



## Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities of Belize

WORKING TOWARD  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOAL (SDG) 11:  
SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES

## WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE AND CHILD FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITIES INITIATIVE?

The Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative (SCFM) is a collaboration between the Belize Mayors Association, the Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, UNICEF, and UNDP. The concept behind this initiative is to create awareness and promote activities at the subnational level aimed at implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities initiative is tailored to the needs of each municipality, aspirations and practices and will be adapted to suit all localities. Adapting SCFM is a participatory process involving all concerned stakeholders – local authorities, civil society, experts, communities and especially children and adolescents.

The initiative was instituted in nine municipalities in 2014, in the cities of Belize and Belmopan and towns of Corozal, Orange Walk, San Ignacio, Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Dangriga, Punta Gorda and San Pedro.



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## HOW IT WORKS:

1. Signing a commitment with the Minister of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, UNDP and UNICEF to work towards child friendly municipality.
2. Collecting baseline information on the right of boys and girls ages 0-18 years to health, education, protection, leisure and play, and participation.
3. Development, cost and implementation of an action plan.
4. Participate in training on SCFM and the convention on the rights of the child.
5. Assessment, certification and publication of result.

A Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipality guarantees the right of every young citizen to:

- Influence decisions about their city
- Express their opinion on the city they want
- Participate in family, community and social life
- Receive basic services such as health care, education and shelter
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Walk safely in the streets on their own
- Meet friends and play
- Have green spaces for plants and animals
- Live in an unpolluted environment
- Participate in cultural and social events
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic, origin, religion, income, gender or disability



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## OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities initiative is to mobilize local authorities, citizens, children, adolescents and youths to defend and implement policies that ensure the established rights of children, adolescents and youth.



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## THREE MAIN FOCUS AREAS

1. Monitoring for the improvement in the lives of girls and boys
2. Public participation in social policies
3. Participation of children and adolescents



## SDG 11 MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban spaces, and national and city governments struggle to accommodate the rising population in these areas. Making cities safe and sustainable means ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading slum settlements. It also involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

## INDICATORS

The participating Municipalities commit to work on the following pillars:

- 1.0 Play and Leisure
- 2.0 Participation and Citizenship
- 3.0 Safety and Protection
- 4.0 Health and Social Services
- 5.0 Educational Resources
- 6.0 Finance
- 7.0 Civic Engagement

The participating municipalities will establish:

- A Children Advisory Body (CAB)
- A Municipal Steering Committee

The participating municipalities will :

- Identify a child budget
- Develop and implement a strategy to ensure knowledge of and respect for children's human rights among children and adults



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## TIMELINE TO CERTIFICATION



**2014**

Sign Agreement

**2015**

Activate Committees  
Development  
Action Plan



**2016**

Ceremony  
of Recognition of  
Accomplishment  
and Commitment  
Toward Achieving  
SCFM

**2018**

First  
Certification

