Strengthening Urban Resilience through Play

Key Insights
5 May 2022
Objectives

- Promote the value of play in cities
- Identify play-focused city investments
- Identify multi-sectoral connections for play
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning across cities

Activities

- Global Survey
- Public Webinars
- Peer to peer learning
Global survey

115 responses from **30 cities** across the world.

- **Urban practitioners:** 41%
- **City authorities:** 39.5%
- **Other stakeholders:** 26% (caregivers, NGOs, funding orgs)
- **Play workers:** 3.5%
Priority themes

Co-creation and inclusion in play

Urban planning and play

Finance and funding for play
Co-creation and inclusion in play
Children as urban citizens

Key messages

1. Create a culture of participation and trust
2. Play as a catalyst for city transformation
3. Play as a vehicle for a shared community vision

66% of City Authorities want to work with children and youth as part of project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Long-term benefits of play
1. Better health
2. Sense of belonging
3. Social inclusion
4. Learning skills

“Play can be an equaliser for many children – we need to make sure that we invest in play where children will have access and the ability to engage in play opportunities independent no matter their background and ability.”

City representative
Source: R-Cities / RPC survey
Urban planning and play
From city with play areas to a “Playful city”

Key messages

1. Understanding daily patterns of movement
2. Going beyond the conventional infrastructure for play
3. Play as activator of urban regeneration
4. Design spaces appropriate for all ages

60% of respondents stated difficulty in journey due to high traffic or lack of public transport as a key challenge

Preferred types of play activities
Nature
Free
Active
Outdoor

“We need spaces that are more open for children to explore and make use as they desire, and we need to shift our perceptions on what behaviour are ‘acceptable’ in public spaces.”

Urban practitioner
Source: R-Cities/ RPC survey
Strengthening Urban Resilience through Play

Finance and funding for play
Understanding the multi benefits of play

**Key messages**

1. Placing value on the multi benefits of play
2. Experiment with creative public/private partnerships
3. Integrating play in existing budgets
4. Focus investments in vulnerable communities

---

65% of City authorities and Play workers identify access to long term funding as a key barrier to implementing and scaling up play

Rethinking funding for play
Focus investments in vulnerable areas

“Investing in a culture of play at all levels, from the doorstep to the design of homes, is a preventive medicine.”

City representative
Source: R-Cities/ RPC survey
Full report available soon