The scale and pace of urbanization ... building infrastructure, not shaping healthy urban childhoods.
Why plan cities for children?

Spatial inequity
lack of space for play & other child services
infrastructure not designed for children
physical barriers, distance, disproportion

Urban environments are not child-responsive
... and hamper children’s health and development

Every year, nearly 600,000 children under the age of five die from diseases caused or exacerbated by the effects of indoor and outdoor air pollution.
Every day around the world more than 3,000 children and adolescents – a toll equivalent to the student population of two large schools – suffer a road traffic death or serious injury.
... and to give them a voice

Participation concerns
exclusion in public space
weak connectivity
weak participation in decision making processes
street children and urban gangs
Healthy brain development needs play + love…

Source:
Bernard van Leer Foundation, Urban 95

C.A. Nelson,
From Neurons to Neighborhoods
FIGURE 2.9: Average Modal Split in 42 Developed Cities and 10 Developing Cities

Source: UITP Mobility in cities Database

Source: What a waste, World Bank, 2018
City center Guangzhou, China
Who is accountable
Advocacy, partnerships, capacity building, urban program investments for children

Train more / child-responsive urban planners
Support cities, developers and communities
Influence global investment (IFIs)
What should we plan for children?

### 10 Child Rights and Urban Planning Principles

1. **Investments in urban planning**
   - Urban spaces, systems and networks that offer a safe and clean environment for children and allow them to adopt sustainable behaviors.

2. **Housing and Land Tenure**
   - Affordable and adequate housing and secure land tenure.

3. **Public Amenities**
   - Infrastructure for health, educational, and social services.

4. **Public Spaces**
   - Safe and inclusive public and green spaces.

5. **Transportation Systems**
   - Active transportation and public transit systems that ensure independent mobility.

6. **Water and Sanitation Systems**
   - Safely managed water and sanitation services that ensure an Integrated Urban Water Management.

7. **Food Systems**
   - Urban food systems with farms, markets and vendors that give access to healthy, affordable and sustainably produced food and nutrition.

8. **Waste Cycle Systems**
   - Zero waste systems that ensure sustainable resource management.

9. **Energy Networks**
   - Clean energy networks that ensure reliable access to power.

10. **Data and ICT Networks**
    - Integrated data and ICT networks that ensure safe and reliable digital connectivity.
How to plan for children?

- Provide **urban space** on different scales for children and the community
- Include children in the **design process** to strengthen the community
- Provide and use data for evidence-based and **people-centered decision-making**

**Principle 1 Investments** — Invest in child-responsive urban planning that ensures a safe and clean environment for children.

- Develop norms and standards for planning, building and management
- Develop guidelines & tools for participatory planning & design
- Provide urban data for monitoring and evaluation for children

Child-responsive urban planning
PARTICIPATION TOOLS

HOW’S YOUR LIFE
- Interview
- Questionnaire
- Meet with the football team
- Mapping your life
- Walk with children

WHAT DO YOU LIKE
- Being a child temporarily

DRAW YOUR OWN COMMUNITY
- Pick images you like
- Draw your riverbank & park

CURRENT SITUATION

VISION

PROPOSALS

Workshop on child-responsive urban planning for neighbourhood upgrading, Ningbo, China (August 2019)
Proportion of sidewalks, Barcelona, Spain

Community-driven data on road safety and schools, Mexico city, Mexico
1. Why should we invest?
- health
- citizenship
- prosperity
- safety
- environment

2. What should we plan?
- definitions
- concept
- international frameworks
- promising practices

3. How should we plan?
- Instruments to plan, design and manage urban space on different scales for children and the community
- Strategies to design the process to strengthen local capacities of children and other stakeholders
- Methods for evidence-based and people-centered decision-making through data
Principle 2: **Housing and Land Tenure** – Affordable and adequate housing and secure land tenure for children to live, play and learn.
Principle 3 *Public Amenities* – Infrastructure for health, education and social services for children and the community.
Principle 4 Public Spaces – Safe and inclusive public and green spaces for children to gather and engage in outdoor activities.
Principle 5 **Transportation Systems** – Public transit that gives children equal access to all services and opportunities in their city.
Principle 7 Food Systems – Children have permanent access to healthy, affordable and sustainably-produced food and nutrition.
We Cyclers, incentive-based recycling program, Lagos, Nigeria

Principle 8 **Waste Cycle Systems** – Develop a zero-waste system and ensure sustainable resource management.
Principle 9 *Energy Networks* – Integrate clean energy networks to ensure reliable access to power.
Principle 10 Data and ICT Networks – Digital connectivity for children for safe and reliable information and communication.
Child-responsive urban planning to ensure a caring, nurturing and safe environment for children, from their home to the neighborhood and city level.
Make your city child-friendly!

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