



Tool 5: Summary of issues to consider before getting started

Before you begin to launch the development of a CFCI, it is helpful to address some basic questions. These will help orient the programme and ensure that it is designed as effectively as possible to reflect your country context and the goals you hope to achieve. This section is obviously only relevant for National Committees who do not already have a CFCI programme in place. Yet, at any point in the maturation of the initiative, issues raised here may be relevant.

It provides a brief summary of some of the important considerations and can be used in conjunction with [Chapter 2](#).

1. What are the available human and financial resources to implement the CFCI?

The CFCI will need both human and financial support to get it off the ground. If it is decided that the National Committee lacks the resources internally, it may collaborate with another agency better placed to undertake the overall coordination. It is important to bear in mind, however, that even under these circumstances, it will be necessary to commit to a process at the outset to establish the basics of the programme. It is necessary to set its overall objectives and principles, and to establish an agreement framework between the agency and the National Committee.

2. What are the risks?

A number of risks can arise in association with the establishment of a CFCI. These can include:

- failure to attract sufficient interest;
- poor outcomes at the local level;
- inability to demonstrate the effectiveness of the initiative;
- absorbing too many human and financial resources at the National Committee level;
- inability/reluctance off municipalities to adopt a child rights approach.

It is important to identify all potential risks prior to investing in a CFCI. Then you should analyse how serious they are and determine what measures can be put in place to mitigate them.

3. Who needs to be involved and how?

You need to identify the key strategic partners required to support the CFCI. The choice of partners will be influenced by both the objectives and the focus of the CFCI. There are several possible areas of potential partnership, for example, particularly those offering:

- financial support which can help get a CFCI moving and ensure its viability and potential sustainability;
- links with established structures, such as government departments and regional bodies;
- expertise to bring to the development and implementation of a CFCI, including professional guidance; knowledge of child rights and research capacities;
- legitimacy through their credibility and status.

Accordingly, you might want to consider reaching out to and engaging with relevant government bodies, the business sector, civil society organizations, professional bodies, the media, trade unions and academics.

You also need to consider what form their engagement might take, what level of partnership you want and what level of ownership of the programme they will have. Do you want to create an advisory group that meets periodically to provide input and guidance to the direction of the CFCI? Or, do you want a more formal body that serves as a steering group and makes decisions on its direction?

4. How will municipalities be invited to apply?

You will have to decide the scale of the programme you want to initiate, and how you will invite local municipalities to participate in the CFCI. Issues to reflect on include:

- Are you going to begin with a pilot to test out your methodology?
- Will you invite a small number of cities/communities to take part in that pilot process?
- Will you put out a national call for a limited or an unlimited number of volunteer communities?
- How will you spread and communicate the call?
- How many communities will you select?
- Could you use existing networks or platforms?





Read full: UNICEF
Child Friendly Cities and
Communities Initiative
Toolkit for National
Committees



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5. What are the criteria for selecting and recognizing a city or community as child friendly?

You will need to decide on the criteria by which to select applicants. There are several ways to approach this, for example by:

- deciding on a given number in advance and taking applicants on a first come, first served basis;
- accepting all applicants;
- requiring the development of a detailed proposal or situation analysis to assess commitment and capacity;
- inviting a range of municipalities to reflect a balance of size, geography, socio-economic status, etc.

You also need to determine the accreditation process you want to adopt for recognizing a city or community as a child friendly city. You will have to define crucial issues, including when and how to give the 'label' or accreditation and what is the duration of the certification. You will also need to anticipate difficulties, such as how to remove a label.

