



For Healthy and Smart Bhopal

Healthy city: Healthy Cities has been WHO's longest health promotion initiative, having started in 1986. Today there is also increasing recognition of the strong link between SDG 3 (Good Health for All) and SDG 11 (Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable).

Cities provide unique opportunities for development- The aggregation of a large population and the existence of a range of public and private services to mention a few. It also poses serious challenges including rapid growth and expansion which outpaces services, overcrowding in certain areas and a fluid population. Health indices in many cities are lower than rural areas especially among disadvantaged groups due to development of a robust public health system. The health of citizens is not determined by health services alone but also by social Determinants of Health such as Water, Air quality, Food, Sanitation, Environment etc; all of which require a multi-stakeholder approach; not just by the Health Department. The Health Department should also integrate or supplement its services, in coordination with other private and social impact organizations. This is where cities like Bhopal offer a unique opportunity - to focus on healthy citizens and integrate a range of services and products so that a significant impact can be made and a model for similar interventions in MP can be built.

Bhopal has been the pride of Madhya Pradesh (MP) - one of India's top 20 cleanest cities and one of India's 20 Smart Cities. By coordinating inputs from the sectors that impact health, Bhopal has an opportunity to show that a Healthy City can be achieved, which other cities in the state and other states can learn from. This would require all the sectors that control the determinants of health to work together to make Bhopal a "Healthy City" and become a role model for other cities.

What will this mean for Bhopal: The vision for Bhopal as a "Healthy City" can be achieved with a plan that has been co-developed with the sectors that have the greatest impact on health. This may be done by obtaining the concurrence of Governmental Departments, Private organizations and NGOs to work together on developing and implementing a plan to make Bhopal a healthy city.

An initial brainstorming in Madhya Pradesh identified **key aspects of health that require multi-stakeholder collaboration:**

- a) Healthy water (quantity, quality)
- b) Healthy food (source, processing/cooking, storage, nutrition)
- c) Healthy sanitation (toilets, sewage treatment, recycle, reuse, safe disposal)
- d) Healthy environment (air, soil, public spaces, environmental law)
- e) Healthy individual & family (health services, safety)



Different departments in Bhopal will need to commit to **one** plan, **one** coordination mechanism, and **one** monitoring and evaluation framework to work together to define and achieve the goal of Healthy Bhopal.

Ours asks:

Most cities that have become part of the WHO Healthy City initiative demonstrate “**Political will and commitment to improve the health and social status of its residents and are willing to redirect its resources and adopt the policies, organizational structures and processes required for achieving healthy city status**”¹

All Stakeholders:

Public Departments

1. Identify and be willing to modify policies, structures and processes where required to achieve the goals agreed upon
2. Provide leadership/guidelines for specific initiatives
3. Identify localities/wards that require attention/present challenges
4. Participate in consultations organized as part of the planning process
5. Contribute to the vision of Healthy Bhopal: Series of discussions at Bhopal to create a collective vision and ownership
6. Commit time and resources to the Task Force which will not only guide the development of an action plan but also steer the processes over the next few years
7. Support mapping of current initiatives and new initiatives for health sanitation, food, water and environment that can be rationalized or improved through joint-action and partnerships

Private Organizations and NGOs

1. Contribute to the vision of Healthy Bhopal: Series of discussions at Bhopal to create a collective vision and ownership
2. Nominate subject matter experts and organizations working in the five areas, who can be engaged in consultations and take up activities
3. Participate in consultations organized as part of the planning process
4. Provide guidance for specific initiatives
5. Support mapping of current initiatives and new initiatives for health sanitation, food, water and environment that can be rationalized or improved through joint-action and partnerships
6. Commit time and resources to the Task Force which will not only guide the development of an action plan but also steer the processes over the next few years

¹ WHO. Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, “A short guide to implementing the healthy city programme” <http://applications.emro.who.int/dsaf/dsa1088.pdf>