



Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices  
BB-5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Greater Kailash Enclave 2,  
New Delhi -110 048.  
Tel : + 91-11- 4107 5550/2922 3588  
[www.praxisindia.org](http://www.praxisindia.org)  
[info@praxisindia.org](mailto:info@praxisindia.org)



**CITIES4KIDS**

CHILD-FRIENDLY  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
— **A GUIDE** —



**PRAXIS**

**Bernard  
van Leer**  
FOUNDATION

## Background

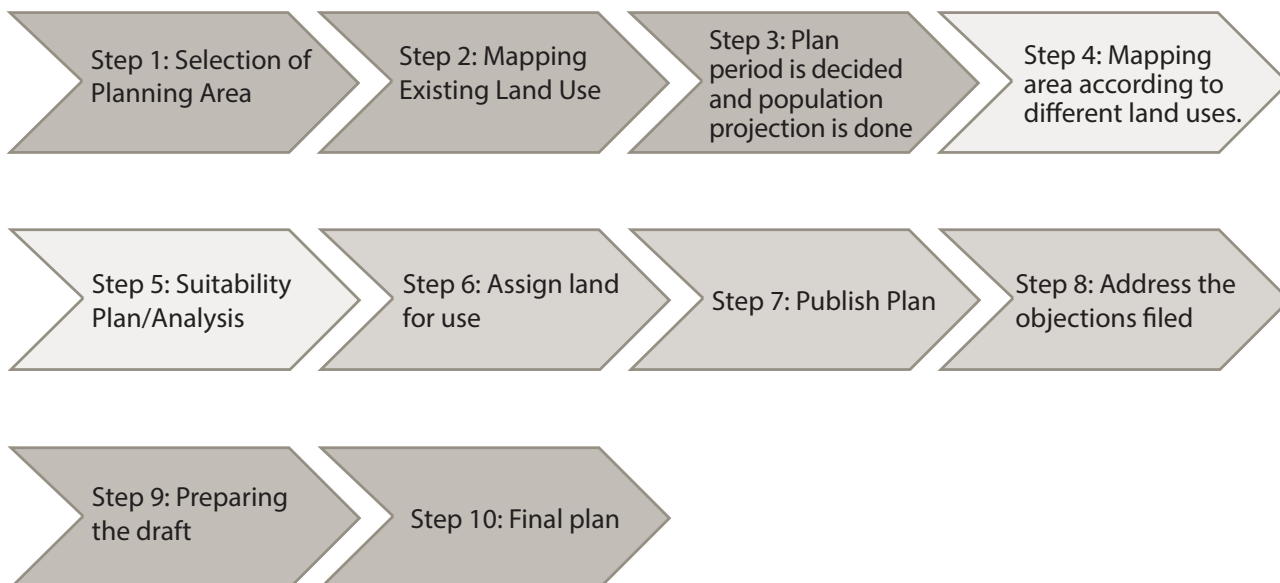
A Development Plan, also known as a Master Plan, is the long-term perspective plan for guiding the sustainable planned development of the city. It aims to provide necessary details and intended actions in the form of strategies and physical proposals for various policies depending upon the economic and social needs and aspiration of the people, available resources and priorities<sup>1</sup>. Sustainable planned development requires optimal and equitable usage of resources; responsive infrastructure and accessibility, all of which cannot be ensured without the adequate participation of the local communities in all stages of the process - from planning to execution.

Communities, in this respect, can be understood to include all stakeholders, especially children who are often not adequately represented or consulted, and whose needs may differ from those of the adults. Certain spaces and infrastructure may still impact children, even if they were not meant for children or meant to be directly accessed by them. This requires child centric planning and an inclusive process of consultation to examine how cities can be more child friendly.

This document is intended as a guide for planners and development functionaries to look at ways in which planning processes in general, and formulation of the Development Plan in particular, can be made more child-friendly.

## Different steps of Development Plan preparation

The Development Plan determines existing infrastructure available, gaps and issues, project service demands and targets to be achieved, plan system, interventions and sub-projects. The broad stages, accordingly, correspond to these components of plan preparation. The image below details the steps in four broad phases - planning, mapping requirements and suitability, public consultation and feedback and preparation of the draft and finalisation of the plan.



For each of the steps listed above, detailed below are guiding questions based on the principles of child centricity and participation to make the Development Plan preparation process child-friendly.

<sup>1</sup> Urban and regional development plans formulation and implementation guidelines (Vol 1); Ministry of Urban Development website; [http://moud.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/moud/files/URDPFI%20Guidelines%20Vol%20I.pdf](http://moud.gov.in/sites/upload_files/moud/files/URDPFI%20Guidelines%20Vol%20I.pdf)

For each of the steps listed, detailed below are guiding questions based on the principles of child centricity and participation to make the master development plans child friendly.

Phase 1: Planning	Step 1: Selection of planning area
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of Planning Area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inclusive process of identifying plan area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can use Focus Group Discussions with communities with equal representation from children and youth.</li> <li>• Identify stakeholders from the community and ensure their engagement in defining the planning area.</li> </ul>

Phase 1: Planning	Step 2: Mapping existing land use
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping Existing Land Use (by means of physical surveys)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inclusive mapping of land use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a participatory process of community mapping to examine land use, including children as a group of users.</li> <li>• Involve children in mapping existing land use</li> <li>• Ensure land / spaces specifically used by children are mapped</li> </ul>

Phase 1: Planning	Step 3: Deciding plan period and population projection
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan period is determined - 15 or 20 years</li> <li>• Population projection is done by using current population data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This task is primarily done by statisticians, hence ruling out space for community participation</li> </ul>

Phase 2: Mapping requirements and suitability	Step 4: Mapping area according to different land use
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping land use for different purposes / needs</li> <li>• Mapping of Transport Network - the entire transport network of roads, railways, etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inclusive and participatory process of mapping land use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map land use, transport network through community-level discussions that include children</li> <li>• Use visual tools to ensure children's active involvement such as using a map of the transport network or a 3-D model of the proposed plan to engage and seek suggestions from children.</li> </ul>

Phase 2: Mapping requirements and suitability	Step 5: Suitability plan/ analysis
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitability plan / analysis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tap into local knowledge and children's needs and perspectives to understand suitability of plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure engagement with children to understand land use on the basis of their needs and necessities with regards to various infrastructure and places of access such as schools, hospitals, playgrounds, parks, markets, workplace, transport, etc.</li> </ul>

Phase 3: Organising public consultation and feedback	Step 6: Assign land for use
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign land for use (Approved by Director, Town and Country Planning Department)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Organise a participatory public consultation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry a participatory exercise with stakeholders to identify number of public spaces needed and for what purposes</li> <li>• Follow this exercise up with prioritisation of these spaces by stakeholders, including those accessed or impacting children in particular.</li> <li>• Facilitate a participatory process of arriving at decisions in allocating land, which includes input from communities as well as government officials.</li> </ul>

Phase 3: Organising public consultation and feedback	Step 7: Publish plan
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish Plan (by Director, Town and Country Planning Department)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key public spaces to disseminate the plan.</li> <li>Create awareness among people on their role in the process, and process of seeking clarification and filing objections.</li> </ul>

Phase 3: Organising public consultation and feedback	Step 8: Address the objections filed
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the objections filed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inclusive and simple feedback process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should engage members of any local Children's/ Youth Club in the Committee to give suggestions on objections filed.</li> <li>Ensure a simple presentation can be made to the Committee<sup>1</sup> especially children on proposed plan so they can give informed suggestions.</li> </ul>

Phase 4: Finalisation of the draft	Step 9: Preparation of draft
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director TCP prepares the draft plan - by choosing from the four (Proposed Plan; Objectitioner's Suggestion; District officer's recommendations or Committee's recommendations) or recommends a new option</li> <li>Draft Plan is sent to the Ministry.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No scope for community involvement as it is the discretion of the Director, Town and Country Planning</b></p>

Phase 4: Finalisation of the draft	Step 10: Final plan
Activities	Guidelines and To Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry looks into the plan, makes changes and finalises it</li> </ul>	<p><b>Consult community before finalising plan</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> Committee formed to address the objections filed (by Department of Urban Development and Environment)