experience and create synergies. Following the results of the scoping study, a participatory programme design session is held with key stakeholders (government authorities, women's rights groups and non-governmental organizations, schools, the police, local businesses) to discuss and validate the findings of the study and enable partners to develop a holistic safe city and safe public spaces with the contribution of women and girls. This includes a process to ensure that gender-responsive, locally relevant and owned interventions are identified, as well as a set of results with indicators that help to ensure shared accountability among programme partners.
- 2. Strengthening comprehensive laws and policies:** Given the gap in legislation on sexual harassment, including in public spaces, several safe city country teams are working to ensure that comprehensive legislation and policies to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces are in place and effectively implemented. In some cities, this work has resulted in new legislation and protocols on sexual harassment being implemented at the local level (e.g. through a revised local ordinance), or at a national level, with the allocation of adequate budgets and resources for implementation. Some of the important lessons learned include: (i) a multi-pronged advocacy strategy involving women's rights groups and members of local government, including at the district level, should be implemented to demonstrate the impact of sexual harassment on human rights, economic activities, etc.; and (ii) measures to strengthen the capacity of women's rights groups and local governments should be included in the development and implementation of laws and policies.
- 3. Investing in the safety and economic viability of public spaces:** A gender-sensitive approach to urban and transportation planning ensures that the needs of women and men are considered. Safe city interventions often include investment in public infrastructure, such as for improved sanitation, increased lighting, the creation of market stalls, and inclusive playgrounds and housing, and the provision of access to basic and essential services for women in the city. In turn, these changes in infrastructure and local governance also provide a unique opportunity to unlock women's and youth's political participation in city governance, and the economic empowerment of women, including through interventions focused on increasing women's financial autonomy and increasing access to safe and sustainable transport.

12 Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Flagship Initiative: International Compendium of Practices. www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/01/safe-cities-and-safe-public-spaces-international-compendium-of-practices

- 4. Fostering transformative social and gender norms:** Sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) in public and private spaces are rooted in gender inequality, discrimination, and harmful cultural and social norms. This action area focuses on changing social norms, attitudes and behaviours to promote women's and girls' rights to enjoy public spaces free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence. It includes initiatives that engage girls and boys and other influential champions/leaders in capacity building and transformative activities in schools, public workspaces and other settings that promote respectful gender relationships, gender equality and safety in urban and rural settings.

Key inputs for the Caribbean RISS Cities Model

This International Compendium presents guidance for national and local authorities, policymakers, women's rights organizations, researchers and other practitioners committed to creating safe and sustainable cities and public spaces for women and girls across the world, and hence is relevant to the RISS Model. The recommendations provide solutions applicable in the Caribbean context for strategies and tools to promote women's participation and safety partnerships in urban public spaces. The references are also relevant to a variety of vulnerable communities across the region.

The 'Her City' Toolbox and Guide

Her City is a joint urban development initiative by UN-Habitat and the independent think tank Global Utmaning aimed at providing methods and tools to urban actors and cities globally. *Her City* supports urban development from the perspective of one of the most vulnerable groups of urban dwellers – girls. The Toolbox guides the implementation of urban projects through a step-by-step methodology on an open and digitally accessible platform. The initiative promotes the concept of enabling citizens, who are rarely heard, to serve as experts, which results in communities and cities that will become more inclusive, equal and sustainable.

The Her City Toolbox follows a process divided into nine building blocks, which serve as a digital guideline on how to co-plan cities from a girl's perspective. These blocks are further divided into three phases each to illustrate the urban development process: the assessment phase, the design phase, and the implementation phase. Each block includes several activities for the development and implementation of a Her City project. The core aim of the Guide is to contribute to increased equality and inclusion in urban development through quality assessment of public spaces under the following five main dimensions:

- 1. Use and User** – This dimension focuses on how the space is being used and by whom. A good quality public space is designed to accommodate everyone, where people from all backgrounds, especially from the most vulnerable groups, can spend considerable time enjoying it. Through this dimension, it is possible to analyse how inclusive the space is by observing the variety of users and the type of activities taking place.
- 2. Accessibility** – This dimension focuses on access to the site in terms of perception and physically. A public space should be easily reached by walking, cycling, or public transport, especially by the

elderly and people with special needs. A public space should be open for all without having to pay an entrance fee; therefore, the dimension also looks at restrictions of operational use and by-laws. Finally, the perception of accessibility is also assessed, for example, whether people feel welcome and comfortable going to the public space.

- 3. Amenities and Furniture** – These are the features that make public spaces more attractive including, but is not limited to, facilities to play, rest, eat and drink, as well as amenities such as lighting, waste bins and toilets. This dimension looks at their availability, distribution and quality condition. Amenities and furniture should also be inclusive, catering to the needs of the different groups within the neighbourhood.
- 4. Comfort and Safety** – This dimension considers peoples' perception and how they feel, which can have a major impact on their wellbeing and the time they spend in a public space. Places that are well maintained are often perceived as comfortable and safe, whereas vandalized and poorly maintained spaces can have the opposite effect. Smell, sound, sight, physical condition and the overall identity of a space can be deal breakers for comfort. The perception of safety is subjective: while some might feel safe using a space, others could feel uncomfortable due to the lack of activities, a history of negative events, or a concentration of certain groups as well as the presence of physical elements that could block visibility within and from outside the space.
- 5. Green Environment** – This dimension gives consideration to environmental aspects that can improve the health and wellbeing of the residents. Green spaces provide a balance between development and the environment, and are increasingly sought after in dense urban areas. Well-designed public spaces with adequate green coverage can have a significant impact on air quality and reduce noise pollution and temperatures. Trees, grass and other green vegetation and nature-based solutions can provide wildlife habitats, prevent soil erosion, and support adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

Key Inputs for a Caribbean RISS Cities Model

The Her City process provides methods and tools that can contribute to increased equality and inclusion in urban development in the advancement of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model. By letting 'Her' – the girl – the exemplar of vulnerable citizens – guide the urban development process, there will be improvement in the participatory planning, design and implementation that are key for building urban spaces that work for girls, other vulnerable groups and ultimately, for everyone. The Toolbox and Guide are a major component the Caribbean RISS Cities Model, because they are an essential means of participatory planning for implementation of community projects and programmes that will be developed.

Intersectionality considerations

In developing the Caribbean RISS Cities Model, UN Women has extended consideration beyond the public in general to all vulnerable groups, including women, girls, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV, youth, indigenous persons, as well as to women-led micro, small and medium-sized

enterprises (MSMEs). The Model recognizes that people's identities, relationships and social factors combine to create intersecting forms of privilege or oppression, depending on a person's context and existing power structures, such as patriarchy, ableism, colonialism, imperialism, homophobia and racism.

Many international human rights instruments treat different forms of discrimination as separate and distinct, but intersectionality connects all human rights concerns through one lens, in recognition that experiences of multiple discrimination are not discrete. This is an important consideration in planning and promoting inclusivity as a key part of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model.

The Caribbean context of the RISS Cities Model

According to a 2020 review by the World Bank Caribbean:

The high (3 to 4 percent per year) urbanization rates in the 1960s–1980s have been slowly but steadily decreasing for the past 30 years and the current average urban growth rate for Caribbean small states is 0.9 percent per year. However, cities are still growing, and higher urbanization levels are projected for some countries, stemming from rural-urban migration and population growth. The highest annual urban population growth rates in the region are in Haiti (2.9 percent), Belize, and the Dominican Republic, (both with 2.2 percent). On average, 51 percent of the Caribbean population is urban, but shares vary across countries. The least urbanized are St. Lucia (19 percent) and Guyana (27 percent); the most urbanized is Sint Maarten (100 percent), followed by the Dominican Republic (82 percent) and Dominica (71 percent).¹³

All five countries reviewed in the development of this model have at least half of their population living in urban centres, which aligns with the global average. There are other elements of the Caribbean context that directly influence the development and suitability of the RISS Cities Model, as follows:

- **Geography:** The region comprises small island states and mainland territories that are extremely vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards due to their location. Most of the Caribbean region is located within the Atlantic Hurricane belt and within active seismic zones. The World Bank reports that approximately 70 percent of Caribbean people live at or near sea level. Almost all capital cities and other towns as well as major investments such as airports, ports, civic facilities, hotels, highways, bridges and other infrastructure are situated within 1.6 kms of the Caribbean Sea. Therefore, most of the populations and assets of the countries under consideration for the RISS Cities Model are vulnerable to storm surges, flooding and coastal erosion. Extreme weather events are common in the region, and a single tropical storm or hurricane can wipe out more than the entire annual GDP of a small island.
- **History:** Much of the Caribbean region and indeed, all the countries included in the development of the RISS Cities Model, share similar histories, including being British colonies. This shared past has resulted in similarities in the British colonial baseline to both urban planning policy and the physical development of settlements. All Caribbean countries have an established legal framework for planning

¹³ 360° Resilience: A Guide to Prepare the Caribbean for a New Generation of Shocks, World Bank (2020). <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36405>

based on colonial regulation; however, in many countries, these laws are outdated and need to be updated. There is also the issue of some countries having multiple overlapping laws and regulations related to planning, land use and construction. In terms of physical layout, most Caribbean cities and towns have outgrown the colonial grid layout of their old urban centres. Although they are likely to attract tourism investments, they are also likely to require specialized management, particularly for heritage zones and buildings. Urban squares, i.e. green open spaces, are a key component of the grid layout of colonial towns, and are examples of ways to address urban heat and the promotion of other green infrastructure such as waterfront esplanades.

- **Economy:** The World Bank describes the Caribbean as a diverse region with significant economic potential and growth opportunities. The gross national income per capita varies from around USD 800 to over USD 30,000, and most countries rely primarily on tourism, and some on commodity exports. These island economies are largely weighed down by high debt burdens, and thus have limited funding for development. Urban planning and disaster risk management are typically included in yearly budgets; however, there is limited allocation for medium- to long-term planning strategies and the maintenance of public space. Caribbean countries have been seeking adaptation financing for climate-resilient infrastructure and ecosystem-based adaptation through donor and international financing institutions, but this process can be long and complex.
- **Cultural Use of Public Space:** In response to climate and culture, much of life in the Caribbean is lived outdoors including in public spaces of various forms. It is not uncommon to see gatherings on the sidewalks outside shops and bars, as well as informal sporting activities taking place in the streets – from cricket to football and road tennis. Across the region there are also several street dances, community activities and carnivals that are hosted in the public realm, from sidewalks to parks, savannahs and sporting grounds. Public art, although often informal, is also often present in community spaces, which offers another avenue for intervention. The consideration of each Caribbean city’s cultural, historical and architectural spaces is also aligned with enhancing urban attractiveness and promoting tourism.

These similarities and peculiarities specific to the Caribbean region are a critical part of ensuring that the RISS Cities Model is both applicable and acceptable in the region.

Climate and disaster resilience in Caribbean urban spaces

In a June 2022 commentary for the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD),¹⁴ Professor Michelle Mycoo, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, provides the Caribbean context for resilient urban planning as follows:

Mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into urban plans has become a priority of Caribbean urban planning and environmental management agencies.

¹⁴ Building Urban Resilience in the Caribbean: Policies, Practices and Prospects, IISD SDG Knowledge Hub. <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/building-urban-resilience-in-the-caribbean-policies-practices-and-prospects>

Risk assessment prior to any upgrading is an integral part of informal settlement upgrading methodology in several countries. Spatial plans articulate land use zoning proposals aimed at environmental conservation and natural hazard risk reduction to safeguard urban populations. Site development standards have been modified to tackle storm surges, rising sea levels, flooding, and coastal erosion. Additionally, building codes have been revised to deal with heat stress, flooding, and more intense tropical cyclones. Climate change calls for a transformation of urban planning as it reinforces the need for a long-term approach and for enforcement of land use, site development, and building regulations. An effective climate strategy implies increasing urban resilience through more than a mere control of land use change, and addressing the infrastructure needs and the way in which land should be used, in terms of resource consumption and flows. It requires updated data on the urban reality, a changed culture and infrastructure for data sharing, and the means to implement changes that often imply a cost to public administrations.

Gender considerations in Caribbean urban spaces

A knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and practices (KABP) analysis was conducted in 2021 by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on behalf of UN Women under the EnGenDER project. It aims to increase understanding of gender-related perceptions and biases, and how they play out in coordination mechanisms for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction as a basis for determining how they can be challenged at the individual and institutional levels. The analysis was developed based on data from nine countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

Although there are currently no comprehensive data regarding GBV and sexual harassment in public spaces, other research on GBV and sexual harassment indicates that there is a high prevalence throughout the region. UN Women has created a central repository of knowledge on the prevalence of the different forms of GBV, including data for the countries of Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago – the **'Caribbean Women Count: The Ending Violence against Women and Girls Data Hub'**.

The Women's Health Survey 2016 Jamaica shows that sexual harassment affects approximately one of every four women in Jamaica (Statistical Institute of Jamaica, IDB and UN Women (2018), and the National Women's Health Survey for Trinidad and Tobago indicates that 7 percent of women reported having been groped in a public space in Trinidad and Tobago (IDB, 2018). These are areas of concern for countries with significant levels of crime and violence because tackling and reducing 'minor offences' lay the groundwork for overall public safety and in turn, social and economic development. This is an important consideration for the development of a Caribbean RISS Cities Model because its aim is to create safe public spaces.

Key inputs for the Caribbean RISS Cities Model

In reviewing the climatic and cultural context for the development of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model, it is clear that there is strong recognition throughout the region of the important role of urban planning.

However, it is of concern that, despite the numerous plans and policies, there are clear gaps in the development and management of urban space. Key among these gaps is the lack of safe and accessible public amenities and places, and of their management and security for users. Some unique concerns related to gender-sensitive planning for Caribbean public spaces are highlighted, which must be considered for successful application of the RISS Cities Model.

Key inputs to the Caribbean RISS Cities Model

The RISS Cities Model for the development of public space is therefore based on the lessons learned and inputs from the contexts reviewed.



Summary of findings

A review of the key inputs from each of the contexts reviewed provides an outline of the major elements of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model. The following is a summary of the main recommendations identified:

- 1. Safe, accessible and green public spaces should be promoted:** The global agenda highlights that sustainable urban design plays a key role in ensuring the liveability and prosperity of a city. Since human interaction should be facilitated by urban planning, the agenda calls for an increase in public spaces such as sidewalks, cycling lanes, gardens, squares and parks.
- 2. Gender equality should be achieved** by empowering women, girls and other vulnerable groups as well as preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, which will lead to a reduction in crime, violence and harassment in public spaces. An intersectional approach ensures that consideration is given to all human rights concerns through a single lens.

3. **A sense of place should be created** by making places sociable because people feel a strong sense of place or attachment to their community and to places that foster social activities.
4. **Participatory methods should be used.** The Her City Toolbox provides a comprehensive framework and step-by-step guide for the assessment, analysis and engagement of vulnerable groups and the wider communities in development projects.
5. **Safety and security should be designed** by identifying concerns and issues via participatory planning methods. 'Defensible' and well managed space should be promoted in the development of public facilities.
6. **There should be a response to the local context** by gathering local data and input from the community, making it is possible to design according to the needs of the location and the users to maximize the effectiveness of the space.

The Caribbean RISS Cities Model

The Caribbean RISS Cities Model is applicable at all stages of development and management of public space. The core considerations are essential at the administrative level, through the design process and as part of long-term operations, as described below (see Figure 2).

Administrative Framework

- legislative and other regulatory guidelines that support the development of public space, with consideration of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model;
- a defined framework for the ownership and management of government-owned public space with considerations for administration at the national and local levels;
- a defined framework for the financial allocations for public space and options for funding mechanisms available for the engagement of non-government support;
- policy direction regarding the engagement of and partnership with the private sector, community-based organizations and other non-government entities in development.

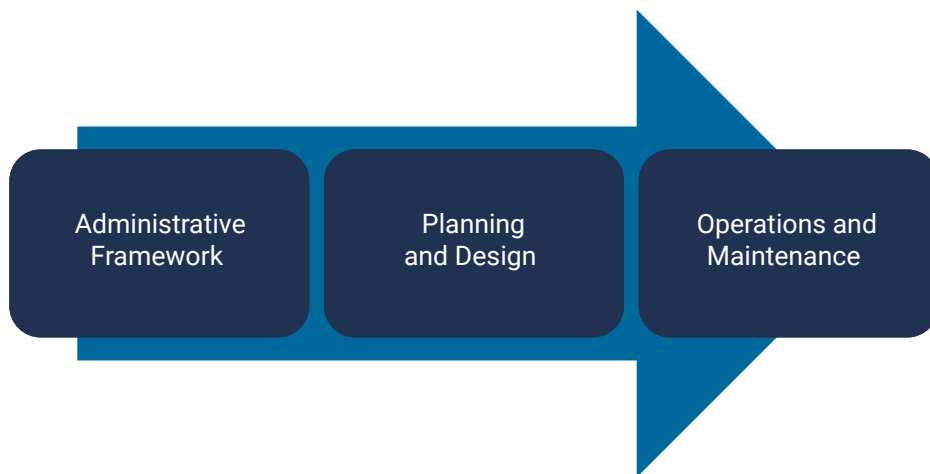
Planning and Design

- the inclusion of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model in planning guidelines at the national and local levels with evaluation and monitoring support;
- the inclusion of professionals in the physical and social development processes and the provision of additional training as necessary;
- an official process for the inclusion of communities in the design of their public space using methods such as the Her City Toolbox.

Operations and Maintenance

- the inclusion of Caribbean RISS Cities Model considerations in the creation of operational frameworks, maintenance manuals and other guidelines;
- ongoing engagement of user communities through management frameworks and a calendar of regular community related activities;
- a constant review of user feedback to guide upgrades and improvements to operational and maintenance activities.

Figure 2. Levels of application of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model



The following are the design guidelines and major steps of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model as derived from the research, review and consultation processes, and summarized in Figure 3.

To achieve **resilience** standards:

- **Climate-responsive design and construction:** Design standards should meet and support nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for climate change mitigation and adaptation. All projects and programmes must use baseline climatic data and projections to inform planning, design, specifications and construction, including for related and supporting infrastructure. Nature-based development solutions should also be prioritized as much as possible.
- **The Economic Model for Urban Development and Management:** Strategies for funding investments in urban development projects should be created and financial frameworks established for ongoing operations and management costs for the long term. This should include considerations for funding of community-based projects.

- **The use of climate-smart materials:** All public furniture, equipment, fixtures and fittings provided for public spaces must meet climate-smart and durability specifications for high traffic usage. Native and/or drought-resistant landscaping is also recommended.

To achieve **inclusivity** standards:

- **Improved planning procedures:** There should be an increased use of participatory, inclusive and consultative planning processes for the development of public space. An intersectional and gender mainstreaming approach should be used that identifies hidden structural barriers and supports an understanding of how individual experiences differ, even within marginalized or under-represented groups. The use of the Her City Toolbox and Guide is recommended.
- **Prioritization of accessibility:** Focus should be placed on development locations that are in proximity or with easy access to transportation. Walkability and barrier-free access to amenities on site should be maximized, as well as the provision of sensory and auditory support as much as is possible.
- **Community engagement in operations:** Engagement should be maintained with all user groups to ensure that facilities and activities address emerging requirements and continue to support the needs of all users. Management of operations should include the process for the inclusion of representation from local vulnerable groups.

To achieve **smart** standards:

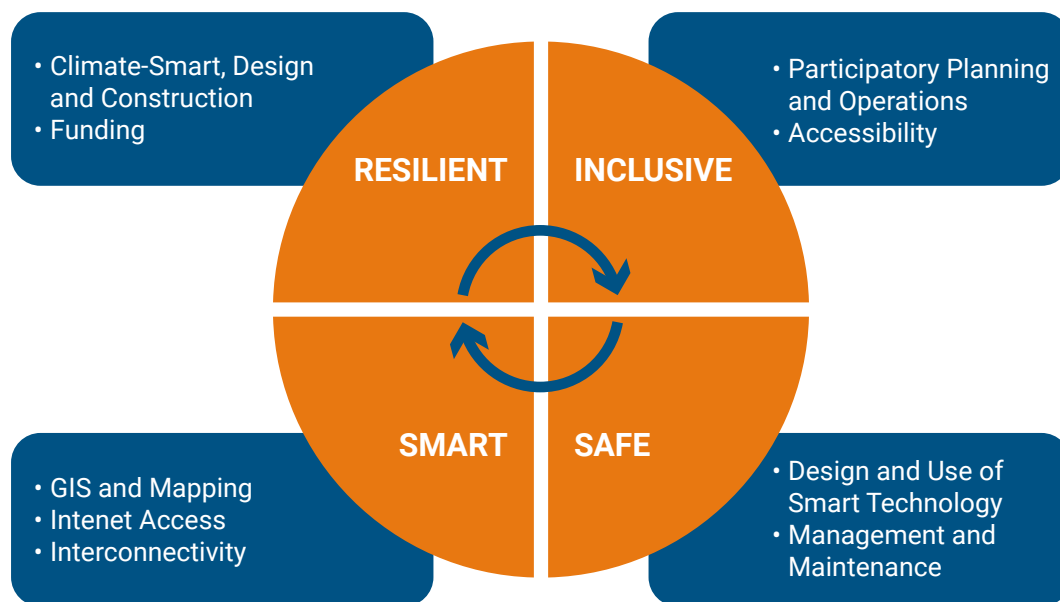
- **Use of technology:** Geographic information system (GIS) technology, smart digital maps and drones must be put to effective use in spatial analysis, synthesis and visualization for spatial and transportation planning. High-quality internet connection should be provided in public spaces for general use. Digital services should be provided, such as mobile apps related to the use of public space and associated services, for example, for public transport and for reporting on maintenance or safety issues within public spaces, etc.
- **Cross-sector collaborations:** There must be cross-sector collaborations between national technology, security and all other connectivity programmes. There should also be options for collaborations with private and public sector partners for both technical and financial support.
- **Long-term visioning:** Public space and the related data mapping should be included as part of national, regional and global digital plans to inform modelling for climate adaption, resilient design and other future developments.

To achieve **safety and security** standards:

- **Design for safety:** CPTED and any other relevant safety and security concepts such as overlooked 'defensible' public spaces should be applied in the participatory planning with communities. The Her City Toolbox should also be used as a guide for focusing on the safety and security concerns of the most vulnerable in the community.

- **Facilitated mixed use:** Multiple uses and activities at a variety of times that will attract users from varied communities, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, should be encouraged. The application of public art that is gender-transformative and that raises awareness on climate resilience and public safety should also be encouraged. A public space that is usually well populated promotes safety and security.
- **Good management:** A clear management and funding structure should be in place for the operation of public spaces. The state of repair and maintenance of the grounds and facilities is a strong indication of ownership, which has been shown to be a deterrent to criminal activities.

Figure 3. The Elements of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model



The Caribbean RISS Cities Model is applicable at different levels in developing and funding public spaces projects, including by legislators and administrators, urban planners and other designers, as well as by managers and operators of public spaces.

Caribbean RISS Cities Model: Targets and checkpoints

The key targets and indicators for the application of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model are ultimately based on those of the related SDGs, as follows:

1. **SDG 5. Target 2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.**

Key Indicator:

5.2.2 – Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

2. SDG 11. Target 7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Key Indicators:

11.7.1 – Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.

11.7.2 – Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.

At the Caribbean regional or national levels, the RISS Cities Model breaks down these targets as they relate to each of the four themes: resilience, inclusivity, use of smart technology, and safety and security. The aim is to develop and maintain improved public space through better planning, operation and connectivity. The following are specific major activity checkpoints for applying the Model.

Target: Resilience

Key activity checkpoints:

- ✓ Are there adequate annual budget allocations at the national and/or local government level for the design, implementation and maintenance of this public space? Can gender-responsive budgeting be applied to the project?
- ✓ Are there clear and specific design guidelines created that are appropriate for and adaptable to other public spaces in the country/region?
- ✓ Are there current and historical climate data available for the area? Is there local knowledge? How will this information be used to inform the design of the project?
- ✓ Are nature-based solutions and/or climate-resilient infrastructure applicable?
- ✓ Are long-term management and maintenance costs included as a part of the development plans? How will the facility be maintained? Who will operate it?
- ✓ Are the spaces designed for multipurpose public use including for response to emergency or disaster events?

Target: Inclusivity

Key activity checkpoints:

- ✓ Are there documented commitments to gender-inclusive planning and design processes with clear consideration for the status of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups as users?
- ✓ Will there be community-led initiatives supported by/hosted in the public space?
- ✓ Is accommodation for community-led enterprises provided in or around the improved public space?
- ✓ Is there a practical framework and are there tools for reducing the intersecting inequalities that people face when experiencing diverse and compounded forms of discrimination?
- ✓ Are data available on the potential users of the public space? Are these data disaggregated by gender and other classifications?
- ✓ Does the planning process actively allow the voices of women, girls and other vulnerable groups to be heard? How are their recommendations included in projects?
- ✓ Do the facilities such as restrooms accommodate all persons?
- ✓ Can the project be included in national efforts and activities in support of vulnerable groups?

Target: Smart

Key activity checkpoints:

- ✓ Will this public space be integrated into national or regional technology networks for the provision of internet connectivity, surveillance and other support services?
- ✓ How many people will be able to access free, high-speed internet and related amenities in this public space?
- ✓ Will the operators be able to perform ongoing data collection on use and users to facilitate integration with or development of mobile apps and other tools?
- ✓ Will this public space be mapped and available on the national cadastral maps? Are related transportation and other connectivity data also mapped? How can they be linked?
- ✓ Can the mapping and data be incorporated into digital twinning or other long-term climate, disaster risk management, and physical planning 3D modelling?

- ✓ Can the site be connected to larger networks for internet service, closed circuit television monitoring, etc.?

Target: Safety and security

Key activity checkpoints:

- ✓ Will operators be able to assess the percentage of users, particularly from vulnerable groups, who report feeling safe and/or reduced harassment in public spaces?
- ✓ What type and how many community-led activities and events can take place in the space at the same time?
- ✓ Will there be a mix of groups (age, gender, race, etc.) using the space at any one time?
- ✓ Is there a need for physical barriers or movement control devices? If so, can they be incorporated into the landscape design?
- ✓ Is the public space 'overlooked'? Is there good visibility throughout the public space? Are there any dark or hidden spots where criminals could lurk? Can activities inside the space be observed from the street?
- ✓ How will the public space be managed and monitored? What is the role of the police and/or private security? Are there panic buttons or other ways to call for help?
- ✓ How can public art be used to enhance the project and engage the community?

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Consultation events

Eight consultation events were held as a part of completing this final report on the Caribbean Resilient, Inclusive, Smart and Safe (RISS) Cities Model. These included keynote presentations and panel discussions at the Caribbean Urban Forum in Barbados in June 2022. The full consultation reports are documented and submitted in a separate publication.

Stakeholder summary

The following is a breakdown of the key stakeholders identified for consultation in the development of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS				
	Category	Country	Stakeholder	Role / Comment
1	Caribbean Regional	Sub-regional	Caribbean Community (CARICOM) agencies	Participation in the Caribbean Urban Forum
			United Nations agencies	
			Academia	
			Non-profit	
			Private sector	
2	Caribbean National	The Bahamas	Gender focal points Planning focal points National government Local government Civil society Academia Non-profit Private sector	Community assessments
		Belize		Market assessments
		Dominica		Market assessments
		Grenada		Community assessments
		Jamaica		Market assessments
		Saint Lucia		Community assessments
		Trinidad and Tobago		Market assessments
				Community assessments

Schedule of consultations

The dates for the online regional and national consultations were as follows:

- Wednesday, 11 May 2022 – Consultation for Trinidad and Tobago
- Wednesday, 11 May 2022 – Consultation for Jamaica
- Thursday, May 26, 2022 – Consultation for Jamaica
- Wednesday, 1 June 2022 – Regional Consultation
- Thursday, 16 June 2022 – Presentation at the Caribbean Urban Forum
- Tuesday, 21 June 2022 – Consultation for Saint Lucia
- Thursday, 23 June 2022 – Consultation for Belize
- Thursday, 28 July 2022 – Consultation for The Bahamas

Each meeting was scheduled for two hours and followed the standard agenda.

Consultation agenda

The standard agenda for each of the national consultations was as follows:

- **Call to Order** – Moderator, UN Women MCO - Caribbean
- **Introductions**
- **Call to Action** – UN Women MCO - Caribbean
- **Her City Overview** – UN-Habitat
- **Gender Inequalities to Climate Change in the Caribbean** – UN Women MCO - Caribbean
- **RISS Project Presentation** – Consultant, UN Women MCO - Caribbean
- **Feedback Session**
- **Closing** – Moderator, UN Women MCO - Caribbean.

Based on availability, some presentations were made by video recordings. However, the RISS Cities Model was presented live at each session and followed directly by the feedback discussions.

Questionnaires and survey instruments

All participants in the national consultations were sent an email after the session inviting them fill out an anonymous survey via Microsoft Forms for any further feedback on the Caribbean RISS Cities Model: <https://forms.office.com/r/suRhiErzje>

The feedback questions of the Microsoft Forms were as follows:

- 1. What is the primary country that your responses will represent?**
The Bahamas / Barbados / Belize / Jamaica / Saint Lucia / Trinidad / Tobago / Other
- 2. What are the formal and / or informal processes used for urban planning and the design of public space in your country?**
- 3. Who leads, or is responsible for, urban design and development activities? (select all that apply)**
National government / local government / other government agencies / private sector organizations / non-governmental organizations / communities-based organizations / other
- 4. Please name any groups and organizations that you think should be more involved in urban design and development.**
- 5. What are the main climate change-related concerns in your context? (select all that apply)**
Impact of tropical storms and hurricanes / drought / reduced water supplies / flooding / intense rainfall events / coastal erosion / sea level rise / seawater intrusion / warmer temperatures / heat waves / declining air quality / loss of ecosystems / other
- 6. How could climate resilience and disaster risk reduction be better included as part of your national urban planning processes?**
- 7. How could consideration for the protection of girls, women and other vulnerable groups be better included as a part of national planning processes?**
- 8. Which vulnerable groups do you think need to be considered in urban planning and the promotion of safe public spaces? (select all that apply)**
Women and girls / persons with disabilities / the LGBTQI+ community / indigenous communities / persons living with HIV / the elderly / other
- 9. Please rate the value and importance of developing and promoting a Caribbean RISS Cities Model (5 being the maximum points).**
- 10. Please share any recommendations for Caribbean or country-specific targets.**
- 11. Please share any recommendations for resilience (physical and/or economic) targets.**
- 12. Please share any recommendations for gender and vulnerable group inclusivity targets.**
- 13. Please share any recommendations for smart city targets.**
- 14. Please share any recommendations for safety and security targets.**
- 15. Do you have any additional feedback or information to share in support of the development of the model?**

Caribbean country data

The following is a summary of key data from the Caribbean territories that will be engaged in the development of the Caribbean RISS Cities Model.

CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES						
	THE BAHAMAS	SANTA LUCIA	BELIZE	JAMAICA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	
1	Area (km ²)	13,880	620	22,970	10,990	5,130
2	Population	389,500	182,000	390,400	2,948,300	1,395,000
3	GDP per capita (USD)	34,860	11,610	4,820	5,580	17,400
4	Urban built-up area	14.7%	9.3%	9.1%	11.3%	19.5%
5	Annual urban growth	1.1%	0.9%	2.2%	1.0%	0.4%
6	Internet usage/population	85%	53.3%	47.1%	68.2%	77.3%
7	Income group	High	Upper Middle	Lower Middle	Upper Middle	High

World Bank Open Data (2020): <https://data.worldbank.org>

World Bank Gender Data (2020): <https://genderdata.worldbank.org>



