



Child Friendly Cities Initiative



Child
Friendly
Cities
Initiative

unicef 
for every child



Overview of the Program

- The **Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI)**, launched in 1996 by UNICEF and UN-Habitat, is a global initiative aimed at realizing children's rights in urban and community settings.
- It empowers local governments and stakeholders to **build environments where children's voices, needs, and rights are prioritized and integrated into public policies and governance structures.**



Vision and Framework

The **vision** of CFCI is that “every child and young person enjoys their childhood and youth and reaches their full potential through equal realization of their rights within their cities and communities.”

The initiative is structured around a **Framework for Action** with **five outcome goals**:

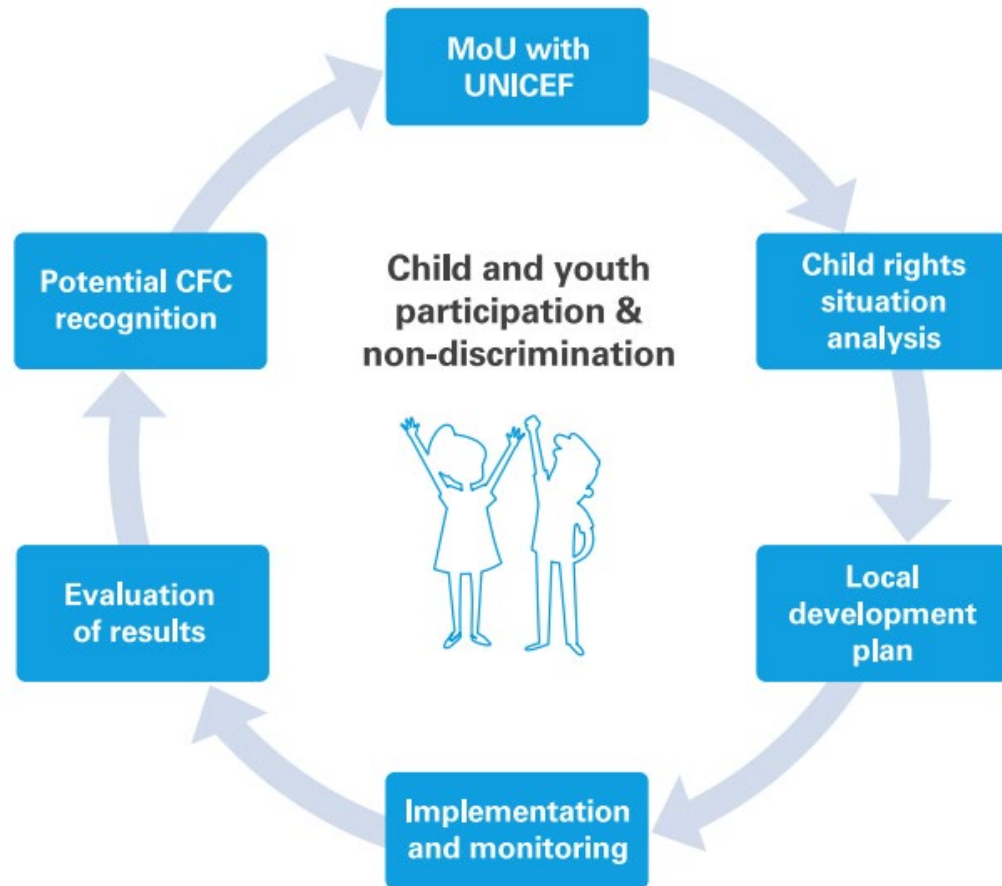
1. Every child is valued, respected, and treated fairly.
2. Every child has their voice heard in public decisions.
3. Every child has access to quality essential services.
4. Every child lives in a safe and clean environment.
5. Every child enjoys family life, play, and leisure.

This framework is grounded in the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** and linked to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.



Approach and Process

CFCI adopts a flexible, cyclical approach tailored to local contexts and institutional structures.



Key steps include:

1. **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with UNICEF.
2. Child-rights **situation analysis**.
3. **Actions prioritized and included** in the local development plan (Synthesis Action Plan for Children).
4. **Implementation and monitoring** of the activities in the “Synthesis Action Plan for Children.”
5. **Evaluation** of the implementation and results for children.
6. Potential **recognition of a Child Friendly City**.

Minimum Criteria

To be recognized as a **Child Friendly City**, a locality must meet three minimum global criteria:

1. **Demonstrated results for children** across multiple **CFCI goal areas**.
2. **Meaningful and inclusive child participation**, including **children's councils and engagement** throughout the CFCI cycle.
3. **Dedication to eliminating discrimination**, ensuring equity in all policies and actions.

Recognition is granted for a set period (1–5 years), contingent on successful evaluations. Benefits include formal acknowledgment, access to a global network, technical support, and the right to use the CFCI logo.



Recognition Timeline: Becoming a Child-Friendly City

The pathway to becoming a UNICEF-recognized Child Friendly City or Community typically follows a multi-phase cycle. The standard process includes the following steps:

Phase	Description	Estimated Duration
1. Initial Engagement	Local government expresses interest; initiates dialogue with UNICEF.	1–3 months
2. Formal Partnership	Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UNICEF country office or the National Committee.	1 month
3. Child Rights Situation Analysis	Comprehensive analysis of children’s well-being, local policies, and gaps, with stakeholder and youth participation.	3–6 months
4. Development of Action Plan	Co-creation of a CFCI Action Plan informed by the situation analysis, including a theory of change, objectives, indicators, and budget.	4–6 months
5. Implementation Phase	Roll-out of activities, services, and initiatives aligned with the five goal areas. Includes child participation and cross-sectoral partnerships.	1–3 years
6. Monitoring and Evaluation	Ongoing tracking of progress and results using agreed indicators. Includes annual reviews and a formal final evaluation.	Throughout implementation
7. Recognition by UNICEF	Upon positive evaluation, UNICEF awards Child Friendly City status and grants use of the CFCI logo and branding.	At the end of an implementation cycle
8. Renewal Cycle	New Action Plan developed based on evaluation findings; recognition may be renewed for additional cycles (up to 5 years each).	Every 1–5 years



Key Actions:

- Introduced initiative during **Strategic Plan discussions (Feb 2024)**
- Formed **Para Niños** a **40-member steering committee (Aug 2024)**
- Preparing **UNICEF Readiness Assessment** – to be shared with the City before **May 1st**
- **Youth Advisory Board launch** planned for **May 1st at La Nube**
- Steering Committee to submit readiness assessment **May 2nd** to UNICEF

Requested Action

Discussion and approval a resolution of the City of El Paso, Texas, pursuing designation as a UNICEF Child Friendly City and authorizing City staff to initiate the formal application process in partnership with UNICEF.

MISSION



Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community.

VISION



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government.



VALUES

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,
Accountability, **P**eople

MISIÓN



Brindar servicios excepcionales para respaldar una vida y un lugar de alta calidad para nuestra comunidad

VISIÓN



Desarrollar una economía regional vibrante, vecindarios seguros y hermosos y oportunidades recreativas, culturales y educativas excepcionales impulsadas por un gobierno de alto desempeño



VALORES

Integridad, Respeto, Excelencia,
Responsabilidad, Personas