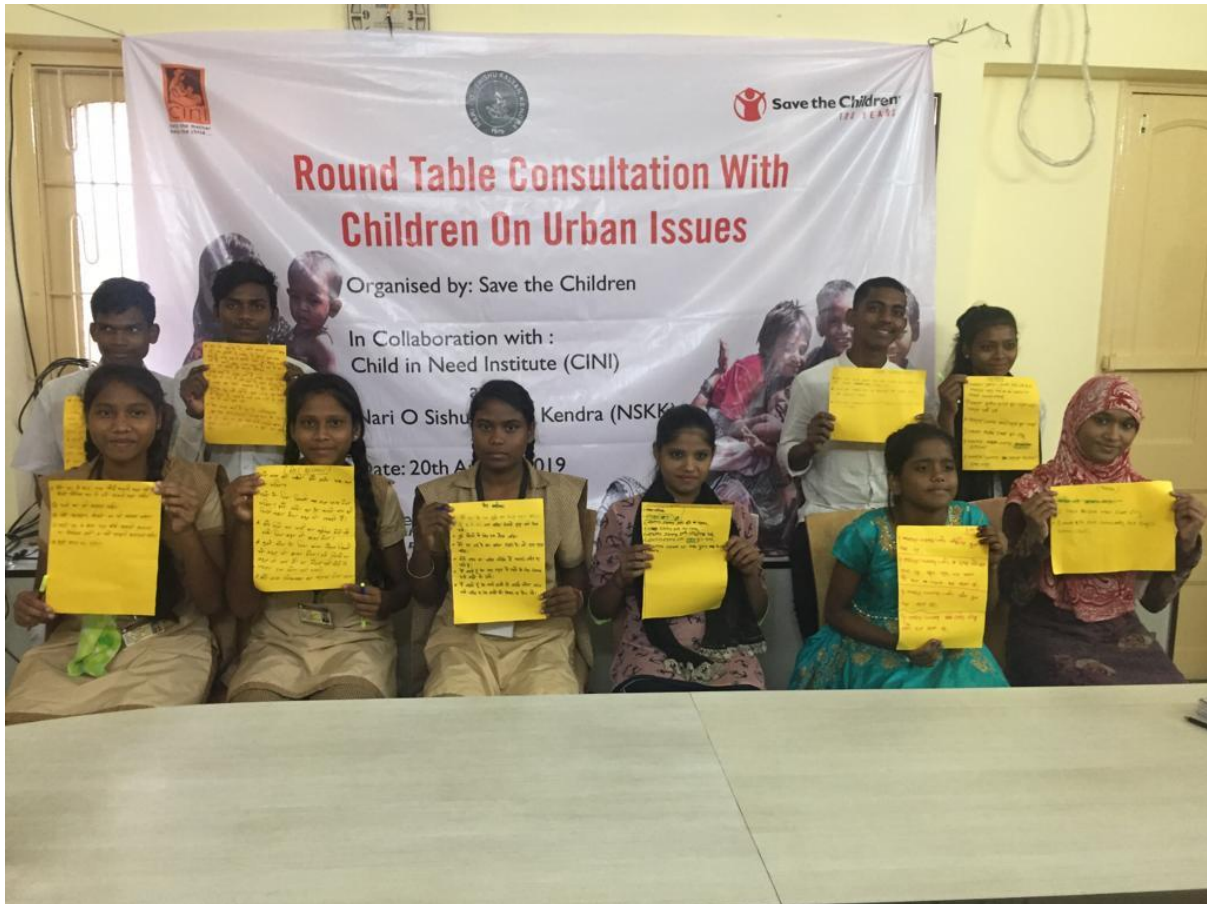


Urban Development in India: An Actionable Agenda for Integrating 'Children in Street Situations' (CiSS)



Contributors: Professor Amir Bazaz, IIHS Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) Bangalore, Ms Alka Singh, Mr. Manish Thakre, Save the Children and, Ms. Kanak Tiwari, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA),

Urbanisation in India and children on the street

Evolving narratives from 'Cities as growth engines' to an articulated narrative of 'Cities as engines of inclusive development'

India's urban centres are starting to command more attention in the developmental discourse as well as in policy and priority setting. This is driven by two related trends: an increasing concentration of population as well as economic activity in urban areas, particularly since liberalisation (since 1991). As of 2011, 32 percent of the population lives in urban areas. In addition, the economic contribution of the urban has been rising significantly over the years; as of 2011 urban India contributed 63 percent of India's GDP and this is expected to rise to 75 percent by 2030.¹

The policy response to urbanisation reflects a fixation with cities as drivers of growth. Hence, there is a push towards more and better infrastructure delivered through programmes like the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and many second generation urban

¹ Smart Cities – Mission Statement and Guidelines. Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, 2015

programmes like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart City Mission. On the other hand, urban economic growth has also yielded tensions over resource allocation decisions not only between rural and urban areas but within urban areas themselves. In addition, urban areas are also witnessing an increase in inequality, informalisation of employment and deterioration in the quality of work and life.

What does this imply for 'Children in Street Situation (CiSS)'? Findings from Save the Children India's research² reveal that the issues of CiSS are interlinked to the larger evolution of urbanisation and urban development and are a result of several complex factors that interact with each other and influence outcomes. For instance, a large part of the problem for CiSS seems to be located in the lack of shelter/affordable housing, which pushes poor migrant families to the margins (a street children survey done by Save the Children in five cities indicated that 47% of the street children in these five cities were 'children of street living families'). This residential vulnerability is further made worse by the lack of basic services such as adequate and nutritious food, safe potable water and clean sanitation facilities. This not only leads to a degradation in their quality of life but also affects their prospects in terms of upward social and economic mobility. These CiSS often end up engaging in odd jobs such as waste picking, street vending, beggary and become part of a large informal economy which lacks social security.

In order to move away from looking at cities as engines of growth, and rural areas as places needing developmental intervention and as sites for inclusion, it is reasonably argued, in present times, that the policy frame should start looking at cities as 'engines of inclusive development'³ that transforms itself as well as the rural areas.

To achieve the inclusive development agenda, there has been an increasing recognition and realisation of the need to focus on linking macro dynamics like urbanisation with employment generation and related economic and human development. Employment generation plays a strong role in delivering twin objectives of economic growth and poverty reduction and it has the potential to provide more equitable development outcomes.

Keeping these trends in mind, the present need is to analyse how cities can continue to generate growth as well as enable the urban poor to work their way out of poverty. State governments will continue to play an important role in determining the mix of policies for urban economic development, although over time some of these responsibilities should be devolved to city and regional governments. Horizontal integration among different governing bodies will ensure a coordinated response to the challenge of employment generation as a strategy for inclusive urban development. It is important to take cognizance of the large number of settlements that are acquiring urban characteristics but which currently come under the fold of the rural. Policies should focus on sectors and industries which are labour intensive in order to generate higher employment and the labour market needs to be more sensitised to the needs of women and should be able to provide more opportunities for women to enter the workforce, and of better quality.

Global development agenda

The framework for development interventions, is largely, linked to a larger global development framework. In India, when second generation of urban development programmes were launched (the six major urban missions which are AMRUT, SCM, PMAY, NULM, SBM and HRIDAY), the global developmental framework was redefined with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) replaced by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs (2015-2030) essentially build on the foundation laid by the MDGs while overcoming some of its limitations. The SDGs offer a universal developmental agenda along with a shift from clear problem definition to iterative solution

² Life on the Street <https://www.savethechildren.in/sci-in/files/08/08c7e6ee-f8c0-4ef6-b956-3c26f6601409.pdf>

³ Locating the debate – Poverty and Vulnerability in Urban India. IIHS-RF paper on Urban Poverty, 2014

implementation. Importantly, the framework articulated a clear political commitment to inclusion. They are also far wider in scope and comprise of 17 goals and 169 targets. There has been a conscious effort on the part of Government of India to align its developmental interventions with the development framework⁴ created under the SDGs.

Importantly, with more than half the world population now living in urban areas, the SDGs acknowledged that sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces. Further, it stated that extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban spaces, and national and city governments struggle to accommodate the rising population in these areas. Making cities safe and sustainable means ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading slum settlements. It also involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

In addition, and in recognition of the increasing importance of cities, the United Nations adopted the New Urban Agenda in 2016. It is a guiding roadmap for building cities that can serve as engines of prosperity and centres of cultural and social well-being while at the same time ensure environmental protection. It emphasises on the mutually reinforcing relationship between urbanization and development and proposes a set of operational and development 'enablers' to that end. The agenda gives utmost importance to ensuring equity in the face of globalization, as well as maintaining the safety and security of everyone who live in urban areas, of any gender and age. It also provides guidance for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is clear from the existing (SDGs, Paris Climate Agreement, Sendai Framework) and evolving global development and other frameworks that urbanisation has been recognised as a critical 21st century phenomena and its effective management is regarded to be a dominant challenge. What the framework further emphasizes is the need to prioritize inclusion and participatory development and be mindful of this primary objective.

Charter of recommendations

The set of recommendations proposed here are based on Save the Children's work on CiSS, will lead to several developmental benefits and in the process help achieve the SDGs and the goals envisioned in each of our national urban missions. We envision that there should be no rough sleeping for CiSS in India's urban centres. A detailed mapping of the proposed interventions to the missions and SDGs is available in **Annexure 1** of this document.

1. Data on CiSS

One of the major barriers to designing policy interventions for CiSS is the complete lack of data on them. To this end, the following measures can be taken:

- **Data on 'street children'**: This needs to be conducted by all cities which need to (a) identify source locations from where children either migrate by themselves or with families (b) track the progress of each CiSS and make it available on demand. This (age and gender segregated) data aggregation can first be conducted in the **Smart Cities**. A competition process among the existing smart cities can be conducted based on the identification of a set of indicators that define a child-friendly 'smart city' and on the extent of availability of data and identification of child friendly 'smart' solutions (this would enable understanding the existing state of data on CiSS and allow for building on some data frameworks). This data on CiSS will help urban local bodies (ULBs) to decide on the child care institutions (homes/ shelters etc.) design, planning and requirement. The draft National Urban Policy Framework (NUPF) 2018 mentions "The NULM

⁴ [SDG mapping to Indian Schemes - NITI AAYOG](#)

guidelines must be implemented for the construction of shelter homes and night shelters, ensuring that shelters for different and particular population groups like **houseless**, families, distressed women, street connected children and youth are established.” Robust implementation of the **Data Maturity Assessment Framework** of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will facilitate this process. A knowledge exchange forum could be facilitated where cities could learn from each other and implement ideas that address challenges of street children.

- **Evaluation of Smart City Plans (SCP):** Within the selection criteria – for evaluating SCPs, there is a need to reorient certain questions that are directly linked to CiSS. For example, baseline information about CiSS. Of the questions that are asked while assessing Smart City Plans, the one relating to vulnerable sections of society is particularly interesting and one can focus on CiSS as an explicit criterion.
- **Ease of Living Index:** The index launched by the MoHUA must have indicators for specifically assessing the built environment and infrastructure in cities with respect to children of all ages and abilities with special emphasis on CiSS. For example, under the ‘Social’ parameters mentioned in MoHUA’s [Liveability Standards in Cities](#) to rank cities, indicators such as number of CiSS could be included. Their conditions in terms of access to shelter, basic water, sanitation and health could be listed as sub-indicators.
- **Geo-spatial data:** Geo-spatial and other urban data platforms need to incorporate data related to and affecting CiSS. An example for this can be the NIUA led Interactive Spatial Decision Support System (ISDSS) for Delhi which maps infrastructure for children such as schools, police stations/chowkis, hospitals/nursing homes, fire stations, road network, traffic lights, drains, green belt and parks, industries. It also represents the level of vulnerability faced by them in a spatial context.
- **Access to basic services:** Due to lack of data and a permanently informal status, CiSS seldom have access to basic services including shelter. A technological mechanism that would facilitate access to services, could also help with social tracking of CiSS. Birth registration and identity proof with bio-metrics will help CiSS and their families in accessing social protection schemes. A good example of this is the health smart cards - Bal Swasthya Card’19 given out for every new child born in Ahmedabad. These will not only help digitally track birth but also provide information of the child’s physical and mental growth and will keep track of vaccination dates.

2. Early childhood care and education (ECCE) and Access to Education

In the case of CiSS, the responsibility of providing education primarily falls on the Government. The following measures can be taken to ensure that CiSS are not only provided with immediate help but are also aided to make robust transition into formal schooling, health care and then employment.

- **Non-Residential Special Training Centres (NRSTCs) or Residential Special Training Centres (RSTCs):** Children are admitted into **NRSTCs and RSTCs** where they receive special training and are thereafter mainstreamed into government schools. The advantage of having centres within schools is that much of the infrastructure already exists and only limited additions, like toilets and a kitchen are required. The difficulty with this programme, from the perspective of CiSS, is that after the bridge period, the child is supposed to be ‘mainstreamed’ by which it is understood commonly that not only would the child now attend regular school, but also return from the residential special training centre to live at home with the family. It does not envisage the situation of CiSS that they may not have a home, or a family, or both to return to. Therefore, a major breakthrough from the perspective of CiSS, and potentially the most significant large government programme is the programme for Urban Residential Hostels (URHs) for urban deprived children.
- **Drop in shelters:** Establishing a large network of drop-in shelters with feeding, healthcare, de-addiction and rehabilitative services. State and local governments should provide a large

number of drop-in shelters near all major urban railway stations and bus stations, as well as other points of assembly of street children. This should provide the point of first contact to both new and older street children. These drop-in shelters could play an important role in providing a safe place for CiSS to spend the night, in addition to providing or connecting them with other relevant interventions like feeding programmes, health care access, drug de-addiction services, special training centres and non-formal education. However, drop-in shelters should not be the final destination of these children, because a child's right perspective requires that the child be taken voluntarily to a safe location away from the streets, in which the range of children's rights are met, including house, food, nutrition, education and healthcare.

- **Residential hostels:** The Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, must make a plan for opening sufficient urban voluntary residential hostels for all CiSS. These plans must be of sufficient scale to cover all CiSS. These may be by sharing spaces with existing urban day schools, but can also be located in independent buildings, with children attending regular schools. In addition, systems should be established for quality care within the residential hostels, to ensure a caring and safe social atmosphere.
- **Robust implementation of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS):** Though there is a provision under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to designate at least one shelter home in each state for the care, detoxification and counselling of children affected by substance abuse, very few such specialised homes have been established so far.
- **Continuum of care:** The Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act and child labour laws define and extend rights and protection to different age-groups of children. However, it is important that for street children, and for all children without adult protection, all of these laws extend rights to children from birth to 18 years uniformly. Further, it also must be recognised that youth without homes and families would need support, including for continuing education beyond 18 years. There should be a policy of special stipend and scholarships for higher and technical education for these youths without adult protection, as well as assistance until they complete their higher and technical education. Support to these children for technical and higher education should be on par with admission quotas, stipends and scholarships available for SC and ST children.
- **Children homes during pendency of query:** Under the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) 2000, there are several opportunities for non-institutional humane alternatives to deal with vulnerable children in need and in conflict with law, to provide them protection and care in families and in the community. One major opportunity contained in the JJA 2000 is the reference in Section 34 towards the establishment of children's homes for the reception of child in need of care and protection during pendency of any inquiry and subsequently for their care, treatment, education, training, development and rehabilitation. It is a major opportunity that the letter of the law acknowledges, in principle. Section 39 of the JJA clearly lays down that restoration and protection shall be the prime objective of any children's home or the shelter home. It is explained that the child may be restored to parents, adopted parents and foster parents. Ensuring effective implementation of the aforementioned provisions under the JJA is crucial for 'CiSS'.

3. Employment for street living families

We argue that neither of the two dominant approaches of poverty reduction—trickle-down effects of economic growth or redistributive transfers—are sufficient to achieve a paradigm shift that genuinely improves lives for the urban poor while simultaneously maintaining economic growth. What could bridge the gaps within these two approaches is a focus on work and livelihoods as an

explicit strategy for poverty reduction in urban areas. Such an approach implies specific policies and schemes that are targeted towards generating growth and improving productivity in the labour intensive sectors of the Indian urban economy. These will positively influence 'street living families' and in turn lead to the overall well-being of 'children on the street'. Some measures that need to be taken are as follows:

- **Employability skills including life skill training:** For people from street living families' special provisions need to be made under NULM to provide for skilling and upskilling. Encouragement for self-employment to be provided by improving access to credit and training on business ideas. In the case of street children that are taken into NRSTCs, RSTCs, drop in shelters and urban hostels, vocational training needs to be provided either at the residential facility itself or in conjunction with the formal education system that they are eventually integrated into.
- **Formalisation of waste pickers:** Save the Children's research has revealed that a majority of the street living children are waste pickers. Under NULM, during the enumeration of waste pickers, the number of children working as waste pickers also to be surveyed and then rehabilitation to be started. Within the guidelines for integration of PMAY (U) and NULM, an explicit component on 'street living families' needs to be included.
- **Employment in rural areas:** Unless adequate employment opportunities are generated in rural areas and infrastructure for agriculture and housing improves, unabated migration will continue due to economic reasons resulting in increase in the possibility of street-living families or children in the cities. Schemes such as the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission need to be extended to more village clusters and the most vulnerable groups within these have to be given priority.

4. Girls safety and public places

Save the Children's research on 'World of India's Girls - A study on the perception of girls' safety in public spaces' (WINGS 2018) has revealed that adolescent girls face issues in cities due to poorly lit lanes, poorly managed or overcrowded public places, over-crowded public transport, lack of awareness of child line numbers and inadequate support of police. If measures are taken to improve these aspects, cities would become a lot more liveable for adolescent girls.

- **Green spaces:** As per mission guidelines of AMRUT, 2.5% of the funds allocated annually to every city must be directed towards creating one children's park every year in all AMRUT cities, thus reinforcing children's right to play. Along with child friendly components, AMRUT cities to ensure access to these space to all children (especially CiSS), maintenance of their safety and link it to other education related and learning activities
- **Surveillance mechanisms:** CCTVs to be installed across all street/by-lanes and critical locations like markets, cinema halls, malls and important roads and all public spaces in rural and urban areas should have proper functional lighting
- **Access to hygiene:** Free, safe, hygienic, functional and 24 x 7 accessible public toilets to be installed. IEC funds from the Swachh Bharat Mission need to be used to conduct awareness and training programme for adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene.
- **Safe transportation:** Safe public transport by installing CCTV cameras, GPS and SOS button to alert the police control room and sensitization of drivers and conductors. Wherever possible, girls/ women-only transport services should be started by state governments, especially on routes serving educational institutions like schools and colleges
- **Gender Resource Centres:** Setting up of gender resource centres like the state resource centre (set up by Save the Children in Ranchi and Delhi that serves as an information-cum-response centre for migrant women and children who are victims of trafficking)

5. Disaster resilience

The urban population in India is likely to increase to 50 percent by 2050 (UN DESA, 2014) and it is expected that by then most of the people living in India will reside in urban areas, of which 138 of them will have populations above 500,000 people (World Urbanisation Prospects). With people increasingly living in cities, the densities are bound to increase, and with them other assets and sources of economic output. Many of the urban centres are exposed to multiple hazards, especially earthquake, cyclone, storm surge, drought, floods and fires. Growing concentrations of people, built and economic assets in cities is exponentially increasing their propensity to disaster risk. The limited housing stock further forces people to live in informal housing, often in more dangerous and undevelopable areas. Some ways in which to reduce the damage from these risks and build resilience are as follows:

- **Tracing mechanisms:** Innovative family tracing and re-unification platforms and mechanisms for separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children need to have a place in the urban agenda especially in times of disasters. Disaster management and mitigation centres and children helplines to be set up in all cities.
- **Training for resilience:** Under NULM, training can be undertaken to build skills for disaster management among the frontline people, particularly people from the community. Training entities who can impart training on first response need to be identified and empanelled. This pool of trained people including task force members from street dwellers will be vital in mitigating the damage from disasters and thus lead to well-being of the community, especially that of street children.
- **Resilience in infrastructure projects:** Up until now, resilience of cities has been focused on buildings. Some progress has been made to build the resilience of physical infrastructure such as water supply and sewerage systems, drainage, and transport infrastructure. Disruption of these systems at the time of a disaster affects the response time as well as post disaster restoration, with children being the most susceptible if sudden collapse of city systems happens. AMRUT has taken the right step by prescribing building resilience against disasters by including disaster secure engineering and structural norms in the design itself. ULB officials need to be made familiar to the idea of infrastructure resilience especially keeping in mind the most vulnerable groups

6. Affordable housing

In the Indian cities, there is a need for low-cost affordable housing for the poorest of urban poor and a clear policy on slum redevelopment and eviction of dwellers. This is relevant in both mid-sized cities as well as large metros. The phenomenal growth observed in urban areas during the last two decades are pushing housing rentals and prices of residential properties far beyond the reach of the urban poor, even in peripheral areas of the city. Government of India has ensured adequate affordable housing, particularly for the urban poor and thus, remedying issues of structural inequality in Indian cities. Some suggestions on these lines are as below:

- **Homeless night shelters:** An intervention of direct relevance for the protection of street children are the homeless night shelters, which have been established under a Supreme Court order in the Right to Food case. Such shelters, mandated by the Court to be operated in all major cities, are run by NGOs with funding from the concerned urban local body. Children generally stay in shelters being run for women and families, but in Delhi and Chennai, a few dedicated night shelters have also been established for older children under the programme. At present, night shelters for children are few in number and operate largely on the initiative of individual NGOs. Moreover, night shelters for girls face security concerns as well. A more structured approach to setting up sufficient numbers of such shelters in all cities, either

independently or in co-ordination with the open shelters being operated under ICPS, has the potential to reach out to a large number of street children.

- **Migrant housing:** According to the Smart Cities Mission guidelines, 15% of the total housing stock created in any greenfield development is directed to be affordable housing, in order to address the needs of expanding population in cities, particularly the urban poor. However, in order to address the housing requirements of migrant labour both the Smart Cities Mission and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) need to make provisions for rental, incremental and social housing to speed up the process of providing quality affordable housing in urban areas. Introduce a 'rent to own' component which could be a slightly modified version of what was in RAY. With a robust framework for operation and maintenance, rental housing can be a practical alternative to user-owned affordable housing.
- **Holistic development:** NULM ensures child care facilities for young children by linking the shelter built under the Shelter to the Urban Homeless (SUH) scheme to the nearest Anganwadi centres. The same should be extended to rental and incremental housing. Access to services such as sanitation, transportation, schools or health facilities by local bodies should also be ensured.
- **Link to livelihood:** The housing being provided should be located close to livelihood opportunities and not in the outer periphery of the city, for which a baseline assessment should be carried out.

7. Water, Sanitation and hygiene

Slow but steady progress has been made in this direction. Improvements in access to and the quality of basic environmental services are both critical ends to reducing poverty, reducing vulnerability in housing, and significantly improving human development outcomes. How can we build an entitlement framework that not just enables but mandates universal provision of access to environmental services in urban areas? There are two considerations within this. The first is to establish priority of resource allocation to expand existing infrastructure to areas with greater need. The second is to remove barriers to accessing infrastructure, in particular, spatial illegality.

- **Prioritisation in service provision:** Basic services such as water supply, sanitation and safe public transport needs to be improved through effective implementation of various urban development schemes/initiatives. Although the existing and earlier urban public programmes have prioritized efficient, affordable and safe provisioning of basic services; an assessment around the needs of servicing critical hot spots on priority is essential.
- **Immediate service provision:** Provision of housing for all street living families will happen in a phased manner, until then certain basic services have to be provided to them at different locations of their concentration in the city. Water ATMs need to be set up in different parts of the city. Specific groups such as construction labour should be provided with temporary toilets at all sites in urban areas, buildings, parks and roads where construction / maintenance work is taking place or where construction labour is temporarily housed. This is very important for their children, especially very young children who stay with their mothers to have a safe toilet and disposal system to discourage open defecation in unhygienic and unsafe conditions close to the building site. In places where setting up permanent infrastructure is hard, mobile toilets need to be provided.
- **Toilets designed for children (boys and girls):** All public and community toilets should have a prescribed number of toilets designed for children (boys and girls). Standards for design and fitting of fixtures based on the anthropometric measurements for instance smaller squat plates, low height urinals and basins, low height soap dispensers etc. need to be followed. Provision of shared parent/children's cubicles with side-by-side adult and child pedestals in spaces that have children-friendly facilities. Safety measures like balancing and support handlebar at appropriate

height and improved pit toilets with a stable base to prevent children from falling should also be provided. Funds from sub components of the Swachh Bharat Mission such as the National Bal Swachhta Mission and Swachh Anganwadis can be used for these.

- **Menstrual health:** In order to promote the menstrual health of street living adolescent girls, separate toilets can be designated for them with facilities such as proper lighting, availability of lady caretaker 24/7 and sanitary napkin vending machines. Some section of the IEC funds under SBM can be specifically used to raise awareness on menstrual health and hygienic practices among adolescent girls.

8. Capacity Building

The Integrated Capacity Building Programme that was introduced in October, 2018 by the MoHUA covers the six major urban missions – AMRUT, SCM, PMAY (U), NULM, HRIDAY and SBM (U). Integration and expected benefits are centred on the need to streamline and integrate the capacity building efforts of MoHUA under a singular integrated framework and to provide mission-specific inputs as well as common inputs to various functionaries of the urban local bodies in order to ensure efficient design of implementation and overall understanding of missions and various inter linkages. We propose that MoHUA should integrate an explicit training module, within the integrated capacity building program, that sensitizes various functionaries about the need to address challenges with respect to street children.

A related point is that police and enforcement personnel, responsible for care and protection, need better training and sensitization about the status and vulnerabilities of street children. This sensitization should be in the domain of how to handle street children when found in streets and how to counsel the parents and caregivers so as to prevent repeat cases of children running away from home.

Concluding Remarks

In the 21st century, Indian urbanisation faces challenges like – unplanned development, rapid and haphazard urbanisation, lack of appropriate processes – non-participatory and exclusive and thereby, is confronted with certain key challenges – informality, (economic, social, physical) vulnerability, structural inequality, poverty and lack of basic services, including appropriate housing.

State has responded to these and other challenges very proactively over the last couple of decades, with a lot more agility. While impacts of these and earlier interventions will be realised over a period of time, we do recognize that there are certain areas of extreme urgency that needs adequate policy response over a short-to-medium time frame, such as those related to exclusion, vulnerability, informality, poverty, inequality, formal jobs, quality of jobs.

Previous sections have specifically focused on understanding issues and challenges with respect to a particular category of social group – children in street situations. With a range of evidence being produced, it is quite clear that this particular category requires adequate policy attention within the present and evolving urban development policy framework. It is recognized that there are certain specific needs and policy response should appropriately align itself with those needs.

We recommend that the new urban policy framework should have three broad objectives, from the perspective of children in street situations:

1. *Responding to immediate needs* – shelter, education, health care, protection
2. *Ability to address certain cross cutting issues* –road safety, mental health, substance abuse, air pollution, disaster resilience, migration, survival of abuse/violence
3. *Ability to address structural inequality and poverty challenge* – addressing unemployment, preparing for formal employment – with adequate social protection provisions

Operationally, we recommend the following at the programmatic level:

1. *Ensuring sustainability of interventions* – provision of adequate resources (finance, trained staff) to ensure children remain a priority in matters of urban affairs. For e.g. a dedicated program that ensures continuous capacity building (for e.g. health workers for new born and young mothers) , massive awareness building programs that are aim at creating resilient communities (preparing community frontline workers, community level disaster management plan, mitigation of risks), ensuring social and other learning opportunities are adequately provisioned (such as a critical mass of learning centres – mobile, residential; that ensures building of vocational skills, provides temporary shelter, essential basic services, and facilitates re-joining of drop outs into educational mainstream.
2. *Ensuring preparedness to emerging well-being issues*: urban local bodies need to have an action plan that addresses concerns related to local air and water pollution, with adequate early warning systems and preparedness on the health provisioning aspect (appropriate training to medical staff, identification of pollution hot spots and associated safe guard measures, regular medical check-up of children to catch early warning signs – to be followed up by appropriate remedial measures).
3. *Responding to the needs of the most vulnerable social group*: migration is deemed to intensify as Indian urbanisation unfolds – owing partly due to environmental concerns interfering with rural livelihood production systems but also, changing aspirations and drying up of the rural economy. Migrants, with families, typically reside in unsafe locations, have least access to social security systems and are largely unable to access various public systems. Children of migrant families, thus, are rendered more vulnerable – lack of education, unsafe living conditions, social disharmony – which could potentially lead to situations of distress. While, at the macro-level, addressing employment challenges and safe living conditions needs to be the normative goals, but care should be taken to ensure that migrant groups are able to assimilate into the social, economic and cultural life of the recipient region. Typically, migrants locate themselves around economic hot spots and therefore, targeted interventions are possible.
4. *Responding to situations triggered by climatic changes* – appropriate climate-compatible planning need to be ensured. Climate Change is triggering extreme weather events and street children are most at risk (extreme temperature, extreme precipitation, health risks). Appropriate targeted response and mitigation plans need to be in place, for e.g. adequate, accessible temporary shelters, training to deal with emergency situations (medical staff, children), provision of simple interventions (identifying hot spots and providing risk mitigating provisions, like drinking water, adequate shade). While we understand that the child on the street should be under institutional protection but being vulnerable, avoidance of incremental exposure should be ensured.
5. *Ensuring security of all kinds* – while basic water, health, livelihood, sanitation, housing security should be ensured for street families; specific provisions to be provided that ensures safety and security of children, particularly adolescent girls (adequate street lighting, CCTC cameras, and adequate access to community toilets in case of street families).

While the above recommendations are in the realm of normative objectives, certain typical aspects would require adequate attention by the public policy apparatus and the state machinery.

1. *Displacement and Relocation, within urban areas*: while developmental interventions are gaining speed in many urban areas of the country, it has resulted in massive internal displacement

of people. In some cases, owing to proximity to various climatic hazards, forced displacement is a necessity in order to save lives. While resettlement and relocation procedures are reasonable, it leads to, in many cases, a situation of families being unable to earn livelihoods or being exposed to hazardous living conditions. In such situation, children are the most affected – losing out on school education, exposed to family distress, unable to access adequate food. It is argued that while resettlement and relocation cannot be completely avoided, care should be taken to ensure that minimum disruption to vulnerable families

2. *Formal employment:* migration to urban areas has intensified in the last couple of decades. Primary reason for both, seasonal and permanent migration, is lack of employment options in rural areas, inadequate economic surplus from agriculture, changing aspirations. In urban regions, migrations grapple with a lot of challenges but the most critical being their entry into informal, casual jobs. This, then, leads to heightened precarity amongst migrant families and possibly, leads to enhanced vulnerability in the context of street children. Social and economic assimilation of migrants need to be facilitated. Some primary intervention areas are: setting up vocational and skill training facilities (above legal age of work, youth can also benefit from these facilities and then can also get advance skills before entering into the labour market), facilitated migration (information centres at various source locations), access to social protection programmes and public health care, opportunities to diversify household income (through self-employment opportunities, facilitated by easy credit and market access, monitorable links to National Urban Livelihoods Mission).

The Draft NUPF 2018 focuses on provisioning of basic services along with housing and shelter to urban poor and deprived including 'street connected children'. This target group is also a key focus area of GOI's ongoing urban programmes and missions such as AMRUT, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat, PMAY, NULM etc. It is thus vital and opportune moment if resources be allocated to prioritised the needs of these vulnerable groups, as it will be catalytic in achieving the inclusionary and sustainable urbanisation, as envisaged in GOI's NUPF. This investment for this segment will help build the knowledge workers that will ensure India's urban development with 'Leave no one behind' and 'Leave no place behind'.



This paper **Urban Development in India: An Actionable Agenda for Integrating 'Children in Street Situations' (CiSS)** has been developed by Save the Children in collaboration with IIHS and contributions from NIUA

Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children in India) is India's leading independent child rights organization providing access to education, nutrition, healthcare, and emergency relief, to lakhs of children across 18 states of India. In 2019, Save the Children celebrates its hundred years. We are determined to build a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Annexure 1: Mapping current urban missions and SDGs to proposed interventions

Scheme	Related objectives	Recommendations for key interventions	Related SDG
Smart Cities Mission (SCM)	Convergence of the various urban programmes and making them child-friendly	Child participation The SCM Guidelines to facilitate a child-led planning process by making use of already available child friendly templates/practices in India	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
	Data driven governance	Census of street children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making it one of the scoring criteria for the selection of Smart Cities in the next round • Conduct a competition among the current 100 Smart Cities based on availability of data on street children and identification of child friendly 'smart' solutions 	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
	Inclusive development	Incorporate into the scoring criteria A set of child friendly indicators of a 'smart city' to be used as one of the criteria for the selection of Smart Cities in the next round	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
	Safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly and efficient urban mobility and public transport	Safety of street children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTVs to be installed across all street/by-lanes and critical locations like markets, cinema halls, malls and important roads • All public spaces should have proper functional lighting • Free, safe, hygienic, functional and 24 x 7 accessible public toilets • Safe public transport by installing CCTV cameras, GPS and SOS button to alert the police control room and sensitization of drivers and conductors • Where possible, girls/ women-only transport services should be started by state governments, especially on routes serving educational institutions like schools and colleges 	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
	Resilience from disasters	Urban resilience Innovative family tracing and re-unification platforms and mechanisms for separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children need to have a place in the urban agenda especially in times of disasters	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
Scheme	Related objectives	Recommendations for key interventions	Related SDG

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)	Resilience against disasters especially for the vulnerable	Urban resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the Service Level Improvement Plans (SLIPs) to have a component on disaster resilience especially for street living families Capacity building of residents (frontline population) in order to be able to respond to immediate needs 	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
	Provision of basic services especially to the poor and disadvantaged	Inclusion in resource allocation The guideline for preparation of SLIPs to include 'street children' as one of the important stakeholders to be considered while planning and allocating funds for basic urban infrastructure	Goal 10: Reduced inequalities
	Creating and upgrading green spaces, parks and recreation centers, especially for children.	Green spaces and parks Along with child friendly components, AMRUT cities to ensure access to these spaces to street children, maintenance of their safety and link it to other education related and learning activities	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)	Shelter for urban homeless especially where the poorest congregate	Drop in shelters Drop-in shelters in all major urban railway stations and bus stations to be established with feeding, health-care, de-addiction and rehabilitative services	Goal 3: Good health and well-being
	Rights based convergence social security and other entitlements such as food, education and health care systems	Social security and other entitlements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ULB's to set up night schools for urban deprived children Set up Mobile Anganwadis for children of construction workers, who are mostly migrants from States 	Goal 4: Quality education
	Provide gainful employment opportunities to the most vulnerable	Employment for 'street living' families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link shelters with vocational training institutes for children of eligible age Provide training for taking up skilled and semi-skilled work Encourage self-employment by improving access to credit and training on business ideas 	Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Scheme	Related objectives	Recommendations for key interventions	Related SDG
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	Set up 24-hour shelters including the basic infrastructural facilities like water supply, sanitation, safety and security	Gender Resource Centres Setting up of gender resource centres like the state resource centre (set up by STCI in Ranchi and Delhi that serves as an information- cum-response center for migrant women and children who are victims of trafficking)	Goal 3: Good health and well-being
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – Urban	Housing for all	Provision for migrant labour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a separate set of norms for migrant labour to be eligible for the scheme which is not limited to the ‘cut-off date’ • Introduce a ‘rent to own’ component which needs to be a slightly modified version of what was in RAY 	Goal 10: Reduced inequalities
	Mission convergence	Integration with livelihoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the examples of states like Kerala, integrate PMAY (U) with urban livelihood schemes 	Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth
Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)	Elimination of open defecation by providing private and community toilets	Mobile toilets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate separate funds for mobile toilets for the purpose of ‘street living families’ 	Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
	Integration of rag pickers into the formal waste management system	Formalisation of rag pickers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the enumeration of rag pickers, the number of child rag pickers also to be surveyed and then rehabilitation to be started • Within the guidelines for integration of PMAY (U) and NULM, include an explicit component on ‘street living families’ 	Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

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