



Making Municipal Policies Work For Children and Youth in Guatemala

Juan Felipe Sanchez, Senior Children and Youth Specialist – The World Bank

Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: Expanding Economic Prospects in Urban Areas, Rabat

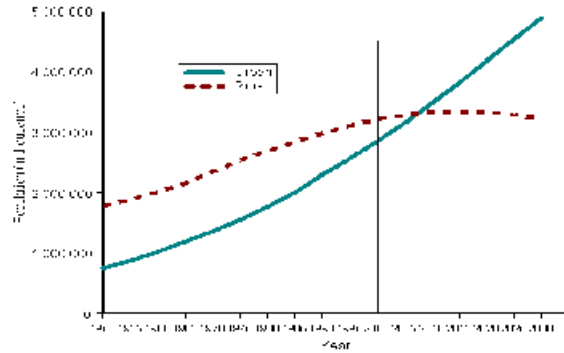
6 December 2006

Trends in Urban Growth

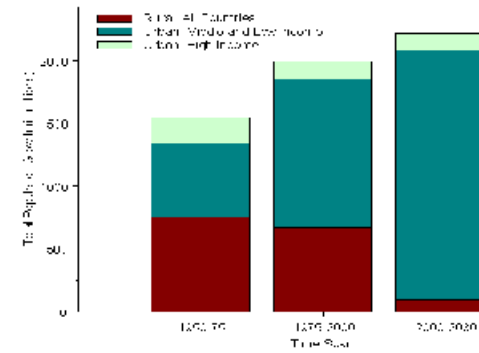
- Growth in both large and smaller cities
- Diversity and inequality within cities
- Infrastructure and services gap in smaller cities
- Spatially concentrated poverty: conditions in urban slums can be worse than in rural villages

Adapted from: Cities Transformed, National Academies Press, 2003

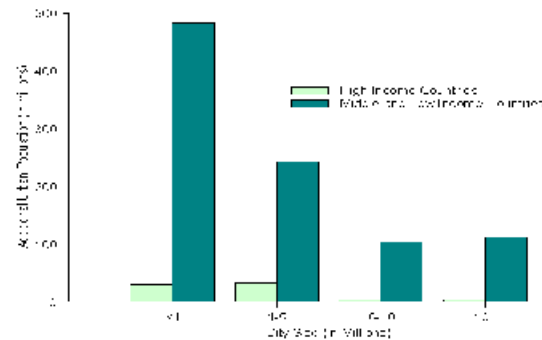
World Population Growth Will Be Mainly Urban



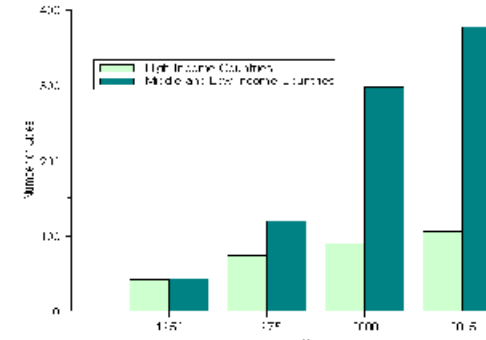
Almost All Growth Will Occur in Cities of Poor Countries



Especially in Their Smaller Cities



Yet the Number of Large Cities Will Also Grow



Adapted from: Cities Transformed, National Academies Press, 2003

Municipalities are at the front-line of development

- Municipalities can –and should- play a critical role in establishing a microcosm of sustainable development for children and youth, the local community – and eventually for the country itself



New Policy and Program Actors at the Local Level

- Decentralized Sectors (Health, Education, Water & Sanitation, etc.)
- Proliferation of new Government units
- Private sector service providers
- NGOs (re-monitoring and/or service provision)
- Communities and community organizations -as mechanisms for service delivery, and including children, youth and their advocates



Investing in Children and Youth at the Municipal Level

- Towards a healthy and safe environment
- Investing along the life cycle
 - Having a good start in life (0-5 years)
 - Growing up healthy and educated (6-14 years)
 - Productive and engaged citizens (15-24 years)
- Inclusion of the more vulnerable children and youth

The Challenge of Municipal Governance



- **Capacity**
 - e.g. organization structure and roles, human resources, data
- **Financial resources**
 - dealing with differences in revenue; lag in assignments; risk of local capture of resources
- **Diversity**
 - urban-rural differences; segregation; fragmentation
- **Security**
 - variations in crime and violence
- **Inclusion**
 - multi-stakeholder collaborations; participation; vulnerable populations; social accountability

Children/youth-focused Municipal Policies: An Experience From Guatemala

November 2006

JF Sanchez - HDNCY

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Guatemala's Rights of the Child Municipalization Board (Mesa de Municipalizaci?n - MM)



To coordinate and facilitate efforts to implement the Rights of the Child at municipal level

- Established in 1997
- UNICEF, PLAN International, CHILDHOPE, SAVE THE CHILDREN and others
- In 2003, UNICEF and PLAN International agreed to support the MM to strengthen children/adolescent-friendly municipal public policies (through technical and financial support)

A three-pronged strategy to strengthen municipal policies in Guatemala –to make them work for children and adolescents



- Raising awareness

- through the creation of a municipal Information System for Children and Adolescents (which includes a comprehensive data base on selected children and adolescent's indicators and municipal program input/output indicators)

- Coordination

- through the organization and training of Municipal Commissions for Children and Adolescents

- Participation

- through the involvement and training of Municipal and Community Development Councils, and through the organization and participation of children, adolescents and women

Specific Objectives

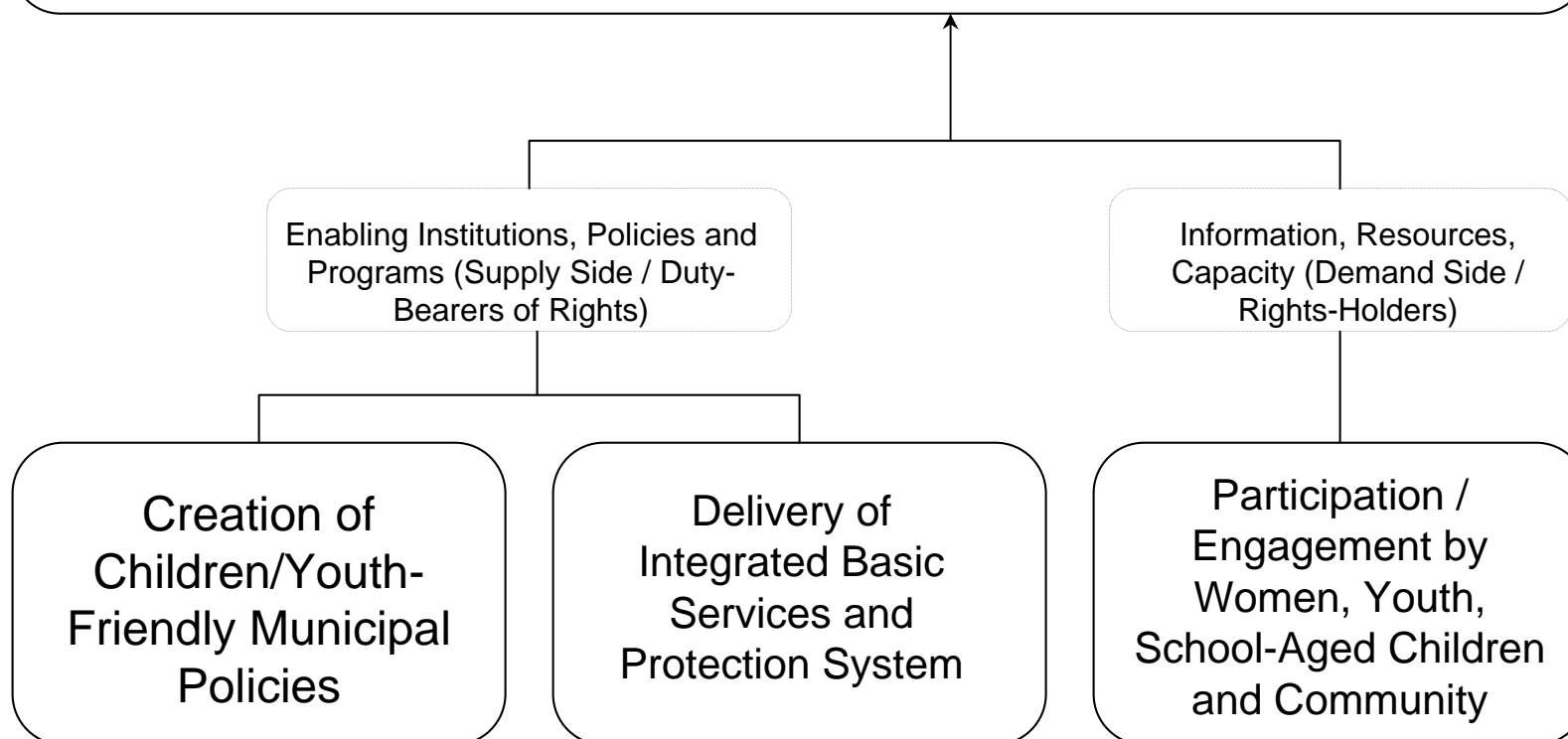
Municipalities - the “duty-bearers” in rights-based approaches (together with other institutions):

- Creation and implementation of child-adolescent-friendly public policies
- Development / delivery of integrated basic services and protection systems for children and adolescents at the municipal level –as per current decentralization laws

Children, families and communities – the “rights-holders”:

- Building capacity of children, adolescents, women and communities to participate, contribute to and benefit from these services

Achieving Positive Outcomes for Children and Youth at the Municipal Level



Key counterparts

- **Policy Development**

- Municipalisation Board (UNICEF, PLAN et al)
- Municipal governments
- United Nations System (UNDP, etc.)

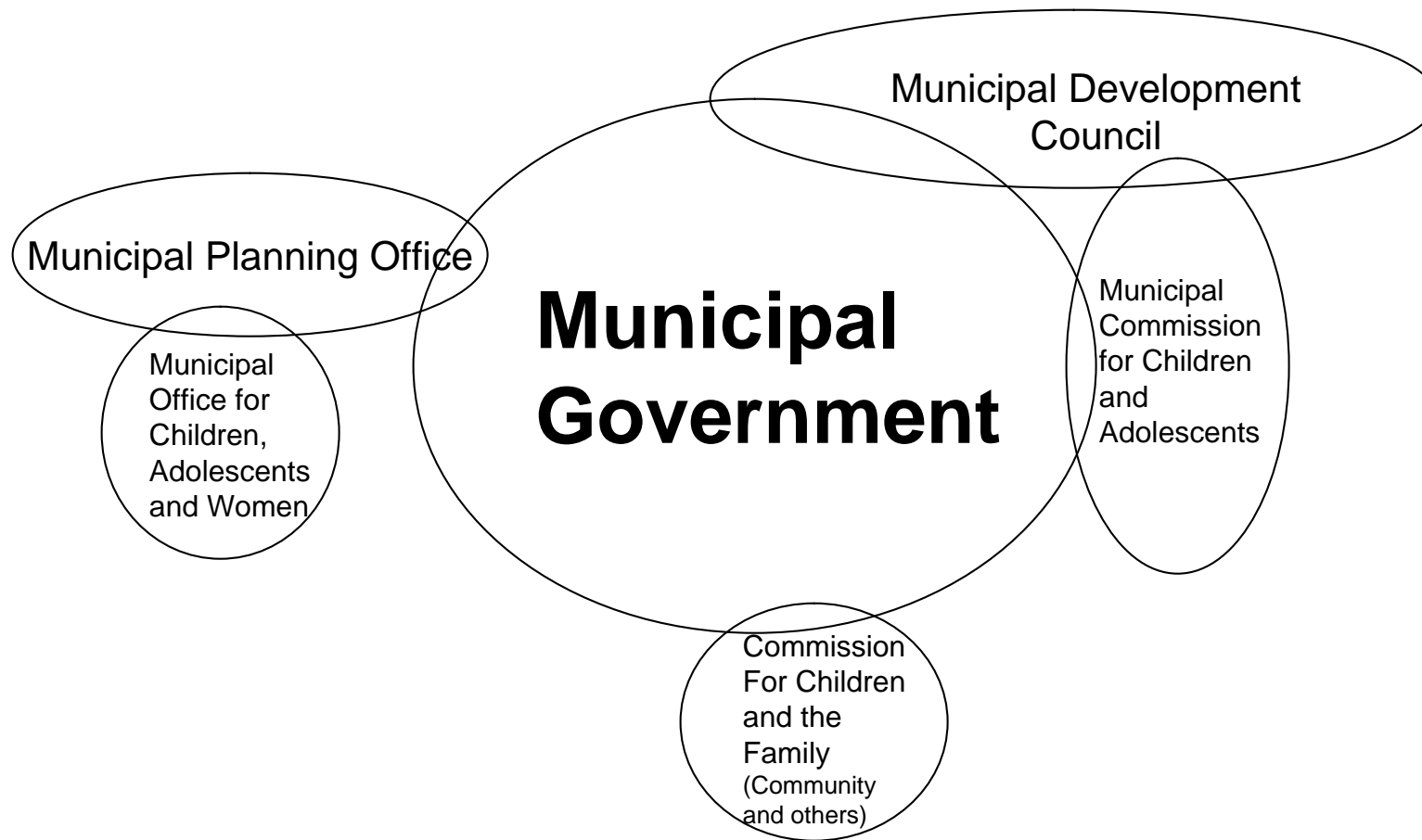
- **Development/delivery of Integrated Municipal Services / Protection System**

- Health, Nutrition: local health centers; Ministry of Public Health
- Water and Sanitation: Municipal government, Guatemala's Institute of Municipal Development (INFOM), Ministry of Public Health
- Education: Ministry of Education
- Protection: Guatemalan Human Rights Office; Inter-institutional Coordination Unit for the Children's Rights (CIPRODENI)
- Recreation: Municipal governments; Ministry of Culture and Sports

- **Participation**

- Adolescent's participation: Municipal governments, Ministry of Education
- Women's participation: Municipal governments, CODEFEM (Association for Advocacy of Guatemalan Women's Rights)
- Communication: Network of Community Communicators; Guatemalan Federation of Radio Phonic Schools (FGER)

Stakeholder Participation for Children /Youth –Friendly Municipal Policies in Guatemala



Children / Youth - Friendly Municipal Policies Process in Guatemala



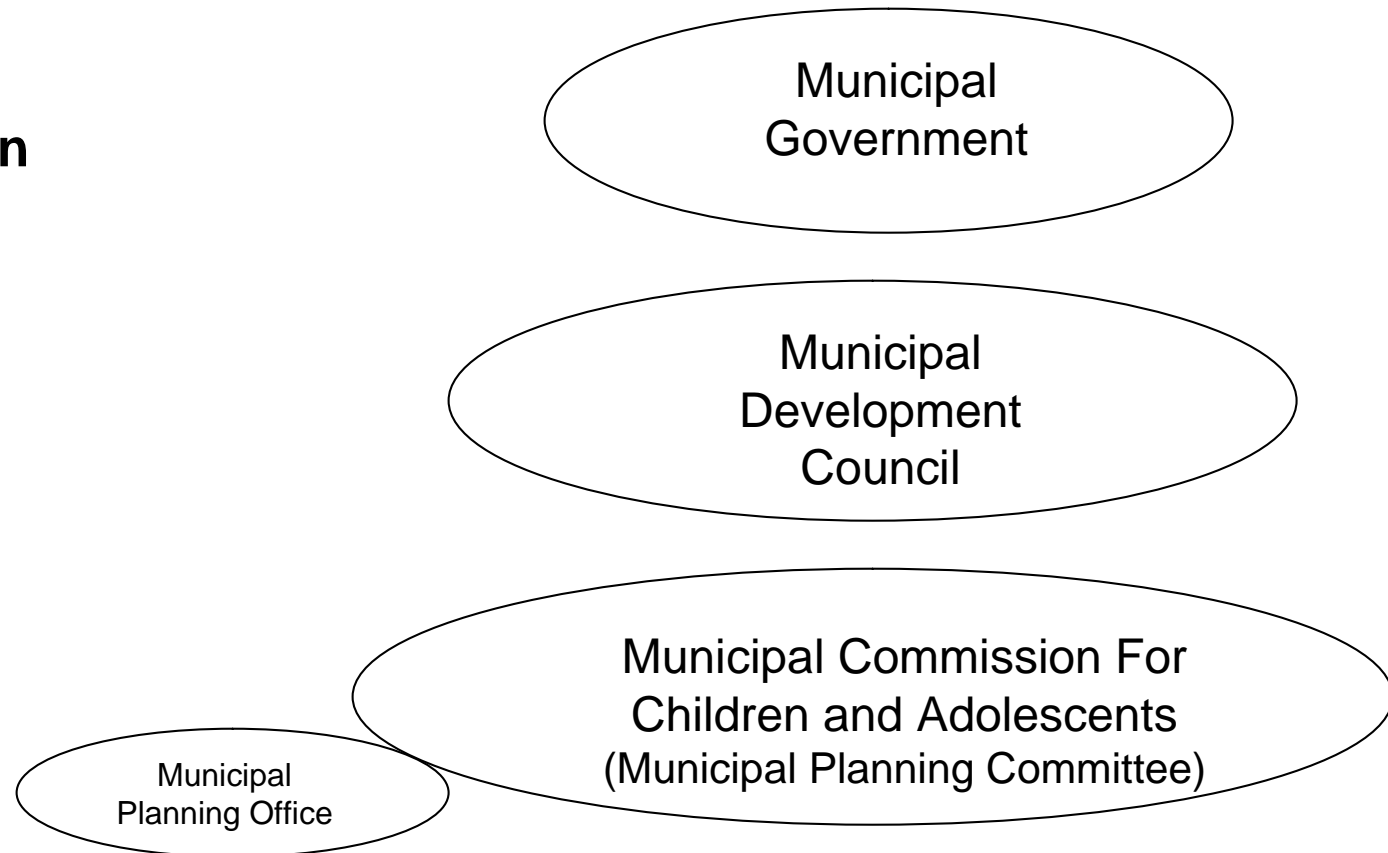
**Financial
Approval and
Implementation**



**Revision and
Consensus
Building**



**Draft
Preparation**
(Data + Consultations)



Processes and Responsibilities

- **Municipal Planning Office:**
 - responsible for draft preparation, consultations, data collection, monitoring, communication -together with community participation bodies such as Municipal Commission for Children and Adolescents, Municipal Policy Planning Committee
- **Municipal Government:**
 - responsible for financial approval and implementation
- **Municipal Development Council:**
 - responsible for revision of and agreement regarding policy draft; political accountability

A Reliable Municipal Information System for Children and Adolescents (MIS)



- **Data by municipality**
 - Summary sheet
 - Municipal average data
- **Data by communities**
 - Demographic data by community, Health, Nutrition, Education, Protection, Recreation, Participation, Water and Environment
- **Risk Assessment and prioritization**
 - Risk assessment for Children and Adolescents (disaggregated by community and age group)
 - Food Security & Nutritional Risk assessment
- **Monitoring**
 - Monitoring of Municipal investment for children and adolescents
 - Quarterly monitoring of activities according to Life Cycle (Early Childhood, School-aged Children, Adolescents, Women)
 - Quarterly monitoring of Municipal Administration activities

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What Has Been Achieved So Far?

- 60 municipalities (small to medium population size)
- 18 municipalities have approved their municipal public policies (PPMs) and 30 are drafting them
- A Child-friendly Municipal Mayors Network was established - linked to a larger Central American network
- Establishment of and support to municipal planning offices
- Use of child-focused municipal information systems (Sistema de Informaci?n Municipal Ni?ez y Adolescencia)

(cont.)



- Children and youth-focused integrated programs for education, health, nutrition, potable water and sanitation, protection
- Better planning, coordination and execution of local level sector ministries interventions (health and education)
- A better mix between infrastructure /maintenance and social investments
- An increase in municipal resources allocated for integrated children and youth programs /use of child-friendly participatory budgets processes
 - access to external funding (Redepaz, Social Funds, international donors)
 - some municipalities were able to double resources allocated for children/adolescent programs, after one year
- Use of participation opportunities arising from Guatemala's decentralization laws
 - Consejos Comunitarios de Desarrollo –COCODEs, COMUDES and other participation platforms
- Political support - most stakeholders demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment

Key Messages: Critical factors of Success for Children/youth-focused Municipal Policies



- **Community empowerment**
 - the community –including children and youth and their advocates - assuming responsibilities for their own development, with a clear and recognized mandate, and the corresponding capacity to act --in terms of organization and control over resources
- **Local government empowerment**
 - decentralization of local government units and capacity to facilitate community-based development approaches (e.g. legal frameworks, systems, methodologies, field facilitators, budgets, monitoring, etc.)
- **Availability of child/youth-focused data, planning and participation tools**
 - age-specific data, analysis and methods, to facilitate planning, program design and implementation, participation processes, and monitoring/evaluation
- **Cross-sector investments and programs**
 - addressing risks and opportunities along the stages of the life cycle, expanding opportunities, building capabilities, offering second chances
- **Transparency in decision making and use of resources**
 - for both the local government and community level processes
- **Accountability**
 - clear defined roles and responsibilities, and monitoring of progress and results of local development actions, with participation of all stakeholders
- **Learning**
 - the capacity to learn by doing, to improve effectiveness of local development actions