



Child
Friendly
Cities
Initiative

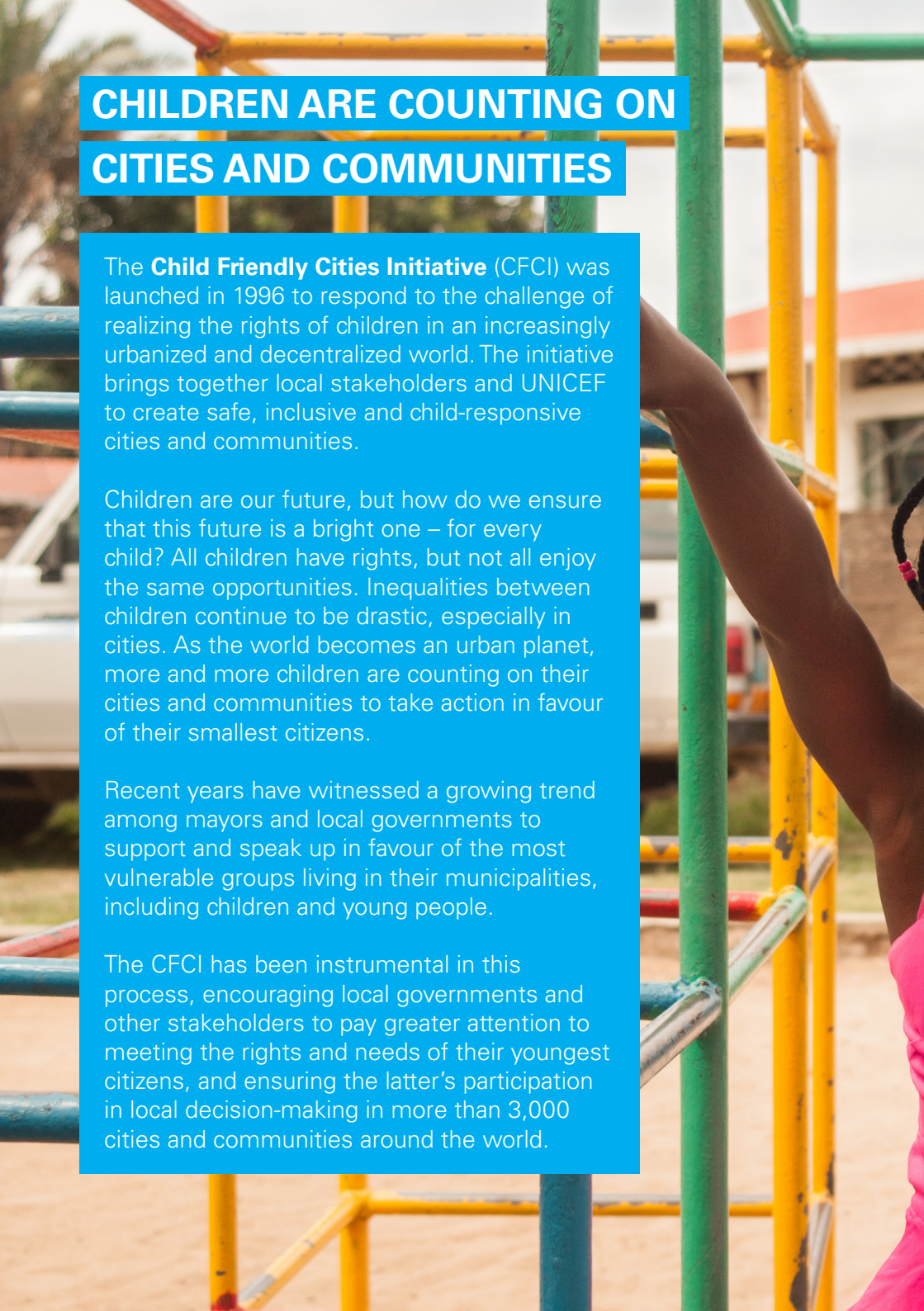
unicef 
for every child



FOR EVERY CHILD, A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY

All children have the right to grow up in an environment where they feel safe and secure, they have access to basic services and clean air and water, they can play, learn and grow, and their voice is heard and matters.

UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative supports cities and communities in making this right a reality, for every child.



CHILDREN ARE COUNTING ON CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The **Child Friendly Cities Initiative** (CFCI) was launched in 1996 to respond to the challenge of realizing the rights of children in an increasingly urbanized and decentralized world. The initiative brings together local stakeholders and UNICEF to create safe, inclusive and child-responsive cities and communities.

Children are our future, but how do we ensure that this future is a bright one – for every child? All children have rights, but not all enjoy the same opportunities. Inequalities between children continue to be drastic, especially in cities. As the world becomes an urban planet, more and more children are counting on their cities and communities to take action in favour of their smallest citizens.

Recent years have witnessed a growing trend among mayors and local governments to support and speak up in favour of the most vulnerable groups living in their municipalities, including children and young people.

The CFCI has been instrumental in this process, encouraging local governments and other stakeholders to pay greater attention to meeting the rights and needs of their youngest citizens, and ensuring the latter's participation in local decision-making in more than 3,000 cities and communities around the world.



WHAT IS THE CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVE?



A global movement

that brings together UNICEF, local authorities, civil society, business and other local stakeholders in creating child-friendly cities and communities.



A programme that strengthens social inclusion

by urging cities and communities to prioritize the most vulnerable. The CFCI helps to ensure no child is invisible.



A promoter of child and youth participation.

Participation is not only a right of every child, but listening to children and young people ensures that policies and services are child-responsive. The initiative promotes their engagement at all stages of local development.



A change of priorities in all local decision making.

By joining the initiative, local authorities recognize the importance of investing in the well-being and interests of children and young people.



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A practical tool that turns the Convention on the Rights of the Child into action. All levels of government are responsible for making sure children's rights are recognized, implemented and protected. The CFCI supports cities and communities in translating these rights into practical policy.

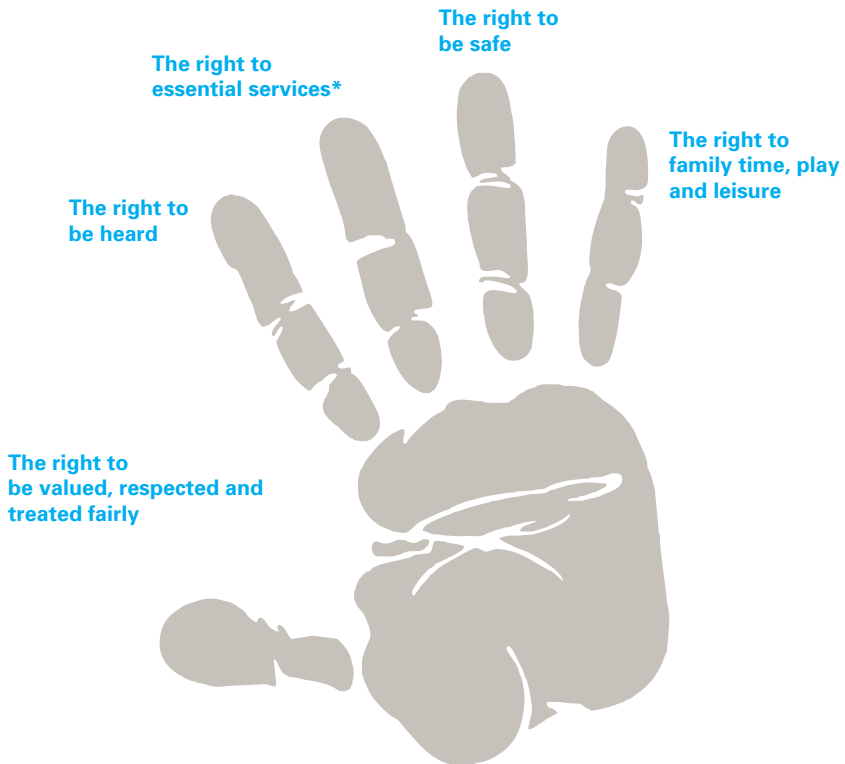


A holistic approach to sustainability that pushes local governments to think about the wider context of children's well-being, encompassing the entire community. As a holistic approach tackling issues ranging from pollution to health care, the CFCI also contributes to the global Sustainable Development Agenda.

GOALS AND RESULTS

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative provides a governance framework for building child-friendly cities and communities.

The five goal areas below form the basis of this work. Under these goal areas, cities and communities can choose the areas to focus on, based on the needs and priorities of local children and young people.



*This includes healthcare, education, nutrition support, early childhood development and education, justice and family support)

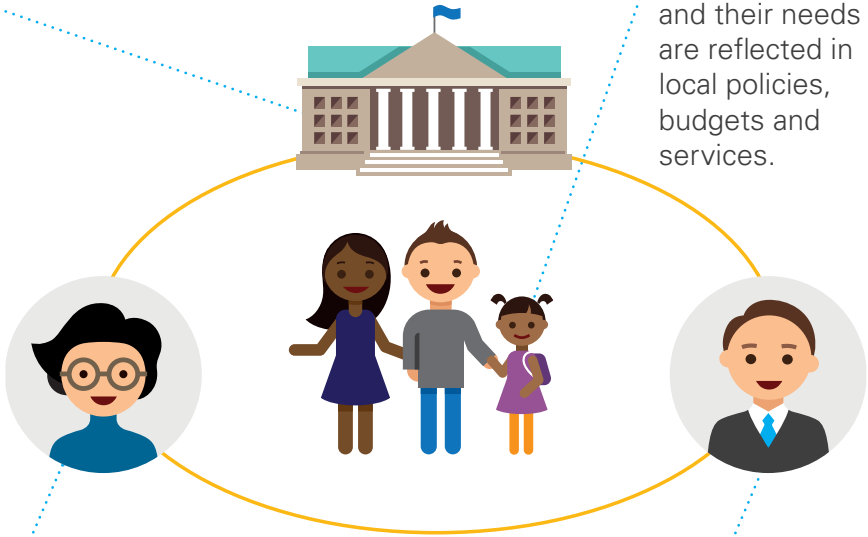
WHY INVOLVE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY?

The local government

strengthens collaboration across sectors to advance the well-being of children and young people. Participatory processes support local democracy and build pride and a feeling of ownership.

Children and families

are supported and their needs are reflected in local policies, budgets and services.



Civil society organizations or opinion leaders

working on children's well-being and child rights in the community are empowered to constructively work together with local authorities.

Local business

investing in the well-being of children and young people help build strong communities, strengthen local development and governance processes, and gain recognition for their work on child rights.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



1

Sign a memorandum of understanding with UNICEF



2

Analyse the situation of children within the city or community



3

Prioritize goals and objectives within the Goals and Results Framework



4

Draft and approve the CFCI Action Plan and budget

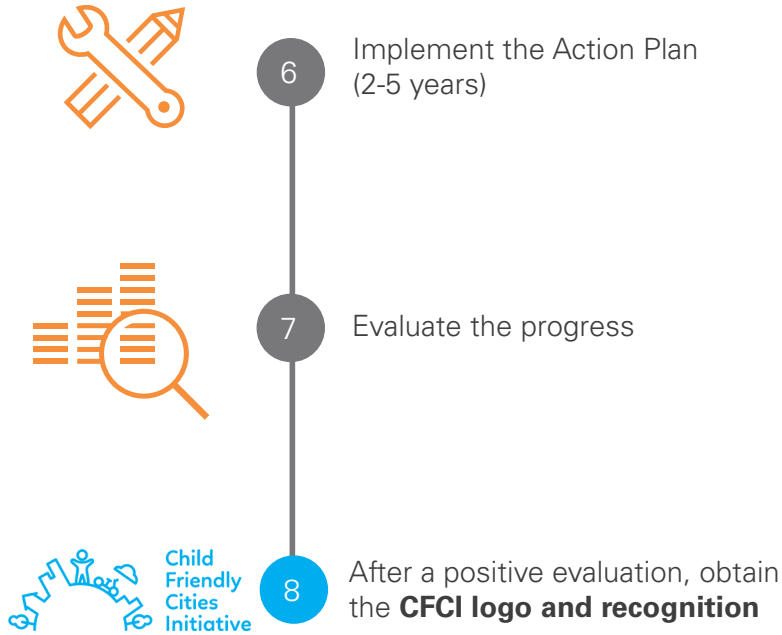


Child
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Candidate City

5

Obtain the **CFCI candidate logo**

HOW TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY



Building a child-friendly city is a continuous process. In the following phase, cities can restart the process cycle, draft a new Action Plan, strengthen their work in selected areas and eventually obtain a renewal of the recognition. Participation in the initiative proves that authorities and community members keep caring about children and youth, and they do not want to stop at what they have already achieved.

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVE AROUND THE WORLD

Finding help when you need it: Safe Points in Slovenia

The Safe Points initiative provides children and young people with accessible, public spaces where they can seek help. These spaces can be libraries, youth centres, public institutions, banks, insurance agencies, shops and supermarkets. Every Safe Point has personnel trained in child rights and child protection. A map of local Safe Points is distributed with school curricula.

Working with local start-ups: CFCI in Ho Chi Minh City

The newly launched CFCI in Ho Chi Minh City works closely with the business- and innovation sectors to create a healthier and safer city for children. The initiative has already created ties to the local start-up community, although end results of this collaboration are yet to be realized.

Setting their own agenda: Children and the Avilés Youth Council, Spain

Through consultations with more than 800 children, the Youth Council drafted a strategy for children and young people with proposals to the Municipal Council. The proposals ranged from reduced costs of public transportation to improved facilities for leisure activities. The proposals were unanimously approved and put to action by the Municipal Council.



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CONTACT US

United Nations Children's Fund
cfcf@unicef.org

www.childfriendlycities.org