

Urban Health Risks

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**Urban Health is recognized
as a global public health issue**

Urbanization

Proportion of global population living in cities has increased dramatically in past century

1900: 15%

Now : 50% and increasing

One third of the total urban population live in slums (1 billion)

70% of urban population of developing countries live in slums



52% of the world is urban.

60% by 2025.

72% by 2050.

80% of world's GDP from urban areas

United Nations World Urbanization Prospects
(2011 Revision)

By 2025

Tokyo 39 M

Delhi 33 M

Shanghai 28.4 M

Mumbai 27 M



Basic concepts (1)

- Urbanization and health issues

- Weak development policies and programmes to settle urban populations in safer areas
- Over-population
- In-migration to urban areas, growth of slums
- Environmental concerns
- Poor water, sanitation and waste disposal systems
- Consider risk reduction in urban planning



Basic concepts (2)

- Urbanization and health issues

Limited application of technical information related to hazard environment, vulnerabilities and assessment tools to identify risk

Poor enforcement of building codes, inadequate infrastructure

Duality: capacity, risks (expertise, infrastructure, technology)

Floating urban population

Hidden cities: eclipsed in the buildings are slums, marginalized



Disasters cities versus rural areas

Cities

- Poverty
- Overcrowding
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Insufficient land for resettlement
- Complex political scenario
- Better health services but poor access—economic, social-cultural
- Greater response efforts but less coordinated

Rural areas

- Poverty also present
- No overcrowding
- Infrastructure also inadequate
- Sufficient land for resettlement; affected individuals can live with relatives
- Less complex politics
- Limited availability of health services—geographic access
- Response easier to organize

- Need for a deeper knowledge of spatial and social structure of cities
- Increasing migration of IDPS, refugees and undocumented migrants
- Majority of tools, approaches policies and practices are designed for rural settings



- Urban skills required for effective response and recovery vary from rural setting
- Faster growing smaller and medium cities are less equipped to deal with problems of urbanization
- Marginalized groups more marginalized
- The poor are poorer



“While urban living continues to offer many opportunities, including potential access to better healthcare, today’s urban environments can concentrate health risks and introduce new hazards.”



Health Challenges in Urban Areas

- Water
- Environment
- Violence and injury
- Non communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Unhealthy diets and physical inactivity
- Harmful use of alcohol
- Risks associated with disease outbreaks



Health of Children in Urban Areas

- Higher prevalence rate of diarrhea
- Diarrheal diseases account for nearly 2 million deaths out of a total of almost 10 M among children under age of 5
- 1990 to 2006:
 - Industrialized countries: drop of under-5 mortality rates from 10 to 6 per 1 000 live births
 - Developing countries: drop of 103 to 79 per 1 000 live births



Communicable Diseases

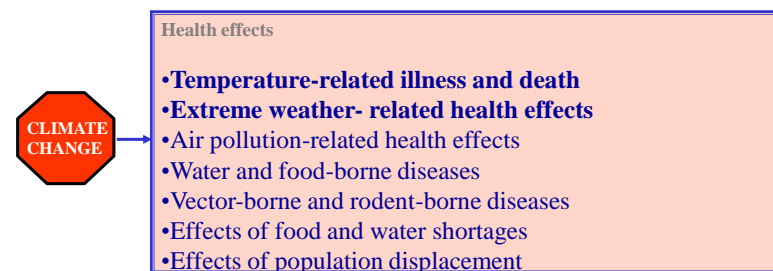
- Diarrheal diseases, parasitic infection or diseases associated with inadequate water and sanitation
 - Lancet (2005)
 - Nearly half of the urban population in Africa, Asia and Latin America
- TB incidence
 - New York has 4x the national average TB infection rate
 - Some parts of London, TB incidence is higher than in China



Indoor air pollution

- Use solid fuels for household heating and cooking
 - 25 % of city dwellers in developing countries
 - 70% of city dwellers in least developed countries
- Exposure to indoor pollution (2004)
 - Estimated to cause about 2 M deaths globally (pneumonia, chronic lung disease, cancer)

The health effects of climate change



Based on Patz et al, 2000

Climate Change Risk

Vulnerability of low-income urban residents

- Greater exposure to hazards (living in unsafe sites)
- Lack of hazard-reducing infrastructure
- Less adaptive capacity
- Less state provision of assistance
- Less legal and financial protection



WHO Consultation on Strategic Directions for Urban Health Emergency Management (4-5 June 2012)

Key Objective:

To identify priority issues, needs and strategic directions of urban areas to strengthen health emergency management in the context of broader emergency/disaster management

WKC Review

- Health and health system impacts of major urban disasters from 2008 to 2011
- Response and recovery efforts, gaps and challenges in the health sector
- Preparedness efforts and gaps and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming in the health sector and
- Recommendations for urban health emergency management



Strategic directions	Topic of concern
Enhancing resilience, risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery among national and local health authorities in urban areas	RESILIENCE
Building technical surge capacity and urban health emergency management expertise	HEALTH AND GOVERNANCE
Strengthening health systems to support urban health emergency management	HEALTH SYSTEMS
Ensuring the protection of the health of vulnerable urban populations	HEALTH EQUITY and SECURITY
Improving sector coordination for health by strengthening multi-sectoral partnership and community ownership	INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION
Developing and adapting tools to urban contexts, including city health risk assessment and city plans	RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT

Making Cities Resilient

- 10 point Checklist for Local Governments
 1. Organization and coordination
 2. Budget
 3. Risk assessments
 4. Critical infrastructure that reduces risk
 5. Safety of all schools and health facilities
 6. Risk compliant building regulations and land-use planning
 7. Education programmes and training
 8. Protect ecosystems and natural buffers
 9. Early warning systems and emergency management
 10. Post disaster: needs of survivors at centre of reconstruction



What Cities Should Do

- Assessment of vulnerabilities and capacity
- Risk Management
- Policy development
- Response plan
- Training/Human resource development
- Stockpiling of emergency supplies/materials



High Level Ministerial Conference July 2012, Sendai

- Integrate disaster risk reduction planning into the health sector
- Promote goal of 'hospitals safer from disasters'
- Promote and strengthen critical public facilities and physical infrastructures

Our wish for health and recovery

- Safer infrastructures; hospitals and health facilities safer in emergencies
- Be prepared for key public health hazards and future disasters
- Provide equitable and affordable health services to all
- Recovery framework to ensure appropriate, sustainable health system





Healthy
Urbanization

Thank you!



**World Health
Organization**

Centre for Health Development