

Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

Quito - October 2016



Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Quito – October 2016



WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Health as the pulse of the new urban agenda: United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, Quito, October 2016.

1. Urbanization. 2. Conservation of Natural Resources. 3. Urban Health. I. World Health Organization.

ISBN 978 92 4 151144 5

(NLM classification: WA 380)

© World Health Organization, 2016

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization are available on the WHO website (http://www. who.int) or can be purchased from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; email: bookorders@who.int).

Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications –whether for sale or for non-commercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Press through the WHO website (http://www.who.int/about/licensing/copyright_form/index.html).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

The named authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

Design: Inís Communication – www.iniscommunication.com

Printed by the WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland

Acknowledgements

This paper was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), in close consultation with international experts and organizations working on urban health and development. It draws on input from a wide range of experts and practitioners, including actors and stakeholders from government, civil society organizations and academia who participated in an expert group meeting held in Paris, in side events held during preparatory meetings for Habitat III, and in an Urban Thinkers Campus hosted by the United Nations University in Kuala Lumpur. It also draws significantly on the Global Report on Urban Health: Equitable, Healthier Cities for Sustainable Development, produced earlier this year by the World Health Organization Centre for Health Development in Kobe, Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). More broadly, this document builds on decades of theory and practice in urban health, and reflects the ideas and insights of a diverse and dedicated community of researchers and practitioners focused on achieving healthy cities. The hosts of the above events included Norway, Ghana, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the International Council for Science, United Nations University in Kuala Lumpur, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, WHO Regional Office for Europe, UN-Habitat and WHO. The text was developed by Dr. Carlos Dora of WHO, with Jonathan Mingle as a lead writer and editorial oversight provided by Elaine Fletcher. It incorporates comments from Basel Al-Yousfi, Jessica Beagley, Jo Ivey Boufford, Matthias Braubach, Emmanuel Ebikeme, Marcus Grant, Trevor Hancock, Mazen Malkawi, Marit Pettersen, Nathalie Roebbel, Alejandra Rossetti, Eugenio Villar Montesinos and Sotiris Vardoulakis, among others. Oversight was provided by Dr. Maria Neira, Director of WHO's Department of Public Health and Environment, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health. The full list of authors and contributors, and their affiliations, is included at the end of this document.

Preface

The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, will produce a new agenda for the next 20 years of urban development. For this global strategy to succeed, the health of the nearly four billion people who dwell in cities today must be a central concern.

Decisions related to urban planning, finance and governance can create or exacerbate major health risks – or they can foster healthier environments and lifestyles, that in turn reduce the risks of both communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

Previous Habitat conferences did not address the fundamental linkages between health and sustainable urban development. The New Urban Agenda to be adopted at Habitat III, however, clarifies the importance of those linkages and that health is not only about the provision of health care services, reflecting decades of experience and advances in our understanding of how the shape and form of urban development influences the health of city residents. The NUA recognizes that effective urban planning, infrastructure development and governance can mitigate risks and promote the health and wellbeing of urban populations.

Those who design, plan, build and govern cities exercise great influence over the basic ingredients of a healthy life, including access to decent housing, clean air and water, nutritious food, safe transport and mobility, opportunities for physical activity, and protection from injury risks and toxic pollutants. Cities that offer these fundamentals can dramatically reduce the incidence and associated costs of a wide range of diseases – from

heart disease and stroke, to vector-borne diseases and childhood illnesses – while improving health equity for those most often exposed to such risks, such as children, older people, women, people with disabilities, and the poor. Cities that offer health-enabling environments and coordinated support for healthy lifestyles can ensure that their citizenry are not only healthier and happier, but more economically productive, with far lower costs to both families and societies due to work-related illnesses and injuries.

This paper clarifies these and other critically important connections between health and urban policies. It also provides a detailed vision for integrating health into urban planning and governance, and offers practical guidance on health-promoting approaches for those tasked with implementing the New Urban Agenda in the years to come.

Habitat III comes soon after the adoption of the post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which acknowledges the importance of cities in the context of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 ("Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"), and health in the context of SDG 3 ("Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all"). To achieve these and all SDGs, cooperation between different stakeholders and institutions is urgently needed - not only to make the best use of finite resources, but to capitalize on synergies and ensure policy coherence to achieve systemic change. By explicitly acknowledging health as a central component of urban planning and governance, Habitat III will be much better positioned to deliver on its vision of sustainable urban development for all.

Contents

Executive summary	1
I. Why is health important for 21st century cities? And why is urban development important for health and wellbeing?	3
II. Which urban policies are good for public health, and which create ris	sks?11
III. How can health be integrated into urban planning, governance, finance and public outreach?	19
VI. What is the unique role of the health sector in implementing the New Urban Agenda?	27
V. Conclusion	35
Expanded acknowledgements	36
References	40
Abbreviations	44



https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_26794

