

Dr Nathalie Roebbel

COVID-19 impacts on urbanization



**World Health
Organization**



Cities at the heart of public health

- Rapid urbanization: 68% of the population expected to live in cities by 2050
- 90% of urban growth in LMIC
- Cities face a triple health burden (infectious diseases, NCDs and violence and injury)
- Cities responsible for over 60% of both economic activity and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Urban areas as hot spots for the translation of social and environmental inequalities into health inequity



- Air pollution
- Physical inactivity
- Noise
- Interpersonal violence
- Social Interaction and
- Food environment



COVID-19 in an urban world

- Cities are at risk of COVID-19 and other health emergencies
- With an estimated 90 percent of all reported COVID-19 cases, urban areas have become the epicentre of the pandemic (UN Habitat 2020).
- According to a new OECD report the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected migrants (who often live in urban areas).



Why urban settings are unique

- Connectivity and Density
- Diverse Subpopulations
- Health Systems



Examples of vulnerable groups in urban settings in COVID-19 outbreaks

- Informal settlements
- Urban poor
- Homeless and people living in inadequate housing conditions
- Refugees and migrants including labour markets
- Older persons, especially those at risk of isolation
- Persons with underlying medical conditions
- Socially marginalized groups
- Individuals at risk of interpersonal violence or self-inflicted harm
- Physical distancing measures



Practical actions in cities to strengthen preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

An interim checklist for local authorities



17 July 2020

An interim checklist for local authorities



Checklist of actions

1. Coordinated local plans in preparation to health risks and impacts

Action

Establishing a planning and coordination structure

Set up and fund an intersectoral taskforce, working group or equivalent with clear leadership, roles and responsibilities, and operating processes. Engage with various local authority departments, scientific and legal advisers, the private sector and stakeholders including community leaders and groups, nongovernmental organisations and civil society. If present, existing local coordination mechanisms, such as an incident management system (IMS), should be adapted for management of the outbreak.

Activate the taskforce or working group early when a possible health emergency is expected, even if there are few or no cases.

Ensure that all measures introduced follow legal decision-making processes and respect the rule of law, and that the impact of emergency laws and ordinances on human rights and vulnerable people is assessed before implementation and enforcement. Involve legal officers in planning processes.

Ensure that emergency laws and ordinances have clear messages, are implementable and are designed in a way that encourages compliance.

Engage with other levels of government (e.g. subnational/state levels and national/federal levels) using clear channels of communication and coordination. Work with national authorities (e.g. ministries of health) to align, support and amplify the national strategy and plans while meeting local needs. Local additional measures should complement and not contradict national and subnational plans.

Strengthening Preparedness for COVID-19 in Cities and Urban Settings

Interim Guidance for Local Authorities



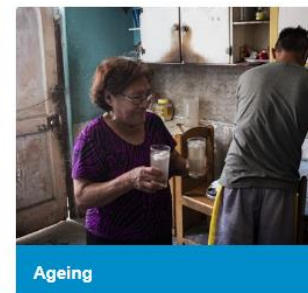
COVID-19 is having a detrimental impact on urban population health. The virus has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths. At the same time, public health and social measures to prevent virus transmission are having wider health consequences. Loss of employment and income has exacerbated food insecurity, health services have been partially or completely disrupted across the world, and many measures have had adverse impacts in terms of mental and physical health. Negative health impacts of COVID-19 are disproportionately being felt by populations living in vulnerable circumstances, widening existing health inequalities.



Transport and safe mobility



Food security and food safety



Ageing

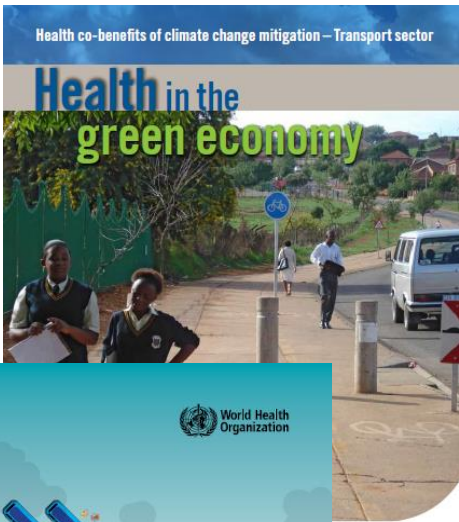


Marginalised populations





Knowledge goods for the dialogue across sectors



Division 44
Water, Energy, Transport

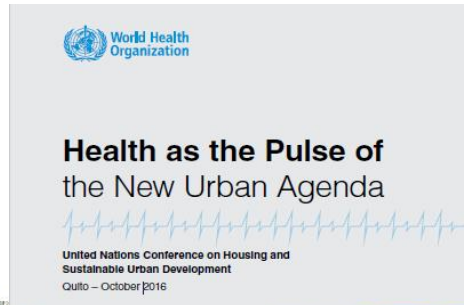


World Health Organization

Urban Transport and Health

Module 5g

Sustainable Transport: A Sourcebook for Policy-makers in



Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda

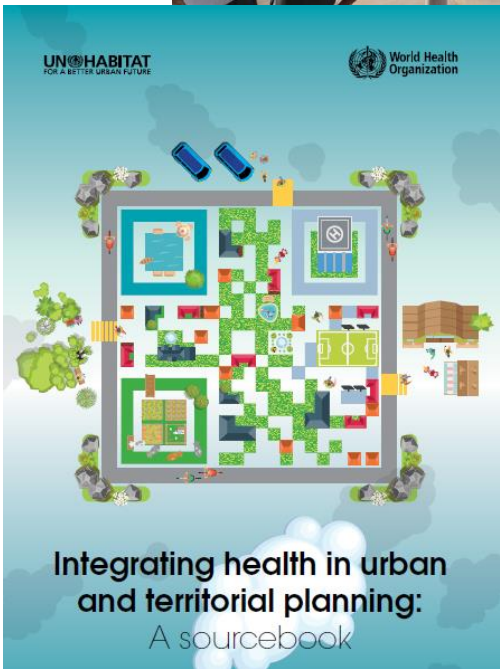
United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
Quito – October 2016



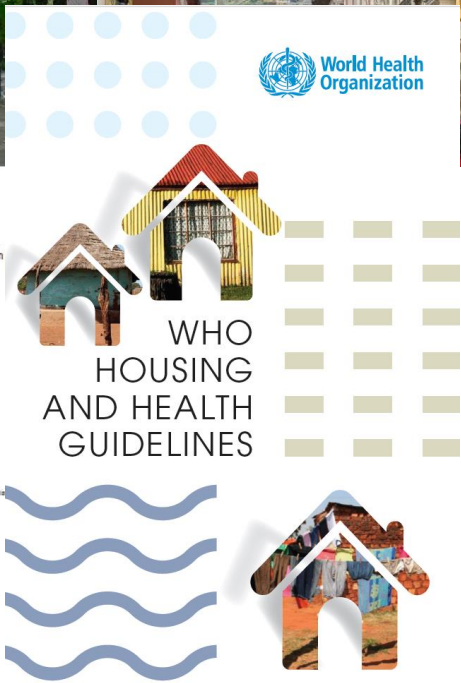
GLOBAL REPORT ON

URBAN HEALTH

Sustainable, healthier cities for sustainable development



Integrating health in urban and territorial planning:
A sourcebook



WHO HOUSING AND HEALTH GUIDELINES

giz

BMZ

Ministerial Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

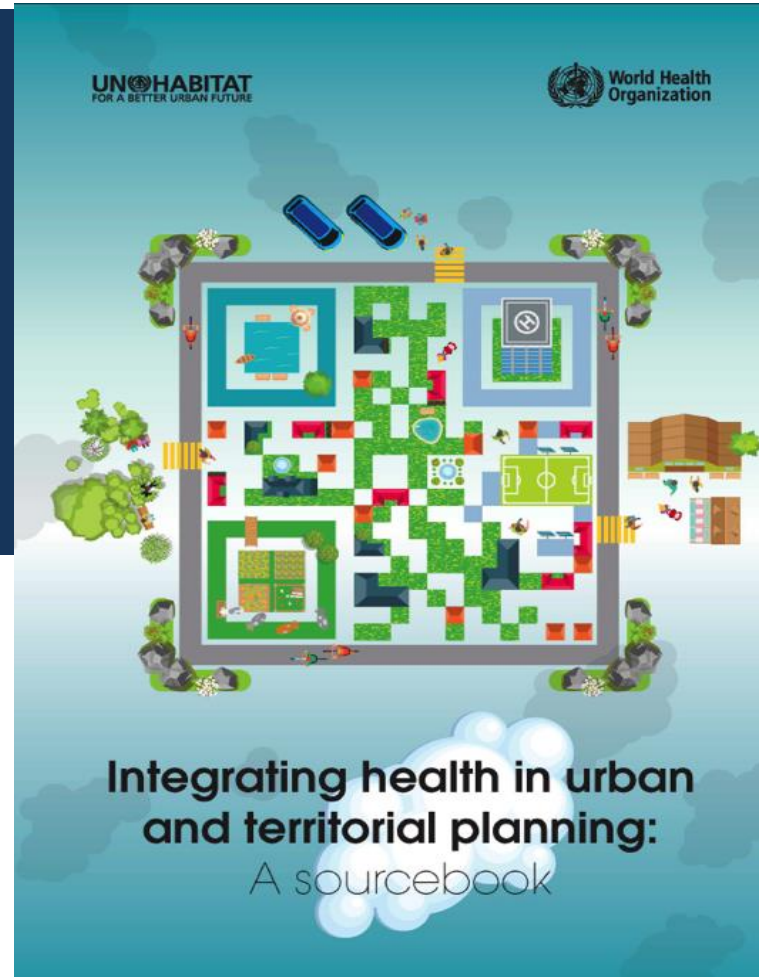
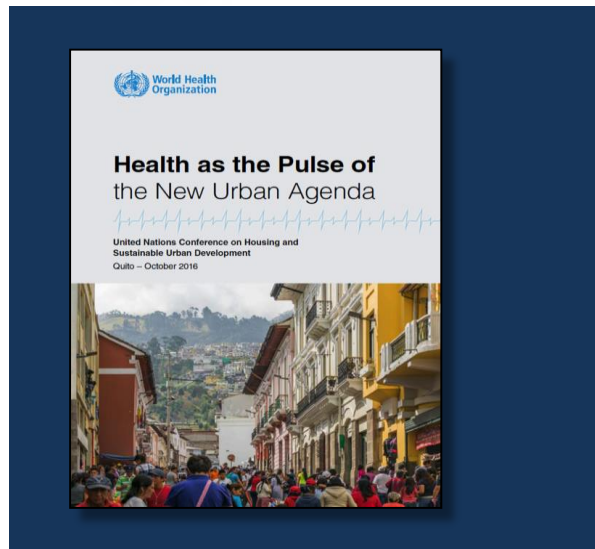


TRAINING



WHO

Articulating a new approach for the links between health and urbanization



<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/254246>



Sustainable cities - Health serves as an input to unlock new opportunities



Catalyze more effective urban action on urban health risks:

- ★ Using a “health lens” to merge agendas such as climate change, ecosystem services and resource use in urban policy to empower and enable stronger collaborations
- ★ Providing “health and well-being” as an aspirational vision for a nation, region, town or city
- ★ Developing the messages and communications channels to highlight the links between health and urban systems, and creating demand for healthier policies and interventions
- ★ Deepen the knowledge of how spatial planning can control disease vectors and influence disease transmission, including for emerging infectious diseases



Thank you

roebbeln@who.int



World Health
Organization