

# Explore Life in Schoolyards

## A small, interconnected world where every part plays a role

Analysing the schoolyard through the **One Health** approach reveals the intricate interactions between children, air, biodiversity, furniture, buildings, ground and the surrounding environment. It highlights an individual and collective impact on the health and well-being of humans, animals, and the environment.



### Instructions

This tool is an observation grid designed to guide the analysis of schoolyards through a One Health lens. Work in small teams to observe the surrounding environment and assess its potential impacts on human, plant, and animal health. This tool can be used both to raise awareness and to inform corrective actions aimed at creating a healthier and more sustainable schoolyard.

### Acknowledgements

This tool was developed by Diana Sepulveda and Marlène Dussauge (City of Lyon)

### About the Network

This document was created within the scope of the One Health 4 Cities network (2023-2025). The One Health 4 Cities network aims to promote the integration of the One Health approach into urban strategies and projects. It develops tools that empower decision-makers and operational teams to increase the positive impact of urban projects on the well-being and health of people, animals and the environment.

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## Outdoor air quality

- Do you feel like you're breathing clean air?
- Are there any sources of pollution nearby, such as vehicles, pesticides and agrochemicals, or biocides?
- How do you feel in the schoolyard?

YES

NO

YES

NO

COOL

WARM

Impact of air quality on the following	Positive	Negative	Actions for improvement/comments
HUMAN HEALTH			
ANIMAL HEALTH			
PLANT HEALTH			

## Ground quality

- Is the ground covered with vegetation?
- Is most of the schoolyard concrete?
- Are the materials used for the outdoor installations natural and non-toxic?  
Examples of toxic materials: treated wood, plastics, PVC cladding, contaminated sand/gravel (heavy metals, hydrocarbons), etc.
- Is compost available at this location?

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

Impact of soil quality on the following	Positive	Negative	Actions for improvement/comments
HUMAN HEALTH			
ANIMAL HEALTH			
PLANT HEALTH			

## Water quality

- Are schoolyards equipped with rainwater harvesting systems?
- Is there any standing water?

YES

NO

YES

NO

Impact of water quality on the following	Positive	Negative	Actions for improvement/comments
HUMAN HEALTH			
ANIMAL HEALTH			
PLANT HEALTH			



## Infrastructure on the site and in the surrounding area

- Are there any high-traffic roads in the area?
- Is there an identified ecological corridor in this area?
- Are there any industrial activities in this area?
- Are there mobile phone relay towers installed nearby?
- Are there green spaces outside, near the school?
- Is there significant noise from the surrounding area?

YES	NO
YES	NO
YES	NO
YES	NO
YES	NO
YES	NO

Impact of infrastructure on the following	Positive	Negative	Actions for improvement/comments
HUMAN HEALTH			
ANIMAL HEALTH			
PLANT HEALTH			



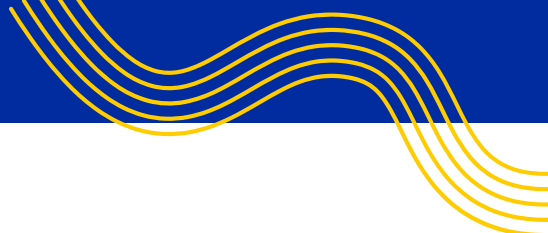
## Presence of plants

- What are the main types of plants found in this area? .....
- Does landscape organisation encourage physical activity outdoors?
- What are the purposes of the plants in this schoolyard?

YES	NO
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AESTHETICS
EDUCATIONAL
HEALTH
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Impact of plants on the following	Positive	Negative	Actions for improvement/comments
HUMAN HEALTH			
ANIMAL HEALTH			
PLANT HEALTH			



## Presence of animals

- What animals are present in the schoolyard?  
.....

- Have habitats such as nesting boxes, beehives, insect hotels, etc. been voluntarily created on this site?

YES

NO

- What types of natural habitats were observed?

HOLES IN TREES

CAVITIES ON WALLS

LARVAL HABITATS (mosquitoes)

OTHER .....

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Impact of animals on the following	Positive	Negative	Actions for improvement/comments
HUMAN HEALTH			
ANIMAL HEALTH			
PLANT HEALTH			

## Site use

- Is the schoolyards an inclusive place for all (all children, animals and plants)?
- Are the management and maintenance practices of the schoolyard sustainable?
- Is there a risk of conflict between animals and children?
- Do the playground facilities encourage positive interaction between children, animals, and the environment?
- Do you find the noise from children's activities potentially disturbing for animals?

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

NO

Impact of site use on the following	Positive	Negative	Actions for improvement/comments
HUMAN HEALTH			
ANIMAL HEALTH			
PLANT HEALTH			

