

## Workshop 5

### Case study of a neighbourhood in Abidjan. On-site observation and analysis of results and proposals.

#### Col·lectiuPunt 6:

The workshop was coordinated by **Roser Casanovas and Blanca Gutiérrez**, members of the **Col·lectiu Punt 6**, a team of professionals from a range of areas working towards a city that will reflect a diverse society and in turn build its spaces in an inclusive manner.

This workshop consisted of 40 participants from the 3rd "Dynamic Cities Need Women" Global Forum, comprising political, technical and civilian representatives from the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, Belgium, Greece, Morocco and Egypt.

#### Work methodology:

The collective is working from the **perspective of gender**, based primarily on the daily experience of women. Its main objective is to give visibility to women in their diversity, as a unique source of knowledge and experience, and as agents of change.

History has erased the past and present contributions of women in the construction and transformation of neighbourhoods. Moreover, women have been excluded from decision-making processes on urban changes. This has meant that one essential part of the work for society has been devalued: that related to the care of people, which mostly takes place in the home, and community work, such as the management and improvement of services in a neighbourhood (water, waste, electricity, etc). All of this work is closely connected to where we live, in the form of space, to the ways we move through them or the way we relate to the neighbourhood. Women possess knowledge that is essential for describing the everyday of those inhabited environments and can help convey not only their needs and desires but those of children, young people and older people. Women have a greater understanding of what happens in the neighbourhood, its particular needs as well as the things that have to be done to make it a better place. This is due to the fact that, despite having joined the paid labour market decades ago, they continue to be ultimately responsible for housework and caring for people, which doubles or triples their workload on a daily basis in the majority of cases.

## Workshop objectives:

The objective of the workshop organised is to raise the visibility of the experiences of women in their interaction with the urban environment. For this purpose, the workshop was divided into 2 parts:

- **PART ONE: Field visit to the Abobo Doumé neighbourhood.**

A visit was made to Abobo-Doume, a village on the edge of the Ébrié Lagoon which is located in the Attécoubé commune and is famous for its fish market. Following a visit to the market and the area where they manufacture the *attieké* and dry the fish, a meeting was held with women members from different neighbourhood associations and cooperatives, including the *Association of Dynamic Women from Adobo-Doumé*.

During the meeting, the women talked about their experience of cooperative work and answered questions from the workshop participants.

- **PART TWO: Diagnosis - analysis-improvement proposals**

Groups were formed to focus on the different *public space, participation, equipment and safety* variables, in order to perform an analysis of the needs and interests of women in relation to urban space. In order to do this, the *Urban Gender Diagnosis* was employed using questions adapted to the context of Abidjan.

Based on these questions, each group carried out a diagnosis of the situation of the neighbourhood in relation to the corresponding variable and then developed proposals for improving the situation.

## CONCLUSIONS:

### *Public space*

- There is no differentiation between public space where commercial activities are carried out and private space where children are cared that is the sole responsibility of women. In addition, the lack of specific spaces for play make this double responsibility even harder for women to work and care for their children in the same space.
- The absence of specific spaces for rest and to socialise with other people means that all activities are focused on the place of work.

### *Participation*

- Spaces where people can meet and discuss community issues are mostly informal.
- Although women are involved in community work, they often play a secondary role, relegating the task of management and administration to men.

### *Equipment*

- A significant lack of equipment and services to meet the needs of everyday life related to the productive and reproductive spheres was identified: public lighting, schools, nursery schools, health clinics, public toilets, parks, green spaces, parking spaces.

### *Safety*

- There are many dark and labyrinthine-like points that obscure the visibility of many areas.
- There are no emergency points such as telephone booths, which could be used by women at critical moments.
- There are practically no urban fixtures such as benches, litter bins, traffic barriers, mailboxes, public transport stop points, etc.
- Aside from safety issues, accessibility is a serious issue, since the uneven areas do not allow for transit between the footpath and public transport.

Upon detection of problems and deficiencies relating to urban space, a number of proposals were made.

- The modernisation of market facilities to ensure food hygiene
- To provide women with the necessary machinery for the manufacture of fish
- To provide training activities for women to improve their management and leadership skills
- To create a waste collection and management system
- To create leisure areas for children
- To create separate public bathrooms for men and women
- To design proper urban fixtures in order to improve safety and accessibility.
- To create parking spaces