



WRI INDIA



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India



Project Formulation Guidance for Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

Executive Summary

The Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge is hosted by the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation and with the technical support of WRI India. The Challenge aims to incorporate a focus on early childhood development (0-5-year-old children) in the planning and management of Indian cities.



In the first five years of life, 1 million neuron connections are formed per second.

This document, ***Project Formulation Guidance***, is part of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge Resource Kit provided to cities to help in preparing applications. It lays out a broad understanding on how to formulate pilots which can support young children and their families in the city. This resource provides guidance for three essential steps namely, (a) identifying issues relevant to young children and families, (b) identifying a neighbourhood for pilots, and (c) formulating pilot projects.

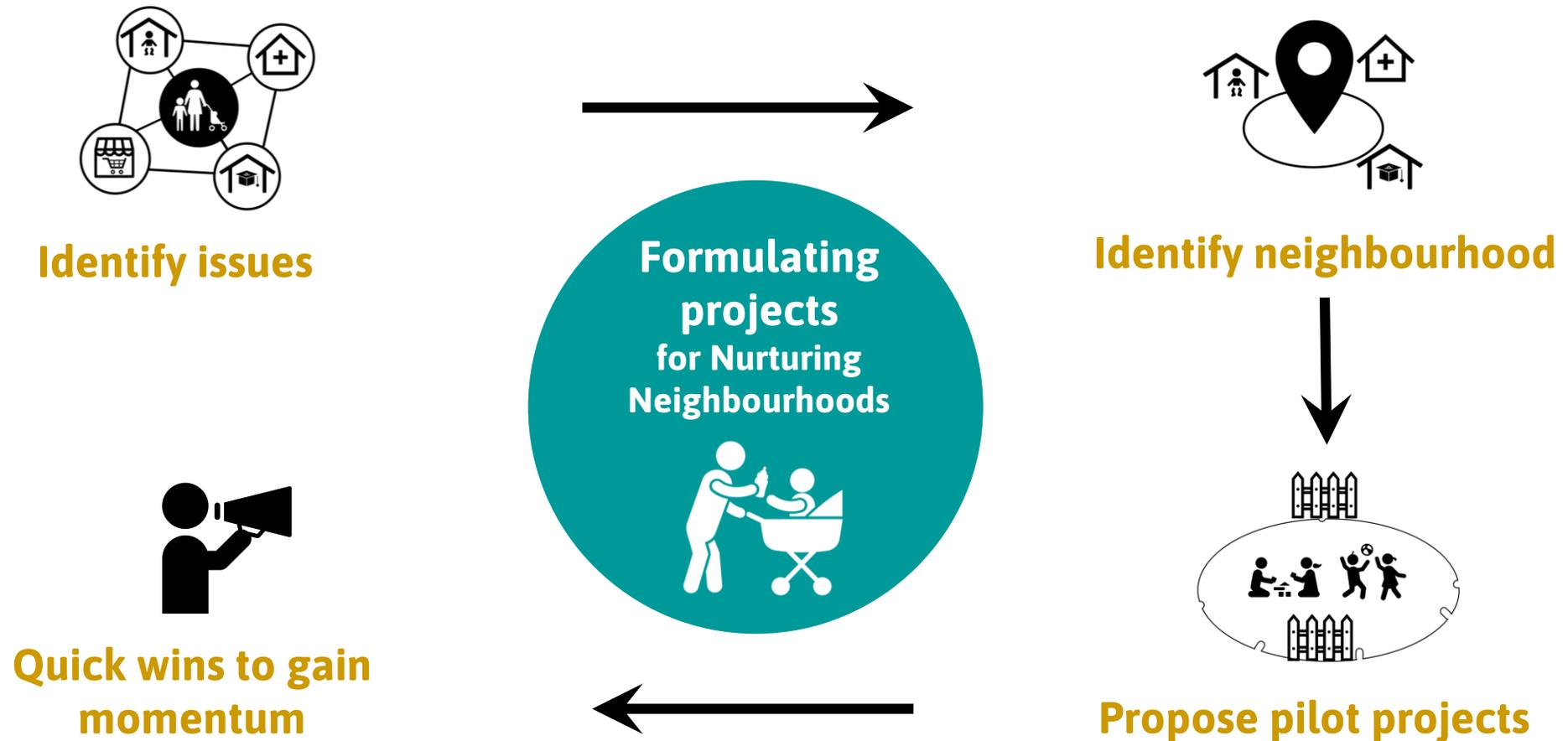
To identify a neighbourhood for pilots, this document provides multiple methods using a **data-oriented approach** and recommends **converging existing projects** from the lens of early childhood development. Pilots may belong to multiple solution domains such as **making streets safe and walkable**, **reimagining open spaces** for play and recreation, **adapting public spaces with early childhood amenities** and **improving access to early childhood services** such as anganwadis and health centres.

Cities are encouraged to propose solutions in diverse domains to ensure long-term positive behavioural changes among stakeholders.

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“A good start in life for the youngest urban residents is one of the best investments a city can make”



A photograph of a busy street in India. In the center, a blue bus with the number R-443 is stopped. A man in a light blue shirt is carrying a young child on his back. Other pedestrians are walking across the street. On the left, there are shops with various signs, including one that says 'SALE'. On the right, there are more shops and a banner with portraits of men and text in Hindi. The background is filled with trees and a clear sky.

Identification of issues

Application reference

Section 2 - Envisioning Early Childhood (0-5 Years Old) And Caregiver Centric Development

*This section helps to understand the **prominent issues faced by young children and their caregivers** in the city. Identification of issues can lead to pilots derived from on-ground needs of young children and families.*

1.1 Significant issues

Application Question 2.1, 2.2

What are the most significant issues faced by infants, toddlers and their caregivers in the city?

There are several types of issues found in Indian cities around young children and families. Based on local context and various urban conditions, certain issues might be city-specific. To understand these specific issues, cities need to conduct their own analysis.

Following is the list of generic issues around young children which are commonly found in Indian cities. Cities may select from this list or identify other relevant issues.

- **Unsafe streets** for young children and caregivers (protection from speeding vehicles, availability of pedestrian crossings, footpaths designed for all ages and abilities, cycle lanes, etc.)



- **Crime** against children and women in public spaces and streets (e.g. kidnapping, theft, street violence, anti-social activities, etc.)



- Access to comfortable, **family-oriented public spaces** (e.g. seating, shade, amenities like toilets, drinking water, etc.)



- Availability of adequate and **safe housing** (safe & hygienic living conditions)

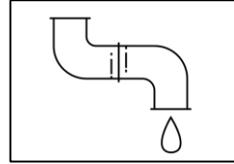


- Study existing data related to young children aged 0-5 years
- Consult and converse with other departments and agencies to understand their significant issues
- Draw insights from conversations with various government and non-government experts working in the public domain, especially around young children and families

1.1 Significant issues

Application Question 2.1, 2.2

- Access to **urban utilities** (sanitation, clean water, SWM services, etc.)



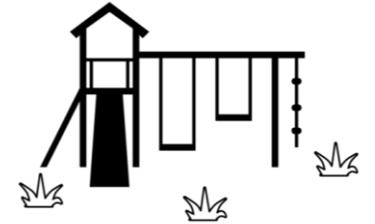
- Access to **early-childhood health and education facilities** (Anganwadis, pre-schools, nurseries, creches, Primary Health Centers, child and maternity hospitals, etc.)



- Availability and access to safe and **convenient public transport** (safety in vehicles, routes, bus stops, station areas, etc.)



- Availability and access to **nature-based safe and stimulating outdoor spaces for play** (age-appropriate parks, playgrounds, gardens, neighborhood-level green open spaces, etc.)



- Vulnerability to natural and manmade **disasters or emergencies** (e.g. floods, health hazards, etc.)



- Exposure to **air and noise pollution** in neighbourhood areas (e.g. resulting from motor vehicles, construction, etc.)



- Study existing ITC related data
- Consult and converse with other departments and agencies to understand their significant issues
- Draw insights from conversations with various government, non-government experts working in the public domain, especially around young children and families

1.2 How to prioritize significant issues?

Application Question 2.1, 2.2



Existing data related to young children

Map issues with evidence by collecting quantitative and qualitative data already available with various agencies in the city



Discussions with agencies and representatives

Discuss prevailing issues among various departments and agencies, including government and private; and bring them together with local leaders and representatives.



Insights from expert discussions

Gain in-depth and focused understanding of issues through discussing with experts working around early childhood development or similar fields



Field visits and public participation

Conduct field visits in formal and informal areas, and involve local communities, specifically, young children with their caregivers to understand specific needs



Identification of neighbourhood

Application reference

Section 3

Question 3.1 & 3.2 – Identifying a neighbourhood to pilot solutions

*This section helps to **identify a neighbourhood that demands immediate attention** based on needs related to young children and families. It explains various methods to **identify such neighbourhoods**. Proposed pilots shall come together in the identified neighbourhood to **concentrate on the impact** of solutions.*

2.1 Why focus on neighbourhoods?

Application Question 3.1

Neighbourhoods are young children's first public realm, so, it is essential to apply an early childhood-oriented approach to design and planning.

Neighbourhood as an intimate space to develop a sense of belonging

- In the traditional Indian context, neighbourhoods are typically considered as **intimate areas** where children and caregivers living here build meaningful relationships with each other, thus, establishing a sense of community amongst each other.
- Through such engagement and relationship-building over a period of time, people and children develop a **sense of belonging and ownership** with the place, thus, establishing a strong sense of **place attachment**.

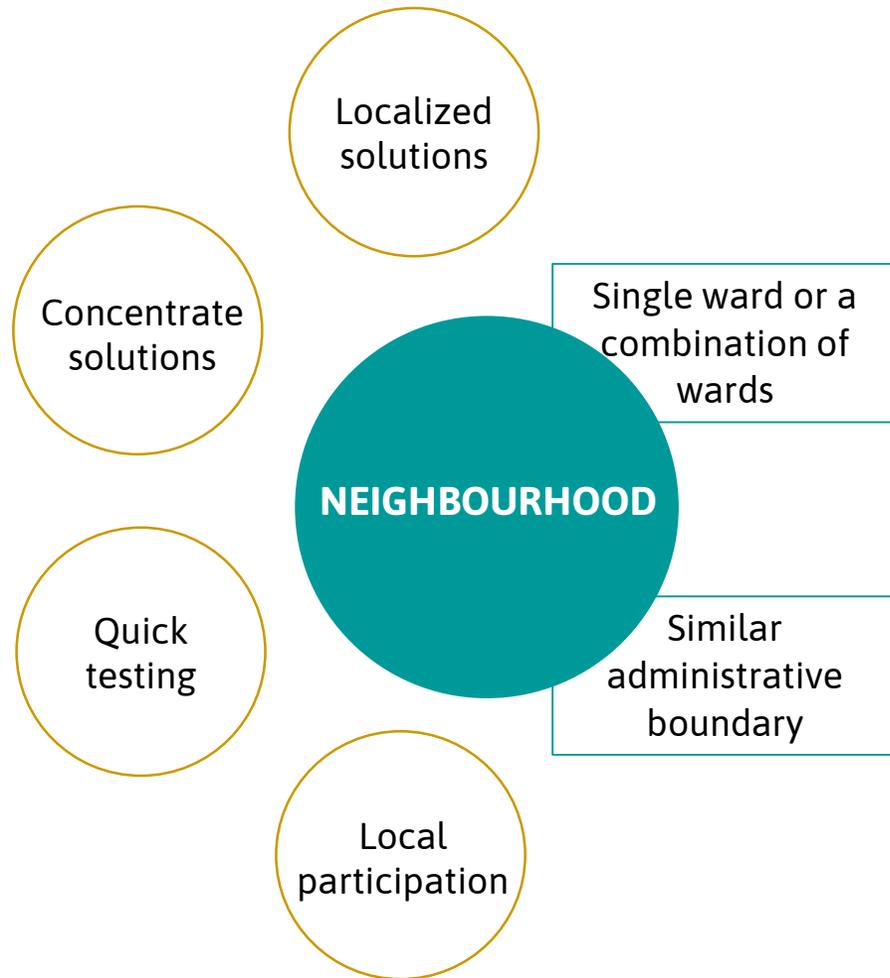
Neighbourhood as the immediate public realm for young children

- Outside the home, a neighbourhood is the **first public realm** that is **immediately accessible and experienced** by children. For this, it is essential to ensure a safe and stimulating environment for young children that **nurtures positive interactions** with other children and caregivers ensuring their holistic growth and development during the early years.
- To meet their daily activity-based needs, children and caregivers **frequently travel within a neighbourhood** making **multiple trips** to parks and playgrounds, anganwadis, local markets and other Early Childhood Development related facilities. Thus, making the neighborhood, the first public domain for young children and their caregivers.



2.1 Why focus on neighbourhoods?

Application Question 3.1



Significance of neighbourhood scale

- At the neighbourhood level, multiple pilots can come together to concentrate on the benefits for young children and their caregivers.
- The manageable scale of the neighbourhood allows for localized and context-specific interventions.
- The small scale facilitates easier monitoring and precise evaluation.
- Lastly, improvising solutions through quick feedbacks from local communities is possible at the neighbourhood scale.



Contiguous boundary helps in concentrating the impact of pilots
Adhering to administrative boundary helps in sourcing data and project co-ordination

2.2 Characteristics of neighbourhood

Application Question 3.1

What type of a neighbourhood should be selected for pilot projects?

The neighbourhood:

- Should be identifiable through **cohesiveness** in the physical characteristics of the built environment (e.g. streets, facilities etc.).
- Needs to be **representative** of various socio-economic demographic backgrounds and development scenario of the city, so, pilot solutions implemented at one neighbourhood, can be scaled-up across other parts of the city.
- Has administrative systems that showcase the **potential to implement pilot** solutions.
- Has areas with **high concentration of 0-5-year-old** children's population and pregnant women whose unique needs demand prioritization.
- Includes **vulnerable communities** such as informal settlements, low-income groups, temporary shelters of daily wage labourers and construction workers, etc.

2.3 Criteria for selection

Application Question 3.2

What is the criteria to select a neighbourhood?

1

Based on
concentration
of facilities

Select neighbourhoods where:

- There is a concentration of Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilities
- The facilities are frequently visited
- Multiple residential areas are in proximity to ECD facilities

2

Based on
concurrent
programs

Select neighbourhoods based on:

- Ongoing projects from other programs and challenges that benefit young children
- Discussions with agencies focused on delivering programs to benefit young children

3

Based on data
related to
young children

Select neighbourhoods where:

- There is a concentration of young children, pregnant women and caregivers
- There are gaps or an imbalance in services and infrastructure catering to young children and caregivers



Also look for:

- Opportunities available in terms of location advantage, resources and buy-in from stakeholders
- High potential to implement on-ground solutions

1 Based on concentration of facilities

Application Question 3.2

Cities may identify neighbourhoods based on concentration of young children and their facilities

Concentration of 0-5 years old children population

- Wards with highest population of young children
- Areas with high vulnerable population or slums

Public areas with high footfall of 0-5 years old children and caregivers

- Markets
- Religious places
- Recreational spaces such as waterfronts etc.
- Parks and public spaces

Facilities frequently visited by 0-5 years old children and caregivers

- Anganwadis
- Health clinics
- Maternity nursing homes and children hospitals

Strategic locations in proximity of existing facilities for 0-5 years old children and caregivers

- Bus stops in the vicinity of pre-schools, hospitals, etc.
- Plazas around children parks, anganwadis etc.

Areas with potential risks for 0-5 years old children and caregivers

- Dilapidated slum settlements
- Flood-prone areas
- Accident zones around schools

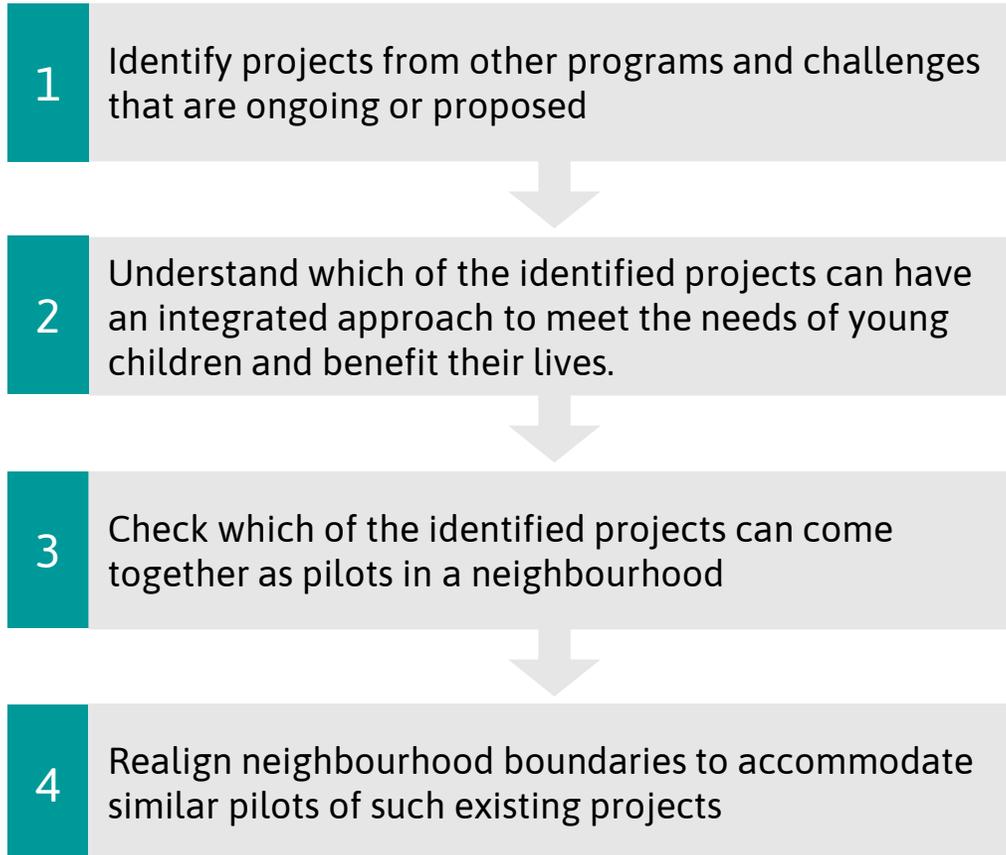


Make sure all pilots fall within the chosen neighbourhood or are located in contiguous areas of the neighbourhood

2 Based on concurrent programs

Application Question 3.2

Cities may identify neighbourhoods based on their ongoing programs benefitting young children and families



Cities may have ongoing or proposed projects under central programs such as Smart Cities, AMRUT, Swachh Bharat Mission or challenges such as Streets for people etc. or other state-level programs.

Projects from such programs which are in the planning stage can be incorporated under Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge, considering their benefits to young children and families. A few examples include:

- Revitalization of parks for young children under AMRUT
- Community open spaces in low-income areas under AMRUT
- Redesigning streets around children's facilities under Smart Cities Mission
- Accessibility for young children around Metro stations under Smart Cities Mission
- Pedestrian streets and plazas under Streets for People challenge



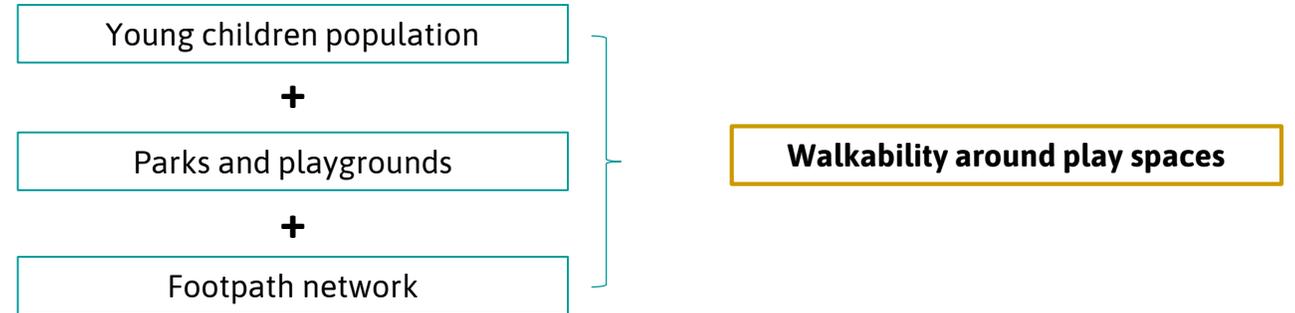
Make sure all pilots fall within the chosen neighbourhood or are located in contiguous areas of the neighbourhood

3 Based on data related to young children

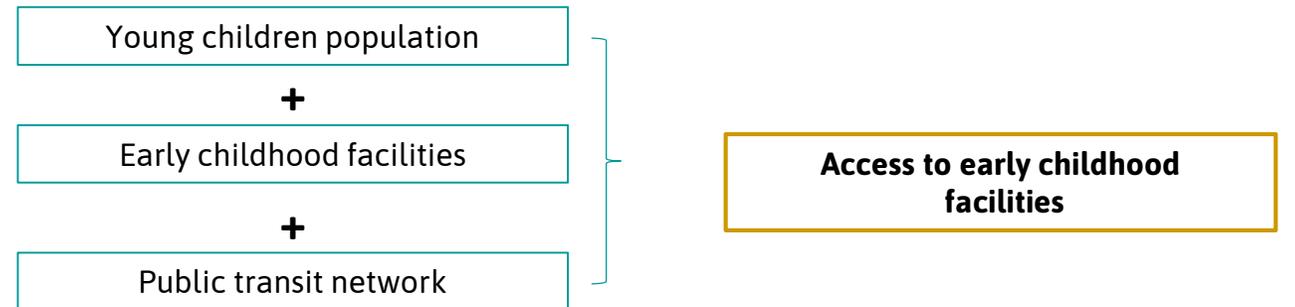
Application Question 3.2

Cities may identify neighbourhoods based on analysis of data related to young children and caregivers

- 1 Use available data sources such as census data, birth data, other data related to young children
- 2 Gather city infrastructure data such as parks, streets and early childhood services to identify gaps
- 3 Map areas that need attention including prevailing issues facing infants, toddlers, and caregivers. Also, check the scope for improvement
- 4 Select the neighbourhood with maximum potential and larger probable impact



This analysis will derive walkability around play spaces. Areas having high concentration of young children and poor walkability to play spaces may be prioritized.



This analysis will derive convenient access to early childhood facilities. Areas having high concentration of young children and their facilities and poor public transit may be prioritized.



Make sure all pilots fall within the chosen neighbourhood or are located in contiguous areas of the neighbourhood

An aerial photograph of a road intersection. The road surface is decorated with large, colorful circular markings in shades of blue, yellow, green, and red. A white car is visible on the road. The road is bordered by a concrete curb with yellow and black striped markings. In the background, there are lush green trees and a utility pole with power lines.

Identification of pilots

Application reference

Section 3

Question 3.3– Pilot project identification

Cities are expected to identify five pilot projects to demonstrate solutions which will enhance quality of life for infants, toddlers (0-5 years) and their caregivers in the city.

*Cities shall formulate pilots in multiple domains to **induce positive behaviours** among various stakeholders.*

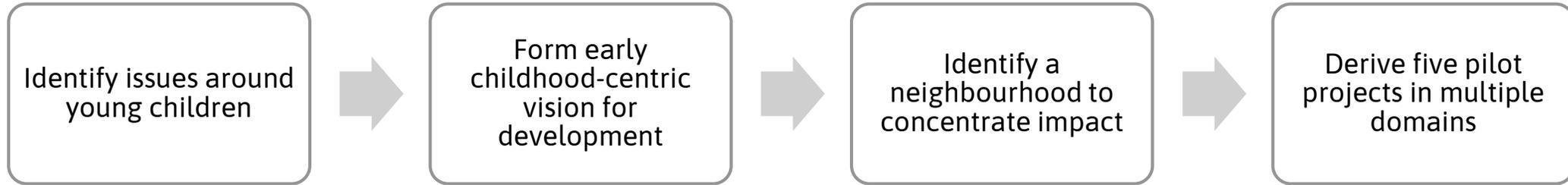
*Proposing pilots will help to **test solutions on-ground** and **measure impact** before scaling up.*

3.1 Guidance for Pilot Identification

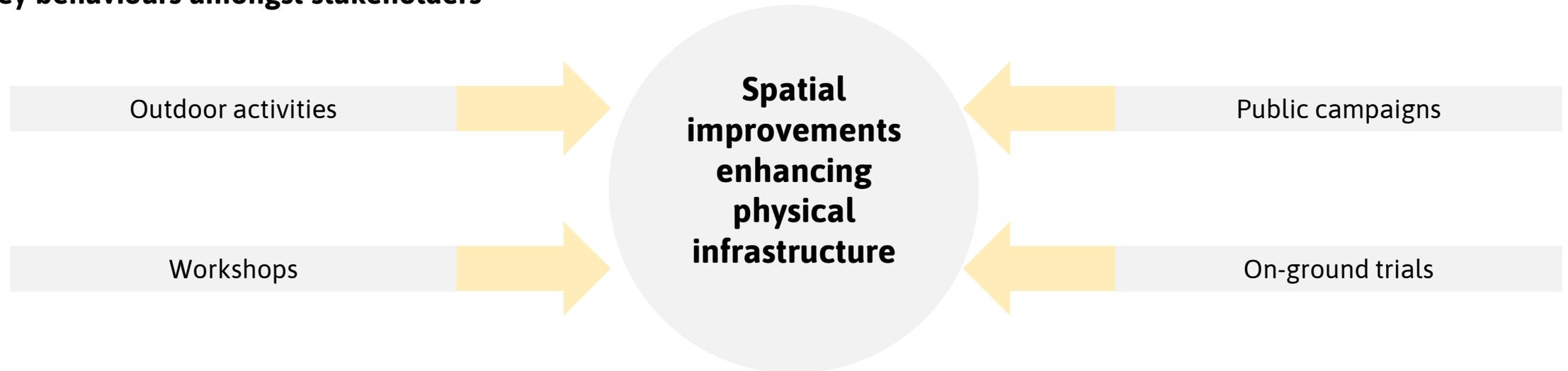
Application Question 3.3

- 1 Pilots need to evolve with a **clear flow of decisions**, beginning from identification of issues, setting a vision, developing strategies and proposing solutions
- 2 Aim for **physical interventions** to be the primary component, along with **engagement activities** to strengthen key behaviours amongst stakeholders
- 3 **Identify key behaviours** of caregivers and young children, and **promote** service providers working with target populations
- 4 Maximize benefits by promoting **complementary and diverse integrated** solutions
- 5 Pilots should aim to **benefit vulnerable populations** living in informal settlements, low-income or high-hazard areas
- 6 Quick-build and tactical-oriented **scalable solutions** that can be extended, replicated or multiplied across the city are suggested
- 7 Pilot solutions should address on-ground issues and aim to build environmental **sustainability and resilience** in the city
- 8 Provisions for recovery and revival of local communities post COVID-19 may be considered in the pilots. Cities can **draw lessons from interventions done as part of COVID-19 responses** that benefitted young children and their caregivers.

1 Pilots need to evolve with a clear flow of decisions from identification of issues, setting a vision, developing strategies and proposing solutions



2 Aim for physical interventions to be the primary component, along with engagement activities to strengthen key behaviours amongst stakeholders



3 Identify key behaviours of caregivers and young children, and promote service providers working with target populations

Cities are encouraged to **identify key behaviours** that shall be achieved through pilot projects. Formulated pilots shall **create positive changes in the behaviours of various stakeholders**.

Promoting Positive Behavioural Changes



Physical changes done through pilot projects should aim to **impact certain behaviours among young children and their caregivers** in terms of healthy interactions and growing connections.

Certain changes will also positively impact behaviours among **other stakeholders who are responsible for provision and management of spaces** such as municipal staff, service providers, key drivers etc.

Examples

Target behaviour: Caregivers with young children rarely use the parks in the neighbourhood

Pilot project components: Safe, unobstructed footpath leading to parks, well-lit and shaded seating areas, play equipment for all ages and abilities, clean public toilets with changing, feeding booth etc.

Desired behaviour: Increased frequency of visits or increased time spent in park by young children and caregivers, and improved behaviours of municipal staff towards maintenance of parks

This pilot will enable **safe and stimulating play environment** for young children and higher **sense of responsibility** among staff

Target behaviour: High number of crashes at junctions around schools involving young children

Pilot project components: Safe and continuous footpath leading to schools, tabletop crossing with median refuge, appropriate warning signages, speed humps or curb extensions to slow down traffic

Desired behaviour: Reduction in average traffic speed around school zone, and reduced crashes at junctions involving young children

This pilot will lead to **improved traffic behaviours** and regulations, as well as increased **perception of safety** among young children and caregivers.

4 Maximize benefits by promoting complementary and diverse integrated solutions

Diversity

Cities shall propose a variety of pilots belonging to **multiple solution domains**, to ensure that improvements are done in multiple areas for holistic experience for young children and their caregivers.



Integration

Proposed pilot shall ideally **integrate multiple supportive components**:

1. Extended smaller interventions in the vicinity or approach area
2. Additional elements in and around pilot area to enhance overall experience of young children and caregivers



Examples of diverse and integrated solutions

1. Accessible park for young children

Shall ideally have multiple components of accessibility, safety, supporting amenities, etc.

- Redesign the approach streets with safe, unobstructed footpath
- Safe crossing at nearby intersections allowing to reach the park safely
- Provide shaded, comfortable waiting spaces around the park
- Welcoming entrance with playful elements
- Ensure well-lit spaces within and around the park
- Measures to mitigate air and noise pollution around the park

2. Young children-friendly transit stop zone

Shall ideally have multiple components of accessibility, safety, playfulness, etc.

- Safe, unobstructed footpath leading to transit stop
- Provide pedestrian crossing nearby for safe access
- Suitable design of elements that are young children-friendly (smooth edge-handrails, wide and appropriate height seating etc.)
- Well-lit, shaded seating area with low-height seating for children
- Playful, interactive elements for infants and toddlers
- Clear and legible signages around the transit stop
- Level boarding for stroller accessibility

5 Pilots should aim to benefit vulnerable populations living in informal settlements, low-income or high-hazard areas

Vulnerable populations

Refers to those living in informal or temporary housing structures that are unsuitable for living and/or located in disadvantaged, underserved or high-risk areas such as construction sites, areas with concentration of dilapidated buildings or sites exposed to natural or manmade hazards.

Propose pilots that **address informal, slum or low-income areas** or similar vulnerable groups **inside the neighbourhood** area or in the **surrounding contiguous/ connected areas** that would receive direct benefits from the project.

Pilot projects for vulnerable population may be planned within:

informal settlements, slums, low-income areas or other areas with vulnerable groups

formal neighbourhoods connected to informal settlements

Areas shared commonly by formal and informal neighbourhoods

6 Quick-build and tactical-oriented scalable solutions that can be extended, replicated or multiplied across the city are suggested

Cities shall propose pilots that are quick-build, and low-cost and high-impact solutions that can be scaled up across other parts of the city to ensure larger population of young children and caregivers are benefitted. There are two parts of scaling up: 1. Extending or replicating similar solutions 2. City-level institutional changes to facilitate scaling up.

7 Pilot solutions should address on-ground issues and aim to build environmental sustainability and resilience in the city

- Proposed pilots should address urgent needs and requirements of young children and caregivers on-ground.
- It is important to strike a balance between resilient solutions while maintaining local context.
- Cities should adopt sustainable methods for implementing solutions while building their environmental capacity.



8 Provisions for recovery and revival of local communities post COVID-19 may be considered in the pilots.

- Cities can draw lessons from interventions done as COVID-19 responses that help young children and caregivers and consider how these may be incorporated in pilots.
- Cities may extend or replicate some of these measures in other parts of the city with a focus on early childhood development
- Some of the tactical interventions adopted during COVID-19 response may be applied to further benefit young children and families.

3.2 Evaluation and Monitoring

Application Question 3.3

Cities shall formulate monitoring and evaluation indicators through which impact of pilots can be measured.



- Cities shall form a strategy to **measure on-ground impact** of pilot projects in the neighbourhood.
- Impact shall be measured in terms of **physical improvements** as well as **behavioural changes** amongst various stakeholders.
- Cities shall consult with various stakeholders such as private agencies, NGOs, experts as well as local community groups to understand which indicators should be used to evaluate impact.

What to monitor?

A set of **Monitoring and Evaluation indicators** shall be outlined for each pilot project.

Through indicators, impact may be measured in terms of following aspects:

- Number of users increased or decreased
- Frequency of user visits
- Time spent using facilities or services
- Types of users
- Number of activities
- Frequency of maintenance of space
- Time-based user patterns
- Changes in perception of safety
- Changes in sense of ownership towards the space
- Other behavioural changes among stakeholders

How to evaluate?

- Set up regular monitoring process
- Collect on-ground data with help of volunteers, local groups
- Periodically evaluate data to understand the patterns and address further modifications as needed.



Each solution domain explained in section 4 has an indicative list of monitoring and evaluation indicators for reference.

4. Solution Domains

Application Question 3.3 e)

Cities may propose pilot projects with diverse, integrated solutions which can be categorized in four major domains



Make streets safe and walkable



Reimagine public open spaces for play and recreation



Adapt public spaces with early childhood amenities



Improved access to early childhood services, such as Anganwadis, creches, health centers

Each solution domain is explained in terms of:





Make streets safe and walkable

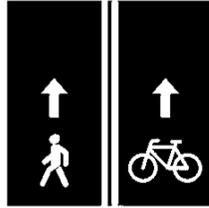
Sufficient and comfortable footpath

Safety and speed calming measures

Playful and engaging streets

Project components – Below is a reference list of components that may come together to formulate projects.

Please note that the following list is indicative and not an exhaustive one.



Sufficient and comfortable footpaths

- Continuous footpath along streets with sufficient width
- Well-lit and shaded footpath
- Comfortable seating/resting spaces at periodic intervals
- Dedicated cycling lanes along most frequented streets
- Heat reduction elements and green interventions along streets
- Reduced exposure to air and noise pollution



Safety and speed calming measures

- Continuous barrier between vehicular traffic and pedestrian footpaths
- Safe geometry of streets to enhance visibility of drivers
- Mitigations measures for black spots or crashes
- Safe crossing and refuge areas with sufficient waiting space
- Convenient signal timing suitable to young children
- Defining slow traffic zones in areas frequented by young children
- Speed calming measures such as curb extensions, rumble strips and tabletops



Playful and engaging streets

- Interactive way-finding measures and street signages painted on footpaths
- Informative street maps for key destinations for caregiver's convenience
- Play pockets with interactive elements on streets frequented by young children
- Pedestrian streets and plazas for outdoor activities

Evaluation and Monitoring Indicators

Physical:

- Reduction in average waiting time of pedestrians for street crossing
- Reduction in overall length of pedestrian crossing at a junction
- No. of junctions signalized with dedicated pedestrian phase
- Increased percentage of streets having footpath with width more than 2.4m
- Increased green vegetation or buffer area on streets

Behavioural:

- Reduction in average traffic speeds in kmph on child friendly streets (traffic calmed) in the neighbourhood
- Increased percentage in sharing of non-motorized transport modes on neighbourhood streets
- Increased share of 0-5-year-old children among users of footpaths
- Reduction in crashes at the junction/street after improvement
- Increased number of 3 to 5-year-old children walking independently on the footpath with limited adult assistance
- Increased perception of safety in streets and at intersections among caregivers accompanied by 0 to 5-year-old children
- Increased number of open street events and temporal activities conducted for young children on streets



Cities shall formulate strategies for monitoring and evaluating the proposed pilot projects in order to measure its impact in terms of physical improvement and positive behavioural changes amongst various stakeholders



Reimagine public open spaces for play and recreation

Designing for young children

Supportive features for caregivers

Accessible play spaces in proximity

Project components – Below is a reference list of components that may come together to formulate projects. Please note that the following list is indicative and not an exhaustive one.



Designing play environments for young children

- Low-impact material treatment in designated play spaces
- Dedicated play zones for all age groups
- Unstructured and loose-parts play spaces with natural materials e.g. sand pits, green mounds, tree stumps etc. to promote creativity, imagination and risk-taking
- Nature-based sensory elements for all abilities, including, touch, smell, sound and light
- Playful and interactive installations that are tactical-based to engage children



Supportive features for caregivers

- Comfortable seating areas facing children's play areas
- Spaces for physical activities such as outdoor gym, yoga and lawns
- Opportunities for gathering to promote social interactions
- Nursing and changing facilities (e.g. family restrooms) in proximity
- Noise free resting areas in proximity of children's designated areas



Accessible play spaces in proximity

- Free entry and all-hours access to open spaces
- Welcoming entry areas with comfortable widths and pause spaces to support higher volumes of children and caregivers
- Multiple pocket parks in residential zones
- Introducing play spaces in abandoned and residual open spaces in neighbourhoods

Evaluation and Monitoring Indicators

Physical:

- Increased number of play spaces provided in areas adjoining children's facilities such as anganwadis, day-cares, schools, maternity hospitals, primary health centres etc.
- Increased number of seating provided in the open spaces facing children's play areas
- Increased number of lighting and/or shade trees provided in parks and playgrounds
- Increased number of public seating provided in the open spaces for infants, toddlers, and caregivers to stop, rest, and socialize
- Improved air quality readings from the air quality sensors installed in the area (improvement in Annual Mean Concentration Range ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) - SO₂, NO₂, SPM & RSPM)
- Reduction in noise levels in public open spaces using appropriate monitoring systems

Behavioural:

- Higher footfall of 0 to 5-year-old children and their caregivers in parks, gardens and playgrounds at different times of the day
- Increased average outdoor playtime of 0 to 5-year-old children
- Increased frequency of visits to parks, playgrounds by 0 to 5-year-old children with their caregivers
- Increased number of activities organized to engage children in play with natural elements
- Increased number of tree-plantation programs initiated by schools, community groups, government offices and residential societies in the neighbourhood
- Increased number of cleanliness drives conducted by schools, community groups, government offices and residential societies in the neighbourhood
- Improved environmental awareness and pro-environment behaviors of municipal workers responsible for green buffer maintenance
- Increased participation of young children and caregivers in neighbourhood events and workshops



Cities shall formulate strategies for monitoring and evaluating the proposed pilot projects in order to measure its impact in terms of physical improvement and positive behavioural changes amongst various stakeholders



Adapt public spaces with early childhood amenities

Provision of basic hygiene amenities

Supportive amenities for young children

Comfort and convenience features

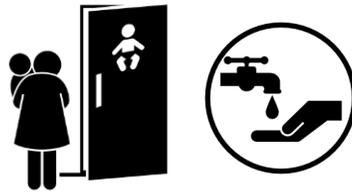
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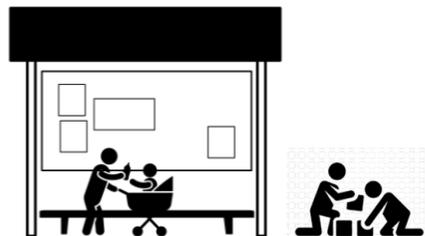
Provision of basic hygiene amenities

- Clean, hygienic, inclusive and gender-sensitive restrooms around transit stations and terminals
- Free public toilets along main walkways leading to the bus stops, markets and religious spaces
- Sanitation kiosks with diaper changing stands provided in and around transit stations
- Community toilets in low-income neighbourhoods



Supportive amenities for young children

- Nursing/feeding facilities in public spaces such as neighbourhood centres, markets and stations
- Family restrooms in and around public offices
- Safe drinking water facilities in all public spaces within 10 min walking distance
- Food-kiosks and vending areas provided near local shopping areas
- Dustbins and cleanliness related measures within markets and shopping areas



Comfort and convenience features

- Comfortable, well-lit and shaded waiting spaces near entry/exits of public spaces
- Pause points with play and rest opportunities at regular intervals along footpaths leading to public spaces
- Convenience features for caregivers such as cubbies, storage shelves and wider seating surfaces in transit stations
- Play pockets provided adjacent to public spaces such as markets, community centres etc.
- Priority seating and queues at transit stations

Evaluation and Monitoring Indicators

Physical:

- Increased percentage of transit fleet with reserved seats for caregivers & accompanying 0 to 5-year-old children
- Increased number of young child and caregiver-friendly public toilets within walking distance

Behavioural:

- Increased number of women with young children using public transit
- Increased number of mothers using the nursing booth at transit stations (if new) (Before and after for renovation)
- Increased perception of safety in transit stops among caregivers accompanied by 0 to 5-year-old children (sample survey)
- Reduced cases of public littering in the space
- Increased number of public events conducted for awareness and communication regarding sanitation



Cities shall formulate strategies for monitoring and evaluating the proposed pilot projects in order to measure its impact in terms of physical improvement and positive behavioural changes amongst various stakeholders



Improve access to early childhood services, such as Anganwadis, creches, health centers, maternity hospitals, etc.

Comfortable waiting spaces

Safe and convenient access

Co-location of facilities

Project components – Below is a reference list of components that may come together to formulate projects.

Please note that the following list is indicative and not an exhaustive one.



Comfortable waiting spaces

- Well-lit and shaded waiting/seating areas outside early childhood services
- Play and resting opportunities in proximity
- Toilets and nursing stations in the waiting spaces
- Safe design elements, such as, soft materials, handrails, bollards without sharp edges etc.
- Low-height seating for young children



Safe and convenient access

- Convenient public transport options to reach early childhood services including Last-mile connectivity via non-motorized transport or para transit
- Stroller accessibility in the surrounding areas of services
- Safe speeds ensured in the vicinity
- Clear and legible signages for young children accessing services
- Support facilities such as in-transit emergency help
- Priority queues for pregnant women and caregivers with young children



Co-location of facilities

- Parks and gardens near anganwadis and health centres
- Neighbourhood centres with a cluster of leisure and recreational spaces for young children
- Local shopping streets, markets integrated with play pockets
- Co-locating transit stops near frequently visited services
- Air quality monitors located around early childhood services

Evaluation and Monitoring Indicators

Physical:

- Reduced distances between location of child and maternity facilities and markets (or other public facilities) in the neighbourhood
- Increased number of health and education facilities for child and caregivers in low-income group neighbourhoods and slums
- Increased percentage of open/ public/ green spaces around child and maternity facilities
- Increased number of transit routes introduced or modified to improve facility to the area
- Increased number of ambulances dedicated for children and pregnant women added in the city
- Increased percentage of connected pedestrian pathways/footpaths to Early Childhood Development services
- Increased number of roads improved for cycling to Early Childhood Development services

Behavioural:

- Reduced vehicular speeds in streets and intersections around schools, anganwadis, hospitals and day-care centres
- Increased number of mothers and children using the child health units, primary education schools or hospitals, due to sensitized staff and service providers
- Increased perception of safety among caregivers accompanied by 0 to 5-year-old children in newly added resting, waiting and play spaces around early childhood facilities



Cities shall formulate strategies for monitoring and evaluating the proposed pilot projects in order to measure its impact in terms of physical improvement and positive behavioural changes amongst various stakeholders



Immediate actions or quick wins

Application reference

Section 3

Question 3.4- Immediate actions or quick wins

*In-order to **build consensus among stakeholders** and create a momentum of acceptance for the projects, it is essential to **achieve 'quick wins'** by undertaking immediate implementable actions for each of the projects. This section explains such **short-time and recurring activities** to boost the process and **build confidence** amongst stakeholders. These actions also encourage local communities to engage in developing and implementing the activities, thereby, promoting a **participatory approach**.*

5. Immediate actions or quick wins

Application Question 3.4

While developing pilots, it is essential to build consensus amongst various stakeholders and gain momentum around the subject of quality of life of young children and their caregivers. To achieve this in a short span of time, 'quick wins' that are tactical in nature shall be proposed to boost the process of implementing the pilot projects.

'Quick wins' may also be proposed by the local community groups in the form of activities and outreach campaigns to gain support from local leaders and agencies who can help in the pilots.



Tactical trials

- Temporary closures of streets for children-oriented activities
- Temporary traffic calming measures around facilities for young children and caregivers
- Highlighting entrance zones of facilities for young children with material/colour treatment



Community engagement

- Empowerment workshops with groups of children and families
- Capacity building of municipal staff
- Orientation workshops for vulnerable groups



Outdoor events and activities

- 'Play day' with families
- Weekend fairs and exhibitions
- Cycling and yoga events for families with young children



Branding and communication campaigns

- Social media, local media campaigns
- Create branding material such as logos and slogans
- Awareness via local volunteers and ambassadors
- Engaging children and young people to develop neighbourhood-level campaigns

5. Immediate actions or quick wins

Application Question 3.4



Workshops with groups of children and their families

Photo by CERES Global



'Play day' with families with young children

Photo by Sarika Panda Bhatt



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India



Project Formulation Guidance for Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

Cities shall refer to ***Best Practices and Intervention Ideas*** document that illustrates case examples of projects around young children and families around the world.

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