

Child friendly cities France : a budget for children



Summary

- I. Introduction
 - UNICEF France
 - Child friendly city in France
- II. A budget for children
 - From step to ambition
 - Objectives
 - Methods
 - The expenses made for children



I. INTRODUCTION : UNICEF FRANCE

- UNICEF France was created in 1964
- It has a legal status of “Association” (under the French law of 1901), and it is accredited by UNICEF International to fulfill a double mission :
 - Collect funding for UNICEF International programs
 - Promote the application of the Child Rights Convention and a better knowledge of the situation of children in the world
- UNICEF France has a team of 50 people
- 80 departmental committees federate 6000 volunteers in the country
- Child friendly Cities France fulfill the second mission of UNICEF France



CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES IN FRANCE

- CFC France was launched in 2002 together with the French mayor's Association, that represents the 36 000 French cities
- By the end of December 2005, France counted 104 Child friendly cities (107 in April 2006).
- They have all become a CFC after having filled up an application form and officially signed the Charter of CFC France.
- In the application form, cities describe what they have done and what their projects are on four focal points :
 - Everyday life of children (schooling, equal access to culture, leisure, integration of those in need, environment, etc...)
 - Child participation
 - International solidarity
 - 20th of November, French Rights of the Child day



A common goal for children in cities

- The Charter of CFC France is a text that defines the common goals of the city and UNICEF to make the Child right convention a reality for children's every day life
- By signing this charter, the city commits itself to :
 - Be accessible and welcoming for children and youth, improve its security, its environment, and an equal access to culture and leisure
 - Promote child civic education and participation in structures where they will be respected and heard
 - Promote a broad knowledge of the Child Rights Convention and international solidarity
 - Celebrate every year the national "Right of the Child day", on the 20th of November



A national strategy

- UNICEF supports cities with a multiple strategy based upon :
 - The common will to implement the Child Rights Convention
 - The idea that by becoming CFC, cities will benefit at no cost from :
 - The UNICEF label “CFC”
 - A communication window on the nation and the world
 - The good practices of others
 - A privileged partnership with UNICEF France for national and international events



A communication window

- French CFC's are part of the French CFC network that gives a better visibility of their innovative actions towards children nationwide :
 - On the French CFC website (www.villeamiedesenfants.fr)
 - In the CFC information letter (3 per year)
 - On the 20th of November through a massive communication campaign
- French CFC's exchange their good practices :
 - Through the French CFC extranet where they can access more than 300 presentations of actions and projects of other cities and include their own experience
 - With a dedicated booklet that is given to them once a year, at the annual CFC France meeting



National events

- 20th of November every year : UNICEF France supports cities to celebrate the anniversary of the Child Rights convention
 - UNICEF France proposes a theme (2005, Unite for Children against AIDS)
 - Activities, ceremonies, conferences
 - Communication tools (posters, leaflets, books)
- Youth in the City forum, July 2006 :
 - 150 young citizens from CFC's will participate in a meeting with architects to make recommendations about a city more adapted to their needs, and make plans of the city for the future



II. A BUDGET FOR CHILDREN : FROM STEP TO AMBITION

- In the French CFC process, cities become “Child friendly city” when the application form is completed and when the charter is signed
- In this approach, UNICEF International “9 steps to become a child friendly city ” have been adapted and called “the 9 ambitions of the French CFC’s”
- At the 2d annual meeting of French CFC’s, in October 2005, the assembly of mayors and city representatives have unanimously agreed to move forward and work on the “9 ambitions” at a local level, together with UNICEF France representatives
- In this context, UNICEF France is modeling, together with the French Bank “Caisse Nationale des Caisses d’Epargne” and CFC’s, a study and a tool to achieve “the budget for children” ambition.

OBJECTIVES

- The creation of a monitoring tool adapted for decision makers :
 - To communicate more on the financial efforts made for children at a local level
 - Have a good visibility on expenses made for children
 - Improve child right strategies choices at a local level
- The creation of a publication
 - To have an annual national indicator on the expenses for children
 - To enhance the visibility of the efforts of the cities for children
 - To foster a better knowledge of the way cities work among French citizens
 - To highlight the importance of children well being in the city

METHODS

- The French CFC's have agreed to encourage and help the creation of “ a budget for children” tool and study by UNICEF France and a bank partner, The Caisse d'Epargne, in October 2004
- 76 Cities 2004 annual reports have been collected by January 2006
- A data base has been created to allow a good segmentation of the information
- A first version of the study will be submitted to the cities in June 2006

THE EXPENSES MADE FOR CHILDREN

- In France cities finance, alone or with the help of the government :
 - Pre-school and elementary schools (buildings, human resources, food)
 - Culture : libraries, music, theatre, and arts learning
 - Sports, leisure : After school, wednesdays and holidays (directly or through not-profit-making associations)
 - Social Action support for those in need
 - After school homework
 - Child participation
 - International solidarity

French cities annual reports

- The French cities financial annual reports are available for any citizen who asks to see them
- In the annual reports, expenses and collections for children are found in headings and sub-headings such as :
 - Education and training
 - Youth
 - Family support
 - Nurseries, Day care centers
 - Holiday camps

A child friendly city approach

- The French cities financial annual reports do not give the transversal vision of what a child friendly city does
- In this regard, the “budget for children” study will also include :
 - Child participation : child papers, children councils
 - Not-profit-making associations supporting children
 - International solidarity

A broad vision

- A national vision of the part of the budget dedicated to children compared to the global budget :
 - By city
 - By group of likewise cities (based on the number of inhabitants)
 - By theme
- A local indicator :
 - How much money spent for youth by inhabitant
 - Part of youth budget in the global city budget
 - Money spent by child for primary school, summer camps, child participation, etc...
- On the long term, cities will make this annual budget analysis alone, and could add it to their global annual report as an annex

- THANK YOU !

