Urban Health Initiative
Engaging the health sector to realize climate and health benefits
Importance / Challenges / Benefits
..of integrated approaches at the pollution-environment-health nexus..

Importance: Cities are complex, challenging and multi-sectoral. So are the challenges that cites are facing. Therefore it requires a trans-sectoral or nexus approach to actually depict and tackle them.

Challenges: Us! (the complicated UN administration and long lead-times required to get started.

Benefits: Better understanding of underlining problem setting, therefore also a better chance to achieving AQ / env. Improvements. Specific interventions in the urban planning context.
Urban Health Initiative: 3 pillars to catalyse policy change

Health evidence

Health competency

Health communications
Moving ahead with urban transformation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Current policies assessed and mapped</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Health policymakers build competencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tools for assessing health and economic benefits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Alternative scenarios tested – vision for healthy urban future articulated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Communications intensify demands for change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Urban leaders act - changes in policies, air quality, climate &amp; health indicators are tracked</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proof of concept through UHI pilot projects

• First two pilot projects are being implemented in Accra and Kathmandu
• Goal: ideally two pilot cities per region to prove the concept and generate replicable tools and guidance material
Current policies with major impacts on air pollution and health are mapped along with key stakeholders in urban health and urban development sectors, in addition to civil society.
Health policymakers build competencies in assessing health and economic impact of policies and in advising other sectors on urban environmental health risks. Health care workers equipped to advise patients on protective measures.
3 Tools for assessing health and economic benefits

Tools for assessing health and economic arguments such as WHO’s AirQ+, HEAT and One Health adapted and used locally.

Tools for front line health care workers to advise patients & communities.

HIA
AirQ+
HEAT

Health economic assessment for walking/cycling
Alternative scenarios assessed and tested

Alternative scenarios based on policy options are tested or considered locally to estimate potential health and economic impacts.
Transport scenarios for Sao Paulo, Brazil: Changes in DALYs for each scenario attributable to changes from air quality, physical activity and road injuries.

Integrating health into urban policies: synergy and co-benefits

- Clean Energy
- Housing
- Transport
- Waste Management
- Land-use planning

Injuries, physical activity, noise, diet

Air pollution

Climate change

Local and global health impacts
5 Communications intensify demands for change

Urban leaders and champions engaged to communicate costs of inaction, including through the global BreatheLife Campaign, intensifying demand for action. Health care workers advise patients & communities about risk prevention.

BREATHELIFE
Clean Air. Healthy Future.
BreatheLife2030.org
Urban leaders act - changes in air quality, climate & health indicators monitored and tracked

Health and economic arguments provide urban leaders with incentives to act; changes in air pollution and related policies are monitored and tracked, using platforms such as the WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database as well as ICLEI’s carbon registry.
3 Good Health and Well-being

7 Affordable and Clean Energy

11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

13 Climate Action