
CHALLENGES FOR URBAN HEALTH: PRE- COVID-19, POST- COVID-19 & BEYOND

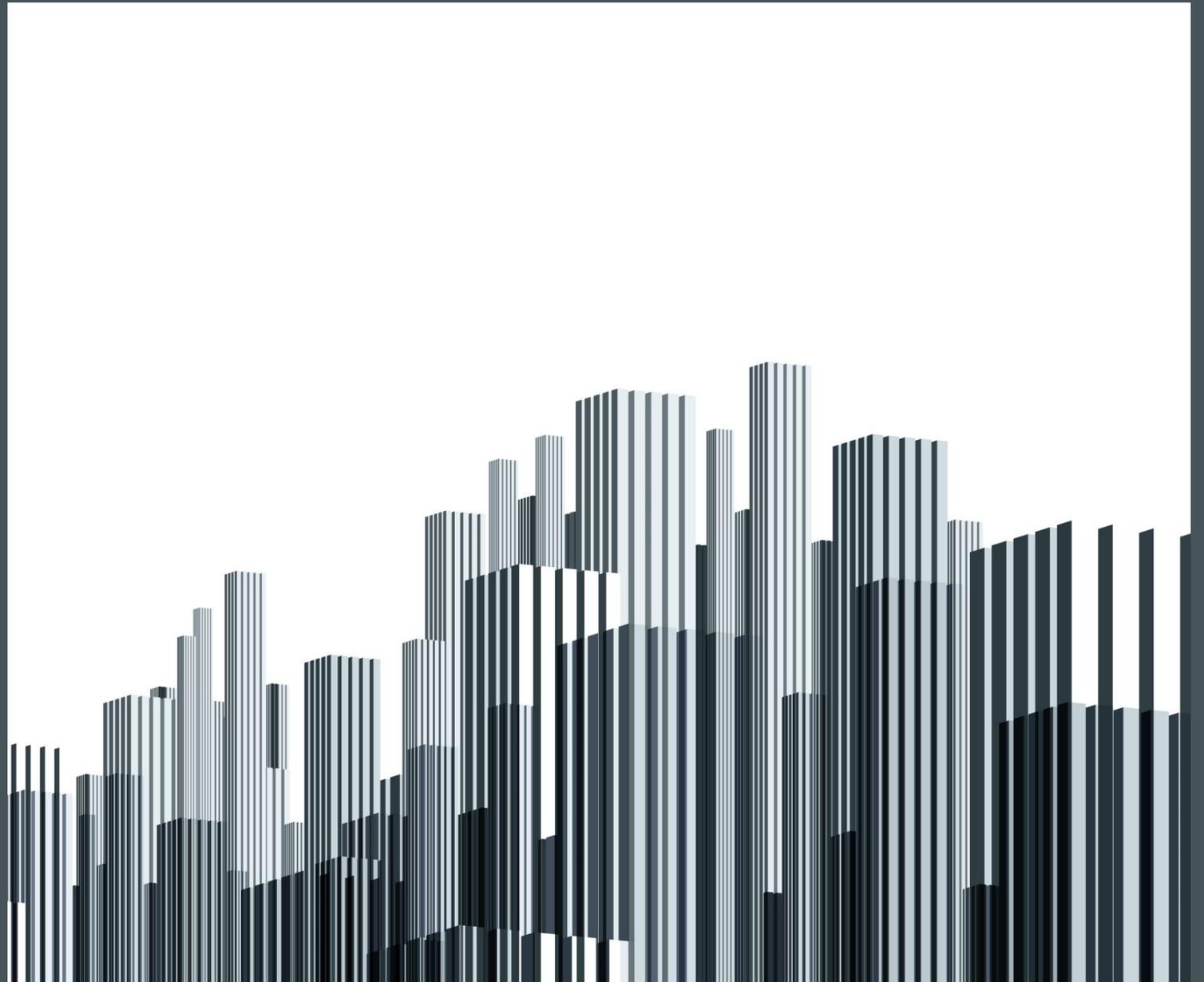
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URBANHEALTH360

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE

GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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

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.

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 clearer: 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**

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

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%.

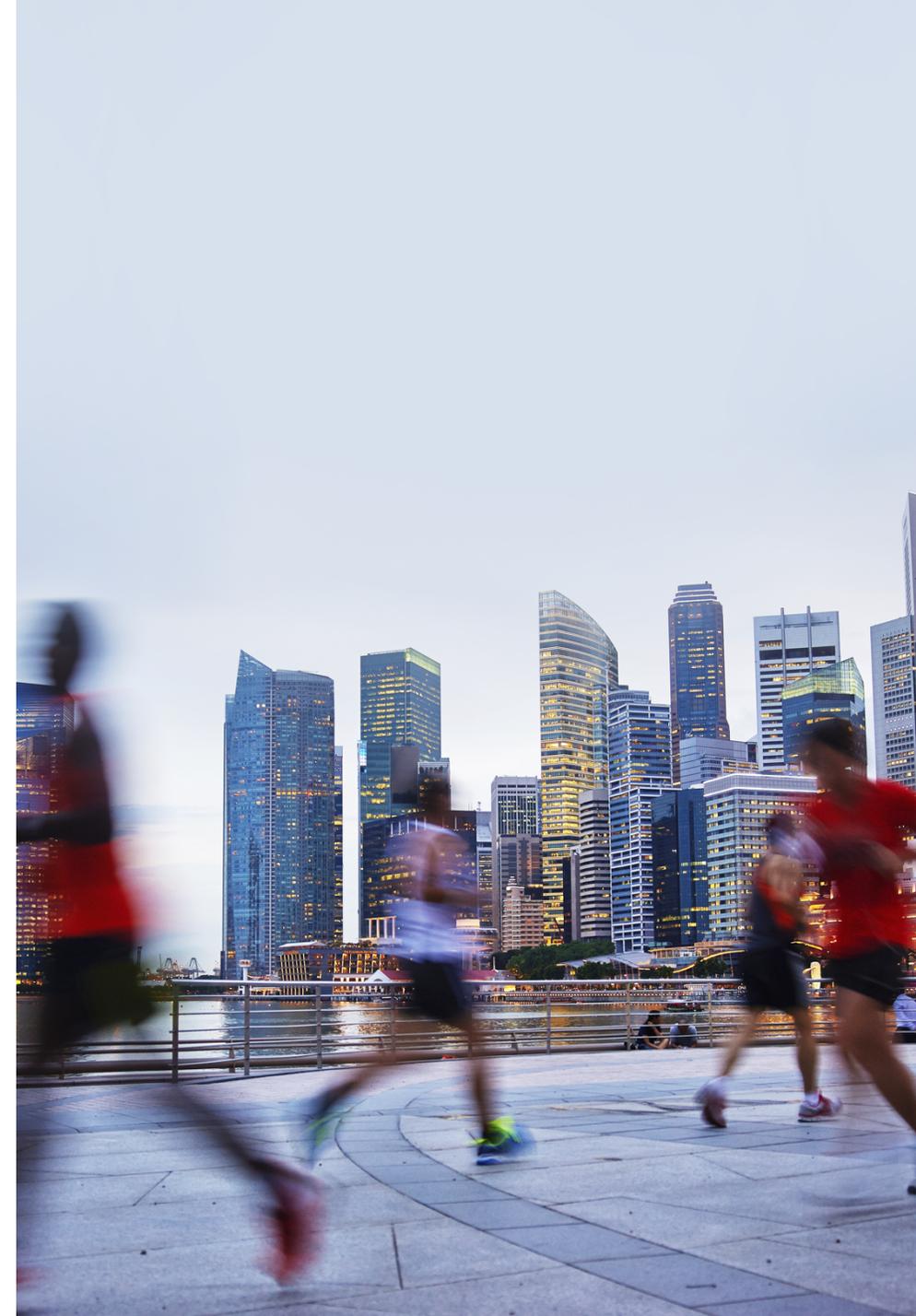


EDUCATION

PRIMARY & SECONDARY CITIES ARE INTEGRAL TO ACHIEVING GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030 & BEYOND

Leadership in Urban Health Planning & Implementation is Needed to:

- Improve urban health and address the broad determinants of health to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda in this last decade.
- 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



Thank you!
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