Co-creation with Children and Young People in Iran
This brief report summarizes the results of the co-creation with children and young people in a select number of cities in Iran to be reflected and integrated in the Global Child-friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) Child and Youth Manifesto. The co-creation with children and young people was led by the Ministry of Interior of the IRI and UNICEF Iran Country Office with the participation of municipalities across Iran. An online survey was conducted among the 1,735 children and young people aged between 3 to 20 years old from 30 cities from 19 provinces across Iran. A few closed questions were asked but most questions were open-ended so that children and young people could better express themselves. A series of content analyses was undertaken to reflect the overall perception of children and young people towards the cities they are living in.

**Age**

1,735 children and young people aged between 3 to 20 years old participated in the co-creation process. The average age of the participants was around nine and a half years old. Most participants (55%) were between the ages of 6 to 10.
Cities

Children and young people from more than 30 cities from 19 provinces (of 31 provinces) participated in the co-creation process as shown in the map below (blue: participating; grey: not participating). Cities with less than 10 participating children and young people were merged with the county seat / town. To reflect the voice of all children and young people from Iran, no limitation was set for the participants in the survey.
What do you like about your city?

Children and young people responded to this question mentioning a large range of activities, places, and ideas that they like in their cities. 1,666 responses were received to this question. The responses were coded into CFCI thematic areas for a general understanding of children and young people’s preferences when it comes to their favorite places in the cities they live in.

The leading theme for the children and young people was “Environments” with over 63% of children and young people citing urban spaces, parks, pools, cycling routes, cinemas, and other facilities as their primary space of interest in their cities. Followed up with 33% finding playgrounds, theme parks, and entertainments as their favorite spaces in their cities (i.e. “Play/Leisure”). Then, children and young people found “Education and Skills” with a focus on the amenities at schools, public libraries, and community centres as their favorite.
Which places do you like to get better in your city?

“Environments” emerged as an important theme for children and young people throughout the co-creation process and diving deeper into the aspects where they would like to see further improvements when it comes to the urban spaces and built environment and can be very helpful for the municipalities and urban developers. Children and young people look for further improvements mostly in “Public Spaces (libraries, parks, etc.)” and “Spaces Dedicated to Children (kindergarten, traffic park, play houses, etc.)” in their cities.

Ms. Lena Ismael Savoch – 8 years old – Isfahan, Iran
How are play and entertainment spaces in your city?

“Play and Leisure” was also highlighted by children and young people more than other areas. Overall, children and young people are relatively satisfied with the play spaces in their cities but would like to see further improvements in the expansion and improvement of play and entertainment spaces in their cities.

Ms. Melika Tavakoli – 11 years old – Tehran, Iran
Most children and young people find their “community / neighborhood” and their “home” the safest place in the city while few consider the whole city safe.

What do you like to change in your city?

Similar to the favorite places in their cities, children and young people would like to see their “built environment and public spaces” transformed and “play, leisure, and entertainment” services to be improved in their cities.
If you were the mayor, what would you change in your city?

Participating children and young people in urban decision making can not only improve their confidence and sense of autonomy but also bring the city closer to a suitable place for children and adolescents. It is interesting to see the difference in what children would like to change in their city when they are in charge and when they are not.

The reflective question positions children in the seat of the mayor as the senior decision maker in the city they live in under the general and strategic guidance of the City Council. Most children consider entertainment and play as an important area to make changes in, particularly building and improving theme parks and play houses where they can spend their free time with their friends and peers while they will see improvements to the built environment particularly playgrounds and expansion of green spaces as their secondary objective if they were in charge of the city. Changes in the level of participation of children and young people can hugely influence their satisfaction and happiness within the urban environment in which they live in.
Who listens to you the most?

Children participation has a strong correlation with the how much children voice is heard. Respectively, parents with a share of 41%, teachers with 36%, and decision makers with 23% listen to children the most.

During the co-creation, children and young people indicated that they are heard by 88% their parents while they are heard by 76% teachers and around 48% of decision makers.

Ms. Fatemeh Rahim Pour – 11 years old – Kerman, Iran
Questionnaire: Co-creation with Children and Young People in Iran
July 2019

Name

Age

City

What do you like about your city?

Which places do you like to get better in your city?
- Public spaces (libraries, parks, etc.)
- Infrastructure (roads, utilities, internet, etc.)
- Schools and educational centres
- Spaces dedicated to Children (kindergarten, traffic park, play houses, etc.)

How are play and entertainment spaces in your city?
- Very good
- Good
- Mediocre
- Weak

Where do you feel safe in the city?

What do you like to see change in your city?
If you were the mayor, what would you change in your city?

Who listens to you the most?
Do you feel listened to ...

a) by politicians or decision makers?
- Yes
- No
- Not sure/ do not know

b) by your teachers?
- Yes
- No
- Not sure/ do not know

c) by your parents?
- Yes
- No
- Not sure/ do not know

If you have any comments or recommendation, please share it with us.

Please draw, paint, or visualize your vision of a Child-friendly City (up to three entries per person)

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