

YOUNG CHILDREN IN CITIES' CLIMATE ACTION PLANS

An examination of 12 cities projected to be most populated by 2100

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April 2025

Background

- ❑ “Almost every child on earth is exposed to at least one major climate and environmental hazard and shock such as flooding, heat stress, etc.” The climate crisis is a child rights crisis (UNICEF 2021, p. 11).
- ❑ More serious in cities due to the higher population.
- ❑ “Even if emission reduction targets are reached, some impacts like sea-level rise are unavoidable by the end of the century.” (Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, Sixth Assessment Report, 2023)
- ❑ This project examined and revealed how the Climate Action Plans (CAPs) of the following 12 cities, projected to be most populated by the end of the century consider young children: Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Bengaluru/Bangalore (India), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Dakar (Senegal), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Jakarta (Indonesia), Lagos (Nigeria), Mumbai (India), Nairobi (Kenya), New York (USA), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and Tokyo (Japan).
- ❑ The projections are drawn from the Global Cities Institute’s projected populated cities, based on city size, population growth, and country-specific urbanization rates.

Methodology

- ❑ Systematic review approach
- ❑ MAXQDA for thematic analysis
- ❑ Plans read and assessed for “children” and synonyms, and related concepts such as parenting and caregiving, play and learning, development milestones, etc.
- ❑ Documents assessed for “actual plans” designed to be acted on

Example from Tokyo Climate Change Adaptation Plan, page 24

Promotion of disaster preparedness education

- Develop all children's ability to anticipate and avoid danger as well as their capabilities to contribute to the safety of others and society.

Project Focus

- ❑ CAPs contain goals and alternative actions to bridge the gap between the current situation and the desired future.
- ❑ Young children are part of cities. If they are not included in the plans, they are excluded!
- ❑ Themes analyzed included:



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)



Early environmental and climate change education



Food security and nutrition

Project Findings

- ❑ Currently, 1,000 children under the age of five die every day from poor sanitation, hygiene, and water.
- ❑ Only Mumbai and Rio de Janeiro included WASH planning for children.
- ❑ The early childhood stage is a key period for learning and development and a requirement to reduce risks.
- ❑ Environmental and climate change education for children was part of the plans for Dakar, Lagos, Mumbai, New York, and Tokyo.
- ❑ An estimated 161 million children under five years old are stunted due to food insecurity.
- ❑ None consider children's food security and nutrition concerns.
- ❑ None of the cities' plans reviewed presented that they included children's concerns obtained from them or their caregivers.

Recommendations

- ❑ City authorities design new or review existing CAPs to accommodate children's needs for WASH, Environmental and climate change education, nutrition, and food security.
- ❑ City authorities should collaborate with ECD professionals to provide child-sensitive expertise throughout the planning process.
- ❑ Ages 0-3: Stroller-friendly areas, accessible parks, and clean public spaces with access to healthcare and early childhood education, etc.
- ❑ Ages 3-5: Play-based education and exploration opportunities, safe routes for bicyclists and pedestrians, etc.
- ❑ Ages 6-8: Environmental education in school curricula and practical exercises.

Good examples to promote

Ages 0-3



Stroller-friendly park. Source: [parentsmap.com](https://www.parentsmap.com)

Ages 5-3



Outdoor nature play-based education. Source: <https://www.hitchcockcenter.org/>

Ages 6-8



Environmental education and tree planting practices. Source: [stockcake.com](https://www.stockcake.com)

Call to Action

All CAPs should promote safe outdoor and independent play for children with no/ least risks to extreme weather conditions.

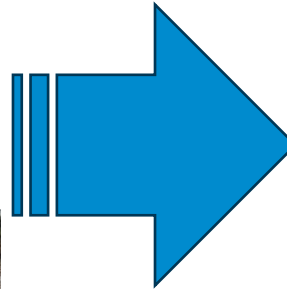
Plans should prevent and transform these environments into these examples.



Source: weforum.org



Source: unicef.org



Source: cpdonline.co.uk



Source: health.harvard.edu/blog

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION



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