

**World Health Organization Western Pacific Region
Healthy Cities Recognition 2014**

Disability inclusive cities

Background

Across the Western Pacific Region disability is both a human rights and development issue. It is also a public health concern with people with disabilities experiencing poorer health outcomes than the general population. WHO estimates that 15% of the global population have disabilities and this is increasing due to rising levels of non-communicable disease, ageing populations and injuries. Ensuring people with disabilities can access their local environment, actively participate in community life and are engaged in decision making are important for realizing their rights and contributing to their health and wellbeing.

WHO has supported the Healthy Cities Program for many years and for the first time is including 'Disability Inclusive Cities' in its Healthy Cities Recognition Program. This initiative is in line with increasing understanding of the health, rights and priorities of people with disabilities and the crucial role that local government play in achieving these.

Disability inclusive cities are those that ensure physical environments and information are accessible for all. A disability inclusive city is one that supports social inclusion and participation and ensures people with disabilities are consulted and engaged in decision making. Disability inclusive cities break down negative attitudes and discrimination towards people with disability; they promote opportunities for people with disability and allow them to move and access the spaces and services they need and choose.

The WHO Global Disability Action Plan, 2014-2021 promotes '**better health for all people with disabilities**', however it is not possible to achieve this without an enabling environment. Disability Inclusive Cities provide the enabling environment required.

Recognition of Best Practice

Recognition is given to comprehensive approaches for promote access and inclusion of people with disabilities and support the realization of a wide range of their rights.

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