CFCI Summit
Session documentation

This document summarizes the key topics, insights and next steps arising from the CFCI Summit held from 15 to 18 October 2019 in Cologne.

Track:	Track 3 - Safe, secure and healthy cities
Title of session:	Child rights and urban planning
Date and time:	Wednesday 16 October, 11:00u
Facilitator and resource persons:	Facilitator: Sara Candiracci (Associate director, ARUP) Resource persons: Daniella Ben-Attar (Representative Israel Bernard van Leer Foundation), Abdirahman Mohamed Idle (Programme Officer - Local Governance and Decentralization UNICEF Somaliland) & Francesco Tonnarelli (Urban and Regional Planner, UN-Habitat), Lia Karsten (President Scientific Program Committee, Child in the City Foundation), Cristina Alonso (Partnership Specialist, UNICEF Dominican Republic)
Name of rapporteur:	Jens Aerts (Urban Planning Specialist, UNICEF)

Main topics and ideas discussed:

During the session, the following questions were answered and discussed:

Why is focusing on the built environment in cities a priority to ensure children survive and thrive?

Urban planning has an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Child Rights from a global perspective to a local context.

- Half of the world's **children live in cities,** there is increasing growth globally and also urge for adaptation due to climate change, migration and disaster risks.
- Many developing countries and their cities, such as Somaliland, have a **very young population** (72% younger than 30).
- Children live often in challenging urban contexts, in which the **built environment is a major determinant**. Children's access to a clean, safe and healthy environment, with appropriate public spaces, infrastructure and networks, is a major determinant of children's well-being.
- From a positive point of view, a safe, clean and **healthy urban environment ensure children will thrive**, enabling there is a continuous opportunity in daily life to have healthy connections, between pregnant mothers, between child and caregiver, between children, this al in a supportive surrounding space and along safe and healthy routes to destinations.
- Also, **cities and local governments are public platforms that have the capacity to deliver equitable and sustainable services, promote economic development and peace**. Supporting these local governments in integrated urban planning processes and strengthen their capacity and knowledge to engage children in this process is **an effective response to children's right to participation and have a voice**. Children also will be the future citizens: planning today is planning for the city in which they will be adults tomorrow.
- Planning cities for children is also **planning cities for all**. There are co-benefits to plan for all generations, by focusing on children.

Key insights, good practices and lessons shared:

What are the main strategies and action you take towards child-responsive urban planning?

- The **Urban 95 program from the Bernard van Leer Foundation**, illustrates well that a **focus on specific areas of urban planning is most effective and can be seen as programming elements**: Public Space, Mobility, Neighbourhood planning, Air and Nature.
  It also highlights that urban planning is not only about providing space, but also **city-wide innovative management**, with data-driven decision making and cross-sectoral collaboration (early childhood, education, transportation, public works, health …).
  Urban 95 invests in four **key actions:**
  - **Pilot cities**: a city has the scale where an integrated approach, direct participation with all stakeholders and departments, public and private, is possible. Innovative pilots can be implemented and monitored quickly, evaluated and adapted towards a city-wide scale.
  - **Technical assistance/capacity building**: it is required to invest in capacity building of various actors, as results only are possible when having a cross-sectoral approach. Capacity building with courses and study trips is needed for various actors, mostly in mixed co-horts: mayors, technical staff, child development specialists, …
  - **Practical tools (online)** to feed in community of practice and to support the capacity building
  - **Global partnerships/advocacy**, to highlight the importance for more collaboration and investment in this area.

- The **Joint Programme for Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG) from UNICEF and UN-Habitat in Somaliland,** has the following outcomes and output, that are not child-specific but in which both organisations play a role to ensure children's participation:
  - **Outcome 2 Local governments have the capacity to deliver equitable and sustainable services**, promote economic development and peace. In the case of Somaliland, two main cities Hargeisa and Mogadishu have been the focus.
  - **Output 2.4 Target districts have well defined development strategies, plans and systems to accommodate rapid urban growth.** To get this output, an opportunity has been created to pilot the making of first city development plan for Hargeisa and Mogadishu, starting with an **Urban Visioning Initiative in Hargeisa**, that included children's participation in specific workshops. Their views on their neighbourhood and ideas developed with Block by Block Minecraft for a specific public space (Hargeisa Stadium Park) will be embedded in an integrated Shared Vision for Hargeisa 2040 and Roadmap for Hargeisa Urban Plan.
    This will feedback in the outcome, by establishing the Hargeisa Urban Forum with all urban stakeholders with a Children Board as advisory to District Council and Action Plan, by applying methodology to new districts, and paving the way for a Somaliland Urban Policy with a Child Friendly Component.

- The **Child in the City Foundation** and its current outputs in **a web-site, blog and regular seminars for urban specialists and child development experts in local governments, NGOs and academia** shows the relevance of the following strategies:
  - The **education of urban planners on children's need and how to plan for and with children**. This education needs to happen in basic curriculum and in advances training for professionals.
  - Research and evidence-based recommendation to **influence existing policies**
  - **Certification of child-responsive urban planners**: train and accredit professionals with a CFC label, so they can support UNICEF and all stakeholders.

- The **initiative for affordable housing and children's rights from UNICEF Dominican Republic** illustrates that the private urban developers' sector is an important sector to

engage with. They build large scale housing programs, often on demand from the public authorities. These housing programs can be child-responsive, following child rights and urban planning principles when taking into account:

- **Neighbourhood programs and their immediate proximity**: child care center and playground, integral care center for ECD, units of primary health care
- **Guidelines and standards for the provision of child-specific spaces and mobility**: playgrounds, sport facilities, parts of the housing, public transportation from the neighbourhood to other urban areas, infrastructure for walking and biking
- **Participation with children and communities** in the assessment, planning and design and post-assessment of the neighbourhood development

Next steps and actions points (when applicable):		
Recommendations/ Actions	**Person responsible**	**Target Date**
1. Widen the tent - Develop an external network to collaborate and share information on UNICEF's engagement in cities and municipalities	Thomas George	
2. Develop a programme framework for CFCI and include urban planning as a key pillar with targets and indicators	Thomas George	
3. Build capacity for implementation: develop an open community of practice platform, where UNICEF and others can have access to knowledge resources and share practice and ideas.	Thomas George	
4. Engage with private development sector to discuss commitment to child rights and urban planning principles in the planning, design, construction and management of urban development projects, initiatives and programs.	Thomas George with Uwe Steckhan	