

Child-sensitive climate and environment policies - criteria and indicators

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What Criteria Makes a Child Sensitive Policy?

A child sensitive policy:

- is **inclusive** of all children's rights, participation and roles as stakeholders and drivers of change
- **strengthens child-critical social services** to be more climate and disaster resilient

4 Child Sensitivity Criteria:

References

The criterion includes **explicit and meaningful reference** to children and young people.



Inclusive

The criterion identifies inclusiveness and the **recognition of children and young people as important stakeholders for climate action**, including in Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).



Rights-based

The criterion considers **children and young people as rights holders** and includes meaningful references to children's rights or intergenerational justice and equity.



Holistic and Multisectoral

The criterion addresses the **specific risks and vulnerabilities of children and young people** by including child-sensitive sectoral commitments.



Practical example from the Assessment of child and youth sensitivity in air quality plans in the Western Balkans

UNICEF – Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Partnership for improved Air Quality in the Western Balkans



Child and youth-sensitive AQ policies and actions

1. Child and youth sensitivity

Policies and actions that respect child rights, foster their participation as key stakeholders and agents of positive change. They can build more resilient child-critical social services, better equipped to address the ever-present challenges children face.

2. Assessment of AQ Policies

Detailed mapping and assessment of how Municipal AQP consider children and youth, including the integration of essential social services they rely on (education, health, social protection, participation).

14

AQP in the Western Balkans
assessed

13

Municipal AQP + 1
national strategy

What makes AQ policies child and youth-sensitive?

1. References

Explicit and meaningful - to children and youth.

2. Rights-based

Children and youth as rights holders, references to children's rights.

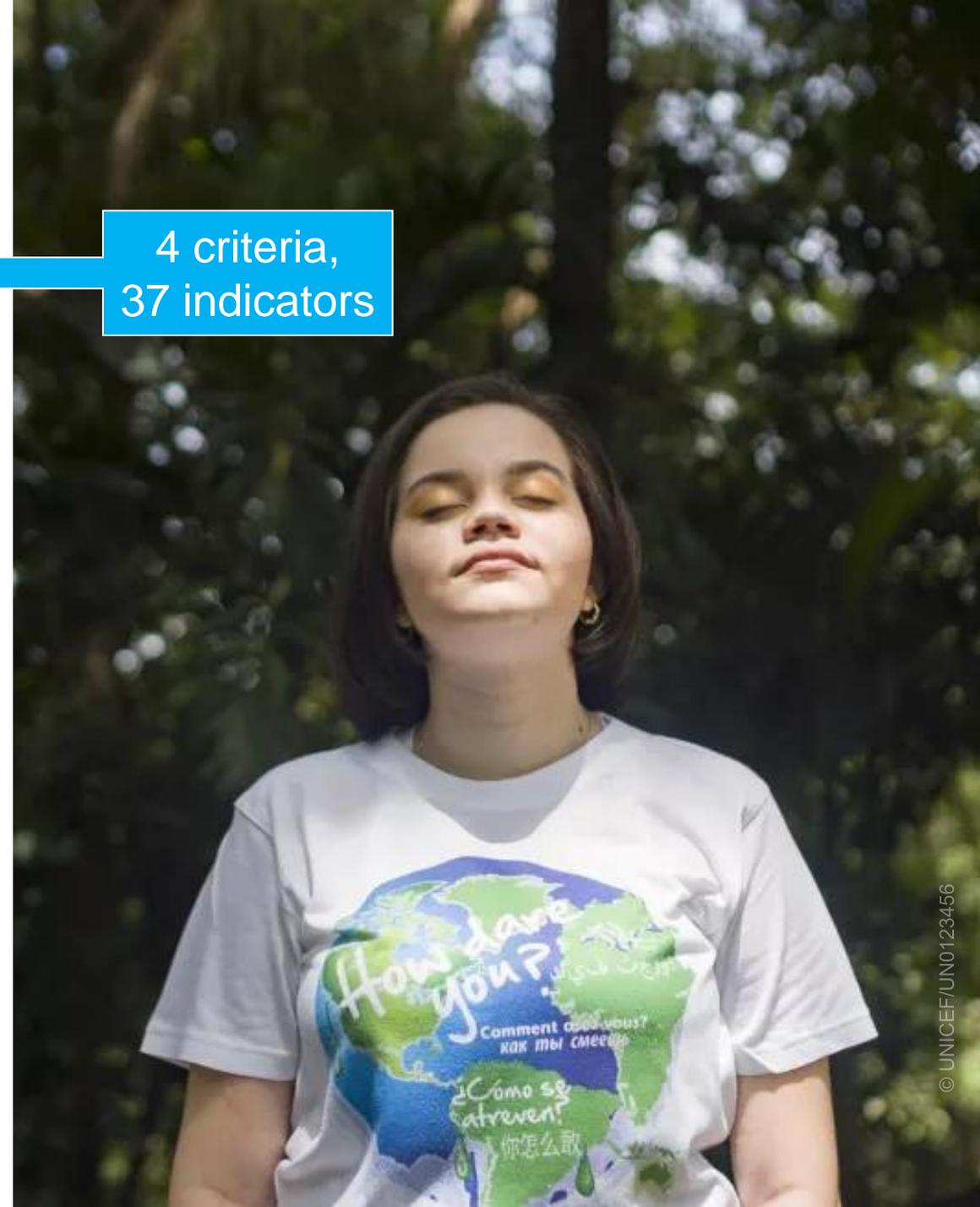
3. Inclusive

Recognition of children and youth as key stakeholders for climate and environmental action.

4. Holistic

Child-sensitive multi-sectoral commitments to address their specific risks and vulnerabilities.

4 criteria,
37 indicators



Criterion: **Reference** | Identify explicit references to children and young people.

Indicators:

- References to children and young people*
- References to children and young people in vulnerable situation*
- Identification of children or youth as a vulnerable group to the impacts of air pollution*
- Existence of references to UNICEF

Criterion: **Rights-based** | Identify the consideration of rights and children as rights holders.

Indicators:

- The existence of meaningful references to human rights*
- The existence of references to child rights*

Criterion: **Inclusive** | Identify children and young people as an important stakeholder, ensure inclusiveness for and with children and young people, including Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and Aarhus Convention

Indicators:

- Identification of children as drivers of change*
- Identification of young people as drivers of change*
- Reference to the AQP development or update process being done in a participatory manner
- Reference to the AQP development or update process being done in a participatory manner with children*
- Reference to the AQP development or update process being done in a participatory manner with young people*

Indicators: Inclusive

- Reference to the Aarhus convention and/or ACE framework
- The inclusion of commitments on training
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on training*
- The inclusion of commitments on public awareness
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on public awareness*
- The inclusion of commitments on public access to information (ACE/Aarhus)
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on access to information*
- The inclusion of commitments to improve public participation
- The inclusion of child-sensitive public participation commitments*
- The inclusion of commitments on international cooperation
- Inclusion of commitments to Monitor and evaluate the progress of the AQPs

Criterion: **Holistic and Multisectoral** | Identify sectoral commitments, including for and with children and young people.

Indicators:

- The inclusion of commitments on the health sector
- The AQP has references to the World Health Organization (WHO)
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on health*
- The inclusion of commitments on the education sector
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on education*
- The inclusion of commitments on the energy sector
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on energy in households*
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on energy in education facilities*

Indicators: Holistic and multisectoral

- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on energy in health facilities*
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments on energy in transportation*
- The inclusion of commitments on the social protection sector
- The inclusion of child-sensitive social protection commitments*
- The inclusion of commitments to implement or improve information systems and data
- The inclusion of child-sensitive commitments to implement or improve information systems
- and data*
- The authority considers areas with children and youth as a selection criterion in the decision of where measurement stations are placed*

02. Methodology



Methodology

Keyword and semantic searches of the AQP texts to derive quantitative results (points) for 37 indicators under 4 criteria.

- Each of the indicators in its criterion is assigned points according to the answer “YES” or “NO” (Yes = 1 | No = 0)
- Indicators used to identify an AQP as child-sensitive are marked with an * in the background document.

Final score was identified as meeting the criterion.

- For the **holistic and multisectoral criterion**, two of the 6 sectors would need to have received a point. Two or more shows the multisectoral nature of the AQPs.
- For the other three criteria - **references, rights-based and inclusive**, if one of their child-sensitive indicators received a ‘YES’ answer, that criterion was given a point.

Child and Youth Sensitivity Categories

CATEGORY A:

Child and youth sensitive (4 of 4)

CATEGORY B

Somewhat child and youth sensitive (3 of 4)

CATEGORY C

Lacking child and youth sensitivity (0-2 of 4)



03. Findings and Conclusions



Findings per category

CATEGORY A:
Child and youth sensitive (4 of 4)

2 AQP received the Category A

CATEGORY B:
Somewhat child and youth sensitive (3 of 4)

6 AQP received the Category B

CATEGORY C: Lacking child and youth sensitivity (0-2 of 4)

6 AQP received the Category C (five with 2 out of 4, and one with 1 out of 4)

Thank you!

