

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Re-imagining Urban Childhoods

[CONCEPT NOTE]

Collective
thinking on 'Child
Friendly Cities'



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE



The International conference, '**Re-imagining Urban Childhoods**' has been organised by the **Child Friendly Smart Cities Initiative at NIUA** with support from the **Bernard van Leer Foundation**. The conference aims to converge, gather and assimilate ideas, knowledge, and concrete interventions by Indian and International experts/organisations that have demonstrated how urban design and planning can be more effective in catering to the needs of children in cities.

Thriving and happy children are indicators of a healthy and sustainable society with high levels of well-being. Children form an understanding of their environment through everyday discoveries and encounters in the park, at school, during a stroll in the neighbourhood or by imagining and inventing games and stories. Thus, the built environment plays a crucial role in shaping children's narratives of the city, and their experience of urban spaces.

Growing up in the cities is as complex as it is exciting, with multitudes of stimuli scattered in these everyday experiences of children. While there are plenty of opportunities, the urban environment is also wrought with threats that impact the overall growth and development of a child. A well-planned and sensitively designed built environment can be a powerful force to facilitate positive and holistic development of children and pave way for delivering their rights to live safely, access education, and enjoy everyday freedoms. While this is being acknowledged by a number of cities, the momentum has to be built to enable a paradigm shift towards an urban development agenda that takes into account the needs of children that comprise approximately one third of the residents of any Indian city.

Key objectives of the conference

01

To share the insights and learning from the experience of the CFSC initiative and deliberate on ways this knowledge can be taken forward by city agencies.

02

To learn from impactful good practices incorporated by ULBs and urban professionals in design and planning of live, learn, play environments for children in cities.

03

To take lessons from ideas and projects shared by various international experts and explore their replicability and adaptability in the Indian context in terms of concrete steps, ideas and innovative solutions going forward.

04

To take forward this dialogue towards finding synergies between diverse sectors and mediums; shaping a new collective of urban professionals and amplifying the voice for child friendly cities.

The presentations and deliberations are designed in the form of three technical sessions spread over a day.

SESSION
01

Counting children to make them 'COUNT'

Data- Driven Urban Planning

Session 1 It is understood globally that data is a key vehicle for driving policy decisions. The work undertaken through CFSC initiative clearly highlights the lack of disaggregated data for children within the urban sector in India; consequently, making children unheard and underrepresented, more so infants and toddlers, girls and children with disabilities. Data is useful only if it informs policy and planning decisions. The deliberations in this session will focus on the need for better baselining and mapping of children focused data as a key tool towards addressing the gaps within policy and planning.

SESSION
02

Designing for children

Design of spaces where children live, play, learn and move

Session 2 It is now better understood that built environment is critical in safeguarding the basic rights of children such as education, nutrition, and overall health. National and international best practices demonstrate that when children are kept at the centre of built environment design helps shape live, learn and play environments that foster overall development of all age groups and abilities. This session seeks to extract 'big ideas' to better equip policy makers, urban designers and architects in manifesting the rights and needs of children by ensuring access to basic services and children responsive design of urban built environment to make it more inclusive, nurturing and fun.

SESSION
03

Innovative Ideas for inclusion

Innovative ideas and strategies for including needs of children through urban design, planning and management

Session 3 In order to make impactful changes it is critical to make space for children's voice within urban planning and policy domain in order to improve everyday life of all children. The child friendly urban development prerogative in India has reached a stage where a lot of progress and innovation has been made. This session focuses on the best practices and on-ground initiatives which have contributed to the overall health and well being of children in cities. By making children an integral part in the making of cities, and learning from the innovative cross sectoral initiatives which can be replicated and scaled up, Indian cities can ensure quality of life for all.

Re-imagining

URBAN CHILDHOODS

The conference brings together eminent urban thinkers, planners and designers, practitioners and city administrators to speak about the strategies that have been at the core of planning of cities that are children centric and are globally acknowledged as liveable and inclusive cities. How did these cities manage this change? How were national and city level policies instrumental in driving development in this direction? The discussions will focus on the transformative strategies and planning frameworks as well as innovative design and smart solutions adopted by cities and neighbourhoods to achieve the status of being 'child-friendly'.

Date: March 1, 2019 | Venue: Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

9:00am-9:30am | Registration

INAUGURAL SESSION

Session duration	
9:30am-11:00am	
9:30am-9:45am	Jagan Shah Director, NIUA
9:45am-10:00am	Kunal Kumar (TBC) Joint Secretary & Mission Director (Smart Cities Mission), MoHUA Government of India
10:00am-10:15am	Rushda Majeed Country Representative, BvLF
10:15am-10:30am	Darell Hammond Senior advisor, Urban 95, BvLF and Founder of KaBOOM
10:30am-11:00am	Durga Shanker Mishra Secretary, Housing and Urban Affairs, MoHUA, Government of India
Welcome & Overview - CFSC initiative Children in the Urban Vision of India Setting the context Special Address Key-note Address & Launch of CFSC knowledge products	

11:00am-11:30am TEA / SNACKS

TECHNICAL SESSION 01

Counting children to make them 'COUNT'

Data Driven Urban Planning

It is understood globally that data is a key vehicle for driving policy decisions. The work undertaken through CFSC initiative clearly highlights the lack of disaggregated data for children within the urban sector in India; consequently, making children unheard and underrepresented, more so infants and toddlers, girls and children with disabilities. Data is useful only if it informs policy and planning decisions. The deliberations in this session will focus on the need for better baselining and mapping of children focused data as a key tool towards addressing the gaps within policy and planning.

Session duration 11:30am- 1:00pm	Key discussion themes of session: Rethinking the crucial role of 'DATA' to create baselines and assess gaps in provisions and infrastructure, thus facilitating informed decision making and urban planning.
11:30am-11:45am	Alka Singh <i>Head - Policy & Advocacy, Save the Children, India</i>
11:45am-12:00pm	Sudeshna Chatterjee <i>CEO, Actions for Children's Environment (ACE), Delhi Board member, International Play Association</i>
12:00pm-12:15pm	Siddhartha Benninger <i>Urban Development Planner, CDSA, Pune (iNagrik)</i>
12:15pm-1:00pm	Interactive Session with panelists and discussants Discussants: Ramesh Negi , <i>Chairperson, DCPCR</i> Varsha Joshi , <i>Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation</i>

1:00pm- 2:00pm	LUNCH

TECHNICAL SESSION 02

Designing for children

Design of spaces where children live, play, learn and move

It is now better understood that built environment is critical in safeguarding the basic rights of children such as education, nutrition, and overall health. National and international best practices demonstrate that when children are kept at the centre of built environment design helps shape live, learn and play environments that foster overall development of all age groups and abilities. This session seeks to extract 'big ideas' to better equip policy makers, urban designers and architects in manifesting the rights and needs of children by ensuring access to basic services and children responsive design of urban built environment to make it more inclusive, nurturing and fun.

Session duration 2:00pm-4:00pm	Key discussion themes of session: Best practices related to the design of live, learn, play and mobility in cities taking into account specific needs of children.
2:00pm - 2:15pm	Simon Battisti <i>GSD Alumnus and Tirana-based Architect, Albania</i>
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Abhimanyu Prakash <i>Program manager, Global Designing cities initiative, NACTO, New York</i>
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Kabir Vajpeyi <i>Principal Architect, VINYĀS - Centre for Architectural Research, Design, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Policy, Delhi</i>
2:45pm - 3:00pm	Aadish Nargunde <i>Child Friendly Smart City Centre, BUKC, Bhubaneswar Development Authority</i>
3:00pm - 3:45pm	Interactive Session with panelists and discussants Discussants: Akshay Kaul , <i>Landscape architect, Akshay Kaul and Associates, Delhi</i> Urvi Desai , <i>CEPT, Ahmedabad</i>
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3:45pm-4:15pm	TEA / COFFEE

TECHNICAL SESSION 03

Innovative Ideas for inclusion

Innovative ideas and strategies for including needs of children through urban design, planning and management

In order to make impactful changes it is critical to make space for children's voice within urban planning and policy domain in order to improve everyday life of all children. The child friendly urban development prerogative in India has reached a stage where a lot of progress and innovation has been made. This session focuses on the best practices and on-ground initiatives which have contributed to the overall health and well being of children in cities. By making children an integral part in the making of cities, and learning from the innovative cross sectoral initiatives which can be replicated and scaled up, Indian cities can ensure quality of life for all.

Session duration 4:15pm-6:15pm	Key discussion themes of session: Innovative ideas are all about integrating technology, planning and design to shape urban environments responsive to children.
4:15pm - 4:30pm	Rahul Kapoor <i>Director, Smart Cities Mission, MoHUA, Government of India</i>
4:30pm - 4:45pm	Sukanya Krishnamurthy <i>Assistant Professor of Urbanism and Urban Architecture at the Faculty of the Built Environment at Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands</i>
4:45pm - 5:00pm	Sachin Bhoite <i>Associate Urbanist, ARUP international Development, London</i>
5:00pm - 5:45pm	Interactive Session with panelists and discussants Discussants: Sarbjit Sahota , <i>Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist at UNICEF India</i> Sarika Panda , <i>Manager-Cities & Transport, WRI</i>
5:45pm - 6:00pm	Summing up and way forward

The conference will also showcase:

Children's Independent Mobility & Urban Neighbourhood
PhD thesis by Megha Tyagi, Research Scholar, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee

Reinstating the child in the city
Masters thesis by Aparajita Santra, Masters in Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi