

Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Media event

Briefing Session - A better quality of life for all in an urbanising world: promoting health and wellbeing



6 JUNE 2023, 8h45-9h45am



UNON press room

SUMMARY

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 emphasises the need for UN-Habitat to leverage partnerships with local and regional governments, sister United Nations entities, the private sector and other development actors and stakeholders. The 2020-2023 plan also highlights that sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the basic human rights of the millions of marginalised urban dwellers living in poverty and subject to marginalisation and that this can be done in a variety of ways, including by improving health and expanding access to health care.

UN-Habitat positions health outcomes at the center of urban development efforts and supports cities and partners in developing adequate urban planning systems, processes, and tools to achieve healthy cities for all.

Multiple factors influence health. And many of them are outside the control of the health sector. In cities and regions, planning and design play a central role in the prevention of disease and in fostering healthier environments. For example, effective urban design, policies, strategies, and plans lead to cleaner air, cleaner water, safer movement of the population, and better prevention measures to curb the spread of disease. Deliberate action in planning cities and territories can contribute directly or indirectly to improving overall health and wellbeing. It is predicted that by 2050 around 70% of the world's population will live in an urban setting of some kind. More importantly, a similar percentage will live in urban space that has yet to be built. We thus have a unique window of opportunity to guide urban development healthily and productively.

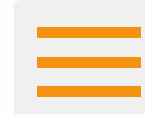
Increasing awareness and understanding of urban complexity has led to a widespread recognition that good health in cities can only be achieved and sustained through a systemic approach that transcends health systems, working across multiple sectors and scales, with multiple stakeholders, towards multiple outcomes, across multiple timescales. Yet, successfully implementing such an approach has been a serious challenge in human systems prone to bias, information and action silos, short-termism, conflicting incentives and goals, and other complicating factors.

This event will bring Member States, United Nations and other development partners to highlight critical actions required to achieve the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and inform UN-Habitat and WHO implementation actions going forward. Improving health and wellbeing to ensure all four domains of change are delivered requires action across health and many other sectors.

Purpose and objective



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The briefing session on urban health will illustrate how integrated approaches can lead to better urban health outcomes. The session will also showcase recent publications on health and development from UN-Habitat, WHO and other partners. Partners will have the opportunity to review and assess UN-Habitat and WHO collaborative efforts thus far and identify any further actions required to enhance their contribution to healthier cities and regions.

Session structure

The session will be in-person in Nairobi (Kenya) and comprise a 60-minute session. United Nations representatives and local stakeholders will present their experiences, and a panel discussion will be held.

- The session will be in English.
- Interpretation is not made available for this event.
- This event is for in-person participation only

Organizers



In collaboration with



Moderator

Dr Graham Alabaster, Head of Geneva Office, Office of The Executive Director

Speaker(s)

Representative of Government of Qatar (TBC)





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Hon Sam Okello, City of Kisumu, Kisumu City board, Kenya

Dr Borislava Batandjieva-Metcalf, Secretary (UNSCEAR)

Dr Laura Petrella, Section Chief, Planning, Finance and Economy, UN-Habitat

Dr Nathalie Roebbel, Lead, Urban Health, World Health Organization

Dr Mamka Anyona, United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs

Agenda

Session time (running time)	Segments	Speakers
3 mins	Welcome - Opening remarks and introduction	Mr Michael Mlynar , Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat (TBC)
7 mins (10 mins)	A strategic approach to achieve urban health: making the case and making it work	Dr Nathalie Roebbel , Lead, Urban Health, WHO
7 mins (17 mins)	A Framework for an integrated approach: Mainstreaming Health in Urban and Territorial Planning	Dr Laura Petrella , Section Chief, Planning, Finance and Economy, UN-Habitat
7 mins (24 mins)	Leveraging Multisectoral Collaborations and Approaches: Joining Forces to promote better health outcomes	Dr Mamka Anyona , UN Inter Agency Task Force on NCDs
32 mins (56 mins)	Moderated Panel discussion – <i>Strengthening collaboration – Reinforcing health outcomes - Roadmap to the next UN-Habitat strategic plan</i> Representative of Government of Qatar (TBC) Hon. Sam Okello , Kisumu City Board, Kenya Dr Borislava Batandjieva-Metcalf , Secretary (UNSCEAR) Questions and Comments from the floor	
4 mins 60 mins)	Closing remarks - Wrap-up and way forward	UN-Habitat

