Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to jointly deliver on the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030

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Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity  (WHO, 1946)

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments promotes healthy and sustainable settlements through research, teaching, consultancy, knowledge exchange and publications. We work closely with municipalities, planning consultancies and health authorities in the UK, as well as with the wider WHO European Healthy Cities network.

http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/et/research/who
1. Health equity must be at the core of the strategy

Social/ecological theory to health: maps the relationship between the individual, their environment and disease.

In the UK:

SDG #1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991)

Principle of UNEP’s approach to 2030 Agenda: human rights and equity
2. Evidence shows that the built environment influences health and wellbeing...

Physical and social characteristics of communities and neighbourhoods are factors of health and can deliver health outcomes including:

**Physical and mental health through:**
- perception of local area
- social connections
- physical activity, active travel

**Environmental health:**
- air quality, water, noise

**Safety, security:**
- Traffic, street layout, social cohesion

**Health equity:**
- Access to services, green infrastructure, housing tenure
...Eg: Urbanisation, increase in car affordability, road programmes, suburbanisation, out of town shopping...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE THE HIGH STREET COMING BACK TO LIFE

"OF COURSE I HAVE TO DRIVE HIM TO SCHOOL IN A PEOPLE CARRIER, HE WON'T FIT INTO ANYTHING ELSE"

"AT LEAST WE STOPPED THEM SELLING OFF ALL THE PLAYING FIELD"
3. So there are health benefits in tackling climate change

Environment and Child Development

- ↓ CO₂ emissions
- ↓ Depression
- ↓ Air pollution
- ↓ Osteoporosis
- ↑ Physical activity
- ↓ Injuries
- ↓ Infrastructure costs
- ↑ Social capital

And by the way...
4. Let’s not forget that air pollution is the world’s largest single environmental health risk.

7 million deaths attributable to the exposure to air pollution in 2012 (WHO, 2014, [www.who.int/phe](http://www.who.int/phe)): stroke, respiratory infections and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancers.

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**Figure 3. Deaths attributable to the joint effects of HAP and AAP in 2012, by disease**

- **ALRI**: 597,000 (6%)
- **Lung cancer**: 1,187,900 (17%)
- **COPD**: 2,296,900 (33%)
- **Stroke**: 2,529,700 (36%)
- **IHD**: 443,100 (6%)

*Percentage represents percent of total HAP burden (add up to 100%).
HAP: Household air pollution; AAP: Ambient air pollution; ALRI: Acute lower respiratory disease; COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; IHD: Ischaemic heart disease.*
5. Strategies for delivering Healthy People, Healthy Planet must engage a wide range of stakeholders.
6. Evidence and innovation needed from the research community

Aims:

• Quantifying causes of death, disease and disability
• Modelling, Evaluation/Monitoring
• Innovation: eg project Surya
• Access to knowledge
• UNEP principle: innovation

• Systems approach/Co-benefit
• UNEP supports:
  • Health and Ecosystems: Analysis of Linkages
  • Research4Life

=> policy-focused research, multi-stakeholder partnerships: knowledge creation and dissemination
7. Practice must develop a range of delivery mechanisms at policy, plan and project levels

**Process:**
- Capacity building/awareness raising
- Health in All Policies (e.g. south Australia), Health Impact Assessment
- Monitoring: Health linked sustainability indicators (home, ambient, obesity)

**Sectoral policies: Housing, energy, transport, food production**
- Mainstreaming health into urban planning
  - Planning regulations (e.g. urban growth boundaries, car-free development)
- Air quality – Reduction in climate pollutants
  - UNEP leading on Municipal Solid Waste/Heavy Duty Diesel: baseline assessment, action plans; low sulfur diesel standards, active travel
  - UNEA1: AQ resolution
  - Project Surya: clean cook stoves - reduce deforestation/death by indoor emissions

$=> X$sector partnerships and interventions for co-benefit and health equity, policy learning
8. Be political and pro-active: elected politicians, communities, advocates

- National commitment: funding, targets, capacity building

- City leadership for resource efficiency and equity:
  - Enrique Penalosa/Bogota (reduction car emission, cycling)
  - Bloomberg/New York (decontamination/greening brownfield sites)

- Community engagement for empowerment and behaviour change:
  - land, housing, water, roads
  - Pro-active planning

  => multi-stakeholder alliance, use of robust evidence base, quantify costs of pollution on health and environment

A must read: UNEP, 2011 – Cities: Investing in energy and resource efficiency
9. In summary: provide leadership and encourage partnership

- Trandisciplinarity/knowledge sharing
  - Comprehensive problem definition
  - Research with practice relevance and impact
  - BUT don’t forget to include local knowledge (co-production)

- New definition for sustainability, place human health at core of research/policy approaches
  - Promote co-benefit and consideration of broad health outcomes: physical, mental, environmental health
  - Beyond disease prevention...health equity

- Don’t forget cities (80% Europeans and 50% world population live in cities), yet they can be forgotten: Environment and Health Process eg
  - Local Knowledge
  - Cost effectiveness
  - Cross sector policies: Urban and transport planning, housing, water/waste management
  - Innovation/Smart technology
Thank you

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