



REPORTING FORMAT FOR PARTNERS

Networking – Side – Training events

City Changer Room – Urban Library – Agora – One UN events

Deadline: 6 June 2014

Please send via email: wuf@unhabitat.org

Reporting Format for Partners
(Networking Events, Side Events, Training Events, City Changer Room, One UN Room, Urban Library, and Agora Room)

Name of Reporter:	Suvi Huikuri
Event title/number:	Healthy and equitable urban planning through intersectoral action
Date:	Tuesday, 8 April 2014
Venue:	One UN Room
Time:	8:30-10:00
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	WHO Centre for Health Development
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	Japan, Kobe
Approximate number of participants:	25

Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):

- *Brief background of the event, including overall objectives and purposes*

Urbanization is a major public health challenge in the 21st century. Noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer are the leading cause of mortality worldwide. The risk factors of these diseases – physical inactivity, unhealthy nutrition, harmful use of tobacco/alcohol, pollution – are exacerbated in urban areas. Growing health inequities are also a problem both in developing and developed cities, of which vulnerable groups such as the poor, elderly and women suffer the most. Urban planning is a powerful tool to address noncommunicable diseases and health inequities in cities. Successful implementation of healthy urban planning requires shared concepts, understanding and coherent strategies between relevant sectors. The concept of intersectoral action for health highlights different social, economic and environmental determinants influencing our health, and cooperation between the practitioners in all these fields. It also highlights the role of local governments in integrating health concerns into the policy-making of other sectors, and therefore is a useful approach for urban settings. A comprehensive strategy for healthy urban planning is also based on community involvement with participatory and inclusive approaches. The objectives of this networking event were: 1) To demonstrate how urban planning can be used as a tool to promote health and health equity in cities. 2) To introduce the issue of intra-urban health inequities and to discuss how they can be addressed through urban planning policies and practices. 3) To introduce the concept of intersectoral action for health as a practical approach to strengthen the cooperation between



sectors such as local level policy-makers, urban planners and health practitioners.



- *Relevant Focus Areas (Refer to below: UN-Habitat's thematic areas) and cross-cutting issues*
 - Urban land, legislation & governance
 - Urban planning & design
 - Urban economy
 - Urban basic services
 - Housing & slum upgrading
 - Research & capacity development

The event was focused on urban planning policies, but also highlighted inclusive growth (healthy people are productive). It emphasized the empowerment of urban dwellers, participation of several sectors including communities and civil society, urban governance mechanisms and tools (strengthening multisectoral partnerships to promote healthier, sustainable cities both in developing and developed countries), and social development which is strongly linked with health and equity. It also discussed healthy housing design (New York City), research (examples from WHO case studies were given) and basic services such as water and sanitation (the example of Jinchang, China). Because of its focus on public health, well-being and equity, the event was relevant for all age groups and equally relevant for both women and men. The event also supported the needs of vulnerable population groups and right to health.

Summary of the Discussion (max: total 500 words):

1. Outline of the discussion/debates

- Healthy and equitable urban planning; How to measure population density in urban areas
- New York City's Active Design programme: Fighting obesity and noncommunicable diseases through designing urban environments that encourage physical activity, health outcomes including diminished traffic death rates and declined childhood obesity rates.
- National Creating Hygienic City Campaign in Jinchang, China: The benefits of competition-based intervention and community involvement, the key role of local governments, especially mayor, in initiating and sustaining policies and projects.

2. Major emerging issues and position documents/declarations towards:

- *Habitat III*

The session discussed future paths towards a more sustainable, healthy and equitable urbanization.

- *POST2015*





The event addressed “health for all” approach, the importance of diminishing social and environmental inequities, and a need for sustainable, healthy urbanization. It also encouraged strengthening multisectoral partnerships to promote healthier, sustainable cities.

- *A New Urban Agenda*

The event highlighted policies and strategies that contribute to more sustainable and equitable urban spaces.

3. Recommendations made during the discussion

(e.g. policy direction, good/best practices, resource mobilization, innovative funding mechanism, etc.)

- Urban planning can and should play a role in preventing health problems related to urbanization such as noncommunicable diseases, physical inactivity, and poor air quality.
- Urban planning is a powerful tool to improve population health and ensure health equity. For example through the creation of safe walking and cycling routes and recreational spaces that encourage physical activity, urban planning can help improve urban dwellers’ health by contributing to the prevention of NCDs.
- Addressing the relationship between urban planning and health requires acknowledging the determinants of health and taking them into account in the all decision making.
- Urban health inequities can be effectively diminished through urban planning measures such as ensuring access to health services, healthy food and transportation, mixing housing types within a city in order to prevent the development of “rich” and “poor” areas, and taking environmental risk assessment (flooding, pollution sources etc.) into account.
- Achieving coherent strategies between urban planners and public health practitioners requires shared concepts and understanding.
- A comprehensive strategy for healthy urban planning should be based on intersectoral action and community involvement with participatory and inclusive approaches.
- Local governments are in the key role in integrating health concerns into the policy-making of other sectors.
- Policy recommendations and guidelines for health practitioners and urban planners should take into consideration different contexts and capabilities.

4. Building partnerships, network and synergies with UN-Habitat

(e.g. agreements or Memorandum of Understanding committed/signed, amounts and number of pledged contributions and partnerships/networks, etc.)

- WHO Centre for Health Development (WKC) has a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat. Cooperation includes joint case study projects, UN-Habitat’s participation to WKC expert consultations etc.





Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Suvi Huikuri (Ms)
Nationality:	Finland
Organization/Institution:	World Health Organization Centre for Health Development, Japan
Time:	8:30-9:00
Position:	Technical Officer
Contact address (Email):	huikuris@who.int

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Skye Duncan (Ms)
Nationality:	New Zealand
Organization/Institution:	New York City Department of City Planning, USA
Time:	9:00-9:30
Position:	Senior Urban Designer
Contact address (Email):	skyejduncan@gmail.com

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Bingqin Li (Ms)
Nationality:	United Kingdom
Organization/Institution:	Australian National University, Australia
Time:	9:30-10:00
Position:	Associate Professor
Contact address (Email):	bingqin.li@anu.edu.au

Full name (Mr/Ms):	
Nationality:	
Organization/Institution:	
Time:	
Position:	
Contact address (Email):	

Full name (Mr/Ms):	
Nationality:	
Organization/Institution:	
Time:	
Position:	
Contact address (Email):	

If there were more speakers/presenters/moderators in your events, please feel free to add the above tables.

UN-Habitat Thematic areas



All events are identified by UN-Habitat priority substantive areas as below



URBAN LAND, LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE

Land & GLTN, Urban Legislation, Urban and Community Management & Governance, Safety

URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN

Regional & Metropolitan Planning, City Extensions & Enlargements, Market Town & Intermediate City Planning

URBAN ECONOMY

Urban & Municipal Finance, Urban Productivity, Youth and Job Creation

URBAN BASIC SERVICES

Water & Sanitation, Urban Energy, Urban Mobility, Urban Waste Management

HOUSING & SLUM UPGRADING

Housing, Slum Upgrading, Shelter Rehabilitation

RISK REDUCTION & REHABILITATION

Urban Risk Reduction, Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation, Resilience

RESEARCH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Global Urban Observatory, Flagship Reports, Capacity Development

Cross-cutting issues:

GENDER

YOUTH

HUMAN RIGHTS

