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

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

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

• More than 1 billion people live in informal settlements, including around 350 million children

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

• 61% of refugees and 47% of internally displaced persons are in urban areas

• Only 31% of population has open spaces within 400 metres
Stronger focus needed on children in cities

• Urban averages mask inequities – **Urban paradox:**
  - In 38% of the countries, under-five mortality of the poorest urban quintile is worse than total rural population, and in 24% of countries it is worse than the poorest rural quintile
  - In 39% of countries, primary education completion among the poorest urban quintile was worse than total rural population, and in 18% countries worse than the poorest rural quintile

• Cities are **more vulnerable** to natural disasters, hazards and health emergencies. Over **90% of COVID cases are reported in urban areas**.

• Three drivers of change: equity and inclusion, urbanization and planning, complex adaptive systems

**Achieving the SDGs and child rights will not be possible without addressing inequalities in urban areas**
Management response: Recommendation 1

• Update urban strategy to address unique structural barriers in urban settings

• Issue an organizational procedure for urban programming for sectors and country offices

• Develop urban situational analysis to articulate urban results in the Strategic Plan
Management response: Recommendation 2

- Develop strategy for advocacy, partnerships and fundraising for children living in informality
- Urban programming tailored to country contexts
- Child-friendly Cities Initiative recognition/certification process transferred to appropriate partners
Management response:

Recommendation 3

• Work on the link between humanitarian and development programming in cities
• Develop guidance on applying the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action in urban settings

Recommendation 4

• Organizational capacity expanded to address the enhanced scope of urban programming
Thank you.