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***Inclusive cities: trends and new initiatives***

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## **Recommendations**

- **Policies reflecting reality of family life and today’s intergenerational experiences**
- **Comprehensive tools for families to become active participants within city management and policy making processes**
- **Breaking down institutionalized barriers, engaging youth**
- **Urgent need of creating a more accessible municipality to all ages, backgrounds, and identities**
- **Peer-learning and embracing collaborative platforms and good practices**
- **Arena for public engagement, community building, and dialogue between people and state**
- **Making cities inclusive for families with various needs**

## Introduction

Since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the process of urbanization has accelerated at an unmatched pace. A normalized phenomenon, it is predicted that over 66% of the world's population will live in an urban area by 2050. The allure of the city, with its increased job opportunities, diverse atmosphere, and modern culture looming within the streets, has become particularly pertinent for younger generations and individuals seeking such a lifestyle. However, this kind of environment invariably excludes certain segments of the population. Specifically, the way in which urban projects are crafted systematically places the family unit with greater obstacles in attaining an adequate quality of living. While the urban renaissance<sup>1</sup> we live in has undoubtedly reaped an amalgam of social and economical benefits, as demonstrated by the fact that cities currently account for over 80% of GDP generated worldwide,<sup>2</sup> it has created a chasm in the political will necessary to address the numerous inequalities urbanization has rendered today.

To ensure sustainable urban development, the family must be included in the policymaking discourse at both the local and national level. Thus, a model for inclusive urbanization is critical. There are three key concepts that collectively can facilitate a more inclusive society: policies aimed at fostering inclusive cities, the family, and intergenerational solidarity will not only promote a socially cohesive living space, but also pave the avenue towards meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

## Inclusive City

At its core, an inclusive city falls in line with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting a terrain of accessibility, opportunity, and equality. According to Robin Hambleton's definition, an inclusive city is governed by place-based democratic institutions. All citizens are able to fully take part in society, within the social, economic, and political spheres. An inclusive city includes civic leaders who "strive for just results while caring for the natural environment."<sup>3</sup> There are five central themes that coincide with the inclusive city: place; democratic rights; civic leadership; justice; and environmental awareness.<sup>4</sup> Each element underlines the importance of SDG Goal 11 and what ultimately comprises an inclusive city.

The inclusive city caters to the fundamental rights of groups that are habitually excluded from the policymaking discourse, which thus creates legislation that fails to address their specific needs. This includes women, youth, people with disabilities, rural populations and migrants, unemployed youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous groups, the poor, as well as racial, ethnic, and religious minorities. Marginalization has become a by-product, and an accepted consequence, of urbanization. However, these communities are frequently considered to be the backbone of economic growth and social transformations. For a city to be sustainable, it has the foremost obligation of addressing their entitlements as participants in society. Inclusion entails providing services to tailor to the needs of these groups, as well as

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<sup>1</sup> Mega, Voula. "Urban Renaissance: Enhancing the Past Inventing the Future Drivers and Obstacles to Innovation and Change." *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal* 5, no. 2 (2000). Accessed May 2, 2018. The Innovation Journal.

<sup>2</sup> "Inclusive Cities." World Bank. Accessed March 14, 2018. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/inclusive-cities>.

<sup>3</sup> Hambleton, Robin, and Andrew Corbett. *Leading the Inclusive City Place-based Innovation for a Bounded Planet*. Bristol, England: Policy Press, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

lobbying policymakers about the programmes that exist for these populations, and how best to deliver them effectively.

## **Family Policy**

In order to define family policy, it is crucial the family unit itself is first provided with an adequate description. This is essential, as what is meant by the family will have consequences for a state's family policy and its goals.<sup>5</sup> The concept of family undoubtedly varies among countries. While there is considerable debate on what comprises a family in the political, religious, and social realms, the overall goal of a family policy should be to strengthen intergenerational solidarity and access to services and opportunities. There are multiple frameworks that sociologists have crafted in their analysis of family policy. The “family perspective,” patchwork approach, and institutional framework each embodies consequences for the family within society. However, they all view an interaction between the state and the family as vital to achieving social inclusion. Therefore, regardless of definition, a family policy addresses at least one of four elements: Family creation; Economic support; Childrearing; Family caregiving.<sup>6</sup> Depending on the country in question, current family policies that address family creation can include marriage, same-sex marriage, divorce, bearing children, and adopting children. Economic support refers to providing the needs of each family member, whereas childrearing entails educating and socializing future generations. Alternatively, family caregiving denotes providing care for members who are elder, disabled, or ill.

According to Maureen Baker, family policies are “principles about the state's role in family life,”<sup>7</sup> which are carried out through social programs. Family policies thus help craft ‘the welfare state’ through social benefits and income security programs. This is significant for shaping or inhibiting an inclusive community. For example, viewing the family unit as belonging to the private sphere and outside the scope of government interference has discouraged certain types of social policy development that directly impacts family life. The notion that employees leave their family responsibilities at home while at work has led to the assumption that they do not require childcare services or flexible hours for family responsibilities.

Today, the city includes families that go beyond the traditional nuclear unit; same-sex households, interracial marriages, migrant families, and families with persons with disabilities are merely a few instances of such a fluid and diverse landscape. Many family policies do not address these groups and are not given the distinctive attention they need to live an equitable lifestyle. Family policies and inclusivity frequently go hand-in-hand. However, it has become manifest that crafting policies that sufficiently address the multidimensionality components of family life without any intrinsic bias against any different family structures is a repeated impediment. Social integration thus requires holistic modifications on the family policy front.

## **Intergenerational Solidarity**

The third concept that can promote an inclusive urban environment is intergenerational solidarity. Investing in family policies inevitably requires that one address the interactions and perspectives different generations within the family and beyond have with one another. At its

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<sup>5</sup> Mercier, Joyce M., Steven Garasky, and Mack C. Shelley. *Redefining Family Policy: Implications for the 21st Century*. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 2000.

<sup>6</sup> Douglas, Emily M. *Innovations in Child and Family Policy: Multidisciplinary Research and Perspectives on Strengthening Children and Their Families*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Baker, Maureen. *Executive Summary of Canadian Family Policies: Cross-national Comparisons*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995.

core, intergenerational solidarity indicates a “social cohesion between generations.”<sup>8</sup> Global trends, such as the lengthening of one’s life span, changes in family structures and relationships, and changes in governmental responsibilities, have completely transformed intergenerational interactions today. Because the family institution changes over time, intergenerational spaces can strengthen intergenerational solidarity. Such harmony is possible when there is a public awareness and drive to embrace the experiences and concerns of other subpopulations.<sup>9</sup> Public spaces and their degree of accessibility are thus important indicators of intergenerational integration. Moreover, an environment that has institutions in place that promote these types of bonds can enable each generation to recognize the other as a source of learning.

There are six primary dimensions of solidarity between generations—all of which can enable or impede interactions. These elements include: 1) structure, such as geographic distance between family members, 2) association, such as frequency of social contact, 3) affect, which includes feelings of intimacy between members, 4) consensus in opinions, values, and lifestyles, 5) function, which entails exchanges of financial support, and 6) norms, such as the weight of obligation felt toward other family members.<sup>10</sup> The strength of intergenerational connections is particularly relevant for migrant families, for ties have to be maintained across national borders. Remarkably, intergenerational solidarity is most likely to occur in non-industrial societies.<sup>11</sup> This is due to the fact that cultural values, religious beliefs, and other identity traits are less susceptible to external influences, and are thus reinforced via ingroup mentality. Nonetheless, each dimension can affect the nature of the social bond within the family, which accentuates the importance of considering the needs of all generations of constituents in urban planning.



## Sustainable Development Goal 11

The foundation of promoting family policies for inclusive societies is Sustainable Development Goal 11. According to the United Nations, the family institution is considered to be the “main agent for development” and a “cornerstone” for sustainable cities.<sup>12</sup> In order to empower the family *and* the city, it is imperative a long-term investment is made toward inclusivity and in the needs of the various families that inhabit the urban sector. To create a more family-friendly space, urban projects should pay specific attention to the targets and indicators of SDG 11, all of which relate to inclusive cities, family policies, and intergenerational solidarity.

While the majority of SDG 11’s targets emphasize promoting an inclusive city, specific weight is given to Targets 11.1, 11.7, and 11.B. 11.1 refers to universal access to safe and

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<sup>8</sup> Bengtson, Vern L., and Robert E. L. Roberts. "Intergenerational Solidarity in Aging Families: An Example of Formal Theory Construction." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 53, no. 4 (1991): 856. doi:10.2307/352993.

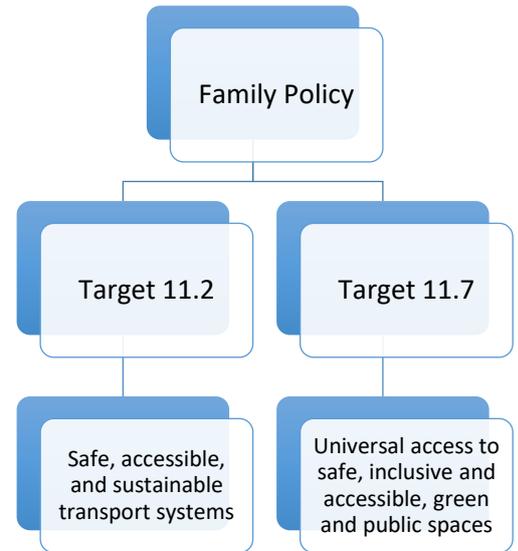
<sup>9</sup> Strom, Paris, and Robert Strom. "A Paradigm for Intergenerational Learning." *Oxford Handbooks Online*, 2011. doi:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780195390483.013.0049.

<sup>10</sup> Silverstein, Merrill, and Vern L. Bengtson. "Intergenerational Solidarity and the Structure of Adult Child-Parent Relationships in American Families." *American Journal of Sociology* 103, no. 2 (1997): 429-60. doi:10.1086/231213.

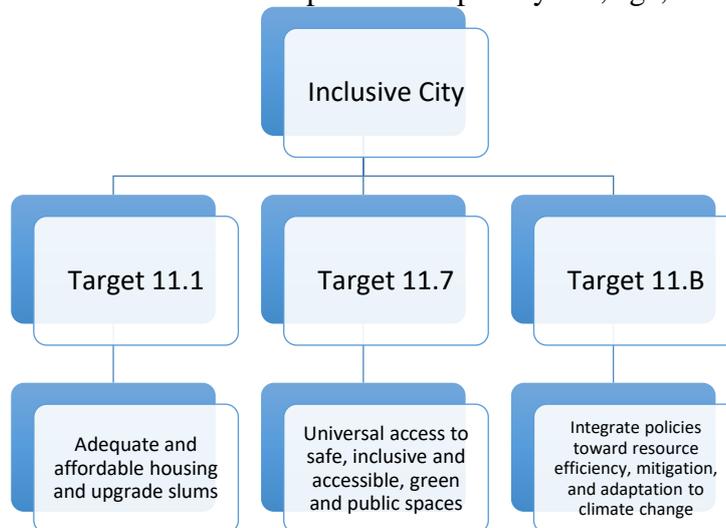
<sup>11</sup> Antonucci, Toni C., James S. Jackson, and Simon Biggs. "Intergenerational Relations: Theory, Research, and Policy." *Journal of Social Issues* 63, no. 4 (2007): 679-93. doi:10.1111/j.1540-4560.2007.00530.x.

<sup>12</sup> *Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families*. Report. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2017. Accessed April 17, 2018.

affordable housing and basic amenities—an objective that has become difficult to achieve due to the uptick in slums and widening gap between the rich and the poor in cities. An inclusive city cannot be attained when a disproportionate number of the population are living in potentially dangerous standards. 11.7 epitomizes inclusivity with its goal of providing *universal* access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and public spaces. That it also makes reference to marginalized groups underlines its holistic approach for fostering inclusive cities. 11.B aims to integrate policies toward resource efficiency, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change. Inclusion cannot be sustainable without addressing the root sources of climate change and measures that can be taken after disasters. The respective indicators of these three targets entail the proportion of the urban population living in informal housing, average share of cities for public use, and the proportion of cities implementing integrated policies toward disaster prevention.<sup>13</sup>



The targets most applicable to fostering family policies are Targets 11.2 and 11.7. 11.2 refers to providing access to “safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable” transport systems, paying special attention to individuals living in vulnerable conditions. Families come with various needs, and often face constraints to an adequate standard of living due to inaccessible public facilities. Its corresponding indicator is measured by calculating the proportion of the population that has swift access to public transport by sex, age, and persons with disabilities.<sup>14</sup>

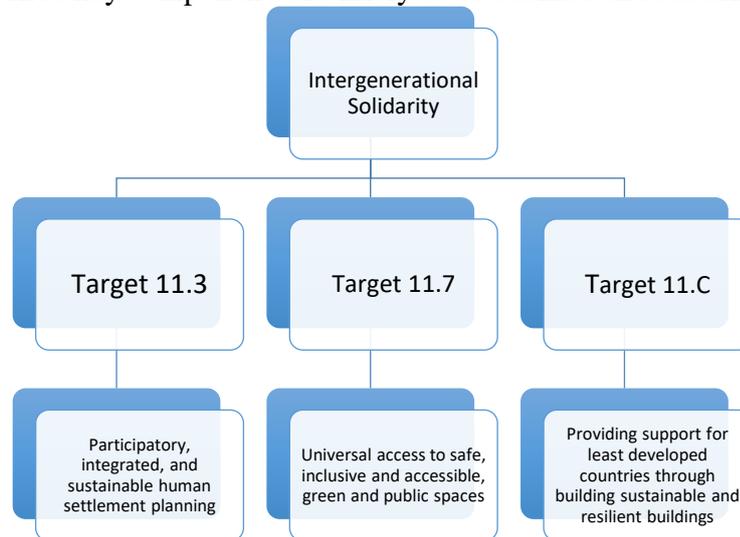


Assessing intergenerational solidarity through SDG 11 includes Targets 11.3, 11.7, and 11.C. 11.3 entails enhancing “participatory, integrated, and sustainable” human settlement planning, which directly correlates with increasing the number of spaces for intergenerational exchanges and developing greater bonds. 11.C discusses providing support for least developed countries through building sustainable and resilient buildings, which includes financial and technical assistance. Linkages are weakened when a family faces inadequate living standards, rendering them more prone to the effects of the economy, climate change, and other calamities.

<sup>13</sup> "Goal 11: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." United Nations. Accessed April 17, 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

Thus, infrastructural support can implicitly create stronger ties between generations. The respective indicators for Targets 11.3 and 11.C are the proportion of cities with regular, democratic participation structure in urban planning for civil society, and the proportion of financial support to least developed countries that is allocated to the construction of sustainable buildings. Ultimately, an inclusive city can only come about through a durable set of family policies, which in turn are derived from the strength of intergenerational solidarity occurring within society. Through focusing on the chosen SDG 11 targets and indicators as measures for success, these three key components are likely to be attained and sustained in the long run.



## Situational Analysis

### Family as Focus for Intervention for Inclusion

In order to appropriately understand and appreciate the way in which family policies and intergenerational solidarity play a role in constructing an inclusive society, it is critical a full situational analysis is given of these cities. Four themes are germane for this discussion. The first theme, “Family as focus for intervention for inclusion,” delves into how cities are currently viewed versus how urban planning should be addressed for greater inclusivity and participation. To date, there are three central forms of discourse in the urban realm: the attractive city, the creative city, and the city as an emancipation machine.<sup>15</sup> The attractive city is based on the premise of attracting as many tourists and visitors as possible against other competing cities. Thus, the attractive city does not have any incentive to accommodate residents and families. Alternatively, the creative city is wholly concerned about “creative production” and attracting a class of well-educated workers that value individuality and diversity. Of utmost importance are spaces that facilitate successful networking—not public spaces for all ages and needs. Because families with responsibilities at home are not included in the creative city discourse, their concerns are disregarded. Finally, the emancipatory machinery notion highlights the fulfilling narrative of cities. By viewing the city as a temporary destination where one has the opportunity for upward mobility, housing policies become

<sup>15</sup> Karsten, Lia. "From a Top-down to a Bottom-up Urban Discourse: (re) Constructing the City in a Family-inclusive Way." *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment* 24, no. 3 (2009): 317-29. doi:10.1007/s10901-009-9145-1.

intended for younger generations without families. Therefore, small, cheap, housing is frequently given priority over family-sized housing.

In each of the urban discourses, the family is completely excluded. Such omission not only results in negligible family policies, but it justifies a hands-off approach toward family issues.<sup>16</sup> It is noteworthy that these exclusionary, top-down discourses are unable to fulfill an inclusive and socially cohesive urban agenda. To improve the conditions of the family unit in the city, a new dialogue must be normalized—one that includes a bottom-up approach and that interrogates the issues inflicting families, such as insufficient housing and health conditions disadvantaged children develop, which stem from incessant pollution in their neighborhoods.

## Public Spaces for all Generations

The second theme in this discussion, “Public spaces for all generations,” addresses how such areas can create a safe, diverse, and inclusive arena for all inhabitants. According to UNESCO, a public space is a place that is “open and accessible to all peoples,” regardless of identity.<sup>17</sup> The prevalence of public spaces in constructing a socially integrated and inclusive community is perhaps one of the most vital elements, for they provide an arena for public engagement, community building, and dialogue between the people and the state. Fundamentally, public spaces play an important role in attaining equity in cities, as they have the ability to “shape the urban life and public realm in communities.”<sup>18</sup> One such example is the End Street North Park in Johannesburg, South Africa. For decades, Johannesburg had been experiencing a “deteriorating” quality of open public spaces,<sup>19</sup> which has been largely attributed to the increasing rate of privatization occurring throughout the city. In particular, the Park was a neglected and collapsed space. To combat this phenomenon, city departments and residents engaged in collaborative efforts with the goal of designing a safe, inclusive, and sustainable space. Through participatory-based methods, the design of End Street North Park has been wholly transformed. What used to be an infamous location for drug transactions and criminality is now packed with sporting facilities, playgrounds for children, and rest areas for the elderly. With pedestrian walkways connecting to the center of the city, train stations, and taxi stands, the Park has become accessible for all residents.

According to Jeremy Németh and Justin Hollander, the availability of public spaces and its inclusivity is a potent determinant in the degree of fair representation within a city.<sup>20</sup> Enabling city inhabitants to have access and freely utilize a space facilitates a sense of community and camaraderie, which all contribute to social integration. Given the economic disparities in the majority of urbanized areas, lower-income families often do not have as wide of a range of opportunities to participate in safe and inclusive entertainment without the condition of a monetary fee. That the End Street North Park has been developed with the perspective of the average Johannesburg resident in mind stresses the weight community participation can have

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> "Inclusion Through Access to Public Space | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization." UNESCO: Social and Human Sciences. Accessed April 17, 2018.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/urban-development/migrants-inclusion-in-cities/good-practices/inclusion-through-access-to-public-space/>.

<sup>18</sup> Attia, Sahar, and Asmaa Abdel Aty M. Ibrahim. "Accessible and Inclusive Public Space: The Regeneration of Waterfront in Informal Areas." *Urban Research & Practice*, 2017, 1-24. doi:10.1080/17535069.2017.1340509.

<sup>19</sup> Mavuso, Nkosilenhle. *Rethinking Park Design & Management in Inner-City Johannesburg to Improve Park Use and Safety*. Report. 2016. Accessed April 5, 2018. Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies.

<sup>20</sup> Németh, Jeremy, and Justin Hollander. "Security Zones and New York City's Shrinking Public Space." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 34, no. 1 (2009): 20-34. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2427.2009.00899.x.

on policymaking. This is elucidated by the fact that the play areas in the Park have resulted in several positive outcomes. For example, children and the youth have become more active outdoors through sport—socializing after school and engaging in educational outdoor activities at the Park during school hours.<sup>21</sup> Community-based activities in the Park have become normalized as a weekly occurrence. Moreover, residents, stakeholders, city officials, and students all contribute to the conceptualization of the Park by utilizing a Minecraft tool. All those who live in the parameter of the park were taught to use the tool, which allowed them to design their own vision and ideas of what amenities and events they would like to have in the Park.<sup>22</sup> As such, End Street North Park has become a model for other South African cities on community engagement and how such public spaces can foster a more cohesive and interconnected society.

### **Making Cities Inclusive for Families with Various Needs**

The third theme, “Making cities inclusive for families with various needs,” runs parallel with the first two in that inclusivity can only be attained if the diverse landscape of the city’s inhabitants is fully acknowledged. In the case of Rotterdam, Netherlands, families were actively working toward making the city more fitting for families, and in particular, migrant families. This was palpable in the education sector, as most parents (70%) strived to engage their children within the multicultural society, such as by placing their children in an ethnically mixed school and embracing a broad curriculum.<sup>23</sup> Over half of Rotterdam’s population were either born abroad or have had at least one parent born abroad. Thus, the enthusiasm of the city’s inhabitants to help integrate migrant families and embrace such diversity underlines how catering to families with various needs can create positive effects for the city environment. Conversely, housing in Rotterdam has been a longstanding issue, particularly for lower-income and disadvantaged families. Over half the houses have only three rooms or less, and at an exceedingly high price. That the economical needs of families in Rotterdam have not yet been adequately addressed demonstrates that inclusivity is a dynamic and crosscutting concept; while some needs of the population have been realized, others still struggle to reach minimal standard of living. As Karsten contends, a “balanced” city can reconcile families and cities, children and urban, private and public, with a bottom-up approach that socially integrates the different domains of life.<sup>24</sup>

### **Families with Persons with Disabilities and Inclusive Cities**

The final key issue, “Families with persons with disabilities and inclusive cities,” truly highlights the urgency for a holistic family policy to foster inclusive cities, as people with disabilities are depend a lot of their livelihoods on external resources and are thus considered

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<sup>21</sup> Mavuso, Nkosilenhle. *Rethinking Park Design & Management in Inner-City Johannesburg to Improve Park Use and Safety*. Report. 2016. Accessed April 5, 2018. Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies.

<sup>22</sup> "Safe and Inclusive Parks in the Johannesburg Inner-city." SaferSpaces. Accessed April 3, 2018. <http://www.saferpaces.org.za/be-inspired/entry/inner-city-safer-parks-and-open-spaces-strategic-framework-end-street-north>.

<sup>23</sup> Karsten, Lia. "From a Top-down to a Bottom-up Urban Discourse: (re) Constructing the City in a Family-inclusive Way." *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment* 24, no. 3 (2009): 317-29. doi:10.1007/s10901-009-9145-1.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

to be the most exposed and vulnerable to abuse.<sup>25</sup> This is exemplified by the lack of services and rights attributed to people with disabilities in the realm of sexual reproductive health in Durban, South Africa. According to a study done by the South African National AIDS Council, there were many instances of stereotyping and prejudice toward the reproductive health care of women with disabilities. For example, service providers often expressed their confusion and/or disapproval as to why a woman with a disability would necessitate reproductive health services. Schools for special needs often do not teach students about sexual reproductive health, so women with disabilities often resort to their providers for assistance. However, it was found that providers lacked sufficient knowledge on how to specifically address the sexual reproductive healthcare needs for women with disabilities. Family planning providers further refused to provide contraceptives and routine STI check-ups.<sup>26</sup> That respondents felt that persons with disabilities were habitually perceived as children, and thus marginalized in sexual and reproductive education matters stresses the compounding of gender and disability in creating the negative reality women with disabilities face in receiving their basic rights.

## Ten Inclusive Programmes

While ample policy reform in the realm of fostering inclusive societies must be placed at the forefront of the political agenda, there have been initiatives from around the world that have taken strides to promote a more socially integrated environment. What follows are ten instances of inclusive programmes that have made far-reaching differences to their respective urban fabric.

### Porto Alegre, Brazil

Porto Alegre in Brazil has employed an integrated urban management approach to address its inequalities by focusing specifically on involvement. Originally, financial resources in the city were minute and the needs of the urban poor were overlooked due to the inefficiency government inefficiency. However, the Participatory Budgeting (PB) programme that took off was able to gather different parts of the city to participate in the budget-writing process, which included every sector and class of society. Citizen involvement became an essential facet to combating urban inequality in Porto Alegre. Through creating public assemblies, citizens were given the opportunity to discuss specific issues relevant to their needs and the city. For example, residents chose to allocate resources particularly for street paving, sewerage, and housing.<sup>27</sup> The regular assemblies were centered around five themes, all of which contribute to the development of SDG 11: urban planning and development, which would be subdivided into environment and sanitation, and city planning and housing; traffic management and public transportation; health and social welfare; education, culture and recreation; and economic development and taxation.

Policy recommendations that have resulted from the PB programme have promoted democratic and decentralized urban management, social inclusion, culturally diverse, and environmental quality. The current urban development master plan includes a system on integrated environmental management based on citizen participation, education, and public

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<sup>25</sup> Marinho, Alice Salgueiro Do Nascimento. "Poverty, Disability and Violence." *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* 14, no. 1 (2009): 21-23. doi:10.1590/s1413-81232009000100003.

<sup>26</sup> Maharaj, P., and C. Munthre. "The Quality of Integrated Reproductive Health Services: Perspectives of Clients in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa." *Curationis* 28, no. 1 (2005). doi:10.4102/curationis.v28i1.922.

<sup>27</sup> UNOPS. *Livable Cities: Case Studies: Porto Alegre, Brazil*. Report. UNOPS. Accessed March 18, 2018. Cities Alliance.

environmental programmes. As a result, almost all residents in Porto Alegre have water piped to their homes, with good-quality sanitation and drainage.<sup>28</sup> Not only do these implementations make Porto Alegre environmentally sustainable, but such innovations have ensured the urban poor have access to clean water and are less susceptible to water-borne illnesses. Moreover, the garbage collection system reaches all households, which now includes a recyclable collection, illuminating how a participatory-based policy can increase accountability.

### **Medellin, Colombia**

Medellin, Colombia has undergone an extraordinary transformation in its social, environmental, and economic terrain. Over fifteen years ago, the city was ridden by a homicide rate of 177 per 100,000 inhabitants, a lack of accessibility to public spaces for minority communities, extreme pollution, and a blatant segregation between the rich and poor. However, Medellin's landscape today has become safer, environmentally friendly, and more structurally inclusive. With the number of homicides down by fourfold and a jump in public transportation,<sup>29</sup> Medellin has witnessed economic and developmental successes in all corners. These achievements were grounded on a newfound creation of sustainable linkages between the poor and the rest of the city. Through mobilization, the poor were able to connect and become part of a community that had not existed prior to Medellin's transformative reforms. As a result, Medellin became an inclusive and more equitable city through a community engagement, representative governance, and violence suppression agenda.

### **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Facilitating safe and secure public spaces are vital, as it enables the citizenry to evade violence and crime, while simultaneously partaking in civil society. Given these conditions, Johannesburg, South Africa has created the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) to create a "development synergy," which will result in both continued economic progress and resource-efficient cities with active participation from urban residents.<sup>30</sup> For example, over 50% of poor urban residents spend more than 20% of their household income on transportation and commuting long distances, which is substantially higher than the international norm.<sup>31</sup> In addressing this widespread concern, the IUDF has implemented three different programmes geared towards accessibility for all urban residents. Road infrastructure improvements have been taking place through commissions such as the Presidential Infrastructure Coordination Committee (PICC). Alongside, improving railway passenger services has made public transportation more accessible, as it now reaches lower-income communities that live farther away. South Africans currently spend the longest time in daily commutes, which exacerbates expenses on travelling. The creation of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems through the Public Transport Infrastructure and Systems Grant (PTISG) has enabled local municipalities to institute a more efficient public transportation network, which has alleviated the many costs residents living in distant and poorer neighborhoods have to consider when searching for employment opportunities.

In the safety realm, the government has instituted community police forums, which has further integrated inhabitants within the city. In the health sector, the state has set up community health committees and linked networks to ensure the health concerns of every citizen are being addressed. In education, school governing bodies have been imperative in

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> *The Inclusive City*. Report. The Fletcher School's Institute for Business in the Global Context, Tufts University. Accessed March 19, 2018. Tufts University.

<sup>30</sup> *Integrated Urban Development Framework*. Report. The Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: Republic of South Africa. Johannesburg: Republic of South Africa. Accessed April 4, 2018.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

engaging students with their environment and providing a space for dialogue on matters concerning their needs in the city. Significantly, the IUDF has been developing models for civic education for community members as a means to provide them with the necessary skills to engage in meaningful participation.<sup>32</sup> Civic education is directly linked with the vision of a sustainable inclusive city, as it fosters a resilient institutional capacity for engagement.

### **Blantyre, Malawi**

Blantyre, Malawi has implemented its own Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme geared towards empowering persons with disabilities and their job prospects. Through promoting mechanisms for small and medium enterprises to ensure people with disabilities can access business loans, Blantyre aims to increase the number of eligible persons with disabilities can open up their own businesses or join the workforce with fewer obstacles. A key component of this initiative is including a person with a disability as a committee member responsible for the implementation of the newly established Malawi Rural Development Fund, which provides low interest loans for people living in poverty. Currently, over 500 people with disabilities from 20 of the 28 districts have accessed loans from the Fund, and most individuals are running profitable business projects, which have been considered to have a positive impact on their lives and their families.<sup>33</sup>

### **Amman, Jordan**

Over a quarter of the Jordanian population lives in the capital city of Amman. Acknowledging its role in the country, the Amman Municipality became the first of the MENA cities to adopt the Child Protection Initiative (CPI) project in 2004 and facilitate a child-friendly city. To date, the Municipality has provided educational and cultural activities and services to families by creating public parks for children, especially in disadvantaged areas, over 34 children's libraries, computer centres in different districts of the city, and cultural centres in different parts of the city.<sup>34</sup> By targeting diverse regions within the city and families of varied compositions, Amman has placed youth engagement as a priority in its agenda. For example, the city holds an annual campaign that encourages inclusive education by encouraging children to read, while the cultural centre has held a number of activities and over 100 festivals since its inception that ranges from raising awareness in children of different topics related to their lives. In 2005, the Municipality launched its Policy for Children, where children's needs became one of its main concerns. However, the city has recently broadened its initiative by including children with disabilities, which has been demonstrated by the fact that provisions for special academic education and other services have been granted for students with hearing disabilities.<sup>35</sup>

### **District Jhelum, Pakistan**

The District Jhelum, Punjab Province of Pakistan has implemented its own CBR initiative titled "Inclusive Community Development through Mainstreaming People with Disability in Social Mobilization" in order to promote the rights of people with disabilities in

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<sup>32</sup> *Integrated Urban Development Framework*. Report. The Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: Republic of South Africa. Johannesburg: Republic of South Africa. Accessed April 4, 2018.

<sup>33</sup> Thomas, Maya. *Community Based Rehabilitation and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Report. Brussels: International Disability and Development Consortium, 2012.

<sup>34</sup> Nour, Osman El Hassan M. "Building Child Friendly Cities in the MENA Region." *International Review of Education* 59, no. 4 (2013): 489-504. doi:10.1007/s11159-013-9373-1.

<sup>35</sup> "Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in Primary Education in Public Schools". Report. Amman: Handicap International, 2016. Accessed April 17, 2018.

accordance to the Convention. To achieve this objective, Local Citizens' Community Boards were organized with membership from persons with disabilities and relevant organizations. Through frequent meetings, members discussed issues of health, education, and social welfare, and their linkages with empowering or inhibiting persons with disabilities to live their lives with dignity. To further support the CBR implementation, the initiative employed an all-inclusive approach in both the inputs and outputs from the community. As a result, the project has been able to provide access to health, education, and recreation opportunities for people with disabilities in the Punjab Province.<sup>36</sup>

### **Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

Fourteen mayors of cities in Indonesia signed the Charter of the Network of Indonesian Mayors for Inclusive Cities in Indonesia in 2017,<sup>37</sup> which signified greater city involvement to enhance the standard of living for people with disabilities. Yogyakarta was one such signee, and has strived to fulfill its obligation by establishing the Committee for the Protection and Fulfillment of the Rights of People with Disabilities, which fosters interagency cooperation in order to carry out disability policies within the city. Within the health sector, Yogyakarta has established multidisciplinary early intervention services that are able to identify and intervene children with disabilities at an early stage. Likewise, access to education for students with special needs has been augmented through efforts sought out by the Department of Education. While there are still challenges to inclusive education in Yogyakarta, it has appointed Schools Providing Inclusive Education (SPIEs) and increased its capacity by identifying educators at special schools who provide resource support for SPIEs.<sup>38</sup>

### **Solo, Indonesia**

Solo, Indonesia has strived to boost its inclusivity by focusing on the housing sector of the city. By implementing an inclusive and participative policy, the city focused on the intersectional problems of the informal sector and marginalized settlements. It established three programmes, all of which was meticulously analyzed and followed up with by the municipality. The participatory slum-upgrading programme (RTLH) was aimed primarily at physical improvements, but with a bottom-up approach. The second programme was more comprehensive than the first, but included international actors (RTLH-Cluster). The third project was the relocation programme, which targeted residents of squatter settlements and aimed to provide them with sustainable and affordable housing.<sup>39</sup> All three initiatives followed the same design and procedure, which included critical elements such as socialization, public consultation, and *pokjas*—working groups consisting of community members. Local financial facilities were established to guarantee the repayment of obtained loans and develop individual concepts of repayment for each borrower. In doing so, these housing projects have been able to create a sense of transparency between the citizen and governance. Moreover, a number of community meetings were held with victims from the 2007 flood, all of which were eligible to receive a grant for renovating or restoring their house.

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<sup>36</sup> Thomas, Maya. *Community Based Rehabilitation and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Report. Brussels: International Disability and Development Consortium, 2012.

<sup>37</sup> The Charter is accessible at : [http://www.unesco.or.id/news/shs/01\\_CharterFIN\\_311017.pdf](http://www.unesco.or.id/news/shs/01_CharterFIN_311017.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> Villeneuve, Michelle, David Evans, and Sukinah Sadirin. *Collaborative Action across Health and Education: Establishing a Policy Vision and Research Agenda in Yogyakarta, Indonesia Sectors for Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Education*. Report no. 2206-4338. Centre for Disability Research and Policy, University of Sydney. University of Sydney, 2016.

<sup>39</sup> Obermayr, Christian. "Informal Housing and Marginal Settlements." *The Urban Book Series Sustainable City Management*, 2017, 27-52. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-49418-0\_3.

## **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has placed education at the centre of its strategies and policies to enhance economic performance, sustainable development, and a quality of living for *all* citizens. To achieve this goal, Pittsburgh has established itself as a “learning city,” which denotes communities learning collectively as a means of changing their own futures.<sup>40</sup> In identifying itself as a learning city, Pittsburgh has sought to address the digital divide, which is inherently rooted in marginalizing lower-income households and underrepresented minorities. By increasing digital literacy in underserved populations and providing open data to the whole city, Pittsburgh has strived to create a more equitable livelihood for all inhabitants through providing more opportunities. With its goals of advancing the clean tech sector, Pittsburgh has increased an awareness and demand for clean technology by creating energy, water, and air quality benchmarks for the city,<sup>41</sup> which has become an unheeded issue in the urban discourse.

## **Copenhagen, Denmark**

Copenhagen, Denmark is unique in that while the country has primarily focused on integrationist and intercultural policies, the city is pluralistic and embraces the advantages diversity can bring to the city. The “Policy for Disadvantaged Areas in Copenhagen 2011” was established to address areas of deprivation through cross-sector cooperation and preferential treatment. The goal for this policy was to raise the living standards in disadvantaged areas to the average level with specific area-based objectives, such as by having 95% of the local youth be required to finish upper-secondary education.<sup>42</sup> “Get Involved in Your City: Citizenship + Inclusion 2010” was an integration policy that was based on three core concepts: inclusion, integration, and citizenship. By focusing primarily on immigrants and refugees, Copenhagen identified four themes in creating a more inclusive entity: 1) a good start in life for all families; 2) inclusion in the employment sector; 3) supporting deprived groups; and 4) an open and welcoming city. The “Action Plan for the Inclusion Policy 2011” aims to strengthen diversity, integration of immigrants, and inclusion of children with difficulties or learning disabilities in schools. The policy introduced initiatives that focused on educational and social support for bilingual children, counseling, and after-school support for children with special needs.<sup>43</sup>

Ultimately, the role of the municipality is perhaps the most significant in fostering an inclusive society, as it has the capacity to reach the national level in carrying out policies, while also interacting directly with its constituents without a mediating agent. Municipalities function as the policy maker, service provider, employer, custodian of public spaces, and as the key partner in networks. However, restructuring the municipality to become more accessible to inhabitants of all ages, backgrounds, and identities involves a comprehensive process. This indicates one that is highly collaborative, transparent, recognizes and is responsive to intersectionality, and embodies accountability mechanisms. Moreover, stakeholders must realize this process takes time and that joining a coalition of municipalities seeking to become more inclusive is a long-term commitment. Only then can municipalities become the ideal force to lead a community in becoming inclusive to *all* its residents.

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<sup>40</sup> Osborne, Michael, Peter Kearns, and Jin Yang. *Learning Cities Developing Inclusive, Prosperous and Sustainable Urban Communities*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2013.

<sup>41</sup> *Pittsburgh Roadmap for Inclusive Innovation*. Report. Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh. Accessed April 18, 2018. Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

<sup>42</sup> Andersen, Hans, Vigdis Blach, Anne Beckman, and Rikke Nielsen. *Urban Policies on Diversity in Copenhagen, Denmark*. Report. DIVERCITIES, 2014.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*

City	Inclusive City Programme	GINI Coefficient <sup>44</sup>
<b>Porto Alegre, Brazil</b>	Participatory Budgeting	0.60
<b>Medellin, Colombia</b>	Community mobilization	0.51
<b>Johannesburg, South Africa</b>	Integrated Urban Development Framework	0.65
<b>Blantyre, Malawi</b>	Community-Based Rehabilitation	0.50
<b>Amman, Jordan</b>	Child Protection Initiative	0.39
<b>District Jhelum, Pakistan</b>	Community-Based Rehabilitation	0.31
<b>Yogyakarta, Indonesia</b>	Committee for the Protection and Fulfillment of the Rights of People with Disabilities	0.44
<b>Solo, Indonesia</b>	Participatory slum-upgrading and housing relocation programmes	0.35
<b>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</b>	Learning city initiatives	0.47
<b>Copenhagen, Denmark</b>	Policy for Disadvantaged Areas in Copenhagen; Get Involved in Your City: Citizenship + Inclusion; Action Plan for the Inclusion Policy 2011	0.25

## Indicators for Inclusion

To ensure sustainable growth and durable policies that address the intersecting needs of the population, there are six indicators for inclusion that can facilitate the inclusive processes. While each indicator touches upon the key aspects of inclusion, they all can swiftly overlap with each other. The first indicator is an accessible built environment, which includes buildings and the city infrastructure—both within the public and private spheres. By ensuring public spaces are accessible and adhere to regulations, people with disabilities can become active participants in society. The second indicator refers to the degree of a positive social environment. The attitudes, perceptions, and common knowledge people have regarding individuals that come from different backgrounds can either promote or inhibit inclusion. Stereotypes and prejudice often derive from ignorance or misinformation, and thus create barriers to an inclusive community life. The third indicator is affordability, which refers to financial accessibility. There is often a cost associated with implementing programmes that make a community more accessible. As such, this cost should not be assumed by marginalized groups. Creating an inclusive city thus requires societal restructuring at the hands of the government in and the private sector.

The fourth indicator refers to geographical availability of inclusive policy projects. Municipalities must ensure that such initiatives are found all over the city and are well placed,

<sup>44</sup> Moreno, Eduardo, Regina Murguía, and Giulia Lavagna. *The City Prosperity Initiative: 2015 Global City Report*. Report. UN Habitat, 2015. Accessed May 2, 2018. UN Habitat.

so the maximum number of citizens are able to benefit from them. Political will and resources are of utmost significance in achieving this indicator, as only then will beneficiaries be able to access have their rights fulfilled. The fifth indicator is quality. Family policies that foster inclusive societies are crosscutting and entail a certain depth. Thus, programmes must address all aspects of inclusivity in a consistent manner, for only then will such initiatives become more accessible to the targeted population. Likewise, the quality of the programmes wholly depend on its collaborative sincerity; thus, it is key that the beneficiaries are not depicted in a demeaning or tokenized manner. Finally, the sixth indicator refers to meaningful participation. Actively participating in the political process, in civic affairs, and within the community is critical to measuring the efficacy of any inclusive policy. Initiatives that take place without direct engagement from the targeted group are not considered inclusive; only when they are empowered to engage at both the social and political realms will inclusivity be truly attained.

## Conclusion

While the rate of urbanization has spurred a technological boom and advancements in capital growth globally, it has simultaneously created systemic obstacles for specific populations to prosper, such as the family. Today, families no longer conform to the traditional nuclear standard; same-sex households, adopted children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and migrant families are merely a few traits that characterize the diverse array of families. As such, to be an inclusive city, local governance must facilitate policies that reflect the reality of family life. This necessitates instituting an intergenerational perspective within future urban planning, as well as reforming current legislation and city guidelines to ensure the needs of the family are sufficiently met.

Policies that create tension and additional challenges to specific members of a family are not sustainable; conversely, they break down the potential for a city to achieve social cohesion and long-term integration. Families are the backbone of social development, and thus require a comprehensive toolkit that will empower respective family members to become active participants within and outside the city, accurately assess their concerns, and tackle the existing issues inflicting them. Likewise, creating an avenue that creates an avenue for transparency between local governance and all of civil society is pertinent to the synergy among family policies, intergenerational solidarity, and the concept of safe, sustainable, and inclusive cities. Fundamentally, an inclusive city entails breaking down institutionalized barriers and prejudices within and outside of a community; through engaging the youth, embracing collaborative platforms and good practices, and restructuring the way in which we craft fair, just, and equitable opportunities, sustainable urbanization and social integration will become normalized within the city landscape of tomorrow.

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