
GROWING URBANIZATION: NEW CHALLENGES FOR URBAN HEALTH

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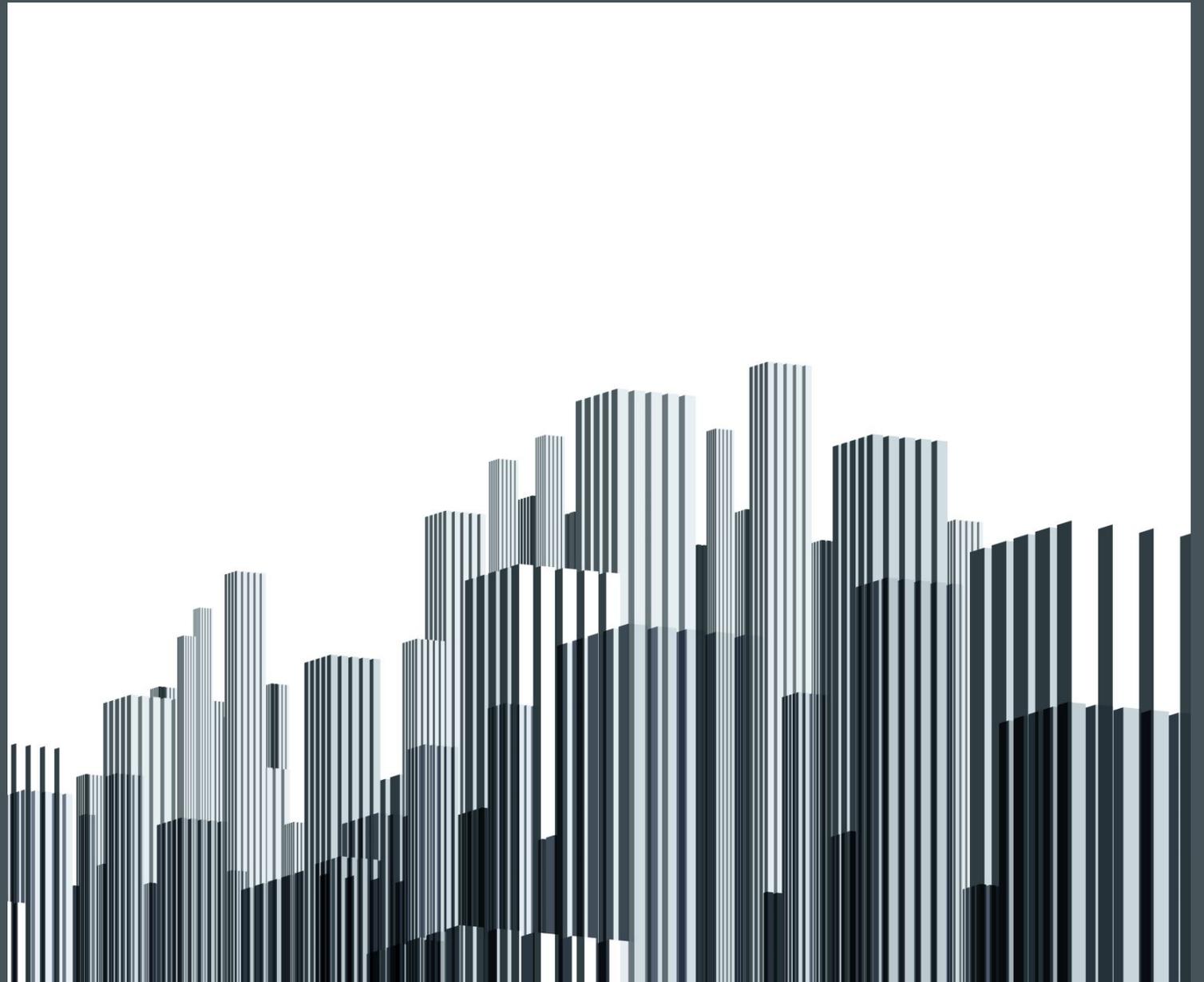
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SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

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Rapid urbanization worldwide is raising new social, economic, public health, environmental, and health systems challenges.





Represent 70% of the global economy (by GDP)



Produce 70% of greenhouse gas emissions



Consume more than 60% of global energy production



Generate 70% of global waste

THE CHALLENGE WE FACE

- By the year 2050, 70% of the world's population will reside in cities, and more than 90% of urban population growth will take place in low- and middle-income countries.
- The statistics speak for themselves.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Cities today occupy about 3% of the earth's total land mass

GLOBAL RESOURCE USE



70%

ECONOMY (GDP)



70%

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



60+%

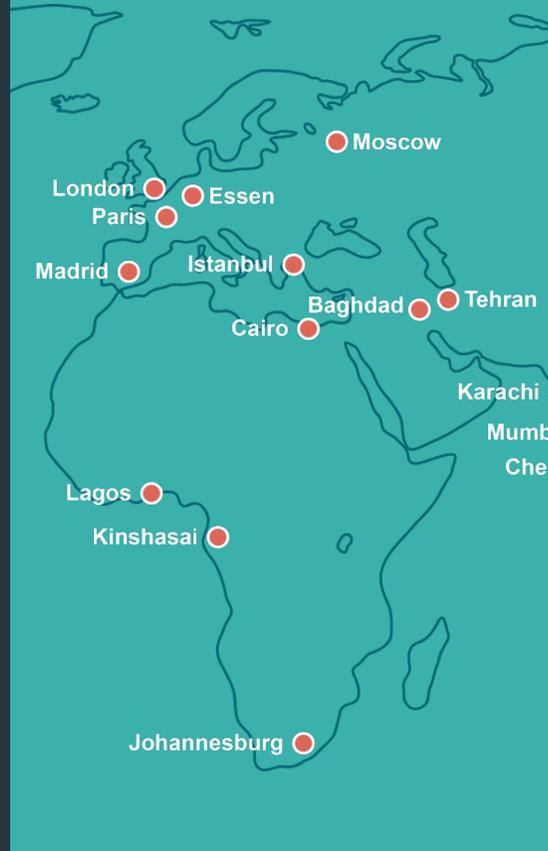
GLOBAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION



70%

GLOBAL WASTE

Cities highlighted represent the largest population numbers and density



CALL TO ACTION

Cities must be at the forefront of tackling critical global health and development issues.

URBAN HEALTH CHALLENGES

Require interdisciplinary collaboration among a variety of stakeholders

- Researchers
- Educators
- Implementers
- Municipal workers & leaders
- Policymakers – sub-national & national
- Practitioners
- Advocates
- Others



CITIES AT THE FOREFRONT

It could not be more clear: cities must be at the forefront of tackling critical global health and development issues

How?

- **MOBILIZE & ENGAGE** a worldwide cadre of cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary urban health leaders in research, policy, and practice
- **ADVANCE & CATALYZE** the evidence base regarding the determinants, programs, and policies critical for achieving healthy and sustainable urban environments
- **IMPROVE & CATALYZE** cross-sector collaboration to solve urban health challenges
- **ADVOCATE for & IMPLEMENT** evidence-based policies, programs and governance that develop healthy and sustainable urban environments and eliminate health disparities

**NEW
PARTNERSHIPS
PARADIGM – AT
SUB-NATIONAL
& NATIONAL
LEVEL**

Cities are remarkably resilient

- Driven by a range of forces
 - People are our greatest asset
 - Youth – youth bulge: dividend or disaster
 - Women & girls
- **Must engage municipal & community leaders in creating solutions**
- **Must have public-private collaborative engagement**
- **Must mainstream health in all policies**
 - **Health is an economic value – healthy populations are economically viable**
 - **Health ministries must be on equal footing with planning & finance**

Broad Determinants of Health

We now know that in order to achieve healthier cities and urban communities worldwide, we must improve the built, social, and physical environments in which people live.



NEEDED CROSS- SECTORAL ACTION

- Engagement of municipal & national leaders and implementers & the private sector
- Support adaptive implementation
- Prioritize localized operational change

HOUSING

- Access to adequate, affordable, and safe housing attracts economic investment, a diverse workforce, and increases levels of social and economic development and sense of community.
- The new WHO Guidelines present an important opportunity



HOUSING

WHO HOUSING AND HEALTH GUIDELINES – RELEASED NOVEMBER 2018

-
- Sets norms and standards
 - New evidence-based recommendations bringing together existing WHO guidance relevant to housing
 - Focuses on a sector as opposed to a specific health risk, intervention, activity or policy = comprehensive perspective on the topic of housing and health
 - **Enabling the health sector to inform housing, energy, community development, urban development policies at the national, regional and local level**
 - Relevant to policy-makers and implementing actors

HEALTH SECTOR

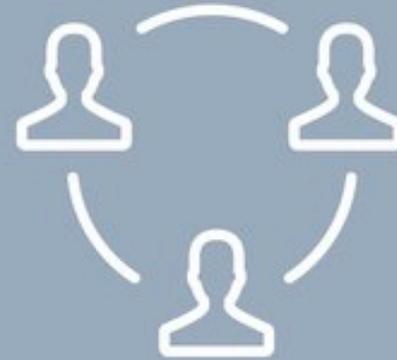
- Health professionals as conduits for behavior change & awareness of adverse effects key determinants such as indoor air pollution.



HEALTH SECTOR

COMMUNITY COHESION

- Engagement of communities in the adaptation of planning & policy
- More cohesive communities = less social isolation + higher levels of community decision making + more inclusive governance



COMMUNITY COHESION

URBAN PLANNING

- Urban planners are key
- Effective urban planning = healthy, equitable, and sustainable cities that promote physical and mental health and well-being.



URBAN PLANNING

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Sanitation infrastructure
- Management of building density, green space, and transport design to improve urban conditions that help people live healthy lives.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

TRANSPORTATION

- Communities with walkable, bikeable streets and effective use of mass transit promote physical health, reduce pedestrian accidents, and lower air pollution.



TRANSPORTATION

GOVERNANCE

- Strong, effective governance = effective urban health
- Commitment to including health in planning & infrastructure development
- Commitment to assessing health risks and benefits of policies, programs, and investments across all sectors



GOVERNANCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Good health supports economic development
- Urban-based economic activities account for up to 55% of GNP in LDICs, 73% in MICs, 85% in UICs.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

- Incentives for increased access to educational resources are critical to sub-national and national development;
- For every additional year of education for women of reproductive age, child mortality decreases by almost 10%.

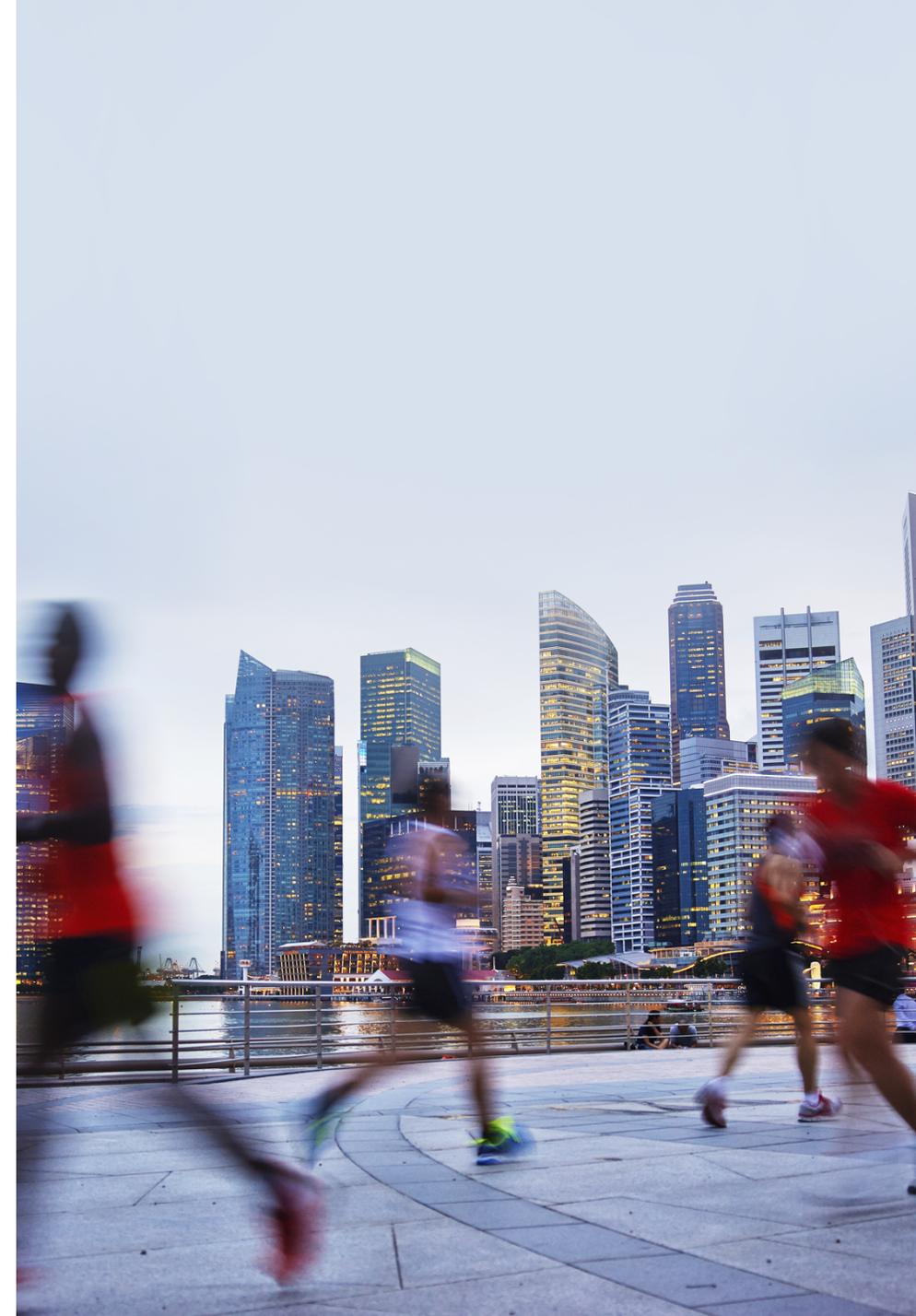


EDUCATION

CITIES MUST BE SEEN AS DRIVERS FOR ACHIEVING GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Bringing Attention To Urban Health

- Improving urban health and addressing the broad determinants of health is essential to making progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.
- We **MUST** promote collaboration on advancing the urban health agenda, and advocate for:
 - The importance of health to social and economic development
 - Leadership from all sectors to recognize that their decisions affect the health of people living in cities
 - Public private partnerships to maximize impact in mobilizing resources for capacity building and sustainable development
 - Sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development



Cities are taking leadership in health and development

Cities are the focal point for improving health across national borders more than ever before; sharing ideas, forming coalitions, and challenging their national governments to improve urban health worldwide.



UN COMPACT FOR MAYORS

Over 200 world leaders, representing more than 270 million people committed to taking a transparent and supportive approach to reduce urban green house gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change.



C40

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is a network of more than 95 of the world's cities committed to addressing climate change. C40 offers cities an effective forum where they can collaborate, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action.



AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES

This project was conceived in June 2005 and further developed by the WHO. The WHO worked with 33 cities in WHO regions to create the Age-Friendly Cities guide. The WHO defines an age-friendly city as one that adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities.



So, **Who** should come together

National, municipal & community leaders, planners & architects, public health implementers & researchers, educators, policy makers, urban health advocates, practitioners – public & private sector



Making cities healthier worldwide

The conferences of the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH) serve as important opportunities for sharing solutions, catalyze actions, and drive meaningful change to improve urban health.



XIAMEN STATEMENT ON SYSTEMS THINKING FOR URBAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING

<http://isuhconference.org/resources/updateable/pdf/Xiamen%20Statement.pdf>

The ICSU global interdisciplinary program, Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment: a Systems Analysis Approach, recognizes that:

Given rapid urban growth, and complex health problems in cities and other urban settlements, systems approaches are vital to assure and improve human health and wellbeing and secure a sustainable future for all people and our shared planet.



16th International Conference on Urban Health
People Oriented Urbanisation
Transforming Cities for Health and Well-Being
4-8 November 2019 • Xiamen, China





ISUH

**International Society
for Urban Health**

www.isuh.org