

Cities for Children framework

World Vision’s strategic framework for urban programming

“Cities for Children” is World Vision’s framework for addressing children’s vulnerabilities in urban contexts.¹ It is anchored in WV’s Child Wellbeing Aspirations² and links with tested urban approaches developed by various UN agencies. It consists of four inter-related domains of change that are essential to the wellbeing of urban children: healthy, prosperous, safer and resilient cities. Underpinning these domains is the enabling factor of advocacy; seeking justice and inclusion of the most vulnerable, promoting equity for all through Just Cities for Children. Each of the four domains identifies an aspirational goal to address unique issues of the city (Box 1).



Figure 1 - The Cities for Children framework

The goals for each domain are:

1. **Safer Cities:** To ensure that children and their families live in a safe and protected environment, free from violence, abuse, exploitation and harm.
2. **Healthy Cities:** To strengthen availability of and access to public health services and contribute to healthy urban environments where children thrive.
3. **Prosperous Cities:** To create an enabling environment for overall livability focusing on inclusive education, pro-poor employment, local asset building and greater economic productivity for youth.
4. **Resilient Cities:** To ensure children and their families are prepared to respond to, recover and rebuild from urban shocks, stressors and vulnerabilities.
5. **Just Cities:** To create and contribute to just, equitable and inclusive cities where the vulnerable are formally recognized and are able to exercise their rights.

Box 1: Domains of change goals

Common across the four domains of change are four **strategic pillars** and four **enablers of change** emerging from practice (Box 2).

The strategic pillars are proposed as essential components to achieving sustainable, large-scale and transformational impact in urban centers. The pillars address urban issues and distinctives of density, diversity and dynamics that are common to all cities. The pillars are interconnected and should be advanced in tandem to address the challenges of urban programming and achieve the aspirations of each domain of change.

The enablers for change seek to guide development practitioners and local stakeholders to recognize and utilize the assets, capitals and advantages already present in their urban environments. These enablers therefore act as sustainable ‘tools’ to be used in advancing progress in the four strategic pillars and enhance programmatic impact at the city-level. While the enablers for change are common to all domains of change, development actors are encouraged to consider urban advantages in accordance to the cities’ contexts.

¹ WVI’s Cities for Children Framework was initially informed by UNICEF’s Children Friendly Cities Framework, applied, adapted locally by WV’s urban pilots

² Shaded grey areas of Figure 1 are WV’s Child Wellbeing Aspirations

Strategic pillars

1. **Social cohesion:** Building social cohesion amongst diverse communities and promoting inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups
2. **Urban governance:** Strengthening the quality of urban governance at all levels, promoting community engagement with decision making processes, local-led advocacy in order to achieve citywide effective policy impact
3. **Knowledge building:** Supporting knowledge building through enhancing the accessibility, representation, accuracy of data and information to leverage and advocate for inclusion and transformational change
4. **Built environment, public space and basic services:** Improving the quality of the built environment, shared public space and service delivery for safety, security and well-being of children and their communities

Enablers of change

1. **Partnerships:** Establishing citywide partnerships with diverse city actors and strengthening capacities of all key stakeholders to promote collective action and collaboration for quality, scale and impact
2. **Technology:** Utilizing existing and new technological capacity and innovations to assist in designing smart and inclusive cities
3. **Urban Planning and Design:** Ensuring urban planning and design is inclusive, participatory and responsive to the needs and solutions of the most vulnerable groups, especially children in urban settings
4. **Urban Policy:** Ensuring that urban policy at all tiers of the city, from neighborhood to city and national level, promotes equity and advocates for sustainable development

Box 2: CFC's strategic pillars and enablers of change

In addition to strategic pillars and enablers of change, the CFC proposes **entry points** to respond to the uniqueness and complexity of each city. Entry points are adaptive, responsive, relevant and flexible issue based projects tailored to the specific urban context in which they are to be implemented. Entry point projects are proposed to be implemented at the community/neighborhood level with eventual view to scale up with and through partners to the citywide level. Every entry point into the target community must be context relevant, as should the indicators used to monitor and measure its progress.

Figure 2 provides a visual explanation on the linkages between strategic pillars, enablers of change and entry points.

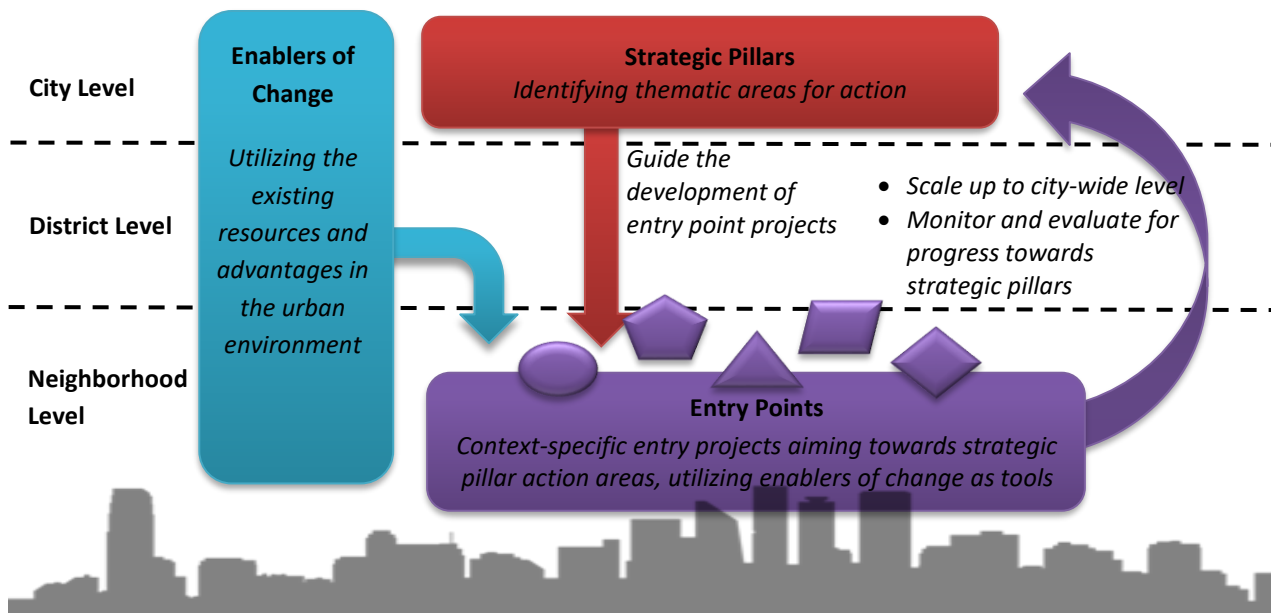


Figure 2: Elements of CFC and their interaction at different urban levels

The CFC Framework will assist with the following aspects of urban programming:

- Proposing issue-based approach to development interventions starting from neighborhood, with opportunities to scale up operations to municipal/district and city level, to achieve measurable citywide impact and sustainability through advocacy and policy reform
- Empowering staff with a cohesive integrated framework that enables them to form strategic partnerships in order to be effective in the complex urban environment and to create shared value proposition and capabilities, which enables wider reaching impact with far less investment
- Highlighting WV's Christian commitment to justice, equity and inclusion, and aims to drive citizen participation, ownership and empowerment of the most vulnerable and marginalized children and communities.