

Integrating health in urban environments through sectorial interventions



Thiago Herick de Sa, Technical Officer

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO Headquarters



Integrating health into urban policies: synergy and multiple benefits

- Clean Energy
- Housing
- Transport
- Waste Management
- Land-use planning
- Green and public spaces

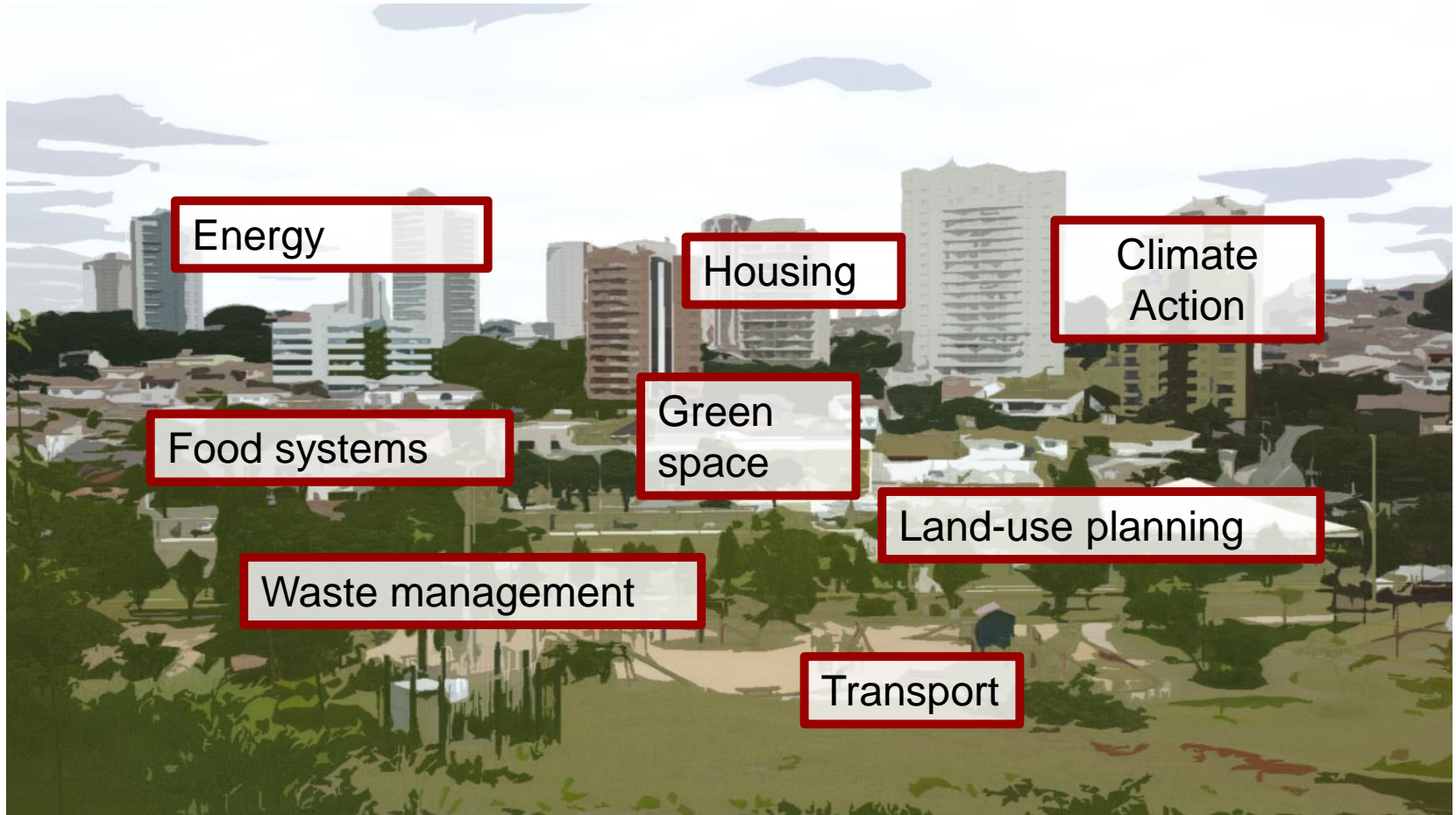
Injuries, physical inactivity, poor diet

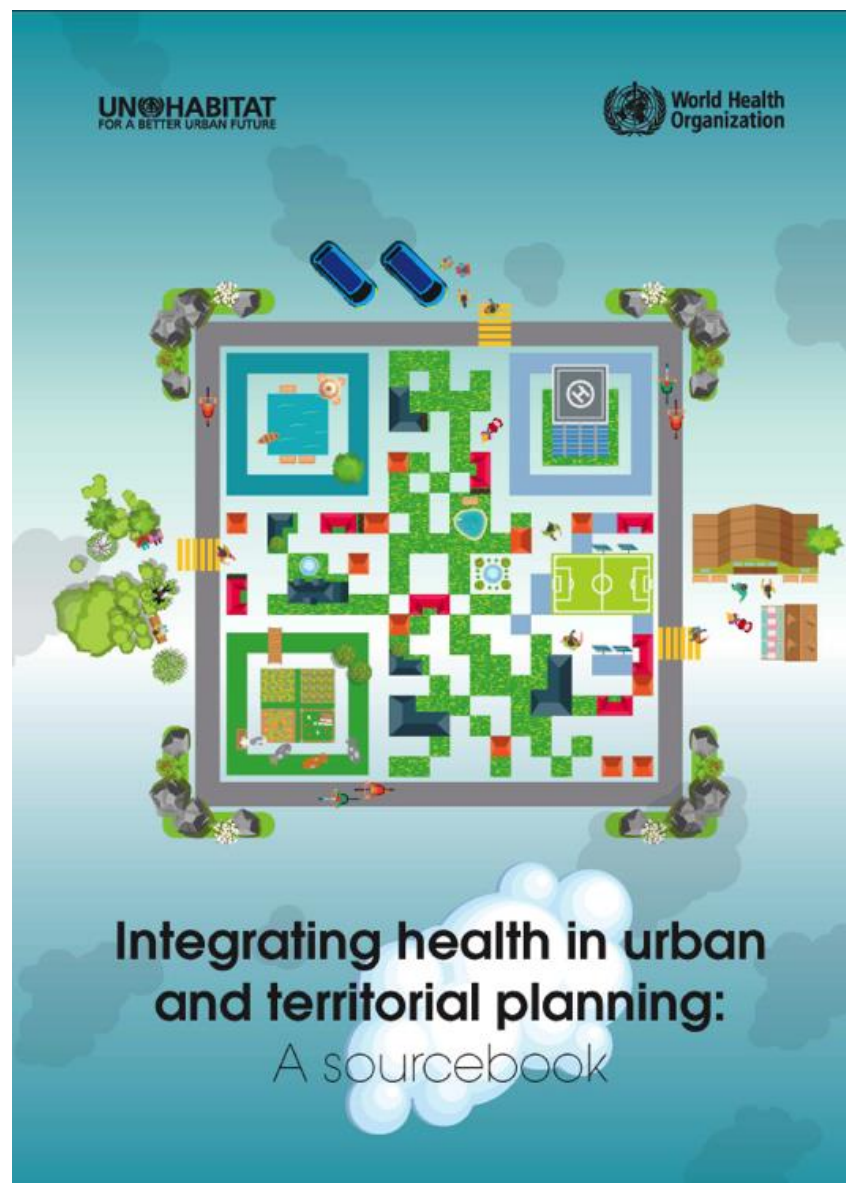
Air pollution, noise, heat

Climate Change, biodiversity loss,
environmental degradation

Local and global
health impacts

How can public health and urban planners come together to promote healthy and liveable cities through sector policy change?





Entry points

By setting

Public spaces

Squares, parks and gardens, streets, plazas

Movement corridors

Local streets, routes to school, cycling and active transport, regional transport networks

Green and blue space

Habitat networks, riverbanks, beaches and coast, woodlands, migration corridors

Amenities

Schools, hospitals, markets, airports, transport hubs

Estates

Housing estates, business parks, commercial districts, town centres, campuses

By outcome

Increasing everyday physical activity

Better air quality

Increasing food security and healthier nutrition

Reducing health inequalities

Tackling the diabetes trend at city level

Increasing locational access to health care

By principle

Road danger reduction

Vision Zero approach, slower speed zones, filtered permeability, school locality measures

Social and environmental justice

Climate justice, community action, citizen-led renewal, participatory impact assessment

Life-course strategies

Child-friendly, age-friendly, dementia-friendly places, places for teenagers

Healthy cities

HiAP, healthy urban planning, mayoral commitments

By sector

Housing and health

Local economy and health

Transport and health

Water and health

What is a good entry point?

Resonates with all actors and decision-makers.

Results in co-benefits across the widest range of sustainable development goals.

Provides access to a range of different types of interventions





Example

Public spaces

Public spaces are places which are accessible and enjoyable by all, without a profit motive, and take on various spatial forms (INU, 2013). Issues of distribution, quality, location, access and management of public open space impacts on human health and health equity directly, and through the wider determinants of health. Public spaces are one of the key levers to fully implement the New Urban Agenda and the focus of a specific target under SDG 11. Safe, accessible and inclusive public spaces can contribute to promoting public health in rapidly urbanizing cities and towns. Public space assessments can also provide information regarding networks of public space, accessibility (who accesses the spaces), inclusiveness (who uses the spaces), noise levels, waste/rubbish issues, green coverage, etc.

scan here



Resource 17 (TOOLKIT)

Global public space toolkit: from global principles to local policies and practice

<https://www.localizingthesdgs.org/library/82/Global-Public-Space-Toolkit-From-Global-Principles-to-Local-Policies-and-Practice.pdf>

scan here



Resource 18 (DESIGN GUIDE)

Turning spaces into places – handbook

https://unhabitat-kosovo.org/un_habitat_documents/turning-spaces-into-places-handbook/

scan here



Resource 19 (WEB RESOURCE)

Ciclovia Recreativa (Open Streets) implementation and advocacy manual

<https://cicloviarecreativa.unandes.edu.co/english/introduction.html>

Highlight existing tools, guidance, examples and case studies

Box 4

Provision of local open public space is a key to supporting health and health equity

All citizens, regardless of their role, are users of public spaces. All have the right to access and enjoy public spaces in complete freedom, within the rules of civic coexistence. In cities, ever more complex and diverse, this requires democratic processes, dialogue and regard for diversity.

Public spaces are all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. Each public space has its own spatial, historic, environmental, social and economic features.

The management of public space is a prevalent responsibility of local authorities. In order to be discharged successfully, this role requires the active collaboration of citizens, civil society and the private sector.

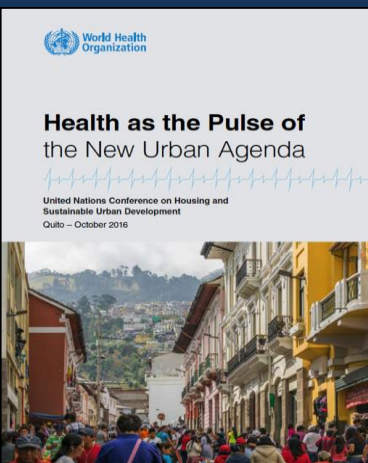
Open public spaces consist of outdoor environments (e.g. streets, pavements, squares, gardens, parks).

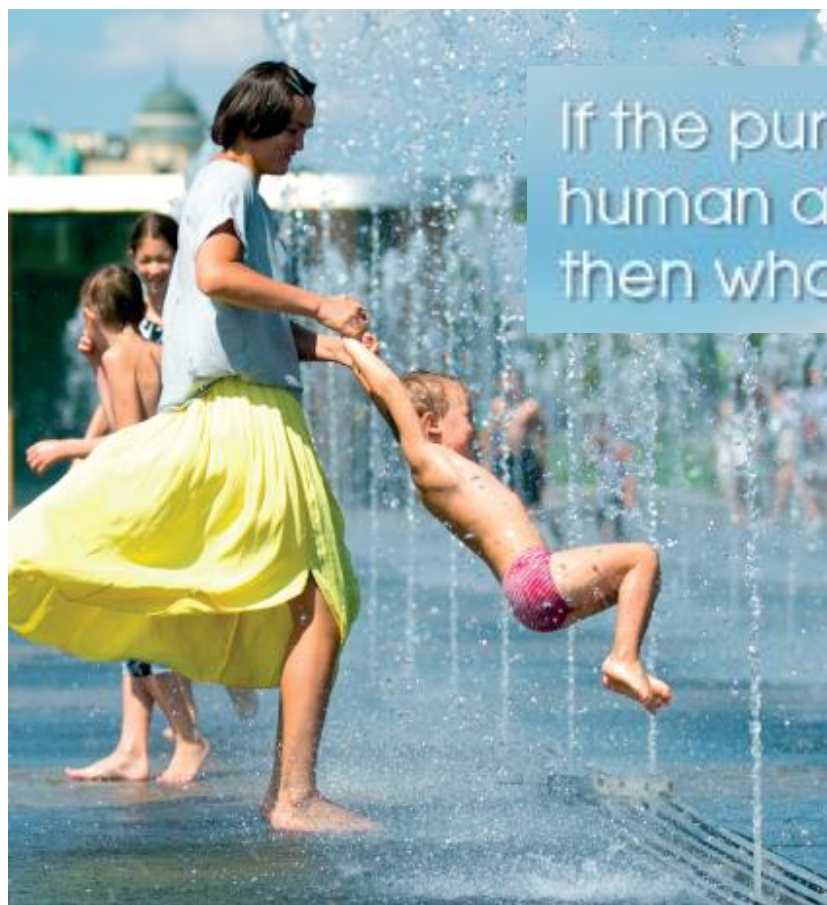
In extension plans of newly urbanizing cities, whose population will double over the next 10–20 years (Africa and Asia), it is very important to guarantee sufficient amounts of well-connected and adequately proportioned public spaces.

Source: Extracts from the Charter of Public Space (INU, 2013).

Articulating a new approach for the links between health and urbanization

**"Health as an input
+
Health as an outcome"**





If the purpose of planning is not for
human and planetary health,
then what is it for?