

UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative

Facts and Figures

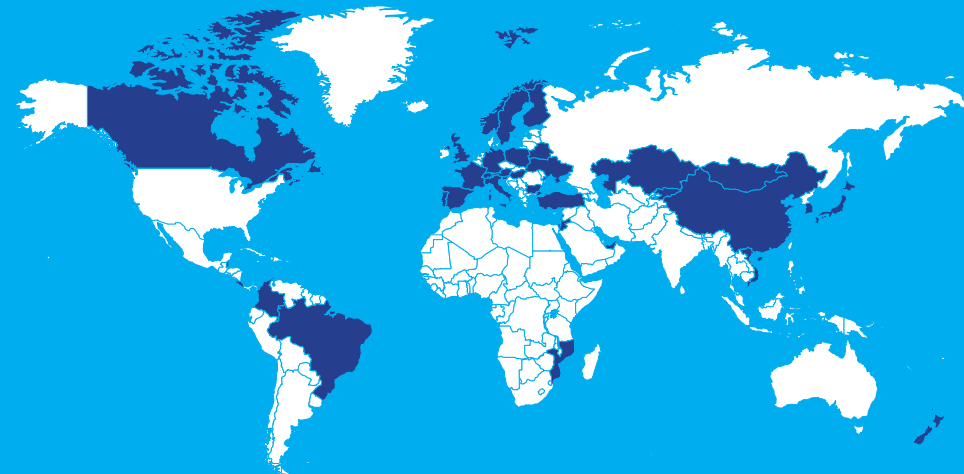
A **Child Friendly City** is a local system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights. It is a city/community where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions. It is, as a result, a city that is fit for all.

In other words, it is a city or community where the local government holds itself accountable to its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child by translating these rights into practical, meaningful and measurable results for children.



Today, the Child Friendly Cities Initiative is reaching up to

30 million children



The initiative is currently implemented or in the planning phase in

38 countries

Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (under UNSC Resolution 1244), Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Viet Nam

3,000+ municipalities

are implementing the CFCI, as of January 2018

337

The smallest
Child Friendly City
(Bene Lario, Italy)

12,000,000

The largest
Child Friendly City
(São Paulo, Brazil)



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Brazil

In Brazil, more than 84 % of the population live in urban areas, including thousands of children who are yet to be guaranteed their rights to quality education, health and a safe environment. On the other hand, urban centres are areas of potential.

To respond to these challenges, UNICEF Brazil launched the Platform for Urban Centres (Plataforma dos Centros Urbanos, PCU) in 2008. Dedicated to the reduction of intra-urban inequalities for the past ten years, UNICEF is part of an important process of ensuring that the most vulnerable children and youth are not left behind.

For the next four years, UNICEF will continue to work to reduce adolescent homicides, promote healthy early childhood development, increase school participation, and ensure the sexual reproductive rights of adolescents. Some solid results have already been achieved, for example, the city of Rio de Janeiro reduced their adolescent homicide rate from 38.0 to 25.2 per 100,000 inhabitants between 2008 and 2015.

Germany

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative in Germany was created in 2012 with an aim to do two things: raise awareness of the Convention within local governments so that they can adjust their policies accordingly, and to create room for the democratic participation of children.

Participating in the initiative has pushed local governments to do better for children. For example, the city of Regensburg encouraged the independent mobility of children from low-income families with low fare tickets. A network of retail shops has been set up to serve as low-threshold shelters for children in dangerous situations. A specialized group was established within local government to facilitate the integration of migrant and refugee children in local education services.

One of the key components of the initiative is to give children a voice within their municipalities. As one child participating in the Child Council of Wolfsburg stated:

"I want to participate in my own town and want adults to know about what I need."



The Youth Parliament of Regensburg.

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South Korea

Following a pilot with the city of Seongbuk, the Child Friendly Cities Initiative in Korea became a full programme in 2015 and has since expanded quickly. The initiative achieved great success with many mayors endorsing the approach. The initiative has also received formal recognition from the Ministry of Health & Welfare, as it was included in the 2015-2017 National Action Plan for Children.

Promoting child participation has been one of the key issues that the initiative has addressed. Child participation mechanisms are incipient in the country, but cities demonstrate willingness to develop them.

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative is found to have a high impact on the local situation. Strict requirements to obtain the label and the accompanying process has led to significant changes in municipal policies in terms of structures and mechanisms. Participating in the initiative is a way for municipal leaders and officials to access knowledge and ideas to implement on the ground.

Mongolia

Since the country programme pilot in 2012-2016, the Child Friendly Community Strategy has become the main planning and monitoring tool for child rights at the local level in the target areas. The initiative has set accountability targets and milestones for child survival, development, protection and participation. Inter-sectoral coordination was improved through the establishment of a Children's Council headed by provincial and district governors to prioritize the interests of children in all sectors.

Under the Child Friendly Communities framework, local governments have created an environment in which children can express their opinions on specific issues related to them. As explains Baaska, a 17-year-old high school junior from Khuvsgul province:

"I think that children themselves can best identify issues facing them. In Khuvsgul, the children's forum has become a tradition, so now children have a better chance than before to make their voices heard. Adults have become more attentive to our requests".



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