Management response to the evaluation of UNICEF work for children in urban settings

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UNICEF Executive Board
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Item 8 – Management response to the evaluation report
Urban demography and trends

• More than **55% of the world’s population** (4.4 out of 7.7 billion people) **lives in urban areas**

• Half of the world’s children – 1.18 billion – live in urban areas

• 2.5 billion people will be added to **urban areas** by 2050, mostly in Asia and Africa

• More than 1 billion people live in informal settlements, including around 350 million **children** – set to double by 2030

• Globally, **61% of refugees** and 47% internally displaced persons are in **urban areas**
Urban averages mask inequities

Proportion of countries where **urban poorest** quintile fares worse than **rural total** population:

- **Stunting**: 44% (urban poor worse than rural population in 44% of the countries analysed)
- **Under-5 mortality**: 38%
- **DTP3 immunization**: 50%
- **Sanitation**: 59%
- **Primary education completion**: 39%

Proportion of countries where **urban poorest** fare worse than **rural poorest** population:

- **Stunting**: 14%
- **Under-5 mortality**: 24%
- **DTP3 immunization**: 28%
- **Sanitation**: 15%
- **Primary education completion**: 18%

Source: UNICEF analysis based on MICS and DHS surveys (2011-2016)
Environmental factors that affect children in urban areas

• **Nine out of ten** urban residents breathe polluted air (2016)

• Only 31% of population has open spaces within 400 metres

• 2 billion metric tons of municipal waste in 2016; 4 billion by 2050

• Cities are more **vulnerable** to natural disasters, hazards and health emergencies

• **Over 90% of COVID-19 cases** are reported in urban areas
Scaling up **urban programming** for children and young people is now a **global imperative** in all regions.

Achieving the SDGs and realizing the rights of all children will not be possible without addressing the prevailing inequalities in access to basic services in urban areas.
Urban strategic note – 5 pillars (May 2017)

**Quality social services**
Reducing equity gaps in cities through technical support on child poverty analysis, social protection

**Evidence strengthening**
Strengthening the evidence base on children in cities, in data, policy and research

**Participation of children and other stakeholders**
Enhancing the voice and participation of urban poor children and youth and strengthening partnerships with urban communities and organizations

**A safe and clean environment**
Promoting a safe and clean urban environment for children

**Adapted urban planning and financing**
Investments for urban children, particularly the most disadvantaged
UNICEF management response

• Step up urban programming to address the unique structural barriers to child well-being in urban settings

• **Urban-specific results/targets** in the new Strategic Plan

• Support to **country offices** to implement the redefined **urban agenda**
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- Whole of organization approach and strategy for programming in informal settlements

- Strengthen the programmatic component of the Child-Friendly Cities Initiative
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- Strengthen the urban contextual risk analysis for emergency preparedness plans for epidemics and natural disasters

- Support country offices to engage in climate, environment and disaster risk reduction in urban settings
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- Increase **staff capacity** at all levels to address complex urban realities

- Enhance efforts for **resource mobilization** for children in urban settings
Thank you.