

UNICEF IRAN INFORMATION SERIES 2005

Child Friendly Cities

A progress report on the CFC Initiative in Bam, Iran



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INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary of Results

UNICEF Iran's Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) aims to ensure the rights of children (aged 6-13) to access to quality basic services, through promoting the development of a sustainable and child-friendly environment. In order to reach the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations, children must have access to child-friendly and sustainable interventions.

The first phase of planning for the CFCI in Bam focused on community participation, using children as key planners of their environment. UNICEF Iran takes the view that if children are involved in planning cities, the results will be more sustainable and child-friendly than current urban development practices allow.

Prior to the second phase of planning, a study tour was conducted. Key decision makers in urban development in Iran travelled to Curitiba, Brazil to study that city's people-centred and sustainable urban planning. Lessons learned from the rich experience were adapted to the Iranian context and were then put into practice in the planning for Bam.

Key achievements to date are as follows:

1. Development of planning and design guidelines on Child Friendly Cities, in cooperation with the Steering Committee on Urban Development of Bam;
2. Development of planning and design guidelines/methodology for child friendly schools (Early Childhood Centres and primary/secondary schools), health clinic, park/playground and teacher resources centre in cooperation with the State Welfare Organisation (SWO), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Health (MoH) and World Health Organisation (WHO);
3. Development of a 'Children's Avenue' prototype design, with playgrounds, shade areas, learning areas, foot and bicycle paths and green areas, linking CFC interventions in a safe and accessible manner;
4. Development of a prototype design for an Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Centre;
5. Development of a prototype design for a school playground;
6. Development of a prototype design for a Child Friendly primary school.

The Brazil study tour positively affected the follow-up cooperation of UNICEF with decision makers such as the Mayor of Bam, MoH, MoE and the High Council of Architects and Planners (HCAP). Changes to improve performance in the second half of 2005 include:

- closer cooperation and coordination with UNICEF sections on IECD, Health, Water and Sanitation, and Education;
- closer cooperation with UNICEF Operations section to improve the efficiency of the construction bidding process;
- close supervision and monitoring of the third phase of the implementation process in Bam.

Rationale

In the aftermath of the earthquake in Bam and the ongoing urban rehabilitation process, political interest in the Child Friendly Cities concept and its application in Iranian urban planning has been rapidly growing. This interest has come from local authorities as well as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoH-UD).

The UNICEF CFCI in Bam focuses on promoting integrated urban planning, design, development and implementation at the levels of the home, neighbourhood and city. These designs are child-friendly, ecological, culturally-sensitive, affordable and earthquake resistant. Planning of physical environments such as schools, urban public spaces and housing is conducive to standards for quality of life and quality of learning set out in the Child Friendly Cities (CFC) and Child Friendly Schools (CFS) principles, standards and guidelines.

The main objective of the UNICEF Iran CFCI is to ensure that processes and mechanisms are in place for creating child-friendly spaces and environments in Bam through full community participation and in light of meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Specific objectives include:

- Ensuring the development of CFC urban planning and design guidelines for Bam (and eventually all of Iran);
- Ensuring the development of CFC planning and design guidelines for an IECD centre, primary school, secondary school, teacher resources centre, primary health care facility, public park, playground and residential scheme;
- Ensuring the provision of quality basic social facilities in education and health in Bam, through implementation of selected interventions following the Letter of Understanding signed by UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Municipality of Bam;

- Building capacity in the MoE, MoH-UD and Municipality of Bam for the sustainability of the CFC and CFS projects in Bam and elsewhere in Iran.

Methodology

The methodology applied to explore and solve the objectives of this project is based on the holistic approach to planning and design of child-friendly and sustainable human settlements. This means taking into account the geographical, environmental, social, economic, technical and cultural aspects of the local context in Bam.

Desktop literature and web-based research

Extensive desktop research has been carried out for the CFCI in Bam on functional brief preparation, construction costs, local building methods, local building materials and delivery systems.

Field research

A series of meetings were held with stakeholders in Tehran and Bam (including MoH-UD, MoE, Ministry of Health, Municipality of Bam and Iran Cultural Heritage Association). Topics of these meetings included brief preparation, functionality, architecture and urban planning, construction methods and choice of materials, social mobilization, landscaping, and planning guidelines and standards. Regular field trips were undertaken to Bam to assess and survey the situation in the selected CFC zone, as well as to conduct meetings with local stakeholders.

Design research

Extensive design research was conducted on CFC urban design and the other selected CFC interventions related to education, health and child protection. In particular, the CFC Children's Design Workshops provided very useful information on which the development of the CFC guidelines and building models could be based.

PROGRESS ON THE CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVE IN BAM

Achievements in 2005

The Organisation for the Restoration and Development of National Schools (NOSAZI) of the Ministry of Education requested UNICEF to develop a complete prototype design, including technical documentation and core design brief, for an Early Childhood Development Centre based on CFC principles and guidelines. The prototype is currently being developed and will be forthcoming shortly. Prototype designs for a CFC primary school, teacher's resource centre and primary health care centre will follow, according to the scheduled Annual Work Plan.

NOSAZI has prepared a guideline that will be forwarded to the MoE in Bam to freeze all activities in the CFC zone so that the area can be developed following CFC guidelines. Eventually, these will be applied throughout the city of Bam.

Vision for the City of Bam: *"We wish to achieve our collective dream - the creation of a child-friendly, peaceful and ecologically efficient city - via a planning, development and materialization process that is socially equitable, economically effective and environmentally responsive, respecting the human rights of all people, particularly children and youth"*

Mr. A. Bagherizadeh, Mayor of Bam

The Steering Committee on the Urban Development and Rebuilding of Bam of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development requested UNICEF to prepare a set of complete planning and design guidelines on the CFCI, to be used initially in Bam and ultimately to be implemented throughout Iran. These guidelines are being developed. In addition, the MoH-UD asked UNICEF to develop a concept plan on child-friendly and sustainable urban transport in the CFC zone and in Bam as a whole. The transport scheme will be further developed and materialized by MoH-UD.

The consulting architects for each zone (members of the MoH-UD steering committee) have to comply with the mentioned CFC guidelines in planning and developing the new urban designs in each zone in Bam.

The Mayor of Bam appointed a social scientist to carry out a baseline survey at the household level and to sensitize the public and raise awareness of the planned CFC interventions and increase their willingness to cooperate on a voluntary basis. Plans include the formation of neighbourhood committees that will voluntarily participate in rebuilding their respective zones.

The Mayor also appointed an experienced urban designer to work with UNICEF on the further planning and implementation of the activities within the selected CFC zone.

Discussions have taken place for planning a 'Children's Avenue', with playgrounds, shade areas, learning landscapes, foot paths, bicycle paths and green spaces in the CFC zone. This 'avenue' will link all the green areas in the zone, as well as playgrounds, educational buildings and health care buildings. Cars and other motorized forms of transportation will not be allowed.

The Mayor instructed the Lands Survey Engineer in Bam to negotiate with private owners of plots in the CFC zone in order to acquire land (financed by the Municipality) to give UNICEF free access to developing the zone according to CFC principles and guidelines.

A formal presentation was made to the Cultural Heritage Association, informing them of the project taking place adjacent to the ancient citadel, Arg-e-Bam, and on its objectives, goals and planned outcomes. The Association has assured their full cooperation in implementing the interventions, assuring a 'border-free area' between the CFC zone and the Arg-e-Bam.

A series of plots, pre-selected for CFC interventions, received a functional change from individual private ownership towards public educational purposes. These plots will be acquired by the Municipality of Bam for CFC implementations.

Coordination

Key partners include the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Education, Mr. Naghs-e Jahan Pars, coordinating architect of Bam, and the Mayor of Bam, Mr. A. Bagherizadeh.

The CFC concept and its planned implementation in the city of Bam were also presented to the Cultural Heritage Association of Iran (Dr. Mokthari, Director, and Ms. Sorna Khakzad, Chief Architect). The Association showed interest in cooperating with UNICEF where the fields of interest overlap.

The Cultural Heritage Association is focusing on the integrated redevelopment of the Arg-e-Bam, including landscaping, environmental conservation, promotion of ecotourism and harmonizing the Arg-e-Bam with urban Bam. UNICEF's selected zone for the Child Friendly City is the area to

the west and south of the Arg-e-Bam. Potential areas of cooperation include Child Friendly Cities in relation to the promotion of sustainable tourism, integrated landscaping, environmental conservation and CFC planning and architectural models in relation to the cultural and historical value of the Arg-e-Bam. To apply these ideas, a local Arg-e-Bam Technical Steering Committee was established, focusing on the Arg-e-Bam and the urban CFC areas around it.

In addition, UNICEF works with the State Welfare Organization (SWO), the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation to coordinate CFC interventions in the fields of Child Protection and Health.

Constraints and Opportunities

There is an opportunity for UNICEF to assist the Municipality of Bam in strengthening the levels of community participation, with a view of turning the Bam Child Friendly Cities Initiative into a CFC 'best practice'. The Mayor of Bam favours community input strongly, however the levels of input vary in terms of quality of building skills, input of local building materials, transport of labour and materials and the extent to which communities are willing to participate in these processes. These variations depend largely on the social mobilization skills of local authorities. There is an opportunity here for UNICEF to assist the Municipality of Bam in mobilizing their community

The development of adequate sustainability (financial, ecological and social) also presents a constraint and an opportunity. Local authorities must take responsibility to continue with the CFCI in the city of Bam. This is an opportunity for UNICEF to put processes and mechanisms in place for monitoring and evaluation. Such mechanisms include the use of CFC planning and design methodologies for urban planning and the design of individual buildings in Bam, proper monitoring of compliance with these planning and design guidelines and following a balanced urban planning and development process that ensures equality in the urban development of software and hardware in Bam.

Close cooperation is needed with the UNICEF Operations section to improve the efficiency of the construction bidding process (an internal work process). The preparation and development of the bidding process is time-consuming; to make swift progress with CFC implementation, the overlap of the design and bidding process has to be observed, as long as the bidding process follows the finalization of the complete technical documents and plans (detailed working drawings and detailed Bill of Quantities).

Schools continue to be constructed in Bam using the existing, conventional, non-child-friendly school prototypes. Where CFC guidelines on urban planning and the construction of basic social facilities have been put in place by the MoH-UD, all urban design and construction must be in compliance with these guidelines.

UNICEF will ensure the close supervision and monitoring of the third CFCI implementation process in Bam (the materialization phase), followed by a final quality assessment of all CFC interventions before handing them over to the local authorities.

Challenges and Priorities for the Future

The selected geographical zone in Bam is approximately 1.3 square kilometres. UNICEF will design a Child Friendly and Sustainable Urban Plan for this zone. UNICEF's contribution towards the implementation will include the co-financing and co-monitoring of the materialization of a number of child-friendly houses, basic social services (nursery, primary and guidance schools, health care facility, civic centre, teachers resource centre), playground and public park and/or gardens in the selected zone, using a combination of community participation and limited contractor-built approach (sites and services model).

This plan only covers part of the zone, however. Additional major funding from funding partners, NGOs, the Government of Iran and citizens of Bam is desired and needed to realize the Child Friendly City of Bam as a 'best practice'.

Strengthening the organization and levels of community participation will be a priority in order to realize the goal of Bam as a CFC 'best practice'. Community participation in planning and development of the CFC is one of the concept's key principles (the voices of children and youth must be heard and local communities must be involved).

A challenge that will be faced in the future is that the CFC planning, design and construction will take place close to the historically and culturally important citadel of Arg-e-Bam. Therefore, CFC interventions must be carried out with the utmost sensitivity and care. A majority of the CFC zone falls within the border zone of the Arg-e-Bam, meaning the CFC interventions will have to comply with specific planning guidelines from the Cultural Heritage Association (ie. maximum building height restrictions, interventions in harmony with the existing urban grid pattern, etc.).

Implications and Recommendations

1. Rethink priority of cars versus public transport system
2. Rethink radial city growth versus linear city growth model
3. Rethink econ-growth model versus people-centred, ecological model
4. Rethink land zoning issues related to residential, commercial, industrial and green areas: role of pedestrians, cyclists, cars and buses
5. Rethink the architectural heritage of Bam citadel as the heart of the city (recreation, tourism, learning, central bus station in the New Bam)
6. Rethink the choice of technologies (old, new, blend) bearing in mind cultural identity, modernity and earthquakes
7. Rethink the role of children in the daily life and future of a city

INNOVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

The CFC Children's Planning and Design Workshop

In the first phase of CFCI planning, UNICEF focused on community participation, using children as key planners of their environment in Bam.

The Children's Planning and Design Workshop on Child Friendly Cities in Bam were carried out from 25 November to 8 December 2004. Prior to the workshop, 10 young Iranian architects were trained to act as facilitators to work with 110 children (aged 10 and 11 years old). Two Iranian experts in architecture, urban design and landscape architecture gave additional support.

The methodology used for the activity serves as a step-by-step introduction to the planning and design process. Each day for a period of five days, the group focused on a different environment: "the house", "the neighbourhood", "the city", "the school" and "the park and playground". These rapid micro-action sessions involved a series of two- and three-dimensional tasks for the children, to help them better understand the physical urban environment in which they live. The key issues were brought across by the facilitators through discussions, paintings, narratives and design games and the children produced a rich and varied output on Child Friendly Environments and Spaces.

The findings of the children's workshops were used to develop CFC urban planning and design guidelines for Iran and to plan and design innovative models for CFC urban design, houses, schools, health care facilities, parks and playgrounds. In the third phase, these guidelines will be materialized, with full community participation.

The Study Trip to Curitiba, Brazil

A study tour to Brazil took place from 9-13 March 2005, with UNICEF staff from Iran and Brazil involved in the planning and development of the tour. A delegation of key decision makers in the reconstruction and urban development of Bam participated in the tour, including key staff members from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Ministry of Education, Bam coordinating architect Naghs-e Jahan Pars, the Mayor of Bam and an advisor from the Cultural Heritage Association.

The objective of the tour was to observe and experience, as a comparative case study, the long-term, people-centred and ecologically sustainable development of the city of Curitiba in relation to the cities of Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro. In addition, several successful projects were visited in Brasilia that focused on the human rights of women. These included a drop-in centre for couples having marital problems, a women's counseling centre and a shelter for victims of domestic abuse. Parallels could be drawn with the situation of women in Iran.

Urban planning has been ongoing in Curitiba for over 35 years. After realizing that urban plans were not being implemented once commissioned, the Curitiba Urban Research and Planning Institute was created in 1965. The institute's mission is to coordinate the city's urban planning and monitoring process, conducting sustainable development through compatible actions between the city and its metropolitan area. The institute develops research, plans, projects and programmes and raises funds for implementing programmes developed by other agencies under the direct and indirect administration of the City of Curitiba.

During the study tour, the delegation attended a series of lectures at the Institute and visited operational projects. The experiences of the delegation were then discussed and parallels were drawn between the urban development of Tehran and Bam.

Under the guidance of UNICEF, the delegation prepared a mission statement, planning vision and urban development strategy for the Municipality of Bam.

Mission Statement: The long-term sustainable development of the city of Bam will be realized, aiming at continuing, integrated and harmonious planning actions towards a people-centred and ecologically sustainable city with special focus on the well-being and quality of life for all children.

Vision: We wish to achieve our collective dream towards the creation of a child-friendly, peaceful and ecologically efficient city via a planning, development and materialization process that is socially equitable, economically effective and environmentally responsive with respect to human rights of all people, including children and youth.

Strategy: The approach in arriving at the sustainable development of the city of Bam is enabled by taking into account the climatic/cultural context that exists, focusing on an integrated planning and development process in which, simultaneously, socio-economic, environmental, geographical, cultural, technical and aspects of tourism are observed, handled and solved.

For reflection and to develop the mission statement, vision and strategy, six basic questions were posed to the delegation:

1. Where would you like the city of Bam to be in: 5 years time, 10 years time, and 25 years time? More specifically, how would you like your city to look?
2. How would you like the city of Bam to develop in balancing social, industrial, cultural and environmental factors and population, transport, infrastructural and other elements of urban development?
3. What will be the level of control, management and participation of the local communities in Bam and Iran as a whole in achieving this collective dream, in relation to decision-making at the national, provincial and local authority levels?
4. How would you like to see the organizational, planning and developmental aspects of school buildings being developed, in relation to neighbourhood and urban landscape planning, with special reference to children?
5. How would you like to balance in neighbourhood planning the different uses and activities; for example, educational, residential, environmental, urban farming, infrastructural (energy, roads, waste and water management), urban landscaping, recreational and cultural aspects?
6. How will the city of Bam be used as a 'best practice' for the user-friendly and sustainable human settlement planning and development of other cities in Iran?

Following these discussions and the development of the Bam mission statement, vision and urban planning strategy at the conceptual level, the follow-up decision and action taking in Bam and Tehran was realized through the following implications and recommendations:

- Ensure development of CFC planning and design guidelines, since they are critical to the urban planning and development process and a tool for authorities at all levels;
- Ensure the acquisition of land from private owners in the CFC zone to enable UNICEF to have adequate space for planning, design and materialization;
- Ensure the creation of pedestrian and bicycle areas in the CFC zone;
- Ensure the conceptual planning of an urban public transport system based on the insights gained from Curitiba;
- Ensure the development of innovative educational and other basic social facilities, starting with the inclusive prototype for an IECD centre;
- Ensure the involvement of the local communities, with adequate levels of participation, management and control of the urban development interventions in their zone in relation to authorities at governmental, provincial and local levels;
- Ensure that the appointed architects and planners of other zones in the city of Bam comply with the CFC guidelines being developed by UNICEF in cooperation with the MoH-UD;
- All involved key decision makers in the urban development of Bam should aim for positive and constructive results to follow and achieve these recommendations.

FUTURE PLANS

Publications, Studies and Evaluations

UNICEF, *The Little Blue Book of Child Friendly Cities: Child friendly and sustainable planning and design guidelines for architects and planners in Iran*. (final publication is forthcoming).

UNICEF, *Children's Planning and Design Workshops in Bam*, Final Report, 2005.

UNICEF, *Study Tour to Curitiba, Brazil 2005*, Final Report, 2005.

UNICEF, *Learning Environment Appraisal Checklist for Child Friendly and Sustainable School Planning and Design* (final publication is forthcoming) (2006).

UNICEF, *A Child Friendly City Community Mobilization and Participation Methodology for the City of Bam* (final publication is forthcoming) (2006).

Projected CFC interventions for 2005 and 2006

- (1) Planning, design, materialization of one CFC early child care learning centre: with reference to AWP of Child Protection
- (2) Planning, design, materialization of one CFC primary school; With reference to AWP Education (prototype CFS)
- (3) Planning, design, materialization of one CFC teachers resources centre; With reference to AWP Education *
- (4) Planning, design, materialization of CFC playgrounds / Children's Play Avenue: With reference to AWP of Child Protection
- (5) Planning, design, and materialization of CFC playgrounds in selected guidance and primary schools in Bam: with reference to AWP Education
- (6) Planning, and design of one CFC guidance school; With reference to AWP Education (prototype CFS)
- (7) Planning, design, materialization of one CFC learning park (learning landscape) inclusive shade areas for children

Annex 1: Lessons learned by the Delegation to Brazil

The Brazil Experience: Brasilia and Curitiba

By Dr. Cyrus R. Sabri

Professor, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Shahid Beheshti University

Iran is progressing towards democracy. The steps at times may look slow but the will of the people is towards the creation of a society with the rule of law and freedom for all. The idea of a child-friendly city plays well into this process of the evolution of a society, since it is in the realm of public participation. It is a learning experience for the people as well as officials to see the result and the process of a decision-making that includes people both to set the criteria and participate in the final say.

An environment cannot be whole until all its inhabitants are actively involved in the evolution of a shared pattern language. A whole language can evolve without drowning people in a plethora of impersonal information or by using a system which they did not participate in creating.

Urban design is a process of communal decision-making. Eventually this process shall result in guidelines. Sometimes these laws are sufficient to give us the desirable environment. To make sure of success in achieving such an environment, people must share their opinions. To be able to use, without losing, the meaning of what people desire in an interpretation it is much more useful to collect all the viewpoints in a pattern language format. The Brazil experience contributed to create a part of the vocabulary for this process in Iran. Some other patterns arise, forming the wealth and genius of the traditional solutions to problems in a society. We can find numerous examples in the arena of sustainability in the Iranian vernacular architecture.

The experience of observing an example from another culture at a far away place without a claim of championing people's wishes and griping with their own problems is education for officials in charge of rebuilding the earthquake-ridden city of Bam. The Brazil trip served several objectives for UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities project in Bam. First, seeing the possibilities of what can be expected in the rebuilding of a city. Second, understanding that similar concepts are achievable. Third, seeing some accomplishments first-hand and pondering the possibility of their applications in Bam. Fourth, adapting those positive aspects discovered in Brazil to the unique context of Bam. In the following paragraphs, I will expand upon how to implement the adaptation of these positive aspects to a different environment.

Finding a realistic, achievable model that we could show and not just talk about in the abstract, of what we want to achieve is always a worthy effort.

The example should not be an unreachable dream but a set goal that is attainable for a similar situation. This is a reasonable answer to, "Why Brazil?" Of course there are other more accomplished societies and more advanced examples, but Brazil is a realistic, achievable model. If we compare Iran with some western European countries or the U.S., we will notice the similarities with Brazil more clearly.

The nine-day workshop in Brazil for the delegation from Iran, the official decision-making group for Bam, was very fruitful. The trip included visits to Brasilia and Curitiba. The delegates learned the following valuable lessons from the trip.

Brasilia is a designed city with its formal aspects of planning and architectural elements. Brasilia has a grandiose plan which has marked the history of city planning. It has its visual as well as monumental qualities that give the city an image unlike any other city in the world. We witnessed how functional elements as monuments play a role in creating an image for the city. We also experienced how relying on private cars for transportation in a city will eventually lead to gridlocks.

Curitiba's planning had as a major objective how to provide services to the people. With this concept of serving people comes very efficient public transportation in the form of a bus system. Curitiba is an excellent example of how different services, such as commercial, educational, medical and recreational, can be accessed by the people.

We have to remember that we are neither just school makers nor are we simply library, nursery or playground makers. These elements are the building blocks of a city destroyed by a devastating earthquake. Once we put together these elements in Bam, the inter-relationship between different elements in the city provide for the activity patterns. I am sure the government officials present at this trip found an insight into what is ahead in the rebuilding of Bam. This collective vision is needed for any new proposal in that city.

The opportunity to conduct a comparative analysis between what we experienced in Brazil and what is expected to be provided in Bam was invaluable. The Iranian delegation felt the good intentions UNICEF expressed towards the city and specifically the children of Bam. This will make the implementation of the CFC project much smoother in Iran.

Now the question might be, how are we going to use the seemingly unrelated information gathered from the Brazil experience? We have to know that the procedural lessons and the tangible results are both useful. The

procedural objectives achieved in this trip were the field experience that the decision-makers in Iran and specifically Bam obtained first-hand. This could not have been duplicated in any other venue. The results of some of the successful planning attempts in Brazil can set related patterns for Iran.

Every pattern is essentially a reusable design idea for the environment. Patterns are seen tangibly as the most important elements of the language. These patterns correspond to the rules of grammar in a natural language. Anyone who has an idea about the design of the environment and tries to express his idea for himself or someone else to reuse it encounters the definition of three aspects. They include the problem that this “idea” solves, the range of spatial arrangements which solve this problem and the range of contexts which make sense to reuse this “idea”.

A designer equipped with a complete set of pattern language for an environment can design any part of that environment. The creative power of a pattern language is tied closely to the ordering of patterns in a language. Using a pattern language to design in an environment creates an image which can make an appropriate dialogue with the language of the context it applies. On this trip we were immersed in many patterns, some of which were rooted deeply in South American culture.

In visiting different schools in Brazil, we witnessed how children’s input and opinion in the process of decision-making resulted in the production of a wholesome environment. Brazil has found its way as a civil society. There are many lessons for our approach in the reconstruction of Bam.

This evolution of sharable pattern language creates a natural framework for learning and research, since all learning and research which really helps the design of the environment is concerned with the evolution of individual patterns, or with the process of combining them. As more and more people express their intuitions and ideas in pattern form, the archive of languages will gradually contain all the patterns of different problems that can possibly occur in an environment.

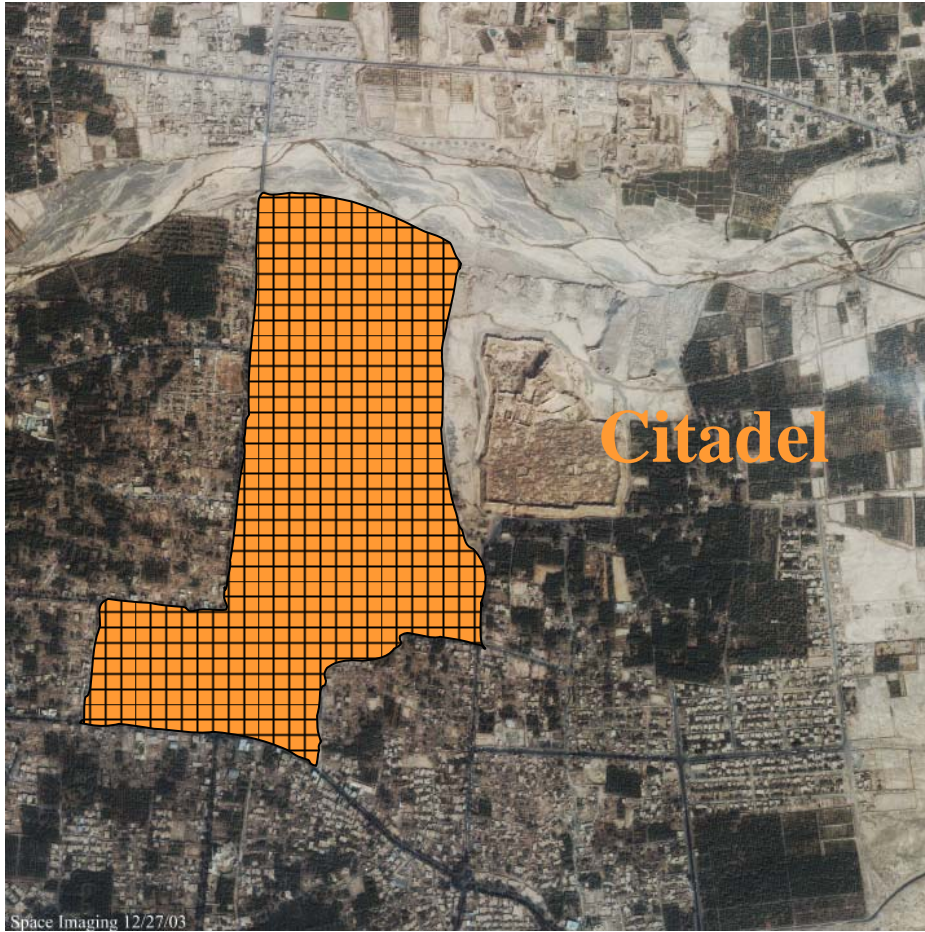
Ultimately, as languages will evolve the barrier between professions will disappear. Each designer who uses a language has at his disposal the knowledge of ecologists, engineers, architects, planners, economists, social scientist, etc. – a true multidisciplinary process. The distinction between professional designers and non-designers will disappear. When all the intuition and knowledge needed to build environments is embodied in a language, everybody in a society can and should design the environment. This is the impact of a true Child Friendly Cities project. An environment is fully whole when it reaches this stage. Only then when each place is

designed by the people who know it best, will each place have the proper balance of generic patterns and local uniqueness.

I also took part in a two-week workshop as a resource person for CFCI in Bam. I witnessed and advised how young architects were getting the school children of Bam involved in the design of their environment. This was a gratifying experience for me to see that the people of Bam were thinking about rebuilding and hope for their future and not about what they lost in the past. When on the occasion of the end of the workshop having school children of Bam play in a football field, their supervisor approached me with teary eyes to thank and let me know it was the first time he was seeing the children of Bam happy after the earthquake.

Only then it became clear to me that the Child Friendly Cities concept is the right idea at the right time for Bam. People's participation is an idea in urban design which results in initiating the sense of belonging in residents. A city designed with the cooperation of people, specifically children, is a learning environment which challenges us every day. Children are safe and happy, exploring the many aspects and possibilities of the environment. It takes a long time for a city to become great. It is not possible to recreate the whole city overnight. But the best place to start is with the least expendable resource we have, our children.

Annex 2: The Child Friendly City Zone in the City of Bam



Annex 3: Acronyms Used in this Report

CFCI	Child Friendly Cities Initiative
CF-PHC	Child Friendly – Primary Health Care
CFS	Child Friendly Schools
HCAP	High Council of Architects and Planners
ICHA	Iran Cultural Heritage Association
IECD	Integrated Early Childhood Development
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoH-UD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
NOSAZI	Organisation for the Restoration and Development of National Schools
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
SWO	State Welfare Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation