

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

**Addressing the social determinants of health  
through a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach**

**Background**

Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at city and local as well as the national and global levels, which are themselves influenced by policy choices. With increasing urbanization, cities become an important area of focus for applying a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to address the social determinants of health to promote health equity.

This call for applications is looking for innovative examples of addressing the social determinants of health through HiAP in cities. HiAP is an approach to public policies that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity.<sup>1</sup>

Good practice examples may focus on the following topics:

- Mainstreaming social determinants of health into an urban health campaign, policy or programme to promote health equity
- Supporting intersectoral mechanisms or platforms at city level to address the social determinants of health and promote health equity
- Capacity-building on applying HiAP to address the social determinants of health for urban health policy-makers
- Collaborating with one or more sectors (e.g. housing, transport) on a specific health topic to address the social determinants of health and promote health equity
- Integrating the social determinants of health into the monitoring of urban health equity
- Example of implementing the Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (UrbanHEART) available at:

[http://www.who.int/kobe\\_centre/measuring/urbanheart/en/](http://www.who.int/kobe_centre/measuring/urbanheart/en/)

**Recognition of Best Practice**

Recognition is given for innovative examples and outstanding practices of addressing the social determinants of health through a HiAP approach in cities.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, 2014. *Health in all policies: Helsinki statement. Framework for Country Action.* Available at:

[http://www.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112636/1/9789241506908\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112636/1/9789241506908_eng.pdf?ua=1)  
[Accessed May 27, 2014.]



## **Application submission guide**

When completing the application template, please ensure that the key points highlighted in this section are fully addressed:

### **Item # 6: Methodology**

Equity - Did the programme focus more on the poor, the marginalized and/or the vulnerable groups, etc.

Process - Please specify what approaches/activities were implemented during the project. Specifically explain:

- Why and how the example can be considered a good practice for addressing the social determinants of health through HiAP in cities to promote health equity.

### **Item # 7: Monitoring the process and evaluating the outcome - Evaluation methodology, specifically to show:**

- Have process and outcome indicators for social determinants of health been included in monitoring and evaluation frameworks and activities?
- Is quantitative data on key social determinants available and being used? Is it disaggregated by key stratifiers and used for equity-focused analysis and action?
- Do the sources of information for monitoring and evaluation include qualitative information on social, cultural and economic influences on urban health equity?

## **Materials to be submitted**

In addition to the filled out application template, please provide any relevant background materials in support of your publication, including for example: relevant policies/strategies on social determinants of health, summaries of the project or intervention, media releases, and other information materials (e.g. flyers, booklets, photos etc.).

*\* For further information, please email Ms Britta Baer (Technical Officer for Gender, Equity, Human Rights and Ageing) at [baerb@wpro.who.int](mailto:baerb@wpro.who.int)*

