



Walking With Amadou

HCD Study on public spaces and mobility of children from
0-3 years old in Dakar

REPORT



Table of Contents



3	Background and objectives
7	Methodology
13	Overall summary
14	Comparative summary
21	Public spaces
48	Mobility
63	Creative workshops
79	Research team

Background and objectives

INTRODUCTION

YUX's Imagination Afrika / Urban 95 study uses the Human Centered Design (HCD) methodology to collect data on children from 0-3 years old and to understand the interactions between this part of the population and their environment.

This research has been conducted in order to understand the impact of the urban environment on the development of children from 0-3 years old.

We focused on two aspects: the interactions of 0-3 years old children with what the population considers as public space; and their experiences with urban transport. We followed a collaborative, co-creation process involving the community, local representatives parents and a group of children from 0-3 years old.

The aim of this approach is to propose strategies and advocacy to raise awareness and support the development of children aged 0-3 years.



DAKAR



CONTEXTUAL SETTING

With a population of almost 4 million, Dakar suffers from a variety of infrastructure problems due to the accumulation of bad planning and lack of proper management of the construction of new houses over the years. In addition, high rates of poverty and environmental degradation add to these problems.

Dakar is divided into 19 communes, each governed by a mayor and a municipal council. The ability to create sustainable urban spaces that support, promote and facilitate early learning and development requires innovative partnerships with non-traditional actors as well as the strong mobilization of parents and health workers to hold municipal authorities accountable for their actions.

STUDY OBJECTIVES



Identify the social environment of 0-3 years old children



Map their interactions with their urban environment



Collect data on the experiences of 0-3 years old with **urban spaces** and **mobility**

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The research was conducted on two topics:



The results shared in this document are the summary of the data obtained from the qualitative and quantitative research phases combined with the ideas presented during the ideation phase in co-creation workshops.

Public spaces
Yoff & Sacré Coeur



Mobility
Guédiawaye



205

participants
in the quantitative phase

34

participants
in the qualitative phase

106

participants
in the quantitative phase

26

participants
in the qualitative phase

Methodology

HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN

EMPATHY

Exchange, immerse yourself in the users' environment

DEFINITION

Illustrate the results with the appropriate supports and choose what to focus on

IDEATION

Generate ideas about identified needs and frustrations

PROTOTYPING

Imagine a product or an improvement of the existing one by working on the paths, the functionalities

TEST

Approve the solution with users to ensure that you are on the right track

These steps constitute the HCD cycle, but are not linear.

Indeed, the methodology is based on an iterative approach.

An HCD approach is never "finished". In this cycle, the research that we present to you is at the advance ideation stage, towards solutions to better adapt the environment for 0-3 years old.

TOOLS USED



Stakeholder Interviews



Focus Groups



Immersions

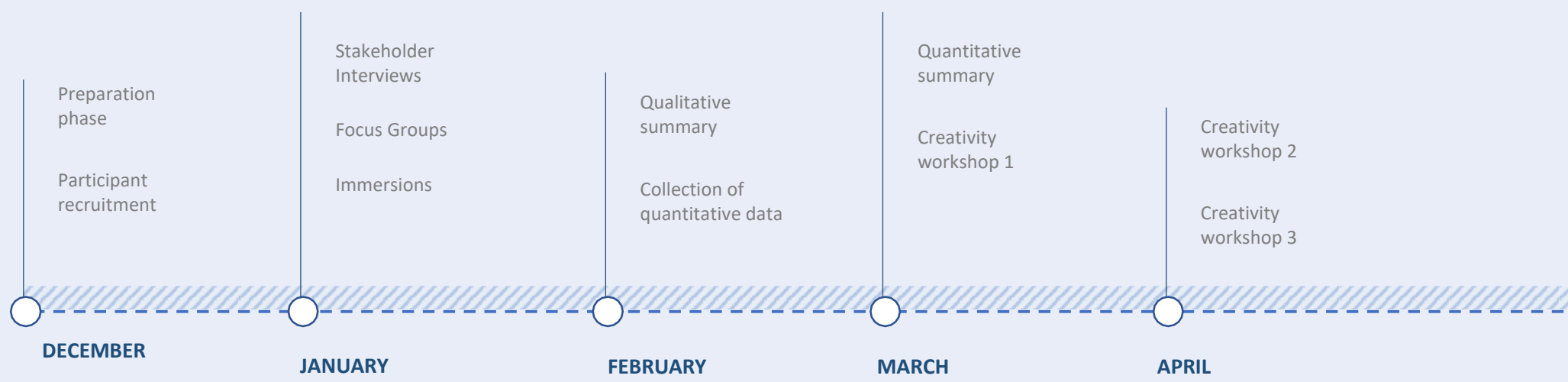


Collection of quantitative data



Creative workshops

THE RESEARCH PROCESS



Stakeholder Interviews

Objectives

- Understand the stakeholders’ areas of activity
- Understand how they work and the challenges they face
- Understand the impact of actors rarely taken into account on the subject of early childhood

Targets

- Municipalities
- Community representatives
- Early childhood specialists
- Urban transport officers



Focus group

Objectives

- Understand parents and the social environment of 0-3 years old children
- Identify their perception of the needs of a child from 0-3 years old
- Identify the places they go with children from 0-3 years old
- Understand the issues and frustrations of traveling with children
- Understand the issues and frustrations related to the places they frequent

Targets

- Parents
- Caregivers
- Transportation professionals



Immersion

Objectives

- Observe the daily life of 0-3 years old
- Understand their interactions with those around them
- Understand their interactions with their environment
- Identify the place of play in their daily lives

Targets

- Families with at least a child from 0-3 years old



Collection of quantitative data

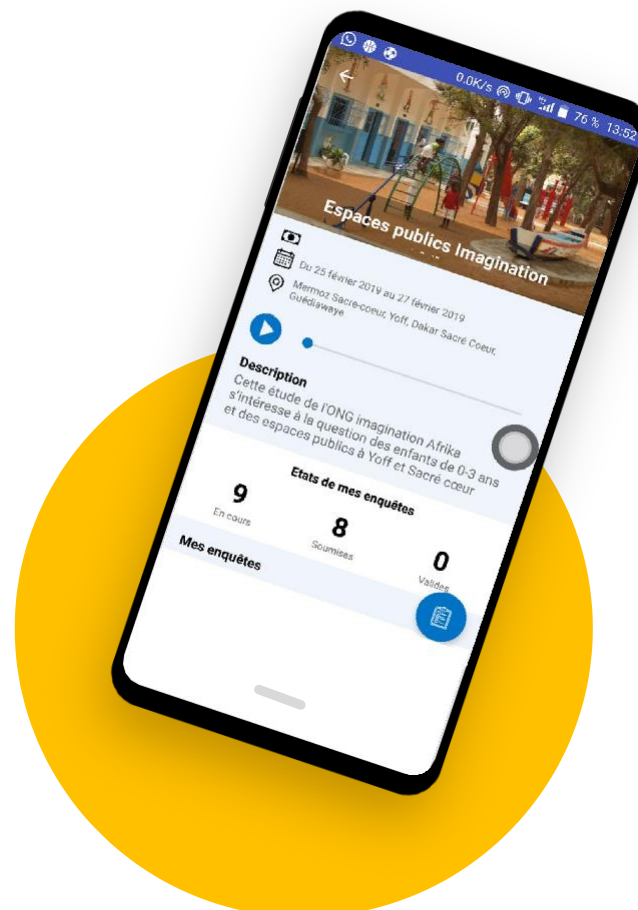
Looka is a reliable and fast tool based on data collection, which data are collected by communities. Thanks to a smartphone application shared by investigators and an online platform, surveys can be completed and data collected efficiently. Voice recordings, images and locations can also be collected.

Objectives

- Collect quantitative data
- Validate hypotheses following the qualitative phase
- Combine data with the qualitative study for a better understanding of the place of play and urban spaces in the daily life of 0-3 years old
- Establish profiles of parents, users of certain places of play and certain types of transportation with 0-3 years old

Targets

- 300 participants who have already had interactions with children from 0-3 years old



Screenshot of the data collection tool
Looka by YUX



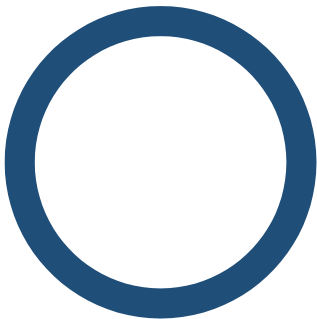
Co-creation workshops

Objectives

- Validate with participants their use of the places they frequent with 0-3 years old
- Validate with participants their use of transportation and the challenges
- Outline the most meaningful experiences of their day
- Brainstorm
- Build strategies to impact the environment of 0-3 years old
- Build advocacy strategies to engage decision-makers of each community

Targets

- Parents
- Community
- Civil society
- Local representatives
- Media



Overall Summary

TOPICS



Public spaces

- Identify the social environment of 0-3 years old
- Understand interactions with their environment
- Understand the role of play in the life of children from 0-3 years old
- Understand the needs and frustrations related to the use of urban spaces for 0-3 years old



Mobility

- Identify the social environment of 0-3 years old
- Identify their trips and understand the issues related to these trips
- Identify the different means of transportation used
- Understand the needs and frustrations related to the trips of 0-3 years old

Comparative Summary

COMPARISON AND CONTRAST

	YOFF	SACRÉ-CŒUR	GUÉDIAWAYE
Adult perception of 0-3 years old	An extension of mom	Fragile being who must be protected from everything	An extension of mom
Surroundings	Aunt, grandparents, dad, market, shopkeepers, customers and beach users	Mom, Nanny, grandparents, aunts, dad and nursery	Family, street, market, transport users
Play areas	Mom’s places of business, in front of or in the house	Nursery, in the house and paid playgrounds	In or in front of the house, Malibu beach, mom's workplace
Types of activities	Singing, toys, stories, role-playing with parents, children's group games, sand.	Toys, tablet, phone	Children’s group play, singing, storytelling
Time of play with parents	Every day, in the afternoon or evening	In the evenings or at weekends	In the evening, when parents have time

Summary of field feedback



Public spaces

Children from 0-3 years old in the visited communities do not have dedicated spaces to them. They follow their parents' activities or attend a nursery or daycare center. They are very often on their mother's back.

The spaces where they play are in front of or in the house, if not the beach or in paid play areas. The lack of means, time, transportation costs, and the remoteness of certain spaces mean that many parents do not go to urban areas for their children.

Throughout the research, the need for adapted public spaces to early childhood has been strongly suggested by the social environment of children from 0-3 years old who suffer from it on a daily basis.

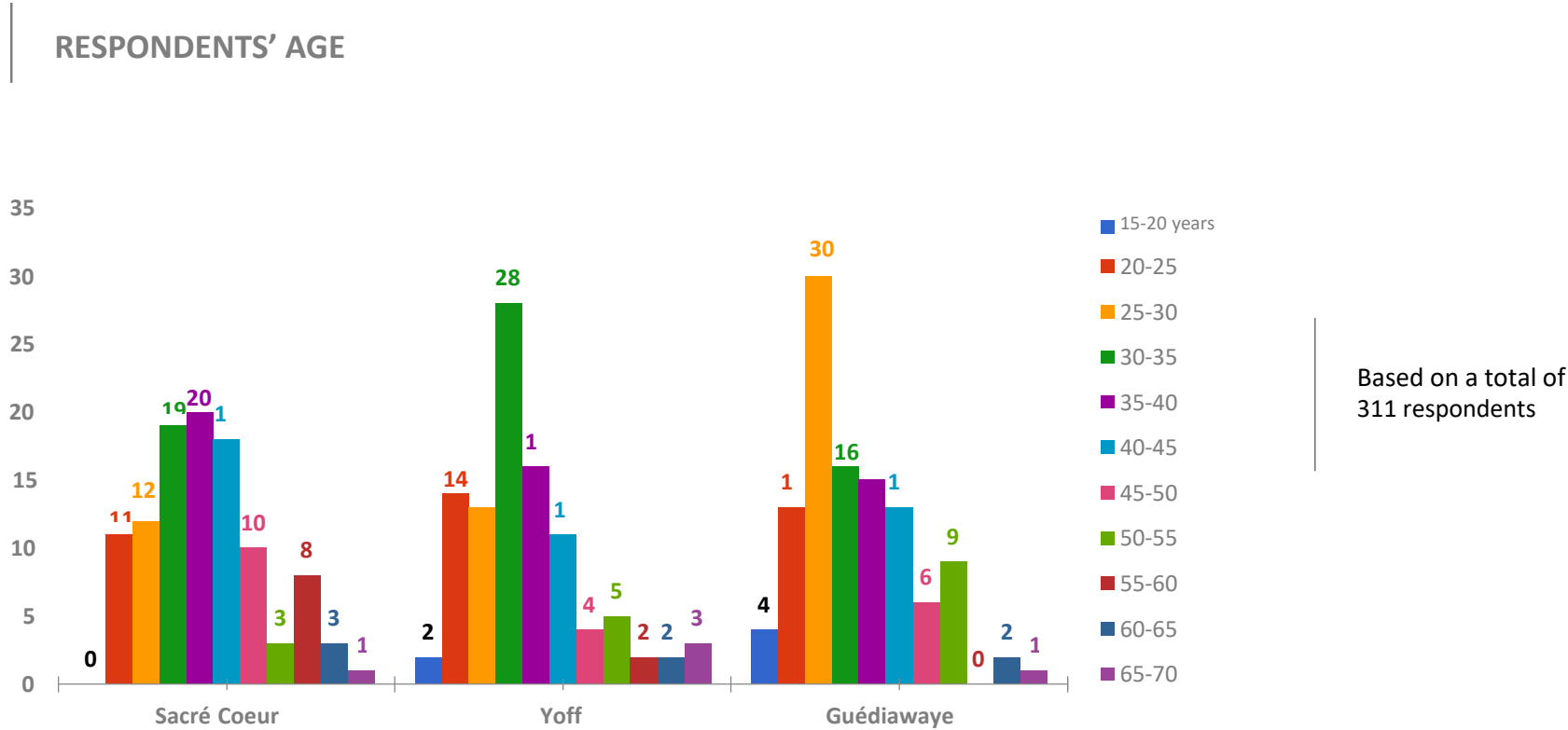
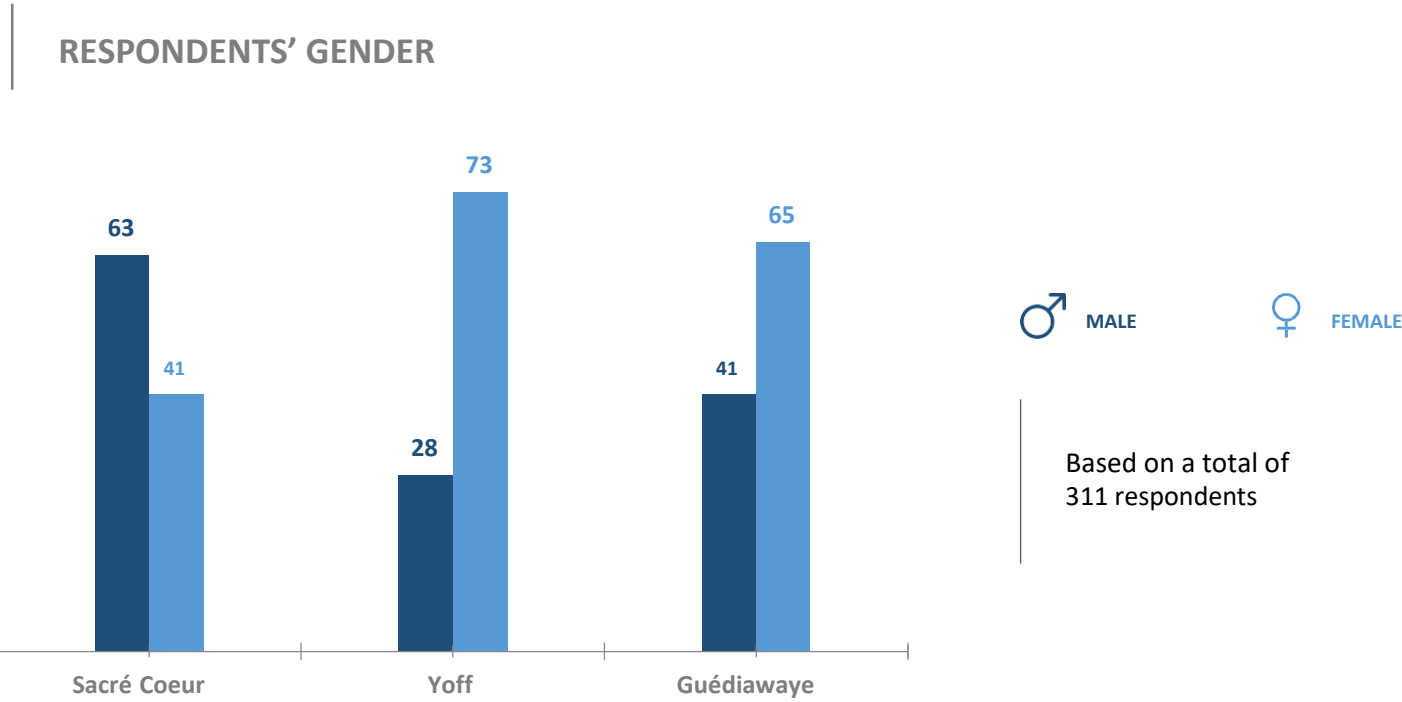
Mobility

Mobility for 0-3 years is difficult, and urban transport is generally not suitable for children of this age. The bus and the informal taxi are the most popular means of transport for parents with children from 0-3 years old. Lack of seating, too many crowds and too many waiting times make it very difficult to get around with children from 0-3 years old in Dakar.

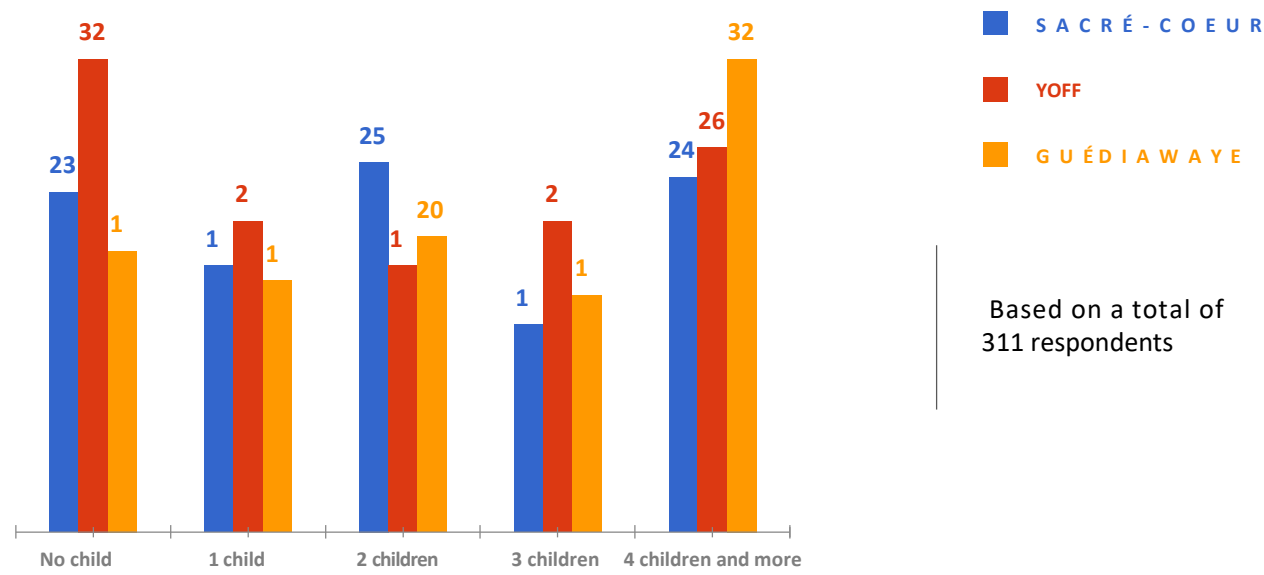
Municipalities do not have a specific program for this age group, but are open to suggestions.

However, while the frustrations related to mobility are high, the need for play spaces for toddlers has been expressed by the social environment of these children as a higher priority.

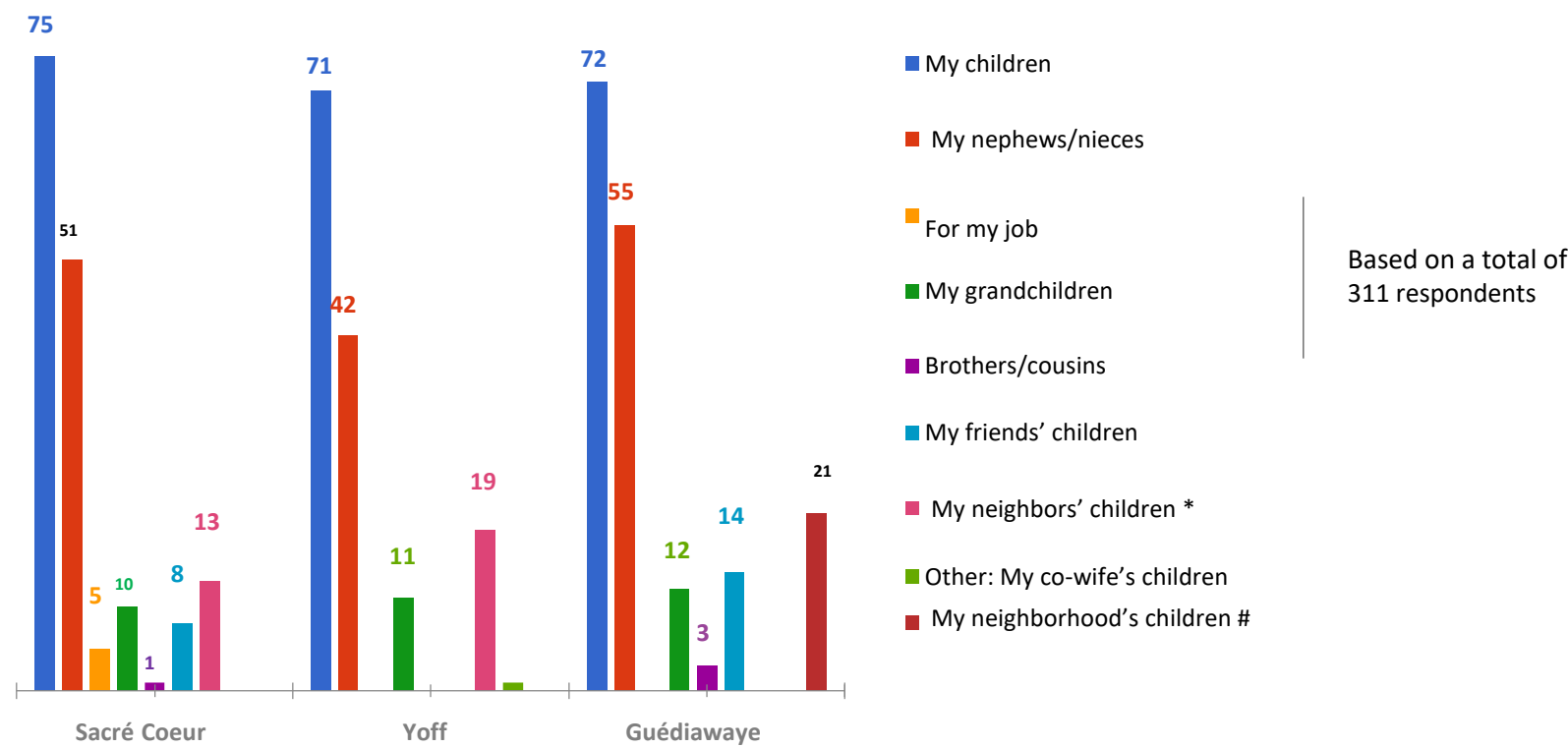
Respondents' profiles



NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS' CHILDREN



What children do you look after?



*"Neighbor's Children" means the children of the relatives with whom we live or interact with on a daily basis.
"Neighborhood Kids" means children beyond the neighborhood.

The children’s environment

The inhabitants of Yoff, Sacré-Cœur and Guédiawaye mainly look after their children and their nephews and nieces. In general, these are babies and children over 3 years old.

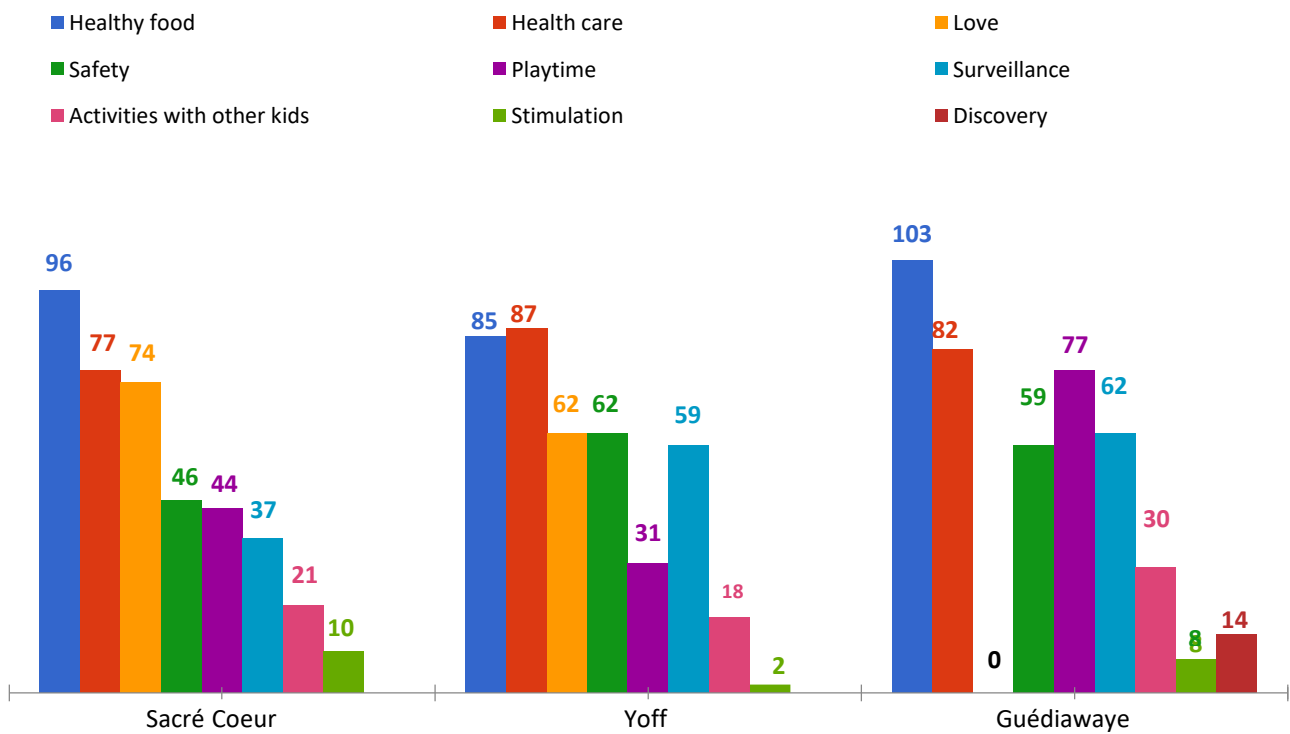
The noticeable difference between areas is that in Guédiawaye, the inhabitants look after more children from the neighborhood than those of their immediate neighbors. The inhabitants of Sacré-Coeur live more in a restricted community and are exclusively in contact with the children of their families (nephews, nieces and grandchildren).

Those in Yoff have a larger family, they take care of both their children, those of their co-wives of their cousins at the same time as their nieces and nephews, in addition to the children of neighbors who are considered to be part of the family.

In Guédiawaye as in Yoff, the family circle is not limited to the house but extends into the neighborhood. This explains why inhabitants care for children of the neighborhood even if there is no family relationship.

The family in Sacré-Coeur is a nuclear family, unlike Yoff's, which is less so. This is explained by the emergence of new cities that change the traditional order. In Guédiawaye, the family remains more extensive than in other areas.

What are the four most important things that a child needs to grow up well?



Based on a total of 311 respondents

0-3 years old

Yoff, Sacré-Cœur and Guédiawaye



“I find that the spaces are narrow in the neighborhood even though children express a huge need to go play. When they come out, you notice that you can not calm them anymore.”

- A GRANDMOTHER

YOFF

- With whom:**
Mother, aunt
- Where:**
On mother’s back while she works
- Favorite place to play:**
In front of or inside home, under surveillance
- Danger:**
Many roads
- Activities:**
After 2 years attending Koranic school in the neighborhood
- Primary concern of parents:**
Monitoring health
- Considered**
as an extension of mom

SACRÉ-CŒUR

- With whom:**
Mother, aunt or nanny
- Where:**
At the house or the nursery
- Favorite place to play**
In the house, on the cornice or in paid play places
- Danger:**
Lots of traffic, garbage left by carts
- Activities:**
Nursery, private daycare or Koranic school
- Primary concern of parents:**
What he eats and his safety
- Considered**
to be a fragile being

GUÉDIAWAYE

- With whom:**
Mother, grandmother and aunt
- Where:**
In the home
- Favorite place to play:**
In front or inside the home, under surveillance
- Danger:**
Cars, carts
- Activities:**
Koranic school or nursery
- Primary concern of parents**
Health, quality education and fear of stealing children
- Considered**
As an extension of mom

Mothers of children 0 to 3 years old

YOFF

- Mothers work and move with child on back
- Mothers have no one to entrust their children to
- Children play with each other a few steps from them at their place of work
- Dads spend a few hours with children especially in the evening after work
- Mothers spend most of the day with the child who follow them around to each activity
- Moms have almost no time to play with the child or go to places just for baby's needs

SACRÉ-CŒUR

- Are active or in transition to an activity
- Are with their baby in general in the morning, in the evening after work (after 5 pm) and on weekends
- Go out to play with their children on weekends, preferably on the cornice or in private paid areas
- Think the neighborhood is dangerous for a child from 0-3 years old:
 - risk of abduction,
 - garbage left by the carts,
 - passage of cars.
- Say that there are no public spaces that can accommodate a child of 0-3 years old in the community

GUÉDIAWAYE

- Almost always traveling with baby for work, family visits or medical appointments.
- They are usually shopkeepers, housekeepers, or laundresses.
- The education of their children is important to them either at the nursery or in Islamic childcare centers.

Public Spaces

The theme of public spaces is common to Yoff and Sacré-Coeur, and the following analysis is based on the data concerning the two zones.



YOFF SAMPLING



Stakeholder Interviews

A municipality employee responsible for roads and development

Local governance

A badienou Gokh



Focus Groups

8 Mothers

7 Fathers



Immersions

A half day with a family with a 3 years old child

A half day in the streets of Yoff



Collection of quantitative data

101 participants

73 women

71 between 20 and 40 years

73 between 1 and 4 children

SACRÉ - CŒUR SAMPLING



Stakeholder Interviews

A municipality employee responsible for town planning

Neighborhood head

An early childhood specialist



Focus Groups

6 Mothers

6 Caregivers



Immersions

A half day with a family with a 1 and a half year old child

A half day in the streets of Sacré-Cœur



Collection of quantitative data

104 participants

63 men

74 between 25 and 45 years

66 between 0 and 2 children

Commune of Yoff



Yoff is a diverse commune divided into 2 main parts:

Traditional village

Neighbourhoods (see map page 25)

Ngaparou, Deungangne,
Ndenatte, Dagoudane,
Mbenguenne and Tonghor

Organization

Traditional Lébou with Djaraf,
the Ndèye ji rew and the
Saltigué*

The new cities

emerged with the extension of the
traditional neighborhood made by the
ASPECSY association

Neighborhoods

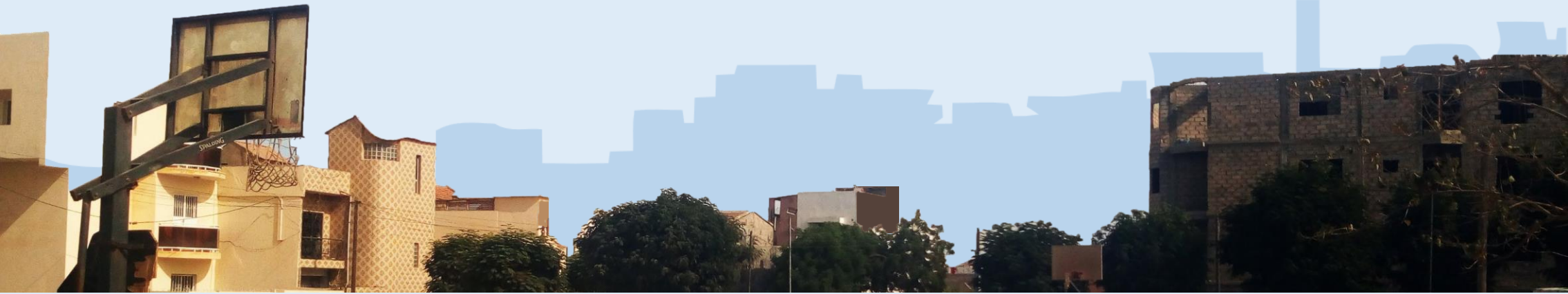
APECSY 1 and APECSY 2, Ouest and
Nord Foire, Djily Mbaye, Diamalaye,
...

Organization

Neighborhood committees: composed
of a president, the head of the
neighborhood and community
representatives (youth, women)

*In the traditional Lebou culture, Djaraf acts as Prime minister, the Ndey ji rew Minister of justice, interior and spokesman, the Saltigué is responsible for the security and the mystical protection of the village.

The commune of Mermoz / Sacré-Cœur



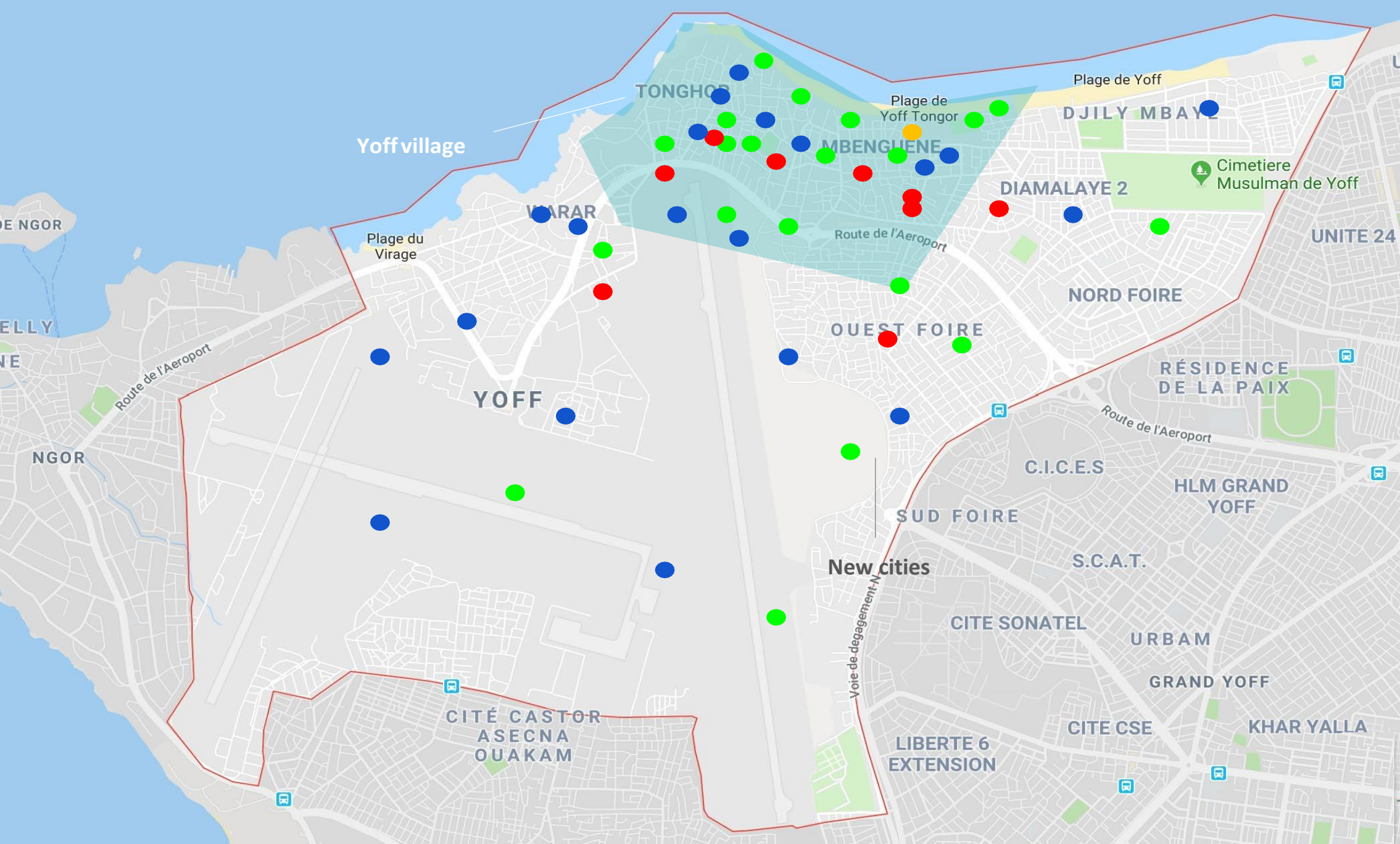
Neighborhoods

(see map on page 27)

Sacré-Coeur / Mermoz is a residential area made up of locals working in the city. The commune goes from the Société Générale, Ecobank police school and extends up to the VDN building Mariama, Brioche Dorée roundabout JVC, Baobab, Amitié 3, Karack, Mermoz, Sacré cœur 1,2,3 Sacré-Coeur / Mermoz

Organization

The inhabitants have a representative in the municipality and the head of the local governance is the representative of the municipal authority in the district.



IMMERSION IN YOFF

Where we saw children

- IN THE STREET (SAND, NEIGHBORHOOD)
- NEXT TO MAIN ROADS
- IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE
- AT THE MARKET



“We put our children on our backs and we carry them, and it's very difficult because of many hazards involved with going to the market. But we have no choice because there is no one to whom we can entrust them”

- A YOFF MOTHER

Our findings during the family immersion in Yoff

Our immersion in the new cities of Yoff was done with a mother and her 3-year-old child, in a family.

They live in a 4-story building and the children's favorite play area of this building seems to be the stairs. They follow the movements of adults in the building. Children are usually between two floors.

They run on the stairs, though there are unused iron doors in some areas. Throughout the day, children pass by, sometimes knocking them to move them.

These objects have probably been there for ages but no one seems to notice them with all of the dangers around for children of this age.

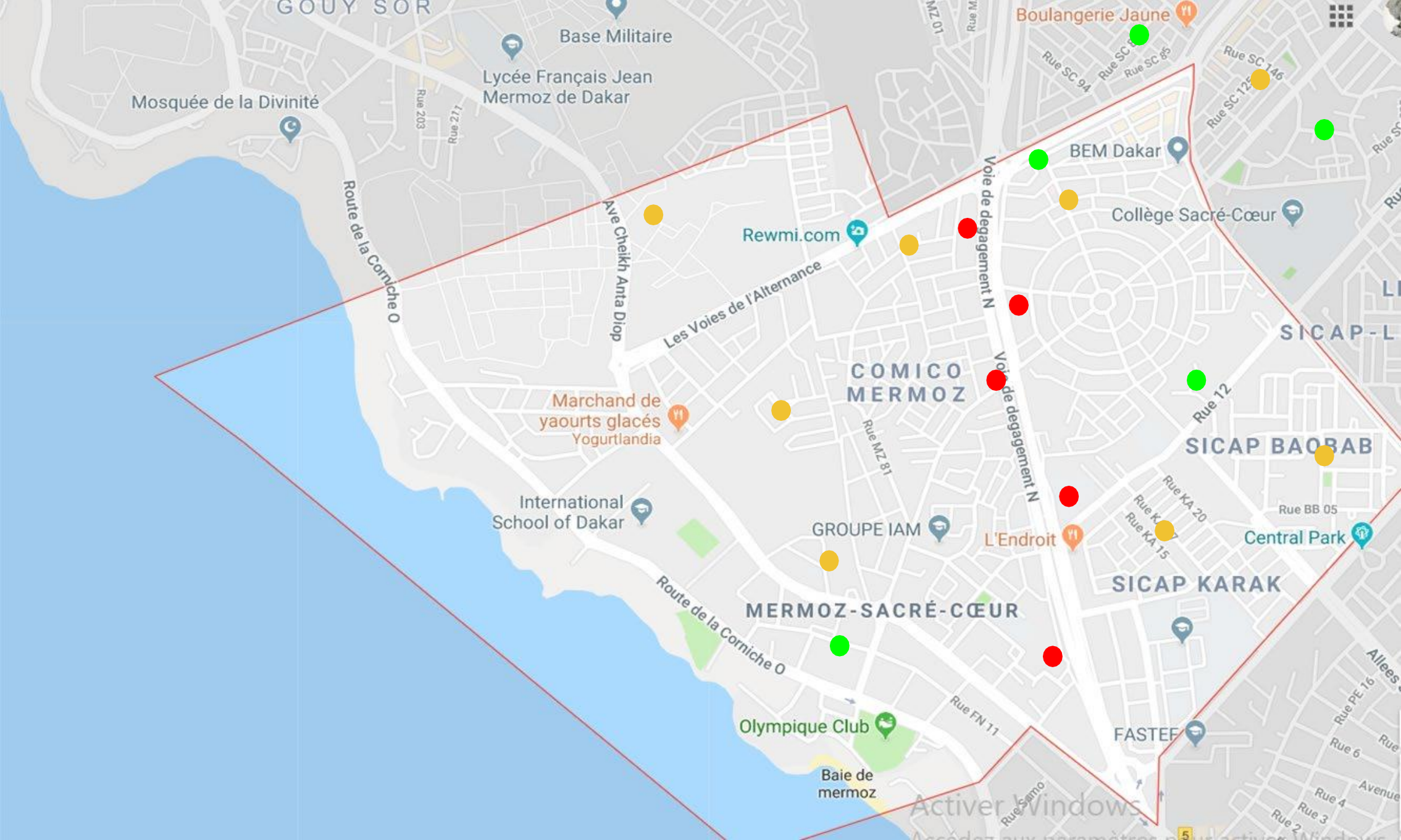
The narrow configuration of the apartments, coupled with the fact that the children do not have urban spaces where they can move and play safely, contributes to the fact that the stairs are used as playgrounds by these children. It does not seem to worry parents as long as the child is inside the building.



1 Mom of Yoff accompanying a children's her to Koranic school with baby in arms

2 Yoff fishmonger mother with baby on the back accompanied by another child

3 Group of children in streets of Ndenatte



IMMERSION IN SACRÉ - CŒUR

WHERE WE SAW CHILDREN

- IN THE STREET (Accompanied, returning from the nursery or Koranic school)
- NEXT TO THE FOOTBRIDGES (BEGGARS WITH THEIR BABIES)
- AT THE NURSERY



"Nannies and parents leave children in front of the television to be free and relax, and many children are slow to speak or have behaviors seen in cartoons by mimicking what they see."

- A SACRÉ - CŒUR MOTHER

Our observations during family immersion in Sacré-Cœur

We followed the daily life of a Sacré-Cœur 3 mother with her 1 and a half year old son. This mother lives in the family home with her mother, her little sister and her son who is 2 and a half years old. Her husband is most often on the move but lives with them when he is in Dakar.

The little one rarely leaves the house except to go to see the neighbor who is the age of his grandmother, with whom he is very close. The rest of the time he is in the living room with his mother, aunt and cousin. The two children play for hour after hour on the smartphones of their respective moms (YouTube, games).

They fight a little but are quickly captivated by the smartphone or television. They spend most of the day in the living room, the bigger one does a little bit of cycling in the living room and then goes back to the phone.

They are not very interested in their toys. Their moms leave their phones with their children for hours so that they babies remain quiet and do not cry. The little ones only turn away to eat.



Child returning from the Crèche Sacré-Cœur 3

Being a parent in Yoff and Sacré-Cœur

YOFF

- Parents in Yoff work almost the entire day.
- Dads spend a few hours with their children, especially in the evening
- Moms go about their business with baby on their back
- Parents take time to play at least one hour each day with their children
- They value the child's ability to play, thrive and be with other children.
- The lack of means and inflexibility in activities are a hindrance to their participation in the development of their children from 0-3 years old.
- Their primary concern is that the child can eat well and stay healthy.

SACRÉ-CŒUR

- The majority of the parents of children aged 0-3 years old are young couples with 1 to 2 children.
- They are both working or the mother is transitioning to work.
- During the daytime if they are not with the children, they leave them either with a family member: sister, step sister, grandparents or with a nanny.
- Many prefer the nursery for more supervision but it also provides better stimulation for the child, provided that it is a legitimate institution
- They play with their children aged 0-3 years old, especially at home in the evenings and weekends.
- They also go to paid play spaces for more safety.
- Almost never frequent the urban areas of their community, are dissuaded by the lack of infrastructures adapted to early childhood, the lack of lighting, insalubrity and dubious associations.
- They overprotect their children, for them the outdoors represents an unsafe area (risk of child abduction, the risk of illness, risk of accident with the numerous roads in the area, etc.)



Mbenguene (Yoff) mother doing laundry with a baby on her back

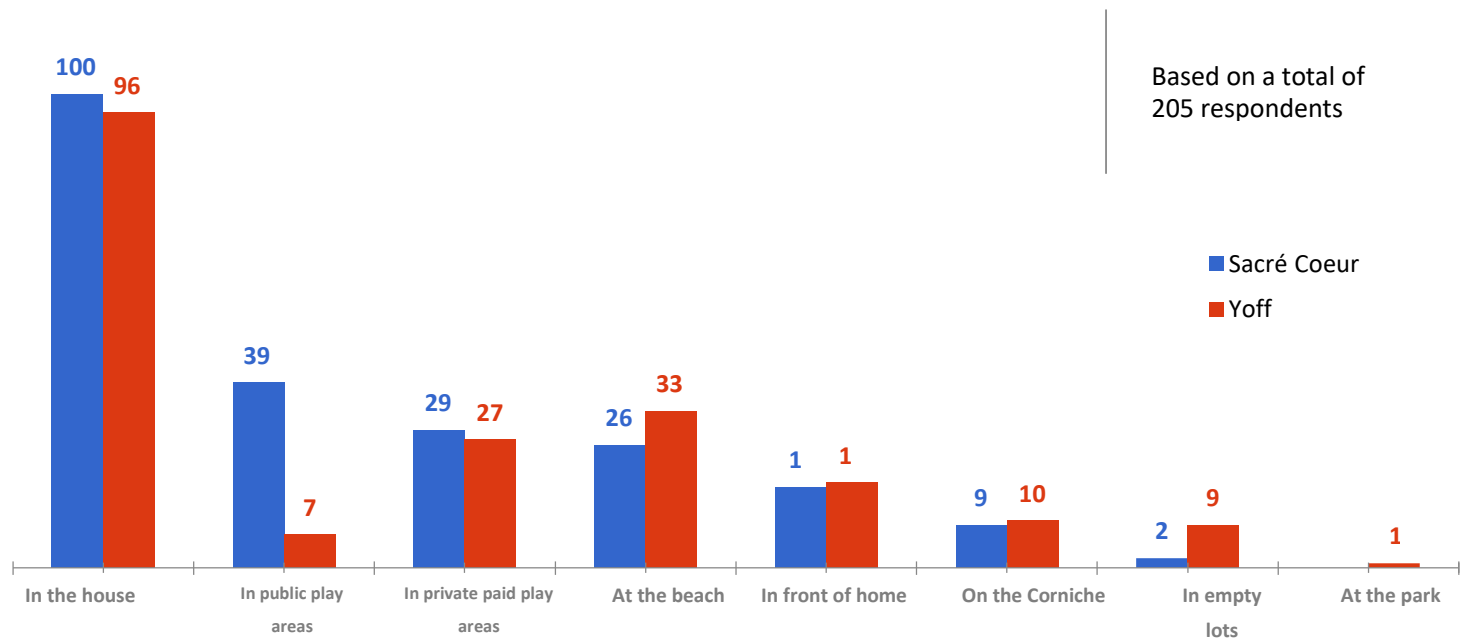


"It is often dangerous to let the child play alone, for too long, at certain times of day or on the street. The djinns can take possession of them by force and create problems for them."

- A YOFF FATHER

0 to 3 years old children and Play in Yoff and Sacré-Cœur

Where do 0-3 years old children play



Preferred play places

At first glance, the populations of Sacré-Cœur and Yoff play more inside the houses. In Sacré-Cœur, we still notice a greater number of people at public playgrounds, located in neighborhoods that men attend the most for sports or just to hang out with their friends to watch some football games. In general, it is men who go there either with their children or with their nephews.

In Yoff parents do not go to public playgrounds with their children, it is also explained by the fact that young children are almost always with their moms and they do not go to such sites.

The beach is very popular with 0-3 years old, they play because their moms work there. Those ones, going to work bring their young children and let them play with the other children of shopkeepers not far from them. Traditionally, Yoff's main source of income is fishing and fishing-related activities. Many mothers are fishmongers or fish traders, and they spend a large part of their day on the beach.

The mothers of the new neighborhoods go to the beach either to buy fish or to relax with the family. The inhabitants of Sacré-Cœur are more reluctant than those of Yoff to frequent empty playgrounds and parks. They hardly go there to play with their children.

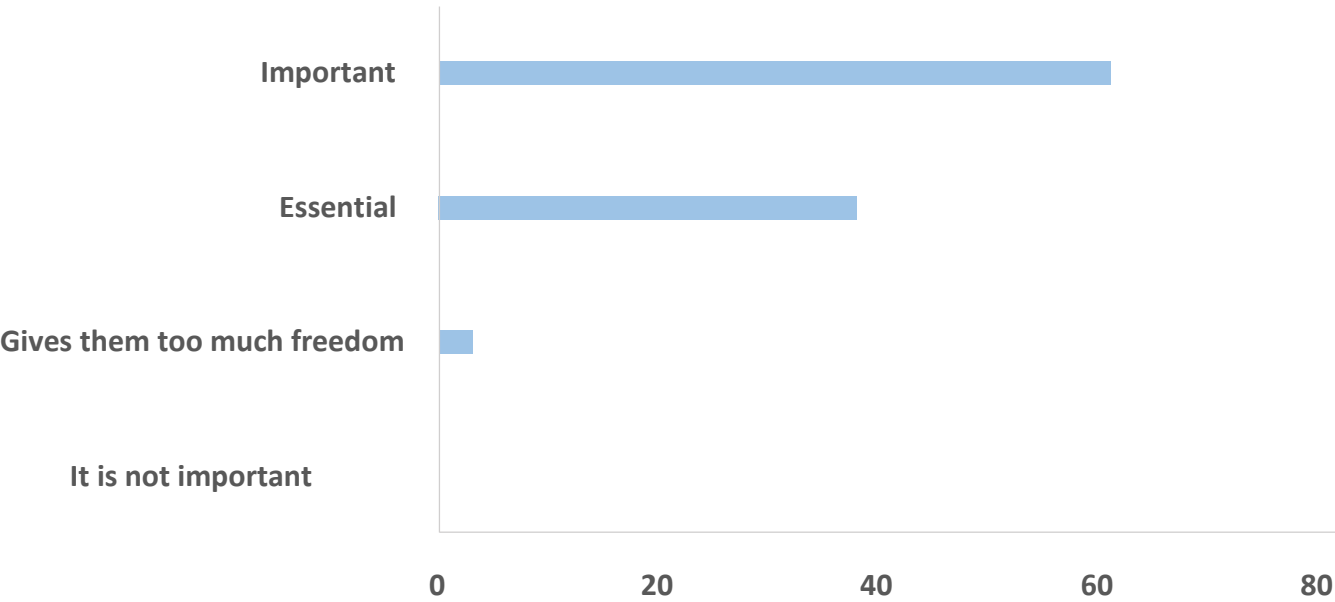


“Children from 0 to 3 are in the houses. They gather and play either inside the houses or in front of the house, in the neighborhood. ”

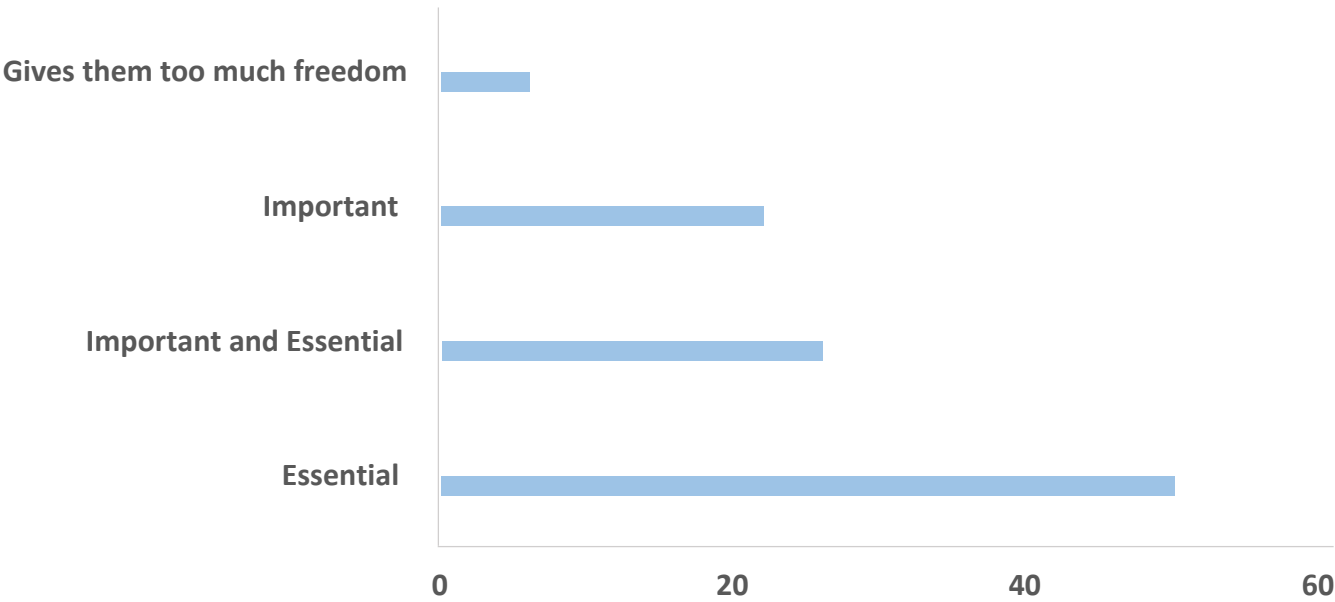
- A YOFF FATHER

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

YOFF



SACRÉ - COEUR



How do children play

YOFF



In Yoff, the notion of play is very participative for a child from 0-3 years old.

In order to inculcate values or culture in the child, role-playing, singing and culture representations are widely used.

The children even play with their toys in imitation of the adults in their lives: they play house (role of the mother) or fisherman (role of the dad).

SACRÉ - CŒUR



In Sacré-Cœur play is rather individual, the child plays most often with a phone or a tablet. The child is very early digital and is interested in all that is technology.

With their parents, role-play is used a lot. The child imitates a lot of cartoon characters.

They also go to rides and other paid play spaces.

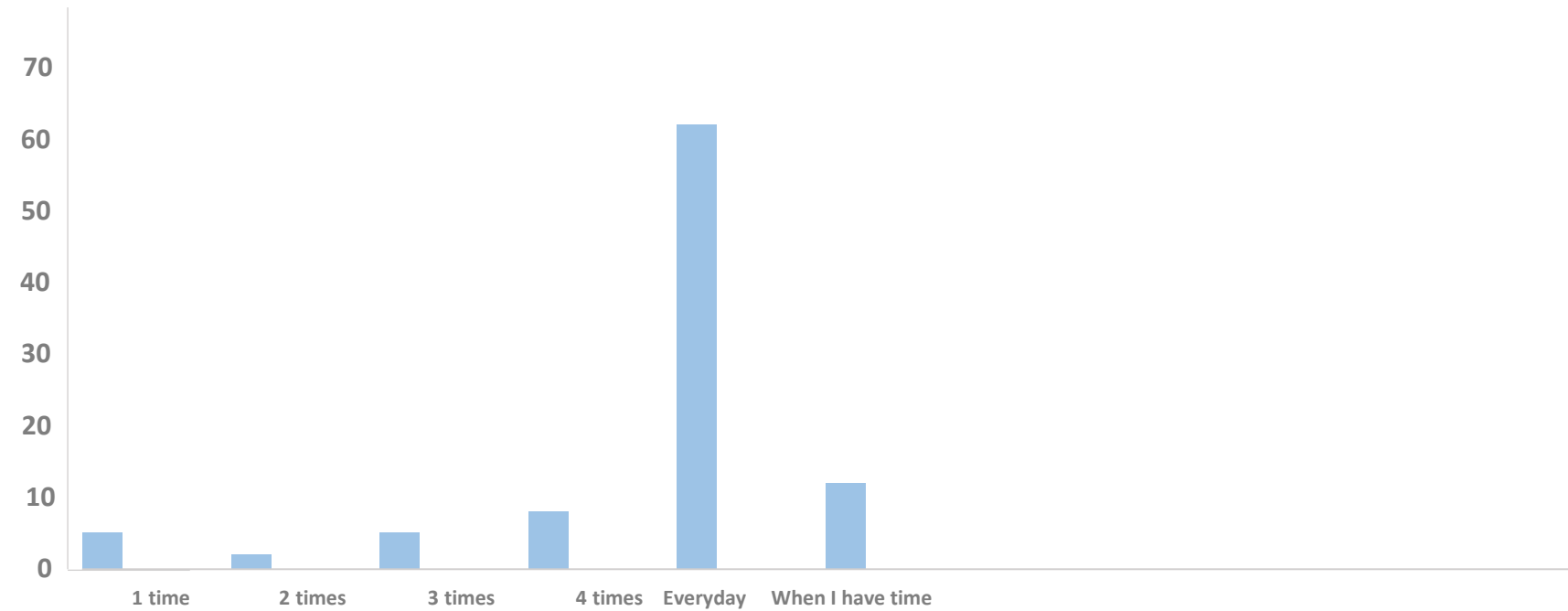


“I think there is something positive about kids playing on the tablets. It may allow the mother to relax a little bit, but using them too much can have an impact on the development of the child.

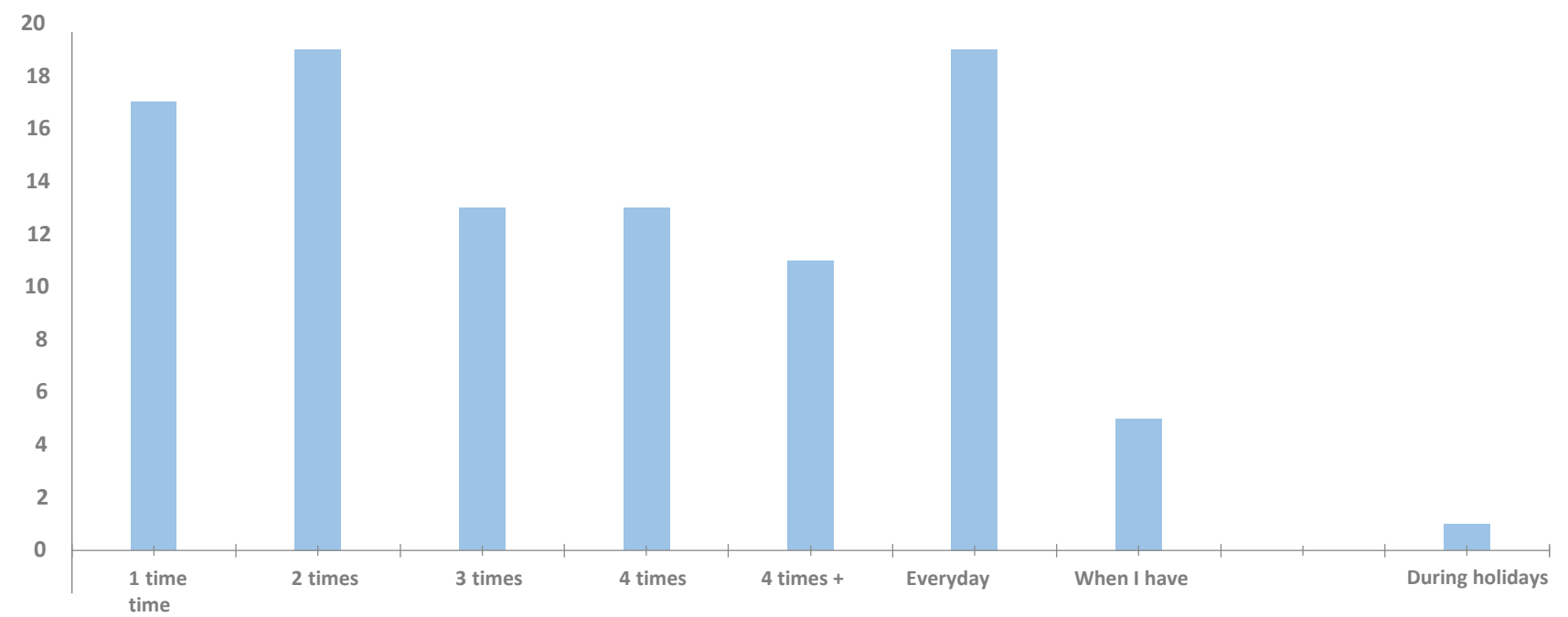
- A SACRÉ - COEUR GRANDMOTHER

HOW MANY TIMES PER MONTH DO YOU PLAY WITH A CHILD BETWEEN 0 - 3 YEARS OLD

YOFF



SACRÉ - COEUR



Children between 0-3 years old and play

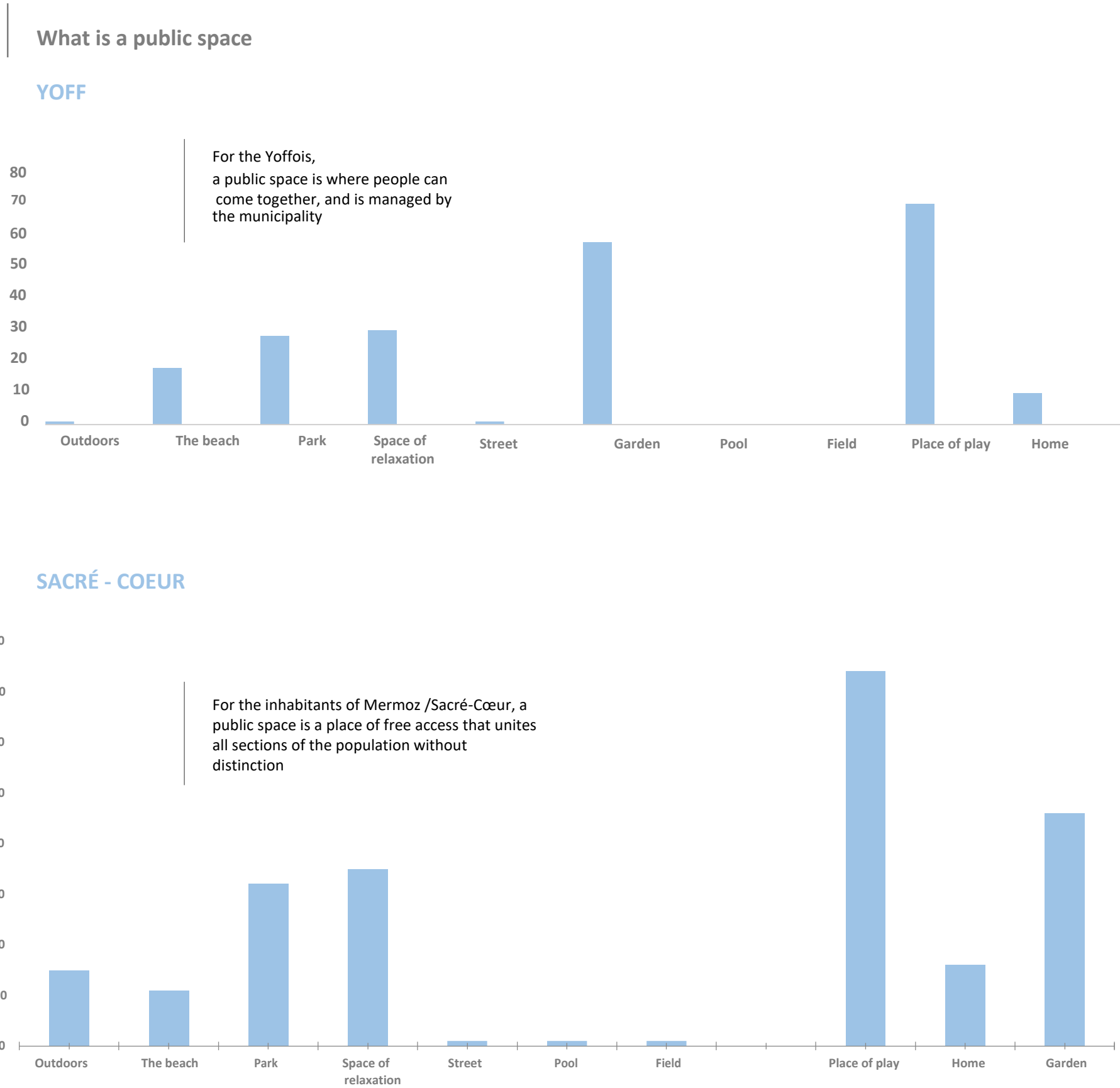
YOFF

- Even if you meet them on the street they are rarely alone
- Their favorite play area is in front of the house
- They do not have any time or activities dedicated to them, rather they follow adults in their activities
- They play at mom's place of work (beach, market) with the other children of shopkeepers
- Parents say that it is important that the child can play
- The evening or the weekend are times when parents have more time to play with baby, and often they do it every day

SACRÉ-CŒUR

- Rarely go out of their house to play
- Play alone, at home, if not at the nursery
- Play more with parents' phone or tablet than with own toys
- For parents play is essential for a child even if they do it alone and with a phone, so it is important that the child can have a moment of play every day.
- Weekends and holidays they go to private play areas

Public spaces in Yoff and Sacré-Cœur



Public spaces of

YOFF

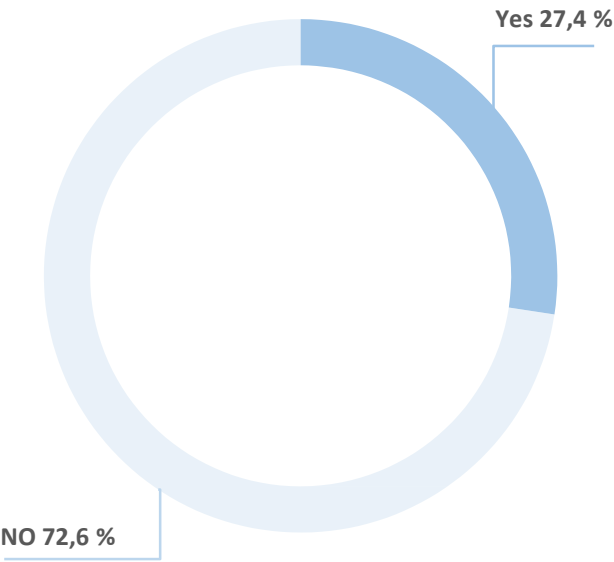
- Places:
 - Place Mamadou Diop frequented by young people and couples
 - Place de Ndieuw : frequented by schoolchildren and some onlookers, not far from a place for ndeups.
 - Place Pencum Yoff became a parking lot with a square with a palaver tree for the elderly
 - Place Al Mahdi used for the prayers of the Korité and Tabaski
 - Place de Mbenguene for religious conferences
- Religious places run by Freys Yoff and Apecsy
- The beach: the areas less frequented by tourists, like the cliff of “Warar”

SACRÉ-CŒUR

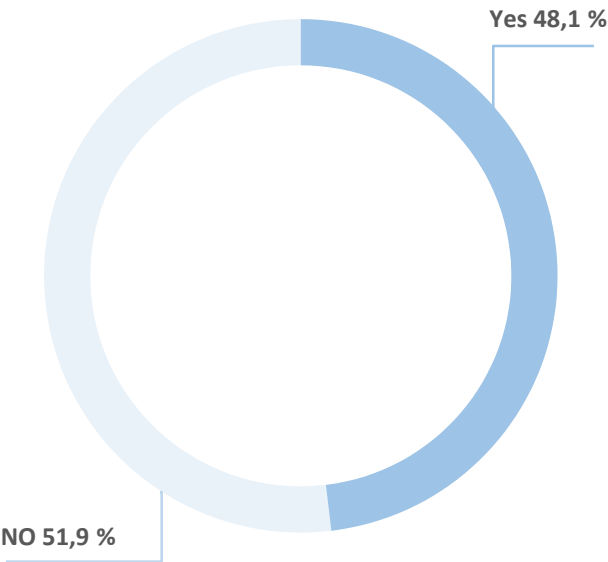
- The main two-lane road in Sacré-Cœur
- The Sacré-Cœur field
- The Corniche
- The Keur Gorgui municipality under construction
- The Mermoz hut under renovation to adapt it to early childhood
- The parents in Mermoz / Sacré-Cœur prefer private play spaces

ARE THERE PUBLIC SPACES IN YOUR COMMUNE

YOFF

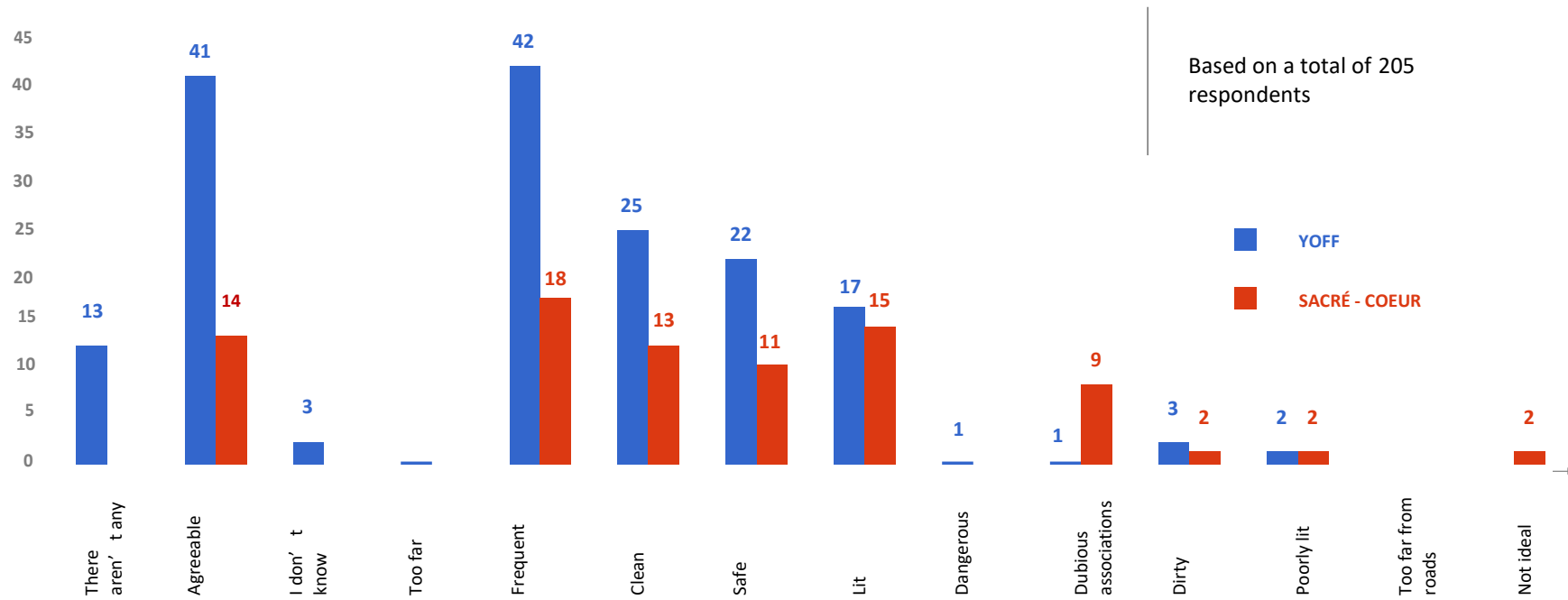


SACRÉ - COEUR



Mother at the place de Ndieuw (Yoff)

HOW ARE THE PUBLIC SPACES



Perception of public spaces

In general, the Yoffois find that the public squares of the community are pleasant and frequented. This is because these spaces allow them to host ceremonies such as the Ndeup, Tabaski or Korité prayers.

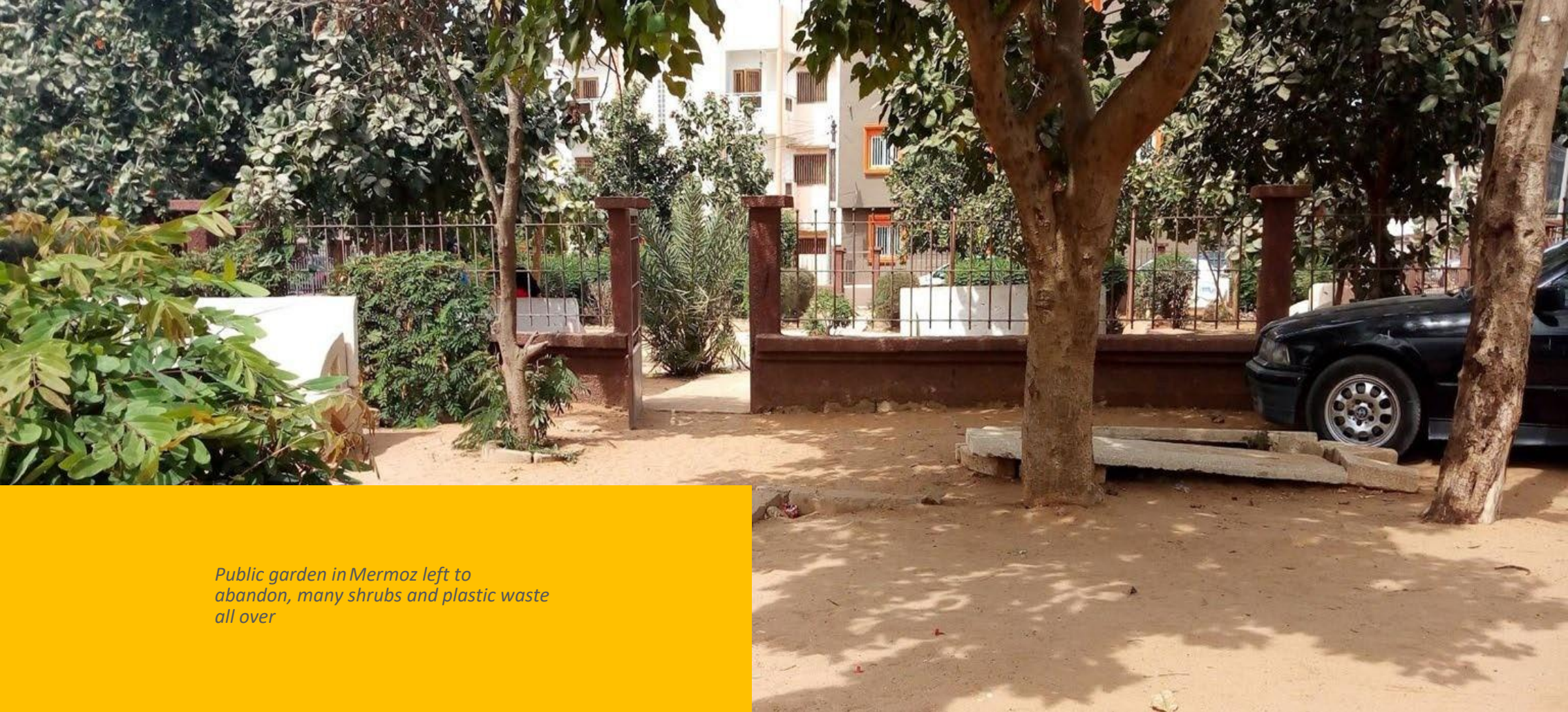
These places are appreciated, not in the framework of family relaxation or as space for children but because they offer them a double service of religious and community space. The population feels at home and goes there frequently for parties and events. These functions assigned to these spaces are now anchored in the daily life of Yoffois, another use of these spaces does not really make sense from their point of view.

On the other hand, the inhabitants of Sacré-Cœur have a negative view of the public spaces of their community. The majority of respondents consider these spaces poorly lit and dirty with questionable people around. Nevertheless, they are frequented by some but more likely during times like the summer, not too late at night or when there are many people. Mostly this choice to go is due to the lack of a better option. The population of Sacré-Cœur has a very particular relationship to security. Parents especially think that there is a lot of insecurity in their community. In an effort to better watch over their children, many people prefer that they stay and play at home, and if they have to go out, to go to paid private spaces.

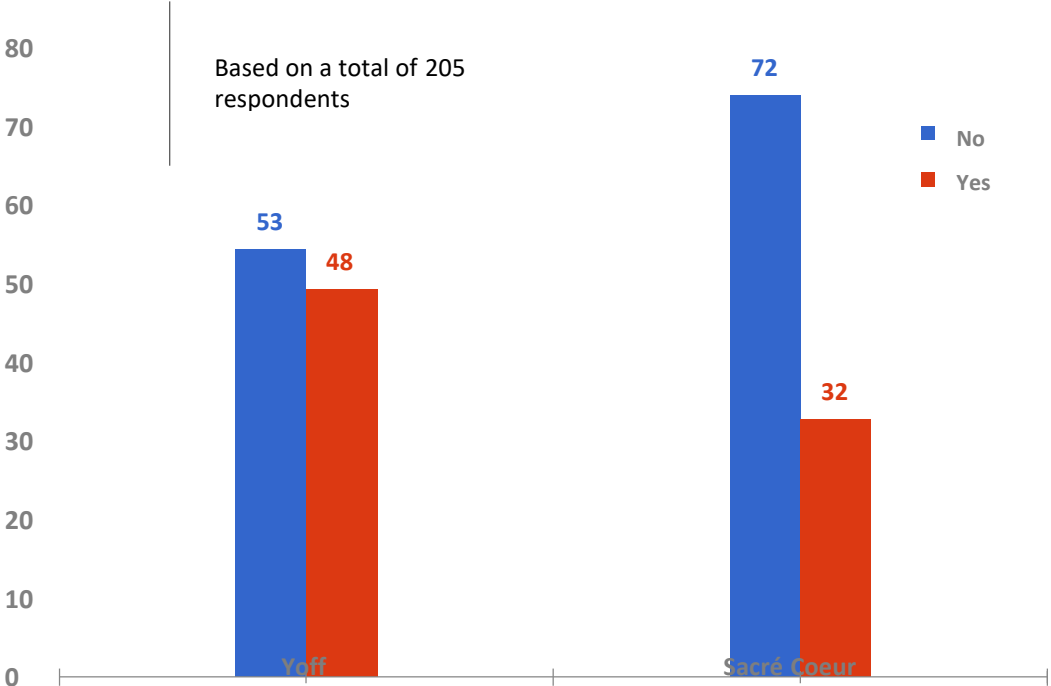


“The space around the main two-lane road is not very safe with the cars that are always driving there, the traffic is permanently very dense”

- A SACRÉ - CŒUR CARETAKER



FREQUENCY IN WHICH RESPONDENTS VISIT PUBLIC SPACES (NOT NECESSARILY IN THEIR COMMUNE)



It can be seen that while the majority of people of Sacré-Cœur Mermoz say they do not know public spaces in their commune, the majority of them also say that this explains why they go outside of their commune to have access to these spaces.

Relationships with public spaces

Visits to these spaces is relatively low in the two communes but more in Sacré-Cœur 32/104 than in Yoff 48/101.

Concerning the very notion of public spaces that they define as places of relaxation where they can go with their children and where they can play, they say that they don't have these in their commune. And even outside the municipality, Yoffois do not know almost any space like this, and whose access is free. What often comes up in discussions is that places of this type, which are child-friendly, are in fact private paid spaces. In their design, the places they know and frequent do not meet the criteria of public spaces. The Mamadou Diop Place, which is the best known in the commune, is considered unusable and not adapted to children because it is built near the main road.

This relationship with public spaces explains the fact that 53/101 respondents in Yoff do not go to public spaces with their children, and it's the same for Sacré-Cœur with 72/104. Inadequate infrastructure, in addition to security reasons leads people to believe that that these urban areas are not for their use. "The problem is smokers, thieves. Parks are not safe because of them! "Woruul!" Says a mother in Sacré-Cœur.

Some parents prefer to go to paid private spaces because in addition to games they feel safe because access is not open to all. "You do not go to public spaces because they do not have privacy, people can do anything. There's a lot of debauchery, "said a father in Yoff.

* Woruul : this is not safe

Our findings on public spaces

YOFF

Public spaces are more than places available to the population. They are used for religious, family and community celebrations.

From the point of view of the population, these places are useful for the community but are not really adequate for relaxation with family or children. The idea of adapting them to make it child-friendly does not really appeal to them. Their needs are more for new spaces suitable for 0-3 years old including games, learning and a good monitoring of their diet. For the Yoffois, existing places are spaces that can be rented for ceremonial purposes. In this case, these spaces would need to be changed to suit the needs of young children, it would require revocable and tenuous facilities.

The development of the beach is appealing to part of the population but the risk of swell is a significant safety problem.

SACRÉ-CŒUR

0-3 years old children hardly go to public spaces. The presence of mentally ill people, alcoholics and drug addicts is a real problem. Although most of the time they are harmless, they sit on the benches, sometimes sleeping there all day long, which discourages parents from taking their children out.

Despite the dubious people found in these places, adults do go there for sports, football or gym. It is uncomfortable or sometimes dangerous to be in public spaces with young children.

Defective lighting, unhealthy conditions and pollution due to the numerous cars driving in the area discourage parents from visiting public spaces with their children, who are therefore confined to the house or nursery.

Places of play
according to parents

YOFF

- Unsuitable for 0 -3 years old children
- Not enough benches, no lighting or no shelter to protect from the sun
- Too close to roads (sand and tar) therefore dangerous
- Sometimes attract bad crowds (presence of sexual activity, alcoholics or drug addicts)

SACRÉ-CŒUR

- Unsuitable for 0 -3 years old children
- Pollution, questionable people and dirt discourage parents
- Too close to roads (sand and tar) therefore dangerous
- Playgrounds for adults: football, gym
- Cost of transportation too expensive to access some of these spaces



Sacré-Cœur Garden 3, full of garbage, wild grass and shady places

2 Ndenatte (Yoff) mother with baby in her arms

3 Intersection of Sacré-Cœur 1 public garden and Liberté 3 public garden is between 2 roads

Municipality

YOFF

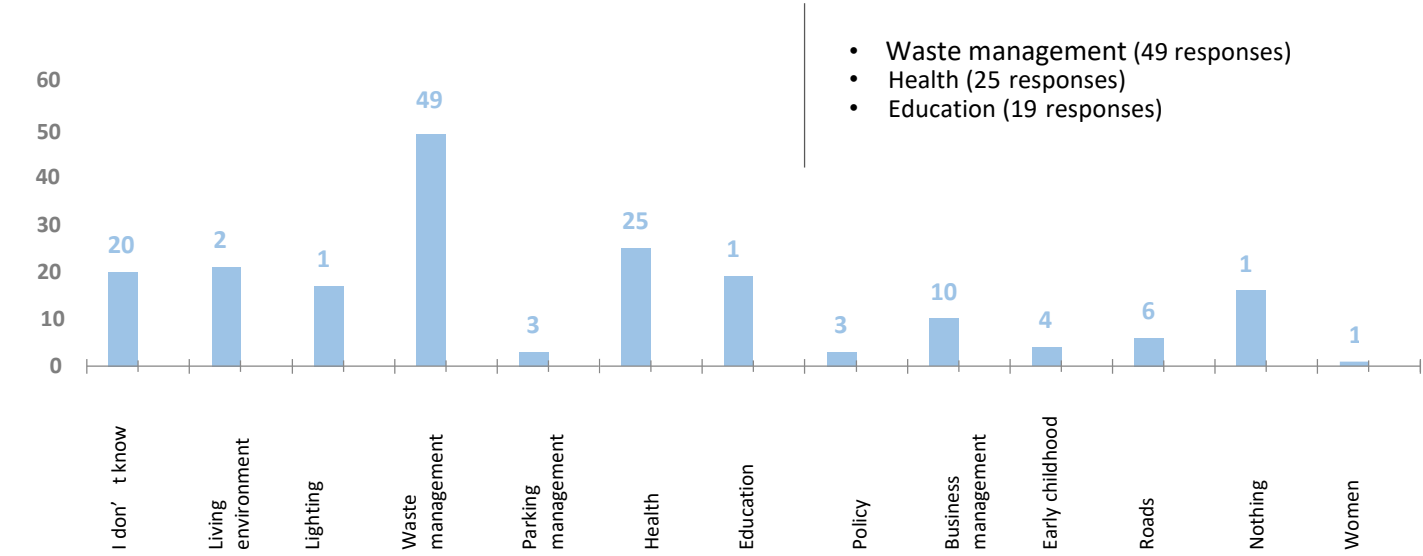
- The priorities of Yoff municipality:
 - Cleanliness, lighting and living environment (source city hall)
- 6 public squares have been developed for the population
 - None are adapted to 0-3 years old children
- People are consulted about spatial planning via neighborhood committees
- There is no programs for 0-3 years old children

MERMOZ / SACRÉ-CŒUR

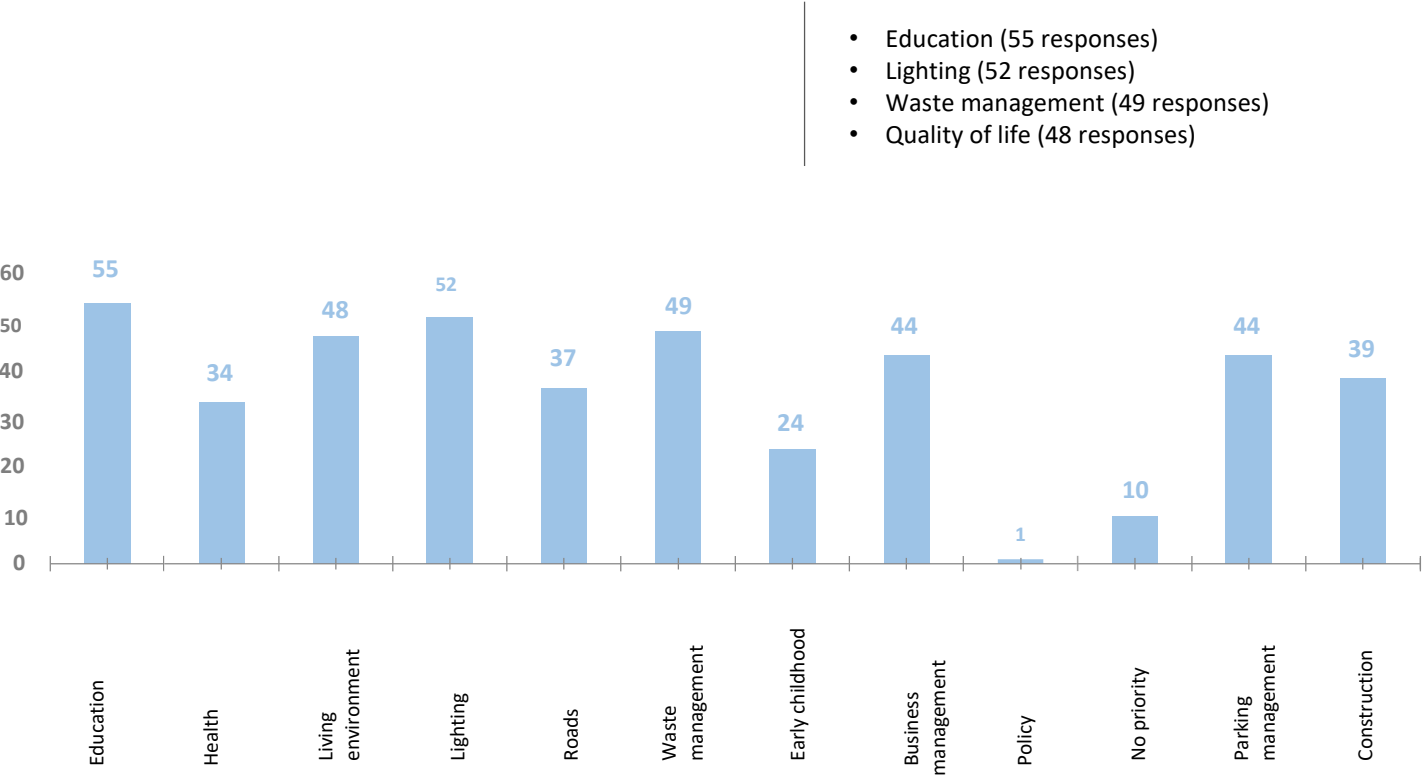
- The priorities of Sacré-Cœur municipality:
 - Education, health and lifestyle (source city hall)
- About 20 public places have been set up for the population
 - None adapted to 0-3 years old children
- People are consulted about the development via their representative in the municipality and the neighborhood committee
- There is no programs specifically for 0-3 years old children but there are some renovation projects happening for some spaces for early childhood

PRIORITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY ACCORDING TO INHABITANTS

YOFF



SACRÉ-COEUR



Our findings in the municipalities of Yoff and Sacré-Cœur



These two municipalities have quite different views concerning the early childhood, with that of Sacré-Cœur more aware of the urban needs of infants than that of Yoff. Nevertheless they are both open to further discussion on the needs of 0-3 years old children, because of this, they need to be involved and supported in a reflection on how to improve the environment for 0-3 years old children.

We noticed that in the municipalities there are departments or divisions responsible for children but there is no information sharing between them and other departments. As a result, the divisions working on the living environment for the commune have no idea of the needs or issues affecting 0-3 years old children.

Mobility

The following results are based on the summary of data on interactions between 0-3 years old children and mobility in the commune of Guédiawaye.



G U É D I A W A Y E SAMPLING



Stakeholder Interviews

Municipality employee responsible for roads and development

Municipality employee responsible for transportation and infrastructure

TATA bus garage manager

DDD bus communication manager



Focus Groups

10 Parents

9 Tata bus conductors



Immersions

Half a day in transport to follow the movements of families with children from 0-3 years old

A half day in the garage and on the bus lines



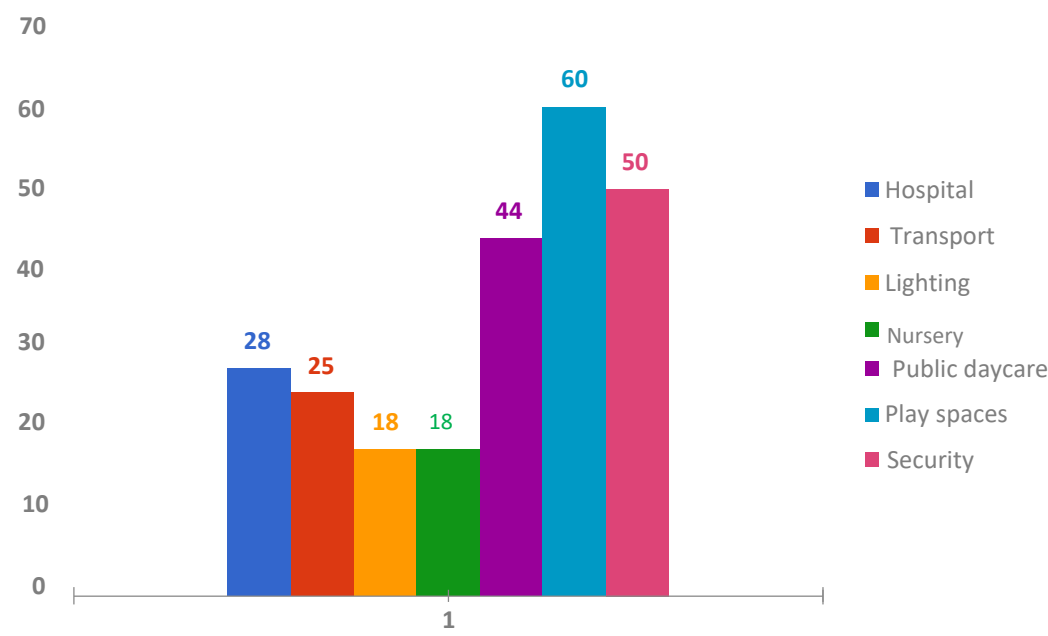
Collection of quantitative data

65 women

74 between 25 - 45 years

75 between 1 and 5 children

THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN BETWEEN 0 - 3 YEARS OLD IN GUÉDIAWAYE



What do children in Guédiawaye need in terms of initiatives?

The top 4 needs in Guédiawaye for 0-3 years old children are:

- **Play areas for children:** Guediawaye's parents have no place to go with their children. Apart from the beach of Malibu where they go sometimes during the summer because there is a paying carousel there. This works for those who have the means to go there, but for the majority who cannot afford the price of the taxi, it is a real frustration.
- **Public day care:** The majority of the inhabitants work in the informal sector with inflexible schedules, especially for women. Housewives, washwomen and shopkeepers will work with their children on their back, sometimes during long commutes in difficult conditions.
- **Safety:** especially when it comes to kidnapping children, parents feel vulnerable and their children are exposed to this phenomenon. It has become a psychosis because most children were never found or found too late in terrible conditions.
- **Hospitals:** Many parents of sick children travel several times a week to Albert Royer or Diamniadio Children's Hospital. Both are far from Guédiawaye and parents have on average a 2 or 3 hour long bus ride several times a week.

* To our surprise, the transport issue was in 5th position and therefore appeared as non-priority

Mobility in Guédiawaye








“Very often, we see mothers who go to work (ex: women who do the laundry in households) accompanied by their children between 0 to 3 years old, especially as they surely do not have the means to have them watched in a nursery.”

- TATA BUS CONDUCTOR

Routes of 0-3 years old children



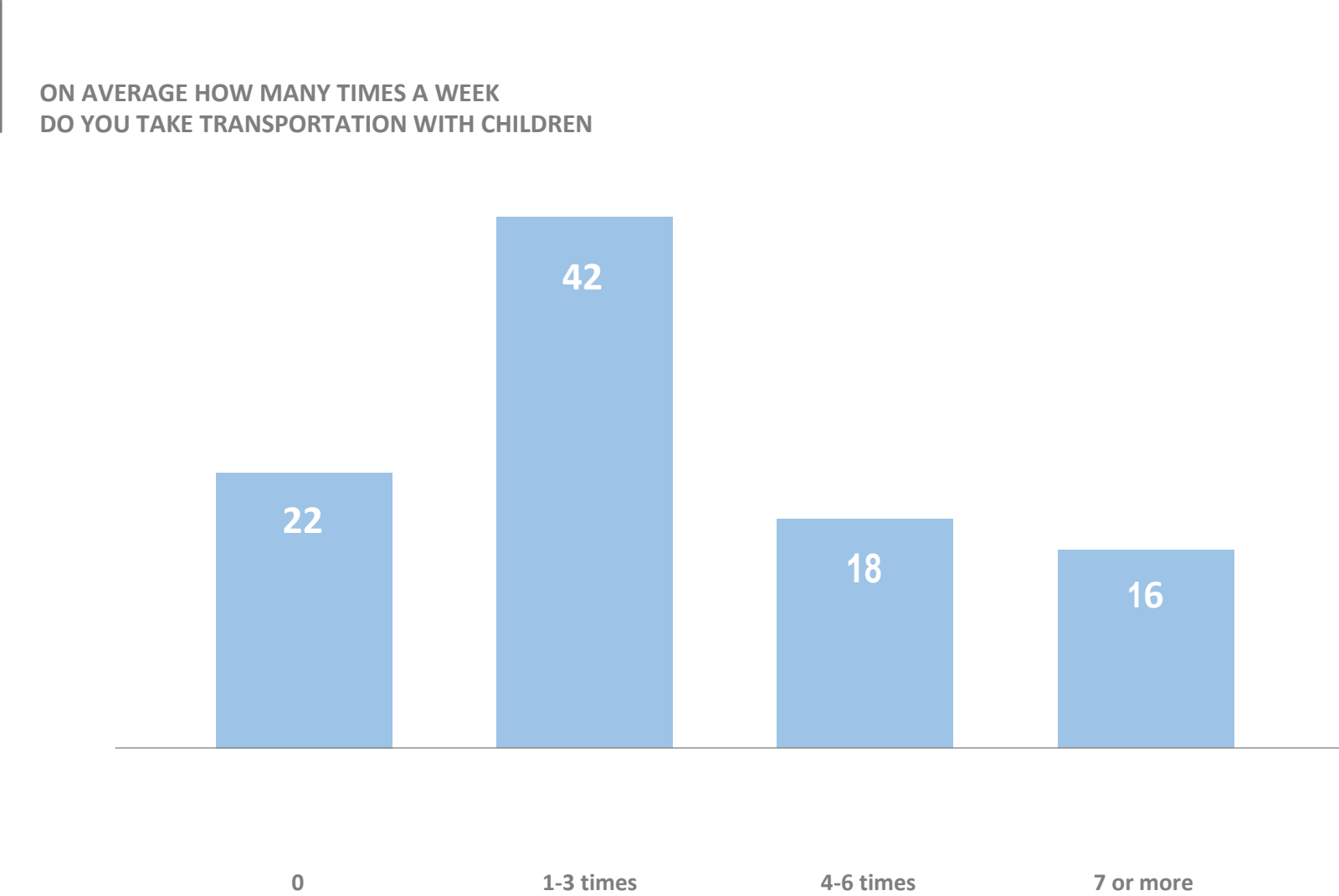
-  On foot
-  Cart
-  Car rapide
-  Informal taxi
-  Bus



1 Garage Tata line 33 from Guédiawaye, users line up while waiting for departure.

2 Car rapide

Use of means of transportation



Bus Dakar Dikk on the outskirts of SHAM market, the stop is almost on the road, no bench for sitting.



Transportation methods used
in Guédiawaye

The data below are from the responses to the multiple choice questions. Thus, the respondent was able to choose multiple responses at once. For example, the respondent was able to choose "TATA bus" and "DAKAR DEM DIKK bus" as means of transportation.



TATA

69%

- Less expensive
- Close to my house



CLANDO

54%

- Less expensive
- For my comfort



DAKAR DEM DIKK

48%

- Less expensive
- Close to my house



CAR RAPIDE

37%

- Less expensive
- Close to my house



OWN CAR

21%

- It's mine



TAXI

10%

- For my comfort
- Baby's comfort



CART

N/A

- Less expensive

*The cart was observed during the immersion,
no respondent chose it during the quantitative
collection*

Our findings on the use of transportation

- The most common means of transportation used by parents are TATA buses and Informal taxis
- The choice is made according to the price, comfort, the accessibility and the distance of the trip.
- Children are often on the back, sitting on their parents' laps or in their arms
- It is generally agreed that urban transport except the taxi is unsuitable for 0-3 years old
- Travel with 0-3 years old is avoided early in the morning and in the evening after 6 pm



1

Bus Dakar Dem Dikk on the edge of SHAM market, the stop is almost in the street and there is no bench for sitting

2

Mothers leaving the market by the cart garage (Marché Bou bess)

3

Interior of a bus going from Guédiawaye to Fann

4

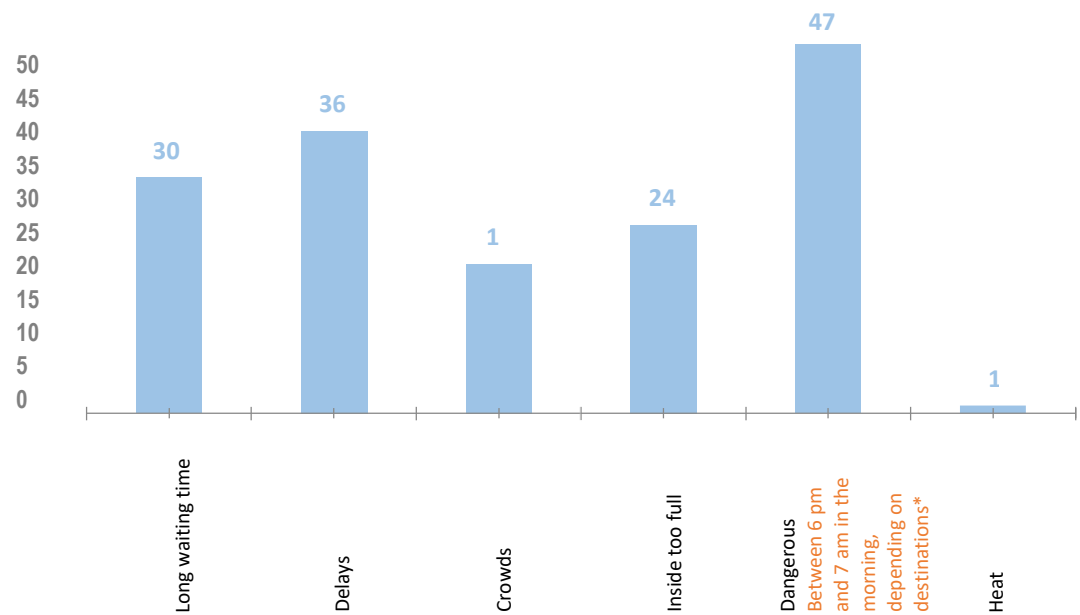
Overcrowding on a car rapide to Guédiawaye



"You cannot avoid taking public transport with children. These are the only means of transportation available to go about our business."

- A MOTHER

90.6 % of respondents avoid transportation at certain hours, here are the reasons:



“The buses are too narrow and the kids do not like the unventilated places so most of the time they start crying when they are in the bus.”

- GUÉDIAWAYE MOTHER



Overcrowded Tata bus on the avenue Cheikh Anta Diop to Hamo (Guédiawaye)

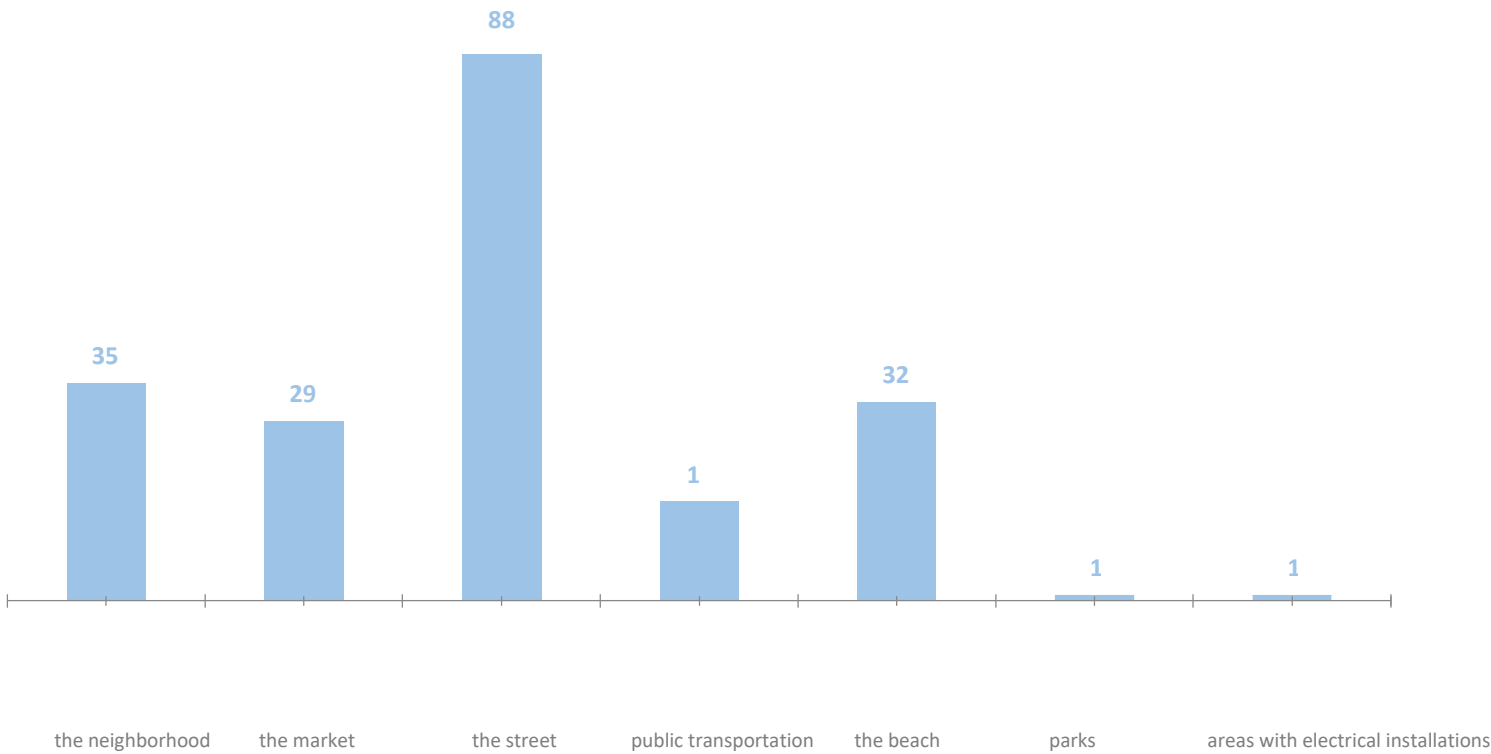
Feedback from travel experiences with 0-3 years old children

Generally in Guédiawaye, urban transport is avoided too early in the morning or in the evening after 6 p.m. There are many reasons for this, but it is mainly a safety issue. In the opinion of all, it is these times when there are the most accidents and aggression. Overcrowding at these times added to long wait times deters some parents who have children with them. In addition to traffic jams, the discomfort inside buses makes journeys very difficult at these times.

The discomfort of urban transport and the inadaptability to accommodate young children explains the fact that as much as possible, some parents avoid going to ceremonies (marriage, baptism, Gamou, Magal etc.) or taking urban transport to the hospital, at least those who can afford it.

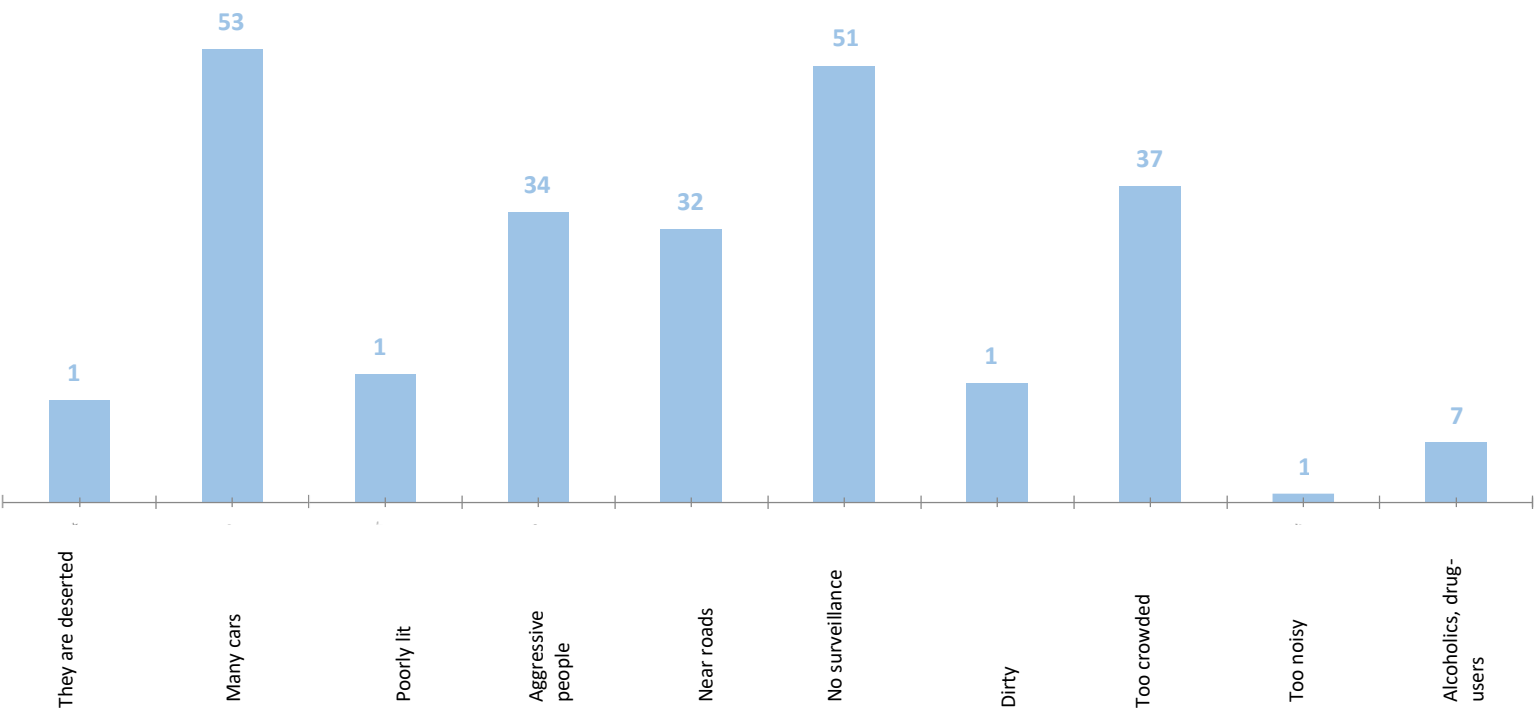
Other feedback for 0-3 years old in Guédiawaye

What are the most dangerous spaces for 0-3 years old children?



Children playing in the Notaire streets on a vacant lot (Guédiawaye)

These spaces are dangerous because...



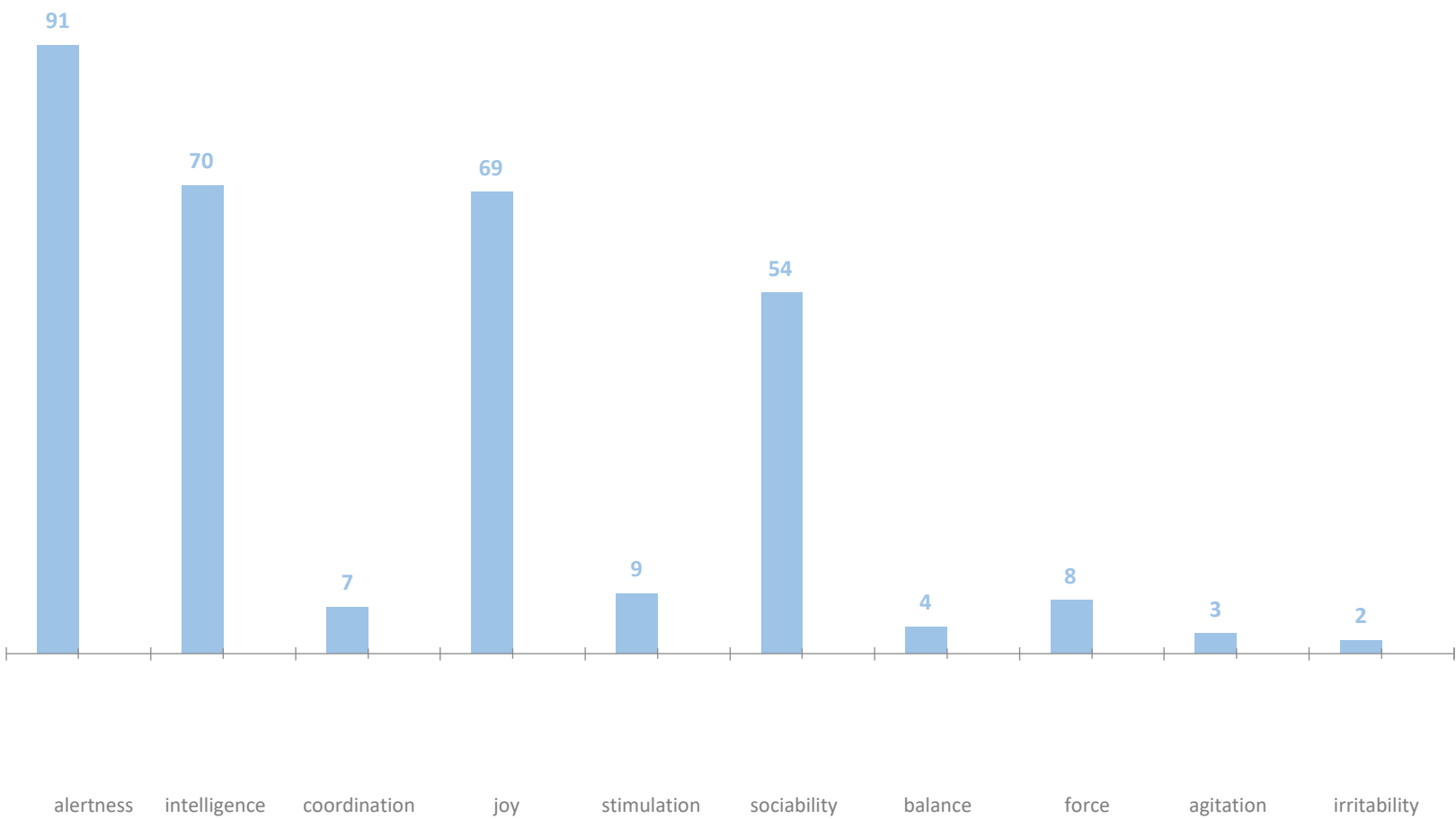
Our findings on the issue of safety in Guédiawaye

The question of safety often comes up in Guédiawaye. Many parents, especially those with children from 0-3 years old are concerned with the phenomenon of kidnappings, which is discussed on the radio. This is also explained by the fact that most of these children kidnapped or never found are those who live in the suburbs. Because of this, parents think that this happens often, which is aggravated by the proximity of roads and houses but also schools that children attend (nurseries and Koranic schools).

Cases of accidents involving children are decried, and many outreach visits are conducted in garages for informal taxis and buses.

Cases of aggression are considered frequent by the population and are a recurring complaint even if it does not directly concern early childhood. Parents of 0-3 years old children avoid traveling at certain times and in certain places to avoid this type of situation.

Benefits of play



Children playing in front of their houses

What do people surrounding children think about the place of play

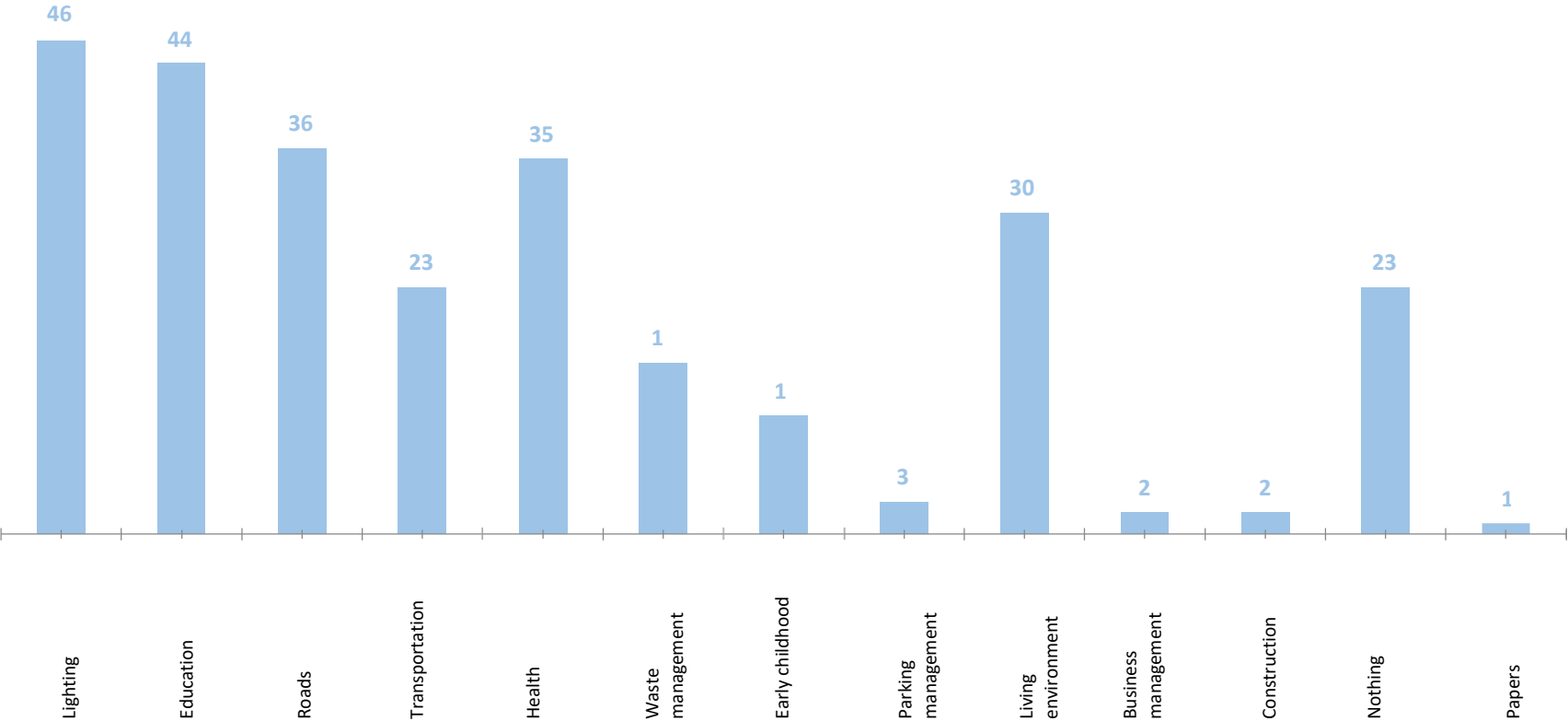
During the research, the need for spaces to play and relax safely with family continued to come up. Although questioned on the subject of the report of mobility of children, one of the biggest frustrations of the inhabitants of Guédiawaye is the lack of space for children – such as spaces with games that meet safety standards but that are also equipped with green spaces. The pollution left by cars worries parents in a city where there is not enough greenery.

Play is important for parents of Guédiawaye, as they think it is a way to educate children and help them develop early. Parents say that playing helps to develop a child's intelligence and helps to socialize them. What is most noticeable in Guédiawaye is that children aged 0-3 years old are in the company of older children (6-7 years), and play in groups in the neighborhood, under the supervision of a few adults.

Municipality of Guédiawaye

- Priorities of the municipality of Guédiawaye:
 - Supervise the communes
 - Manage the building sites in the area
- In terms of mobility, their field of action is limited to parking management
- There is a division in the municipality that is responsible for children

The priorities of the municipality of Guédiawaye according to inhabitants



Our findings on the municipality

The municipality has carried out several activities to improve the quality of life, but none specifically for children from 0 to 3 years old. However, it has helped to improve things for parents. Regarding the living environment, the municipality has replaced lights with functional solar lights that turn on after 7 p.m., improving safety.

In terms of health, Guédiawaye has large hospitals, and several health facilities, some of which have been erected as a health district with a maternity department. Accessibility at the level of healthcare facilities has improved.

For roads, some have been renovated and others built, allowing for better accessibility and fluidity of transport.

The municipality also participates in education by renovating several schools in the town.

On mobility and children from 0 to 3 years old, the municipality has no program going in this direction. They say that transportation is private, so programs and advocacy must focus on carriers.

Co-creation
workshops

Solutions and advocacy

Y O F F

PROPOSED SOLUTION: BEACH DEVELOPMENT

What to
do

Learning spaces, daycare, playgrounds, green spaces

Who

Municipality, customary authorities, nuns, district chief, APECSY, Bajenu Gox and GIE

Why

Municipality represents the state at the commune level
Customary Authorities possess, know the availability of APECSY lands to have their agreement and the agreement of the population

Where

On the beach starting from Diamalaye to the Parcelles Assainies

How

Delimit space with fences
Put in benches, fixed sunshades, games
Have caretakers and maintenance

When

As soon as possible

PROPOSED ADVOCACY STRATEGY: BEACH DEVELOPMENT

Who Municipality, Imam, Jaraaf, Saltigué, Freys Yoff, Khalife Layenne, APECSY

Why Authorization, administrative documents,
knowledge of land availability

How to convince Meeting with different entities
Presentation of the project, objectives, targets

Channels Outreach to the public, posters, Mbollo TV

Format Seminar with stakeholders to validate the project and
the approach to follow,

Content Awareness video about children, parents

PROPOSED SOLUTION: KEUR XALEYI (CHILDREN’S HOME)

What	Create a space for learning and play with a nutritional element that and prioritizes local products. An area of safety and cleanliness
Who	Municipality, Djaraf, Imam, head of neighborhood, Badiene gokh, Apecsy Penc Ndakaru, Monitor for child surveillance
Why	These are decision makers, influencers, they have an impact on the population
Where	Not near roads, nor the beach which is likely to swell The fridge, current Tata bus stop is a great place
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To conduct outreach with populations on questions of childhood• To create partnerships with the State, NGOs, expatriates from Yoff, Apecsy and Penc Ndakarou, so that they can work on this project together
When	During the school holidays, when everyone is sensitive to the issue of children because they are idle, and roam in the sreet

PROPOSED ADVOCACY STRATEGY: KEUR XALEYI

Who	Tahirou Sarr (Economic trader) Mass Mbengue (Entrepreneur) Apecsy et Penc Ndakarou (Associations)
Why	They are already involved in community development in Yoff
How to convince	Present a clear project plan, Find an expert to define the cost
Channels	Mairie Apecsy Mbolo TV (community television)
Format	Discussion, Mailings, Home visits, Publicity spots
Content	Raise awareness of the impact of the environment on child development. Project description and impact on 0-3 years old children

S A C R É - C Œ U R

PROPOSED SOLUTION: JOKKO AK BÉGUÉ (TO MEET IN JOY)

What to do	Create new spaces and redevelop existing ones
Who	Municipality, Association, Parents and community
Why	Children need it to flourish, existing ones have no shade, no sitting bench, no games, so parents save money and no longer have to pay for access to spaces adequate for their children
Where	Sacré-Cœur 3 Garden in front of the Mouhamed ibn Abdallah mosque (currently abandoned)
How	Clean, put in slides, swings, shaded benches and green spaces, monitoring by professionals so that it is not frequented by dubious individuals
When	Whenever means are available, Raise Awareness - Clean Up - Fundraising

PROPOSED ADVOCACY STRATEGY: JOKKO AK BÉGUÉ

What	Sonatel, Auchan as part of the CSR, artists (Mbaye Dieye Faye, Ismaël Lo) political and opinion leaders Thierno Alassane Sall, nursery directors
Why	We listen to them, they live in Sacré-Cœur and are involved in its development
How to convince	Go through the municipality rely on the research results to create the project, make a business plan and introduce it to them to raise awareness on the issue of childhood and their need for a healthy environment
Channels	Invite them for a walk to discuss the issue of children, switch to radio IRadio, on TV on environmental issues
Format	Television shows - Mini Awareness Video
Content	Show the facts, the inventory of spaces in Sacré-Coeur on short videos to be broadcast on TV and to share with the authorities

PROPOSED SOLUTION: GUNÉ YEUP PUBLIC NURSERY (ALL CHILDREN)

What	Find a local- Work with students, stay-at-home moms to watch the little ones - Organize fairs and network to raise funds
Who	Municipality, Parents, Nutritionists specializing in early childhood
Why	Children can have places to be safe
Where	See the municipality to discuss where land is available
How	People must organize themselves to collect donations of materials, to join NGOs, to be trained by professionals,
When	Do a market study and business plan and then look for availability

PROPOSED ADVOCACY STRATEGY: GUNÉ YEUP PUBLIC NURSERY

Who	Municipality, Ministry of early childhood, Businesses with their offices in the commune (CSR), Journalists
Why	It is their role to support people, to raise funds, to communicate and to raise awareness.
How to convince	Explain a successful public nursery, translate research into awareness on the issue of childhood
Channels	Door-to-door TV- Social Network- Radio
Format	Video, Audio, Posters
Content	Drawing on Research Results - Showing the Impact of the Environment on Early Childhood

G U É D I A W A Y E

PROPOSED SOLUTION: HEALTH CENTRE CONSTRUCTION

What to do Have a pediatric department and a midwife in the health centre in addition to an ambulance

Who Municipality, Ministry of Health, NGO Plan, local population, women's groups, associations, resource persons, deputies, religious authorities.

Why Have their support, raise awareness, often in partnership with NGOs.

Where In areas that are not already in use on the Corniche

How Home visit, write letters, media

When Immediately

PROPOSED ADVOCACY STRATEGY: HEALTH CENTRE CONSTRUCTION

Who	Municipality, Ministry of Health, NGO Plan, local population, women's groups, associations, resource persons, deputies, religious authorities
Why	Have their support, raise awareness, often in partnership with NGOs
How to convince	They represent our interests, can invite associations for outreach
Channels	Use the media, hold conferences on the importance of health, going door to door to homes
Format	Make videos on social networks, use the radio, use pictures
Content	Show the difficulties that women experience

PROPOSED SOLUTION: NDIMBAL NDIABOTT (FAMILY HELP)

What to do	Construct subsidized public daycares, with the symbolic participation of parents, managed by early childhood specialists with a nutritional unit, education, games and green spaces
Who	Parents - Municipality - NGOs - Community
Why	For the safety of children, their education and their development, for the autonomy of mothers so that they can work without having to take transport with babies,
Where	Hamo 5 Field
How	Involve parents, badienou gox, women's groups, youth associations, goodwill and volunteering to carry the project
When	As soon as possible

PROPOSED ADVOCACY STRATEGY: NDIAMBAL NDIABOTT

Who	PLAN international- Political leader: Lat Diop Beydi SEYE (Mayor of Ndiarème limamoulaye) Aliou Sall (Mayor of Guédiawaye) and the Ministry of Youth - Serve Senegal Foundation
Why	They are in Guédiawaye and are involved with development
How to convince	Inform them and raise awareness about the cause of early childhood in Guédiawaye, present them the research results
Channels	Home visits, Going " door to door ", involving community representatives
Format	Explain the project - Explain the impact of the environment on 0-3 years old children
Content	Research results

PROPOSED SOLUTION: SPACES FOR CHILDREN FROM 0-3 YEARS OLD ON THE BUS	
What to do	Have seats with belt for children and their companions, make advertisements that interest children like nursery rhymes, improve the training of TATA bus drivers
Who	Government, Ministry in charge of the early childhood, municipality, transport officials at AFTU and DDD, mayor of Guédiawaye and that of Ndiarème
Why	They are our spokespeople, they are engaged, you cannot avoid taking the bus with the kids
Where	All areas
How	Find partners, ask NGOs
When	Immediately

PROPOSED ADVOCACY STRATEGY: SPACES FOR CHILDREN FROM 0-3 YEARS OLD ON THE BUS

Who	Senegalese bus manufacturers, government, municipality
Why	They are the main decision makers, they are better able to implement this, it is their role
How to convince	Present needs well, present research results
Channels	Advertising, televisions, radios, physical meeting with managers, signs
Format	Videos, radio broadcasts, outreach marches
Content	Information, direction on bus design.

Feedback from Co-creation workshops

The parents, the communities and mayors invited to these workshops reflected together on the impact of the environment on the 0-3 years old children in Yoff, Sacré-Cœur and Guédiawaye. Results were shared at the beginning of the workshop, and solutions emerged from creative exercises and reflection.

These workshops showed that people see themselves very well in the data we shared with them. Ideas for the construction of public daycare centers and urban playgrounds emerged in the three communes. These project ideas have been conceived, carried by the community and involve local decision-makers, whether they be mayors, politicians or organizations and people active in development.





" What you have presented represents our children's daily lives and the difficulties we face as mothers of young children."

- A YOFF MOTHER



" This research is very important, it is a basis for concrete projects for toddlers, it must not be for nothing but must be presented to our authorities so that we all have a fresh look concerning 0-3 years old children."

- A SACRÉ - CŒUR FATHER



" It is up to us to organize to involve the authorities, we must share this research so that they know how our children need spaces that are dedicated to them and how it can impact their development."

- A GUÉDIAWAYE MOTHER

Who we are

"Play is the answer to how anything new comes about."



ImagINation Afrika, through its exhibitions, programs and play spaces, promotes a culture of critical thinking and influences how children perceive themselves and their abilities to contribute to the economic and social well-being of their culture and environment. The organization's core values of global thinking and acting locally have allowed it to collaborate with local partners, to create and maintain spaces that stimulate the imagination through activities and hands-on learning for more 12,000 children.



Urban95 is an initiative of the Bernard van Leer Foundation which aims to bring lasting changes to the urban environment and create opportunities that will shape the first five crucial years of life.

Urban95 is founded on the belief that when urban environments are effective for pregnant women, infants and young children, they tend to cultivate urban development and stronger communities.



Founded in 2016, YUX Dakar is an agency specializing in user experience design. We work with both large companies and SMEs to develop innovative digital products and solutions tailored to African populations and their diversity. To do this, we have put in place a human-centered research process based on a co-creation approach.

Our services

UX Design • Research on human-centered design
UI & Web Design • Concept and usability testing

