

T39 Neighbourhood Spatial Plan and Design

Description This activity aims to develop a conceptual scheme for the neighbourhood and spatialise the goals, targets/strategies and actions/initiatives identified in previous exercises.

The level of design and its focus will vary according to the existing development of the neighbourhood. If it is already consolidated, this participatory activity can focus on co-designing actions and interventions identified in the previous step.

Participants This workshop is carried out by the technical team and relevant stakeholders in the selected neighbourhood. (See the Workshop Checklist (T7) tool for more details).

Materials

Maps:

- Analysis maps of the neighbourhood, produced in Block D: Analysis and Diagnostic
- Printed base map(s) and aerial image(s) of the neighbourhood.

Drawing & sketching tools:

- Rolls of tracing paper of sufficient size to sketch on top of the maps.
- Thick drawing markers of different colours (black, green, blue, red, yellow, brown, orange, etc.).
- Black fine liners, pencils, highlighters

Step 1. Presentation & Context

1. In plenary, the technical team shares a presentation that includes:
 - a) If developed previously, the results from Block E: Strategic Development and Spatial Plan and/or Block F: Land Management Plan, specifically the components relevant to the neighbourhood (e.g., urban development structure, strategic areas, development zones, land strategies, and land uses). (If available)
 - b) The neighbourhood boundary. and the stakeholder mapping exercise for the neighbourhood scale.
 - c) The spatial maps produced in Block D: Analysis and Diagnostic, highlight the challenges and opportunities, for example, the identified climate risk hotspots, informal settlements, critical infrastructure, urban health threats, etc.
 - d) Results from previous participatory activities, including:
 - The vision for the neighbourhood and city
 - The neighbourhood's goals and targets or strategies
 - The list of proposed actions and initiatives

Step 2. Group Work Setup

1. Divide participants into smaller, diverse groups (ensuring representation by gender, age, ethnicity, disability, etc.).
2. Assign each group a set of goals and targets/strategies and their related actions and initiatives obtained during T78 Actions and Interventions Card Game.

Tip: Groups can focus on different thematic areas by working with distinct sets of goals, targets, actions, and initiatives.

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Step 3. Base Mapping

1. Each group draws and highlights the main streets and landmarks of the existing urban structure over the printed maps to establish a base map. If a base map was already created during the development of the Analysis and Diagnostic, this can be printed instead and continue with Step 4.

Tip: Use different colours to represent the hierarchy and types of paths (main, secondary, local). Place a piece of tracing paper on top of the printed base map to better visualise the drawings.

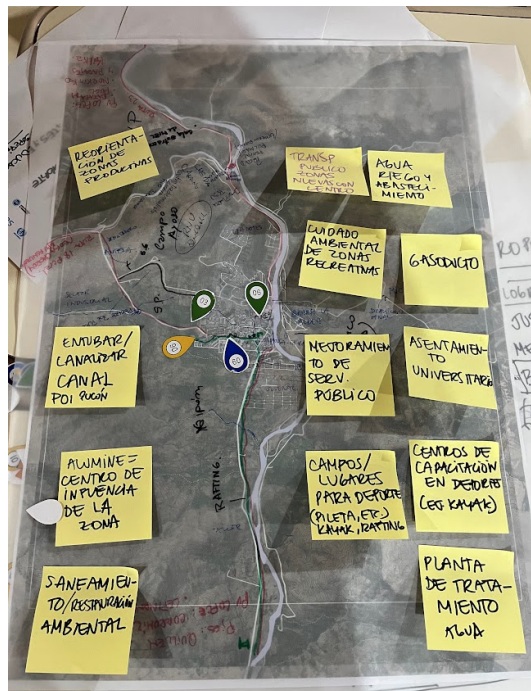
Step 4. Spatialization of Actions and Initiatives

1. Each group reflects on their assigned goals, targets/strategies, actions, and initiatives. The objective is to place the actions and initiatives in specific areas of the neighbourhood where they should be implemented.

Guiding Questions:

- Where should this action/initiative be located to maximize its impact?
- What existing infrastructure, services, or natural features should be considered?
- Does this intervention create conflicts or synergies with other goals/actions?
- Are there existing urban elements that could be improved instead of creating new ones?

Examples:



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Step 5. Conceptual Design

This step can vary according to the scope of the Plan. It can focus on the design of the whole neighbourhood (e.g. urban extension areas or not consolidated areas) or on specific urban design interventions (e.g. a public space in the neighbourhood, a tactical urbanism intervention, etc.). Review the instructions below and adapt according to the scope and objective of the activity.

1. Discuss what are the needs and desires of participants regarding their neighbourhood, reflecting on the vision and goals: what would they want to add and/or change? Draw these elements, specific actions and/or interventions on the neighbourhood map, using the following list as a guide. Other elements can be added.

Urban Elements and Interventions for Neighbourhood Design

Basic services	Access to water, sewage, electricity, internet, etc.
Public services	Healthcare, educational, childcare, cultural, sports facilities, etc.
Urban equipment and community spaces	Markets, urban farms, community centres, banks, bars and restaurants, shops, etc.
Open public spaces	Natural spaces, recreational spaces, parks, nature-based solutions, etc. Improvement of existing spaces (shading, urban furniture, vegetation, etc.),
Transportation and mobility infrastructure	New roads, streets, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, signage, public transit stops and routes, parking spaces, etc. Pedestrianisation and reduction of vehicle space to diminish air pollution.

Example:



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Tip: Print icons that represent the different urban elements on small pieces of paper (scaled to the base map). This will make it easier for participants to move them around on the map and discuss their location before defining the conceptual neighbourhood design. Use different colours to represent different types of urban elements.

2. Discuss what are the design elements needed in a specific project or urban intervention. Use the elements below as guidance. Use drawings, symbols or models to co-create the space with participants.

Urban Elements for public space design

Dimension

Ind

-  Use and user
-  Accessibility
-  Amenities and furniture
-  Comfort and safety
-  Green environment

If available, digital tools such as Block by Block can be used for the interactive and participatory design of public spaces. Find out more in the [The Block by Block Playbook: Using Minecraft as a participatory design tool in urban design and governance](#)

Step 6. Sharing results

1. Each group consolidates their conceptual neighbourhood design and presents their results, explaining the reasoning behind the placement of different elements.
2. All participants reflect on which proposals are essential, desirable, or optional, helping to prioritize actions.
3. A facilitated plenary discussion follows to identify patterns, commonalities, and differences among the groups' proposals.
4. The technical team takes note of the specific elements that participants propose: not all elements need to be new projects, some could be specific interventions that contribute to better urban design. This information will be included later in the neighbourhood plan design.

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