To truly make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, we must ensure that all people are included – including older persons, women and girls, children and youth, indigenous peoples, migrants, and persons with disabilities - and all have support to live and be included in cities and human settlements. Many issues faced by the groups mentioned are interlinked, and as such the overall objective is that we need to have a people-centred approach to urban development that includes all residents.

Examples of how we interlink in urban settings include the following:

* More than half of all persons with disabilities – who comprise 1 billion people - now lives in towns and cities and this number is estimated to grow to between 750,000 and 1 billion by 2030. Of this population, 80% lives in developing countries and face considerable discrimination and barriers that restrict them from participating in society on an equal basis with others.
* All women - older women, youth, pregnant women and women with disabilities - encounter severe disadvantages due to little or non-existent conditions of physical accessibility, accessibility to information and communication technologies, limited access to education and basic health and rehabilitation services in all settings.
* Youth with disabilities often face marginalization and severe social, economic and civic disparities as compared with those without disabilities, due to a range of factors from stigma to inaccessible physical and digital environments.
* Indigenous peoples are often disproportionately affected by disability, and may face additional environmental, social, cultural, linguistic or community barriers when accessing public services or supports.
* Up to 50% of persons among the homeless population could experience psychosocial disabilities. The lack of safe and accessible housing options further exacerbates their precarious status.
* There is an estimated 200 million people who will be displaced by climatic events by 2050, of whom at least 30 million are likely to be persons with disabilities. There are many others who will be left behind, including older persons who are also adversely impacted in disasters. Those left behind will more likely struggle for a livelihood in degraded environments.
* Lack of accessibility in urban settings is still a pervasive challenge affecting persons with disabilities, older person, pregnant women, and others. And, it is generally feasible to meet accessibility requirements at 1% of the total cost, and that retrofitting for accessibility is more expensive – by up to 20% of the original cost – than integrating accessibility and universal design principles into new buildings.
* Resilience is essential for achieving sustainable development, and to achieve this, the furthest behind must be meaningfully included and be in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda that embody a commitment to include those furthest behind and to reduce their risks to economic, social and environmental shocks.