

# Child Friendly Cities

Astana, Kazakhstan  
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For every child  
Health, Education, Equality, Protection  
ADVANCE HUMANITY



# What is a Child Friendly City?

It is a city, or any local system of governance, committed to fulfilling children's rights.

It is a city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions.

# Definition of Child Friendly Cities

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) was launched in 1996 to make cities liveable places for all; in UNICEF terms, for "children first."

A Child Friendly City is actively engaged in fulfilling the right of every young citizen to:

- Influence decisions about their city
- Express their opinion on the city they want
- Participate in family, community and social life

- Receive basic services such as health care and education
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Walk safely in the streets on their own
- Meet friends and play
- Have green spaces for plants and animals
- Live in an unpolluted environment
- Participate in cultural and social events
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability

# Reasons for Child Friendly Cities

- More than half of the world's children will soon live in cities
- This urbanisation creates new social problems and challenges
- Higher density in cities allows to provide basic and specialized services for lower per-capita costs
- Worldwide trend of government decentralization
  - Local governments and cities have more responsibility to provide social services for children and families

# Building blocks

## 1) Children's participation

promoting children's active involvement in issues that affect them; listening to their views and taking them into consideration in decision-making processes

## 2) A child friendly legal framework

ensuring legislation, regulatory frameworks and procedures which consistently promote and protect the rights of all children

## 3) A city-wide Children's Rights Strategy

developing a detailed, comprehensive strategy or agenda for building a Child Friendly City, based on the Convention

## 4) A Children's Rights Unit or coordinating mechanism

developing permanent structures in local government to ensure priority consideration of children's perspective

# Building blocks

## 5) Child impact assessment and evaluation

ensuring that there is a systematic process to assess the impact of law, policy and practice on children - in advance, during and after implementation

## 6) A children's budget

ensuring adequate resource commitment and budget analysis for children

## 7) A regular State of the City's Children Report

ensuring sufficient monitoring and data collection on the state of children and their rights

## 8) Making children's rights known

ensuring awareness of children's rights among adults and children

## 9) Independent advocacy for children

supporting non-governmental organisations and developing independent human rights institutions - children's ombudspeople or commissioners for children - to promote children's rights.

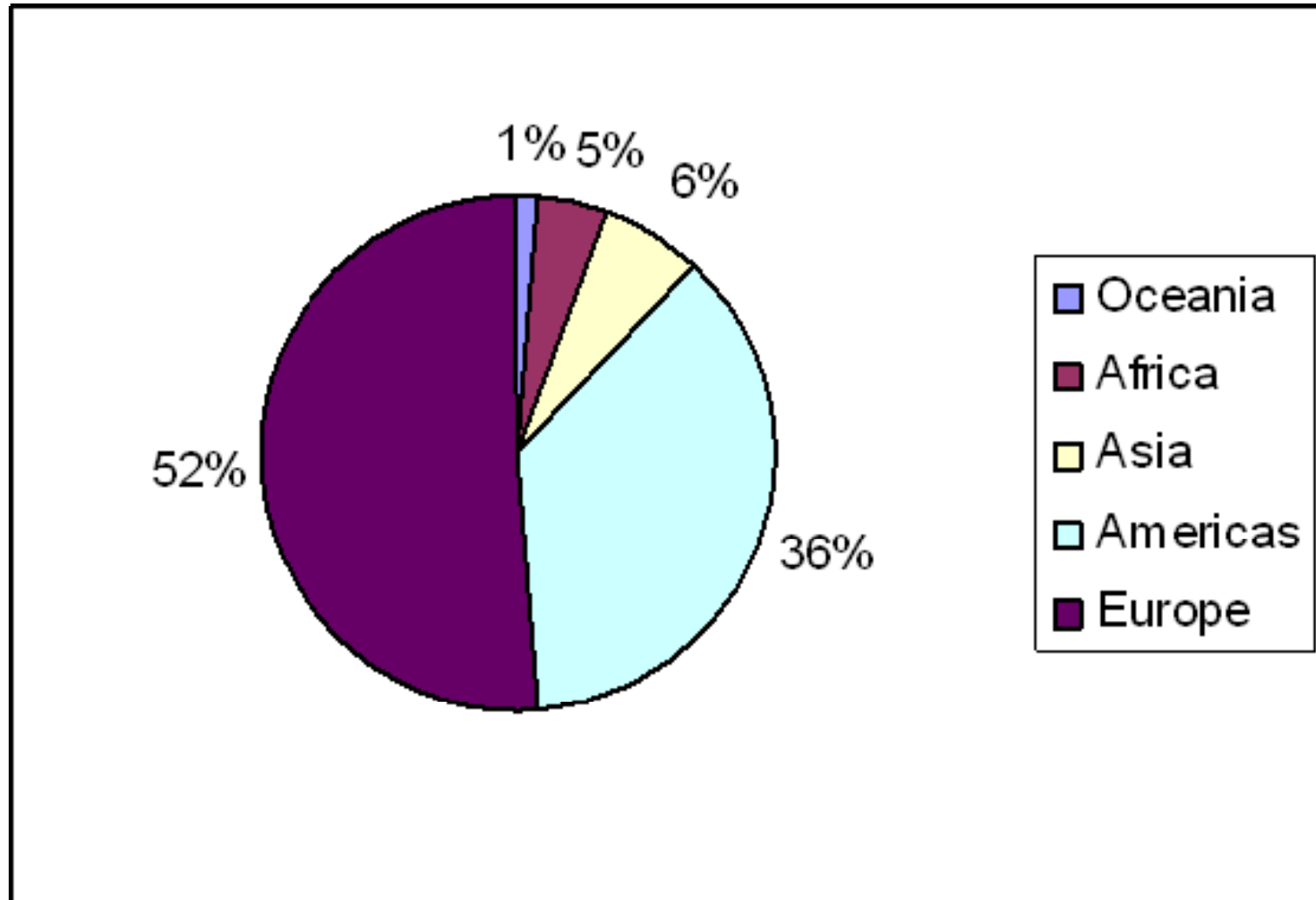
## Child Friendly Cities worldwide

There are 867 Child Friendly Cities all over the world on every continent. Most of them are located in Europe, especially in France, Italy and Spain. Furthermore there are many Child Friendly Cities in South America, particularly in Brazil.

So far Child Friendly Cities are established in 11 countries in Africa, in 11 American, 11 Asian, 23 European and 3 Oceanian countries.



# Child Friendly Cities worldwide



# Child Friendly Cities worldwide

The initiative is not limited to developed or developing countries.

Also many middle-income and transition countries, like Brazil and Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Ukraine, take part in the Child Friendly Cities Initiative.

# International experience – Best Practices

## The example of the Child Friendly City of Munich, Germany

- Munich is since 1999 a Child Friendly City
- The Munich Children's Office was established to concentrate on children and youth participation and put children's wellbeing at the heart of the city's administrative programme

## International experience – Munich, Germany

- Establishment of a Children's Coordinator, that acts like a Ombudsman for children and ensure that their suggestions and complaints reach the necessary political and administrative level
- Establishment of a Children's Council. It is the main representative body for children, supported by the Department of Social Affairs, and ensures participation by children at both city-wide level and community level.

## International experience – Munich, Germany

### **Main objectives:**

- Building Strategic Partnerships
- Linkages with CFC-networks
- Special attention for disadvantaged groups
- Advocacy and awareness-raising
- Institutional and legal reforms
- Resource mobilisation
- Capacity building activities and
- Monitoring and Evaluation

# Child Friendly Cities worldwide

Beside Munich other cities like

Nairobi, Kenya

Johannesburg, South Africa

La Paz, Bolivia

Mexico City, Mexico

Bombay, India

Bankokg, Thailand

Dubai, UAE

Paris, France

Roma, Italy

Vilnius, Lithuania

Oslo, Norway

Warsaw, Poland

Moscow, Russia

London, UK

Melbourne, Australia

committed to a child friendly policy and signed the Child Friendly Cities Initiative.

# For more Information about Child Friendly Cities

**Homepage** [www.childfriendlycities.org](http://www.childfriendlycities.org)

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Please ask if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for your attention!

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