

# Health in the cities

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World Health  
Organization

# The context

- In 2008 the UN reported that more than 50% of the global population lives in urban areas, projected to rise to 70% by 2050.
- The vast urban expansion in developing countries has clear implications for economic growth, poverty alleviation, population stabilization, environmental sustainability and the exercise of human rights.
- Managing urban environments sustainably and equitably is one of the greatest challenges for the next decades.



# A Healthy City aims at

- Creating a health-supportive environment
- Achieving a good quality of life
- Providing basic sanitation & hygiene
- Supplying access to health care
- Promoting all health determinants
- Combating all social, economic, environmental, and commercial factors impacting on health



# A Healthy City aims at

- Overcoming:
  - heavy traffic
  - pollution
  - noise
  - violence and social isolation for elderly people and young families
  - increased rates of non-communicable disease
  - injuries
  - alcohol and substance abuse
  - exposure of the poorest population quintiles to all the above



# The most successful Healthy Cities programmes maintain momentum from:

- Commitment of local community members
- Ownership of policies by a wide array of stakeholders
- A process for institutionalizing the programme
- Evidence of achievements and success with supportive technologies
- Progressive improvement of residents' health literacy
- Degree of integration of diversities (people, ages, culture, language) overcoming disparities and inequities



SDG Health Targets		
3.1	Maternal mortality and births attended by skilled health personnel	
3.2	Child mortality	
3.3	HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis, neglected tropical diseases	
3.4	Non-communicable diseases and suicide	←
3.5	Substance abuse	←
3.6	Road traffic injuries	←
3.7	Sexual and reproductive health	
3.8	Universal health coverage	
3.9	Mortality due to air pollution; unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene; and unintentional poisoning	←
3.a	Tobacco use	
3.b	Essential medicines and vaccines	
3.c	Health workforce	
3.d	National and global health risks	
SDG Health-Related Targets		
2.2	Child stunting, and child wasting and overweight	
6.1	Drinking water	←
6.2	Sanitation	←
7.1	Clean household energy	←
11.6	Ambient air pollution	←
13.1	Natural disasters	
16.1	Homicide and conflicts	←

# A truly global network



- [www.alliance-healthycities.com](http://www.alliance-healthycities.com)

- <https://urban-links.org/>

CITIES PLAY A KEY ROLE IN  
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE  
Urban Gender Analysis and Strategy



- <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/urban-health>
- <https://www.morganstanley.com/about-us/giving-back/healthy-cities>
- <https://partnershipforhealthycities.bloomberg.org/>



# WHO's draft thirteenth general programme of work: 2019–2023

Mission

*Promote health – keep the world safe – serve the vulnerable*

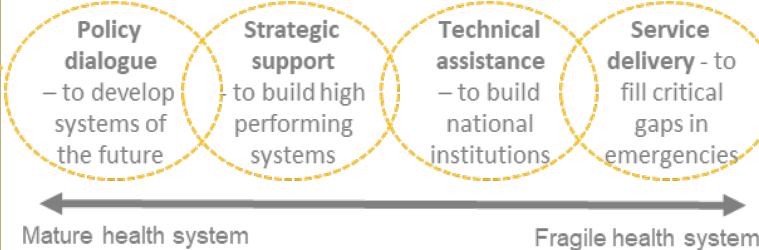
Strategic priorities

**Healthy Lives** – 1 billion more healthier lives  
**Universal Health Coverage** – 1 billion more people with health coverage  
**Health Emergencies** – 1 billion more people made safer

Strategic shifts

**Step up leadership** – diplomacy and advocacy; gender equality, health equity & human rights; multisectoral action; finance

**Drive impact in every country** – differentiated approach based on capacity and vulnerability



**Focus global public goods on impact** – normative guidance and agreements, data, research & innovation

Organizational shifts

- **Measure impact** to be accountable and manage for results
- **Reshape operating model** to drive country, regional and global impacts
- **Transform partnerships, communications and financing** to resource the strategic priorities
- **Build critical processes and tools** to optimize organizational performance
- **Foster culture change** to ensure a seamless, high-performing WHO

