Idea 3

DATA DASHBOARDS

Cities typically have far more data on early childhood development than they know, spread throughout their departments. A data dashboard can be a great starting point to promote cross-sector collaboration.

We have not yet seen any dashboard with comprehensive data on babies and toddlers, as they are usually a subsection of those focusing on the general population. Dashboards would ideally be able to overlay information about the location of young children and pregnant women on top of data about: well-being of children and caregivers; location and use of key services; location and use of public space.

At a glance...

<table>
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<th>COST</th>
<th>MAINTENANCE</th>
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GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT
- Social Services
- Education
- Health
- Parks
- Planning
- Transport

MINIMUM SCALE
City

EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL
Tested and implemented
OUTCOME AREAS

- Increased use of shared data across city departments
- Improved collaboration across city departments
- Increased (internal and external) transparency of city actions for young children
- Stronger public and political support for investments toward young children and caregivers
- Increased city budget for initiatives to support young children and families
- Improved collaboration between city government and civil society

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- In **Ontario, Canada**, the Child Wellbeing Dashboard for the Waterloo region is used to inform state-wide expansion plans for early childhood centres. It provides a detailed view of where programmes and services for young children are situated in relation to other services, such as the number of preschools within 5 km of a library. The data are used to locate the need for new early childhood centres.

- The **New Zealand** State Service, Better Public Services Reform initiative, was created in 2012 to address the challenges of developing and delivering policies that fall across multiple departments. Government chose ten priorities, agreed through consultation, that ensured early buy-in from different agencies, to break down silos and create a shared commitment. The dashboard includes participation in early childhood education services, immunisation coverage and prevalence of rheumatic fever. The latter is a proxy among young children for poverty, and access to healthcare and decent housing.

- **Istanbul, Turkey**, and **Bhubaneshwar, India**, have engaged in mapping exercises to inform their early childhood policies, in a first step towards better monitoring and targeted interventions. In Bhubaneshwar, it was associated with children’s participation through the **Humara Bachpan Campaign**, to identify their needs. In Istanbul, the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation and Kadir Has University have developed a map to identify the location of the most vulnerable babies and toddlers by using real estate prices as a proxy for poverty levels. Local authorities are now focusing their early childhood policies on these areas.

RELATED IDEAS

1. Training in data literacy for city staff
2. Chief child development officer

LEARN MORE

- *How dashboards can help cities improve early childhood development* by the Open Data Institute
- *Interactive Map of Early Childhood in Istanbul*, by the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) and Kadir Has University