The Proximity of Care Framework

The Proximity of Care Framework enables the holistic consideration of the city systems and their relationship and influence on early childhood development.

4 DIMENSIONS & 3 SCALES OF PROXIMITY

The Proximity of Care Framework includes four dimensions: health, protection, stimulation and support. Underlying each dimension are four goals, which are a more detailed description of what needs to be achieved within that dimension to respond to the needs of young children, caregivers and pregnant women living in cities. The framework considers both hard and soft assets – physical space and infrastructure, as well as human interactions and relationships, and city policy and decision-making – at three primary scales of urban proximity and human interaction: home, neighbourhood and the whole city.

SUPPORT: Knowledgeable and enabling environment

This dimension considers factors that contribute to a supportive early childhood environment, looking at how to enhance knowledge and support from city authorities, urban and early child development practitioners and community members. Giving children, caregivers and parents a voice in community decision-making and planning is also an important part of this dimension.

HEALTH: Healthy and enriching environment

This dimension considers the factors that contribute to a good physical and mental health in the early years, examining how to improve health and development among young children, their caregivers, and pregnant women.

"Children are a kind of indicator species. If we can build a successful city for children, we will have a successful city for all people" – Enrique Peñalosa

City

Neighbourhood

Home

SUPPORT
- Supportive livelihood
- Supportive city leaders
- Supportive city planning
- Supportive data

HEALTH
- Appropiate WaSH
- Appropiate Healthcare
- Healthy Nutrition
- Healthy Environment

STIMULATION
- Friendly mobility
- Playful childcare
- Accesible play spaces & equipment
- Nurturing Home

PROTECTION
- Improved security
- Improved climate resilience
- Inclusive spaces & infrastructure
- Secure home

STIMULATION: Nurturing and playful environment

This dimension considers factors that contribute to a nurturing and playful childhood, addressing how to enhance the quality of children's interaction with caregivers, peers, other community members, and exploration of the physical space in their home, neighbourhood and city.

PROTECTION: Safe and secure environment

This dimension considers factors that contribute to a safe and secure environment for young children and their caregivers, determining how to manage risks, mitigate hazards and increase safety and inclusivity. It also details how to improve the perception of safety and security that caregivers experience and behaviours that influence their caregiving practices.