



Pollution and Health in Cities

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THE POWER OF THE NARRATIVE!

Build mutually supporting narratives between key organisations

- Each with their own starting point, working towards a shared vision
 - Root causes and cost of burden of disease*
 - Put the human at the center, value of ecosystem services*
- Who delivers it matters
 - Credibility with and language that speaks to respective constituencies*

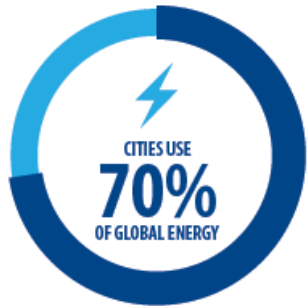
to support

- Governments in setting enabling frameworks, across all levels of government and across key sectors
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Changing behavior towards sustainable lifestyles



CITIES ARE DRIVERS FOR TRANSFORMATION

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND GREAT OPPORTUNITIES



- Over 70% of natural resources and energy, and produce some 60% of GHG emissions and waste
- 54% of global population – in 2050 70-80%
- Vulnerability (sea level rise; water scarcity; biodiversity loss; bad air days and soil and water pollution in cities)
- 7 key sectors that dominate resource use and impact on environment and well-being; e.g. food, energy, water, transport, housing, waste, open space
- Most infrastructure still to be built: unique window of opportunity over the next 15 years
- Urban Density: Economies of Scale
- Urban Diversity: Innovation Capacity
- Economic powerhouses: Generating over 70% of GDP

URBAN ENVIRONMENT – DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

7 sectors correspond to key services that cities provide. They can be sources of ill-health or improve well-being and health of citizens. All cities struggle – no matter what their level of development is.

It is also a social issue! Inequitable distribution of exposures and vulnerabilities but also an opportunity for health equity.

Sources and epidemiology: from water-borne to cardio-respiratory diseases

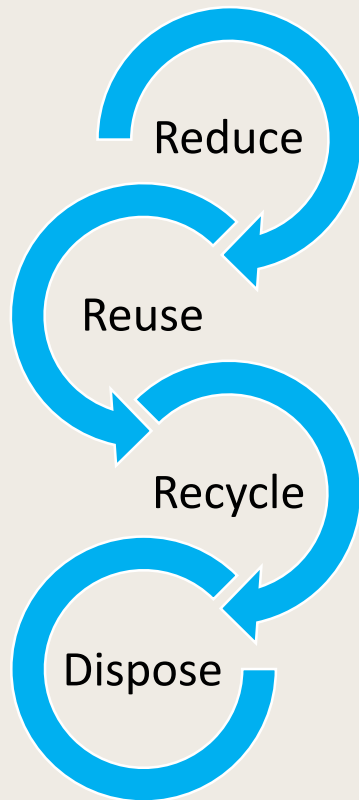
- Indoor air pollution (cooking, heating, toxicity of materials)
- Outdoor air pollution (transport, energy generation, open burning)
- Climate (severe and more frequent weather events (heatwaves, storms and floods, disturbing urban ecology)
- Nutrition

We need policies and actions that improve the living environment and that take into account health impacts



From end-of-Pipe to Prevention

WASTE



- City – Region Strategies towards a circular economy
- Repair and Upcycling shops
- Sharing schemes
- Volume based waste disposal fees
- Sustainable Public Procurement
- Economic incentives towards 0-Waste
- Ban on single use plastic bags

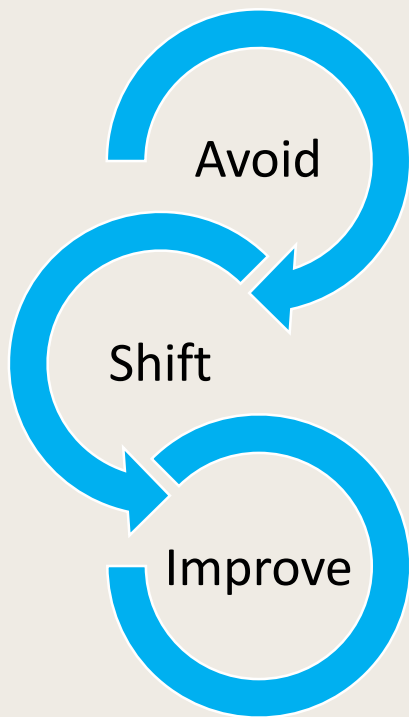
- Waste collection system
- Recycling facilities – increase of recycling rates
- Deposit schemes for plastic and glass bottles

- Ban on open landfills
- Ban on open burning
- Waste to energy



From end-of-Pipe to Prevention

TRANSPORT



- City Planning to reduce transport demand: density, mixed-use
- Walking, Cycling and Public Transport Infrastructure, including sharing schemes
- Low-emission zoning, tied to vehicle and fuel standards



DELIVERING SDGs – MULTI-BENEFITS – CITIES' LENS



UN ENVIRONMENT APPROACH to CITIES

Assessments

- Just as we look at the whole body, do not look at only one symptom: much focus put on air pollution, but water and soil are just as critical
- Optimise solutions to address also latent stressors for health: resource efficiency and climate (Decoupling, Decarbonising and Detoxifying)
- For Prioritisation and Monitoring: Urban Metabolism, Integrated Environmental and Health Impact Assessment, Disease surveillance

Policies

- Vertical policy integration to unleash the innovation capacity in cities
- Horizontal policy integration to maximize benefits from joint up solutions (circular economy, energy efficiency benefits etc)

Partnerships and Pilots

Examples: District Energy, Nature-based solutions



Mutually supportive narrative and joint vision

Health is a powerful argument in making the case for action

Environment and Health considerations in urban planning, design and mmt

Mix of short-term, medium and long-term actions to show quick results and address root causes

Integration, Integration, Integration (environmental impact categories, environmental, social and economic considerations, sectors, levels of governance)

Longstanding cooperation – being stepped up

- Joint Advocacy
- Joint tools
- Joint projects

What support / tools would you need to support you in your work?

