

Evaluation of UNICEF work for children in urban settings

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**Item 8: Evaluation of the UNICEF work for
children in urban settings**

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Background



Context



More than **half** of the world's children now live in cities



By 2050, **2.5 billion more** people will live in urban areas



COVID-19 had severe and disproportionate impacts on urban population and children



Objectives



Relevance of UNICEF approaches in urban settings



Better understand the **results** achieved



Identify **good practices and lessons** learned



Chapter added on the **Impact of the COVID-19** Pandemic on UNICEF work in urban settings



Evaluation approach and scope



Theory-based, formative, comparative case studies



Over **72 UNICEF country offices, 5 case studies** and **3 COVID-19 case studies**

Evaluation findings

- ✘ UNICEF urban planning not tackling two major trends: (i) exclusionary growth and privatization; (ii) widespread informality and slums
- ✘ UNICEF not focusing on child-responsive urban planning, e.g. safe public places
- ✘ Results at scale working solely from the bottom-up with cities not realistic: municipal policies and resources depend on national/regional policy frameworks and fiscal transfer
- ✘ UNICEF urban work coordinated by other specialists; in fastest urbanization regions no focal points or budgets
- ✔ Broader **guidance** and **unified urban framework** needed: the 'what' of UNICEF urban programming in different contexts, and the 'how' of UNICEF work in urban settings
- ✔ Urban-specific strategies and targets for **all goal areas**; to be included in the new Strategic Plan
- ✔ Urban approaches to be **integrated** into country programme cycle, not as a “side project”

Recommendation 1

Update urban strategic note and issue an organizational procedure

- ✓ Scope of work, partnerships, addressing structural barriers and defining roles at all levels

In the new Strategic Plan, prioritize increasing work in urban settings with specific results

- ✓ Plans and investment proposals to implement UNICEF urban agenda



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Recommendation 2

In low- and middle-income countries with slums and informal settlements, prioritize:

- ✓ A whole-of-organization approach to advocacy, partnerships, fundraising
- ✓ Urban work integrated into country offices' programme documents and workplans
- ✓ Strategic partnerships to support actions for children in slums
- ✓ Local capacity for analysis of intra-urban data on the situation of children
- ✓ Advocacy for child-responsive urban planning

In high-income countries, refocus Child-friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) on child-rights advocacy and child participation:

- ✓ Streamline CFCI accountability as strategic engagement in urban areas only
- ✓ Engage partners to take over CFCI recognition/certification, based on robust M&E systems

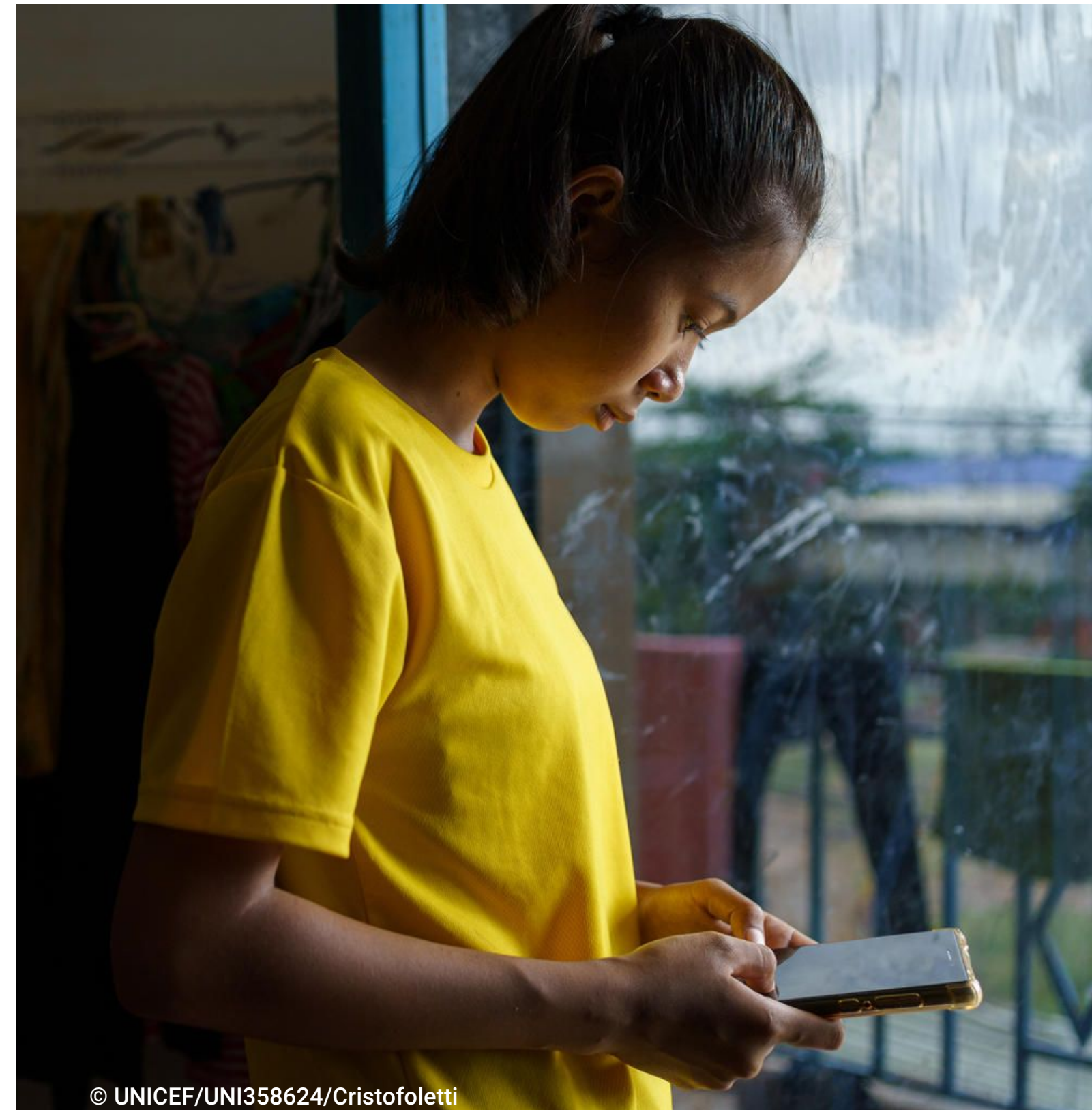
Recommendations 3 & 4

Address the humanitarian-development nexus in cities and towns:

- ✔ Enhance preparedness capacity within urban areas; link it to climate resilience and environmental degradation
- ✔ Develop additional guidance on applying Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action in urban settings, including in slums and informal settlements

Expand capacity for urban work in staffing and architecture at all levels:

- ✔ Articulate context-relevant urban focus, programme and partnership priorities, designate urban focal points



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Thank you!